

MOUNT PLEASANT PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER - January 2017



BURNS LUNCH 2017

Mount Pleasant School celebrated Burns Day on Monday 25th January with a whole school Burns lunch.

The FLAG committee decorated the dinner hall with tartan. Primary 6 pupils Matthew and Kayleigh piped in the haggis to the delight of all the primary and nursery pupils. Their classmates then addressed the haggis and recited the Selkirk Grace. Finally the haggis was cut by Megan and James our P6 Pupil Council Members.

LUNCHES

Following the responses that we received from the FLAG questionnaire that had issued before Christmas, we have gone ahead to trial the approach of splitting lunchtime. Since Monday 23 January, the P1-3 classes have been having their lunch as usual whereas the P4-7 classes have been going out to play for the first part of lunch (12.35-12.50) then they come back in to the hall for lunch before returning to the playground. This is allowing a much quicker service for the older pupils with less time spent waiting to be served. The FLAG will be asking for feedback on this before the February long weekend.

HOKEY COKEY

The largest hokey cokey dance was 7,384 participants, and was organised by FRY Fest (USA) at FRY Fest in Coralville, Iowa, on 3 September 2010. The attempt was organised by Sara Beck in honour of her mother, Carmella Gallagher, who passed away in 2003. Carmella loved to dance and it was a dream of hers to be in Guinness World Records.

Lauren Cormack in our Enhanced Provision class also loved this dance and asked us to sing it to her at every opportunity. So we would like to honour her memory and ask the whole school to take part in the Hokey Cokey for a donation of £1 on the afternoon of Friday 17 February.

MRS MACKENZIE

After 10 years of working at Mount Pleasant, Mrs Mackenzie has moved to work at Noss Primary in Wick. We will miss her and wish her the very best in her new post.

HMIE INSPECTION

We have been informed by HMie that our Inspection has been postponed until further notice. Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the online questionnaires at such a busy time of the year. We have been assured that all of this information has been saved and will be used when the process recommences.

INSET CHANGE

We have been informed by Highland Council the In-service Day that was planned for Monday 5 June has now been moved to Thursday 4 May to allow schools to be used as polling stations where necessary.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

We would like to invite interested parents to attend an informal meeting to find out more about some of the ways the school shares Self-Evaluation information to the Authority and HMie. It will be held from 1.45-2.30pm on Thursday 9 March in the Music Room. Refreshments will be provided. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending. We look forward to seeing you there!

LUNCH MENU CHANGE

Due to the February long weekend there will be changes to the choices provided on Thursday 23rd February. These will now be:

Sausage on a Hot Dog Roll or Salmon Nibbles

MUSIC FESTIVAL - VERSE SPEAKING

Children were asked in class whether they would like to take part in the Verse Speaking and/or Caithness Dialect Sections of the Caithness Music Festival to be held in June this year. Notes and copies of the poems were sent home with the interested children at the end of January. If you would like your child to take part but no note has come home please contact the office. Final entries are due back by Friday 24th February 2017

NURSERY ENROLMENT

We are pleased to tell you that a new enrolment process has been developed to enable parents and carers to register children for nursery places online by visiting

www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment

The Nursery enrolment week for Highland schools is Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2017. A paper copy of the enrolment form can still be completed at the school office during enrolment week. Please note that if you are enrolling in person at a school, you are required to take your child's birth certificate and proof of your address with you.

Please note that current nursery pupils do not need to re-enrol this year.

WELL DONE TO OUR WONDERFUL GYMNASTS

Mount Pleasant Primary did very well at the Highland Schools Gymnastics Competition on Sunday 5/2/17. Our A Team consisted of Kayleigh, Emily, Rosie & Charis and our B Team of Geena, Chase, Kelsey & Kelsey. A huge thanks go to the coaches at Caithness Gymnastics who reported that all our gymnasts had great team spirit and all behaved exceptionally well. We are all very proud of them.

Primary 2 & 3 - SCOTTISH BOOK TRUST PARENT SURVEY

Following the roll-out of 'Read, Write, Count' earlier this session for P2 and P3 children, the Scottish Book Trust are looking for feedback from families. The survey has a deadline of Tuesday 28th February 2017.

As a family member of a P2 or P3 child, following the 'Read, Write, Count' packs being gifted earlier in the year, the Scottish Book Trust are looking for feedback. Complete the survey below for your chance to win a personal Read, Write, Count Goodie bag filled with books, games and activities for all the family to enjoy.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FCP6MQN>

EARLY WARNING - DRESS UP FOR WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book day is on Thursday 2nd March this year. We thought we would give you the heads up to allow you to plan ahead with regard to costumes. Our thoughts are to invite the children to come to school dressed as a character from one of their favourite books - we would like it if they would come to school with a copy of the book their character comes from. If you are looking for some ideas please visit

<http://www.bookaid.org/support-us/world-book-day/world-book-day-dress-up/>

LOCAL FAMILY TO BE FEATURED ON TV

On Monday 13th February at 5.00pm on CBBC there is an episode of "My Life" which features local 16 year old surfer Iona McLachlan. Iona is the sister of our Primary 7 pupil Craig who also appears in the programme.

HEARTFELT DONATION TO OUR ENHANCED PROVISION

It was an honour to have a visit from Lauren's Mum recently. Following Lauren's service the family decided to donate £363 of the donations received to our Enhanced Provision.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 10 th February	Bring and Buy Sale
Week of 13 th February	Nursery and Croileagan Enrolment Week
Wednesday 15 th February	Last After School Drama Club
Friday 17 th February	Lauren's Hokey Cokey
Mon 20 th & Tue 21 st February	February long weekend - School Closed
Wednesday 22 nd February	In Service Day - School closed to pupils
Thursday 23 rd February	Scripture Union Lunch Club Starts
Friday 24 th February	Final day for Music Festival entries
Tuesday 28 th February	Rotary Inter School Quiz - Miller Academy (6.30pm)
Wednesday 1 st March	Primary 7 Parents' Fairburn Meeting (5.00pm)
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day Celebrations
Tuesday 7 th March	Parent Council Meeting (7.00pm)
Week of 13 th March	Science Festival Week
Wednesday 5 th April	Last day of School before Easter Holidays
Monday 24 th April	Back to school - normal start time.
Monday 1 st May	May day holiday - school closed
Thursday 4 th May	School closed to pupils - Polling Station

SCHOOL TERM DATES – Highland Council have now published all the school term dates including public holidays and in service dates up to 2018. These can be found by visiting

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates