



# The Community School of Auchterarder Newsletter Spring 2010

## Staffing Update

We welcome the following new staff to school:

- ◆ Mr Campbell McNeill - Temporary Teacher of Drama covering maternity leave of Mrs Sarah MacDonald
- ◆ Mrs Susan Welsh - Part Time temporary Teacher of Computing
- ◆ Mrs Joanna Clokie - Part time temporary Teacher of Primary 7
- ◆ Mrs Jane Walker - Business Manager
- ◆ Mr Hussain Nassif - Part Time Pupil Care & Welfare Officer

We also welcome back Mr Jeff Banks, School Janitor who has now fully recovered from a broken arm during the school ski trip in February.

A special note of thanks goes to:

- ◆ Mrs Fiona Mitchell (Special Projects Co-ordinator) & Ms Afifa Khanam (PT Business Ed.) for their invaluable support in covering the vacant post of Business Manager since last November.
- ◆ The Janitorial team for all their hard work in keeping the school access clear during the recent heavy snowfall.

## SMT Parent Clinics / Contacting Parents

We get an increasing number of calls to the SMT during the day. Very often however, due to commitments, it is often difficult to respond immediately. Parents are reminded of the SMT Clinics. These are dedicated times when a member of staff will be available to take a call or meet in person.

**The SMT Clinics take place from Tuesday to Thursday, 4.00pm to 5.00pm.**

If you would like to speak to a Guidance teacher or Class teacher, please ring the school office, stating the purpose of your enquiry, eg. course choice, behaviour issue, homework / course content. Reception staff will contact the relevant staff and pass the message on. The staff / Department concerned will reply to you as soon as they are available.

## Launch of New Website

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new school website. It has been many months in the making, however we are pleased with the results. Please access the website at: [www.tcscoa.com](http://www.tcscoa.com).

There is a link to GLOW and over the next year, pupils and parents will have access to this.

Our website will be regularly updated with news items, events and school information downloads.

The screenshot shows the school website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Secondary, Primary, Nursery, Pupil Zone, and Parent Zone. Below the menu is a large photograph of the school building. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with contact information and a list of links.

<a href="#">Home</a> <a href="#">About Us</a> <a href="#">Events</a> <a href="#">Guidance</a> <a href="#">SfL</a> <a href="#">Associated Primaries</a> <a href="#">Departments</a> <a href="#">Learning Resource Centre</a>	<a href="#">Main News</a>  <b>Ski Trip</b> The recent ski trip to Les Menuires in France was a great success. The pupils enjoyed a fantastic week on the slopes and developed their skiing and	<a href="#">Top Downloads</a> <a href="#">School Handbook 2010 - 2011</a> <a href="#">School Information</a> <a href="#">School Calendars</a>	<a href="#">Contact Details</a>  The Community School of Auchterarder New School Lane Auchterarder Perthshire PH3 1BL t: 01764 662182 f: 01764 663762 e: <a href="mailto:headteacher@auchterarder.pkc.sch.uk">headteacher@auchterarder.pkc.sch.uk</a>
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## Dates for your Diary...

- ⇒ **Tuesday, 20 April 2010** - An Additional In-Service Day to support Curriculum for Excellence has now been confirmed by the Scottish Government and PKC.
- ⇒ **Thursday, 1 April - Last day of term.** School will close for the Easter Break from Friday, 2 April and will re-open to pupils on **Wednesday, 21 April**. Secondary pupils will attend a Church service at the Auchterarder Parish Church on the last day of term at **11.50am** and Primary pupils will attend at **2.00pm**. Parents & family are invited to attend the Primary service.
- ⇒ **Wednesday 28 April to Friday, 28 May** - S4 SQA study leave (SQA Exams takes place from **28 April to 1 June**).
- ⇒ **Monday, 3 May** - School will close for the Bank Holiday.
- ⇒ **Thursday, 6 May** - The next Parent Council meeting will take place in school at 7.00pm.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, 11 May to Friday, 4 June** - S5/6 SQA study leave (SQA Exams take place from **12 May to 9 June**).
- ⇒ **Friday, 28 May** - S1 Reports will now be issued to parents. (and not 1 April as previously stated).
- ⇒ **Tuesday, 1 June to Wednesday, 9 June** - S3 exams.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, 1 June** - S2 Malawi Conference at Gleneagles.
- ⇒ **Monday, 7 June** - New Timetable for 2010/11 Session will commence for all year groups.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, 1 June from 3.30pm to 6.00pm** and **Wednesday, 2 June from 6.00pm to 8.30pm** - Nursery / primary Parents' evenings.
- ⇒ **Thursday, 10 June** - Sports Day.
- ⇒ **Monday, 14 & Tuesday, 15 June** - P7 Cluster Transition Project.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, 15 June** - Parents of P7 are invited to a 'Welcome to Secondary Evening'.
- ⇒ **Wednesday, 16 June** - County Sports Day.
- ⇒ **Thursday, 17 & Friday, 18 June** - P7 Induction days to Secondary.
- ⇒ **Wednesday, 23 June** - The Annual Awards ceremony will take place at the Auchterarder Parish Church at 7.00pm. Please note change in date - previously arranged for Tuesday, 22 June.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, 29 June to Thursday, 1 July** - Primary Activity Days.
- ⇒ **Wednesday, 30 June to Thursday, 1 July** - Secondary Health & Activity Days.

## Property Update...

### Main Reception

You will have noticed that the main school reception door has been closed temporarily over the last few months. This is due to the very low temperature in the reception area which has made working conditions extremely difficult. Good news however - PKC plan to make structural improvements during the summer holiday. We do hope to have the door available for access again after the Easter break (temperature permitting). Thank you for your support during this time.

### New Recording Studio

National Lottery funding of £5,345 from 'Awards for All' has been granted and works will go ahead in the summer break to create a new recording studio in the Music department. This will be a community resource.

### Parking

There have been a number of occasions where parked cars have blocked the gate at the bottom end of Chapel Wynd. Parents & visitors are asked to park only in the marked parking bays. Parking at the roundabout near the Secondary building is hazardous to drivers accessing / exiting from the car park and is not permitted. The Junior Road safety officers have placed a banner requesting that parents & visitors park in the correct space. Please support this.

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## Mobile Phones

Parents are reminded not to contact their child during school teaching time via their mobile phones. Should you need to contact your child or relay information, please ring during interval / lunch break or ring the school office who will then pass the message on or contact the pupil.

## School Meals - Price increase

A 5p increase will apply to school meals from April 2010. This should take effect from the return to school following the Easter break.

Parents are reminded of the following:

- ◆ Once again, school meal prices have been held to an increase of just 5p.
- ◆ School meals are locally prepared, largely from fresh ingredients with full traceability and food safety procedures strictly enforced to provide your child with fresh, wholesome and safe food choices. School meals present a nutritionally balanced option for the midday break for your children – we welcome any suggestions you may have regarding improvements to the service, either to the school or via [ecscateringsupport@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:ecscateringsupport@pkc.gov.uk)

Copies of menus/price list will be available on the PKC web pages from Easter

If you have any queries please contact Simon Farrer, Catering Services Manager on 01738 476232.

### **NEW SCHOOL MEAL PRICES**

Nursery/Primary School lunches - £1.75

Secondary School lunches - £1.80 (2 course meal equivalent)

Staff lunches - £2.60

## Internet Safety

In conjunction with Tayside Police, we held an evening for parents to learn about internet safety. Unfortunately we only had 11 parents in attendance. This is an important aspect of child safety. Please read the leaflets that were sent out recently.

## Curriculum For Excellence

We are continuing to develop through our Staff Focus Groups aspects of Curriculum for Excellence. We had 40 parents attend an evening event "Curriculum For Excellence" which was delivered by Sheena Devlin, School Manager PKC and Lorraine Sanda, National Parent Co-ordinator, Scottish Government. Information for parents can be accessed on Parent Toolkit at [www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk](http://www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk).

This is an exciting opportunity for the school and will help our departments deliver Curriculum for Excellence. Further information can also be found on the Learning & Teaching Scotland website (see links on school website) at [www.curriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk](http://www.curriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk).

## Scottish & Southern Energy

We have recently developed a partnership with Scottish & Southern Energy. The school and the company will work together to help deliver curriculum and develop staff development.

## Malawi Link

Dr Marshall (Teacher of Science) has successfully bid for funding of £2,000 from the British Council to develop further our links with Malawi. There will be a pupil Malawi Conference held later this term at Gleneagles.

## Events...

### World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day 2010 on Thursday, 4 March, there was a **'Murder in the Library!'** Secondary pupils have been busy using their new-found research skills to discover the murder victim, the murder weapon and the murderer. Correct entries were put into a draw and two lucky S1 pupils - **Rachel Paul & Tina McGovern** - each won a £10 HMV voucher and an Easter Egg. We are all still puzzling over the motive - after all, why would Mrs McNally want to murder Mr Moir?

The LRC has a limited number of the £1 World Book Day books available, which pupils can exchange for their World Book Day tokens - there is no charge for the book as long as pupils bring their World Book Day tokens along to the LRC. Tokens were given out in primary and nursery classes around World Book Day - 4th March.

A joint event on the evening of World Book Day for P6 pupils, their parents and teachers was a great success. Author and storyteller Toni Bonning came along to the local library and entertained the audience with music, stories and tips to improve writing skills. Many thanks to the staff at the Auchterarder Library for putting on this special shared event.



### Day of Dance P6

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, Primary 6F and Primary 6R performed at the 'Creative Day of Dance' at Perth Concert Hall. The dances were titled 'Bad in Black' and 'The French Connection'. Both dances were created by the pupils working with their teachers - Mrs Farrell and Miss Rae - and visiting PE specialists, Mrs Braidwood and Mrs Clifford. 'Bad in Black' was chosen to celebrate the music of Michael Jackson and 'The French Connection' was chosen as the theme to reflect the Modern Languages French topic being studied.

### Band Hero Project Launch

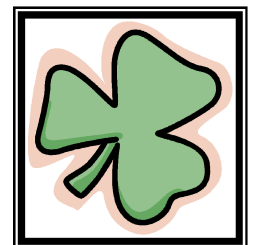
The Band Hero Transition project was launched in all four of the Auchterarder feeder Primary schools during March. All primary 7 pupils are now preparing for the event days scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June where they will begin the process of building 8 bands. The project will then progress during the first term of Secondary 1 before a showcase event before the October holidays.

### Primary Assembly: The Story of St Patrick

Well done to the children in **Primary 4 W/M** who performed the play "St Patrick and the Shamrock" as part of their Assembly to the Infant Department on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The children displayed confidence and success in their performances and thoroughly enjoyed their experience on the stage.



Special thanks to Mr Robert Purdie (Technician) who helped with the stage effects and Mr Brown (Teacher of Music) for his music contribution.



Parents of P4W/M are also thanked for their support in creating fabulous costumes for the children to wear during their performance.

## Fund raising

Thanks to parents and pupils for supporting various fundraising events:

- ◆ A total of £1,173 was raised for the Haitian Appeal and was used to buy two shelter boxes. The cheque was presented to the Auchterarder and District Rotary Club to support the International Appeal. (see photo on right).
- ◆ 'Thanks for Life Day' took place on 11 February. Parents and carers are reminded to return sponsor money to school the end of term.
- ◆ £1,061 was raised for Children in Need.



Pupils presenting cheque to members of the Auchterarder & District Rotary Club.

## Denzil the Teddy

Denzil has returned from a fantastic trip to the Winter Olympics in Canada and the nursery children are glad to have him back and learn all about the events he watched.

## Bangladesh Independent Night

Our first ever Scotland – Bangladesh Evening was held on 18 March at The Community School of Auchterarder to celebrate our partnership with 5 schools in Khulna, Bangladesh. The partnership is part of the British Council funded 'Connecting Classroom' project, and was established in 2009. Since then there have been a number of reciprocal visits between Auchterarder, Dunning and Khulna. We hope that in future years the partnership will go from strength to strength, providing opportunities for involvement of the whole school community and fostering a mutual understanding across cultures.



The evening was a success with about 300 people attending from the school community, British Council & Perth and Kinross Council representatives. The young people, through their presentations truly exemplified the impact of the principles of a Curriculum for Excellence. They demonstrated their knowledge about Bangladeshi culture, religion and environment through 'television' interviews, dance, food and drama. There was evidence around the school of pupil participation in the planning process and strong links to the key themes - Enterprise, Sustainable Development and Citizenship.

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## Conflict and Resolution

At the end of October 2009 all S3 pupils participated in a very successful interdisciplinary event entitled 'Conflict and Resolution'. Through a series of workshops pupils had the opportunity to think about the impact conflict has in every day life, personally, in the community and globally, and to consider ways of dealing with it and resolving it. The event was organised by the RME department with significant contributions from Art, Drama, History, Modern Studies, Guidance and Modern Languages Staff, and a number of external agencies. Workshops explored issues such as Conflict and Racism in sport, conflict in Personal and Family Relationships, and Non Violent Protest as a means of making opinions heard without conflict. The Red Cross provided a workshop on the challenges facing Asylum Seekers and a representative of the Black Watch led a workshop on the First World War.

A former Church of Scotland Army chaplain, having served in Iraq, discussed the reality and the consequences of war.

'Engage Youth', successfully engaged pupils in exploring their own attitudes to conflict in football, and a local youth worker focused on personal conflict. Creative workshops enabled pupils to express their ideas through Art and Drama. Taking place shortly before Remembrance Day, the event concluded very appropriately with two S4 pupils, who had recently been on a school trip to Ypres, sharing with all of S3 pupils, their personal experience and reflection on what had been a very moving visit. Pupils all behaved exceptionally well, participating in some challenging and thought provoking workshops, with all presenters describing them as a credit to themselves, their families and their school.

## International Conference & visit from Bangladeshi Headteachers

Earlier this Month, Ms A Khanam (Principal Teacher, Business Ed.) and Jan Caldwell joined counterparts from schools in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh at an international conference in Berkshire, to explore how schools can effectively equip young people with the skills they need for life and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

They took part in a series of workshops and discussions with head teachers, ministers and education specialists from across the UK, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. They were invited to the event as part of their involvement in the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme, an international school linking initiative that aims to build greater cultural understanding amongst young people and their teachers around the world.

Following the conference, a group of head teachers from Khulna, Bangladesh visited their Connecting Classrooms partner schools in Auchterarder and Dunning to get first hand experience of UK education and life in our local communities and meet teachers and pupils involved in their school partnership and activities they were involved in during their visit, assemblies, classes, cultural show and visiting local sites of cultural interest.

## Teacher Exchange to Australia

Mrs Lesley Barton returned from her exchange to Adelaide, South Australia last December to the welcome of a Scottish winter! She spent a year at Cororara Primary School, south of the city where she taught a Reception / Year 1 class and found the teaching experience "a delight".

Her class enjoyed learning about Scotland. A number of Year 7 pupils communicated with our P7 pupils last year and there is an opportunity for our current P7 to continue this communication.

Mrs Barton enjoyed the opportunity of this fantastic experience in Australia and also got married there.

## Celebrating Success...

### Chess competition

Primary pupils have triumphed at the Fair City P6 and P7 Chess Competition Spring 2010, which took place at the Cathedral Chapter House on Friday 12th March. Their win was even more remarkable as two of our players are from P4 and P5. Two teams were entered for the competition from The Community School of Auchterarder and it was Team 1 that battled their way to the final in Perth. The winning team members were **Strachan Clark P7, Finlay Nelson P7, Beth Langlands P5/6G and Alistair Reid P3/4PG**. An excellent achievement. See photo below right.

Congratulations to **Callum White (S1)** who won the Junior Competition and to **Martha Greaves (S1)** who was runner up. They were presented with a £20 and £10 HMV voucher respectively.

The Senior Competition is at the semi final stage and will be completed shortly after the Easter break.

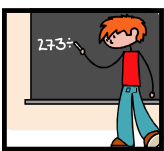


### Wordfest Winners

Congratulations to S3 pupils **Caitlin Fleming-Knox and Miranda Radley** who have won prizes in the Wordfest Poetry Competition and to **Maryth Hunter, Alexandra Fleminknox and Alice Clarke** who have been awarded 'Highly Commended'.

The pupils, class teachers and family members were invited to attend the awards ceremony at the AK Bell Library in Perth on 25 March.

### Maths Challenge



On Wednesday, 17 March, a team of four S1 and S2 pupils took part in a national Team Maths Competition. They competed all day attempting mathematical problems in a variety of formats. The day involved working co-operatively and competitively, and our team of boys did very well getting 6th place out of 16, while also being commended for their attitude and teamwork. The pupils were **Duncan Wither, Ellis Hill, Alexander Sloan and Matthew Jenkins**.

### Perform in Perth

Many of our pupils have recently participated in 'Perform in Perth' music competitions. Results can be seen on the school website from Wednesday 31 March or [www.perthshire-music-festival.org.uk](http://www.perthshire-music-festival.org.uk). Congratulations to the Primary Brass Band who won First Place in the Brass Ensemble (schools) Elementary.

### Internship

Well done to S6 student **Jennifer Kelman**, who has won an internship at the MacRobert Art Centre in Stirling University. She has had the opportunity to work at the Barrow-in-Furness Film Festival and has secured an unconditional place at Robert Gordon's for next year to study Fashion Management.

## Sports Achievements...

### Cross Country Success

Well done to the Primary 7 girls' cross country team for winning second place at the PKC Primary Schools Cross Country Competition which took place at Perth Race Course on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Team members were: **Lauren Doleman, Jessie Delatousche, Kerrie Ann Riley, Coco Parr and Lucy Coulter.**

Congratulations also to the S2 boys who won the team event at the P&K Inter Schools Cross Country Championship.

### P7 Football Tournament

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February three 7-a-side football teams from P7 visited McDiarmid Park in Perth to take part in a football festival organised by coaches from St Johnstone in conjunction with a McDonalds sponsorship programme for 'grassroots football'.

Pupils from Primary 7 have had the opportunity of being coached by St Johnstone coaches over 20 sessions during this session as part of this McDonalds sponsored programme.



### Senior Boys' Football

Our senior boys were invited to enter two teams into a 7-a-side tournament being organised by Woodmill High School on 17th March. Also competing were two teams from Woodmill HS, two teams from Stewarts Melville College and two teams from Grangemouth HS.

The Auchterarder 'B' team emerged with great credit from the tournament, winning 5 and losing only 1 of their matches. Star performer **Andrew Kirkaldy** was ably backed up by the rest of his team; **Stephen Patrick, Callum Urquhart, Jordan Sneddon, Daniel Morrison, Cameron McAree and Darryl Head.**

Unfortunately one of the Stewarts Melville teams also had the same number of points and won the tournament on goal difference. However, 2nd out of 8 teams was an outstanding showing from the boys.

### Girls Football

S1 Girls football team played Kinross on 19 March and even though they lost 11-3, they played very well. The girls that played in the team were: **Jamie Burns, Lauren Docherty, Kirsty Reid, Rachael Paul, Alison Stewart, Ellie Millward, Sophie Byrne, Cara Lean & Jodi Boyd.**

### Rugby Update

Both the U15's & U18's Girls Rugby Team have reached the semi final of the Brewin Dolphin Cup.

- ◆ The U18's will play against Murrayfield Wanderers on Sunday, 28 March at The Community School of Auchterarder.
  - ◆ The U15's will play against Ayrshire on Sunday, 18 April at Cumnock Rugby Club in Ayrshire.
- Good luck to both teams!

### Duke of Edinburgh Award

Well done to the following pupils for achieving their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards:

**Eilidh Dear, Tia Eadie, Alice Keil, Victoria Lang, Katie McFadyen, Catherine MacLaren, Jenny Shields, Sophie Thouless, Lewis Walker, Jake Warrington & Lauren Westbury.**

## Rotary Club of Auchterarder & District Young Musician of the Year

Congratulations to the following winners of the Rotary Club of Auchterarder & District Young Musician of the Year Competition which took place on 25 March:

**Novice: Erin Law - Alto Saxophone, Grade 3/4: Lucy Ross - Violin**

**Grade 5/6: Cameron Nelson - Trombone, Grade 7/8: Matthew Gordon - Tenor Saxophone**

## Personal Achievements

Congratulations to **Joshua Rowe S5**, who has recently been selected for the 'Team GB' fast track for Boccha, and will be training for the 2012 Olympics, hoping to get into the 'Elite' squad. He is one of 9 selected out of 54 people and will begin intensive training after Easter.

**Miss Julie Sanaghan** (Teacher of PE) won the highly commended Sports Personality of the Year Award for Fife. Awarded for playing women's rugby for Scotland (6 International caps) and captaining Kirkaldy Women's Rugby Team.

## Excursions ...

### Ski Trips to Glenshee

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March groups of pupils from Primary 5, 6 and 7 visited Glenshee Ski Centre for ski lessons. Demand for places was very high, almost 90 for the ballot on the first trip where places were limited to 24 (the seats available on the minibus).



The second trip was quickly arranged to allow all those who wished to attend to do so. The weather and conditions were excellent on the first date and very good on the second. For most pupils this was the first time that they had been skiing and by the end of the 4 hours of instruction everyone could perform a good snowplough stop.

Most pupils mastered the button drag and some could turn and even jump! For some pupils it was a chance to develop their skills and two intermediate groups headed further up the hill to work on their parallel turning and more advanced techniques.

### Les Menuires, France

Secondary pupils enjoyed a great week skiing in Les Menuires, France from 20 January to 7 February. The pupils were able to develop their skiing & snowboarding skills. It was a fantastic week and despite being very cold, the sun did shine. The only negative aspect was Mr Banks suffering a broken arm!

### Aachen, Germany

In February, a group of 32 pupils and four members of staff, travelled to Aachen for one week to experience *Rosenmontag* in Cologne, the main day of Carnival celebrated along the Rhine in Germany. The group visited the historic cathedral towns of Reims, in Eastern France, Cologne, in West Germany and of course Aachen itself. Our group consisted of French as well as German pupils of all year groups and was based at the youth hostel in Aachen. Activities included ice-skating, swimming, go-carting at the Michael-Schumacher Karting Center in Kerpen as well as shopping in various towns and cities along our route. The old merchant town of Bruges, famous for its chocolate shops was the last highlight of the trip.

**We wish the School Community a very happy & peaceful Easter Break.**