



Beauly Primary School Newsletter – February/March 2013

Dear Parent / Carer

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held in the school hall on Wednesday 6th March (3.30pm – 6.00pm) and Thursday 7th March (5.30pm – 8.00pm). **A crèche will be provided for the afternoon session only and this will be held in the P3/4 class room.** Entrance for Parent's Evenings and crèche will be through the side door of the gym building.

Parents of children in Beauly Nursery will be given the opportunity to participate in 'Share a Session'. This will provide an opportunity to visit their child in the Nursery and discuss learning experiences on an individual basis. Visits can be scheduled in discussion with Beauly Nursery staff or via the timetable on the noticeboard.

P1/2 Maths Monday – 9am on 11th March



As parents/carers we all want to support our children as much as we can when it comes to number work at home, whether this is through homework, a visit to the local shop to spend some pocket money or playing with magnets on the fridge. As a means of supporting parents/carers of some of our younger learners, Beauly Primary School would like to invite P1/2 parents to

spend an hour in class with your child on Monday 11th March. If you are a parent of a child in this class, please join the line on this date and you will get a taste of the types of learning experiences on offer in class and some tips on how you can best support your child. At present school staff making plans for a Numeracy Workshop that could be offered to parents across other stages in the school.

Reverend Ogston

You may already be aware that Reverend Edgar Ogston is leaving the Parish. He is moving to Mallaig and at his last school assembly, on Friday 8th February he shared his forthcoming journey through an interesting presentation. We are very grateful

to Reverend Ogston for his contribution to the life of the school and in recognition of his much valued input our P7 children presented him with a book on walking in Mallaig and also a book token. We would like to take this opportunity to wish him well in his new home and parish.

Citizenship Groups – Library Group

World Book Day is on Thursday 7 March 2013 and the Library Group has organised a number of activities to celebrate the day:



1. Pupils are asked to bring in their favourite book to school on Thursday 7th, so that they can share it with others in their class.
2. We are running a Competition – (suggested by Matthew P7)

'Guess the Book'

In the competition Nursery, P1 and P2 pupils will be asked to try to identify well known books. However, all they will see is the front cover as the titles will be missing! (This could be tricky!)



P3-7 pupils' challenge is identifying a number of books and their authors. Sounds easy.....but all they will have to help them is the blurb!

Correct entries will be entered in a lucky dip with prizes for some lucky winners.

3. Using a live link to the World Book Day Official Internet Site on the day, pupils will be able to enjoy activities, games and talks from authors.
4. Pupils will be given opportunity to make individual bookmarks to use with their library books.
5. The school will be selling amazing and exciting new books for children in the School Library on Thursday 7th.

Pupils will be given opportunity to browse the stock and purchase books during the school day. They should bring money to school on the day. Parents collecting their children at the end of the day are welcome to browse and buy too!

Book Sale



School Meals

Many people will already be aware of Highland Council's decision to increase the price of school meals to contribute to budget savings. As a result school meals will undertake an inflationary rise of 4%.

The new prices for a primary school meal from 1st April will be: £1.87

Morning break snack prices are yet to be finalised, this information will be shared at the first opportunity.

International School Meals Day – 8th March

Pupils were asked to vote for their preference on a number of international menu choices for the International School Meals Day. It was very close but the menu has now been finalised and will be:

Thai Chicken with Noodles

Or

Vegetarian Pizza

Snickerdoodles (cinnamon biscuits), yogurt, fruit

WiFi



Beauly Primary School is delighted to announce some fantastic and exciting news as we look to join a very small and elite group of Highland schools! The Trustees of Lydia Michael Trust have chosen to award Beauly Primary School FULL FUNDING for a secure WiFi system. At a cost of £1850, the 'Aruba Wireless Network Access' will cover the entire school site. This generous contribution also takes into account an annual service fee for this provision. Once installed by Highland Council's ICT contractor, Fujitsu, the system will have a significant impact on school life for years to come. This 'state of the art' technology will facilitate interactive assemblies in our hall (and PE lessons), provide increasing opportunities for ICT group work across all areas of the curriculum and the chance for children to complete research work from their individual desks or even the playground! This provision also opens the door for children to be involved in the creation of a Pupil Blog as the school looks to further develop the new school Beauly Primary Weblog.

House Points

The pupils have re-launched the house point system and children are rewarded not only for good work they have completed but also for good manners and considerate

behaviour. They took part in a team building teambuilding initiative led by an art specialist, Mrs Heather Miller. Within their House team, groups of P1 – P7 pupils designed individual crests for their 'house' with the basis of the design founded in how the teams' colours are represented by nature in the local area. These were beautiful and we are in the process of creating electronic versions of winning designs for each house to be used for years to come.

There will be a weekly house winner with pupils in the winning team receiving an extended break on a Monday. A league has now been established and the winner of the league will get a 'special prize!' Details of our 'House of the Week' and current standings in the 'House Points League' can be found on the school website.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is fast approaching and the pupil fundraising group has been busy thinking up fundraising ideas. They have decided to organise a fun run to raise money. In the spirit of 'Doing Something Funny for Money' the committee has decided that the run should be completed in pyjamas! All pupils will take part in the sponsored Pyjama Fun Run (or walk) on Friday 15th March.



Rock Up in Red Day

Our **Rock Up in Red** day, arranged by our Fundraising Citizenship Group, was a huge success and the school managed to raise **£168.21 for British Heart Foundation**. Every pupil put so much effort into their outfits and staff were all talking about how bright the place looked! The highlight of the day was a fashion parade during our assembly. Our



lucky winners enjoyed a tasty treat as a reward, with food and drinks being served in the staffroom by Miss Macleod. Well done to: **Love Heart Red winners**, Isla and Leigh; **Sporty Red winners**, Selene and Ross and our **Punk Red winners** Kai and Evie.

Also, a special mention for Beaully Nursery, the children looked amazing! Dylan and Maisie got a special prize for their extra special efforts.

Cross Country Competition



Wow, what a fabulous (and a little bit tiring!) morning was enjoyed by all at the cross country running on Thursday 21st February at Kirkhill Community Centre. Everyone was successful in completing the 1.6km (one mile) circuit. Notable successes were achieved by Kira, who came 6th and Aine, who was 5th. Also, Rory and Craig both secured a bronze medal and Jade went one better with a silver medal. The P6/7 Gilrls

Team were over the moon to be awarded a 1st place trophy (jointly shared with Teanassie Primary) which was awarded because of their collective success. More important than any medal or trophy, each and every pupil should feel really proud of themselves for their sportsmanship and excellent conduct when representing the school. Staff were really proud of the support, cheering and encouragement that they offered each other but also to pupils in other schools! Well done to everyone!

Results	
P4/5 Girls Race	Aine – 5th, Zoe - 13th, Olivia - 18th, Libby - 19th
P4/5 Boys Race	Rory – 3rd (BRONZE MEDAL), Alexander - 16th, Joe – 17th, Adam – 24th, Rhys – 26th, Jimmy – 27th, Kai – 30th
P6/7 Girls Race	Jade – 2nd (SILVER MEDAL), Kira – 6th, Kern - 11th, Charlotte S. - 12th, Georgina – 17th, Lara – 18th, Chloe – 19th, Ellie – 20th, Lauren – 22nd, Nikki – 23rd, Charlotte M. – 25th, Emily – 26th
P6/7 Boys Race	Craig – 3rd (BRONZE MEDAL), Calum – 15th, Derek – 21st
P4/5 Girls Team	1st – Teanassie, 2nd – Kirkhill, 3rd – Dochgarroch
P4/5 Boys Team	1st – Kirkhill, 2nd – Tomnacross, 3rd – Beaully
P6/7 Girls Team	1st = Beaully (TROPHY) + Teanassie, 2nd Muirtown
P6/7 Boys Team	1st – Kinmylies, 2nd – Kirkhill, 3rd – Tomnacross

Parent Council –

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place at **7pm on Tuesday 23rd April** in the school library. The Parent Council always welcomes new members and would be delighted if you could join them. This is a great opportunity to find out about the life and work of the school. As the Parent Council only meets once per term being a member is not an onerous task.

Items from Parent Council Meeting held on 29th January

A number of concerns were raised at the Parent Council Meeting on 29th January and it was agreed to clarify these points for all parents in the first available newsletter:

Beaully Song Squad and Scottish Opera

The school is aware that these two productions were very close together. Although this clearly was not ideal the opportunity to take part in Beaully Song Squad arose after the Scottish Opera had already been booked. Staff felt that the children had much to gain from the Beaully Song Squad initiative particularly as it offered the opportunity to work with a music specialist for a number of weeks. It was therefore agreed to book Beaully Song Squad in addition to the Scottish Opera as we did not wish for the pupils to miss out on these opportunities.

The cost of the Scottish Opera production was £755 + VAT. In addition to this the school also had to pay £50.50 for the hire of Phipps Hall. Ticket sales totalled £300; the balance of £505.50 was paid from School fund.

A large proportion of the cost of Beaully Song Squad was kindly funded by the Music Development Department at the Highland Council, with the school being liable for only £100 of the cost and the purchase of copyright for the songs at £21. Money raised from ticket sales went towards school fund. The school fund is used to provide children with a rich variety of opportunities including (but not exclusively): a greatly subsidised residential trip for the P7 class, subsidised school trips for all classes, enterprise initiatives, prizes, and ‘special’ resources that compliment a particular class topic that may be purchased locally. It is hoped that regular fundraising initiatives, like ‘Dress Down Day’ or our ‘Winter Fair’ will enable the school to continue a level of provision that is both interesting and exciting for pupils but also acceptable to the parent forum. Feedback is always welcome on this or any other issue.

Toys in School

It has been noted that there are a number of children who bring toys to school for use at break and lunch times. As these toys are often very special to children, and there is a risk that they may become lost or damaged, we would ask that these are **not** brought into school. There have also been numerous fall-outs and a high level of upset caused as children look to compete with who has the best selection of toys. The school has outdoor toys which stimulate imaginative play and are happy to consider enhancing this selection; parents are welcome to suggest additional items.

Mobile Phones

Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones in school. We understand that there may be exceptional circumstances where a pupil needs a mobile phone after school. Should this be the case parents are asked to notify the school and the pupil will be required to keep the phone switched off and in their school bag, both during school and on any school transport. Any valuables kept in schoolbags are left at the owners risk.

Volunteers



As you are aware after school football for P5-P7 pupils now takes place on Monday afternoons. In order to be able to sustain this provision we very much need volunteers to come forward and help out with the club. We would be very grateful if anyone who would be willing to help out could contact the school office.

We wish to extend the range of extra-curricular activities that we are able to offer the children. If you, or anyone you know has a particular interest and would be willing to undertake activities with pupils please contact the school office. It may be possible to get training and /or funding for equipment to facilitate activities. The school would also pay the cost of obtaining PVG disclosure.

An exception to the above arrangement is Monday 17th June when the P7 pupils will be taking part in transition events.

Date for your Diary

A transition meeting for parents of P7 pupils will be held at 7pm on Monday 17th June at Charleston Academy. Pupils will also be taking part in a number of transition events during this week. Further details to follow.

Safer Route to School



We would like to thank all parents and carers for the increased use of the Safer Route to School. There has been a marked improvement in terms of congestion on Croyard Road. This not only aids traffic flow but ensures that local residents are able to access their own drive ways and increases visibility for our children to ensure they are able to cross the road safely.

Swimming Lessons

The P7 class will be going swimming each Monday morning as of the summer term commencing on 15th April. The children should bring their swimming kit, a towel, 20p for the locker (refundable) and a £2.50 contribution towards transport costs.



We value your opinions on the life and work of our school. Any feedback received will be used to evaluate our work and inform future developments for the school and its links with the wider community. Comments can be shared with the school directly in writing or alternatively please e-mail beauly.primary@highland.gov.uk