

Sgoil Lionacleit News

December 2019



Head Teacher Headlines



Sgoil Lionacleit continues to showcase the dedication and enthusiasm of our pupils and staff – this year’s Christmas Newsletter is a testament to the talent that is present in our school and I am very proud to be part of it.

This term we say goodbye to Mrs Skinner – a long serving and well respected member of the PE Department. We wish her all the best as she moves on with her journey and thank her for all that she has done to help us on ours. Many staff and pupils have benefitted from her enthusiasm and drive over the years she has been at Sgoil Lionacleit.

As we reflect on the fact that another calendar year has gone past, I also remind our community of our continuing focus as a school:

“Good, better, best – never let it rest ‘til your good is better and your better is best”



Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna
Mhath Ur

Gordon Young



School Contact Information

Head Teacher, Mr Gordon Young
Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula
Western Isles, HS7 5PJ
Tel: 01870 603690,
Email sgoillionacleit@gnes.net
<http://www.sgoillionacleit.org.uk>



Dates For Your Diary

Mon 6th Jan school re-opens

Wed 5th Feb INSET

Thu 6th—Mon 10th Feb local
hols

Tue 11th Feb INSET

Fri 27th March school closes

Social Studies visit to Auschwitz

Sgoil Lionacleit is extremely proud of two of our S5 pupils who participated in a thought provoking project run by the Holocaust Educational Trust this November. Floraidh Gray and Viktoria Kuzma made a journey to the memorial site at Auschwitz in Poland which was formerly a Nazi concentration camp.



On this journey they took a guided tour of the camp during which they saw artefacts and learned about many of the atrocities that took place there. This would certainly not have been easy. Floraidh and Viktoria showed considerable levels of maturity in undertaking this project. In addition to the journey to Poland the two students also attended two seminars which took place in Glasgow to ensure that they got the most out of their visit to Auschwitz.



Sgoil Lionacleit History department look forward to working with both pupils as they design their own system for disseminating what they have learned throughout the whole school community.

Sgoil Lionacleit Crofting Shed



Miss Gray's National 5 crofting class organised a festive enterprise event in the crofting shed on the 6th of December. The products were handmade and packaged in class, and included wax melts, machair bath salts, chilli jam, pine cone fire-starters and flowering bulbs. The enterprise taught pupils about diversification which extends the range of activities that are already carried out on a croft.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, and helped raise over £300. The pupils will decide how to use the money raised as part of their course. Special thanks to Mrs Parkin, Mrs Beaton and Mr Fraser for their help in making the event a success.



Dancing Honours

Myself and Elisa Morrison had received honours in our highland dancing exams, Elisa's for Grade 5 and mine for my Advanced. We were both nominated by our examiners to participate in the British Association of Teachers of Dancing (BATD) scholarships. Sixty-two people across the UK had also been chosen to participate, with twenty-two being in our senior section. The scholarship took place on the 30th of November. That day we had a class followed by a solo choreography competition and a written theory exam, through all of this we were being assessed by the judges. I was placed runner up in the Jessie Stewart Haggarty MBE senior theory paper where we were tested on our theoretical knowledge as well as a short essay on the end about our most memorable dancing experience.

Tamzin MacLeod



Wider Achievement – North District Cross Country Championships, Dores.



Seonaidh Macinnes (S3) and Seumas MacIain (S1) travelled to the North District XC championships in Dores on Saturday 7th December to represent NUAAC. The boys ran excellent races in 2 different age groups, Seumas MacIain in his U13 race placing 15th with a time of 13.36 Seonaidh finished his U15 race in 8th position following a sprint finish with a time of 16.02. Both boys have now qualified for the North District team in their respective age groups. Well done boys.

November was a busy month with visitors from 2 governing bodies visiting the school. We were very lucky to have football coaches from RFC and development coaches from the SRU working with our pupils, staff and community.

RANGERS FOOTBALL COACHES.

We welcomed 2 coaches from Rangers football club to the school early in November. The coaches enthusiastically got all pupils involved in developing their football skills and building their confidence in the sport itself. We hope to welcome back the coaches at Easter time. Thank you to Sean Mackenzie who organised opportunity.



Advent – a time to think of others



Mrs MacIntyre's S3 RE class recently rose to the challenge of doing something to help others in Advent. They organised a bake sale on Friday 13 December to raise money for SCIAF's (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund) Advent campaign which this year focuses on the crisis in Syria. The appeal was sent out to schools, with information about ways in which the money would be used. For example: £18 can pay for warm blankets to help people survive low temperatures in emergencies, £39 can help run a mobile medical centre to give refugees vital care and support, and £85 can help a refugee child get the education and support they need. The amount raised by the bake sale was an amazing £152.27. The class would like to thank all those who supported the bake sale in any way. A special thank you to Mrs Beaton for letting us use the HE rooms!



Oisín is our first customer



A selection of the baking done by S3 pupils



Jake Monk is busy mixing his cakes

£32 can help a family in an emergency to have shelter from the elements

Latha na Gàidhlig

B'è Latha na Gàidhlig a bh' ann air Diciadain 21 An t-Samhain. Anns na làithean ro làimh bha an class S1 Gàidhlig aig Mrs Parkin trang ag ullachadh leasan na Gàidhlig do luchd-obrach na sgoile nach eil fileanta ann an Gàidhlig. Tha na sgoilearan rim moladh airson stuthan tarraingeach a dheisealachadh agus abair gun do chòrd e ris an luchd-obrach a bha an làthair.

It was Latha na Gàidhlig on Wednesday 21st of November. In the days beforehand, Mrs Parkin's S1 Gàidhlig class was busy preparing lessons for school staff who are learning Gaelic. The lesson took place in the theatre and the pupils are to be commended for delivering such engaging lessons.



Film G



Rinn sgoilearan Sgoil Lionacleit am Film G aca còmhla ri Mairi Anna Chaimbeul, Eilidh NicIain agus Paul Steele. 'S e *Treòraich* an cuspair a th' aig an fharpais am-bliadhna agus abair gu robh na sgoilearan trang ag ullachadh. Gheibh na sgoilearan a-mach tràth sa Bhliadhn' Uir mu dheidhinn geàrr-liosta nan duaisean. Bu mhath leinn taing a thoirt do Miss Ferguson ann am Matamataigs agus S1 Luchd-ionnsachaidh airson a bhith deònach a bhith anns an fhilm.

Sgoil Lionacleit pupils recently completed their Film G entry with assistance from Mary Ann Campbell, Eilidh Johnson and Paul Steele. This year's theme is *Guide* and pupils will find out early in the New Year if they have been nominated for a prize. Thanks also to Miss Ferguson and Mrs Parkin's S1 Gaelic Learners class for being so willing to feature in the film.



The following pupils are in the Film G club:

Catriona MacLeod (S3), Grace Henderson (S3), Francesca MacMillan (S3), Matthew MacCormick (S3), Donald Henderson (S2), Pdraig MacMillan (S2), Grace Hamilton (S1), Brooke MacDonald (S1) and Cameron Cockburn (S1).



National Gàidhlig Debate



O chionn ghoirid bhuannaich sinn Deasbad Naiseanta Gàidhlig nan Àrd-sgoiltean. Am bliadhna bhathar a' comharrachadh fichead bliadhna den deasbad 's mar sin bha a' chuairt dheireannach ann an seòmar-deasbaid na Pàrlamaid.

Bha sinn airson a dhèanamh air saillibh 's gun do chòrd e rinn nuair a rinn sinn e airson a' chiad turas air an dàrna bliadhna. Bha sinn òg a' chiad turas a rinn sinn e ach tha sinn air tighinn air adhart a thaobh misneachd agus sgilean deasbaid on uair-sin.

Bha ceithir cuairtean ann agus bha sia sgiobaidhean deug a' gabhail pàirt. Bha a' chiad dà chuairt ann an Steòrnabhagh air a' 5mh agus an 6mh latha den t-Samhain agus fhuair sinn troimhe chun an iar-chuairt dheireannach ann an Dun Eideann.

Chòrd an turas a Steòrnabhagh rinn gu mòr; bha e math a bhith a' coinneachadh ri daoine òg eile aig an robh ùidh ann an Gàidhlig. Chuala sinn iomadh deasbad inntinneach eadar na sgiobaidhean eile. Nuair a fhuair sinn a-mach gun robh sinn a' dol a Dhun Eideann bha sinn air bhioran! Fhuair sinn a-mach na cuspairean an uairsin airson an ath dhà chuairt.

'S e "Tha Fitbits feumail airson ar cumail fallain" an cuspair a bh'againn airson an ath chuairt agus bha sinn an aghaidh Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis. Thòisich sinn ag obair air an deasbad nuair a thill sinn air ais à Steòrnabhagh; bha obair mhòr ann agus bha againn ri tòrr rannsachaidh agus smaoinichaidh a dhèanamh mu dheidhinn.

Bha na h-iar chuairtean deireannach ann an taigh-osta *MacDonald Holyrood*. Thug an deasbad seo gàire oirnn fhèin agus air an luchd-èisteachd 's mar sin bha e spòrsail. Bha e doirbh a chreidsinn gun do rinn sinn a' ghnòthach agus gun robh sinn a' dol dhan chuairt dheireannach ann am Pàrlamaid na h-Alba.

Thòisich sinn air barrachd obair a dhèanamh air a' chuairt dheireannach an ath latha. Bha sinn an aghaidh sgioba Sir E Scott agus bha cuspair doirbh againn,

"S ann anns na bailtean mòra a bhios na fìor choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig ann am fichead bliadhna"

Bha sinn an aghaidh a' mhòlaidh, 's mar sin bha againn ri cur sìos air a' choimhearsnachd againn fhèin, rud a bha gu math doirbh. Bha sinn air bhioran agus uabhasach nearbhach chionn 's gu robh sinn a' dol a bhith a' deasbad anns an àite far am bi luchd-poilitigs mòra na dùthcha againn ag argamaid: anns an t-seòmar-deasbaid mhòr! Bha an deasbad a' dol a-mach beò air Rèidio nan Gaidheal agus air loidhne air tìbh na Pàrlamaid. Nuair a fhuair sinn a-mach gun do bhuannaich sinn bha sinn uabhasach toilichte oir cha robh dùil againn gum bitheadh sinn a' tilleadh air ais a dh' Uibhist leis a' chupa mhòr.

Tha sinn uabhasach fortanach gun robh an cothrom seo againn agus neartaich e sgilean a bh'againn a leithid a bhith ag obair ann an sgioba, sgilean rannsachaidh agus sgilean deasbaid. Bha e cuideachd math airson misneachd a thoirt dhuinn nuair a tha sinn a' bruidhinn air beulaibh dhaoine.

Tha sinn airson taing a thoirt dhan h-uile duine a chuidich sinn: Mrs MacEachen, Mrs Parkin agus Miss Ferguson airson an taic agus a' chomhairle a thug iad dhuinn; Alasdair MacEachen agus Oisín Buckley airson tighinn còmhla rinn air na turasan agus dha na tidsearan againn anns an sgoil a bha gar cuideachadh le bhith gar leigeil a-mach à clasaichean airson obair a dhèanamh air an deasbad. Taing cuideachd dhan h-uile duine a tha air a bhith cho laghach agus a tha air beannachdan a chuir thugainn.

Recently Sgoil Lionacleit won the National Gàidhlig Debate. This year the Debate celebrated its twentieth year and this meant that the final round was held in the actual debating chamber of the Scottish Parliament, as this year also marks the twentieth year of the Scottish Parliament. Marion and I wanted to take part because we enjoyed it when we took part way back in second year. We were much younger the first time round but we feel we have grown in confidence and developed our debating skills since then.

There were 4 rounds with 16 teams. The first two rounds took place in Stornoway on the 5th and 6th of November and we got through to the semi-finals in Edinburgh. We enjoyed the trip to Stornoway very much and it was good to meet up with other young people who had an interest in Gàidhlig. It was also good to listen to other teams debating on a range of interesting topics. When we found out that we were going to Edinburgh we were so excited!

Our topic for the semi-final was "Fitbits are helpful for keeping us healthy" and we were against Inverness Royal Academy. We started work on the topic as soon as we returned to school. There was lots of work to do: we did lots of research and lots of thinking!

The semi-finals took place in the MacDonald Hotel Holyrood. This debate made us and the audience laugh and therefore it was great fun! We were successful in the semi-finals and it was difficult to believe that the following evening we were going to be in the final and debating at the Scottish Parliament!

We worked hard on the topic for the final the next day. We were up against Sir E Scott and we had a challenging topic:

"The main Gàidhlig communities will be found in the cities in twenty years!"

We were against the motion which meant that we had to be very critical of our own community and this was challenging. We were excited but also very nervous to be debating in the debating chamber – the room in which the main politicians in our country debate. The debate was being broadcast live on Radio nan Gaidheal and online on Parliament TV.

When we found out we had won we were so happy as we had not expected to return to Uist with the big cup!

We are very fortunate to have had this opportunity as it strengthened skills such as working together in a team and also research and debating skills. It was also good as it gave us confidence to speak in front of an audience.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us: Mrs MacEachen, Mrs Parkin and Miss Ferguson for the support and advice they gave us; Alasdair MacEachen and Oisín Buckley for coming with us on the trips. We would also like to thank other teachers who helped by giving us time out of class to prepare for the debate when that was needed. We would also like to thank everyone at Sgoil Lionacleit and the wider community for being so kind and sending us good wishes and messages of congratulations.

Joanne Laing



SPRING 2020 - TERM 3

Opens:

Monday, 6th January 2020

Teachers and pupils

Staff in-service and school closed to pupils: Wednesday, 5th February 2020

Local holidays and school is closed : Thursday 6th, 7th and 10th of February 2020 to all

Staff in-service and school closed to pupils: Tuesday, 11th February 2020

Closes:

Friday, 27th March 2020

Teachers and pupils

Local holidays: Good Friday 10th April and Easter Monday 13th April 2020

