



# Sgoil Lionacleit News

<http://www.sgoillionacleit.org.uk>

March 2016

## A Fairtrade Start to the Day



On Monday 14th March our school took part in Fairtrade Fortnight by organising a big breakfast for the whole school. The breakfast was organised by S2 pupils and involved: making posters and banners, inviting guests, baking banana bread, preparing for musical entertainment and many other tasks. The breakfast started at 9am and the whole school was served before 10am. The S2 Tutor groups did the food preparation and served the food and drinks on the day. The main items were: bananas,



HEADLINES FROM

Head Teacher  
Mr Miller MacDonald

melted chocolate, pancakes, banana bread, fruit juice and hot chocolate. We have had lots of positive feedback about the event. Ms Emsley told S2: 'The atmosphere was wonderful with great food, excellent music and a friendly buzz.' It was a very good way to celebrate and raise awareness about Fairtrade Fortnight.

*Oskar Kruszynski S2*



Pictured above left: Shona Steele S2 enjoying breakfast with friends. Pictured above: Emma Monk S2 offering Fairtrade pancakes to S1 pupils Isla MacDonald, Amy McGinnity and Kyla MacKinnon.

## FilmG Award Nomination

B'e 'Clìù' cuspair Farpais Film G 2016 agus rinn buidheann Sgoil Lionacleit fiolm ghoirid mu dheidhinn a' chliù a bh' aig taibhs. Rinn sinn tòrr deisealachaidh airson a' fiolm ro làimh agus chaidh sinn dhan choille ann an Loch Aineairt airson fiolmadh anns an t-Samhain an-uiridh. Chuir sinn latha seachad a' dèanamh sin agus an uair sin chuir sinn seachad dà latha a' deasachadh a' fiolm.

Fhuair sinn air a' ghearr-liosta airson a' fiolm as fhèarr a chaidh a dhèanamh le fòn-laimhe, agus chaidh mi fhèin agus Maria còmhla ri Pòl Steele agus Mairi Ann Chaimbeul a Ghlaschu airson cuirm nan duaisean. Cha do bhuannaich sinn an duais ach bha sinn moiteil asainn fhèin gun d' fhuair sinn air a' ghearr-liosta. Bha oidhche sgoinneil againn.

Ghabh na sgoilearan a leanas pàirt anns a' fiolm: Mairirose Niciosaig, Georgia Nic a' Mhaoilein, Marc Lindsay, Maria McGoldrick, Flòraidh Gray, Rosslyn Palmer, Màiri Nic a' Mhaoilein, Jessie Coldwell, Kara Creighton, Anna Chaimbeul agus Daibhidh Bird.

*Mairirose Niciosaig S3*



Pictured above: Maria McGoldrick and Maryrose MacIsaac at the Film G award ceremony in Glasgow.

## Piping Hot

Congratulations to the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band who came 3rd in the Freestyle category of the 2016 Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships on the 13th March this year. The band travelled to Broughton High School in Edinburgh for the event and were a credit to the school.



This term's newsletter reports a number of interesting and successful events held by the school during a very busy and enjoyable term.

In addition to these events, last week we were visited by the Inverness Caley Thistle footballer, Calum Ferguson. As well as passing on his skills at football workshops, delivered in Gaelic and English, Calum gave an inspirational talk to pupils about his journey to where he is today. I wish to thank Calum and Mary Ann Campbell CnaG for organising this event.

Also two training expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award have been held in March to prepare young people ahead of their Assessed Expedition in June. I wish to thank Ms Emsley and Mrs Morrison for facilitating the DofE Awards. If you, or someone you know, would like to get involved helping to organise the DofE Awards then please get in touch.

With SQA examinations starting on 5th May all pupils are strongly advised to start revision during the Easter holidays. It is never too late to start studying, but the sooner you start the better the outcome will be. Best wishes to all those sitting their SQA exams.

Finally, may I wish everyone an enjoyable and restful holiday.

## School Contact Information

Head Teacher, Mr Miller MacDonald  
Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula  
Western Isles, HS7 5PJ  
Tel: 01870 603690.  
Email [sgoillionacleit@gnes.net](mailto:sgoillionacleit@gnes.net)  
<http://www.sgoillionacleit.org.uk>



## Buddies Train to Support New S1s



Pictured above: S5 Students Rhianna Gordon, Jasmine Mannix and Seonaidh MacDonald meeting their Daliburgh Buddies prior to Induction Day on Monday 21st March.

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016, the S5 pupils started their "Buddy Training" at the Dark Island Hotel. The purpose of the training was to help S5 prepare the P7 pupils for their induction to Sgoil Lionacleit. The training was delivered by Theona Morrison and Thomas Fisher from Cothrom. Some of the topics from the training were looking at our own skills such as asking open, closed or reflective questions. Also we talked about being active listeners and respecting people's different opinions.

It was a lively, active training session and the delivery was very effective. It really helped S5 interact

with their P7 buddies when they went out to the Primary Schools on the 2nd of March to meet them for the first time.

*Christopher Palmer S5*

*The school would like to thank Theona and Thomas for all their support. We are looking forward to working with Cothrom on a new mentoring project over the coming year.*



Pictured above: S1 pupils Matthew MacDonald, David Bird and Luke Aucott building their bridge and demonstrating their STEM skills.

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 a group of pupils from the STEM club travelled to Inverness to take part in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) showcase event. Held at Eden Court Theatre in Inverness, many schools from the Highlands and Islands displayed the projects they had been working on. Teams took part in STEM challenges including racing electric cars and flying paper aeroplanes.

The main competition was to demonstrate the construction of our bridge. We learned how to work co-operatively to construct a stable structure just using wooden sticks, string and cable ties. Our team members were Callum Aucott S5, David Bird S1, Luke Aucott S1 and Matthew MacDonald S1. We went to the event to gain experience competing against different schools and to celebrate STEM activities.

Mr Fraser and Mr MacDonald (Depute Head) accompanied the group along with Mr Howard Manning from QinetiQ who has been working with us every Friday.

*Calum Aucott S5*

*We would like to thank Mr Manning for all his support. The team hope to travel to Edinburgh in June to take part in the 'Rampaging chariots' competition with their newly constructed radio controlled robot! Anyone interested in joining the club should see Mr Fraser in the technical department. The club meets every Friday after school.*

## Science And The Environment



Pictured above: Dr Ewins and university student Christine in the chemistry lab with S5 and S6 students Sean Francis, Hannah MacDonald, Carrie MacDonald, Heather MacKinnon, Catriona MacLeod and Rachael MacDonald.

Dr Ciaran Ewins and Chemistry undergraduate Christine from the University of the West of Scotland came to the school to show pupils key analytical chemistry techniques. They demonstrated the use of a UV-Vis spectrometer which was used to look at drug samples and an infrared spectrometer which was used to identify different types of plastics for recycling. These techniques are commonly used throughout the fields of chemistry and forensic science. The workshop gave us an insight to the real world applications of Chemistry.

*Rachael MacDonald and Carrie MacDonald S6*

## The Sun, The Earth and Global Warming

Professor Martin McCoustra visited Sgoil Lionacleit on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 to engage all S3 pupils and N4 & N5 Chemistry students in the topic of "The Sun, The Earth and Global Warming".

His talk was wide ranging and intense! He revealed evidence for global warming and explained that the earth's atmosphere was crucial. He identified the gaseous culprits that we already knew about that contribute to warming the planet, and some that we didn't! He showed us that the greenhouse effect is essential to life on earth and explained that the reason the earth hasn't already warmed up to a critical temperature (like Venus) is luck!

He clearly showed how the modern research chemist has to have a good grasp of maths, physics, biology and geography. If we didn't have scientists studying this problem and trying to find solutions, the world would be in grave danger!

Hopefully this discussion will inspire some of our students to study sciences to a higher level and go on to make a real difference to the future of our planet!



On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March twelve pupils walked approximately fifteen miles between Griminish Pier in North Uist and Balranald as part of our Duke of Edinburgh award.

En route to our destination we camped overnight at Hosta beach which was a highlight of the

expedition. The weather was perfect – calm and not too cold. Building a campfire and toasting marshmallows was one of the best things about the trip. Another exciting moment was looking down into the blowhole along the coast.

The other pupils aiming for their award are Sophie MacAulay, Laura Steele, Hannah MacLennan, Sheena Peteranna, Calum MacPhee, Cailean Martindale, Cameron MacInnes, DJ MacMillan, Hugh Paterson and Pdraig MacInnes.

Taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme has given us skills in working as a team, independence and organisation. We are learning to think ahead and be self-sufficient. Taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award is a great experience and gives us a real sense of achievement. Other aspects of the award include physical activities, learning new skills and volunteering. We volunteer with junior basketball, coaching younger kids.

This was a practice expedition and we are really looking forward to the main event in June this year.

*Niall Walker and Bobby MacDonald S4*



Pictured above Back row: Expedition supervisor Mrs MacKillop, Cailean Martindale, DJ MacMillan, Pdraig MacInnes, Cameron MacInnes, Niall Walker. Front row: Dileas (the dog), Calum MacPhee, Bobby MacDonald, Hugh Paterson and Expedition supervisor Ms Emsley.

## Are You Ready to Vote?



Senior pupils at Sgoil Lionacleit have been helping their fellow pupils get #readytovote. **Senior Leadership Team** Paul Morrison, Rachael MacDonald, Iain MacPhee and Carrie MacDonald, have run an Electoral Commission campaign to ensure that fifteen to seventeen year olds at the school have added their names to the Electoral Register.

Paul, Iain and Carrie ran assemblies with S3 – S6 pupils, telling them why it is important to register and encouraging sixteen and seventeen year olds to use their right to vote in May's Scottish Parliament election.

Iain, Carrie and Rachael (pictured above) met with all S4 – S6 pupils on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May and helped them to register to vote. Iain said 'I'm glad we have helped young people in Uist ensure they will be able to voice their opinions about what they think is right in the upcoming election.'

## Full on Fundraising for Tanzania



Pictured above: The World Challenge 2017 Team with their fabulous fundraising hamper full of goodies from generous local contributors.

The World Challenge pupils have been working hard this term continuing to raise funds for their trip in June 2017. The group have worked together to organise a coffee morning that was held before Christmas and raised a total of £537.62. The group would like to thank all who contributed towards baking and those who attended the event, giving generously. Since January the group have organised a pancake sale on Pancake Tuesday raising a total of £70.60. Recently, they have been selling tickets for an Easter Hamper. The hamper has raised a total of £361.75. The pupils would like to thank all businesses who contributed items towards the hamper. The World Challenge Team have also been working on individual fundraising. For example Stephanie MacPhee S4 has raised £1400 by hosting a Family Fun Day in Talla an lochdair and co-hosting a Curry and Quiz Night. Part of the "challenge" of the trip is to organize and run both individual and group fundraising events. With the trip just over a year away, please keep an eye out for future events. Grateful thanks from the team to all who have contributed so far.

On Thursday 17th March several members of the S5 RME Class presented a cheque for £702 to Mrs Michelle MacDonald for the One Million Miles for Ellie cancer charity. The class raised the money as part of their SQA Religion, Belief and Values: Values in Action Unit. Michelle expressed her appreciation, spoke about the fundraising, shared her memories of Ellie and encouraged all the young people present to pursue their dreams. Find out more about the charity at: <http://www.1millionmilesforellie.co.uk/>



Pictured above: S5 RME class members Hannah MacDonald, Kirsty MacLean, Alison Steele, Mairi MacIntosh and Fiona MacDonald making their fundraising presenting to Mrs Michelle MacDonald.

## A Healthy Start for Primary Pupils

On Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, Sgoil Lionacleit S6 Sport and Recreation pupils Heather MacKinnon, Ross Nicolson and Owen Johnson, hosted a sports hall athletics event for over forty primary one to primary three pupils from North and South Uist athletics clubs. The children undertook a range of activities focussing on running, jumping and throwing, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The Sport and Recreation pupils said 'It is vitally important to promote athletics to younger ages, so that the pupils have an early interest in sport.' Special thanks go to Joseph MacInnes S6, S5 pupils Calum Binnie and Calum Fraser and to S3 Hospitality pupils Marc Lindsay and Micheal Iain MacInnes for assisting the Sport and Recreation pupils on the day.

### Fuel 4 Fitness

After the sports event the primary pupils were invited to a finger buffet prepared for them by the S3 Skills for Work Hospitality pupils, from the Health, Food and Textile Technology Department. The event was part of their end of unit assessment and they prepared soup and wraps as well as fun fruit dishes, refreshments and samples of unusual foods such as kale crisps. Primary pupils donated a pound for their lunch which was given to charity.

Thanks to all the teachers who helped organise this event, Mrs MacLean, Ms Levack, Mrs Beaton and Mrs Skinner.



Pictured above: Heather MacKinnon S6 with some of the enthusiastic junior athletics members. Inset picture: The S3 Skills for Work Hospitality team that prepared delicious healthy food for the visiting youngsters.

## Debbie NicAoidh a' tadhal air òigridh Uibhist

Bha spòrs is fealla-dha gu leòr aig sgoilearan Sgoil Lionacleit nuair a fhuair iad an cothrom pàirt a ghabhail ann an seiseanan drama còmhla ri Debbie Nic Aoidh aig deireadh a' Ghearrain.

Dh' obraich Debbie còmhla ri diofar bhuidhnean de sgoilearan eadar S1-S3, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus fileantaich agus abair gun do chòrd na seiseanan gu mòr ris an òigridh a ghabh pàirt annta. Bha na seiseanan a' toirt air an òigridh beagan obrach a dhèanamh nan aonar agus cuideachd ann am buidhnean beaga, far a robh aca ri tighinn suas le rud goirid airson sealltainn dhan na buidhnean eile. Thug na seiseanan an cothrom dhaibh cuideachd Gàidhlig a chleachdadh ann an suidheachadh neo-fhoirmeil agus bha spòrs gu leòr an luib seo cuideachd.

Bha an òigridh toilichte a bhith ag obair còmhla ri Debbie agus iad uile eòlach oirre mar Mhàiri, san t-sreath drama, Bannan,

Chuir Màiri Anna Chaimbeul, oifigear ChnaG, aig Iomairt Ghàidhlig Uibhist a-deas is Èirisgeigh, na seiseanan seo air dòigh.

### English Summary

*S1-S3 pupils had lots of fun in February when they got the opportunity to take part in Gaelic drama workshops with Debbie MacKay who also happens to have a starring role in the Gaelic drama series, Bannan. Fluent speakers and learners took part in the workshops. We are very grateful to Mary Ann Campbell, Comann na Gaidhlig Development Officer, for arranging these workshops.*



Pictured above: S2 pupils enjoying gaelic drama workshops in Sgoil Lionacleit Theatre with TV star Debbie MacKay.

## North of Scotland

### Cross Country

### Championships

### Team Effort



Pictured above: Owen Johnson S6 focused and determined during the North of Scotland Cross Country Championships.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, a team of eleven S1 to S6 pupils travelled to Gordonstoun to compete in the North of Scotland Schools Cross Country Championships. The Under 14 girls, Allana Beaton and Stella MacKinnon, performed well out of a field of seventy nine.

In the Under 14 boys Allig MacDonald, Liam MacKinnon, Rinchen Coleman and Angus MacDonald all made an excellent effort for their school and as a team were placed 7<sup>th</sup> out of a competitive field from all across the north of Scotland.

The Over 15 boys team (Owen Johnson, Finlay MacVicar, Micheal Iain MacInnes and Innes MacRae) gave excellent performances and came a very commendable 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

This very young team still have three years left in their age group and held their own against a field mostly consisting of boys two years older than themselves. This provides a lot of hope in future years for the athletes of Sgoil Lionacleit.

## Careers Convention

In February a well attended Careers Convention took place in the school. Organised by Skills Development Scotland in collaboration with Sgoil Lionacleit, a wide range of potential Employers and Further Education representatives filled the Games Hall. All year groups were able to browse the informative stands and chat with some former pupils that were representing their employer.

Generally students felt that attending the convention helped them to reflect on their future and follow up ideas they have about career choices. S3-S5 pupils from Castelbay, Barra were also able to take advantage of this important opportunity to explore career options.



Pictured above: Students browsing the many career possibilities on offer at the Career Convention in February.

## Dates For Your Diary

- Friday 1st April  
School closes for Spring Break
- Monday 18th April  
School opens
- Monday 2nd May  
May Day Holiday
- Wednesday 4th May  
Study Leave begins
- Thursday 5th May  
SOA Exams begin

**BEST WISHES TO ALL  
THOSE SITTING SOA  
EXAMS NEXT TERM!**