



# Sgoil Lionacleit News

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

October 2014

## THE PUPIL VOICE



**Pictured above:** This year's elected pupil councillors. Back Row from left to right: Hugh Patterson S2, Michelle MacDonald S4, Marc Lindsay S2, Kathleen MacInnes S6, Bobby MacDonald S3, Calum Campbell S5, Calum Ferguson S5, Paul Morrison S5, Ruairidh Gray S1, Hamish Rodger S2, Katie Walker S1. Front row: Katelin Morrison S1, Donald John MacMillan S3, Fergus MacVicar S4, Rachael MacDonald S5, Connor MacLeod S6, Sophie Aucott S3, Derek MacIntosh S4. Innes MacRae S2 (not pictured)



HEADLINES FROM  
Head Teacher  
Mr Miller MacDonald

Aspirational course levels and target grades for pupils in S4, S5 and S6 have now been issued. The levels and grades are what teachers feel each pupil can achieve if they attend school regularly, fulfil all course expectations and continue with their current level of application. With continued commitment and hard work pupils can exceed these levels. I would like to see all pupils achieving or exceeding their target grades.

We will be introducing a system for target-setting and monitoring the progress of pupils in S1, S2 and S3 once the new Management Information System has been fully implemented.

Education Scotland have completed their inspection of Sgoil Lionacleit. A Parent Letter with their findings and evaluations will be published in early November.

At the end of September six pupils achieved the expedition component of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award despite difficult camping conditions.

This year several pupils gained prizes in the Literature Section of the National Mod and we hope our choir, after all their hard practice, are successful in the choral competitions on Tuesday 14 October.

May I wish all pupils and staff an enjoyable holiday.



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## Lest We Forget



In partnership with Castlebay School, some of our S4, S5 and S6 History pupils travelled to France on the 1<sup>st</sup> October with the Social Subjects department's Mrs Morrison and Mrs MacDonald. During their

visit, they laid wreaths on the graves of some of the servicemen from Uist who died during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. The pupils had made the wreaths from Uist heather and pine and had encircled them with Western Isles tartan.

Earlier this term, the Social Subjects department and school canteen staff, arranged for pupils and staff to sample the types of food that would have been served up to regular soldiers and officers during the first world war by offering a menu of bully beef hash (for the soldiers) and roast chicken (for the officers). The canteen entrance has been adorned with poppies made by pupils and photos and poetry have been hung as a poignant reminder of the war.

At the end of term a whole school assembly will take place in collaboration with Pròiseact nan Ealan and the current Gairm nan Gaidheal exhibition at Museum nan Eilean. During the assembly, which will take place at the front of the school building on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, pupils will place 349 commemorative crosses at the foot of the school flag pole and read out the names of each serviceman from Uist who lost their life in the Great War. The exhibition which explores the impact of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War in Uist, runs until 31<sup>st</sup> October.



## Launch At Sgoil Lionacleit

Air 5 An t-Sultain thill an cleasaiche Kerry Nic a' Phì a' bha uair na sgoilear an seo airson Farpais Film G 2014 a chur air bhog. Tha buidheann a-nis air tòiseachadh air fiolm a dhèanamh airson na farpaise.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September, former pupil and Commonwealth athlete Kerry MacPhee returned to Sgoil Lionacleit to launch this year's Film G competition. Pupils have started work on their film for this year's competition.



**Pictured above:** Some of last year's award winning Film G production team helping to launch the 2014/15 Film G competition with athlete Kerry MacPhee.

## Gaelic Competition Successes



**Pictured above:** Some of the competition prize winners displaying their well deserved certificates.

**CLAS Gaelic Writing Competition** Pupils entered a national writing competition organised by CLAS. The following pupils were commended for their entries: Gaelic (Learners)

Ewen Ferguson S3, Anna MacRae S3, Stephanie MacPhee S3, Calum MacPhee S3, Sheena Peteranna S3, Megan MacLeod S3, Isobel May S3, Domhnall I ain MacMillan S3, Scott MacAulay S3 Gaidhlig:

Marc Lindsay S2, Niall Walker S3, Cailean Martindale S3, Pdraig MacI nnes S3, Hannah MacLennan S3, Maddie MacMillan S3, Kara Creighton S3, Kirsty MacDonald S3, Laura MacKay S3, Maria Steele S3, Cian Kirk S3.

**Canadian Visitor** On 20th August 2014, Heather Caldwell, a third year Gaelic student from St Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia in Canada visited S1 Gaidhlig, S3 Gaidhlig and S1 Social Subjects classes. She is a student of Professor Kathy Reddy a former teacher of Sgoil Lionacleit. Heather spoke to pupils about the Gaelic language in Nova Scotia, how many people speak Gaelic and the opportunities there are to learn Gaelic in schools and universities.



## SUMMER SANDEELS

Instead of sitting around with my feet up all summer, catching up on **sleep as I'd intended earlier in the**

year, Mrs Johnson (Principal Teacher of Science) suggested I fill out a Nuffield Application which resulted in me spending six weeks doing a research project in the Marine Scotland Science Laboratory in Aberdeen.

I spent the time analysing zooplankton samples to answer the all-important question: Is there enough food for sandeels in the Firth of Forth? After much careful research, fiddly experiments and trawling through detailed scientific papers, the question was answered, some new discoveries were made, and as ever with science, more questions were raised in the process!

This experience was a great way to develop my personal research skills and helped me gain a lot of confidence in talking to new people, presenting my work in a scientific manner, and most of all, gain more responsibility for my learning. All skills that will help me when I go to university next year; also, this project has confirmed to me that I want to study marine science in the future.

*Erin Warner S6*

**Pictured left:** Erin Warner S6 with the poster she compiled following completion of her research on sandeels during the summer holidays at the Marine Scotland Science Laboratory in Aberdeen.

## Commonwealth Games Competitions

**Film** - Earlier this year a group of S2 and S3 pupils won first prize for their Gaelic film produced for a Commonwealth Games competition organised by Storlann. The film featured local athlete Kerry MacPhee who was selected for the Scottish Commonwealth team. The pupils involved are very grateful to Paul Steele who assisted with filming and editing. The pupils that took part were: Marc Lindsay S2, Uilleam Brass S2, Georgia MacMillan S2, Kenny MacKillop S2 and Kara Creighton S3.

**Writing** - There was also a writing competition in conjunction with the film competition.

Third prize: Laura MacKay S3

Highly Commended: Maria Steele S3

Commended: Marc Lindsay S2, Kenny MacKillop S2, Isobel Patterson S2, Cailean Martindale S3, Niall Walker S3, Hannah MacLennan S3, Kara Creighton S3, Kirsty MacDonald S3, Maddie MacMillan S3, Pdraig MacI nnes S3, Hugh Patterson S3

## Duaisean a' Mhòid Nàiseanta

Tha an Sgoil dìreach air brath fhaighinn gun do choisinn na sgoilearan **a leanas duaisean sgrìobhaidh aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta:**

Gaidhlig:

3mh duais - Roddy MacThòmais (S4)

Luchd-ionnsachaidh:

1 mh duais - Kerri NicNeill (S6)

2 mh duais - Emma Dhomhnallach (S6 an-uiridh)

3 mh duais - Anna Marie Pheutan (S6)

Mealaibh ur naidheachd!

## Sgoil Lionacleit Gaelic Choir off to the Mod



Pictured above: Some of the Gaelic Choir - Georgia MacMillan, Leona MacAulay, Katie MacLennan, Heather MacKinnon, Kayreen MacLeod, Michelle MacDonald, Katherine MacInnes, Mairi MacIntosh, Catriona MacLeod and Laura Steele.

On Monday 13th October fifteen S2 - S5 pupils will be travelling to Inverness to take part in this year's Royal National Mod. The Sgoil Lionacleit Gaelic Choir will be competing in three choral competitions and have been practicing six Gaelic songs with music teacher Mrs MacDonald and Gaelic/English teacher Mrs MacIntyre.



### THE BOOK CAFÉ

The Book Café continues to be a popular choice for pupils interested in a good read over a cup of tea and a biscuit. The group meet on Monday's at lunchtime in the library to review the books they have chosen in an informal and friendly atmosphere. If you like a good read, why not go along and join the group.

## Rome - Trip of a Lifetime



Pictured above: Pupils and staff displaying the Uist flag and enjoying the Italian sunshine at St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

### Art On The Move



Pictured above: S1 pupils viewing the contemporary works of art on display in the Travelling Gallery.

Once again we were privileged to have a visit from the Travelling Gallery. On Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th September S1-S6 Art and Design pupils were given the opportunity to visit the exhibition displaying the works of five contemporary artists.

On view was the exhibition 'Generation' which featured a collection of thought provoking artworks with a hand-made, craft based theme running throughout the display. The accompanying curator delivered a well-received explanation of each artist and their work.

One of the exhibitors, artist Craig Coulthard, hosted an exciting contemporary art workshop for a number of S1 pupils. The project mixed mathematics with design as pupils produced interesting geometric patterns that Craig will be transforming into one of his dynamic felt wall hangings based on encaustic tile designs from Edinburgh's Victorian door ways.

On 18th June twenty-nine pupils and six adult helpers: Miss MF Morrison, Mr E McFadzean, Mrs C Ferguson, Mr G Ferguson, Fr R Crichton and Mrs F MacAulay set off on a trip of a lifetime to Rome.

On arrival at Rome Airport the group travelled to their first hotel – Casa Tabor which is situated on the outskirts of the Vatican City. The hotel is run by an order of nuns – Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother - who were very welcoming and enjoyed having the pupils stay with them.

The group had various excursions while staying in Central Rome, including the Time Elevator, the Colosseum, the Catacombs and of course the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. The weather was very warm 32°C but the group quickly became used to the heat. The food and ice creams were delicious.

For the second part of the trip the group headed out of Rome and to the Coast to Ostia. En route the group visited the War Graves in Anzio, there was a 2 minute silence to observe those who died.

The group also had the opportunity to visit an Archaeological site in Ostia which was of great interest to all.

### S1 Parent Focus Group

We are always looking for ways to involve parents as much as possible in the life of the school. Would you like to become more involved in shaping your child's learning and experience at Sgoil Lionacleit? Do you have ideas and views that you would like to share with us? If so, why not join our new S1 Parents' Focus Group?

We are planning to hold our first meeting of the focus group early next term.

If you are interested in being part of this new initiative contact/e-mail the school office at [sgoillionacleit@qnes.net](mailto:sgoillionacleit@qnes.net) or phone 01870 603690 and we will contact you with details of our first meeting.



**Piping for the Princess Royal**

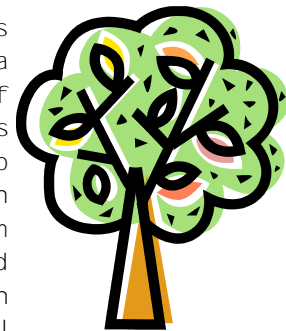
Pictured above: Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band performing at Lochmaddy for the opening of the new marina.

Please support Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band by giving them your vote to gain funds from the Bank of Scotland Community Fund. You can vote online by using the link below and also in the Bank of Scotland (Benbecula and Lochmaddy) every time you visit the branch. <http://bos-cf.co.uk/VXY>

Over the summer months the Pipe Band's busy schedule took them to a wide range of venues. They played to audiences at Castlebay School, the village of Abriachan for a wedding reception, the North Harris Show, South Uist and Benbecula agricultural shows, Stornoway at the Harris Tweed Tattoo and Comann na Mara invited the pupils to play for the Princess Royal and all those present for the opening of the new marina at Lochmaddy on Tuesday 2nd September. The Band also entered world class competitions at Forres for the European Pipe Band Championships, and Glasgow at the World Pipe Band Championships.

## Building Pathways

Earlier this term a group of pupils travelled to Carinish Millennium Woodland with Principal



Teacher Mr Fraser and Angela Murphy of W.I.S.E. to measure up areas for new pathwork and bridges. The team of volunteers, Laurence Donkers, Erin Warner and Magnus Fraser, made an initial start, but eventually had to retreat due to the abundance of midges! Hopefully the project will be continued after the October holidays.

## SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM

Congratulations to the Senior football team (pictured below) who took part in a tournament in Portree recently. They won their game against Plockton 4-1 but narrowly missed out on a victory against Portree when the game ended in a dramatic penalty shootout.

## ONE FOR THE ALBUM

Museum nan Eilean are hoping to move into the second phase of the Community Album Project that was started earlier this year. Pupils Amelia Lane, Eilidh Cameron, Bobby MacDonald, Chloe Steele and Calum Campbell had been working with Heritage Officer Anna MacQuarrie to produce written accounts of activities that they enjoy taking part in in their free time. These accounts will become part of the album. They have also been developing their skills in archive photography.



## Dates For Your Diary

- Thursday 9th October  
School Closed for October break
- Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd October  
Staff inset training days
- Thursday 23th October  
Pupils return to school
- Friday 28th November and Monday 1st December  
School closed for half term break
- Tuesday 2nd December - Thursday 11th December  
S4-S6 Progress Exams

## Sport and Recreation

This term as part of our Skills for Work Sport and Recreation Course, we took part in delivering and leading a wide range of sporting activities including football, rounders, hockey, handball and rugby to P4-P7 pupils from Lochdar Primary. Lochdar Primary will continue to come to Sgoil Lionacleit throughout the coming year. The aim of this programme is to improve our skills and knowledge in delivering, setting up and organising a range of sporting activities. In addition we aim to improve the fitness of the primary pupils and build their appreciation of sport.

This term we were also lucky to have the Highlands and Islands Regional Basketball Development



officer, John Kerray (pictured left) return to the school to lead many of the pupils through a fun and intense training session which the pupils fully participated in and greatly enjoyed.