

Winter 2013



PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

Breadalbane Academy

End of Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you enjoy our end of term Newsletter which attempts to encapsulate some of the huge number of activities and achievements of our pupils and staff.

I wish all pupils, parents and staff a restful festive break.

Regards

Linda Swan

Headteacher

Trees of Life

The whole primary met for a special celebration in November to unveil out "Trees of Life" banners. The banners were the final product of a whole years work of sewing, felting and embroidering for pupils and members of the community.

The inspiration for these banners came from our former Depute (Primary) Mrs Sheila Beattie. She headed up a team of adult volunteers whose expertise was used to teach and support our pupils as they made the leaves for the tree.

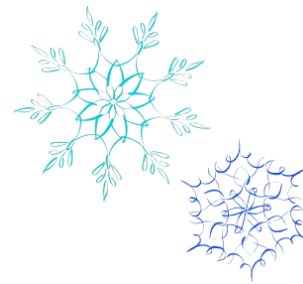
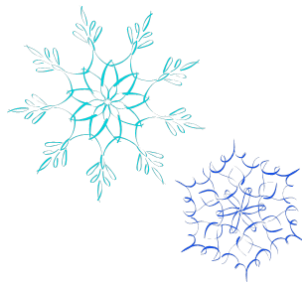
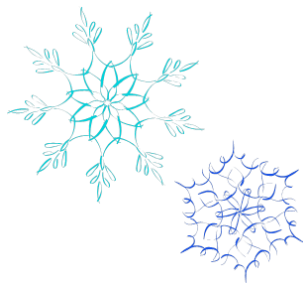
We are very proud of our four House banners.



Scottish Parliament Trip

The 3rd year "My Politics of Scotland" class attended the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on the 9th December to explore politics in action. They spent the day exploring the building and learning about what happens on a day to day basis. They were shown the debating chamber where the majority of all political discussions takes place. Above it there is a viewing chamber where members of the public can watch live debates take place.

The pupils were able to ask questions on topics that concerned them, such as lower transport costs and the new Curriculum for Excellence. They learned a lot about the building itself, and the man who designed it, Miralles. Unfortunately he passed away before the building was completed leaving many designs and symbols throughout the building which no one understands!



Shoebbox Appeal

This year, Breadalbane Academy's largest ever Shoebbox Appeal crew, along with members of the local community and pupils from Pitlochry High School, took on the job of wrapping over 1300 Christmas shoeboxes. These will be sent to Albania. Over a number of weeks our group set up a variety of fundraising events, from busking to coffee mornings, in order to raise money to buy items to pack in the boxes. This year we raised over £1300. Every penny donated to this fantastic charity, every shoebox filled with small gifts, sweets and clothing will make a huge difference to someone's Christmas.

Zoe Brown S4



Cinema Pre-Screening: Saving Mr Banks

In November 2013, Breadalbane Academy was lucky enough to be invited to attend a pre-screening of Disney's 'Saving Mr Banks' at the Birks Cinema, Aberfeldy. The cinema invited a whole year group to attend the screening. To choose the winning year group, the English Department launched a competition for all S1-S3 pupils, which was to write a short account of 'The Film That Changed My Life'. The response to the competition was incredible and the standards were extremely high. Individual winners were selected from each class in each year group and then the winning year group was chosen: which was S2! On Wednesday 27th November, S2 pupils and their teachers watched the film 'Saving Mr Banks'. All pupils conducted themselves excellently and thoroughly enjoyed the film. They were also photographed for the local press and had the opportunity to see the winning entries displayed in the foyer of the cinema itself. All pupils and staff involved in this event would like to take this opportunity to thank both Disney and the Birks Cinema for this wonderful opportunity.

Chemistry Week Celebrated at Breadalbane Academy

Chemistry week happens every year during November and this year pupils at Breadalbane Academy were lucky enough to be able celebrate in style. S2 and S3 pupils were able to welcome researchers from the University of St. Andrews as part of the chembus scheme and were treated to demonstrations involving liquid nitrogen and dry ice and then were allowed to try to a range of experiments which included turning copper coins into what looked like gold (actually brass). A really exciting experience and a great learning opportunity! In addition to this, senior pupils were able to borrow an infra-red and U.V. spectrometer, worth around £60000 from the Royal Society of Chemistry to perform cutting edge experiments on. All in all a great week, highlighting how exciting chemistry can be.



S2 Maths and English Project

For the second year running, the Maths and English Departments have been working collaboratively on an exciting project in which pupils are asked to research a Mathematical topic as part of their S2 course. Pupils work in groups, choose their own topic and deliver a presentation in their English class. The presentation should explain how their Mathematical topic relates to the real world and is assessed as part of the pupils' English Course. There have been some fantastic talks and a group has been chosen from each classroom to go on to the final on Tuesday 17th December in front of S1s in the Lecture Theatre. Prizes will be awarded by Mr Macluskey.

Well done to all S2s (and their teachers) for all the hard work that has gone in to this project. The success of this project has been shared across the authority and will hopefully be up and running in other schools soon.

Congratulations

Congratulations goes to Kornel Talosi who has been shortlisted for the Lantra Young Learner of the Year Award for Rural Skills!

Breadalbane Parent Council 50/50 Club

A reminder to all the Breadalbane Parent Council 50/50 Club Application forms can be collected from Reception or the Wishing Well.

Breadalbane Academy Parent Council

There will be a quiz night held in February at the Ailean Chraggan, a date of which is yet to be confirmed. All details will be posed on the Parent Council Facebook page and on the Big Tent website.

Also a reminder that our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th January at 6.30pm.

Aberfeldy Poetry Festival

In September 2013, a number of pupils from Breadalbane Academy were involved in Aberfeldy's first ever Poetry Festival. Pupils ranged from P6 – S6 and included:

Megan Leishman

Catherine Baxter

Jessica Christie

Aislinn Borland

Katie McGregor

Ava Broughton-Stuart

Skye Brettell

Jamie Nash

Turo Broughton-Stuart

Phoebe Anderson

Laura Nicoll

Alex Bavey

Joanna Surzyn (P6/7)

Pupils worked alongside members of the English Department to prepare themselves for the festival. Some pupils read from their own creative works and amazed audiences with their insight, depth and grasp of language, whilst others read works by their favourite poets, such as Lewis Carroll, Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy and Robert Louis Stevenson. The pupils were warmly received and were answered with resounding applause and a standing ovation. Indeed, there were cries for 'More!' once the pupils had finished. Afterwards, the pupils enjoyed listening to readings from other more established poets, including members of the local Jotters writing group, Kenneth Steven, Sally Evans (editor of Poetry Now) and performance poet Tim Turnbull.

All pupils and staff who were involved in this event found it to be a hugely enjoyable and valuable experience, as well as lots of fun! Author Ian Rankin even tweeted his support of the pupils.

London 2013

Breadalbane Academy has recently organised two separate trips to the capital city of London.

August 2013: English/Drama Trip

In August 2013, the English and Drama department embarked upon a literary cultural tour of London for S3 and S4 pupils. Activities included London sightseeing, attending the Natural History Museum and shopping in Covent Garden, but the two highlights were attending performances of 'Macbeth' at the Globe Theatre, followed by a literary/theatre workshop and 'The Lion King' in the West End! Both pupils and staff were overwhelmed by the professional standards of the performances and the quality of the sets and musical scores. Whilst both performances were extremely different, pupils thoroughly enjoyed each one. Each day in London was long – getting up at 7am and going to bed at 11.30pm – with no rest all day! However, the pupils involved wouldn't have had it any other way and really did find it to be the experience of a lifetime!

November 2013: Expressive Arts Multi-Disciplinary Trip

In November 2013, Breadalbane Academy facilitated an expressive arts multi-disciplinary trip for S5 and S6 pupils. The departments involved were Art, Music, Drama and Fashion & Textiles. The activities pupils experienced were designed to assist them in their chosen arts' examination studies, but were also extremely enjoyable. Highlights included a night-time tour of London to see the Christmas lights and the window displays of the large department stores; a shopping trip to Harrods; a visit to McCullough and Wallis fabric and textiles emporium; a visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum (where pupils could view costumes from past famous West End performances and scale-models of the puppets used in 'The War Horse', as well as jewellery and metal-work exhibitions and the 'Fashion Through The Ages' exhibit); a tour of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane...before culminating in going to see a performance of 'The War Horse' by the National theatre.

All pupils and staff involved found the experience to be absolutely invaluable: both from an educational perspective and for entertainment value!



Senior Mathematics

Professor Andrew Rae from the University of the Highlands and Islands came in to school at the end of November to deliver a highly enjoyable talk on how mathematics and physics support the design of wings. He illustrated how air flow at different speeds create an imbalance in pressure, creating lift for aeroplanes, grip for racing cars and forward movement for racing yachts. Around 30 pupils from S4-S6 attended the talk and found it entertaining and informative. Many expressed an interest in researching this topic further.



Christmas Market



On Friday 13th December the school held its first ever Christmas Market. Mrs Cook's Creative Industries Class did a great job setting up the assembly hall and turning an empty space into a fantastic Christmas themed event.



Pupils from primary and secondary showed their entrepreneurial skills - selling a wide variety of products, striking a few deals and negotiating brilliantly to try and make as much money as possible. Mrs Swan's visitors including Mr McAvoy were even persuaded to part with their money at the very end of the market and many groups sold out of everything!

It was a very busy event with lots of pupils, parents, staff and members of the community coming along to buy their goodies. Santa even made an appearance and had a wee sing along with the various musical groups who kept us entertained (thank you Mr Murch!)

The combined groups made over £1,100 – a fantastic effort by all those involved. Thank you to everyone who helped with the planning and running of the event and to every group involved.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Toby Carter who is Scottish Schools U14 Fencing Champion and George Burton who is boys Junior 16 Scottish Kayak Champion.