

Invergordon Academy Newsletter, December 2006

Tesco Tokens

The total number of Tesco tokens collected was 7700.

Many thanks to all parents and pupils for their contributions.

X Factor and Christmas Disco

This year's Christmas Disco has been organised by some senior Business Management pupils who have taken it on as part of an Enterprise project. They have decided to make this disco different by having a buffet, raffle, guest appearance from Santa and the X Factor final.

Pupils were invited to audition for the X Factor and 22 acts decided to take on the challenge. These ranged from solo artists, duets, group performances and a few who played their own music. All acts gave a good performance but unfortunately these had to be cut down to 10 for the semi finals. For the semi final the performers had to perform a different song on the main stage in the Hall. The judging was very difficult as all acts gave a high quality performance but only 4 got through to the finals and they will perform on the night of the Christmas disco with pupils deciding who will be the overall winner.

Senior Hockey

The Senior Girls participated in the Astro tournament in Dingwall on a freezing evening. They all performed very well finishing in 3rd position.

Over 16 Badminton

The Seniors attended this event in Tain with the following extremely good results.

Girls Singles Winner	Holly Greggan
Girls Doubles Winners	Holly Greggan & Dana Sutherland
Girls Doubles Runner Up	Leeann Mulcahy & Carina MacIver

Inter House Senior Basketball

Winners	Moray
2nd Place	Cromarty
3rd Place	Dornoch
4th Place	Beaully

Forthcoming Event

Inter House Cross Country on the 31st January which has an extremely high participation level from staff and pupils alike.

Electronic Newsletter

Last month I wrote concerning the possibility of making the newsletter available directly to parents by e-mail. Please fill in the reply slip at the end of the newsletter and return it to Mr. Ferns via the school office if you would like to receive the school's newsletter this way. Newsletters will be sent out by schoolbag mail as normal to those who do not wish to use e-mail.

Writing Club

The Writing Club is for pupils in S1 and S2. It meets every fortnight on a Tuesday in the Conference Room. We meet to write poetry and stories (as well as eat chocolate!). After Christmas we hope to go to Moniack Mhor, near Beauly, to attend a Writing Workshop.

Here is a selection of Christmas Haiku (Japanese poetry) and acrostic poems written by members of the Writing Club:

*Faster and faster
On our colourful sledges
Down the hills we go!*

By Shauna Macleod

Pretty presents,
Red and silver.
Everywhere
Sparkling,
Everyone opens them.
Nice little bows,
Toys are inside,
Santa gave them.

By Kayleigh Browne

CANDY
HOLLY
REINDEER
IVY
SANTA
TREES
MISTLETOE
ANGELS
SNOW

By Nicola Cairncross

Pretty Christmas **t**ree
With gorgeous **r**ed tinsel on,
Presents underneath.

By Gemma Pietrzyk



*Sledging in the snow,
White snow flying all around,
Going down so fast.*

By Carlyn Begg

Sledges
Anticipation
Night
Tinsel
A Happy New Year



Wrapping up presents
Nice and neat with little bows
Can't wait til Christmas!

Christ
Happiness
Red
Ice
Santa
Turkey
Merry Christmas
Angels
Stuffing

By Shauna Macleod



By Laura Munro

Curling Club



A small but dedicated band of pupils and staff travel to Inverness Ice Rink on Tuesdays after school to have a go at the sport of curling. The school take their own coaches in the shape of mother and daughter team Joyce and Jill MacLennan, whose help is much appreciated. All staff and pupils involved have made great improvements to date and are enjoying learning a new sport.

Any pupil interested in coming along should see Mr. Ferns or Mrs. Thompson. Curling will start on the first Tuesday back after the holidays, 9th January.

Calcutta Cup

Accompanied by Brian Bell, the Highland Rugby Development Officer, the Calcutta Cup visited the school recently. This trophy, pictured, was first played for in 1879 and is contested only by England and Scotland. Since the start of the annual competition, England have won it roughly twice as often as Scotland.



At an assembly, pupils from S1 and S2 got a chance to ask Brian about the trophy and rugby in general. The picture shows Stuart Michael of S1 getting up close and personal with this historic and extremely valuable trophy.

Higher Photography Trip

On Wednesday 29th November the Higher Photography class visited the 'Harry Benson' photographic exhibition, held at the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

The exhibition was an extremely powerful look at the impact of Reportage photography and its effect on our understanding of some of the most famous and



ground-breaking events of modern times. During his career Harry Benson has been fortunate in that he appears to have always been in the right place at the right time! From the assassination of Robert Kennedy to the destruction of the Twin Towers, he has captured these unexpected and unbelievable events on film.

The guided talk which the gallery arranged for us was both interesting and informative and provided the class with a greater insight into the work of this world famous photographer, who also counts 'Hollywood Royalty', rock stars and sporting legends amongst his friends.

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The day was a great success and the behaviour of our pupils was exemplary - despite a tediously long delay on the A9 on the way home!

The class owes Mr. Page a huge vote of thanks for his valiant effort in driving us there and home again.

Pathway Through the Tank Farm

I have written to you before on this topic and thank those who have responded. However, I feel that to have any chance of making progress with this issue we need to show that the overwhelming majority of the school community back this idea.

As you may know a few pupils, along with Marion Rhind had done some work to try to open up a safe and official path through the tank farm owned by Bannerman's. Last session, representatives of pupils from S1 to S3 at Invergordon Academy identified the opening of such a path as a major priority for young people in the area.

The opening of a path through the tank farm would directly benefit up to 40% of the school roll by considerably shortening their journey to school. Hopefully many pupils who presently take buses or get lifts would walk or cycle to school along a route which would be both safer and quicker than the present route from Inverbreakie/Saltburn. As well as the obvious benefits to pupils' health, traffic congestion around the school would be eased. Users of the Leisure Centre and the Isobel Rhind centre would also benefit by quicker, more direct access to and from this area.

Last summer term, the pupils involved presented their case to a number of interested parties including community and Highland councillors who were impressed by the commitment shown, and work done by the pupils. Unfortunately, Bannerman's, the owners of the land on which the tank farm is situated, did not attend the meeting. It was decided at this meeting that a meeting with Bannerman's was a priority and as such Councillor Carolyn Wilson, three school pupils, and myself would contact them as soon as possible.

When going to Bannerman's we would very much like to present them with a measure of both the school and wider community's views on this issue. Please assist our efforts by e-mailing your support to pupilmouncil@invergordon.highland.sch.uk or by filling in the attached slip at the end of the newsletter and ensuring its return to me at school.

Shortbreed

Shortbreed, Invergordon Academy's traditional music group is releasing their amazing debut album 'Fresh from the Oven' on 18th Dec. With help from music professionals such as Juile Fowlis of Dochas fame, Anna Massie and Mairead Green from the Anna Massie Band, the group have maximised their own musical talent to produce a toe-tapping arrangement of tunes. The project provides an opportunity



for pupils not only to experience first hand the recording process but also hone their enterprising skills in designing, producing, marketing and selling the CD.

The pupils have conscientiously rehearsed for several months in preparation for the CD and are looking forward to selling them in the school and other local venues. Experienced sound producers Robbie Dunsmore and Gareth from Robotone took a weekend from their busy schedule to record the tunes and work their magic in the editing. Alistair MacInnes from Moose 77 designed the eye catching packaging to finish off a really quality product.

' I'm delighted by the commitment of the young people and the enthusiasm shown by the adults who have helped us with this project,' said Laura McCulloch who founded the group along with Rhona Sutherland almost 3 years ago.' It's great that the kids have something to show for their hard work and we hope that this will open up more opportunities for us. We've arranged the tunes so that there is a mixture of styles fused with traditional local tunes'.

The formal CD launch will be held in Invergordon Academy at a family ceilidh on January 26th 2007 and tickets will be on sale in the school after the Christmas holidays.

Dates For Your Diary

Please make a note of the dates that involve you or your child.

December

Thursday 14th :- Christmas disco

Tuesday 19th :- Christmas social

Wednesday 20th :- S4 reports issued

Thursday 21st :- school closes at 2.45 p.m.

January

Monday 8th :- school re-opens 8.45 am

Wednesday 17th :- S2 "Passport to Success" day

Thursday 18th :- S2 options evening

Monday 22nd :- S4 "Prepare to Pass"

Wednesday 24th :- S5/S6 options

Thursday 25th :- S5/S6 prelims start

Friday 26th :- Invergordon Academy Family Ceilidh

Wednesday 31st :- S3 parents' evening

February

Wednesday 7th :- S5/S6 prelims end

Thursday 8th :- In-Service day, school closed to pupils

Friday 9th , Monday 12th :- Holidays

Tuesday 13th :- S2 reports and option forms issued

Tuesday 20th :- S2 parents' evening

March

Friday 16th :- S5/S6 reports issued

Friday 30th :- school closes, 3.00 p.m.

April

Monday 16th :- In-Service day, school closed to pupils

Wednesday 25th :- Prize-giving

Friday 27th :- S4 study leave starts

May

Tuesday 1st :- SQA exams start

Friday 4th :- S5/S6 study leave starts

Monday 7th :- Holiday

Tuesday 8th :- Work experience for "old S3/new S4" starts

Friday 11th :- S1 reports issued

Monday 14th :- New timetables issued

Thursday 17th :- S1 parents' evening

Friday 18th :- Work experience for "old S3/new S4" ends

Monday 21st :- New timetable starts; Health Week for "old S3/new S4" starts

Thursday 24th :- Health Week for "old S3/new S4" ends

Friday 25th :- Sponsored Walk

June

Friday 1st :- Study leave ends for senior pupils

Monday 4th :- S5/S6 induction

Thursday 7th :- School Sports

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd :- Primary induction week

Wednesday 20th :- P7 parents' evening

Thursday 21st :- School disco

Friday 22nd :- S3 reports issued

Thursday 28th :- School closes at 12.00 noon

Please feel free to contact the school with any matter regarding you child's education.

Thank you for continuing to support the school in trying to provide your son / daughter with the best education possible.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all staff at Invergordon Academy, to wish you an enjoyable Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Alistair Ferns (Deputy Headteacher)

Adverse Weather ?

Phone **0870 054 6999**

then enter the code **041080**

or

www.winter.highlandschools.org.uk

Newsletter by e-mail

Please tear off and return this page to Mr Ferns through the school office if you wish to receive the school's newsletter by e-mail.

Pupil(s) name :

Register class(es) :

I would like the school newsletter to be delivered by e-mail if possible.

e-mail address :

Parent/carer signature :

Pathway Through the Tank Farm

Please complete and return to Mr Ferns via the school office.

I/we the undersigned support the efforts in opening a safe pathway through the tank farm. It would benefit a large number of people in the Invergordon area by creating safe and easy access between Inverbreakie/Saltburn and the Invergordon Academy are.

Name(s) :-

Signature(s) :-