



learning to live
living to learn

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

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Donald M Duncan
Director of Educational Services

Tuesday February 5th 2008

Dear Parents,

It is so good to see the days are stretching and despite the recent blast of wintry weather there is a feeling that Spring is just around the corner. The daffodils in my garden are pushing up through the soil and the snowdrops are in full display. Fantastic!

I always seem to start a letter to you by saying how busy we are but it's always true. I have just gone through the school diary and you will find a list of dates on the last page. There's a lot on!

The pupils in Primary 4 have settled very well into the senior class and are contributing to the life and work of the class. This term they are investigating Pollution and Conservation while the children in P1-3 are finding out about the different Materials we use in our everyday lives.

This Week

This Friday February 8th PC Steve Roberts is coming to talk to the children about his job as a policeman. This is part of our programme to make our pupils aware of the world of work and possible career opportunities. I am sure it will be very interesting.

Also on Friday we are holding a Come as You Please Day in aid of Unicef. Can I ask that pupils bring at least £1 to school as a donation to this very good cause. The focus this year is on the Right to Clean Water.

Reflection and Evaluation

On Wednesday February 13th Mrs L Smith is taking some time out of class to talk to the P4-7 pupils on an individual basis about how well they feel they have done in various areas of the curriculum. Focussing mainly on Maths, Language and Personal/Social Development Mrs Smith will be encouraging the children to identify their strengths, recognise their achievements and also to discuss their next steps and areas for improvement. These discussions will help inform the yearly reports on the children's progress which you will receive mid April.

Health Promoting School



Inspire

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Include

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Improve

Tone Up Tuesday starts on the 19th of February at 9.15am. Mrs L Smith has kindly offered to lead these sessions which form part of our Health Promoting Agenda. You are very welcome to join us for these 20 minute workouts which the whole school will take part in. Go on.....you know it's good for you!

Parents Information Evening

Looking ahead to March I am inviting you all to come along to the school on the evening of the 5th for what will be a very enjoyable evening as I take you through some of the new methodologies we are introducing to make learning more relevant, more interactive and more fun. The Curriculum for Excellence focuses more on the "How" of teaching which requires the pupils to think more deeply about subjects and to work collaboratively to find the answers to problems.

Art Project

In line with the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence which aim to make our children confident individuals, responsible citizens, successful learners and effective contributors I have set in motion a series of activities that will ultimately result in an Art Exhibition which will showcase the children's artistic, entrepreneurial and social skills. Working with local artists we aim to put together a pictorial representation of our community which captures "the essence of what we are about." The pupils will be out and about in March and early April taking photographs of various aspects of our community and it would be very helpful if you could spare some time now and then to accompany a small group of children in your car to various locations. These photographs will become the basis for art work back in school. The pupils will then organise and host an Exhibition in school during June.

It would also be truly fantastic if you could join some of our art workshops and become involved in the learning process and develop new skills alongside the children.

Can you indicate on the slip provided if you would be available to transport groups of 2-3 pupils and if you are interested in taking part in the workshops.

Eco Group

Two members of the Eco group put forward a very good idea today and I asked them to write it down for me so that I could include it in this newsletter. Their plan is to become very responsible about litter in the playground and have suggested that we get together with our buddies on a Friday to clear it up. They will work out a rota but ask that those who are on duty come to school suitably dressed for the purpose on their allocated clear up day. I think this is an excellent idea and I am in full support. Well done Sophie and Hannah!

School Uniform

May I gently remind you all about the importance of wearing school uniform as every now and then I see sports trousers and tops being worn to school. It is important for the ethos of the school and the well being of all pupils if school uniform is worn. It is also very important that all items of clothing are named so check soon.

Parent Council



Finally I was most disappointed that due to bad weather the Burns Supper had to be cancelled last Friday. Apparently there is no shortage of haggis in the Ballindalloch area at the moment and many families (including mine) had to consume vast quantities of trifle over the weekend! Hopefully the next event they organise will have more luck.

I look forward to seeing you all over the next few months.

Kind Regards

Head Teacher

Please sign and return to school as soon as possible.

I am / am not able to transport children to various locations for photography activities in March / late April.

I am / am not interested in joining in with the artists workshops at dates to be arranged in April/ May / June.

Signed _____ Date _____

Dates For Your Diary - (Keep in a safe place!)

Friday Feb 8th

Unicef Come as You Please Day - £1



Inspire

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Improve

	PC Steve Roberts talk to all pupils
Monday Feb11th	Eco Group Meeting 2.30pm
Wed Feb 13th	YGTC (last one this session)
Wed Feb 13th	P4-7 Pupils to meet with Mrs Smith to discuss their progress
Friday Feb15th	Mid Term
Monday Feb18th	Mid Term
Tuesday Feb19th	Tone Up Tuesday Starts 9.15-9.45am
Thursday Feb21st	P4 Scottish Opera at Dufftown Mrs Y Ferguson and Mrs Y Fraser to transport
Tuesday Feb26th	Health Group Meeting 1pm
Wed Feb27th	P4-7 Spring Show at Thainstone
Thursday Feb28th	School Council Meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday 4th -Thursday 6th March	P4-7 Pupils will visit Science festival I Elgin. To be arranged.
Wed March 5th	Parents Information Evening 6.30 - 8pm
Monday March10th	Healthy Week Starts
Tuesday March11th	BAGS 2 SCHOOL Collection. Bring bags on Monday 10th.
Thursday March 20th	Group of P7s to Aberlour for Enterprise Showcase
Friday March 21st	Holiday - Good Friday
Friday March28th	Easter Assembly at 11am. School closes usual time for holidays
Monday April 14th	New Term
Friday April18th	Reports Out (provisional)
Wed April30th	Parent Appointments.
Monday May5th	Holiday
Thursday May15th	Inservice
Friday May 16th	Inservice
Monday June 2nd	Local Holiday
Sunday June15th	Gala
Monday June 23rd	Art Exhibition