

# ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SERVICE

## 23 March 2017

### **Auchnagatt School - In Your Hands Presentation**

Auchnagatt School were delighted to welcome Pauline Sanderson, co-founder of the charity In Your Hands, to their School on Thursday 16th February. The charity was set up after the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal to help rebuild schools in remote areas which had been destroyed.

They first became involved with the charity over a year ago when one of their pupils Amber Cunningham, then only P3, came back from a presentation Pauline had given in Aviemore. Amber was so enthusiastic about the charity and was keen that the school get involved to help children in Nepal.

Mr Norman Cunningham, Amber's dad, was taking part in The Highlander Mountain Marathon, he approached his work, px Ltd, who run a Give as You Earn scheme and they were prepared to match the amount we raised. They were then matched with Sidhartha School in Hagam Province, a school of a similar size to Auchnagatt.

They decided to donate all profits from our summer show, Treasure Island, to the charity. All the pupils were involved in the production of Treasure Island, both performing and designing tickets and programmes, we also sold DVD's of the show. As well as this, P1 – 3 pupils, as part of their Gardening topic, grew plants from seed and sold them at one of their Community Cafés. In total they raised just under £400. Mr Cunningham raised just over £1600 from the Highlander

giving them a total raised of just over £2000. When this was combined with px Ltd's Give as you Earn scheme and tax relief, then matched by px Ltd., the total they donated to In Your Hands was a phenomenal £6306.66. This was more than enough to cover the total cost of rebuilding Sidhartha School.



### **Mill O' Forest Primary 40th Celebration**

On 7th February, Mill O' Forest Primary School celebrated its 40th birthday. To mark the day, Mr Andrew Tait, the first Head Teacher from Mill O' Forest visited the school along with some former members of staff and pupils, who had attended the school when it first opened its doors. Ms Marchant, current Head Teacher, welcomed everyone to a special assembly where P7 pupils presented "A trip down memory lane" for the pupils and visitors. The Pupil Council accompanied visitors on a tour of the school where the nostalgia continued.

A 1970's museum was set up and pupils, parents and visitors were invited to look at the artefacts from the past. Pupils were fascinated to see videos and cassette tapes as well as an old TV, household items and even some clothes from the time. Part of this museum has now been set up in Stonehaven Library window so please have a look and let us know what you think.

To add to the enjoyment of the day school staff dressed in clothes from the 1970's!

Our special guests were invited to a tea party where a special commemorative cake, donated by Hazel Davidson of Gum Blossom Cakes was suitably enjoyed by all!



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### **Fintry School**

Fintry School are delighted to announce they have recently received their fourth Green Flag. Below is the photograph of Gillian Martin, MSP who came to the school to celebrate this event.



### **Global Learning Partnerships**

Aberdeenshire Council is in the fourth year of supporting the Global Learning Partnership project. In partnership with the Wood Foundation, Aberdeenshire teachers have an opportunity to live and work in Rwanda during the month of July to support improvements in learning and teaching there. Emmanuel Murenzi, Programme Lead for *Inspire, Educate, Empower*, the support organisation for the programme in Rwanda, visited the North-East from the 13<sup>th</sup> February – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017. He was welcomed in many Aberdeenshire schools including Meldrum Primary, Hill of Banchory Primary, Banchory Academy and Banff Primary. His visit culminated in a ceilidh at Meldrum Academy on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February where he was able to sample the school's award-winning catering and was entertained by the ceilidh bands from Kemnay and Meldrum Academies. Eight Aberdeenshire teachers will be heading out to Rwanda in July 2017 to continue to develop this programme.

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### **Aboyne Academy**

On Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd February 2017, Craig Strachan, Ralph and Maddy Silcock competed at the Scottish Schools Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow.

Ralph achieved two new personal bests of 9.11m in the Shot put and 9.70secs in the 60m hurdles.

Craig took Silver in both the 60m and 200m sprints with a new PB of 23.07secs in the 200m.

Maddy took Gold to become the Scottish Schools over 16, 60m sprint Champion 2017 with a personal best of 7.70s.

Congratulations to them all in proudly representing Aboyne Academy.



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### Ellon Academy

During the last week of February to coincide with LGBT history month 2017, Ellon Academy promoted Equalities and Diversity across all areas, in particular the language that is used in and around the School and the wider community. To show the Academy's commitment to inclusion there were assemblies every day from the Schools GTSA – Gay, Trans, Straight Alliance – about how certain language and attitudes can be abusive and very hurtful to not only the LGBT+ community but to anyone, and that Diversity exists to be embraced.



The pride flag, normally linked with LGBT+ was raised to again highlight

Ellon Academy's desire to embrace Diversity across all areas and work hard to eradicate all types of prejudice, inequalities, bullying and inappropriate language used within our campus and in the wider community.

As a show of support within sport, the U13's football team signed a pledge to 'Make sport everyone's Game and wore their football boot emblazoned with Rainbow laces in a game against Inverurie Academy.

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### Aboyne Academy

The winning design for this year's Inspiring Aberdeenshire trophy was designed by Kirsty MacDonald, age 14 from Aboyne Academy. Kirsty has received an invitation to the award ceremony on the 23rd of June 2017 at Haddo House and she has also receive a trophy as a keepsake.

Furthermore, Aboyne Academy pupils Keifer Webster (14 years old), Hanah Thom (15 years old) and Keri-Ann Watkins will all receive Highly Commended certificates for their designs.

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### Echt School

Echt School has gained national 'Digital School' status for excellence in digital technology in teaching and learning.

21 primary schools across Scotland were officially awarded the honour of being recognised as the first digital schools in Scotland by the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley-Anne Somerville, at a ceremony held at Wormit Primary School (Fife)

Recognised by Education Scotland, the Digital Schools Award is designed to promote, encourage and reward schools that make the best use of digital

technology in the classroom. HP, Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Intel are providing support to the programme, including a financial commitment of £110,000 in the first year as well as the provision of practical support and resources.

Echt School demonstrated, among other things, the presence of a whole school digital strategy, evidence of how digital technology is being used to enhance learning and a commitment to ongoing professional learning for teachers. The programme has already highlighted some very innovative and collaborative approaches from schools and teachers regarding the integration of digital technology in teaching and learning, which will be an inspiration to other schools.



P6 pupils Morven Findlay and Ellis Laird with Head Teacher, Ruth MacDonald being presented with their award.



**Monymusk School**

Towards the end of 2016, pupils at Monymusk School took an active interest in ‘Outright 2016’ a UNICEF campaign focussing on the rights of refugee children. Two of their pupils wrote letters to their MP, MSP, MEP, First Minister of Scotland and Prime Minister to ask them to support refugee children and continue to do what they could to make sure these children were safe and cared for.

It was very heartening when positive replies came back from every elected member. The letters have been shared with the whole school. It has been very interesting, sometimes challenging, to follow this story. They continue to discuss what they can do and this has included gathering bikes and renovating them with the plan to give them to the Syrian families who are now living in Aberdeenshire.

During the campaign there was contact from Stuart Donaldson’s office, asking if we would like a visit from our MP. On Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March Stuart Donaldson MP addressed the whole school before taking part in a question and answer session. He also linked his experiences as a member of his primary school pupil council to where he is today, encouraging the pupils to believe they were capable of doing exactly as he has done. A keen taker of ‘selfies’, he took his own photo as a reminder of his visit!



**Scottish Concert Band Festival success**

Three Aberdeenshire concert bands achieved Gold or Gold plus awards at the Scottish Concert Band Festival national finals on 19<sup>th</sup> March in Perth.

The South Central Music Centre Youth Concert Band conducted by Bruce Wallace gained a Gold award.



Mackie Academy Concert Band conducted by Sarah Gove gained a Gold plus award.



Portlethen Academy Concert Band conducted by Sarah Gove gained a Gold plus award.



## **Aberdeenshire pupil takes third place in John Byrne National Drawing Competition**

Charlotte Stewart, a P7 pupil from Gordon Primary School, has been awarded third prize in this year's John Byrne National Drawing Competition.

Thousands of budding young artists from across Scotland took part in this year's John Byrne National Drawing Competition, which is run in partnership with Education Scotland and opened to pupils from primary four through to third year.

John Byrne said: "The talent this year has been outstanding which made my job as a judge very difficult in choosing the overall winners. I'm pleased to award Charlotte third place. Her effort and creativity really stood out during the judging process."



In total 30 young artists across Scotland were selected as runners up, of which 2 were from Aberdeenshire. Scout Knight, P7, Gordon Primary School and Kinga Chodorek, P7, Slains School.



## **Mill O'Forest Primary School**

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March Mill O'Forest Primary attended the Aberdeenshire Final of the Euroquiz at Lochter and we are very proud to announce that our P6 team won the final. The children worked really hard in school and in their own time to

study and prepare for the quiz and it clearly paid off! It was clear from the standard from all schools and children that everyone had worked incredibly hard so well done to all that took part.

Winning the Aberdeenshire final means that the team will now go forward to represent Aberdeenshire in the Scottish final which will be held in Edinburgh in May. This is such an exciting and important opportunity for the children as they will be representing Aberdeenshire as well as their school and going up against lots of schools from all across Scotland.

This is Mill O'Forest Primary's third consecutive Euroquiz victory and we wish them all the best when they travel to Edinburgh.



### **Banchory Primary School keeps up ongoing skiing success!**

Their two teams did brilliantly with Team A taking 10th place and Team B - 26th place. Great results as there were some really fast club skiers competing.

The skiers results are as follows:

Katie Leonard 20.92 (25th girl out of 79)  
Eva Sinclair 20.98 (26th girl)  
Zoe Bruce 22.06 (35th girl)  
Abby Broughton 23.72 (51st girl)  
Orla Myles 24.40 (53rd girl)  
Ava Cleal 25.67 (61st girl)

Maddy Williamson 37.00 (75th girl)  
Ruaridh Rogerson 20.13 (25th boy out of 93)  
Jake Mercer 23.84 (50th boy)  
Evan Crichton 26.63 (74th boy)

Congratulations on your fantastic results!



***If you have any achievements which you would like to submit for the next edition please email [toni.cocker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:toni.cocker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)***