

Braidburn Summer Newsletter

Leavers Enterprise Team - Baby Hats for Africa

Thank you to everyone who donated knitted babies hats, wool, knitting needles and lots of their time for our Save the Children Campaign. We have collected over 1000 hats, which is fantastic!!! We even appeared in the Evening News!



The hats were transported to London for distribution courtesy of FedEx. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who supported us.



Red Nose day raise nearly £200 and all the children enjoy participating in the fun activities organised for Red Nose day Comic Relief.



Rouge Week was a great success with all secondary classes having a multi disciplinary approach focusing on keeping our hearts healthy. This links with our Health Promoting School status and our Personal and Social Education programme. We carried the theme of Rouge Week throughout all areas of the curriculum. This culminated in a whole school assembly and Disco.





Pupils Blast off in to Space !

It has been reported there have been alien life forms spotted in the sensory room this term! A green alien has blasted many of our pupils from the Nursery right up to the Secondary on a weekly journey to the moon. The pupils tell me their experiences have been "Hands On" and "Out of this World". Not only have they had the chance to ride in a bumpy rocket, which has been very turbulent, due to raining meteorites and shaky chairs, but many of our pupils have also had a once in a life time opportunity to "Walk on the Moon" to the tune of "The Police". The pupils have engaged with other life forms as well as taste space dust and experience a whole galaxy of



sounds and music from many light years ahead. The photographs below tell the pupils own story in pictures. I think it is fair to say they had a blast!

Oh it's an alien!

Experiencing Life in Another Culture



Pupils from the Leavers' Option : Craig, Billie, Stacey, Myles, Sarah-Jane, Joan Furmage and Madame Mc Donald went for lunch to Vittoria's restaurant in Leith Walk. Everyone spoke to the waiters in Italian. They were very impressed by how well the young people spoke. Much pasta and pizza was eaten by all. Madame

McDonald was very pleased that she could have gluten-free pasta but mostly she was just delighted with her Italian student's performance. Bravi tutti!

Class 3/4B went with Moira, Eoin and Madame McDonald to L'Amitié, a French café in Penicuik. This was to put into practice all that the students had been learning in Access 2 Transactional Language. A serious purpose but a fun process! The students spoke to the owner, Cristophe and his wife in French. Everyone made a very good effort and, moreover, we had lovely food! Here's to next year!

In the Green Class our topic is Molly Whuppie. She is a little girl who lives beside the sea and next to the mountains. They experience a very harsh winter and are very hungry. We have experienced playing in the wet sand on the beach



Swimming under the sea and how cold it must have felt when the sea froze over.



Scotland Yard



Scotland Yard has been a good opportunity for the red class to work together in activities



Jamal has been working on turn taking. He and Julie took turns to build Mr Potato Head. He was so proud of the end result



Our nursery pupils also had the chance of some adventure last term when we had weekly visits to Scotland Yard. Each Tuesday morning we set off in the bus regardless of the weather to have fun trying out a huge variety of new experiences both inside and out. A big favourite was the boat swing in the garden. Once we'd managed to persuade someone to push us we were all able to squash on together and enjoy pretending we were out a sea. Another popular activity in the playroom was the slightly gentler sensory tent. We all loved exploring the textures and hiding amongst the shiny strands and materials. Though we were sad when our visits were up we've had lots of fun in the nursery creating our own adventure and sensory areas.

Leavers Work Experience.

Seven of the Leavers Group completed a work experience placement before the Easter Holidays.



Three students were supported on their placements by workers from Real Jobs. Maureen and Gary from Real Jobs came into school doing preparatory work with the young people prior to starting at their placements.

The others have also been working hard on planning and preparing for their placements. They have thought about their skills and qualities and identified skills they hope to develop when out on placement. Health and Safety is an important issue which has been explored and discussed in some detail.



Suitable placements are not always easy to find and the school appreciates the placements offered by The Action Group, Tesco, Heriot-Watt University, Garvald Factory and Orwell Arts and giving our students this invaluable opportunity. All have returned wiser and more confident.



A very big thank-you from everyone in the Nursery to all who supported us in our efforts to raise money to buy a new video camera! Thanks to everyone who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets. We raised a grand total of £130 and now have been able to buy a state of the art DVD camcorder. This is a fantastic way to record the children in the nursery as they progress and develop.

Braidburn Leading the Way



Braidburn is the only school in the Lothian area to have a MyTobii system. The MyTobii is a portable eye-controlled communication device. The system enables pupils with physical and sensory disabilities to access a computer using eye control as an alternative and complementary input method to using a mouse and keyboard. By looking at the screen you control "the mouse" and you click by blinking, dwelling (staring at the screen for a certain length of time) or using a switch. The pupils using it are having great success and experiencing a level of independence previously unknown to them. As the user becomes more proficient the system can also be programmed to activate environmental controls i.e. switching on lights, closing curtains etc. This is a wonderful resource and staff are gradually being trained to use MyTobii.



Tesco & Sainsbury vouchers -

Thank you for your donations they are very much appreciated by the school and will allow us to order new sports and games equipment.



Live music Now: We were entertained for over an hour by Skerryvore a traditional Scottish Band. These musicians were fantastic and held all the children's attention throughout their performance. We even had a dance at the end!



Leavers Residential to Kielder - A letter from a parent

I would like to take this opportunity to express our "uppermost" thanks and gratitude to all the team from the leavers group who enable my son to have a wonderful outdoor adventure at the Kielder Activity Holiday. He enjoyed the many activities on offer such as the zip wire, sailing, kayaking, climbing and abseiling. Stephen will now have happy memories to treasure of his time with his friends and Mrs Gill, Joan, Barbara and everyone for your support, From Lesley Rhind



carers (Mrs Vaughan, Judith, Hamish, Elma, Heidi). Thank you to giving Stephen all care and devotion.



Summer Excursions



Sophie and Jamal played hide and seek during a visit to Saughton Park



Emma petting a goat from Gorgie farm at Kidsout



Nursery at East Links



Despite torrential rain the Nursery were able

to find the only dry place in Lothian for our summer outing to East Links Farm. We had a parent and therapists to help and everyone had a fantastic time.

Kidsout Saughton Park Michael and Molly having a fun time.



The Nursery has been very busy this term with our topic "Babies". We've had lots of imaginative play in our house



corner and 2 live babies visiting, a new born brother and a tiny sister of our pupils.

Parents have been very involved this term too, with coffee mornings and speakers from Westerlea, Family Focus/Seaview and The Yard invited to talk to our families of both Nursery and playgroup children. We also invited our parents to an open morning in nursery where we were able to give each family a book of all the favourite songs in the Nursery and teach parents the songs, and how to sign the key words. At the end of the open morning all the children were presented with a gift pack from Book Start.

Braidburn Fun Day -



The fun day was once again a huge success and raised approximately **£3,700** for the school fund. A big thank you must go to the Parent Council Sub Committee, Friends of Braidburn for all the hard work they put in for months before the event and in the weeks following it. Thank you to all the families and friends of the pupils who came and supported us on the day.



Congratulations to Tony



Tony one of our leavers won a special merit in the National Gallery Schools' art competition and his picture is being used to promote the competition for next year.

Tony's picture

Farewell to staff



Elma Morrison



Alex Lorimer



Bob Somerville



Helen Moyes



Catherine McDonald



Jane Clancey



Catriona Ferguson



Moira Montgomery

We wish all our colleagues who are retiring or leaving to take up new posts all the very best in the future.