



## Braidburn School Christmas Newsletter 2008

Another term has passed and a lot of hard work has been undertaken by the teachers and the pupils throughout Braidburn. There have been lots of different activities undertaken by the pupils allowing them many exciting opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding about a range of topics. We are very proud of our pupils and we want to share with you what they have been doing this term. We strive to make all our pupils successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. We hope this newsletter will inform you about all that goes on within the Braidburn School community.

### **Enterprising Learning: Taking Education Out into the Community**

This term there have been a number of excursions out of school to enhance the pupils' learning and this has had a very positive impact on the pupils. All of the teachers involved found their pupils were enthusiastic about the visits and were more engaged in their learning when returning to the classroom.

As part of the Social and Vocational course class 3/4 went to the Museum of Scotland with Ms McDonald. They spent a morning exploring the Museum and found the range of exhibits very interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. The purpose of the visit was to highlight different activities you can do in your leisure time.



The Red Class with their teacher and support staff visited the Museum of Childhood in the Royal Mile as part of their project on toys. They had a lovely time looking at all the toys and hearing about the games children used to play. The staff also had a trip down memory lane reminiscing about the good old days and seeing toys *they* used to play with in the display cases!

In Environmental Studies Mr Connor has been teaching about Old Edinburgh, The Grassmarket and the area of Greyfriars. To bring these lessons to life and encourage the children to be more involved in their learning he arranged a visit to these areas. The children got a lot out of this visit and were able to tap into Mr Connor's knowledge of the area in a tailor made tour. More visits are planned for next term.



Mrs Colquhoun organised a visit for some of her Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies groups to one of the Edinburgh Mosques and the local Church of Scotland at Colinton. Once again these visits are planned to broaden the pupils' learning opportunities and bring their learning out of the classroom and into the community.

The purple class have been studying transport and had an excellent visit to the Transport Museum in Glasgow. The pupils were able to view trains, cars, buses, trams and even old fashioned prams up close and observe the changes in transport over the years.



## **We have Confident Individuals and Responsible Citizens at Braidburn:**

We encourage our pupils at Braidburn to think of other people and this year they really took on board the Children in Need appeal. The leavers' group and their teachers Mrs Millar and Mrs Vaughan really excelled themselves by organising a Braidburn's Got Talent competition. They produced superb posters which they posted around the school and these generated a lot of interest from both pupils and staff alike. There were lots of entries received and a programme of contestants was drawn up. On the day everyone was very excited and the standard of performance was very high. There were soloist, duos, troupes and whole class productions performing songs, poems, jokes and dancing. There was a fantastic atmosphere and everyone showed their appreciation of all the different acts. We must thank the staff and students from Merchiston Castle School for their assistance with the sound system. There were three prizes awarded as follows:

The Primary School category was won by the Blue and Yellow classes

The Secondary School category won by Sarah Jane Wood for her poem and singing

The Staff category was won by Ms Thorburn for her very humorous rendition

From left: Fraser, Paul and Dylan P, Dylan R, Sarah Jane, Catherine and Stephanie



Sarah Jane Wood



The Leavers' Group also organised the Pudsey Bear coin cards and a big Thank You to everyone who completed one. They also organised a very successful Coffee Morning in school for staff and all money raised went towards Children in Need. They were also invited by Telford College to sell Braidburn art work in aid of Children in Need. Here is Duncan with Pudsey at Telford College.

Our School Service Support Officers Owen and Gary participated fully in the school fund raising for Children in Need. They dressed up and carried out their duties as Batman and Robin being sponsored to carry out specific duties. AMEY, who look after the school facilities generously agreed to match all money raised by Owen, Gary and the school and a total in the region of £2,000 was raised.

So a BIG THANKS to everyone who supported the SCHOOL and Gary and Owen in fund raising and making this a very positive experience for everyone.

Batman and Robin came to visit Alex and Jamal and they got their photo taken with them



### Shoe Box Appeal



Our Leavers have also been involved in a very enterprising activity. Once again our young people have shown they have a social conscience and after much discussion they decided they wanted to collect for the Shoe Box Appeal. They canvassed staff, pupils and their families and received a fantastic response. They originally thought they might manage to fill ten boxes but they were inundated with toys, books, pens and pencils, toiletries, gloves, hats, scarves and of course sweets. They worked very hard and managed to cover and fill 40 boxes. They would like to thank everyone who helped them give children in Romania some pleasure on Christmas Day. Well done to Finola, Tony, Brian, Charlotte and Mrs Ferguson.

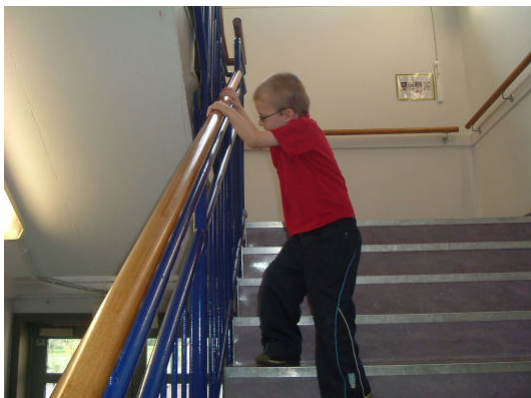
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A BIG THANK YOU from Mrs Walker and the ECO School group to all who supported our recent RAG BAG appeal. Some of the Leavers in the ECO School Group sorted and weighed all the textiles which were sent into school. We filled 42 bags and raised £126 for the Braidburn ECO School fund. We will have a committee meeting early next term to discuss what to spend some of the money on.

Here we have some of the leavers sorting clothes for our recent Rag BAG Appeal.

## Celebrating Success: Our Successful Individuals



### On the Move

Alex Elliot has managed to climb up and down 24 steps independently on his split placement at Oxfams. A *great* achievement

## Recognising and Celebrating Our Success

At the recent Standard Life Edinburgh Achievement Awards ceremony our Leavers Group were **Highly Commended** for their work with Milestone House and they were presented with a beautiful crystal trophy. A glittering ceremony was held in The Hub to recognise and celebrate staff and pupils within the Children and Families Department. The ceremony was hosted by Councillor Marilyn MacLaren and broadcaster Stephen Jardine handed out the awards to the deserving winners. Three of our pupils, Greg, Stacey and Craig, who have been involved in this innovative project, to build a Braidburn Raised Garden, were at the ceremony representing the school. They were delighted to be recognised for their fundraising efforts, their hard work and know it is a source of joy to the patients and their families at Milestone House.



In the Partnership in Practice category, “Music Expression and Development for All” received a **Certificate of Participation**. This was an innovative project by the school’s music department and Drake Scotland to celebrate Drake Scotland’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Four of our pupils gave a musical performance at the Queen’s Hall in Edinburgh.



### National Swimming Championships

We had pupils representing Braidburn in the National Swimming Gala in Glasgow. All of our pupils swam really well and behaved impeccably throughout. One of our swimmers, Charlotte McCallum had a superb swim and won a Gold Medal in her band. Well done to all.

**Enterprising learning and cooperative working between classes helps** our pupils to share experiences, work together and learn from each other. This term they have come together on a wide range of topics as shown below:



The **Blue and Red class** children are working together on recreating the story 'Going on a bear hunt'. The children have had a wonderful time and have learned through participating in sensory experiences, drama, song and art to illustrate the story. This multi sensory approach really impacts positively on the children's learning and engages all learning styles.  
**Here we are going through the mud**



**The Red class have been very enterprising this term.** They have been planting bulbs around the school as part of a sponsored fundraiser for the 'Myasthenia Gravis Association'. They have planted some bulbs for the school garden and each child will plant a bulb to grow in class to take home  
The senior pupils gardening group helped us to plant them around the school as the ground was very hard

Sophie planting the bulbs

### **St Andrew's Day Show Case**

**Pupils in years 1S to 4S** have been focusing on Scotland and its culture during their Thursday options afternoon. They studied a wide range of subjects and on the 28<sup>th</sup> November they showcased their learning to the whole school. There was Scottish County Dancing, an adapted poetry reading and enactment of Tam O'Shanter, the story of Burke and Hare, two of Edinburgh's notorious villains, a lively PowerPoint presentation about famous Scots and a very interesting presentation from the gardening group. All of the pupils worked very hard and undertook their roles confidently. Here are Patrick, Charly, Donna and Danielle performing





The **Yellow Class** have been involved in enterprising learning whilst studying The Ancient Egyptians. This involved the children in cross curricular work linking their learning through their Language and Communication work, religious and moral education and their Ancient Egyptian topic work. They made artefacts, wrote stories and created a fabulous display for the corridor.

**THE DRUM Riding Centre for the Disabled in Edinburgh, celebrated its 50th anniversary recently and had its new club room opened by HRH The Princess Royal.** A parade of riders from all the schools which regularly attend classes entertained the royal party. Aman, Darren and Jack were present at the opening and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



## Celebrating diversity through different festivals – Our primary pupils celebrated Diwali and Rosh Hashanah

**Diwali the Festival of Light** During this time, homes are thoroughly cleaned, windows are opened and diyas are lit as a greeting to Lakshmi, goddess of wealth. During Diwali, gifts are exchanged and festive meals are prepared. The celebration means as much to Hindus as Christmas does to Christians. Here we have Jack and Israh preparing for Diwali.



**Rosh Hashanah** is the first day of the Hebrew year. The children learned about how to wish their Jewish friends a "Happy New Year" using the Hebrew equivalent "*Shana Tova*" If you want to give a gift, kosher chocolates, candies, baked goods or fruit make thoughtful Rosh Hashanah gifts because sweets symbolize hope for a sweet new year. The children had a wonderful time making yellow and red circles and baked goods. Jade and Michael are participating fully in the Rosh Hashanah celebrations.



The pupils of Braidburn celebrated their Harvest Festival in October and received very generous donations from pupils and staff. St Catherine's Convent at Lauriston, Edinburgh was presented with this food. They provide food for homeless people.

## The Green Class celebrating Halloween



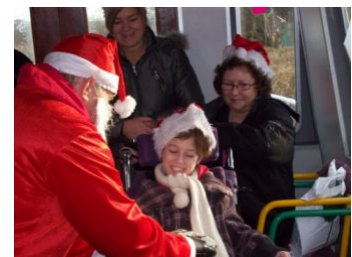
## Christmas Activities

The school Nativity play, the highlight of this festive season, was beautifully performed by the Yellow and Blue classes. All the children in both classes were involved and they were an absolute credit to the school. Rhona and Jack were Mary and Joseph while Shannon narrated the Christmas story and performed a solo on the bells. Everyone enjoyed it, especially the parents who attended the play and joined staff and pupils for mince pies and coffee afterwards.



Over the last two weeks all six of our primary classes visited the Ratho Santa Barge run by the Seagull Trust Charity. The children had a fantastic time on the barge spotting and naming the cartoon characters on the canal bank and receiving a present from Santa Claus.

*Ling Ling and Louise* having a super time on the Santa Barge

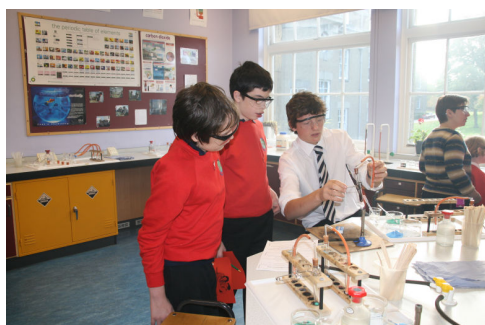


The Duke of Edinburgh Award “provide a service” group, have been working very hard to produce Christmas Cards and Calendars from Braidburn pupils’ art work.



Finola Forman’s Christmas card has been selected by St John’s Church at the West End of Edinburgh, as their official Christmas card this year. It is displayed for all to see on a giant banner outside the church. Well done Finola!

**Science fair at Merchiston Castle School** – Pupils from class 1/2B enjoyed participating in a Science fair at Merchiston Castle School. In the Chemistry Lab they carried out experiments with the support of Merchiston pupils, in the Physics lab they made a camera and in the Biology lab they handled a range of insects and reptiles.



We are sorry to announce the retirement of Mrs Colquhoun who teaches Maths and Religious & Moral Education. She has given many years of service to teaching and moved to Braidburn from Willowpark.

The whole school wish her all the very best and hope she has a very long and healthy retirement.

**Everyone at Braidburn would like to wish all our pupils and parents good health, happiness, love, peace and prosperity for the New Year**

