

Skene School News

January 2014

*Working Together, Learning Together
To Be The Best We Can Be*



Here is number 2 of our logo finalists. Your voting slip will be on the bottom of the February newsletter. January has not been a very pleasant month for the majority of the school community at Skene – if you didn't have one of the bugs, you were definitely one of the lucky few! We had to put out a letter to all, asking for children not to come to school if you thought they were poorly, and not to come back to school until they were well again. We had several children

who had to go back home again after being very upset in school, and very generously passing on their germs before they were picked up again. Rule of thumb – play it safe please. Thank you very much to all the offers of help from parents when we were short staffed – we managed, but your support kept us going!

School Council

What we will all definitely remember about January 2014 was the Skene School Burns Supper and Ceilidh Dance at the Garlogie Hall, organised by the School Council, with special thanks to the Munros who did the majority of the work. We kicked off the evening with some highland dancing from the girls, of all different ages and abilities, which was fantastic and got us right in the mood for a dance later on! Our haggis was



led in by talented piper Scott Middleton, and the address to the haggis, by Struan and Innes's dad Euan Munro, was seriously terrifying, with slashing of swords and everything, and fair stirred the Scottish soul. The food, catered by the Garlogie Inn, was of a very high standard, and served by the School Council mums, dads and children. The music was provided by the very talented Westhill Academy Ceilidh band, who called



the dances, and provided some stunning solos to give us a bit of a rest in between. We were also entertained by our own Skene School fiddlers, who were so good even the children had to sit down and listen! Thanks to Mrs Pirie, Westhill Academy music teacher, and Ms Davidson, our violin instructor. The raffle was very popular, and contributed to our final total of £550. However, we all agreed that we had so many members of the community, family and friends together for a great night, the evening would have been a huge success even if we had not raised a penny (although the Munros and the school fund are very glad we did!) We hope it will be the start of a great tradition.



Community Time Groups

Our Community Time Groups have had a quieter month due to all the absences, but the **Pupil Council** and **Eco Group** are working away on the Skene School Travel Plan. The issue of the busy road outside our school has long been a concern for all the members of our community, and we have found newspaper articles going back to 1998 complaining about the speed of the traffic going past. We would appreciate your help in completing any surveys which the groups may send home in their efforts to get this travel plan completed, and if you would like to have more of an input with this, please let us know. We are working with Wood Group to try and get some banners put up facing onto the road from both sides of the school, and Councillor Ron McKail is helping us from the council end, encouraging police presence whenever possible.

The **Rights Respecting School** and **Fairtrade Groups** are working on our UNICEF Day for Change, which you will be aware of by now. If you would like to join us in our walk to school on Tuesday 18th March, we will be meeting in the car park in Kirkton of Skene to walk along to school at 9am and have our porridge breakfast together Malawi-style when we get there. **Please do let us know if you will be joining us.**

In the classrooms

P1 had a very interesting visit from the dentist. She showed us all her special tools and said that out of all the primary schools she had visited, Skene School P1s had the best teeth ever! She asked for this to be passed on to parents, and said keep up the good work. The P1s said it was very exciting and not scary at all. We will maybe have one or two future dentists in there!



Mrs Gray, our PE teacher, will stay with us until the Easter holidays, when the new PE teacher will take over. She is doing some great work in gymnastics this term, and the children have been very adventurous and creative. These P1-3 gymnasts are learning skills in balances and jumps, and can tell you why these are important, and what skills these will develop into in

time.

To get some experience of Scottish poetry and language, P4-7 all learned a different Scottish poem each. We got the classes



together to listen to them on Burns Day, for those children who didn't make it to the Burns Supper.



After listening to the poems spoken in fantastic Scottish dialect or Doric, and watching a very modern take on Highland dancing from the girls' playground group, we toasted Burns with some Irn Bru and shortbread – the first time several children had tasted these Scottish delicacies!



We celebrated the arrival of our class set of iPads on long-term loan from the Learning Through Technology unit. In mixed age groups, the whole school got together to think about our school



vision statement, Working Together, Learning Together, To Be The Best We Can Be. Their posters, which can be seen round the school, looked at all the different ways we do this at Skene, from working with businesses to see how our classroom skills are applied to real life, to extra-curricular clubs run by parents and community members. We used the iPads to do research and to take photos round the school. The P4-7 pupils also taught the P1-3s some of the skills they have been learning in the block of Garage Band lessons they are having with Mr Watt, the music teacher. P4-7 will soon be bringing the iPads home to talk to parents about the pilot project we are taking part in with Giglets, using their online reading resources. Both classes have enjoyed using the iPads for a variety of different lessons across the curriculum. Children have already shown skill in



using the technology, in working together to get good results from the iPads, and in teaching skills classmates with less experience in the use of these. Learners in both classes have impressed their teachers with the care and responsibility they have shown. Well done P1-7!

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 13 th February	Local Holiday
Friday 14 th February	Local Holiday
Monday 17 th February	Mid-Term Holiday
Tuesday 18 th February	INSET day – teachers only
Wednesday 19 th February	INSET day – teachers only
w/c Monday 24 th February	P4-7 Victorian Experience
Tuesday 25 th February	School Parent Council Meeting, 7pm
Monday 10 th March	P1-3 Satrosphere Trip
Tuesday 18 th March	Day For Change
Friday 4 th April	End of term