

Skene School News June 2013

What's Been Going On At Skene?



Pupil Council

Pupil Council Group 3 had a very successful Playground Tidy-Up! Many thanks go to the School Council for organising, and to Aberclean who donated their services and machine-swept all the old grit and gravel out of the



playground before we started. A huge thanks to all who turned up to help – pupils, parents, grandparents and even some of our new P1s for next session. We had a great laugh and the school grounds and the surrounding area are looking fantastic.



Pupil Council Group 4 have decided to set up a Litter-Picking Group on the back of the Tidy Up event, to keep our playground looking smart. The Parent Council have agreed to supply them with litter grabbers and bag openers which will make the job easier and a lot more fun! They are also doing some organising for Annie's



Leaver's Disco – details below.

Our Community

Mr Lowden from the Rotary Club came along with Kathy from Dobbies and a HUGE selection of plants, which are now looking amazing in our boxes and tubs. P1-3 enjoyed planting them all and learned lots for their Where The Wild Things Are project.



The new P1s who will be joining us next session have been in for all four of their visits now, and have had great fun. The rest of the school enjoyed meeting them – their classmates-to-be and also the older children who played with them in the playground at break times. We have 9 P1s coming in after the holidays, 5 of whom are from families new to the school; I know you will make them all feel welcome.



P4-7 had a very interesting talk from Mr Peter Adams from the Skene Village Store who is a keen "metal detectorist" and has found many Viking artefacts in the Cumbria area, including several Viking brooches. The children returned the visit when they popped in for an ice-cream during their Fabulously Fun Friday trip to the park in the village! The classes also had visits from the ladies from Westhill Library who brought in a variety of different genres of books for the children to look at and to let them know what's going on at the library this summer, including information

on the Go Wild With Books Aberdeenshire Summer Reading Challenge-ask your child for information!

P1-3 enjoyed their trip to Easter Anguston, and met a host of different Wild Things, both growing in the gardens and wandering around the paddocks. They thought that they might like to do some fund-raising for Easter Anguston next session so that they can keep up their good work.



P7 Leavers

Or should I say “Leaver”, as we only have one P7 leaving us this session. Annie has only been with us for 2 terms, but in that time we have all got to know her well and will miss her bubbly personality around school. Annie has been to several afternoon and evening activities at Westhill Academy, and met up with Elrick School for a trip round the library. She very much enjoyed her exciting “Link Days” when she spent Wed-Fri at the Academy, and has made lots of new friends already. She says “It was so fun going to the Academy. The best bit was getting to work with hot stuff in science even if you could burn yourself! I met all the P7s from the other primary schools which was nice. The best bit about going to the Academy will be Home Ec, I’m really looking forward to all the cooking. The worst bit will be having to move around all the time between classes – here you just get to stay in your nice classroom!” Annie has opted to have a disco for her “Leaving Do” to which all the children in the school are invited. As previously noted, the disco will be on Tuesday 2nd July, from 6pm to 8.30pm, for which you will already have received a permission slip, and is being paid for by the School Council. We hope that all the children will be able to come, to give Annie a lovely send off.



Achievements



P4-7 Boys 5-a-Side team performed heroically in the Monymusk Football Tournament, playing against 6 other sides who were all incredibly experienced. Their enthusiasm was amazing, and as the team scored their only goal in the last minute of the last game, noted as Goal of the Tournament by the organisers, we all went home with smiles on our faces! We hope to get a Skene School Football Club up and running next session, so please let me know if you would like to get involved in helping with this – no experience necessary!

The netball team continue to perform well all over Aberdeenshire, and their confidence is growing with every match. Out thanks to Ann Buckett, Emma Lipp, Tanja Gagliardi and Julie Constable for their fabulous work with the Skene School Netball Club this session. There will be no netball in the last week of term, but the Club will resume next session, with a provisional start date of Tuesday 27 August. Due to increasing numbers, and practicalities, Netball Club next session will be for **P3-P7 only**.

Mary’s Meals Backpack Project

The Pupil Council will work with the Rotary Club to participate in The Backpack Project. Mary’s Meals is a Scottish organisation which works in several different developing countries providing meals and school equipment for children. The Backpack Project allows children here to put their old school



bags to good use **SO PLEASE DO NOT THROW OUT OLD RUCKSACKS AND BAGS THIS SUMMER**. You will be amazed how new they look once they’ve been through the washing machine. We will be asking for donations to fill the rucksacks (list below); alternatively you may wish to fill a bag in its entirety with your

family so the children have ownership of it. Mary’s Meals is a fantastic organisation which I have had first-hand experience of in Malawi – it is allowing children to go to school and receive the education they need to be the generation which can bring it’s country on. Further details can be found on www.marysmealsorg.uk in the What You Can Do section.



Wanted Items

- Backpack/School Bag
- Exercise Book/Notepad
- Pencils
- Pens
- Crayons
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Sharpener
- Pencil Case
- Towel
- shorts / skirt & t-shirt, or dress
- Flip Flops/Sandals
- Small Ball eg Tennis Ball
- Soap
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Spoon

Next Session

After much deliberation, at the moment the class structure for next session will be a P1-4 class (20/21 pupils) and a P5-7 (18-20 pupils). We are waiting for several confirmations, but as numbers stand, this is the only way we can definitely go into the new session with spaces in both classes for any new pupils. This is a tentative structure and is subject to change during the summer holidays and later on into next session, as always. Staffing will be as follows:

P1-4 - Miss W Craig (HT) and Mrs E Bissett (HT Relief)

P5-7 – Mrs Simpson

We will continue to have PE (Mr Crossan) and Art (Mrs Cooper) specialists in weekly. Drama (Mrs Adair) and Music (Miss Robertson) specialists will come in on alternate terms, and the P5-7 class will have Mrs Freeman in again to teach MLPS French.

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 2 July – Annie’s Disco 6.30pm – 8pm

Thursday 4 July – Church Summer Service – Annie’s Assembly – 9.45am – All Welcome

Friday 5 July – Last Day Term ☺

Monday 19 August – First Day Term STAFF ONLY

Tuesday 20 August – First Day Term Pupils P2-P7

Wednesday 21 August – First Day Term Pupils P1 MORNINGS ONLY

Wednesday 28 August – Parents/P1s School Lunch – 12.15pm

Thursday 5 September – P1 Pupils start full days

Any parents who have received a paper copy of this newsletter and would like to be added to the school e-mail list, please contact me on wendy.craig@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. The newsletter will soon also be available to view on our website – www.skene.aberdeenshire.sch.uk which is currently being updated.

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