

The Fairtrade Committee spent their time getting to grips with the concept of “Fairtrade” which they found quite difficult to begin with, looking at the different products and the benefits to the producers. They are planning a series of “Fairtrade Community Café” events to be held in the dining room – further details to follow!



Reverend Campbell, who is always willing to get involved at Skene and help us out with various activities, was helping to raise funds for a therapeutic roof garden at ARI, and the Pupil Council decided to help out with this. They made chocolate krispies in one of their Community Time sessions and sold them at break times, to raise almost £70 to put towards Reverend Campbell’s own total.

Promoting Positive Behaviour and our Zero-Tolerance to Bullying

In our last newsletter, I brought to your attention our school focus on promoting positive behaviour, and detailed all the initiatives we have running to ensure a happy, supportive environment for our children to develop and learn. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be happening on the school bus. I have spoken with all the children in assembly, and have put letters home to parents, but the bullying and bad behaviour on the bus continues, and I have had several complaints from parents whose children are coming off the bus understandably upset and frightened to get back on the next day. One of the initiatives we are working towards is our Rights Respecting School award, and all children at Skene School have the right to feel safe – including on the bus. We would be grateful if you could remind your child(ren) of this as they use school transport.

Road Safety

The P1-3 class have looked at road safety as part of their “Our Community” project, and are joining up with Dunecht and Echt P1-3s for a Road Safety Magic Show at Dunecht School, paid for by Aberdeenshire Council (including transport). P1-3 parents – you will receive a permission letter on the first day back to give your consent for your child to attend this event.

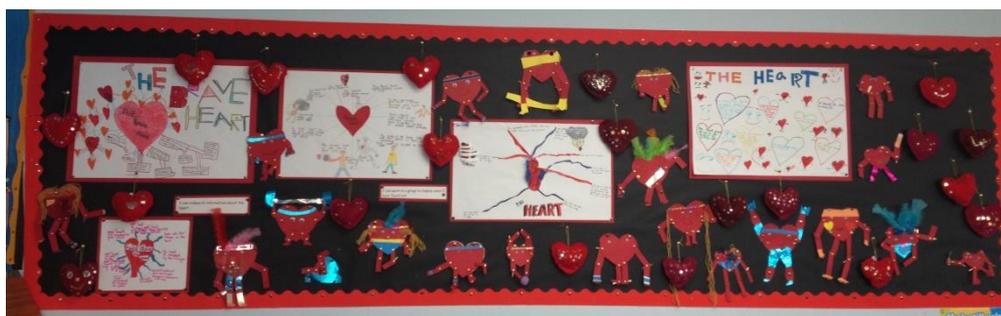
At our own school, we have been experiencing some road safety issues, not least the children climbing around in the school buses without seatbelts on. The school and the School Council have continued to work hard with local councillors and Aberdeenshire Council to try to get the flashing “20” lights repaired on the “half milie”. May I ask that in the interest of our children’s safety, you observe the 20 speed limit around the school, and ensure that your child(ren) are safely strapped into car seats for the younger children, and seat belts for the older children. Thank you.

Project Work and Health Week

We had a great last week of term as it was our Health Week, and lots of visitors came into school to help us learn about various different aspects. P1-3 looked at it from the aspect of “Our Community”, learning about different people who help us, as well as more general ways of keeping healthy. Here they are with our Community Police Officer, learning all about her job, and what the different parts of her uniform and equipment are for.



For P4-7, Health Week was a great way to round off their “Healthy Me” project. Their wall displays in the classroom show just how much they have learned – well done boys and girls!



For further information and photos of our Health Week, please see the school website at www.skene.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

School Council

As always the School Council have been hard at work on behalf of all the parents, children and staff of Skene School. Top priority for them at the moment is the Halloween Disco, on Thursday 31 October at 6.30 (please see the School Council newsletter for further details) They are also organising a school fundraiser and get together in the form of a Burns Ceilidh, which will be on Saturday 18th January 2014 and will be for children and parents. Please get in touch if you would like to help with this, and do save the date.

The School Council have been trying to set up a school football club. Traditionally in schools, this is run by parents, and while we have lots of willing volunteers, due to work commitments etc, nobody is available to actually commit to taking charge of a football club. Kirsteen Knight, Chairperson, has managed to find a local coach who would be willing to run a club at the school, but which would be run independently by him, not by the school, and he would charge for his services as such. Mrs Knight will be in touch to gauge parental opinion on this.

Help!

Thank you so much to all of you who came in to help last term, whether it was on a trip, in the classroom, at a school club, or with Health Week. It really is much appreciated, and we couldn't teach such a broad curriculum without your help. This term we are still looking for helpers, the main priority being our Junior Librarian system. All the books will need bar coded and registered on the system. I am trying to get a computer installed in the library but we could make a start on the books. If you are able to give up a few hours to sit and sticker away in the library, it would be much appreciated!

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 28 October	First Day Christmas Term
Wednesday 30 October	P1-3 Road Safety Magic Show, Dunecht School
Thursday 31 October	School Disco
Monday 11 November	INSET Day – Teachers Only
Tuesday 12 November	INSET Day – Teachers Only
Monday 18 November	School Photographer (individual or family photos in school uniform)
Tuesday 10 December	Whole School Christmas Trip to HMT Pantomime
Thursday 19 December	School Nativity Service, Skene Parish Church
Friday 20 December	Last Day Christmas Term

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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