

Sgoil Lionacleit News

December 2020

Head Teacher Headlines



This year has been a challenging year – there is no doubt about that. Yet Sgoil Lionacleit continues to showcase the dedication and enthusiasm of our pupils and staff. Whether it is with our online Christmas assembly, our online prize giving or the phenomenal amount of food donated to the Uist and Barra foodbank by our staff and pupils.



Even in challenging circumstances, in fact I would go so far as to say especially in challenging circumstances, our school makes me very proud.



As we move into a New Year I would like to remind parents/guardians that we are here to help. If you are experiencing financial hardship or need some other support please get in touch with us. We can maintain confidentiality and would be very pleased to help where we can.



Nollaig Chridheil agus
Bliadhna Mhath Ur
Gordon Young



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 6th January School opens

Wed 10th February—INSET

Thur 11th , Fri 12th & Mon
15th February Local Holidays

Fri 26th March School closes

SENIOR CROFTING NEWS

The Senior Crofting class have been very busy since the year commenced. Most Monday afternoons they can be found at the croft fencing, maintaining and shifting equipment and working with the livestock, all under the watchful eye of Neil MacPherson.



Recently, the students gave all the sheep health checks and dosed them before moving the flock to the machair for winter grazing. Although a small traffic hold up was caused, all sheep and students arrived safely with their crofting teacher sadly lagging behind.

On other days, the class can be found in the school polytunnel looking after the vegetable beds which, at harvest, will be donated to the school community.

The young people have also been hard at work producing felt garlands for their business Jaacelo. They have developed a business plan based on adding value and enterprise potential to their crofts. Using wool from Neil's croft, they have washed, carded, dyed and felted the wool into beautiful felt garlands.



LATHA NA GÀIDHLIG

On Wednesday 25th November Sgoil Lionacleit, along with other schools in the Western Isles, marked the annual Latha na Gàidhlig. The current restrictions prevented any visitors coming in to the school but the wonders of technology made it possible for us to have some visitors! Robert Robertson of Tide Lines paid a visit to Sgoil Lionacleit and to other Western Isles schools through the medium of Vscene and Mary Ann Campbell who works for CNAG in the Uists paid a visit to an S2 Gàidhlig class. Both Robert and Mary Ann addressed pupils and spoke about the part Gaelic plays in their lives and in their working lives they also engaged in question and answer sessions.

One S2 Learners section spent some time considering whether Gaelic is evident in the wider community and they are now engaged in looking for notices and signs which are written in Gaelic. They also engaged with Amy McGinnity, an S6 pupil who is studying Advanced Higher Gaelic this year and she spoke to them about her own journey to this stage in her education.

Excellent discussions took place in two senior classes where the topic for discussion was the findings of the latest research into the use of the language in the Gaelic communities. Most pupils expressed shock at the hard hitting evidence which this latest research presented but also expressed a desire to play their part in ensuring the language has a future.

In the past some of our junior pupils have held lunchtime Gaelic sessions for non Gaelic speaking teachers who were keen to learn some key phrases. Indeed the work of one group was collected in a booklet which was cleverly illustrated by Heather MacDonald and had sound files produced by Maria Steele who was a pupil at the time. The booklet can be accessed on the Sgoil Lionacleit website. It is hoped that projects of this nature will resume when current restrictions are lifted.

BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND

Six years ago the Gàidhlig department at Sgoil Lionacleit, in collaboration with the Gaelic Books Council, published a book entitled *An Tilleadh*, a selection of creative writing produced by pupils in the department since the school opened in 1988. This book was recently shared with Ceòlas and, in spite of the current restrictions, they were able to use five of the writings to celebrate Book Week Scotland with a Gaelic and Uist flavour! The short videos which feature the writers engaged in conversation with Kathleen MacInnes before they go on to read their stories can be viewed on the Ceòlas website and Facebook page and are all well worth a visit. The four who read their stories are Linda MacLeod, Flòraidh Forrest (MacKenzie), Marion Garbutt and Màiri MacRitchie (MacLean). Lena Walker (Campbell) speaks about the story she wrote which was used by pupils at Lionacleit a few years ago to produce a short drama for the Film G competition. This short drama is included in the video thanks to Mary Ann Campbell having kept it safely since it was produced. "Cum rud seachd bliadhna agus gheibh thu feum dha" as the Gaelic saying goes: *keep something for seven years and you will find a use for it!*

In due course Ceòlas hope to produce more videos featuring the other writers in the book and we look forward to viewing these.

We are delighted with the success of this project and wish to thank Ceòlas for the time invested in bringing it to fruition. We also wish to thank Linda, Flòraidh, Marion, Màiri and Lena for their willingness to participate in the project. At this point in time our young people need to be encouraged to use their Gaelic and what better example than to see former pupils, whom they know, converse in the language with such ease and eloquence.



Na sgoilearan a' sgeadachadh na masgaichean

O chionn ghoirid, bha sgoilearan Gàidhlig bho clas a dhà trang a' cur ri chèile masgaichean Gàidhlig! Rinn Sue Dancey na masgaichean fhèin, agus chuir na sgoilearan na dealbhan agus an sgrìobhadh orra. Anns na dealbhan, chì sibh feadhainn de na sgoilearan ag obair air na masgaichean. Bidh Sue a' dèanamh masgaichean airson cathrannas MacMillan, agus gheibhear na masgaichean sin anns a' bhùth aice, The Puffin Gift Shop ann an Creag Ghoraidh.

S2 Gàidhlig class were very busy recently. They made their own Gaidhlig face masks with the help of Mrs MacIntyre (English), Mrs Beaton (Home Economics) and Miss Graham (Gàidhlig). The Puffin shop in Greagorry supplied the template and pupils added their own messages. The cost was borne by the school and the proceeds were donated to MacMillan Cancer Research.



Mrs Beaton a' cuideachadh na sgoilearan

BLIADHNA NAN COSTAICHEAN IS UISGEACHAN 2020

Tha S3 Gàidhlig air a bhith ag obair air pròiseact mun sgìre aca fhèin. Tha iad air fiosrachadh a' chruinneachadh mu iomadach cuspair: na traighean, iasgach, sgudail agus cron, plantaichean agus feamainn, caistealan agus beathaichean mara.

Fhuair iad cothrom bho chionn ghoirid film beag a chlaradh airson farpais FilmG. Le taic bho Mairi Anna Chaimbeul (CnaG), agus Mrs Cairney (Media Studies) rinn iad clàradh innteannach 'S e 'Na traighean againn' a thug iad air.

SCOTLANDS YEAR OF COASTS AND WATERS 2020

S3 Gàidhlig have undertaken a project linked to their own island. Amongst the topics they have been researching are beaches, sea life, fishing, pollution, erosion, plants, seaweed and castles.

They have recently recorded a documentary entitled 'Na traighean againn' (our beaches). This short film has been submitted to FilmG. They have produced a very interesting and atmospheric piece.

HEALTHY EATING WEEK

Well done to Health and Food Technology and Hospitality pupils who organised Healthy Eating activities for junior classes as part of the annual Healthy Eating Week, British Nutrition Foundation campaign.

S1 were treated to toast with healthy toppings at morning break and S2 were invited to test smoothies at lunchtime. Both year groups were encouraged to make a healthy eating pledge over the course of the week.



CHRISTMAS IN MATHS

Mr Simpson's S1 & S2 class making maths fractal Christmas trees of Sierpinski Triangles and Koch Snowflakes.



FOODBANK—BANCA-BIDH

There was a collection for Uist and Barra Foodbank at school recently. Pupils and staff donated foodstuffs, toiletries and gifts which will be distributed to those in need in the community. The donations were very generous and the local Foodbank are grateful for the support.



12 NEW BIKES ARRIVE IN THE PE DEPARTMENT THANKS TO LOCH DUART FUNDING

We were delighted to take delivery of 12 new hybrid bikes in september thanks to funding from Loch Duart. We have also secured a bike maintenance grant from Cycling Friendly Secondary Schools to ensure all the bikes will be maintained to a high standard. The bikes have been well used by 3rd-6th year during the Autumn months with pupils having their fitness and skill level challenged.



CHRISTMAS HOUSE CHALLENGE

Sport and Recreation have organised this years first house challenge. Pupils and teachers have been encouraged to pick a distance to aim for to earn a house point for their team during the month of Decemeber. All distances will be added up and the house that has travelled the furthest over Decemeber will be declared the winners. Bonus prizes will be on offer for the pupils and teachers that have travelled the furthest.

TERM 3 SPRING 2021

Schools open	Wednesday 6th January 2021
Inset	Wednesday 10th February 2021
Mid—term local holidays	Thursday 11th, Friday 12th & Monday 15th February 2021
School closes	Friday 26th March 2021

