

Sgoil Lionacleit News

December 2021

Head Teacher Headlines



As we reach the end of another calendar year I cannot help but reflect over the positive attitude and behaviour of our pupils during a challenging first couple of terms. Having said that, the restrictions put upon us by Covid 19 continue to be challenging and it is important that we continue to remember the importance of wearing masks and indeed wearing them properly.



This term we say goodbye to two members of staff that have supported us along our journey for the last couple of years – Heather Robinson (Biology teacher) leaves us and returns to Australia to be with family, and Mike Burgon retires from our office staff. All of the good work in the Sgoil Lionacleit newsletter is collated and published by Mike – so we can consider this one a testament to his dedication to the task. We also welcome Mr Gillies back from his acting post at Sir E Scott, which means we lose Mr Downham for 4 days a week to E-Sgoil as a DHT. We do keep him for one day a week to work in Sgoil Lionacleit though, which we are very pleased about.

As you can see from the many successes and experiences that are present in this newsletter we are a school that continues to thrive,



Nollaig Chridheil agus
Bliadhna Mhath Ur
Gordon Young



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thur 6th January School opens

Thur 17th , Fri 18th & Mon 21st
February - Local Holidays

Fri 1st April School closes

Cadet Recruitment Drive — report by Micheal Gray



Last term I held four presentations for the new S1's and the S2's to introduce them to the Army Cadet Force (ACF). In the presentation I covered a brief history of the ACF, what activities we do, what the uniform means to us and how to join if they were interested. I held the presentation because both detachments in Uist are needing new recruits to train and keep the attendance levels high. I worked alongside my detachment commander – CSMI Ian Moar and the guidance teachers who helped me deliver the presentations. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and look forward to holding the same presentation next year.



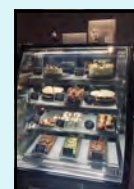
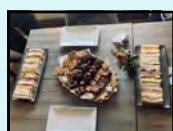
Mod News

Congratulations to Sgoil Lionacleit pupil Arabella Manchester who won a silver medal at the Mod for her Prescribed song - Is toil leam a 'Ghaidhealtachd. She put in an amazing performance at Eden Court in Inverness on the 12th October and fully deserves this amazing achievement for all her hard work in preparing for the event. Here's hoping for further success next year!"



Hospitality News

Last week, the Skills for Work Hospitality pupils had the opportunity to visit Lochmaddy Hotel and hear from ex-pupil Eilidh Boyle. Eilidh is trained in Patisserie and since moving back to Uist has become Kitchen Manager at the hotel. The class enjoyed sampling some of her wonderful selection of sweet festive treats available at Lochmaddy Hotel.



Crofting News



The Senior Crofting class has been propagating herbs for their Enterprise Project this year, which aims to explore different ways of increasing crofting income. The S3 class aided the seniors with helping prepare the mixed herb gardens, for which the seniors offer their thanks. Each Senior Crofter chose a staff member to be gifted with a herb garden and delivered them wrapped in ribbon.



The class was not able to take money for their products because of current conditions but would have made a profit of £200 if able to participate in market sales.

Leftover herbs have been given to the Home Economics students to use for their cooking.

Languages News

Mary Ann Campbell – Q and A

In the run-up to Latha na Gàidhlig, one of the S2 Gàidhlig classes was given the opportunity to ask Mary Ann Campbell (our Comunn na Gàidhlig officer) questions about the opportunities afforded to her through Gaelic. Mary Ann also informed pupils about worthwhile opportunities which are available to young people who speak Gaelic.

Chloe Steele

On Wednesday 1st December, the S1 Gaelic Learners class was treated to an inspirational presentation by Chloe Steele. Chloe, who was in the Gaelic Learners' class in school, is now fluent in the language and she shared with the class the opportunities she has had as a result of Gaelic.

Bann nam Baghasdal

Classes were also given the opportunity to watch the documentary *Bann nam Baghasdal* which was produced by Chloe Steele. In the documentary, Chloe meets with residents of Boisdale in South Uist and Boisdale in Cape Breton, Canada.

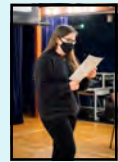
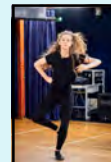
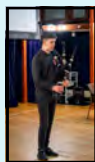
Cookery Workshop

On Wednesday 17th November a group of pupils cooked up a storm with Mary Ann Campbell and Eilidh Johnson. A delicious array of beautifully decorated cupcakes were baked to mark the start of the Latha na Gàidhlig events.



Concert

A short concert was held in the Theatre at lunchtime on Wednesday 24th November which showcased some of the exceptional talent amongst our pupils in Sgoil Lionacleit. The concert was planned by the S5 Gaelic ambassadors who did a sterling job organising and stewarding the concert in line with current Covid guidelines. Thanks to the ambassadors, the performers and to Seonaidh MacInnes (S5) for taking photos.



Poster Competition

As part of the Latha na Gàidhlig events, the Languages Department launched a poster competition among S1 and S2 classes. Pupils were tasked with designing a poster which promotes the use of Gaelic in the school. The posters, which were of a high standard, were judged by Heather MacDonald, ICT Support.

The winning entries were designed by Eibhlin MacKenzie, Naomi Menzies, Patricia MacDonald, Innes Campbell and Mitchell MacLean-Currie. Their posters will now be digitised by Heather and will be displayed throughout the school and used in promotional Gaelic materials.

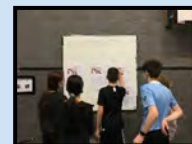


PE News

Badminton & Football

This term our S1-S3 pupils were taking part in badminton and football during their PE lessons. Pupils set themselves targets and completed the block with a house tournament for both the activities where they also got the opportunity to improve their umpiring and refereeing skills and logging results on tables.

The house points will be announced next term.



Next term the pupils will be participating in **Cross Country** and **Basketball**. It is very important that pupils bring suitable clothing for being outside during their cross country lesson, a **change** of footwear and socks along with hat, warm top/jacket, shorts or leggings/track bottoms. Pupils will be required to go outside even if they are unable to participate due to medical reasons.

Pupils and parents are reminded about the expectations of the PE Department.

Suitable change of clothing to participate in the activities.

A detailed note from parent/guardian is required if for any reason participation is not possible. – This is to allow an appropriate, alternative task to be completed during the lesson therefore PE Kit is still required if you have a note.

Scottish Women and Girls in Sport week

Sport and Health organised activities for the girls during the last week of October for nation wide Scottish Women and Girls in Sport week. The girls experienced Tchoukball, rowing and yoga over the week. All participants were also asked to fill in questionnaires about activity and participation levels.

Boys in sport Week.

Sgoil Lionacleit embraced mens mental health month and put on a selection of activities aimed at promoting activity. Those who took part enjoyed the opportunity to try new activities.



North District Cross Country Championships, Gordonstoun.

Well done to Sgoil Lionacleit pupils Seonaidh Macinnes, Joni Smith, Anna Macdonald and Ailsa Mackinnon who represented their athletics club NUAAC in Gordonstoun on 5th December. Seonaidh and Joni were placed 3rd in the U17s Anna 7th U13s and Ailsa 12th U15 race.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

Lunch time and after school clubs have continued this term with a good turnout, please see below the timetable of activities offered at the moment. For further information contact the PE department.



Lunch passes will be provided - Bus passes provided for afterschool clubs - PE kit must be worn to all clubs

DAY.	LUNCHTIME 12.35 – 1.05	AFTERSCHOOL 3.20- 5.00PM
Monday	Volleyball S1-S6	
Tuesday	Netball S1-S6	Athletics
Wednesday	Badminton S1-S6 half the hall Girls football . S1-S6 (delivered in Gàidhlig but all welcome)	S1-S6
Thursday	Badminton S1-S6	
Friday.	Badminton S1-S6. Rugby S1-4 boys and girls.	

Visit to Scottish Parliament - report by Samantha Jordan

I was invited to attend the opening of the Scottish parliament, in October 2021 because I am a member of the young scot led Cop 26 co-climate design group. I put my name forward and surprisingly got picked. I got flown down to Glasgow where I then travelled on to Edinburgh, and stayed in a hotel. On the morning of the event I met with my group leader Emmie Main, and we met with more youths aged 15-25 from many different organisations, such as SYP. We were split into two groups, one who were in the opening procession carrying in the crown and one who were the queens exiting royal guard, I was part of the latter. In our groups, we sat in different rooms to watch the event live on the parliament website. Once the event was over we were presented to The Queen, Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla. The queen was very nice and smiled at me and Prince Charles and duchess Camilla spoke to us, they were very kind and curious as to who we were. After this we ate some lunch and had the rest of the afternoon to mingle amongst the youngsters and members of the Scottish parliament. That is where I met the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, who was so nice and engaged in wonderful conversation, which was non-political and we got to get photos and even selfies with people in politics such as the First Minister, the old presiding officer, Ken Macintosh, and the new presiding officer Alison Johnstone as well as staff from the parliament.



The opportunity helped me meet new people and gain an insight into the world of politics, giving me confidence and introducing me to SYP where I am now MSYP for the Western Isles. I will forever remember the experience, it's not everyday you are less than a meter away from the queen, with her smiling at you or getting to speak to prince Charles and duchess Camilla, and speak to the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.



Film G



The Film G group has been busy planning and filming their entry for this year's Film G competition. Catherine Ann Henderson, Patricia MacDonald, Layla MacEachen and Lana Stephenson have shown tremendous commitment and should be very proud of their entry. Many thanks to Mary Ann Campbell, Eilidh Johnson and Heather MacDonald for all their help.



Children in Need Appeal

With donations being made for our dress down day on Friday we raised the significant amount of £235.50 for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated.



Uist & Barra Foodbank Collection

This year school hosted a reverse advent calendar in the run up to Christmas to help collect some much needed items for the Uist and Barra Foodbank. A reverse Advent calendar is where pupils and staff can bring in an item for the donation box on their allocated week. These donations will hopefully help both individuals and families have a less stressful and more relaxing Christmas season.

Many thanks to all those who donated.

Piping Achievements

Congratulations go out to four Sgoil Lionacleit pupils who entered this years Lewis & Harris Piping society junior online competition. Patrick MacMillan S4 achieved four 1st places, Zoe Steele S4 achieved a 1st and a 3rd place, Freya Duffield S2 achieved a 3rd, Anna MacDonald S1 also participated and did extremely well.

TERM 3 SPRING 2022

Schools open	Thursday 6th January 2022
Inset	Wednesday 16th February 2022
Mid—term local holidays	Thursday 17th, Friday 18th & Monday 21st February 2022
School closes	Friday 1st April 2022

