

Argyll and Bute Council

Community Services: Education



Teaching and Learning 3 -12 across  
Bute and Cowal Primary Schools

# Introduction

Bute and Cowal area consists of 14 primary schools – 11 in Cowal and 3 on Bute. Nursery provision is provided within seven of these schools. Gaelic Medium education

is provided at Sandbank Primary. Since August 2012 two new head teachers have taken up post in Cowal. Sylvia Clark became the head teacher in Dunoon Primary

and Carol Durie took up post at Innellan Primary. Sylvia was previously the depute head teacher in Rockfield Primary in Oban and Carol joined us from Fife.

## Teaching and Learning across Bute and Cowal Primaries:

### Christmas Shopping at Strone - Maths in Context!



Pupils from Primary 4-7 classes at Strone Primary School went to the local supermarket to buy food for the school Christmas party. They chose the food they wanted and then the group used their maths skills to make sure that they stayed within budget. Good use was made of the 2 for 1 offers in the supermarket! Pupils used mental maths skills and then checked with a calculator. They used skills in multiplication, division, fractions and problem solving to make the most of their money. They kept within budget and even had 50p left over! This was a very good example of learning in a real life context.

### Author Keith Charters visits Kirn Primary

With World Book Day still fresh in our minds, with support from Scottish Book Trust and the PTA, three authors visited Kirn Primary School. On Monday 25th March P5 and 6 were treated to a lively session with author and publisher Keith Charters. Keith read exciting bits and disgusting bits from his books, spoke about writing books, how to get ideas, how to make an action sandwich and how he became a writer himself.

He also explored our Space topic, and gave insights we may not have thought of on how to live in zero gravity, as demonstrated by Lee in "Lee on the Dark Side of the Moon". Two lucky winners also went home with signed copies of his book. Keith was really impressed with our pupils, how interested they were, how well they listened, responded to his questions and asked brilliant questions themselves.



# St. Andrews Ancient Egypt Presentation



Pupils from Primary 3/4 and 4/5 at St. Andrew's Primary School invited family and friends along to a presentation of their learning on Ancient Egypt. Primary 3/4 talked about life in Ancient Egypt. They explained the importance of the River

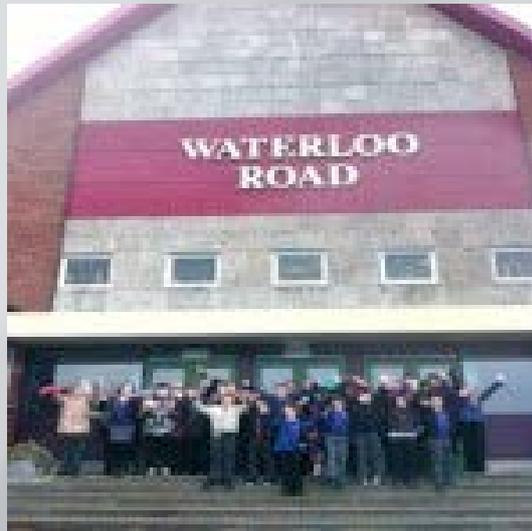
Nile and the differences in the lifestyles of the rich and the poor. Primary 4/5 then demonstrated the mummification process, step-by-step. The audience were treated to a slide-show of photographs showing the pupils working throughout the topic.

## Snakes & Lizards

Parents of two pupils at Innellan Primary took their reptilian pets to the school for the children to see. The pets were two Bearded Dragons and two snakes. The snakes were different breeds. One was a Royal Python named Monty and the other was an Argentinean Rainbow Boa called Melgaia. The children were amazed to see these exotic creatures. The staff did their best to be brave and the children were delighted to welcome such fascinating and interesting visitors!



## St Mun's Primary 7 visit Waterloo Road



The Primary 7 class in St. Mun's Primary went to visit the film set of the popular television programme Waterloo Road. This modern day school-based drama is set in the old Greenock Academy. When the Academy closed down the popular series moved from its original location in England and opened its doors for the new term in Scotland. On arrival pupils were divided into two groups and taken on guided tours of the building. Rooms visited included hair

and make-up, a room dedicated to just shoes and the teachers' lounge, which had a huge fish tank and five live fish in it. Particularly impressive was the head teacher's office with a comfortable couch, flat screen T.V., muffins and lots of sparkly items!. Lots of photographs were taken and pupils were given autographed picture postcards of the actors and actresses from the series and an autographed Waterloo Road tie. The trip was a reward for pupils' hard work and effort in developing their own 'Buddy' filming project an interdisciplinary project on the movies where the children learned about the growth of the movie industry and the skills needed to produce a film. An experience they will never forget!

## Aspiring farmers at Toward Primary

Primary pupils went to Auchafour Farm to help Mr. Young scan his sheep to discover whether or not they were in lamb and, if so, how many lambs they were going to have. They really enjoyed the experience and gained an insight into why farmers need to feed certain sheep at this time of year and why some get

fed more than others according to how many lambs they are going to have. The farmer had marked a couple of sheep with a large 'T' and over the next few months they are going to follow the progress of these sheep and their lambs. The pupils will learn about the cost of rearing lambs and about profit and loss over the next few months.



## Crofting Connections at Strachur



Pupils from Tighnabruaich, Toward and Strachur Primary schools had an amazing day at Strachur Memorial Hall taking part in a Crofting Connections event. There were various activities such as felting, quilting and willow and paper weaving. Pupils enjoyed tasting fish and sea food and learning about the salmon's life-cycle. They also found out how to 'waulk' the cloth, card wool, use drop spindles and weave. They learned about

sheep and wool. Pupils made and tasted delicious oatcakes, were inspired by the life-story of John Muir and were surprised to discover what various artefacts were used for. Partners who gave up their time to teach them about crofting included National Park Rangers, Loch Fyne Oysters, Seafood into Schools, Kilmartin Museum, Strachur History Society, Strachur quilters, and all the parent and community volunteers.

## Innellan Primary Gardening Club

The club celebrated its first birthday with a party and a beautifully made cake last Friday afternoon. Family and friends joined staff and pupils to enjoy the cake and wish the Gardening Club many more happy years. To date the children have grown delicious vegetables in pots and raised beds and have enhanced the appearance of the school grounds with beautiful flowers. Last session they planted and nurtured lovely plants, which they used to fill large pots in the village for the enjoyment of the community.



## Book Week Scotland



Rothesay Primary celebrated Book Week Scotland in lots of different ways. Primary 6 pupils read the nominated books for the Scottish Book Awards to children in Pre-5. Primaries 1, 2 and 3 pupils voted on their favourite book which was 'The Day Louis Got Eaten' in every class! A ceilidh was held on St Andrews Day with a performance from each class. Primary 3 sang 'Ye canny shove yer granny aff a bus!' Primary 2 sang a rousing rendition of 'O Flower of Scotland'. Primary 1-2 danced the St Bernard's Waltz and Primary 1 pupils led the ceilidh dancing. All the pupils read books written by Scottish authors during the Book Week Scotland 'Reading Hour'.

## Dragon's Den

Primary 7 pupils from Rothesay Primary School stood up in front of seven fierce dragons in the school's own version of the Dragon's Den TV series.

Pitches for a series of fantastic inventions were put before the seven Dragons who had the unenviable task of choosing between the spider-catching Zapatron, a heated sofa and a jacket that charges your mobile phone as you walk, to name just a few. The Dragons comprised of current and retired Bute businessmen and the minister of Ardbeg Baptist Church. Each contestant's pitch was followed by a series of searching questions on their product and their bid for the Dragons' financial support.



## Come dine with us - Sandbank Primary

Pupils in Sandbank Primary Gaelic Medium Unit produced their own version of the popular "Come Dine with Me" television programme. During the five weeks preparation the pupils devised a menu to serve to a group of adults. The starter was roast butternut squash and chicken salad followed by individual meatloaves served with mashed potatoes, broccoli and a courgette bake. To finish off they chose an apple and blackberry tart served with cream or custard. Every child produced an individual invitation to be sent to the adult of their choice and one afternoon was spent with a local

man who is trained in silver service and cocktail making. The children really enjoyed being taught how to set the table correctly and from which side to place dishes and which side to clear. As the guests arrived they were greeted by a group of children and taken to the "dining room" where others hung up coats and asked the guests to be seated. Grace was said then service began. The children served every course, including apple or grape juice, and at the correct moment cleared the dishes efficiently. The whole experience was fun and the children agreed that they had learned a lot. When



asked what skill they thought they had used, a very heartfelt reply said "perseverance", and there was no doubt at all that the peeling of apples and potatoes definitely required perseverance! The children also felt that their teamwork was good. All that was left then was for the invited guests to make their way home enormously proud of their children. Alas for those same children – there was still the dishes!

# Contributions to charities:

## Children In Need 2012 at Dunoon Primary

Dunoon Primary School primary 6 organised activities to raise money for Children In Need. The children sold raffle tickets to win a 'Sporty Pudsey' from Build A Bear and organised an art competition to draw a Sporty Pudsey honouring the success of the Olympics. On Friday 16th November everyone was asked to wear something Spotty or Sporty and to give a donation of 50p for Children In Need. A Baking Sale was also organised for Friday morning to enable children to buy a weekend treat for themselves and their families. Thanks to the fantastic support of pupils, staff, family and friends of Dunoon Primary the magnificent sum of £731 was raised for Children In Need 2012!



## Toward

Toward pupils filled colourful schoolbags with a range of items including pens, pencils, notebooks, toiletries, tee-shirts, shorts and games for schoolchildren in Malawi.



## Kilmodan

During this session pupils at Kilmodan Primary are supporting Guide Dogs for the Blind by sponsoring two puppies called Rufus and Tilly. In support of Marie Curie Cancer care they planted pots of daffodil bulbs and sold them to visitors during their tearoom days. Other charity events receiving their support have been Red Nose day and Children in Need.

## St. Mun's

St Mun's Primary pupils supported the British Heart Foundation with a Rock up in Red day.



## Pyjama Day at Lochgoilhead

Lochgoilhead Primary pupils had an enjoyable day dressing up in their pyjamas, baking and selling cakes to the community to raise money for Children in Need. They had a fun filled day which raised £195.25.



## Comic Relief at Rothesay Primary

In support of Comic Relief 2013 Rothesay Primary held a Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March. Primary 7 pupils organised a day full of fun for the rest of the pupils. There was a sponge throw, nail bar, designer dreams stall, a raffle, beat the goalie, car wash, float the lemon

game and face painting. Everyone had a brilliant day! Along with the money raised in Pre-5, Primary 2 and the red noses sold by the pupil council a staggering £1028.78 was raised! It was such a successful day for all the Rothesay Primary pupils and staff.



## Enterprise:

### North Bute Primary Winter Warmer



Primary 3/4/5 pupils in North Bute Primary took part in an enterprise project to plan and

organise an annual Winter Warmer in the local hall. They worked in Finance, Advertising, Finding Resources and Production teams to organise this event. Enterprise managers kept everyone on the right track and the whole school were involved in creating Christmas crafts to sell on the day. The enterprise team worked closely with the Parent Council who

was in charge of organising the catering side. Winter Warmer was a huge success with lots of visitors from the community popping in for delicious soup and filled rolls, making purchases from the stalls and enjoying the Christmas music. The pupils had a fantastic afternoon. They were delighted when they had counted up their takings and made nearly £300.

### Social Enterprise at Strachur Primary

Primary 6/7 from Strachur Primary presented an assembly to the rest of the school, parents and carers and our special guest, Mrs Sue Challis, from The Raven Trust. The class were very pleased to present Mrs Challis with a cheque for £89.65 which will help support a school in Malawi, through The Raven Trust Charity. The class raised this money through their social enterprise activities – producing and selling the school newspaper and selling second-hand school uniforms. 10% of the profit from the newspaper and all the proceeds from the second-hand uniform sales go to charity.

The theme of our assembly was greed and the children acted out a play based on the television programme, Deal or No Deal.



### Fundraising!

At Dunoon Primary School the Primary 7 pupils organised a Bake Sale and Pyjama Day to raise money for the Benmore Residential Weekend fund. The fantastic sum of £337.11 was raised.



# Outdoor Learning/Forest Schools:

## Tighnabruich Mud Kitchen

Pupils in the early level class at Tighnabruaich Primary have been enjoying a newly installed Mud Kitchen. It is fitted with all mod cons (sink, microwave, pots and pans etc.) and using only the very finest ingredients the children have been busy making spicy soup and apple and mud cake. Children visit the local supermarket (the nearby unfinished path) to collect the basic ingredient... mud! Primary 1 parents visited last week and have agreed to look for more fixtures and fittings. Recently pupils investigated the beautiful patterns made by the frozen mud.

The rationale underpinning the development of “muddy kitchens” is; *“There is little more important in our physical world than earth and water and they are truly intriguing things, especially when they interact. Mixing soil, water and a range of other natural materials has a foundational role in early childhood which has deep importance and endless possibilities for well-being, development and learning. The breadth and depth of what these experiences offer young children is truly remarkable”.*

In addition the children have built an igloo using 2 litre used plastic milk bottles. Parents and the community alike donated their empty bottles for a few months and the result was a brilliant play house for the early years class to enjoy.



## Forest Schools at Lochgoilhead

Pupils in Lochgoilhead Primary have been working with the forest school instructors from Ardroy outdoor centre. They have enjoyed afternoons in Cormonachan Woods making dens, building shelters, making bird cakes, looking for mini-beasts and exploring the ponds.



## Sandbank Outdoors!

Pupils in Sandbank Primary have been working closely with Rowan Fraser, a former Park Ranger for Loch Lomond in developing their Forest School work and have also worked with GRAB Trust in delivering Eco issues and supporting the Mini Beast study in the Early Years.



## CAST projects:

In Bute and Cowal the Creative Arts in Schools Team (CAST) has had the pleasure of providing the following during the last academic year:

**Big Draw:** authority wide project involving inspirational artists visits to most primaries accompanied by in depth resources and planning tools.

**Creative Learning Network CPD:** provided six twilight cpd opportunities covering music, drawing, character creation, film making and drama in Rothesay and Dunoon.

**TAC Writing:** running the annual Argyll Collection primary writing competition with entries from throughout the area.

**Libraries:** worked with library service to co-ordinate and support exhibition visits in Dunoon Library.

**Schools workshops:** run by Mull Theatre to coincide with their recent performance in Dunoon Burgh Hall.



## Eco Learning- Eco Schools:

The aim of the Eco-Schools programme is to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of the school for both pupils and for staff and to engage the wider community.

The Eco-Schools programme can help schools and pupils

- Improve the school's environment
- Reduce litter and waste
- Reduce energy and water use
- Devise efficient ways of travelling to and from school
- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Encourage active citizenship
- Build strong partnerships with community groups
- Develop international and global links

Across Bute and Cowal the following primary schools have gained awards:

**Green Flag:** Dunoon, Kilmodan, Kirn, Sandbank, St Mun's, Strachur, Strone, St Andrew's and Rothesay Joint Campus

**Silver:** Toward, Tighnabruaich, Innellan, and North Bute,

**Bronze:** Lochgoilhead



# Community Links:

## Strone's Soup and Sandwich Saturday

On Saturday the 17th November, Strone Primary School in partnership with their Parent Council, held their annual Soup and Sandwich event in the Younger Memorial Hall. The school, together with the Parent Council had worked hard to organise this ever popular event which was very well supported by the

local community. There was a great turn out to enjoy the delicious soups on offer and the pupils were on hand to man cake and candy stalls and sell Christmas related craft items that they had made. The event raised in excess of £600.00 which will be used to support the children's education.



## Scottish Country Dancing in Dunoon.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Association's annual dancing festival took place in the Queen's Hall Dunoon. Children in P4 and P5 across the schools in Cowal had been practising for several weeks and were keen to show off their newly acquired dancing skills. They dressed in tartan sashes and rosettes and their skills were admired by parents and friends in the upper balcony of the hall. The pupils were a credit to their schools and this was again a lovely example of schools working in partnership with members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Association who helped the pupils to learn the dances.



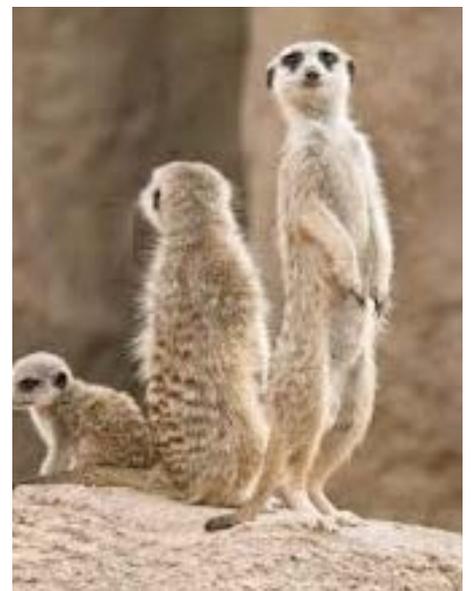
## Lochgoilhead Burns Supper

Pupils from Lochgoilhead Primary were invited to the annual Children's Burns Supper hosted by the Lochgoilhead Ladies. They enjoyed a traditional Burns supper and entertained the community with poems, songs and dancing.



## Memorial Garden at Sandbank

Working with the local community pupils in Sandbank Primary are creating a garden area in memory of their friend and fellow pupil Aillidh who died last summer. The school has purchased a special 'Friendship bench' incorporating a hedgehog and merekat (two of Aillidh's favourite animals) and with funding from a local business and the local authority have plans to plant large pots and hang bird feeders in the garden. Not only will this provide the children with a beautiful area to enjoy and support learning but will ensure that Aillidh's memory lives on. The school is also working with Aillidh's family to develop an end of year achievement award for children aged 6/7 which will be presented at our end of term assembly in June.



## Local schools represented at Dunoon Speaker's Club

On a Friday evening in December four pupils from Dunoon Primary took part in the final of the Speaker's Club Competition in St John's Church Hall, Dunoon. There were ten finalists in total representing local schools including Dunoon Primary, Kirn Primary, St Mun's Primary and Strone Primary. Pupils entering the competition benefit from the advice and support given by members of Dunoon Speaker's Club during their visits to the schools. Blair McColm of P7 in Dunoon Primary was first to deliver his speech on "The Truth about Rottweilers". Katie Cameron P6 of Dunoon Primary was next with her speech on "Dunoon Primary School Choir". Reece McIntyre P6 of

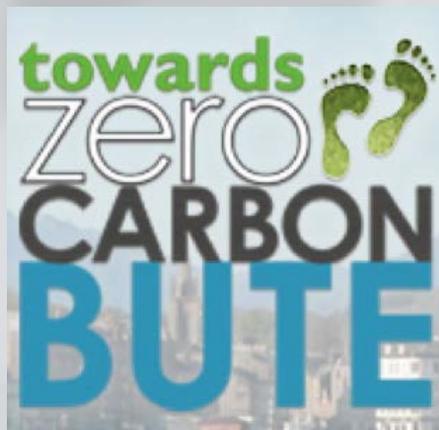
Dunoon Primary was the 5th speaker of the evening with his speech on "Tigger". There was a short break and then Alan Mollins P6 of Dunoon Primary spoke about "Ancient Greek Gods". After all the finalists had presented their speeches to a very appreciative audience, refreshments were served while the three judges retired to another room to decide on the winners. When the results were announced it became apparent that Dunoon Primary had done very well with Blair gaining 2nd place and Alan 3rd. All the finalists

received a £15 Book Token and a certificate. Blair and Alan were awarded glass trophies in the shape of a star donated by Argyll and Bute Council. It was a fantastic evening's entertainment. The children spoke confidently and clearly and made their supporters feel extremely proud!



## Dark Days Challenge Week

Pupils at North Bute Primary School planned and organised a Dark Days Challenge Week of road safety activities and events in partnership with Towards Zero Carbon Bute, a local environmental organisation. Pupils worked in groups – Healthy Living Group, Pupil Council and Eco Group – to plan and run a week's programme of events based on keeping themselves safe on the roads during winter's dark days! The range of activities that they planned included a walking bus to school supported by parents and the Police, a competition to design a bright bike, carrying out surveys into the ways pupils travelled to



school rewarding those pupils who travelled in a healthy way, a whole school walk and a special assembly to celebrate their achievements. The Healthy Living Group comprised pupils who are all trained Junior Road Safety Officers and they planned a special lesson for the P1/2 class with four separate activities. At a final assembly all pupils had the chance to show case their talents in a North Bute's Got Talent Special and fantastic prizes and rewards were given out courtesy of Towards Zero Carbon Bute and local Bute businesses that were supporting this great initiative!

# School Contacts:

School	Head Teacher	Telephone Number	Email address	Roll (Census Sept 2012)
Dunoon Primary	Sylvia Clark	01369 704159	<a href="mailto:enquiries@dunoon-pri.argyll-bute.sch.uk">enquiries@dunoon-pri.argyll-bute.sch.uk</a>	191
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Lochgailhead Primary	Sandra Bark (Acting)	01301 703338	<a href="mailto:enquiries@lochgailhead.argyll-bute.sch.uk">enquiries@lochgailhead.argyll-bute.sch.uk</a>	26
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