

October 2013

# **Gala Day Great Success**

Thank you to everyone who helped out and attended the joint school and community gala day. Despite the weather everyone turned out for fun and to help us raise funds for the Holywood Parent Council funds.

Miss Dale would like to thank Blair, Gavin and Cameron who took a share in the sponge throwing duties alongside her.

Congratulations to Joshua Traut winner of the Mini Garden Competition. Joshua seemed delighted with his garden tools. We know Keira was off to put her second prize of garden hand tools to good use weeding the garden - well done. Well done to all the entrants – the standard of garden design was very high indeed; we know some of our pupils have got a great future in the world of gardens and design!

Although we had fewer entries in the cupcake Holywood Bake Off all entries looked yummy! Well done to Blair who carried off the trophy for first place with his super entry. Gavin his brother won the second prize!

Both Parent and Community Council members worked very hard to make, sell, organise and run events. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you again for your support!

## Rugby

P4-7 have been undertaking rugby training and despite throwing the ball forwards, dropping the ball more than we should and kicking when we shouldn't we have decided to enter the Rugby Festival at Park Farm on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 9.30am - 11. 45am. We know we will be great - we have good team work and a positive attitude!

It is important for our pupils to get out and about and take on events and activities with other schools in the local area - this will be a great learning experience.

Parents and family members are very welcome to come and support from the sidelines.

### Thinking of our Friends in Kenya

It is clear from the newspapers and programmes that activities in Kenya are troubling. We have e-mailed Mr Steve to pass on our very best wishes and to let him know that we are thinking of all our friends in Kenya at this very difficult time.

**Library Event** – The pupil council are organising a book event next Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Pupils need to bring a favourite book to read aloud from. Practise performing at home so that you can amaze your audience.

**BRING BOOKS TO SWAP!!** Bring in old or unwanted books and swap them for books you would like to read. Bring one book take home one book.

It's our first Holywood Swap Shop!! (I am sure I am not the only one old enough to remember!!)



## G' Day Holywood!!

We were very excited to take a call on Tuesday morning asking if we could host a group of 18 head teachers from Australia for an hour. Twenty minutes later the coach pulled in and the head teachers from rural schools across Australia joined Holywood pupils for a Progressive Canadian Barn Dance. We hope to have the dance video on the school blog this week.

The Australian visitors were very impressed with the confidence and skills of our pupils – very well done to all our learners!

The visitors stayed to listen to Miss Dale talk about the journey Holywood school has taken over the last few years including our work on the playground and our active approaches to learning and teaching.

We have exchanged e-mail addresses and hope that this will be the start of an informative and productive partnership in which we learn about events and traditions down under.

### **School Improvement Plan**

The 2013/14 school improvement plan will be posted on the Blog. Please get in touch if you would prefer a paper copy. The plan is based on the very good feedback from Education Scotland but has lots of areas for us to continue to work on and develop.

We have to report to Education Scotland and our parents in May 2014 a year after the inspection visit to let everyone know how we are continuing to move the school forward.

Please read the School Improvement Plan and get in touch with comments, queries or indeed if there is something you feel we need to improve that is not being recognised.

#### **October holiday**

I am sure everyone has remembered that the school will be closed from the 14<sup>th</sup> October – 25<sup>th</sup> October for the holidays!!

### **Tree house**

The Lower Nithsdale Young Farmers have agreed to come to Holywood to help with the construction of our treehouse. Mr Templeton has very kindly been volunteered (once again!!) To help out with a mini digger.

If you are free to help out we will be here on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 9.30am and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October from 9.30am. We would be delighted if you could lend a hand. The BBQ will be fired up to provide lunch for all the workers.

Cargenbridge Pupil Council are coming to visit next Friday to take a tour of the playground. Our pupils will be discussing how we developed the playground and transformed it.

Thank you to everyone who made it along to **Target Setting Meetings**. I think we need to look at our timings – we haven't got it right just yet. Any feedback, positive or negative, would be appreciated in order to help us to improve.

Thank you, P.Dale