

IMS NEWS

Isobel Mair School Newsletter

Nov 2013

FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Winter is coming – with ice on the ground as I write this - and Christmas is on its way. In the winter months we spend more time than usual indoors to avoid injuries from icy conditions in the grounds, but before the big chill hit we were very active outdoors with an Eco Week, outdoor performances and the launch of our new outdoor learning initiative. You can read all about these activities in this newsletter as well as catching up with news from all our classes.

Many of you will have returned questionnaires to the school before summer to tell us how well you think we are doing. We really do value your input into the school's improvement planning process and you can find responses to some of the points raised on our website.

Christmas is a time for families and I hope to welcome all parents and friends to one or more of the festive activities listed below over the next few weeks

Wishing you all a peaceful holiday season.

Mari Wallace Headteacher.

OUR NEW DIRECTOR LAUNCHES 50 THINGS TO DO @ IMS

We were delighted to receive a visit from our New Director of Education Mrs Mhairi Shaw on Thursday 7th November. Mrs Shaw kindly agreed to officially launch our new Outdoor Learning Project: *50 Things to Do Before You Leave Isobel Mair School*. Based on the National Trusts Initiative *50 Things to do Before you're 11 3/4* we have put together 50 differentiated outdoor activities which all young people in IMS should be able to complete over their school career – everything from catching a crab to bird watching is included!

In addition to hearing about the book from our Eco-Committee members Mrs Shaw was also treated to a performance of *Room on the Broom* by Classes Orkney and Staffa. Continuing the outdoor theme this performance took place in our Outdoor Classroom -the first drama production to do so but definitely not the last!

Thanks to Mrs Shaw for launching our exciting project and we hope to see her again soon.

Christmas Countdown 2013

- 23rd November 10-12 noon Parent Council Christmas Fair (all welcome)
- 28th November Kilt Walk (Staffa, Jura, Tiree, Whalsay)
- 28th November pm - Eastwood Ceilidh (Staffa, Jura, Tiree, Whalsay)
- 2nd December Christmas Bus Timetable Commences (pupils and staff)
- 4th December Joint Advent @ St Cadoc's - Staffa, Jura, Tiree, Whalsay (Parents of classes will be invited to attend) 11.00AM
- 4th December Cinderella Panto - 1.30pm (pupils and staff)
- 4th December Community Unity Joint Advent Service (Staffa, Jura, Tiree, Whalsay)
- 5th December 6.00pm -8.30 pm Winter Wonderland Fair and Switch on of Lights (all welcome)
School Choirs will perform with Crookfur and St Cadoc's schools.
- 9th December PM Variety Club Christmas Party (Cumbrae and Bute)
- 10th December Evening Community Unity Candle light Service @ Newton Mearns Baptist Church (all welcome) 7.30PM-8.30PM
- 11th December Pupil / Staff Christmas Lunch
- 12th December Loch Ness Sensory Production AM
- 16th December Williamwood Christmas Party PM
- 16th December 3.15pm Staff Christmas Mince Pie!
- 17th December 10.30am Christmas Service @ Newton Mearns Baptist Church (all welcome)
- 19th December Christmas Disco - 5.00pm - 6.00pm Primary
6.30pm - 8.30pm Secondary
- 20th Visit by Santa - 2.30pm finish. No Extended School Day



SENSORY O



We were delighted to start the new term with two performances of *Sensory O* a fantastic interactive operatic experience devised especially for pupils with Additional Support Needs. A range of pupils from Loch Lomond, Loch Ness and Loch Awe attended and had a wonderful time watching the show and interacting with the singers. It was a truly immersive and engaging piece of theatre! Thanks to Linda Payne and Scottish Opera for this memorable day.

NEWS FLASH

IMS had 3 medal Winners at the SDS Scottish Swimming Championship on 20th November. Well done to William Campbell (Gold) Rachel Stoll (Gold) and Sarah Packham (Bronze) and to everyone who made the finals!

Thanks to the ISS@IMS Thursday Group who hosted a Spooktacular Halloween party for our pupils. Your hard work was very much appreciated!



OUTDOOR LEARNING IN FOCUS

We had a focus on Outdoor Learning in the weeks immediately before and after the October Break with a range of fantastic activities taking place. Among the highlights were *Stone Soup*, a full day activity involving folktale, drama soup making, marshmallow toasting and

breadmaking; our eco-book challenge which saw every class in the school producing a book featuring green issues; and lots of weeding, recycling and junk sculpture making going on as well! We finished off by sharing our work at an eco-showcase assembly.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Hello I am Cassie Maher and I am the Journalist for the IMS Student Council.

We are currently planning an "upcycling" fashion show which will involve revamping old clothes into new clothes. We are working hard by making scrap books and using the internet to find images.

Some of us went to the Tunnock's factory recently to pick up donations to help raise funds and we had a blast. Thanks Tunnock's for helping us get off to a flying start !



KEEP IN TOUCH

Could parents please ensure that they can be contacted at all times in case of an emergency school closure or sick child. If you have recently changed job or mobile provider it may be that we do not have your current phone number. Please keep mobile phones charged, and on at all times. In severe weather situations the latest news will be on the ERC and IMS websites and on Twitter.

CONTACT US

Please remember that we have an open door policy at IMS. Parents who have a concern about their child can talk to Mari Wallace (HT) or DHTs Nick Crossan and Sarah Clark. Appointments can be made via the school office: 0141 570 7600

Class Iona would like to thank everyone who contributed to their shoebox appeal. A total of 65 Christmas boxes are now on their way to bring Christmas joy to needy children in Eastern Europe.

