



An Deasbad Nàiseanta 2019

On 5th December 2019, teams from two schools in the Western Isles, Sgoil Lionacleit and Sir E. Scott School, competed in the final of the 20th National Gaelic Schools Debate. Sgoil Lionacleit won the overall debate and Rachel Campbell from Sir E Scott School won the prize for the Best Debater, which was presented by Donald Mackinnon, Director of BBC Scotland. We wish to give a special thank you to Mr D Murray for all his guidance, encouragement and support in taking us to the finals of the National Debate.



An Deasbad Nàiseanta 2019– Continued

Ann an An Dàmhair 2019, thòisich sinn ag ullachadh airson a’ chiad chùrsa dhan Deasbad Nàiseanta a ghabhadh àite ann an Steòrnabhagh aig toiseach an t-Samhain. Am bliadhna, tha an Deasbad a’ comharrachadh 20 bliadhna on a thòisich e. Bha againn ri pàirt a ghabhail ann an dà dheasbad thairis air dà latha. Air a’ chiad latha, bha sinn a’ deasbad mun fheum a th’anns an Deasbad anns an latha an diugh le òigridh a’ deasbad air na meadhanan sòisealta. An ath latha, bha sinn a’ deasbad mu dheidhinn an robh feum againn na seann òrain dhòrainneach a thilgeil a-mach.

Dh’obraich sinn gu math cruaidh anns na seachdainean ron àm agus, air an latha, bha sinn a’ faireachdainn nearbhach, ach deiseil airson a dhèanamh. Bha e fìor mhath coinneachadh ri daoine òga eile bho air feadh Alba ann an Steòrnabhagh. Aig deireadh an dàrna latha, fhuair sinn a-mach gun do rinn sinn a’ chùis air na sgiobaidhean eile gus àite fhaighinn as na h-lar Chuaritean Deireannach ann an Dùn Èideann aig toiseach an Dùbhlachd. Fhuair sinn na cuspairean airson na Cuairtean Deireannach: “Tha e nas fhèarr a bhith a’ leantainn na a bhith air an toiseach” agus “’S ann as na bailtean mòra a bhios na fìor choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig ann am fichead bliadhna”.

Airson cuideachadh a thoirt dhuinn airson na h-òraidean againn ullachadh, thàinig daoine a-steach bhon choimhearsnachd; nam measg bha Dòmhnall Moireach, Fionnlagh Cunningham is Gordon Dòmhnallach. Chaidh an tìde seachad gu math luath dhuinn agus thàinig an t-àm far an do dh’fhàg sinn airson Dùn Èideann. Rinn sinn beagan ullachadh air an latha mus deach sinn chun an taigh-òsta far an robh an Deasbad a’ gabhail àite. An dèidh dhuinn deasbad fìor mhath a dhèanamh an aghaidh Acadamaidh Drochaid an Easbaig, bha sinn fortanach gu leòr àite fhaighinn anns a’ Chuairt Deireannach an aghaidh sgioba Sgoil Lionacleit. Chuir sinn seachad an ath latha ann an Àrd-Sgoil Sheumais Ghilleaspaig ag ullachadh airson an deasbad an oidhche ud.

Chaidh sinn dhan phàrlamaid far an robh buidheann mòr Hearaich a’ cur fàilte oirnn! Chruinnich sinn as a’ phrìomh -talla deasbaid far an robh an deasbad a’ gabhail àite. Bha sinn a’ faireachdainn gu math dòchasach, ach feumaidh sinn a ràdh, rudeigin iomagaineach a bhith a’ suidhe far a bheil luchd-poilitigs a’ deasbad gu làitheil. Thòisich an deasbad agus bha e soilleir gun robh an dà sgioba gu math làidir. Cha tug e fada gus an robh sinn nar suidhe a’ feitheamh ris na breitheamhan tighinn a-steach agus an co-dhùnadh a thoirt seachad. Bhuannaich Raonaid Chaimbeul an duais airson an òraidiche a b’fheàrr anns a’ cho-fharpais agus bhuannaich Sgoil Lionacleit an Deasbad gu lèir.



Head Teacher's Notes

Welcome to our December Newsletter highlighting the work of this term and bringing 2019 to a close. As you will see from the newsletter articles it has been a very busy and productive term once again. There has been a strong focus on taking forward our school improvement plan projects in developing pupil engagement and participation within and out with the school setting, with several pupils continuing to do well in aspects of their wider achievements in sport, dance and music. We also have a Pupil Council up and running again this session in the secondary department. A continued focus on embedding the links between learning and teaching in the classroom and the world of work saw two very successful events taking place at the school in the biennial Harris Careers Convention and Latha Na Gàidhlig. The latter focused on providing pupils with the opportunity to find out more about career opportunities bespoke to Gàidhlig. Pupils also continue to visit local businesses as part of their day to day learning where that is appropriate.

Much of the information in our termly newsletters can now be seen on our School Facebook or on our Twitter page as events happen. However, we have to be mindful that not all parents wish to have access to social media and therefore we will continue to upload our newsletters onto our School website and provide paper copies if requested.

Staffing

We are pleased to have Mrs. Liz Rodgers joining the English Department, taking responsibility for the N4 English class.

We are also pleased to have Mrs. Barbara Mackay, French teacher coming back to work after the Christmas holidays. On behalf of the pupils, staff and parents I would like to thank Mrs. Katie Craigie and Mrs. Heather Malcom for their invaluable help since the end of August, which has been much appreciated.

Head Teachers Notes– Continued

Leaving

We are always sorry to see members of staff leave us and on this occasion we say goodbye to Mr. Campbell MacRae, who has served as a school janitor at SES School over a period of 20 years. We wish Campbell the very best from us all as he takes up a new and exciting role with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and look forward to having him back at the school working with the pupils in the near future.

School & Community Events

Links with Tarbert Library

We are very fortunate to have a library within the school campus and we continue to benefit from the close partnership working we have with Fiona Morrison, Librarian. This term pupils and staff have enjoyed attending the annual Children's Literature Festival, Faclan Òg events which ran during the month of November.

Armistice Day Service

There was a very good turnout from Sir E Scott School, including pupils, staff and parents at the annual Armistice Day service on Saturday 9th November.

I was very proud of our young people, who gave of their time on a Saturday morning, to take part in this community event and a special thank you to Bella Maclean, P7 and Rachel Campbell S6, Senior Prefect who laid the school wreath at the War Memorial.



Head Teachers Notes– Continued

S1 parents evening

Thank you to all the S1 parents and carers who attended the recent S1 parents ' evening. I hope you found the evening informative and that it gave you an early overview of how your son/daughter is settling into the routine of secondary education.

Youth & Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

This session's YPI Launch took place on Friday 7th December. Our S3 pupils are once again taking on the challenge of YPI this session, which will in the main be undertaken during their English classes, supervised by Mr N Mulhern.

Kate Langley, Volunteer Centre presented to the pupils at the launch and current S4 pupils provided an overview of their participation in YPI last session and gave much encouragement and advice to S3 regarding the benefits of this initiative.

Film G

I was pleased that our S2 GM pupils were very keen to participate in the annual FilmG competition again this year. Tha sinn an dòchas gun tèid gu math dhaibh!

Successes and Achievements

National Mod

Well done to all our young people, Mrs Jayne MacDonald, conductor and Mr Iain MacIver, Gaelic Music instructor for another successful year at the 2019 Mod in Glasgow.



Highland Dancing Trip to Paris

Dancers from the Claire Wilson School of Dance recently took part in the International Highland Dancing competition in Disneyland Paris. Among the group were pupils from Sir E Scott School – Emma Peterson S3, and primary pupils Ellie Laurie, Abigail Gillies and Madelyn MacAskill. I was very proud to hear of their exceptional achievements over this 3-day event against tough competition. Well done, girls... 'smath a rinn sibh!

Sporting successes

Rachael Johnstone, S5 continues to do well in her commitment to playing with Celtic FC U19 team and the Scotland team, ending with a double win at the end of the season. I am also pleased that she and a new pupil, Lisa Mason S5 are coaching our primary girls at a weekly football lunchtime club.

Head Teachers Notes – Continued

Dileab 2019 Event

Having attended the Dileab 2019 event at Ionad Spors Leodhais on Friday 29th November. I was extremely proud of our school choir's performance, which consisted of secondary and upper primary pupils, along with our young pipers who are members of the Lewis & Harris Youth Pipe Band. The event was well attended and hailed as a success, as you can see from the article contributed by two S6 pupils. Moving forward we look forward to seeing them perform at Celtic Connections on Friday 17th January with plans to have the event live streamed at a community event held at the school. Further information to follow on this event early next term.

Deasbad Nàiseanta Nan Àrd-sgoiltean 2019

It was very pleasing to have a team representing Sir E Scott School in the Deasbad Àrd-Sgoiltean 2019 held on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th November in Stornoway. Hamish Scott, S5 and Rachel Campbell, S6 attended this two-day event. As a team, they performed extremely well by getting through to the semi-finals, which was held in Edinburgh on the 2nd and 3rd December. As a school community we were bursting with pride when we heard they were through to the final event. This being the 20th anniversary of the National Debate for Secondary Schools, the final event was held in the Main Chamber of the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 5th December. A very lively debate was heard with Joanne Laing and Marion MacCorquodale from Sgoil Lionacleit going up against Rachel Campbell and Hamish Scott from Sgoil Sir E Scott.

As a school and community we are extremely proud of Rachel and Hamish's achievements in this year's National Debate for Secondary Schools, as getting through to the final round is a first for Sir E Scott School. We congratulate Sgoil Lionacleit on winning the 2019 Debate and congratulate Rachel on being presented with the best speaker award. Donalda MacKinnon, Director BBC Scotland presented Rachel with her award. The school would like to thank all who supported and gave advice to Rachel and Hamish as they prepared for this year's debate, but we particularly want to thank Mr Murray, Gaelic Department for his commitment, support and advice and congratulate him on this fantastic achievement for the pupils concerned and the school.

Learning & teaching – thematic review of Numeracy & Mathematics

Our two Senior Education Officers, Mary Clare Ferguson and Donald Macleod, spent a day and a half at the school to undertake a supported review visit on Numeracy & mathematics. The feedback we have received has been very positive and encouraging as we take forward the agreed recommendations from the visit

Conclusion

I wish our young people on S 5 & 6 who are about to, or have sent off their UCAS applications for Further & Higher Education, the very best at this crucial time in their lives. The New Year will see our senior pupils sitting their pre-lim exams and it is important that they set aside some time for study during the forthcoming holiday.

Finally, I would like to wish all pupils, staff and parents a restful holiday period and wish you all the joy and peace of Christmas and a successful, healthy and happy New Year. **School resumes for staff and for pupils on Monday 6th January 2020.**

Up and coming events in January 2020:

- Senior Phase prelims – Monday 13th January
- Celtic Connections – Friday 17th January
- S2 Reports to parents – Monday 20th January
- Holocaust Memorial Day Assembly – Friday 25th January
- S2 Parents' evening - Thursday 30th January

Aileen M MacSween
HEAD TEACHER

Dìleab 2019

The Dìleab project is a major project which started in 2018 and spans all schools in the Western Isles. It has the ultimate aim of providing pupils with a deep appreciation of the culture and heritage of their home areas and that of the islands as a whole. Last year, the Dìleab event saw a very successful concert taking place in Sir E Scott School to tie in with Harris' topic of Protest and Politics.

On Friday the 29th of November 2019, a choir made up of senior pupils and primary sevens, along with pipers and musicians from Sir E Scott School and The Nicolson Institute, took part in a special concert in the Lewis Sports Centre, performing alongside Skipinnish, Face The West and The Tumbling Souls. The concert was a special one-off event, which gave us the opportunity to perform alongside successful bands and musicians.

We left Tarbert after school and went straight up to Stornoway to start rehearsing and doing sound checks with the bands. We had dinner in the Nicolson Institute cafeteria and then got ready for the concert to begin. The evening started with some music from the Lewis and Harris pipe band, which includes five pipers from Sir E Scott. Face the West then played some ceilidh tunes alongside Dual, a folk group from the Nicolson Institute.

After a short interval, we had our first opportunity to go on stage to sing two songs with The Tumbling Souls: Distance- a song written by Astrid, and As Long As I Can Run, a song written by Willie Campbell about the Megantic Outlaw, especially for the Dìleab event. We all had a great time singing alongside the Tumbling Souls and really enjoyed the experience. We also sang last year's Dìleab anthem, Innse Gall, with other island pupils.

After another short interval, Skipinnish, the headliners of the night, took to the stage. We joined them to sing with the Nicolson Institute choir in two of their songs: Anchors of the Soul and The Iolaire. Being part of the massed choirs, alongside such a famous band that we admire, was an experience we won't forget! After hearing some more from the band, we joined them for the final song of the night, Walking On The Waves.

The event finished at midnight, and we were all very tired but happy going home. It was a very rewarding experience and we would like to thank all the organisers, musicians and teachers who helped make the event such a success. Our choir is now looking forward to performing at the Dìleab 2020 event: Dìleab Air a' Chuan, at Celtic Connections in January, and we are excited to see what is still to come for our choir and the Dìleab project in the years ahead. Catherine MacDonald & Lauren MacInnes, S6



S4-S6 Trip to Essence of Harris and The Loomshed Brewery

On Tuesday the 3rd of December, pupils studying Administration, Travel and Tourism and Business Management visited the team of workers at the Essence of Harris shop and The Loomshed Brewery, to find out more about the successful local businesses.

When we arrived at Essence of Harris, we were given a talk by Jamie on how he started up his own business from scratch, and continues to be successful and expand the business, alongside a team of employees and partners. He told us about what he has learnt from starting up his own business, and some of his plans for the future, as well as giving advice to those who may want to start their own business in the future. This advice was very helpful. One thing we really learnt from our visit was how passionate the team at Essence of Harris are about giving back to the local community, by giving job opportunities to young people on the island, and also in their shops further afield. Their sourcing of materials and workers from within Scotland also means they are helping other small businesses to grow.

After our visit to Essence of Harris, we went out to The Loomshed Brewery to learn more about the business which started last year. Here, we met Calum, the young Brewer behind the new drinks, and he told us all about the process and the ingredients which go into the products. The business again is very close to the local community, and the products are designed to reflect the local characters of the Crofter, the Iasgair, the Poacher and the Weaver. It was very interesting to see some of the process and to understand more about the ideas behind the business. Jamie, Calum and Beth had more advice for us- and encouraged us to come up with new ideas and to try them out. Jamie then asked us to split into small groups and has given each group £10 each. He asked us to create a little enterprise and see how much profit we can make on £10. Our total profit will be donated to a local charity. We aim to complete this challenge after our prelims in January.



FilmG2019

Ann an t-Samhainn, fhuair sinn fios gum biodh cothrom againn FilmG a dhèanamh am bliadhna. Tha MG Alba a' ruith a' cho-fharpais seo a h-uile bliadhna airson òigridh agus inbhich. Tha iomadh duais a' tighinn na chois. Chòrd e gu math rinn an uiridh, 's mar sin bha sinn air bhioran seo a dhèanamh a-rithist.

Bha naoinear againn air S2 a' coinneachadh a h-uile Dihaoine as dèidh na sgoile airson fiolm goirid a chruthachadh. Bha notaichean gu rann 11 Bàrdachd – An Taigh Beag; sgrìobhadh As dèidh dà sheachdain, bha beachd againn fiolm a dhèanamh stèidhte air an leabhar "Iain agus na Drogaichean" le Maoilios Caimbeul.

Tha sinn air fiolm a dhèanamh mu dheidhinn drogaichean a' sealltainn gun robh seo a' tachart bliadhnaichean air-ais agus tha e fhathast a' tachairt an-diugh. Tha balach òg a' coinneachadh ri dithis bhurraidh a tha a' gabhail drogaichean anns an sgoil.

Bha seo a' dol leis a' chuspair "Trèoraich", is tha e a' buntainn ri beatha làitheil dheugairean mar sinne.

Air a' chiad latha a bha sinn a' fiolmadh, thàinig Tormod agus Sean bho Cholaiste Steòrnabhaigh dhan sgoil gus ar cuideachadh le cleasachd agus obair camara. Dh'inns iad dhuinn mu dheidhinn a' chamara agus ciamar a bha sinn a' dèanamh diofar sheallaidhean.

Air an dàrna latha, thàinig Tormod a-rithist airson a' phàirt eile fhiolmadh. Bha sinn a' fiolmadh ann am bùth Akram agus ann an Taigh-Òsta Na Hearadh. Anns an fheasgar, bha sinn a' deasachadh an fhiolm.

Chòrd e rinn gu mòr agus tha sinn an dòchas gum faigh sinn gu Glaschu a-rithist am bliadhna!

Clas S2 Gàidhlig

Link to FilmG Website: <http://filmg.co.uk/en/>



GAISGICH NA GÀIDHLIG

Sgoil Sir E Scott, GM 5-7

Gaelic is dying due to lack of use in daily life. Sir E Scott ask for the help of the Gaelic heroes to help them encourage children to use Gaelic in all situations.

Secondary Halloween Disco 2019

On the 31st of October we had our annual Halloween Disco, seamlessly organised by our S5 pupils. We had a varying array of costumes , some people had gone all out, or done some spooky makeup. We had a few group costumes– Scooby Doo and his gang as well as some M&Ms. The whole event was funded by a fundraising café done by some S5 pupils and donations from the class. We hired Gordan Campbell to DJ for us and what a great job he did. There wasn't a single bottom on a chair by the end of the night. Unfortunately, The teachers didn't get the memo that it was a "Halloween" disco, and so failed to dress up! Taing airson oidhche mhiorbhaileach S5!



Harris Tweed Project

On Tuesday 10th December a small party crossed the wintry hills of Harris heading for the Harris Tweed Hebrides mill in Shawbost.

Here, our young Harris Tweed Project winner Scott Murray met with the Harris Tweed Authority inspector Kenny John to apply an official 'Orb Mark' to a very special length of cloth.

Scott's original design had been transformed into a real pattern and handwoven in Harris by one of our distillery team Stephen Passmore.

50 meters of this finished cloth now becomes the official Isle of Harris Distillery Harris Tweed, to be used in part two of the project in 2020.

Thank you to the Isle of Harris Distillery, Margaret Ann and the team at Harris Tweed Hebrides for all their support in this initiative to explore the craft and creativity of our island's young people.



Latha Gàidhlig

Sir E Scott School held a very successful Latha na Gàidhlig Event this year. A variety of Gàidhlig activities was put on for all pupils and we welcomed eight different organisations to the school to display and explain how Gaelic is used in their work.

Pupils and staff across the school were given the opportunity to visit the stalls set up by the various organisations present, view the showcase of pupils' work and speak to local businesses/employees.

In the Sgoil Àraich, the children had a story telling session with Gaelic author Morag Anna MacNeill; they also engaged in other activities such as Gaelic singing.

There was a Gàidhlig Cafaidh organised by the senior Primary pupils between 11.00 and 12 noon at which entertainment will be provided by the junior primary classes.

The organisations/local businesses attending our event this year were: Comunn na Gàidhlig, MG Alba, Skills Development Scotland, Spòrs Gàidhlig, Harris Distillery, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, E-sgoil and Colaiste a' Chaisteil.



An Lantair – Grinneasan Oigridh Exhibition

Well done to Stephanie Wilson, S6, who currently has a painting on show in Lantair's annual Grinneasan nan Oigridh exhibition.

If you are at the gallery in the upstairs coffee bar and exhibition space, keep your eyes open for Stephanie's lovely ink and watercolour piece. It is quite small in scale but packs a strong punch with an imaginative theme.

The painting will form part of Stephanie's portfolio of work and is pictured below being wrapped carefully for submission to the exhibition.



Harris Careers Convention

On November the 20th the school hosted a Careers Convention with a range of delegates and consultants from a variety of job sectors and Further/Higher Education. There was also presentations to parents from Keith Green, Skills Development Scotland who outlined the excellent Apprenticeship pathways that are available to our young people. The pupils also got the opportunity to get 'hands on' with a variety of skills.

Picture Lola Sands, S4 learning how to splice a broadband fibre optic cable



Pupil Council

Earlier on this term, we organised our pupil council with Finlay Olley, School Captain as chairperson and Rachel Campbell as Secretary. Representing S5 we have Charlie Helfridge and Abbie Lightbody, from S4 Niel Macleod and Hannah Jardine, from S3 Ciaran Peterson and Mairi-anna Binns, from S2 Emma MacSween and Dylan Brown and on S1 we have Freya Macleod. We try and hold weekly meetings that involve discussing any issues that have risen from any of the members and often bring these up with a member of staff. This involves checking the suggestion box and dealing with any of the suggestions that the pupils have made. We hope to meet with representatives from the parent council soon. We have also been given the responsibility of running the Rights Respecting Schools Group and that involves making sure that all pupils know their rights and to make a Class Charter based on the rights of the child.



Conclusion

Thank you very much for reading this term's edition of the school newsletter. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again at the beginning of next term.

Editor: Michelle Reid S6

School based photographs: Stephanie Wilson S6

Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath Ùr!

