



SES NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022



LEAVER'S ASSEMBLY & DINNER

The Leaver's Assembly took place on Thursday 16th June, school leavers were presented at the assembly with Amazon Vouchers from the Parent Council, which were very much appreciated. Congratulations to Sarah Helfrich who was presented with the Alick Buchanan Smith Award. This was followed by a dinner in the Harris Hotel on Friday 17th June. As you can see all pupils looked amazing and had a fantastic time! Thank you to the Harris Hotel for being so accommodating and providing an excellent meal as always. We wish all our school leavers all the very best for the future.



SGOIL ÀRAICH

We can hardly believe the time has come around already to another end of school year. It has been so good to get some more normality back into Sgoil Àraich this session with more and more restrictions being lifted.

Manager

Pauline Macleod Primary DHT took on the role as Manager in Sgoil Àraich towards the end of last term.

Topic

This term following the children's interests our topic was 'Under the Sea'. The children have taken part in various numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing activities to do with this topic. Our focus story was 'Cric Crac Crubag', the children learned the gaelic words for different sea creatures and participated in making jigsaws, playing table-top games, water play-both indoors and outdoors, arts and crafts, visits to the shore and the highlight was a visit to the pier on Scalpay. A parent drove the bus and another parent met us and talked to us about fishing and the children were able to see how to fish with a creel and saw live crabs which some of the children handled. We are extremely grateful for the parent's support in making this a reality.

Physical Play

We continue to play outdoors daily in our play area, football pitch and our listening and learning walks around the school grounds, shore and wider community. We also now have weekly sessions in the gym and Softplay. This term we also visited the play park on Scalpay.

Potato Planting

Faìnach our local North Harris Ranger came in to show us how to plant potatoes. The children enjoyed digging in the soil to make trenches for the potatoes and placing and counting the potatoes carefully in a line. They are very excited seeing them grow already and we look forward to harvesting them in September.



Jubilee Celebrations

The children took part in the jubilee celebrations by participating in activities, they made their own bunting and British flag and had a VIP visit!



Bee Trail

Kathleen Duce came in to explain to us how the Bee trail works and the children planted flower seeds in pots with her for them to take home and put in their gardens to see them grow. We look forward to seeing pictures from home once the flowers grow and the bees come to visit.

Transition Days

School transition days - The children have enjoyed their transition days in the primary and are looking forward to going to school next term.

Sgoil Àraich transition days – After an initial noisy start we had two successful transition days when the children coming in to Sgoil Àraich in August came in to spend some time with us. The children explored and interacted well with the other children and parents got in to meet the staff and setting too.

Sgoil Àraich Trip

We went to Horgabost Beach for our trip again this year which we thoroughly enjoyed. The children were so excited getting on the big bus and going to the beach. It was a beautiful day and the children enjoyed playing different activities, running around playing chase, parachute games, ball games, but digging in the sand and making sand castles and splashing about in the water was a favourite. The children also enjoyed having their lunches on the beach. One of our parents came along to help us which we were very grateful for. A good day was had by all.

Tea and Natter

We had two successful Tea and Natter sessions this term. It was nice to be able to have parents and families visiting the Sgoil Àraich in an informal way and able to catch up with them and for them to be able to see around the setting. (Apologies we were too engaged to remember to take any photos)

Primary Prize Giving

The children sang a song with Mr Adam Johnson accompanying them on the guitar (Eisg Bhig) and then received their certificates and gifts. We are extremely grateful for Mr Johnson stepping in as Mr MacIver is unable to attend this year. Thank you very much to Adam for stepping in at short notice!



Sgoil Àraich Leavers Trip

This year we went to Adventure Island on the Scalpay Mini Bus. The children had a really good time and enjoyed their treats - it was nice to spend the afternoon with them.

We wish our 13 Sgoil Àraich leavers well as they move on to Primary School. We hope everyone has a safe and lovely holiday and we look forward to seeing those who will be back with us again next session.

Note from the Playleader

Sadly, my time in Sgoil Àraich has come to an end as I'm moving on to a new chapter which will enable me to spend more time with family, especially elderly family who are beginning to need more of our attention. I would like to thank Staff and Parents for their support over the years. My decision has come after much thought and I will be sad to leave a job I love, but the time has now come for me to move on. It has been a very challenging but also equally rewarding job and the children's needs have always been the centre of my thoughts, ensuring they are safe, happy and nurtured. It has been so lovely to see them growing and thriving over the years, all in their own individual times and ways, so many different characters and all very special. It has been a pleasure to have been part of so many little one's lives and I have lots of special memories to take away with me. Many thanks for all your support and I look forward to seeing you all out and about. Take Care! – Donna



P1-3 CLASS

Class Prizes

Congratulation to Macie MacIennan P2 who was the winner of the Class Worker of the Term and Margaret Jardine P3 who was the winner of the Class Worker of the Year.

Margaret received a Gaspard the fox cuddly toy while Macie received a Gaspard the Fox bag. Well done to both girls!



The P1-P3 class recently did fundraising for the RSPB by selling Christmas Cards. We raised a total of £320.00.

The class agreed the money was to be spent locally so everyone in Harris might enjoy the fruits of our labours! Mr Miller kindly assisted us in purchasing a bench for the hill behind the school.

Thank you to Michael, Steven

and George from North Harris Trust for fixing it in place on the top of the hill. The bench was officially unveiled on Monday 27th June by Mr Gordon MacDonald, former Head Teacher, who also took this fabulous snap of us around the bench! Many thanks to the primary pupils, parents and staff who came up the hill for the ceremony – it was much appreciated!!



CLAS 1-2GM



Tha sinn air a bhith trang ag ionnsachadh mu dheidhinn Seillein Mòr Buidhe. Bha sinn ag obair le Kathleen Duce a' cur sìol ann am poitean airson an toirt dhachaigh agus an cur san gàrradh againn fhèin. 'Se sìol a bh' ann airson flùraichean a tha tarraingeach airson Seillein Mòr Buidhe. Rannsaich sinn na seillein cuideachd agus rinn sinn dealbhan le tòrr fiosrachadh a' sealltainn coltas na seillein sònraichte seo gus an aithnicheadh sinn iad.



We have been busy learning about the Great Yellow Bumblebee. We worked alongside Kathleen Duce to plant pots with seeds that we could take home to plant in our own gardens. These will create a Bee trail of flowers which are attract these special bees. We also researched these bees and drew detailed drawings of them to help us recognise them in our own gardens.



Rinn sinn tòrr obair ag ionnsachadh mu dheidhinn Iùbalaidh Platanam na Bànrigh. Choimhead sinn cuid de na bha air an Tbh agus dh' ionnsaich sinn beagan mun eachdraidh agus dè a bha a h-uile cail a' ciallachadh. Rinn sinn cuideachd dealbhan agus gnìomhan sònraichte eile airson an Iùbalaidh a chomharrachadh. Thàinig i fiù 's a choimhead oirnn!

We did some work in class this term on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We watched some of the ceremonies together in the class and learnt about the history of the Queen's reign and what the Jubilee actually meant. We also produced some art and craft pieces to commemorate the Jubilee. She even came to visit us!



Bha latha spòrsail aig a' Bhunsgoil air Diardaoin 23mh den t-Ògmhios. Bha cothrom againn a dhol dhan amar-snàmh, geamaichean a dhèanamh còmhla ri Jenna bho Active Schools agus cuideachd feasgar bha Bouncy Slide agus Disco Dome againn anns an Talla Spòrs. Se an latha as fheàrr a bh' againn am bliadhna!



On Thursday 23rd June we had a Primary Fun Day. We had the opportunity to swim, play games set up by Jenna from Active Schools and also in the afternoon we went to the gym hall where there was a Bouncy Slide and Disco Dome set up for us. This was definitely the Highlight of our year!



OBAIR CLASS 3-4GM

Bha sinn ag ionnsachadh mu dheidhinn a bhàn-rìgh Ealasaid. Rinn sinn rannsachadh agus lorg sinn tòrr fiosrachadh mu dheidhinn a beatha.

We were learning all about Queen Elizabeth. We did some research ourselves and found out lots of information about her life.

Bha spòrs againn a-muigh nuair a bha sìde mhath ann.

When the weather was nice we had PE outside.

Mar phàirt dhan topic againn bha sinn ag ionnsachadh mu dheidhinn beathaichean. Fhuair sinn a-mach mu dheidhinn feòil-itheadairean, lus-itheadairean agus uile-itheadairean. Rinn sinn ar sreathan-bìdh fhèin cuideachd.



As part of our topic we were learning all about animals. We found out about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We also made/found chains of our own.

OBAIR CLAS 5-7 GM

This year a team of ten were involved in the Cargo Connect Lego League Challenge which took part at the UHI and saw our team up against four others. The children worked extremely hard to solve the tasks given and to make Rob the Robot complete them. In class Rob was a willing worker and completed the challenges with ease but unfortunately on the day Rob decided to down tools for the first two



rounds and refused to take the teams orders. After a stern talking to from Eilidh and Jonathan he finally did what was he was asked in round three to the team's delight. Although the team did not win the Robot wars section they won a cup which is more important, the Core Values cup given for great teamwork, behaviour and attitude towards others. They were excellent throughout the day and rounded the event off with a lovely buffet and some Ice Cream. They have learned lots of new tricks from the other robots which they will use next year!!!!!!

TARANSAY TRIP

All Primary 7 pupils in Harris enjoyed a day trip to Taransay on Monday 6th June as part of their Transition. The sun was shining and they all had a lovely time. Thank to you all who accompanied the pupils and organised a very successful trip.



P4-7 CLASS

Augmented Reality App

The P7 pupils created an augmented reality app educating people about Harris Folklore. The app is available on Playstore and is only available on Android devices. The app is called FAR AR. We really enjoyed hearing a story about Uamh Ulladail, about a man called Donald who went hunting near Husinish every Winter with his friend Murdo, and went up to a cave to take shelter, there were two wells, one for the humans and one for animals. That particular time when Donald entered the cave, he turned around and there were three red haired men, dressed in animals' skin, who Donald offered snuff, took politely. The three men told Donald they meant no harm, and said to him that if Donald came back that same time the next year, there would be something waiting for him, but it was a boring ending so we had to make a better ending. Megan enjoyed doing the recordings, Ben enjoyed the research and the production of the AR App, and Ava enjoyed the making of the app.

by Ava Globe, Ben Russell and Megan Brown, P7

P7 SCALADALE TRIP

At Scaladale the P7s did a total of three activities, Raft Building, Archery, and Orienteering.

Raft Building

In Raft Building, the P7s were supplied with logs, rope, and barrels. There were two groups, and they started constructing their rafts. They learnt the most reliable knots to use for joining logs and barrels, and then they tested their rafts on the loch. They used paddles to steer and worked as a team to move their rafts.



Archery

After their lunch, the P7s, in their groups, either went to Archery or Orienteering. In Archery, they learnt how to hold a bow, and how to fire.



Orienteering

After Archery, the P7s swapped over their activities, so Archery to Orienteering, and vice versa. In Orienteering, the P7s went into a wood and tried to find all the points in the map. They learnt how to use a map correctly, and how to work in a team.

Ava Globe, P7EM

PRIMARY PRIZEGIVING CEREMONY

The Prizegiving Ceremony was held on Tuesday 21st June. We were delighted to welcome parents back into the school for this special event. Thank you to Mrs Kathleen Duce, Development Worker, Volunteer Centre Western Isles for presenting the prizes. Once again P7 pupils were presented with Bibles from North Harris Free Presbyterian Church which is very much appreciated. The ceremony was followed by tea and cakes in the courtyard. Congratulations to all our prize winners!!



Ellie Laurie
Roderick MacAskill Dux Trophy



Rowan Reid & Ava Globe
HMIA Proxime Accessit Trophy





Am-bliadhna, chuir mi romham film a chur a-steach do cho-fharpais FilmG 2022. Bha mi air pàirt a ghabhail roimhe seo ann am FilmG còmhla ri buidheann, ach bha mi airson pàirt a ghabhail leam fhìn

am-bliadhna. B' e cuspair farpais na bliadhna-sa 'Lorg' - rudeigin a lorg, cuideigin a lorg neo rudeigin a rannsachadh... Bha mi airson film aithriseach a dhèanamh mun bhaile agam fhèin, Roghadal, oir tha tòrr eachdraidh ceangailte ris. Chan eil agad ach a lorg! Chaidh mi a-mach airson cuairt timcheall a' bhaile airson filmeadh. Bha mi a' filmeadh air taobh a-staigh agus a-muigh Tùr Chliamhainn; cuideachd na seann bhuncairean a bha air an cleachdadh san dàrna cogadh.

Fhad 's a bha mi a' filmeadh, thug e orm tuigsinn na tha de dh' eachdraidh ann an Roghadal. Nuair a bha mi air am film agam a dheasachadh agus air a chur gu farpais FilmG, cha robh agam ach feitheamh. Bha e gu math èibhinn mar a thachair; bha beagan sheachdainean air a dhol seachad bhon a chuir mi a-steach airson an fharpais... is bha mi a' coiseachd san sgoil gus an do stad fear de na tidsearan Mgr Moireach mi. Chuir e meal-a-naidheachd orm ach bha mi cho troimh-a-chèile, gus an do dh' inns e dhomh gun robh am film agam air a' gheàrr-liosta dà thuras! Bha mi glè thoilichte a chluinntinn. Ged nach do choisinn mi duaisean air an oidhche, bha mi gu math pròiseil gun do rinn am film agam cho math sa rinn e! Tha e a' còrdadh rium a bhith a' dèanamh bhideothan agus bu mhath leam cumail a' dèanamh sin. 'S e cothrom cho math a th' ann am FilmG... mar sin tha mi cinnteach nach e seo an turas mu dheireadh a chì sibh mise a' dèanamh filmichean! Emma Passmore S6

This year, I decided to enter a film for the 2022 FilmG competition, I had previously entered with a group but wanted to do it myself this year. The theme of this year's competition was 'Find': to find something, someone, to research... I wanted to make a documentary about my village, Rodel, as there is a lot of history connected with Rodel... you just have to find it! I went for a walk around my village to film: I filmed the church inside and out, also the old bunkers they used in World War II. Filming made me realise just how much history there is in Rodel. When I had edited my film and submitted it to the FilmG competition, all I had left to do was wait. It was funny actually. It had been a few weeks since I entered the competition... and I was walking in school until one of the teachers, Mr Murray, stopped me. He congratulated me, but I was so confused until he told me my film had been shortlisted twice! I was very pleased to hear that. Although I did not win any awards on the night, I was very proud that my film had made it so far. I love making videos and I'd like to continue making them. FilmG is such a great opportunity... so I'm sure this won't be the last of my films you will see!

Emma Passmore S6



Falaichte ann an Roghadal

FILMG S2

Anns an t-Samhainn 2021, dh'fhaighnich Mgr Moireach dhan chlas againn an robh sinn ag iarraidh pàirt a ghabhail ann am FilmG! Cha b' e ruith ach leum! Bha an cuspair airson na bliadhna seo air 'Lorg' is, mar sin, thòisich sinn a' smaoinèachadh air cuspairean a dh'fhaodadh sinn a chleachdadh agus dè an seòrsa film a bha sinn a' dol a dhèanamh.

Thàinig Fiona NicCoinnich bho ChNAG a-steach dhan sgoil airson ar cuideachadh is mu dheireadh thàinig sinn chun a' cho-dhùnaidh gun dèanadh sinn film mu dheidhinn nighean, Eilidh, a bha a' fulang burraidheachd air-loidhne bho chlann eile. A chionns gun robh i cho mi-thoilichte, ruith i air falbh bhon dachaigh is fhuair i fasgadh ann an carabhan. Ach chaidh a lorg gu sàbhailte. Bha againn ri tòrr obair a dhèanamh mar chlas airson an sgeulachd a chur ri chèile.

Thàinig Tormod agus Shaun bho FilmG a-steach dhan sgoil cuideachd airson ar cuideachadh leis an fhilmeadh, agus leis an fhuaim agus an cleasachd. Thug sinn latha gu leth ag ullachadh an fhilm. Bha againn ris na seallaidhean fhilmeadh tòrr tursan airson am faighinn ceart, ach 's e am filmeadh am pìos a b' fheàrr leinn.

Is e tachartas uabhasach spòrsail a bh'ann agus tha sinn an dòchas gum faigh sinn cothrom a dhèanamh a-rithist an ath bhliadhna.

Clas S2



BLYTHSWOOD APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

A group of senior pupils in the school organised a local appeal for clothes, blankets, shoes etc to support Ukrainian nationals fleeing their country due to the ongoing war in the country. In total well over 100 large bags of clothing were donated by both the school and the wider school community. We would like to thank all who kindly donated towards the appeal, and acknowledge the support from Island Bites for helping with co-ordinating donations from the community and John Morrison Newsagents for transporting the donated

goods to the Blythswood Lorry in Stornoway. We really do appreciate the support of everyone in the school community and hope that the donations will help alleviate the suffering of Ukrainians whose lives have been devastated by the ongoing conflict.

Blythswood Care is a highland based charity that works in both Romania and Moldova and has 30 years of experience providing humanitarian aid and running education and community projects in that part of Europe. Blythswood staff are helping refugees at two locations in Moldova and at four locations in Romania which has a lengthy border with Ukraine. The school has supported the Blythswood shoe box campaign for many years.

CUACH NAN ARD-SGOILEAN

Ghabh 14 sgoilearan air As2 agus As3 pairt ann an Co-fharpais ur Ball-coise ann an Inbhir Nis air Diciadain 22 dhen Ogmhios. Bha iad air leth soirbheachail agus rainig sgioba AS3 an Iar-chuairt deireanach dhan fharpais. Choisinn iad duais CnaG airson a bhith cleachdadh na Gaidhlig. Chord an turas riutha air fad agus tha iad an dochas gum bi cothroman eile mar seo aca a-rithist.



14 pupils participated in a new inter-school football competition for Gaelic Schools. They were very successful in their games and the S3 team made it to the semi-finals. The teams won the CnaG prize for the team that used Gaelic best throughout the competition. The pupils all really enjoyed the experience and hope to have similar experiences in the future.

Thank you to Mr David Murray, Mr Roddy Mackenzie and Miss Fiona Mackenzie for accompanying the children.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

S3 pupils got the opportunity to learn some vital life skills as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award this week. Many thanks to John and Bobby from the Scottish Ambulance Service for teaching some important First Aid skills and also sharing with the group the key aspects of their job and the vital role they have within the Harris Community



SES PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION

It was a huge honour for SES to have a royal visit today from Queen Elizabeth the 3rd and her faithful canine companion- Mylo. She spent the afternoon having tea, cupcakes and singing her favourite Karaoke song- ABBA, Dancing Queen. Thanks to the new S3 year group who organised and put on a fantastic bash to celebrate the Jubilee!



MOD NA HEARADH

The annual Mod Na Hearadh took place on Thursday 16th June. Pupils of all ages worked very hard to prepare their entries and the judges tell me they were astounded by the standard across all age groups and categories. Primary and Secondary GM staff had a wonderful day helping the participants get from class to class and loved hearing the pupil's contributions. Following on from the day's competitions we held a very enjoyable evening concert. The SES Senior Choir performed beautifully alongside the prizewinners and are shown below with their conductor, Mr MacIver. We are all looking forward to going to Perth in October for the Royal National Mòd and hope that many of you will join us either in person or by watching the highlights on BBC ALBA. Thank you to all who were involved in organising this very successful event. Congratulations to all participants and prizewinners. It was great to see the children performing again. 'S math a rinn sibh uile!



YOUTH AND PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE

Our S3 pupils took part in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) programme again this session and had their final event on June 10th.

Sponsored by The Wood Foundation, YPI is a programme that offers schools and young people an opportunity to make a difference in their community by raising awareness of the work of local charities. It also offers pupils the opportunity to develop a range of valuable skills.

Pupils work in groups to represent charities working in the local area and compete with each other to secure a grant of £3000 for their adopted charity. The group that makes the biggest impression on the judges wins the £3000 offered by YPI.

This provides one local charity with a welcome addition of £3000 to their funds.

This year, our third-year pupils worked in groups to represent the work of three charities supporting people in our community: Cycling Without Age, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Western Isles Women's Aid

Each group was required to give a presentation, making the case for their charity to win the £3000 grant on offer. Their presentations were given to large audience made of our new S2 and S3 pupils, official judges, guests and staff.

This year's judges were Deenie MacGowan of Essence of Harris, Sarah Macleod of Action for Children and Calum Porteous, senior pupils at SES. We are grateful to the judges for their time and contributions.



All three groups did really well and gave interesting and engaging presentations that reflected the time and effort they had put in to preparing for the final event. Well done to every pupil who took part. The group representing Western Isles Women's Aid – Archie Campbell, Chloe Macdonald and Emma MacSween - were chosen by the judges as having made the most impressive and convincing presentation and they secured the £3000 grant for their chosen charity to invest in providing personal alarms to women who want them and to upgrade their accommodation to make it more comfortable for children by supplying play and work areas and some toys and games for children. The other two groups were commended for their presentations. The judges said it was a hard decision to pick a winner as all three groups performed really well.

Benefits

The YPI programme has many benefits for pupils and for the wider community.

YPI contributes to our educational priorities, including raising attainment in literacy and numeracy, improving health and well-being, closing the attainment gap, improving employability skills and sustained leaver destinations, developing the young workforce agenda and promoting partnership working with the third sector.

YPI encourages pupil participation, working across generations, thinking globally and working locally. It provides young people with high quality experiences to meet the challenges and enjoy the opportunities of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and contributes in many ways to developing the four capacities of CfE – successful learners; confident individuals; responsible citizens; and effective contributors.

YPI raises awareness of the needs in our community and of the work of the charities helping with these needs and encourages us all to consider how we might contribute to this work through volunteering, fundraising and donations.

Some comments on YPI from pupils

“YPI builds confidence through the presentations and spreads awareness on social issues.”

“YPI gives an opportunity to give back to the community while working individually and as part of a group.”

“I developed new skills in editing videos and making power points.”

“YPI helped me develop skills in talking to people I hadn't met before and leading online meetings.”

MUSIC NOTES

Pipe Drums for SES!



Our music department received an incredibly generous donation in January: Stonehaven pipe band donated an entire set of Pipe band drums to our school. This gift was made possible through the offices of the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums trust. We have been putting the drums to work already: pupils not only use them for their weekly lessons, but also took some of them on a recent joint tour between the Lewis and Harris Youth Concert and Pipe Bands!

NYCOS Training Choir and Edinburgh International Harp Festival

Congratulations to Fiona Langley who successfully auditioned for NYCOS Girls Choir and represented the school at this over the Easter holidays. She also took part in the Edinburgh International Harp Festival during Easter, so a very musical break for her!

Seallam Concert

Three pupils at Sir E Scott School were invited to perform at Seallam's concert fundraiser, on Friday the 11th of February. Isla Scott, Ellie-Ceit Johnson and Matthew MacLeod were delighted to have the opportunity represent the school and be able to perform after a long break of public performances, and being able to play gave us confidence for upcoming exams. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the range of talent throughout the evening and it was well-attended. We were very grateful for this experience. Eilidh MacDonald, Ellie-Ceit Johnson S4.

Projects with Fèis Rois

In the last two years I have had the chance to work with Fèis Rois on some interesting music projects. In early 2021, I was chosen to take part in Caithream na Cruinne, a Gaelic song-writing project for young people to get involved in music by writing a song with help from professional musicians. It partnered with Nature Scot so the songs have a nature/climate change theme. I had one on one mentoring sessions through Zoom with Mary Ann Kennedy to develop the song, as well as a few workshops throughout the summer. In November I got the chance to spend a day at Wee Studio in Stornoway where I recorded and produced the song. This year I hope to work with them again on other personal projects. Since then I have been part of two other projects, including a trip to Cromarty in February of this year. Mischa MacPherson lead that workshop, in which a group of us from across Scotland researched, wrote and produced a song about Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness. That was a really great chance to develop not just my song-writing skills but also my Gàidhlig – we were encouraged to speak it rather than English. I am still in touch with the group and hope to work with them again at a future event. My most recent project is with the Highland Youth Music group. We are in the process of advertising and marketing a music event to take place this September in Inverness, focussing on the theme “music is a universal language”. Although all our meetings so far have taken place over Zoom, I am planning a trip to Inverness soon to speak with the group in person. Isla Scott, S5.

The Scottish Opera



We were so fortunate to have Scottish Opera visit Tarbert on 22nd February. A group of students, with ages ranging from p4-s6 were gifted free tickets by Scottish Opera and went along with Mrs Mackinnon and Mrs Langley. The programme was tremendously varied, and a fantastic time was had by all, many of whom had never been to anything like it ever before. Thanks to Scottish Opera for their

generosity in providing tickets, and also to the cast for taking time to speak to our students after a long evening's singing! Ewan Miller's excellent report on the evening is provided below. Sorry about the worksheets Ewan!

On the 21st of February, 2022, a number of students attended the Scottish Opera at the Community centre in Tarbert. To the student's dismay, Ms Holmes had prepared worksheets for what was supposed to be an 'enjoyable event'. Thankfully, they were optional to complete.

The opera followed a rough story while performing a few other songs in between. It followed the story of Jack and Mimi; two travelling performers who were deeply in love, but Jack was too scared to act on his feelings. Mimi felt sorry for Jack, who was struggling for money, so out of her affection for him she attempted to marry a rich man, whose wealth could support Jack and lift him out of his poverty. Upon finding out about Mimi, Jack falls into an episode of depression, and turns to alcohol to drown his woes. He remains this way until he is given a letter, which was left by Mimi. Inside, she declares her love for him. This acts as a wake-up call for Jack, who chases after her and finally confesses his feelings for her.

An element of the opera that I felt went vastly underappreciated was the skill and stamina of the pianist, who had to play for 2 roughly hour-long periods, without any form of break. He was incredible, and at times I found myself listening to him instead of the actual singing!

Overall, the opera was a very fun experience, and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested.
Ewan Miller, S5

And finally...

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our wonderful visiting staff Mr MacIver, Ms Macdonald, Ms Young, Mr Woods and Mr Johnstone - you all do so much to make all of these events happen successfully. You are all so appreciated by staff and pupils alike, and we can't wait to work with you again next session! Mrs Mackinnon (Music Teacher)

CONCERT AND PIPE BANDS PLAY AT PARLIAMENT

Pupils from SES took part in a joint tour this month. Not only did they perform at the parliament, but they also took part in a joint concert with Lochaber High school. We hope that this will become a regular calendar fixture for both bands and are so proud of the new woodwind, brass, and percussion students who represented the school alongside more experienced pipers. Some have only been playing a few months but reached such a high standard that they were invited to participate alongside much more experienced pupils by Mr Woods. Pictured are the concert band meeting the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon.



FREE PLATINUM JUBILEE BIBLES FOR PUPILS

On 6th February 2022 Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II began commemorations of her ascension to the throne seventy years ago. At her coronation the Queen was presented with a copy of the Authorised (King James) Version of the Bible.

This occasion is being marked by the publication of a special Platinum Jubilee Authorised (King James) Version Bible by the Trinitarian Bible Society. This commemorative edition will feature a purple cover bearing the official Platinum Jubilee logo and will contain special presentation and introductory pages. This timeless translation, the most popular book of all time, brings together all needed spiritual and moral guidance and also serves a literary purpose, having been translated during what many see as the high point of the English language.



The Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland kindly issued a free copy of this commemorative Platinum Jubilee Bible to all pupils and staff. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for this very generous offer.

STAFFING

New Members of Staff

We welcomed the following members of staff to the school this session and hope they enjoy their time with us.

Mrs Marion Maclean has joined the school office as Business Admin. Apprentice.

Mrs Heather Brown and Mrs Dorothy Macleod have joined the school canteen. Mrs Dawn Mackinnon is our new School Operations Assistant.



Sad Farewells!



Mrs Louise Laing sadly left us in January 2022 to move onto pastures new in the Lews Castle College. We had a farewell tea with Louise and her colleagues and presented her with gifts. We wish Louise all the best in her new post.



We said farewell to Lizzie Macleod in March, having spent the last 21 years working in the school canteen. Lizzie was presented with gifts from pupils and joined by some of her former colleagues to mark this occasion. We wish Lizzie all the best in her new position in Leverburgh Care Home.



We say goodbye to Mrs Amy Macleod (Learning Support) and Mrs Tina MacDonald (SFLA) who have been with us since January. We have all been so grateful for their support. We wish Mrs Macleod luck in her new role as Business Studies teacher at The Nicolson Institute. Thank you also to Mr David Smith who has once again been an invaluable supporter of the Technical Department. He was kind enough to



return to Sir E Scott School to deliver Technical Education to our young people this year. We have been so grateful to Mr Smith over the years and hope that he will finally enjoy a very well-earned retirement.



Pupils and staff sadly said farewell to Donna on Friday 24th June. Donna has spent nearly 10 years working initially as a Support for Learning Assistant and latterly as a Play Leader in the Sgoil Àraich. Donna was presented with numerous gifts from past and present pupils and staff. Donna will be greatly missed in the school and we wish all the very best wishes in her new career.



We also said a fond farewell to Mrs Rebecca Maclean who has taught in Sir E Scott School for over 35 years. Mrs Maclean was presented with gifts from staff and pupils on the last day of term. Mr Neil Mulhern also read a lovely acrostic poem for her. We plan to celebrate her retirement officially next session. We wish Mrs Maclean all the very best for a long, happy peaceful retirement.



ACTIVITIES WEEK 2022

Pupils and staff were delighted to once again have the opportunity to participate in Activities Week. Despite the weather it was great to get out of the classroom and enjoy the outdoors! Thanks to all who helped out in any way to make this possible for our young people.

