



May 2013

### **Aberlour House Highland Games**

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April a team of senior pupils travelled to the grounds of Gordonstoun School to take part in the annual Junior Highland Games. Our competitors for the field events all performed well with Lucas having a very successful run to finish fifth in the hill race.

We were delighted when our eightsome reel team finished as winners in the dance competition and we are very grateful to Mrs Hepburn, Mr Dawson and Soy Kilts of Portsoy for their help in ensuring that our dancers were well prepared.

### **Primary Seven Visits**

Primary Seven pupils have now made several visits to Buckie High School as part of their transition programme. Last week they joined pupils from all schools in the Buckie area for a talk at the high school by author Catherine MacPhail. Over the last few weeks pupils have been working with our music specialist Mrs McKay on songs from a show entitled Slim McBride and the Lost Tribe. On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May our pupils will join children from Millbank, Portessie and Portgordon Primary Schools for a performance of the show at Millbank Primary School in Buckie. This event will be supported by staff from Scottish Opera and parents of the pupils involved will be invited to attend.

### **School Fund Quiz**

Thank you to everyone who returned entries for the April quiz. The winning family was the McKays. The theme of this months quiz is science and maths. Entries are due by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

### **School Cross Country**

Our school cross country competition took place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Nearly every pupil in the school took part and we were very impressed with the high standard of running, the determination shown and the sportsmanship displayed as pupils encouraged each other around the course. We are very grateful to our PE specialist Mr Robertson and our parent volunteers for their support at this event.

### **Six Harbour Walk**

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May a group of parents, pupils, former pupils and staff took part in the Six Harbour Walk organised by Buckie Rotary Club. The walk along the coast from Portsoy to Buckie covers a route of sixteen miles and we were very impressed with the eleven senior pupils who completed the walk. The sponsor money collected by the twenty-six members of our group will be split between the charities nominated by the Rotary and the school fund.

### **Parent Council Fete**

The annual school fete organised by the Parent Council will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June. This is always a fun community event. The Parent Council would be very grateful for donations. This year the various stalls include: a raffle, chocolate tombola, bottle stall, home bakes stall and jam jar tombola. Donations can be handed in at the school office during the week before the fete. Extra help on the day of the fete is always very welcome; both for setting up during the morning and in manning the stalls. If any parents are available to help they should contact Mrs Burnett in the school office.

### **School Inspection**

During the final week of this month our school will be inspected by Mr David Gregory an inspector from Education Scotland. During the week Mr Gregory will visit classes and meet with a variety of the people involved in the life of our school. Parents and carers of all our pupils should have received a questionnaire to complete and return to Education Scotland as part of the inspection process. These questionnaires should be returned in the envelope provided by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Any family who has not received a questionnaire should let Mrs Burnett know as soon as possible so a second copy can be sent home.

### **In-Service Day Closures**

School will be closed to pupils on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May for staff to take part in in-service training. During the two days staff will be undertaking a variety of development work including a review of this session's school improvement plan. They will also continue work on a new system for tracking pupils' progress.

### **Sumdog Success**

As you may have seen in the local paper our senior pupils have recently been successful in both national and local competitions run by the educational website Sumdog. This site allows pupils to practice a variety of arithmetical and maths skills both from school and from home. Teachers can monitor pupils' progress on the site which is set up to become increasingly more challenging for individual pupils as they master new skills. Following our success with the competitions all our pupils will be given a log-in to allow them to access the site from home.

### **Water Bottles**

Now that we are well in to the summer term and, hopefully the warmer weather, we would like to remind parents that pupils are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school. Bottles displaying the school name and logo and are available from Mrs Burnett in the school office priced at £1.50.

### **Eco-Committee Garden Project**

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May a group of adult volunteers including parents and staff met at school to build a new gardening area in the playground. The group was led by local joiners Iain Anderson and John Liley and under their supervision a fenced off area with three raised beds was built. The initial funding for this project was provided by a legacy from the late Helen Anderson which was donated to the school by the Community Association with further funding being given by the Parent Council. Pupil members of the eco-committee were on hand throughout the day to capture a photographic record as the garden took shape.

This addition to our playground will provide an important outdoor learning space for all our pupils and we are very grateful to those who provided the funds and gave of their time to allow the creation of the new garden. The area will be formally opened in memory of Ms Anderson later this term.

### **Summer Term Events**

Our school sports this year will be an evening event on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. The Primary Seven leavers' assembly will take place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June and our end of term service including the presentation of our school awards will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. All family members and friends are very welcome to join us for these special occasions.

### **Dates for your Diary**

The Buckie area occasional day holiday is on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. This school session ends for the summer holidays on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. The new school year begins for pupils on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August.

Other term dates can be found at [www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file40558.pdf](http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file40558.pdf)

As always if you require further information or you wish to discuss a matter with us you are welcome to contact us at school.