

The Braidy Times

August 2017 — October 2017

Head Teacher's Report

As always we have had a busy term. It is only when you collate all the information for the newsletter you realise just how busy!

Our pupils, as is evident in the photographs, are all immaculately presented in their school uniform. As the colder weather starts I appreciate the need for outdoor jackets, scarfs and gloves as pupils travel to and from school. However, it is important that their blazers and uniform are clearly visible in school. Lockers are available from Miss Watson for £10, £5 of which is refunded when the key is returned at the end of the session.

We have had a few changes with regards our pupil support staff since the start of the session. The following staff are now responsible for the following houses:

Atholl	-	Ms Lyttle
Lorne	-	Ms Young
Morven	-	Mrs Leitch/Mrs McKay
Rannoch	-	Mrs McHugh/Mr Brandon

If you have any concerns with regards to your child, these are the first people you should make contact with.

By now you will have received your child's first interim report. Our new reporting process allows us to give you more frequent information on your child's progress. Please discuss the report with your child and help them set targets for their next steps. Please see the website about all our forthcoming events - www.braidhurst.org.



Pictured are: Head Teacher, Mrs Carolyn Rooney, Councillor for Motherwell West and Depute Leader of North Lanarkshire Council, Paul Kelly, Gordon Robertson from North Lanarkshire Council, and Braidhurst pupils, celebrating the official confirmation of planned building works to the school. These improvements will include new heating, windows and the installation of a lift.



New S1 Intake

On Thursday 17th August the new term began in earnest at school with pupils from S1 to S6 arriving at Braidhurst all well turned out in their uniform. It was an extra special day for over 100 first year pupils who are beginning their Braidhurst journey. The new S1 cohort are photographed on the front steps of the school.



Summer School 2017

Braidhurst hosted its annual 'Summer School' the week before the new term began. The three day programme gave around 20 of our new first year pupils an experience of trampolining, cookery, pottery, science, drumming and music, and lots of team building activities. This gave pupils an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the school and some staff before officially starting high school. The final day was a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park where pupils had a great day out.





Braidhurst Parents' Group

An essential part of the school's community is its parents' group of fundraisers and its parent council. Both groups are led by Chairperson Claire Wright and Vice-Chairperson David Clark and work under the umbrella name: Braidhurst Parents' Group. Throughout the school year the group meets regularly to organise fundraising projects, such as Tin Collections, and Bingo Nights. These events raise much needed school funds which are then given back to pupils to help lessen the cost of, for example, the school prom, trips, and ties. Meanwhile the parent council is the official voice of the parents/carers of Braidhurst pupils through which they can lend their support to more serious matters e.g. the upcoming school renovations, traffic and car parking outside the school gates.

Our next fundraiser will be a Fashion Sale on Tuesday 7th November, starting at 7pm in the school assembly hall. Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased through the school or on the night. As well as a fashion sale there will be a raffle and refreshments available.

The group are always looking for new members - all are welcome. If you are interested in joining please get in touch with Kirsten Scott via email: kirstens@braidhurst.n-lanark.sch.uk.

School and House Captains



The school captains for 2017-18 are: Hannah Gordon and Joe Farmer, ably assisted by vice school captains Emma Ewart and Adam Greer. Whilst the house captains for 2017-18 are: Scott Ingram and Lucy Blackwood for Atholl, Christopher Duncan and Kristy Speirs for Lorne, Zoe Oliphant and Kerry Lyness for Morven and Danielle Sinclair and Kieran McDougall for Rannoch. Congratulations to our new school and house representatives and good luck for the year ahead.





Summer School Prize-giving

On Wednesday 30th August a celebration for the young people who attended this year's summer school took place after school in the school library. Many of the parents and carers attended to watch a short presentation on the activities that pupils experienced during the three day summer school program. Afterwards, Head Teacher, Mrs Rooney, awarded the young people with a certificate to mark their participation in the summer school.

Family Learning Sessions — Healthy Cooking

The school recently hosted a very successful 'Family Learning' programme where a group of sixteen S1 pupils and their families took part in healthy cooking sessions. The course was funded through the Pupil Equity Fund which is designed to support young people achieve their full potential. The course was organised by Linda McGurk, Home School Partnership Officer, and delivered by Ms Fox, Home Economics Teacher. Families cooked a wide range of healthy food and spent quality time working together. One parent commented, "The family sessions helped me bond with my son at his new high school and will lead to more interaction at home especially in the kitchen." Braidhurst High School recognises the value of family learning and parental engagement and how it is crucial when trying to close the poverty related attainment gap. The school plans to offer more family learning sessions in a wide variety of subjects including Art, Computing and Music.



S1 Information Night

S1 Smoking Prevention Workshop

Earlier this term our S1 pupils attended a smoking prevention workshop in the assembly hall. This event alerted pupils to the dangers of smoking and ways of avoiding peer pressure to smoke via drama sketches and awareness raising.

On Thursday 31st August, the school hosted a successful S1 Information Night for our newest parents and pupils. At the event pupils had the chance to sign up for one or more of the many lunchtime and after school clubs that the school offers, while their parents had the chance to join the Braidhurst Parents' Group. There were presentations from Head Teacher Mrs Rooney, Depute Head of S1 Mr Gardiner, and Principal Teacher of P.E Mr O'Neill. S4 pupil Lorraine Tollan also spoke to the assembled audience illustrating the many benefits for pupils when they join an extra-curricular club/s within school.

Blackpool Reward Trip

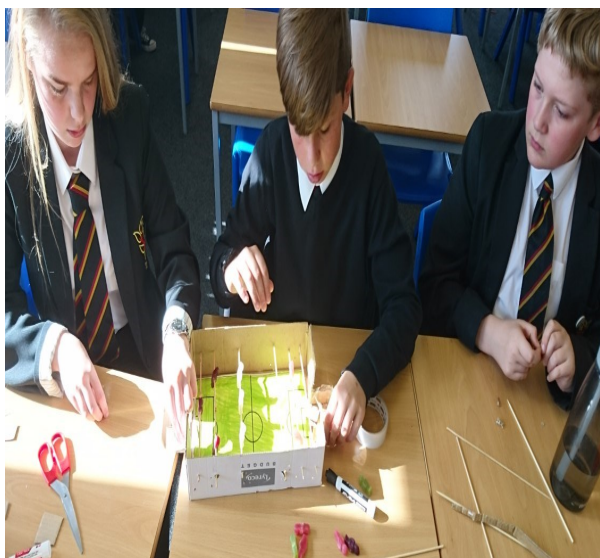
The reward trip to Blackpool on Friday 15th September was a great success with all pupils and staff having a fantastic day out at the famous Pleasure Beach. The weather and the behaviour of all the pupils was superb. The next reward trips will be before Christmas and are based on pupil attendance, timekeeping and merits.





Maths Week Scotland

Braidhurst celebrated 'Maths Week Scotland' with pupils participating in team problem solving challenges including, 'Bowland Maths' and 'Maths wi Nae Borders'. Some of the S3 classes were learning about how the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans have influenced Maths whilst the S2 classes had fun attempting a practical STEM challenge, and looked at tolerance and measure whilst building mini football tables with jelly baby players. Our winning second year team were Callum Wylie, Summer Keenan and Finlay Anderson.



Engineering the Future for Girls

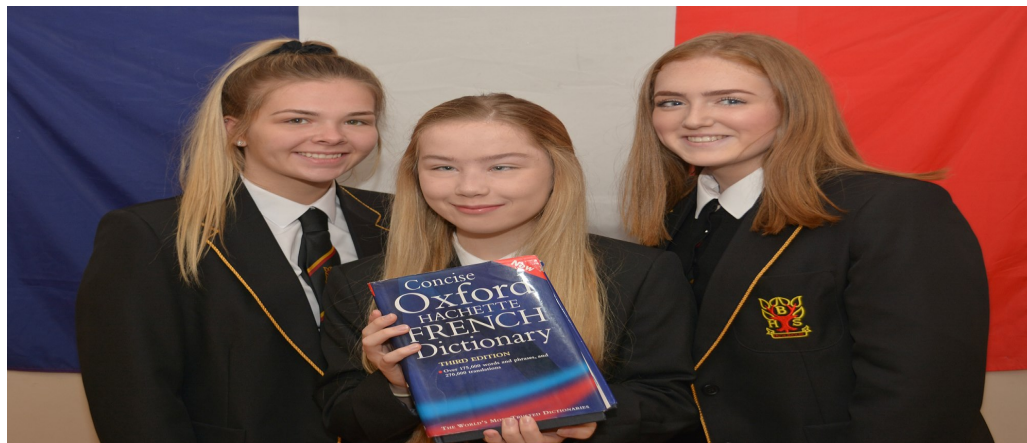


Fourth year pupil Melissa Roger is inspiring other girls in her Science class to consider engineering as a future career. 'Engineering the Future for Girls', is a week-long, non-residential summer school hosted by the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Strathclyde, and is designed to engage girls in a wide range of engineering challenges to inspire them to become the next generation of female engineers. In June 2017, Melissa competed for one of the 100 places available to S3 girls throughout Scotland. Of her experience, Melissa says, "I feel that 'Engineering the Future for Girls' was an amazing experience. I got the chance to meet new people and learn more about different types of engineering through fun educational activities. I really enjoyed the visit to Duntilland quarry where we saw rock blasting." Upon her return to school in August, Melissa spoke about the program to a group of 35 S3 girls, currently studying Science, in an effort to encourage them to apply for the June 2018 summer school. This opportunity has given Melissa an insight into Civil Engineering which she hopes to study at university.

UCAS Roadshow and Focus West University Visit

Last month a group of S5 and S6 pupils attended a UCAS roadshow at the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility. The event proved highly informative with pupils able to talk with university admissions staff and subject specialists regarding their course choices. Our S4 pupils undertook a visit to the campus of the University of Strathclyde as part of the Focus West program which helps pupils discover the best ways to study, deal with exam pressure and make the right choices for the future.





Modern Languages Success

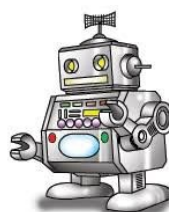
Congratulations were in order for S4 pupil Katie Kennedy on receiving her National 5 French results. Not only had she achieved Grade A, but she had gained 100% in each element of the exam – Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing! This is a rare and outstanding feat for any pupil, and the members of the Modern Languages department were delighted for her. The results were well deserved, however, as she worked with diligence and determination throughout the course and was fastidious in attending all Supported Study classes. Katie had also participated in school trips to Paris, which helped intensify her love of the country and the language. Katie is now continuing her study of French at Higher level and hopes to pursue a career in which she might use her language skills. Katie also achieved very high marks in the other seven National 5 exams she sat. Well done Katie! We are very proud of you! Katie is pictured in the centre of the photo with S4 pupils Ellie Lawrie and Claire Keatings who also gained very high percentages in the National 5 French exam.

Inter-house Fun Run

The school's annual inter-house fun run took place on Thursday 21st September with competitors earning house points as they ran laps of the astroturf whilst also raising funds for St. Andrew's Hospice and the school by collecting sponsorship money from family and friends. All the runners exhibited excellent behaviour during the event and had lots of fun. Once the scores were totalled the results were as follows: 1st place Atholl (1362 laps), 2nd place Lorne (1352 laps), 3rd place Rannoch (1245 laps), and 4th place Morven (1129 laps). Well done to all the pupils who were involved and many thanks to all who sponsored them.

Robotics Club with Jamie Hepburn

Braidhurst High School's VEX Robotics Club is meeting the Scottish Government's desire to provide developing young minds (DYM) an opportunity to experience STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) concepts. It is hoped this will nurture creative advancement in robotics and electronics while developing skills in teamwork, leadership, communications, and more, amongst young people. Pictured with Jamie Hepburn, MSP, the Minister for Employability and Training, is one of the club members who delivered a master class on how to operate one of the club's seven robotics systems. The picture also shows another two of the club members speaking to leaders and other senior stakeholders at the 'School-College: Raising Attainment through Partnerships' conference held at the Dunblane Hydro. VEX Robotics is working in partnership with New College Lanarkshire to meet Scotland's aspiration to become a global leader in robotics and autonomous technologies.





European Day of Languages



Braidhurst High School recently celebrated the European Day of Languages. In the Modern Languages department, pupils produced rows of hands and speech balloons with vocabulary and facts from various countries in Europe. These were then displayed in the Modern Languages corridor. The pupils also took part in a Europe Quiz and an online 'Who Wants to Be Millionaire?' game. The winners were Morven House, represented by Greg Campbell and Anna Baxter. First year pupils and Fourth Year Modern Languages for Life and Work pupils made German pancakes (Pfannkuchen) in the Home Economics department with the help of the German Exchange Teacher, Miss Marie Benzel, Ms Fox and Mrs Magowan. Other activities in the school included pupils playing French Boules with Mr Marshall; painting in the style of European artists, such as Van Gogh, with Miss Galloway; French palindromes and French words used in English with Mrs Kinnaird in English; Maths puzzles in French solved by S2 in the Maths department; the study of Albert Einstein with Mr Hussain in Physics; Chemistry lessons conducted in French and German by Dr Gardner; computer games and quizzes in European languages by Mr O'Toole and Mr Paterson with S2 in the Business Studies Department, and Mrs Currie organised French board games and a French breakfast for pupils who attend the school Hub. In addition, Mrs Reilly will introduce French mime to all pupils in the Drama Department. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed their experiences (as did the staff), and learned a lot about the countries of Europe. They are encouraged to extend their learning of European culture beyond the classroom and join the Modern Languages Club, which meets on Wednesday lunchtimes, to engage in more activities.





S1 Literacy Day

Celebrating International Literacy Day 2017



The school kicked off its Literacy celebrations, to mark International Literacy Day, on Friday 8th September, with a fantastic author visit from Alex Nye. S3 English were an excellent audience, listening intently to Alex as she talked of her books and career as a writer, and asking lots of questions, such as: "If you didn't write ghost stories what genre would you write?", "What books inspired you as a young person?", and "Do you have a fixed place where you write or can you write anywhere?" Alex was very inspiring and pupils (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed her visit. On Friday 15th September the school continued its literacy celebrations with an S1 Literacy Day. The highlight of the day was a visit from award-winning Scottish author Cathy MacPhail. Pupils listened to Cathy talk about her creative inspiration and her many books. Cathy was happy to answer questions from the pupils about her life as a writer. S1 pupils also participated in 'Literacy across the Curriculum' lessons during their time at the Modern Languages and Social Subjects departments. And finally, the celebrations were rounded off with a literacy themed quiz which saw S1 representatives from the school's four house groups testing their knowledge of children's literature, spelling, grammar and general knowledge. All teams were great competitors but it was Lorne house which proved victorious with pupils being awarded a book token and sweets for their efforts.





Sporting Success

Scottish FA JD Performance School Induction

On Monday 14th August incoming S1 pupils at Braidhurst who are also part of the Scottish FA JD Performance School attended an induction at Hampden Park which officially launched the programme for another year.



Leon McCann

Congratulations to former pupil Leon McCann who recently signed his first professional contract with Hamilton Academical Football Club.

Cameron Clark

Well done also to former Performance School of Football pupil and Scottish Cup winner Cameron Clark who recently signed with Livingston Football Club.

International Tournament U16

Two S4 pupils, Adam Kettings and Reece McAlear, recently competed as part of Scotland's U16 squad at the International Tournament held at the Oriam Centre in Edinburgh at the end of July. The boys made it through to the final match where the U16 team beat Uruguay 2-0 consequently winning the tournament. Well done boys!



International Tournament U17

On Saturday 18th August, two S5 pupils, Jamie Semple and Josh McPake, were selected to represent Scotland at the U17 International Tournament, which took place at St George's Park National Football Centre, in Burton-Upon-Trent. It was a big occasion for all involved but especially for forward Josh McPake who scored his first goal for Scotland in their match against Italy.





Sporting Success Cont.

Sara McWhirter

Congratulations to S6 pupil Sara McWhirter on being selected for the Scottish U17 female squad for the International Challenge Matches where she will compete against Slovenia.

U16 Scottish Cup

Braidhurst kicked off their Scottish Cup campaign in emphatic fashion, sweeping aside Bishopbriggs Academy 5-0 on a miserable Wednesday evening. The visitors were in control throughout the game and took a deserved lead through Barry Frew whose fine finish came courtesy of a Rhys Mallinson assist. Barry doubled his side's lead from the penalty spot after great footwork from Liam Scott ended with him being brought down in the box. On the stroke of half-time Logan Bulloch added a third, tapping in from the back post after Barry turned provider. Braidhurst continued their dominance after the break and were rewarded with two fantastic goals from Liam Scott. His first came from a free kick fired into the top corner, and his second, a superb effort, from well outside the box that again ended up in the top corner. The result was no more than Braidhurst deserved and sent Mr Clarke and Mr O'Toole home delighted. The boys can now look forward to a rare home tie against the winners of Falkirk High School or St. Ambrose High School.

Amber Waldron

Congratulations to S6 pupil Amber Waldron who recently made her debut as part of the Scottish Building Society Women's Premier League (SBSWPL).



Malawi Fundraising

Our Malawi fundraising team were out in the community once again raising funds for the project. This time they undertook a very successful tin collection at Fir Park stadium before the Motherwell FC versus Partick Thistle football match which managed to raise over £900. Meanwhile our Malawi ambassadors: pupils John Clark, Katie Kennedy and Luke Biggart, recently accepted a cheque for £300 from the residents of Baillie Court sheltered housing, which will greatly boost the fundraising total.

