

# The Braidy Times

December 2016 — February 2017

## Head Teacher's Report

As always in Braidhurst we have had a very busy term! When you read the newsletter, which a group of our S1 pupils have written, you will soon see what I mean! After Christmas we welcomed Mrs Swinburne to the English department and we will be joined by Mr Paterson in computing next week. We welcome both members of staff to Braidhurst and look forward to working with them.

For our pupils in the senior phase we are now counting down to the SQA exams which start in May. Our challenge this year is to raise attainment and we are making sure the young people aim for the best qualifications they are capable of. Our pupils have many deadlines to meet to ensure all coursework is completed. Staff are offering extra help at lunchtime or afterschool and we will look to run our Easter school again for the first few days of the holidays (more details to follow). In the meantime please support your child, and us, but making sure they are completing all homework and assignments. The dates these are due are set by the SQA and if your child fails to meet them there is very little we can do. If there are any problems or issues please contact your child's pupil support teacher in the first instance.

Our pupils look very smart in their full school uniform. We appreciate your support encouraging pupils to wear their blazers in school. It is important they remove outdoor jackets when in the building.

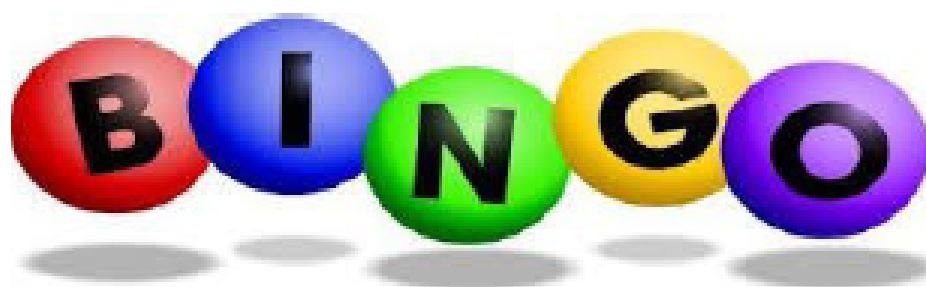
While many pupils have mobile phones, they are reminded that they should be switched off and out of sight except during interval and lunchtime.

We look forward to the rest of the term as we work with our pupils to ensure they all achieve their potential.



**The school's Christmas celebrations ended with the Christmas service which took place in the assembly hall. All pupils gathered together to listen to musical items, readings and a lesson from David Ramage.**

## BRAIDHURST PARENTS' GROUP



# N I G H T

Thursday 23rd March 2017

Braidhurst High School

7pm start

**FANTASTIC PRIZES!!!!**

**Free Entry**

**Donation for Home baking, tea coffee**

**6 game - 12 page book = £4**

**3 game - 12 page book = £2**

**Flyer = £1**



Web address:

[www.braidhurst.org](http://www.braidhurst.org)





### **Christmas Boxes**

Just before Christmas, captains and prefects from Braidhurst High School once again battled the wind and rain to deliver the school's annual food parcels to the elderly and needy within the local area. This year the collection of food items tied in with our 'Dress Down Day'. Pupils were asked to donate £1 in aid of St Andrew's hospice and to bring in an item of food. The response was overwhelming and resulted in over 600 food items being collected. All 30 residents in the sheltered housing complex at Baillie Court received a box of groceries. Eight local families also received Christmas boxes. The initiative was once again a huge success. Staff and pupils feel this is a worthwhile cause and gain a real sense of satisfaction and develop a real sense of community within the Forgewood area.



### **Line Dancing Competition**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, Braidhurst hosted its annual "hoedown showdown": the inter-house line dancing competition. Representatives from each house group eagerly gathered in the assembly hall to compete for the title of line dancing champions in front of eagle eyed judges Mrs Magowan, Miss Donnelly, Mr Campbell and Mr Gardiner. Dressed in their house colours competitors were seen performing carefully rehearsed choreography to a mix of traditional and modern country songs. Everyone involved put in a lot of effort and enthusiasm but there could only be one winner with the quartet of judges eventually crowning Morven house champions. House captains Maggie Baird and Toni Jaye Knox accepted the trophy alongside Morven guidance teachers Mrs Leitch and Mrs Neilson.



### **Christmas Concert**

The school's Christmas concert 'Winter Wonderland' took place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December to a sold out crowd of parents and friends. Pupils from every year group performed in musical numbers, drama sketches, dance routines and choral pieces. The evening was a tremendous success with a particular highlight being the primary school choir, made up of singers from Muir Street, Logan's and Ladywell primaries, who performed the songs 'Light a Candle' and Frozen's 'Do You Want to Build a Snowman'. The evening ended with the traditional '12 Days of Christmas' with the audience invited to sing along.

### **Christmas Dance**

Another fabulous Christmas Dance took place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December with almost a third of the school population taking part! The senior social committee who organised the event would like to thank all staff for their support and efforts to make it a fun night. Pupils danced the night away, enjoyed a delicious buffet and posed for photographs in the photo booth. By the end of the night everyone was fully in the Christmas spirit.







### **Mock Interviews**

S4 pupils recently took part in a mock interview with local workplaces as part of the school's 'Developing the Young Workforce' programme. Each pupil produced a CV, completed the interview process and received feedback from our interviewers, including representatives from DHL, Dickson Associates, Ladywell Primary School, Mears, New College Lanarkshire, Motherwell Football Club and Scottish Power. All pupils made a fantastic effort and are now planning their work experience placements for the summer term.

### **Road Safety Competition**

Braidhurst pupils were once again showing off their art and design skills with their entries to this year's 'North Lanarkshire's Road Safety' competition. Two of our S1 pupils, Victoria Nicholls and Jay Goode, placed first and second place respectively in their group whilst four other pupils from S1 and S2, Casey Rodger, Amy Lee McLachlan, Ross Lines and Kiera Breslin were highly commended by the judging panel. This is a great result from a brilliant and very hard working group of pupils.



### **The Scottish Attainment Challenge**

Pupils from the school's Performing Arts department were invited by North Lanarkshire Council to perform at the authority's prestigious 'Scottish Attainment Challenge' launch at Motherwell Civic Centre on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. This is North Lanarkshire's response to the government's initiative which hopes to focus and accelerate improvement amongst pupils in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in certain local councils, including North Lanarkshire. Braidhurst pupils once again did themselves proud as our sibling pipers, Cameron and Zoe May, put on a rousing performance, including 'Scotland the Brave' whilst the wind band entertained everyone with their rendition of 'Shut Up and Dance' and 'Let it Go'. Principal Teacher of Performing Arts, Miss Donnelly, remarked that "our pupils did really well today and performed like true professionals. They all did us proud with so many compliments."



### **Higher Photography – New College Lanarkshire Visit**

A group of Braidhurst High School Higher Photography students visited New College Lanarkshire to view the college's exhibition of HNC and HND photography. After the exhibition, there were demonstrations of a range of photographic studio techniques. This was followed up with a series of studio workshops in which the pupils took part.





### **S3 Campus Visit to New College Lanarkshire**

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 23 eager S3 pupils enjoyed a visit to Motherwell Campus as part of Braidhurst High School's involvement in the FOCUS West Widening Access programme to Further and Higher Education. Pupils enthusiastically took part in a range of practical challenges designed to encourage problem solving and teamwork. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their visit which further confirmed their aspiration to move from school to study at college or university, in the future. Next year pupils will participate in a two day Focus on 4 University Visit. Pupil Eleanor Day said of the visit "It was useful and I now know more".

### **Fire Reach**

A group of 12 S3 pupils recently completed their Fire Reach training course, delivered by a trio of tutors, at Coatbridge Fire Station. During the program pupils learnt CPR, first aid, how to use a defibrillator and fire hose and the general principals of carrying out a successful search and rescue during a fire emergency. On the last day of the course pupils were expected to deliver a presentation on all they have learnt in front of their parents and school staff which they all were able to do. The pupils were then awarded a Fire Reach certificate and a SQA National 4 qualification. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the training with one pupil remarking that "the course has been lots of fun and we now know how to save lives."

### **La Fete de Rois Celebration**

The school's French Club spent time this term learning about the French celebration called "La Fête des Rois" (Three Kings Day). This event is held in honour of the bible's 'Three Wise Men'. There are three important elements to the French tradition of La Fête des Rois; the galette des rois (a cake made of pastry and almonds), the fève (a small object that is placed in the 'galette des rois') and the crowning of the king and queen. The fève is discreetly placed in the 'galette des rois' prior to serving it. The cake is then cut so that there is a piece for everyone. Traditionally, the youngest person sits underneath the table and designates how the slices are distributed. This prevents cheating since the baker of the cake does not choose how the slices are handed out. The person who discovers the 'fève' in their piece of cake is crowned king or queen for the day and selects a partner to be their queen or king. The French assistant, Juliette Lucas made a 'galette des rois' of her own and pieces were distributed to all members of the club. Chloe Kirkwood from 1L found the 'fève' in her piece of cake and was duly crowned the queen for the day. All pupils thought the cake was "délicieux!"



### **Netball News**

The Braidhurst Netball girls are doing a great job once again with the S2 and S3 teams making it to the Silver Round in the Scottish Cup, which is a great achievement.

In the North Lanarkshire League both the S2 and the S3/4 teams have qualified for the quarter finals, which will be taking place during March. Last year our senior team won the League and our S1 team were runners up (current S2 team) so we have high hopes as we go into the next round.

The girls are very committed to their team and attend training every Monday night, always applying themselves and working hard for themselves, their team and their school.

Next week, Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, the Netball team, along with a few members of staff, are attending the Emirates Stadium in Glasgow to watch the Sirens play the Wasps live. The girls are very excited about the trip as Netball at this level is a much faster paced game which is fascinating to watch. The game is being shown on Sky Sports so I think some of the girls are hoping to see themselves on the television!







### **P.E Trip – Experience the Premier League**

The P.E department recently embarked on a superb trip to two English football matches which gave 45 pupils the opportunity to experience the premier league. Pupils and staff departed school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January by bus and their first stop was Burnley where pupils watched the Burnley FC vs. Southampton fixture at Turf Moor stadium, where Burnley FC triumphed 1-0. Afterwards the group enjoyed dinner at the Hollywood Bowl in Bolton. The next day pupils moved onto Manchester where they visited the National Football Museum before arriving at Old Trafford to watch Manchester United against Liverpool which resulted in a 1-1 draw. The trip was a huge success with all pupils thoroughly enjoying the experience.



### **Sky Sports 'Living for Sport'**

Senior pupils were treated to an inspirational talk from Scotland's most capped hockey player and top goal scorer Rhona Simpson on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Rhona has represented Scotland at both the 1996 and 2000 Olympics and as part of her work with Sky Sports 'Living for Sport' initiative, provided pupils with an insight into her career. In addition, Rhona will work with the Sports Council group for a project entitled 'Endeavour' with the aims of improving self-confidence, attainment and attitudes to health and well-being. Furthermore, our current higher pupils are working through a Personal Development Programme and Rhona's career is a perfect example of the commitment required to play sport at an elite level.



### **Primary Day of Dance**

Braidhurst's annual 'Primary Day of Dance' event took place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January in the school's sports barn facility. Local primary schools Logan's Primary and Muir Street Primary were welcomed to the school with a rendition of 'Scotland the Brave' from piping duo Cameron and Zoe May. Pupils then spent the day learning and performing traditional Scottish dances. The event is a key part of the transition program between primary and secondary school with the aim of helping pupils feel more confident as they make the move to Braidhurst.





### **Malawi Partnership**

Braidhurst are currently in preparation of creating a partnership agreement with the North Lanarkshire project 'Aiming Higher in Malawi'. The project has undertaken a variety of developments over the past ten years which have contributed to and enhanced the health, wellbeing and education of young children in Malawi.

In becoming a member of the scheme, Braidhurst will be linked with a school in Malawi where we will prioritise the learning and health needs of the pupils in that school and provide funding accordingly. We are looking to raise money for the 'Girls for Health' scheme which looks to help transform the lives of young girls and disabled children in the deprived area of Malange, Malawi.

Miss Young is setting up a 'Malawi Committee' over the next month which will aim to meet twice monthly to organise fundraising events between now and Summer. Fundraising will commence next month and all pupils (S1-6) are encouraged to get involved.

### **Football**

All six of our squads have reached at least the last 32 of their respective Scottish Cup tournaments, with our S1, S2, S4 and Senior teams all through to the quarter final stages. We have travelled the length and breadth of the country with ties ranging from Thurso, Portobello, Gala-shiels and Stirling, and our pupils have been a credit to the school both on and off the pitch.

As well as our next ties in the Scottish Cups, our pupils have a lot of other opportunities to display their talents with Lanarkshire Cup ties, Lanarkshire Seven's and Coca Cola Sevens tournaments coming up soon.

The junior girls' football team are still currently holding second position in the North Lanarkshire schools seven aside league. The next round of fixtures is on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February where the girls will be looking to maintain their current run of form.

