

# The Braidy Times

October 2017 — December 2017

## Head Teacher's Report

It always amazes me when we collate the information for the newsletter how much has been going on at Braidhurst High School. This does not even cover our Christmas Concert, reward trips, dance, service, last day activities and, for many the highlight of the session: our inter-house line dancing competition! As always, learning and teaching remain the focus, particularly as our senior pupils have their prelims in January.

All pupils will be issued with an interim report before the end of term. An attendance print out will also be included and a note of their merits and demerits. Please discuss these with your child. If you have any questions, please get in touch with your child's Pupil Support teacher.

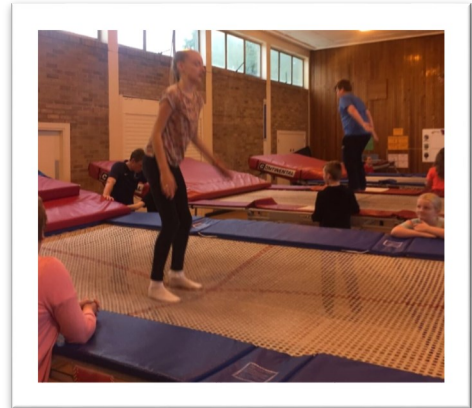
Our renovations have started and we have a notice board in the foyer to explain what work is being undertaken. As we have more people around the school it is more important than ever that all our pupils remain visible in their school uniform at all times. Outdoor jackets, hats and scarves should be removed on entering the school. Pupils should see Ms Watson in Science if they wish a locker to put outdoor jackets in during the day (£10 to rent, £5 of which is reimbursed at the end of the year when the key is returned and the locker left the way it was found.) Please note: school uniform is a white shirt, black skirt or school trousers (not jeans or leggings), V-neck jumper or cardigan, school tie and plain black shoes.

The school finishes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of December for the Christmas holidays. Buses and taxis will be booked for 1.30pm to ensure all our pupils get home safely. The school re-opens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of January at 8.55am.

I hope you all have a happy and peaceful holiday and look forward to welcoming back our pupils in January.



The school is delighted that four of our pupils achieved the Diana Award this year for serving their community in different ways. Only 17 awards were handed out in Scotland and four of them were for Braidhurst pupils. This is a phenomenal achievement. Christopher Duncan received his award for his work with The National Autistic Society; Robbie Caldwell for his work with Young Carers; Emma Ewart for her work with Motherwell Guide Unit and Melissa Rodger for her work with the Robotics Club. All of these young people give selflessly of their time and talents to the benefit of others and are an inspiring example to everyone. It was a real privilege for them to receive their prestigious awards at a celebration ceremony held at The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and mix with special guests such as author Ian Rankin. It was a truly memorable day!



### **Play, Cook, Eat – Family Learning**

A group of S1 pupils spent two days during the October half-term holiday participating in the school's 'Play, Cook, Eat' initiative, led by Braidhurst's Partnership Officer Linda McGurk. The pupils were invited to take part in sporting activities, such as trampolining and potted sports, before eating a healthy lunch which they had cooked. After all the fun and hard work the group ate their lunch together. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

### **Halloween Disco – Fright Night**

The school's annual Halloween disco 'Fright Night', which was organised by senior pupils, was once again a 'frightening' success. Trick or treaters from S1-6 arrived at the school dressed up in their Halloween costumes ready to have fun and dance the night away. Once again, the evening's most popular attraction was the 'Scary Corridor', which pupils entered if they dared. Pupils in the school's Art department, assisted by Art teacher, Miss Galloway, prepared displays which were inspired by famous horror, thriller and scary movies both past and present, such as the Addams Family, Van Helsing, IT and others to name a few. The paintings were a fantastic addition to the disco.





### **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 the School Fayre. These events raise much needed school funds which are 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.

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](mailto:kirstens@braidhurst.n-lanark.sch.uk).

### **Braidhurst Parents' Group Fashion Sale**



Braidhurst Parents' Group hosted a very successful Fashion Sale on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November in the school assembly hall. The Fashion Sale is the latest fundraiser the parents' group have carried out to generate essential school funds which are used to help pay for an array of pupil-centred projects and events. The event managed to raise the grand total of £781.47 through ticket sales, raffle and refreshments. This is a fantastic total which topped off a great event.



### **S3 Drama Workshop – Richard Rankin**

Star of stage and screen, Scottish actor Richard Rankin, who can currently be seen on TV as Roger Wakefield Mackenzie in 'Outlander', recently visited the school to deliver a one-off workshop to S3 pupils who are studying Drama. The event was organised by the school's Drama teacher Mrs Reilly and was a huge success. Richard got pupils to work in groups as they took part in various drama activities such as improvisation. Afterwards, Richard happily answered questions on his career as an actor, and shared his top tips for success before posing for a photograph.







### **Inter-house Afternoon**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October the school hosted a fiercely competitive inter-house afternoon where pupils from the four house groups, Atholl, Lorne, Morven and Rannoch, competed against each other in activities such as Football, Potted Sports, a Music Quiz and the 'Minute to Win It' mini tournament. The competition was a close call with pupils working in their teams to secure victory. However, Lorne proved victorious with 40 points, then in second place was Rannoch with 38 points. In third place was Atholl and, in fourth place was Morven. A huge well done to all of the competitors!



### **Cameron May – Scots Guard Junior Piping Success**

Congratulations to S3 pupil Cameron May on his recent success at the Scots Guard Junior Piping competition held at the Army School of Piping at Inchdrewer House, Edinburgh. Keen piper Cameron was placed first in both the 'Under 15 Piobaireachd' and the 'Under 15 Strathspey and Reel' categories plus he came fourth in the 'Under 15 March' competition. This is a fantastic result - well done Cameron!





### **Modern Languages for Work Links**

The S3 Modern Languages for Life and Work class welcomed the opportunity to link languages with Scottish heritage. Ms Elaine Johnstone of the Historic Scotland Organisation visited the school to talk to the pupils about the nearby Bothwell Castle and its history. Pupils found the talk highly interesting, as well as informative, and a visit by them to the castle is imminent. Class teacher and Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs McKenna, is keen to further the pupils' experiences of Scottish culture by organising a trip to Edinburgh Castle as well, where the pupils will be able to research how many tourists visit the sight and how important a knowledge of languages is in the tourist industry. They will also produce a Power Point presentation in German on Scotland and what it can offer its foreign visitors.



### **German Adventure Day**

Members of the Goethe Institute in Glasgow recently visited Braidhurst High School to organise a 'German Adventure' morning for S3 pupils. Pupils were put into groups and were required to 'visit' a number of cities in Germany, Austria and Switzerland to carry out prescribed tasks. The group which covered the most cities and gained the most correct answers in the shortest time won a prize. Tasks included identifying famous brands of aftershave in German, finding words on a giant word square, looking at Facebook posts in German, cracking number codes, and learning about famous German manufacturers. They also had the opportunity to don German wigs and hats to resemble German fans at football matches. There was much frantic moving from room to room as pupils carried out the tasks with zeal and determination. The winning group comprised of Jake Cassidy, Chloe Henderson, Ellie Murphy and Kori Turnbull who attained a higher number of points than any school so far. Also winning a prize for remembering the code to unlock the 'safe' were Craig Campbell, Callum Bickett, Ewan Simm and Kyle Easton. All pupils were complimented on their enthusiasm, excellent behaviour and team-working skills. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to extend their knowledge of the culture of German speaking countries and the German language.

### **French Immersion Day**

A group of Higher French pupils recently accompanied by the French student, Ms Deluche, went on a visit to the 'The Alliance Francaise' in Glasgow to take part in a French immersion day. The pupils engaged in a number of activities, all carried out in the French language, with groups of students from other schools in North Lanarkshire. Of particular interest to the pupils were the workshops in which they were able to listen to, and discuss, modern French music, as many have already downloaded popular French music onto their iPods and enjoy listening to the songs outwith their Higher lessons. Pupils were able to extend their knowledge of culture further by finding out about French Francophonie and the importance of the language in the world for business and the economy. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to practise their oral and aural skills and found it very valuable to be able to spend time in the company of the French assistants from the Institute who delivered the sessions.







### **Higher Human Biology Bioinformatics Workshop**

Higher Human Biology pupils were recently involved in a Bioinformatics workshop hosted by Dr Heleen Plaisier and Dr Daniel Barker from Edinburgh University. The session gave pupils the chance to gain vital hands on experience of using a computer programme called BLAST to find regions of similarity between biological sequences. The program works by comparing DNA sequences to sequence databases and then calculates the statistical significance. The experience stretched the pupils, testing both their knowledge and their ICT skills. They were all very grateful to Heleen and Daniel for the challenging opportunity.

### **Mock Interview Evening**

The school recently held a 'Mock Interview' evening for pupils currently in their fourth year. This event is part of the 'Developing the Young Workforce' programme and pupils were also expected to create their first CV which listed their particular skills, interests and experience. Throughout the evening, pupils were interviewed by volunteers from various local businesses to give them valuable experience of participating in a formal interview. The event was a success with pupils dressing smartly and conducting themselves very well during their interviews.



### **Road Safety**

S1 Art and Design pupils are once again entered in this year's North Lanarkshire Road Safety Calendar competition. The pupils have worked hard this session, developing their slogans and matching designs, to highlight all aspects of road safety. Our submissions have been successful in recent years and so hopefully this year's hard work will pay off.





### **S1-2 Reading Championship**

Reading is at the heart of academic success and robust mental health amongst young people. Braidhurst has risen to the challenge of strengthening the literacy skills of our pupils in lower school by inviting them to participate in a 'Reading Championship'. This program is run by the school library and delivered as part of the S1-S2 English curriculum. Pupils have more reasons to get engaged with personal reading, as the more books they read will lead to certificates, badges, trophies, and a class rewards afternoon involving pizza and a movie. Pupils have admirably risen to challenge with the majority taking their library book home to read in their spare time and visiting the school library on a very regular basis looking for their next book to devour. Mrs McKenna, Depute Head Teacher in charge of the Pupil Equity Fund, remarked that "the 'Reading Championship' puts front and centre our belief that literacy goes beyond classroom based activities and assessments and is a skill which enriches our lives on a daily basis. Promoting reading for pleasure is an essential part of our strategy to raise literacy levels across the Broad General Education phase of the school and we are committed to encouraging our pupils by recognising their efforts in this regard."







### **P.E Trip—Manchester City versus Feyenoord Rotterdam**

A total of 49 Braidhurst High School pupils made the trip to The Etihad Stadium to witness the UEFA Champions League match between Manchester City and Feyenoord. Despite the match only finishing 1-0 to the hosts with a late goal from Raheem Sterling, pupils had an excellent time being close to the action and seeing top stars such as Sergio Aguero and Kevin De Bruyne in the flesh. Alistair Small and Rhys Malinson were triumphant in the traditional bus quiz, winning a match day programme each! Alistair had further reason to celebrate when he won a Manchester City top in the bus raffle. Mr. Clarke and the other members of staff would like to commend the excellent behaviour during a very successful and enjoyable outing!



### **SPORTING SUCCESS:**

#### **S1 Basketball**

Following the introduction of a basketball club, which runs in school every Wednesday lunch time, the S1 and S5/6 teams have both entered regional basketball leagues. The S1 squad recently had their first double header match against Calderhead High School which was played at home. The S1 pupils were triumphant in both matches, winning 6-0 and 14-0. This was a dominant display from the team consisting of: Kyle McCallum, Dylan Galloway, Rachael Keegans, Jay Alan, and Nathan Chalmers. The team are led by Mr. Clarke and S6 pupil Christopher "Basketball Guru" Duncan, who organised formations and set plays which were evident during the game. A great first victory and the S1 team will next be playing away to Dalziel High School in the second round of fixtures.







### **U14 Football Lanarkshire Cup**

The Braidhurst U14 football team recently played a fixture at home in the 2017-18 Lanarkshire Cup tournament against Chryston High School. Braidhurst streaked ahead early with superb goals from Jay Miller and Daniel Hunter. However, Chryston levelled late to equalise the score 2-2. The match was then settled on penalties 6-5 with Scott McCallum providing the winning strike for Braidhurst to secure their place in the next round.



### **U16 Lanarkshire Cup: Greenfaulds vs Braidhurst**

A much-changed U16 Braidhurst side travelled to Greenfaulds High School on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November to contest their first Lanarkshire Cup match of the season, winning in emphatic fashion. Despite a promising start to the match, the visitors fell behind courtesy of a well-taken free kick. However, Braidhurst soon found themselves in front thanks to two magnificent set-pieces. The first began as a free kick from Luke Hamilton which resulted in Keelan McCloskey firing home to level the score, whilst the second started with a terrific delivery from Owen Lee that Kyle Fleming powered past the goalkeeper. On the stroke of half-time, Kyle Arthur sent Alastair Small through on goal, his side foot finish ending in the back of the net via the post to double Braidhurst's advantage. Alastair scored his second almost immediately after the restart, slotting home the rebound from Barry Frew's saved effort. Barry joined him on the scoresheet shortly after, a magnificent solo run ending with a calm finish past the goalkeeper. Greenfaulds pulled a goal back through another great free kick, but two red cards awarded to the hosts allowed Braidhurst to surge even further ahead. Kyle Laughlin found acres of space in the box and unselfishly set up Alastair to complete his hat-trick; Owen Lee fired in a seventh with a classy effort using the outside of his boot; Kamil Krol fired in the rebound after a blocked shot to reward his great effort throughout the match, and Luke closed the scoring with a close-range header. The game finished 9-2 to Braidhurst leaving Mr Clarke and Mr O'Toole delighted, especially with the attitude of the boys having trailed by one goal early on. The U16s can now look forward to the next round hoping to continue the high standard of football. Line-Up: Jay Kennedy, Owen Lee, Luke Hamilton, Rhys Mallinson, Kyle Lines (Sub: Kyle Laughlin), Kyle Fleming, Keelan McCloskey, Kyle Arthur, Kamil Krol, Alastair Small and Barry Frew.

### **LAGTA Bosch Cup for Girls**

Following successful qualification in earlier rounds, our S2 girls reached the finals of the LAGTA Bosch Cup in its inaugural year. The finals took place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Ravenscraig Football Centre in Motherwell. The girls faced three tough games against worthy finalists from Duncanrig, St Ambrose and Cathkin. The Braidhurst girls played some excellent football throughout the competition and secured the trophy by winning all three games. The pupils that were involved in the tournament were: Ellie Dickson, Nikki Simmonette, Summer Keenan, Amy Boyle, Rachel Graham, Morgan Lee and Stephanie Connor.





### **U13's Girls Scottish Cup Final**

Seven of our S1-2 pupils were involved in the SWF U13s Scottish Cup Final recently, playing for their club Motherwell Claret against Glasgow Girls. The final took place as part of the SWF Youth Cup Finals event at the Oriam in Edinburgh. The match was always going to be a close encounter with both teams doing well in their league campaign. It took less than a minute for the deadlock to be broken and it was the Glasgow Girls striker took an early lead. Motherwell gradually came back into the game during the first half and got their award just before half time when Amy Boyle equalised. Glasgow started the second half strongly and capitalised on this by taking a 2-1 lead. Shortly afterwards Motherwell drew the game level again through Amy Boyle. With extra time looming to decide the tie, Jenna Woods stepped up to smash the ball home with only 4 minutes of play left. This was enough to seal the victory for Motherwell and their captain Nikki Simmonette lifted the Scottish Cup to their great support in the stand. Congratulations to Motherwell Claret for this achievement and in particular Braidhurst pupils: Nikki Simmonette, Ellie Dickson, Jenna Woods, Stephanie Connor, Amy Boyle, Chloe Kirkwood and Leigha Dobbins.

### **Sara McWhirter**

Congratulations to S6 pupil and Performance School of Football Graduate Sara McWhirter, on her qualification to the Elite round of the UEFA European Women's U17 Championship, as part of the Scotland team.



### **Reece McAlear**

Well done to our S4 Performance School of Football pupil Reece McAlear who recently played in the final match of the 2017 Victory Shield which saw Scotland meet the Republic of Ireland.

### **S1 Netball**

Our S1 Netball team recently competed against St. Andrew's High School in a Scottish cup fixture. Despite losing the girls played well under the instruction of PE teacher and netball coach Miss Jenna Young. The players of the match were Roksana Sykula and Amy McAlonan.



### **North Lanarkshire Dance Development Show**

Pupils from S1-S3 recently attended the North Lanarkshire Dance Development show where the group gave a fantastic performance. The showcase also included a solo dance from Braidhurst's Dance Ambassador Lorraine Tollan.

