

# The Braidy Times

December 2017—Feb 2018

## Head Teacher's Report

It seems a long time since we welcomed back our pupils to the new term year of 2018. As always we have been busy with lots going on both in and out of the classroom. We are hoping the weather starts to improve after our snowy start to the term. We would really appreciate your help in ensuring your child is in full school uniform at all time. Pupils can purchase a locker, see Miss Watson, to store any jackets, scarves and gloves which they may need to travel to and from school in this weather. We have many visitors in the school, especially with our renovations being underway, and pride ourselves in how smart our pupils look. It also makes anyone not in uniform easily identifiable.

Our senior pupils have now finished their prelims and the hard work begins as they prepare for the SQA exams. Please help us by discussing their work with them and checking they are meeting deadlines. Many subjects have internal assessments and deadlines are set by the SQA and must be met. Interim reports will be issued shortly which will provide you with information to check their progress. If you have any concerns you should contact your child's pupil support teacher in the first instance.

Our option process is underway for pupils in S2 to S5. We work on a tight time scale and we appreciate your help discussing with your child which subjects they wish to take next session. A copy of their option form will be sent home for you to sign to ensure you have seen it. You should contact your child's pupil support teacher if there are any issues.

As mentioned previously, our renovations are underway. We are hoping our new windows will soon start appearing to allow us a glimpse of how the school will look when the work is finished. The installation of the pipe work for the heating has started. We have weekly meetings with the contractors to ensure learning and teaching continues with minimum disruption.

The money we have received through the Scottish Government's Pupil Equity Fund has been put to good use ensuring that our pupils have the best experience Braidhurst has to offer, in the classroom, and beyond. Much work has been done in the Broad General Education phase of the school to raise literacy and numeracy levels through course development and targeted interventions. ICT provision has been another area in which we have sought to enhance pupil experiences through purchasing laptops, for the dedicated use of our Maths and English departments. We have also bought interactive educational apps and hardware, aimed at making learning engaging and fun. Our S1 to S3 pupils have benefitted from Homework Clubs, newly launched this session. Our Breakfast Club is now open to pupils five mornings a week, serving toast, cereal and other healthy snacks, all free of charge. All pupils in S1-S3 are participating in our Reading Championship, a scheme which puts front and centre our belief that reading for pleasure is essential to raising literacy levels for all. Many of the wide range of extra-curricular clubs offered at Braidhurst have been supported by Pupil Equity Funding as we seek to raise self-esteem and create opportunity through wider achievement. If you wish any more information, please contact Mrs. McKenna or Mr. Hamilton, who are responsible for our PEF initiative. There is also further information available on the school's approach to Pupil Equity Funding on our website.

We will soon be starting to plan for next session for both our school improvement plan and PEF work. I would be delighted to have parental input. If you are able to give some of your time to discuss this with us please let us know.



### **Robotics Club Success**

Braidhurst's robotics club is going from strength to strength and the 18 members will soon take part in the regional finals of the Vex Robotics Challenge 2017/18 'In the Zone'. The pupils will compete against other schools from North Lanarkshire in the day-long event which will be held at the Motherwell campus of New College Lanarkshire. Three teams from Braidhurst will participate in the regional finals under the team names: 'Energize', 'Kqual-I-T', and 'Violet'. Some club members will also be showcasing the Vex robotics STEM initiative by demonstrating robotic systems that they have made. The group has beaten 33 thousand participants from around the world to become a 'Beta' test site for the new generation of Vex robotic systems that were showcased at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. The robotics club's success and awards have been due to the support of the lecturers from New College Lanarkshire, Mr. McGuire and Ms. Nicholson, with help from NLC, and has become a centre of excellence in the practice of STEM pedagogy.

### **Christmas Concert**

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December the school hosted its annual Christmas concert. The sold out event was thoroughly enjoyed by the many parents and friends who attended. The program showcased the many talents of pupils in music, drama and dance. The event was masterminded by the Faculty Head of Performing Arts, Ms. Donnelly and Drama teacher Mrs. Reilly, who not only ensured that pupils gave their best performance on the night, but also organised a whole host of staff and parents to help out with everything from lighting, to set design and interval refreshments. The concert was a roaring success with a particular highlight being the school concert band with their rendition of Adele's 'Rolling in the Deep'.



### **Christmas Dance**

Over 200 pupils from all year groups enjoyed a fantastic Christmas dance on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Pupils participated in the traditional social dancing of the 'Gay Gordons' and the 'Canadian Barn Dance' whilst also showing off their dance moves to more up-to-date tunes.





### **Malawi Fundraising – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Hampers**

In December the Malawi Committee organised their final fund raising events for the year by hosting a Christmas Jumper Day. Pupils were invited to wear their most festive jumper and for the privilege of doing so were expected to donate £1 to the Malawi fund and tins of non-perishable food for gift hampers that were distributed to the elderly residents of Baillie Court and to those in need in the community. The event raised over £300 for the Malawi fund and the school were able to gift 18 Christmas hampers.

The Malawi Group continued their fundraising efforts with a 'Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar' activity and a raffle for Pantomime tickets. S3 pupil Logan Holbourne won 'Guess the Sweets' with a fantastic guess of 381 sweets which was closest to the actual total of 382 and her prize was the yummy jar of sweets. Whilst our 'janitor extraordinaire' Mr. Fraser Lawson won four tickets to see 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Kings Theatre in Glasgow starring former pupil Elaine C Smith. Once again the school raised a fantastic amount for the Malawi project.



### **School Christmas Card**

Braidhurst High Art and Design pupils were asked to submit their drawings to illustrate this year's Christmas card. They made a fantastic job of preparing their work and the successful pupil's work will be included in the design.



### **Christmas Decorations**

Braidhurst's art club worked tirelessly to put on a number of festive displays for the Christmas Concert and Christmas Dance,. With the help of Miss Galloway and Mr. Clifford they created amazing exhibits. They were all presented with certificates and badges commending their fantastic achievement.







### **Inter-house Line Dancing**

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December, Braidhurst's most infamous inter-house event took place: the annual Line Dancing competition. Our competitors gathered in the assembly hall, dressed in their house colour, and gave their all as they line danced to tunes such as 'Achy Breaky Heart' and 'The Slosh'. A team of judges watched the house competitors very closely and in the end announced Morven house as the event winners. Well done to all who participated.



### **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.

### **Pancakes for Pudsey**

The school Hub groups recently held their annual fundraiser 'Pancakes for Pudsey', where they sold pancakes, cakes and other sweet treats. The event was well supported by both pupils and staff and the fantastic total of £415 was raised for Children in Need. Well done to all the pupils who helped out on the day.



### **Skills Development Scotland Ambassador Training**

Braidhurst pupils recently took part in Skill Development Scotland's 'My World of Work Ambassadors' program on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December whereby they are trained to act as peer advocates for Scotland's careers website 'My World of Work' within their school. The first training session took place in the library and was a success with further training taking place in 2018.





### **Celebrating Success – Rewards Trip**

Before Christmas, over 200 Braidhurst pupils departed the school to various locations throughout central Scotland on reward trips as part of our Celebrating Success initiative.

Over 50 of our S1 pupils headed to Motherwell Civic Theatre to see this year's panto "Jack in the Beanstalk" while our S2 pupils headed into Glasgow Quay to the new Odeon Luxe Cinema (where all the seats recline) followed by some American style Ten Pin Bowling. With over 200 trampolines, 3 foam pits and even a ninja warrior course, over 60 of our S3 and S4 pupils headed to Flipout in Glasgow (the world's largest Trampoline park) before also going bowling.

Our S5 and S6 pupils (plus a few extra S4 pupils) had two separate trips with one group heading to SOAR at Braehead where they took to the (indoor) slopes for some sledging fun at Snow Factor, before some adventure golf at Paradise Island and high wire stunts at the skypark. The second smaller group of S5/S6 pupils headed in the opposite direction to our nation's capital, spending the day at the Edinburgh Christmas markets.



### **Road Safety Competition**

Great news for the school and in particular our Art and Design department. Braidhurst pupil, Ellie McGregor, gained 1st Place in the S1 - S6 group in this year's 'North Lanarkshire Road Safety Calendar' competition. Ellie spent a great deal of time producing her poster idea for the competition and it certainly did the trick with the judges, being voted first place in the secondary school category.

This is fantastic news as she gained this place over 2000 other entries and has been presented with an award certificate and a voucher for £30 to spend at Argos.







### **Braidhurst Parents' Group**

Braidhurst Parents' Group are continuing on from their recent fundraising success with two upcoming events - a tin collection at Motherwell Football Club on Wednesday 28th February and a Race Night on Friday 27th April, which will also take place at Motherwell Football Club in the David Cooper Suite. Tickets will be on sale for the Race Night which should be another fantastic night.

These events generate essential school funds which are used to help pay for an array of pupil-centred projects and events, such as the senior prom, excursions, ties and resources for departments across the school.

The group are always looking for new members. If you would like to find out more please contact Kirsten Scott on 01698 274999 or [kirstens@braidhurst.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:kirstens@braidhurst.n-lanark.sch.uk). Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th March at 6.30pm. We hope you can join us.



### **Harry Potter Fun in the School Library**

To help celebrate the annual 'Harry Potter Book Night', on Thursday 1st February, members of the library film club continued their Harry Potter marathon by watching the fifth instalment in the franchise: 'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix'. Each member of the film club are huge fans of all things Potter and Fantastic Beasts with many of them still borrowing the much loved novels years after their first publication. Whilst watching their film the group enjoyed crisps and sweets before posing for some photographs.

### **S5 English Theatre Trip**

On Wednesday 20th December, Mrs. Paterson's S5 Higher class enjoyed an educational outing to the People's Palace in Glasgow. The 26 pupils who attended found out about tenement life in Glasgow's East End in the 1930s, in order to enhance their understanding of the social context of 'Men Should Weep' by Ena Lamont Stewart. This is the Scottish text the pupils are studying for the Higher exam. They enjoyed a lively guided tour of the tenement exhibition, and also learned about Glasgow culture in the 1930s. After a lovely lunch in the beautiful Winter Garden - where we surprised Robbie Caldwell with a cake for his 16th birthday - the pupils then had some free time to take in the museum's other exhibitions. The pupils, who were accompanied by Mrs. Paterson and Mrs. Jeffrey, agreed the day was extremely worthwhile and it would really help them prepare for the January prelim.





### **Primary Day of Dance**

Braidhurst's annual 'Primary Day of Dance' event took place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Pupils from our local primary schools, Logans Primary and Muir Street, 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.



### **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 and to carry out prescribed tasks. The group which covered the most cities and gained the most answers correct 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, cracking number codes, and learning about famous manufacturers. They also had the opportunity to don wigs and hats to resemble football 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, Euan 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 language.

### **Primary/Secondary Liaison - French**

Pupils at Muir Street Primary School recently enjoyed a French-themed day. Class teachers of P1-P3 organised sessions, such as food tasting and making Eiffel Towers, which were very well received by the enthusiastic youngsters. In the afternoon, teachers from Braidhurst High School delivered activities to P4-7 in French. Miss Lennox (Modern Languages Department) made up Christmas Kahoot challenges for pupils to play on iPads; Ms Deluche (a French student at Braidhurst) composed a beautifully written story about Christmas; Mr Walker (Music Department) conducted the singing of 'Vive le Vent' ( 'Jingle Bells') in French, accompanied by percussion instruments) and Mr Marshall and Miss Marissa ( PE Department) taught pupils how to play boules. Also on hand to help were Ms Benzell (German assistant), Emma Ewart (S6 pupil who is completing her Foreign Languages Leadership Award) and Mrs Magowan (Principal Teacher of Modern Languages). All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to practise their French and to learn more about the culture and custom, particularly at Christmas time!





### **Under 16 Scottish Cup: Newbattle HS v Braidhurst HS**



Braidhurst's Under 16s overcame a one goal deficit away to Newbattle HS on Tuesday afternoon to progress to the last 16 of the Scottish Cup. In a hard fought victory on a poor surface, the visitors got off to the worst possible start when they conceded inside the first five minutes. A corner kick found the opposing striker free in the box and he headed past the keeper to put his side one up. Their lead would be short-lived, however, as a terrific long ball from Liam Scott allowed Max McGuigan to finish expertly – calmly chipping the ball over the keeper to level the game. Chances came thick and fast for both teams, with Alastair Small and Barry Frew coming particularly close for Braidhurst, but neither team could take advantage. Just as it looked like the first half would finish even, another terrific assist from Liam allowed Alastair to slot the ball home at the back post and put his side 2-1 in front. After the restart Braidhurst would be grateful to Tommy Hunter in goals for preserving their one goal lead. A through ball from midfield found a Newbattle striker and left him one-on-one with the keeper, but thanks to a terrific last ditch tackle outside the box Tommy thwarted their attack. This was a crucial moment in the game as minutes later Alastair rounded the opposition goalkeeper and squared to Liam to fire the ball into the back of the net, doubling his side's advantage. Braidhurst controlled the rest of the match and should have been awarded a penalty when Kyle Laughlin was brought down in the box but the referee waved play on. They were unlucky not to finish the game further ahead after a strike from Max crashed back off the crossbar, but it would eventually end 3-1. Once again Mr Clarke and Mr O'Toole were delighted with the attitude shown by the boys, especially conceding so early on. Another away tie awaits Braidhurst, this time against the winners of Gryffe HS v Holyrood Secondary. Line-Up: Tommy Hunter; Rhys Mallinson, Paul Reid, Matthew McDonald; Logan Bulloch, Liam Scott, Kyle Fleming, Barry Frew, Kyle Laughlin (Sub: Nathan Spence); Alastair Small, Max McGuigan. MOTM: Liam Scott.

### **U14 Scottish Cup: St Maurice's HS vs Braidhurst HS**

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December the Braidhurst U14 football squad played a Scottish Cup match against St Maurice's High School. Goals from Jay Miller and a hat-trick from PJ McGiff ensured victory for the Braidhurst team. The final score was:

St Maurice's HS 2 – Braidhurst HS 4.



### **Netball**

The school's girls' netball team recently played in a fantastic knock-out game against Caldervale to qualify for the quarter finals of the Scottish Cup. Well done to our girls on the win.

### **Lanarkshire Cup**

Braidhurst's football teams enjoyed recent success with the U16 squad winning 4-2 against Airdrie Academy in the Lanarkshire Cup (goals from Kyle Fleming, Paul Reid, Barry Frew and Marley Redfern). Whilst the U14 team put on a stunning performance against Currie High School in the Scottish Cup winning 6-0 (goals from Alex Lowry, Kyle Laikowski, Dylan Kerr, Darryl Love and not one but two goals from Max Johnson). A huge well done to all the players and their coaches.

