

The Braidy Times

February 2018—March 2018

Although it has not been long since the last report, as usual we have been very busy at Braidhurst High School. Our pupils continue to be involved in various activities which I hope you enjoy reading about.

As with all secondary schools in North Lanarkshire we are welcoming a 'Campus Cop' to Braidhurst. Lynn Liversey will be starting this week and we look forward to working with her.

This is an important time for our senior pupils with the SQA exams quickly looming. Our Easter school, for our S4/5/6 pupils who are sitting Nat 5 and Higher exams, is running and information is available on the school website. This provides pupils the opportunity to come into school for extra help and support in various subjects. Pupils who wish to attend should speak to Ms Anderson. Please remember the exams are national exams and times and dates are set by the SQA, and we cannot rearrange them. If your child is ill and cannot attend their exam you must notify the school immediately and provide a medical line. We wish all our senior pupils well. Please support the school by encouraging your child to work hard and study over the holidays. They should return fully prepared for their exams.

Our renovation works continue in the school with our PE department being fitted with new windows. A lot of work is scheduled to take place over the Easter break so access to the school will be limited via the tuck shop area. The work will also start on the new lift so the tower will also be out of commission. As we have a lot of visitors to the school it is important our pupils are easily visible so we ask you to support us in ensuring your child is in full school uniform at all times. This should include wearing their blazer. We are proud of our pupils who are a great advert for Braidhurst.

I hope you have a relaxing Easter break! School reopens on Monday 16th April at 8.55am.



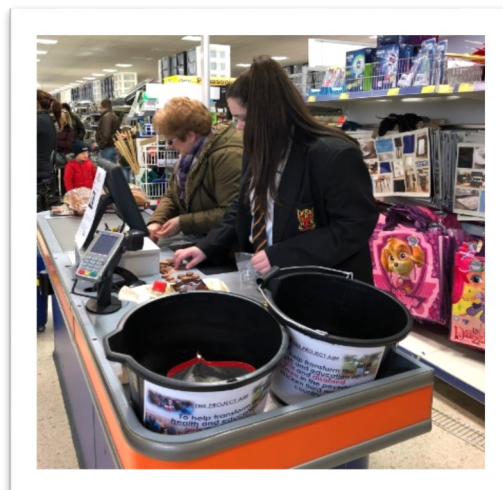


Malawi Project Fundraising

Our fundraising for the Malawi Project is still going strong with various events, details below, raising lots of money for such a great cause.

Race Night

Two of the school's Malawi Ambassadors Robbie Caldwell and John Clark hosted a very successful race night on Saturday 17th March at St Bernadette's Hall which was very well attended with everyone placing their bets on various horse racing fixtures. Overall, the boys managed to raise over £2000 for the project - this is a fantastic amount. Well done to Robbie and John on their great organisation of the event and for raising such a lot of money.



Malawi Bag Packing

Over the weekend of Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th February, the Malawi group continued their phenomenal fundraising efforts with two bag packing stints at the B&M store in Motherwell. Staff and pupils worked hard packing countless shopping bags. Their efforts were duly rewarded though as they managed to raise over £800. Well done to all involved and a huge thanks to everyone who kindly donated!





Clubbersize for Malawi

A Clubbersize event was held on Saturday 10th March at St. Aidan's High School in Wishaw when over 100 people participated in a mass dance workout complete with glow sticks and disco lights. The day was a huge success and also raised funds for Mary's Meals.

Visit by Dr Neilson

The committee were delighted to welcome Dr. Matthew Neilson to speak about his experience of working as a doctor in Malawi. Pupils found out what they can expect from their visit which will take place in June this year.

Partner School

Our school has been partnered with, the 'MisanJo Community Day Secondary School', in Malawi. During the visit pupils are hoping to help improve the school's learning environment and materials with the aim of raising the attendance and attainment of the girls who attend MisanJo.

Braidhurst Parents' Group

Braidhurst Parents' Group are holding a fundraising Race Night on Friday 27th April, at the Centenary Suite at Motherwell Football Club. Tickets cost £3 per adult and £1 per child (over 12's only) and can be purchased by contacting the school on 01698 274999.

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, and ties.

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. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th May at 6.30pm. We hope you can join us!





S2 Storytelling Project – Bea Ferguson

Our 'Storytelling Project' is currently being delivered to twenty S2 pupils by storyteller Bea Ferguson and is shaping up to be a fantastic initiative. Pupils are tasked with finding their own story (perhaps a family story passed down from grandparents or other relatives) or researching a local legend from the Motherwell area (examples of this would be ghost stories from Dalzell House or a family story about the drowned village of Bothwellhaugh). Pupils recently enjoyed a trip to North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre where they learnt more about Motherwell's mining history and were given access to the local studies archives. Bea is helping prepare pupils to enable them to be able to share their stories to an invited audience of family and friends at a tea party on Wednesday 28th March. It is hoped the project will have a positive impact on both the creative and personal reflective writing skills of pupils, whilst also building their self-esteem and positivity about their communities.



English Theatre Trip – Bold Girls

National 5 English pupils enjoyed a visit to the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow to see the play 'Bold Girls' by Rona Munro. It was a great experience for pupils to see the characters that they'd been studying in class come to life. There was a mixture of comedy, sadness and rage as the women in the play dealt with the challenges of life during 1970s Belfast. Live theatre, with its impassioned performances certainly had the audience on the edge of their seats. Overall, pupils and staff had a great day out with the added bonus of ice cream at the interval and a chance to mingle with some of the actors in the cafe after the performance.



Careers Fayre

The school once again hosted a very successful 'Careers Event' for S4-S6 pupils. The assembly hall was packed with stalls from many different organisations, such as Police Scotland and the Citizens Advice Bureau, who were all happy to speak with parents/carers and pupils offering advice regarding future career options to help them make informed decisions. The Performing Arts department provided the evening's entertainment with pupils performing a variety of musical numbers whilst the Parents' Group were on hand to serve refreshments.





Creative Residency

A group of National 5 Art and Design pupils visited this year's Creative Residency Exhibition in Summerlee Museum. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the visit and were inspired by the beautiful examples of artwork and photography that were on show. The exhibition displayed the work from the 2017 Creative Residency in Kilbowie Residential Centre in Oban. This event is a great asset to North Lanarkshire and helps pupils studying Art and Design, English, Music and Drama to develop their skill and confidence in contributing to the healthy ethos of creativity fostered in the authority. If pupils are interested in attending this year they should speak to Mr Chisholm (PT Art/RE).

North Lanarkshire Spring Concert

On Tuesday 20th March, our pupils represented the school at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow for the North Lanarkshire Council Spring Concert. Pupils performed in various bands having given up a significant amount of time at school and at home to prepare for this prestigious event. Well done to all pupils and staff who have helped with rehearsals.



Cameron and Zoe May

The school are very proud of two of its pupils: sibling musicians Cameron and Zoe May who were invited to perform at the British Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia on Friday 2nd February. S3 pupil Cameron, is a fantastic piper, who last year enjoyed great success at the Scots Guards Junior Piping competition where he placed first in two of the categories. Younger sister, S2 pupil Zoe, supplied the perfect accompaniment on the drums. A huge well done to both pupils and a very proud moment for their family and school.





Robotics Success

The school robotics club recently won the regional championship stage of the Vex Robotics Challenge 2017/18 'In the Zone' which took place at the Motherwell campus of New College Lanarkshire. 'Team Braidy,' under the expert supervision of Teacher of Physics, Mr Hussain, beat off all other competitors and had advanced to the Vex Robotics UK national finals. Unfortunately, due to the bad weather, they were unable to travel to the competition. A huge well done to both Mr Hussain and his hard working pupils on their success.



Performance School of Football

For the first stage of the selection process for the Performance School of Football forty-one boys and girls arrived to test their footballing skills in the hope of starting S1 in August as a member of the programme. The second stage took place at the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility due to the snow. The last and final stage, which includes an interview with a member of the teaching staff, will take place this week. Well done to everyone who participated in the trials!



U13 Scottish Cup – Braidhurst High School vs. Ross High School

On Friday 2nd February the Braidhurst U13 team played in the Scottish Cup winning 4-1 against Ross High School. Goals were scored by Jamie Shields (penalty), two from Adam Macdonald and another by George McKenzie. The boys went through to the next round where they met St Margaret's High.

The U13 boy's football team played their Scottish Cup quarter-final match against St Margaret's High School on Monday 19th March. The boys put on a dominant display winning 5-1 with goals from Jamie Shields, Jamie Grant, Ross Watson and Ashton Dunsmore. Congratulations to the U13 team for reaching the semi-finals of the tournament.





Girls Football

Our girls football team marked 'World Down Syndrome Day' by wearing odd socks in their North Lanarkshire Council Active School's League match against St Ambrose High School on Wednesday 21st March.



Girls Netball

It has been an extremely successful season for our S3 and S4 Netball squads this year. Our S3 squad played a very tight and competitive match against the High School of Dundee on Tuesday and after winning the first three quarters, they lost in the final quarter with 25-33.

However, our S3/4 A and B teams have worked hard all year playing in the North Lanarkshire Netball league and both teams have qualified for the semi-finals which are due to take place over the next two weeks.

Our A team will play against St Andrews High school on Tuesday 27th March. Our B team are due to play St Margaret's High School and the date is yet to be confirmed.

The participation in Netball has increased this year and dedication, effort and motivation of staff and pupils is evident and fantastic to see.

Under 15 Football - Scottish Cup

A double from Dylan Kerr was enough to ensure that Braidhurst High School progressed to the quarter finals of the Scottish Cup at the expense of the Nicolson Institute. The first-half was a tightly contested affair with chances few and far between but Braidhurst would take a one goal advantage heading into half-time. From twenty yards out, Dylan scored with an excellent long range strike that left the keeper with no chance. The second followed soon after the restart, an Alex Lowry corner-kick falling kindly to Dylan who fired into the roof of the net with his left foot. Craig Campbell was unlucky not to make it 3-0 to the hosts after his first time strike hit the bar but the match would end 2-0 to Braidhurst. Mr Clarke and Mr O'Toole were delighted that the Under 15s have now progressed further than the previous two years and the squad can now look forward to an away tie hoping to secure a place in the semi-finals. MOTM: Dylan Kerr.





