

The Braidy Times

June 2018— October 2018

Head Teacher's Report

As always we have had a busy and successful start to the term. As you may have noticed our building works continued over the holidays, but we are nearly there! The intention is that over the October break both the heating and windows will be finished. We are delighted with our new look and will continue to work hard to ensure our school building is maintained to the high standard our pupils deserve. We are currently working with our pupil council to discuss how we decorate our assembly hall walls.

We always expect that all of our pupils are in full uniform both in school and when out on trips or events when they are representing us. Lockers are available for winter jackets to be stored in. Pupils should see Ms Watson about renting one – cost is £10 with £5 returned at the end of the year if the key is returned and the locker is in the same condition as at the start of the year. Visitors always comment on how smart our pupils are so we ask that if you are purchasing a jumper could it please be a plain black V-neck so the school tie is always visible. Also, school trousers should be worn – black jeans and hoodies are not acceptable.

If your child needs to leave the school for an appointment can we please ask you to either provide a letter or send an email to office@braidhurst.n-lanark.sch.uk. For safety reasons we do not want to send pupils out of school following a telephone call as we cannot always be certain who is making the call.

By now you will have received the first round of reports to inform you of how your child is settling into the new school term. Our S4 parents' night is on Tuesday 30th of October, starting at 4.15pm, and you will have received a letter explaining how to make appointments. They also have a 'mock interview' evening scheduled for Wednesday 7th of November when all pupils are invited in to the school during the evening to meet with an employer for a mock interview. They are currently completing a CV in school. We would appreciate your support in helping your child finish their CV and encouraging them to attend the event. More details will follow shortly.

Our S1 parents' night is on Tuesday 13th of November with S5/6 on 27th of November, again both starting at 4.15pm. We hope to see you at these events as this provides you with the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers and discuss their progress.

Finally, our Parent Group continue to work hard in supporting the school. They recently held a 'nearly new' sale in North Motherwell Church and their next event is a fashion show which is scheduled to be held on Thursday 8th of November in the school. A great opportunity to purchase some bargains for Christmas presents.

As you will realise from reading this newsletter there is always a lot happening in the school. All information on forthcoming events can be found on the school's website – www.braidhurst.org.

I hope all our pupils enjoy their October break and I look forward to welcoming them back on the 22nd of October at 8.55am for the start of another busy term.



Martin Stewart Visit

The school were delighted to welcome author Martin Stewart to the school before the summer break. Martin delivered a lesson to an English class on best practice for editing pieces of writing. Afterwards he visited the library where he gave a very entertaining and informative session to the class who won the library's reader development programme, the 'Reading Championship'. Pupils who participated in the Author Session were gifted an autographed copy of Martin's book 'Riverkeep'.

Robotics Club—HPE Visit

The school's robotics club were give a special invitation to visit Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), in Erskine. The vast 100,000 sq.ft complex is a hub for the company's refurbishment of IT technology, e.g.: laptops, printers and large servers. Housed within this complex are a number of HPE companies that the club were engaged with. The visit started with a tour to the 0% waste, IT equipment section run by DXC, then it was on to the high tech world of "app" development by Micro Focus International. The host for the day was Mr Scott McNee who continued the visit with a tour of the DXC Green engineering, renewal and refurbishment site, and then members were given a workshop by the "app" development team. After lunch it was the clubs turn to showcase their award winning robotics team to the directors of the various HPE subsidiaries. After the visit Scott contacted the school to thank staff for bringing such an inspiring group of young people along to HPE. He commented that "The pupils were an absolute credit to both themselves and the school and it was a pleasure to host you all today".





Welcome to our new S1 pupils for school session 2018-19. All at Braidhurst wish you the very best of luck in the year ahead.

School Prom

Celebrations were in full swing again at this year's senior prom with pupils and staff joining together for a night to remember. The prom is always a very stylish and glamorous affair. Pupils were dressed in their finest outfits whilst enjoying a delicious meal and dancing at Dalziel Park Hotel. The evening proved a fitting send off for those pupils who are leaving Braidhurst and for those who have completed their fifth year. The school would like to wish pupils the very best of luck in the future. Thanks go to the pupil prom committee and staff who helped organise another fantastic event.



Jackie McCool Memorial Award for Flair and Enthusiasm in English

S5 pupil Eleanor Day was the very first recipient of the 'Jackie McCool Memorial Award for Flair and Enthusiasm in English' which was awarded at the school prize-giving in memory of English teacher Mrs McCool. On hand to witness the trophy being awarded were Mr McCool and daughters Lauren and Rachel. Eleanor was chosen by the English department due to her "incredible involvement with the subject, excitement for language and literature and her wonderful contributions in class discussions" all of which were traits prized and exhibited by Mrs McCool.





Waterstones Trip

The school's S2 Read, Write, Inc. groups enjoyed a trip to Glasgow Fort on Friday 8th June. The pupils' tremendous achievements in improving their reading were recognised by North Lanarkshire Council, who awarded each pupil a £15 voucher for Waterstones. The pupils experienced a workshop involving bookmark-making and enthusiastic advice on choosing their books. Thanks to Eilidh Reid, Waterstones' dedicated children's bookseller, for accommodating our pupils. Following their time in Waterstone's, the group visited Costa Coffee who were delighted to welcome our pupils and very kindly provided them with snacks and drinks to enjoy whilst they eagerly browsed through their new books. The pupils had a fantastic time and represented Braidhurst extremely well. Thanks to Waterstones and Costa for their generosity and hospitality.

School Prize Giving

The school hosted its annual end-of-year prize-giving on Tuesday 12th June in the assembly hall. The event acknowledged and rewarded pupils from all year groups who have shown distinction in academic subject areas; displayed commendable endeavour, or passion for personal reading; an excellence in sport or a dedication to volunteering or being a member of the school/house captaincy team. A platform party of distinguished guests were on hand to assist the prize-giving committee with the presentation of awards: the Reverend Derek Pope opened the event with his introductory remarks, whilst staff retirees Mr Paterson and Mrs Keatings, Mr McGhee (Continuous Improvement Officer for North Lanarkshire Council), and Mrs Lizanne McMurrich (North Lanarkshire Council's Head of Education – South) also contributed. John Beaton (FIFA and SPFL Referee) gave his remarks as principal guest and offered the audience an honest and funny account of his time as a pupil at Braidhurst and his career path as a highly successful referee. The evening was also supported with a terrific programme of musical numbers from the Performing Arts department, including the concert band, saxophone ensemble and our Scottish pipers and drummers.



Harry Cochrane Visit

Hearts of Midlothian player and former SFA Performance School of Football graduate, Harry Cochrane, recently visited Braidhurst to participate in a training and advice session with our current S3 Performance school pupils.





Summer Showcase

The school's 'Summer Showcase', an extravaganza of live music, drama and dance, took place on Thursday 7th June, in front of a packed audience, who were thoroughly entertained by fantastic acts. The show opened with a rousing performance from our highland pipers and drummers before a blistering performance of songs from the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' soundtrack by the wind band. Other highlights from the event included the primary choir, the drama sketches and our fantastic dancers. The event was led by Faculty Head of Performing Arts, Ms Donnelly, ably assisted by Music teachers, Mr Walker and Mr Crawford, and Drama teacher, Mrs Reilly. Once again Braidhurst pupils delivered an amazing show. Well done to all who were involved.



Darci Burns - North Lanarkshire Schools' Pipe Band

Braidhurst pupil Darci Burns, who is a member of North Lanarkshire's Schools' pipe band, was recently credited with an award at a reception outside the Civic Centre as her band won the 'Champions of Champions' title for the best performances across all five major piping championships. The North Lanarkshire Schools' pipe band have also been given the proud honour of marching down 6th Avenue in New York City as part of the annual celebration of Scottish culture in the Big Apple next April. Well done Darci!





U15 Lanarkshire Cup Final

Braidhurst won the Lanarkshire Cup for the third consecutive time having had to come back from behind to beat Duncanrig High School 2-1. The first half was an even contest with very few clear cut chances for either team but just as the half time whistle was about to blow, Duncanrig were awarded a penalty after Cameron Williamson handled inside the box. Goalkeeper Ryan Renwick guessed the right way but couldn't do enough to keep the ball out, leaving Braidhurst with a one goal deficit to overcome. After the break, Cameron Stewart came close to levelling the scores with a great effort that was heading in the top corner but his shot was matched by an excellent save from the goalkeeper. With time running out, Braidhurst finally managed an equaliser. Matthew Barclay switched the ball to Cody McLeod, whose pinpoint cross found Robbie Brown free inside the box to head into the net. As Duncanrig threw players forward to get back in front, Braidhurst broke on the counter attack – excellent work from Cameron Williamson saw him beat two players and play an excellent ball through to Robbie who chipped the ball over the oncoming goalkeeper and into the net. It was no more than the defending champions deserved but they would have to win it the hard way. Braidhurst defended excellently in the closing stages and Cameron Williamson almost put the game out of sight with a late goal but he was denied by yet another terrific save. In the end, two goals from Robbie were enough to see Braidhurst retain the Lanarkshire Cup and ensure captain Steven Rodger would be lifting the trophy for a third time. Mr Clarke and Mr O'Toole were delighted by the result and another successful season. Despite the disappointment of missing out on a place in the Scottish Cup Final after a 1-0 loss in the semi-finals, the U15s managed to put that aside and continue their dominance in this competition. Line Up: Ryan Renwick; Cameron Williamson, Steven Rodger, Aidan Hughes, Grant Mudd (Sub – Matthew Barclay); Cody McLeod, Craig Campbell (Sub – Ross Brownlie), Cameron Stewart, Kyle Laikowski (Sub – Craig Cardno); Robbie Brown, Darrell Love (Sub – Euan Simm). Substitute: Jamie Hamilton.



Girls' Football

On Thursday 14th June, at Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility, our girl's football team participated in the Scottish Multi-cultural Football Festival which celebrates cultural heritage and active citizenship through football. The girls participated in a mini-football tournament and finished in runner-up position.





Malawi Trip

Braidhurst High School, joined the North Lanarkshire 'Aiming Higher in Malawi' project in March 2017. The project linked Braidhurst with a school in Malawi called MisanJo CDSS (Community Day Secondary School). The CDSS schools are the poorest schools in Malawi. The main drive of the project is to improve the attendance of girls and disabled children in secondary education. We also worked with the 'Girls go for Health' programme which aims to encourage girls to go to school and provides them with materials to sustain their educational journey.

In Malawi, education is pivotal to survival. The rate of girls progressing to high school from primary school is very low. One of the reasons for girls dropping out of school is that when girls go through their menstrual cycle, they are not equipped to manage themselves in school and fear the embarrassment from their peers - so they drop out of school. In preparation for our visit, the Malawi ambassadors visited 'Sew Confident', in Bothwell, to make reusable sanitary towels.

Since joining the programme, Braidhurst's Malawi committee organised over 30 fundraising events including: bake sales, bag packing, car washes, tin collections at football games, variety shows and race nights. In advance of their visit to Malawi the committee managed to raise over £15,000 in 18 months. This allowed them to donate to specific projects on our visit, for example, sponsoring individual families with disabled children.

We flew to Malawi for 10 days, along with 6 other schools in North Lanarkshire, in June. The main focus of the visit was our partnership school, MisanJo CDSS where we met all staff and their 400+ pupils. During the visit Malawi ambassadors painted a classroom and planted a vegetable garden. The group also paired with MIYO brand, a printing company in Motherwell, who provided us with clothing to wear whilst painting the classrooms. KIER Construction also donated protective clothing for our visit. The head teacher at MisanJo CDSS, Elias, was absolutely over the moon with our efforts. Other activities that our Malawi group included the delivery of lessons on first aid and heart start. We played netball and football, after donating football strips from Motherwell F.C and the Scottish Football Association.



In Mulanje, Malawi, we visited the Assessment Centre at the U5 Disabled Camp where young mothers take their disabled children to be weighed and assessed. Our pupils engaged with all of the mothers and children and enjoyed helping to feed the babies, giving out stick-ers, and playing games. We also visited the Tailoring factory where our ambassadors were able to purchase items made by the mothers of the disabled children. Our pupils also visited Blantyre Prison where they performed some musical pieces for the prisoners and also watched a singing and dancing display performed by the inmates. The visit aside, the trip provided our pupils with a greater appreciation of a developing country, such as Malawi, a level of poverty that we have never seen. Our pupils developed a greater sense of global citizenship and gained appreciation of the wider world.





Summer School

The school hosted its annual Summer Transition Programme in August. A group of twenty young people took part in a wide range of curricular activities including robotics, trampolining and healthy cooking. The Summer Programme helps ease the transition from primary to secondary and gives young people the opportunity to meet new friends, members of staff and find their way around the school building before the start of term. On the final day the group went to Blair Drummond Safari Park for a day of fun. On Friday 24th August the pupils came together for a final celebration where they received their certificates and showcased a presentation of the activities they took part in during Summer School. The pupils and families were supported by Linda McGurk, Home School Partnership Officer and a large group of school staff.

School Trip to Berlin

A group of pupils from Braidhurst High School recently enjoyed a whirlwind tour of the beautiful capital city of Berlin in Germany before the summer break. The group was accompanied by Mrs Magowan (PT Modern Languages), Dr Gardner (teacher of Chemistry), Mrs Kinnaird, (teacher of English), Ms Lyttle (teacher of Pupil Support and PE), Mr Marshall (teacher of PE), and Mr Brandon (teacher of Pupil Support and History). During the trip, the group took part in a variety of activities, including a visit to the main tourist attractions of the Jewish Memorial, the Gedachtniskirche and the Brandenburg Gate. The group also enjoyed a tour of the Reichstag (the German Parliament); went to the top of the TV Tower, and visited the famous Sports' and Olympic Museum. There was also time to go shopping in the Ritter Sport Chocolate Shop, the Ampelmann Shop and on the Kurfurstendamm, with some purchases being made in the KaDeWe, the largest department store in Europe! To relax, the group spent an afternoon in the Tropical Islands Water Park (the largest indoor water park in the world), where they had fun going down the many flumes and river rapids. The group travelled by ferry from Hull to Rotterdam in Holland and entertained the other passengers on board by line dancing to their favourite tunes. There was also time to stop in the beautiful city of Hannover en route to Berlin. All pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to extend their knowledge of the German culture and language, as well as getting to taste the many types of German sausage!



k18780471 www.fotoserch.com





Connections Festival

Braidhurst recently hosted their very first Connections Festival which celebrated Literacy and Health and Wellbeing over three days, and involved every young person in S1 to S3. Over 300 young people participated in a range of events, including a series of fun and informative author sessions from novelists Alex Nye, Kirkland Ciccone, and Philip Caveney; plus selected pupils took part in workshops which included taster sessions on: slam poetry, comic books, stand-up comedy, storytelling, healthy cookery, yoga, Brazilian drumming, music recording, mindfulness and meditation, football, dance, Internet Safety, Women's Aid, reading with pets, and Young Carers. It was an action-packed few days for pupils and was only made possible by the funding which was gratefully received from the Pupil Equity Fund. This programme aims to try and close the attainment gap amongst all pupils.



School and House Captains for School Session 2018-19

School Captains - Zafar Khan, Katie Kennedy and Lewis McCallum

House Captains

Atholl House - Captain Michaela Hume, Vice-Captain Will Anderson, and Prefects Rebecca Smith and Jay Connelly.

Lorne House - Captain Ellie Lawrie, Vice-Captain Greg Paton, and Prefects Brandon Walker and Samantha Keenan.

Morven House - Captain Abbie Wellcoat, Vice-Captain Caitlin Higgins, and Prefects Melissa Rodger and Lorraine Tollan.

Rannoch House - Captain Emma Reilly, Vice-Captain Robbie Caldwell, and Prefects Scott Allan and Lauren Wilson.





Maths Week Scotland

The Maths department recently celebrated Maths Week Scotland with pupils participating in team problem solving challenges, including 'Bowland Maths' and 'Maths wi Nae Borders'. Some of our S3 classes have been learning how the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans influenced maths and some of our local P7s took part in our Practical Maths Challenge looking at problem solving, tolerance and measure whilst building mini football tables with jelly baby players. Our S2s have had fun participating in the National Sumdog contest. Braidhurst's top 5 pupils were Chloe McKenzie, Marshall Lennox, Robbie Kennedy, Emily Dougan and Katie Morrison.

Read to Succeed Launch

Ten lucky first year students from Braidhurst High school were recently invited by North Lanarkshire Council to the launch of the Read to Succeed programme, aiming to make reading for pleasure a priority. The launch took place at Coatbridge High School and was attended by award-winning author Theresa Breslin and S1 pupils from all secondary schools across the authority. All pupils attending received a free, signed book by the author as part of the Attainment Challenge. During the event senior school literacy champions read poignant extracts from Ms Breslin's book Remembrance. Ms Breslin said: "I was thrilled to be asked to launch North Lanarkshire Council's Read to Succeed Project. There was a wonderfully uplifting atmosphere in the School Hall and it was a joy to meet students and staff so keen to get involved and take forward this exciting project. Providing a wide variety of books and giving every single S1 pupil the opportunity to engage with an author, makes this project truly special. Such reach and depth will create and sustain readers, improving aspirations and attainment." As part of Read to Succeed, Braidhurst will receive an author visit from Philip Caveney (a.k.a Danny Weston).





European Day of Languages

The Modern Languages Department recently celebrated the European Day of Languages with pupils taking part in a variety of activities as part of their celebrations. S1 pupils engaged in an inter-house 'Who Want to Be a Millionaire?' competition in French, with the winners being Morven House who reached a million euros! S1 also made a wall mural of a sea of hands, each depicting a country with words of its language adorning the fingers. In addition, they completed a quiz about famous European scientists made up by Biology teacher, Miss Watson. S2 worked in pairs to create a poster of a European country of their choice. They used iPads to research geographical, historical, cultural and culinary facts about the country, as well as some of the language. S3 and S4 pupils had great fun in the Home Economics Department making French pancakes according to a French recipe, and these tasted 'delicieux' indeed! Other cross-curricular activities included an S2 French boules championship carried out in the PE Department by Mr Egan; an introduction to French mime delivered by Mrs Reilly in the Drama department; and Mrs Kinnaird of the English department organised a 'French words used in the English language' group activity with her S1 class. Excellent posters made by the pupils have been displayed in the corridors. In addition, the very brave Dr Gardner delivered a lesson in French to his National 5 Chemistry class and PT Science, Mr Campbell, taught a Biology lesson in French to his Higher class. Mrs Ballantyne incorporated German words and phrases into her teaching of the 'World War 1' topic with S2 and Mrs Hunter set her pupils a set of Maths challenges. They also played a board game involving translating sums from French to English. In the IT Department, pupils played the online game 'Kahoot' in French and showed themselves to be extremely engaged, enthusiastic and competitive! Under the guidance of Modern Languages teacher, Miss Lennox, pupils with English as their second language produced guides to their country of birth and their mother tongue. Pupils who attend the Hub played French and German games organised by Mrs Currie and were also treated to a French breakfast! All pupils, as well as members of staff, across many curricular areas thoroughly enjoyed their experiences and have improved their knowledge of French, German and hopefully other languages in the process!



Strasbourg Here We Come!

Former pupil Louise Coletta recently visited the Modern Languages Department in Braidhurst High School to share some exciting news with the members of staff. Louise studied French and German to Advanced Higher Level in the school and for the last two years, she has continued her studies at Glasgow University, adding Italian and Spanish to her repertoire of linguistic competencies. She is extremely excited to be leaving next week to spend a year in the beautiful city of Strasbourg, where she will teach English to school pupils. As Strasbourg is on the German border, Louise is looking forward to using her German language skills through exploring the country in her free time, as well as spending as much time as possible getting to know Strasbourg itself. Her teachers are delighted for Louise and are very proud of her achievements. Louise assured them that she will keep in touch and it is hoped that classes in Braidhurst can set up a correspondence with the pupils in Louise's school.





Alliance Visit

Madame Veronique Miller from the Alliance Francaise in Glasgow visited the Higher French Class in Braidhurst last week to deliver a lesson on a topic covered as part of the course. This is a three week project with the aim of developing pupils' aural, oral and reading skills in the language. Topics covered are: bullying and school life, learning languages and future plans, and focussing on performance speaking. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know a native French speaker and they involved themselves with enthusiasm in all of the activities. They now look forward to the subsequent sessions.



Mental Health Ambassadors

The school has recently appointed several of our senior pupils as Mental Health Ambassadors. Due to the increasing awareness of mental health problems amongst young people across our local community, the school is determined to offer as much support as it can to our pupils, this includes the crucial introduction of our mental health ambassador programme. Our ambassadors have been trained in various aspects of mental health and will begin by supporting the delivery of PSHE lessons to S2 pupils. We wish the pupils all the very best in this very important role.

Inter-House Afternoon

On Thursday 20th September the school hosted its first inter-house event of the year which involved pupils from all house groups competing in a series of activities, including: football, dodgeball, table tennis, a bake off, 'Minute to Win it', and a music quiz. The competition was fiercely contested but there can only be one winner, or in this case two, with Atholl and Rannoch house tying for first place. Well done to all the pupils who were involved in this fantastic afternoon of house events.

Dragon's Lair

A group of S3 pupils recently attended the 'Dragon's Lair' competition hosted by the Business Gateway at the Atrium Centre in Coatbridge. The pupils were bidding to win the prestigious Dragon's Lair award for their business innovation, planning and marketing by submitting a business plan outlining their idea. Good luck to all the pupils involved.

Reading Championship

The final rewards event for the S2 winners of the reader development programme, the 'Reading Championship' have taken place. The pupils of 2R met in the library, for a movie and munchie box feast, where they enjoyed watching 'The Greatest Showman' before tucking into a delicious buffet of hot food and cakes prepared by the fantastic ladies of the school canteen. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the reward which recognised how seriously they had taken their personal reading throughout the school year.

