

### School Visitors

Soundsational are a community choir based in Coatbridge. They have one hundred and twenty members. Brian and Jen from the group are working with our Primary seven children over the next few weeks and then they will take part in a choir event on Wednesday May 14th in Motherwell Civic Centre—keep this date in your diary!

### After School Clubs

This term the following afterschool clubs are running:

NL Challenge Activities (lunch time)

Badminton

Orienteering

Football

Netball

Drama

Story Club

*A big thank you to our teaching staff who give up their own time to run these clubs. We could not do this without their hard work and good will.*

### School Outings

Children in Primary 7 who are attending Kilbowie from 24th of March until 28th of March attended a meeting with their parents to find out more about the trip. Medical forms, equipment lists etc. were handed out. These should be returned as soon as possible. All money outstanding should now be paid.

If you have any questions relating to this newsletter or indeed any other issue please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Mary Cruickshank

Head Teacher



**SAINT THOMAS' PRIMARY**

February 2014



### Class Assembly

This month was the turn of Miss Chamber's class. The children told us all about their recent topic on owls. They said a poem, sang some songs and read their stories out. We also saw some lovely photographs of the children holding real owls during a recent visit from "Owl Magic."

### Parent Council

The Parent Council gave the children a further two hundred pounds towards the active playground being built in the grounds.

They have also agreed to pay for the Primary One children to travel to The Teddy Bears' Picnic—held in Strathclyde park each year. The children will bring home a sponsorship form for St Andrew's Hospice.

The Parent Council are meeting with representatives of Police Scotland and NLC Roads' Department this month to try and improve the dropping off arrangements during peak times. Can I remind parents that they SHOULD NOT park at the front of the school to drop their children off. There is a car park at Wishaw Sports' Centre which is the designated drop off point. Father King has also agreed that the church car park can be used for this purpose.

Our Valentine's Disco was a great success last Thursday. We had a large number of nursery and new start children at the infant session. The older children had a great time too. A big thank you to the parents (and teaching staff) who come along and offer support.

### Parents In School

Pauline Russell our CLD (Parent Support) worker is running "Speakeasy" and "Understanding Children's Behaviour" courses for parents in school each Tuesday and Wednesday this term. If you are interested please contact the school office. (01698 274960)

## St Aidan's High School Liaison Programme

Our primary seven teachers attended a Maths Champions meeting in the High School this month. This gives staff from across our cluster school the opportunity to meet up and discuss the work being done in our primaries.



## Communication with Parents / Carers

Parents should now receive e-mail updates / communication. (Some parent addresses bounced back, if you believe you should be getting e-mail updates please resend your e-mail address to our enquiries post box.)

### *Head Teacher Blog*

Each week I blog about events in the school. Please feel free to read and comment. The address is:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/stTHT/>

### *Twitter Account*

We now have a school twitter account which will be updated daily where possible. The twitter address is

@stthomasprimary

We already have 18 followers—please pass the word about this service which will give friends and family a real insight into what goes on in our modern primary school.



## School—Parish—Home Partnership

This month we held our first "Faith Week" in school. We were very fortunate to have The Blessed Sacrament here throughout the week. We had an oratory set up in our conference room. Children visited each day, they spent time meditating and praying. Some older children spent their breaks in the room. They were at all times well behaved and showed real respect and reverence during the whole week.

We had a number of special visitors in school during the week, Mr

Michael McGrath, Director of SCES, spoke to the older children about prayer. He also brought the materials for the Pope Francis Faith Award. Look out for the children wearing yellow wrist bands!

Mr George Burns, former Depute Head of St Margaret's High School in Livingstone spoke to the children about prayer in his life and Mrs Mhairi Mc Callum spoke to them about The Pilgrimage Trust and the work they do with children in Lourdes.

Father John, a supply priest from St Patrick's Parish met with Mr Duffy's class and was presented with a cheque for one hundred pounds. The children raised the money during their sponsored car race.

Staff from St Andrew's Hospice spoke to the infant children about the work they do to raise funds for the hospice. The children handed over their Christmas badge tins and we were delighted to hear that they had collected two hundred and sixty pounds. This is in addition to the money collected in the parishes for the "Light Up A Life" Christmas trees.

Our week finished with a joyful Mass on Friday 7th of February. P3 and P3/4 led the liturgy at Mass.

Father Martin Chambers came into school on Friday 14th of February to speak at assembly. He brought his guitar and taught the children some hymns. He has a real gift for speaking to children! A big thank you to all of the people who came along to speak to us throughout the week. Mr Finnon's class have sent thank you cards on behalf of everyone.

### Pope Francis Faith Award

Eighteen children were enrolled for this very prestigious award during Mass on Education Sunday. The children are part of a very important pilot of only twenty two school across Scotland. Please pray for our children as they begin this journey. They are attending Mass and Novena every second Wednesday as part of their preparation.