

Dear Families

Apologies for not getting my bulletin out on Friday....it was such a busy day with the House Captains leading a P1-7 Scottish Fun and Frolic morning, followed by an afternoon of Scottish Poetry recitals for P4-7 with the Abernethy Burns Society judging, that I ran out of time for the paperwork side of things!

The House Captains (Bertie, Eilidh, Olivia, Arran and Alice) did a super job of planning 3 events where children got to hunt the haggis outside in the playground (it stayed dry right to the end!), creating haggis creatures from the tatties provided by our friends at Branstons, and fun games in the gym hall including pin the tail on the haggis (of course nobody won – because nobody can say for sure where a tail actually is on a haggis), a chase game of haggis-haggis-neeep, a haggis-shy (think coconuts) and a hoop throwing game with a miraculous link to the spelling of, you guessed it, haggis). We hope you enjoyed the photos on Learning Journals. It was a lot of fun and the children gave the House Captains great feedback to help them plan their next House event.

Many congratulations to our poetry winners this year, where we saw P6 pupil Juno lift the Annual Burns Trophy. Other winners on the day included: Eilidh, Bertie and Juno (all P7), Annabelle and Ella (in P6), Sam, Lillie and Harry (from P5), Sylvie, Cerys, and Katie (from P4). Well done to them all for having the confidence to perform in front of a big audience of pupils and judges. But a big well done to all pupils who did their homework and learned their poem – it's not an easy thing to recite in front of your class, but many pushed themselves out of comfort zones to get there!

- It's not been a dry January for us.... more of a wet one really! Here's hoping we can see a bit more dry weather and paler grey skies as we fly through February. The children have been out in the playground most days so far and I'm glad to say most are coming dressed for Scottish weather. We're still seeing a mucky playground so we encourage you to send your child to school with a pair of indoor shoes – especially for PE. I've asked Teachers to get in touch with you directly if children need gym shoes (as PE lessons in boots or stocking soles is not ideal). These can go home each night in bags if they're needed for other clubs etc.
- Big congratulations to the BIG ART winners P2-7, whose artwork is now part of the display at St Pauls Square in Perth. It'll be on display until mid February, so do please take a peek (day or night) at the collection from winners across PKC. Abernethy winners included: Niamh in P2, Isla in P3, Maud in P4, Amber in P5, Samuel in P6 and Harris C in P7
- The Parent Council met last week for a catch up about what's going on for our school. Meetings are held once each term. There was a good chat about Fundraising. We are pretty sure that all parents know that all money raised goes towards buying things for the children! The Parent Council are chatting about how they let other parents – you – know more about their work so keep an eye open for more comms coming out soon. It's not just fundraising that the Parent Council (PC) do for our school. The PC is the voice for all parents and one of their functions is to meet with me (Head Teacher) and Mrs Hodgkinson (as Staff Representative) to discuss the progress of the school in our development work. We chatted this week about our Maths Curriculum – see below for more info ...

- The Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) is the name of our current guidance on what and how we teach children from the age of 3 – 18. The CfE is now 15 years old and is currently under review by Education Scotland. One of the first areas of the Broad General Education (the 8 curricular areas studied) to be reviewed is Maths and Numeracy. It will take some time for the full review to impact what children and teachers do in the classroom and school staff across Scotland are being encouraged to take part in the conversation about it at this stage. In Abernethy we're looking at how – right now- we can make our current curriculum meet the needs of our learners. To help us, I'd also like to ask you 5 simple questions about Numeracy.... Can you spare a few minutes to give us some of your thoughts? Click on this link to take you directly to the wee Form..... [What Parents can tell us about Numeracy \(in Maths\) – Fill in form](#) We welcome ALL PARENTS to fill this out, Nursery to P7.
- We'll keep reminding ALL PARENTS about our Numeracy Night, with a guest speaker who's going to show you that you're all pro's at numeracy skills. 1st April, here in the dining hall. Children are welcome to attend the 'kids club' we'll open for one evening only (supervised by teaching staff). Obviously we'll struggle if all 116 pupils turn up....so please only bring children if you've no other baby-sitting options. Door will open at 5.50pm for cakes and coffee (provided by the Parent Council – donations welcome!) and Chris, the speaker, starts at 6.15pm, finishing at 7.15pm.
- Last week I mentioned the Glasgow Wellbeing and Motivation Scale, that we used with P3-7 pupils to gather their thoughts on their life at school. There were 20 questions in total. Staff have reviewed the feedback scores from children and here are a few interesting ones....

Statements put to the children....	Average score of all pupils... out of 10	Next steps as a school?
I like this school	8.5	We'll keep using Pupil Voice in classrooms and as a whole school to gather pupil views as we try to meet the needs of all. Fun events such as last week's Scottish Fun & Frolic morning and getting new play equipment for the playground helps.
I am good at working with others	7.7	Employers have been telling the Scottish Government they want school leavers, as employees, to be able to work in a team and to have good interpersonal (and meta) skills. It starts aged 3 and continues to 18 – group or paired work is a feature of schooling as well as children having opportunities to work by themselves.
Other pupils look out for me in school	7.8	We do encourage children to be 'upstanders' when it is safe and appropriate to do so. We've talked about this through our anti-bullying assemblies. We will continue to encourage children to use their words to help others (this may mean get an adult to help, or remind others about making good choices.) Meanwhile, I always encourage children: if you can be anything...be kind. To yourself and to others.
I can wait till it's my turn	7.6	Again, it starts in Nursery and sometimes doesn't get easy until we're adults! But we'll keep encouraging this. Interesting and astute that some children recognise this is tricky for them.

Adults look out for me in school	8.5	Whilst an encouraging score, it would be good to see this 'higher'. This is going to feature as a question we have further conversations about in classrooms to drill down to how children think this could further improve.
Teachers tell me what I am good at	8.4	Teachers know the power of feedback, which includes telling children what they've done well and pointing out what they need to keep working on. In order for learners to feel good about themselves and to push themselves on, they need to hear this. We've had recent talks about how we give prompt and manageable feedback in Maths lessons recently. More about this soon.
People listen to me in school	7.5	It's important to take time to listen carefully and show children understanding and then make decisions based on the best outcome for all. Teachers use Pupil Voice often to gather views and suggestions. It's also relevant, we think, to help children understand that whilst we listen, it may not always result in the desired action one might want. There is a link here, too, to children's understanding of themselves in being able to be patient and wait their turn (see that one higher up!)
I feel safe in school	8.6	This is an important question that we will look into this week! Staff think the physical security of our school is good. So maybe this week, when we ask this question again as a class conversation, children will tell us more details.
I would tell if I felt picked on by anyone in school	7.7	The younger classes scored this very highly, but we noted the older children's scores were a tad lower. There can at times feature a 'don't grass' thing going on for older pupils. So we'll keep reminding children that it is not healthy to bottle things up for fear of repercussion. Parents should also remind their children to speak to a safe adult in situations where they don't feel able to stand up for themselves with peers or indeed adults.

- Finally, just to let you know we've reported to PKC the wee wall on the ramp outside the school as requiring attention. There are some loose bricks there. Please discourage children from climbing on this wall. Also, please remind children not to climb on the wall by the staff carpark, as we'd hate for any child to fall off and hurt themselves.



I hope this bulletin gives you some insight into what kind of things we've been up to recently. Please remember, you can phone or email us anytime to get any help you may need. Whilst we do not give out teachers personal school emails for communication, if you send an email to Abernethy@pkc.gov.uk it will be sent on to the teacher or Nursery Key Worker ASAP. If your matter is more confidential, I'd recommend you call the school and ask the relevant staff member to phone you back. We will always be happy to help.

Kind regards

Fiona Whittet, Head Teacher