

# Balbardie Primary News

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/Balbardie/>



## February 2013

Dear Parent / Carer,

As the term progresses, our children are engaging in a wide range of learning experiences. You will be able to access a weekly update of the learning taking place in your child's classroom (and outwith!) on the school blog, and we fully appreciate and value any comments you wish to leave and for your support with their learning.

To further include you in your child's learning, we are planning an Open Morning this month where you will be invited into school to see your child 'in action'. This will be followed up with our Parents' Consultations in the middle of March. Dates for these can be found below.

If at any point you have a question, query or worry, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or through email at [greg.welsh@wled.org.uk](mailto:greg.welsh@wled.org.uk)  
Greg Welsh (Head Teacher)

### Open Morning

Our annual Open Morning will take place on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February between 11.00am and 12.00pm. This provides all parents/carers with the opportunity to visit the school whilst the children are participating in their learning experiences. The feedback from last year was very positive and I look forward to seeing many of you in school that morning.

### Parent Consultations

The next scheduled parents' consultations will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March. A letter will be sent home outlining these arrangements on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February and should be returned to all class teachers by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. This will allow us to issue



appointment times on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Children in P3-P7 should attend this meeting, as it is important for them to share their learning and their next steps in learning. If there are confidential issues to discuss, the teacher will make arrangements for this to happen.

### Staff Changes

There will be a small change in staffing arrangements taking effect in school following the February break. If your child's class will be affected by any of these changes, a separate letter will be issued on Friday.

As always, every change in staffing is given careful consideration to meet the needs of our children.

### Primary 2 'Billy No Buzz'

Our Primary 2 children will be performing 'Billy No Buzz' for their parents on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March at 11.15am. A separate letter will be issued to ensure that we can make appropriate arrangements for the numbers wishing to attend.

### Planned Extension

I have recently met with the architects responsible for the extension work, and have detailed below the current position. Planning permission has been granted and the work approved by the local authority. At this stage, timescales are still being planned for work to begin and I will provide an update once I have this information. It is likely that work will not start until the end of this session. I will also provide information on any changes to our current practices that will be required during the works.

### P6m Assembly Date Change

Due to Primary 6's schedule for rehearsing their performance of Alice, we have had to rearrange P6m's assembly date. P6m assembly, scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> March, will now take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you to P6m parents for your understanding with this.

### Fundraising Group



The Valentine disco will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

P1-3 6.00pm – 7.00pm

P4-P7 7.15pm – 8.15pm

Tickets priced £1.00, including refreshments, are available from the school office. Glow sticks are also on sale at £1.00 each.

### Bathgate Procession and John Newland Festival

Bathgate Procession Committee are holding the following fundraising events:

Fundraising Zumba event in Masonic Hall, Jarvey Street, Bathgate - Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am (Doors open 10am). Adults and children over 8 years old welcome. Tickets £5 each including raffle.

Fundraising Family Disco in Fairway, Bathgate. Tickets £3 Each. Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm till 11pm.

Please check Bathgate Procession and John Newland Festival facebook page or call - 077959 64039 for tickets or further details.

### School Blog

Our school blog has recently been redesigned to provide a wider variety of information. Our school handbook, lunch menus, Parent Council information, as well as a record of our children's learning are all available on the blog.



An analysis of the number of visitors we have to the blog indicates that it is being well used and we would now like to encourage you to leave comments/responses to the updates. I know that the children would enjoy reading these.



### Poetry Recitals

I was extremely impressed by all of our children who recited their favourite or well known Scots poem to our panel of judges on 21<sup>st</sup> January. There was a wide range of material and the children had obviously worked hard learning their poem.

The winning recitals from each class –

P1g Ava Campbell	P1b Caitlin Reid
P2/1 Abbie Sutherland(P2)	P2/1 Mya Pettigrew
P2pg Zoe Cochrane	P2lg Sophie Lindner
P3b Kiera Brown	P3lm Iona Downie
P4l Sam Davies	P4a Ava Brown
P5ms Amy Coakley	P5a Caitlin Black
P6h Natalie Reilly	P6m Rebecca Gegg
P7b Nathan Graham	P7m Jessica Smillie

### P7 Burns Supper

*On the 24<sup>th</sup> of January, Primary 7 had a ceilidh, followed by a Burns supper. The ceilidh was at Bathgate Academy in the assembly hall and at the break the Home economics department made haggis bon-bons, they were spicy. In the afternoon we had a Burns supper in the Gym Hall at Balbardie PS, most people got haggis, neeps and tatties, we all got diet Irn-bru and the choir performed "Dignity" and "Caledonia", Jessica Smillie performed "Ae Fond Kiss". We also danced to Strip the willow and everyone had a great time, the photographer came and took photos of Ben Sharkey, Andrew Harkins and Lucas Bryce, wearing their kilts.*

*Master of Ceremonies – Ben Sharkey*

*The piping of the haggis – Ramie Graham*

*Address to the haggis – Robyn Finlayson & Andrew Harkins*

*Selkirk Grace – Sian Moffat*

*Toast tae the Lassies – Lucas Bryce*

*Reply tae the Laddies – Kirstie Macintosh*

*By Mark Gallagher P7M*

### P2lg Assembly

*Our assembly was The Gruffalo in Scots. My favourite part was going to the library with my mum and dad after the assembly.*

*By Cole*

*I was the amazing snake. I liked being the snake.*

*By Lennox*

### DIARY DATES

#### February

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dress Down Day (Float committee fund)  
Assembly – Mr Bremner
- 6<sup>th</sup> PM - Mr Chen working with P7  
Education Scotland visiting to view IT provision  
Medication Policy Review in school
- 7<sup>th</sup> Health and Safety audit in school
- 8<sup>th</sup> P1g Assembly – parents welcome 9.45am
- 11<sup>th</sup> **HOLIDAY**
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Staff In-service (Pupil holiday)**
- 13<sup>th</sup> PM - Mr Chen in P7
- 14<sup>th</sup> PM - P6 and P7 Sports Programme starts
- 15<sup>th</sup> P7b Assembly – parents welcome 9.45am
- 18<sup>th</sup> P7 visit to Botanic Gardens (Rainforest theme)  
Scottish Power Electricity Workshops  
(P1,2,3,4 and 6)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Scottish Power Electricity Workshops (P5, P7)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation letter issued  
P5 Club Golf  
PM – Mr Chen in P7
- 21<sup>st</sup> PM – P6 and 7 Sports Programme
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 11.00am – Open Morning
- 25<sup>th</sup> P6 Theatre Performance – The Journey – in school
- 27<sup>th</sup> P5 Club Golf  
PM – Mr Chen in P7
- 28<sup>th</sup> Aileen Paterson (author) visiting P3  
PM – P6 and 7 Sports Programme

#### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dress Down Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation appointments issued
- 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultations
- 28<sup>th</sup> Last day of term

### 2013-2014 Term Dates

The school term dates for 2013-2014 can be found on the following website. A paper copy of this will be issued later in the term.

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/education/schoolre/lateditems/893/860>