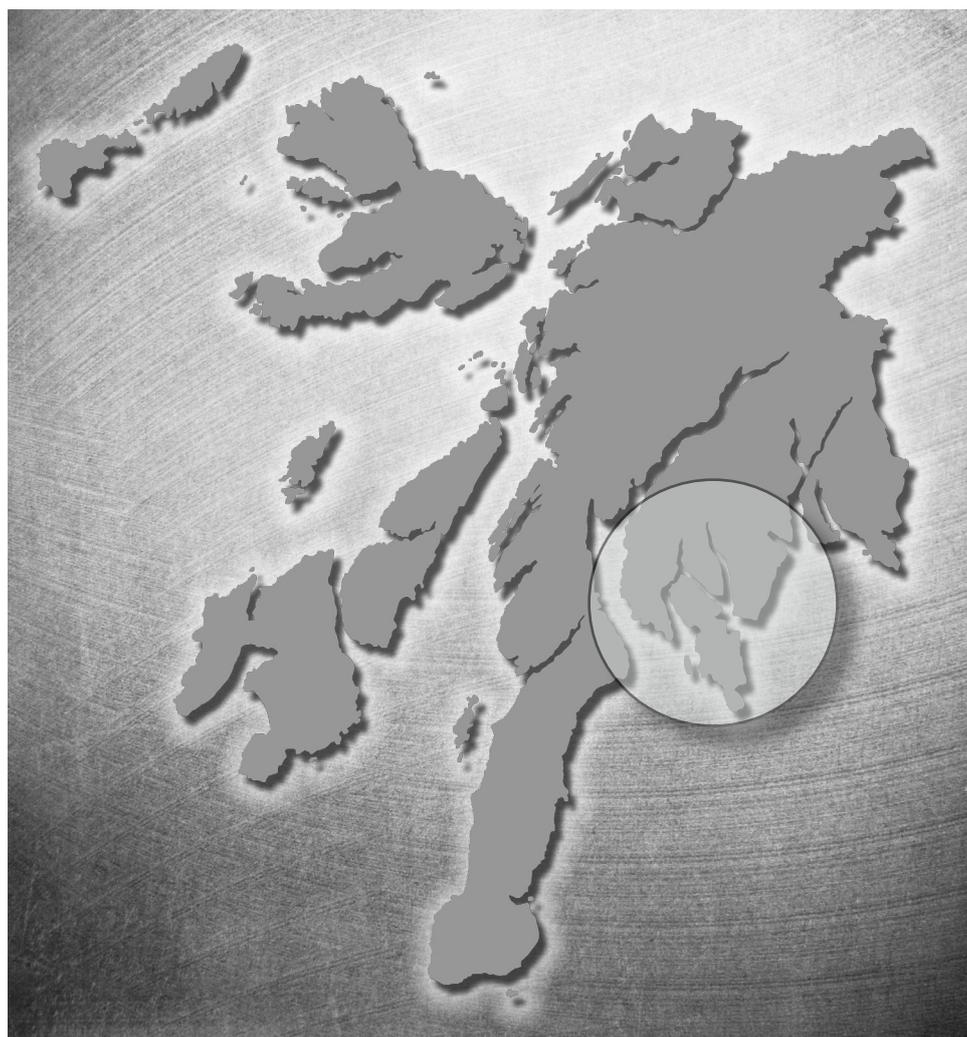


Argyll and Bute Council

Community Services: Education



Teaching and Learning 3 -12 across
Bute and Cowal Primary Schools 2013/14

Introduction

Bute and Cowal area consists of 14 primary schools – 11 in Cowal and 3 on Bute. Nursery provision is provided within seven of these schools. Gaelic Medium education is provided at Sandbank

Primary. This year there have been several staff changes with Sandra Bark taking up the permanent post of head teacher at Lochgoilhead and Lorraine Fisher taking up the permanent post of head at

St Mun's. Fiona Anderson is currently the acting head teacher at Kirn and John Lawson is the current acting principal at Rothesay Joint Campus.

Teaching and Learning across Bute and Cowal Primaries

'Shake Up Their Wake Up' at St. Mun's

Primary 5/4 at St Mun's helped the whole school to 'Shake Up Their Wake Up' by taking part in The Big Farmhouse Breakfast week at the end of January. Pupils developed their organisational and communication skills by creating menus for each class, cooking different healthy breakfast options, carrying out surveys and devising a breakfast race to help everyone stay fit and healthy!

Primary 5/4 worked collaboratively throughout the week to serve staff and pupils who almost felt they were in a real restaurant!



St. Mun's interdisciplinary topic on Scotland

Tuesday 7th January saw the official launch of St Mun's new whole school inter disciplinary learning topic on Scotland. Planning for the project involved staff, pupils, parents and carers and the parish of Our Lady and St. Mun's who were asked to put their heads together to help plan and share skills ensuring the children would get the most out of their learning. The project started with a whole school celebration of all things Scottish, including a display of Ceilidh dancing from the Primary 3-5 classes and a visit from Alex Pollock who told the children about the origin of Tartan and the kilt. Scotland's heritage and history will be examined using a variety of themed projects including Katie Morag, Celtic design, Scots language and The Clydebank Blitz.



SANDBANK PRIMARY'S GREAT EXHIBITION



P6/7 pupils from the Gaelic unit in Sandbank Primary (Bunsgoil Thaigh a'Chladaich) have been learning about the history of the Holy Loch area over the past two hundred years. The work was organised by a representative from Kilmun Mausoleum who arranged for a weaver and a heritage worker to work with the children. Information from the gravestones at Kilmun, including occupations, infant mortality and the gristly work of resurrectionists was gathered and pupils researched famous

people connected to Kilmun and the timeline of the Campbell Earls and Dukes of Argyll (EarraGhaidheal). Pupils took part in two workshops which included; basket-making, weaving with willow to make a sheep hurdle, making rope from rushes (luacharan) and thatching a medieval house. A visit to the archive section of Sandbank library helped pupils to research books, maps, old pictures, postcards and microfiche. The heritage worker also brought in artefacts from Auchindrain and the Castle House Museum, Dunoon. Many of the artefacts would have been used by crofting families around the Cowal area, so this work will continue over the next year as the children look at the story of wool and the growing of grain as part of our ongoing Crofting Connections & Local History projects. The pupils' work was ready for the public to view at the Burgh Hall in Dunoon on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd of March. Some of the pupils volunteered to become curators and showed people around the exhibition on those days.



TIGNABRUAICH GETS WALKING

Tighnabruaich Primary, in partnership with Toward Primary, was successful in getting funding from Education Scotland's Core Physical Education Fund for staff and volunteers to be trained as Nordic Walking instructors. This has enriched the PE curriculum and enabled the school to make

more use of the local environment as a resource. A Big Lottery Communities Fund award funded the purchase of Nordic Walking poles, and Nordic walking is to be introduced to both communities as an after school activity open to everyone of all ages.

SEAFOOD FESTIVAL AT TOWARD



Toward Primary senior class pupils recently had an exciting visit to Loch Fyne Oyster Bar and Restaurant.

The children started the day with a trip to see the different processes that the mussels and oysters go through in preparation for being sold. After lunch the children watched a presentation on Loch Fyne and then to their surprise and delight they had the chance to taste some of the 'Fyne' delicacies that come out of the restaurant. Out of the class of 20, 17 children tried an oyster and managed to swallow it!

They also tried Bradan Rost and smoked mussels which were a great success all round. A great day was had by all and they are hoping for a return visit soon.

BUDDING ARTISTS IN KIRN

P7 at Kirn have been finding out about local artists and were fortunate to be invited by Louise Brennan-Stewart to have an afternoon looking around her gallery in Gourrock. The Seagull Gallery is the largest private gallery in Inverclyde and houses original art and prints from both local and well-known artists. Mrs Brennan-Stewart took P7 around the gallery pointing out some local and internationally known artists, such as Peter Howson. Pupils then had an opportunity to choose one piece of art, painting or other material, to sketch.



Some of the comments the P7s made after the visit were very insightful:

"I learned that art is really meaningful and emotional"

"The picture which really caught my heart was by Gregor Adams"

"I liked art before but now I love it"

"I learned that art is not made from just paints, but can be made from bike chains, bandages and concrete."

"I learned that you can make art from almost anything and let your feelings out when you draw"

"I learned that art doesn't have to look like something, it can express feelings. I learned that art doesn't have to be complicated, it can be really simple like stained glass windows."

VIKING INVASION THWARTED IN BUTE!



Children from all 3 Bute Primaries defended Rothesay Castle from an invasion by Vikings on 28th September 2013. Primary 7 pupils had prepared costumes, and weapons to use on the day. The Vikings arrived by Longboat and quickly stormed the Castle. A fierce

battle followed but Bute emerged victorious and celebrated with a torch-lit procession and fabulous firework display. Thanks go to Bute Museum for teaching the children more about the Vikings.

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE AT INNELLAN!

Pupils at Innellan Primary undertook a water interdisciplinary topic. This topic involved studying the work of Argyll artist William McTaggart and visits to the shoreline which inspired the pupils' paintings and poetry. Pupils also visited Bishop's Glen to study the water cycle/table.



Enterprise:

Dunoon Grammar School Pupils get down to Business!

Some of Dunoon Grammar School's senior learning centre pupils were delighted to invite local entrepreneurs in to school to talk about their experiences as business people. The pupils are undertaking an ASDAN short course in Enterprise. ASDAN offer a range of certificates and qualifications that allow pupils to work at their own pace and own level, making them ideal for many learning centre pupils. One module requires students to find out what qualities you need to be a good entrepreneur so pupils thought there could be no better way to find out than to ask some of our communities successful business people.



Pupils digitally recorded the interview and will go on to make their own spoof radio show about business and enterprise. This will also be recorded and added to the evidence they are collecting in their ASDAN folders. When pupils have completed enough modules over a sufficient number of hours they will then be awarded a certificate which is recognised by both further education institutions and future employers.

NORTH BUTE GET ORGANISING

Children at North Bute Primary are very enterprising and willing to take on responsibilities. They regularly organise events themselves. This session P6/7 have organised a Bring and Buy sale and each year organise all the school's shows. P4/5 organised a Winter

Warmer for the whole village. Each class organise regular tearooms for all members of the community, especially the elderly and P1/2 recently organised a Mother's Day Daffodil tea, with all proceeds going to Cancer research.

CAST projects:

CAST was delighted to offer schools in the area the chance to take part in a specially designed art project during January – April 2014. Each school was offered a visit from a specialist artist who worked with pupils to create a piece of cloth which represented Scotland's Welcome to the Commonwealth in 2014. Based on

iconic images of Scotland, pupils design and produce a length of uncut cloth, inspired by the traditional approaches to cloth making from Argyll & Bute and either of our two twinning nations (as designated by The Commonwealth Games and 'Game On Scotland") These are Swaziland and Cyprus.

9 schools from Cowal and Bute took part and undertook the following preparation before the artist's visits.

- collecting iconic images of Scotland including landscapes
- collating a list of words which can be used in the designs
- discussing Swaziland, Cyprus and the Commonwealth Games.

The CAST artists also showed a specially recorded film featuring Jillie Blackwood, the designer for the Commonwealth Games costumes. During the film she sent an inspirational message to Argyll and Bute pupils to help them with their design work.

Outdoor Learning/Forest Schools:

THE GREEN MAN AT NORTH BUTE!

Primary 4/5 of North Bute have been busy working on a science topic of plants. As part of that topic, the pupils went on Thinking Walks, copying the idea from Charles Darwin. He went on these walks regularly to think about his discoveries. The pupils collected specimens and pressed them to study them more.

When the leaves were pressed and dried, the class made a fantastic representation of the Green Man – obviously not so green but more autumnal! They did this with the help of Jessica Herriot, Scottish Heritage who knows so much about local plants and trees. The pupils learned so much and had a great time making their collage.



LADDER MAKING AT KILMODAN PRIMARY

Ladder planning...

- ✓ We measured using the white board (in the background of the photographs).
- ✓ We made a proto type
- ✓ We calculated how high the sides needed to be
- ✓ We calculated the height of the first rung based on Catriona (Pre 5) acting out a step up to the first rung. She is the smallest in the Pre 5 class.
- ✓ We reported our findings back to the class.



Pupils at Kilmodan primary work outdoors regularly and a recent activity involved making a ladder and identifying the steps they took to achieve their final product.

How to make our own ladder...



KILMODAN PUPILS HAVE A SWINGING TIME

How we made our own swing...



Satisfied Customers...



ALLOTMENT CHALLENGE AT TIGHNABRUAICH

The Forest School initiative is in its third year of development in Tighnabruaich Primary School and Kilfinan Community Forest have allocated a new and permanent area for the school. Pupils are now preparing plans to develop a seating area and shelter and writing funding bids as part of this project. Another member of staff

is undergoing Forest School leader training, ensuring sustainability of provision at the school. As part of an exciting new development the school has just taken possession of its own raised bed within the neighbouring allotment, thanks to the Kyles Allotment Group.

Eco Learning- Eco Schools:

CLEAN UP DUNOON!

A campaign to clean up the area around Dunoon Primary School – and beyond – is well underway. The school's Eco Committee was delighted to receive its second Green Flag. This year's committee of pupils from P2 to P7 is full of enthusiasm and has begun an anti-dog mess and cigarette stub campaign. Pupils designed posters to highlight the various problems of dog mess, cigarette stubs, discarded cigarette packets and chewing gum on pavements.

To get some hints and tips the committee sought help from staff from Argyll and Bute Council and other groups. Posters will be mounted on boards kindly donated by Stewart Shaw Ltd. Pupils are also looking forward to a visit from the Dogs Trust next month, to look at responsible dog ownership as a way of tackling Dunoon's messy problem. 'On its blog, the Eco Schools Committee wrote "We would be delighted to receive comments from the public to help improve our campaign and make Cowal a cleaner, a more environmentally friendly and an even better place to live."



HOLYROOD APPLE DAY

In October 2013, three members of Strone Primary Eco Committee attended the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh for Holyrood Apple Day with a representative from the Ardentinnny Walled Garden Project to present apples picked from the garden. The P1-4 class had been to pick the apples from Ardentinnny and had baked apple flapjacks for people to try. The committee had picked new varieties as well as apples from the old Victorian apple tree in the garden.

In Edinburgh the pupils met lots of different groups who had been growing their own fruit, and we were presented with a Wee Apples

Award. Education Minister, Michael Russell came to meet them and even tried their flapjacks! He said they were delicious. He arranged for the pupils to have a tour of the Parliament building and to sit in the Debating Chamber. It was very interesting. They couldn't understand why the politicians were allowed to shout out when people were talking, and to boo, it wouldn't be allowed at Strone!

They had a wonderful day and learned a lot and would like to especially thank all the people at Glenfinart for working with them when they visited the garden.



'SILVER' FOR LOCHGOILHEAD!



Lochgoilhead Primary recently achieved a Silver award for the eco work. As part of that work pupils carried out a beach clean at the head of the loch.

FLAGS GALORE AT STRACHUR

The children of Strachur Primary School were very pleased and proud to tell everyone that they have been awarded their 5th green eco flag. They were able to demonstrate their continuing commitment to eco issues through topics in school and working with the community in the local environment.



FRUITSHARE AT SANDBANK PRIMARY

After the Christmas holidays, Sandbank Primary pupils got back to work and planted their fruit trees which arrived in January. The eco-committee had applied for the trees through the fruit-share scheme which was advertised on a cookery programme on TV. The school were successful in receiving 4 well-grown fruit trees for free.

Two classes worked together to choose a suitable planting site (not too close to the school walls, a good depth of soil, south facing and relatively sheltered). P1/2 measured the trees and compared their heights and the bushiness of their root systems whilst the older children from GM6/7 dug the planting holes and put some compost in the base. The children worked together to plant the trees and firm up the soil. Each tree has an old tyre around the base and will have a weed blanket topped with gravel inside in order to give the trees a good start. The tyre will also prevent any strimmer damage during the summer season. The children look forward to the trees establishing themselves and giving them crops of healthy fruit in the future.



HEALTHY CHOICES AT ST ANDREW'S

Pupils at St Andrew's Primary are currently applying for their third green flag. Topics this year have been sustaining our World, Health and Wellbeing (HWB) and of course Litter. This session a Health and Wellbeing Group was introduced and they are currently looking at ways to introduce a healthier tuck shop. All classes have been learning about making healthy choices. The HWB group

will be planning this year's Health Fair in the summer term. Links were recently established with NHS staff and parent volunteers to run a highly successful Healthy Hearts and Hoops after school club for senior pupils. This was a huge success and the pupils have now asked if it can kept going! At the final session parents joined in to try some healthy snacks and were amazed to watch the pupils' talented hooping

Contributions to charities:

STRONE PRIMARY BREAKFAST WEEK



At the end of January, Strone Primary School took part in National Farmhouse Breakfast Week, which raises awareness about the importance of making a healthy start to the day. With donations of vouchers from the local Dunoon CO-OP and eggs from Marshall's Farm, the pupils were able to tuck into delicious breakfasts with omelettes, cereals, toast, croissants and pancakes. They raised a magnificent £100.00 which the pupils chose to donate to Mary's Meals, a global project that sets up school feeding projects. The children wanted to give something back to support children in some of the world's poorest communities, where hunger and poverty can prevent children from gaining an education.

YORKIES GET SUPPORT FROM ST ANDREW'S

This session St Andrew's Primary made contributions to several charities. Pupils in P4/5 have a classmate who attends dialysis 3 times per week at Yorkhill Hospital and they decided that they wanted to support the charity Yorkies.

The class held a toy sale and raffle and presented a guest speaker from the charity with a cheque for £120. P5/6 pupils then decided to organise some ongoing fundraising for Yorkhill and they have made jewellery, cakes, bookmarks etc. at home which they bring in to sell at school. So far they have raised a further £40.



LOCHGOILHEAD PRIMARY SUPPORT MARIE CURIE



Pupils at Lochgoilhead Primary held a very successful coffee morning and treasure hunt and raised £121.20 for Marie Curie nurses who support patients suffering from cancer and their families.

Marie Curie
Cancer Care



CHILDREN IN NEED ROTHESAY PRIMARY

Rothesay Primary School and Pre-5 Centre dressed in their pyjamas and sold Pudsey wrist bands and keyrings. The Primary 7 class organised a Bring & Buy Sale, Pudsey Raffle and did Pudsey Face Painting all day and the total they raised for Children in Need was an impressive £972.04!



Children in Need Dunoon Primary

P6/5 of Dunoon Primary School organised activities to raise money for Children In Need. The children sold raffle tickets to win a 'Pudsey in his Onesie' from Build a Bear. They made and sold bookmarks and organised an art competition. Entrants had to design a 'Onesie' for Pudsey. On Friday 15th November everyone in school was asked to wear a 'Onesie', something spotty or something yellow and to give a donation of 50p to Children In Need.

A Bake Sale and sale of Pudsey Products was organised for Friday morning to enable people to buy delicious weekend treats for themselves and their families.

Thanks to the fantastic support of pupils, staff, families and friends the magnificent sum of £854-38 was raised for Children In Need 2013!

Community Links:

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT ARDENLEE

It's always good to give back to the community and when the children of St. Mun's Primary Choir were asked to entertain the residents at Ardenlee Care Home in Dunoon, they jumped at the chance to do just that.

Resplendent in their uniform and festive Santa hats the children sang a selection of their favourite carols for residents, staff and visitors who clapped along and joined in with their own personal favourites. The Choir who are made up of children from Primaries 4-7, display a high level of commitment, turning out to sing at various community, school and parish events. Their behaviour is always impeccable and they are a shining example of the strong moral ethos of the school.



....and at Dalriada Grove

Pupils from Innellan and Toward Primaries joined forces to entertain the residents of Dalriada Grove at Christmas time. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon and the residents are hoping the children return.

HARVEST GENEROSITY AT NORTH BUTE

Following the harvest assembly at North Bute P6/7 took responsibility for making up harvest boxes which they then delivered to all the elderly residents in the village. They regularly invite members of the local community in to enhance their learning.

Next term P6/7 are organising a whole school topic on The World of Work and have invited a wealth of visitors to a Careers Fair. They are also organising skills afternoons, so they can all learn some of the skills needed to do different jobs.



North Bute Primary School

Fiddle playing in Cowal

Pupils in schools across Cowal are fortunate to have the opportunity to study the fiddle as two local fiddle groups (the Cowal Fiddle Workshop and the Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop) offer tuition to the pupils. In addition to workshops pupils are also able to access one to one tutoring.



Members of the Cowal Fiddle Workshop supported Sandbank pupils at their local gala.

School Contacts:

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Kirn Primary	Fiona Anderson (acting)	01369 702509	enquiries@kirn.argyll-bute.sch.uk	199
Lochgollhead Primary	Sandra Bark	01301 703338	enquiries@lochgollhead.argyll-bute.sch.uk	28
North Bute Primary	Elizabeth MacMillan	01700 503728	enquiries@northbute.argyll-bute.sch.uk	52
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