

**Tobermory
High
School**

THS Press

FREE

Nov 2011

Health Day

Mr Gawthrope reports:

On Friday 30 September all pupils took part in an action packed Health Day. Pupils wore green to help raise money for our Eco school committee and 'Macmillan Cancer Support' and through donations we managed to raise £70, half of which will be sent to 'Macmillan Cancer Support' and the remainder will be spent developing the garden area in the school.

During the day, pupils took part in a number of activities led by visitors to our school and members of staff. Pupils developed their rugby skills and learned about Riding for the Disabled. P7 pupils from our linked primary schools on Mull joined us for the day, taking part in workshops ranging from Eco school activities around the grounds, art activities and a technology challenge: building a tower that could support a marshmallow.

Thank you to everybody who took part, making the day such a huge success.



I liked playing rugby on the pitch. It was fun. Cameron Williams, P2



I liked the people who came to talk to us about disabled people. Holly MacLean, P5



I liked planting bulbs with Mr Lowe Tom Talbot, P2



Special points of interest:

- ✓ more Health Day and Cross Country
- ✓ Hallowe'en parties
- ✓ Scottish Ballet visit
- ✓ P1/2 Memory blanket
- ✓ Shakespeare by Heart
- ✓ S5 Geography trip
- ✓ P6/7 HWDT visit

Health Day

Lewis MacLeod, S6, reports:

Using an interactive multiple choice powerpoint based on the “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” format, the “**What’s in a Drink?**” workshop provided a stark reminder of the consequences of Scotland’s love affair with drink. Pupils were asked to vote on a series of alcohol related questions, and were able to view in a snapshot the extent of the damage caused by alcohol.



Led by English and History teacher Miss Charlton, “**What Would You Do?**” highlighted the importance of social decisions, and how they can impact on both physical and mental health.

The seniors only workshop “**Just Doin’ It**” guided pupils through sexual health facts and figures in the form of a giant board game, helping them to engage with the information in a fun and banterous manner. Sixth year student Katy Montgomery hailed the workshop as ‘brilliant’, adding ‘I learned lots of new stuff that I had never even heard about previously.’

Geography teacher Mr Lowe’s “**Green Fingers**” workshop provided knowledge of a very different kind of health: environmental. A practical workshop with a hands-on approach, students planted bulbs around the school with the aim of furthering their understanding of the significance that environmental health has, not just in a local but

a global sense. This workshop formed part of the school’s work towards an Eco-schools Green Flag Award.

Described as ‘tiring but well worth it,’ by sixth year pupil Ruairidh Morrison, “**Boxercise**” saw students tackle an arduous work-out involving basic boxing techniques and a paired fitness circuit. This proved to be a great warm-up for the Cross Country later that day, and aided in illuminating the importance of physical well-being. Fifth year student Ruby Low enjoyed tackling the art of boxing, saying that ‘as a girl, I relished the opportunity to partake in a normally male-dominated sport.’

“**It’s All About Trust,**” led by local dramatist Alasdair Satchell, aimed to emphasise the importance of having confidence and trust in one another. Students were taken through a series of trust exercises, from being guided around the room by a partner with closed eyes, to trusting peers enough to catch them. Fifth year student Lucy Langford described the workshop as ‘really fun but scary,’ and found that the mixed age groups helped to enhance the experience, stating: ‘it was good to trust people you don’t normally talk to.’

By far the most intensive workshop of the day, latest fitness craze “**Zumba**” put staff and students alike through a gruelling, but ultimately rewarding, sequence of samba-influenced dance exercises. Workshop leader Andrea McKenna’s no-nonsense attitude (‘you’re going to have to keep up because I’m not waiting for you!’) ensured that all participants attacked the challenge with great gusto...so much so that by the end of the workshop the floor was flooded with sweat!

P7 pupils joined with secondary pupils to participate in several workshops, including Mr Coyle and Mr Wekwete’s “**Marshmallow Tower Challenge**”, where teams had to design and build a free-standing tower which could support a marshmallow.



Cross Country

Mantas Orlovas reports:

Whether it's in sport or in daily life, everyone wants to be the winner, and the annual cross country run is a great way to display your determination. As everyone gathered in the gym preparing to "run like Forrest Gump" and motivation boosted up, the first announcement echoed through the hall for Primary 7 pupils to assemble at the minibus for the trip to Aros Park.

Gradually the gym emptied, until the final announcement: for the sixth year students. Once the run started, I believe all of you achieved your best - and will continue to do so in the future.



House Results

Ulva 75 points

Staffa 74 points

Iona 59 points

Here are the results:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Junior Boy | Dylan Cobban | 21mins 30secs |
| Junior Girl | Charlotte Peacock | 26 mins 05 secs |
| Intermediate Boy | Cullen McClymont | 18mins 56secs |
| Intermediate Girl | Sian Henderson | 26mins 25secs |
| Senior Boy | David Black | 19mins 14 secs |
| Senior Girl | Kate Stevens | 27mins 37secs |
| Fastest Boy | Cullen McClymont | |
| Fastest Girl | Charlotte Peacock | |

As preparation for next year, bear in mind this quote from legendary basketball player Michael Jordan:

**"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career.
I've lost almost 300 games.
26 times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot
and missed.
I've failed over and over and over again in my life.
And that is why I succeed."**

Well done to all participants, and good luck for next year!



A Walk on the Wilding Side

S1 pupils report:

Local author Sam Wilding visited school to talk to pupils from P7 - S2. Sam told us about his books, and got us to think about the essentials of a story. Then we played a version of Countdown to come up with the name of a new creature. What would the creature look and smell like? What did it eat? What size was it, and did it travel in packs?

The session ended far too soon, and we are looking forward to reading more of Sam's books - especially his forthcoming one, which is set on Mull.



Dancing Shoes

P3/4 pupils report:



Scottish Ballet's visit to Tobermory High School was sponsored by Mull Theatre
Thank You



On Thursday 15 September Scottish Ballet visited the school. They worked with pupils from P1 through to S2.

Today we did Scottish Ballet. It was awesome. It had a lot of balancing and movement.

James Peacock, P3

I had a ballet lesson and the best thing was making the prickly shape. I enjoyed listening to Derek playing on the electric piano.

Sail Chapman, P3

We met a lady, her name was E.J. She is a ballet dancer and she is talented and skilled. I really enjoyed the balancing, stretching and twirling.

Sakshi Orchison, P4

Memories and Strategies

P1/2 pupils report:

We have finished making our class memory blankets. Mrs Durie and the girls and boys of P1/2 would like to thank Tracie Campbell very much for all her hard work. Tracie cut out hundreds of fabric squares for our blanket. We could not have done it without her.

Thank You



In problem solving we are learning about strategies. We will explore:

Find a Pattern;

Act Out the Problem; and

Be Logical.



Making our memory blanket

On the school website there are lots of pictures of us working. Can you tell which problem solving strategies we are using? www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

P6/7 pupils report on their recent excursion

The Silurian is a yacht which is owned by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust. The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust's job is to locate, and record information about whales, dolphins and porpoises. More information about the species is collected.

*Corrie George Mackenzie, P7,
and Asha Nelson, P7*



On Thursday we went on a trip to the Silurian. We had to put on life jackets and walk carefully down the pontoon. On the boat we all sat round a table and had to think of a bird or water creature that started with the same letter as our name. I was

Graeme the Gull. We then did a treasure hunt working with others. I was with Corrie and William. We had to find the toilet which they call the head on a boat. We nearly managed to find everything.

Graeme Roeleveld, P6



Beach Clean

P3/4 pupils reports:

On Wednesday 5 October P3/4 went to Tobermory Bay to clean the beach. We found so much litter it was unbelievable! The heaviest things we found were building materials. Altogether we collected 45kg of rubbish.

Rory Reade, P3

On Open Morning P3/4 walked down to Tobermory Bay and did a beach clean. It was raining and the atmosphere was cloudy, but despite the rain I enjoyed it. There was an outstanding amount of glass. Bobby's Dad took all the glass away to be recycled.

Grace Talbot, P4

Bookmarks from abroad

Mrs Penny reports:

Schools around the world celebrate International School Library Month by exchanging bookmarks with each other. This year we were paired up with schools in Hungary and Croatia, and pupils from P5 to S2 created bookmarks to show what life on Mull is like.

Our partner schools sent us letters and powerpoint presentations telling us about where they live, and we all enjoyed comparing our interests and choosing a bookmark from a reader in another country.





Hallowe'en

Mr Gawthrop reports:



On Monday 31 October, primary pupils invited parents to join them in the gym for their Hallowe'en costume parade, which was followed by classroom parties. Everyone brought in apples and forks for apple bobbing, and a great time was had by all. Mrs Wilkie judged the parade, and as usual found it very difficult to select a winner from the many colourful and original costumes.

Thank you, Mrs Wilkie.

S1 spent the morning of Friday 28 October studying Hallowe'en traditions around the world, then donned their costumes after lunch and headed for the gym where S6 had prepared a fantastic party. S6 volunteers allowed themselves to be wrapped in rolls of toilet paper and turned into mummies, and the floor of the gym was laid out in an obstacle course, which proved very popular.

Pre-5 pupils also had their own Hallowe'en celebration. They dressed up and went dooking for apples.

There are more pictures of our Hallowe'en activities on the school's website:
www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk

'Now sits expectation in the air'

Ms Des Fountain reports:

Three pupils from Tobermory High School took up the challenge of taking part in the national "Off By Heart Shakespeare" competition for 13 to 15 year olds, part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Isobel Downing was one of two Scottish contestants to win a place in the national final. She will hear how well she has done compared to youngsters from across the UK in December.

Isobel Downing, S3, Ruth Darling and Maria Green, S2, each chose a speech from a set list. They learned and practised it to perform at the Scottish regional heat at BBC Glasgow on 24th October. The day aimed to help young people find new understanding and appreciation of Shakespeare's language and performance skills to benefit them throughout their lives.

All three youngsters take part in Mull Youth Theatre activities; watch out for them at performances in 2012.



Caves and cascades

Mr Lowe reports:

During the October break, three Higher Geography pupils teamed with senior geographers from Tarbert Academy for a weekend visit to the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks. This was to study the physical landscapes and to see at first-hand the conflicts which arise in National Parks and how these can be managed.

Pupils saw huge erratic boulders, cascading waterfalls, glaciated valleys and limestone pavements. The highlight for everyone was undoubtedly the visit to White Scar Caves.

Everyone agreed that it was a worthwhile trip and, despite the long days and cold nights, came away feeling more confident with the material and having made new friends.

Rowanne MacLachlan reports:

The field trip allowed us to see places and geographical features we had been learning about in class. One of the most interesting parts was White Scar Cave, where we went 35 feet underground to see subterranean waterfalls, stalactites, stalagmites and prehistoric mud pools.

It was quite challenging for the taller members of the group to navigate the very low ceilings. Overall it was a very good trip filled with learning and laughter.

FilmG

S3 Gàidhlig students report:

Ro na làithean-saora, thàinig FilmG chun sgoil airson filmeadh còmhla ruinn. Rinn iad cuideachd filmeadh le AS1. Bha am film againn mu dheidhinn Nina Neònach, air a chluich le Carys. 'S e tìotal am film 'Duilgheadasan an Deugaire' is bha tòrr duilgheadasan aig Nina Neònach le burraidhean ann. Bha sinn a' filmeadh fad an latha air



Diluain is a' dèanamh gearradh air madainn Diciadain. Dh'ionnsaich sinn tòrr is bha mòran spòrs againn. Tha sinn an dòchas gum buannaich sinn duais airson am film againn am bliadhna.

Before the holidays, FilmG came to the school to do some filming with us. They also did filming with S1. Our film was about Nina Neònach, played by Carys. The title of the film is 'Troubles of the Teenager' and in it Nina Neònach had lots of trouble with bullies.

We filmed all day on Monday and we did editing on Wednesday morning. We learnt a lot and had lots of fun. We hope to win a prize for our film this year.

Head teacher's letter

Dear Parent,

It was fantastic to see such a good turn out at the recent open day. It was a real pleasure to see so many of you admiring and discussing the work on display and taking the time to join in with the activities taking place in the classroom. Thank you to all the staff and pupils for their continued hard work making Tobermory High such a stimulating environment in which to learn. Comments left by visitors focus on the calm, relaxed and friendly atmosphere throughout the school as well as the amount and quality of work taking place.

Well done to our Eco-schools committee led by Mr Lowe who have helped our school achieve its Eco-school Green Flag. It was a superb effort by all involved to promote the Eco-school activities taking place in school as well as provide evidence to the assessor during her recent visit. The Green flag was awarded for the focused work in developing our school grounds, reducing litter and developing health & well-being in the school.

Over the next two weeks both Primary and Secondary parents' evenings will be taking place and we hope you take this opportunity to come into school to discuss your child's progress.

Meanwhile, if you have any queries or concerns please contact Mr Gawthroe for primary matters, Mrs Mitchell for issues concerning S3, S4 & S5 and Mr Coyle for S1, S2 & S6.

Richard Gawthroe

Acting Head Teacher

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Parent Council: what is it, and what does it do?

Gordon Chalmers, Parent Council Chair, reports:

Like most schools, Tobermory has a Parent Council whose role is to represent the interests of all parents and carers for children at the school, all the way from Pre-5 to S6. Its makeup reflects this age range as broadly as possible, as you can see from the list of members below. Council is there to help parents become more involved in their children's learning, through supporting the school, and encouraging links between the school, parents, carers, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community. It provides a voice for parents in both the school and local authority to express what is important to them and their children. To find out more, please pick up a leaflet from the school office or go online at www.scotland.gov.uk/Parents.

Parent Council members (with their childrens' year groups shown in brackets):

Gordon Chalmers, Chair. (P2 ,P4) ; Sarah Darling, Vice Chair (S2)

Tracy Campbell (P1, P4), Shona Ridley (P2, S1), Tammy Haddow (Pre 5), Sue Penny (S1, S3), Andi Stevens (S5), Alasdair McCrone (P1), John Coyle (Pre 5, P2).

Additionally Mrs Mitchell and Mr Gawthroe attend as Acting Heads, but also as parents. Mrs Carmichael is a permanent co-optee.

Diary Dates

November

Mon 7 6-9pm Primary parents' evening

Tues 8 4-6pm Primary parents' evening

Wed 16 4.30-7pm
Secondary parents' evening

Mon 21 4.30-7pm
Secondary parents' evening

Mon 21 7pm Parent Council meeting

December

Fri 2 Equal Futures Day

8-9 Primary pantomime trip

Thurs 15 Christmas lunch

Tues 20 Primary Christmas concert

Weds 21 Primary Christmas parties

Weds 21 School Ball

Thurs 22 am: Christmas service (all welcome)
2.30pm School closes for
Christmas break

Poppies are now on sale at
the school office
and the canteen

