

Argyll and Bute Council



Teaching and Learning 3 -12



Helensburgh and Lomond Primary Schools 2014/15

Community Services: Education

Primary School Profiles: Helensburgh and Lomond

Primary School Roll (as at census) *						
Cluster Primary Schools	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	% change in Roll over 5 years ¹
Arrochar Primary School	56	60	61	64	59	5.4%
Cardross Primary School	194	190	182	183	176	-9.3%
Colgrain Primary School	256	271	266	253	256	0.0%
Garelochhead Primary School	91	90	100	89	83	-8.8%
Hermitage Primary School	379	382	390	381	398	5.0%
John Logie Baird Primary School	229	226	193	167	170	-25.8%
Kilcreggan Primary School	68	72	77	75	86	26.5%
Luss Primary School	21	16	20	19	16	-23.8%
Parklands School	11	9	11	14	16	45.5%
Rhu Primary School	190	187	165	179	194	2.1%
Rosneath Primary School	89	95	83	85	91	2.2%
St Joseph's Primary School	182	176	190	181	190	4.4%
Total Roll for cluster	1766	1774	1580	1520	1735	-1.8%

Notes

* Data for rolls provided at Census each year

1: Please note the % change in Roll over 5 years shows the percentage change in roll figures from 2010/2011 to 2014/2015 and is not an average.

Footwear and Clothing Grant and Free School Meal Information for Helensburgh & Lomond Cluster

	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (number of pupils) ²	306	278	242	287	255
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (% of cluster school roll)	17.3%	15.7%	15.3%	18.9%	14.7%
Total CFG for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	1119	1118	947	1096	1113
Total CFG for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	19.2%	19.3%	16.6%	19.2%	19.2%
	10/11	11/12 ³	12/13	13/14	14/15
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	214	0	211	225	198
Free School Meals (% of cluster school roll)	12.1%	0	13.4%	14.8%	11.4%
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	870	0	871	898	856
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	14.9%	0	15.2%	15.8%	14.8%
National Average for Free School Meals for Primary Schools (%)	19.8%	22.6%	22.1%	22.0%	Not yet collated

Notes

2: Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) is not shown as a National Average as each authority set their own criteria and therefore cannot be compared accurately. Please note that 2014-2015 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (March 2015) and therefore may change as the year progresses.

3: Please note that Free School Meals data was not collated by Argyll and Bute for the year 2011/2012

National Averages for Free School Meals have been taken from 'Summary statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living, No. 3: 2013 Edition'

Exclusion and Attendance Information for Helensburgh and Lomond Cluster

	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15 ⁶
Attendance (% of cluster school roll) ⁴	95.29%	96.07%	95.44%	96.02%	95.25%
Unauthorised Absence (% of cluster school roll)	0.74%	0.68%	0.86%	0.81%	0.89%
Authority Average – (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	95.25%	95.74%	95.40%	95.87%	95.42%
National Average for both Secondary and Primary Pupils (%)⁵	0.75%	0.79%	0.87%	0.89%	0.89%
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15 ⁷
Exclusion Openings	102	73	30	30	7
Exclusion Incidents	22	14	5	5	2
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Openings	24.1%	19.6%	10.1%	14.9%	4.8%
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Incidents	22%	15.2%	7.1%	8.1%	5.9%

Notes

4: Authorised absence includes bereavement, short – term exceptional domestic situations, religious observance, weddings of immediate family. Unauthorised absence includes truancy, unexplained absence and most family holidays during term time. Attendance and absence is outlined in Management Circular 3.03.

5: Attendance, Absence and Exclusion information is now collected on a biennial basis and was not collected for 2011/2012 or 2013/2014 academic year.

6: Please note that attendance data for 2014-2015 is for the year to date and not a complete year. It is therefore subject to change.

7: Please note that exclusion data for 2014-2015 is for the year to date and not a complete year. It is therefore subject to change.

National Averages for Attendance have been taken from Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No.4 | 2013 Edition, 11th December, 2013 (amended 11th February 2014).

Introduction

The Helensburgh and Lomond area consists of eleven primary schools and Parklands School providing education for pupils of primary school age. Nursery provision is provided within 5 of these schools and 9 partner provider provisions.

There have been changes to the headships in two schools this session with Emma McDermid and Denise Donald appointed to permanent posts at Rosneath and Garelochhead respectively.

Teaching and Learning

Health and Wellbeing

Learning in health and wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future. Learning through health and wellbeing enables children and young people to:

- make informed decisions in order to improve their mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing
- experience challenge and enjoyment
- experience positive aspects of healthy living and activity for themselves
- apply their mental, emotional, social and physical skills to pursue a healthy lifestyle
- make a successful move to the next stage of education or work
- establish a pattern of health and wellbeing which will be sustained into adult life, and which will help to promote the health and wellbeing of the next generation of Scottish children.

Parklands awarded for their Nurture Class

Parklands applied for the Marjorie Boxall Quality Award for their nurture class. As part of the assessment process they had a visit from an assessor who spent Thursday 2nd of April with the school talking to parents, staff and pupils. On 23 April the school were contacted by the head of training at the Nurture Network to say that they had been successful in their application and will be awarded the Marjorie Boxall Quality Award. They are the first nurture class in Argyll and Bute to receive this award.

The nurture
group network ®

helping children and young people to succeed

Rosneath and Colgrain keep safe AND fit!

P1 pupils at Rosneath and Colgrain had been learning about road safety and how to stay safe when crossing the road. They couldn't believe their eyes when a very special visitor arrived in their classroom...it was Ziggy!! The children were very excited to meet Ziggy who has come from another planet to learn about safety on Earth.

Cardross primary were delighted to scoop the Christian aid trophies in both football and netball this year. Both teams faced stiff competition from Colgrain and their respective finals. The events were well organised and the pupils enjoyed taking part. Well done to all involved!

Health Week at Rosneath

In November, Rosneath pupils enjoyed an action packed Health Week. They experienced a range of activities and workshops, including: Stramash, Heartstart, SOS Fitness, Community Police and Community Lollipop Lady. The health week coincided with the free school lunch pilot for P1-3 and the staff were delighted to see a large number of pupils tucking into healthy school lunches, yum yum! P1-7 parents were also invited to join their children for a school lunch.

Hermitage health focus

Hermitage Primary pupils also participated in a health week. As part of their activities, pupils were involved in bleep fitness tests, street dance and aerobics with tuition from external instructors and workshops. Hermitage Primary School promotes health and wellbeing throughout the year, focusing on fitness and healthy eating.

The health focus programme proved a great success as pupils reaped the benefits of various fitness activities.

Heartstart in HALCO

Pupils from across HALCO schools worked with trainers from the local Rotary Club on Heartstart – learning how to respond in an emergency, they hope they never have to put these vital skills into practice; but this activity equips pupils with essential and valuable skills including practical and theory work. Pupils were confidently trained to treat bleeding, or choking, as well as to place the unconscious patient into the recovery position. Using the Annie Manikin, the pupils gained valuable practical experience in conducting CPR until help could arrive.



Luss gets growing!

Luss Primary School has taken part in the Waitrose Grow and Sell scheme, which encourages children to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

Day of Dance

In February, Primary 7 pupils from across HALCO went to the Victoria Halls in Helensburgh to take part in The Day of Dance. The Primary 7 pupils came together to dance with each other and meet one another. This was organised by the active school co-ordinator, Martin Caldwell and

the Scottish Country Dance Association. Pupils danced The Flying Scotsman, Strip the Willow and the Virginia Reel and several other Scottish dances. Afterwards the Primary 7s felt tired out but had a brilliant day.

John Logie Baird pupils are listening and talking

JLB have written a progressive programme of work connecting Listening and Talking with the relevant Health and Wellbeing outcomes targeting:

- strengthening relationships
- improving resilience
- improving social and emotional health
- higher order thinking skills
- restorative approaches.

Two classes have piloted the programme, with the whole school due to implement at the start of next year.



Cross Country with Cardross

At Cardross throughout the rain and wind of cold and damp October and November days, P6 and 7 pupils faithfully trained in weekly cross-country sessions. Their fitness and ability improved week by week and their commitment, perseverance and endurance must be commended.

Kilcreggan embrace active inclusion

Kilcreggan Primary staff undertook UK Disability Inclusion Training provided by Scottish Disability Sport UK. As a result the school and one pupil in particular, is the focus of a Case Study and Qualitative Study published in July 2014. The study looked at the impact these training courses had on young people with a disability. The study reports that this pupil's pathway to

date from nursery to early primary school has been enriched through his teachers' increased awareness, training input and their growing skills and confidence in ensuring his inclusion within class physical education, play and activities. This work led to the HT being asked to speak about active inclusion at the "Legacy 2014 Celebration Event" at Murrayfield in June 2014.

Anti-Bullying

Schools across HALCO have been focusing this session on the Respect Me approach to anti bullying. Staff, pupils and parents have been trained in this methodology and schools have reviewed their own anti bullying policies.

Rhu P3 take up bowling!

Primary 3 at Rhu completed an 8 week course of bowls led by members from Helensburgh Bowling Club. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed a wide range of activities and learned how to accurately deliver a bowl and control its direction and speed.

Dangers of drugs with Strathclyde Police

Strathclyde Police visited Garelochhead Primary, to educate P7 about the dangers of drug misuse. Although they had already covered a great deal about Smoking previously, during their Smoke Free lessons, P7 were really interested in learning about illegal drugs used in the wider world. PC Crawford brought a variety of drugs for pupils to look at. They were safely locked in glass cases, but highly visible, to give an idea of what different drugs looked like. Pupils spent a long time fact finding and some of the stories PC Crawford told were definitely not fairy tales with happy endings. Pupils are now more knowledgeable and will be able to make informed choices to lead a healthy lifestyle in the future.



Teaching and Learning

Numeracy

Being numerate helps us to function responsibly in everyday life and contribute effectively to society. It increases our opportunities within the world of work and establishes foundations which can be built upon through lifelong learning. Numeracy is not only a subset of mathematics; it is also a life skill which permeates and supports all areas

of learning, allowing young people access to the wider curriculum.

We are numerate if we have:

developed the confidence and competence in using number which will allow individuals to solve problems, analyse information and make informed decisions based on calculations.

John Logie Baird close maths gaps

Trained staff continue to deliver the Maths Recovery programme across HALCO schools to highlight gaps in learning caused by interrupted learning. Although initially funded by an MOD grant both forces and non-forces children have benefitted from this programme. In JLB significant progress in attainment in Primary 3 has been evidenced as a result of this programme being implemented.

Active learning

Garelochhead's P7 Class enjoyed baking delicious 'Christmas Spiced Biscuits' as part of their active learning in numeracy. After budgeting money, planning the most economical recipes and then measuring out their ingredients, they produced fabulous biscuits to wrap and sell at their Christmas Fayre.



Kilcreggan tracks progress

Planning for progression in maths has been reviewed this session at Kilcreggan and staff are much clearer about planning pathways and tracking progression in maths and numeracy. This will ensure that when pupils move on for session staff are able to give clear, concise information to the next teacher about exactly where each pupil is with their maths and numeracy learning.

Hermitage shop takes off

As part of Numeracy a group of Primary 7s at Hermitage Primary ran a healthy tuck shop during the interval on Fridays. This involved costing goods and managing a budget. The tuck shops made a small profit which the children will donate to charity in June. The shop which offered wholemeal toast, fruit and cereal was very popular with pupils.

Beebot app used at Rhu

P2 pupils at Rhu Primary explored Position & Movement through the Beebot app on the ipads. Pupils were highly motivated and engaged in this interactive approach to learning. It was a great way to combine Mathematical and ICT skills.

Numeracy development

At Parklands all classes continue to develop numeracy at their own level, in a variety of different contexts appropriate to age and ability, e.g. Sensory, through gardening or in the community. Numeracy has also been incorporated into swimming, PE and through apps on the ipads.

Teaching and Learning

Literacy

Language and literacy are of personal, social and economic importance. Our ability to use language lies at the centre of the development and expression of our emotions, our thinking, our learning and our sense of personal identity. Language is itself a key aspect of our culture.

Literacy is fundamental to all areas of learning, as it unlocks access to the wider curriculum. Being literate increases opportunities for the individual

in all aspects of life, lays the foundations for lifelong learning and work.

The literacy experiences and outcomes promote the development of critical and creative thinking as well as competence in listening and talking, reading, writing and the personal, interpersonal and team-working skills which are so important in life and in the world of work.

Kilcreggan Bookbug reading buddies a great success

P7/6 pupils at Kilcreggan Primary school shared Book bug bags and stories with P1 pupils before pupils took their bags home to share with parents. The senior pupils showed great leadership skills reading the stories to their buddies and guiding them through discussions about each book. P1 pupils showed excellent listening and talking skills during the sessions which took place over three weeks in preparation for Bookbug week.

Schools engage with Scots language

Teachers in JLB planned for Scotland and its Place in the World using the significant aspects of learning for literacy including engaging with Scots language and Scots text. Pupil's written work is being collated and moderation is taking place between JLB and Luss to ensure consistency and a sharing of standards.

Members of JLB staff joined a professional learning community and implemented the work of Reading Force into the school this year. Although aimed at forces children the group was open to all and comprised of a variety of forces and non-forces children. It served to help:

- identify children who were experiencing detachment from a family member (through deployment, or those relatives who live far away)
- use literacy as a means of continuing to nurture long distance family relationships
- have time to share experiences, emotions and thoughts through the context of a chosen novel and through 'picnic' events.

Blitz re-enacted!

Primary 6/7 pupils at Colgrain learned about events of The Clydebank Blitz. In March they were shocked to return to their classroom after lunch to discover that the school had been hit by a stray bomb! To protect themselves from any

more possible attacks they spent the afternoon working under their desks. The children worked together to produce ARP reports on the damage sustained and produced poetry based around their feelings of being caught up in the Blitz.

Magic Castles and the Titanic!

In Rhu P4 undertook a Magic Castle Storyline and concluded it with a celebration of their work. The children gave parents and family a guided tour of the class and described some of the learning experiences they had. Fantasy Broomsticks, Secret Panels, The Owlery and The Magic Spell Recipe Book were just some of the attractions and the audience were captivated throughout!

To celebrate that they had learned about the Titanic Primary 7 pupils at Rhu had a 'Titanic Character Day'. The children arrived in the 'fashion of the day,' having decided if they were a first, second or third class passenger. Some children also dressed as staff aboard the Titanic, and were very helpful to the 'passengers'. During the course of the day the children took part in diary writing, designing and creating their own lifejackets and using i-pads to capture interviews with the 'survivors' as they boarded the 'Carpathia' and arrived in New York. Towards the end of the day the children's parents joined them and helped celebrate their success.



Story time at Cardross

P1-5 at Cardross enjoyed storytelling from the talented Susan Wilson. The children really look forward to seeing her and Onion, her puppet friend. Her story chest was packed with Scottish stories this time round which delighted the pupils.

Nessie programme

Children in Garelochhead benefit greatly from using the Nessy programme for their reading and spelling. This programme helps to raise standards in these curriculum areas and it's working! The children find it fun and enjoyable.

Reciprocal reading training

In Kilcreggan reciprocal reading training focussed staff thinking on how they are teaching reading skills. One teacher is now piloting a new approach to reading within her classroom and is focussing on reciprocal reading skills. The pupils undertaking this approach are being carefully tracked to assess the impact of this different pedagogy.

Parklands embrace synthetic phonics

Pupils from Parklands Sunshine Nurture Group invited classmates from JLB and St Joseph's to join them for an interesting story session with three story tellers. Parklands staff continue to develop their knowledge of Makaton through the use of their Makaton board with new words and signs changed on a termly basis and training updated throughout the year. In some of the classes they have also introduced the use of talking mats to

obtain opinion and thought from pupils as well as using a talking pictures application, which encourages good communication from home and school. The use of synthetic phonics has helped to provide a clear and structured programme for the introduction of phonics, with those pupils accessing the programme in the primary class making some progress.

Teaching and Learning

Wider Achievement: Outdoor Learning

Cardross and Rhu work towards their John Muir Award

All 12 schools in the HALCO cluster participate in the Eco-School Programme and Cardross and Rhu Primaries are currently participating in the John Muir Award. For their award, Rhu Primary are focusing on: increasing biodiversity in their school grounds, local woodland and a woodland in Helensburgh. They are also conducting surveys of trees and wildlife too. A Lomond Park Ranger has been building hedgehog homes and 'bug hotels' with pupils and the local group that manage Duchess Woods have set them conservation challenges of bug and tree surveys, tree planting and clearing areas for further planting. Pupils have also taken part in the 'simple pleasure' of nature, woodland art and shelter building. Primary 6 pupils at Cardross are working towards their John Muir Award by spending time assessing risks associated with the outdoors. They have also learned how to construct group shelters (a vital skill in our climate and have taken their learning down to Ardmore Point to undertake some conservation work in conjunction with the Ardmore Point Nature Reserve Committee.



Outdoor Learning Training

Staff from Rhu, Arrochar, Luss, Kilcreggan and Rosneath Primaries have attended Outdoor Learning training events in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park to support the delivery of outdoor learning across the curriculum in each of their schools.

Veg and flowers with Operation Greenfinger

As part of project Operation Green Finger Rhu Primary School will be working in partnership with Rosslea Hall, where pupils will have their own vegetable plots and flower beds in the hotel grounds.

John Logie Baird develop their grounds!

JLB Nursery and school have been developing their grounds:

- A new adventure trail was installed for P4 – 7
- All classes helped to plant over 200 trees and shrubs, parents attended each of the days
- P6 and P7 selected and built new willow tree designs in the grounds
- Working with HMS Heroes some classes sowed poppy seeds

Garelochhead and Rosneath outdoors with Stramash

Garelochhead and Rosneath have both work in partnership with STRAMASH to further develop quality PE and outdoor learning. Pupils from both schools very much enjoyed participating in these lessons. The next steps are to share these lessons and activities with other schools.

Arrochar wins!

Arrochar Primary School were winners of the annual school's bulb competition, held by Helensburgh and Gareloch Horticultural Society in conjunction with Ardardan Estate. The children grew beautiful hyacinths and pots of daffodils. This is the third year Arrochar Primary have won the shield as Eco and gardening are totally embedded in their school curriculum.



Every year, Arrochar pupils participate in the Arrochar Challenge. This involved selecting one of three challenges and completing it. This year, they had three challenging walks covering all abilities, from Pre-5 to P7. The pupils and parents thoroughly enjoyed participating in this event and receiving their medal for completing the challenge.

Autumn face lift!

Pupils at Kilcreggan Primary were aided by a group of parents and carers who spent a day in October tidying up the school grounds and harvesting crops in preparation for autumn. The activities were undertaken as part of an Eco Day and were a great success. The 'Anderson shelter' was sanded down and painted by senior pupils while parents brought along saws and other tools to help with the heavy work. Planter boxes which had started to rot were broken down and the area

prepared for planting a wild flower garden. Paths were cleared and shrubs and trees trimmed. Pupils weeded, swept, planted, and worked very hard to give the grounds a face lift. To fuel the hard workers, the school's catering staff provided an outdoor lunch of hotdogs and cookies. Students have seen the fruits of their labour after a harvest of tomatoes, sweetcorn, potatoes, and apples. Some samples were cooked by the primary four/ five class for everyone to taste.

Parklands 'Grounds Day'

This year Parklands continue to extend our resources for outdoor learning and have now established raised beds for all classes to access and have planned and incorporated a grounds day to involve parents as well as pupils in looking after their school grounds. Staff continue to plan and use a variety of resources outside and seize opportunities to use weather and other outdoor events and activities to further pupils learning.

A group of pupils were also involved with the consultation of Hermitage Park and spent time with the designer to show what items they use in the park as well as highlighting accessibility difficulties. Classes have continued to use a wide range of trips to develop their knowledge and skills including visiting Mount Stuart and Inchcaloch.

Teaching and Learning

Wider Achievement: Enterprise

John Logie Baird take centre stage at film event

Exclusive and prestigious awards were presented to the children of John Logie Baird Primary School for their innovative and very professional films. At a sell out event, and the first school to utilise Helensburgh's wonderful Digital Arts Centre 'The Tower', the children showcased their films to an enthralled audience of over 600.

The press attended this never-been-seen-before event, capturing everyone in their finery. Many compliments were showered upon both children and staff for the amazing spectacle and electric atmosphere, acknowledging their sheer hard work, skill and commitment to making this a 'once in a lifetime' event.

The children of John Logie Baird Primary took centre stage in all aspects; from directing and editing their films, creating soundtracks, comparing in the evening and performing high class entertainment to presenting heartfelt and moving thank you speeches.

The evaluation of this work indicated huge far reaching benefits for pupils including a significant improvement in engagement and focus, improved confidence and problem solving skills. It also highlighted that parents were being fully informed at home by their children, of the learning taking place, just through their sheer enthusiasm.



An evening to remember!



Rosneath Primary School, P7/6 held a superb Burns Supper on the evening of Monday 27 January 2015. After a supper of Soup followed by Haggis, neeps and tatties, then some of Mrs Johnson's famous shortbread, the pupils gave an excellent evening of entertainment in true Burns fashion, from their 'toasts', to poetry, singing and dancing for all. All this supported by a piper and some highland dancers made this an evening for all to remember.

Colgrain Christmas Cafe

The Primary 6 and 7 pupils at Colgrain Primary held a very successful enterprise event on Friday 12th December. As part of their enterprise education they planned and ran a Christmas café and crafts morning in the school hall. Pupils in the school had been busy making a range

of Christmas decorations and crafts which sold out on the day. As well as the crafts there was a table heaving with delicious home baking, a very popular tombola, competitions and a second hand book stall. The school were very proud to announce that over £600 was raised.

Technology Challenge using cooperative learning

Bringing their interdisciplinary topic to a close, P7 pupils at Hermitage Primary School took part in their Technology Challenge presentation evening in December. The challenge incorporated Technologies, Maths, Language, Science and PSD. The Technology Challenge required pupils to work in cooperative groups to plan and design a working electrical vehicle which was supported by a good business plan. Their progress had to be recorded in form of a booklet and Keynote presentation. Vehicles had to move forwards, backwards and have working lights and were

to be created within a given budget. In addition, pupils were granted an additional £10 by the Head Teacher in order to add extra technology such as LED lights, pulley operated doors, a working lift and even a moving dragon's head! Following weeks of hard work, last week, the 10 teams of 6 pupils spoke to a panel of 3 judges and an audience of invited guests and gave a presentation highlighting their achievements. The winning team impressed the judges with their mobile recording studio which included a working recording and playback sound module.

Dragon's Den winning team heads off competition

Young entrepreneurs from Rhu impressed judges in the Dragon's Den when they presented a wide range of new inventions developed over an intensive 6-week challenge. The children had worked in co-operative groups to invent a new product that would make life easier. They carried out market research in a wide range of areas before settling on a product to develop. The children investigated inventions to make life easier in the home, at school or to make an

eco-impact in their world. Three invited business people volunteered their time to judge the final products. In preparation for the final, the groups had watched extracts from the real TV Dragon's Den. They had created a budget and marketing strategy for their product and put together a formal presentation. The winning team had invented a 'cool' skateboard cap to provide safety protection for kids who wanted to ride a bike or skateboard but didn't like helmets.

Teaching and Learning

Wider Achievement: Community Partnership

'Baubles' at Cardross

At Christmas, Cardross Infants presented 'Baubles' to their friends, families and some of the oldest and youngest members of the community. P3 narrated, P2 formed the school band and P1 were cast in the principal roles.



CSI visit to Glasgow University

Pupils from P6 & P7 at Cardross Primary were invited to attend a CSI session at The University of Glasgow hosted by STEM Ambassador Dr Nicola Craise. The pupils were asked to solve the case by DNA profiles, blood, urine and hair sampling. It was a fantastic day!

Christmas with the community

Primary 7 and Primary 6/7 pupils at Colgrain Primary hosted a Christmas party for the senior citizens of Helensburgh. The pupils and staff organised Ceilidh dancing, Christmas presents and teas and coffees for their invited grandparents and other senior citizens in the community. The ladies and gentlemen were then

treated to highlights from the Primary 1 Nativity and Christmas songs from pupils in the nursery. The visitors enjoyed their afternoon thoroughly and were quick to compliment the behaviour and the responsibility of the pupils. The Parent Council who are a fantastic support, provided and served teas and coffees at the party.

STEM, Active Play and award winner at St Joseph's

Nicholas, a P6 pupil at St. Joseph's Primary School in Helensburgh recently attended Hampden Park for the winner's day out following the 'Show Racism Red Card Competition'. Each year Show Racism the Red Card hosts a creative competition where children are invited to enter their creative ideas on how to promote anti-racism in a visual form. All possible winners were invited along to the celebrations at Hampden Park, this year on 19th March, 2015. Nicholas won a 'Highly Commended' award on the day and had a wonderful time.

Everyone at St. Joseph's was delighted to have a winner among them, with a number of the children having entered the competition. With annual entries almost at the 5000 mark, Nicholas' ideas were obviously highly impressive.

St Joseph's Primary involved the expertise of parents and family members who were engineers in the delivery of the practical aspects of their 'life as an engineer' project. This was a STEM partnership project. However, rather than solely involving visits from STEM engineers the school made use of their connections with engineers from the school community. This step proved to be both informative and highly motivational for pupils.

Active Play sessions have been held in St Joseph's Family Learning Centre. These took place on Wednesdays from 1.30 – 3.00 p.m. and are conducted by Jeanette McGourley, Early Years and Family Support Worker with the focus on 'play@home'. All parents/carers and children under 5 were welcome for 6 weeks of fun activities. Parents and children enjoyed these fun sessions.



Parklands opens its doors

In Parklands nearly all pupils are participating in an external award scheme. These include ASDAN for senior pupils and the introduction of Caledonian awards for younger pupils. Pupils continue to work alongside RDA and have been awarded certificates in recognition of the hard work and progress they have made. The majority of staff including teaching, instructor and support staff took part in their first Doors Open day where they invited other professionals from Argyll and

Bute to visit and engage in professional dialogue with staff about various aspects within the area of additional support needs of a complex nature. This was well received with Parklands staff gaining reassurance and a level of moderation in sharing their own practice alongside the visiting staff who found the day extremely helpful with feedback asking for more days as they had found lots of useful information and ideas.

Autism Awareness

In April HALCO schools worked in partnership with the Helensburgh and Lomond Autism/Asperger's Society to promote World Autism Awareness days. A number of pupils wore blue to highlight the day, schools raised awareness at their end of term assemblies, we launched a competition to design a new logo for the organisation and the festivities ended with a fantastic Balloon launch at Colgrain Primary involving their staff, parents and pupils and visitors from JLB.

Hermitage and Parklands deliver a 'Taste of St Andrew'

Primary Five pupils at Hermitage Primary School and Parklands' pupils had a great time. They were fortunate enough to secure funding from the Scottish Government's 'Food For Thought' programme.

This enabled them to plan, prepare and deliver a 'Taste of St Andrew' dinner for their parents on the evening of Thursday 27th November in the Victoria Hall, Helensburgh. The planning started even before school broke up in summer as they had to plant potatoes which would be ready to harvest later in the year. Loch Lomond Homes and Garden Centre supplied their expertise and advised on which vegetables could be grown and harvested in November. Scottish Beef supported, too, by coming to school and promoting the benefits of good Scotch Beef and also demonstrated how to cook meat. Cameron House, Loch Lomond helped by sending one of their restaurant managers to show the pupils how to prepare for an event, set tables, fold napkins, serve and pour drinks – good Scottish water only of course!! Dino's Café owner advised on a delicious Scottish flavoured tablet ice cream for a dessert. Pupils also took part in cooking sessions in the kitchen at Parklands School, supported by a very talented parent, and prepared fruit coulis and shortbread prior to the event. The manager



of the Riverhill Courtyard restaurant in town provide his expertise and labour on the day and helped the pupils devise recipes which would be suitable for such an event. Waitrose sent two very enthusiastic members of staff to talk to the pupils about Scottish produce and the issues around food miles. The pupils themselves created the menu, made the invitations, table decorations and place cards for the event. Glen Fruin Fiddlers gave their time by playing a selection of Scottish tunes to welcome the guests as they arrived on the evening. The pupils also provided a selection of contemporary Scottish songs and a dance routine as entertainment at the dinner. All in all, a great night was had by all.



Stay safe on line

Internet Safety sessions were offered to parents at JLB and Children were given sessions in school too delivered by Youth Services.

Rhu creates 'Iron Giants' at Hermitage Academy

The primary 7 pupils of Rhu really enjoyed reading the 'Iron Man' and had been busy making their own models based on the descriptions Ted Hughes provided. When Miss Baird, from Hermitage Academy, heard about this work she invited the pupils to her Technology classroom to work with the 3-d Printer. Miss Baird taught the children how to navigate the software and within two hours they had designed their own 'Iron Giant' and began printing them. Two weeks later staff and S6 pupils who had helped on the day came to visit and deliver the 'Iron Men' to the children. They had also chosen three designs that they thought were innovative and unusual, providing prizes for the excited winners.



Game On at Rosneath

4 lucky children from Rosneath Primary were invited to Glasgow City Chambers in November to attend a Game On Scotland Celebration Event. They had the opportunity to meet up with 80 other children from schools all over Scotland for a fun-filled day where they met Team Scotland/ Team GB athletes from 4 different sports. All schools taking part had been awarded a Game

On Scotland plaque and shared their challenges. The athletes were more than happy to share experiences and answer questions.

Many children across Scotland took part in a Glow Meet on the day but to actually be there in person at the City Chambers was an experience second to none!

Kilcreggan pupils develop skills and celebrate our culture

The development of skills was a priority for Kilcreggan. They have been looking at how best to record skills development and plan next steps for taking forward skills within the whole school curriculum. They have focussed on the skills of being an "EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTOR" and are moving on to look at the skills of being a SUCCESSFUL LEARNER. Pupils have been very involved in this process and a number of assemblies have focussed on skills. Pupils are now reflecting on their skills within their learning logs each week. This is also helping parents to understand this development.

Kilcreggan Primary's Scottish evening was moved from its usual venue at the school to Cove Burgh Hall this year as the popularity of the annual event meant it has become increasingly difficult to fit everyone in. 130 family, friends and village folk in attendance a super evening

of song, dance, music and food. Pupils from primary one to primary seven entertained their guests to poetry recitations with winners from each class reciting poems. Primary six and seven pupils gave the traditional Address to the Haggis which was piped in by Simon Pender. Recorders and singers from primary four to primary seven provide a selection of Scottish music throughout the evening. Violin and woodwind players showed off their skills while dinner was served, playing a selection of traditional tunes. Talented pupils played the solos on the piano and the accordion. Pupils from upper primary classes who have been learning Scottish Country Dancing as part of the curriculum demonstrated their dance skills. A fabulous band of willing helpers cooked and served a traditional meal of haggis, neeps, and tatties for all the guests and performers. The evening was a super success raising more than £400.

Science demonstrations create buzz!

Hermitage Primary was a hive of activity in March as each class was challenged to share their science learning with another. There was an audible buzz of excitement as presenting teams readied themselves to discuss their experiences, share their learning and demonstrate scientific concepts to live audiences. The pupils made wonderful teachers and were incredibly motivated by an afternoon of peer learning, as well as the opportunity to conduct experiments with live

audience participation. As the first round of presentations kicked-off, it quickly became clear what a powerful learning experience this was for the children. Pupil feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Presenting teams found it to be an incredibly enjoyable and empowering experience while the pupil audiences were also highly engaged and left with new perspectives on the world around them.

Menu and car designs win competitions

Arrochar Primary School won the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, National Park Community Partnership 'design a World War 1 menu' competition. Pupils, staff and parents were invited to attend a WW1 commemorative showcase event on Saturday, 11th April at Gartmore Village Hall. They were presented with their prizes, £100 for the school, Horrible Histories and Frightful First World War books and had the opportunity to try out their menu for themselves. This competition fitted beautifully in to the class interdisciplinary learning topic on WW1, where they also produced a community booklet in conjunction with the local Heritage Group.



Lachlan O'Neill, P3 at Arrochar Primary School, won the under-8 'design a dream car' competition, organised and sponsored by Helensburgh Toyota. He won £100 for the school and a Kindle Fire HD. This was the second year in a row he has won this competition.

Teaching and Learning

Wider Achievement: Contributions to charities

St Joseph's dress up for charity

In October St. Joseph's staff and children were delighted to welcome along to assembly Stacey Cameron of Mission Matters Scotland. The school has a long standing association with Mission as it is one of the foremost charities they support in any academic year. Stacey gave a very informative and colourful presentation to the children about

how Mission's money is spent to assist children throughout the world. The children had lots of fun dressing up as peoples from different continents and we were delighted to hand over another cheque to Mission, this time for £186.66. Their support of Mission continues!

Arrochar's mucky mud slide

Recently, Arrochar Primary School held a 'mud slide' day in aid of Comic Relief. The pupils all had a fabulous, mucky afternoon.



Puppeteers raise crisis funds

Meet the management of the P5 Rhu Puppeteers. As an enterprise project the pupils applied for jobs in the company, developed team writing groups, wrote scripts and put on seven performances of their shows. They raised £180 for the Ebola Crisis. William's dad is on a ship in Sierra Leone and the money will be delivered straight to the affected area.



Roald Dahl Cardross fundraiser fun



If you'd popped in to Cardross Primary in September you could have thought you had stepped straight into the pages of a Roald Dahl book! Staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as characters from this favourite children's author's books and spent their day engaged in learning activities related to his writing. All involved donated money for the Roald Dahl charity which goes to support children and families with particular conditions and needs and a total of £152.50 was sent to them.

Union Jack helps raise cash at Rosneath

On Friday 3rd October staff and pupils at Rosneath Primary School wore an array of red, white and blue to raise money for three main service charities: Royal Navy and Marines Charity; ABF The Soldier's Charity and RAF Benevolent Fund. All pupils enjoyed learning about the significance of Red, White and Blue Day and the union jack flag. Primary 1 pupils put their baking skills to good use by beautifully decorating cupcakes

with red, white and blue icing and sprinkles. The school dinner ladies very kindly provided a Red, White and Blue themed lunch. As the Faslane Naval Base is a very important part of our community in Helensburgh and the surrounding areas, Rosneath Primary School were more than happy to take part in an enjoyable and colourful day and were delighted to raise a fantastic £107.15 for these very worthy charities.

Foodbank support

Always keen to help the local community, St. Joseph's pupils, parents and staff decided to support the new local independent Foodbank. The organisers were delighted with their offer of help and asked in particular for the following items of which they were short: UHT life-long milk, small bags of sugar (500g), cup-a-soups and toothbrushes.

The whole school community started collecting. Soon the collection container was full to bursting and in February the first load was uplifted. The foodbank were thrilled and thanked the school community for their generosity.

The school continues to fill their container for the Foodbank and are delighted it will help so many people in the local community.



Talent show helps 'Make a Wish'

Hermitage has definitely got Talent! The Pupil Council organised and promoted a Talent Show that was a fantastic event full of song and dance. There was even a comedian, soccer skills and a mime artist! Importantly, the Pupil Council raised over £300 for the Make a Wish Foundation.

MOD Pupil Support

This session funding has supported 2.5 additional support for learning teachers to support MOD pupils in schools.

It has supported the continuation of the Professional Learning Community (PLC) in which Primary and Secondary teaching staff and other professionals with an interest in understanding more about the issues faced by children from service families have been coming together. The PLC runs in twilight sessions and is hosted by Evelyn Cook and Marie Glancy. The members of this community are dedicated to improving the lives of service children in our local area. They've committed themselves to attend these sessions to learn from Marie and Evelyn who are very knowledgeable and able to give them examples of good practice happening throughout Scotland.

Very recently we have been able to appoint a temporary Parent Support Advisor to liaise between schools and families, coordinate all services and supports to these families arising from the bids, establish more Heroes groups, provide support to families arising from mobility and deployment issues, liaise between families and the base and to train staff in schools to support understanding of the specific challenges faced by Naval families in the area.

In February Headteachers from all of the Helensburgh and Lomond Schools were invited to attend an Armed Forces Covenant Education Day to further share understanding of the working of the base and local education provisions. Host for the day was Captain J HAYES Royal Navy (James) – Captain of the Base (CoB).

Continuation of support for Hear for You, a one to one support service for young people in Hermitage Academy. It can be a stand-alone service or part of a package of support for a young person. Bullying, self-esteem, domestic violence and self-harm are a few of the problems that the project supports.

Support can last for weeks or years dependant on the needs of the young person. Within this project there are also opportunities to participate in the wider range of youth services activities which include Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Saltire awards and Youth Achievement Awards as well as the summer activity programme.

The Heroes Group at JLB is run by three parent volunteers who are very proud of the success of their group, as they should be! They do a fantastic job keeping approximately 20 children active and involved with activities and discussions each week for an hour. They have two 'Heroes' teddy's which children get to take home each week with a diary, to record what adventures they've been on with the teddy. The adventures are then shared with other pupils. Some children fill in diaries where they can write about their feelings and emotions. Each child has the opportunity to share any news with the rest of the group. The heroes take part in different activities such as art and crafts, outdoor and indoor games. The heroes also travelled to London in November making an appearance on the televised remembrance service attended by the Royal Family.

Supported by our Forces Parent Support Officer, Colgrain established their first successful Heroes Group in March. The club is being run by three volunteer parents who are all passionate about giving the children an opportunity to come together and support each other. About 18 pupils attend and a number of the sessions have been held outdoors to take advantage of the sunshine! The parents are keen to work in partnership with the Heroes group at JLB to deliver shared events.

In the Royal Navy, Royal Marines Families Centre the Headteacher and Depute from JLB delivered a presentation on Curriculum for Excellence to prospective Naval families moving into the area.

Teaching and Learning

Creative Arts in Schools (CAST)

Rosneath and St Joseph's sign up for samba.

The rhythmic sound of surdo drums, agogo bells, tamborims and ganza shakers playing together will be heard throughout school grounds during the spring and summer terms. A Youth Music Initiative music practitioner is leading various sessions in school prior to delivering a performance. They are focussing on teaching samba rhythms using a range of Brazilian instruments. The children will have the opportunity to increase their listening and playing skills, and work collaboratively to create interesting and fun compositions. The session leaders ensure the experience is lively, fun and enjoyable.

The annual samba drumming project for p5-7 is delivered by a music specialist, focusing on rhythm using Brazilian percussion instruments. In the last week of the block the children will have an opportunity to perform either to other pupils or an invited local audience.

The sessions comprises a consecutive six week block of approx 1 hour-long sessions (depending on numbers) programmed to fit the school's timetable between January and June 2015.

Playing samba increases pupils' playing and listening skills whilst taking part in collaborative music making giving pupils a chance to enjoy the pleasure of performance in a collective music situation. This project has often been expanded to include a rich variety of cross-curricular CfE opportunities inc. expressive arts, social studies and languages.

It is funded by Creative Scotland Youth Music Initiative funding which is an annual grant that the council's music service receives to enable delivery of music to P5. It is a targeted fund for Scotland's 32 local authorities with £8 million being distributed based on a Scottish Government formula.

Primary 7/6 at Rosneath took part in 6 weeks of Samba Drumming Lessons with Instructor Rob Welsh. On the last week it was over to the pupils for SHOWTIME and they showcased their newly acquired skills to the rest of the school and their parents. Pupils certainly developed confidence and musical talent!



School Contacts:

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