



THS Press



Loch Eil

I really enjoyed Loch Eil, and it is a trip that I recommend. It was totally different, but I loved every minute of it.

Laura MacDougall, S2

The best part was the canoeing and the teamwork activities. I would recommend this trip to anyone wanting to go.

Laura Dillon, S2

Jumping in the water at Loch Eil is something I will never forget. It was so cold but once I had done it and reached the other side I felt like a huge weight had been lifted of my shoulders because I had achieved this challenge. I even did it twice!

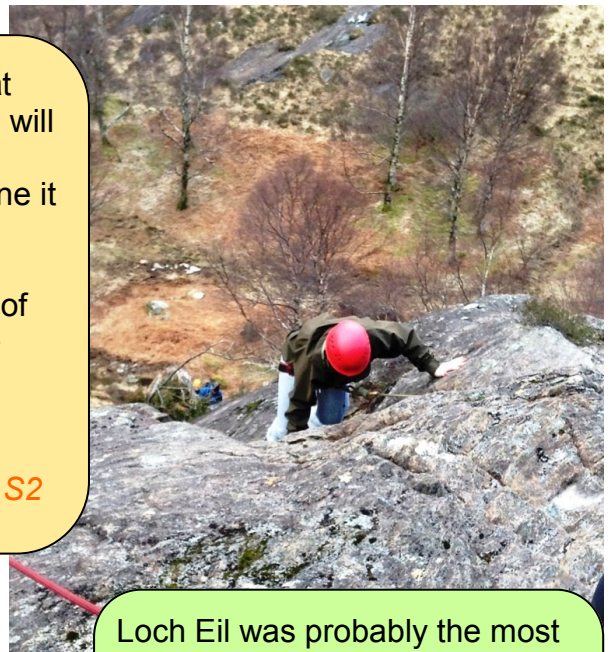
Kerrie MacGillivray, S2

When you first visit Loch Eil it doesn't look very big but the more time you spend there the more you find. There was even a place to play football in our spare time. I enjoyed it much more than I thought I would.

Toby Gawthrope, S2

Loch Eil was probably the most fun thing I have done because I learned new skills and I did things that I thought that I would never do. It was AMAZING!!!

Tanica Heyman, S2



Loch Eil was by far my favourite trip. There was never a moment when my heart wasn't racing. I took part in everything, and I'm proud of what I achieved.

Abbey Peacock, S2.

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- ✓ Drama festival



Drama Festival

Mrs Penny reports:

Tobermory High School Players recently performed Mr. Lowe's self-written play "1915" as part of the Mull Drama Festival. The cast gave two very polished performances and really conveyed the emotion of life in the trenches, which impressed the adjudicator and moved the audience to tears. Fraser Mitchell added poignancy to the final moments of the play by playing "Highland Cathedral" on the pipes. The adjudicator commented on the high quality of acting and set design, and awarded the cast the trophy for Best Juvenile Play.



Miss McDonald entered a Gaelic version of "The Three Little Pigs" which was very well received by the audience. Mr Lowe had double success at the festival, also winning the Clydesdale Bank Trophy for his adult play, "Watching the World go By".

A year of Pipes and Drums

Piping tutor, Callum MacLean, reports:

The year started with the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Competition in Edinburgh in 2014. At present we do not have a school pipe band so we entered the quartet competition. This was our first competition as a school and we were lucky enough to win, which gave the pupils a great boost. The next event was a Ceilidh in the Aros Hall. This was well-attended and raised over £200 for the school's pipers and drummers. This ceilidh gave some of our chanter players the chance to play in public for the first time, a great experience for increasing their confidence.

In the winter months we decided to have another fund raiser, this time a pipe to the top of Cnoc Fuar. It was a cold day but dry; we had seven pipers play to the top and back down. I think everyone was frozen, but a fun day was had by all, and another £300 plus was raised.

The funds are used to help buy materials for pupils and also to help pay for drumming tuition. Chanter and drumming lessons are available for Primary and Secondary pupils. Drumming tuition is a new project within the school that has started this year.



Tobermory High School won the quartet competition two years in a row.

The main aim of this is to form a pipe band to represent the school. We have had funding from the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Trust, so I felt we should attend this year's competition again. Unfortunately we could not enter a band as we do not have drummers yet - maybe next year! We entered the quartet competition again and managed to win for the second time, a great effort by the pupils involved.

Here's to a good year, and I am hoping to get more and more pupils involved with piping and drumming in Mull and Iona schools.

Farewell and Welcome

Mr Biddick reports:

At the end of last term we said farewell to Anne McNaughton, P.E. teacher and head of the Creative Arts faculty. Anne had been with the school for over twenty years, having started with us as a temporary teacher of Maths before moving up to her role in Creative Arts. She has worked with all secondary pupils through their core P.E. lessons, and helped last year to shepherd our first group of National 5 P.E. students through their exams. Most students will have fond memories of their week in Loch Eil with Ms McNaughton and the Outward Bound team, and many senior pupils participated in her bi-annual ski trip.



We said goodbye to her at an emotional assembly. Mr Davidson made a speech reminding everyone about Anne's achievements over the years, and also about some of her colourful stories and foibles. A number of pupils and staff members contributed to the assembly, sharing their own picture of this well-loved teacher. Anne intends to spend the next few months travelling while she decides where her life will next lead her.

We have also said farewell to Deborah Dickinson, catering manager, and welcome Sharon Delle Piane into that role.

Last term we welcomed two new teachers to the permanent staff of Tobermory High School. Mrs Amy Thompson is our new Maths teacher, and joins Mr Quero to bring our Maths department up to full strength. Mrs Thompson is a well-kent face on Mull, as she attended Tobermory High School herself before moving away to pursue her career.



Mr Julien McKenzie is our new Music teacher. He has been busy working with pupils across the school, including seniors who have already sat the practical component of their courses this year. Our new teachers are joined by a number of recent additions to the team including clerical assistant Mrs Alison McKenzie and janitor Mr Sandy MacAulay.

All these new staff members have been with us for some time, but we take the opportunity now to wish them welcome to Tobermory High School.

Ancient Egypt brought to life

P3/4 travelled to Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow to take part in a workshop on Ancient Egypt.



We travelled in the mini bus and arrived at Kelvingrove. It was awesome and gruesome. We saw a sarcophagus and a real mummy.

Connar Devlin, P3

We had to get up very early, but we had a really good time. We saw a real sarcophagus – it was round and smooth. The lady who took us round was called May. She was very nice and I learnt a lot.

Vasundhara Orchison, P4

You can read more of P3/4's entertaining reports on the school's website:

www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk

Air Space trip

Molly Reade reports:

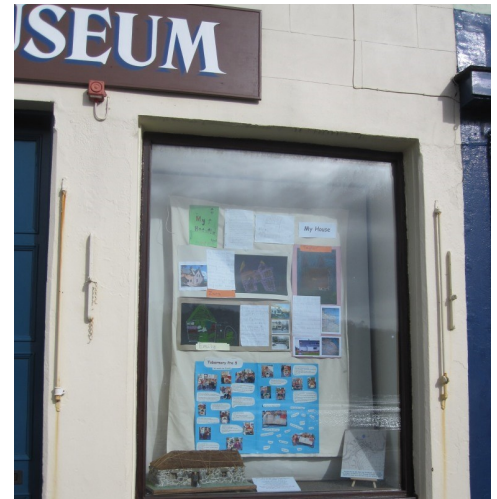
On Tuesday 24 March, the PE Higher class and the Trampoline Club had the opportunity to go on a trip to Airspace, which is a huge urban trampoline playground in Glasgow. On the day we had a two-hour session involving all the activities, including air bag, power jumping, free-jumping, dodgeball, slam dunk, wall ramp, and shoot out. It was a great chance for everyone to learn new tricks or just have a great time. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us, and we are all very thankful to Mrs Thompson and Ms McNaughton for organising the trip. Thank you also to the Airspace workers & ferry crew, and to Ms McGillivray for coming along.



Our House

Robert Chalmers, P7, reports:

In November last year, Mull Museum announced that it was holding a competition, inviting people to write about the history of their house or the land it was on. My class, P6/7 at THS, decided to enter it. We were given the homework task to go and find out about our houses and maybe get some pictures or drawings of them as well. So we interviewed our relatives and others who knew about the history of our homes. I did a bit of research questioning, especially asking my Dad for his knowledge. I also used some of the information that I had stored away at the back of my mind.



Mull Museum were delighted that, although no adults entered the competition, the children of Tobermory Primary did us proud. We were impressed with all the entries which showed a lot of research and hard work had gone into them. Some were displayed in our window until 23 March, before being returned to school. Thank you everyone. *Olive Brown and Rosalind Reid*

High jump champion

Molly Reade, P3, remains at the top of the Scottish high jump leader board for her age class, having broken the record for U-15 High Jump at the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics finals in March (one of nine young athletes to break records at that event). She is hoping to set a new personal best this summer, improving on her 154cm jump in March. Molly has received a donation towards travel costs from her local athletics clubs, and continues to seek sponsorship funding. She will also be featured in the Scottish Athletics League magazine, *PB*, in an upcoming issue.



S1 pupil Kallista Knight recently appeared on the Gaelic TV programme Dè a-nis?.

Thàinig *Dè a-nis?* dhan taigh agam airson filmeadh mu na rudan as fheàrr leam. Bha iad a' filmeadh na cur-seachadan agam, mar bèicearachd, a' cluich an fhidheall agus rugbaidh. Cuideachd, bha iad a' filmeadh na peataichean agam; mo chù, mo phioghaid, m' asal agus m' each. Bha sgioba *Dè a-nis?* ann airson aon latha agus bha e inntinneach a' faicinn ciamar a tha prògram T.Bh. air a dheanamh. Chòrd e rium gu mòr!

Tobermory has more talent than ever

Mr Lowe reports:



This year's Talent Show was held in the Aros Hall on Wednesday 18 March. Fifteen entries, ranging in age across Primary and Secondary, performed before a packed house at the Aros Hall. The programme of events ended with a surprise entry by 'The Spice Girls', about whom Judge Mary Jean Devon commented, "be aware - these people are teaching your children."

Tickets were sold on the door, raising £500 for Comic Relief. The proceeds from sale of drinks and food during the performance will help to fund the cost of several upcoming school trips including S3 Paris/Ypres. Overall winner was Connor Weir, S5, for his guitar solo. Singer Amy Sugars, S4, won the Secondary section, and guitarist Sail Chapman, P6, won the Primary section. Congratulations to the winners, and to all who took part, for showing us all the quality of talent to be found at Tobermory High School. Special thanks to our compère, Natalie McDowell, S6; our four judges, and all the people who worked behind the scenes to help our performers shine.

Duke of Edinburgh bronze practice

Mr Coyle reports:



When I watched the team head off from Glengorm, and take the left turn instead of the right, I thought they would be in for a long weekend and a wild stormy camp on the south side of Loch Frisa. So when Ms McNaughton and I found them at their camp in the evening, we were amazed at their team work and positive attitude to what was a long and, at times, miserable day. The camp site was enviable with an incredible position and atmosphere in the quiet and majestic Teanga hills.

'The practice expedition was great fun and really brought us together as a group. We battled through torrential rain and survived the leaky tents. Overall we still enjoyed it and looked on the positive side!' *Zac Finch, S3.*

S5 Geography field trip

Mr Lowe reports:

In order to gather information to use in their geographical assignments, S4 pupils recently went out to complete a river study on the Tobermory river. This involved taking measurements of the river's depth, width, speed and recording the characteristics of the river's bedload.

A small group of pupils also completed a shopping survey of local residents and tourists to ascertain whether or not the town meets the needs of local people.



Red Nose Day 2015

Ms Marjot reports:

Tobermory High School pupils raised just over **£1300** on Red Nose Day this year. Pre-5 pupils dressed up and made their faces look funny. They also cooked funny face biscuits and pizzas. Younger Primary pupils held a danceathon and the older ones went on a sponsored walk to Aros Park, where they enjoyed a healthy lunch followed by a cake made out of fresh fruit.

Staff provided a pop-up photo service, with a range of props to 'make your face funny for money'. Pupils took the opportunity to leave their uniforms at home and many wore costumes.

S6 pupils auctioned themselves as genies, and spent the afternoon performing a range of tasks for auction winners. Our talent show, the following Wednesday, also contributed to the total.



On Red Nose Day, Tobermory Primary 5/6/7 went on a sponsored walk along the coastal path to Aros Park. Twenty seven pupils and three teachers put on their walking boots to take part.

We also did four challenges. We did a picture quiz while we were walking by finding clues on the way. Next we did a code cracker that we had to write in twigs. The answer to the code was "This Red Nose Day we need you to raise as much money as possible because the government will double it."

After a piece of juicy fruit from Alexander's birthday cake we walked back to school. Everyone was really tired but we all had lots of fun and hopefully we will raise lots of money.

Aden Montgomery, P6



Chocolate Bingo

Parent Council held a bingo session where all the prizes were sweet and tasty. Everyone enjoyed themselves, whether aged five or eighty-five. The event raised £273.00 towards Parent Council funds, which are used to support activities across the school.

Thank you to all who took part, and to parents who donated prizes.

FilmG

Miss McDonald reports:

Shannon MacLean, S6, has won the award for Best Young Filmmaker at this year's FilmG Awards, held at The Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow on Friday 27 March.

Shannon first entered the FilmG competition, with her fellow classmates, in S2 and she has continued to enter the competition every year since. In 2013, her class's film '*Tha an t-acras gam tholladh*' ('*I'm famished with hunger*') won the FilmG Theme Award.



After some encouragement from her Gaelic teacher and a member of the FilmG team, Shannon decided to go it alone and make her first independent film for the competition. In 2014, she made the film '*Gaol nan Eilean*' ('*Island Love*'), a heart-warming film about the Isle of Mull. Her film was shortlisted for Best Film but unfortunately she didn't win the prize. This year, Shannon decided to find out different Muileachs' opinions on the recent referendum in her film '*Geallaidhean airson nan Gàidheal*' ('*Promises for the Gaels*'). The film gave an interesting insight into the topic, and demonstrated a good variety of all the different filmmaking skills that Shannon has acquired over the years.

Shannon received her award from Alasdair Allan MSP.

Tha sgoilear ann an AS6 aig Àrd-sgoil Thobar Mhoire air an duais airson Filmeadair Òg As Fheàrr a bhuanachadh aig Cuirm nan Duaisean FilmG. Chaidh Shannon NicIIEathain gu cuirm nan duaisean aig The Old Fruitmarket ann an Glaschu air Dihaoine 27 Am Màrt.

Chuir Shannon film a-steach gu co-fharpais FilmG airson a' chiad turas nuair a bha i ann an AS2, còmhla ris a chlas aice, agus tha i air a bhith a' cur a-steach filmichean don fharpais a h-uile bliadhna bhon uair sin. Ann an 2013, bhuannaich film a chlas aice '*Tha an t-acras gam tholladh*' Duais Cuspair FilmG.

Às dèidh brosnachadh fhaighinn bho a tidsear Gàidhlig is cuideigin bho sgioba FilmG, rinn Shannon a co-dhùnadh film a chur a-steach don fharpais leatha fhèin. Ann an 2014, chruthaich Shannon am film dùrachdach '*Gaol nan Eilean*', mu dheidhinn Muile. Fhuair am film aice air a' gheàrr-liosta airson Film As Fheàrr ach gu mì-fhortanach cha do bhuannaich i an duais. Am bliadhna, bhruidhinn Shannon ri diofar Muilich airson na beachdan aca fhaighinn air an referendum a bh' againn o chionn ghoirid, airson am film aice '*Geallaidhean airson nan Gàidheal*'. Thug am film dealbh intinneach dhuinn air a' chuspair is cuideachd sheall e dhuinn deagh mheasgachadh de na diofar sgilean a tha Shannon air togail thairis air nam bliadhnaichean.

Fhuair Shannon an duais aice bho Alasdair Allan BP.

Gaelic Week: Seachdain Gaelic

Pupils enjoyed a range of activities during the week, designed to raise the profile of the Gaelic language in the school community. Pupils participated in karaoke and a quiz, and visited Primary with the help of a Gaelic speaking teddy bear.

The week culminated with a Gaelic language assembly for the whole school, followed by a ceilidh for Secondary pupils during the afternoon.



Head teacher's letter

Dear Parent,

As I write this letter, exams are upon us and senior students are facing another hurdle on the road to adulthood and finding positive career destinations.

January's prelim results were better, overall, than last year's and most students have taken a disciplined and committed approach to their courses. Staff will support all senior students during the exam phase, and we are happy for them to study in school while on exam leave.

We continue to review our systems for course entry, to ensure that students are able to progress whilst being sensible about what level they are working at as they move through the Senior Phase. Teaching staff have continued to develop monthly tracking and monitoring throughout this session, and it is our aim to take a very proactive approach to pupil progress next session across the whole school.

Our reporting systems at the Broad General Phase from S1 to S3 have been very different this year, with regular performance learning reviews being sent home and only a brief end-of-year report based on this evidence. In September of next year, I intend to invite S1-3 parents in to the school to attend a briefing on our approaches to assessment and further developments such as monthly emailed progress reports based on tracking of learner progress.

This will also be an opportunity to speak to you about several other initiatives in the school relating to the School Improvement Plan and our vision for learners. I hope as many parents as possible will attend such a meeting to help improve your understanding of our assessment methods and descriptive language of performance, as well as give you a chance to tell us about the things you might like to see change or improve.

On that theme, the school's Standards and Quality Report will be available in June. This will report on our performance during the 2013-14 session, along with next year's Improvement Plan. These documents may all be viewed on the school's website, www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk

The Improvement Plan is a working document, and will undergo a consultation process. I will be asking the Parent Council to form a wider parent focus group to look at this in September.

Our Easter Service on 2 April raised £67.75 for Christian Aid.

Diary Dates

May

Mon 4	May Day holiday
Tues 12	S1/2 parents' evening
17-22	S3 Paris/Ypres trip
Mon 18	Staff Development Day (no school for pupils)
25-29	P6/7 trip

June

1-5	S5 World of Work trip S4 Work Experience week
Tues 2	Last SQA exam
Fri 5	Primary reports home
Fri 5	Gaelic Choir trip to Oban Mod
8 and 9	Primary parents' evenings
8-12	S1 induction week Senior Phase induction week
Wed 10	Bump-up day
Thurs 18	Primary sports day
Fri 19	Secondary sports day
Mon 22	S1/S2 Youth Games (Oban)
Fri 26	School closes for summer break

August

17-18	Staff Development Days (no school for pupils)
Wed 19	Pupils return to school

Finally I would like to thank all parents and carers for supporting their child's education over this session and give my best wishes to all young people sitting exams over coming weeks. I look forward to celebrating our students' successes at our Celebration of Achievement in June.

Regards,
Craig Biddick, Head Teacher
craig.biddick@argyll-bute.gov.uk