



Parent Newsletter

Friday 28th October 2022

A note from our Depute!



Perth Autism support (PAS)

The school is again working in partnership with PAS again this year. We have young people who are attending their Employability Course in the evenings at their offices in Perth. At the end of the training program, the young people are getting some amazing work experience opportunities at Perth Museum and Pitlochry Theater. We will be looking for some young people to attend their Cyber Security Course at Perth College in the new year.

Myself and Tracey are currently in discussion with PAS with an exciting new partnership that should help all our future young people with transitions out of school.

We will update you with the Future PAS course in due course.

Physical Education Update - Roz Rattary



The Essential Skills Group are preparing and designing a Cycle Track at the School's Sports Field. This has involved bike maintenance, risk assessments, health and safety procedures, first aid and mathematics. As you can see from the photo, Ria has been measuring the sports field to calculate the correct distance for the cycle route. She has worked out that if you cycle around the track 4 times you will have completed 1 mile.



First Aid Training - The children and young people are going to be learning about first aid for their SQA Essential Skills Qualification.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) launched the Call Push Rescue (CPR) program in 2014 as part of

the wider "Every Child a Lifesaver" campaign to accomplish its goal of creating a nation of lifesavers. Designed for secondary schools in the UK, the goal was to ensure that all school children over the age of 11 had the opportunity to learn CPR.



Science & Maths Update - Pam Bicocchi



Cross-curricular learning was the order of the day as we prepared for our various fundraising efforts. We were tasked with making gunge to not only gunge whichever member of our team was unlucky enough to gain the most votes (ahem, Tracey, cough, cough), but also to prepare for a visit from the STV Children's Appeal team.

We needed to make two types of gunge; one which was sticky but thin enough to be pumped through the water blasters, and one which was sticky and thick enough to cover whoever was sitting under the bucket. Both recipes involved using our mathematical knowledge of measure to create a suitable recipe, then scale to ensure we made enough (we needed about 20 litres). We also used our scientific knowledge of mixing different substrates and ensuring all ingredients, while sticky, were not harmful. We tried various combinations and amended our efforts following each trial until the perfect recipe was found!

Activities Update - Cat Hutton



October has been a very busy month for the young people at MHA Butterstone. As part of our Elective classes we have been working together to raise money for two different charities. The Elective classes give our children & young people the chance to develop skills that they themselves feel that they want to work on.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Our young people hosted a MacMillan Coffee Morning in the form of a Bingo Tea at Butterstone Hall on Friday 30th September. This involved our children & young people working on skills such as leadership, planning, advertising, socialising and entertaining; to name a few. As a result of this event we have donated £238.33 to MacMillan. Feedback from those who attended was very positive and the children & young people had a great time hosting. Thank you to all who attended and helped make the event such a success.



Aspiration, Achievement, Attainment

STV Children's Appeal

On Wednesday 5th October we welcomed Sean Batty and Laura Boyd (STV Presenters) into the school along with a camera man, producers and members of the Appeal Team. We were also pleased to welcome some of the staff, children & young people from MHA Bathgate. Our children & young people had worked extremely hard to create challenges for the presenters to complete as part of their Coast to Coast Challenge from Oban to Dundee. The challenge involved the presenters having to complete an Escape Room challenge which led onto an Assault Course. It was a very exciting day for all involved and our children & young people maybe had a bit too much fun when it came to gunging the presenters and shooting gunge at them through water pistols.



STV Children's Appeal - Big Scottish Breakfast

To help raise money for the Children's Appeal we hosted a Big Breakfast with a Worldly theme. Again we were happy to see friends, family, staff, children & young people all get involved and make the event such a huge success with the final money raised for this event alone being £185!



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STV Children's Appeal - Gunge the Headteacher

A poll was held throughout the school to see who our children, young people and staff would like to see gunged in aid of this charity - Tracey came out on top. Tracey showed herself to be a great sport by sitting under a bucket of gunge, in the freezing cold, whilst the young people took turns at shooting gunge at her, the grande finale saw the bucket of gunge poured over Tracey's head. This event raised £54.49.



A huge well done to children, young people and staff for all their efforts and hard work on each of these events.

Support For Learning Update - Karen Bell



Following a kind invitation from one of our children & young people's Grandparents, a group from the school spent a glorious Monday at the beginning of October picking and juicing apples from their orchard.

We learnt a little about the history and naming of the apples and about the process of juicing. The apples chosen were Bloody Ploughman, Lady Sudeley's Red, Yellow Ingestrie and a wild apple.

The apples were initially chopped into large pieces before being macerated in the apple crusher to maximise juice yield.



A straining bag was placed in the press and a pan under the spout to catch the juice. The pomace was then transferred from the crusher into the fruit press.

Once the crossbeam had been swung into position and locked in place the handle was turned to apply gradual pressure waiting for the flow of juice to stop before applying more. When the pressing was finished a cake remained which was then placed on the compost heap.

The juice was pasteurised by heating and then allowed to cool before being bottled.



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A fabulous day was had by all with comments from our host over how cheerful, willing and motivated the group of students were.

Health & Wellbeing Update - Ola Gora

As busy as our recent weeks have been with all the special events, in Health and Wellbeing class we could not forget that October is **Black History Month**.

The children and young people participated in a discussion around racism and sexism and a movie screening of 'Hidden Figures' - an incredible movie based on a book by the same name. Hidden Figures follows the stories of three African American women whose work at NASA was instrumental to the success of the space race. Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Katherine Johnson crossed all gender, race, and professional lines while their brilliance and desire to dream big, beyond anything ever accomplished before by the human race, firmly cemented them in U.S. history as true American heroes. The movie afternoon was enjoyed by all and our children & young People shared some great comments and thoughts around the topic. We cannot recommend this movie to you enough!

Below you will also see a photo of one of our recent Yoga sessions in a truly amazing spot! Mindfulness and Yoga have been identified as some of the methods our children & young people would like to try out to help de-stress and clear their minds. And

we are so extremely lucky to be able to just step outside our classrooms to do that and be surrounded with such beautiful views...



School INSET Days



A reminder that we have 2 school INSET days in November. The school for all children & young people will be closed on Thursday the 10th and Friday the 11th November.

Upcoming Parents Evening:



Parents Evening for Year Groups S1 to S5 are currently scheduled to be held on Monday 21st & Tuesday 22nd of November - HOLD the date, further information to follow.

Warm regards

Tracey Ford-McNicol
Head of Education

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