

LET'S TALK GLAITNESS!

<http://www.glaitness.orkney.sch.uk>

Head Teacher: Mrs Valerie Bleakley

Issue 8: Friday 16th May 2008

Staffing News



Mrs Gray (3A) is currently off sick following an operation, Mrs King is covering her class until she returns. We have had considerable difficulty finding full time cover for any member of staff, we will be employing additional support for learning assistants during this time to support pupils within their own classes, under the direction of the class teacher that would normally be supported by Mrs King. The pupils will have an increased level of support in the classes, and in some cases classes will be supported full time. Vicky Duncan is also off on sick leave at present. We look forward to having both members of staff back with us once they are well.

Glaitness Parent Council

As the school year draws to a close, Glaitness Parent Council is looking for new volunteers to replace out-going parent representatives. As replacements for both the old 'School Boards' and the Parent Association, Parent Council members, or "year reps", represent parents' interests within the school (generally liaising with the Head Teacher), and organise fund-raising activities throughout the school year.

In the recent past, money had been raised for a variety of useful things for the children - from play equipment (indoors and out), to speakers for classroom smart boards.

Any parent interested in the school and its pupils is very welcome to come along to meetings, and we would be happy to see more than one parent willing to represent each class. If you are interested, please come to our next meeting at 7pm on Thursday 19th June. *Gillian Wylie, Chair*

P7 Nethybridge Trip



Despite the awful weather at times, we had a fantastic trip. Once again our pupils and leaders met many of their own personal challenges throughout the week. We couldn't fit all several hundred photos on this page, and since the trip we have uploaded more, so check the rest out at <http://orkneyeducation.typepad.com/glaitnessoutdoored/>

P1 Website

The Class 1 page on the Glaitness website has recently had photographs added. Our intention for the remainder of the term is to add photographs regularly of the kind of work and activities that the class is doing through the week.

Your child will have seen the photographs in class before they are loaded onto the website as we are looking at the photographs together at the end of each week, giving us a chance to talk about which activities they particularly enjoyed or found tricky.

Looking at the photographs will hopefully give you the chance to talk with your child about their school life and give you an insight into the kind of work they are doing in class.

You can access the photographs at the following URL <http://www.glaitness.orkney.sch.uk/classes/class1/index.html> or by googling Glaitness then following the class links. If you don't have access to a computer then you can either use the computer in the Parents' Room at the Pre-School entrance or ask one of the staff for a paper copy of the pictures.

Fundraising



The fantastic final total for Sport Relief was £1,134.19. Well done to everyone who took part and to those who supported us in every way!



Riding for the Disabled Association Orkney Group
Blue Door Fundraising Week 2nd -7th June

RDA have very generously been offered the Blue Door Charity Shop for one week. The shop is open 9.30-5pm. 2 volunteers are needed daily to help from 9.30-1pm and 1pm to 5pm, so for the 6 days we need 24 helpers. If you could help at one (or more?) sessions please phone Kay on 761-685.

RDA will also be collecting clothes, bric-a-brac etc for the shop.

It costs more than £50 per week to meet the cost of horse hire, transport etc so in order to continue and to access funds from other sources, it is very important to make the most of this opportunity—we hope you can help.

Extra-Curricular News

Badminton



Orkney Badminton Association Primary Schools Badminton Team Championships

Congratulations to the Glaitness Kestrels who won the Primary School Badminton Team Championships on 20th April. There were many close and exciting matches throughout the competition - there were quite a few draws and a total of 176 games were played on the day.

The first stages of the competition saw the teams play off for positions in four league tables. Each group match consisted of 6 games which included two boys singles, two girls singles, one boys doubles and one girls doubles. If the match resulted in a draw(3-3) all points were totalled and the team with the most points was deemed the winner. Finally, the teams played off semis and finals, after positions in league games, which determined their final placing for the day.

Team lists:Glaitness were represented by Glaitness Kestrels - Alistair Scott, Andrew Reid, Victoria Linklater & Claire Johnstone. Glaitness Falcons - Jason Cook, Thorfinn Miller, Thora Cant, Evie Peace. Glaitness Hawks - Sean Ryrie, Ronan Osbourne, Lillie Flett & Ellen Rendall. Glaitness Ospreys - Fionn Webb, Ewan Miller, Anna MacKay & Maggie Nicolson. Glaitness Eagles - Alex Stevenson, Michael Schinkel, Daryelle Clark & Ruth Clark. Helpers: Sheila Reid, Michael Miller, Isla Flett, Susan Webb, Helen Killeen & Lorna Reid.



Glaitness Ospreys

Glaitness Hawks



Prizewinners



Glaitness Falcons



Glaitness Hawks



Tammie Norries, Gablos and Groatie Buckies go to Tain! On Wednesday 7th May, a party of 12 pupils from Glaitness School, their coach, Rebecca, and adult leaders Michael Miller, Sheila Reid and Helen Killeen travelled down to Tain Royal Academy for the Highland Primary Schools Badminton Event. Rising at 5am for the ferry didn't dampen anyone's spirits, It was a beautiful day and the minibus journey down was one of excitement. We were met by Carol Carolann who had organised the event. On arrival, it was straight into playing games against the other schools. There were 5 schools competing in all - Ardgay, Strathpfeffer, Lochcarron, North Kessock and Glaitness. There was excellent sportsmanship all round and the children from all the schools got on well. The time pressure to complete the games so that Glaitness could return to Orkney in time for the ferry was too great. In the end, it was decided to stop the event at a point when further games would have made no difference to the result. Glaitness Tammie Norries came 3rd out of the 5 schools and received medals. We returned to Orkney tired but having thoroughly enjoyed the day. This inaugural event certainly challenged the badminton team and

the P6 pupils are already looking forward to going back next year. We even educated our hosts who wanted to know what the team names meant!



Netball Coaching



Congratulations to Karen Johnstone and the Glaitness Gladiators who came 2nd in the Picky Centre Isles Tournament recently. We are still urgently seeking volunteers who would be interested in coaching the netball teams after the summer. Please remember this is for our current P4-P6 pupils and training and support is available from Catherine Johnson of Active Schools.



Football



Outdoor Training ...commences on Wednesday evening.

Many thanks to Michael Miller, Roy Foubister and David and Elaine Clark for volunteering to lead these sessions.

Do they mean me?

We do need regular leaders to support our footballers for next session. You don't need vast expertise, simple enthusiasm and commitment are the best gifts you can give. Contact Helen at school if you want more info.



Eco News—MADD3



On Wednesday the 23rd April we had another very successful MADD 3 . (Make a Difference Day).

How many Primary 1s can you sit on a bench?



If one P1 was to fall off the end...

The pupil committee put out the brilliant, new colourful seating made by our Janitors, Mr. Scott and Mr. Mowat.



We also started work on improving our playground. All pupils had the opportunity to start painting our inner courtyard with it's lovely rainbow and snakes and ladders design. Pupil council members Alice Scott and Robbie Rendall explained, "The playground looks so beautiful and colourful." "It is a more fun place to play."



The Eco Explorers and Gardening Group worked incredibly hard planting trees around the all weather court with Jenny Taylor from Orkney Woodland Heritage



The whole school took part in a workshop finding out more about recycling and reusing materials.

More News

Norwegian Constitution Day 2008 This event takes place every year on 17 May, which this year falls on a Saturday.

In Norway it is celebrated as a national holiday and all the schools are closed and the children have special activities arranged for them. Here in Orkney we celebrate this day as part of our Twinning and Friendship agreement with the county of Hordaland in Norway, where the main city is Bergen.

Part of the day is taken up with a parade, called a "Tog" in Norwegian, and children join in the procession. There will be a "Tog" or parade on Saturday afternoon, made up of Norwegian visitors who have come here specially for this event, and other people from Orkney who like to join in. It will be led by Kirkwall City Pipe Band, and will leave the pierhead at 2.30 pm and make its way to St Magnus Cathedral where there will be some entertainment by some young Orcadian dancers and singers, plus the Kirkwall Town Band and Kirkwall City Pipe Band.

If you would like to join in with the parade with your family could you please join the others taking part who will gather for 2.15 pm at the area on Kirkwall pier just behind the offices of Orkney Ferries (near the zebra crossing close to Bridge Street).



On Thursday 29th May, Glenn Morris, leader of the Arctic Voice expedition through North West passage, will be visiting the school. He will talk to P4 - P7 about life in the Arctic. It will be in the dining hall from 10am until about 11.00am. Following the talk P7 will hold a BBC School Report type press conference in P7M with Glenn which will be used to produce a Glaitness TV 'special'. In the evening Glenn will give a talk which will be open to all members of the community. This will be publicised in the press and on the Radio the week before.



Walk to School Week 19th to 23rd May

We do understand that for some pupils this will not be possible due to their distance from school, but if children are close enough to walk, or come by car we would very much like them to take part in this week. To help all our children, we have organised with Active Schools for the children to keep an activity diary which we hope you will encourage your child to take part in. For our P4-7 pupils, we will be giving them a pedometer to wear in school to record steps taken during the day to encourage activity. We have also organised for extra activities for those pupils who find walking a challenge. The children will be asked to return their activity diaries at the end of the week and will receive a certificate for completing the challenges.



Choices for Life 2008 will take place at the Picky Centre on Tuesday 20th May for all P7 pupils. It is a two-hour, multi-media themed show compered by professional radio presenters empowering children through live music, drama, education and fun to make their own life choices. The purpose of the event is to help enable children to resist peer-group pressure at a stage in their lives when they may be particularly susceptible during the transition period between primary and secondary school education. The important feature of Choices for Life is its ability to enthuse young people about these issues and reinforce

School Meals Price Increase

Please note that as from Tuesday 6th May, charges for school meals were increased as follows:

Primary Pupil £1.45 Teaching Staff £3.65



P6 Cycling Proficiency Training



Training Sessions Monday 2nd June, Tuesday 3rd June, Monday 9th June, Tuesday 10th June, Monday 16th June and Tuesday 17th June, all between 10-11 am.

It is hoped that the test can take place on Monday 23rd June and we wish all the participants well.

We would remind parents that by following these steps, you can ensure your child is as safe as possible when cycling:

- Check and maintain the condition of your child's bicycle.
- Ensure your child wears a helmet at all times when cycling.
- Wearing a fluorescent top.
- Encourage your child to practice good road safety.

Sports

Sports Day is on Tuesday 3rd June and parents are welcome to come along to Picky where the sports will start at 1.30 pm sharp. Attached to this newsletter is a school packed lunch slip for that day—can parents please fill these in and return to school by Friday 23rd May at the latest.

P7 Transition Sports Day is on Wednesday 21st May. Transition Sport is a multi-activity sports programme funded by the Orkney Child-care Partnership. This programme was developed to introduce the Primary 7 pupils to sports which will be on offer to them when they reach Secondary School. Transition Sport will also give them an opportunity to meet other children who will be attending the same Secondary School as them after the summer. It will also give the children a contact to the local sports clubs.

Sun Cream



Please remember to apply sun cream to your child before they come to school, and also provide a sun hat to keep harmful sun rays off delicate skin, t-shirts with short sleeves and collars are also a good idea. Children are encouraged to put on sun cream if you want to send it in, but please name sun cream and this should be handed into the class teacher. It is not necessary to fill in a medical form, but we are not allowed to share or put creams on other children unless verbal or written permission is given by parents and carers.

Dates for your Diary!

P7 Transition Sports Wed 21st May

Norwegian Constitution Day Saturday 17th May

HMI e Inspection Week Mon 26th to Fri 30th May

P6 Hoy Trip Mon & Tues 26th/27th May

The Primary Schools Athletics Championships Wed 28th May (for 20 pupils from classes 5-7)

Sports Day Tuesday 3rd June

Newsletter 9 Friday 6th June

P7 Leavers' Service Wed 11th June (Picky Centre) - please collect pupils from school after the service

Closer2Nature Workshops: Craigeith Whodunnit for P1, 1/2 and P4 (including all pupils in 1A) and Biodiversity Bamboozle for P5 pupils.

P7 KGS Transition Visit Days Thurs/Fri 12th/13th June

End Summer Term Friday 27 June

Autumn Term 2008

Start (Staff) Mon 18 Aug (Pupils) Tues 19 Aug

And Finally...

We have a great deal to celebrate at Glaitness at this time of year, as our pupils go out and about as ambassadors for the school, it is wonderful to have so many complements about their attitude and behaviour regardless of the activity they are taking part in. Well done to all pupils, it makes us all have a warm glow inside!

I must make a particular mention to the pupils who gave up their time during the Easter holidays to come out to Skara Brae on a very wet and windy day to take part in and film the unveiling of the new stone. Again they impressed all the visitors and camera crews that worked alongside them. So much in fact, that the Russian Hour TV company has very generously donated a professional camera to the school for any future Glaitness TV recordings that we will be doing to give us a more professional end product. Although the camera is not in school yet, we would like to thank Bob Miller and Russian Hour TV for their very generous donation to the school. Mr Geddes is walking round with a very large smile at the thought of using this new equipment in the future with the children.

Valerie Bleakley