



Beaconhurst E-news

THE SCHOOL'S LATEST NEWS ON LINE

Headmasters Welcome

Welcome to the first of this term's e-newsletter. Already there is a lot to report on and I hope you enjoy catching up with events so far.

There will be a visit to Beaconhurst on Friday 4th March by **His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex**. He is patron of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and will be meeting pupils currently involved in the programme at school. However, he is also interested in meeting a range of pupils and I hope there will be the opportunity for everyone at school to welcome the Earl. In addition, the His Royal Highness will be officially opening the newly re-furbished Cameron Hall. This is a great honour for the school as he is only visiting one other institution whilst in Stirling. **IWK**

Andorra Ski Trip

A party of 32 Beaconhurst staff and pupils went skiing in Soldeu, Andorra on the 1st January 2011. After a long day travelling, they finally arrived in the resort where the equipment was organised and everyone settled into their rooms.

The party were up bright and early the next day, where the pupils had several warm up runs before going off to their various classes. The morning classes lasted for three hours and everyone was sorted into groups before having lunch.

The standard of the skiing and boarding improved greatly throughout the course of the week and an impressive 95% of the runs were open, with only one or two black runs closed. Conditions were best early morning, as by mid afternoon the runs were becoming increasingly icy. However, extreme care was taken by all and everyone had a very enjoyable week – accident free!

Salter's Chemistry Camps

Five of our S3 pupils have applied for a place at this year's Salter's Chemistry Camps. These are three day residential camps, which take place at many prestigious Universities throughout the UK and give the pupils the opportunity to experience life living on a University campus, as well as trying out some exciting 'hands on' chemistry. This is the highest number of applicants Beaconhurst has ever put forward for this highly sought after course, but unfortunately only a maximum of two pupils can be successful from any one school.

Our applicants are **Lily Cairns-Haylor, Alissa Campbell, Nathan Gibson, Jack Keilty** and **Joanna Lowrie**. Well done to everyone for taking the time and effort to apply and hopefully the lucky candidates will enjoy their time away in the summer. The two lucky participants will be chosen by the Salter's Chemistry Camps Administrator.

The Andorra Ski Trip Team



Beyond Barriers 2011- Information Event – Wednesday 19th January 7pm

In July, the Beyond Barriers 2011 mission will head for Chennai. A charity based in Stirling, Beyond Barriers comprises of a number of organisations, including the Haldane Trust and Beaconhurst School as partners. Led by Josh and Rachel Milton, natives of Chennai but now living and working here, a team of students from the Stirling area will travel to India where they will work alongside a charity called SYCAM in Chennai in the second of a planned annual series of volunteer expeditions.

It was my privilege to participate in the first trip, last year, and I have to say that my ideas of Indian life, whatever they were before, were blown away by my experiences in this extraordinary city. I was staggered by the warmth and generosity of the people I met and worked with. The Carmel Christian School in the suburb of Ambattur is paired with an orphanage run by SYCAM and provides education to both the youngsters in the orphanage and others in the local community. The welcome we received when we arrived at the school was tremendous, with smiles as wide as I've ever seen. Through our regular return visits to the school and home during our stay in Chennai, it was most uplifting to see the enthusiasm with which we were met. Our visits to other missions in which SYCAM are involved, to a gypsy colony and two of the city's missions for patients suffering the after effects of leprosy, were eye opening indeed. In both the chaotic existence of the gypsy community and the quiet dignity of patients with the many and varied after effects of disease, the value of the work being done by SYCAM was all too evident to my sheltered, Western eyes.

As an IT specialist, my contribution to the 2010 visit centred on the installation of 6 recycled computers donated by Beaconhurst supplier, Ross Mcphaden at ArmIT, but the focus of this year's trip will depend on the individuals who sign up. We held an information event to provide a flavour of what might be expected of potential volunteers at Beaconhurst on Wednesday 19th January at 7pm, and an open invitation was extended to S6 pupils and their parents from schools in the Stirling area to attend this event. It is hoped that some of last year's volunteers and the presentations on the evening provided inspiration to encourage participation in BB11!

Mr Ken Milligan
Computing Department
Beaconhurst School



One of the patients living in the colony for sufferers of leprosy.



These are the oldest and youngest children in the home in Ambattu.

Eco News from the Junior School

On Tuesday 10th November 2010 the Junior School Eco representatives planted a Rowan tree sapling in the grounds of the school. It has managed to survive the harsh winter weather and is steadily growing with a little plaque beside it giving the date it was planted. The area around the new tree has now been designated as the Junior School Nature Corner and pupils and staff are developing it into an attractive spot for insects, birds and animals as well as an outdoor classroom for use by classes.

A Green Day was organised by the pupils whereby everyone paid a £1 to wear green instead of school uniform and some funds were generated for eco activity within the school. After discussion, the pupils decided to plant a circular garden area around the new tree, choosing plants which would be hardy, colourful and attractive to insects and butterflies. With assistance from a willing and knowledgeable parent, the boys and girls successfully planted a good variety of plants last summer.

The Nature Corner is now looking well established, but is awaiting further development by the pupils. After the last chance of frost, plans are underway to create a wildflower area. Some old tyres were kindly donated and will be filled with compost from the Polmaise recycling centre. The eco class representatives will plant the tyres up with wildflower seeds, which have been provided by Scottish National Heritage.

Well done to the enterprising pupils whose efforts and ideas have not only created a lovely area to be used by all but also improved the school environment.



Some of our
Junior School Eco Committee members

Dance your way to fitness by enjoying the sociable, recreational exercise offered by Scottish country dancing. Good music, good exercise, good fun – these are all proven stress-busters and you will find them at classes run by Stirling Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS).

All are welcome, young or older; partners provided, you don't need to come as a couple. Perhaps you have never tried country dancing – come along and give it a go. Perhaps you learned at school – come along and refresh your fancy footwork! We have classes to suit everyone. Where? At Beaconsburn School on a Thursday evening from January to March:

Beginners class 7.15 – 8.25pm
General class 8.30 – 10.00pm

For further details, please phone Jane Balman 01786 822853 or go online to our website at www.rscds-stirling.com You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our classes!

Expressive Arts

S4, 5 and 6 have their school production rehearsals well underway and this year they will be performing "**How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying**" - a 1960's musical comedy which has been revived for its 50th anniversary, and will begin on Broadway in March 2011 starring Daniel Radcliffe. School rehearsals are shaping up, as are the wardrobe department who have, this week, been busy measuring up for costumes! We are looking forward to the Beaconsburn Expressive Arts production of what was one of the funniest and best loved productions of its time.



Pictured are **Gregor Harley, Emily Barr** and **Bethany Quin** from our S6 class during rehearsal.

Spotlight

Ross Tiree Wilson from S2 is competing in an U14 Tennis Europe Tennis competition in Bolton and also the U14 World Championships in France later this month. He is one of 4 boys selected to represent GB in this tournament.

Emma Devine from S4 has been training hard over the holidays and competed in a tournament in Glasgow at the end of last week. There is the possibility she will also be competing in another 10K in Wrexham as well as entering some U18 tournaments in Tunisia and Holland. Emma is striving towards gaining a professional ranking.

Lewis Blaney (S6), Thomas Barker (S5), Mungo Dewar (S6), Joe Gil (S5) and Michella Hogg (S6) were all presented with their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards.

Ben Wilkinson from S3 has been selected to represent Cricket Scotland at the International Cricket Council Centre of Excellence in La Manga, Spain. This is aimed at under 17s and each country is allowed to send two players. Ben is likely to be the youngest player from around Europe to attend.

Hattie Graham (Tr) was recently awarded her bronze medal for ice-skating. She had to perform forward tea-pots, 3 jumps, spirals, a bunny hop and perform a drag. Congratulations Hattie on this excellent achievement.

Hannah Howland (J4) recently competed in the West Park Highland Dancing competition in Denny, which was for children up to age 13. Hannah has only recently returned to competition, having taken a break to learn several new routines, and she won 2 trophies at this event. She was awarded the cup for winning her section and a trophy for the best 'Fling'.

Our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Winners

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme has four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. You need be at least 14 years old to start a Bronze programme and you must do a minimum of three month's activity for each of the section. In addition, you need to plan, train for and complete a two day (one night) Expedition.

You also have to spend an extra three months on one of the Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections. It's your choice which one and, though you can change your mind later, you should decide which section you want to do for longer at the beginning. Knowing how long you're going to do it for will help you to set your aims for the sections.



Lewis Blaney



Thomas Barker



Mungo Dewar



Joe Gil



Michella Hogg

Last term Miss McCormack, one of our music specialists was invited to perform in a newly commissioned opera; this is an account of her experience.

In December, I was invited by the composer, Nigel Osborne, to sing the main role in his opera, **Differences in Demolition, A Sevdah Opera**, in Vienna and Srebrenica, Bosnia. The opera – based on a story of domestic and political disintegration in the Balkans – was written with the intention of supporting young people in post-conflict situations through cultural activity.

These performances were supported by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and involved an ensemble of artists from many religions and races who could hopefully spread a message of cultural collaboration and communication through music. I look forward to sharing this wonderful experience in future Senior and Junior school assemblies.

Miss Mandy McCormack



Transition demonstrating the “JIG”

To celebrate Burns' Day, the Hopscotch Theatre Company came to Beaconhurst on Wednesday 26 January to perform to the whole of Transition to S2, a dramatised reading of his most famous narrative poem, *Tam O' Shanter*. With a clever use of movement, props and sounds the two actors brought the work vividly to life, sparing the audience none of the gory details which were omitted from the original publication as too horrifying to be seen in print. There was also lots of fun and audience participation interspersed with the tender lyricism for which Burns is famous in his love songs. The pupils all thoroughly enjoyed the performance and came away with a new understanding of their national poet.

Beaconhurst IT Update

The Beaconhurst IT Network has been undergoing a period of consolidation over the winter months with, for example, old servers being replaced and teachers being able to access the Management Information System remotely from home.

The refurbished Cameron Hall has new interactive whiteboards and projectors in each classroom, additional computers in the music department and provision for up to eight pupil computers in each language classroom; additionally a powerful new projector has been put in the assembly hall

Surveillance cameras have now been fitted at the entrances to most buildings, and in certain locations where there is expensive equipment. Although primarily to monitor security out of hours, these cameras can be viewed by authorised staff at any time.

The function of the IT department is to provide an efficient Administration and Management environment for the whole school, and enhance our pupils' learning experience.

Mr Tony Baker, IT Manager

Australasia Tour 2010

Stuart Imrie, a former Beaconhurst pupil who is currently working in the PE department, was selected to represent Scotland at Touch Rugby on a recent tour to Australasia. He has written the following report of his experience.

I was lucky enough to be invited to go on the Scottish Touch Rugby tour to Singapore and Australia. The tour consisted of a test match against Singapore, the first test match, in history to be played on Singapore soil. From here, we travelled to Sydney where we had been invited to play at the NSW State Cup, the largest and most competitive sporting tournament in the world.

Singapore started with a warm up game against the Singapore Barbarians which Scotland won 7-3 after being cut short due to a mid afternoon monsoon! The evening test still took place even after the monsoon earlier in the day, which Scotland won 8-1 against a young Singaporean team who did themselves proud.

The New South Wales State Cup has over 3000 competitors taking part in various divisions. The Scotland team was invited to play in the premier division at the Men's Open level. This tournament was nothing like I had ever seen or experienced before, from the speed of play to the crowd support. The magnitude of the game could only be likened to the following football receives in Scotland. Playing in the State cup was a steep learning curve which has undoubtedly helped us all. (Especially with the focus now firmly on this summer's World Cup).

My personal highlight of the state cup was playing against, arguably, the best touch player in the world and the best rugby league player in the world. Their two respective teams met in a closely fought final where Hornsby won 4-3 against Western Suburbs.

Mr Stuart Imrie



Stuart Imrie





Miss McCluskey has awarded the following Superstar Awards

**Successful
Learners**

Molly Clarke (J1) Heather Hale (J1)
Caroline Henderson (J1) Sam Hyde (J1)
Hannah Nicolson (J1) Logan Morrison (J1)

Stuart Beattie (J2) Gabrielle Blackie (J2)
Jake Holmes (J2) Megan Knight (J2)
Euan MacKenzie (J2) Catriona Tung (J2)

Dante Marshall (J3) Caitlin Roger (J3)
Tom Strang (J3)

**Confident
Individuals**

Alex Clark (J4) Tom Graham (J4)
Jack Haughton (J4) Hannah Howland (J4)
Drew Moore (J4) Cameron Morrison (J4)
Max Oldfield (J4) Calum Robertson (J4)
Liam Russell (J4) Sophie Ure (J4)

Emma Kilpatrick (J5) Ben Malcolm (J5)

Holly McCulloch (J6) Ellie Towers (J6)

**Responsible
Citizens**

**Effective
Contributors**

WRITERS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY

J1 - Emma Carman and Elise Newall

J2 - Katherine Hendrix and Euan MacKenzie

J3 - Poppy Graham and Alex Evans

MERIT BADGE WINNERS FOR JANUARY

J1 – Tara Mathewson and Charlotte Stirling.

J2 – Daniel Henderson, Euan Mackenzie, Olivia Ruiz and Sophie Ure.

J3 – Rory Baillie-Hamilton, Jake Gourley, Alex Hyde, Victoria Johnston, Ellie Pender and Mathew Wilson

J4 – Calum Robertson, Emily Pagan, Cameron Morrison, Kerr Fletcher, Olivia Sinclair and Drew Moore.

J5 – Gordie Graham and Zara Gullen.

J6 – Meg Sandstrom, Lavinia Lam, Meg Carman, Brandon Thomson-Hoare, Robyn McKinnon, Jamie Blackhurst and Ellie Towers.

J4-J6 Burns Supper

On Friday 28th January, J4, J5 and J6 had their Burns Supper. It was a lot of fun. **Danny Vevers** read the Selkirk Grace. Then **Katie Holdsworth** came in carrying the haggis on a plate behind **Joss Bryson** who was playing the bagpipes. They walked slowly around the Dining Hall while everyone clapped. Katie then placed the haggis in front of **Martin dos Reis**. **Meg Carman** and **Robert Johnston** addressed the haggis and Martine cut it. After that we ate haggis, shortbread and drank Irn Bru. **Sophie Shrive** gave us a brief and interesting background about Robert Burns. The toast to the lassies was done by **Callum Hodge** which was very funny. **Sally McPherson's** response from the lassies was just as funny!

J4 did a recital of 'A man's a man for a that', which they performed very well. It was J5's task to do a recital of 'To a mouse', which was also very good. Finally we sang Auld Lang Syne and went back to class after a lovely afternoon.

Meg Sandstrom (J6)

A Toast to the Lassies

*Lassies lassies love their dollies
High heeled shoes and shopping trolley's
They think they're like movie stars
We think they're be better off on Mars.*

*Girls wear hairbands everyday
Bobbles, clasps whit can ah say
They brush their hair day and night
Still they look a terrible sight.*

*Lipstick lipstick nice and thick
It comes oot like a little stick
The lassies smear it ower their face
But still they look like a monster from outer space.*

*The lassies think they're good at football
At least that's what they say
But let's be honest lassies
You don't know how to play.*

*Despite aw their faults they're no aw that bad
So whit can ah say being a lad
I'm gonna say aboon aw the rest
The Beaconhurst lassies are the best.*

*Oh Sally you've sat next to me in Junior 6,5,4 and 3
And Junior 2 and Junior 1 I have to say it has been a lot of fun
Now I'm wishing with all my heart
That next year we're kept well apart*

*Now it's your turn to reply
So come on don't be shy
Tell the lassies here nice and loud
What good looking boys are in this crowd.*

*So raise your glass and lads agree with me
That Beaconhurst Lassies are fine by me.*

Callum Hodge (J6)

To the Laddies

*Callum, Callum gee us a break
I think you made a big mistake
It's really us lassies with the brains
And maybe that explains.*

*Why some 'you laddies wi long hair
You say that you really don't care
When you can't see out you very fringe
It makes us lassies cringe*

*You J4 laddies are small and cute
Except for two who've taken root
And tower above us J6 lassies
Pretending to be Harry Potter in his glasses.*

*And as for the laddies in J5
Playing tig as you duck and dive
Why run from square to square
When you can play with J5 lassies
IT's NOT FAIR!*

*Which take is on to Junior 6
Where all the laddies know the tricks
And every game on their X-Box
But they forgot their smelly socks!*

*So here's a toast to all you laddies
All you goodies and all you baddies
What I've said is all in fun
Laddies -0
Lassies - 1!!!*

Sally McPherson (J6)





Iona Graham pictured with staff from Ward 66 of the Southern General Hospital.

Focus on Charities

Our J4 and J5 classes put on an expressive arts performance for our parents to come and see. Parents were not charged, but they could donate some money if they wished. The two plays we did were "The tale of Sudan and Zimbabwe" and the "Operateeni Alexander". It was a fund raising event for ward 66 in the Southern General hospital. It was held in the dining hall and was very successful as we raised the grand total of £503.00. Iona, who was once in that ward, presented the very happy nurses with the cheque.

Sally McPherson (J6)

Seasons for Growth

This term we are inviting children in Transition and S1 to take part in a new initiative to the school called Seasons for Growth. This is an education programme which helps children who have already experienced grief, loss or change within their life. The sessions aim to explore important concepts such as change, loss, feelings, coping, memories, decision making and support networks.

The course is facilitated in small groups, accompanied by trained adults known as Companions. We hope to be able to offer this programme to both the Junior and Senior school in the future. If you would like more information please contact myself or Miss Jackson.

The programme will start on Wednesday 2nd March 3.45-4.30 and run on a weekly basis.

Mrs Fiona Casey

Headmaster's Certificates

Headmaster's Certificates of Distinction have been presented to the following pupils since the last bulletin:

Junior Start: **Molly McCaig**

Junior School: **Lucy Baillie-Hamilton, Rory Baillie-Hamilton, Gabrielle Blackie, Emma Carman, Millie Dillon, Jenny Ferguson, Poppy Graham, Heather Hale, Caroline Henderson, Daniel Henderson, Kate Henderson, Louise Hutchison, Oliver Hunter, Miles Kilpatrick, Jessica Lifson, Frankie Lynch, Euan MacKenzie, Amy Sandstrom, Charlotte Stirling, Tom Strang, Ellie Tierney and Katelyn Todd.**

Senior School: **Emily Barr, Verity Beckham, Michella Hogg, Amy MacKenzie and Emily Watson**

Well done to all those pupils who have distinguished themselves in their work and in their contribution to school life.

Many congratulations to all our pupils on their many and varied achievements. Apologies to anyone we have missed out – please let us know for inclusion in the next bulletin.

Beaconhurst School
52 Kenilworth Road
Bridge of Allan
Stirling
FK9 4RR

Telephone: 01786 832146
Fax: 01786 833415
E-mail: secretary@beaconhurst.stirling.sch.uk
Website: www.beaconhurst.com
A company limited by guarantee (SCO 39250) and registered charity (SC) 05753)