

ARD SGOIL A'PHLUIC/PLOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER—Week ending December 22nd 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the activities which pupils have been participating in this term. It is great to be able to support pupils to have a variety of learning experiences as part of their time at school. I am very grateful to my colleagues for all the work they do both daily in lessons and in supporting pupils to take part in sporting events and other learning experiences out of school. We are fortunate to have access to some valuable learning experiences close at hand, including the recent Pathway to Teaching course at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. We need to nurture and support new teachers who can work through the medium of Gaelic and this was an important opportunity for some of our senior pupils to understand how they could follow a career in Gaelic teaching.

Next term we will continue with our review of the Vision, Values and Aims for Plockton 3-18 School. The plan to review these was in place before the more recent decision regarding Plockton Primary School pupils moving to the high school buildings. We are very aware of the distinctive identity and traditions of the two schools and aim to create a Vision, Values and Aims which is fitting for the whole 3 – 18 school and which also allows both schools and the Sgoil-àraich to feel included and represented.

As this term ends, we say goodbye to Miss Brennan, one of our Gaelic teachers. She will be starting in her new post at Lochaber High School in January and we wish her every success in her new school.

There are so many ways in which people donate items, help out and give their time to support the school, both at our annual Christmas Fayre and throughout the school year. We very much appreciate your support and I wish all pupils and their families a lovely festive season and a Happy New Year.

Le dùrachdan

Jo Scott-Moncrieff

S3 CROFTING

—Blacksmith Visit





100 CLUB CHRISTMAS DRAW

BONUS £100 DRAW WINNER: Fionnuala Stark

1st Prize: Jeanette Taylor

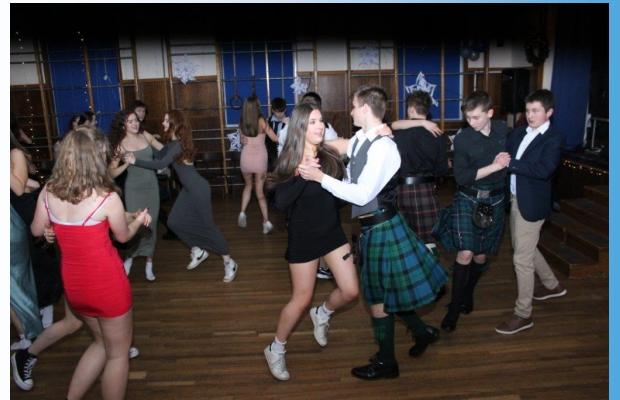
2nd Prize: Amanda Stark

3rd Prize: Morven Urquhart



One of our Head Prefects, Emily Macdonald recently took part in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's 50th anniversary community concert. She sang exceptionally well and contributed hugely to the success of the concert. She's accompanied here by Innes Watson, one of our tutors in the music school.

CHRISTMAS SOCIALS



SHINTY

Plockton High School Girls Shinty team followed up on their Sorley MacLean success by winning the Donella Crawford Cup at Ardnamurchen.

This is the first time the school has won this trophy and all the players produced some excellent performances in highly competitive games.

The team had convincing wins over Glasgow Gaelic School, Uddingston, Dunoon and Lochgilphead before facing tougher competition against Kingussie which finished in a 1-1 draw resulting in a tie for this group.

The team had to play Kingussie again in a play-off where they raised their skill level and determination to win 2-0 and progressed to the final against Inverness Royal Academy. They all controlled their nerves extremely well and matched some very talented players by producing a superb performance to secure victory with a 3-1 win.

The players were: Poppy Glasgow, Niamh Morrison, Tegan Bruce, Summer MacLennan, Mairi Finlayson, Poppy MacKenzie, Abi MacRae and Lexie MacKenzie who was the leading goal scorer with 17 goals in total throughout the tournament. Huge thanks to Andrew MacKenzie for his coaching expertise.



CROSS COUNTRY

On a FREEZING day at the end of November, a group of S1-4 pupils competed in the Leanachan Challenge Cross Country Competition at the Nevis range!

John Morison, Edie Munro, Caleb McKinney, Maria Stewart and Bella McCowan made up the S1/2 team who ran 3km against some tough club athletes. Vivienne Goodman, Molly Pearce, Owen MacKenzie, Freya McCowan, Eilidh McWilliams, Charlie MacVicar and Sean Campbell made up the S3/4 team who ran 6km in some difficult conditions. All pupils did extremely well, particularly Vivienne Goodman who won a silver medal and Molly Pearce who finished in 4th place against older competitors. All pupils are looking forward to next year's challenge!



By Cain Courtney, S1



By John Morison,



By Daniel Campbell, S1



By Nathan Saggars, S1



Music Students visit Airdferry Resource Centre

On Tuesday 5th December students from Plockton High School visited Airdferry Resource Centre to play some music. We had Anndra Cumming on accordion, Gaelic Song and pipes, Rose MacLaren-Lee singing a self penned song accompanied on guitar by Finlay Miller, Hannah Matheson on Pipes, Maili MacKenzie on Fiddle, Anja MacLennan on Guitar, Rory Biss on Accordion and Cailean McKerron on Piano. Residents were treated to a mixture of Scottish, modern and Christmas tunes and songs. The group were accompanied by Music Teacher Sarah-Jayne Shankland and NCETM Director Mike Vass.



Slighe gu Teagasg (*pathway to teaching*).

This is a new course, designed by Teacher Education lecturers at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, for secondary school pupils (S4 to S6) who are interested in teaching Gaelic and wanted to experience college-level courses and student life.

This was written by Rosa Southall, S5:

S4-6 Gàidhlig pupils recently got the opportunity to take part in Sabhal Mor Ostaig's Slighe gu Teagasg (*pathway to teaching*). We stayed over on the campus for a total of six nights over three weeks and got a full immersive experience into university life. We took part in a wide range of teaching based activities. We went through lots of different workshops focusing on different parts of teaching such as: health and wellbeing, art and Drama. We got lessons on the key parts of teaching and the different opportunities available at SMO from lecturers: Shona Cormack, Gwen MacGuire, Kirsty MacDougall and Floraidh Forest. We also received workshops from Christine Primrose, Sian Baldwin and Decker Forest. In the evening, we took part in student activities including a quiz and a ceilidh in An Talla Mhor. To finish up the course, we each delivered mock lessons to the rest of our classmates and lecturers. This course was a brilliant opportunity for us, we all got more of an understanding of the course and life at SMO and also the basics of teaching. Sabhal Mor Ostaig are hoping to start this as an annual course and also open it up to learner students as well. A huge thanks to Shona, Gwen, Miss Brennan and the rest of the lecturers and staff at SMO who made this happen.

Shona Cormack, Course Director, said: "It was a real pleasure for us to work with such an eager, hard-working and engaging group of teenagers who were so willing to use Gaelic and extend their skills and knowledge. I am so proud of them all and I really hope that the course has encouraged them to consider a career in teaching Gaelic when they leave school."

Fhuair na sgoilearan Gàidhlig san S4-S6 an cothrom a dhol gu Sabhal Mor Ostaig airson a' chùrsa Slighe gu teagasg. Dh'fhuirich sinn aig SMO airson sia oidhcheannan thairis air trì seachdainean, fhuair sinn blasad de bheatha nan oileanach aig SMO. Ghabh sinn pàirt ann an tòrr diofar leasan agus choimhead sinn air na diofar pàirtean de theagaisg. Rinn sinn diofar bùthan-obrach còmhla ri na oileanaich is cuideachd na luchd- teagaisg SMO. Rinn sinn rudan mu dheidhinn slàinte is sunnd, dràma, ealain is cuideachd a' chànan Gàidhlig. Air an oidhche, bha sinn còmhla ris na oileanaich san Talla Mhòr. Rinn sinn cèilidh is cuideachd farpais-ceist. Air an latha mu dheireadh, gus crìoch a chur air a'chùrsa, rinn sinn uile leasan. Bha a' chùrsa seo air leth math airson a thoirt dhuinn fiosrachaidh is blasad den chùrsa teagaisg aig SMO is cuideachd na rudan a tha feumail airson a bhith a' teagasg. Mòran taing do Shona, Gwen is Miss Brennan airson a' cuir a' chùrsa air dhòigh, bha e air leth spòrsail is inntinneach!



2023 YPI Final

Our S3 pupils have been working hard since the beginning of term on identifying social issues that are important to them and researching local charities which support local people. After much research, team-working, preparation and practising, the teams delivered their presentations to an audience of S2, teachers and The Judges. Joanna MacPherson from Attadale Gardens, Andrew Jones from the Coffee Bothy and Ms McPhee representing the teaching staff, assisted by our YPI representative Steve Dougan, had the difficult task of choosing the winning presentation. The charities represented were COOL (Christian Outlook on Lochalsh), Living Hope, Kyleakin Connections, RNLI Kyle, Mountain Rescue (Skye and Lochalsh) and Crocus Highland. A massive well done to Katie Greville, Kelly Lin, Hamish MacLean and Charlie MacVicar whose moving presentation about Crocus Highland (Highland Hospice), a bereavement support service, won the £3000 grant. Katie Gibb, on behalf of Highland Hospice, is looking forward to speaking with the team, and told us 'we are delighted to learn that the Plockton YPI final was won by the Crocus Highland group'. Thank you to our wonderful comperes, Adam Cameron and Mason Gillespie, our very own Ant and Dec, for their entertaining introductions.

