

The GGS Grapevine



News, achievements and learning from Grantown Grammar School (www.grantowngrammar.highland.sch.uk)

News bites...

Rugby lads will look the part

WITH the aid of the funds raised through past events, the boys' rugby team will soon be getting new strips. We have also approved the purchase of new projection equipment for the school and are working with the school on the best solution. Watch for developments on our Facebook page.

TOGETHER with the school we have been running a competition to design a logo for the parent council. Our thanks to all pupils who have contributed an entry. We'll let you know the winner soon via our Facebook page, so please 'like' the page to be sure that you get to know quickly.

THE next Grantown Grammar School Parent Council meeting is on March 17 at 7pm, and is open to any parents who have any ideas that would benefit the school.

GRANTOWN Grammar School ski team will be competing on Friday March 7 (weather permitting) in the Alpine Series Cairngorm qualifier. They are the current holders of Sir Francis Walker Trophy and hope to defend their title this year.

TEN Grantown Grammar School pupils along with one pupil from Kingussie High School and one from Aboyne Academy were involved in Senior Féis Day on Sunday.

Those involved were: Katrina McGougan, Georgie Smith, Jo Crane, Amelia McAulay Brand, Rachel Crane, Ailsa Hepburn, Iain Coltart, Hamish Hepburn, Shannah Grant and Ciaran Robertson. Hamish Hepburn and Ciaran Robertson both successfully auditioned for the Cairngorm Ceilidh Trail.

Thank you to all parents for their attendance at the S3 parents' evening. The event was well attended with positive feedback from parents, staff and pupils.

LOVE has been in the air... S6 cupids delivered chocolate love hearts to lucky recipients on Valentine's Day. Swooning youngsters were overcome by the dedication the cupids displayed in their scintillating costumes.

'Flower of Scotland' sees spirits rise and be cheery again

ON A wild and windy day, 49 intrepid supporters - 40 pupils and nine staff - braved the elements to head to Murrayfield for the Calcutta Cup.

It was a sell-out affair at Murrayfield and initially there was a real buzz about the stadium but unfortunately the actual rugby was less engaging!

The final score was 20-0 to England. Despite Jas Hepburn's

lonely "Come on Scotland" shouts heard across the stadium, the Scotland performance was almost as dismal as the weather!

However, a wee "Flower of Scotland" rendition on the coach on the way home put the world to rights and after a wee stop off at McDonalds all of the GGS supporters were cheery once more!

STILL on a sporting note, the U14-boys' football team played another friendly against Dingwall Academy. This was a much improved performance from their previous game. The final score was 4-3 to Dingwall, however, the boys managed to come back from 3-0 down

with a spirited second-half performance. The squad is working hard in training and this is transferring into game day. This year the U14 team have been training and playing friendlies in the hope they will be able to enter the Highland Schools League next year.

Teacher profile: Jas Hepburn

- Name: Jas Hepburn
- Position: PE and Outdoor Learning
- Time at GGS: 4 years
- Hobbies and interests: Climbing, skiing, MTB, rugby and ballet
- Favourite book: "Precious Little Sleep": The Autobiography of Wayne Sleep
- Favourite TV show: Fat Ballerina on Channel 4
- Website checked every day: SportsScotland Avalanche Information Service (in case I'm going to get a call-out)
- Special power: The ability to rescue people from the mountains (I'm a member of Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team) and speak very loudly
- Secret fact: I'm actually a very quiet and shy person



SAFE & RESPONSIBLE USE OF ICT EQUIPMENT

KEEP MY USERNAME AND PASSWORD TO MYSELF.

I will... Be responsible about the places I go online.

I will... Tell and show a teacher or adult anything I see on the screen that worries me.

I will... Look after all personal information by not sharing my or other people's home addresses, phone numbers or other details.

I will... Be polite and kind to other pupils, teachers and other people I might learn with online.

I will... Be responsible and think before I upload or post anything online, especially photos.

I will... NEVER meet up with anyone that I have only met online without a parent, teacher or adult.

KEEP INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

SCREEN SAVER: Some of the tips that a police officer told pupils to help keep them safe while online.

Long arm of the law taps out some vital internet tips

LOCALLY-BASED Police Scotland officer Stuart Mckellag recently gave a presentation to S4, S5 and S6 pupils on the internet and the law. This was a very informative presentation and an eye-opener for most of the pupils who attended and for the staff in attendance as well. Comments from some pupils

after the event included: "Are pupils in the younger years going to get this presentation? My brother really needs to hear this!" "I am going to take stuff off my page as soon as I get home" Pupils in S1 to S3 will be given similar presentations in school by Stuart this Monday (March 3).

THE Grantown Grammar School Parent Council Facebook page is now available. The plan is for the parent council to let you know when information about the school and school events is available, so notifications will appear on the Facebook page no later than when the information is put into school bags. There will be links to where you can find information on the web.

If you would like to receive information by email, then look at the advice on that page about how to set up 'notifications'. Facebook can send you an email when you have a notification.

The parent council's new website is also now up and running. You can reach it by a link from the Facebook page or by clicking on the parent council box at the bottom of the welcome page on www.ggschool.com.

There is also a 'blog' on that site, so questions can be asked about the school and the parent council.

Questions and answers will be shared routinely - help on registering an 'account' with a screen name to make comments is available on the parent council website.

Over the past month or so, S2 pupils have been heavily involved in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative. YPI is designed to help youngsters understand and become involved in charity work.

In small groups, pupils pick a charity (as local as possible) whose work and focus means a lot to them. They research their activities, analyse the impact they have on society and prepare a presentation about the charity. The groups then have to present their findings to their class and see which groups will represent the class at the grand school final in March.

The winner of the final presentation receives a cheque for £3,000 to give to their charity.

For those groups who don't win, their work and research will have raised awareness of the work the charity does in the community and the importance of being actively involved in philanthropy throughout their lives.

More details to follow next month on how the initiative went. In the meantime, read more about it at www.goypi.org