

# The GGS Grapevine



News, achievements and learning from Grantown Grammar School ([www.grantowngrammar.highland.sch.uk](http://www.grantowngrammar.highland.sch.uk))

WELCOME to this month's news page where we hope to try to keep the whole of our learning community up-to-date with all of the exciting news and opportunities for pupils at Grantown Grammar School.

## This month: Celebrating success



**SPEEDY:** (Above) Jacob Sellars in a slalom race.

**TAKING TO THE SLOPES:** A bonnie picture in Montgenevre.

### News bites:

■ GGS geographers have been spending lots of time in the outdoors over the last few weeks doing fieldwork.

One S4 class has been into Grantown, learning more about the High Street and conducting some questionnaires to find out about the town's sphere of influence.

All of the National 4/5 geography pupils have now collected fieldwork data for their projects. This has been in Grantown and at the beach in Findhorn. They have worked exceptionally well, proving themselves to be real geographers!

■ All S3/4 pupils are invited to a meeting this lunchtime (Thursday) to find out more about doing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. A letter should have come home with S3/4 pupils on Monday, and an information powerpoint is available on the school website under 'information for parents'.

■ GGS pupil Jack Smith (S4) took part in Future Chef in Inverness this month. The judges were very impressed with his skills with organisers saying: "He will go on to be an excellent chef. We were so impressed with his knife skills, presentation and technique."

## Kids impress on French ski trip

GGS have recently returned from a very enjoyable ski holiday to Montgenevre, France, staying in the ClubHotel Les Rois Mages. The trip began at 5.30am on Saturday, January 4, where we had to meet at the school for the start of our journey.

For some this was a shock to the system after all the holiday long lies.

The journey was good apart from having a five-hour transfer from the airport to resort rather than the two hours due to snow, however, the pupils were still in good spirits.

Upon arrival at the hotel at 1.30am, we dined and made our way to our rooms for a few hours' sleep ready for skiing/boarding the next day.

We were all up bright and early for breakfast and straight out to ski on the first morning.



**SUPER COOL:** Having a great time on the slopes.

We were very lucky that there had been two days of heavy snow prior to our arrival so the mountain was covered in a layer of fresh powder. This teamed with perfect blue skies meant we were in for a good week.

Throughout the week, students were a real credit to the school, always polite and

courteous. Every pupil skied or boarded all six days and by the end of the week GGS was the talk of the town due to the high standard of our pupils.

In fact, instructors were fighting over us and they mentioned this is the most kilometres ever covered by a school group!

The hotel was very comfortable

and the staff were very good at organising evening entertainment after a day of snow sports. These included bum boarding, ice skating and a treasure hunt - all of which became very competitive.

The competition continued when the instructors organised a giant slalom race with another

school from Wales. This was a fantastic experience for both the skiers and boarders to demonstrate their technical skills.

On the final day the instructors took the groups on a day trip to Italy skidding the milky-way. This was a fantastic experience as we were able to ski and snowboard on a range of slopes including the 2006 Olympic women's downhill run.

The week sadly had to come to an end. It was a great opportunity for the pupils, who all developed and improved their technique, and will remain in their memories for a long time.

A big thank you to Mr Tom Magowan, Mrs Lorna Crane and Bob Telfer for organising the trip and hopefully future trips are as enjoyable and rewarding.

Duncan Coltart (S6)

## Dragons did us proud

THE Spey Dragons - Grantown Junior Netball team took on Fort William Juniors in their first "friendly" match of the year recently.

Despite a slow start, the Grantown girls played some excellent netball and goal shooter Suzie Sim shot spectacularly to keep the score line tight.

The Fort William girls were also good and The Dragons never really got in front of them, despite a multitude of interceptions by Beathag Atkinson and Ellie Cooper.

The final score 17-14 was a fitting end to a well contested game. The girls look forward to more matches in the next few months.

### Other netball news.....

GGS senior netball team took part in the Scottish Cup round three at The Sports Village in Aberdeen. Their opponents Robert Gordon's College were tough and despite battling every ball, the GGS girls trailed behind 19 - 11 at half time.

They fought well till the final whistle but the final score 34 - 17 was a reflection of how good the Aberdeen girls passed and shot.

Notable performances: There were some beautiful interceptions throughout the game from Mairi Blair, [GD] Tess Westbrook [WA/C] Charlotte Anderson [WA/C] and first timer Steph MacLeod [GK], some fantastic attack play from Carla Sermann [GS] and Yandra Banks-Brown [GA] and steely centre court play from Honor McAulry-Brand and Kirsty Bremner. Every member of the team is to be congratulated for their staying power throughout the hour-long match and the fact that they progressed one round further in the competition this year.

## Music department in the community

THIS past week has seen a number of Burn's Night celebrations in Grantown and requests for pupils to perform at these events came in thick and fast!

The S6 traditional group performed for the pupils at Grantown Primary School last Wednesday as part of the school's Scottish Celebration and the next day Ciaran Robertson piped in the haggis at Grand View Nursing Home and also played a number of tunes for the residents.

On Friday Ailsa Hepburn piped in the haggis for the Burn's Supper organised by Grantown Museum and later the same day the S6 traditional music group Ur Ceol (with support from Iain Coltart on guitar) performed for the meal and dance at the British Legion in Grantown to help raise funds for the Friends of Ian Charles Hospital.



**TALENT:** (Above) Members of Ur Ceol entertaining guests at the Burns Supper at the Royal British Legion in Grantown. Band members are Hamish Hepburn, Gregor Trail, Iain Coltart, Ciaran Robertson and Shannah Grant.

**ALL SMILES:** Gregor Trail, Shana Grant and Keiran Robertson performing at Grantown Primary School.