

The GGS Grapevine



News, achievements and learning from Grantown Grammar School (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.

Celebrating success and meeting challenges!

THIS month, the school has been celebrating pupils' achievements in award ceremonies for S1, S2 and S3 year groups.

The award ceremonies give headteacher Mrs Irene Carson and staff an opportunity to congratulate pupils on a very successful year with many achievements both in and out of the classroom.

Special mention should go to the following pupils: Brook Taylor (S1) - The Kerr Award for Outdoor

Learning in S1; Jodie Sandiford - The Jack Malpas Award for Junior Creative Writing; Blane Clark (S2) - The Kerr Award for Outdoor Learning (S2); Marcus Sellars (S2) - Junior Sportsman Award; Alexandra McAuly-Brand - Junior Sportswoman Award; Adam Forsythe - The Ewan Robertson Junior Music Prize and Alexander Philip - The James Memorial Trophy for Reading.

Overall all pupils have had a great year with all pupils in S1 and S2 gaining a John Muir Certificate.



TUNING UP: Iain Coltart with singing star Rachel Sermanni.

Rachel is an inspiration

THE MUSIC department recently held a special workshop when Carrbridge singer Rachel Sermanni, a former pupil, presented a workshop on songwriting.

A group of 12 pupils who have shown both interest and talent in writing songs were invited to take part.

Rachel began by exploring feelings created by songs and what the composer does in the music to evoke these feelings. The pupils were then encouraged to write their thoughts and memories

in an exercise about writing lyrics.

By lunch time, all pupils had the makings of a song and in fact two pupils had written an entire song. Rachel explained about instrumentation and production using one of her songs - Everything is OK - as an example.

The pupils continued to work on their songs in the afternoon with further support from Rachel. Rachel plans to return to listen to the finished songs. It was a lovely day and the pupils felt very inspired by this wonderful musician.

Final fling of the season

THE NETBALL team played their last game of the season earlier this week - a friendly netball match against Dalmellington High School from Ayrshire. The Ayrshire girls had travelled up with their PE teacher, former pupil, Eilidh Calder... so despite getting up at 6am there was no problem finding the town's Craig MacLean Centre!

After 40 minutes of exciting play, GGS girls were the victors by fifteen goals to 2. At least the Dalmellington girls had a long awaited trip to Landmark Forest Adventure Park in Carrbridge planned post match.



TEAMING UP: Netball team members (back row, left to right) Kirsty Bremner, Tess Westbrook, Louise Blair, Carla Sermanni; (front row, left to right) Charlotte Anderson, Malri Blair (captain) and Stephanie MacLeod



GOLD STANDARD: Pictured from left to right - Duncan Coltart, Shannah Grant, Caitlin Reid, Connor Macleod, Hamish Hepburn and Charlotte Kerr.

Super six go for gold!

A FANTASTIC team of six completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh training expedition by open canoe on the River Tay. Over four days and three nights, they paddled from Kenmore on Loch Tay all the way to Stanley. The weather could have been better but the team were in great spirits for the whole trip, despite the rain. Although they were camping in the rain, they certainly didn't rough it with dinner, enjoying such gourmet cuisine as hot sin stir fry.

They are now planning and looking forward to their assessment expedition on the River Spey at the end of August.



MONSTER FEST: Craig Henderson with a hedgehog

A monster day out

THIRTY pupils from GGS took part in the Monster Science Fest at Inverness College on Friday. It was an action-packed day, with pupils learning about a vast array of scientific concepts.

Have you ever heard of a theremin; an electrical musical instrument controlled without physical contact? Pulse width modulation? Raspberry pi? (No, not something you eat!). Bread boards used in physics? Do you know how to create your own microscope using your mobile phone?

Well, at the end of the day the pupils all left Inverness College a more scientifically "charged" than at the beginning. The "Animal Magic" workshop was possibly the most entertaining, since pupils even got to stroke a little hedgehog, a python and some exotic toads, talk to a parrot and learn all about the four Bs of vertebrates: backbone, body covering, babies and breathing!

It really was a Monsterfest!

In other news...

■ A copy of the newsletter which includes an important consultation about acceptable use of personal electronic devices has been posted to all parents and carers. Please take the time to read it and join us for a consultation event next Monday (June 23) at 7pm.

■ Artwork from Grantown, Abernethy, Deshar and Carrbridge primary schools is now on display at Grantown Museum in their "Scottish Wildlife Exhibition."

■ Look out later this week for three new arrivals at Grantown Grammar School. We have three chickens joining us who will be living behind the old janitor's house. Update on their progress coming soon!

■ Auditions for next year's school show: Gregory's Girl, will take place in the hall tomorrow (Friday) and Friday 27th June from 1.45pm to 4pm

Diary dates

- Monday 23 to Wednesday 25 June: Primary 7 visit
- Wednesday 25 June Primary 7 parents' evening (7pm)
- Monday 30 June - sports day (12.30pm)
- Wednesday 2 July - music concert
- Thursday 3 July - end of term (12.30pm)
- Monday 18 August - Post SQA option choice change requests (S5/6) (11am)
- Tuesday 19 August - Start of new session