

The GGS Grapevine



News, success and learning from Grantown Grammar School (grantowngrammar.wordpress.com)

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 young people at Grantown Grammar School.

Classic Edinburgh play outing

TO celebrate our S3 classicists finishing their SQA Higher and National 5 assessments and exams, a group, including members of the lunchtime Classics Club, travelled with Mr Dugal McCrow and Mr Darren Tolan to the Royal Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh to see a performance of Homer's epic tale of war and wrath "The Iliad", written 2700 years ago and one of the foundation texts of Western literature. We also got to ride on one of the new Edinburgh trams, explore Princes Street and view the castle on a beautiful sunny day.

Mr John Garvie, Highland's open and distance learning tutor for classical languages, met us for the performance and finally got to meet Jodie Sandiford and Ruairidh Maclean, whose SQA Higher and Intermediate 2 assessments he had marked! Pupils in S1, 2 and 3 have had the chance this year to study classical myth, Latin and Ancient Greek, with the option to study these at certificate level as they progress. Several pupils have opted to study Classics one period a week in S3 next year. Any interested pupils in P7 coming up to the grammar school in August can join one of our lunchtime Classics Clubs.



A CLASSICS OUTING: John Garvie, Ruairidh Maclean, Jodie and Emma Sandiford, Izzy Cox and Dugal McCrow.

■ **Thanks Marsali!**
Our S1 and S2 PSB classes were very lucky to have a visit from Marsali Campbell, a nurse who has worked with street children in Kampala in Uganda for the past 15 years. Marsali told her fascinating story of her journey into nursing and the career path that led her to the amazing work she has done in Uganda where she helps to turn around the lives of these very vulnerable children. Her presentation was absolutely fascinating and the pupils had lots of fantastic questions to ask her. We hope that she will visit us again soon.

■ **TEN Project**
Last week, two of our Advanced Higher English students were given the chance to see behind-the-scenes and explore the stores at Grantown Museum. Dan Cottam, curator, invited Alasdair Forsyth and Rachel

Crane (both S6) to spend an afternoon of their study leave selecting one object each to write about for the TEN exhibition. Dan's idea is to get 10 folks living locally to engage with the many fantastic objects the museum might not always have room to display. The students were asked to respond creatively to their chosen objects which visitors can view at Grantown Museum.

■ **A flying visit**
As part of their John Muir Award, S1 French pupils have been taking part in a local area project in conjunction with the RSPB Osprey Centre at Loch Garten this term. They have created information posters in French about animals which can be found in the strath. These will be on display at the Osprey Centre by Boat of Garten over the summer to help tourists find out more about our local wildlife.

Hitting the right note

FOUR of our talented musicians performed at the Ambassadors' Concert at Alvie House this afternoon. This concert is to celebrate the best performers from the Badenoch and Strathspey Music Festival. Performers were Wayde Buley on trombone, Adam Forsythe on piano, Carriona Forsythe on flute and Georgie Smith on traditional

fiddle. Our pupils performed so well and music teacher Kirsten Shearon felt very proud.

The concert doubles as a competition and for the second year running Adam Forsythe was the worthy winner. He was presented with a cheque for £160, donated by the Rotary Club of Spey Valley. Congratulations, Adam.



WINNING LINE-UP: Wayde Buley, Adam Forsyth, Carriona Forsyth and Georgie Smith

Geography hill walk

3X pupils spent a fantastic day out hillwalking on Tuesday, learning about glaciated features in the landscape of the Cairngorms. We walked from the Sugarbowl carpark, through the Chalamain Gap and into the Lairig Ghru, finishing at Rothiemurchus Lodge. We looked at

corries, aretes, moraine, U shaped valleys and scree slopes, as well as practising our skills of map reading and interpretation. Well done to all involved on a brilliant day. There were some tired legs on the way out, but good spirits all round!

Ania captures art award

ANIA Dingwall gained first prize (for secondary school entries) in the recent Cairngorm Nature Festival art contest for her expressive painting of a capercaillie against tough competition from schools across the whole of the Cairngorm National Park. The judging took place in Aboyne, with the final decisions being made by TV wildlife presenter Nick Baker as part of the festival. Ania and family are looking forward to using their prize, a family pass to the Highland Wildlife Park by Kincaig.



DRAWING INSPIRATION: Ania Dingwall.

Junior Rangers earn their stripes

WELL done to our Europarc Junior Rangers who were presented with their certificates on Friday after a fantastic week of activities. These included a biodiversity day at Insh Marrahes, a visitor management day with Cairngorm, bushcraft at Alvie by Kincaig and a day canoeing on Loch Morlich. There was lots of fun and hard work en-route and a presentation to family and friends on Friday evening. Thanks go to everyone who helped organise and deliver sessions.



BUSY WEEK: Junior Rangers show off their certificates.

Diary dates

- Monday, June 6 - In-service day
- Tuesday, June 7 - Change of timetable
- Thursday, June 9 - Parent council meeting
- Thursday, June 16 - Senior graduation
- Monday, June 20 - P7 visit
- Wednesday, June 22 - Music concert
- Monday, June 27 - Sports day
- Friday, July 1 - Last day of term