

The GGS Grapevine



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

News bites...

On Wednesday, March 12, the school offered a drop-in session for parents and pupils to come along and ask questions about the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence.

Departments put out eye-catching displays to highlight the standard of work required for different levels of course. Andy Smith, (former Depute Head and now Scholar consultant in the North) also provided guidance for parents on how Scholar, an online resource available to all senior pupils, can help improve levels of attainment.

Kevin Guthrie and Steve Bone, both from Skills Development Scotland, were also available to guide parents through the extensive information available on the My World of Work website as well as provide general careers information.

The opportunity to ask questions about options choices, course details, the new curriculum was also there with parents and pupils alike speaking to Mrs Carson, Mrs McGonigal and Mr Ross.

Last Thursday the S3 French class and S5/6 Spanish group had a very enjoyable meal at Anderson's Restaurant in Boat of Garten. Typical French and Spanish menus were served (a first experience of Gazpacho or cold Spanish soup was a big novelty for some!) as well as a languages quiz and the annual marshmallow Eiffel Tower competition were a great hit with the pupils. Staff are already looking forward to next year's Languages meal.

As many as 13 S4/S5 pupils have recently been successful in completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. A further 17 are in the process of getting started with Silver. The school also has a group of five pupils working towards their Gold this session. Two leavers will be returning in June to complete their Gold alongside the group.

On Tuesday, March 11, George Anderson, PT Guidance Forres Academy representing Stewart Ivory, gave a presentation on finance for those leaving home to go to University/College/Work. On March 18 there was also a session on debt, store cards, wonga, interest rates, etc. All in all, there were very useful tips on saving money and the two presentations were delivered in a humorous, engaging and enjoyable fashion.

Festival success is sweet music to the ears!

LOTS of pupils have been involved in recent music festivals and exams. It began on Monday, March 7 when Tom Strang and Adam Forsythe took part in Grade 7 Piano class at the Inverness Music Festival. The boys did very well against some strong competition.

Last week there were Trinity Music Exams. The results were really good and the instrumental teachers were very proud of the pupils' achievements.

Fiddle: Amelia McAuly-Brand Grade 2 Distinction, Rachel Crane Grade 4 Merit, Jodie Barrett Grade 4 Merit, Fin Whitaker Grade 4 Pass.

Cello: Adam Forsythe Grade 4 Merit. **Saxophone:** Jodie Sandiford Grade 3 Merit.

Piano: Erinne Bird Grade 2 Merit.

Baritone: Chelsea MacDonald Grade 1 Pass.

Monday was the first day of the Badenoch and Strathspey Music Festival. We had over 25 pupils involved either playing

solo or as part of an ensemble. Amelia McAuly-Brand won The White Rose Bowl for Traditional Fiddle Solo up against 22 others. In the afternoon the Junior Fiddle Group impressed the judge winning their group and Ur Ceol (S6 Traditional Group) won their group in style.

Congratulations to all who took part and good luck to those who will be taking part in other classes on Thursday and Friday.

A winning day on the slopes

GRANTOWN Grammar School A and B teams competed in the 2014 Scottish Schools Alpine Ski Race Champs - Cairngorm Qualifier on Tuesday February 11.

It was a tough day for all competitors... the conditions were perfect with no wind and lots of sun!

Individually, Yandra Banks-Brown was 1st female and Lewis Taylor was 1st male, Seorus Vaughan was 2nd male, Henry Kerr was 3rd male, Finlay Taylor was 6th, George Kerr was 9th, Iain Coltart was 12th and Jack Smith was 22nd. All great individual results!

Team A won overall and were also awarded the Sir Francis Walker trophy for Best Highland School. Team B were 3rd overall and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the finals.



Finlay Taylor, Lewis Taylor, Seorus Vaughan, Yandra Banks-Brown

As a result of this success, GGS Ski team qualified for the final of the Scottish Schools Alpine Ski Race Series on Thursday March 13. They competed on a fine, but chilly day on Cairngorm. They were up against some tough competition and completed two runs of a full length GS course on the White Lady. They came 2nd

in the experienced mixed team category and were 6th team overall. Well done to Yandra Banks Brown, Seorus Vaughan, Lewis and Finlay Taylor. As a result, the team also defended the title for the Best Highland School at the national championship.

Well done to all the racers who represented GGS in great style!

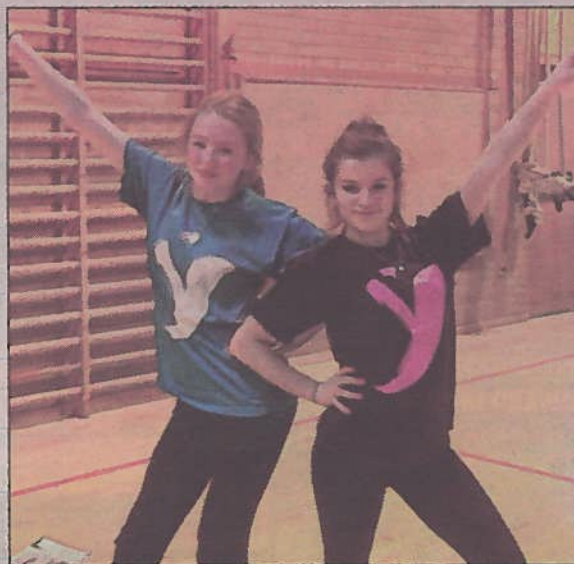
Dancing their way to leadership

Some 22 S3 girls from Grantown Grammar School took part in a fun day of dance run by Y Dance Scottish Youth Dance.

The Y Dance Active project aims to increase physical activity levels in teenage girls. After this day of activity, the pupils did a presentation of two impressive dances and two pupils progressed onto a Level dance leadership award.

Catriona Forsythe and Alexandra McAuly Brand travelled to Inverness for a week to gain the award.

The girls are now going to sign up for High Life Highlands Leadership Academy and begin volunteering with dance groups within the community.



Catriona and Alexandra, dance leaders.

Charity begins at school



YOUTH PHILANTHROPISTS: Local social concern's their strong point...

PUPILS in S2 have been engaging with charities addressing areas of local social concern in our community, using their research and literacy skills to create presentations. A wide range of charities were contacted and visited all around the community, with pupils being able to see how the charities were supporting people in a variety of different ways.

After class finals, the groups who met the criteria set by the YPI charity were put forward to the grand school final. We were very proud of the maturity and hard work that the vast majority of S2 put into the project, with some of the presentations being particularly moving. The big presentation day was in front of the whole of S2, guests and a panel of

four judges.

The presentation that met the judging criteria closest was about Grantown Playgroup, who will now be awarded £3,000. Congratulations to Lyall Kinnoird, Ania Dingwall, Jack Doherty and Jodie Barrett who made up the winning team but also to everyone in S2 who took part.

Ultimately, the biggest winners were the local charities who have had their profile raised in the community and the youngsters who will hopefully now lead a life where they think about charity and the good they can do.

This grant has been made possible by the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative/Wood Family Trust and their local funding partners, SSE.



TRAVELLING SHOW - The school was lucky to have another visit from the Travelling Gallery double decker bus - this time the exhibition was "I Heart Scotland", a solo exhibition of artworks by Rachel Maclean. Looking at issues of Scottish identity and politics through myths, legends and history. Pupils from Art, English, Modern Studies and tutor classes had a chance to discuss the artworks and issues arising from them with the exhibition guides. A group of P7 pupils from Desher and Abernethy primaries also visited the show.

Countdown to the games is on...

The countdown to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games is on. Conferences have been held all over the country and eight young people attended at Inverness. These Young Leaders took part in practical workshops as well as discussion and sharing sessions to help them plan a Glasgow 2014 festival to hold in their school

community. This project is aimed at developing and enhancing leadership and volunteering skills in young people whilst raising the profile of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. It is a fantastic opportunity for schools to harness the enthusiasm of young people and help to create the next generation of young sports leaders.