



# TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY

## ACADAMAIDH RÌOGHAIL BHAILE DHUBHTHAICH



# Parents' Newsletter

## Cuairtlitir

Volume 8 Issue 4

December 2008  
An Dùbhlachd 2008

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### RECTOR'S COMMENT

Yet another year has passed very quickly! Looking back over 2008 I am reminded of the rich variety of activities available to every boy and girl in TRA. I want to thank all the staff, teaching and support, for the huge efforts they put in on a daily basis for our young people. Our staff go well beyond the extra mile, offering many additional opportunities locally and further afield. Looking through the 2008 parent newsletters gives a very good flavour of the many successful and innovative events, trips, lessons and learning opportunities that have taken place this year. The work of supporting learning also involves you as parents and carers and I am indebted to you for your involvement and support this year. Our Parent Council is a great example of partnership working and I would like to thank Paul Hoggarth, chair, and the parent members for their engagement with the school. We benefit from the support of our local businesses and others in the community who work with us in a variety of ways, and this is much appreciated.

On behalf of all in TRA, have an enjoyable break, a Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year.

*Donnie Macleod, Rector*

### TRA PUPILS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On Friday 5th December Jenny Andrew, Amy McAngus and Naomi Gibbon collected £234.50 in order to help buy school lunches for poor children around the world. £6 buys lunch for 100 children so 3,909



children will be fed, all thanks to the girls and the generosity of the pupils and teachers. The girls meet every Friday to discuss human rights around the world, using a lot of Amnesty International resources. After quite a bit of research they decided that this was a good time of year to help Oxfam Unwrapped. Pupils of all year groups are welcome to come along to Room 14 at 1.15pm on Fridays to join in our next project.

One thing the girls are learning is that with just a little bit of effort you can help to make the world a better place.

*Mrs Humble*

School closes 2.15pm on Friday 19 December 2008 and re-opens on Monday 5 January 2009

## SHOEBOX APPEAL

During October and the beginning of November, staff and pupils have been busy building shoe boxes for Blythswood and Operation Christmas Child (Samaritans Purse) to send to needy people in Eastern Europe and India. In RME Mr Stainke and Mrs Humble showed us videos of the work involved in collecting and sending the boxes and most importantly of the happiness of the people receiving them, knowing that strangers cared for them.



Staff and pupils donated towards the shoe boxes by giving money and lots of useful basic items, such as gloves, hats and scarves which we tend to take for granted, but which help to keep people warm in the cold climates.

In HE we in 1.3 helped cover the shoe boxes. It was quite difficult but enjoyable



knowing that we were going to make someone's Christmas. Some of the senior classes helped to pack the shoe boxes and 50 were distributed between the two charities. Many thanks to all the staff and pupils who contributed in many ways.

*Surya Morrison  
Rachel Moynes  
Lauren MacDonald*

## TRA v Craigmount High School U14 Girls Scottish Cup Basketball



Craigmount arrived at lunchtime. The Tain girls were all set and raring to go, but fully appreciated the long journey the Craigmount team had taken from Edinburgh and gave them some time to get ready and warm-up.

The game got off to a flying start as Anna Stewart (33 points) of Tain scored a basket within the first forty seconds of play with the cooperation of her team-mates, Kitty Trimble and Rachael Morrison (16). The first quarter ended 12-4 to Tain.

By half-time Tain had built their lead to a comfortable 30-12, with a run of fast breaks. The second half saw more good team work with hard defence from Laila Rattanaphithak and points for Emma Beesley (4) and Sophie Smart (6).

The final result ended 60-28 to Tain. Well done to all the girls who participated. This result takes us into the Quarter Finals of the Scottish Cup.

*by Anna Stewart, S2*

## MATHS TRIP TO DISNEYLAND PARIS



In January 2009, a group of 37 pupils from S2 and S3 will go to Disneyland Resort in Paris to learn about the maths that is used there everyday. The pupils will also complete some assignments based on what they have learned there.

It won't all be hard work though; they will visit some of the sights of Paris and spend a day in the EuroDisney Park.

More details and photographs next month!

*V Adam, Maths Dept*



## ADVERSE WEATHER

The number to call during adverse weather is **0870 054 6999**

followed by TRA's pin number **04 1220**

Or check [www.winter.highlandschools.org.uk](http://www.winter.highlandschools.org.uk)



S1 baked Pudsey cakes in Home Economics for the Children in Need Appeal,

**Children in Need**

sold them at intervals and raised **£126**.

## TRA PARENT COUNCIL

Here we are in December, already with the first part of the 2008/09 academic year about to become history. Where does the time go?

Many thanks to all parents/carers, pupils and staff who supported the Gizzen Briggs ceilidh in November at the Duthac Centre in Tain. We would have wished for a larger attendance but those who came enjoyed the music and dancing. Thanks go to Gizzen Briggs for providing the entertainment on the night and to all those involved in the organisation of the event. We hope to hold a similar ceilidh in the 2009/10 session.

The next Parent Council evening is a **QUIZ** to be held in the hall at the Academy on **Friday, February 6th at 7.30 pm**. The quiz last year was great fun with teams of parents, pupils and staff competing against each other so please make a note of the date. Further details to follow.

The next meeting of the TRA Parent Council is scheduled to take place in the lecture theatre at the Academy on **Tuesday, January 20th at 7.00 pm**. Items on the agenda include a review of the 2008 Standard Grade and Higher examinations at the Academy and the latest information on the Academy financial budget. Refreshments are provided and all parents and carers are made very welcome.

The Parent Council wishes all parents/carers, pupils and staff of Tain Royal Academy a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*Paul Hoggarth, Chair*



Traditionally, TRA Art Department, inspired by Christmas, has produced a sculpture to celebrate the season. Misha, the silver bear, now has a companion - Baba Yaga!

In Slavonic folklore, she is usually portrayed as a terrifying old crone, but she can also play the role of helper and wise woman. The Earth Mother, like all forces of nature, though often wild and untamed, can also be benevolent and kind.

*M Rush*

## S3 XL VISIT TO TAIN SHERIFF COURT

On Tuesday 25th November our third year XL group visited Tain Sheriff Court. When we arrived we were shown round the courtroom and got to talk to the sheriff who explained what would happen once the trial started.

The trial was about someone accused of assault and breach of the peace. We were allowed to sit in the jury box and watch the trial.

First of all the victim was questioned, followed by witnesses, then the accused who was told by the sheriff to make sure he answered all the questions appropriately. We had to leave before the trial ended but later found out the man was found guilty.

We thought that the court visit was very interesting although at times we had to sit and wait. It was well worth the visit.

**The AGM of Comann nam Pàrant  
will be held on Thursday, 15th January  
at 7.00pm in the Staff Room  
at Craighill Primary School, Tain.  
All welcome.**

**Tain and Easter Ross Ward Forum  
Thursday 15 January 2009  
in the Carnegie Hall, Portmahomack  
7.30pm-9.30pm**

(Tea and coffee available from 7pm)

- **Transport, Environment & Community (TEC) Services - How do we improve waste collection and recycling in Easter Ross?**
- **Overview of the Community Care Forum in Easter Ross**



## HAPPY CHRISTMAS

All the Staff and the members of the TRACC Management Committee wish to thank our users for their support over the past year, and we all hope to see you back again for a healthy and happy 2009.



## SWIMMING POOL TIMETABLE

From 5th - 31st January 2009

Monday	
07.15 - 08.30	Swim Breakfast*
10.00 - 12.00	Open Session
12.00 - 13.00	Family Session
13.00 - 15.45	Open Session
15.45 - 18.00	TASC
18.00 - 19.00	Tain Turtles
19.00 - 19.45	Family Session
19.45 - 20.30	Open Session
20.30 - 21.00	Lane Swimming
Tuesday	
07.15 - 08.30	Swim Breakfast*
10.00 - 10.45	Open Session
12.00 - 12.45	Lane Swimming
13.00 - 13.30	Teachers Swim
15.00 - 15.45	Family Session
15.45 - 18.00	TASC
18.00 - 19.00	Tain Turtles
19.00 - 19.45	Stroke Development
19.45 - 20.30	Open Session
20.30 - 21.15	Adult Session
Wednesday	
10.00 - 11.45	Open Session
13.00 - 14.00	St Duthus Swim
15.45 - 18.00	TASC
18.00 - 19.00	Tain Turtles
19.00 - 19.45	Aqua Aerobics
19.45 - 21.30	Staff Training
Thursday	
07.15 - 08.30	Swim Breakfast*
11.00 - 12.00	Open Session
12.00 - 12.45	Family Session
13.00 - 14.00	Staff Training
15.45 - 18.00	TASC (stroke development 17.00 - 18.00)
18.00 - 19.00	Tain Turtles
19.00 - 19.45	Open Session
19.45 - 20.15	Adult Lessons
20.15 - 21.00	Ladies Only?
Friday	
09.00 - 10.45	Open Session
15.45 - 18.00	TASC
18.00 - 19.00	Tain Turtles
19.00 - 19.30	Stroke Development
19.30 - 20.15	Family Session
20.15 - 21.00	Open Session
Saturday	
09.30 - 11.00	Terrapins
11.00 - 12.00	Happy hour
12.00 - 13.30	Terrapins
Sunday	
09.30 - 11.00	Family Session
11.00 - 13.30	Open Session

\*07.15 - 08.30 Swim, Breakfast served until 08.45

## FITNESS SUITE

Mon	07.00 - 21.00 (15.45 - 17.30)	Open* (Young Guns 14-16)**
Tues	07.00 - 14.00 (14.00 - 15.00) 15.40 - 21.00 (15.45 - 17.30)	Open (Dornoch Academy)** (TRA Pupils)** Open (Young Guns 14-16)**
Wed	07.45 - 21.00 (09.00 - 09.45) (15.45 - 16.45)	Open* (TRA Pupils)** (Young Guns 14-16)**
Thur	07.00 - 10.00 10.00 - 11.00 11.00 - 21.00 (15.45 - 17.30)	Open* 3rd Agers** Open (Young Guns 14-16)**
Fri	07.45 - 21.00 14.50 - 15.40 (15.45 - 17.30)	Open* (TRA Pupils)** (Young Guns 14-16)**
Sat	09.30 - 13.30	Open
Sun	09.30 - 13.30	Open

\*There are no changing rooms available on a

Monday 09.00 - 10.00

Wednesday 14.45 - 15.45

Thursday 09.00 - 10.00

Friday 14.00 - 15.00

## FITNESS CLASSES

Monday	3rd Age Keep Fit
10.30 - 11.30	Multi Purpose Hall
Tuesday	Circuits
19.30 - 20.30	Games Hall
Wednesday	Aeroga
12.00 - 13.00	Multi Purpose Hall
Wednesday	Aqua Aerobics
19.00 - 19.45	Swimming Pool
Thursday	Circuits
19.30 - 20.30	Games Hall
Friday	Well Being Stretch & Tone
11.30 - 12.30	Multi Purpose Hall

\*\*Customers can still use the Fitness Suite during these times, however it may be busy.

## TRACC AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Monday - Friday 14.30-18.00  
for Primary 1-7 (£2.75 per hour)

A healthy snack is provided on arrival after school.  
All children must be registered in advance.  
Registration form, consent form and full details on request from the TRACC Office on 01862 893767