



TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY

ACADAMAIDH RÌOGHAIL BHAILE DHUBHTHAICH



Parents' Newsletter

Cuairtlitir

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An Dùbhlachd 2009

RECTOR'S COMMENT

On behalf of all the staff at TRA, I would like to wish all parents and carers a very Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year. Many thanks for your involvement and support throughout 2009. It is important that we take every opportunity to work even more closely together in 2010. If you would like to work with us in any way, no matter how small, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the staff.

Our pupils and staff have achieved a lot together in 2009, and we have an excellent base on which to continue building in 2010. Education keeps changing and we will seek to continue to make improvements for all our learners. I hope that you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. If there are ways in which we can improve communication with you please let us know. Last month's newsletter contained the Adverse Weather information, summary below. I hope that you all have an enjoyable break.

Donnie Macleod, Rector

School closes 3.40pm on
Wednesday 23 December 2009
and re-opens 8.50am on
Monday 11 January 2010

ADVERSE WEATHER

The number to call during adverse weather is
0870 054 6999 followed by TRA's pin number 04 1220
or check www.schoolclosures.highlandschools.org.uk



CHRISTMAS CONCERT ~ Thursday 17 December ~ 7.30pm in Tain Royal Academy Assembly Hall

SHOEBOX APPEAL 2009

Determined to increase the number of shoe boxes filled this year, we began our appeal early in October. In RME we were shown videos of the work involved in collecting and sending the boxes and most importantly of the happiness of the people receiving them. A huge effort was then made to raise money and collect items for the boxes.



In HE the work began to cover and fill the boxes with basic items, such as gloves, hats and scarves which we tend to take for granted, but which help to keep people warm in the colder climates.

We filled 93 boxes almost doubling the number from last year!



Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, India, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia, Sri Lanka and Ukraine. The news from Blythswood at present is that over 100,000 boxes have been despatched.

Many thanks to all the staff and pupils who contributed in many ways.

Sophie, Nathan, and Eilidh



TRA PARENT COUNCIL

The guest speaker at the November meeting of the TRA Parent Council was Hugh Fraser, Director of Education, Culture and Sport for Highland Council. The problems encountered during the re-roofing of the two storey block in the summer led to the Parent Council communicating their frustration and that of the Academy staff over property and site management at TRA. Mr Fraser addressed the request from the Parent Council for a completely new school at Tain to avoid a series of major refurbishment projects at Tain over the coming years.

Mr Fraser answered a series of questions during and after his presentation, promising a full assessment of all outstanding works at TRA and details of an ongoing programme to complete the work by the date of the next TRA Parent Council meeting in February.

The same November meeting heard from the Rector of the improving results at TRA for the SQA examinations held during the summer. A detailed analysis of the results will be presented to the next TRA Parent Council meeting. The Rector also described the current difficulties being experienced by the Academy management balancing a tight budget with a falling school roll.

The next Parent Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3rd 2010 commencing at 7.00pm in room 6. Apart from the SQA analysis there will also be a presentation from experienced TRA teacher Mark Jones on Learning and teaching - not to be missed!!! All parents and carers are welcome to attend and join in the meeting.

A successful fundraising Quiznight was promoted by the TRA Parent Council on Friday November 13th in the assembly hall. Monies raised from this and other events organised by the Parent Council go straight towards supporting projects and departments within the Academy. A Gizzen Briggs ceilidh is scheduled on Friday March 5th 2010 at the Academy so please make a diary date for a great night out.

All members of the TRA Parent Council send their best wishes to all TRA parents/carers, pupils and staff for the forthcoming festive holiday season; have a good one.

Paul Hoggarth, TRA Parent Council

TRA ROLLERBOWL TRIP 2009

The Buddy Trip to Rollerbowl took place on Thursday 12 November. It was a great night, thoroughly enjoyed by all 129 bowlers. The outing takes place to allow S1 pupils to bond with their S6 buddies. Thanks to the two Head Buddies, Laura Beesley and Sarah Groves along with Mrs Anderson for organising the event. Also thanks to all the staff who gave up their time to come along. The following bowlers gained the most points and were awarded certificates:

<i>S1 GIRL</i>	<i>Jemima MacLeod</i>	} =
	<i>Molly Macdonald</i>	
<i>S1 BOY</i>	<i>Jason Coetzee</i>	
<i>S6 GIRL</i>	<i>Rachele Murray</i>	
<i>S6 BOY</i>	<i>Darren Custerson</i>	
<i>STAFF</i>	<i>Mr Magowan</i>	

Special Award
for staff
member who
scored the
least points !!
Mrs Adam



The Team who
scored the best
average score:
Ben Parkes
Neil Fleming
Campbell Munro
Jason Coetzee
Mr Magowan



CHRISTMAS DANCES

Junior Dance - 21 December - 7.30 - 10.30pm
Senior Dance - 22 December - 7.30 - midnight



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

Children in Need sold them at intervals and raised **£183.70.**

HIGHLAND SCHOOLS SWIMMING GALA

This year a small group of swimmers from TRA travelled to Inverness Aquadome on Wednesday 4th November to take part in the Highland Schools Swimming Gala. This is the event which allows pupils to qualify for the Scottish finals in Glasgow next year.

We had some excellent performances especially from the boys. Cameron Mackintosh (S1) won a bronze in the 100m back stroke and Chad Stewart (S6) matched this in the 100m free. Finlay Murray (S3) and Alister Mackintosh went one better to take silvers in the 100m back and 100m breast

stroke. Michelle McMenemy (S3) had an excellent swim in the 100m free and took a silver medal for the girls. It was great to see so many of our swimmers pushing themselves to gain a personal best.

The highlight of the day was the boys relay at the end. Our junior swimmers had to swim at senior level to give us a full team. But Cameron, Finlay, Alister and Chad really went for it and took silver in both the individual medley and the free style relay.

Well done to all swimmers and good luck to Cameron and Michelle who hope to travel to Glasgow for the finals in January.

A Scott

EDINBURGH - 14 November

It was exciting to play at the awesome 'Fiddle 2009' festival in Edinburgh. It was a great privilege to be asked. The bus journey was long but we occupied ourselves with plenty of refreshments and daft games like 'Hi Harry' and 'Concentration'. We also had a few hours to spare before performing so we hit Princes Street for some retail therapy.

As the time came for us to play, a large audience gathered. Fearlessly we fiddled and the crowd went crazy! Anna MacDonald's song blew the audience away and she got a standing ovation at the end. Afterwards we got to see Greg Lawson play with Phil Alexander, who are a very talented duo.

We had a lovely dinner before we returned to the festival for the evening concert finale. We got to listen to the amazing fiddler Maggie Adamson and Iain Macfarlane and the Henderson Family. The night ended with Phil Cunningham and Ally Bain playing a fantastic set of tunes to get the audience going. After the exciting finish we headed back to the bus and up the road to home.

GIZZEN BRIGGS



On behalf of everyone in Gizen Briggs, we would like to give a big thank you to all the adults that came with us and especially to the two Mr Mcleans. We all missed Debbie though and wished she was there to have the fun we did. "NAILED IT"

EASTGATE - 7 November

Gizen Briggs were asked to play in the Eastgate Shopping Centre in Inverness for the Children's 1st Charity. We

have done this for a couple of years now and it is a very enjoyable day. The shoppers really did appreciate our music and we gathered quite a crowd. We managed to raise £970 which is a great sum. Gizen Briggs would like to thank all the teachers who were involved in this day.

DRUMOSSIE - 28 November

The Drumossie Hotel is a great big posh place and it was a great honour to play there for the Highland Hospice Charity Dinner. There were hundreds of cheery folk in posh outfits all watching us play as they ate their food. The guests appreciated our music and we all very much appreciated the sandwiches they gave us afterwards.

Neil Gordon & Rachele Murray, S6

NON-UNIFORM DAYS AT TRA - 21-23 December 2009

£1 donation to the Ekwendeni Community School Exchange Fund

"working together to help each individual reach their potential"

EKWENDENI COMMUNITY SCHOOL EXCHANGE WITH TRA

A group of Academy pupils has now started preparing for a pupil exchange with our link school in Malawi (Ekwendeni Community Day Secondary School). We were delighted to have Mr Dickson Mtete, the head teacher of Ekwendeni CDSS visit us in TRA this year and Dr Ross paid a visit to Ekwendeni last year. Now we are planning to develop the link further and are beginning the task of raising sufficient funds for a full exchange.



On Saturday 5 December a group of pupils and parents did bag-packing in the the Tain Coop. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of shoppers and raised a total of £416.55 on the day. This is a terrific start to our fundraising and is very encouraging as we plan further events.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE FUNDRAISER - Raffle tickets cost 50p from the staff and pupils involved in the exchange. 1st prize is a large Christmas food hamper, 2nd prize a smaller Christmas food hamper. The winning ticket will be chosen on Monday 21 December.

If anyone would like more information about the link and the proposed exchange Mr Gray and Dr Ross can be contacted in the school. Once again, we would like to thank all the many members of the community who gave such generous support to our bag-packing.

FITNESS CLASSES

All fitness classes will resume the week commencing the 11th January 2010. For additional information please contact reception on 01862 893767.

Monday	
3rd Age Keep Fit	10.30 - 11.30am
Cardio Cycle	7.15 - 8.00pm
Tuesday	
Cardio Cycle	6.30 - 7.30pm
Wednesday	
Aqua Aerobics	7.00-7.45pm
Thursday	
Gentle Cardio Cycle	10.00 - 11.00am
Cardio Cycle	6.30 - 7.30pm
Body Tone	7.30 - 8.30pm
Friday	
Pilates	10.00 - 11.00am

TRACC OPEN EVENING

TRACC are holding an open evening on Wednesday 27th January 2010 from 4.30-7.00pm. This is to promote the whole TRACC facility and the programme of activities available here. We will also have some of our user groups giving demos.

This is an informal night where you have the chance to view the whole TRACC facility, see what we offer, ask any questions you have and give feedback. In the Multi Purpose Hall we will also have information boards



and leaflets, the TRACC Management Committee and some user groups will be in attendance and places for you to leave comments and suggestions will be provided. We will also be providing staffed tours of the facility. We look forward to seeing you there. Refreshments will be available. Further details will be available soon.

POOL TIMETABLE

As we will be open a week before the schools reopen, we will have a separate timetable for Monday 4 to Sunday 10 January. These are available from reception. Our January to Easter timetable will be finalised shortly and available at reception.

WELL DONE to Nicola George on completing the Emergency First Aid Certificate.

EVENING CLASSES

Please contact reception to show your interest in evening classes.

COMPUTING FOR BEGINNERS

A 'Computing for Beginners' evening class will start the week beginning 11

January for 8 weeks (actual day and time to be finalised). Contact reception if you are interested.

TAIN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Are you interested in swimming, do you want to learn and train more? Contact a Supervisor at TRACC or the Swimming Club for more information.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

There are limited places available at After School Club. Please contact reception for further information.

GYM INSTRUCTION SCHEME

Do you need some guidance, direction or motivation in the fitness room, have you heard about our new Gym Instruction Scheme? It includes an initial consultation and goal setting session then looking at a programme to suit your needs. Contact TRACC and ask to speak to our Gym Instructor, Kimberly McMenemy for further information.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

For the Christmas holidays TRACC will be closed from 24th December until 3rd January (inclusive). **All the staff at TRACC would like to thank their customers for their continued support and wish them all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.**

