

The



Sun

Xmas Edition

December 2011

Celebrating the past; looking to the future . . .



In August 2011, the new school building will open. While this will be a very exciting time for the school, it will also be important to celebrate all the years spent in the present buildings.

A school working group has been meeting to discuss events and mementoes to mark the occasion. Already a commemorative mug has been designed and produced in the five house colours. The mug is for sale at £5.

The school's Young Enterprise Company is working on another commemorative item:

they began fundraising with a Hallowe'en social in order to finance their idea.

Mr I Sinclair (History), will be co-ordinating an exhibition of Nicolson Institute memorabilia. This will include the old school logbooks, dating back to the very earliest days of the school, registers of pupil attendance, photographs and other items of interest.

Mrs K MacDonald of the Art Department intends to organise an exhibition of artwork by former and present staff and pupils, while Mrs I Robertson, Modern Languages, and the

Gaelic Department, have already started to interview former pupils about their school memories.

Mr Sandy Matheson, a well-known local historian, will give a talk on the school's history to mark Founders' Day in February, and guided tours of the present building will be organised for members of the public who wish to relive their school days before the buildings are demolished next year.

There will be many other events to come. Anyone with ideas is welcome to contact Mrs F Murray or Mr I Sinclair.

MEET THE NEW TEACHERS!



Miss C J Reeves - Maths



Mr I MacCorquodale - P.E.



Mr N Da Costa - Biology



Miss A Fraser - Gaelic



Miss C McVittie - English



Mrs C Rodman - P.E.



Mrs A MacDonald - H.E.



Miss L MacDonald - C&D



**Miss M Campbell -
Business Management**



Miss K McIlroy - English



Mrs M Morrison - English



Parent Council Representatives:

Mr F Rennie: Chair, Mr DR Macdonald: Vice Chair
For more details of Parent Council membership and
activities see the school website:

www.nicolsoninstitute.org

ARMISTICE DAY



Senior Band at Martin's Memorial Church with organist Douglas Leadbitter and cornet player Deborah Woods.

This year the Music Department decided to mark the occasion of Armistice Day with a special performance at the S5/6 assembly. An arrangement of 'Evening Hymn', 'The Last Post' and 'Sunset' was prepared and rehearsed by Senior Wind and Brass players.

On Sunday 13th, the band again played, this time at Martin's Memorial Church, thanks to an invitation from Rev. Tommy MacNeil. The band accompanied hymns as well as performing 'Evening Hymn and Sunset' with the addition

of Douglas Leadbitter on organ and Debbie Woods on cornet. (She also played 'The Last Post'.) The performance at Martin's was memorable not only due to the number of military organisations in attendance, but also because the guest of honour was Commander in Chief of British Land Forces, General Sir Nick Parker. Special mention should go to our trumpet players, Scott Duncan, Ewan Gilmour and Dominic Pantak, all of whom took turns in performing 'The Last Post'.

ROAD SAFETY

Please remember that the section of Springfield Road from the bus park to the new Nicolson building is out of bounds for all members of the public. It is very heavily used by pupils, staff and contractors' vehicles. Any additional traffic poses a significant health and safety risk.

We also request that parents avoid parking in front of driveways on Smith Avenue when dropping off or collecting pupils.

FUTURE CHEF 2011

Congratulations to Jane Macinnes who won the school heat of Future Chef 2012. The Home Economics Department would like to thank Christine Morrison, Environmental Health Officer and Louise Laing, Assistant Operations Manager, CNES, who kindly gave of their time to judge the competition.



SCHOOL CHAPLIN

Pupils and staff wish to thank Rev. Angus Morrison, former School Chaplin, for his service to the school over many years. We wish him and his family all the best in their new home in Perthshire.

Pupils and staff would like to extend their condolences to the family and friends of recent former pupils:

*Andrew Macleod
Lorna Macdonald*



JORCAT

Jorcat is a group of pupils led by Catherine Anne Hunter and Jordan Montgomery who go round the staffrooms collecting bottles caps from the teachers. The bottle caps are then sorted and put into different coloured recycling bins for collection every week.



They end their journey at Stornoway Plastics where they are used to make creels and bits and pieces for fishing.



A LITTER-AL DISGRACE

As most people know under the desks is extremely gross as it is all clogged up with old chewing gum BUT this is not the only litter problem at school. There have been various complaints by the council about litter being dropped in town by pupils and there has even been action taken with on the spot charges. Dropping litter could cost you £50. In English the corridor next to the Base was closed because the cleaners were complaining about the amount of rubbish and food that was ground into the carpet.

Katie and Rhiannon (S2) were asking people what they thought about the litter problem and whether school kids should pick it up during school time as part of a wider anti-litter campaign. Here are some comments:

Harry Griffiths: a bad idea because he wouldn't get paid to do it.

Amy Hutchison: a good idea because it will look tidier and it is good for the environment.

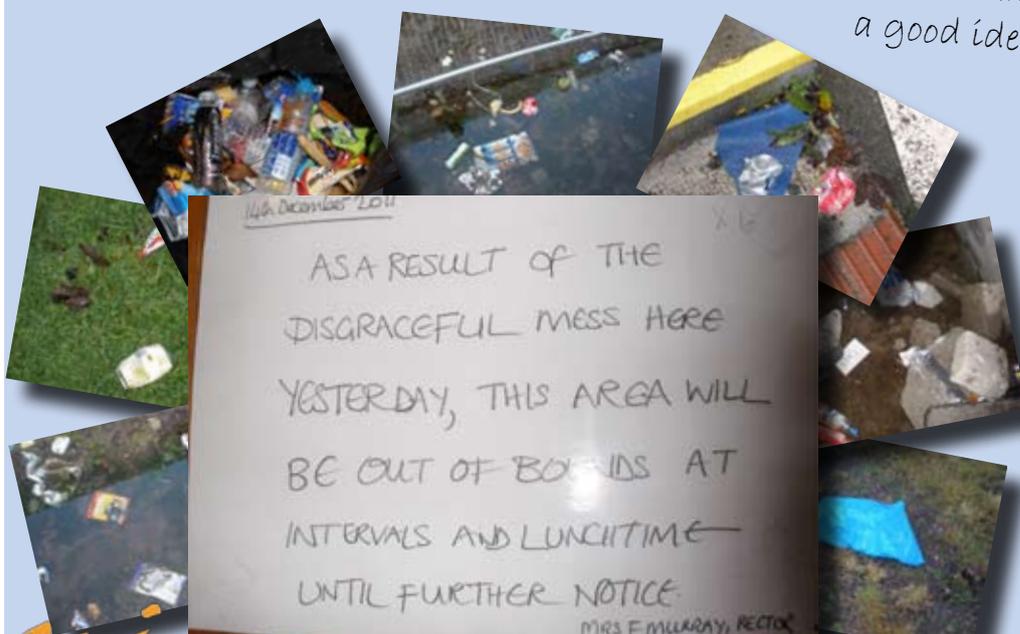
Sophie Macritchie: a good idea.

Sophia Mackay: a good idea because the rubbish is a disgrace to our community.

Shannon Murray: is a good idea.

Mark MacDonald: a good idea because he would get out of classes if it was in school time.

If any parents have suggestions or ideas, we would be happy to hear from you. This is an issue we really want to address before we move into a lovely new building.





THIS YEAR'S HALLOWE'EN SOCIAL

On Thursday 27th October there was a S1-S6 fancy dress social organised by this year's Young Enterprise group. The event went well and had Oidhche Chiadain playing. The group managed to raise over £200, of which half went to the school fund and the other half will be used to buy material for the Young Enterprise's product: stained wood hanging plaques with phrases or personalised names. These will be available to buy before Christmas!

There was a £5 prize for the best fancy dress male and female pupil. The best male was won by Iain Murdo Macleod in S3 who dressed up as a baby and the joint winners of the best female in fancy dress were Jessica Crossely and Jessica Macdonald in S5 who came as a TV and remote. Mrs C Rodman won the best dressed teacher for her Oompa Loompa outfit from 'Charlie and the Chocolate factory'.



PUPIL PROFILE

In each issue of The NI Sun we hope to feature pupils who have been very successful in a particular area of the curriculum or in an extra-curricular activity.

Scott Duncan 4F1

Scott was born in Belgium to a Scottish father and an Iranian mother in 1996. The family returned to Britain when Scott was six years old. His two older sisters, Kirsty and Siobhan, by this time, were displaying considerable musical talent on both saxophone and trumpet. Scott had followed in their footsteps by the age of nine when he took up the trumpet. Since then, he has made excellent progress through a blend of natural ability and dedicated practice. He is currently performing at Grade 7 trumpet and is focusing on his second instrument of piano. Scott is soon to audition for NYJOS, the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland, and he performs with the school's brass ensemble at various events.

Maths is Scott's other passion and he has recently competed as a member of the school's team in the Maths Enterprise Day.

MATHS COMPETITION

In a first for the Maths department, a team was entered into The Scottish Mathematical Council (SMC) Enterprising Maths competition. The team consisted of S4 pupils Scott Duncan and Joseph O' Hagan and S3 pupils Po Yi Law and Donald Martin.

Throughout the day they were set various theoretical and practical mathematical problems which they tackled with great skill, finishing the day a very credible ninth out of the fifty six participating schools. The winning school was George Watson's College from Edinburgh.

The competition took place at Glasgow University but the Nicolson team was able to take part via video conferencing through GLOWMEET, showing that travel to the mainland is not always necessary for our students to take part in national competitions.

S2 MATHS CHALLENGE

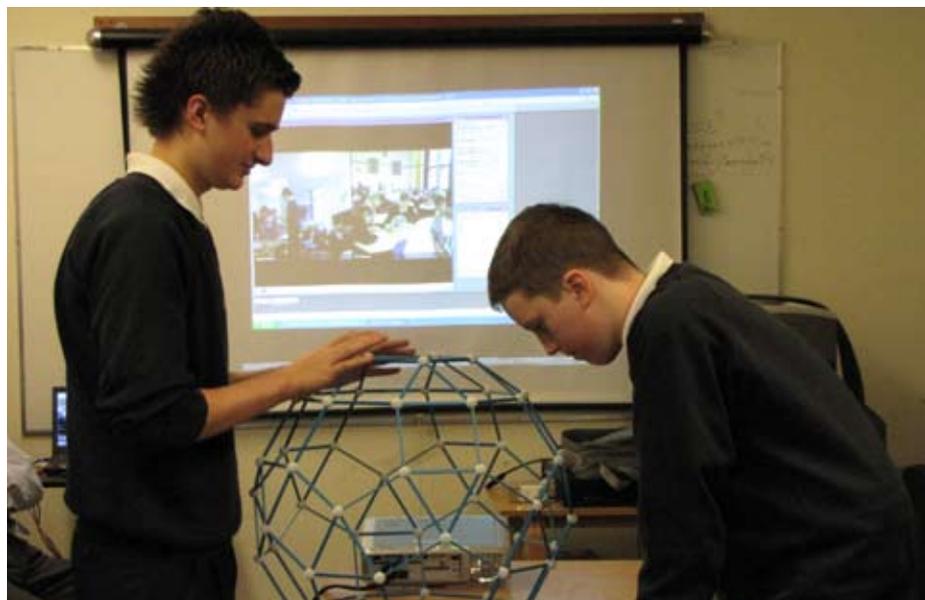
In this elective group our aim is to develop our maths skills by working on a series of challenges. These are individual and group challenges.

The class has been divided into teams and at the end there will be a trophy for each member of the winning team. Points are awards for each activity being done. Challenges so far have included making a mathematical board game to be used when the P7 groups visit in June.

We have also done several pen and paper challenges in teams and individually. Some of the problems given are hard and need a lot of working out, and some are very easy.

Whatever your ability level, there's always something within the challenge you can do!

Scott Duncan and Donald Martin check over their construction of a rhombicosidodecahedron, one of the Archimedean solids.



Nicky Runners



*Bad weather
isn't all bad news!*

A few weeks ago, three pupils were given the opportunity by Eyeline Media and MG Alba to work as runners for the filming of the Gaelic Watchnight Service held at Martin's Memorial Church.

Rachel Mackay

At first I didn't really know exactly what I signed up to, but I was excited to find out. We were first asked to attend the production meeting on the Friday, where they gave us copies of the script and schedule. The first person we met was the director, Michael Hines, who was laidback and treated us like equals rather than, as we had expected, as if we were at the bottom of the ladder!

There had been a wedding on at the church on that day. As the bride left through one door, the production team entered through the back. Within the hour, the whole set was up. That day we had lots of odd jobs to do.

Saturday was the big day, long but exciting. We worked all day and

were fed too. The Watchnight service ran from 7.30pm till late, and I worked carrying the cables for the cameramen and also attended to the performers. I would recommend this to anyone as it was a great learning experience.

Harriet Connor

The two days I worked for them mainly consisted of doing odd jobs around the set, such as getting people refreshments – and at one point I had to Hoover up the pine needles from a Christmas tree they had just erected.

I was also given an opportunity to work the camera, which I enjoyed. I felt this opportunity improved my communication and social skills, giving me experience of what the world of media would be like.





FOGHLAM TRO MHEADHAN NA GÀIDHLIG: KATIE EMMOTT

Is mise Katie Emmott à Col agus tha mi air an dàrna bhliadhna ann an Sgoil Mhicneacail. Chan eil Gàidhlig aig m' athair no mo mhàthair. Thàinig mi an seo bho Bhun-sgoil a' Bhac. Tha an sgoil a' còrdadh rium gu mòr agus tha mi toilichte gu bheil an cothrom agam tòrr chuspairean a ghabhail tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Tha mi a' dèanamh tòrr chuspairean anns a' Ghàidhlig mar Cruinn-eòlas, Eachdraidh, Creideamh, Saidheans, beagan de Cheòl agus Eaconamas-dachaigh. Tha e uabhasach math gu bheil an cothrom agam sin a dhèanamh oir tha mo Ghàidhlig a' fàs tòrr nas fheàrr agus tha e a' toirt dùbhlann math dhomh. Uaireannan tha e duilich oir tha faicil ann nach eil mi a' tuigsinn ach nuair a tha mi a' faighinn a-mach gu dè tha iad a' ciallachadh 's urrainn dhomh fhèin an cleachdadh.

Tha buannachdan ann dhomh fhèin oir tha mo Ghàidhlig a' fàs nas fheàrr, tha fhios agam air tòrr fhacail ùra agus tha mi a' smaoinichadh gu bheil mi ag ionnsachadh barrachd nuair a tha mi a' dèanamh cuspair ann an Gàidhlig. Ma tha duine ann nach eil cinnteach mu dheidhinn a bhith a' leantainn chuspairean ann an Gàidhlig, chanainn-sa riutha iad a ghabhail a' chothrom, ma gheibh iad e!

PROGRAM CUIMHNEACHAIDH REIDIO LE 3A1-2

Mar a bhios fios agaibh, tha seann thoglaichean na sgoile a' dùnadh agus bidh an togalach mòr, spaideil, ùr a' fosgladh anns an Lùnastal sa tighinn.

Tha an clas media Gàidhlig againne ag obair air pròiseact an-dràsta airson sreath phrògraman a thèid a-mach air Rèidio na Sgoile ann an 2012 a chur ri chèile. Tha sinn a' cur air dòigh agallamhan le daoine bho air feadh an eilein a bha ann an Sgoil Mhicneacail gus a' bhliadhna mu dheireadh den t-seann sgoil a chomharrachadh. Tha tòrr eachdraidh co-cheangailte ris an sgoil seo agus bidh e math sin a chlàradh.

Bidh sinn uile gu math duilich a' fàgail nan seann toglaichean air a bheil sinn eòlach agus gam faicinn a' dol gu làr ach bidh e mìorbhaileach a' dol a-steach dhan sgoil ùir cuideachd.



Deasbad BT Gàidhlig

'S math a rinn sibh!: Annabel Nicillinnein agus Calum MacPhì shìos ann an Dun-Eideann a' gabhail pàirt ann an Deasbad BT Alba. Gu mì-fhortanach, cha do bhuannaich iad ged a fhuair iad dhan iar-chuairt dheireannaich!

CLAIRE NANCE: AG OBAIR LE GAIDHLIG

'S e oileanach a th' annam aig Oilthigh Ghlaschu. Tha mi a' dèanamh PhD annan Gàidhlig agus cànanachas (linguistics). 'S ann à Manchester ann an Sasainn a tha mi, agus dh' ionnsaich mi Gàidhlig airson a' PhD agam a dhèanamh. Rinn mi mo chiad cheum ann am Fraingis agus thòisich mi leis a' Ghàidhlig bho chionn dà bhliadhna. Nuair nach eil mi aig an oilthigh 's caomh leam a bhith an sàs ann an tòrr spòrs mar lacrosse agus ruith gu sònraichte.

Tha an rannsachadh a tha mi dèanamh an-dràsta ann an Sgoil Mhicneacail mu dheidhinn daoine òga a tha bruidhinn Gàidhlig. Tha mi ag obair gu sònraichte air fuaimen na Gàidhlig agus mar a tha Gàidhlig ag atharrachadh anns a' Ghàidhealtachd. Cuideachd, tha ùidh agam ann an Gàidhlig ùr ann an Glaschu agus mar a tha daoine òga a' bruidhinn an siud.

Bidh mi a' dèanamh coimeas eadar Gàidhlig nan daoine òga ann an Leòdhas agus daoine òga ann an Glaschu airson faicinn dè ris am bi a' Ghàidhlig coltach anns an àm ri teachd.



SUN DIAL

An interdisciplinary project between Art and Science last summer has resulted in an interesting new feature in Stornoway town centre. The school was asked to become involved in the design of a sun dial by the Stornoway Amenities Trust, and Mrs K Macdonald (Art) and Mr A Tuffery (DHT) worked with an Art class to produce the images which feature on it.

The class were involved in all stages of production and are seen here inspecting their handiwork. Let's hope we get some sun to enjoy it.



A big thank you to the S2 Elective who prepared this edition. Chloe Campbell did a brilliant job as Chief Editor. Thanks also goes to S4 pupils, Jonathan Rowe (Editor), Ciaran Westerman, Angus Maclean, Calum Errington and Ryan Errington, who worked on the final stages. Finally, many thanks to all the staff involved and to Shona Nicholson from Shore Print for her professional help.



IMPROVE YOUR LIFE SKILLS AT THE CHESS CLUB

The Chess club meets every Wednesday after school. Mr M Bartlett started the club three years ago, and now it is run by Mrs I Robertson. Approximately 25 pupils play every week, a mix of boys and girls from every year.

The club has entered the UK Chess Challenge in 2012. This is a tournament played between school chess clubs throughout the UK. Pupils also play for house points at the club.

So why play chess? It is a sociable activity that helps to bring pupils of all ages and backgrounds together, whilst at the same time encouraging a healthy sense of competitiveness. Young chess players become more confident, have enhanced self-esteem and are more able to organise their thinking and behaviour.

DRAFT RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY

In line with recent guidelines from the Scottish Government we are currently revising our policy for Religious Observance in island schools.

The Comhairle welcomes any written or electronic submissions on this policy, which may be submitted to schoolconsultations@cne-siar.gov.uk or to the Director of Education and Children's Services at the Comhairle Offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway, by 5.00pm on Thursday, 22nd December.

Continued from back page

Skilful off-loads from Calum, Jason and Jack gave Alick the chance to charge over for his first try for the club. Shortly after, a loose Grammar clearance kick was collected by Jason on the 10 metre line and with his pace and elusive running he worked his way through the broken defence for a fine individual try. Calum converted.

Stornoway then showed off their defensive qualities as Grammar went in search of further tries. Jason pulled off two last ditch tackles when first the No 8 then the full back broke through the first line of defence and looked odds on to score, then David and Farrell tackled the flying right winger into touch just before the line. Grammar forwards to try their luck round the fringes of ruck and maul, where the big Stornoway forwards kept knocking them back, in particular Man of the Match, Shaun Smith. Grammar did eventually manage to break through when, for once, they managed to create space for their speedy left winger who squeezed in at the corner to complete the scoring.

This was a fantastic display by Stornoway in only their second match of the season, well worth the effort of travelling to Aberdeen. But this was an encouraging performance from a talented group of players.

by Mr D Beattie (PE)

AMBASSADORS OF SPORT

We would like to thank all the staff who nominated us to be sports ambassadors. It is a real honour and great opportunity for us and we will do our best. The criteria for nomination was commitment to sport and leadership potential. Next year, two more ambassadors will be nominated and we will then be mentors to help them along their way.

We were invited to attend a regional conference with Young Ambassadors from across the Highlands and Islands in Nairn Community Centre. We went to workshops which gave us ideas of how we could promote the Olympic and Paralympic values and to get more people more active more often.

We also met and worked with two Highland Olympians: Craig Maclean, who won a silver medal in the 2000 Sydney Olympics in team Sprint Cycling and Ewan Macdonald who has represented Team GB at three Winter Olympics in Curling and once held the Scottish, European and World titles all at the same time.

At the conference, we discussed potential events to be organised next year in the run up to the Olympics, the Torch relay and joining the Get Set network. The school could even win the



Hannah Macleod and Alasdair Macleod with their mentors, Miss E Carmichael (PE) and Mr Iain GG Campbell, Active Schools Co-ordinator.

chance to take pupils to work at the games, tour Olympic Park, receive Team GB athlete visits and get tickets for the games themselves. So, keep an eye out for news!

We have many roles and responsibilities including putting up a noticeboard with information about local sport, school sport and the Olympic Games; getting involved in the organisation of the Stornoway leg of the Olympic Torch Relay on June 11th 2012; preparing and delivering presentations for school assemblies; and recruiting helpers (both pupils and teachers) from within the school to run events aimed at promoting the Olympic and Paralympic values.

Olympic Values: Respect, Friendship, Personal Excellence.

Paralympic Values: Courage, Determination, Inspiration, Equality.

PUPIL PROFILE



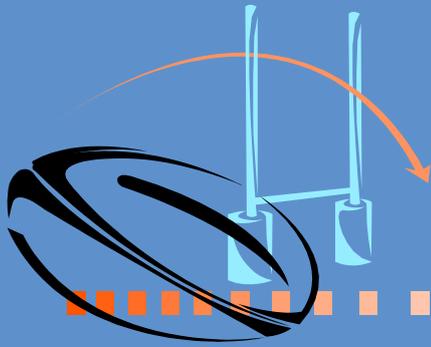
Kara Hanlon (S3) has done exceptionally well in swimming lately and deserves credit for working very hard. She trains 5 days a week for up to 2 hours a day with Coach DR Morrison.

At the North of Scotland Schools event she achieved the following results:

100m B'stroke 1st 1.18 mins.
200m B'stroke 1st 2.54 mins.

She missed out on first place by just one tenth of a second at a recent swim meet for the Aberdeen Mitchell Trophy, achieving her personal best of 1.17 minutes. And in the North District event last week she came second, just 0.02 of a second behind the lead.

Well done Kara!!!



Sports News

STORNOWAY CRUISE TO VICTORY IN ABERDEEN

NI/Stornoway RFC 43
Aberdeen Grammar 20

NI/ Stornoway RFC U16's, who double as the Nicolson Institute team, travelled to Aberdeen to take on Aberdeen Grammar in the North Development League.

Stornoway started the stronger side and were soon threatening the Grammar line and after 5 minutes opened the scoring through their inspirational stand-off, Calum Mackinnon, with a powerful run from a 5 metre scrum. Calum knocked over the simple conversion. Grammar settled into the game and struck back soon after following a number of phases, which left the Stornoway left their defence stretched too thin allowing Grammars right winger room to score out wide.

Both sets of forwards then decided to test each other out with some strong runs and crunching tackles the Alan



Mitchell Thompson breaking through Aberdeen Grammar defence.

Farrell capitalised on a dropped ball in midfield when he kicked through and followed up to dribble the ball over the line before touching down for another converted try.

Stornoway went on to add two more quick tries through Calum Macdonald and Coinneach Smith.

Grammar got back into the match with two tries of their own through their two most

dangerous players, their full back and No 8. But Stornoway finished an exciting half of rugby with another fine try through Colin Wood.

The second half was a more even affair but no less exciting. Grammar scored a soft try early on .Stornoway then scored the try of the match, a superb team try finished off by team captain Alick Graham.

Continued inside.