



Low Port Newsletter

September 2008

Dear Parents,

Here we are at the start of a new school year and it's already off to a flying start with Primary 1 settling in, P6 visiting Robinwood, Agilent Science Workshops with Mr Forsyth and much, much more. We hope that you find the newsletter informative and that it helps you to get a clearer picture of what we have been up to in school so far this term and will be working on in the future.

Support for Learning

Mrs Karen Henderson will be working as Support for Learning Teacher for the foreseeable future. Mrs Henderson is a very experienced teacher, but will need time to get to know our school systems and to organise her groups and timetable. I would ask for your support at this transition time and ask that you bare with us until Mrs Henderson has everything organised. I will be advertising the job in the next few weeks in order that a permanent Support for Learning Teacher be appointed.

Appeals Committee Request

I have received a letter from the Clerk to Placing in Schools Appeal Committee asking for our help in recruiting parent members onto the committee. The only criteria set is that you must have a child in education in West Lothian. The Appeals Committee considers appeals against the refusal of school placing requests or against exclusion from schools. If you would be interested or would like more information please contact Sheila Gallagher on (01506) 777181. The deadline for applications is 28th November 2008.

Contacting the School

For reasons of security and in order to increase office efficiency I would be grateful if parents wishing to contact any member of staff in the school they do so, in the first instance, by letter or telephone. If parents wish to contact the school using email then please do so by emailing lowport.ps@wled.org.uk Mrs Stobie and I will be receiving new email addresses in the next few days and will therefore have no access to our current email inbox.

Primary 6 Residential Visit to Robinwood Outdoor Education Centre

Primary 6 recently visited Robinwood Outdoor Education Centre in Cumbria and all had a fabulous time. The children were able to take part in lots of fun, exciting and challenging activities. They really enjoyed using the giant swing and the zip wire. Others thought that the trapeze was fantastic, but also really scary. They also took part in stream walking, caving activities and had a dip in the Piranah Pool!! They are now looking forward to Dalguise when they are in Primary 7.

Primary 7

Mr Forsyth recently visited P7 where he worked with the children on building Newton's Rocket Car. The children learned about Newton's Three Laws of Gravity and the effect of forces. The class concentrated mostly the third law which is; for every force there has to be an equal, opposite reaction. The children really enjoyed testing their cars at the end of the session. Everyone had great fun even those whose cars didn't work as Mr Forsyth was able to fix these!

School Improvement Priorities

Our School Improvement Priorities for this session are:

- Developing active learning approaches to learning and teaching.
- Developing the ICT capacity within the school.
- Monitoring and Tracking of pupil attainment to increase pace of learning and promoting self evaluation.

I am currently awaiting feedback from our Education Officer on the School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report. Once I have received this I will send out more details to all parents.

The Education Officer for Low Port Primary School has recently changed as our previous Education Officer has moved onto another post. Our new Education Officer is Mr Alan Millar who is based at Lindsay House, Bathgate at present. We look forward to working with Alan during the session.

Curriculum for Excellence DVD for Parents

The Scottish Government recently launched a DVD for parents giving information on A Curriculum for Excellence. Parents can access the presentation at the following web address:

www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/video/curriculumforexcellenceparent.asp

Amberwatch Pole

Some of you may be aware that a wooden pole has been erected at the Rose Garden. This is an Amberwatch Pole and is part of a campaign spearheaded by the parents of Madeleine McCann. The pole will eventually have a screen attached to it which can be used as an early alert system for children who go missing. It will also be available for community groups to use to advertise local events, including the school.

Supergrounds

As some of you will already be aware the Supergrounds area has been out of bounds to the children since our grand opening. This is due to health and safety regulations. The area is currently being developed in order that it meets fully with West Lothian's Health and Safety guidance. I will let the children know when it is completed and safe for them to use at break times.

Ontario, Canada

I have recently been successful in gaining a place on a Learning and Teaching Scotland study visit to Ontario, Canada. The purpose of my visit is to examine and learn about educational leadership and management in Ontario's York District which has had improved results in terms of student achievement over the past few years. I will be sharing my experiences with pupils, parents, educators and the wider community on return from the visit. I will leave Scotland on Saturday 11th October and return the following Saturday. During the last week of term, Mrs Stobie will be Acting Headteacher and any enquiries which you have should be directed to her.

Lesley Henderson

Lynda Stobie