



Bell Baxter Diary



18 January 2012

Charity Hilarity

2012 is off to a good start here at Bell Baxter and a belated Happy New year from the diary team. A brief look back at Christmas.

English teacher, Mrs Kerr, has been a dedicated fundraiser for a variety of charities with her registration class. Some of the money raised was contributed to Oxfam. This year Mrs Kerr and her registration class 5.12 went all out and raised money by what they called 'Coppers for Christmas'. They raised a massive £220 which managed to buy one well, two toilets for refugee camps, a sheep and an animal welfare pack and also trained a teacher. This could not be have been done without Ross Stephen dressing up as Santa and going round classes urging people to donate their coppers, accompanied by his helpers Kathryn Wilson, Andrew Ferguson and Hugh Neilson. The idea was inspired by Rev. Ken Jeffrey whose Christmas Assembly highlighted the importance of giving with powerful images and accounts of the dismal experiences of so many children from his visits to Peru. Rev. Jeffrey's message stuck with pupils and made them realise how fortunate they we are which then led to generous giving at the end of term Roadshow the following day. The Charities Roadshow saw Mr Kellichan take on the alter-ego DJ Kellichan. His unique style brought the school together in Christmas spirit. Overall, both events created a lot of fun and raised an estimated total of £800. Well done!

P7 Parents Night

On Wednesday 18th, P7 pupils and their families were invited to attend an information evening and for some to have their first experience of Bell Baxter. While parents attended the formal presentation led by Mr Black, Deputes and School Captains, the P7 pupils were welcomed by Mr Buchanan, who will be their Year Head. They then had the opportunity to visit different departments and watch PowerPoint highlighting information about what they can expect to experience in the eight learning areas, and a chance to look at the materials used. Parent also had the chance to meet teaching staff and see displays and demonstrations. As always this evening was very busy but very successful.

E portfolios

Recently at Bell Baxter, the schools Support Services Coordinator, Miss Doig, set up online profiles for all the first year pupils, as an important way of taking forward Cfe, which states that pupils wider achievement needs to be recognised as well as academic attainment. Basically, each pupil in S1 has their own blog where they can record their progress and achievements in class and comment on schoolwork. The blogs are part of Glow, an online network for the use of schools all over Scotland. It is not just exclusive to the first years of the school, all primary seven children in Fife have been introduced, it and many of the second years are also piloting the scheme. The idea is that by the time they reach Senior school, pupils will have very effective way of keeping and recording talents and achievements. Ms Doig has said that the pupils are using the ePortfolio with great enthusiasm. .

Microbiology Club

Last Monday (16th January), ten S1 students, with their S5/6 mentors, travelled to the Centre of Life Sciences at Dundee University to give a presentation on the findings of their own microbiology project. This involved finding the number of microbes present in soils taken from pupils' gardens, discovering how many colonies were present and identifying how colonies differed between different locations. They also investigated how the number of microbes affected the breakdown of different types of paper.

After giving the presentation, the pupils received their Bronze Crest Awards by a professor working in the Centre of Life Sciences. They were then given a tour of the facilities. Biology teacher Dr Parker, who ran this club along with Mr Simpson, said the experience was fantastic. "The pupils were very professional when they gave their presentation to an audience of senior scientists, parents and PhD students."

Well done to everyone who participated.

Peru Expedition

Congratulations to the Peru Group who managed to scale the heights of Machu Picchu (2,450m) during a fundraising event at Ratho. Fourteen pupils and three members of staff participated in a four hour climbing marathon on Sunday to complete the 2,450m needed to reach the summit. The pupils and staff depart for Peru on a four week expedition at the end of June.

Developing the Bell Baxter website - Your views

The Website Team is looking for pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community to contribute to the development of the school's website. The team would like hear to what you, the users of the website, think about the current site. We'd also be interested to know what additional features you would like included in a newly re-developed site. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey on the school's site at www.ffie-education.org.uk/bellbaxterhs/. You will find the link on the home page.

Parent Council

The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place on Wednesday 25th January at 7pm in the school's Conference Room. Depute Rector Karen Manders will be making a short presentation on Curriculum for Excellence, originally scheduled as part of last month's meeting which was cancelled due to bad weather. All parents and carers welcome.

Diary dates

S5/6 Prelims begin Mon 23rd Jan