



HEADLINES

November 2009



Before Hallowe'en we had the privilege of welcoming our German exchange visitors. Their presence around school added to the rich international dimension that warranted us being granted the International School's Award last year.

We were delighted to learn that Adam Canning was placed 3rd in Northern Ireland A-Level Chemistry, Daniel Simpson 3rd in GCSE French and Louise Bonham 2nd in Home Economics GCSE. Louise has also won the prestigious British Nutrition Foundation Prize for top piece of GCSE coursework in NI and will attend a presentation ceremony in London soon. Emma Crawford and Genna Logue have had some of their artwork selected for the True Colours Exhibition. Congratulations to these pupils and their teachers.

Hockey and Rugby fixtures keep the school very busy on Saturdays and it is encouraging to see so many parents coming along to support. I would encourage even more of you to pop in when it's convenient. In order to ensure the highest Health and Safety Standards, we have equipped a medical room in the Pavilion and from the middle of October, St John Ambulance Staff have been in attendance on Saturdays. Inter-school golf matches and Duke of Edinburgh's Award training expeditions have added to a busy school life. Many parents have volunteered to help support the wide range of extra-curricular activities. The teachers-in-charge of these activities have been advised and I hope we will be able to make use of your skills and talents.

The end of November will see the school's production of 'Our Town'. Performances will be held on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November at 7.30 pm and I would encourage you to bring along your friends to support the pupils and staff who are already working hard in rehearsals.

Staff Training in October focused on Performance Review and Staff Development, with objectives being set by all members of staff in order to support the work of the school at whole-school and departmental level.

14 and 28 November and 5 December are the dates for the Common Entrance Assessments which will be used as part of the Transfer 2010 process. One hundred and ninety nine P7 children will sit the assessments in Limavady Grammar School and we had a very successful Familiarisation Day in October.

We welcome Miss L Whan who joins the Mathematics, Physics and ICT departments on a temporary basis.

The end of October was a milestone in the life of our school when Mr E Bogle, Senior Vice Principal retired after 38 years service in Limavady Grammar School. Mr Bogle's contribution to the school has been significant and the esteem in which he is held was reflected at a final Assembly on Thursday 22 October. As a School Family we say Thank you, Mr Bogle and wish you an enjoyable and fulfilling retirement.

PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE YEARS 8-14 (OCTOBER 2009)

8V	96%	9V	94.1%	10V	91.6%	11V	96.4%	12V	96.8%	YR 13	93.6%
8W	98.3%	9W	91.6%	10W	96.5%	11W	93.4%	12W	96.6%	YR 14	92.5%
8X	95.7%	9X	95.2%	10X	97.1%	11X	91.8%	12X	92.8%		
8Y	95.2%	9Y	96.8%	10Y	98.2%	11Y	94%	12Y	91.7%		
8Z	96.3%	9Z	92.9%	10Z	95.1%	11Z	95.3%	12Z	93.4%		

Congratulations to pupils in 8W with the highest attendance percentage (98.3) in October.

Mr R Wilson

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION – CRAFT FAIR

The Parents' Association Craft Fair will take place on Wednesday 18 November 2009 from 7-9 pm. Tables cost **£15 each or £25 for two**. If you wish to book a table/tables, please contact Miss C Johnston at Limavady Grammar School on 028 7776 0950 by Friday 13 November 2009.

Mr P Jack

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES



With this year's European Day of Languages falling on a Saturday, it was decided to mark the occasion in school on Monday the 28 September. The day began, as has become the custom in recent years, with a French Breakfast in the canteen with nearly 200 pupils and staff enjoying a *croissant* or a *pain au chocolat*, whilst sipping a coffee or a hot chocolate and listening to the strains of Edith Piaf and Charles Aznavour.

The morning assembly also had a languages theme with pupils contributing in Spanish, French and German and our hymn being sung in Indonesian (not part of Europe, we know, but nobody seemed to mind).

At lunchtime, a group of Year 8 and 9 pupils enjoyed a languages quiz and all Year 8 pupils were encouraged to enter a poster competition to celebrate the day, with this year's winners being Katie Smith (8X) and Jordan Arthur (8Z).

So that our senior students didn't feel left out, we were delighted to be joined in the afternoon by Dr Jane McKee and Mr Alvaro Jaspe, from the University of Ulster, and past pupil Rachel Craig, who talked to pupils from Years 11, 12, 13 and 14 about possible career opportunities with languages, whilst Eve-Lyne, Craig and Victoria, our Language Assistants from Canada, Switzerland and Chile shared their experiences of their year abroad so far.

My thanks go to everybody who worked so hard to make this day a little bit different and to the pupils who participated so enthusiastically in all the activities.



Mr I Sampson

SAFETY IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Parents are reminded that between the hours of 8.30-9.15 am and 3.00-4.00 pm each day, access through the school grounds is **ONE WAY ONLY**.

Thank you.

SCHOOLS BIBLE PROJECT 2009



This year the challenge for the Schools Bible Project was to write an essay describing an incident in the life and mission of Jesus. Victoria and Lucy chose the healing of the Centurion's Servant. They had to describe the event in their own words as if they had actually been present. We were very pleased when Lucy was awarded a certificate of merit and Victoria was selected to be given a special prize of a Bible because hers was one of a number of essays which, while not in the top four, showed as the judges noted "understanding, sensitivity and real insights into the event".

Well done to Lucy and Victoria. The RE Department is proud of you!

Mrs A Dunwoody

FIRST TRUST SCHOOL BANK

The School Bank is open every Friday in N19 from 1 pm to 1.30 pm. It is managed by Year 13 students and new account holders would be very welcome. The Student account for 11 to 18 offers a Banklink cash card, interest on your money, easy mobile phone top-ups at cash machines, banking online or by phone, foreign currency with no commission charge and regular statements. When going on to university it is easy to change to a Student + Account.

At the minute a £15 iTunes voucher is available for every account opened. Please call in to the School Bank for further information or contact Mrs Jackie Gault in the Limavady Branch.

Mrs S Acheson

SCHOOL PRODUCTION "Our Town"

Limavady Grammar School is pleased to present its production of "***Our Town***" by the American playwright Thornton Wilder, in the School Assembly Hall on **Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November 2009 at 7.30 pm.**

Having been first produced in New Jersey 1938, the play successfully transferred to Broadway later that year and Wilder received his first of two Pulitzer Prizes for his efforts. Since then, "***Our Town***" has been a stalwart of English Literature syllabi and a popular choice for many amateur and professional acting troupes all over the world.

Set at the turn of the 20th century in the fictional town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, the action of the play unfolds over three acts. It is an affectionate portrait of life in small town America and an attempt to put a value on the little events in daily life – the experiences which are common to so many of us. Beginning with daily life's routines and necessities, the play reveals the intimate and habitual personal lives of two families. The action follows the lives of some of the inhabitants of the town over a period of thirteen years, as people grow up, marry and pass on.

Wilder felt strongly that theatre was limited by the constraints of the "typical boxed set" and has deliberately pared the set and props to the minimum, relying on the actors to create the atmosphere and to convey the relationships and emotions. The result is a play which never lets you "forget" that you are watching a piece of theatre, but which expertly reflects that everything we do in life – every word, every gesture however unimportant or seemingly trivial - has meaning.

This superb piece of theatre is not to be missed! Tickets are on sale now and available through the school office, or any pupil. £6 adult; £3 concessionary.

Miss C Gordon

INTERNET AND SCHOOL NETWORK PERMISSION

Below is the code of conduct for the use of the school network and Internet, to which every student must agree before obtaining access. If you DO NOT want your child/children to have Internet access, please inform the Principal of your decision, in writing.

Code of Conduct for Use of the School Network & the Internet

The simplified code of conduct applies at all times, in and out of school hours, whilst using school equipment. Please read it carefully: it involves potential criminal action as well as breach of school rules.

You must not:

- Use anyone else's Username.
- Download games or other programs from the Internet.
- Use chatrooms or external email services (e.g. Hotmail).
- Send, access or display offensive messages or pictures.
- Give your name, address, telephone number or any other personal information about yourself or others to anyone you write to.
- Use or send bad language.
- Intentionally waste resources thus preventing use by others.

You should:

- Only, with permission, access websites that are appropriate for use in school.
- Be careful of what you say to others and how you say it.
- Respect copyright and trademarks. (You cannot copy material without giving credit to the person or company that owns it.)
- Check with a teacher before opening e-mail attachments or completing on-line questionnaires or subscription forms.

Please note:

- User areas on the school network will be closely monitored and staff may review your files and communications to maintain system integrity.
- Failure to follow the code will result in loss of access and further disciplinary action may be taken if appropriate.
- If applicable, external agencies may be involved, as certain activities may constitute a criminal offence.

Child Safety Awareness – Internet Chat Rooms & E-Mail

I'm sure you are aware of many publicised cases where unsuspecting children and teenagers have been "groomed" into running away with unsavoury individuals whom they have met via chat rooms and other websites.

The Internet can be a dangerous place. Please monitor your child's web activities and be very aware of the sites to which they have access.

Useful sites: Childnet International – <http://www.childnet-int.org/>
KidSMART – <http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>
Think U Know – <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Mrs V Campbell

PASTORAL ISSUES

Parents Advice Centre offers advice and support to parents on a number of issues. The Centre is situated in the City Factory Building, 100 Patrick Street in Londonderry and information may be found on www.parentsadvicecentre.org. The Centre's free telephone number is: 0808 8010 722.

The Dry Arch Children's Centre is situated at 47B Catherine Street, Limavady, and telephone: 028 7772 9826. The programmes are geared for 11 to 16 year old students and their families. Current initiations include healthy lifestyle models and family support.

Mr N Handforth

UNDER 13 CRICKET TEAM

At the end of August, the Under 13 cricket team won the Moyallen Shield, making them Ulster Champions for the second year running after their victory in the Centenary Cup last year. The boys are now unbeaten after two seasons of schools' cricket, a fabulous achievement.



Mr I Warwick

PISA (PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT)

Are students well prepared for future challenges? Can they analyse, reason and communicate effectively? Do they have the capacity to continue learning throughout life? The OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) answers these questions and more, through its surveys of 15-year-olds in the principal industrialised countries. Every three years, it assesses how far students near the end of compulsory education have acquired some of the knowledge and skills essential for full participation in society.

PISA is an internationally standardised assessment that was jointly developed by participating economies. Three assessments have so far been carried out (in 2000, 2003, and 2006). Data for the 4th assessment is being collected in 2009, with results scheduled for release at the end of 2010.

Limavady Grammar School was asked to participate in this year's assessment on 3rd November. Thirty randomly selected Year 12 pupils took part in the programme which will assess achievement in Reading, Mathematics & Science. Visit the PISA website at: <http://www.pisa.oecd.org/>

Mr J Calwell

LIMAVADY GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
will be held in the Assembly Hall on Monday 21 December 2009 at 7.30 pm.
Donations in aid of LGS Musical Instrument Fund.
All Parents and Friends are most Welcome

PANDEMIC CONTINGENCY PLAN (From Western Education & Library Board)

Updates from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety indicated that the number of GP consultations for flu-like illnesses has again risen recently. The ongoing increase in Swine Flu activity suggests that we are in the second wave.

Although Transport Services continue to cope well an unprecedented increase in the level of absenteeism due to the spread of Swine Flu may severely affect the Board's ability to sustain continuity of transport. This could result in services being delayed or cancelled with minimum notice. The Board has, as part of its contingency plan, a media strategy in place in the event of the non-operation of transport services at short notice. However, the Board will make every effort to maintain normal transport provision to and from schools.

Mr N Handforth

READATHON DIRECTOR VISITS LIMAVADY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Mr Brough Girling, the director of the national Readathon charity, recently visited LGS to offer a personal thank you to staff, parents and pupils for their help in fundraising for this charity event. Limavady Grammar pupils not only managed to raise more than most Northern Ireland schools in their 2009 event, by raising £5,329.27, but have now donated more than £50,000 since they first started the event in 1997, through pupils gaining sponsorship for reading books.

The Readathon charity organisation helps two charities: Clic Sargent, (formerly Malcolm Sargent) and the Roald Dahl Foundation. Clic Sargent provides counselling for families who have been affected by cancer. Money raised helps to fund support groups, provide computers, mobility aids and holiday and adventure breaks for families affected by this disease. The Roald Dahl Foundation helps children with blood disorders, epilepsy or those who have suffered from head injuries. Help is given in a direct way – nursing posts have been established throughout Britain which act as lifelines to young patients. Warm bedding, clothing and travel to hospital are also provided by this charity. In one year, the Foundation has helped more than 4,000 children and young people – enabling quick and accurate diagnoses and offering specialist support.

Miss Coid, the organiser of the event at LGS expressed her gratitude at the pupils' fundraising being recognised by Mr Girling's visit.

"It is an honour that the director of Readathon decided to visit Limavady Grammar. Readathon is a very important part of our school calendar within Junior English classes which the pupils relish. It is fantastic that over 500,000 children have been helped by Readathons. What makes it even more worthwhile is that in many cases children in Northern Ireland have been helped, including children within our own school community."

Mr Wilson also thanked Mr Girling for his visit. He commented:

"Few families have been, directly or indirectly, untouched by cancer. The support that the pupils and their parents have given to the Readathon reflects the caring ethos which permeates our school community. In encouraging reading, we are promoting learning, in supporting Roald Dahl and Clic Sargent we are promoting caring, and in raising awareness of the services available to support families affected by cancer, we are preparing our pupils for life. We look forward to continuing our link with Readathon and I take this opportunity to thank the pupils and their parents for their commitment, and Miss Coid, together with the other English teachers, who co-ordinate the event."

Miss J Coid