



10th February 2012

Dear Parents,

I attach next week's bulletin from the Co-Curricular Co-ordinators and I provide an interim summary of the week's events.

Form 4 Workshop and Parent/Teacher Meeting

Earlier this morning, Form Four took part in a splendid workshop. The audience were treated to an array of poems, a power point presentation on bird names in Latin, a variety of instrumental music pieces and a performance by the Pipe Band. Prior to the Half-Term, it is so refreshing to see all the children displaying their many talents. Well done to you all.

Linguistics Olympiad

Several pupils in Form Five have completed the 2012 Linguistics Olympiad. To the best of my knowledge, we are the only preparatory school in Scotland to have completed this challenging competition and we look forward to seeing how well we have fared in due course.

Glenalmond Debating

On Sunday, Daisy Douglas-Miller, Torquil Le Roy-Lewis, Jake Oliver and Anna Lithgow represented the school at the Glenalmond Debating Competition. Motions under discussion included 'This House believes that Charity begins at home' and 'This House believes that sport is given too much importance in our society.' Both Ardvreck teams performed with skill and tenacity and it was good to see them use the cut and thrust of debating rhetoric. Daisy and Torquil were commended for their performance whilst Anna and Jake were awarded second place in both of their four team contests.

Science Question of the Week

Last week's question was "How can you read someone's mind?"

In assembly, Alexander Forbes-Leith demonstrated his mind reading skills. Mr Gore first asked everyone not to think of pink elephants. Alex's plan worked and pachydermal visions were exposed. Our scientists of the week were Jamie MacMillan, who suggested scanning the brain and using a computer to process the data, and William Lithgow who suggested reading body language and facial expressions.

Ardvreck Gathering

Last night, two of our governors, Mr Landale and Mrs Carmichael hosted an informal drinks party for present parents and the wider Ardvreck community. As ever, the Ardvreck pipers and drummers were in evidence and the Head Boy, Alexander Forbes-Leith spoke with great eloquence to our parents and visitors.

Mac House Bake Sale

This morning the boys in Mac have done a terrific job in selling the Ardvreck community a collation of cakes. Next week, we will be able to give you a grand total and all monies raised will go to a Mac project which will be decided by the boys with the quiet approval of Mr Morgan and Miss Jobson. This was a tremendous effort by the boys and the event was the 'icing on the cake' to what has been a good half of term!

Chess Tournaments

The Junior and Senior Chess Competitions continue to excite much interest and the players are currently at the Quarter Final Stage.

Sport

We have enjoyed a busy week of sport. As ever, full and well written match reports are posted on Ardvreck Live.

Cross-Country

Merchiston Cross-Country Relays

On Tuesday, the Cross-Country teams travelled to Merchiston and Mr Morgan has kindly provided a detailed synopsis of the event.

U11 Race

The boys' under 11 and under 13 cross-country teams travelled to Merchiston for their cross-country relay competition. This involved teams of 3 with each member taking turns to run a lap of a course approximately 1.2 miles in length. We took 2 teams at each age group.

The under 11 'A' team came 3rd out of 15 teams in a time of 15 minutes 45 seconds, behind Merchiston and Fettes. The 'B' team came 5th, ahead of teams such as Craigclowan 'A', Loretto 'A' and Strathallan 'A'.

Ardvreck 'A' - **3rd** (bronze medals) = Charlie Aldridge, Rowan Spencer-Nairn, Jamie MacMillan.

Ardvreck 'B' - **5th** = Kit MacLellan, Archie Ward, Toby Adamson

U13 Race

The under 13 'A' team also came 3rd out of 15 in a time of 14 minutes 37 seconds, again behind Fettes and Merchiston. The 'B' team came 8th, also ahead of Craigclowan 'A' and Loretto 'A'.

Ardvreck 'A' - **3rd** (bronze medals) = Robert Leader, William Guy, Fergus MacMillan

Ardvreck 'B' - **8th** = Alec Bruce-Gardyne, George Barlas, Cameron Bullard

All the boys ran very well and gained good positions for their teams. Well done to all the boys who ran and were superbly led by the cross-country captain (boys), Fergus MacMillan.

I know that Mr Morgan and the teams are looking forward to the IAPS Prep Schools Cross-Country Competition which is held in Dunbar on Sunday 4th March.

Netball Matches

On Wednesday, the Under 13A & B and Under 11 girls hosted Strathallan. All three matches were well contested and the teams were evenly matched. The U11 team were winners by 5 goals to 3. The scorers were Violet McGrigor and Ella McIntosh. The U13B team played their best match of the season. They really played as a team but lost narrowly by 2 goals to 5. Pippa Macdonald and Thomasina Bowyer-Bower were the goal scorers. The U13A team played a fast and furious game. They were strong and accurate and played with real determination. Ardvreck won by 7 goals to 2. Goal scorers were Gemma Howard-Vyse and Isla Gale.

Inside the Classroom

- As part of their project on craft and materials, pupils in Little Ardvreck have really enjoyed constructing the Eiffel Tower out of art straws.
- Pupils in Form One have enjoyed writing poetry and looking at global location in particular the British Isles. They are learning to use an atlas giving looking at journeys and giving directions. In Games, the children in

Forms One and Two have been gaining experience in their cross-country running in preparation for the Inter-House Cross-Country competition which takes place after Half Term.

- Pupils in Form Two continue learning about Indian Villages. They have finished creating their 3D models and there were three prize winners.
- Pupils in Form Three have been comparing their height with their wingspan in Maths. Form Three have started a new topic on properties of matter. It's an exciting topic and the class are itching to get on with the latest cycle of experiments and projects. They have also started making animations using a combination of Pivot and Powerpoint. The animation will show the journey to a black hole. Watch out Pixar!
- Pupils in Form Four have been learning about areas and perimeters of rectangles and triangles. They have been learning how to use an Excel spreadsheet to do calculations. Pupils have been learning more about 'Light' in Science. They've been studying refraction and the colours of the visible spectrum. Lenses have also been studied and they have been used along with some coloured filters to make simple light shows.
- Pupils in Form Five have started to learn about types of energy such as kinetic, potential and thermal energy. They have studied how energy can transfer between types during an activity such as a ball bouncing.
- Pupils in Form Six - 6G and 6T calculated the speed of sound using a balloon, the back drive and some stop watches. Their average was 296 metres/second, so not far from the real figure (especially if you make adjustments for the atmosphere at Ardvreck altitude). Pupils in Form 6S have been working hard and we wish them every success in their scholarship examinations.

Important Notices

Friends of Ardvreck Quiz Night

The Friends of Ardvreck will be hosting their annual Quiz Night on Saturday 25th February. This is a popular event and if you have any questions about this event then do either speak to the Friends of Ardvreck Committee (chaired by Malcolm MacMillan) or the School Office.

Evening Service

On Sunday 26th February, Mr Peter Hogan, Headmaster of Loretto School will be taking our Evening Service. If you would like to attend then please let me know. Refreshments will be served from 6pm.

With best wishes,

Richard Harvey
Headmaster