

Low Port Primary School: Where you are given opportunities and leave with happy memories.

## **Newsletter February 2019**

### **School Improvement Update.**

All classes have now begun their Do Be Mindful learning and feedback so far has been very positive! We launched our Building Resilience strategy 'Keep Connected' for this term and all children have had their home and class learning activities set. We are looking forward to our sharing assembly for this before the February break! Staff have been investigating what makes Low Port unique and giving their views around our vision, values and aims, as we are reviewing these along with our curriculum rationale. Pupils have given their views already for this and we appreciate parent input from those who have completed the survey for parental views. Once these are all collated, we will share with all families any reviewed vision, values and aims and the curriculum rationale.

### **ParkSmart and School Travel Plan Update.**

Low Port Primary School in Linlithgow are very proud to have received their Parksmart banner!

Parksmart is one of our Road Safety and Active Travel Initiatives which aims to reduce congestion and improve safety at the school gate.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers ran a competition last school session with the winning entries being printed on the banner. We worked in partnership with the Low Port Centre, our Junior Road Safety Officers and Mrs Buckley, a Low Port parent to create our banner, deciding, along with our Head Teacher, Mrs Livingston, where to display it in a prominent place at the front of our school that targets the majority of traffic. We would like to thank everyone involved who helped us achieve this banner!

### **Opportunities for Parental Engagement**

#### **Shared Starts, Finishes and Whole School Sharing Learning Events**

As part of our family learning/parental engagement planning, we offer parents an opportunity to come into school to see learning in action through a shared start or finish or possibly a whole school sharing learning event. This happens twice a year for each class. We will have our whole school event to share and celebrate our learning on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May. The focus will be outdoor learning. Further information will follow. Look out for your child's class shared start or shared finish if you have not already had this.

#### **School Show**

Our school show preparations are underway for P2 and P3! Show dates are 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> March, both evening performances from 6.30pm. The show is McHistory and you are in for a treat! Further information regarding tickets will follow. We do appreciate the support you give at home with learning songs and lines.

#### **School Fundraiser – Jaunt in Yer Jammies (Sponsored Walk)**

Our sponsored walk called Jaunt in Yer Jammies will take place on the morning of Thursday 4 April. Pupils, staff and parents are invited to wear their jammies for the walk (plus a

weather dependant coat and shoes for a loch walk rather than slippers!), with optional mad hair if you wish. FLPPS will be providing a Halfway Haribo Handout to all taking part. All pupils will have further information shared with them later this term. This is a joint fundraising venture with pupils and FLPPS to raise funds for interactive panels within the school. All parents, carers, grannies and grandads, friends and relatives are invited to join us on the day - all terrain buggies and dog walkers welcome! Further information re specific timings and meeting points will follow.

## **Parent Body News**

### **Parent Council News**

Thanks to all those who contributed to a leaving gift for Anne our Lollipop Lady. We received £130 and were able to give a lovely wee glass bird and a potted Christmas Rose as a reminder, as well as some vouchers for Taste & Far From the Madding Crowd, and some money. It is fair to say that Anne was blown away by your kindness and lovely messages and wanted me to say a big thank you!

We are supporting WLC in their recruitment drive for new Crossing Guides around Linlithgow. In the first instance there are posters around the Town advertising posts. We will see what success come from this initial recruitment drive. If needed we have thoughts for the Gazette and Black Bitch Magazine.

Thanks to all those who gave us feedback regarding Burgh Beautiful's proposal for a Sculpture of St Michael in front of the school. Many of you shared that you liked the idea but had concerns about the proposed site. On Friday we had a productive discussion with Ron from Burgh Beautiful, and the proposal is to place the sculpture in the smaller of the two flower beds (to the right as you look at the school). There may/ may not be flowers here depending on design.

We would like to invite you all to a morning Parent Council gathering on Friday 22nd March, more information on this will be out soon, but we hope it will be a chance to share thoughts and ideas on how to continue supporting our children's learning and the school and staff going forward.

Thanks for your support!

Parent Council

## **Learning Updates**

### **P5 Poems**

Primary 5 have been writing poems linked to Rights Respecting Schools themes. They are very impressive! Here are a couple to share with you.

#### ***What is it to be a Child by Jenna P5***

*Oh what is it to be a child oh tell me tell me please?*

*Does it mean I have the right to live and grow up in peace?*

*Because if so a child I will be.*

*I will walk around all day and get the wars to stop for me but that doesn't really happen so how can I be a child oh tell me please.*

*Oh what is it to be a child does it mean to be safe?*

*If so why are you punching me oh that's a disgrace?*

*I wish I could say all children have a home to go home to I wish I could say they have a place to be alone to.*

*Oh what is it to be a child*

*A child just like me.*

*We should all have clean water clean water like the sea.  
But if so why do I see the adverts on tv the adverts about the water being dirty?  
Sometimes a child wishes they could run off to a magical world where they could be ever  
o free but will that really happen tell me tell me please  
By Jenna*

### ***Rights Poem by Lisa P5***

*I have a life, a scary life  
Where no one can have a right.  
I want an education, a great education  
So everyone can learn how to write.*

*I want water, clean water  
Also healthy food.  
I want to speak for our right  
As I'm sure anyone would.*

*I want a shelter, a warm shelter  
Where I can sleep for the night.  
But my parents had a fight  
I'm trying to live with all my might.*

*I want to play, a fun play  
I want to meet my friend when bright.  
I have a life, a scary life,  
Where no one can have a right.*

### **P7 STEM Canal Visit**

*On Monday 28th January we went to the canal to learn about the engineering works. We were split into 4 groups and there were 4 activities with lots of facts and problem solving involved. We got to go into the actual canal construction area where the pile digger is and were shown what they were working on up at the canal bank. I think we all enjoyed ourselves and can't wait to see it all finished.*

*When our group were walking along the canal there were lots of photographers and a filming crew. Fiona Hyslop was there (MSP for Linlithgow) and we got a photo with her in front of the engineering works on the canal. When we got back to the tearoom we got to have a quick snack and then moved onto our next station which was about bridges. We learned about swing bridges, cable bridges and bridges that lift to let boats go under. Then we made our own bridges with spaghetti and marshmallows and we tested them with toy cars - it was quite a challenge.*

*Before we'd arrived at the trip some of the ladies who worked there collected some of the canal water and some grass and put it in trays. They'd set up microscopes and we looked at the little creatures living in the canal. They told us about the different food chains found in the canal top.*

*The last station was about the heritage of the canal - we got to look at some old things that a person running the boat would use to help them in the past. On of them was a really long trumpet to let other boats know your boat was coming. There was also a really big ruler and a curvy drawing tool.*

*It was a really fun day and we learned a lot and we would all love to go again!*

*Katie and Isla (P7)*

### **The ECO VLG Update**

The Eco group used seasonal vegetables grown in the UK to make a lovely, warm vegetable soup. We made sure the vegetables hadn't travelled far to cut down on pollution from their transportation and did so by checking what foods were in season in the UK right now. They used this great list to check - <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/seasonal-calendar/all>

### **Seasonal winter vegetable soup.**

#### INGREDIENTS

- 4 carrots
- 1 swede
- 1 onion
- 1 parsnip
- 2 vegetable stock cubes
- 1 litre of water

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Peel and dice all the vegetables
2. Add the onions to a large pan and cook for 1-2 minutes until they begin to soften
3. Add the rest of the vegetables and cook for 4-5 minutes, stirring regularly
4. Add the warm stock and bring to the boil
5. Cook for 20 minutes or until the vegetables are soft
6. Use a hand blender to blitz the soup, leaving some yummy, chunky bits.

A very easy recipe and the ECO VLG came back for seconds!!

### **Wider Achievements**

#### **Swimming**

Suzie in P7 qualified to enter the Scottish Schools Championships and represented Low Port Primary recently, competing at national level! Suzie achieved a personal best time coming an impressive second in her heat which qualified her for the final of 50m butterfly. Pulling another best time out of the bag, Suzie gave a good race in the final and finished 4th overall. She was very proud to be representing Low Port Primary and to be 4th in the whole of Scotland! We are proud of you too Suzie!

#### **Ski Club Update from Mrs Maxwell.**

Linlithgow Schools Cluster Ski Club will be having a club fund-raiser on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Grangemouth Golf Club 6pm to 1130pm. For those who are not aware this is the club house next to Polmonthill ski club. There will be a hot buffet and wide variety of entertainment for children and adults – Wii Ski, Golf simulator, tombola, raffle and a team quiz. This will be a ticketless event so registration is required. Please register with Tracey Waddell at [info@theparkbistro.co.uk](mailto:info@theparkbistro.co.uk) or via the cluster schools Facebook page. Tickets are £7.50 per adult, £5 per child and £23 for a family of four.

There was much disappointment due to the postponement of the Scottish Schools Snowsports Association Alpine races earlier in the month due to the lack of snow. At the

moment there is plenty of snow – it looks very tantalising on the webcams! Let's hope that it's still there for the back-up dates which are

**Low Port snow training -  
SSSA Alpine Races-**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Again we really appreciate that parents have to take time off work to take their children up to these events and that this is very frustrating when the event is cancelled. I will send out further information re hiring equipment soon as I think that there is a mixture of requirements.

#### Chess Competition Update

Archie R and Matthew B from P7 attended a chess tournament on February 3rd- they both won team medals in the 'best improvers' category which was fantastic to see, well done to them both.

#### General Information

##### Severe Weather

In the event of a severe weather closure, Snow Work for pupils can be found in the pupil pages of the school website. All communication regarding schools affected by severe weather is sent out via groupcall to families and West Lothian Council post updates on their Facebook page. Please make sure that your contacts are up to date with the office team.

##### Health Reminder

- A gentle reminder to regularly check your children's hair for any head lice.
- May we please remind all parents and carers that pupils should be kept at home until 48 hours from the last bout of sickness and/or upset stomach. There are NHS guidelines that all schools are asked to adhere to.
- For the safety of your children, please **do not** park or walk through the top staff car park for drop off or pickups as this is a very busy area with staff, buses and taxis.

##### Playground Update

Thank you for supporting us in allowing the grassy areas to regrow over winter and spring months.

#### Diary Dates

We have included key dates for the term for planning ahead at home.

- Friday 1 February P4 assembly 9am parents invited  
VLG 5
- Friday 8 February FLPPS Quiz Night
- Thursday 14 February Rotary Club Quiz for P7 team members
- Friday 15 February P6Cr assembly 9am parents welcome
- Monday 18 February MONDAY HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 19 IN SERVICE DAY STAFF ONLY
- Thursday 21 February P6 camp meeting 6-6.30pm  
P7 camp meeting 6.45-7.15pm

- Friday 22 February VLG 6
  - Tuesday 26 February Ski groups Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
  - Wednesday 27 February Rotakids Rally
  - Wednesday 13 March P6 camp leave – returning on Friday 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Wednesday 20 March School show P2 and P3 6.30pm
  - Thursday 21 March School show P2 and P3 6.30pm
  - Friday 22 March P1 all pupils assembly 9am. Parents invited.
- VLG 7
- Saturday 23 March FLPPS Spring Fayre
  - Friday 29 March Rotakids Fayre
  - Tuesday 2 April Parents' Evening
  - Wednesday 3 April Easter Service in the morning
  - Parents' Evening
  - Thursday 4 April Sponsored walk – all welcome
  - Friday 5 April END OF TERM 12.25pm
  - Tuesday 23 April ALL RETURN