



Blackburn News

ISSUE 6 December 2010

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Information & Advice

- Advice Shop: 01506 776444
- Access2Employment: 0800 032 9768
- Business Gateway: 01506 777400
- Intowork: 01506 443100
- WorkDirections: 01506 408500
- Careers Scotland: 01506 434249
- Blackburn Connected: 01506 77650

Support Services

- West Lothian NHS Addictions Service
01506 773676
- Edinburgh & Lothian Council on Alcohol (ELCA)
0131 337 8188
- ELCA Drop in Service, Lanthorn Community
Education Centre, Dedridge – Mondays 2 to
4.30pm
- Social Work Assessment & Care Management
01506 777777
- Social Work Addiction Team 01506 773681
- West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service (WLDAS)
01506 430255
- West Lothian Youth Action Project
01506 461588
- Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697 555
(24hrs Helpline)
- Drinkline
0800 7314314 (24hrs Helpline)
- Breathing Space 0800 83 85 87
- Support for families and friends of those suffering
from an Addiction:
Al Anon 0141 339 8884 (24hrs Helpline)
- Families Anonymous 0845 1200 660 or
email office@famanon.org.uk

Charlie Bryceland
Tel: 07889 251909
Email: charlie.bryceland@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk
or Blackburn@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

www.blackburnwestlothian.co.uk

Chairperson's Welcome

Welcome to the December edition of Blackburn News which you will see is in a new format. Our editor, Linda Graham, decided that it was time for a change of layout as we have been struggling to accommodate all of the articles submitted for inclusion into our publication. Your views on the new format would be greatly appreciated.

The Community Action – Blackburn project is now approaching the final evaluation process and I would look for your assistance in this and ask that you take the time to complete the questionnaire that has been delivered with this edition. Once complete please place in one of the boxes provided at Blackburn Connected, Community Centre and the Family Centre. If you wish to be entered into the prize draw for a £50 voucher to spend in Steins the Butchers, then please provide your details on the completed questionnaire.

Your support in the evaluation process is greatly appreciated.

Over the last 2 years the young people of our community having been working extremely hard to make positive changes to the community which has resulted in them being nominated for 4 separate awards. You will be able to read more on this within this edition. We also have the Blackburn Community Website up and running and this can be accessed at www.blackburnwestlothian.co.uk

The only thing left for me to say is for you to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you find the newsletter informative and if you have any comments or wish to make a contribution to future editions please do not hesitate to contact Linda Graham on lindam.graham@btinternet.com or myself on akerr1960@btinternet.com

Alison Kerr

Community Website up and running

On Monday 4th October Community Action Blackburn launched the Blackburn Website. The site can be viewed at www.blackburnwestlothian.co.uk

It's thanks to John Hardie and his wife Diane who have worked really hard to get the site up and running. You will find photo's, both old and new, information about what's going on in the village and some of Blackburn's history. There is also an opportunity for groups or businesses to set up their own page(s) within the site. Why not try setting up a page?

If you have any Blackburn information or photo's that you wouldn't mind sharing, please get in touch.



Changing attitudes to alcohol



As we enter the winter period, an important aspect of Police work is to ensure the road safety message is delivered to all the children in the area. I will be visiting each of the local Primary Schools prior to Christmas to deliver road safety talks to all the children, to ensure they stay as safe as possible as the dark nights draw in. Road safety around our schools has in fact been one of our major focuses for several months. An initiative was launched in September to target unlawful, obstructive and dangerous parking around Murrayfield and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary Schools, and several motorists have received written warnings about the manner in which they have parked or driven around our schools. Alongside this, recommendations have been made to the Council about how the road systems around these schools might be improved to increase the safety of pupils.

Blackburn & Seafield Pubwatch, which was previously made up of the seven pubs and clubs in the area, has recently been expanded to include the five off-sales premises in the two villages. It is hoped that the sharing of good, responsible practice and better communication between all our licensed premises will further improve standards, as well as ensuring a consistent banning policy for offenders that can be enforced across all premises where alcohol is sold. The Police and the licensees continue to adopt a zero-tolerance attitude to anti-social behaviour on licensed premises. Throughout the festive period, we will also be paying close attention to issues of underage drinking and agent purchasing of alcohol.

Blackburn Children's Gala Day

The Centenary Gala Day will take place on Saturday 11th June 2011. We have already started our Fundraising efforts for this, we had a Race Night in the Happy Valley Hotel in July, and a Cabaret show in the Masonic hall in September.

Our Annual Christmas Street Fayre will be held in the Mill Centre from 11.00 – 2.00 on Saturday 4th December, there will be the usual stalls, tombola, home baking, children's toy stall, the combined Blackburn Schools Christmas Choir and the draw for the 2011 Pageant. The Christmas ball in the Masonic Hall on Friday 17th December is sold out, but we have a Family Night planned in the Community Centre for Saturday 29th January 2011. We are hoping to have a fundraiser each month as well as our Annual door to door collection in May.

Auditions for "Blackburn's Got Talent" will be taking place in the New Year at various venues, Schools, Pubs, Clubs etc., culminating in the Final taking place on Saturday 4th June 2011 in the Community Centre with impartial judges from other Gala Committees. This will kick off our Centenary Civic Week Celebrations, with the Street Fayre on Sunday 5th June moving to the Community Centre for one year only, allowing us to have more entertainment and the Gala Races to be run that day. This leaves the Gala Day Free for extra afternoon entertainment, the Five a Side Football Final & Inter School Relay Race. We are hoping to bring back some old Civic Week favourites like the Pram Race, Tug o War etc.

Together with our partner agencies, Lothian and Borders Police has recently adopted a new approach to community policing, in which the activities that we undertake will better reflect the concerns of the local community. We have already begun to collate information from local residents to establish which issues are of concern. A forum that will be representative of the whole community will soon be established that will decide on three local policing priorities within the ward area and residents are encouraged to attend "Have Your Say" meetings. The Community Team will commit to spending as much of our time as possible to addressing these issues and will report back to the forum on the results of our actions. We aim to be as visible in the community as possible, and you may have noticed a poster has gone up in Blackburn Library with our photos and contact details attached! Please feel free to contact us directly as indicated in this poster.

A merry Christmas and happy New Year to everyone!

PC Paul Emery

Safer Neighbourhoods

Welcome. The Safer Neighbourhood Team's are a joint operation between West Lothian Council and Lothian and Borders Police, the teams were established to deal with serious Anti Social Behaviour.

There are 9 Teams, one in each council ward. The Team that operates in your area (ward 7) covers Blackburn, Seafield, Whitburn and Greenrigg, and consists of three Police Officers and one Council Officer (John Eason). The Team can be contacted by calling Whitburn Police Station on 01501 740222 or Blackburn Police Station on 01506 656547.

Alternatively if you do not want Police Officers at your door and/or you just want to discuss and get advice on your situation then contact myself (John Eason) on 01506 775000.

We are now in the process of booking the entertainment for the afternoon of the Gala Day and can promise you a very special afternoon.

The Gala Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a band or helping out in any way please get in touch with a member of the Committee or via the guest book on the website blackburnchildrensgaladay.co.uk



Blackburn Community Centre



This year's recent Halloween Holiday programme proved to be another great success for Blackburn Community Education Centre.

This holiday provision was funded by Blackburn Management Committee and facilitated by Community Learning and Development. The numbers of young people attending were upwards of thirty per day and we were delighted to see many new faces.

Activities on offer included arts and crafts; face painting; bingo; games; football; snacks; a trip to Blackpool pleasure beach and much more... A fancy dress Halloween disco concluded a fantastic week which was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

Don't worry if you missed out on the fun! The Christmas holiday programme will run from Sunday 19th December until Saturday 8th January. There will be all the usual fun and games with prizes and a lucky dip. All Blackburn residents aged between 8 and 14 yrs. are welcome to come along and join in the fun—entry is free.

Finally, all those attending the programme on a regular basis will be given complimentary tickets to the annual Blackburn Centre Panto on the 23rd December.

For further information please contact Jane Drysdale at Blackburn Community Centre on **01506 638910**



West Lothian Youth Action presents: “Truth or Dare”

“Nine young women from Blackburn, aged 12 -16 years have been working with West Lothian Youth Action Project and Lisa Nicoll, a writer and actress, to develop a short film addressing the issues of bullying and the impact a dysfunctional family can have upon a young girl. The script for the film has been written by Lisa but the characters and content of the film were created by the young women involved in the group.

It has been an exciting opportunity for the girls, Kerry Chumbley and Helen Davis, two staff members from the Youth Action Project, to work with Lisa, a professional actress and Alan Jones an experienced cameraman and technician.

“Truth or Dare” is a thought provoking short film that highlights how poverty and lack of parental care can impact upon a young women’s life and how her peers can add to her misery through bullying.

It would not have been possible to produce this film without the financial support from Community Action - Blackburn, Alcohol Focus Scotland and West Lothian Council Alcohol diversion fund.

The group have met every week for the past 6 weeks, planning and discussing what should be the key aspects of the film and how the characters should be depicted. It has been great fun for all involved. The filming process took place throughout the weekend of 6th/ 7th November, the weather conditions and the competition with continual noise of fireworks provided many challenges, but nothing dampened the enthusiasm and resilience of the young women involved in the production.

Helen Davis - Project Manager, West Lothian Youth Action Project said “ I have thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience of this piece of work, Lisa’s enthusiasm and encouragement shown to the girls was exemplary. I have learned a lot myself during the filming weekend and the young women involved in the film have been tremendous. They have battled with wet and very cold conditions when filming the outdoor shots, they have also had to be very patient and quiet in between scenes, something that was a challenge for a few members of the group. The girls have worked really well as a team, supporting and encouraging each other. I am really looking forward to seeing the edited version of the film early next year and arranging a public showing of the production. I wish to add my personal thanks to all the girls, both those acting in the film and those assisting in the background with scene setting and doing the hair and make up.”

Young women involved - Shannon Thomas, Danielle Allison, Rachel Swan, Angel Robertson, Shannon Geddes, Danni Lee, Leanne Lafferty, Maryanne Lafferty and Stacey Dale.



During the past few months West Lothian Youth Action Project (WLYAP) have been very active in the Blackburn area, the drop-in sessions open to anyone aged 12 – 18 years still continue to run in the Youth Space area of the Community Centre at the following times:-

Wednesday 7 - 9.30pm

Friday 7 - 9.30pm

Sunday 2 - 5pm

During the school summer holidays several young people from Blackburn participated in a variety of activities, the mountain bike trips to Glentress proved to be popular, we were joined on these by local Police officers which was an excellent way to build the relationships between Police and young people.

Funding from the Fairer Scotland fund has allowed the project to develop 2 intensive support groups for young men in the Blackburn area. One group for 1st and 2nd years operates on a Tuesday afternoon and the group for the 14+ age group runs on a Friday morning, both in the Community Centre. The main focus of the group work programmes are to build confidence and self esteem, to develop communication, improve engagement with mainstream education and access to employment. I am pleased to say that several young men involved in the 4th year group prior to the summer have now gained employment, or secured college and training placements.

WLYAP are also working with the Community Action — Blackburn steering group, Lothian and Borders Police, Licensing Standard Officers and local licensees to address the issue of underage drinking and agent purchase (the purchase of alcohol for minors by adults). A group of volunteer Peer Educators working with the Eclipse project within WLYAP have worked hard with staff to produce two posters highlighting the issue and to warn adults of the serious consequences that this action may lead to. It has been a slow process getting recognition of the value of these posters but we are pleased to say that there is now a real interest expressed by a variety of agencies, not just in West Lothian but other regions, therefore we are in the process of printing these posters for broad distribution.

Changing attitudes to alcohol

Young People of Blackburn receive recognition for their work with Community Action – Blackburn

Over the last two years the children and young people of Blackburn have been extremely busy in working towards bringing about changes that they believe are required to help improve the quality of life for everyone within Blackburn. This work has not gone unnoticed in the community and also further afield as they have been recognised and nominated for four awards in the last month.

Mentor UK Champs Award - Highly commended for their work with certificates being provided for Blackburn, Murrayfield and Our Lady of Lourdes primary schools and for Rachel Dodd, Tammy Keenan, Jamie McBeth and Kiera MacIndoe, collectively known as Blackburn Youth Team 1, who have been involved since the start when they were school representatives for the 2009 P7 Conference.

Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian Volunteer Awards - Tammy Keenan (St Kentigern's Academy), Rachel Dodd, Jamie McBeth and Kiera MacIndoe (all Bathgate Academy) received a Highly Commended award in the category of Active Citizenship for the year. This award fully recognises the personal commitment and hard work they have given to promoting the project and their involvement in the development and delivery of actions to address the issues raised by the community's young people. They are a shining example for the young people of today and are a credit to their families, schools and the community as a whole.

West Lothian Stellar Awards - Blackburn, Murrayfield, Our Lady of Lourdes and Pinewood schools were awarded the Stellar Citizenship Award for the work they have done with Community Action – Blackburn, which has also led to a much closer working relationship between the schools with regard to all community events.

Children and Young People Now Awards 2010 - Short listed from an entry of 500 for the health and wellbeing category and invited to attend the awards ceremony in London on 18 November. Blackburn was represented by Rachel Dodd, Tammy Keenan, Jamie McBeth, Kiera MacIndoe, Alison Kerr and Tricia Paterson, head teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes. Although they did not win on the evening it was a great honour to have been recognised at this level for of all the hard work and commitment of all involved.



Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian Volunteer Awards



The Stellar Award winners
Photograph used with the kind permission of Gary Barker at GB Photography

Nicola Sturgeon visits Primary School Children

Following the successful Blackburn Primary Schools Community Conference 'Choose a Better Choice' Scottish Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon visited the community on 16 November to speak with the primary school children about the main issues of concern identified by them, which were alcohol, drugs, smoking, litter and lack of CCTV.

Murrayfield Primary hosted the event and the minister was provided with an input from Barry Walker, West Lothian Youth Action Project Peer Education Manager, who outlined the approach taken to the work with the children. Blackburn Primary presented the findings of the work undertaken by the three schools, Murrayfield sang a song that they had written outlining their concerns around alcohol and Our Lady of Lourdes gave an overview of their drama based on issues around drugs. The Minister took questions from the children, she then thanked them for allowing her to visit and told them to continue what they are doing to help bring about positive changes to their community.

Ms Sturgeon, who presented the UK Mentor Champ Awards Highly Commended certificates to the pupils of each school, said: "Too often, young people are seen as part of the problem when it comes to alcohol misuse. However, it's often young people who are most affected by alcohol misuse, suffering as a result of other people's relationship with alcohol."

"In their report, the Blackburn pupils have captured many of the issues which face communities across Scotland – the problems of people drinking in the street and

their threatening behaviour, broken bottles in the park and vandalism. Harmful drinking at home can also cause huge problems for children, if a parent is drinking to excess."

"The Blackburn pupils are to be congratulated for the hard work they have put into this report and I hope that the Scotland they live in as adults will be a country which has a more mature and healthy relationship with alcohol."

The children's report which called for increased pricing, advertising restrictions, a ban on off-licence promotions, fewer alcohol sales outlets and better education and awareness can be viewed at

http://www.blackburnwestlothian.co.uk/groups_view.php?id=3&p=32



More information and photographs relating to these articles can be found on the community website at:
www.blackburnwestlothian.co.uk

Here's what Team 1 had to say:

Kiera's Diary London 2010

It is Thursday 18th November and it is 6am in the morning, today we are heading to London for The Young People Now awards :L

We have just been picked up by the minibus taking us to Edinburgh to catch our train and we have already experienced some issues as certain people (no names mentioned PETER & SHARON) have forgotten their train tickets and we have now had to turn back to collect these, and may I add that they both nearly fell whilst running to get these LOL XD

We are now on our train heading for Kings Cross London but before anyone can settle into their seats Alison is complaining that one of us kids has taken her glasses case (kids get blamed for everything these days :/) but it turned out to be Mrs Paterson who had it all along, Be careful who you blame next time Alison.

5hrs later

London was amazing :) I loved everything about it :D
The awards were very fancy and spectacular :) Michael Underwood was the presenter and it was just fab like :D

The day after the award we went to the London eye first and that was GREAT :D

The 4D thing was like something from the next generation it was minted :)

Then the dungeons was great : D
London is something that will never be forgotten : D

Thanks Alison and Charlie for helping us to get this opportunity because it is something that will never be forgotten : D

Tammy Keenan. xx

We have arrived at Kings Cross and Alison has made quite the entrance, when leaving the train she dropped her bag onto the rails, this would have taken some skill and expert aiming to achieve this haha . Just noticed platform 9.3/4 where we all had to walk through the wall to get to the next platform my head hurt a little after this (jokes) instead we just had our picture taken .

My nightmare then became reality as we were faced with the tube!!!!, this was quite the experience but eventually we arrived at our hotel where we were then told we only had a short period of time to get ready for the awards. I am surprised everyone was ready in time especially a certain female known as Tammy. Then we all gathered down in the lobby for some pictures, felt a bit like the Paparazzi.

We then headed off in a taxi to the awards, we passed some of the sights on our way such as Big Ben, it is not as big as I had expected and also the Houses of Parliament, nobody found this of much interest as it is the place of politics :/!!

We arrived at the ceremony where we were met by a few others. We were then shown to our tables . The hall was well decorated with candle lit tables that looked pretty, we had little name tags too !! the awards were held by Michael Underwood which was quite cool and although we didn't win our category we still had a good night !!



We got to go to London for an awards ceremony on the 18th of November because we got shortlisted in the final 4 from about 460 entries for the Children and Young People Now awards. We did not win from our group as we were up against other very worthwhile groups.

The next day as a reward we got to go on the London eye and a 4D experience about the London eye, we also got to visit the London Dungeons (which was a scream) and travel on the underground which was an experience in itself, overall i had a great couple of days which I'll remember for a long time to come.

Jamie McBeth

Team 1 and parents recently went to London for an awards ceremony. Unfortunately we did not win but we all had an amazing time. On Thursday we got the train from Edinburgh to Kings cross and found our way to the hotel. We didn't have much time to do anything so we got ready and had lots of pictures taken and then soon enough it was time to get our taxis to go to the awards. The hall was massive and there were 100's of people there and Michael Underwood was presenting the awards. We were served a very posh meal which none of team one really enjoyed, so after the awards we went for a McDonalds at 11 at night.

On Friday morning we met for breakfast and planned the day. The adults went and did their own thing and team one – and Charlie, Linda (Mrs Bryceland), and Jamie's mum and dad- went to the London eye. Kiera was not a big fan of

the eye because she is scared of heights but she went on anyway. After the eye we went to the London Dungeons for a few hours. It was so much fun in the dungeons. We had to head back to the hotel soon after that as our train was leaving shortly.

We would like to thank Alison Kerr, Charlie Bryceland, Mrs Paterson and everyone else who helped organise our trip.

Rachel Dodd

Changing attitudes to alcohol

Blackburn Primary Schools Poster Competition

Blackburn Community Council sponsored the above event supported by Community Action Blackburn.

This is the fourth year of the poster competition and the theme this year was Litter, Vandalism and Graffiti, as identified by pupils at the Primary 6 + 7 School's Community Conference 2010 "Choose a Better Choice" which took place in May. The children wanted to highlight this problem in the village and to ask for the support of the community in dealing with it.

This year we were delighted to welcome Pinewood who took part along with Blackburn Primary, Murrayfield Primary and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary. We received a tremendous 276 entries for the competition making the job of our judges very difficult. The panel this year was Shona Haggart, Community Based Housing Officer, Helen Davis, West Lothian Youth Action Project, Agnes Sinclair, Customer Information Service and Jose Vega-Lozano Safer Neighbourhood Team Officer.

There were eight winners chosen by the judges and each received a £20 gift voucher donated by Community Action Blackburn, with each of the four schools receiving an engraved plaque donated by the Community Council.

The winners were;

- P 1/2 Shaun McCarthy - Blackburn Primary
- P 2/3 Jessica Armstrong – Our Lady of Lourdes
- P 3/4 Karolina Dawdowska – Our Lady of Lourdes
- P 4/5 Abbie Gordon – Our Lady of Lourdes
- P 5/6 Fern Lafferty – Our Lady of Lourdes
- P 6/7 Sophie Cameron – Murrayfield Primary
- P 7 Daniel Severensky – Our Lady of Lourdes
- Caitlin Anderson - Pinewood School



All the winning posters can be viewed on the Community Action—Blackburn page within the community website at www.blackburnwestlothian.co.uk



BLACKBURN COMMUNITY MURAL

The idea for Blackburn's Community Mural came from our first unique Primary 7 joint school's conference in February 2009. When asked what their likes and dislikes were about Blackburn and what we could all do to make the village a better place to live, the primary 7 pupils said that they would like to make Blackburn a brighter place to live. The original suggestion was to paint the houses and the flats bright colours, when it was explained that this would cost a lot of money that we did not have the children were happy to reach the compromise of seeking funding for a Community Mural that would be displayed in several locations.

Having secured the funding from the Community Centre's Management Committee, our 4 Ward Councillors, Blackburn Community Council and Community Action - Blackburn, the work began under the supervision of artist Scott Gilbert.

The mural has a total of 15 boards that depict our history from the origins of Blackburn with Blackburn House, through the dark days of our local industry, the things that the children dislike as they consider them to be dull and concludes with the bright things that the children like while looking to the future and the upgrade work of King George V Park.

The boards were divided into five sections which were completed by Our Lady of Lourdes Primary, Blackburn Primary, Murrayfield Primary, the Youth Club and Blackburn Youth Team 1.

The boards were on display within the Mill Centre from 12 to 22 November and thereafter the relevant sections were returned to the community centre and the schools to be displayed there. The final section of the mural depicting the future will be permanently displayed in the Mill Centre.

Community Action - Blackburn would also like to thank Blackburn Connected and the Community Centre for storage of the boards during the progress of the work and Jimmy Graham and his colleagues at Sibbald Training for transporting the boards around the various venues to ensure the work could be completed.





After School and Holiday Child Care

Blackburn Family Centre provides After School and Holiday Child Care regulated by the Care Commission. Children are supervised by our fully vetted and qualified staff who offer the children a range of fun, challenging and stimulating activities.

During term time children are escorted from all three local Primary Schools to the Trindleyknowe Building where they participate in a wide variety of activities and are provided with a healthy snack.

Term time the Club is open from 3.00 to 6.00 Mon – Thurs and 12.00 to 6.00 on Friday and from 8.00 to 6.00 Mon to Fri during holidays (this does not include Bank Holidays at Christmas and the New Year).

Spaces are still available. If you would like more information please get in touch.

Early Years Crèche

We offer superb crèche facilities for children from 6 weeks old to pre-school age. The crèche is open throughout the year from 8.30 to 5.30. Following a recent inspection from the Care Commission the crèche received a glowing report and was one of the highest scoring childcare facilities in West Lothian. Spaces are limited but there are still a few available.

Breakfast Club

Blackburn Family Centre - Trindleyknowe building currently run a popular Breakfast Club facility for all children attending schools within walking distance of the Centre. Cost: £2 per week per child.

The breakfast club provides a safe and exciting place for children to spend pre-school time. A continental breakfast is available to all children attending. Qualified staff are on hand to look after the children and will escort them all safely to school.

For more information contact:

The Trindleyknowe, Blackburn, EH47 7HH
Tel: 01506 653324

Email: blackburnfamilycentre@gmail.com

Web: www.blackburnfamilycentre.co.uk

BLACKBURN PARENTS & EARLY YEARS TIMETABLE

Day	Group/ Activity	Time	Venue	Contact	Additional Information
Monday	Dance	10-11am	Community Centre	Fiona Thomson 01506 653324	Free Crèche available - book in advance
	Baby Group	1.30-3.30pm	Community Centre	Lesley Weir 01506 654965	
Tuesday	Yoga	9 – 11am	Blackburn Family Centre	Fiona Thomson 01506 653324	OPEN TO ALL. Free Crèche available if booked in advance
	Breastfeeding Group	11-12 noon	Health Centre	Lesley Weir 01506 654965	
	Baby Clinic	2- 4pm	Health Centre	Lesley Weir 01506 654965	
Wednesday	Healthy Eating	9 – 11am	Blackburn Family Centre	Fiona Thomson 01506 653324	OPEN TO ALL. Free Crèche available if booked in advance
	Baby Massage	By appointment	Health Centre	Lesley Weir 01506 654965	Phone to book an appointment
Thursday	Keep Fit	9 – 11am	Blackburn Family Centre	Fiona Thomson 01506 653324	OPEN TO ALL. Free Crèche available if booked in advance
	Blackburn Buggy Pushers	1.30-3.30pm	Meeting point- Blackburn Community Centre	Catriona Robertson 01506 654965	
Friday	Stress Relief & Relaxation	9 – 11am	Blackburn Family Centre	Fiona Thomson 01506 653324	OPEN TO ALL. Free Crèche available if booked in advance
	Fun Fridays	10-12 noon	Community Centre	Catriona Robertson 01506 654965	



Champions in Schools

The Champions in Schools programme is a pilot initiative launched by the Winning Scotland Foundation in conjunction with West Lothian Council and Active Schools. The programme places high performing athletes in the classroom to deliver a series of workshops. These workshops will encourage pupils to set personal goals and pursue a healthy and active lifestyle. **St Kentigern's Academy and Blackburn Primary** are taking part in the programme.

To find out more check out www.championsinschools.co.uk

Festivals

P4/5 Pupils from Murrayfield, Blackburn, Our Lady of Lourdes and Seafield took part in a QUOIT QUIDDITCH festival on Wednesday 10 November @ Blackburn Community Centre

Jumping, stretching, twisting, catching, throwing and observation skills were needed to play the fast furious tactical team game. Through energetic teamwork players tried to score points by throwing a quoit onto a relay baton held within the goal area by a fellow team member. The fast, fit and quick players were not allowed to move with the quoit in their hand but pass underarm to each other in the determination of getting their quoit successfully thrown onto the waiting relay baton.

So there is new life for the quoit as pupils expressed tremendous joy and excitement. Not only were Pupils imaginations captured with regards to the famous quidditch game but our Blackburn pupils' enjoyed being physically active too. A SCORE!

A big Thank you to all S5 & S6 sport leaders who refereed and organised the teams

Changing attitudes to alcohol

Pinewood

Here's an update about all that has been happening in Pinewood School over the last few months. Some of Group 3 in the secondary have been writing about the events.

On Thursday 14th October our new extension was opened by Councillor Andrew Miller. It was lovely to have lots of special visitors that morning. We really enjoyed meeting new friends from Murrayfield Primary and look forward to seeing more of them over the next few months.

"When summer was over we moved in to the new extension. It's new and colourful. Our art work is on the walls. There is a window that is very colourful." Rebecca

Some of our secondary pupils have been going to St Kentigern's for craft design and technology; they have come back so pleased with their work.

"CDT at St Kent's is fun. I am making a train." Laura

One of our pupils attends hospitality at St Kentigern's.

"I go to hospitality at St Kentigern's High School. My teacher is Miss Grout. I learned to bake gateaux. It was filled with cream and jam. I like the pupils who help me they are very nice." Suzannah

Hopefield Nursery

Open Evening

We held a successful Open Evening on Thursday 7 October. Parents and family members were able to see all the lovely things the children had been doing in the nursery school. They watched a slide show, chatted to staff and each other and found out more about Curriculum for Excellence and how this is being taken forward at Hopefield Nursery School. Thank you to everyone who attended and we hope you all had an enjoyable evening.

Health Promoting School

We continue to promote Health and Wellbeing across the curriculum.

Recently the children took part in a Hygiene Campaign. They watched the 'Handy' DVD all about how to fight germs and talked about when they should wash their hands: before eating / after touching pets / after coughing or sneezing on their hands and after using the toilet. They also learned about using tissues for runny noses and throwing them in the bin straight away.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Primary 1/2. Primary one have had a great start to school life and the primary two children have welcomed them and helped them to settle in. They all recently led the school assembly. They proved that they were already Confident Individuals by introducing themselves to the whole school and using a microphone! They went on to show that they know their alphabet and can count to ten. They chose to sing, 'Ten Green Bottles' and used real green bottles to count. These bottles are now being re-cycled as they all know the importance of being an Eco friendly school!

P2/3. have thoroughly enjoyed their

first topic – Ancient Egyptians. This has given us a great opportunity to engage in cross curricular activities, including Art, Technology, Writing and Talking & Listening. Pupils were able to study then make their own Egyptian jewellery; Talking & Listening skills were put to the test after pupils made their own topic boxes depicting the River Nile, Pyramids and Egyptians at work. The class then enjoyed explaining their 'Nile in a box' to peers, staff and parents.

Our community police officer came to talk about Road Safety and we all agreed that, as the nights were getting darker, this is something we should all stop and think about.

Primary 3/4 had an amazing first term. There have been fantastic

learning opportunities in all curricular areas. On Monday 4th October 2010, we went on a field trip to Cairnpapple Hill in Bathgate. We were invited by Archaeology Scotland as our class topic was The Ancient Greeks. This was an amazing experience for everyone, with great excitement on the day. We investigated the work of archaeologists and how aerial photography is used in gathering evidence. It truly was an amazing field trip and although very windy at the top of Cairnpapple Hill, it was a lovely sunny day.

P.4/5 participated in a class project on the Vikings.

Abbie Gordon and Rowan Bookless write: "We went to the museum in Edinburgh. We liked the Viking

handling box. Inside were daggers, a Viking sewing kit, fish hook and needle. We learned that Vikings did not have horns on their helmets or write on paper. We found out lots more."

P.5/6 We have been very busy this term. Our class topic about The Medieval Times has allowed us to research and make comparisons between our lives and those of the past. When we visited Edinburgh Castle, we all decided that we are so lucky to be living in these modern times.

Primary 7 had such a busy time this term. Our topic was Australia and we became Successful Learners as we researched loads of facts about Australian landmarks history. We also wrote to a P7 class in a town

called Orange in New South Wales and we are really looking forward to hearing back from them. We ended the topic in the only way we could – by having an Aussie Barbie, dressed in beach wear! We tucked into hotdog rolls, pavlova and beautiful mangos.

We also had a wonderful day in Edinburgh as we went to celebrate Pope Benedict 16th's visit to Scotland. We had made flags and were waving furiously as he passed our section of Princes Street. We were sure he gave us a special blessing as he travelled along in the Pope Mobile! This was such a historic happening in our country and Miss Glencorse was so proud that we behaved like super Responsible Citizens on that day.

Blackburn Primary

P1G have been looking at the story of Meg the Witch and have painted our own witch and made her a broomstick. We have also been listening to and watching fireworks on our smartboard and have made our own firework pictures. We learned about "noisy words" and added these to our display.

P1/2 have been creating a witches cave in our classroom and have been learning all about the dark nights and changes in seasons.

P3/4 News - Road Safety Week – we have done lots of work involving many aspects of Road Safety. Well done to Kuba Szydowski who won the Road Safety Competition. Anti-Bullying Week – we have learnt about being kind to each other and not to hurt peoples' feelings.

Murrayfield Primary News

Session 2010-2011 started in a very upbeat way and all the children and staff very quickly began building their own new communities.

Our P7 buddies supported our new P1's in school, in the dining room and the playground.

Our weekly assemblies continued to be very well supported by parents. The Pupil Council is established. The Eco reps are

elected and the Eco after school club resumed along with the homework club. The Eco club will be planning how our new outdoor classroom will be used.

For parents we had an initial Parent Council Meeting. To drum up support for this P5 and P6 classes put together a direct appeal to their parents to come and join. This took the form of a media presentation set to the music of Cheryl Cole's hit song renamed "Fight for this School." The film involved the whole school including janitors, cleaners and

kitchen staff. As a result of this we have some new parent members.

Peer Mediators could also put their training into practice empowering pupils to communicate with each other to come up with solutions to problems.

Our AM and PM nursery classes were treated to a puppet show by the Credit Union to try to encourage them that they are never too young to start saving.

P2 and P2/1 entertained us with an assembly about Friendship. P3/2 showcased their learning and

arranged a collection for Nyeri Orphanage in Kenya.

P1 and P4 worked with musicians during the Bathgate music festival. P6 had an exciting visit to the Cairnpapple site in the Bathgate Hills where they worked with Archaeology Scotland and Historic Scotland.

Miss Jones arranged for all the children to visit the cinema through National Schools Film Week. P1-P3 saw The Princess and the Frog at the Vue in Livingston. P4-P7 got to see The Spiderwick Chronicles at Falkirk

Cineworld.

Some of our P6 and P7 pupils went to school camp in Dalguise in November. Those children not going had an exciting alternative week.

P7 arranged a Pink Assembly to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness.

More info available on the community website—

www.blackburnwestlothian.co.uk

