

## Outstanding Achievements

### Education, Children and Adult Services Committee: 18 May 2016

#### Acharacle Primary School



Three pupils are at the UN building in Rome this week, to debate in the Montessorri Model United Nations Conference. The delegates chose to represent Ghana and will be debating and presenting their arguments with children from all over the world.

#### Alness, Portree and Kingussie pupils commended in robot competition

Teams of pupils from Alness Academy and Portree High School have been named as joint winners of the University of the Highlands and Islands robot competition - with a team from Kingussie High School a close second. Launched in December, the challenge invited teams of S2 and S3 pupils to develop a pitch explaining why their school should win a robot.

The pupils delivered their pitches to a panel of judges at a special event at the start of Inverness Science Festival. The schools robot competition was organised by the University of the Highlands and Islands' science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) team.

#### Lochaber High School



- A fundraising evening on 23 March raised £2250.50 for a charity supporting children with Cystic Fibrosis and their families.
- Lochaber High School Senior Wind Band achieved another Gold Plus Award at the Scottish Concert Band Festival on 19 March. This is their third award in four years
- S4 Art and Design pupil Stephanie McKenna was awarded the Brodie's Regional Award North in the national Schools Arts Award 2016 run by the Royal Society of Artists in Edinburgh, for her striking self-portrait.

#### Rowan Mackenzie

Rowan has a visual impairment, and in his 6<sup>th</sup> year at Gairloch High School. He has been selected by the Journey of a Lifetime Trust, to travel to Indonesia for 2 months in this summer. The Trust organises an expedition every two years, for groups of young people with significant disadvantages, to help make their dreams come true.

#### Bec Nicholson

Bec Nicholson promotes the voice of "a physically disabled young lady." She has spoken at Committee, about the challenges for young people with disabilities. After being supported to attend Treloar College, and gaining a triple distinction and outstanding achievement award, she has now been accepted by Stirling University to do a Social Work degree.

### Plockton High School

- Martin MacRae in S4 was a recipient of one of the Lord Lieutenant's Awards for his donations to Marie Curie. Martin is a piper and he gave all of his earnings from busking at Eilean Donan Castle last year to the charity (in the region of £3000). He organised a head shave for himself and another pupil in school, raising over £1000 and he donated his £500 winner's cheque to the charity.
- Finlay MacDonald won the Young Entrepreneur at the Young Scot Awards in Edinburgh for his luxury chocolate-making business.
- Finlay MacDonald and Ruraidh Stewart were part of the JCCF (Junior Climate Challenge Fund) Team of 7 students from a number of different schools across the country which won the Environment Award at the Young Scot Awards.
- S1 pupil Cally Ullman-Smith was nominated for the Young Environmentalist Award. Although he didn't win he has won a whole stack of John Muir Awards.

### Portree Primary School

Pupils at Portree Primary School raised more than £4000 to refurbish two fire engines for Moldova as part of the Blythswood Schools Enterprise Challenge, and won the best school overall trophy and also a trophy for the most funds raised in the challenge.

### Rock Challenge 2016

20 Highland Schools entered for this year's Rock Challenge, which ran over 3 sold out nights at Eden Court in April.

Smithton Primary won the Primary School JRock competition. Alness and Invergordon Academies won the Secondary School competition. Dingwall and Millburn Academies and Thurso High School were also awarded wildcards - meaning that five Highland Schools will be represented amongst the ten schools at the Scottish Final in Dundee in June.

### Highland Council Adoption and Fostering Services

These services have received these exceptional grades (again) in this year's inspection:

- Quality of care and support 5 Very Good
- Quality of staffing 5 Very Good
- Quality of management and leadership 6 Excellent