

Outstanding Achievements - People Committee: 21 June 2017

Bualnaluib Primary

Bualnaluib Primary in Autbea has won 2 awards in the First Minister's Reading Challenge – the school reading the most books award, and an individual award for P6 pupil, Albey Antony for his reading journey during the challenge. Class teacher Jennifer Coatsworth, Albey and Isla MacIver (who read 144 books over the course of the competition) collected the award in Edinburgh.

Children's House Inspections

Our Children's Houses continue to get good inspection reports. Recently inspected were Leault (Quality of care and support - Very Good; Quality of management and leadership – Good) and the emergency service in Inverness (Quality of care and support - Very Good; Quality of Staffing – Very Good).

Gaelic Education Award

Ardnamurchan High School received the Gaelic Education Award at the prestigious annual Scottish Education Awards. Gaelic Medium pupils Kate Bradley and Rachel Ford were accompanied to the ceremony by the Principal Teacher from Acharacle Primary School, Margaret Ford, Head Teacher Christopher Millar-Craig, and Gaelic Teacher, John MacInnes.

Highland Young Musician of the Year 2017

Rhona Mackintosh, violinist and S6 leaver at Lochaber High School, is the Highland Young Musician of the Year 2017. The six finalists were: Sophie Cushnie (Dingwall); Caera Douglas (Millburn); Jonathan Mackay (Dingwall); Rhona Mackintosh (Lochaber); Jemimah Morris (Charleston); Sandy Scott-Brown (IRA).

Rosie Clark (Lochaber); Catherine Mackay (Dingwall) and Saffron Wittka-Jezewski (Dingwall) also took part in the prelim round. Sophie Cushnie (violin) was runner-up and Sandy Scott-Brown (cello) was deemed 'most promising talent'.

Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band

Following several competition successes in recent times, Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band travelled to the British Pipe Band Championships in May with high hopes, and they achieved first place in the Novice B section, making them the British Champions.



Lynda Banks

Lynda is the Headteacher at Smithton Primary, and continues to have outstanding success as an international powerlifter. She won the Bronze medal at the World Championships this month for the Deadlift competition, and the GB women's team she was a member of, came overall 2nd overall.

Rock Challenge Scottish Final



Four Highland teams from Thurso, Alness, Invergordon and Dingwall were among the 10 Scottish schools that performed at Dundee's Caird Hall on Friday 16 June, in front of a sold-out audience of 1700.

Alness Academy came 5th, Invergordon Academy were awarded 3rd, and Dingwall Academy were crowned the new Scottish Champions. They all go forward in to a north UK qualifying round, enroute to the UK Finals.

Schools Quiz, North of Scotland Final

Having won the Skye and Area finals, the MacDiarmid Primary School Quiz Team travelled to Aberdeen on Saturday 10 June for the North of Scotland final. They came an amazing 7th - only 5 points behind the winners. This is a wonderful achievement for a small school, out of a total of Scottish 500 schools who originally took part.

Scottish Engineering Leaders Award

For the fourth year in a row, pupils at Cromarty Primary School were winners in The Scottish Engineering Leaders Award. Scottish Engineering and the University of Strathclyde annually ask Scottish Primary and Secondary pupils: 'If you were an engineer, what would you do?' Robbie Penwright and Connie Scott Lodge were winners in their category, and two other Cromarty pupils, Leila Schreiber and Kelsey Benjamin, were highly commended.

Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships

Lachlan Buchanan from Milton of Leys Primary School won the P6 event in the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships in April. Grave MacDonald from the same school took the silver medal in the girls P6 race, and the school's boys and girls teams both finished 4th overall in the team events.

Social Worker of the Year

Ailsa Rainnie, a Social Worker in the Lochaber Family Team, has won Social Worker of the Year in the Scottish Association of Social Workers Annual Awards. Newly qualified Ailsa was described as a "breath of fresh air" by colleagues and service users. Her approach to young people was said to be inclusive and her attitude clear and non-judgmental.

Stephen Mackenzie

Ullapool High School pupil Stephen Mackenzie received the prestigious Eric Liddell Trophy for Best Male Performance at the Scottish Schools Championships with his triple jump, breaking the championship record which had stood since 1996, also therefore winning the Bob Stephen Cup. He was interviewed on the BBC Radio Scotland sports bulletin.