



T G S V O I C E

T H E G O R D O N S C H O O L S N E W S L E T T E R



THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Preparations for this year's show started back in March 2014 - little did we know that after intensive auditions and months of rehearsal we would be unveiling a show in which the pupils became as close knit as the family Von Trapp themselves. The production was not just about

those on stage. S4 WA Creative Industries and WA Volunteering group came together to create set pieces, costumes, props and a whole host of other materials essential to the performance; the band spent hours holed up in the Simpson building practising the musical numbers; the dedication of the backstage and technical crew was to be commended.

The staff team would like to thank and congratulate all involved for their hard work and enthusiasm - we are extremely proud of you all. We look forward to discovering new TGS talent for next year's show.

SPRING TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY

MON 5th: School restarts for staff and pupils

THUR 8th: S3 Parents Evening

FRI 22nd: S3 Information Evening

MON 26th: Prelims start

WED 28th: S2 Parents Evening

FEBRUARY

THUR 12th: Prelims end

FRI 13th: Mid Term Holiday

MON 16th: Mid Term Holiday

TUE 17th: In-service Day

WED 18th: In-service Day

MARCH

THUR 19th: BBC School Report Day

APRIL

THUR 2nd: Last Day of Term

MARIA'S EXPERIENCE

BY Maggie Duffus, S6

“ After four months of preparation TGS finally opened the curtains on its production of 'The Sound of Music' at the start of this month. I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to play the role of Maria and this was an experience I will never forget. Rehearsals took place every Monday and Friday, they were hard work but also a lot of fun. However, it wasn't all plain sailing, for example Matthew - who played the captain - decided to turn up to rehearsals after shaving all of his hair off, it is fair to say that Miss Abercrombie wasn't too keen on the idea of a bald captain! Another memorable moment was attempting to learn the Laendler dance with Matthew by following a video, we eventually picked it up but only with the help of code words including 'the moon' and 'the sun'. After being involved with both 'Grease' and 'The Sound of Music' I have many great memories from the shows and would definitely recommend to anyone thinking about being involved in the next school show whether on stage or backstage to go for it as they have been some of the best things I have done in school!



THEME DAY 2014 - TGS TIMELINE



The 28th of November saw the return of the annual legendary event known as Theme Day. Organised by senior pupils Theme Day is a huge fundraising event which sees the school raising impressive donations to support our chosen charity The Grampian Children's Cancer Research Fund.

This year's theme was 'TGS Timeline' in honour of our 175th anniversary celebrations. Pupils arrived at school dressed in a sparkling array of costumes spanning the decades of our school's history. We had the Mario and Luigi from Nintendo's 80's smash hit video game, 60's hippies, 50's greasers, Victorian sleuth Sherlock Holmes, and the entire cast of 70's science fiction classic Star Wars.

As well as the costumed capers the senior group in charge had organised a fantastic line up of entertainment for both morning and lunch time break.

For the morning break TGS hosted their very own version

of Strictly Come Dancing with a group of teachers who had volunteered to battle it out on the dance floor. Mrs Allan and Mr Forbes represented the department of Business, ICT and Enterprise with a tangoed Tango, Mrs Simpson swapped library books for biology performing the Charleston with Mr Rowand, they faced tough competition from a rival team of scientists in Mr Wright and Mrs McWilliam who performed a wonderful Waltz, music and technical came together in a swinging Jive as Miss Kelly took to the stage with last year's prima ballerina Mr Griffiths, and last but not least Mr Hall posed as the Alan Sugar of TGS in an Apprentice themed Paso Doble with English teacher Miss Abercrombie—complete with cape emblazoned with a golden 'Z'.

Glorious in victory Mr Rowand and Mrs Simpson were the fan favourite with lifts and flips securing their lunch time revival.

MATHS CHALLENGE

TGS mathematics aficionados Stephanie Norris, Simon Norris, Findlay Munro and Felix Roberts attended a very special Maths Challenge at Glasgow Science Centre this term. With 61 teams in the competition the TGS mathematicians placed 7th overall. A big congratulations to all involved!

WW1 REMEMBRANCE

TGS pupils and staff worked together with Deveron Arts artist Caroline Wendling to create oak leaf tributes painted with the names of each of the sons of Huntly lost in WW1. Mrs Ross and a group of volunteers then took to the cold November streets and tributes were left on the doorsteps of the addresses the men had belonged to as a symbol of remembrance. This project was part of an on-going body of research by Mrs Ross into the history of the school's memorial window.

FAIR TRADE BAKE SALE

Pupils in the Fair Trade Group organised a bake sale to tie in with Christmas Jumper Day. The group was led by senior citizenship pupil leaders Megan Hunter, Sophie Buxton, Louise Morrison, Angus Pope and Rebecca Henderson—with a further 25 pupils involved in sales and production. All the treats were made with Fair Trade ingredients and the sale generated £118 which will be donated to Save the Children.



Lunchtime kicked off with a teacher ensemble performing 'The Time Warp' before hosts Kirstie Gordon and Lewis Whyte took to the stage to introduce a variety of acts. Highlights included Mrs Hancy performing a Wham! Number with her S6 backup dancers, a romantic *Dirty Dancing* tribute by Matthew Anderson (Swayze) and Joe Pirie (Grey), an energetic homage to 80's classic 'Footloose' as well as a finale which spanned the decades and genres in a mesmerising mash-up.

Work began in the weeks prior to the event to prepare parody VT's which punctuated the show. These included senior boys recreating the 'keep fit' classic 'Call On Me' by Eric Prydz, Mr Hall and the Senior Leadership Team taking an assembly which descended into the 'Harlem Shake' and a parody of Britney Spear 'Hit Me) Baby One More Time' with The Gordon Schools answer to Britney—Deputy Head Boy, Lewis Whyte.

The prize for best costume went to Frankie Gillespie in S1 who showed real dedication to his Mr T outfit by shaving his hair into the classic style of the A-Team character.

The day was a great success which saw pupils and staff donating a grand total of £1131.73 to The Grampian Children's Cancer Research Fund.

A big thank you goes to Mrs Bruce and her Senior Enterprise group for overseeing the whole event.



SAVE THE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS CHEER!



To support the charity Save the Children on Friday 12th December pupils looked out their festive finest. The school was invaded by snowmen, Santa and various reindeer along with all singing all dancing ties, jumpers and hats. Teachers did not miss out on the festive fun with many donning their own festive wear.

Pupils donated £1 in registration 50p of which goes to school fund with the other half going to the Save the Children Christmas appeal.

TGS pupils joined school children and businesses across the UK to "make the world better with a sweater" - you can still donate £2 by texting WOOLLY to 70050 or by visiting savethechildren.org.uk/





TGS TEACHER JOINS RWANDA PROGRAM

“GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IS A SUBJECT I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT” — Miss J. Smith

As part of a Global Learning Partnership, in conjunction with The Wood Foundation, Miss Smith is about to embark on an 18 month program to promote Global Citizenship. Chosen from 45 candidates across Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray council Miss Smith will be actively raising funds in school to support her place in the project.

The partnership will see Miss Smith travel to Africa during her summer holidays to work as an educational advisor in Rwanda. She will work closely with teachers in local schools to offer support, advice and much needed CPD to aid learning and teaching in the developing country. She will gain insight as to what it is like to live in a developing country by living with locals.

It is hoped that Miss Smith will be able to use this experience to aid her delivery of Global Citizenship within the Geography department and school community.

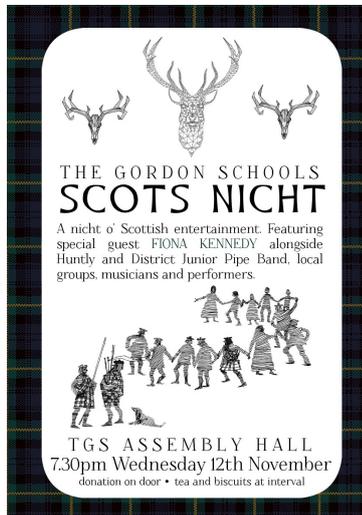
Miss Smith will be fundraising by running bake sales, raffles and projects like “below the line” thorough the school year. If you can help in any way please do.



TGS SCOTS NICHT



This year the Gordon Schools had its annual Scots Night as part of the 175th anniversary celebrations. As part of the scots night we had all the familiar faces including Huntly and District Junior Pipe Band, the Jessiman School of Dance, Brenda Gordon School of Dance, as well as Mac Lennox and Alastair Reed Jamieson. We also has a very special guest - Fiona Kennedy, daughter of Callum Kennedy, who sang beautiful ballads as well as some Gaelic mouth music and worked with some of the pupils to create a collaboration. The Gordon Schools very own Traditional Band made it's first appearance and we even had saxophonist Maggie Duffus. The Scots Night went very well and hopefully will be one to remember in the years to come!



THE SPORT REPORT

A round up of the TGS sporting achievement and success for this terms newsletter!

RUGBY

The U-15 boys rugby team were recently victorious over Nairn in the 1st round of the cup.

VOLLEYBALL

Our S2 boys team travelled all the way to Edinburgh where they won against Craigmount High School in the 1st round of the Scottish Cup.

CraigmountPE @CraigmountPE 24/11/2014
Good Luck to @GordonSchools in the next round of the S3 Boys volleyball Scottish Cup. Good win, great game. Safe journey home.

BADMINTON

Team TGS came 3rd overall in the interschools badminton at Meldrum this term.

School interhouse badminton was won by Seton.



SWIMMING

Interschools swimming took place at Peterhead this year with TGS scooping 2nd place. As well as this swimming success, many of our pupils have qualified for National Finals after passing the time trial heats!

HOCKEY

TGS girls soared to victory at the interschools hockey in Mintlaw this term coming 1st overall in the competition.