

## Head Teacher's Report

Happy New Year to all Tinto families. I hope that everyone had a lovely time with family and friends over the festive season. The new year and school term has started well and we are all raring to go!

There was not a December newsletter so below is a summary of events that took place in December followed by news / information for January and this term.

**Erratum:** Apologies to the P7 Rotary Quiz team – I inadvertently typed in the House Captains names instead of the team. The hard working team were: Molly & Sam Mitchell, Murray Taylor and Ellie Garrett. They were fantastic representatives of Tinto P.S. Well done!

**Nativities:** The Nursery and P1-3 Nativities were a joy to behold! As usual the children and staff worked very hard in the run up with rehearsals and learning the songs. There were the usual unplanned incidents (angels arguing; Kings forgetting their gifts much to Mary's annoyance) that make these events memorable. Thank you for your support in buying raffle tickets and contributing to the teas, coffee and mince pies.

**Time Capsule:** The time capsule was buried on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, Winter Solstice, near the sundial. Each class discussed what they wished to place in the capsule that represented their views of Tinto P.S & N.C. There were pictures, films, written pieces and a pencil! Each pupil placed a spade full of earth on top of the capsule. The children have asked that the capsule be unearthed in 25 years time as "they will be quite old by then"! Thanks to our builders who came and dug the hole and then finished filling it for us.

**Staff:** The *Nursery Class* welcomed **Mhairi Wilson** this week. Mrs Wilson replaces Mrs Dawson as Early Years Worker. Mrs Wilson will be supporting P1 in the mornings and working with the children who attend nursery in the afternoons. We hope she enjoys her time at Tinto N.C. Mrs MacConnell will be going on Maternity Leave w/b 25<sup>th</sup> March. At the moment I do not have the name of the Area Cover teacher who will be replacing Mrs MacConnell. As Parents Evening takes place on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, Mrs MacConnell will see her parents 13-15<sup>th</sup> March between 3.00-4.30 p.m. Appointments will be issued after the February break.

**I.P update:** We are continuing to update the Behaviour policy, a draft has been discussed at the Parents council and this will be discussed with the Pupil Council this term.

A staff working party are compiling resources to support the pupils in evaluating their own writing in line with Curriculum for Excellence and setting their own learning targets

Staff are continuing to refine the "Support for Learning" leaflets that are issued to some parents following the completion of termly plans and meetings with class teachers and H.T.

All staff will be attending "Number Talks" training this term to enhance mental maths provision. Staff will also be working with Linda Keith, internationally renowned maths expert, in their own classrooms this February. Staff will complete their "Talk for Writing" training this term and will be implementing the resource in class. The playground buddies (Fergus & Poppy) are now operating in the playground to support their peers if they have no one to play with / have a "falling out" with a friend.

**Parentpay:** Please do ensure that you have sufficient funds in your account. If you run into arrears the system automatically generates a letter (with my name on!) to alert you to this.

**Relationships and Sexual Health Programme:** P4-7 pupils will be having their RSHP each week from 23.1.19. The year groups will be taught separately with materials appropriate for their stage. Parent leaflets will be issued with information about the content of the programme so that you are able to support this area at home.

**Sad news:** Some parents may remember Margaret Wilson, a former support assistant and teacher at Tinto P.S. Mrs Wilson retired due to ill health about six years ago and has had a long and brave fight with her illness ever since. Margaret passed away on 31.12.18. She enjoyed teaching very much, always giving that "extra" to the children. Margaret will have left a lasting legacy for the children she taught and will be remembered fondly. We have sent our condolences to her husband and family.

#### Upcoming events:

|                  |                           |  |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>January</b>   | Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> | P7 STEM Day at Biggar High   |
|                  | Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>   | P6 Enterprise Day at Biggar High   |
|                  | Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> | SPCA visit to each class   |
|                  | Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>   | Nursery Fun Day  |
|                  | Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>   | Scots Assembly 2.00 p.m. All parents welcome to attend<br><u>Children to wear tartan to school</u>   |
| <b>February:</b> | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>    | Handwashing team in all classes  |
|                  | Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> | Netball / Benchball Festival P5-7  |
|                  | 11-12 <sup>th</sup>       | Half Term  |
|                  | Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>      | In-Service   |
|                  | Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>   | Linda Keith in school (maths – see I.P above)  |
|                  | Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>   | Dress down /Nursery Fun Friday   |
| <b>March:</b>    | Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>      | Parents workshop – Numeracy Evening event<br>Fair Trade Bake Sale - Nursery  |
|                  | Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Open Afternoon   |
|                  | Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>    | P6-P7 Clydesdale Cross Country event   |
|                  | 13-15 <sup>th</sup>       | P1 Parent appointments 3.00-4.30 p.m.  |
|                  | Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>      | P4-7 concert – afternoon and evening shows   |
|                  | Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> | Nursery Holi Celebration (wear old clothes!)   |
|                  | Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>    | Parents Evening  |
|                  | Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>   | School closes for Spring Break.<br>Return April 15 <sup>th</sup> (bring in decorated Easter Eggs / bonnets.<br>Theme details will be issued nearer the time) |

If you have any queries regarding contents of this newsletter, please do contact me or the school office.

Regards  
Ms Stark