



Tinto Times

November 2016

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Head Teacher's Report

We are almost at the end of the term and rehearsals for the Nativity are well underway. However there are still four weeks to go and teaching and learning will carry on! The pupils have been involved in fund raising, committee work and have welcomed parents and family members to our second open day. Please see below for details of what has been happening at Tinto P.S and N.C

Nativity: All parents / carers should have had an email explaining that the date and venue for the Nativity has changed. It will now take place at Ridgepark on the morning and afternoon of the 6th December. Requests for tickets should be sent to the school office, currently there are two tickets allocated per family.

Staffing: Interviews took place on Wednesday 16th November for various class teacher posts across Clydesdale. A candidate was nominated for Tinto and, once accepted and paperwork is completed, the successful candidate should take up post in January 2017. Hopefully a visit to meet the pupils in P4/5 will be arranged before the end of term.

Facebook: Tinto P.S and N.C have been given permission by South Lanarkshire Council to have a F.B page. This will be in addition to the emails and information on the website. It is a closed group and only parents / carers of pupils will be allowed access. We have administrators who will monitor the site and ensure all content is appropriate. All posts are screened before posting and any inappropriate comments will not be posted and it will be possible to remove people from the group if necessary. We hope that the FB page will enhance communication between school and parents. An email has been sent to all parents inviting you to join.

Improvement Plan update: The staff attended a "Better Movers and Thinkers" theory and practical training session this month. There was also a parent workshop at Biggar P.S which a couple of Tinto parents attended. The main premise is that by training the brain to multitask whilst physically moving helps to improve memory and exercises the brain. There is further information and video clips on Education Scotland should you be interested. The teaching staff found some of the exercises quite challenging and the children have been using many of the activities in class – ask your child to show you some of the exercises and see how you do!

Numicon materials have been bought for every class in the L.C. These are materials that support learning in maths, especially with number work such as tables, fractions and place value. The in-service day focus was on how to use these in class and all support, nursery and primary staff participated in the training. We will have these materials available during our next open day in Term 3 for you to see and use with your child.

Tom Renwick is retuning for a morning on the 25th November to work with P4 and P6/7. He will focus on number, tables and fractions. This additional visit was offered by Mr Renwick at no cost to the school or L.C and we are very appreciative. The children enjoyed his input last month and I am sure will benefit this time too.

New Build update: The old school has now been completely demolished and all the rubble removed. The Pupil Council visited Lanark and Crawforddyke P.S's to look at their outdoor spaces and have ideas that they will be discussing with the School Modernisation team at the beginning of December. I will let you know what has been agreed in the next newsletter. Plans are available on the school website to view.

Open Day: Thank you for attending the open day and for ensuring that the times were adhered to. This was very helpful in terms of ensuring that the pupils were safe outside when playing, as all cars had left. I hope that looking at your child's work has provided further information and understanding regarding the learning that has been taking place.

Nursery: The nursery class also have a newsletter on the website so please do read what the children and staff have been learning about in their setting. The class had a wonderful visit to a farm earlier this month and have a trip planned to the local bookshop in Biggar.

On the 23rd November the nursery staff participated in training on how to support children with autism in the nursery. This was led by Mrs Storie and we are very grateful to her for offering this valued input.

The post of nursery teacher has been advertised and, if there are any candidates, interviews will take place shortly.

Literacy Learning conversations: Mrs Kilgallon has been meeting with groups of children from each class to discuss what they have been learning in literacy. The pupils discussed their reading, writing, listening and talking and the contents of their jotters. The children also discussed the skills they have been developing and how these, along with their knowledge and understanding, will be of value in other areas of life and learning.

Children in Need: The Rights Respecting School group organised a fantastic array of activities for the day. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and raised £315 for Children In Need. Well done!

Rotary Quiz: Lewis Forgie, Coinneach Thompson, Morven Dougall and Amy Thomson represented Tinto P.S at the Learning Community Rotary Quiz on 22nd November. There were eight rounds including maths, literacy, social subjects and pot luck. **Tinto's P7 team won the competition** and will represent the Learning Community in the Clydesdale Rotary quiz in 2017. Winners from that round then go onto the South Lanarkshire competition. The pupils studied very hard in preparation for the quiz, working during their breaks and lunchtimes. It obviously paid off! Well done to all.

Dance show: Miss Forrest, with help from Mrs Andrews, has been running a lunchtime dance club with a group of girls from P4-6. The dance group then went onto represent Tinto P.S at the Clydesdale dance show in Lanark on the 22nd November. The girls were superb and did themselves proud! Well done to all. Thanks to Miss Forrest for taking the time to work with the girls and attend the show and to Mrs Andrews for her support.

Upcoming events:

- 6.12.16: P1-3 Nativity
- 7.12.16: " Bubblegum and Fluff" P6 pupils with Rev. Shand
- 12.12.16: Hopscotch Theatre company perform a Christmas show
- 15.12.16: School Christmas lunch
- W/B 19.12/16: Class parties as follows:
 - 19.12.16: P5/6 & P6/7
 - 20.12.16: P1-3
 - 21.12.16: P4/5
- 22.12.16: School closes 2.30 p.m
- 9.1.17: School reopens

Please do contact me should you have any queries regarding the above.

Regards
Ms Stark

Tinto Fundraisers

If any new parents would like to become involved with Tinto Fundraisers and would like to be included in group emails please contact me on 07814378394 or diane-laing74@gmail.com.

Diane Laing
Tinto Fundraisers coordinator