



Barcaldine Primary School

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June 2019

Nearly the end of another school year, and what a lot has been going on. We hope you enjoy this update of news and will join us for our Aussie BBQ on Saturday 22nd June.

The Big Pedal

We have always had great success in the Sustrans national event, The Big Pedal. This year is no exception, except the fortnight of cycling was scheduled for over our Spring holidays and so we couldn't compete fully. Never-the-less, we came 4th place in the UK small primary classes 5 day challenge. It is great to see how confident our children are on their bikes and how they have progressed over the years.



Bees Please

Also with Sustrans, we have been exploring our local bee populations. Two experts from Bumble Bee and Butterfly Conservation lead us on a Bee Walk. We caught and identified 5 different species. We then set up a monitoring corridor, along the cycle track and are carrying out monthly monitoring of this area. The children have been inspired and spend many playtimes, catching and identifying bees and butterflies in the school grounds. We have now found a 6th bumble bee species. The children have also been learning about the importance of bees for the pollination of many of our food crops. They have designed and planted an area of garden, specifically to attract bees and butterflies and help maintain local populations. If you would like to know more, then come and ask. We have quite a few experts here now.

Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

We had great fun and success at the HIMDF held at the Corran Halls in Oban. Our children performed in the Action Song (P1-P3), the Ensemble (P1-P5) and one of our pupils joined 3 from Appin to perform as a recorder group. All children beamed confidence on the stage and can be very proud of themselves.



Health and Wellbeing

In April, we joined with our partner small schools: Achaleven, Lismore, Kilchrenan and Strath of Appin, to have a 2 day conference of workshops on health and wellbeing. The children particularly enjoyed the visit from the Police, who taught them about internet safety. There is also plenty of time to socialise and make new friends, as well as learning important information.

This term we have also been focussing on healthy teeth. Our dental nurse has been visiting and explaining about healthy snacks. We are glad to say that the nurse was very impressed with the children knowledge.

The New Cabin 'The Barcaldine Bothy'

What a success! The planning, organising, preparing, fund raising and building of the cabin has taken 2 years but we are there. The cabin was installed in April and we had our Grand Opening on 14th May. The children delivered their speeches and then cut the ribbon to declare The Barcaldine Bothy open. Our guest then enjoyed a lovely cup of tea and cakes, made by the children.

We are thoroughly delighted and have been using the bothy as an additional teaching space. Some children can be learning outside while small groups are taught in the bothy. It makes outdoor learning even more accessible. It is also a great place to play and there is a real positive and calming feel to it. It's so lovely that the Parent Council even had their last meeting in it. Once again a huge thank you to all involved: Robertson's Construction, Scottish Sea Farms, Ardchattan Community Council, the Barcaldine Community Associations, Parent Council, friends and families.



Barcaldine Outdoor Playgroup (BOP)

Another success story is the establishment of a playgroup for Barcaldine. The newly formed group currently meet once a fortnight, on a Wednesday, 2pm-3.15pm. They are based in our wonderful school grounds and use the Bothy for shelter. We are currently purchasing several items, which the children will enjoy: large sand pit, tricycles, water play, mini wheel barrows and mud kitchen items. There is an outdoor focus for the group and items will be made from natural products where possible.



Pre-5s

This term we are enjoying having our Pre-5 pupil join us for play days and soon, 3 induction days.



The Silurian

Recently we visited 'The Silurian', the research boat for the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, at the pontoons at Dunstaffnage Marina. The children were encouraged to be nosy downstairs, in all the little cupboards, bunks, toilets rooms with showers and the galley kitchen. Up on board they were tied to the mast and searched for whales and dolphins, remembering to shout 'Sighting' if they spotted something. The children asked many good questions and we definitely have some young scientists in the making.

Puppet Show

We are looking forward to a new puppet show which will be coming to school. The exciting thing is that it's two of our local friends, Sue and Isolde, who are doing it, and the children have been helping them with some of the art work. You can see the show for yourselves at the Victory Hall on Sunday 16th June. We don't want to give too much away but think you will enjoy it.

Farewell to Liz

After 8 years of making sure our children are well fed and cared for, Liz is retiring from her Catering Assistant post at Barcaldine. We wish Liz all the best for her exciting new time of cycling and walking adventures, with the odd visit to a wee tea shop, and we would like to say a hug THANK YOU for all her hard work.

BBQ and Summer Fayre

This year we are having a summer fayre with an Australian theme. There will be games, crafts, music, teas, coffees and cakes. In addition to this the Barcaldine Community Association are running a BBQ. So come and celebrate the start of summer and join the fun.

Diary Dates

Playgroup:	Wednesday 29 th May, 2pm-3.15pm
Sports Day:	Tuesday 4 th June, Lismore
P1 Days:	Mon 10 th – Wed 12 th June, BPS
Playgroup:	Wednesday 12 th June, 2pm-3.15pm
Puppet Show:	Sunday 16 th June, Victory Hall, 3pm
Aussie BBQ:	Saturday 22 nd June, 12pm- 3pm
Playgroup:	Wednesday 26 th June, 2pm-3.15pm
Summer Holidays:	School closes Friday 28 th June, 1pm
New Term:	School opens Thursday 15 th August 2019



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Saturday 22nd June 2019

12pm - 3pm

Boomerangs, Billabongs & Burgers

Adults £3, Children free

Music, craft stalls, games, fun and refreshments included

Additional cost for BBQ (organised by Barcaldine Community Association)