Dear All,

It's hard to believe that it is Christmas already and what a busy term it has been in all areas of the school!

Nursery have been out and about on trips in the local community, including visiting Balhousie Care Home and the Theatre amongst others. At Balhousie they met the residents and sang songs together, which was hugely enjoyed by all, and at the theatre, they had a wee tour, got to see the full set for Singing in the Rain and had juice and biscuits. The walk over from the school alone provided a wealth of conversation and we are very grateful to all the parents and grandparents who help us make this possible for the children. They have really enjoyed each trip and more are planned for next session. We are very grateful to the local community for facilitating these trips and making us so very welcome. We have also had the annual Nativity and Nursery Fayre, a sure sign that we are immersed in Christmas.

We all focused on our Book Week Scotland topic of Nourish and in Primary particularly, this has provided us with so many valuable learning opportunities in school and in the local community; learning about nourishing mind, body and soul. We have had a variety of visitors: Mr Cohen came in to speak to P1-7 about bread making and the symbolism of bread within religion. The pupils got to ask questions and taste the bread that he had brought with him and he also took time to make bread with a group of pupils; we also had Art workshops with a local illustrator, Dylan Gibson; P2 visited the Catholic church; P4 visited St Mary's at Grandtully and Logierait churches; P1-7 took part in "Food for Thought" and many more activities in and out of class throughout the term. It has been a great topic and allowed us to really connect with the wider community.

Highlights from Secondary include the Green PlanIt group, who have been working with the Royal Horticultural Society at the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh on a project to re-design one of the school gardens. They settled on a spectacular Phoenix themed design, choosing warm colours in shades of orange and red. Although they didn't win, we believe it was a very close thing! Secondary pupils also took part in the Imbewu trail with Wilderness Scotland and have started on their Junior Ranger conservation work at weekends. We have also had the Rotary Young Chef competition in school, with Fione Cruickshank going through to the regional finals in Dundee. We wish her well and will let you know how she gets on.

Many thanks to all who supported our Christmas Coffee Morning at the beginning of December where we raised £200.48 for the Salvation Army in Perth. Thank you also for your support of the local Food Bank. We delivered several boxes from the school this week and the Atholl Centre are absolutely thrilled. We have done so much more fundraising from Mary's Meals, pre-loved coats and starter packs for the homeless to name some of the most recent.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at Pitlochry High School. We look forward to seeing you on Monday 8th January 2018.

Kind regards

Elaine Liney