

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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ÀRD-SGOIL LASSWADE

26 An Lùnastal 2010

Mar thoradh air maoinachadh fialaidh bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, fhuair sgoilearan Àrd-Sgoil Lasswade cothrom air com-pàirteachadh ann an turas eile airson an tritheamh bliadhna às dèidh a chèile, gu Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, an aon cholaiste Gàidhlig ann an Alba. Aon uair eile, fhuair iad tlachd à leasan beòthail Gàidhlig gach madainn bhon neach-teagaisg eòlach, Catriona Nic An t-Saoir. Am-bliadhna, bha mothachadh nan sgoilearan do shaoghal na Gàidhlig mòran nas àirde tro thuilleadh leasan bho Kathleen Reddy à Alba Nuadh. Às dèidh turas fada air an tràna bho Waverley, a' tòiseachadh aig 7m, chuir sgoilearan iad fhèin air dòigh san àite-fuirich chofhurtail aca (seòmar le fras-nighe agus goireasan) agus an uair sin dh'ionnsaich iad mar a dh'òrdaicheadh iad an diathad ann an Gàidhlig. Am-bliadhna, thòisich leasan Gàidhlig aig 7f feasgar Diluain. Bha seo riatanach oir bhathar an dùil tadhal air Bun-sgoil Shlèite madainn Dimàirt. Bha Bun-sgoil Shlèite, Sleat Primary School mar a bh' ann, aig teis meadhain aire nam meadhanan ann an 2006 nuair a bha e air a mholadh an sgoil a ghluasad gu tur a-null gu foghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Mar a thachair cùisean, cho-dhùin na sgoilearan ann am Bun-sgoil Shlèite a dhol air stailc gus an tàmailt a nochdadh mu ghearraidhean ionmhais san sgoil aca. Ghabh an stailc aca àite an dearbh latha a bha dùil aig sgoilearan Lasswade tadhal orra. Cha do chuir seo bacadh orra ge-tà, agus bha deugairean Lasswade fìor thoilichte coinneachadh ris a' Cheannard, A' Bh-ph Culbertson agus a luchd-obrach. Ghabh na daoine òga bho Mheadhan Lodainn ùidh mhòr anns na taisbeanaidhean balla sna clasruman a thuilleadh air beachd fosgailte eadar-nàiseanta clann an Eilein. Sgrìobh Teri Fairbairn sa cheathramh bliadhna gun Bh-ph Culbertson, "Bha e inntinneach faighinn a-mach gu bheil a' chlann, a thuilleadh air a bhith a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig, ag ionnsachadh Fraingis agus Gearmailtis cuideachd. Saoilidh mi gu bheil a' chlann sin math air cànanan a thogail." Chuir mòran de sgoilearan Lasswade an cèill gum bu mhath leotha tilleadh don bhun-sgoil agus leasan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig fhaicinn gan teagasg. An dèidh tadhal air oilthigh Gàidhlig agus bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig, chaidh oileanaich Lasswade air turas gu Àrd-Sgoil a' Phluic a chur eòlas air iomain, spòrs na Gàidhealtachd, bho Mgr Rob MacAsgaill a tha a' teagasg creideamh an sin. Bha sgoilearan Lasswade gu h-àraid fortanach gun robh trì sgoiltean à Béal Feirste a' tadhal air a' Phloc aig an aon àm, ann am pròiseact a bhios a' tarraing sgoiltean gu chèile bho dhiofar thraidiseanan creideimh ann am Béal Feirste. Bha cothrom aig sgoilearan Lasswade gèam camanachd / iomain Èireannach fhaicinn san do bhuannaich Àrd-Sgoil a' Phluic 9 gu 3 an aghaidh na sgioba Èireannaich a bha air a còmhachadh bho na trì sgoiltean à Béal Feirste. Taobh a-muigh aitreabhan foghlaim,

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

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chum oileanaich Lasswade air adhart a' leudachadh an eòlais. Thuir Siobhan MacFeate sa chòigeamh bliadhna, "Bha e na chuideachadh mòr a thighinn an seo a dh'ionnsachadh Gàidhlig seach a bhith dìreach ga ionnsachadh sa chlasrum." B' e turas air a' bhàta "Seaprobe Atlantis" aon de na gnìomhachdan feasgair a b' fheàrr leotha, a' seòladh fo Dhrochaid an Eilein Sgìtheanaich bho Chaol Loch Aillse gu beagan shlait air falbh bho dhachaighean nan ròn bheaga, a rugadh dìreach seachdain no dhà roimhe sin. Thug an neach-iùil seachad fiosrachadh cuideachail air eunlaith agus fiadh-bheatha eile a chìtheadh mu thimcheall an àite. An dèidh coimhead air na ròin, chaidh sgoilearan sìos am broinn a' bhàta far an tug uinneagan mòra an druim a' bhàta cothrom dhaibh air coimhead air beatha fo thuinn. Chaidh an sùilean fhosgladh do shaoghal eile fo na tuinn agus an neach-iùil a' comharrachadh dhaibh muir-tiachd, sgaothan èisg agus coilltean mòra fo thuinn de cheilp, a' mìneachadh dhaibh mun iomadh feum a thathar a' faighinn à feamainn agus dè a dhèanadh iad nan deigheadh an guineadh le muir-tiachd. A' leantainn leasan an Gàidhlig gach madainn, dh'fhàs sgoilearan gu cunbhalach nas eòlaiche air cultar Gàidhlig anns na feasgaran. Diciadain, choimhead iad "Seachd", an aon fhiolm làn-fhad Gàidhlig a th' ann agus bha iad gu h-àraid fortanach gun d'fhuair iad cothrom agallamh a dhèanamh le Pàdruig Moireasdan, 14 bliadhna a dh'aois, a ghabh pàirt san fhiolm agus a thurchair a bhith air cùrsa dràma airson Gàidheil òga, sa cholaiste. Cha bhiodh cothrom air cultar Ghàidhlig iomlan gun bhlasad air òran agus dannsa Gàidhealach. Aon uair eile, thaisbein Keri dannsa-ceum do bhalaich is nigheanan a bha dealasach mu dheidhinn a chumail a' dol nuair a bha iad air ais dhachaigh. Dh'ionnsaich taoitear às na Beanntan Appalachianach sna Stàitean Aonaichte dà phort à beul ainmeil dhaibh - "Tha Fionnlagh ag innearadh" agus "Chuirinn air a' phìob e", agus an uair sin dh'ionnsaich na sgoilearan uile facail "O fhlùir na h-Alba", agus choilean iad e air àrd-ùrlar mar chòisir air an oidhche mu dheireadh aig cèilidh, a fhuair taic urrasachad bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, agus far na choinnich deugairean Mheadhan Lodainn ri Gàidheil òga. Tha àiteachan a' lìonadh gu luath airson Ògmhios 2011 agus tha na sgoilearan uile air cur an cèill gu bheil iomnaidh orra gun cuir bacaidhean ionmhasail stad air a leithid sin de thursan san àm ri teachd. Sgrìobh Craig Thomas sa cheathramh bliadhna gu Bòrd na Gàidhlig, "Bu chòir do sgoilearan na h-Alba uile Gàidhlig ionnsachadh. Tha mi a' faireachdainn gun do dh'fhosgail mo thuras gu Bun-sgoil Shlèite mo shùilean, a thaobh na strì ris a bheil daoine Gàidhealach a' cothachadh. Tha iad a' coileanadh aon phròiseact ach tha tè eile a' feitheamh orra. Leis an tabhartas a tha sibh a' toirt dhuinn, 's urrainn dhuinne an cuideachadh sa Ghalltachd le ìomhaigh na Gàidhlig a thogail sa cheàrnaidh againn."

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



LASSWADE HIGH SCHOOL

26 August 2010

Thanks to generous funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, pupils at Lasswade High School have been able to participate in another trip to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's only Gaelic college, for the third successive year. Once again they enjoyed lively Gaelic lessons every morning from experienced teacher Catrìona Nic An t-Saoir. This year the pupils' awareness of the Gaelic world was enormously enhanced through further lessons from Kathleen Reddy from Nova Scotia. After a long train journey from Waverley beginning at 7am, pupils settled into their comfortable accommodation (ensuite showers and toilet facilities) then learned how to order their evening meal in Gaelic. This year, Gaelic lessons began at 7pm on the same Monday evening. This was necessary because it was planned to visit Bun-sgoil Shlèite on the Tuesday morning. Bun-sgoil Shlèite, formerly Sleat Primary School, was the focus of considerable media attention in 2006 when it was proposed that the school move over completely to Gaelic media education. As it happened, the pupils of Bun-sgoil Shlèite decided to go on strike to express their disappointment at financial cuts in their school. Their strike took place on the very day the Lasswade pupils planned to call. Undeterred, the Lasswade teenagers were delighted to visit the headteacher Mrs Culbertson and her staff. The Midlothian youngsters were particularly impressed by the wall displays in the classrooms as well as the international outlook of the Skye children. Teri Fairbairn of the fourth year wrote to Mrs Culbertson, "It was interesting to find that, as well as speaking Gaelic, children are taught French and German. These children seem to pick up languages well." Many Lasswade pupils expressed the desire to return to the primary school and witness Gaelic medium lessons in action. After visiting a Gaelic university and a Gaelic primary, the Lasswade students took a trip to Plockton High School for an introduction to shinty, the sport of the Highlands, from Mr Rob MacAskill, a teacher of religion there. The Lasswade pupils were particularly fortunate in that three schools from Belfast were visiting Plockton at the same time in a project which brings together schools from the different religious traditions in Belfast. The Lasswade pupils were able to watch a shinty-hurling match in which Plockton High won 9 to 3 against the Irish team combined from the three Belfast schools. Outside educational institutions the Lasswade students continued expanding their horizons. Siobhan MacFeate of the fifth year said, "It really helped coming up here to learn Gaelic rather than just learning it in a classroom." One of the favourite activities was an afternoon trip on the boat "Seaprobe Atlantis", sailing under the Skye Bridge from Kyle of Lochalsh to just a few yards away from island homes to baby seals, born only a couple of weeks earlier. The helpful guide offered a fascinating commentary on birds and other wildlife to be spotted in the area. After watching the seals, pupils descended into

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



the hull where large windows in the keel allowed the observation of life underwater as well. Their eyes were opened to another world below the waves as the guide indicated jelly fish, shoals of fish and vast underwater forests of seaweed kelp, explaining the many product uses of seaweed and what to do if stung by a jellyfish. Following Gaelic lessons every morning, pupils became steadily more familiar with Gaelic culture in the evenings. On the Wednesday they watched “Seachd”, the only full length Gaelic feature film and were particularly fortunate in being able to interview Pàdruig Moireasdan, the 14 year old star of the film who just happened to be at the college on a drama course for young Gaels. No introduction to Gaelic culture would be complete without a taste of highland song and dance. Once again Keri demonstrated step dance to boys and girls eager to continue their new found interest back home. A tutor from the Appalachian Mountains in the USA taught pupils two port à beul classics “Tha Fionnlagh ag innearachd” and “Chuirinn air a’ phìoba”, then all pupils learned the words of “O fhlùir na h-Alba” and performed it as a choir on the last night at a cèilidh sponsored by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, where the Midlothian teenagers met up with young Gaels. Places are filling quickly for June 2011 and all pupils have expressed concern that financial constraints may curtail such trips in future. Craig Thomas of the fourth year wrote to Bòrd na Gàidhlig, “Gaelic is a language that all Scottish pupils should learn. I feel the trip to Bun-sgoil Shlèite has opened my eyes to the struggle that Gaelic people are facing. They achieve one project but another is waiting for them. With the grant you give us, we can help them in the Lowlands and get Gaelic more recognition in our area.”