Parent Forum and Parent Council

The Aith School Parent Forum is the body on which all parents and guardians of pupils at Aith School are members. The initial meeting of the Forum was held in September and, though there was only quite a small attendance, there was sufficient interest for a Parent Council to be elected, representative of secondary, primary and nursery parents.

The parent members appointed are:

- Mr Bob Cree-Hay—(Chair) - Skeld
- Mrs Angela Hodge—(Vice Chair) - Walls
- Mr Stephen Anderson—Aith
- Mr John Hunter—Aith
- Mrs Kirsteen MacDonald—Aith
- Mrs Wilda Nicolson—Twatt
- Mr Jeremy Sansom—Walls
- Mr Marvin Smith—Aith

Mrs Barbara Morris and Mr James Garrick are the Teacher Representatives on the Council. The Head Teacher is the Parent Council’s adviser but is not a member of the Parent Council. The Parent Council Clerk is Mrs Sue Lewis from Skeld.

The Parent Council hopes to promote partnership between parents and the school and, as far as possible, to represent the wider parent body. The representatives hope to have an information table at Parents Evenings. They also hope to meet with and listen to the views of as many parents as possible.

Eco Schools Programme 2008

After an environmental audit, the committee has decided to focus on energy this year. The intention is to raise awareness of energy usage at home and school and to encourage sensible consumption, promote efficiency and explore alternative ways of making energy.

Our action plan consists of:

- **Reducing energy consumption** in the school through promoting efficiencies and monitoring effects.
- **Raising awareness of energy costs** and personal usage to help save energy and money through an information campaign and surveys
- **Raising awareness of local energy issues** by investigating local solutions such as the waste to heat plant and the potential of alternative sources.
- **Exploring possible alternative energy sources** for the school and beyond

The energy saving trust website (http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) gives lots of information and suggestions and is definitely worth a look when considering energy usage and possible savings at home.
**Road Safety Officers**

Congratulations to our Junior Road Safety officers, Marcus Johnston and Lesley Morrison who were the lucky winners this month in the Road Safety Scotland word search. Their prizes were two limited edition JRSO alarm clocks.

**Drama Lessons – “A CHRISTMAS CAROL”**

Primary 3/4 are delving into the past this term and finding out about life in Victorian times. To help bring this alive, Mrs Taylor has adapted, “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. All classes from P3 to P7 are involved in rehearsing the play during their weekly drama lessons so if you are visiting the school and are met in the corridors by pie sellers, knife-grinders and chimney sweeps – that will be P3/4!

If you are free on the Afternoon of Tuesday 18th December please come along to the Aith Hall at 2pm when the children are performing “A Christmas Carol”; this is not a highly polished performance – just the end product of this term’s work in drama. P1/2 will join in as carol singers. No tickets are needed.

The school Christmas dinner is also that Tuesday so there will be an air of great excitement!

**P3/4 Victorian day**

Also as part of the primary 3/4 topic on the Victorians, the class had the opportunity to learn what it would have been like to be in a Victorian classroom! The children were dressed up in Victorian clothes, and Izzy Swanson was their teacher for an hour. The children learned about what a Victorian school and the teachers were like, and about some of the lessons that Victorian children would have had to do, such as handwriting, drill and ‘the apple’ object lesson. Everyone liked the story of the ‘Little Match Girl’, but not many of the children liked the classroom rules! Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and learned about what their lives could have been like if they had been children in Victorian times.

**Scottish Youth Theatre Drama Workshop**

Recently, a representative from the Scottish Youth Theatre came to the school to promote, and encourage, pupils to participate in the Summer Festival, 2008. The workshop, involving all S1 pupils, started with warm up activities which allowed pupils to run around and lose their inhibitions. Circle activities then took place, with the class focusing on observation skills. Finally, several groups were formed and given a setting; pupils were then required to get into a role and make up their own scene. Each group was allowed to watch the finished product and reflect on their work. The class worked well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the 2008 Summer Festival should see Mrs Crossan for an application form and other relevant information.
**Writing Workshop With Author Keith Gray**

In September, some S4 pupils benefited from published author Keith Gray visiting the school, as part of the Wordplay Book Festival. During his visit, pupils were given the opportunity to take part in a Writing Workshop. The author gave pupils an insight into how he created believable characters for his own books; pupils were then given steps to follow in order to create their own ‘3 dimensional characters’ and develop a storyline for them. In the second half of the workshop, pupils were shown how to write poetry based on personal experience. The feedback received from pupils was positive and it was felt that this would inspire them to use some of the ideas for their own creative writing in class.

**National Poetry Competition Winners**

Judges praised the skill of young poet Rhona Moar of P7. While in P6, Rhona entered the following poem which proved to be a winner. When the anthology of winning poems is published we will be sent a copy.

**EARTH** – By Rhona Moar, Aged 10

Earth isn’t perfect,
Although it may look so from space
Really Rich people, Very poor people,
The world is not evenly balanced

Global warming is hurting the Earth
The Planet is not perfect
We need new forms of energy
And we need then quick!

The planet is becoming ill
Habitats are changing
Maybe your favourite animal will become extinct

No, the Earth is not perfect,
Although it may look so from space

**Aith School Fundraising Effort**

Secondary 3 RE class organised a day of activities involving the whole school to highlight One World Week and to raise money for Water Projects in The Gambia organised by UNICEF.

UNICEF has highlighted the Gambia for special treatment as fewer than 50% of the population have access to clean water and sanitation. Disease caused by dirty water is the second biggest killer of children in the Developing Countries. One child dies every 15 seconds from water borne diseases or 5000 children per day.

The class organised a range of activities on the day involving the whole school, even the Canteen was involved with the theme “Take your neighbour for lunch”, matching the aims of One World Week – “All Together Now”, where everyone was included with the older pupils taking the younger pupils for a picnic lunch. At interval and lunchtime there was Face Painting, Remote controlled car races, Lolly stall, a Tombola, Find the well in The Gambia, Shoot the hoops game, Play your cards right, a Water facts quiz and - with the help of donations from parents, teachers and pupils - a massive Raffle was held. Michael Nicolson won the Secondary car race and Shane Pole the Primary car race. Mrs Drina Hughson won the Water facts Quiz and Rhona Moar found the Well in The Gambia.

The day finished with members of the Inter Faith group and the school assembling in the hall for a Celebration, at which six declarations by the major faiths were read out. The school made its own declaration that “All Together Now” we can make a difference to the World and with “Children working together making a world of difference.”

Over a period of a few weeks, pupils had also been asked to bring in any spare coppers to put in a “Jar of Grace” in each classroom, part of the UNICEF campaign. These jars were collected in and helped boost the amount raised even more. Once the money had been counted – the magnificent sum of £503.31 had been raised.
The Wastside Netball Club continues to flourish, meeting on Monday nights at the WMLC from 6-7pm for Primary 6 & 7 girls and 7-8pm for Secondary 1 – 4. The last night for this year is Monday 10 December and the club will start up again after the Christmas holidays on Monday 7 January 2008. All girls from the Wastside are welcome.

The Under 13 Squad has started well in the Shetland Junior Netball League played monthly at the various Leisure Centres throughout Shetland over the Winter. They are currently lying second to the North Isles team after 3 events.

The Under 15 team has just played in the one tournament this year and have made a good start for a young inexperienced team as they have lost players from last year. They have been working hard over the Winter ready for when they play again in January.

This year the club has had a major fundraising campaign for new strips and tops plus general running expenses. A Christmas Fair and teas took in £500. The club will also be delivering Christmas cards in the local area hoping to equal the £200 raised last year. This money along with sponsorship from two local businesses, Johnston’s Motor Garage and Michael Jacobson, Plumbing should keep the club ticking along.
Maakin Day’

Primary 6 invited family and friends to a ‘Makkin Day’ on 27 November in the school library. Pupils made delicious homebakes and refreshments for all the knitters. There was a good turnout and help was appreciated on a project that Mrs Jennie Bradley was working on with the pupils. The Childrens Society were hoping to raise awareness and funds for their charity by inviting people to knit red squares in order to attempt to beat the world record for the biggest Christmas stocking which measures approximately 20 metres high!! To do so they need 7,500 squares! To date, Jennie and her pupils have made 145 squares, which includes help from the associated primary schools, Happyhansel, Skeld and Sandness schools. P4/5 and Primary 7 have also helped with knitting these squares. Some donations have also come in totalling £94.11 which will be used to help fill the Christmas stocking with presents to be distributed to disadvantaged children this Christmas. We were delighted to see so many people come along and help out (including the world’s fastest knitter from the school office!) and would like to thank everyone who participated for ‘maakin’ this such a successful and enjoyable afternoon.

SYIS Drop In

The SYIS weekly drop-in takes place on a Tuesday lunch-time in Room 19. It is a joint project between the school, Shetland Youth Information Service and the Shetland Drugs and Alcohol Team. It helps give pupils advice, support and a range of information around a variety of issues including alcohol, drugs, sex and relationships, rights, anti-bullying and health. Pupils views are sought on a regular basis which can be fed in to what is being delivered. The drop-in is available to any pupil in S1-4.

Footwear for PE

Please note that the Shetland Recreational Trust have a policy that any trainers used in their games halls must be non-marking soles. Most trainer shoes do not have these and the old style ‘plimsoll’ is also fine. Parents are advised to check with retailers when they buy new pairs of shoes to use in the Leisure Centre.

Mathematical Challenge

Congratulations to Katya Moncrieff in S2 and Robert John Anderson in S4 who each gained gold standard results in section one of the Mathematical Challenge 2007/08 competition organised by the Scottish Mathematical Council.

Katya and Robert John are entered in the S1/2 “junior division” and S3/4 “middle” division respectively. Over the next two months, both pupils will be working on their solutions to the “brain busting” questions presented in the second section of the challenge. A similar performance to section one should see both pupils attain a gold award in June 2008.

The Mathematical Challenge is a prestigious, Scotland-wide competition that is open to all school pupils. Challenge questions are usually interesting and can be annoyingly tricky. For further information, contact Mr Jackson.
Your Local Fire Service and You — by George Morrison, Local Fire Officer

There has been a major upgrade in your local and rescue service with new Fire Appliances, breathing apparatus, road traffic collision equipment, protective fire fighting clothing, uniforms, fire fighting techniques, operating procedures and first aid to name but a few. Increased training on all new equipment has also been provided over the last two years.

Most recently we have dramatically changed the way we respond to the threat of emergencies within our communities. We used to be very reactionary and only deal with fires as and when they happened. Our current practice now is to be far more proactive in trying to prevent fires and other incidents from occurring in the first place.

Bixer Fire personnel in conjunction with Aith Junior High School are participating in the risk watch programme, which helps educate children at a young age of the dangers of fire and raise their awareness of home fire risk. Three personnel have been trained in youth engagement - delivering an active programme for 12-15 year olds. Bixer fire station is playing its part in developing home fire safety and community fire safety in general; this is an essential role and will continue to expand over the coming months and years.

If you would like a free home fire safety check which will involve 2 fire fighters who will visit your home at a convenient time, for about 1 hour, please contact any fire fighter from any station, phone 08000121312 or www.hifrs.org.
Important—Events diary

Please note the following dates in your diary/calendar

03 December..........................Secondary Basketball Tournament, Aith
03 December..........................Parents Evening, Nursery, Primary and S1
04 December..........................Parents Evening, Nursery, Primary S3 and S4
17 December.............................Primary Christmas party
18 December.............................Play – A Christmas Carol – Aith Hall 2pm
19 December.............................Secondary Christmas party
20 December.............................School closes 1pm, Christmas holidays
21 December - 04 January 2008 ..........................................................Holidays
07 January ..........................................................School re-opens
22 January..........................Secondary Volleyball Tournament, Scalloway
29 January..........................Lerwick Up Helly Aa
30 January..........................Holiday
14 February..........................S1/S2 Basketball Tournament – Clickimin
14 – 22 February.................................S4 Prelims
25 February..........................Occasional holiday
18 March..........................Parents Evening, S2 and S4
21 March..........................Secondary Badminton Tournament, Anderson High School
28 March..........................School closes, Easter holidays
29 March – 13 April..........................Holidays
14 April..........................School re-opens
01 – 28 May..........................Standard Grade Exams

Best wishes from all staff at Aith Junior High
For a Happy Christmas & a good New Year