

Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year, highlighting an extensive range of language and international initiatives taking place in our Glasgow schools, including:

- Glasgow Comenius events and courses, including;
 - [Intercultural Pedagogy](#) (Paris)
 - [Connecting Classrooms](#) (Barcelona)
 - [Primary immersion course](#) (Lyon)
- [Au revoir](#) ... to our visiting teachers from Marseilles
- [Le café français](#) à Broomhill Primary
- [Gaelic teaching](#) in St. Mungo's Primary
- [Spanish week](#) in Corpus Christi Primary
- John Paul II Primary's [Fiesta](#)
- [French activities](#) in Deanpark Nursery
- [French outdoor learning](#) in St. Martha's Primary
- [Rencontres Théâtrales](#) in Whitehill Secondary
- [Changing Rooms](#) at All Saints Secondary
- [Holyrood Secondary's](#) languages activities

[Notices](#), including: immersion courses for Easter 2014; pupil awards; links to language articles; farewell & good wishes

We would also like to wish you a restful summer break and assure you of our support during next session.

As usual, we hope you will enjoy the variety and quality of activities offered throughout our city schools and please send us details of your own interesting events and projects.

Click on the blue hyperlinks throughout the newsletter for easy navigation!

Intercultural Pedagogy for a Small world (22nd – 26th April, Paris)

I very was fortunate to attend this intensive course organised by the Artemisszio Foundation (Hungary) and Elan Interculturel (Paris).

This initiative, fully funded by the European Union (Comenius), sought to portray cultural diversity as an advantage and not as a threat to both students and teachers. Therefore, a group of 12 participants from all over Europe (Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Sweden, Slovenia and the UK) met in Paris to discuss this sensitive, topical issue.

Each participant had to present to the group his / her personal experience of intercultural pedagogy in the middle of the course. The class was interested to discover that Glasgow City Council has secured the services of 5 EAL (English as an Additional Language) language assistants from Eastern Europe for next session. These assistants (Comenius-funded) will be placed in primary and secondary schools in the south-side of our city.



Each day followed a different, but connected theme, usually starting with an 'energiser' to relax the participants. A similar exercise would be used to start the afternoon session. We had ICT presentations followed by group discussions of particular themes. For example, what is Intercultural Pedagogy? What is culture? Why think Global?



On the Tuesday afternoon each group had field exercise: i.e. a visit to a collège; nursery; the museum of migration or the museum of anthropology. Our group attended a 'classe d'accueil' in the collège Lucie Aubrac. This is our equivalent of an EAL class which attempts to integrate immigrant children. The teacher told us he has this group for 18 hours per week and delivers a general education programme to try to provide the students with the necessary skills to access mainstream classes. I was particularly impressed by a young Serbian girl who had only been in Paris for 6 months, yet spoke excellent French.



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On the final day we discussed the whole school approach and had to find participants with whom we could develop future projects. I worked with a lady employed by Oxfam Italia. We discussed a collaborative project she has been developing with 5 other countries (including Glasgow University) called a 'Portfolio of Integration.'

Overall, the course was very worthwhile, allowing me to realise that all Europeans have the same problems, but just different circumstances. It is crucial to listen to all points of view and seek conflict resolution. The Eastern Europeans had some very interesting (often disturbing) stories.

The International Education Office can help teachers complete the application forms to allow them to participate in these fully-funded events.

(Paul Middleton)



Connecting Classrooms in Barcelona!

Recently, a group of pupils from our schools visited Barcelona to represent the city at the Connecting Classrooms event in Barcelona. Glasgow City Council has been working with the CC Europe programme with the British Council for 3 years. This was the first of 2 final events. Pupils from 5 secondaries – including, All Saints, St Thomas Aquinas, Shawlands Academy, Hillhead High and Lourdes - attended this event accompanied by their teachers.



As well as sampling tapas and sightseeing in Barcelona, pupils delivered their PowerPoint presentations to an international audience at the Connecting Classrooms event in El Masnou. They made many new Spanish friends who

returned the visit to Scotland soon afterwards.



All pupils involved were a credit to their schools and to Glasgow City Council! Well done! Thank you also to Ms L. Atkins, Mr A. Whitmore, Mrs P. Kelly, Mr D. Morran, Mr S. Morran and Miss AM Goldie for making the trip a successful one!

(Anne Marie Goldie)



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Immersion Course in Lyon

On Saturday the 6th of April 2013, three Glasgow teachers myself (Paul Cassidy, Modern Languages Development Officer), Kay Hunter (Depute Head teacher, High-park Autism Unit) and Hannah Thomas (Class teacher, Hyndland Primary) travelled to France to take part in a week's French Immersion Course run by le français en Ecosse.

The course was based in Lyon and was fully funded through the British Council Comenius programme. We would all highly recommend courses such as this as we had the opportunity to fully immerse ourselves in French culture.

As well as classes on French language we were treated to a tour of Lyon with all information in French. We were given the opportunity to sample traditional French food as well.

During the week we were lucky enough to visit a French Primary School. This is an experience that we all relished and is one that has had the most impact for me in terms of my teaching. I am now able to discuss with children in my classes the cultural differences in our schools with clarity.

For any Primary or Secondary teacher wishing to brush up their skills in French or Spanish, a course such as this is ideal. Although the application form for funding can seem daunting, it is worth completing it to gain the experience of being immersed in French or Spanish culture. There is help available with this process through the International Office. **C'était une expérience que nous n'allons jamais oublier!**
Bonne chance! (Paul Cassidy)



Au Revoir..... As part of our partnership with Marseille, Glasgow has had the great pleasure in hosting 3 more Jules Verne teachers. Marc Seretti was in Smithycroft Secondary, Jean Marie Lustro in St. Mungo's Academy and Aurilien Borot in Our Lady of the Rosary Primary. All 3 teachers not only contributed to the teaching and learning of French language and culture, but also in their specialist fields of technology and ICT. During their stay they have been totally involved in school life as well as the wider educational experience in Glasgow and had the chance to enhance their own CPD at local and national level. They have made a significant impact on the young people they worked with, not to mention the staff. They were recently invited by the Lord Provost to a civic reception (Mme. Borot too) and it gave the languages community in Glasgow a chance to wish our new colleagues well and assure them they will always have a home in Glasgow.

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Le café français à Broomhill, mardi 23 avril 2013



The Broomhill P7s hosted a French café for the rest of the main building classes. We had to calculate how much food and drink we needed to buy, put it on the plates, pour out the drinks and serve our customers as bi-lingual waiters. We also decorated the tables in the French flag colours (red, white and blue) and made little paper flags with the same design and put them around the tables. We did spill a few drinks (pas de panique!) and dropped the odd croissant. The customers were still really happy with what they got and in return we got to practise our French. We even served



some Head Teachers who were in school for a meeting. We made some profit too and will share this between supporting Shariff, a Ugandan boy whom we have been sponsoring for several years, and the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.



The best part was we had lots of fun!



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Gaelic Language in the Primary School (GLPS)

The teaching of Gaelic was introduced in St Mungo's Primary school, Townhead, this session following the participation of one teacher, Patrick McAleer, in the GLPS training programme the previous year. For a school with no previous links to Gaelic and over 40% of the pupils coming from minority Ethnic backgrounds, Gaelic would be another tongue in the mix of the 20 languages already present in the school.

On our first inset day in August the whole school staff was introduced to a few Gaelic phrases and the School plan for Gaelic was explained.

The main thrust of the teaching and learning took place in the Primary 5 class. This was one hour a week and was well supported by activities to reinforce the learning. The children also viewed the television series 'Caraidean' which always followed the lesson taught that week. The children would then give a word or phrase to their fellow pupils at the weekly Assembly. Bilingual signage made by the children was displayed around the school, thus increasing the visual presence of Gaelic.



Support staff in the school were also given an opportunity to familiarise themselves with everyday phrases in Gaelic. This was invaluable in creating a stronger awareness of the language among the children as they were greeted regularly in the hall, corridors and classrooms with staff using phrases they had met at the Assembly. The menu in the dinner hall was displayed in Gaelic with pictures of the food. Children who made an attempt to order food in Gaelic were rewarded with a Gaelic sticker.

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Having introduced the language to the whole school and having given P5 a good grounding in the basics of the language, it was time to involve the wider community. An evening class was offered to parents on a Wednesday night and parents of children from Primary one to Seven responded, including a granny. Through the parents Gaelic group contact was made with the local shops who all agreed to put up signs in Gaelic. The children produced menus for the Indian Takeaway, the local grocers and the Fish and Chip Shop. P5 presented the shop owners with the signs and they were on display for several weeks.



The children translated their addresses into Gaelic and put them on A4 paper and then put them in a prominent place in their close or High Flat entrance. They then wrote a letter to their family and addressed the envelope with their address in Gaelic. They were very pleased and excited when they discovered the Post office do deliver letters with Gaelic addresses.

This was a great year for Gaelic in Townhead and the children, parents and school staff all embraced it enthusiastically. It is hoped to continue and develop the links we made this year.

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SPANISH WEEK IN CORPUS CHRISTI PRIMARY SCHOOL



Corpus Christi Primary in Knightswood, under the guidance of Mr Brendan Kearns, who teaches Music, Drama as well as Spanish in the school, mounted a Spanish language theme week, 29th April – 3rd May, all under the inspiring motto **“la cultura es la sonrisa”** (culture is the smile.) The text of the song was read in faultless Spanish and explained in English by pupils from P4, P6 and P7 at the final day’s presentation in the main hall. All stages took part in a great variety of cross-curricular learning experiences ranging from the infants demonstration of Spanish early stages songs with counting and movement; through to P4 – P7 interpretations of popular music and dance inspired by recording artists from around the Spanish-speaking world; to P7 group presentations to other stages of a range of aspects of Spanish life and culture. On the Wednesday afternoon, P4 and P7 lit up the main playground with a superb performance of our week’s theme song in Argentinian line dance style, in which the pupils with speaking parts introduced and explained their characters in Spanish. P6 also provided advertising posters for this using their IT skills and all classes contributed to the music for the play, including a guitar and percussion orchestra from P7. The production was such a success that a second performance of the show for parents was also staged. The whole school also learned to say important prayers in Spanish.



Several stages are finishing off art projects based on their studies of artists from the Spanish-speaking world. Signs in Spanish for classroom objects and important places around the school were distributed and explained by senior pupils, as was the advertising jungle several classes had contributed to, promoting a co-operative enterprise for Honey Production in Chile. Each class in the school has also chosen a Spanish-speaking country to research for the rest of this term and many children dressed up in the colours of their country’s flag for the final day of activities on Friday 3rd May. A photographer from the Clydebank Post came along to capture scenes on the final day’s activities. A Spanish menu was provided by our dining staff on Friday and P4s took this forward by mounting a pan-Hispanic food-tasting experience of their own. It was a ‘fenomenal’ experience for all, and has laid the foundations for several on-going projects promoting Spanish learning in the school.



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John Paul II Fiesta

On May the 16th family and friends were invited to John Paul II primary school for an afternoon of Spanish delights. Every class in the school from P1 to P7 has been studying Spanish this year and each one of them presented a song, a dance or a quiz during a spectacular show. Guests were then treated to delicious Paella, fruit sangria and tapas while admiring the fabulous work produced by pupils on all things Spanish which permeate the curriculum. Great interdisciplinary links were exploited in literacy, art, geography, culture, media and more. (MPR)



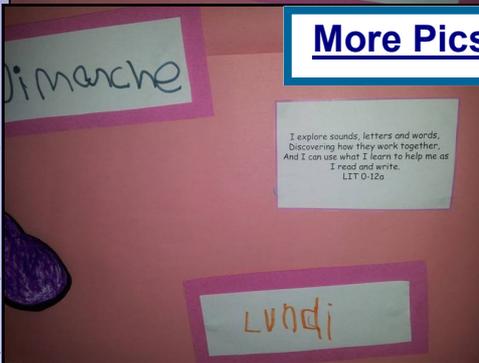
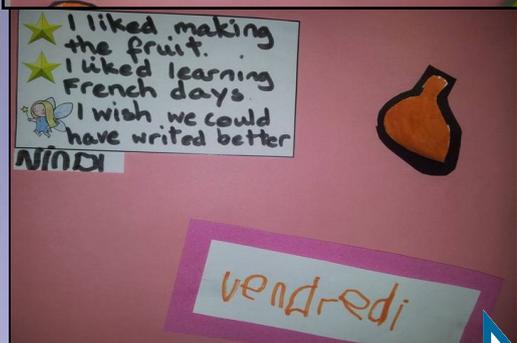
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Bilingual 5 year olds?

During a recent visit to Deanpark nursery I was delighted to be greeted by spontaneous 'Bonjour', 'Comment t'appelles-tu?' coming from a group of five year olds who just started learning French after Easter. Their teacher, Elaine Kilday, recently completed the early years training and, after some initial nerves, thoroughly enjoyed the laid back, non-threatening way the course is delivered. Her success is obvious in the amazing display of confidence her students displayed during my visit. I was able to witness the obvious pride they took in chanting numbers up to 10 and days of the week, their ability to name the fruit they had just had for snack and the natural way in which they introduced themselves in French and asked my name in return. I was then treated to a tour of their various French displays. As part of their art programme the children learned about Monet, the French painter and used finger painting to reproduce Monet's most famous canvas.

Through the story of 'La chenille qui avait très faim' the children were able to explore the French words for fruit, days of the week, adjectives for big and small and much more as they linked the story to the very exciting experience of *growing* real butterflies from caterpillars as part of their science curriculum.

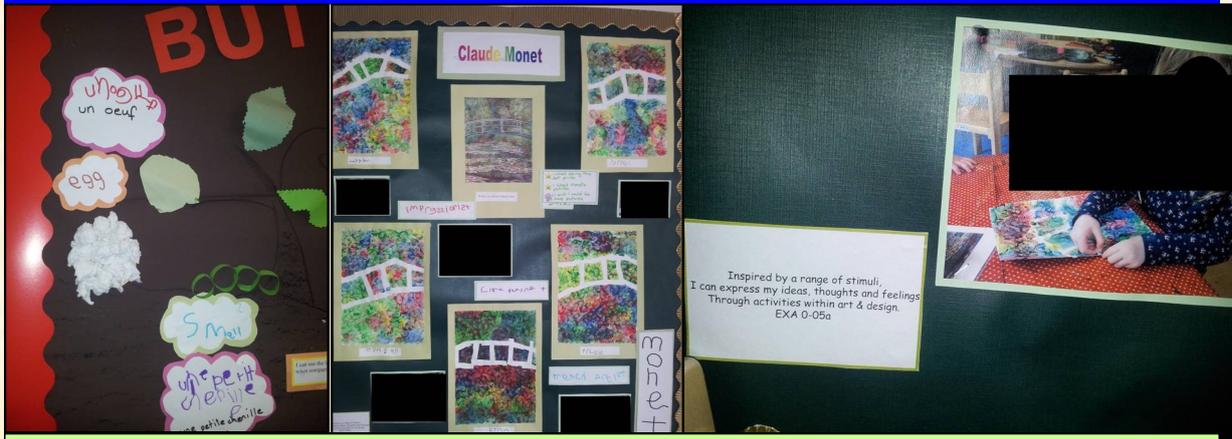
As lunch time neared I got the chance to chat to a few parents. All were extremely pleased about their children's progress in French. I heard many stories of their enthusiasm for their new subject and how keen they are to continue using French at home. One little girl insists on asking for her milk in French at breakfast time, and one little boy could be heard grilling his gran in the car 'Comment t'appelles-tu?' and impatiently prompting her 'Je m'appelle Gran' is what you say... as she was obviously too slow to answer for his liking! The same child then went on to the restaurant where his dad reminded him of manners when ordering a drink ...and the little boy turning to the waitress and obligingly adding 'S'il vous plait!!!' I think this comfortably demonstrates how easily young learners can take to a foreign language when basic language is used regularly in natural contexts. **Fantastique!** (MPR)



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Juggling prepositions

Pupils at St Martha's primary school have been enjoying working with prepositions. While studying GCC MLPS Unit 5 pupils were delighted to engage in outdoor learning activities to learn French associated with a variety of outdoor features such as 'l'arbre, les fleurs, la table, le banc, le mur...' They rushed to the appropriate feature as their teacher named them. After practising simple prepositions through mimes and the ever popular 'Jacques a dit', they then had to listen for more complex commands as they raced to place a ball in the correct location as indicated by the teacher - 'Mettez le ballon sous l'arbre / sur la table / derrière le mur, etc..' The second lesson saw them competing in groups to produce the biggest number of logical sentences using the language they had acquired. Each group had mini word cards and a scribe noted the pupils' suggestions. The winners produced 17 sentences within the 10 minute allocation! **Bravo!** (MPR)



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Rencontres Théâtrales

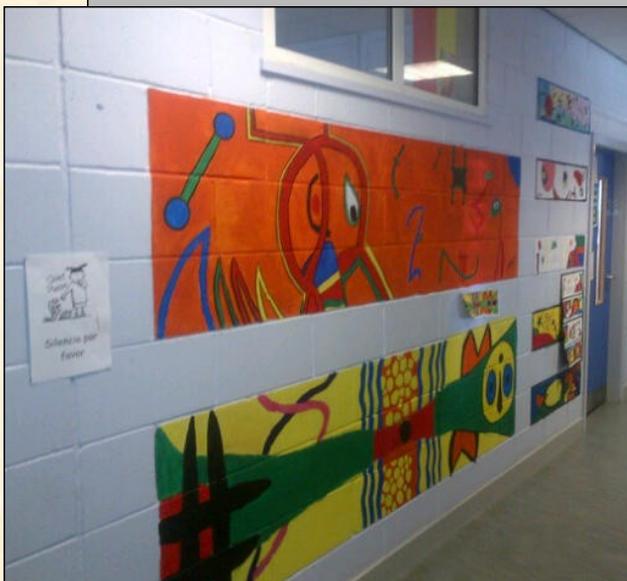
Whitehill Secondary once again hosted the annual French Theatre Competition and it was a great day for Glasgow Schools. Pollokshaws Primary won the primary category with their entry 'play with me.' The children performed singing, reading aloud as well as a considerable amount of great French dialogue! Our lady of the Rosary did an excellent take on the **Little Prince** who comes to visit Glasgow. It was really well thought out and they earned a prize for their adaptation.

In the secondary category, Whitehill Secondary and Hillhead High were flying the flag for Glasgow and both were praised for their French and their theatrical interpretations. Another great day for Glasgow schools and for French in the city! Bravo!



Changing Rooms at All Saints

As the languages department in All Saints continues to grow, the IDL opportunities have also been increasing and working with the Art Department has brought about big changes in the Modern languages corridor. Pupils in S2 studied Spanish Artists, namely; **Joan Miró**. After learning about his style and different works of Art, pupils came up with their own designs. Originally, the plan was to pick one, but the ML department member like different ones. There are now quite a few that have been painted on the corridor wall. This has given our students a real chance to work on a large scale and learn about Spanish Art at the same time. With German now on the portfolio in All Saints, part of the corridor is becoming the Berlin wall - again using the same process with the art department. Well done to all involved and particular thanks to Miss Fiona Campbell in the Art Department in All Saints.



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Holyrood Secondary's language activities

For International Francophonie day on 6 March, 10 teams of our S3 / S4 linguists participated in a live French online competition organised by the Institut français d'Écosse.



Herriot Watt University was the venue for a multi-lingual debate on 13 March. Two teams debated the motion **“This house believes that celebrity cult has gone too far.”** The 6 speakers presented their arguments in their native language - English, French, Spanish, German and Chinese - and these were trans-

lated simultaneously into several languages by final year students. 20 of our seniors participated by listening, posing questions and voting electronically, giving them an insight into the world of translation and interpreting. **“It made us realise how much vocabulary we know in French and Spanish”** commented one student in S4. Amnol and Cora from S3 added **“I learned some new words in other languages and recognized words I knew as well. Now I am more likely to choose languages.”**

[More](#)

Last session around 120 pupils from S1-S3 were involved in a pen pal exchange with *Collège Jean Monnet*, our link school in rural south-west France. This year the project has been extended to 14 classes (around 400 pupils), with pupils learning about French school and home life and comparing hobbies and lifestyles. Apart from the obvious linguistic benefits, pupils have worked very hard to produce interesting letters using and developing their social and artistic skills. An S2 pupil commented **“It’s a lot of fun and I feel I’m learning so much”** and another from S1 added **“I can’t wait to get my next letter!”**

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Paris was the destination for 40 excited pupils in February, including visits to Notre Dame; la Tour Eiffel and a boat trip on the Seine. Pupils kept a diary in French and impressed their teachers and peers, on their return via a PowerPoint presentation in French at S2 and S4 assemblies. Louise, S2 commented **“When I was ordering drinks I was able to do it in French. It felt good to speak two languages.”** Rosie, S2 added **“I loved going on the boat trip and to Disneyland.”** As we prepare for our next trip, Molly, S1 said **“I am looking forward to Paris in October. I am happy we’ve been given this opportunity.”**



To celebrate the end of term, we invited our senior pupils who study Italian and Spanish to sample *tapas* in a local Italian and Spanish restaurant.



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NOTICES Resources / CPD

International CPD—please note that there are fully-funded immersion courses (France and Spain) in Easter 2014, for both primary and secondary teachers. Successful applicants receive support from the European Union Comenius Lifelong Learning Programme available through the British Council. The grant of up to €2,500 fully covers the course fee, subsistence and accommodation, as well as travel expenses.

For full details of the available courses and how to book visit this [link](#).

Please [click](#) to read the articles of colleagues in this newsletter who have just completed similar courses.

Congratulations to....

- all the S3 pupils at Bellahouston Academy who passed the Level 3 and 4 **'languages for life and work'** award and received their certificates from SQA.
- Rosshall Academy who also presented 175 pupils for this award in S3 (24 at level 3 and the rest at level 4) and they have also received their certificates.

These impressive certificates show 15 SCQF level points at the different levels.

- Calum Guthrie, formerly Springburn Academy, who has just graduated with a first class Honours in Law and German from Glasgow University.

Well done also to the committed staff who prepare our students for the many awards now available!

The modern languages family in Glasgow would like to wish Kathy Smith (PT in Knightswood Secondary) all the very best for the future!

It has been a very eventful year for Modern Languages not only in Glasgow, but nationally, as well. 1+2 has been at the forefront of the languages agenda and we are sure that, with the CPD we will be delivering with our cultural organisations and national partners, we can help to make sure that learners in Glasgow have the best language experience possible. Thank you again for your continued hard work to deliver high quality language learning experiences for all our children and enjoy a well earned break!

The Modern Languages Team

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Resources and pages worth visiting:

[Learning new languages is now a primary concern](#)

[21 educational apps for the 21st century student](#)

[International body language: a language with no words](#)

[Primary teachers' best tips for language lessons](#)

[Why are modern languages failing to grip the younger generation?](#)

[6 Ways to Motivate your Students in the Foreign Language Classroom](#)

[How to teach ... languages creatively](#)

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