Chaidh an Sgoil Shamhraidh Dràma a chumail ann am Port Rìgh aig toiseach an Iuchair agus abair gun robh i math. Bha na 18 compàrtichean trang fad na cealad-deug agus iad ag obair le sgìoba teagaisg air leth gus coochladh de dhiofar sgilean dràma iomnsachad, nam measg glusasad, sgilean cleasachd san fharsaingeachd, sgilean cainnte agus gutha, sgilean teicnigeach agus cuideachd ocàideach. Bha na compàrtichean, a bha eadar 14 agus 18 bliadhna dh’aois, às a h-uile ceàrnaidh den dùthaich, agus thug iad leotha tagadh farsaing de sgilean diofraichte a chaidh a chur gu deagh rè na Sgoile.

An Sgoil gum toirt a h-uile duine a bhà eadar 14 agus 18 bliadhna dh’aois, às a h-uile ceàrnaidh den dùthaich, agus thug iad leotha a chaidh a chur gu deagh rè na Sgoile.

An Sgoil Shamhraidh Dràma

A successful Drama Summer School was held in Portree at the beginning of July. The 18 participants were busy right through the fortnight working with a fantastic tutor team to learn a wide range of drama skills, including movement, acting skills, language and voice skills, technical skills and also improvisation. The participants, who were aged between 14 and 18, were from all areas of Scotland, and they each brought with them a wide range of talents which were put to good use during the Sgoil.

The Sgoil finished up with a great night of drama in Àros with three short plays being performed on the stage. The fortnight was enjoyed by all that were involved.

During her visit to the Summer School in Portree, Linda Fabiani, Minister for Europe External Affairs and Culture announced that Fèisean nan Gàidheal is to benefit from an additional £25,000 from the Scottish Government to take its drama group, Meanbh-chuileag, to schools around the country.
**NEW FÉIS FOR TEENAGERS IN LEWIS**

Over 200 youngsters marched through the streets of Stornoway to celebrate the beginning of Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich. This year also saw the launch of a new Fèis designed for teenagers. A healthy number of aspiring musicians enrolled this year taking part in groupwork sessions, stage presentation workshops and trying new skills such as stage management and sound engineering. The Fèis Committee are delighted that they were able to offer more advanced musicians, who have attended the Fèis for many years, the opportunity to adopt new techniques and skills as group performers at the Teenage Fèis.

**ARGYLL FÉISEAN**

Four Fèis took place in Argyll this Summer.

The first Fèis was in Tiree. The numbers were up a little on last year with video, accordion, pipes, guitar and step-dance among a variety of other subjects.

Over to Arran. This was their first Fèis in the new school and it was indeed an excellent venue. The younger ones loved the step-dance because they had a brand new dance studio with huge mirrors!

There were a number of new tutors this year and the children’s cèilidh was a resounding success.

Up to 40 participants took part in Fèis Lannraig a Tuath in Cumbernauld.

Besides the normal subjects, the teenagers were taking part in a Gaelic pop group class. Three of the boys are also due to appear on a new Gaelic programme.

**FÈIS ÙR DO DHEUGAIREAN AN LEÒDHAS**

Choisich còrr is 200 dògair tro shràidean bhaili Steòrnabhagh airson toiseach Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich a chomharrachadh. A thuileadh air an Fhèis bhihlaidhna aca, chaidh Fèis Ùr a chur air bhonn am-bridhna airson classaichean a thabhann do dheugairean na spire aig ire a fhreagras air na feumachadan aca fhèin mar luchd-cìuil adhartach.

B’ e obair buidhne a bha aig cridhe na Fèise airson sgilean ùra ionnsachadh mar chluicheadhair-chòmhlan. Ghabh 19 pàirt anns an leasachadh ùr seo a bha a’ tairgse bhùthan-obrach ann am modhan-stèidse agus inleadaireachd-fuaim a thuilleadh air obair còmhlan.

Tha Comaitidh Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich toilichte gun robh e comasach dhaibh cothroman ura a chruthachadh agus a tha eolais daonainn a thairgse don fhèadhainn a bha a’ fhrithfeadhadh na Fèise gu dìcheall a’ bhuidein.

**NEW FÈISEAN EARRA-GHÀIDHEIL**

Bha ceithir fèisean ann an Earraghaill ag t-samhradh.

An toiseach, bha Fèis Thiriodh ann.

Bha na h-àireamhan suas beagan le cùispairean mar bhideog, bocsca, piob, giotar, dansa ceum agus grunnan rudan eile. Bha co-fharpais ann “a’ sàileadh an ionnghais” timcheall an eilein agus chòrd sin gu mòr ris an luchd-teagaisg.

A-nuill gu Fèis Arainn. Seo a’ chaidh fhèis ann an sgol ùir agus bha i math fhèin. Chòrd an dansa ceum ris an fhéadhainn bheaga air sgàth gun robh stiúidio dannsa aca. Bha “blast” de luchd-teagaisg ùra aca agus bha cèilidh na cloine dìreach math fhèin.

Bha Fèis Lannraig a Tuath ann an Comar nan Allt math fhèin. Bha suas ri 40 a’ gabhail pàirt. A bharrachd air na cùispairean an áirme a thugadh a’ chòmhlaisteach bhà na deugairean a’ gabhail pàirt ann an còmhlan pop agus tha triùir dhe na gillean aca a’ dol a bhith air an t.bh. ann am prògram Gàidhlig ùr.

Bha Fèis bheag ann an Cille Conbhal cuideacha. Ged nach robh mòran an lathair bha tòrr spòrs aig a’ chloinn.

**LOCHGOILHEAD FIDDLE WORKSHOP**

Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop picked up a prestigious award at this year’s Third Force News (TFN) Scottish Charity Awards in Glasgow. Shortlisted for the second year running, the Argyll-based charity won the Community Action award, which recognises outstanding achievement for work in the community. Since it started in 2002, LFW has raised the profile of traditional music tuition in rural Argyll. It now works with four primary and one senior secondary schools, teaching 70 children a week and offering weekly adult tuition in local villages. The workshop also operates a number of “come and try” events in the local communities, where hundreds of children get a chance to experiment with a range of instruments. Fèis Ceann Loch Goibhle runs an annual residential week-end for children where the emphasis is on the use of Gaelic in musical instruction, song, dance and games. Elizabeth Bain, Project Leader at LFW said “We are thrilled to have won this award against such strong competition. Thank you very much to all at Third Force News and SCVO for organising this event. In the current climate of uncertainty of funding for voluntary, rural arts groups, it is good to see we are still able to keep our heads above the water”

Meala naideachd a air a h-uile duine.

**FÈIS TRAINING**

The date for Fèis Trèanaidh 2009 has been fixed for 14 and 15 March 2009 at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer. Keep an eye on the website for further information, and let us know if you have any requests for workshops during the weekend. The usual workshops will be there, such as Gaelic, IT/Computing and First Aid. Remember that there is a contractual obligation on the Fèis Administrator/Annualised Hours person to attend.

The next opportunity for Fèis tutors to attend training workshops at Level 1 and 2 will be on 21 and 22 February 2009 at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. At the present time, it is not intended to run a summer workshop in 2009 due to lack of demand to date.

**LOCHABER FÉISEAN**

The Fèis Oighridh na Mara team were busy as usual running several classes in the area.

Fèis ochd nan Garbh Chrìochan 08 took place in Acharacle in July and was well attended. Fèis Eige was attended by 26 eager participants and went very smoothly indeed. This event was well enjoyed by all and we should extend special congratulations to Grace for handling her first Fèis in charge with ease.

The Cèilidh Trail hit the road between Friday 4th & Sat 26th July calling all around Lochabair. The events were well attended and went down very well with audiences.

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This year’s summer week was one of the most successful and largest events ever held by Fèis Chataibh. It took place in Golspie High School and was attended by 93 participants and 22 tutors.

Chairperson Ian Murray said “The mix of tutors was a great success with a variety of age and experience providing a sound tuition base. It was great to have some new tutors to our Fèis in Gillian Frame, Findlay Napier and Dagger Gordon. The quality of tuition and the running of the classes were excellent. Another success was the presence of assistant tutors who had come through our own Fèis.”

In addition to the main Fèis, older participants were also involved in the Cèilidh Trail which visited various venues throughout Sutherland. They will be playing their final gigs of this year during the Blas festival which will see them sharing the stage with various musicians including the Addie Harper Trio and Shooglenifty.

FÈIS CHATAIBH

Bha seachdain shrìobhbeachail aig Fèis Chataibh anns a' chridh seachdain de làithini-saora na sgail. Thachaigh an priomh fhèis aca ann an Àrd Sgoil Ghloispaich le ceithir ficheadh ‘s a tri deug compàirtichean agus dhà air ficheadh leuchd-teagaigis. Bha an t-seachdain glè thrang ach chòrd i ris a h-uile duine.

Thuir an cathairachdain Iain Moireach “Bha sinn uabhasachfortanach leis an leuchd-teagaigs a bha againn am bladhma le measgachadh math de dh’aoisean agus de dh’eilis. Bha e math Gillian Frame, Findlay Napier agus Dagger Gordon fhàinn a’ teagaisg aig an Fhèis airson a’ chridh uair. Bha ire-teagaigs nan clasaichean flor mhath agus bha e uamhasach math gun d’ fhuair duid de sheann chompàirtichean na Fèise an cùthrom a bhith nan luchd-cuideachaidh.

A bharrachd air a phhiomh fhèis bha feadhainn de na compàirtichean an sàs anns a’ Chuairt Chèilidh, a’ tdhal air àitichean air feadh Chataibh. Cluichidh iad an consart mu dheireadh aca aig Fèis Bhras. Bídhe iad a’ toirt taic do luchd-ciùil ionadail agus proifeiseanta a leithid Addie Harper agus Shooglenifty.

FÈIS NA H-ÒIGE

A total of 56 Gaelic speaking youngsters, from as far afield as Dunoon, Gairloch and Skye, descended on Inverness’s new purpose built Gaelic school to take part in Fèis na h-Òige’s week long summer event. Participants enjoyed a wide and varied programme of events with tuition being offered in 7 traditional instruments plus groupwork and percussion, and further choices of drama, shinty, and art. The under 8’s had their own Fèis Bheag in the new Gaelic nursery.

Several “firsts” were achieved at this year’s fèis – their first year enjoying the excellent facilities at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, the first time they held a barbecue as part of fèis week (definitely to be repeated next year) and the first time they’ve been involved throughout Sutherland. They will be sharing the stage with various musicians including the Addie Harper Trio and Shooglenifty.

FÈIS A’ BHEALAICH

Gabh compàirtichean Fhèis a’ Bhealaich pàirt ann am Pròiseact nan Tasglann far an robh iad a dearnamh agallamhan còmhla ri munnitir sgìre na Comraich aig a bheil Ghàidhlig gus barrachd fhailghinn a-mach mu dhualchas an àite.

Tha an Fhèis an dòid leabhran fhoilseachadh lán fiosrachaidh a fhuar iad a-mach anns na h-agallamhan, a’ gabhail a-staigh fhiosrachaidh air a’ chàirdeas ann, beul-a’ithris, eachdraidh agus spòrs aca a’staidteann a’ rinnnean còmhla, sanasach agus a’ clàradh phìosan airson bhideo ciùil.

Tha sinn a-nis a’ staidteann air na mìosan a tha romhainn agus ‘s e Fèis a’ Bhaile an ath chuairt airson na h-Òige.

First Minister Alex Salmond with Fèis Chataibh participants

FÉIS CHATAIBH

Fèis a’ Bhealaich participants interviewing Donald Ferguson at Applecross Primary School

SGIoba-G

Tha Sgioba-G air a bhith a-mach air an rathad a-rithist an samhradh seo. Thòisich iad aig Fèis Chataibh far an robh iad a’ toirt taic dhan a’ chomataidh Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh. Chuir iad chlasaichean de chur-seachadan inntinneach air doigh do na compàirtichean gus beagan Gàidhlig ionnsachadh.

Bha sinn fortanach gun robh Kayleigh NicIollinein ag obair cómhla rinn fad an t-samhradh mar phàirt de gheàrs ghnìomhaiche CnaG. Le obair na Sgoil ìth a’ Bhealaich agus Fèis na h-Òige agus cùileadh chaidh i gu Barraigh son taic a thuirt dhan Fhèis leis an iomairt BarraFest.

Aig aigdeadh an luchair, bha an Sgoil ìth a’ toirt taic aig Fèis Ìle an t-Salamanach agus àr a-ruaidh le Fèis nan Deugairean. Bha iad ag obair air cur-seachadh a bhàit co-cheanguladh ri bhith nad neach-ciùil proifeiseanta agus abair gun robh spòrs aca a’ staidteann ri a’rinnnean còmhla, sanasach agus a’ clàradh phìosan airson bhideo ciùil.

Tha sinn a-nis a’ staidteann air na mìosan a tha romhainn agus ‘s e Fèis a’ Bhaile an ath chuairt airson na Sgoil ìth.

FÉIS NA H-ÒIGE

A busy summer again for Sgioba-G. The G-team started off in Golspie at Fèis Chataibh providing activities and support for the Fèis. A great time was had by all and it was great to hear their new Fèis song being sung so enthusiastically at the final concert.

We were fortunate to have Kayleigh MacLennan with us through the CnaG placement scheme this summer, and she was also working with the Sgoil ìth at Fèis na h-Òige and supporting Fèis Bharraigh’s BarraFest.

It was also great to finish up the summer with Fèis Ìle an t-Salamanach and there new teenage Fèis. Activities here were based on the life of a professional musician and we had great fun looking at band names, publicity and the participants even had the opportunity to create their own music video.

Next up is Fèis a’ Bhaile!
PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2007

The Scottish Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Act introduces a scheme membership system for people who work with children and protected adults. If a person is considered unsuitable to work with these groups they will be unable to become a scheme member. It will be an offence for an organisation to permit someone who has been barred to undertake such work. It builds upon what has been learnt from the current disclosure system to deliver a strengthened and streamlined service for people who work with vulnerable groups.

Scheme membership will end the need for employees (paid/unpaid) to complete multiple written disclosure checks. Scheme records will be updated automatically when members circumstances change, e.g. if they move job or are convicted of a crime.

This will enable the employer to do a simple check to verify that a person is a scheme member.

As well as providing a tool to help employers to make safe and speedier recruitment decisions, scheme membership will save overall costs reduce bureaucracy. Checks for volunteers working in the voluntary sector will continue to be paid for by the Scottish Government.

WELSH FACT-FINDING TRIP

In February, Dougie, Christine and Calum Alex went to Wales to visit some Welsh organisations to gain an insight into their day to day activities and all the various projects they are involved in.

They visited:

- Urrdd, - an organisation for 8-25 year old offering a wide range of fun activities;
- Bwrrd yr iaith Gymraeg (the equivalent to Bord na Gàidhlig) who deal with policy, funding and gave valuable information about bi-lingualisation;
- S4C the Welsh TV Channel who advised on their range of programmes and the work they do in the community;
- Menter laith an organisation that offers something for all ages. They run drama clubs, computing classes, a welsh shop, a coffee shop and various other projects.

The trip was very valuable, a lot was learnt and good links were made. The communication between the different groups was very effective and they worked together. Fèisean nan Gàidheal will seek to form further co-operative partnerships with groups in Scotland, as it was clear from the Welsh experience that this is an essential part of their success.

SPECIAL NEEDS ACTION PROJECT (SNAP)

Tha Emily Edwards (Oifigeur Tasglann agus Pròiseactan Sònraichte) air a bhith ag obair gu saor-thoilseach leis a’ bhluideann charthannais ‘SNAP’ a tha steidhichte aig Spòl Drummond ann an Inbhir Nis. Bhid SNAP a’ toirt chothroman agus a’ cur thachartasan aird do chloinn aig daoine óga aig a bheil duitheadasan ionnsachaidh agus feumalachdan sonraichte ann an sgire Inbhir Nis agus mar phàirt den obair seo, bidh Emily a’ teagasc fhaclan agus abairtean Gàidhlig do luchd-obrach SNAP a ghabhas cleachdadh leis a’ chloinn aig a bheil Gàidhlig.

Emily Edwards (Archiving and Special Projects Officer) has been undertaking some volunteer work with the charitable organisation ‘SNAP’ based at Drummond School in Inverness. SNAP provide a range of services and activities for children and young people with learning difficulties and special needs in the Inverness area and as part of the project, Emily will be teaching some of the staff at SNAP a number of Gaelic words and phrases which they can use with the Gaelic speaking children who attend the group.

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