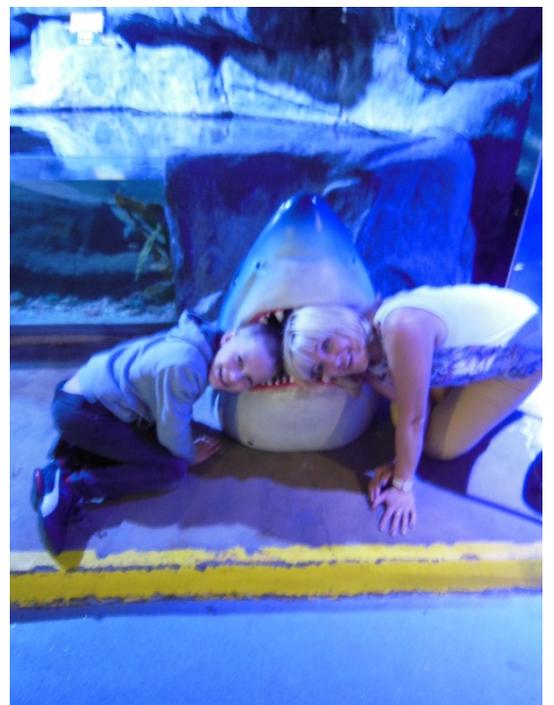




FOCC WEST LOTHIAN DAILY BLOG 2016

Monday 29 August – Concert Practice/Deep Sea World

Lots of concert practice this morning - before and after snack. Then we headed off over the bridges for a visit to deep sea world. With the sun shining we had our lunch under the bridges before going in where we met Archie. Archie was a gorgeous little pug who loved all the attention and the dropped leftovers from lunch. Inside the children had great fun looking at all the different creatures and fish and then we headed into the tunnel to watch the divers feeding the Sharks. After another wander around we went outside to watch the seals getting fed and exercised, they are so cute. With the sun still shining we returned to the hall for snack and then to the park for some more fun.





Tuesday 30 August – Swimming/Bowling

The kids enjoyed a great fun lesson from Chris and we made our way to Xcite in Livingston, where they spent a great hour and a bit swimming, splashing and just enjoying the water. Ira and Sonia went to the dentist with Lera and Alina F to fix their front teeth and the results are fantastic. We then went back to Livingston to meet up with the rest of them at Eliburn park, it was such a beautiful day and we were making the most of it. We had lunch whilst playing and chatting away. Then we headed to ten pin bowling and the kids were amazing, there was a lot of competition, with Katia being the champion of the kids! We then back to base at the hall with more great concert practice which was fun to watch - they are all little stars. Ira and Luda never stopping and still had great smiles on there faces at the end of a great day!





Wednesday 31 August – St Margaret's

We had an absolutely fantastic day at St Margaret's, it was so well organised and the 6th years students had clearly put a lot of effort into each and every aspect of the day. It was wonderful to see and they are an absolute credit to St Margaret's. The day started with a meet and greet with Mrs Melville and her 6th year students. Organising the day were head boy Joseph and head girl Phili. We took a group picture in the atrium then the children were treated to a wonderful dance lesson with Skye Jennifer and Paige, thereafter the children had juice and a well needed snack.

We then headed off to the sports hall for a Badminton lesson organised by James and Sarah. The children had a great time, lots of smiles and talent on show with special mention going to Nastya who was simply brilliant at badminton - we were all very impressed.

Then we were off to art class where the children were given a picture frame, glue, stickers and lots of sparkles and stars which they used to create some beautiful decorated frames.

We then went off to Home economics where the children were treated to a fantastic fun filled and healthy lunch. Each child (even the big ones) made their own wraps filled with cheese, ham and salad. Then on to make fruit kebabs with lots of fresh apple strawberries bananas etc. it was lovely everyone ate very well it was delicious. After lunch we headed back to art class where the children made a collage picture using lots of photographs the 6th years had taken throughout the morning activities. After much cutting and sticking the collages were put inside the picture frames decorated by the children earlier in the day and each child was presented with their own frame to take home.

We then headed back to the hall for a much loved by all game of fruit salad. Everyone from Mrs Melville, her whole 6th years class, adult helpers, Luda, Ira and all the children joined in and the hall was filled with laughter it was a brilliant end to the day. Finally, the 6th years students presented each child with a beautiful certificate and show box filled with goodies.

It was a truly fantastic day. Well organised by wonderful kids. The 6th years were all very emotional at the end of the day. I hope they got as much out of the day as our kiddies certainly did.





Thursday 1 September – Beach/Park

On the 1st of September it is a tradition in Belarus to give your teacher a flower. Luda and Ira were overwhelmed by all the flowers they received. We then headed off to the beach. The children enjoyed collecting stones and shells, using them to make collage pictures in the sand. All sorts of fun times in the sand with great excitement when finding crab shells. After lunch it was time to play with bats and balls, skipping ropes, frisbee's and of course in the park. After a well deserved ice cream (enjoyed in a rain shower) it was time to go back to the hall for concert practice to finish off the day. Stephanie Neilly very kindly bought princess dress for all the girls who danced about in them until they were picked up after a very busy day.





Friday 2 September – School/Canal Trip

The day started in “sunny” Broxburn with a few song’s and lively warm up exercises for the children. This was quickly followed by some very entertaining and fun English lessons led by Captain Chris and his two special assistants; Millie and Mr Froggy. All too soon though it was time to gather the provisions, herd everyone together and head off on the next part of our day’s adventure.

With Sandy and Mark providing an excellent navigation and taxi service we soon arrived and boarded the *Lochrin Belle* at the amazing Canal Basin in Edinburgh. “Boat-Boss-Man” Ian and his fantastic crew from Re-Union canal boats, gave us a brill welcome and made everyone feel right at home on their 60-foot boat. After a quick safety talk from “Uncle” Sandy on how not to lose any fingers, we then set “sail” for the Water of Leith visitor centre. With the sun out we were all enjoying a gentle cruise down the canal when suddenly we were boarded by scary looking Pirates! In no time at all the children were press-ganged (actually they didn’t take much persuading!) into joining Buccaneer Bill and Marauding Mark’s Pirate gang! After a few Cutlass fights (minimal injuries folks) and, in between some juice and snacks, we arrived at our hideaway (berth) near the Water of Leith Visitor centre.

Once everyone was out of their pirate gear we all became normal land lubbers again and embarked on the next stage of the adventure. Walking down some scary and steep steps to the Visitor centre, we were then greeted by the lovely staff and taken around all the amazing exhibits and working river models showing the many fantastic things about rivers and all the life it supports.

After a time playing with the exhibits and generally having fun, we then joined Ruth in the craft room where we were shown how to make a fish! For the next hour or so we made a host of differing and colourful “sort of fish things” before stopping for lunch and some grog for the crew.

Once refueled it was time to re-climb the mountain stairs to get back to our galleon and sail back along the canal to the Canal basin. With the sun shining brightly, and after a few more cutlass fights, everyone settled down at the front of the boat to look at the many nature sights along the canal bank.

All too quickly we arrived back at Canal Central (after watching the drawbridge lift up the road so that we could pass) and it was time for an emotional farewell and huge thank you to Captain Ian and his merry crew. Back on the Belarusian disco bus, we returned to Broxburn for some more dance and singing practice. Finally, we ended the day with the “fishal” photograph sessions completed at the Park. Time for home now and thanks everyone for all your help and support and a very special thanks to “uncle” Sandy, Ruth from the Visitor centre and all the Re-Union Canal Boat team.

Till the next time ooh aaargh me hearties!...



