

Scottish Support for Learning Association Newsletter January 2006



Autumn Conference

We held a well attended conference on the 5th November at the Erskine Bridge Hotel, continuing our policy of having conferences in different areas of the country to give all members a chance to attend them. Our theme was **"Emotional Intelligence and Resilience"** and the day was opened by Dr Kathleen Long whom some of you will have heard in Dundee at our Spring Conference. Once again, she was warmly received and via her usual lively delivery, set the tone and the mood for the rest of the day. It is impossible to be anything other than positive after hearing Dr Long!

In spite of having a difficult act to follow, Laura Ann Currie, Principal Psychologist with West Lothian continued the high quality of the day with her insight into enhancing emotional intelligence within the classroom. Then, after a very pleasant lunch, Brigid Daniel delivered her research findings on Children's resilience when faced with adversity. Both these speakers displayed a deep and thorough knowledge of their subjects and expressed their findings to us in a very interesting and inclusive way; many delegates reported feeling more empowered and very positive after the day. Our thanks to all three speakers and we hope to see them again at future events.

Spring Conference - Advance notice

Saturday 29th April 2006, the Patio Hotel, Aberdeen is the date and place for our Spring conference on **"Meeting Needs Together - implimenting ASN, Code of Practice"**.

Application forms should be in schools very shortly and the closing date for applying is the 31st March 2006. We had a very good response from the East of Scotland to our Dundee conference and hope to have the same in Aberdeen- especially on this topic!

For those members in the Lothians area, the last of our monthly winter meetings takes place at the Royal High School at 7.30pm on Monday 6th February. Our speaker is Lynne Grant who is from Midlothian. She will speak on Dinosaur Schools which target children with identified behaviour difficulties and also Classroom Dinosaur which covers the same content but in a less intensive way.

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Good Practice Awards

Saturday 1st October 2005

The Cairn Hotel, Bathgate was the venue for the bi-annual Good Practice awards, celebrating partnerships in action. This year the focus was on 'joined up working: towards inclusion' and the six finalists most certainly epitomised that intention. Our eminent judges were John Bissett from the Scottish Executive, Simon Macauley from the EIS and the chairperson, Gwynedd Lloyd from Edinburgh University and they had a very difficult task. The winner received a cheque for £500 and both runners up, a cheque for £100 while the others were awarded £50 for their efforts. All the finalists were given a plaque to mark their achievement and all the students medals. The judges, after praising the efforts of all the finalists, said that it was quite inspirational to hear all that the children had done and directly from them. After a long deliberation, they announced their decisions. The runners up were Peebles High School Girls Group and the Matrix Project with Raploch Primary School, and this year's winners were the Signing Committee from Grange Academy, Kilmarnock.

A fuller report on the entries can be found on our website at www.ssla.org under the link to Good Practice Awards. Many thanks again to the Scottish Executive whose financial help enables us to publish and send to schools a book about all the entries and the work in partnership that is taking place currently in Scotland.

There has been such an interest in our "Gifts" series (Good Ideas for Teachers) at our conferences that we decided to publish the best of them in a booklet and send this out to members. You should all have received a copy now and if not, please contact me, Maggie Salmond, as I am the person who has a database of all your addresses and any omissions will be due to me and will need to be corrected right away. Should any members have an idea for a new "Gift", please contact us as we are always on the lookout for interesting ones. We have one on ASD due out soon.

SSLA website - www.ssla.org

Those of you on the internet will have noticed our new look website which has been taken over and updated for us by Judy Miller. She is keen to develop the site in any way that members would like including some sort of **Q & A forum** for members only. Again if you have any ideas about what you would like us to develop in this area, please email us at - info@ssla.org.uk. We are also happy to add in links to other organisations that members would find useful and again, suggestions for these links would be most welcome.

Who's who

President - Margaret Penketh

Vice President - George McBride

Secretary - Ann Paterson

Conference Secy - Chris Brownlie

Treasurer - Kathleen Murphy

Minute Secy/publications - Sheena Richardson

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