

# Opening of the School

The following extract appeared in The Oban Times on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1964:

## FIRST J.S. SCHOOL FOR LOCHABER ROMAN CATHOLICS 200 PUPILS ATTEND AT LOCHYSIDE

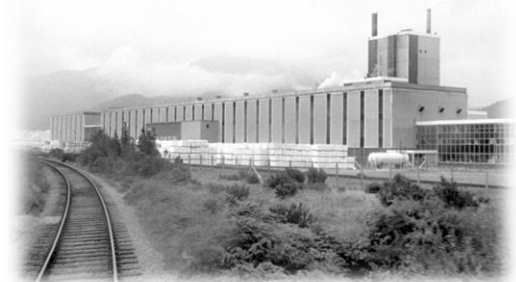
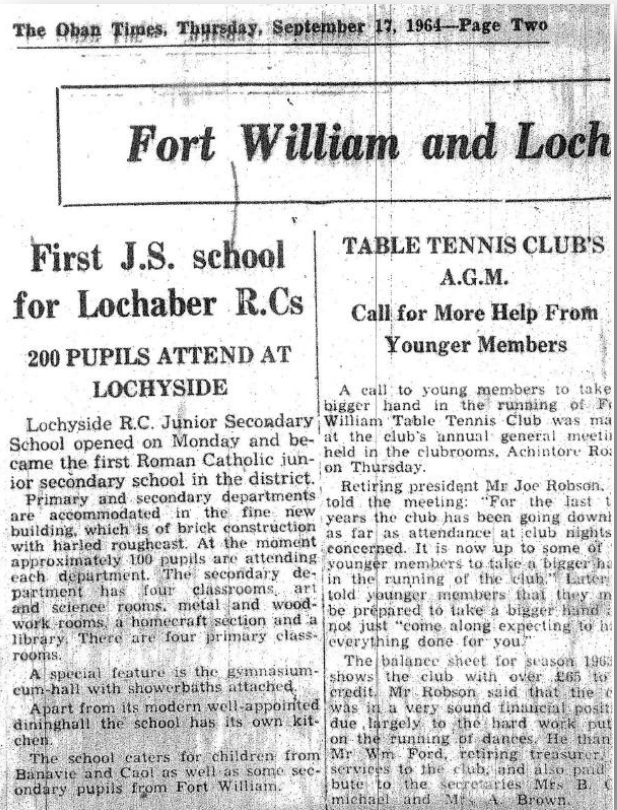
Lochside RC Junior Secondary School opened on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, and became the first Roman Catholic Junior Secondary School in the district.

Primary and secondary departments are accommodated in the fine new building, which is of brick construction with harled roughcast. At the moment approximately 100 pupils are attending each department. The secondary department has four classrooms, art and science rooms, metal and woodwork rooms, a homecraft section and a library. There are four primary classrooms.

A special feature is the gymnasium / hall with showerbaths attached. Apart from its modern, well-appointed dininghall the school has its own kitchen. The school caters for children from Banavie and Caol as well as some secondary pupils from Fort William.

## St. Columba's Junior/Secondary School

- ❶ In the early 1960s Scottish Pulp and Paper Mills opened the large Pulp and Paper Mill at Annat Point in Corpach.
- ❷ Many families moved into the Lochaber area to work at the new mill.



- ❏ The school was built at Lochside to accommodate the increasing Catholic population in Lochaber.



- ❏ The school was originally known as **St. Columba's RCJS School**.

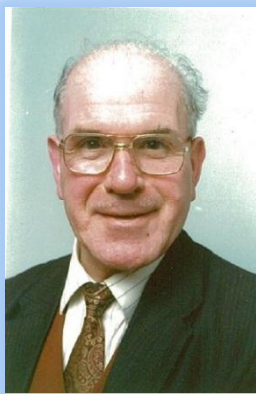
- ❏ The formal opening of the school and its dedication to St. Columba was led by Bishop Stephen McGill, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 1964.

- ❏ When the school opened the roll was:

89 Primary Pupils	3 Primary Teachers
98 Secondary Pupils	3 Secondary Teachers
	7 Visiting Teachers



## Head Teachers



### Mr Frank McGurk

The first Headmaster of Lochside School was Mr Frank McGurk.

Mr McGurk came from Greenock, and he had previously taught in Selkirk before moving to Lochaber.

Mr McGurk had been the Headmaster at St. Mary's School in Fort William before being appointed as the Headmaster of the new school at Lochside.

Mr McGurk was Headmaster at Lochside for nineteen years, from September 1964 until he retired in June 1983.



**First Assembly - 14<sup>th</sup> September 1964**



## Dr Joseph Sloan

Dr Joseph Sloan became Head Teacher at Lochyside School in August 1983. He had previously been a class teacher at Inverlochy Primary School.

Dr Sloan was Head Teacher for almost ten years - until March 1993 when he moved to a new post in Dundee.



## Miss Violet Smith

Miss Violet Smith is the present Head Teacher.

Miss Smith was appointed Head Teacher of Lochyside School in June 1993.

Miss Smith is a former pupil of Lochyside School, and had been a class teacher at the school for several years before she took over the post of Head Teacher.



Pupils arrive in the courtyard - 14<sup>th</sup> September 1964



# Highlights Across the Decades



## 1964 - 1969

- 🏰 **1964** Formal opening of the school by Bishop Steven McGill
- 🏰 **1965** Traffic bay built for buses outside the school
- 🏰 **1966** Canoes built by secondary boys with Mr. Forbes
- 🏰 **1967** Performance of first school pantomime - "The Road to the Smiles"

🏰 **1968** Pupils participated in the Highland Village Project

## 1970 - 1979

- 🏰 **1970** The school won the Lord Dulverton Award for the Highland Village Project
- 🏰 **1976** On 1<sup>st</sup> July the Secondary Department closed, with the remaining pupils and staff transferring to Lochaber High School



## 1980 - 1989



- 🏰 **1981** The first colour television was bought for pupils to watch educational programmes
- 🏰 **1983** Retiral of Mr. McGurk after 19 years as Headmaster
- 🏰 **1983** Dr Sloan appointed as Head Teacher
- 🏰 **1985** The first computer was installed in the school

🏰 **1988** Pupils visited the Glasgow Garden Festival



 **1989**

Silver Jubilee of the school - Mass of Thanksgiving


 **1989**

Pupils reach the finals of the Variety Club of Great Britain Drama Competition in London

## 1990 - 1999


 **1990** School trip to Edinburgh Zoo and Dinosaur Exhibition

 **1991** National Testing was introduced

 **1993** Dr Sloan left the school to take up a post in Dundee

 **1993** Miss Smith appointed as Head Teacher

 **1994** School Board established

 **1994** School sweatshirts introduced as part of school uniform

 **1996** Carpets laid in all classrooms

 **1997** Pupils attend "Children in Need" televised programme in Glasgow


 **1999** 21 new computers installed in the school



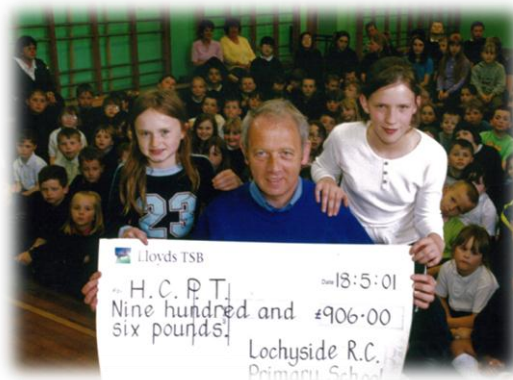
## 2000 - 2009

 **2000** Millennium Time Capsule buried in school courtyard



 **2001** Pupils raised £900.00 during Lent to pay for two handicapped children to visit Lourdes

 **2002** The school received an outstanding HMI Report following an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectors in September



➤ The first Pupil Council was established

- 🏰 **2003** Room 13 Lochyside opened in January - an art studio run as a business by pupils
- 🏰 **2004** 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the school



- Lochyside RC Primary School website established
- First Minister Jack McConnell visited the school
- Pupils received an award for their "Lochyside Times" school magazine
  - Primary 7 pupils visited the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh
  - Staff and pupils raised £2670.00 for The Leprosy Association



- 🏰 **2005** Personal Learning Plans introduced for pupils
- Health Promoting School Status awarded

- 🏰 **2006** Skiing Lessons at Nevis Range for P7 pupils
  - £700.00 raised for Pakistan Emergency Appeal
  - 115 Christmas Boxes donated to Blythswood Shoebox Appeal
  - First SmartBoard and Projector installed in school
  - Friendship Bench donated to school by Lever-Hogg family



- 🏰 **2007** Highland Year of Culture Book produced by pupils
  - Pupils take part in Scottish Opera workshop and performance
  - School highly commended by HMI for learning and teaching in French
  - School highly commended by HMI for Inclusion and Dyslexia Friendly Classrooms
  - £600.00 raised by pupils to help orphans in Mozambique



 **2008**

**£1750.00 raised by pupils for Kids of Kolkata, India**



- Biomass Boiler installed
- School awarded First Green Flag by Eco Schools Scotland
- Lochside's Got Talent Competition introduced for first time
- Daffodil Tea raised £600.00 for Australian Bush Fires Appeal

- £500.00 raised for Zimbabwe Cholera Appeal
- Seed to Supper Project introduced
- School won "Keep It Clean, Keep It Green" Competition

 **2009**

**The Curriculum for Excellence was introduced**

- School commended for Eco Good Practice in Highland Schools



- £500.00 raised by pupils for UNICEF Papua New Guinea Appeal

## 2010 - 2014

 **2010**

**School is awarded Fairtrade School Status**

- School awarded Second Green Flag by Eco Schools Scotland



- £1500.00 raised for Children in Need

**2011** 100 Back Packs sent to Mary's Meals for children in Malawi

- £670.00 raised by pupils for Children in Need
- School receives an outstanding report following an inspection by Education Scotland in December



**2012** Fairtrade Recipe Book published by pupils



- Launch of "This is Our Faith" at St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban
- School is awarded Third Green Flag by Eco Schools Scotland
- Pupils visit Calderwood Jewish School in Glasgow

- £400.00 raised by pupils for Water Aid Appeal
- £200.00 raised by pupils for Marie Curie Cancer Care

**2013** Lochside becomes the first school in Highland to achieve the Rights Respecting School Award

- £400.00 raised by pupils for Mary's Meals
- £775.00 raised by pupils for MacMillan Cancer Care
- £1300.00 raised by pupils for Lepra (leprosy sufferers)
- Pupils visit Scotland Street Victorian School and the Riverside Museum, Glasgow
- School features on BBC Reporting Scotland following the discovery of messages in a bottle from pupils in a school in Wales
- £375.00 raised by pupils for the Philippines Emergency Appeal



**2014** Partnership formed with Kayenje School in Uganda

- Fair Achievers Award achieved
- Pupils visit the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh as guests of John Finnie MSP
- School trip to the Science Centre, Glasgow
- Golden Anniversary of the opening of the school





# Interview with Mrs Sallie Parrish - Primary Teacher 1965 - 1973

## *1. When did you start teaching at Lochside School?*

I started teaching at Lochside on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1965. I am from Wales, and I taught in London for 5 years before moving to Lochaber with my husband.



## *2. Do you remember your first class at Lochside?*

My first class was Primary 3/4. There were lots of children moving into the school at that time because their parents had come to the area to work in the new pulp and paper mill.

I enjoyed teaching all classes from the infants up to Primary 7. I loved working with the infants, but I also enjoyed the challenges in the older classes.

## *3. Do you remember any of the pupils that you taught?*

Yes, I have fond memories of all my pupils. I taught many of the parents and grandparents of the children who are in the school today. I taught Charles Kennedy MP, and Miss Smith!

## *4. Which subjects did you enjoy teaching most?*

I really enjoyed teaching Geography and English. We used textbooks including Holmes MacDougall Maths and First Aid in English. We had no computers in these days. I remember teaching topics in the infant classes such as Shops and People Who Help Us.

I didn't really teach much PE because there was a specialist teacher for gym. However, sometimes I would take my classes outside to play rounders, ball games and races.

## *5. What do you remember about Mr McGurk, the Headmaster?*

Mr McGurk was a very courteous, kind and fair man. He could be quite strict, but he was always fair. He always supported his staff, and his staff respected him. He lived for the school - the school was his family. I have good memories of working with him.

**6. Did you take your classes on school trips?**

We didn't really go on school trips, but we sometimes went over to Lupin Island for a picnic when the weather was nice. We also went to watch Mr Kennedy (grandfather of Charles Kennedy) sowing corn and wheat on his croft. He used a large basket to carry the seeds.

The children had fun when we went out, and there was no cost to their parents!

**7. Did you do any fundraising for charities with your classes?**

The children used to bring in loose change for the Society of the Holy Childhood. The money was sent to Africa to help children and babies.

**8. What was your best memory of your time teaching at Lochside?**



I worked on a special project with my class. It was called "Magical Superstitions", and it was a project that lasted for a whole year!

We built an African jungle with mudhuts in the classroom, we did a lot of work about Stonehenge, the Mexicans, etc. It was a super project, and I was very proud of the end result. My class was

invited to showcase the project at Caol Primary School - it was a wonderful experience.

**9. Tell us about some more of your memories of the school in the early days.**

📌 I remember that Mr Forbes the Woodwork Teacher made canoes with the boys in the secondary department. Sometimes, when the weather was fine, he used to take the teachers out canoeing in the River Lochy during lunch times!

📌 We had a good Badminton Club in the school hall. The staff enjoyed playing badminton, and even Canon Morrison used to come along to play.

📌 The musical shows that were produced by Mr McGurk were excellent. They were well-presented, and the costumes, make-up and backdrops were brilliant. All children in the school could take part in the shows.

📌 The Christmas Carol Concerts were also very well attended. I remember when we did "Carols Around the World". It lasted for three hours!

📌 There were hardly any cars in the school car park. Staff didn't really travel to work in cars in these days - only Miss MacKintosh as she came from Roy Bridge.



**Mrs Parrish with her Primary 5 class**





# Mrs Nan Sutherland

## School Cook

### 1964-1983

*Mrs Nan Sutherland came in to school to tell us about her memories of her time as School Cook at Lochyside:*

"I started work at the school when it opened on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1964. I remember that there were five of us working in the kitchen - three cooks and two kitchen assistants. I have fond memories of working with Mrs Sandison, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Bruce and Mrs Lauder.

There were three sittings every day - we served about 150 meals a day. The cost of a school meal in 1964 was 10 pennies (less than 5p in today's money). Mrs Robertson, the school secretary, had a small table in the dining-room where she collected the dinner money and issued dinner tickets to the children.



I enjoyed cooking big pots of soup, and I really enjoyed cooking macaroni and cheese. We used a special powdered milk, and it made the macaroni very creamy. We had a monthly menu, and the food was quite plain - mince and tatties, stew with doughballs, roast mutton, roast beef and roast pork. One of the most popular meals was spam and chips! At Christmas I would cook chicken or turkey with all the trimmings, and I always made a Christmas pudding for the children.

I also made lots of puddings - rice puddings, steamed sponge puddings with custard, and of course the very favourite of all the children was the chocolate cracknel with custard ("chocolate bricks"). I always made sure that the children got second helpings, and sometimes even third helpings of food!

I remember one time the River Lochy flooded during the morning and Mr McGurk had to close the school. Before the children got sent home he asked me to make sure that everyone got a big bowl of soup.

The kitchen has not really changed much over the fifty years. There was no dishwasher in the kitchen. We washed all the dishes by hand in the deep sinks. We had a large steamer for cooking, and we had a tattie machine for peeling the potatoes - we were not allowed to use knives for peeling potatoes. We scrubbed the kitchen floor on our hands and knees every single day. It was hard work.

The dining-room was always very busy. It had a lovely parquet floor which we also cleaned every day. There were eight large wooden tables, and sixty four wooden chairs which were stacked up at the end of lunchtime.

I remember Mr McGurk and the staff very well. Mr McGurk was strict, but that was the way it was in all schools at that time. His wife was very kind, and I kept in touch with her until she died seven years ago. The first janitor was Mr Johnny McDonnell - he was a good man. The other janitors that I worked with were Mr Atkinson and Mr George Downs.

I retired in 1983 after working in the school kitchen for 19 years. I really missed the school after I retired. It was a good job, and I made lots of friends. I still meet some of the former pupils and teachers, and it is nice to have a chat with them."

Lochside school cook up a warm send-off



School cooks  
Nan 1964  
Lynn 2014



Mr & Mrs McGurk  
with the  
Kitchen Staff  
1983



# Memories of Former Pupils

## Maimie (O'Donnell) Nixon

I was in the secondary department for about a year. I remember the great dinners that Mrs Sutherland made for us in the school kitchen.

I loved all her meals - she was a brilliant cook. After I left school she gave me her recipe for making stew.



## Shona (Fraser) Nicol

I was in the first S1 class in the secondary department. I was so proud of my brand new blazer with the school badge on it, because it was my first school uniform.

I loved going out canoeing on the river with Mr Forbes. Sometimes he would tip over the canoes and we would fall into the cold water! It was a lot of fun.

I also remember the art teacher, Mr Jenkins. He used to keep his collie dog in his Land Rover in the car park, and we had to take turns to walk the dog during lunchtimes.

I remember the time that there was a gas "explosion" in the Homecraft Room when Terry Kearney was cooking - she had a lucky escape!



## Joe Stewart

I remember making canoes with Mr. Forbes (woodwork teacher). We also built a small wooden jetty opposite the drive that led to the Headmaster's house. That is where we launched the canoes from when we went canoeing on the River Lochy. I also remember building the wooden benches for the view-point opposite the factory road-end.

My least favourite subject was Gaelic!

## Alison (Fraser) Findlay

I used to go cross-country running round the Blar and into Caol with my class. Sometimes we would stop off at Christine Smith's house (next to the Lochy Bar) for a cup of tea or a drink of juice! Mr Forbes didn't ever know that we were stopping off for a rest!



## **Theresa (Conlon) McCormack**

I was in the school from 1964 - 1972. I liked doing English and history.

I remember when Mr McGurk lost his belt because Donald Currie had locked it in a cupboard!

## **Mrs Sheila (O'Donnell) Cameron**

I started in the school on the day that it opened in 1964. I have very fond memories of Mr John Forbes (the woodwork teacher). He used to take us out running, and we often had to run right round the Blar Mor, through Caol and back to the school. Some pupils caught the bus for part of the route - but not me! Mr Forbes was a special man, and in many ways he was ahead of his time. He organised many sporting trips for us. Often he would take us all to Inverness to compete in cross-country racing against pupils from other schools including Elgin Academy, Invergordon Academy and Gordonstoun. He really encouraged us to do well, and he gave us the self-belief that we could do as well as everyone else.



**Mr Forbes**

He would take us to the ice-rink or the swimming pool in

Inverness as a treat afterwards - he was really good to us.

He also coached us in orienteering, and I remember the time that we won the North of Scotland Orienteering Championships.

Mr Forbes gave us all a "can do" attitude, and that set us up well for life. He told us that we were as good as everyone else, and I have never forgotten that.

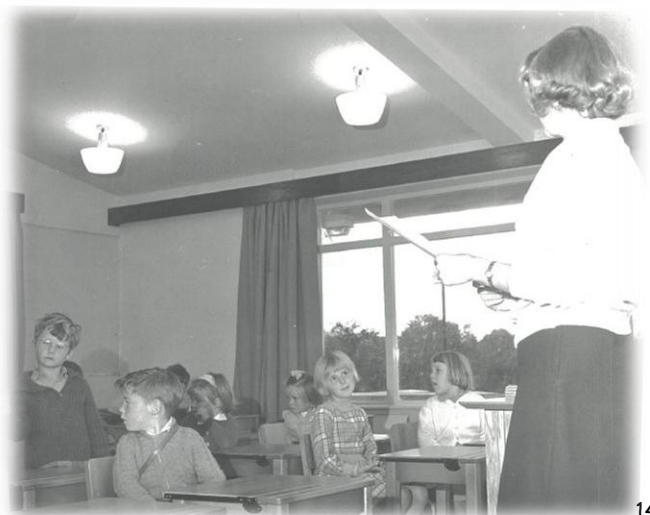
## **Mary Ann MacPherson**

I was in the school from the day that it opened in 1964 until I left in 1975.

My favourite subjects were arithmetic and cooking.

My best time at school was when it was time to go home!

We used to play chasing and hide and seek at playtimes.





## Jocky O'Donnell

I started in the school in 1964. I was in Primary 2 at the time. My favourite subject was art - I really enjoyed painting.

I also remember going up to the Homecraft Room to do cooking with Mrs MacDougall. She was very good to us. Once she taught us to bake a gingerbread and when it was ready we got to take it home. It smelt so good that I ate it all on my way home from school!!

## Theresa Smith

My favourite subjects were geography and homecraft. I enjoyed going on class trips to Lupin Island on nice, sunny days. My best memory is doing the class project about Pakistan in Primary 6 with Mrs Livingston. One day we got to make chapattis in class.

At playtimes we played ball games, skipping games, marbles and we exchanged "scraps" with our friends.



## Brian Dennison

I remember Babs MacKenzie teaching me how to knit! I remember Claire Wynne singing every day on the bus. Often I would forget to change buses and I would end up in the bus garage! My scariest memory is of Mr. McGurk with his belt. I loved chocolate bricks with custard for lunch, but I did not like the tapioca. In the playground I liked to play marbles, football, chasing and Victory Vee.

## Babs MacKenzie

I enjoyed homecraft, art and English. My best times were meeting good friends and we are still friends today - good times. I enjoyed playing in the netball team, and I also played badminton. I remember Mr McGurk walking along the corridor in his black gown, and we always knew that he had the belt over his shoulder!





## **Eddie McSorley**

I was in the school from 1973 - 1980. I always remember Mr McGurk telling me not to cross the courtyard, and even to this day I do not cross the courtyard because I can feel his presence when I am there! I enjoyed doing maths and PE. At playtime I liked to play football, tag and British Bulldogs.

## **Eilidh (MacLeod) Soe-Paing**

I was in the school from 1974 - 1981. My favourite subjects were history topics, needlework with Sister Margaret and PE. I loved playing outside with my friends - we played lots of skipping games and juggling games with balls against the wall. We sang lots of songs as we played the games.

I enjoyed being in Mrs MacLeod's class very much.

My favourite school dinner was sponge cake and custard, but I did not enjoy the semolina!



## **Karen (MacFadyen) Cameron**

I enjoyed doing SRA Reading Cards, sewing with Sister Margaret and watching TV programmes in the secondary building.



My funniest memory was when I was singing in the local provincial mod and I was told that I had won first place. I returned to the school and sang my winning song to my class, only to then be told that there had been a mistake in the marking and I had actually come in second place!! My favourite school meal was syrup sponge and custard, and my least favourite meal was mince and tatties.



## **Beatrice Ann (MacDonald) O'Meara**

I loved primary school, and I enjoyed almost all subjects - PE was probably my least favourite. I have lots of great memories of Lochyside School, and I made lots of lovely friends.

In the playground I played hopscotch and chasing.

I enjoyed all the school dinners except the semolina!



## **Vincent Lopez**

I was in the school from 1975 - 1982. My favourite subjects were PE and history. When I was in Primary 6/7 we won the school's football league, and we were given a quarter of an orange each at half-time.

My funniest memory was when I was in Primary 4 and Mr McGurk came into the toilet to give us a row for mucking about with water from a burst pipe - on his way out of the door he slipped and fell and landed in the water!!

## **Val (MacLean) McIver**

My best times in the school were anything to do with netball! We had the best team and we won most of the matches and events. I also enjoyed the school sports. We got to do high jump and long jump - before Health and Safety got involved!

## **Nicola (MacDonald) White**



I always loved a Friday in school because it was the only day that we got chips - with lots of vinegar! I hated the tapioca with a dollop of jam in the middle.

I remember my first day in Primary 1. When my mum left me with the teacher I was so upset that I actually wet myself - but I told Miss Currie that it was the boy next to me (Adrian MacLellan)

who had wet himself - I was soaking wet but I blamed Adrian !!!

I loved juggling at playtime, and I also liked playing British and Gerries!

## Paul MacLellan

I remember the time that I was on top of Carol Divers shoulders in the classroom, playing about as kids do, and as I turned round I hit my head on the light shade and smashed it! We were both frog-marched to Mr McGurk's office, but luckily we did not get the belt.

I liked to play football and crash pilots in the playground. My favourite school dinner was the homemade soup, and my least favourite was the semolina!



## Michelle (Bowie) Petrie

I was in the school from 1980 - 1986, and my favourite subjects were music and PE.

The school sports days and the Christmas concerts were always the best days. The run-up to the Christmas concert was always exciting, and the excitement on the

night was amazing! We used to play skipping, kitsy-katsy (joined up elastic bands), juggling and British Bulldogs

## Katherine Ann (Munro) Gall

My favourite teacher was Miss Smith because she always listened if there was a problem with work or with others. I enjoyed playing an instrument in the Christmas Concert, but I remember that I nearly fell on the stage because my foot was numb - it was so funny!

I loved PE and music. My favourite school meal was hot dogs and chips. I did not like semolina with jam - I only took the jam!



## Jason Howden

I remember when I was chosen to play the part of Joseph in the Christmas concert when I was in Primary 2. I was very nervous when I was standing on the stage in front of all the parents, and I managed to forget my lines a few times! I always played football, and I remember when Dr Sloan organised

a Football Competition for the older boys during the European Championships. We were all assigned to different countries. It was great fun.





## Lorna Ann (Nixon) Henderson

I was a pupil from 1981 - 1988. I loved music lessons with Mrs Henderson. I loved singing hymns and being part of the choir. I was delighted when I got the part of the witch in Sleeping Beauty. In these days the Christmas Concert went on

for hours on end! It was always the highlight of my year. I also enjoyed helping to support the children from the Special Class.

I was a fussy eater, so I mostly took packed lunches. However, every Friday I would take school dinners because it would always be fish and chips followed by caramel cake and custard - it was delicious!

I still think Lochyside is the best school ever! All my years there were so happy, and I am so glad that my two children have got to share the same happy experiences.

## Una Marie (O'Donnell) Fair

I was in the school from 1987 - 1994. I loved art with Mrs Morgan, and music with Mr MacPhee. I have great memories - getting the wall bars out in the gym, playing netball, school concerts, singing hymns, rainy lunchtimes spent indoors watching videos such as The Worst Witch, getting to ring the bell when I was a dinner monitor and playing with my friends in the playground. I loved my time at Lochyside School, and I cried and cried when I left to go to the High School. The teachers, staff and my primary school classmates will forever hold a special place in my heart.



Netball Team 1993



## Nicole Nixon

I was a pupil at Lochyside from 1996 - 2000.

I remember in Primary 7 we had Miss Smith as our teacher, and we were doing a project about the European Union. One of the countries that we studied was Italy, and Miss Smith brought in some Italian foods for us to try. She asked us

to describe the tastes and smells of the foods, and when we got to the Italian cheeses it was particularly funny as they were very smelly!

I loved my time at Lochyside Primary, and I remember my time there with great fondness. The teachers at the school taught me morals and values as well as giving me a good education. I believe that this led me to being the person that I am today. I sorely missed the school when I moved on to secondary school.

## Hanna Dougan

My best memory is when I was in the netball team and we won the local netball league. I was so proud because I got the Netball Player of the Year Award when I was in Primary 7.

I loved the Christmas dinners that we got in school- they were great (apart from the Brussels sprouts!)



## Chloe MacKay

I was a pupil in the school from 2003 - 2010.

My favourite subjects were maths, science, English and PE. I loved taking part in the Dance Platform shows, Christmas concerts and the Lochyside's Got Talent competition. I really enjoyed our school trips to Landmark - they were always fun and enjoyable.



## Sophie Munro

My favourite memory has to be when my class went to Glasgow to visit the Scotland Street Victorian School. It was a great experience for us.

I remember when my friends and I made a "sunbathing club" in the front playground on the hot, sunny days - it was fun.

I loved spelling, reading in groups and maths.



## Amber MacInnes

My favourite memory was when I won a voucher for picking a lucky square on a treasure map at the School Fete. The next day there was a headline in the local newspaper - "Amber's a Real Treasure!"

I enjoyed PE and maths, and I also loved when we did outdoor learning.



# Highland Village Project



Between 1968 and 1970 the secondary pupils participated in the Highland Village Project.

The pupils were commissioned to make benches for a chosen view-point on the hillock opposite the Rio Tinto Aluminium Factory.

The school won a

prestigious award from Lord Dulverton for the excellent work carried out by the pupils.

The view-point is still visited by tourists, and the Lord Dulverton Award is mounted on the wall of the school next to the Head Teacher's Office.



## Visit to the Glasgow Garden Festival - September 1988



During the summer of 1988 the Glasgow Garden Festival was held in the Govan area of Glasgow.

Miss Smith organised a trip to the Garden Festival for her Primary 2 class and the Special Class pupils.

It was the first school trip to Glasgow, and the children were very excited!

The group had a fantastic time visiting the many attractions including the animal farm, the flower gardens, the glass church, the fairground and a boat trip on the River Clyde.





The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor learning experiences, and the highlight for most of the group was feeding the ten new-born piglets!

At the end of the trip the children visited Nardini's Ice Cream Parlour where they enjoyed a selection of the delicious ice-creams, knickerbocker glories and banana splits!

## Loch Ness Monster Show

In 1989 the Primary 7 class and the Special Class pupils (pupils with moderate learning difficulties) participated in a drama competition which was organised by The Variety Club of Great Britain.



Mrs. Isobel Henderson (music teacher) and her husband Bishop George Henderson worked with the pupils to produce a fantastic musical drama based on the story of the Loch Ness Monster.

The pupils' gave an outstanding performance, and they were delighted to win the local, regional and national sections of the competition.

The pupils and staff travelled to London to perform their musical drama at the Royalty Theatre in the West End!

What a brilliant experience for everyone involved, and even today many former pupils remember this as one of their best memories of their time at the school.





## Spreading the good news of Room 13

LAST YEAR'S ROOM 13 VISITORS TO LOCHYSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF THEIR ROOM 13 PROJECT. ADAPTED TO THE LOCAL AREA AND SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT, THE PROJECT HAS INTRODUCED MANY EXCITING NEW FORMS OF ART.



ABOVE: Connor Gillies, Tonight a television programme about Room 13 is on Channel 4 at 7.30pm.

MY NAME is Connor Gillies. I am 11 years of age. Recently I went on a trip to the South of England. I visited Lochyside Primary and we first-hand the impact of their Room 13 project. Adapted to the local area and surrounding environment, the project has introduced many exciting new forms of art.

They are the children of Lochyside Primary. CONNOR GILLIES, tells about his recent trip to Devon where he addressed some 500 teachers and delegates on the merits of the project.

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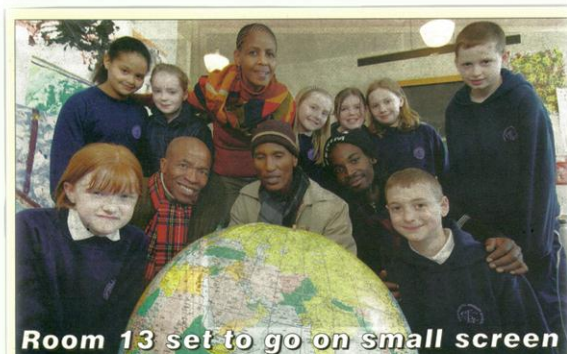
# Room 13 Lochyside

In January 2003 we opened our Room 13 art studio in the room that was formerly the Homecraft Room.

Room 13 is a special project - an independent art studio which is run by pupils as an enterprising business. The pupils have full responsibility for the art studio, including employing and paying the artists-in-residence, ordering and managing resources and holding committee meetings.

Over the years children have developed many creative and business skills. They have been responsible for taking the annual school photographs, commissioned to design festive greetings cards and calendars, and invited to give presentations throughout Britain by Creative Partnerships (a Westminster initiative designed to link industry and education).

Some of our pupils have had their artwork displayed at exhibitions in galleries including the National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh, and other pupils were invited to take part in a residency at the Irish Museum of Modern Art.



Artist Daniel Monareng and colleagues Makar Tsoenyrans, Phola Tabani and David Nkals bring South African Room 13 flair to members of the Room 13 project based in Lochyside School, Caol.



Left to right, Lochyside pupils Natalie Brayshaw, Stephanie MacLennan, Heidi Wilson, Mark Faulkner and Natalia Alvarez could be expected to be seen in their work in the National Galleries of Scotland next year.

From classroom to national gallery

these schools in their endeavour to improve their art curriculum.

Room 13 has been a real success story, and we are all very proud of our part in this very exciting initiative.

Pupils also featured in two television documentaries, and this led to the Room 13 project being developed in countries throughout the world.

Through the Room 13 project Lochyside School has been fortunate to develop partnership links with The Little Daffodils School in Nepal, Sapebuso School in Botswana and Mmulakgoro School in South Africa. This has enabled our pupils to learn about different cultures, and to support

# "Back to School Week" for MPs and MSPs - April 2004

In April 2004 the Primary 7 class were working on a Global Education Project where they were studying different cultures across the world. They had compared education in Scotland to education in India and Africa, listened to presentations from people who had worked in a school in Goa, set up their own fundraising enterprise initiative and invited five politicians to visit the school to showcase their learning.



The politicians who visited the school during the



week from 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> April 2004 were:  
Mr Charles Kennedy MP - Former Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party  
Mr David Stewart MP - Labour Party  
Mr Jack McConnell MSP - First Minister of Scotland  
Mr Jamie McGrigor MSP - Conservative Party  
Mrs Mary Scanlon MSP - Conservative Party  
Mrs Eleanor Scott MSP - Green Party

During each visit the children gave presentations to the politicians about their work on Global Citizenship. The politicians were very impressed, and they each spent a lot of time discussing their jobs, politics and their own school days with the children.

The following week the children were invited to the Highland Council Chamber in Inverness where they gave a presentation about their project to all the members of the Highland Council.



At the end of term the class went down to Edinburgh to visit the Scottish Parliament as guests of Mr Jamie McGrigor MSP. They were invited to listen to a debate in the Chamber, and they were delighted to meet other members of the Scottish Parliament.

The whole project was a wonderful experience for the children, staff and the whole school community, and it gave everyone involved a greater insight into the world of politics.



All of the subjects we do are fun.  
*Benjamin O'Sullivan P1*

There are lots of really nice people.  
*Erin Rozek P1*

I like the playground, seeing my friends and PE.  
*Lexi Ann Lauder P2*

I like my classroom because it has lots of different colours.  
*Killian Fraser P2*

It has loads of great books in the library and the teachers are very kind and put lots of fun into your work.  
*Noah Johnston P3*

There are no bullies and the teachers give me the right work. I like Mass and singing hymns.  
*Rachel MacEachan P3*

The people are so friendly and when you are stuck the teachers will come and help you.  
*Danni MacLean P4*

**Our School is Special because ...**

We have caring teachers and it is a good environment as well.  
*Michael O'Meara P4*

We help to raise money for different activities.  
*Orla Soe-Paing P5*

We get loads of extra-curricular activities.  
*Lachlann Mackinnon P5*

We have equipment to play with in the playground and after-school clubs to go to.  
*Callum Anderson P6*

There are so many great opportunities for the pupils.  
*Michael Kyle P7*

The teachers are so committed to their jobs and do so much.  
*Niamh Byrne P7*

We get really good language teaching - we learn French, Scots, Gaelic and English.  
*Sofia MacDonald P6*

# A busy school year at Lochyside 2013 - 2014



**August 2013**  
**Awards from the Lochaber Rural Education Trust Garden Show**



**September 2013**  
**MacMillan Cancer Care Coffee Morning**



**October 2013 - Harvest Festival**



**November 2013 - Feeding the Birds**



**December 2013 - Christmas Concert**



**January 2014 - Robert Burns Assembly**





**February 2014**  
**UNICEF Day for Change**



**March 2013**  
**Lochaber Music Festival Bible  
Dramatisation**



**April 2014**  
**Fairtrade Committee visit to  
the Scottish Parliament**



**May 2014**  
**Big Walk around Blar Mor and Caol**



**June 2014**  
**School outing  
to the  
Glasgow Science  
Centre**





**Lochyside RC Primary School**

**June 2014**





## *Last word ...*

*We hope you have enjoyed reading the memories of many of the people who have had a connection with Lochside RC Primary School over the past fifty years.*

*We are proud of our successes and achievements, and we are happy to share them with you.*

*Unfortunately our school is due to close in February 2016. Pupils and staff will be relocated to a new school campus adjacent to Caol Primary School.*

*We will continue to build on our achievements, provide a high quality learning environment and ensure that pupils continue to receive an excellent standard of education.*

*Our pupils will continue to develop the capacity to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors as they actively contribute to the life of the school and the wider community in future years.*



# Lochyside RC School



**1964-2014**



Designed by the pupils of Lochyside RC Primary School - Printed by Printsmith Lochaber Ltd.