

Guild 2009.

The Buchan children have all done well at the Guild this year.

The week started off on Saturday the twenty fifth of April with the choirs from the Prep Department performing in the Royal Hall. The Little Choir was the first to perform on the Guild stage this year. The adjudicator commented that the first song "Dona Nobis Pacem" was lovely. "The opening line was beautifully sung as it is so difficult. The mark awarded was eighty three. "Lovely choreography in the second song "Ocean World." "What a disciplined choir. The overall effect was beautiful." The mark given for this song was eighty five. "What good choices of songs. Well done!" The total mark was one hundred and sixty eight and they gained second place.

Next came the Boys' Choir. The boys gained eighty four marks in their class. They sang "Brother James Air." "A good choice here and you sing it carefully. Blend is good at times. "The Heavenly Aeroplane was sung next. "Good diction here and crisp rhythmic singing. Excellent Yeah! The group has a lot of potential. Well done!"

Finally the Girls choir performed. They received a mark of eighty six for the song "Where Do We Go From Here" and a mark of eighty three for the "Sixties Freak". The adjudicator enjoyed the lovely unison singing of the first piece and felt that the choir had a good feel for the musical line. She said that the choir had worked hard on producing a good quality of tone and that the sense of blend was beginning to develop well. The balance in two was generally good and it was well sung. She felt that the choreography was very impressive in the second piece. The choir gained a total mark of 169 and came first.

The Buchan Bluebirds came second in the new class for seven and under gaining eighty six marks for "I'm Cross" and eighty four marks for "Let's Remember" making a total of 170 marks. The adjudicator said that they had performed very well and the singing was very good.

On Tuesday the twenty eighth of April the instrumentalists performed in their various groups. The Buchan String Group came second in their class and were told that they played very carefully and rhythmically and they produced a clear sound throughout and were well in tune. She enjoyed the idea of the loud and soft playing in the Echo Dance. The final piece showed a good sense of rhythm which was kept crisp throughout. A fine crescendo was produced. She thanked Marcus, Isalen, Jessie and Alaia for all their hard work preparing the pieces for their performance. Well done!

The Folk Group performed in the next class playing Manx Melodies. "What a nice collection of folk songs-you played them all with great care. Some nice solo contributions from flute(Morven) and the leader of the whistles (Danielle) and some lovely accompaniment figures from the piano part by Ciara and Edward and from the strings. Responsible job for the bodhran players too to set the tempo for each. (Rebecca and Rebecca) Well done everybody!" They came second with a total of eighty five marks.

The final group for the day was the "Awesome Orchestra". They came first in the class for Music Making including Orchestras which is a new class at the Guild. They played Autumn by Vivaldi and gained eighty four marks followed by Lord of the Dance gaining eighty seven marks making a grand total of one hundred and seventy one marks. The comments from the adjudicator are as follows:- "Both pieces are really carefully prepared and played. Both pieces used resources well and Lord of the Dance sounded particularly well. A good conductor (Maebh) too with great authority throughout. I like the brass band/marching band end. Well done!"

Congratulations to all our solo performers which included singer, pianists, flautists and harpist who won their classes and to those who gave very good performances. The marks were often either high merits or distinctions. All the soloists and their marks will be published in the Prize Day programme.

Thank you to all the music staff and to the parents for their continued support.

Miss Sue Mills (Buchan Music Coordinator)