Ro-ràdh a’ Chathraiche

Tha mi toilichte Aithisg Bhliadhnan Chomann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) 2012/13 a thoirt thuigibh.

Am bliadhna, tha sinn air cumail a’ dol leis an leudachadh den ‘Sgeama Comhairleachaidh Phàrant’ agus tha pàrantan air a bhith an sàs ann an ionadach tachartas foilseachaidh, cho math ri stàileachan aig ionadan bhùitean, mar eisimpleir, far a bheil pàrantan le clann òga dualtach a bhith. Tha sinn air a bhith ag obair le sgioba nam Bliadhnanach Tràtha aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig airson an roinn 0-3 a neartachadh, roinn a d’fhìthineas a bhith na phriomhachas ma tha sinn gu bhith a’ tèladh phàrantan ùra a dh’ionnsaigh foighlam meadhan Gàidhlig.

Chaithd an àireamh chloinne aig ire na bun-sgoile am meud gu ire bhèag bho 2418 an-uiridh gu 2500 am-bliadhna ann an 60 sgoil air feadh Alba. Tha an àireamh a’ theòisich ann am c1 am bliadhna air a dhol suas bho 406 gu 428, tha sinn an dòil gun cùm na h-àireamhan sin a’ dol air aird aird sgàth oidhir-pean na Sgeama Comhairleachaidh Phàrantan agus piseach a’ tighinn air solar ro-sgoile. Tha 35 àrd-sgoilean air feadh Alba a’ tabhann Gàidhlig mar chuspair aghus a-mach às na 35 sgoilean sin, tha 14 a’ teagasg cuspairean a bharrachd tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha na h-àireamhan seo, a th’air an cruinneachadh gach bliadhna le Bòrd na Gàidhlig, a’ sealltainn gu bheil na priomh chothrom an fàs a thaobh fòglam meadhan Gàidhlig rim faighinn ann an sguirean bailiteil. Ged a dhi’haodas an àireamh sgoileir a bhith nas lugha ann an sguire an dòthchail, ann am mòran de na sgoilean far a bheil solar meadhan Gàidhlig tha an co-roidh a tha a’ gabhail brath air fòglam meadhan Gàidhlig nas motha. Feumaidh am plana airson fàs leantainnreach slighe fhogailte a thabhann airson fòglam meadhan Gàidhlig bho 0-18. Feumaidh sinn dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil cothrom aig sgoilearan a dhol a sàs ann an sàlair Gàidhlig aon uair ’s gu gluais iad dhan àrd-sgoil, le cuspairean a bharrachd rim faighinn tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig far an gabh sin dèanamh, cho math ri cothrom-air gniomhan taobh a-muigh na sgoile ann an Gàidhlig. Feumaidh pàrantan agus daoine òga a bhith nas fiosraichte a thaobh cho cudromach sa tha e gum bidh Gàidhlig ri cuiminninn ré na h-àrd-sgoile agus bu toil le Comann nam Pàrant barrachd a dèanamh am bliadhna a thaobh an eadar-ghluais bho bhun-sgoil gu ard-sgoil.

Chair’s Introduction

I am pleased to present you with Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)’s Annual Report for 2012/13.

This year, we have continued the expansion of the ‘Parental Advisory Scheme’ and parents have been involved in many promotional events, as well as stalls at locations such as shopping centres where there are likely to be parents with young children. We have been working with the Early Years team at Bòrd na Gàidhlig in order to strengthen the 0-3 sector which has to be a priority if we are to attract new parents to Gaelic medium education.

The number of pupils at primary level shows a small increase from last year’s figure of 2418 with a total of 2500 pupils in 60 schools throughout Scotland. The number of entrants at P1 this year has increased from 406 to 428 and we hope that through the efforts of the Parental Advisory Scheme and improved pre-school provision this trend will continue. There are 35 secondary schools across Scotland offering Gaelic as a subject and out of these 35 schools, 14 teach additional subjects through the medium of Gaelic. These statistics collected annually by Bòrd na Gàidhlig indicate that the main opportunity for growth in Gaelic-medium education is in urban areas. Although in rural areas where the school roll may be smaller many of the schools with Gaelic-medium provision have a high proportion of children accessing Gaelic-medium education. The plan for continued growth needs to provide a clear pathway through Gaelic-medium education from 0-18. We need to ensure that children have access to Gaelic provision once they transfer into secondary school with additional subjects through the medium of Gaelic made available when possible as well as access to extra-curricular activities in Gaelic. Parents and young people need to be better informed on the importance of exposure to Gaelic throughout secondary education and Comann nam Pàrant would like to do more in the primary / secondary transition phase in the coming year.
Edinburgh’s dedicated Gaelic primary school, situated in the former Bonnington Primary School building, is on target to open its doors on 14 August 2013. The refurbishment programme, which began last September, is almost complete and it is hoped that parents, pupils and staff will have an opportunity to visit the school before the summer break. The school, which has fourteen classrooms, is on the edge of Pilrig Park and close to the Water of Leith. Twenty-one staff and over one-hundred and fifty primary pupils will make the move from Tollcross Primary to Sgoil Taobh na Pàirce. There will be a 40/40 nursery on site and around fifty new pupils will be welcomed into c.1. Plans for Gaelic schools in Fort William and Portree are ongoing but the rate of progress has been disappointing particularly in Portree. Plans are also ongoing for a second primary school in Glasgow and possible expansion in Inverness with both areas experiencing rapid growth in numbers of pupils.

Teacher recruitment continues to be problematic and has been very much to the fore this year with the specific difficulty in the recruitment of a Gaelic speaking Head teacher for the Gaelic school in Inverness.

Comann nam Pàrant are grateful to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for their financial support and to Comunn na Gàidhlig for continuing administrative support.

I would also like to thank all the parents in the local Comann nam Pàrant groups that have campaigned for and supported Gaelic medium education this year. We realise that parents have many commitments and appreciate the time they give to CnP at both local and national level.

In this coming year Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) look forward to working with Bòrd na Gàidhlig on implementing the National Gaelic Language Plan. Priorities in the coming year for Comann nam Pàrant are similar to those in previous years; increase awareness of, and number of entrants to, Gaelic medium education mainly through a network of parental advocates, encourage and support parents to use more Gaelic in the home, support the demand for dedicated Gaelic schools and continue to seek improvements in provision in secondary schools, including the important primary / secondary transition phase.

Dawn Morgan,
Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) Chairperson
May 2013

Dawn Morgan,
Cathraiche Chomann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)
Cèitean 2013
Gníomhan

Tha Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) fo chumhann bhliadhnail le Bòrd na Gàidhlig airson aireamh de phróiseactan a thoirt gu buil.

Sgeama Comhairleachaidh Phàrant

Tha Comann nam Pàrant air leantainn le bhith a’ leudachadh an iomairt fòilseachaidh nàiseanta foighm leamhan Gàidhlig (FMG), a tha ag amas air lornradh de luchd-comhairleachaidh phàrant a stèidheadh air fedadh Alba a thoghas moth-aachadh air cothroman FMG air fedadh na dùthcha agus, aig a’ cheann thall, a bheir pìseach air an aireamh de sgòilearan a’ dol gu FMG. Tha sinn a’ faireachdann gu bheil a’ chomhailrle as fhéarr do phàrantan a tha a’ beachdachadh air FMG a’ tighinn bhon fheadhainn a bh’ ann ann chunnaic mar phàrantan no luchd-cúram clhoinne a tha no a bha an sàs ann am FMG. Tha uallach air an sgeama cuideachd gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil tuigse cheart aig pàrantan air FMG, agus na tha air iarraidh orra a thaobh taic an cùid clhoimeon aon uair ’s gu bheil iad air FMG a thaghadh dhaibh. Cho math ri bhith a’ bruidhinn air buannachd dà-chànanas, tha pàrantan a’ faighinn fiosrachadh mu Ghàidhlig agus carson a tha a’ chlann ag ionsachd Gàidhlig. Tha pàrantan feumach air minneachadh soilleir a thaobh modhan-obrach foighm bogadh cânain, agus tuigse air an dealas a thà dhith agus an taic as urrainn dhaibh faighinn, m.e. clasainnean de feumadh agus gniomhan taobh a-muigh na sgòile.

Chaidh 7 seiseanan tréanaidh a chumail airson na sgeama tron bhliadhna, le 22 neach gan frithealadh. Aig na seiseanan seo, chaidh fiosrachadh a thòirt do phàrantan a thaobh cleachdaidh an ann an FMG, an taic a gheibhneachtaidh a-muigh na sgòile do sgoilearan is do phàrantan, ceistean cumanta a bhios aig pàrantan agus na buannachdan a thig an lùb dà-chànanas, an rud a tha a’ taladh a’ mbòr-chuid de phàrantan a dh’ionnsaigh FMG. Chaidh seiseanan fiosraichd a chumail do luchd-comhairleachaidh a tha an-dràsta an sàs san sgeama a bha a’ togal air an tréanadadh a fhuaire iad sa chàidh aiste, a’ ghabhail a-steach fios às ùr air Plàna Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, fastadh luchd-teagaisg agus solar tràth bliadhnahach cho math ri deasbhadh air taic phàrantan agus feumalachd taic a bharrachd. Chaidh coinneamhan cuideachd an cumail aig ire sgìreir airson gnimhaimh a phlanadh agus tha iad seo a faighinn taic bho Oifigean Leasachaidh Tionsgnadh Gàidhlig anns na sgìrean seo a tha mar phàirt de ‘Iomairtean Gàidhlig’ air a stiùireadh le Comunn na Gàidhlig.

Tha an Sgeama Comhairleachaidh Phàrant ga libhirgeadh ann an compàirteachas le Bòrd na Gàidhlig, le obair a dhéanamh gu dòuth leis an sgìoba Tràth Bhliadhnachan gu h-àraid. Aig deireadh na bliadhna, chomharrach Bòrd na Gàidhlig 4 sgìrean far an robh cothroman fàs taobh a-staigh an sòn-rachadh luchd-obrach a th’ ann an-dràsta agus frithfeal mi fhein coinneamhan a chaidh a chumail anns na sgìrean sin le diofar luchd-ùidh. B’ iad na sgìrean Obar Dheathain, Dùn Bhreatainn an Ear, an t-Oban agus an Gearsad.

Activities

Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) are contracted annually by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to deliver a number of projects.

Parental Advisory Scheme

Comann nam Pàrant has continued to expand this national Gaelic Medium Education (GME) promotion initiative which involves establishing a network of parental advisors who will raise awareness of GME opportunities across Scotland and ultimately increase the number of pupils accessing GME. The aim of the parental advisory scheme is to increase the number of children accessing Gaelic-medium education. The most effective means of communicating information on Gaelic medium education to parents has proven to be ‘word of mouth’, personal communication. The scheme also has a role to play in ensuring parents have a firm understanding of GME, and the expectations on them to support their child once they have committed to this route of learning for their child.

In addition to promoting the benefits of bilingualism parents are informed about Gaelic and why their children are learning Gaelic. Parents need a clear explanation of the methodology of language immersion education, and an understanding of the commitment they should make and what support could be available to them e.g. classes for parents, parent and toddler groups, coffee mornings, out of school extra-curricular activities.

There were 7 training sessions held throughout this year for the scheme attended by a total of 22 people. At these sessions parents are given information on GME in practice, support available outwith school for children and parents, common questions that prospective parents have and the advantages of bilingualism which is what attracts the majority of parents to GME. Additional information sessions were held for held for advisors currently working on the scheme which built on their initial training which included updates on the National Plan for Gaelic, teacher recruitment and early years provision as well as discussion on parental support and additional support needs. Meetings have also been held at an area level to plan activities and these are supported by the Gaelic Initiative Development Officers in those areas that are part of the ‘Iomairtean Gàidhlig’ managed by Comunn na Gàidhlig.

The Parental Advisory Scheme is delivered in collaboration with Bòrd na Gàidhlig working particularly closely with the Early Years team. At the end of the year Bòrd na Gàidhlig identified 4 areas where there is potential for growth within the existing staffing allocation and I attended meetings that were held in these areas with a number of stakeholders. The areas were Aberdeen, East Dunbartonshire, Oban and Fort William.
There are a number of written resources available for our parents to use when participating in events and open days. The main source of information continues to be the “Fios is Freagairt” booklet on GME and also on Gaelic in the home. This year we have redesigned these booklets with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the two booklets have been incorporated into one which will soon be available. The DVD of ‘Fios is Freagairt’ is still available to accompany the booklet as well as a new DVD on the advantages of bilingualism. All these materials will be available online.

**Gaelic week for schools in Edinburgh**

We continue to support Gaelic education by organising Gaelic medium activities in support of the curriculum for children and this year we held the ninth Gaelic week in April (2012) for Gaelic medium pupils. Around 270 pupils from 9 schools came to Edinburgh where they took part in Gaelic medium activities at the National Galleries, Our Dynamic Earth, Royal Botanic Gardens and Edinburgh Castle. All these classes are planned with the Education Officers in each venue and are the equivalent of what is delivered to English medium pupils.

**School Diaries**

We were again able to purchase diaries for primary pupils in Gaelic medium education and gave financial assistance to secondary schools that wish to have a bilingual school diary.

**Local Comann nam Pàrant Groups**

Comann nam Pàrant groups continue to do important work at local level; supporting the work of the classroom, activities out with school and campaigning on issues that are important to Gaelic medium provision. We had a new group in Aberfeldy join us this year as well as the revival of the group in North Lanark and it is encouraging to see how enthusiastic parents are in both these areas in their support of Gaelic medium education.

Magaidh Wentworth,  
Parental Officer
Tha Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta), a’ bhuidheann stiùiridh airson nam buidhnean ionadail, na charthannas clàrachd an Alba le priomh amas “a bhith a’ cur air adhart agus a’ toirt taice do stèidheachadh is cu-mail suas Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig”. Tha comas aig a h-uile sgire far am bheil buidheann CnP ionadail a bhith air an riochdachadh air a’ chomataidh nàiseanta, a’ ciallachadh gun cluinnear Guth gach pàrant aig ire nàiseanta.

Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta), the umbrella body for Comann nam Pàrant groups, is a registered charity in Scotland whose main aim is “to promote and support the establishment and maintenance of education through the medium of Gaelic”. All areas with local CnP groups are able to be represented on the national committee, thus ensuring that all parents can have a voice at national level.

Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) Committee 2012 / 2013

Dawn Morgan  Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey
Fiona Byrne  Wester Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Kerry Butler  Central Scotland
Bob McGowan  East of Scotland
Margaret Ford  Wester Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Donna Young  Argyll & Bute
Gill Steele  Aberfeldy
Kay Crawford  Kilmarnock
David Sutherland  Glasgow
Iona MacTaggart  Co-opted (Western Isles)
Marsaili Dow  Co-opted (Treasurer)