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2013 Burns Schools' Celebration.

Thursday 7th March saw Poosie Nansie Burns Club, in association with the local Primary Schools, host their annual celebration of Robert Burns, his works and Scottish Culture in general. Approximately 120 schoolchildren, teachers, parents and friends joined club members and their guests for the event which was held at the St Francis/Niddriemill Campus, Moffat Way, Edinburgh.



Club President Bob Mitchell welcomed the company and called for the entrance of the haggis, piped in by David Black, a veteran of such occasions and escorted by pupils from St Francis Primary School. Pupils from Niddriemill Primary then addressed the haggis and recited the Selkirk Grace which was the cue for a traditional Burns Feast of Scotch Broth, Haggis, neeps and tatties liberally washed down with fresh fruit juice and water! Not a dissenting murmur was heard!

The President then introduced John Berg, Vice President and Master of Ceremonies for the night, and the serious fun began with junior and senior pupils from Niddriemill and St Francis performing a number of the Bard's works in both poetry and song to general

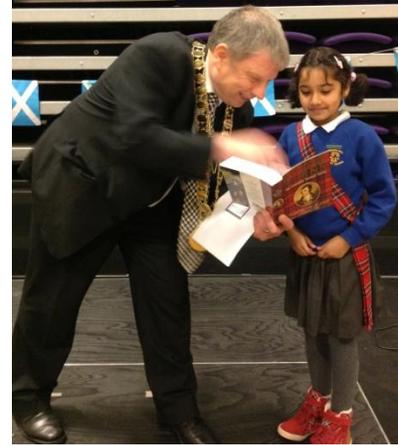
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acclaim. Pupils from Newcraighall entertained the company with a variety of Scottish songs accompanied by their percussion section while the evergreen Poosie Nansie Players provided additional entertainment as required.

At the end of the evening, adjudicator Robert D'Arcy commented on the high standard of the performances generally and of the closeness in quality between the top performers, and as such, decreed that all the participants were winners.



For St Francis Ade Akinrinoye A Lass With A Tocher (Senior) and Anthony McCallum's Robert Bruce's March to Bannockburn (Junior) were adjudged to be the top performers on the night, while for Niddriemill these accolades went to Heen Shamaz for her rendition of Tam O'Shanter (Senior) and to Hiba Shamaz and To A Mouse (Junior).

Heen Shamaz Niddriemill was chosen as the top performer of the night and as such won the 'George Nicolson' Bust for her school and will be eligible for sponsorship from Poosie Nansie Burns Club should she make progress in the national competition next year.

By general consensus, the evening was deemed to be an enjoyable and uplifting occasion and while Margot MacAlister (Head Teacher, St Francis) warmly congratulated Poosie Nansie Burns Club for their organisation of the event, it was clear to all that the children had once again stolen the show!

Author: Bob Mitchell.

Photographer: Di Bell, Niddrie Mill Primary School.