



# Clyde in the Classroom® 2007

## Story so far...

Production of this newsletter completes the seventh Clyde in the Classroom® and we have had a bumper year! The 2007 project saw 74 classes taking part; a 68% increase over the 44 in 2006! This success was partly due to additional funding received from the Scottish Executive specifically to increase opportunities for broadening participation. We now know we can accommodate about 80 schools per annum, if suitable funding can be secured in 2008 and subsequently.

Clyde in the Classroom® is a registered trademark of the Clyde River Foundation (CRF). The CRF is a registered charity which researches the ecology of the Clyde and its tributaries, and promotes environmental education throughout the catchment. Clyde in the Classroom uses the life cycle of the brown trout to provide hands-on experience of fish biology and river ecology.

This year, 1854 pupils from 71 schools in 9 local authority areas participated (three of the schools had two classes each). The table below shows the uptake by each local authority area since 2001.

|                     | Number of Classes | Number of pupils |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| East Dunbartonshire | 13                | 365              |
| East Renfrewshire   | 25                | 694              |
| Glasgow             | 90                | 2276             |
| Inverclyde          | 8                 | 213              |
| North Lanarkshire   | 15                | 400              |
| Renfrewshire        | 45                | 1276             |
| South Lanarkshire   | 19                | 424              |
| West Dunbartonshire | 21                | 549              |
| West Lothian        | 3                 | 59               |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>  | <b>239</b>        | <b>6256</b>      |

## Tech stuff

This year we had to increase our number of Launch Days at the Glasgow Science Centre from four to six this year, to deal with the huge increase in demand! During the visit in late January the pupils learned about the history and ecology of the Clyde, and also how to look after their developing trout eggs, alevins and fry.

Pupils seeing eggs and alevins for the first time!



At the beginning of February the classroom hatcheries were installed, and the eggs arrived a week later.

After a few weeks you will have observed the development of brown trout from egg to alevin and, finally, to fry!



**Eyed Eggs** - If you look closely you can see the eyes; they look like two black dots.

The newly hatched alevins opposite are only a few days old! You can now see their eyes head and tail; their yolk sac is still attached.



A few weeks later and we are good to go!!!!



## Born free

Once again, the releases were considered to be both the best and saddest day for many involved. The releases were conducted over three weeks leading up to the Easter Holidays. Here are just a few of the happy moments.



Off we go..... Calder Primary carefully carrying their fish.....



Spotted! These Cathedral Primary pupils are keeping a close eye on their released charges!



St Laurence's Primary, bagged & ready to go....



Isobel Mair School just about to release!



Fish bagging on a grand scale.... Here we see fish from schools that attended Pollok Park being very carefully relocated for release



These pupils are releasing their fish into the White Cart at Pollok Country Park; a very memorable day which even stayed dry!



## Competition

Once again we ran our competition entitled  
"Spirit of Clyde in the Classroom".

Our only three rules were:-

1. Only one entry per school.
2. The entry was the pupils own work.
3. Any format was acceptable.

Like last year, the entries received were of the highest calibre and it was very difficult to choose a winner.

We are proud to announce that the winner of Clyde in the Classroom 2007 was.....

# Highholm Primary

Highholm demonstrated knowledge of the hatchery and trout as well as being aware of the larger ecological picture once the fish

leaves the classroom and enters the river system. In addition to this Highholm pupils constructed various pieces of artwork, wrote songs and script, and made props to allow them to collectively write a play to illustrate the trout's journey from its arrival in the classroom as an egg, its experience in the hatchery, and what the pupils thought would happen to their fish once it was released to the river.

## Schubert's Story

.....concentrated on one alevin named Schubert (after Schubert's Trout Symphony), his experiences in the classroom hatchery and his subsequent life in the river. It was an outstanding piece of work!

As competition winners Highholm Primary proudly show off their hard won, hand-carved Brown Trout and can now join previous winners in the Clyde in the Classroom Hall of Fame! Well done Highholm Primary.



Cast, writers and technicians of Schubert's Story

The entries received were all excellent and everyone should be very proud of their work.

Lots of time, effort, skill and love went into the numerous pieces of art we received, and we are proud to display them in our gallery. Thank you to everyone who entered and remember there is always next year! See if you can spot your entry



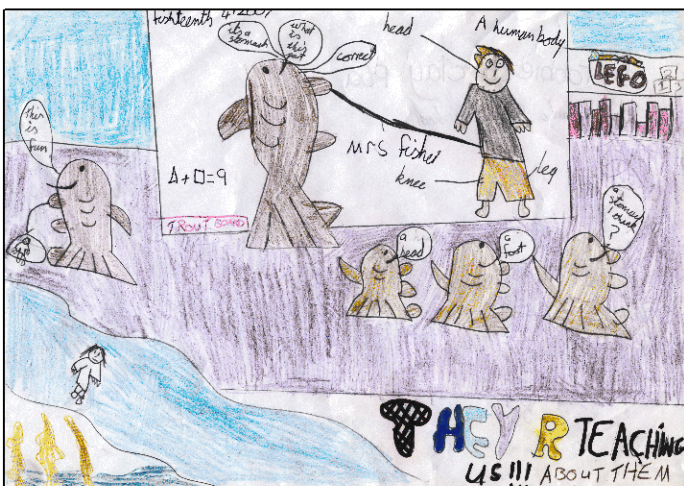
# Gallery



Overton Primary pupils proudly show off both their hatchery & underwater frieze; are these our future fisheries biologists in the making...?



St Bridget's Primary raised the princely sum of £300 for their eco-committee by sponsoring a fish! Each pupil got a fish certificate to put on the wall which they personally decorated and named! An excellent enterprise scheme by budding entrepreneurs.



Blairdardie Primary shows that learning can be gleaned from the most unexpected teachers...



St Bridget's constructed these fish viewers from recycled materials!

## Rainbow's Fish Tale

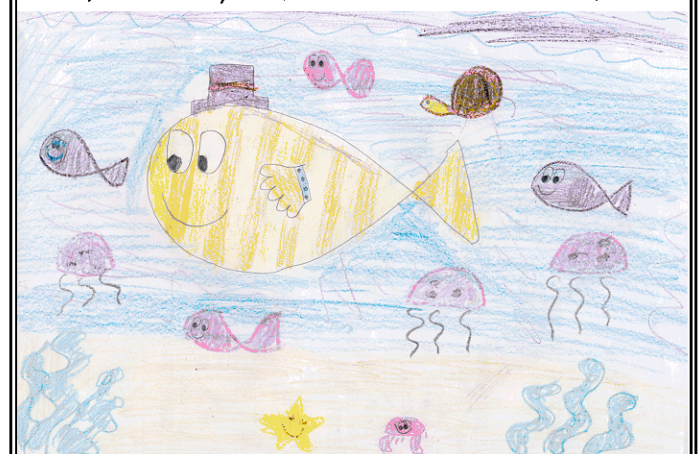
One fine day a lady fish had 96 baby alevins, only 10 died but there was one fish that stuck out like a sore thumb, she seemed talented and special, her mum thought so too, she might just have something special beneath her scaly skin.

The fish lived in a little river that grewed into the big, blue ocean, not far away. A few weeks later the alevins had grown up into fry, which was when the fish made their choices. One of the fish decided to go to the sea, when she was in the sea she met four other friends. Her name was Rainbow.

Rainbow's first adventure began one day when she was playing with her friends when Timmy the tortoise, Rainbow's friend asked if they could go looking for treasure in the sea bed, so they did. A few minutes later a dark shadow fell over them and an anchor dropped into the sand beside them and it nearly hit Dido, the dolphin and with a flourish the four friends swam away.

After that adventure and when Rainbow had grown up, she went back to the river she was born in, she then had 103 baby fish and they all lived happily ever after.

Carmunnock Primary produced a series of brilliant short stories and matching pictures which illustrated what adventures awaited their young fish as they travelled to sea as sea trout!





We have two contenders, Bankhead Primary vs Scotstoun Primary, for mantle of best rappers in town; may the best rap win....

## THE WEE BROWN TROUT RAP

I'm a fish fish fish  
I don't live in a dish  
Here is the story of my life

It all started out  
When I was born as a trout  
In a little town called Glasgow

The next thing I know  
I'm doing a show  
For all these little kids

They looked after me  
I didn't pay a fee  
But I knew there was some-  
thing going on

Some of ma mates died  
And that's when I cried  
And I knew I needed my mum

The water got colder  
As I got older  
And I knew I was nearing the  
end (of ma egg sack)

They started chlorenising  
Then got patronising  
That when I wanted to  
go

The next bit was a blur  
As I got nearer  
To the children setting me  
free

I got put in a bag  
Given to an old hag  
And then given to the kids  
teacher

The teacher was gentle  
While I was going mental  
Cause I was getting to find  
ma mum

She set me free  
And I squirmed 'yepee'  
I was off on a long long  
journey!!

By Ceitidh Wallace  
Scotstoun Primary

We are the fish  
That lived in a tank  
Some of us swam  
And some of us sank

Clyde in the Classroom Rap  
by P6a

**Being there was so so cool  
While we were living in that school.**

First we were alevins  
Then we were fry  
The kids kept us cool  
So we didn't die

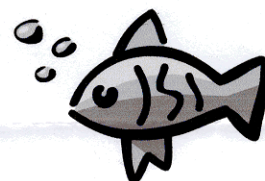
**Being there was so so cool  
While we were living in that school.**

If the temperature got too high  
It was guaranteed that we would die  
From 9 till 12 and 1 till 3  
We lived like that till we were free

**Being there was so so cool  
While we were living in that school.**

They set us free in Garscadden Burn  
Next year will be someone else's turn!

**Being there was so so cool  
While we were living in that school.  
Being there was so so cool  
We'll never forget Bankhead Primary School!**



St Laurence Primary produced an excellent frieze depicting the journey both pupil and trout had made during the project



Garscadden Primary illustrated the basics of River Management

Quarter Primary leave us a very important message...

## OUR OWN TROUT



Every child in the school made a little fish which P7 made into a big fish. The big fish will remind us of our brown trout hatchlings which we cared for. They will only survive in the wild if the water is clean and NOT POLLUTED. We must all help to reduce pollution in our streams, rivers and seas.

These are some of the entries we received and they show broad understanding and interpretation of the spirit of the project. Everyone is a winner, each pupil had his/her own very special part to play in ensuring the survival of their young trout, and everyone should be extremely proud of their achievements.



# Report Card

Each year we ask the class teachers to give us feedback on every aspect of the project, both positive and negative points. This information helps us to improve the project and keep it fresh each year. We also ask them various questions on which we are scored out of a maximum of 5. This year our overall score was **4.7, a satisfaction score of 94%**. Not a bad report! Next year we aim to get a 100% pass rate. Below are a few of the comments passed on to us by teachers (and sometimes pupils); as you will gather, the project was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Whole project was great! Science Centre, watching them grow and develop, naming fish, taking care of fish.

Lorna Melrose, Blairdardie

The children looking after the fish daily was a high point as they could see ongoing progress in the development of the trout. They enjoyed the responsibility and gained a lot of satisfaction from it.

Janis van der Fleir, Cadder

Best thing was releasing the fish back into the Clyde, children were outside & felt proud to have own fish to release, however, disposing of dead fish was not a pleasant job for the children!

Claire Brogan, Calder

The fact that the children were going to the Science Centre itself immediately catches interest. The class enjoyed looking after fish eggs, gave them a sense of responsibility. The whole project was well planned & I was very grateful for the weekly visits.

Coalburn Primary

Hatchery in classroom - opportunity for children to take responsibility (for looking after the fish); to learn about development of trout in highly visual, hands on way.

Patricia Park, Firpark

Launch day & discussions with staff helped to calm my fears of having trout eggs in my classroom! Also the fact that looking after & caring for fish really improved the attitude of the children in my class, particularly the boys who became much more responsible & mature!

Louise Agnew, John Paul II

We learned to become responsible for animals.

Louise Bell, Kirkhill

The best aspect was the fact that the children were involved & enthused by seeing trout hatch & develop.

Paul Foden, Lennoxtown

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience & learned a great deal especially skills such as teamwork, responsibility, etc.

Paula Kinnon, Overton

The class least enjoyed letting go of their fish as they had put work into hatching them and had grown attached.

Sharon Fay, Tannochside

This project was successful in a number of areas. Pupils learned to be responsible, they learned respect for the environment, it boosted their confidence & increased their knowledge.

M. Callaghan, St Timothy's

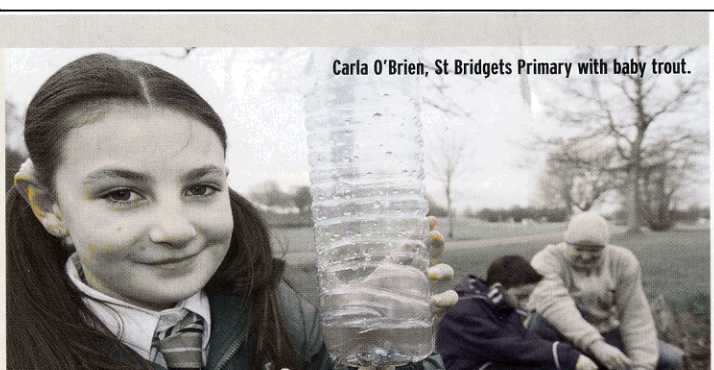


## TROUT FARMING AT CITY SCHOOLS

Hundreds of Glasgow pupils visited their local burn or river last month to release trout into the wild. Schools not near a burn or river were taken to Pollok Country Park to release their trout in the White Cart.

A 'Clyde in the Classroom' project involved the pupils nurturing the fish in custom-built classroom hatcheries. The youngsters were responsible for the husbandry of the eggs and fish, principally by keeping the water temperature at an optimal level for the trout and ensuring that no water fouling occurs.

Hilda Quail, Primary Adviser in Science and Technology said, "The pupils learned about the life cycle of fish, their habitats and the importance of keeping our rivers and burns clean. The project links across the curriculum and supports their actions within the Eco Schools programme." For more information visit [www.clyderiverfoundation.org](http://www.clyderiverfoundation.org)



Carla O'Brien, St Bridgets Primary with baby trout.

## Fish gotta swim...

P5/6 pupils from Coalburn Primary School have been taking part in "Clyde in the Classroom", a project organised by the Clyde River Foundation, an environmental charity associated with the Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences at the University of Glasgow.

The class visited the Glasgow Science Centre to explore the story of the River Clyde and to learn about wildlife and fish in the river. The children, with their class teacher, Mrs Bratney, have been caring for 150 fish eggs in a classroom hatchery for the past six weeks and are pictured (right and below) releasing the baby fish into the Coal Burn.



Coalburn Primary School

## HATCHES AND DISPATCHES

## Battlefield Primary School



IN THE BAG: Battlefield Primary pupils, from left, Hana Duherie, Emily Wallace, Eilish Dolan, and Jennifer Wilson, all nine, release baby trout into the White Cart at Pollok Country Park. Hundreds of city pupils are releasing fish they hatched as part of the Clyde Foundation's Clyde in the Classroom project. Picture: Martin Shields



## Messing about on the river

**FISHY BUSINESS:** pupils from Viewpark's John Paul II Primary School took part in the Clyde River Foundation's 'Clyde in the Classroom' project recently.

The scheme involved children hatching 125 trout eggs in the classroom and rearing the fish for five weeks before release into the river.

The picture shows (from left) Clyde

River Foundation project officer Catriona Stevenson, John Paul II Primary teacher Louise Agnew, and P7 pupils Erin Poutney and Linzi Threipland.

Photo Ref: HA073907

## John Paul II Primary School

## Fishy goings on as children stock river

**CHILDREN** from Addiewell and St Thomas combined schools have been helping to boost the fish population in the River Clyde.

The kids have again been involved in the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAA) project, Clyde in the Classroom.

For the last few weeks, pupils have

been creating the perfect environment in tanks for trout eggs and have been looking after them.

And last week the newly-hatched fish were released into the Skolie burn to begin their journey to the Clyde.

Head teacher Marie Mognah said everyone had helped to look after the fish, from pupils to the janitor.

"This has been really good project because it has taught the children about responsibility, looking after the environment, health education and even maths because they had to plot the temperature of the tanks on graphs."

Some of the pupils are pictured with a newly hatched trout before releasing it into the Skolie burn.



Addiewell Primary School



## Volunteers

Once again we would like to thank our volunteers, who helped us to deliver Clyde in the Classroom to the schools. Each volunteer visited their school every week to double check everything was functioning correctly and to answer any questions the teacher or pupils may have had. Our feedback from the schools confirmed that the weekly visits were much appreciated. So may we offer a huge thank you to:

**Patrick Brooks, Alex Grozier, Peter Roderickson & Catriona Stevenson.**

## Thank you.....

**Clyde in the Classroom 2007** was supported by East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, the Ernest Cook Trust, the Hagshaw Hill Windfarm Trust, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Science Centre, Inverclyde Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Inverclyde Council, Renfrewshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, West Dunbartonshire Council, West Lothian Council, and the Wild Trout Trust.

## Contact us

If you would like more information or would like to participate in 2008 please contact us at

Clyde River Foundation,  
c/o IBLS, DEEB,  
Graham Kerr Building,  
University of Glasgow,  
Glasgow,  
G12 8QQ.

Tel 0141 330 5080.

E-mail [c.mcgillivray@bio.gla.ac.uk](mailto:c.mcgillivray@bio.gla.ac.uk)

[www.clyderiverfoundation.org](http://www.clyderiverfoundation.org)

## Last breath...

Highholm and a pupil from Langcraigs Primary have the final word!

Dear sirs,

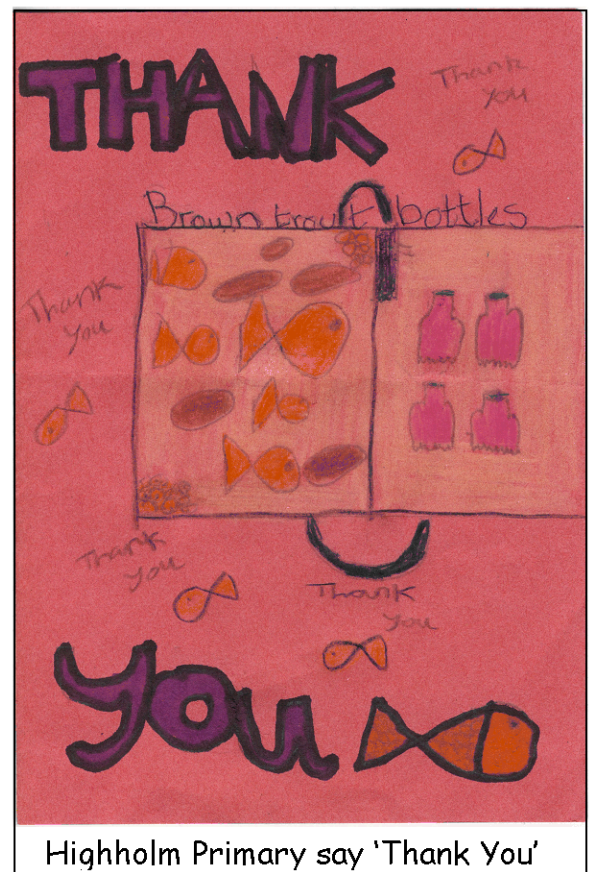
On behalf of Mrs. Blair and the children of Langcraigs I would like to say thank you. The Clyde in the classroom project was brilliant. We have never actually interacted with real creatures. It was my turn to look after the fish first when they were just eggs. It was still very fun. And again thank you for visiting us.

Yours faithfully Marc Murray. (the one in the middle of the picture.)

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Yours faithfully Marc Murray



Highholm Primary say 'Thank You'