



## Junior Road Safety Officers celebrate success in 2011

'Britain's Got Talent' was the theme for South Ayrshire Council's third Junior Road Safety celebration event held at Ayr Town Hall.

Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) are pupils who promote road safety in their schools and every year they come together from all South Ayrshire primary schools to compete for the JRSO Achievement Shield – an award for the most outstanding contribution to road safety by a school in that year.

This year, three schools, Dundonald, Muirhead and Wellington were shortlisted for the shield thanks to their excellence in developing ideas into significant road safety measures.

The JRSOs from each school were asked to present their work in front of all the other South Ayrshire JRSOs, who then voted for the best entry.

At Dundonald primary, the JRSOs held a bookmark competition encouraging pupils to submit designs with key safety messages such as taking care when crossing the road and had some great winning entries.

They also held competitions such as a display board showing safe and non- safe road images for pupils to choose between. A clothing contest was organised to

asking pupils to design garments that were easily seen by road users and keeping their noticeboard up to date were also some of the main activities they undertook.

Muirhead primary JRSOs ran many activities and competitions for the school, even selling traffic light cakes at the Christmas Fayre, promoting a dual message of road safety awareness for motorists who jump lights at crossings and to highlight the need to stop, look and listen before crossing the road.

The highlight of their year was entering the national 'United Nations Decade for Action' poster competition promoting the need for action on road safety – becoming one of ten winning entries from schools all over Scotland, attending the official launch of the decade in Edinburgh.

Wellington JRSOs ran a proactive parking campaign, handing out leaflets to parents who parked badly around the school, encouraging them to think about the impact this was having on safety for pupils.

In addition, they visited school nursery pupils to teach them about the Green Cross Code, through a poem called 'traffic lights' and finished the session off by holding a quiz to see how much information the nursery pupils could remember.

The live final was closely contested and, after all South Ayrshire JRSOs had cast their vote, Emily Costley, Eilidh Cosh, Lucy Davidson and Jade Thomson, the JRSOs from Wellington, were declared the winners.

Receiving the JRSO achievement shield from Provost Winifred Sloan, Emily said: "We were really nervous and hoped people would vote for us." Jade added: "Being a JRSO was great and I really like helping the younger children learn about road safety.

Eilidh said: "I thought all the schools did really well, but I'm really proud we won."

Lucy agreed: "Being a JRSO makes you think differently about roads and safety and makes you more aware of the dangers for other people. I'm glad I did it and am glad we won."

Presenting the shield, Provost Winifred Sloan said: "The work the JRSOs do to promote and develop road safety gets a big thumbs-up from me.

"The quality of all the ideas from every primary school was fantastic and it's reassuring to know generations of young children are growing up with a responsible, safe and mature outlook on road safety.

"Wellington primary school gave a great presentation and were deserving winners on the day."

At the end of the event, all JRSOs were issued with certificates in recognition of the valuable job they do within their schools.