

Madras College News Letter - March. 1978

Somehow or other we have all survived quite the longest spell of wintry weather that many of us have experienced in St Andrews. Snow-bound roads created difficulties for pupils and staff living outside St Andrews. To complicate matters, it seemed likely that part of the school might have to shut down owing to the shortage of oil, though in the event supplies arrived in time. There was no escaping the 'flu, however, and many pupils and staff have been stricken. I should like to pay tribute to the way the staff have borne the heavy burden caused by illness. Thanks are due also to Mr McArthur, Mrs Evans and Mrs McCallum who have temporarily plugged gaps in the Business Studies and Science Departments. In the Technical Department, Mr Alasdair MacCrimmon took over the time-table of Mr Lawson who retired at Christmas.

Well-attended parent-teacher evenings have been held over the term for SV and VI, SIV, SIII, SII and SI. These make heavy demands on staff, and I am sure that parents appreciate as I do the effort that goes into these consultations. The P.T.A. has held two very successful evenings, one in the form of a dessert party followed by a visit to the production of "The Mikado" at the Buchanan Theatre; the other combining the A.G.M. with a talk by Mr Macgregor and Mr Wills on the teaching of Modern Languages.

The Madras College Drama Club started the term with a splendid production of Brecht's "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" at the Byre Theatre. Each year Mrs Bridges and her team delight us with their productions but this year's reached new heights. It was good also to see Ronald Porter back on the Byre stage again. Throughout the term this most active group with most admirable self-help and the backing of the Technical Department have been creating a theatre workshop on the stage, due to be commissioned early next term. The replacement of the windows in the South Street hall has meant that the Spring Concert has had to be transferred to the Kilrymont Road Assembly Hall, but once again the Music Department have coped most successfully with difficulties and will, I am sure, give us a delightful evening of music and song.

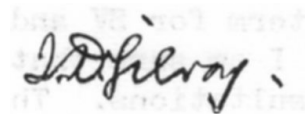
Despite the weather, there have been some fine achievements on the sports side. At the Regional Cross-Country Championships at Dunfermline, the Senior Girls' team took 1st place, the Senior Boys' team 2nd place, while in the under-15 group, the boys' team came 4th and the girls 7th. Rachel Watt has been selected to run in the Scottish team at Gateshead on 1st April in the British Schools Cross-Country Championships. In hockey, Mark Clacher has been selected as goalkeeper for the Midlands under-16 team. While Heather Fraser and Elaine Makein will play in the Scottish Schoolgirls' A team against England, Wales, Ireland, Holland and West Germany. The Rugby 1st XV have won 13 out of 15 games this season, scoring 342 points and conceding 89. The Second and Third XV's have had similarly good seasons. The Badminton team reached the quarter finals of the Fife Schools Tournament, and the Rifle Club team reached 5th place in the Junior National Winter League. Out of a number of fine chess players in our club, Helen Scott came first in the Girls' section of the Scottish Junior Chess Association Congress. On a non-competitive basis, the ski-club under the careful guidance of Mr Pardoe made good use of the snow, though paradoxically the excess of it at times prevented them from reaching the ski-runs at Glenshee.

These are only a few of the club activities, and once again I thank staff who have given so much of their own time to enrich the wider education of our pupils. After a lapse of several years, the exchange of pupils with Woodward Academy, Atlanta, Georgia was re-introduced, and we welcome to Madras College, Tommy Bowers, Leigh Holloway, Harvey Smith and Susan White. The four Madras pupils who are their hosts leave in April for an eight-week stay in Atlanta. At the

end of the term, a party of SII pupils and four members of staff under the charge of Mr Grove leave for a ten days' visit to Paris.

For one group of pupils - those taking the S.C.E. examinations which are due to begin on Monday, 1st May, this Easter may be less of a break from study than it is for the rest. I hope, nevertheless, that they will find the holiday recreational in the original sense of the word; and I wish them every success in the examinations. Incidentally, before these begin, parents will be given information about the attendance arrangements in a letter given to all candidates to take home.

Finally, I wish all staff and pupils a pleasant and relaxing holiday.



Rector.

Forthcoming Events

Holiday Dates: Easter - School closes p.m. on Thursday, 23rd March and re-opens on Tuesday 4th April.

Mid-Term: Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th June.

Summer: School closes p.m. on Friday 30th June: re-opens for pupils on Monday 21st August.

School Plays: South Street - April 13th - "Victoriana".

South Street - Early June - titles to be announced.

Kilrymont Road - "H.M.S. Pinafore" - Wednesday 14th June to Saturday 17th June.

School Sports: Thursday 8th June at Station Park. A warm welcome is extended to all parents and friends.