

News Letter - Summer Term 1978

By comparison with the other terms in the school year, the summer term presents the greatest contrasts in the range of activities that go together to make up the life of the school. This year, the contrasts seem even more marked, perhaps in keeping with the extremes of weather we have experienced since Easter ranging from near winter to high summer.

The early part of the term saw the S.C.E. examinations pass off with a smoothness that owed much to the efficiency of the arrangements made by Miss Cantley and the Rev. John Patterson who was in charge of the invigilators. This year, the number of candidates presented at 4th year 'O' Grade amounted to 282, at Higher Grade 247 and at C.S.Y.S. 52. In addition, there were 51 individual presentations for the Certificate of Secondary Education offered by the North Regional Examinations Board. Whatever the inner feelings of the candidates were at the time of the examinations, I hope they are satisfied with the results when these come through the post towards the end of July. To deal with any questions of change of course or appeals that may arise from these results, guidance staff will be available for consultation in the South Street building on the afternoons of Thursday, 17th and Friday, 18th August.

The latter part of the term has brought the usual exercise of balancing the need to get senior pupils started on next year's courses against the need to fit in a great many activities which, though extra-curricular in one sense, form a valuable part of school life. I appreciate the way in which the staff manage to reconcile these two essential though conflicting needs.

This term, in addition to the usual open-day visits by seniors to universities and colleges of art and technology, all of 1st and 2nd year were taken round the book exhibition organised in St Andrews by the Forgan Children's Book Group, while senior pupils helped to set up and staff the exhibition. Three of the visiting authors, Barbara Ireson, Mollie Hunter, and Leon Garfield visited the school to talk to pupils. We are most grateful to the Forgan Book Group for doing so much to stimulate interest in reading. Over 200 pupils visited the Science Fair at Kirkcaldy Technical College, where Madras had eleven projects on display; visits to Edinburgh and to Antonine's Wall were organised by the Classics and R.E. Departments, and the Geographers carried out field studies locally. Theatre visits have been made to performances at the Byre, Dundee Repertory, Perth Repertory and Pitlochry Theatre. At the weekends parties have been hill-walking, youth-hostelling, canoeing on the Tay and enjoying, thanks to the P.T.A., improved facilities at Glen Tilt cottage.

Farther afield, a party of 13 pupils spent a week at Westhan House College near Stratford studying Shakespeare in the best possible way - by going to Stratford Memorial Theatre. This year it has been the turn of Madras pupils to visit Germany on the Kiel exchange scheme under Mr Macgregor and renew old acquaintances at the Gelehrtenschule. After a lapse of some years, the exchange with Woodward Academy, Atlanta, U.S.A. was successfully revived. Four American pupils spent a month here and were later joined in Atlanta by their Madras hosts. Finally, in July, 38 pupils and 3 staff board the S.S. "Uganda" for a cruise to Scandinavian ports.

For this year's musical production, Madras staged, in the Kilrymont Road hall, its first Gilbert and Sullivan - H.M.S. "Pinafore". Under the expert guidance of Mr Roche, Miss Kinnear and Mr Fea the cast gave what can only be described as a thoroughly polished and professional performance. It was good to see so many pupils from both parts of the school involved in such effective team-work. A week later on the recently-commissioned Quad Theatre at South Street, the Drama Club presented their summer plays with their usual high standard of acting. As an innovation, the brass band has entertained early holiday-makers by playing in St Andrews on Sunday afternoons. I am sure that the pupils who took part in these productions appreciate, as I do, how fortunate we are to have staff who contribute so willingly of their time and expertise.

With the construction squads waiting impatiently at Station Park to erect the tented

village for the Golf Open Championship, it has been a tight squeeze to fit in the Sports Day and our cricket and athletics fixtures but fortunately the weather was kind. Under the direction of Mr Croll and Mr Neilson, an enlarged Sports Day programme ran well to time. It was good to see the St Andrews Primary Schools enjoying a relay race as part of the Sports. I congratulate Alistair Learmont and Lesley Thirkell on winning the Senior Championships, Michael Robson and Sarah Headen the Under-15 Championships and James Drummond and Gwenllian Evans the under-13 Championships. Pupils from the Special Education Department did well in their inter-schools Sports Meeting with Dianna Dykes winning the shot put, Yvonne Hepburn the hoop race, and Andrew Phin the shot put. At the Swimming Gala, Stephen Grosset and Kathryn McCallum were the Senior Champions, and Kevin Hastie and Claire Braidwood the Junior Champions.

The House Championships this year have been won by Blackfriars, with Castle taking 2nd place. The Athletics Club has had a good season, gaining two firsts, four seconds and one third at the Fife Schools Championships at Pitreavie. Five of our athletes were selected to compete for Fife against Glasgow Schools at Pitreavie. For the Cricket Club, this has been their most outstanding season to date. Under its captain, Michael Hulme, the team has won all of its nine games and carried off the Fife Schools Championships. At golf, it is the girls who have shown the way, with Elaine Hunter, Irene Matheson and Ruth Goodlad winning the Fife Schools Girls' Championships. Congratulations go to John Ross on winning first place in the Fife Schools canoe championship, and to James Hudson and Gary Thomson who, having won the Fife Schools Junior Sailing Championship, went on to become Junior Champions at the Scottish Schools Sailing Regatta. Stop Press! they will now represent Scotland in the U.K. Schools Regatta at Bassenthwaite Lake in July.

On the academic side, congratulations are due also to Steven Cuthbert and Amanda Ridings, prize-winners in the Central Fife and Tayside section of the Mathematical Association Competition. In the University of Stirling School Mathematics Competition in which more than 1,000 pupils took part, Matthew Allen won a second prize and Benjamin Bacarisse a third. Helen Scott has again been chosen to represent Scotland against England, Ireland and Wales in the Faber Cup. Helen also gained 2nd place in the Classical Recitations held by Tayside Classical Association.

Parents will be interested to know that during the session a staff committee has been discussing school policy on prize-giving. Following its recommendations, certificates of merit will be awarded for academic performance as follows:-to 31 and 2 on overall performance in class: to S4 and above for performance in individual subjects at the appropriate level - non-certificate, 'O' Grade, 'H' Grade and C.S.Y.S. The aim of the scheme is to encourage good performance while recognising that pupils will work at different levels of ability.

Another innovation to which I would draw the attention of parents is the sale of "nearly new" blazers to be run by the P.T.A. in the Music House at the west entrance to the South Street building. The sale will start on Monday, 3rd July and run every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through the summer except for the period 8th to 22nd July. Parents are encouraged to bring along used blazers in good condition at one of these times. A small commission on the sale of each blazer will go to the funds of the P.T.A.

As usual at the end of the session, there are staff changes to record though fortunately for the stability of the school these are few in number. Mrs Ryall who has given most acceptable help in the Science Department completes her temporary service in Madras. The many pupils who over the years have been taught the intricacies of the piano keyboard by Mrs Kerby will be as sorry as we are to learn that she has decided to retire. We all wish her a long and happy retirement. In August, the P.E. Department will be joined by Mr Auras from Ballingry High School and we look forward to the return of Mr Pyper after a lengthy convalescence. He has been very much missed, though we have been very fortunate in having the services of Mrs Evans during Mr Pyper's absence. Thanks are due to her and to Mrs McCallum and Mrs Clark who have helped in the Chemistry and Remedial Departments respectively.

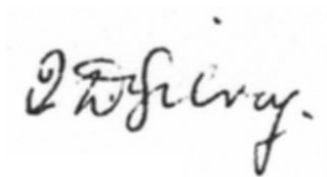
Mrs M. Halkett (S4 girls, Kilrymont Road building), Mr C. Mackay (S5 boys. South Street building), Mrs A. Taylor (S2, 3 and 4 girls, South Street building). Dr Richardson was appointed Assistant Principal Teacher (Biology) while Mr McKirdy takes over the task of developing and co-ordinating Curriculum Resources for the whole school.

If this news-letter has seemed a long one, it is because the session now closing has been of considerable achievement for the school, and I would take this opportunity of thanking the staff for the devotion and effort that go into fostering such a wide range of activities in addition to the day-to-day work of the classroom. It is in the successful combination of the two sides, the one reinforcing the other, that the health of the school lies.

Holiday arrangements for Session 1978/79 are as follows:-

Start of session for pupils:		Monday, 21st August, 1978.
<u>October break:</u>	School finishes:	Friday, 13th October, 1978.
	School starts:	Monday, 23rd October, 1978.
<u>Christmas holiday:</u>	School finishes:	Thursday, 21st December, 1978.
	School starts:	Thursday, 4th January, 1979.
<u>Easter holiday:</u>	School finishes:	Friday, 30th March, 1979.
	School starts:	Monday, 16th April, 1979.
<u>Summer holiday:</u>	School finishes:	Friday, 29th June, 1979.
	School starts:	Monday, 20th August, 1979.
<u>Single Day Holidays:</u>	May Day:	Monday, 7th June, 1979.
	June holiday:	Monday, 4th June, 1979.

I wish you all a pleasant holiday.



Rector