

This term, the absence (up to the time of writing at least!) of snow and frost has been more than compensated for by howling winds and torrential rain, but through it all school has continued to function, I hope, in a reasonably efficient manner. Staff have been very patient in putting up with the noise and disruption created by the repair and alterations going on in both buildings. At Kilrymont Road, rural science accommodation has 'grown' in the school garden, a janitor's store is being built in the foyer, part of the boys' cloakroom has been retiled, and alterations are being made in the library to produce a new classroom for the Special Department and a resources base for the whole school. In the South Street building, the mathematicians and the linguists have had to endure the re-roofing and insulation of their Barthers. The new lights which have been fitted in the hall have made the task of examinees at least more tolerable and are much less expensive to run. Finally, after several delays, the new boilers came into operation. Given the oil, these should ensure a more reasonable standard of heating than has been the case in previous years.

It is perhaps inevitable that in a school newsletter, extra-curricular activities provide more items of interest than the day-to-day business of the classroom. The curriculum, however, does not remain static, and one development that I have been pleased to see is the involvement of the 4th Year leavers group, under the careful guidance of Mrs Brown and Mrs Robertson, in community work. Recently some of the senior citizens of St Andrews enjoyed a tea-party in the Cosmos Centre run entirely by these pupils. Others take part regularly in teaching horse-riding to handicapped children. Concern for others less fortunate than themselves led some of our senior pupils to take the initiative in organising a Festive Fete in the South Street Hall in aid of the Blue Peter Appeal for Cambodia. This very successful evening raised nearly £350, and I should like to thank all those who contributed of their time, effort and substance.

The Parent-Teacher Association held three well-attended meetings on the themes of 'Out of School', 'The School Curriculum' and 'The Careers Guidance System'; and as an additional item Mr Mackay and Miss Neal brought the 'Uganda' pupils and parents together to hear about their cruise in southern waters. I hope that the success of these evenings will encourage more parents to join the P.T.A. - you can do so by coming along to any of the meetings (they are advertised in the "St Andrews Citizen") and the subscription is very modest.

Although this term is always a heavy one for staff because of examination marking, there has been a commendable amount of extra-curricular activity. The Drama Club are busy preparing for the January production of Noel Coward's "Hay Fever", and it is good to see the emergence of a flourishing section of junior members who will be putting on a production for S1 and S2 on the last day of term. In addition there has been a lively programme of theatre outings to Dundee, Perth and Edinburgh. The Debating Society took part in the U.N. Speech-Making Competition, while the recently formed Current Affairs Club have got off to a lively start with talks on the pro's and con's of nuclear power, and a talk by Barry Henderson, M.P. on the work of a Member of Parliament. The Film Club is now well established with a fortnightly showing of major films. In addition to its regular meetings, the Chess Club took part in the Chess Jamboree for Scottish Schools in the Kilrymont Road building in November, when nearly 700 pupils took part. At the end of October, as part of the St Andrews Churches Mission for Youth, the school had several visits from Mr Tom Morton and Miss Esme Duncan, who related "The Whole Story" in word and song.

On the sports side, the Girls' Hockey 1st XI have established a new record by winning all five of the major tournaments : the Fife Schools Indoor Hockey, the Fife Schools Outdoor Hockey, the Midlands District Indoor and Outdoor Hockey, and the St Leonard's Invitation Tournament - the last for the third year running. Elaine Makein and Dorothy McGregor retain their places in the Midlands 'A1 XI, while Julian Laverack plays for the 'B' XI. The 2nd Year were first in their section of the Fife Schools Outdoor Tournament. The Boys' Hockey 1st XI have been improving under Mr Munn's coaching, and reached the

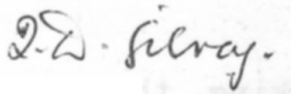
semi-final of the Midlands Cup. The football XI's are playing well this term. The 1st XI has given some fine performances, while the under-13's and Under-14's are showing considerable promise.

The Rugby XV fs have had a full fixture list relatively free from cancellations. The 1st XV has played under the handicap of being a young side, but is improving with experience. The main strength at the moment is in the 2nd XV and the 3rd Year A teams who have achieved very high points total, while the 1st Year and 2nd Year XV fs show that they are fit and ready to maintain these standards.

Golf cannot offer competitive fixture lists to the same extent as the major team games, but the Boys' team took 4th place in the Aer Lingus Schools Championship. For those who wish to take up the sport, the School Golf Club will be providing tuition by the local professional, Tom Melville, starting on 6th February. Next term too, weather permitting, the Ski Club will be making its regular visits to the Glenshee slopes.

In the staff news section of last term's newsletter, a brief reference was made to Mr Reid's appointment as Principal Teacher of Physics at Ballingry High School, a post which he took up this term. Though we were all sorry to see such a valuable member of staff leaving, no one would grudge him such a well-deserved promotion, and we wish him all success. From the R.E. department, Mr Turk, after a short stay with us, moved to a teaching post in Craigmount High School in Edinburgh, a good deal nearer his home. Mrs Lohar and Mrs Blackburn have kindly come to our aid until replacements can be found. Illness has continued to affect staff this term. Mr Croll and Mr Chisholm are still on the sick list, while Mrs Irving and Mrs Taylor have been in hospital, though both, I am pleased to say, are making good recoveries. Mrs Broom and Mrs Wire have in partnership covered Mrs Taylor's classes, while Mrs Thompson has stood in for Mrs Irving. The guidance duties of Mrs Taylor and Mrs Irving are being undertaken in the interim by Mrs Currie (Biology) and Mrs Brown respectively, and parents wishing advice should contact them.

As the term draws to its close with the school parties, Carol Concert and closing assemblies turning our thoughts towards holidays, I would take this opportunity of wishing staff, pupils and parents a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Rector.

Holiday Dates and Forthcoming Events

- Christmas Holiday - Monday 24th December to Friday 4th January 1980
  - Dessert /Theatre Party - Thursday 17th January in South Street building and Byre Theatre
  - "Hay Fever" - Wednesday 16th to Saturday 19th January 1980
  - SII Parents - Tuesday 15th January at 7 p.m. Kilrymont Road building
  - SV & VI Parents - Thursday 24th January at 7.30 p.m. South Street building
  - SIV Parents - Wednesday 30th January at 7.30 p.m. Kilrymont Road building
  - SI Parents - Tuesday 12th February at 7 p.m. Kilrymont Road building
  - P.T.A. - Thursday 21st February 7.30 p.m. Kilrymont Road building
  - SIII Parents - Thursday 6th March at 7.30 p.m. Kilrymont Road building
  - P.T.A. A.G.M. - Tuesday 18th March at 7.30 p.m. Kilrymont Road building
  - Spring Concert - Tuesday 25th March in South Street building
  - Easter Holiday - Monday 31st March to Friday 11th April 1980
  - Summer Holiday - Thursday 3rd July to Friday 15th August 1980
- (All holiday dates are inclusive)