

As always, time seems to have accelerated as we reach this stage of the term and examinations are followed in close succession by school Christmas parties and the annual Carol Concert.

By the time this newsletter is distributed, parents of pupils in S1, S2 and S3 should have received report sheets; those for S4, S5 and S6 will be given out early next term. At this stage, many of the senior pupils have been making applications for entry to tertiary education. In this connection, I am delighted to report that Donald Sinclair of S6 has gained a scholarship award in Mathematics in the recent Cambridge University Entrance Examinations. Heartiest congratulations on this exceptional achievement.

Business has been brisk as usual on the extra-curricular side. The Debating Club have taken part in the United Nations Association Speech-making competition and the Scottish Schools' Debating Competition. The Drama Club gave lunch-time performances of 'Two Short Plays' by Brecht, and are busy preparing to put on Goldini's 'The Servant of Two Masters' in the Byre Theatre in January. In the Tayside Chemistry Quiz, the Madras side won the 2nd round against Bell Baxter. The Science Fiction Club recently held a fascinating model competition, while the Stamp Club included in its activities a visit to a Stamp auction in Dundee. The Music Department has been active, too, with an excellent brass band concert early in December, and the annual Carol Concert in the Kilrymont Road building on 16th December. During the last full week of term, 6th Year have the opportunity of attending Christmas lectures provided by the University of Dundee, and by the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art.

On the sports side, in the Fife Schools Swimming Championship the school teams were first in the medley relay and second in the freestyle relay for boys under 14, and third in the freestyle for girls under 19. Claire Braidwood was first in the 100 metres backstroke and in the individual medley for girls under 19, and Margaret Bochel was third in the 100 metres butterfly event for the same group. In the 16 and under group, James Strachan was second in the 100 metres butterfly. In the Special Education Units Gala, Moira Anderson won the gold award for first place in the 33 metre freestyle, and Donna Kennedy the silver award for second place.

Volleyball is now establishing itself at 3rd and 4th Year level, and although the team has lost the first few matches, the standard of play is improving as the team knits together. Boys' hockey has not yet reached the level of popularity that it enjoys in the Tayside Schools, but is nevertheless going strongly and with considerable success. In girls' hockey, the 1st XI, having won the Midlands Schools' Tournament now represent Midlands in the Scottish Schools' Tournament. In indoor hockey, the Junior and Senior teams will represent Fife in the Midlands Tournament in January. Congratulations to Elaine Dochard, Carol Lewthwaite and Irene Reid on being selected for the Midlands Indoor Trials, and to Sara Headen on gaining her place in the Midlands 1st XI.

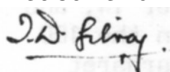
The Rugby Club has been having an outstanding season at all levels, but particularly the senior teams who have scored between them 854 points and conceded only 118, the 1st XV having been undefeated since October 1980. Congratulations to Joe Gamba and Ian Johnston on making their way successfully through the Senior Midlands trials to the Scottish Schoolboy's trial; and to Scott Cumming and Fergus McIntosh on being selected to represent Fife in the under-15 trials. In spite of water-logged pitches, the soccer teams have continued to play well. The under-16's got through to the quarter-finals of the Fife league, while the under-15's lie second in their league, and have won through to the national 5-a-side finals to be played in Glasgow. Congratulations to Tommy Falls and Stewart Gatherum on their success with the Fife Schools' under-15 team, and particularly to Tommy Falls on gaining a place in the Scottish under-15 squad.

If the weather threatens to put a stop to team games, at least it raises the hopes of the Ski Club, who are planning a week-end's training for 40 pupils and staff at Glenshee in January under the auspices of the Army Youth Branch.

This term has seen a heavier incidence of illness than usual among staff, but we have been fortunate in obtaining supply help from Mr Mathieson and Mr Adamson (Geography), Mrs Clarke and Mrs McCance (English), Mrs Ritchie (Mathematics), Miss Stewart (French), Mr Weir and Mrs Wyatt (Science) and Mrs Collier (Art). It is good to hear that Mrs Currie (Biology) and Mrs Halkett (Geography/Guidance) are making good progress, and we look forward to seeing them back again early next year. Mrs Harding (French) has returned to duty after maternity leave, and Mr Lochhead will be joining the Mathematics Department in January from Bell Baxter High School. Regretfully the school bade farewell to Mr Watson, Music Department, who retired in October after long service in Madras College and neighbouring primary schools as a teacher of brass instruments. The quality of the brass band is a tribute to Mr Watson's gifts as a teacher. We welcome Mr Kevin Thompson as Mr Watson's successor.

The 150th Anniversary of the opening of Madras College falls due in October 1983, and a small committee comprising F.P's, parents and staff has been set up to plan the celebrations. A possible programme of activities for October 1983 is being discussed. It is already clear that activities of this kind will involve expense, and to meet this, it has been suggested that there should be a fund raising effort in 1982. As plans mature, I shall keep parents informed.

I take this opportunity of wishing staff, pupils and parents a very Happy Christmas and a pleasant break.



Rector.

#### Holidays and Forthcoming Events

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| Christmas Holiday       | - School closes 1 p.m. on Tuesday 22nd December<br>- School re-opens on Wednesday 6th January.               |
| SII Parents Evening     | - Monday 11th January at 7 p.m. in the Kilrymont Road building.  |
| Dessert/Theatre Party   | - Thursday 14th January at 6.15 p.m. in the South Street building.   |
| SV/VI Parents Evening   | - Thursday 21st January at 7 p.m. in the South Street building.  |
| SIV Parents Evening     | - Wednesday 27th January at 7 p.m. in the Kilrymont Road building.   |
| SI Parents Evening      | - Tuesday 9th February at 7 p.m. in the Kilrymont Road building.   |
| P.T.A. Meeting          | - Tuesday 23rd February at 7.30 p.m. in the Kilrymont Road building (Mr Campbell Principal Teacher, Biology) |
| SIII Parents Evening    | - Thursday 4th March at 7 p.m. in the Kilrymont Road building.   |
| Primary Parents Evening | - Tuesday 16th March at 7 p.m. in the Kilrymont Road building.   |
| P.T.A. Meeting          | - Wednesday 17th March. A.G.M. followed by "The History of Madras College" by Dr John Thomson.               |