

Most of us added a new word to our vocabularies this term - 'sesquicentennial' - but the dictionary definition of 'a hundred and fiftieth anniversary' gives no clue to the enriching experience of a community such as ours: pupils, staff, parents and F.P.'s working together to celebrate and make the occasion memorable for everyone.

Preparations started nearly two years ago - Dr Thompson began researching his history of the college, the organising committee developed its ideas and gradually all the pieces of the jigsaw came together at a pace that increased as this term began. The P.T.A. buffet dance and the switching-on of the floodlights heralded the official start on Wednesday 14th September when invitation rugby, soccer and hockey tournaments were held at Kilrymont Road and Station Park, with new trophies gifted by the F.P. Rugby Club, the P.T.A., and the F.P. Girls' Club. The fascinating historical exhibition set up in the library of the South Street Building attracted large numbers of F.P.'s and townsfolk. In the Kilrymont Road Hall, the specially written "Landmarks", a light-hearted musical history of the school, played to a full house, as did the Drama Club's production of 'Alice in Wonderland' at the Crawford Centre. The concert in the Younger Hall demonstrated yet again the deep pool of musical talent in school. For pupils, there were discos for the younger ones, while the seniors enjoyed more sophisticated entertainment with a buffet dance and cabaret, not to mention a black and white theme for dress and decor. On Saturday some 260 guests gathered in the Town Hall for a commemorative dinner at which the speakers were F.P.'s Evelyn Hood and Mr Archibald Rennie, C.B. Finally on Sunday in Holy Trinity Parish Church, the Rev. Charles Armour conducted a service of commemoration and re-dedication at which the sermon was preached by the Rev. Professor Duncan Forrester, another distinguished F.P.

It would be impossible to name individually all those who helped to make the five days of the celebration so memorable, but I should like to thank the P.T.A., Staff, present and former pupils and the many other individuals who made it all possible.

Souvenir items continue to be on sale in the Kilrymont Road Building and in South Street from the school office. After some delay in binding, Dr Thompson's History of the Madras College is now available, along with the Magazine, in each building.

As usual there are staff changes to report. In August we welcomed Miss Low (Physics) Mrs Macgregor (Modern Studies), Mrs Orr (Mathematics) and Mr Williams (Technical). This week Mr Watson assumed duty as Principal Teacher of Business Subjects. I am delighted to report that Mrs Oliver has returned to the English Department and that Mrs Bridges has made a good recovery from a spinal operation. It is good to hear that Mr Broom, Assistant Rector (Leisure), is making good progress after an operation. I am grateful to the following members of staff who have given or are still giving supply help: Mrs Borthwick and Mrs McCance (English), Mrs Dick (Business Studies), Mrs Gray (Mathematics), Mrs Doig (Music), Mrs Van Beusekom (Modern Studies), Mrs Oswald (P.E.), Mr Goodman (Chemistry) and Mrs Wardlaw (Home Economics).

This term saw the departure of two stalwarts - Mr Geddes, Principal Teacher of Modern Studies and Mr Cook, Deputy Principal Teacher of Mathematics - the former to take up a post with Scripture Union, the latter to enjoy well-earned retirement. Mr Geddes in the eight years of his service here contributed generously to all sides of school - to the academic in the development of the Modern Studies Department, to the extracurricular in his service to the Scripture Union and in his involvement with ski-trips at home and abroad. We shall all miss his cheerful and energetic spirit. Mr Geddes will be succeeded by Mr Keegan from St John's Secondary School, Dundee, who will join us next term. Mr Cook's service over many years to the school was characterised by the canny, sensible way in which he absorbed the considerable changes in school mathematics, and by his complete loyalty to those who were his principal teachers during his time here. With the same unobtrusive efficiency he looked after the finances of school productions. Many generations are grateful to this sincere, unassuming man, for whom we wish a happy retirement.

On the sports side, congratulations to the girls' hockey team on winning the 150th Anniversary Tournament. Congratulations also to Jill McKechnie and Ana Stewart on being selected for the Midlands Schoolgirls under-16 team. Boys' hockey has just got under way, but already in the Midlands trials William McKane has been selected in the under-18 category, and Angus and Ian Rust in the under-16's.

The football club is now flourishing with a considerable depth of talent among the juniors. The 1st XI of the under-15's are through to the second round of the Scottish Cup. Congratulations to those selected for the regional squads - Guy Devereux, Ross Watson, Colin Finlay and Luis Garrido for the under-14's, and Brian Batchelor for the under-18's.

In rugby, the First XV have settled quickly in spite of having only a few players left from last year's team and are showing well, as are the 2nd XV and the 3rd Year XV. The 2nd XV's are more uneven in performance, possible because of the uneven attendance it practices. First Year have been training hard and show promise. Congratulations to A. Saunders, D. Millar and S. Cumming who have been selected for the Fife Schools under-18's (F. McIntosh is a reserve) and to K. Hamilton and D. Squires who have been selected for the under-16's.

Several pupils have been prominent on the tennis circuit over the summer. Karen Christie and Ana Stewart represented the North of Scotland in the junior tournament at Largs; Roderick Christie, Lister McKiddie, Graham Dunlop, Susan Dunlop, Ana Stewart and Karen Christie all played for Midlands Juniors; while Lister McKiddie and Philip Rowlands were runners-up in the boys' doubles in the North East England open tournament at Cleveland.

On the golf course, Jamie Gardner was runner-up in the St Andrews Boys Open Championship. In the Fife Schools' Senior Boys Championship, our A team were in the first half-dozen, while the B team came 2nd. Jamie Gardner came third in the individual play. In netball, Nicola Moorehead has been selected for the Fife Schools netball team to take part in the East of Scotland trials.

During the summer holidays, the school hosted the Scottish Championships. Alison Coull won both the Scottish Ladies' and the Scottish Girls' Championships.

Those who heard the quality of playing at the 150th Anniversary concert in the Younger Hall, will not be surprised to learn that several of our music pupils have reached national level of playing. Bridget King (violin) attended the Summer Course of the National Youth String Orchestra of Scotland, and Angela McDonald (clarinet) played with the National Youth Wind Band Reserve on their Summer Course. Three Madras pupils won coveted places in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland - Susie Dingle (French horn) Rosie Mair (French horn) and David McCallum (trumpet). With this orchestra they spent a week in Stornoway, took part in the Aberdeen International Festival and undertook a concert tour culminating in a concert in the Usher Hall Edinburgh under the baton of Sir Alexander Gibson. This term David McCallum has again played for the National Youth Orchestra in the brass group at the Aberdeen opening ceremony for the Magnus oilfield.

I wish all pupils, staff and parents a pleasant and refreshing October break.



Rector.

Forthcoming Events and Holidays

First Year Dance	Tuesday 13th December - 6-9 p.m.
Second Year Dance	Tuesday 20th December - 6-9 p.m.
Third & Fourth Year Dance	Wednesday 21st December - 7.30-10.30 p.m.
Senior Dance	Thursday 22nd December - 7.30-11.30 p.m.
Christmas Concert	Monday 19th December
October Holiday	Monday 3rd October - Friday 7th October inclusive
Christmas Holiday	Monday 20th December - Friday 6th January inclusive