

The Madras College Newsletter: Summer Term 1983

End-of-term concert and plays, time-tabling intricacies, the visit of our young German friends from Kiel, school sports, university open days - so goes the list. Beforehand, it seems quite impossible to squeeze it all into May-June, but as usual it all fell into place and now we are ready, indeed more than ready, for the summer holiday.

The end of the session sees the retirement of Mrs Isabel Robertson, who for the past 24 years has guided the Business Studies Department in her characteristically quiet, efficient and thoughtful manner through many changes in content and scope. In addition to her teaching duties, she has given freely of her time in ensuring that the finances of the school fund were properly looked after. Her gentle, kindly presence will be greatly missed. We wish her a happy retirement. Earlier in the term we welcomed to the staff Mrs Mobeck as Principal Teacher of Home Economics, while in August, we look forward to being joined by Miss Low, Physics, Mrs Orr, Mathematics and Mr Williams, Technical Subjects. In September, Mr D. Watson, at present A.P.T. Business Studies in Perth Academy, will succeed Mrs Robertson as P.T. in that department. I am delighted to report that Mrs Oliver will be returning to duty in the English Department. To cover absences we have been fortunate in having the services of Mrs Borthwick and Mrs McCance (English), Miss Sutherland (Music) and Mrs Wardlaw (Home Economics).

In October 1833, the Madras College opened its doors to its first pupils and, as you will be aware, during the week beginning Monday 12th September, many events have been planned to celebrate the sesquicentennial. Inter-school hockey, rugby and football tournaments will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday, 14th September to which parents are invited. In the evening there will be drama productions in the Kilrymont Road building and in the Crawford Centre. The next evening (Thursday) the musicians take over the Younger Hall, while on Friday 16th September there will be another chance to see the play in the Crawford Centre. On Saturday, 17th September, there will be a commemorative dinner in the Town Hall; and the celebrations will conclude with a service in Holy Trinity Parish Church at 3 p.m. Over the celebratory period, there will be exhibitions on view in the school buildings in the early evening.

In addition to all this, we have got together an attractive collection of commemorative items which can be bought either through school pupils, or on Wednesdays (2-4 p.m.) and Fridays (10 - 12 p.m.) during July and August at Madras House West. Every pupil has been given a brochure for parents with a detailed programme. A check on pockets and school-bags might bring it to light!

In all my teaching career, I cannot recall a time of such change and development. Hardly a week passes without the publication of yet another policy document. The three major developments are the implementation of the Munn & Dunning Reports on the Curriculum and Assessment in S3 & S4; the S.E.D.'s "Action Plan" for the 16-18 age-group; and the introduction in September of the Youth Training Scheme. I hope to talk to parents during the coming session about the implications of some of these changes, but at present I limit myself to saying that the '0' Grade will be replaced by a single certificate with three levels - Foundation, General and Credit. All pupils will be able to take the new certificate at a level suited to ability in each subject. The phasing-in will take three years. By the time the present SI reach S4, they will all be presented in English and Mathematics, and some will be able to take the new certificate in Science. In subsequent years, the other subjects will follow on until the '0' Grade is completely replaced.

Staff will be heavily committed in preparation for these new courses, while the change of SI organisation in August from mixed ability within broad bands to

full mixed ability grouping will make further demands. In addition to all of this, preparations have to be made to re-deploy pupils between the two buildings on a different basis for Session 1984-85. The pattern likely to be adopted - S1, S2 and S3 in the Kilrymont Road building and S4, S5 and S6 in the South Street building - will require changes in the curricular structure and fairly extensive alterations to the fabric, especially at South Street. Apart from the extra work required to prepare for such changes, staff will be under some difficulties in maintaining the normal flow of work while the conversions take place. I would ask for your sympathetic understanding during this period.

I am delighted to report that under the sure guidance of Mrs Chenery, the Parent-Teacher Association has had a most successful session though we could have hoped for larger audiences. In September, pupils told us of their journeys furth of school; the second meeting, in Tayport Primary School, looked at life in Secondary school; in January a most enjoyable supper party was followed by an evening at the Byre to see the school play; Dr Thompson rounded off his notes on the history of the Madras, while at the last meeting, Mr Paterson and his team outlined the work being done in the school on computing.

Extra-curricular activities continue to flourish with the Agriculture Club attending the Highland Show, the archaeologists visiting Antonine's Wall and the fort at Bearsden, the Drama Club delighting us with a production of three short plays, the debaters extending their season into the summer term, and parties of pupils and staff visiting the cottage at Glen Tilt at the weekends. The Stamp, Video, Computer and Yoga clubs and the Scripture Union continue to attract many young people. Although having a fallow year as far as the large-scale musical is concerned, the Music Department let us see once the considerable talent of their pupils at the end-of-term concert, while a chamber concert given at Hope Park Church was a welcome extension of activities.

In July, Elaine Dochard and Andrew Blakey will represent school at the International Youth Camp, in Midlothian. David Miller has gained a place in the Sail Training Association schooner "Malcolm Miller". In July, too, a party of pupils and staff will visit Rome and Pompeii.

The Chess Club, as we have come to expect, distinguished itself by winning the senior section of the Dundee and District Schools league. The Table Tennis club won the Under-19's Championship, with Jerry Lau doing particularly well. This year five of our pupils competed in the Scottish Schools' Sailing Championships at Port Edgar. School golf is in a healthy state this year, thanks to the tuition of Mr Laurie Ayton (not Auchterlonie as erroneously stated in the last newsletter). In the Fife Schools Golf Association Championships, the junior boys (Finlay Coull, Brian Moffat, Mark Robertson, Stuart Syme) and the girls' team (Elaine Moffat, Alison Coull, Fiona Gardner) won their championships, and we have hopes that the Senior Boys will complete the triple by winning the Senior Championship in September.

The dreadful spring weather played havoc with the cricket fixture list, but the few occasions when play was possible showed that there is considerable potential in the school particularly in S1 and S2. The school is greatly indebted to the F.P. Cricket Club for organising the Inter-House match on 29th May when despite atrocious weather Castle One won the day. The tennis players have been similarly hampered, but there is obviously a pool of keen and talented players coming up through the school. In the Midlands Schools Doubles, Ann Stewart and Lorraine Petrie were the winners, while Susan Dunlop and Kirsten McKiddie reached the semifinals. Fife is generous in helping pupils financially on National Coaching Schemes, and it is hoped that those who benefit in this way will repay this support by playing for the school on Saturdays.

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In athletics, James Macgregor has completed a splendid season by gaining 1st place in the Fife Schools Heptathlon, establishing in the process a new school high jump record. He was second in the high jump in the Scottish Schools Championships. The final tally of awards in the Fife Schools' Championships was five to the girls and seven to the boys.

Lastly it gives me pleasure to report that the under-13 footballers have made a breakthrough by defeating Kirkcaldy High School 6 - 1 in the final of the East Fife Schools' Cup.

For your information I append below dates of forth-coming events. More immediately, I wish all pupils, staff and parents a very enjoyable summer holiday.

J.D. Geinay.

Rector.

<u>Start of Session for Pupils:</u>		Thursday, 18th August 1983
<u>October Break:</u>	School Finishes:	Friday, 30th September 1983
	School Starts:	Monday, 10th October 1983
<u>Christmas Holiday:</u>	School Finishes:	Friday, 23rd December 1983
	School Starts:	Monday, 9th January 1984
<u>Easter Holiday:</u>	School Finishes:	Friday, 23rd March 1984
	School Starts:	Monday, 9th April 1984
<u>Summer Holiday:</u>	School Finishes:	Friday, 29th June 1984

PLEASE NOTE: The school office in the South Street Building will be closed 14th July to 5th August inclusive.
The school office in the Kilrymont Road Building will be closed 25th July to 3rd August inclusive.