



Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

March 1998

Rector's Note

At a time of year when courses and competitions are coming to their conclusion, when the final push is on to achieve the very best individually or collectively, we often give special attention to the very high achievers, the gifted ones in our midst. Our sense of pride the school's achievement is boosted by the successes of our fellows, from whom we enjoy some reflected glory. This newsletter, indeed, reflects on the many glories of an exceptional term of success for the school. We rejoice.

Our desire to see every member of the school body doing as well as he or she can, however, overrides the celebration of famous triumphs or particular highlights. Many are the unsung heroes who have made their own quiet or modest contribution to school life or who have achieved much credit in personal studies or charitable actions. The spirit and tone of a school is set by all of us, not just by those who carry off the trophies. While our motto of "pro rege e grege" (for king and community) is no longer very politically correct, it does emphasise the importance of achievement for others as much as for ourselves, a noble ideal to hold on to in a selfish and materialistic age. All pupils who have done something, however small, to improve the school's positive image and sense of shared purpose, should feel proud of themselves and recognise their own worth as citizens of Madras College.

Competitive Mathematics



Luke Halliwell and Jenny Davie

The results of the UK Schools Intermediate Maths Challenge 1998 reached school last week and showed yet again an increased number of awards, 56 in all. Set in the context of a competition entered by over 120,000 students where only the top 6% earn Gold awards, the school's tally of 26 Bronze, 19 Silver and 11 Gold is certainly magnificent. The two top Gold Award winners, Su Liu and Jack Edwards-Fox, both S3, qualify for the International Intermediate Invitational Mathematical Challenge in April. David Stephens, who did outstandingly well to achieve a Gold Award although only in 2nd year, has been invited to sit the 1998 European Kangaroo. The other Gold winners were Jerome Dilley, S3 and in fourth year, Thomas Davie, Jonathan Hine, Iain Mitchell, David Lundie, Lauren Donaldson and Kevin Amy. There were many other very good scores and all the participants deserve congratulations for their excellent performances.

contestants qualified, the five Madras pupils achieved fine results. Luke Halliwell, and Jenny Davie, S6, were both awarded book prizes and, together with Allan Riddell, S5, progressed to the second round. There Luke improved his ranking in the UK from 3rd to 2nd and has been invited, for the second year in succession, to the intensive Olympiad Training Session held at Trinity College, Cambridge, during the Easter holidays. From this group of 20 students, a team of six will be selected to compete in the International Maths Olympiad in Taipei, Taiwan, during July. Luke carries with him our best wishes in his strong bid for a place in this team.

On the Internet, the work contributed to the MRICH project by Maths pupils led to the following comment in their newsletter on January 29th:

Amongst sixth forms, Madras College, St Andrews, Scotland are the superstars at the moment. The quality of their work is outstanding. Surely there are some other sixth forms who can compete?

STOP PRESS

School Meals

Fife Council have informed us that as from Tuesday 14th April 1998, the charge to pupils for a standard school meal will be £1.

In the first round of the British Maths Olympiad, for which 26 Scottish

Debating and Public Speaking

This has been an exceptional season, even by the high standards of Madras.

Madras first hit the headlines with the final of the Courier/Royal Bank of Scotland competition, when third years Shona Morrison and Kai Hopkins triumphed and won a ten-day holiday to Florida. As their coach, Mrs D Lamb will accompany them on this trip in July at the beginning of the Summer holidays.

Next were the S4 team of Jenny Shanks, Jonathan Dean and Hazel Pearson, in the final of the Edinburgh Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition at Merchiston Castle School. A great deal of hard work and a fine performance on the night won them the Scottish title and a place in the British Final in London on May 9th. Because this event, timed for English schools, takes place during the SQA examination period, the team are likely to be making a flying visit to compete.

After a highly successful winter campaign, Jonathan Ervine and Michael Rossi contested the final of the Edinburgh Speaking Union Debating Competition also held at Merchiston Castle. Opposing the motion "This house would support a fully secular state", they acquitted themselves well, losing to strong opposition who included members of the Scottish Schools debating team.

The school's S3 public speaking competition for the Jimmy Thomson Memorial Trophy was won by Lisa McFadgean, with Jack Ferguson and Shona Morrison as joint runners up. Four more young debaters, Julia Higgins, Joe Stewart and Jamie Milne, S1 and David Stephens, S2, attended a very successful debating day run by the students of St Andrews University.

The annual Waid Centenary Debating Competition, always a lively and enjoyable event, reached an exceptionally high standard this year. Waid, Bell Baxter and Madras all fielded strong teams and the participants are to be congratulated on providing such a fine evening's entertainment. The eventual narrow winners of the trophy were Waid, ending a long run by Madras.

Debating is now established as a strong tradition at Madras, but it is one which is very demanding to sustain. All the pupils who take part, at whatever level, contribute to the success the school



Kai Hopkins and Shona Morrison

achieves and are to be congratulated on the time, effort and enthusiasm they give to the activity. They also benefit from the long hours of hard work put in by the staff who coach and support them: at the junior level Mrs G Macfarlane and Mrs D Lamb, and at Senior level Mrs M Fraser and Mrs A Baughan. Our thanks go to them all for their continuing commitment.

Great Valley High Exchange

For a time in January it looked as if our long-standing exchange programme with Great Valley High School in Philadelphia, USA was going to come to a sudden and unhappy end. Changes to US visa laws meant that our participants were refused visas at the last minute. However, with assistance from our MP, Menzies Campbell and after press publicity, a way was found through the obstacles and the programme was able to continue. Corinne Bell, Tim Schmitz and Nicola Squires are now happily settled with their host families and will attend Great Valley until the end of term in June, culminating in a Graduation ceremony.

We are proceeding with planning for next year.

STAFF NEWS

We congratulate the following members of staff:

Leaving:

- Miss A Smith - APT Science, Glenwood High School, Glenrothes
- Miss A Khan - APT Home Economics, James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh
- Miss J Presly - APT Modern Studies, Trinity Academy, Edinburgh

New Appointments:

- Mr R Dewar - PT Drama
- Mrs V Faichney - acting APT Guidance (until December 1998)

Urwana La Pogam and Alexandra Honig have been very popular foreign language assistants this year and will leave us at the end of May. We wish them all the best in the future and hope to see them back in Scotland some day soon.

We send best wishes for a full and speedy recovery to members of staff currently unwell: Miss E Kinnear, APT Music and Mrs D Presly, English Department. Mrs J Nisbet is acting APT in Miss Kinnear's absence.

Peer Counselling

From small beginnings - 12 pupils in 1994 - the Peer Counselling scheme has been developed by the skilful energies of Mrs I Bletcher of the Support Centre into an extensive operation: 113 members of this sixth year volunteered for training as Peer Counsellors so that they could put their expertise to use supporting other pupils.

Once again we wish to record our appreciation of the support given to Madras College by Curtis Fine Papers of Guardbridge. By making available their conference suite for our use, not to mention providing an excellent lunch, they enabled us to offer a training day in an environment removed from school and greatly enhance the total experience. Thanks are also due to the Pancake Place, who stepped in at short notice to provide space and refreshments for a final small group who had missed the earlier sessions.

Once trained, pupils in S6 have been involved with pupils from S1 to S5 in areas of their school life as varied as aerobics, paired reading, therapeutic art and many subjects, including languages, modern studies, maths, sciences. They have also assisted in research being carried out by the Scottish Office into

Promoting Social Competence through group work in anger management.

This is a truly inter-building activity, forging links which help bind us together as one school on two sites. Travel is not always easy and pupils have shown resourcefulness and energy, whether hitching gratefully-accepted lifts from staff, driving themselves, walking - or even even jogging - the one and a half miles in all weathers. Thanks to all who have assisted them in this!

A sophisticated database, which has been developed using expertise from Sixth Year Studies Computing, now supports the organisation of Peer Counselling and plans are underway to harness the skills of the next sixth year as early as possible.

In the business of dealing with school life, whether academically or socially, Peer Counsellors provide other pupils with expertise and understanding from a viewpoint which no teacher, however sympathetic, can emulate. Thanks are therefore offered to all this year's participants in the scheme, who have the satisfaction of knowing that they have fulfilled a unique role in the school community.

PTA

The PTA Annual General Meeting was held on 11th March. Outgoing Office Bearers and retiring committee members were thanked for their hard work over the last year, Mrs L Black retires as Chair and Mrs C Grant takes over, while the new Treasurer is Mr J Allison, in place of Mrs G Wright. Mr H Beaton agreed to continue to serve as Secretary. Mrs R Halliwell was welcomed as a new parent member of the Committee.

Fund-raising by the PTA over the session has resulted in generous donations for equipment to enhance learning and teaching. So far this year, the PTA has enabled the school to purchase a new sewing machine for the Home Economics department; two pocket book computers for emergency use by pupils, eg with broken arms; a £200 donation to be spent on reference works on World Book Day. The largest contribution, however, has been of £1,000 towards the purchase of a projection system which is at the leading edge of technology for enhancing classroom learning. This system allows a large image to be projected on a screen so that a whole class can share in materials from a computer, video, worksheets or even the Internet, with instant switching between these interactive media. The potential of this newest piece of technology is now being enthusiastically explored in a range of subjects and classrooms.

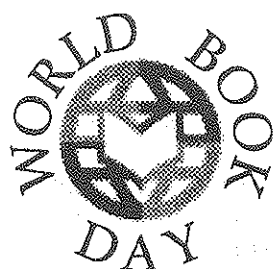
All parents are reminded that the very successful 50/50 Club generates much of this funding, and new members are always welcome. This term an additional source has been the introduction of a Staff Roller Ball competition organised by Mrs A Little of the Business Studies department.

Winners of the 50/50 draws this term are: February:

Mr K Craig, St Andrews
Miss S Black, Newport
March:

Mrs S Charles, Newport
Miss L Hutchison, Madras Staff

The next meeting of the PTA will be the Drama Showcase on 23rd April, to which all parents and friends are warmly invited. Tickets available from Committee Members or School Offices.



1998 is the National Year of Reading. April 23rd, as Shakespeare's birthday, will be celebrated as World Book Day. A range of events are being organised in Madras College by Mrs J Scott of the English Department, between Monday 20th April and Tuesday 28th April. All pupils across Britain will receive a £1.00 World Book Day Voucher over this week and will be encouraged to take a real interest in redeeming them. Staff, pupils and parents will be invited to think and talk, design and draw, browse and buy, surf the net swap and share and . . . yes, read books!

Parents and pupils will have two opportunities to browse, buy and, if they wish, donate books for school use on - Thursday 23rd April: Book Stall courtesy of John Smith, Booksellers, at the PTA Drama Showcase Evening at Kilrymont Road building; Tuesday April 28th Book Stall, courtesy of J & G Innes, Booksellers at S3 Parents' Evening, also in Kilrymont Road.

Chemistry Top of the Bench

In the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench Quiz, the school team of Susan Weatherstone (S6), Jo Tucker (S4), Alec Pole (S2) and Su Liu (S3) battled their way through to the regional final by beating Kirkcaldy High School. On March 17th at St Andrews University, the team performed well and came third equal.

School Board News

The first meeting of the new Board took place last Thursday evening, in Kilrymont Road. After the elections of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the Board went on to discuss various issues. One item in particular was the Consultation Paper on 'Parents as Partners' issued by the Scottish Office. The Board thought that this was a very important and complex document and worthy of a meeting to itself. This meeting has been arranged for Thursday 16th April 1998. The next general meeting of the Board will be on Thursday 14th May 1998.

For your information the School Board Members are listed below:

Chairman:

Professor P McKiernan

Vice-Chairman:

Mrs E M Griffin

Teaching Staff:

Mrs A Little

Mr D Macgregor

Mrs P Robertson

Parent Members:

Mr I Hail

Mrs H R Halliwell

Dr D Neilson

Professor G Reid

Mrs P Robertson

Co-opted Members:

still to be confirmed

In Attendance at Board Meetings:

Mr L S G Matheson, Rector

Councillor Patrick Cassells

If you would like further information regarding the School Board please do not hesitate to contact Morag Wilson, South Street, Office, Madras College, (01334-412500).

A copy of the Minutes of all Madras College Board Meetings are kept in St Andrews, Tayport and Newport Libraries and Community Use Office, Kilrymont Road.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Tuesday 17th March was not only St Patrick's Day, but Duke of Edinburgh's Day, with 28 participants receiving Bronze awards from the Chairman of the Scottish Mountain Leader Training Board, Lieutenant-Colonel John Newman-Carter.

The weekend of 14th and 15th March saw the Silver and Gold training events in the Ochil and Lomond Hills, with assistance from Mr J Bennett, Miss J Robertson, Mr S Millar and instructors from the RAF and Army. The weather was unfortunately excellent, providing little challenge for the newly-learnt advanced navigation skills.

The school currently has 17 participants at Gold level and 40 at Silver. The demands this places on staff can be

imagined, but it is hoped that it will be possible to start a new group at Bronze level next year.

Forthcoming events:

30th/31st May:

Silver Practice Expedition around Glen Tilt

26-29 June:

Silver (30 miles, 3 days) and Gold (50 miles, 4 days) expedition, Western Scotland.

Any staff or parents who are interested in assisting with any aspect of the scheme or who would like to find out more about it, are invited to contact Mr G Dundee or Mrs F Towns.

S3 Litter Initiative

A group of third year pupils have enlisted the assistance of Mr M Latona and Miss M Russell in a Litter Project in the Kilrymont Road building. An unusual and most effective assembly on this theme took place on Wednesday 18th March. First year pupils are being encouraged to become involved in the campaign through competitions and other activities fostering a greater awareness of and care for their environment in school. Every success is wished to this worthwhile initiative, which pupils in South Street could learn from!

1st Year Outings

All S1 pupils have been given the opportunity to go Ten Pin Bowling and Zapping in Dundee. Eight groups of 32 have already made the trip and enjoyed rounding the evening off with a meal at McDonalds. Pupils have appreciated this opportunity organised by first year Guidance staff, Mr J Urquhart and Mrs M Welsh, to get to know them and other members of their year group better.

Interact

Rotary activities in North-East Fife continue to enrich the life of the school, through the Interact group. Pupils who volunteered have been given mock interviews and feedback to assist them with applications in the future. Naya Ikeda, a Rotary scholar from Japan, gave a lunch-time task on Japanese food to senior pupils. We were also pleased to welcome Naya with two other Rotary scholars from Lithuania and the USA at the annual school Burns Supper. Jennifer Higginson and Kimberley Robb spoke at a St Andrews Rotary Club lunch.

St Andrews Rotary are sponsoring Luke Taylor, S5 and Helen Martin, S6, to attend the Camp Ryla residential leadership training course, while St Andrews Kilrymont are sponsoring Lianne Lumsden, S5.

Band Night

A very successful Band Night was organised by the Interact Group and took place on March 13th in Kilrymont Hall. Apart from giving due praise to the enthusiastic and strongly audible musical participants, special mention is due to sixth years Martyn Robertson and Jenny Myles, whose hard work and efficiency did so much to ensure that the event ran smoothly. The impressive sum of £350 was raised for charity.

INTERNET

School use of the Internet is expanding rapidly. Early forays by Computing and Maths have now been followed up by Art and Design. The Home Page is in the process of revision and a contact page for former pupils established. We gratefully acknowledge the expertise and commitment of fifth year pupils Tim Kerby and Nicholas Humphrey who have done so much enthusiastic work on this project.

Musical Activities

After a quiet couple of days in early January, the Music Department again plunged into 'high-protein' music-making. First was the all-too-brief weekend visit of the multi-talented musicians from St Luke's College, Buenos Aires, who delighted us with their native songs and way of singing, but who also rose magnificently to the occasion with our Senior Choir to perform a challenging joint programme after only one hour's rehearsal. Farewells were sad, tinged with the knowledge that it would be unlikely that any of us would visit them in their own country.

The Burns Supper a few days later brought out a variety of Scottish musical offerings with pipes and drums, clarsach and the inevitable singers. At Madras we are fortunate indeed to enjoy the performance of such mature and talented musicians.

Fife Festival this year saw the school targeting the solo classes with notable individual successes. However, the Senior Orchestra also competed and came away with a very good crit. Performance continued with a well received concert given to Wormit Church Women's Guild by pupils from the Higher and SYS Music classes, and a recital for the St Andrews Society of St Andrews given by the SYS class.

Rock music was well represented this term with bands competing to represent the school at the semi-final of a new inter-school Rock Music competition.

As this newsletter goes to press, final preparations are being made for the Spring Concert and end of term assemblies. A change of emphasis in the concert is shown in the display of a larger proportion of class work than

hitherto in addition to the usual extra-curricular groups and soloists. The Senior choir is giving the world premiere of three new pieces at this concert and extra preparations are under way since the school has learnt that both composer and lyricist will travel from England to attend this event!

Money raised from the Christmas Concerts was distributed between the following charities: Ninewells Hospital, Fife HIV Awareness, the Starlight Foundation, Capability Scotland, NEF Key Fund, Heartstart, SNAP, USPA and Clean Water in Bangladesh.

Jenny Davie, S6 has gained a place in the prestigious Scottish National Youth Orchestra.

Dates for your Diary

HOLIDAYS

Easter

Monday 30th March 1998
to
Monday 13th April 1998

May Day

Monday 4th May 1998

June (single day)

Monday 1st June 1998

Summer

Monday 29th June 1998
to
Friday 21st August 1998
(Pupils return Tuesday 25th August 1998)

Autumn

Monday 5th October 1998
Monday 19th October 1998
to
Friday 23rd October 1998

(All dates inclusive)

PARENTS' EVENINGS

S3

Tuesday 28th April 1998

S1

Wednesday 3rd June 1998

P7

Monday 25th May 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Thursday 16th April 1998
'Parents as Partners'

Thursday 14th May 1998

ON-SERVICE DAYS

Tuesday 26th May 1998
Monday 24th August 1998

EXAMS

S3

Tuesday 5th May 1998
to
Friday 15th May 1998

SOA

Friday 1st May 1998
to
Friday 5th June 1998

SOA Study Leave

Tuesday 5th May 1998
to
Tuesday 2nd June 1998
(inclusive)

PTA MEETINGS

Showcase! An Entertainment!
Thursday 23rd April 1998

Sporting Round-up

• Cross Country

This has been another very successful season.

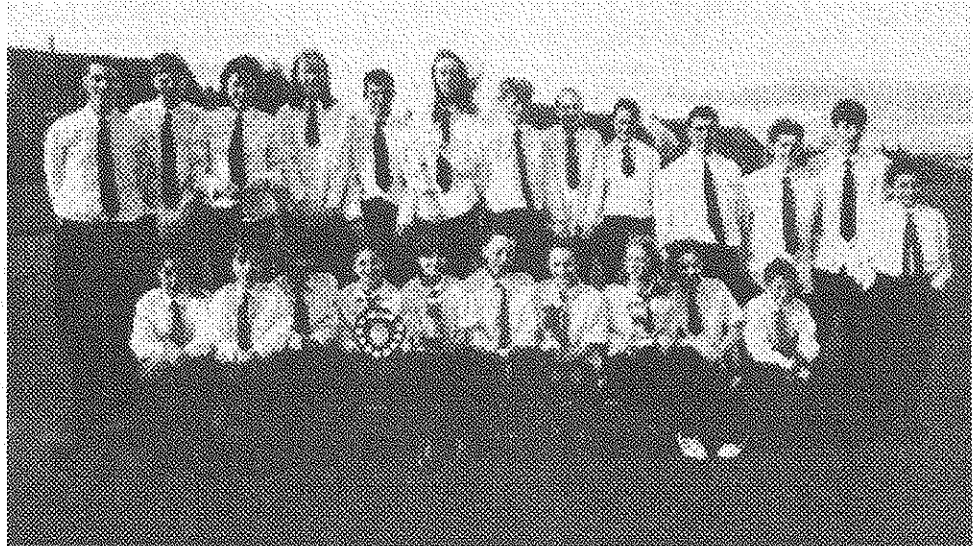
At the Fife Schools Cross Country Championships at Kirkcaldy on February 10th, the school won four trophies: S1 Girls, Under 15 Boys, Under 17 Boys and Over 17 Boys. At Over 15 level, both the Girls and the Boys teams achieved third places. A total of 31 team medals were won, with individual medals going to Alison Rowe, S1 (3rd, S1 Girls), Andrew Shanks, S3 (3rd, Under 15 Boys), Andrew Lemoncello, S4 (1st, Under-17 Boys) and Owen Greene, S6 (2nd, Over-17 Boys).

Progressing to the national event, the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships at Irvine on 14th March, the Over-17 Boys triumphed, winning the team trophy for the second year in succession. The team were sixth years Owen Greene, who came 2nd overall, Rhuairidh McQueen (5th overall), Jonathan Seeley, (12th overall) and Edward Napier, S5. Other fine results included Andrew Lemoncello, S4, 2nd in the Under-17 Boys event, and the Under-15 team of Andrew Shanks and Benjamin Pippard, S3, and Andrew Murphy and Edward Baptie, S2, who came 2nd in their team event.

• Football

S1 - the team competed in the semi-final of the Fife Cup on Thursday 19th March. The finalists of this event will play their match at Starks Park, Kirkcaldy on 27th March, before the Under-16 International between Scotland and England. A bus load of Madras supporters will attend this match and hope to have a team in the final to support.

This has been an exceptionally busy and successful season for the senior team. Individually Steven Ellwood, Craig Michie and Gareth Clark were



Competitors of the Fife Schools Cross Country Championships

selected for the Fife Regional team and took part in all fixtures.

The team reached the fourth round of the Scottish Cup going out to Graeme High School by the odd goal in five. On the home front Madras won the regional five-a-sides and last week lifted the Fife Cup for the first time, beating Buckhaven High School after a penalty-kick shoot out. Madras are sitting at the top of the league at present and need to win their last few matches to win the Treble.

• Badminton

The Madras College team participated in the Fife Schools' Badminton Championships, where Sam Neilson, S4 and Laura Steen, S5 won Silver medals in their singles events and will now represent Fife in the Scottish Schools Championships. Laura also played for the North-East Fife team which came second in the inter-area competition.

• Swimming

Congratulations to Melanie Christie, S4, who is the new Scottish Schools Under-16 Girls 100m Breaststroke champion. Helene Oliver, S2, also qualified to compete at the National Championships.

• Athletics

At the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championships at Kelvin Hall on 29th

January, Andrew Lemoncello won the Silver medal in the Under-16 1500m, while Thomas Greene, Under-16 1500m and Jonathan Seeley, Over-16 800m reached the finals of their events.

• Rugby

The second year team qualified for the finals of the Scottish Schools Jubilee Tournament, the last 16, held at Murrayfield on March 5th. They acquitted themselves well at this high level and although beaten in the first round by the eventual winners, George Watson's, progressed to the final of the Consolation Tournament, narrowly losing 8-6 to George Herriots.

The senior sevens team played well at the Waid Sevens Tournament and were the runners up, losing to Kinross in the final.

• Hockey

Linsey Thomson, S5, is congratulated on her selection for the Scottish Under-16 Squad. She has already represented Scotland against England and will play in April in the Home Countries and European Championships.

The senior team were Runners-up in the Fife Indoor Hockey tournament and winners of the Waid Sevens Tournament.