



Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2003

Rector's Note - *from Madras to Madras*

In the 250th anniversary year of Andrew Bell's birth there are some contrasting signs and portents. It is natural for us to look back and consider what we owe to Bell and his legacy to us, the school itself. The more we look into this story the more we find of interest. Just drop in to www.madras.fife.sch.uk/archive and be lost in wonder about the heritage of which we are stewards. If you are reading this newsletter on the school website, just click on the archive link.

The most magical of all the items to come to light through the internet was on the front page of the online version of India's national newspaper *The Hindu* for March 3rd this year, which stated in its leading article:

'An e-mail out of the blue, asking for information, reminded us of a significant contribution Madras made to Britain 200 years ago. The stunning surprise was that a bit of Madras in Britain...thought long extinct appears to be still flourishing. This is The Madras College in St Andrews, Scotland.' The article continues in a fascinating manner, describing how Andrew Bell obtained the idea for his system from a neighbouring Tamil school, how the school where Bell worked in Madras developed into the modern St George's School on Poonamallee High Road *'the oldest school in India following the pattern of education left by the British and which the great majority of schools in the country are heirs to.'*

For the people of Madras and India to be proud of their contribution to the world through the work of Bell makes us truly think again about culture, the "global village", multiculturalism and internationalism. Almost as fascinating is the knowledge that a successor establishment to the school in which Bell

worked in the 1790s still exists. Of course it is also heartening to be told that we are "still flourishing"!

Yet the dear old Madras could be about to change. At a recent staff meeting it was outlined how Fife Council has asked for a plan by the end of this year for the future management of the school within the agreed national framework *A Teaching Profession for the 21st Century*. Consultation takes place next term about the main features of change: a simpler hierarchy of management posts with Senior Teacher, Assistant Principal Teacher and Assistant Head Teacher levels disappearing; a greater emphasis on the professional development of all staff; more support to teachers to create time for teaching; more integration of support to pupils of all interests and aptitudes; more collective working by all staff. We are charged with consulting on our proposals with parents and will do this through the School Board, the Parent Teacher Association and through direct contact or in meetings. Parents will be informed during the early part of next term about how they may involve themselves in this exciting process.

In truth change is nothing new at Madras. The Trustees ran the school for nearly sixty years until 1888, when in that year after great debate and acrimony they were replaced by a body of Governors, who appointed the first rector Mr John MacKenzie the following year. During World War One the school was taken over by the army for weapons training, with the school's classes taking place in various places around the town. Then in 1928 the school, independent up to that point, was taken over by Fife Education Authority. In modern times the greatest change was the amalgamation of the Burgh School and Madras College between 1963 and 1967. The school has come through all these

changes and can face a few more yet, no doubt.

It will be vital to the success of the forthcoming consultation about change that we look forward to the future in a positive spirit, having taken stock of the undoubted strengths we possess and having faced up honestly to any weaknesses. We have to accept change and manage it, we have to, in biblical language, take the talents we have and make them work better than ever before. We should certainly not hide our light under any bushel.

Meantime the work of the school goes on apace. This has been a year of great effort and achievement across the whole range of school life. The staff and pupils are to be warmly commended for getting on with the business in hand despite the seemingly inevitable annual Madras building crisis, this time in the electrical systems serving the Kilrymont Road swimming pool, and despite the media attention given to discussions about the problems of the split-site. Of course we look forward to the day that these matters are properly addressed, but for the present there is a job to be done that engages our whole attention.

In the pages which follow there are glimpses of the rich and varied life of a great old school. We thank parents and friends for all they have done to support and enhance our work during a long and difficult session and wish you all a pleasant and relaxing summer.

Staff Notes

The consequences of Mr Mackay's secondment to work this term on Fife's drugs education policy were as follows: Mrs Towns took over his role as Assistant Rector and year head for S2, Miss Russell took over Mrs Towns' post of Principal Teacher of Guidance, and Mr Duncan took over her post of Assistant Principal Teacher of Guidance. Mr Mackay returns to his post in August as do Mrs Maix and Ms Sanderson after maternity leave. Mrs Shields (RE) returns from her maternity leave this week and we thank Miss Anderson who filled in so well for her teaching and Guidance commitments. Mrs McNeill (Modern Studies and History) has been on maternity leave since June.

Staff leaving at the end of session are as follows. Mrs Drummond (Drama) leaves us to take up a post in Dundee. We thank her for her full contribution to the work of the department during her one year at Madras. Mr MacArthur is also to be thanked for his year of service in the Special Education Department. Three auxiliaries are also leaving the DSE – Mrs Rutherford, Mrs Khovacs and Miss Bletcher, and we thank them all for their efforts.

We wish Mrs Towler (Home Economics) a happy retirement after her seven years at Madras, the last three part-time. A contributor to the wider life of the department, she initiated the "Crafty Cooks" club, still going strong.

Lastly we say farewell to three

Music Notes

Apart from detailed preparations for the forthcoming tour, the Music Department is always busy at the end of each term with four regular public concerts a year, closing assemblies and prize-giving ceremonies too. The summer concert featured Bell Baxter Centenary Competition winner, Mairi McCabe (S6) who played Debussy' evocative Arabesque No 1. The concert also included items prepared by most of the school's performing groups and was one of the best ever.

colleagues who joined Madras in the 1980's. Mr Welsh (1985-) leaves a Physics department he has served well, and with the good grace for which he is most popular with colleagues and pupils alike. Never once late in 18 years, he gave freely of his own time to any pupil interested in a scientific explanation. Mr Watson, Principal Teacher of Business Education (1983-) oversaw two decades of continuous curriculum development (two of these while seconded to Fife Council) in a busy and expanding subject. How he will cope without the 29 major annual assessments to coordinate we don't know! His enthusiasm for the intricate patterns of Scottish country dancing will no doubt keep his brain active! Mr Miller (1981-) member of the Maths department and since 1993 Senior Teacher with responsibilities within his subject has contributed much to Maths and to procedures and organisational solutions around the school, particularly in Kilrymont. His thorough professionalism has been admired by all. To all these long-serving colleagues we offer a large collective thanks and sincere good wishes for happiness in retirement.

Burns Competition

Representing the school were: David Birrell, Derek Dishington (S1), Claire Owen (S2), Christina Lochhead, Ruth Wells (S3), Laura Sinclair (S4), Rhuari Campbell (S5) and Steven Learmont (S6).

Ruth Wells was awarded 1st in her singing class (S3-4). David Birrell was awarded 1st in the recitation class (S1-2), and Derek Dishington participated in both singing and recitation classes and gained a 2nd in the recitation class (S1-2). Laura Sinclair was awarded 1st in her recitation class (S3-4) and Steven Learmont was awarded 2nd in his recitation class (S5-6). Congratulations are due to all the participants.

Ruth, David and Derek represented Fife in the National Competition in Ayr and Ruth's success is reported elsewhere under 'Hitting the High Notes'.

Supported Learning

This session, S3, S4 and S5 pupils were involved in programmes that offered them the opportunity to learn how to learn.

S3 experienced a full day of study skills presented by Learning Performance staff and including strategies for memorising, mind mapping and study planning.

A half-day programme entitled 'Exam Success' encouraged S4 and S5 pupils to learn relaxation techniques and boosted self-confidence through offering strategies for studying.

Pupil evaluations suggest that each of these programmes was helpful and enjoyable. They especially enjoyed meeting new 'teachers', some of whom were definitely 'cool'!

It is hoped that next session, similar programmes will be on offer, this time to S1, S3 and S5.

Drama Snippets

Pupils have recently enjoyed theatre trips to see "Blood Brothers" at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre and "Educating Rita" at the Byre Theatre.

Steven Little from the Byre Theatre will be working with Higher Drama pupils this term.

Advanced Higher Drama and English pupils will be going to Stratford in September to see the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Links with the Byre Theatre were further consolidated with a second highly successful production of Chekhov's 'The Three Sisters'. The use of the theatre for this production added a new dimension and was a very effective learning experience for all those involved.

E-Mail
enquiries@madras.fife.sch.uk

Web-Site
www.madras.fife.sch.uk

Enhancing The Curriculum

This year the school has piloted several small projects that offer experiences in team building, practical skills and personal development. All of these projects have been thoroughly enjoyed by the participants, staff and several volunteer helpers from school staff, university students and our own S6 Peer Tutors. We plan to extend these projects into the coming session:

Madras Outdoor Group: featuring rock climbing, skiing and hill walking.

Ground Force: a makeover of the janitor's garden in South Street.

Skills for Life: baking, craft work and T-shirt printing in Kilrymont.

Greenfingers Club: out of hours club to transform access from the car park at Kilrymont. (More news on this elsewhere in Newsletter!)

SCOTTISH MATHEMATICAL COUNCIL MATHS CHALLENGE CONTEST 2003

This annual contest is open to pupils in schools from the whole of Scotland. In this year's contest our pupils achieved a creditable 6 Gold, 2 Silver and 10 Bronze awards. Gold and Silver prize-winners were awarded their prizes at a ceremony held at the University of Stirling on Tuesday 3rd June. Our Gold winners were: Sarah Dunn (S4), Sheila Norrie and Charles Oliver (S3), Sana Eljamel, Sarah Gillespie and David Watson (S2).



Hadrian's Wall

The trip to Hadrian's Wall was highly successful once again, with splendid weather, excellent pupils and first class organisation by Miss Watkins. Despite being on maternity leave, Mrs Shields came with baby Kate who, at 3 months old is the youngest member in the 24 years of Madras College trips! After the trip we bade farewell to some S6 pupils who had come every time from S1 on.

Water in School

This information sheet from Fife Council was issued to all pupils for their parents on Friday 27th June. Bottles were issued to Madras College pupils during the week beginning Monday 23rd June with water being available from Thursday 26th June.

In Social Education lessons, pupils have been made aware of when and where to fill their bottles and when it is permissible to drink from them.

Attention all Parents/Guardians

An envelope containing important information about uniform, drinking water in school and update of personal information was issued to all pupils for their parents/guardians on Friday 27th June.

If you have not received your envelope, please ask your son or daughter about it, search the school bag or if all else fails, telephone the school office to request a replacement.

Off Their Own Bat

On Saturday 15th March at 2pm at Kinburn Tennis Club, Fraser Anderson, William Gilbertson, Eoghain Johnson and Andrew Taylor (all S4) began a 24 hour sponsored tennis marathon in aid of Comic relief. They raised a startling total of £615.43. Well done!

Kiel Exchange

Our German visitors from Kiel arrived on 18th June. Numbers taking part in this exchange are a bit low at present and we are trying to recruit more participants. So, if you are studying German, think about it! Fancy a visit to Kiel next June?

Tesco Tokens

The Learning Support Department would again like to thank you all for your support in this collection. This year our amazing total has enabled us to "purchase" a PC and printer and also several software packages which will enhance everyone's learning.

German Recitation

Eleven pupils entered this competition which was held recently at the University of St Andrews. Against strong opposition from all over Scotland, Tom Esler and William Gilbertson (both S4) won through to the Finals and received certificates and consolation prizes from Berti Vogts.

HOMESTUDY GUIDELINES LAUNCHED WITH STAFF

During session 2002/03, a Whole School Policy on Homestudy, Guidelines for Teachers has been developed by the Supporting Independent Learning Staff Working Group. All staff were consulted about the draft on In-Service Day 5 in April and the resulting Guidelines will be launched in August, to be piloted with pupils next session. The Policy sets out clearly our agreed approach to Homestudy.

Why do we call it Homestudy not Homework?

Homework is work set directly by the teacher. But pupils' success at SQA level and beyond depends on their commitment to independent, self-motivated study. The skills of independent study are taught as pupils move through secondary school, so that they gradually learn to take more responsibility for their own learning. Homestudy is therefore the term we use because it covers all the learning pupils engage in outside the classroom.

Planners and Homestudy

Central to building good Homestudy habits is, of course, the supportive relationship between home and school. The key to this Home/School partnership is, the Planner, which each pupil receives at the start of the new school year. The Planner is a diary, an organiser, a memory aid, a notebook, a Homestudy record - and much more. Your child should never

leave home for school without it!

We would remind parents that all homework set by teachers should be written into the Planner. We ask parents to check the Planner and, especially in the early years of the school, sign it weekly. On occasions, subject teachers may communicate with parents via a note in the Planner. It can also be used in this way for replying.

First year Homestudy Guide for Parents

A booklet based on the teachers' Policy has been prepared for the parents of the incoming first year. Its purpose is to give information into the role of Homestudy and the ways in which parents can support their children's learning. Copies were offered to parents attending the Primary 7 Parents' Evening on 19th June and each new S1 pupil will take home a copy at the start of the new term in August.

Once the usefulness of this pilot S1 booklet is reviewed, the plan is to produce similar booklets for issue to parents and pupils of each year group in the school.

The first meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association next session, on September 25th will be concerned with Homestudy issues. All parents are warmly invited to attend to find out more.

Litter Lifting

In response to the St Andrews Preservation Trust's competition on community projects, pupil volunteers from S2 and S3 have been lifting litter from the areas around both sites of Madras College.

The school has been extremely fortunate to have had the support of the Council's Environmental Services 'Rubbish Free Zone' Coordinators, Jane Hutchison and Karen Robertson. They have supplied all the litter picking equipment for the groups, have accompanied the pupils and staff on their walks and have offered advice on areas to target round both buildings. These lifts have taken place once a week after school this term, and over the sessions more than 25 large bags have been filled!

Pupils are regularly being encouraged in Assembly addresses to keep the school and surrounding areas clean and free of litter. Furthermore, a committee has been created in the school comprised of staff, janitors and pupils who will continue the work of this year's group in the coming session.

The staff and pupils involved would like to thank members of the community for their encouraging comments while they were collecting litter. Maybe we could start a new trend in the community at large!

3-Day Activities

This 3-day event at the end of May was again very successful with an excellent response from S3 pupils. A wide variety of activities took place, with 200 pupils on residential trips to places as widespread as Disneyland Paris, Northern Ireland where they visited the Giant's Causeway, and Glen Tilt where the facilities are a bit more basic but the scenery is wonderful! There were also plenty day trips to choose from, varying from designing Celtic jewellery to Go-Karting, and from Canoeing in the Highlands to Keep Fit on the East Sands.

Barry Buddon Assault Course

Suzanne Law, a 5th year pupil, took it upon herself to organise a sponsored trip in aid of Comic Relief and the Red Cross to Barry Buddon assault course in Monifieth.

On a beautiful spring day, 23 pupils were put through their paces by instructors from the Army Youth Team who inspired them to work together as a team and rise to each challenge presented by the course. Thanks to them, everyone finished the course safely though somewhat wet!

The course started relatively easily but progressed to more difficult obstacles. Most memorable were a 10-foot wall, a definite challenge to the shorter members of the group, plus a 20 foot high cargo net which had to be climbed and then descended.

All agreed that the most unforgettable part of the day was negotiating a pool of muddy water by means of a rope swing, which was the downfall of many of the team.

The group of S5 pupils managed to raise just under £700 for Comic Relief and the Red Cross, and had a very enjoyable time in the process. Retired Major Dunbar, from the Army Training Estate, arranged access to the assault course and ensured that all pupils finished the course safely.

Code of Conduct in IT

A new Code of Conduct for pupils has recently been developed and was issued to them at the start of the new timetable in June. New S1 pupils will be issued with account details and the Code of Conduct in August.

The intention of this document is to raise awareness of the responsibilities of pupils when using school computer systems and to give guidelines on sensible use. The sanction of removal of access is available to school and we will soon be in a position to switch the password on for periods where the access is required for curricular use but to turn it off at all other times.

Pupils are expected to have made a return accepting the conditions of use of the school computer systems. If this has not been done then the account will be disabled until a return has been made accepting the conditions.

Great Valley High School Exchange

Despite last minute hitches, the exchange between Madras College and Great Valley High, USA, continues for a 14th year. Michelle Pyne and Emily Daniels from Malvern, Pennsylvania will exchange with Kirsty McBeath and Lindsay King (both S5) respectively. The American girls will travel to St Andrews for the start of the new term in August and stay until Christmas. The Madras girls will study at Great Valley High School from January to May next year. All families are very much looking forward to meeting each other.

Quad Revamp

Craig Gilmour, Sanjee Jayasekera, Nony Mordi and Nene Udofot (all S4) spent June 3rd repainting the Quad picnic benches and planting up the flower tubs. We are very grateful to the pupils and especially to Miss Jackson who organised the revamp for helping to improve our environment and making the quad an even more pleasant place to spend some time in.

Rhineland Music Trip

On Saturday July 5th, 80 pupils and 9 members of staff leave by bus to travel to Hull where they will board the ferry for Zeebrugge, the first steps in a week-long visit to the German Rhineland. The pupils, drawn from all 6 year groups in the school and comprising Senior Wind Band, Pipe Band and Chamber Orchestra, will be based in the ancient city of Koblenz at the confluence of the rivers Rhine and Mosel. Over a period of 6 days they will give concerts in Bad Kreuznach, Bad Neuenahr and Bad Bertrich, finishing on July 12th with a performance in the Efteling Theme Park, south of Rotterdam in Holland.

A number of activities have been organised to give everyone on the trip a chance to enjoy German life and culture. These include visits to a musical instruments museum in Rudesheim, the castle of Burg Eltz, a whole day (**without** a concert!) at the Phantasieland Theme Park and shopping in Koblenz city centre, not to mention a choice of swimming, bowling or sightseeing in the charming small town of Cochem.

The trip promises to be an interesting and fulfilling experience for both pupils and staff who are all looking forward to the visit with a great deal of eager anticipation.

SUCCESS - SQA AND THE REST

The 4th year pupils based in the Janitors House at South Street have had an extremely busy final term at school. They have all completed a number of SQA courses at Access 2 and Access 3 level. They have gained either a double or triple group award for passing up to 19 Access 2 units over the last two years.

Early in June, the group attended a three-week placement at Elmwood College in preparation for beginning college full time in September.

This final week has seen them on a variety of AWARE work placements from the Gibson House kitchen to the Deer Centre ranger service.

The pupils have really enjoyed their time at South Street and would like to thank all the mainstream staff for making their year there the successful and rewarding experience that it was.



4J1 pupils after raising £100 for Cancer Research UK by making bacon rolls for the staff. (Back Row LtoR Philip Steel, Jennifer Rae, David Kerr, Front Row LtoR Daniel Redpath, Chris Nicol and Robert Mitchell).

School Dress Code

All parents have recently been sent a copy of the amended dress code shown below. Many thanks to all who assisted in this exercise. Our expectation is that all pupils will keep to the code thus indicating their commitment to school. As always parental support is vital and it is hoped that items purchased in preparation for next session will reflect the agreed code. Sales of fleeces and hoodies are going particularly well. Orders may be placed at any time via the school offices.

- Plain navy or black v-necked jersey or sweatshirt
- Formal black or navy blue trousers or skirt
- Plain white or light blue shirt or polo shirt
- School tie
- Dark footwear
- Clothes with cult or company advertising are not acceptable school wear
- Safety and Security: Pupils' clothing must not place them at risk of accident. The length and width of trousers and the height of heels are two aspects of dress that may cause injury. Pupils are therefore expected to wear clothing that does not add to personal risk.
- For school events a high standard of appearance is expected. Staff will make expectations clear to pupils for particular events.
- Additional items of school wear may be made available for pupils to purchase. These are, at present, the school fleeces, hoodies and scarves.

Visit to France

The annual S3 visit to Paris and Brittany was, as always, a great success. The main sights of Paris were taken in, the Eiffel Tower and Montmartre being especially popular. In Brittany, Mont Saint Michel and the market in Dinan were thoroughly explored, as was Saint Malo. However, the taste of oysters at Cancale may well provide the lasting memory for most!

SPACE SCHOOL

S4 pupils, David Rendle and Sarah Dunn, have attended the briefing day for the Space School and are now working through the various tasks (to be completed by 30th August) which could earn them a place on the Space School trip to NASA's mission control centre in Houston, Texas. The Space School is organised by Careers Scotland.

High Notes

Ruth Wells (S3), soprano, distinguished herself in the National Burns Singing Competition held in Ayr recently. Although she was then a 3rd year pupil competing against strong 3rd and 4th year singers, Ruth came a very worthy 2nd in her class. We look forward to hearing more of her and other members of the Singing Programme next session.

UK Schools Junior Maths Challenge Contest 2003

A remarkable total of 58 awards were gained by Madras College contestants this year. This is the highest number of awards our pupils have received in this contest. There were 21 Gold awards, 20 Silver and 17 Bronze. Special congratulations go to Ruth Aitken in S2 for achieving the top score out of all our contestants. Her score was sufficiently high for her to be invited to sit the prestigious Junior Mathematical Olympiad. In addition to her Gold award she also receives a special "Best in School" award. Thanks to all contestants for their efforts and also to their teachers for their continuing support and encouragement.

Special Education

News

A group of S1-S3 pupils spent 2 days at Glentilt Cottage. On the journey up we went swimming at Perth Leisure Centre. At the cottage there was football, cricket and more swimming followed by a BBQ. On the return trip we stopped at the Megabowl for 10 pin bowling and had lunch at Camperdown Park. We had 2 days of good weather and a thoroughly enjoyable good time.

Green Fingers

The Green Fingers Club continues to flourish. Many trees and shrubs have been planted during the term in the Kilrymont Road grounds and are being tenderly nurtured. Several borders are blooming and a recently constructed raised bed is blossoming.

The old heather bed at the front entrance of the school has been dug out (even a heavy hailstorm did not stop work!) and is in the process of being rejuvenated.

Two sales of plants were very popular with staff and pupils and raised healthy funds which will be ploughed back to support future projects.

The combined efforts of the Green Fingers Club and the Litter Lifting Group have been much appreciated and have ensured that the Kilrymont Road grounds are looking much improved.

Masterclass and Concert

In September it is hoped that the school will benefit from visiting expertise in the form of Norman Beedie, Professor of Piano at the Guildhall who has offered to come and give a masterclass on piano, followed by a public concert involving soloists, orchestra and singers. There may also be a masterclass on voice. The provisional dates for the masterclasses and concert are Tuesday and Wednesday, September 23rd and 24th respectively.

VISIT TO LOCHES

It is hoped that a senior school trip to Loches, St Andrews' twin town in France, can be organised for the first week of the October holiday. It would be good to repeat the success of the 2001 visit.

MATHS ON-LINE

Several of our pupils have had solutions to problems published on the NRICH website (Cambridge University) in their on-line monthly magazine. (Search Google for "nrich"). Sheila Norrie, Kirsty Stewart (S3) and Sarah Dunn (S4) are amongst our recent successes.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Bronze Level

Throughout this year our S3 pupils have been a very enthusiastic group, with 29 of them attending training regularly for the expedition section of the Award. All pupils have enjoyed the wide range of activities involved, from tent pitching to map reading. They have been out on 2 overnight expeditions this term – both wet unfortunately, and are due to depart on their eagerly awaited final expedition on 20th June – fingers crossed for fine weather (though a breeze to remove midges would be most welcome!).

The participants have also worked hard at the other 3 sections of their Award – the Skill, the Physical Activity and the Service to the Community.

Well done to all of them for all their hard work and we hope they will proceed on to Silver next year.

Maths Contest Winners

Our team of 4 pupils: Thomas Davies and Sarah Leenhouts (S4), Sana Eljamel and Alasdair Downes (S3) won the Fife Enterprising Maths Shield and now go on to represent Fife in the National Contest in November. They beat stiff opposition from another 12 teams from Fife schools.

Our S1 team of 4 pupils came 3rd out of 18 teams in the contest for the Fife Junior Maths Challenge Cup.

Our S5 team of 20 pupils won 1st place in the National Mathématiques sans Frontières contest.

Classics

The Gilbert Murray competition is a national event for pupils' essays on Greece or Rome. Madras had its most successful year yet with prizes for Charis Bredin (S2), Tom Corcoran (S4) and Hannah Bredin (S5).

In the recent Classics Recitation Competition at the University of St Andrews our pupils did very well indeed. Madras retained the cup in the Junior Latin Play. There were 4 finalists out of 15 entrants: all 3 Madras teams made it to the final and 2 won 1st and 2nd places. The school also had 1st prize in Greek and 2nd places in Intermediate and Senior Latin and in the Senior Project. The project was a model of a Roman bath-house: among the relaxations demonstrated were knucklebones, using bones obtained from the butcher that morning!

Fife History Challenge 2003

Congratulations to the team of Andrea Mallord, Katrina Walker, Emma Gillespie, Michael Hay, Sarah McLeod and Lillias Dunn (all S2), who came a very close 3rd in the 'Ten Schools' competition at Buckhaven High School. Katrina, who was awarded 1st individual, deserves special congratulations.

Pipe Band

This is the main season for the Band which is as strong as we can remember it with some 25 players at present. They played excellently in difficult, muddy conditions at Fife Show, doing very well not to slip and disgrace themselves! Their pipe-major, Andrew Littlejohn (S5), has played recently at a Northern Services conference at St Andrews University, leading a group of delegates from a reception to their dinner through the streets of the town. Playing non-stop for over 20 minutes requires considerable stamina.

The Band has again been offered contracts to beat the retreat for high-profile University events - this year, both the Graduation Ball and the Alumni Ball. There, as well as at the school concert and abroad on tour this summer, audiences will be able to see and hear the showy back-sticking of the drum core developed by Mr Sandy Bayne, drumming tutor, and tunes written for the band by Mr Roderick Barron, piping tutor. A successful 'bag-packing' Saturday in June has boosted funds – the Piping and Drumming Programme is entirely self-financing.

On The Tennis Courts

Madras College tennis teams have continued to achieve the high standard of previous years.

In May, Lauri Mitchell and Lindsay Forbes won the Midlands U15 Schools event and Greig Ewing and Gregory Weir ensured the appearance of Madras College's name on both cups.

Both the Girls' and Boys' teams reached the finals day of the Scottish Schools' Tennis Team Championship at St George's School, Edinburgh. Both teams gained 3rd place in their respective events – a commendable achievement. Hannah Moffat (S1), Lindsay Forbes (S2), Lauri Mitchell, Kirsty Stewart (S3), and Kerrie McRitchie (S6) are to be commended on their results over the season. Gregory Weir and Steven Birrell (S2), Greig Ewing (S3), Ross Carstairs, Timmy Weir (S4), Euan Forbes (S5), Johnny Randall (S6), made up the boys' squad along with Graeme Hood (S5) who is recovering from a knee operation.

The boys' team has also qualified for the British Schools' Tennis Team finals to be played at Queenswood School in Hertfordshire from 6th – 9th July. Our good wishes go with them as they represent Madras College south of the border.

Our thanks go to Mike Aitken, the coach at St Andrews Tennis Club, and parents for their support during the year.

On-Line School Archive

www.madras.fife.sch.uk/archive

This now contains a large number of historical photographs ranging from 1848 (Hill and Adamson) photos of the school up to an aerial view of the South Street building taken in the 1970s.

It also has wide-ranging biographies of former pupils and staff going back to the 19th century. In addition it contains many articles concerning the founder of the school, Andrew Bell, the history of the school and also of the monitorial system of education that Bell established.

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Dates for Your Diary

Football

The U18 team won the Fife Cup for only the second time, defeating Kirkcaldy High School 2-1 after extra time. They followed that up with a short trip to Dublin where they defeated Tolka Rovers 1-0 and drew with WFTA 0-0.

In their final match of a long season they defeated the University 3rd XI 4-1 finishing with impressive statistics of 22 wins, 2 draws and 3 defeats, scoring 79 goals with only 23 against.

To mark the 10th anniversary since the Madras U14 team won the Scottish Shield, the team of '93 played the team of 2003 at 7-a-sides with the 'old men' winning 15-5. Afterwards, both teams, staff and parents attended the presentation dinner at Ziggy's Restaurant. A highly successful evening ended with the following trophies being presented: Top Goal Scorer – Joe Neilson, Fair Play Award – Andy Kay, Most Improved Player – Neil Strachan, Players' Player of the Year – Stuart McGregor, Player of the Year – Stuart McGregor, Contribution to Senior Football – Straton Logan (all S6).

The U16 team made it to the final of the Fife Cup where they were narrowly beaten by Kirkland High School 2-1.

The U13 team achieved even greater success in the Fife 7-a-sides Cup Final against St Andrews High School. The final score was 1-1 after extra time but our boys won 8-7 on penalties. Having progressed through 3 stages at Glenrothes, Dunfermline and Glasgow they were in the last 8 teams which qualified for the National Finals of the Coca-Cola 7's at Hampden Park. Playing at Hampden was a big thrill for the boys who were well supported by staff, parents and fellow pupils. They deserve our congratulations for getting this far. Unfortunately they narrowly missed out in reaching the actual final, finishing 2nd in their section.

Golf

Our golfers achieved many successes in this year's Fife Schools' Golf Championship. In the Junior Boys' section Frazer Ogston (S1), Iain Finlay,

James Tait (S2), and Adam Killen (S3) were the Team Scratch Runners Up. For Senior Boys, Peter Latimer (S4), Niall Finlay, Greg Paterson, and Alex Room (S5) were Team Scratch Winners with Greg Paterson being Individual Scratch Winner and so becoming Fife Senior Boys' Golf Champion.

Not to be outdone, in the Open Girls' competition Jacqueline Sneddon (S2), Becky Copland (S4) and Sarah McCartney (S5) were Team Scratch Winners with Becky Copland achieving Individual Scratch Runner Up and Jacqueline Sneddon becoming Individual Handicap Winner.

Track and Field

Fifteen Gold, 10 Silver and 14 Bronze – that was the splendid total of medals won by Madras College pupils at the recent Fife Schools' Track and Field Championships!

Nony Mordi (S4) won the Cup for the Most Meritorious Performance and Michelle Thaddeus (S4) won the Joyce Liddell Memorial Discus Cup. In the relays, the Group B Girls' Relay Cup was won by Nony Mordi, Joanna Wilson, Michelle Thaddeus (S4) and Shirras Moir (S3), and the Group C Relay Cup by Freya Marks, Alison Colvin, Susan Nicoll (S3) and Tara Hill (S2).

Other Gold medallists were Craig Moir, Philip Salter and Jonathan Watters (all S2), Freya Marks, Jonathan Marks and Andrew Reid (all S3), Nony Mordi, Michelle Thaddeus and Andrew Kinnear (S4), and Rory Scott and Graeme Noble (S5).

In the Fife Schools' Athletics Multi Events held recently at Pitreavie, Gold medals were won by Andrew Kinnear and Freya Marks, Silver medals by Nony Mordi and Craig Moir, and Bronze by Andrew Reid.

Finally, in the prestigious Scottish Schools' Track and Field Championships, Bronze medals were won by Andrew Kinnear, Jonathan Marks and Keith Simpson (S2) and Nony Mordi achieved 4th place in both 80m Hurdles and Long Jump.

HOLIDAYS

Summer

Friday 4th July 2003
to Friday 15th August 2003

Autumn

Monday 13th October 2003
to Friday 24th October 2003

Christmas

Monday 22nd December 2003
to Friday 2nd January 2004

February

Thursday 12th February 2004
and Friday 13th February 2004

Spring

Monday 5th April 2004
to Friday 16th April 2004

May Day

Monday 3rd May 2004

June

Monday 7th June 2004

IN-SERVICE

Monday 18th August 2003
Thursday 13th November 2003
Friday 14th November 2003
Wednesday 11th February 2004
Tuesday 8th June 2004

SPORTS DAY

Hot off the press, congratulations to Sports Day winners: Gemma Dixon and Rachel Callaghan (S1 Girls), Mark Whatley (S1 Boys), Lindsay Forbes (S2 Girls), Keith Simpson (S2 Boys), Freya Marks (S3 Girls), Andrew Reid (S3 Boys), Nony Mordi (Senior Girls), Andrew Kinnear (Senior Boys). The Inter-House Championship Trophy was won by Castle.

The performance of the day was undoubtedly from Nony Mordi who established 4 new records in 100m, 200m, 80m hurdles and high jump.