



Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

March 2007

Rector's Note

It's nearly time to say farewell to you, to thank you for your support for the school and enthusiasm about our common goals for pupils at Madras. Nearly time to hand over to Mr Ian Jones who has been appointed as Rector by Fife Council. Nearly time to become soppy and sentimental about the end of a personal chapter. Nearly but not quite!

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Ethos of Work Programme

Six fourth year pupils from Madras College recently participated in an Ethos of Work programme organised by Marion Thomson, Enterprise in Education Officer. This programme was designed to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes which will enhance their employability. The programme was delivered in partnership with local business and industry. Pupils had visits to Tesco in St Andrews, The St Andrews Aquarium, The Byre Theatre and Curtis Fine Papers. In addition, The Royal Bank of Scotland visited the pupils in school. An award ceremony was held in school and the pupils were presented with certificates for their successful participation in the programme. All agreed that the programme was worthwhile and will help the pupils to make a successful transition to the world of work.

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Enterprise in Education 'Souper Douper'



Back row: Lindsay Matheson (Rector), Elaine James (Madras College Kitchen), Claire Reekie (Careers Scotland), Eadie Manson (Adam Smith College). Front Row: Christopher Sullivan, Jessica Heymans and Tara Colman.

S2 have just finished an Enterprise in Education project called 'Souper Douper'. Each pupil had to devise 'A Healthy Soup' to be sold in the school canteen. They had to produce the packaging, labelling, costing and nutritional value as well as making the soup! This was marked in each class, and the winner from each class received a cookery book and an apron and went through to the final cook-off. This was held on Friday 9th March when 5 'celebrities' judged the final competition. First prize went to Christopher Sullivan who made an outstanding Curried Parsnip Soup with Parmesan Croutons. Second prize went to Tara Colman with an unusual Salami and Frankfurter Soup and third prize went to Jessica Heymans with a rich Cream of Chicken Soup. The winner received a smoothie-maker and his soup will be on the canteen menu in the near future! The runners up each received a hand blender. This is the second year of this competition and there was a great buzz in the department while this was going on.

Kiel Exchange - 50th Anniversary

The main event this session will be the 50th Anniversary of the Kiel Exchange in June. Many former participants, some from the very first exchange in 1957, will travel to St Andrews to take part in the celebrations which include a ceilidh on 30th June in the school hall and 'Kaffee Kuches in the Afternoon'.

S3 German pupils will stay with their Scottish partners from 25th June to 4th July. The group attending from Germany will also include the Headteacher of our partner school, the Kieler Gelehrtenschule, and his wife, and there will be many other esteemed guests.

The pupils seem to be trying to see me off in style. They are working hard, S4 focussing on their first national examinations in most cases, S5 with the hard challenge of demanding courses, S6 with the task of completing good sets of results and finalising their future destinations.

They are showing up strongly on the charity front; Red Nose Day producing over £2,500 from the brilliant Talent Show, the Dress-as-you-please and the various enterprising fundraisers - from busking in the quad to sponsored silence in the Kilrymont lockers.

They are hitting high notes in every musical corner from festivals to concerts, inter-school competitions to welcoming the delegates to the COSLA conference.

They are progressing through national tennis competitions as strongly as last year, when they won both girls' and boys' senior national awards and received School Of The Year recognition by the SLTA. They are in the semi-final of the Scottish Football Cup and the final of the Scottish Rugby Shield. They have carried off regional achievements and awards in badminton, hockey and cross-country, plus national awards in athletics, fencing, yachting, figure-skating and table tennis.

So when the time comes to leave the Madras blue suit in the wardrobe I'll be beginning to believe what the HMI Inspectors said last year that we have a school of rare richness and depth in the pupil experience. I'll be thanking my lucky stars that I had the chance to be part of it and wishing my successor all good fortune. I'll be thanking you, the parents, for supporting the established pattern and also for suggesting helpful improvements. I'll be paying warm tribute to a dedicated and resourceful staff which has consistently defied the difficult logistics of the split site and the poor facilities to deliver an excellent service. I'll be hoping to be invited to the opening of a single site Madras with up-to-the-minute facilities before too long into retirement. With all good wishes.

L M Matheson

Staffing Notes

There have been a few changes of personnel to note during the term. In February Mrs Khovaks joined the department of special education as an auxiliary, and Mrs Brown joined the Pupil Services team as a support officer. We thank Mrs Sturrock for helping out this session in the Art and Design vacancy. Miss Thomas takes over the post in April.

Music News

School Concerts

At the recent Spring Concert, Lindsay Matheson mentioned that this was his 34th major concert at Madras College in the ten years he had been Rector and 'they just keep on getting better and better'. Unfortunately, he won't be staying to see the school through its 175th Anniversary in 2008 when the concert total since the 150th must come near to 100 not including all the other events taking place off the premises. In the meantime we thank him for his unswerving support of Music in school since the very day he arrived, and no wrong notes! We wish him well in his retirement.

Bell Baxter Centenary Competition

Annually, this attracts fierce competition and this year is no exception if the Madras qualifying round with guest adjudicator, Marlyn Boulton was anything to go by. We invite you to attend the final of this competition on the evening of Thursday March 29th at 7.15pm in Kilrymont Hall where the three representatives of each of the three local secondary schools, Bell Baxter, Waid and Madras meet to provide an evening of superb music-making and give the adjudicator, Harry Stevenson, a headache into the bargain.

Fife Festival of Music

Many pupils of Madras College took part in the annual Fife Festival of Music either as individuals entered by their private teachers or by their school instructors. The full results may be seen on www.ffom.org.uk (go to 'winners list' link) and reference to this internet source will give an accurate picture, it being invidious to list them here and find that someone got missed out! Notably, the Senior Wind Band held on to the title in their class for the second year with an ensuing flurry of dates ties.



Burns Song Competitions

This year around 650 pupils took part in the class competitions with some 90 World Federation of Burns Clubs' Certificates being presented by Rector, Mr Matheson at a special lunchtime ceremony for the winners. At the same time, members of the St Andrews Burns Club judged the main school Burns Singing Competition and the winners of the various classes performed their songs again at the school Burns Supper and are to sing this week in the Fife Burns Competition. We wish them all good luck.

Junior Inter-House Debating

Friday lunchtime debating regulars planned and competed in this competition over three weeks. They decided on three excellent varied motions, debating whether we should make pupils stay at school until 18, whether we should make recycling compulsory and whether we should cap footballers' wages. Each debate was fiercely competed, and we had many spectators come along to hear the arguments.

Mrs Harvie and Miss Birmingham found the best debaters difficult to decide on, but eventually came to the following decisions:

Chairperson	Rebecca Storer
1st proposition	Vicky McKay
1st Opposition	Fiona Meek
2nd Proposition	Lindsay Wright
2nd Opposition	Eilidh Baxter

Congratulations to them all!

Priory won the House competition, with Castle and Blackfriars coming 2nd equal.

World Book Day



The English Department recently celebrated World Book Day with various activities.

Staff held the now traditional 'Bring a Book, Swap a Book' event at interval. S4 pupils were visited by the helpful and interesting staff of Waterstones, and were given the opportunity to discuss and purchase books. Mrs Scott took 1G to Canongate Primary and Mrs Payne took 1D to Greyfriars Primary. There, S1 pupils introduced Primary 1 pupils to their own favourite childhood books. S1 and Primary 1 pupils all loved reading together, and the visits were declared a resounding success.

Scottish Parliament

A group of six S5/6 Modern Studies pupils were chosen to represent Mid Scotland and Fife at a full day of discussion and debate in the Scottish Parliament on 2nd March 2007. Activities involved creating petitions, listening to the 'Glasgow Girls', who are still campaigning against dawn raids, and meeting a variety of MSPs. During a friendly and satisfying lunch, pupils mingled with those from other schools across Scotland. Afterwards, pupils and staff sat in the MSPs' seats in the Chamber and put forward questions to representatives of five political parties. An enjoyable and inspiring day!

DRAMA



The Advanced Higher Drama class performed their special study acting exam piece before a team of 12 examiners of the SQA. This took place at the Byre Theatre and was the moderation exercise for the Advanced Higher examiner. The Principal Assessor was so impressed by the breadth of texts and the commitment of the team, she has asked if the pupils could be videoed as a teaching aid for schools.

Fairtrade Fortnight (February 26th – March 11th 2007)

As part of a number of events within St Andrews, the Madras Business Enterprise group, along with some S6 helpers, provided an interval tuck shop at both sites for the duration of Fairtrade Fortnight. On Friday 2nd March this included a coffee morning in aid of ActionAid. The pupils arranged for Starbucks to support the event by donating the cups. £600 of Fairtrade goods were sold in the two weeks.

All the events in this fortnight aim to raise awareness of the increasing variety and availability of goods that are Fairtrade certified.

By changing to Fairtrade certified products you can make a real difference to the lives of workers and farmers in developing countries. As well as guaranteeing producer organisations a fair and stable price for their products that covers the cost of production, they also receive a social premium; extra money that has to be spent on community projects. For more information about Fairtrade go to www.fairtrade.org.uk.



Tuck Shop in Kirlymont Road



Fairtrade good on sale in South Street

Lumsden Art Competition

Pupils from Madras College recently took part in the Lumsden Art Competition. This local competition is run by a charitable group whose members are St Andrews University students. Pupils who entered the competition had their work displayed at the Byre Theatre.

Alex Pettyfer, star of this summer's hit film *Stormbreaker*, joined the panel of judges at the awards ceremony on the 10th March and gave prizes to the lucky winners.

Madras College winning entries were:

14 years and under category

3rd Rachel Gillespie

18 years and under category

3rd Alyssa Flegg

1st Sarah Gillespie



Rosemary by Sarah Gillespie (S6)



Contemplation by Alyssa Flegg (S5)

STANZA

Scotland's Poetry Festival

The English Department was recently lucky to have a series of visits from students of Creative Writing from the University of St Andrews.

The visitors came to introduce the Stanza festival to S1 pupils. They then went on to inspire S1 pupils to write their own poetry for the Stanza Poetry Competition.

They were obviously very successful, as Madras College S1 pupils went on to win the following prizes:

2nd Callum Chimside
3rd Montgomery Shield

Special Commendations
Heather Powrie and Kirsty Liggat

Well done to the winners, and to the hundreds of pupils who submitted poems to the competition!

Red Nose Day £2,500 and Rising

On Red Nose Day activities began with our Annual show 'Madras Talent 2007'. While the country has been swamped with 'Stars in Their Eyes' and 'The X-Factor', the school has produced its own high-quality brand of musical and dancing entertainment. On Thursday, 15th March over 400 pupils and parents saw 17 magnificent acts. The Gold Award was a joint affair with Nicola Rayner, Gabrielle da Cruz Welsh (both S6) sharing with Andrew Scott and Iain Sutherland (both S5); Amy Rayner (S4) took the Bronze Award. A total of over £800 was raised from this event alone.

The next day was our non-uniform day, punctuated by sponsored silences from some pupils (music to the ears!) and busking in the South Street Quad.

Some monies are still being collected but already a total in excess of £2,500 has been reached. Well done and congratulations to all involved!!

Computers for Schools Vouchers

The Learning Support Department are again collecting Tesco 'Computers for Schools Vouchers'. We have been able to 'buy' several computers and lots of software over the years which are of huge benefit to all pupils. Please continue to support us by sending tokens to school with your son/daughter.

E-Mail

madrascollege.enquiries@ffe.gov.uk

Web-Site

www.madras.ffe.sch.uk

Euroscola Visit

Kirsty Campbell went on a Euroscola visit to Strasbourg, representing Madras College. Gerry Toner, the project leader, has written to the school to say that was in every way a credit to Madras College.



Ski Club

For the Ski Club this has been a very poor winter. Despite having five potential ski dates there was no snow on the Scottish hills for any of them. We are hoping that this is not an omen of things to come. The club, however, organised to go to Xscape in Braehead for the last date of the season, and the whole group enjoyed the novelty of skiing on snow - without the extremes of the Scottish weather to challenge us.

Green Snippets

• Paper Recycling

It was decided that the only way to ensure paper bins are emptied regularly at Kilrymont Road is to have an identical system to South Street of pupils taking down bins during Registration.

• Central Heating

The majority of South Street classrooms are far hotter than they need to be, and it's a waste of energy. The janitors will be asked to see how possible it is to turn down the central heating system a couple of degrees.

• Paper Minimisation

Ways to cut down the amount of paperwork sent home to parents will be investigated; 'oldest and only' systems, electronic newsletters, etc.

Scottish Space School

Around eight S4 pupils have just finished the introductory module in the Scottish Space School competition for 2007-2008. They are keeping their fingers crossed they get through to the second stage where the briefing and team-building days await. They hope to follow the success Madras College has had in the last four years. In last year's competition four (currently S5) pupils won places at the Scotland-based Space School taking place in June 2007, with Susie Smart, also S5, gaining a place on the 10-day USA-based Space School. She flies out to Houston in September 2007.

Cabaret

For the second year running the senior Drama fanatics are in full swing rehearsing for another cabaret. This will take place the second week back in the South Street Studio. Time of performance yet to be determined. Come along for an evening of song, dance and entertainment.

Natural Connections

Fife's Natural Connections award has six components all based within the outdoor environment and aims to challenge pupils in the areas of caring for nature, working together, adventure skills, finding your way, journeying, helping others and finally making connections.

Two groups of pupils have been working on different parts of the scheme. The S4 group have spent time working together on problem solving activities, developing the Janitor's House garden at South Street and preparing a journey to the Glen Tilt bothy. The S3 group has been learning how to find their way with various orienteering activities as well as environmental sessions with the countryside ranger service.



Teambuilding challenges



Removing and recycling old fencing

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award group returned this term to the very sad news that Dave Judd (one of our helpers, trainers, leaders and a whole lot more!) had died unexpectedly while on a hike on Christmas Eve. Dave was an amazing man who gave a massive amount to the group - especially (though not exclusively) at the Bronze level. His ability to communicate his immense hillcraft knowledge to the pupils was phenomenal and his sense of humour and calmness in a crisis meant that he is someone who will be greatly missed. A large number of pupils, both current S3 - S6 and former pupils, will remember him with a smile and can rejoice in the fact that they have been trained by one of the best.

Home Economics

It has been very busy in the Home Economics Department this term.

We started off the year with S4 Hospitality Intermediate 1 classes holding an event on Thursday 1st February. The S4 group invited their parents and the Work Experience providers to a finger buffet of sweet and savoury foods. It was a successful evening and we hope to continue this project on an annual basis.

S1 pupils have been involved in a project called 'Going with the Grain'. They had to produce a dish using grains - a bit like a healthy pot noodle! The pupils were registered with Sainsbury's *Active Kids Get Cooking* programme and many of them have been awarded with a Silver certificate for their efforts.

Sporting Roundup

• ATHLETICS

The Scottish Schools' Indoor Athletics Championships took place at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow in February. In the O16 Boys' High Jump, James Tait (S6) finished first. Keith Simpson (S6) finished second in the O16 Boys' 400 metres.

• CROSS COUNTRY

At the Fife Schools' Cross Country Championships, Halina Rees was the S1 Girls Champion, crossing the line in first place. The Senior Boys Team consisting of Philip Salter and Frankie Scott (S6), Scott Ronaldson (S5), and Tom Le Feuvre (S3) retained the Senior Boys' Trophy.

• BADMINTON

At the Fife Schools' Badminton Championships, Lindsay Forbes (S6) won the Senior Girls' Singles Competition and David Birrell (S5) won the Senior Boys' Singles Competition. In the Senior Boys' Doubles Event, Bruce Lamond (S5) and Alasdair Hill (S6) took first place.

• FENCING

Charlotte Evetts (S3) and Christopher McCall (S6) represented Scotland in the Junior Home Internationals held in Cardiff on 24th February. Charlotte was selected for the U16 Girls' Foil Team (teams of 4) and finished in 2nd team place. Christopher was selected for U18 Boys' Epee Team, Scotland and finished in 2nd Team place overall.

• FIGURE SKATING

Jennifer Brown (S3) gained 2nd place in the British Figure Skating Championships.

• FOOTBALL

Jordan Davidson (S2) was selected for the U14 Scottish Club Football Squad. Jordan was selected through playing for Tayport Thistle.

• HOCKEY

U16 and U18 Girls' Hockey reached the semi-finals of the Midlands Cup.

• TABLE TENNIS

Aidan Flegg (S1) plays his table tennis in the Dundee and District Table Tennis League. At the Dundee and District Secondary Schools' Qualifying Competition held recently, Aidan took 1st place in the U12 event and 2nd in the U14 event. Aidan also competed in the National Primary Schools' Competition, on 25th February to determine the top 4 players to represent Scotland at the International Primary Schools' Finals in Cork, Ireland on 13-15th April 2007. Aidan finished in 2nd place and subsequently was selected for the Scottish Squad.

Also competing in the Dundee and District Secondary Schools' Qualifying Competition, to determine the top 4 players in each age group at the National Schools' Finals, was Timothy Woollins (S2) who finished in 3rd place in the U14. In the U16 age category, Ian Johnston (S3) finished in 1st place.



We wish you all a Happy Easter

INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(all dates inclusive)

Mon 2nd to Fri 13th April 2007

Mon 7th May 2007

Mon 4th June 2007

Fri 6th July to Fri 17th August 2007

Mon 15th to Fri 26th October 2007

Mon 24th December 2007

to Fri 4th January 2008

INSERVICE DAYS

Tuesday 8th May 2007

Monday 20th August 2007

Friday 16th November 2007

STUDY LEAVE

STUDY LEAVE

(S4/5/6)

Mon 30th April to Thur 31st May 2007

EXAMS

S3

Wed 2nd to Mon 21st May 2007

SQA

Mon 30th April to Fri 8th June 2007

CONTACT US

South Street

Telephone: 01334 412500

Fax: 01334 412555

Kilrymont Road

Telephone: 01334 412541

Fax: 01334 412609

CHANGES TO NUMBERS

A new telephone system is being installed in April. The new numbers will be:

South Street

Telephone: 01334 659402

Kilrymont Road

Telephone: 01334 659401