



Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2007

Rector's Note

It is a great privilege and honour to have taken over the helm of Madras College from Lindsay Matheson. It would be accurate to say that Lindsay and I hit it off immediately; we have a similar view of education, of the need to maintain traditions and standards, while at the same time keeping abreast of the ever-changing nature of education. In March I met with a group of sixth year pupils and was impressed with their sense of pride in being students of Madras. They felt hurt about criticism that had been levelled against the school and were clear that it did not reflect their experience. Their loyalty to Madras was evident, as was their sense of injustice. During the changeover week it became very clear that Lindsay Matheson was held in high esteem. His leadership and vision has developed a school with a sense of purpose and with the capacity for change. In this work Lindsay has shown sensitivity and compassion and he has balanced tradition with the need to respond to the new and increasing demands being placed on our education service. He has developed a school that is forward looking and mindful of the needs of all pupils at Madras.

In my experience schools are about 3 things: achievement, ethos and partnership.

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The Wizard of Oz



Some of the cast members

First, second and third year members of the Madras Players participated in an extremely successful business enterprise venture. The production team have created an original and entertaining film version of the *Wizard of Oz*. The premier of the film opened to an appreciative audience of families and friends at the 'Celebrating Success' afternoon on Friday 15th June. All agreed that the standard of acting and filming was excellent.

Profits from the sale of the DVD will be used to fund future enterprising activities and the Madras Players are looking forward to next year's dramatic challenge.

Scottish Parliament Visit



Pupils pictured with the former First Minister

The Modern Studies Department has close links with the Scottish Parliament through Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher visits to it, visits to the school by MSPs and help and advice to Advanced Higher pupils in the research stage of their dissertations.

In March of this year a group of six S5/6 pupils represented Mid Scotland and Fife on a full day of seminars and discussion around the issue of 'Young Women in Politics'. Later in the month a group who visited the parliament were taken 'behind the scenes' to the offices of MSPs and met and were photographed with the 'then' First Minister. Typical of our subject that he has now been replaced and our glory was short-lived!

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Achievement is much broader than attainment measured in exam success, important though this is. It encompasses the whole range of experiences that make up school life and in the Madras excels.

Ethos is about the relationships and values that underpin all work we do at Madras. A positive ethos is evident in many ways; the welcome, friendly feeling that I experienced from my very first visit to Madras and the purposeful, productive relationships that exist in classrooms, corridors and throughout the school. Madras is seen as a caring place in which there exists fairness and equality, a sense of pride in our achievements and successes and an understanding about the need to work together to achieve our common goals.

Partnerships provide the context within which we work. All pupils appreciate the support, encouragement and praise that come from both school and home. There is no doubt about the beneficial effect of this very important and necessary mutual support. Partnership with the community in its many guises is important for Madras. Community use of Kilrymont is impressive and it is wonderful to see the extent to which groups make use of the facilities. Work experience provides a valuable insight for fourth year pupils and we are grateful to all the providers who contribute to this worthwhile activity. We are grateful for our continuing links with the University of St Andrews, Elmwood College, RAF Leuchers, The Byre Theatre and to the many organisations in North East Fife with whom we are associated.

Over the past 6 weeks I spent as much time as possible visiting classes and being about the school at interval and lunchtime. In classrooms I have experienced a high quality of teaching, I have noted positive relationships between staff and pupils leading to a productive learning environment and I have spoken to all years at assemblies setting out my expectations for behaviour, school uniform, school work and attainment. To support this we will be directing our attention into 3 broad areas next session under the heading of Learning Together in Madras College,

these 3 areas are praise, regards and the recognition of success, Behaviour for Learning, and Learning and Teaching.

I have come into a school that is strong, that justifiably enjoys a proud reputation not only in Fife but throughout Scotland, a school that knows itself, understands what it is good at and recognises the changes that are necessary for its continued development. This is a school that cares about its pupils, staff and community. It is well placed to face the future with confidence. The credit for this lies with the leadership, professionalism and dedication of Lindsay Matheson, his senior management team and to all members of staff at Madras.

Four members of staff retire at the end of term, who between them have an accumulated total of 90 years service to Madras. To Miss Mary Jack, Mr Alan McGeoch, Mrs Grace Wright and Miss Jean Robertson we pass on our thanks and very best wishes for long and happy retirements.

School Uniform

Pupils have been reminded at assemblies in the last weeks of the term that they are expected to wear school uniform to school. If, over the summer, you are buying new items of clothing for school could you please make sure that you follow the school dress code below.

Madras College School Dress Code

- 1 School tie.
- 2 Plain white or light blue shirt or blouse which can button up for a tie.
- 3 Plain navy or black jumper or top which allows the tie to be clearly seen.
- 4 Plain black or navy formal trousers or skirt.
- 5 Dark shoes.

Staffing News

There are several staffing changes this term. Miss Grubb joined us as Principal Teacher of Guidance for S4 in February from Auchmuty High School and Miss Montador and Mrs Faichney were appointed as Principal Teachers of Guidance for S6 and S2 respectively in June. We also welcomed Mr Trewartha and Mr Cuthbertson as new members of the Maths department.

At the end of the session we will say farewell to several staff. Mr Forlow (History) who has been acting as Principal Teacher this term is moving back to the west coast, Mr Lappin (English) is leaving to follow a career change and Mrs Rogers (Maths) is moving to Qatar. In April we wished Mrs Wingfield well on her retirement after spending several years as a Teaching Auxiliary in Support for Learning. Mrs Seenan, Library Assistant, left us in May and Mrs Khovacs, Teaching Auxiliary (DSE), left us in June.

Four members of staff are leaving after completing their probationary year with us. They are Dr McIvor (Physics), Mr Stewart (Maths), Ms Burn (English) and Miss Monro (Home Economics). Two others have been appointed to permanent posts, Miss Massie (Maths) and Mrs Nisbet (Home Economics).

We thank Mr Kirkhope and Mr MacCrimmon for their help in Design and Technology over the session and to Miss Russell who was Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance for S1 from August 2006 until June 2007. We also thank Mrs Weir, Mr Brown, Mrs Orr and Mr Spalding who have provided supply cover in the Maths department throughout the session.

And lastly we give our good wishes to Mrs Harvie (English) who goes off on maternity leave until December.

School Exchange Began 50 Years Ago



the-voyage – bringing young people together
Deutsch-britische Schul- und Jugendbegegnungen

In June 2007 the exchange between Madras College, St Andrews and the Kieler Gelehrtenschule in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany will mark its 50th anniversary. It is as far as is known the oldest continuing exchange between two individual schools in two countries. To celebrate this half-century of friendships – approximately 1500 German and Scottish families have been directly involved – an anniversary Ceilidh was held on Saturday 30th June in Madras College's South Street building during this year's visit.



Dr Thompson and Kielers on top of
St Rule's Tower, June 1957

The 'Kiel Exchange' or 'Schottenaustausch' started as a result of correspondence between two historians, Dr John Thompson, who in 1955 had just become Rector of Madras College, and Professor Karl Dietrich Erdmann who had recently become Professor of Modern History in Kiel University. In Madras College, then a senior secondary school, Dr Thompson had introduced the study of German instead of French as first foreign language.

In 1958 the first group of 28 Madras pupils travelled to Kiel with the principal teacher of Modern Languages, Mr Ian M Hendry. Half the pupils had entertained their German partners the previous year, and the other half, from the year group below, would be meeting them for the first time – a principle that continues to this day, so that the exchange always has continuity.



Arrival at Kieler Hauptbahnhof, June 1958

There have been many adaptations to the exchange programme, but it continues to be regarded as the highlight of their school career by many participants. A lot of people who met on the exchange have remained in contact over the years and decades. The exchange has been led by a succession of members of staff and to date over the periods of service of 4 Madras College and 5 KGS head teachers.



Kiel Exchange Students, June 2007

We hope that the 60 pupils and staff from the KGS have enjoyed the 50th Exchange visit.

Information about the 50th Exchange visit will be posted in due course on the school website and on the website of the UK-German Connection, <www.the-voyage.com> main sponsors of the anniversary celebrations.

Happy anniversary!
Herzlichen Glückwünsch!

UK-German Connection is delighted to support Madras College and the Kieler Gelehrtenschule in celebrating their first 50 years of partnership.

It is a particular pleasure for us to be able to award the first-ever grant of the new UK-German Celebratory Fund to this outstanding partnership.

Congratulations to everyone on the success of and commitment to this partnership, which has enabled so many young people to meet and make friends – maintaining this over 50 years is truly impressive!

Auf die nächsten 50 Jahre!
Here's to the next fifty years!

Drama

- Madras College Quad Theatre is hoping to spring into action next term – watch this space . . . Maybe *A Midsummer Night's Dream* . . . Maybe *The Seagull* . . .
- The annual big theatre trip is to London this year and not Stratford as usual. Thirty senior pupils accompanied by Mrs Esler, Mr Dewar and Mr Darge will haunt the South Bank seeing productions at The Globe Theatre, The National Theatre, lunch at the Tate Modern and survey the handsome capital from the London Eye.
- Third Year Drama students have been successfully helping run First Year Lunchtime Drama Clubs at Kilrymont Road.
- First Year classes themselves have been exploring Citizenship through improvisation. Their focus has been particularly on care in the community, help the aged, homelessness and endangered wildlife.

Musical Notes

Burns Update

Seven out of the nine pupils in the Madras singing and instrumental team were placed in the Fife Burns Competition. The three singers who gained either 1st or 2nd places then took part in the National Burns Competition gaining two 2nd places at this level and also towing the Fife singing team to victory.

Pipe Band

The stirring sound of the pipes and drums of Madras College was again to be heard at the Summer Concert and the sight and sound of first the drum fanfare and then the 16 pipers marching up the centre isle in stately procession is one not to be forgotten. While preparing for their forthcoming tour to Belgium with the Senior Wind Band and the Orchestra, the Pipes and Drums have already had an unusually busy and varied season. The Mini-Band (usually about 7 or 8 players) has played at events ranging from the re-opening of Costa, a Rotary Club (Kilrymont) concert and a birthday party, while the full band (of 20 to 30 players) has recently played for a wedding reception and the annual Alumni Reunion Ball at the University. Both bands are for hire at very reasonable rates! While donations come in from time to time (and £500 from the Rotary was a most generous gesture), more money is needed to update the instruments and kit so that the Piping and Drumming Programme may continue to flourish in future years.

Talent Show

The annual Talent Show attracted over 60 acts; S1 to S6 reduced down to 15 for the performance in March and the event raised over £800 for Comic Relief.

Joint winners were Iain Sutherland and Andrew Scott (S5), and Nicola Rayner and Gabriella Da Cruz Welsh (S6).

Singing

Programme

At the end of May the Singing Programme welcomed the international singer, voice teacher and choral conductor, Edward Caswell. In 4 workshops he prepared with the singers the medley 'Rodgers and Hammerstein on Broadway' which was performed at the school concert. It is hoped he will return in the Autumn to work with the singers on choruses from Handel 'Messiah' to be performed jointly with St Andrews Chorus on November 24th.

Music Tour 2007

On Friday 6th July 82 pupils from the Wind Band, Orchestra and Pipe Band leave for a one-week music tour, staying at Lo in Belgium. This is the fourth bi-annual tour organised by Mrs R Craib, the woodwind instructor, and the third for many of the pupils involved this year, which goes to prove how enjoyable and popular the itinerary is. This year all 3 groups are performing 4 concerts in a variety of venues including Ostend Bandstand and Ypres Market Square. The group will be sightseeing in Bruges, Bowling in Ypres, swimming at Sun Parks in Ostend and visiting a theme park. The group will also be taking part in the Menengate service where Iain Sutherland (S5) will play *The Flowers of the Forest* as a piping solo.

Festival of Music

At the 2007 Fife Festival of Music the following pupils of Susie Macleod (piano instructor) took first place:

Piano Intermediate Joint Winners: David Birrell (S6) and Helen Crombie (S4). Piano Advanced: Claire Owen (S6). Intermediate Piano Duet: Helen Crombie and Sarah Howe (both S4). Male Voice: Rory Macleod (S4).

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

- The Award has had a very successful year this year with a grand total of 15 Bronzes, 12 Silvers and an amazing 7 Golds receiving their awards.
- The expedition season has also gone well – despite various vehicular problems, and at the time of writing all our Bronzes and Gold participants have successfully completed their expeditions braving wind, rain and midgets to achieve their goal.
- Yet again the Award group wish to congratulate the successful participants of an expedition, this time at Silver level, on their excellent attitude, spirits and perseverance in the face of adverse weather and vehicular problems. The Silvers have just triumphed over one of the extremes of the Cairngorms, while attempting the Lairig's Circuit. They successfully hiked and camped over a weekend when roughly 2 inches of rain fell, rapidly and hard, causing all sorts of challenges, including route changes, which they rose to beautifully, finishing with smiles and even a dance. Maybe we're not walking them enough!



Rock Band Competition

As we go to print, yet another aspect of music at Madras College is under preparation. The school is fortunate to have a lively rock band scene, and one band will be taking part in the Fife Schools' Rock Band competition in the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes on Monday 2nd July. We wish Ben Randerson, Stuart Foggo, Calum Robertson and Richard Gadd all success at this event.

Cabaret – April 2007

Review written by Tom Barbour (School Leaver 2006)

'This place gives me the heebie-jeebies' – Far from being a remark heard from the mouth of Mr Dewar alone in a dark alleyway on one of his more hectic days, this is in fact the opening line of what has proved to be one of the most exciting and diverse productions staged by the Quad Theatre Company to date.

Both written and directed by Patricia Esler, '*Cabaret*' is a remarkable production for the energy and vivacity of its performers, the colour and variety of each of its amazingly self-contained scenes and, not least of all, the sheer range of talent employed by the actors, dancers and musicians involved. Following as a sequel to the original 2006 production of '*Cabaret*', the production takes place some years later, when the thriving nightclub which was the setting for the original production has long since been abandoned and allowed to slide into decrepitude.

The production plays as a series of flashbacks flitting backwards and forward between the former, bustling nightclub of the past, and the derelict building it has since become.

The relationships between the characters are most enjoyable to watch during the Vaudeville-style duets. Jodie Anderson and Mr Dewar, for example, play a somewhat hard-up married couple who are celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary and whose song, '*We'll Walk Up The Avenue*' is a carefree and cheerful number about making the best of the little they have. Other excellent cameo performances can be found in Helen McIntosh's epigrammatic and suicidal woman about town, and her Russian boyfriend played by Calum Robertson, whose accent is so authentic it must have been borrowed from Chekhov. His ballet-dancing skills were also more than a little impressive, his character being obliged toward the end of the play to convince the police that his is not in fact a Russian spy but the principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet Company but is, however, unsuccessful.

Each of the solo singers handled their respective songs with ease.

The dance pieces are all of them extremely well choreographed, from the energetic and intricate ragtime dancing of the opening scene (and later the remix'd jazz and tap of the black-clad dancers) to the startling and hypnotic version of Cab Calloway's seedy and psychedelic ballad of '*Minnie the Moocher*', executed by sharply dressed male dancers and Kirsty Cuthbertson, dressed in leotard and feathered boa, who captures the melancholia and seductiveness of the Minnie in the song beautifully.

It should by no means be overlooked that nearly every song was accompanied by the indispensable Mrs (or Madam) Nisbet on piano and the virtuosic Andy Scott on drums, both of them interacting with and responding seamlessly to the other actors onstage.

It is, of course, impossible to overlook the finale. If there was one performance which brought out every cast member's individual worth, then it was certainly '*Razzle Dazzle 'em*', sung principally by the immortal Mr Matheson, with lines sung by other characters variously (Jayde Ritchie and Andy Scott even managing to squeeze in a little well-timed instrumental solo each). It was, in every respect, a farewell as worthy of the man himself as this year's '*Cabaret*' was of the Quad Theatre Company's talents and imagination.

Joint Display

The Design and Technology and Home Economics Departments had a joint display at S1 Parents' Evening where parents viewed the practical work of S2 to S6 pupils.

Fact Sheet

A Fact Sheet with information for parents on school meals and clothing grants is available on request from the school office.

Citizenship Blooming at Madras

The new S3 enterprising citizenship group along with members of the Madras Business Enterprise group and Hope Park Church have added a splash of colour to the corner of City Road in St Andrews.

The group have made up a number of planters with bedding plants as part of the Churches contribution to St Andrews in Bloom display.

In the coming year the pupils will develop more business ideas that contribute to improving the environment in school and around the local area.



Planters at Hope Park Church

Maths Department

The Maths Department welcomes 4 new staff this session. Miss Alison Massie who has served us well as a probationer this session joins the Department now as a full-time member along with Mr Craig Trewartha from Kirkland High School, Mr Alistair Cuthbertson from Craigie High School in Dundee and also Ms Morgan Murphy who has served one year as a probationer at St Machar Academy, Aberdeen. We welcome these new members to our Department and look forward to their youthful energetic enthusiasm energising the whole Department!

PTA

And It's 'Good Bye From Us!'

This year has been a busy and successful one for the PTA enabling us to make generous contributions towards sports equipment, the Burn's Supper and the future purchase of extra lockers for the South Street or Kilmymont Road buildings.

In November we held our first ever Bingo night, where Mr Kerrigan's lively number-calling was enjoyed by pupils and parents alike. In February we arranged a presentation on the new **T a r g e t** Setting to be introduced in school.

Although not particularly well attended, those who were present found it interesting and helpful. Then in March we hosted a well attended "Question Time", with a guest appearance from our, then, Rector-to-be, Mr Jones. Also on the panel were Mr Matheson, and representatives from teaching staff, pupils, the School Board and Fife Council. An evening of lively debate followed as the panel were put on the spot with a variety of questions from the audience.

Our most successful event in terms of funds raised and sheer enjoyment was the "Beauty and the Beast" therapy night held in April. This re-run of last year's popular event was enjoyed by over a hundred people. The PTA committee deserve a big pat on the back as most worked their socks off to make

the running of this evening such a success.

In addition to organising these major events, the PTA has busied itself away in the background at several school events serving teas and coffees, and providing festive fun in the shape of mince pies at the Christmas Concert.

The committee would like to thank everyone who supported the PTA by attending the events - a good turn-out makes all the effort worthwhile.

"Mr Kerrigan's lively number-calling was enjoyed by pupils and parents alike."

The PTA, in its present form, will soon be bidding a fond farewell when it is disbanded in July. However, we hope that at least some of the present committee members will continue to serve in a fundraising group of the new Parent Council. (Please look out for a letter from the school in August inviting all parents to a meeting regarding the setting up of this Parent Council).

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you for all the support from committee members who have worked so hard this year, with such enthusiasm and good humour. They have been a great team.

I hope everyone has a lovely summer break.

*Katy Pitman
(PTA Chair)*

Library Farewell

The Library staff were very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Fiona Seenan this term, after several years' committed part-time service. We are grateful to her and wish her well for the future. Happily, the school won't lose touch altogether as Mrs Seenan continues with her support of SQA exam invigilation and the PTA.

ART ACHIEVEMENTS

Roisin Connolly and Sarah Gillespie (both S6) have been accepted into Duncan of Jordanstone Art College. Roisin in particular has to be commended as her work has been selected for a forthcoming exhibition run by this institution.

HOLIDAY DATES (all dates inclusive)

Session 2007/08

School Begins

Tuesday 21st August 2007

Monday 15th October 2007
to Friday 26th October 2007

Monday 24th December 2007
to Friday 4th January 2008

Thursday 14th February 2008
and Friday 15th February 2008

Friday 21st March 2008

Monday 31st March 2008
to Friday 11th April 2008

Monday 5th May 2008
Monday 2nd June 2008

Monday 7th July 2008
to Friday 15th August 2008

INSERVICE DAYS

Session 2007/08

Monday 20th August 2007

Friday 16th November 2007

Monday 7th January 2008

Wednesday 13th February 2008

Tuesday 6th May 2008

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The new telephone system should be fully operational by the end of July. A reminder of the new numbers are:

South Street
01334 659402

Kilmymont Road
01334 659401

Community Use
01334 659354

SPORTS NEWS

• Athletics

Madras athletes have had a successful season both regionally and nationally. Athletes from S1 – S3 won the Inter-School match against Auchmuty and Buckhaven in May. Also in May in the Multi-Event competition at Pitreavie Gold was won by Keith Simpson (S6), Silver by Catriona Scott (S3), and Bronze by Connor Hill (S6) and Emma Gordon (S4).

In June at the Fife Schools' Track and Field Championships at Pitreavie, 17 Gold, 10 Silver and 12 Bronze medals were won by the athletes.

Ten athletes took part in the Scottish Schools' Track and Field Championships at Grangemouth in June. James Tait (S6) won Gold in the over 17 High Jump. Keith Simpson won Silver in the over 17 400 m. Seven athletes represented Fife in the Inter-Area match at Grangemouth on June 20th.

• Football

The Senior Squad defeated St Columba's High School in the Fife Schools' U18 Cup, and also in the Fife Schools' U18 League.

They were runners-up in the Scottish Schools' U18 Cup which took place at Hampden Park, Glasgow on 18th April.

Those who were there on that evening will never forget the occasion – the cavalcade of buses, the fantastic vocal Madras supporters, the skirl of Iain Sutherland's pipes and not least the disciplined and gritty performance by the squad on the park. Despite losing an enthralling match to Knightswood Secondary it was a wonderful and exciting spectacle – the best U18 final in the last ten years. Schools' football was indeed a true winner on the night!



Madras College U18 Football Team

• Golf

Fife Schools' Junior Boys held on Friday 1st June – Neil Beattie won the Junior Boys' Scratch Competition. Madras College won the Team Scratch Competition (Neil Beattie, Ewan Gray, Andrew Whyte and Stuart McMillan).

On Monday 11th June Iain Finlay, Neil Beattie and Camilla Tait, were selected to represent Fife Schools at the Scottish Schools' Golf Championships held at Gullane.

The Madras College Senior Boys' Golf Team won the Fife Schools' Senior Boys' Scratch Golf Championship held at Dunnikier, Kirkcaldy on Tuesday 12th June. James White was runner up in the individual scratch competition, losing out on the better inward half. Representing Madras were Iain Finlay, James Tait, Shaun Clark and James White.



Back row: Senior Golfers
Front row: Junior Golfers

• Rugby

The Senior Squad won the Bell Lawrie Scottish Schools U18 Plate Final.

• Sailing

The Scottish Schools' Sailing Championship was held at Loch Earn Sailing Club on Tuesday 12th June. Madras College finished in 5th Team Place and the team were represented by David Fisher, Robbie Ingram and Charlie McMonagle.

• Tennis

The Madras Boys' Team have again won the Scottish Schools' Tennis Championships, which were held in Edinburgh on 21st June. Once again they are through to the British Schools' Finals, to be held at Queenswood School, Hertfordshire in July.

• SDS Open Athletics Championships

On 30th May a team of 5 pupils headed for Grangemouth Stadium determined to do their best. In their wildest dreams they could not have expected to return carrying such a haul of medals.

Stephanie Greenhill (S3) claimed the top honours with 3 golds for 100 m, shot putt and long jump; Dylan Thorburn (S1) was not far behind with golds in shot putt and long jump, and silver for the 60 m dash. Emma Irons (S3) proved to be the sprint star with 100 m gold and 60 m silver. Grant Mills (S1) claimed silver in his 60 m sprint and Liam Phillips (S1) contributed with a shot putt bronze medal.

The coaching they received from Mr Munn and Mrs Wallace was obviously of the highest standard and the pupils would like to thank them for all their efforts.

The event was the first ever National event organised by the SDS with the aim of identifying athletes with potential who may be considered for the National Development Squad. We wait to find out if any of the Madras team has been selected for this squad.



Team members with their medals

Sports Day Winners

	Boys	Girls
S1	Alexander Sloan	Elaine Cairns
S2	Fraser Prentice	Alice Morrison
S3	Adam Delargy	Catriona Scott

Seniors

Greg Dawson and Emma Gordon

Boys' Senior High Jump

Greg Dawson

Inter-House Trophy

Blackfriars