



Christmas Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

December 2008

Rector's Note

The end of this term brings with it a rush of events and activities and represents one of the busiest times in the school calendar. Assessments, prelims, work experience, college and university applications, shows, concerts and festive parties create an end to the term that is hectic and enjoyable.

The Christmas and the New Year period is a time for reflection, for celebration and for looking forward. This newsletter illustrates some of the many successes that we have enjoyed since the session began. It is an opportunity for us to be proud of what has been achieved and for all of us to share in our many successes. I am pleased that we are able to continue with our regular diary page in the Citizen. This continues to be an effective, popular means of celebrating our achievements, providing information about the school and highlighting forthcoming events.

In the St Andrew's Day celebrations our singers performed with St Leonard's in the service in Holy Trinity and our advanced higher drama students performed a play about the life of Bell. This was repeated in the evening in a spectacular setting outside St Mary's College. Madras College has a justifiable reputation for the impressive range of opportunities it provides for all its pupils. I am grateful to all the members of staff who devote so much of their time to this very important part of school life. On their behalf I thank you for your continuing support for all we seek to achieve.

On behalf of the staff and pupils I wish you a happy Christmas and a relaxing holiday in preparation for what I know will be a busy and fulfilling New Year.

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our Standards and Quality Report summary. It reviews our work last session and activities plans for this session.

Seed Collecting at Hallowhill



Eco-Club members with Chris Childe

Pupils from the Eco-Club at Madras College were taken to local woodland areas to collect seeds for their new tree nursery on Thursday 13th November. Chris Childe, an education officer from Scottish Native Woods helped the Eco-Club members identify the different species in the Hallowhill Woods and explained to the pupils how to grow some of the different tree species from seed. Pupils then spent some time in the Kilrymont Greenhouse separating the various different seeds, crushing berries and putting acorns and ash seeds into specially filled containers.

Mr Childe said that the Scottish Native Woods organisation was set up to encourage vibrant and sustainable links between woods and people. It is dedicated to the conservation,

restoration and enlargement of native woodlands in Scotland. He added that by involving young people from the beginning they hoped that Scotland's native woodlands could be restored and extended in the future.

Sarah Myles, a student teacher from the university who was helping the Eco-Schools co-ordinators Brendan Fox and Jim Bennett out, said that it was an excellent experience to observe the pupils being so involved and active for such a worthwhile cause. The pupils had been really enthusiastic despite the weather and had learned a lot from their day out. Scottish Native Woods will be sending out someone in the Spring of next year to continue the work they've just started. 'This is a very long term project', Mr Childe said.

Parentmail

You will be receiving this newsletter by Parentmail, as well as by hard copy. Parents who have not registered for information to be passed by Parentmail

are encouraged to do so. The necessary 'Permission form' has to be completed – your child can collect one of these from the Admin Office in either building.

Senior Debating

• The Interhouse Debate

Madras College debaters filled South Street Library in October. As ever it was a fascinating tussle with some of the School's debating talent speaking eloquently on topics as varied as: 'This house would limit immigration to the UK'; 'This house believes Scotland should have its own Olympic Team' and 'This house believes that private education is harmful to society'. Judged by St Andrews Rotarians who kindly provided not only the prizes but the catering, the following awards were given: Best 1st Proposer, Ellen Bowman - Priory, Best 2nd Proposer, Katie O' Donnell - Blackfriars, Best 1st Opposer, Miriam Martindale-Malek - Castle, Best 2nd Opposer, Nikki Gordon - Castle, Best Chair, Callum Paterson - Castle. Castle convincingly won the Interhouse Debating Trophy.

• ESU Mace

Both Miriam Martindale-Malek and Nikki Gordon performed to a high standard to win through to the next round of The English Speaking Union Debating Mace. The motion: 'This house would punish parents whose children violate ASBOS', proved a complicated one hinging on the definition of what punishment constituted. With St John's High School, Harris Academy and The High School of Dundee also competing, the standard was very high.

Such is the depth of debating talent at Madras that Alice Minick and Ellen Bowman (S5) stepped onto the breach as a non-competitive team at short notice, when one of the other teams pulled out and debated with gusto the motion: 'This house would ban countries with dictatorships from the 2012 Olympics'.

• Debating Matters

In a highly technical debate, full of fascinating science, Madras College took on Buckhaven High School in the Debating Matters Competition held in South Street Library. Chaired by the urbane Mr Lawrenson of the Classics Department, the motion debated was: 'This house believes experimenting on animals can never be justified'. Despite some very heavy questioning from the judging panel about animal experimentation, Jessie Gordon (S6) and Michael Weir (S5) remained unflappable. Madras College have won through to the regional final in Edinburgh in the New Year.

S2 Stories

Mrs. Harvie's S2 (2B3) are currently working on writing their own children's stories. When they are finished, they will be presented to the children at St Andrews Nursery.

At the time of writing, they are eagerly awaiting a visit from Mrs Edwards of St Andrews Nursery, who will be speaking to them about the types of stories her pupils enjoy.

2B3 will also be illustrating their stories and are being helped to do this by their Art teacher, Mrs Houston. When the stories are finished, the S2 pupils hope to visit the nursery to read their stories and to pass them on.

Modern Studies Club

It has been a busy term for the Modern Studies Club. We have entered two competitions about Human Rights. Unfortunately none of the entries for the first competition won a prize, however the Madras entries were highly commended. We are still waiting to hear about the second competition organised by the United Nations Youth and Student Association of St Andrews.

Staffing Update

The following new teaching staff arrived in August: Mrs C Forrest (Business Education), Mr M Williams and Mr J Callaghan (Physics), Miss A McKimmie (Modern Studies), and Miss J Matthews (English). We also welcomed five new Probationer Teachers – Miss H Reed (English), Miss G McAdam (Music), Mrs I Anderson (Geography), Miss J Black (RE) and Mr N Jardine (Design and Technology). Two of last session's probationers also became permanent members of staff - Mrs J McGregor (Design and Technology) and Mr T Inglis (Mathematics). An appointment to the new post of PT Curriculum (Business and Computing) was Mrs L McCafferty.

During the last few months several more changes have taken place. Mrs E Smart has been appointed as PT Curriculum (Pupil Support) and Mr G Waterston as teacher in the Department of Additional Support. Dr P Tomb has been appointed to the new PT Curriculum (Science) post and Mr C Bell as Temporary Teacher of Chemistry. Dr I Boyd is covering for Mr O Darge who is on secondment one day per week to Stirling University. The Guidance team have seen the appointment of

Mr R Hepburn, currently covering for Mrs L Clark's maternity leave, and Mr H Munn, on a temporary basis, until next spring. Miss G Hyslop has returned to the Drama department for two days a week following her maternity leave. Mrs N Smith has been appointed on a temporary basis to cover two part-time posts in PE and Drama. Mrs K Thomas has been granted a job-share in the Art and Design department and Mr G Thomson has recently been appointed as her job-share partner.

Miss S McKay left us in November to take up a new post in Additional Support at Calaiswood School in Dunfermline and at the end of this term we say goodbye to Mr K Nisbet who is retiring from the Maths department after 25 years and his wife Mrs M Nisbet who is leaving the Learning Support department after 12 years. Miss G Macrosson is also leaving to take up a teaching post in Menzieshill High School in Dundee.

We wish them all well for the future. We also wish to thank all the Supply Staff who have helped us out during this term for their continued support.

Drama Activity

TRIPS

All the Higher and Advanced Higher Drama pupils (47 in total) set off at lunchtime in September for a double theatrical experience in Pitlochry at the Festival Theatre. Mrs Esler, Ms McGrath and Mr Dewar were the intrepid teachers in tow. The group saw an excellent production of 'Outlying Islands' by David Greig and a glittering performance of 'Wild Honey' by Michael Frayn.

PRODUCTION

S5 Higher Drama pupils performed their investigative performances over a series of lunchtimes and afternoons.

S6 Advanced Higher Drama class (the largest in Scotland) performed their devised productions over three evenings. Each pupil (and there are 15) devised, directed and either acted in or did their own technical for a drama which they created from a list of one word stimuli supplied by the Scottish Qualifications Authority. These productions, ranging from ten to twenty minutes, were a great success and bore a stamp of individuality, invention and passion for the subject.

ST ANDREW'S DAY -

The Life of Andrew Bell

For their annual contribution to the St Andrew's Day service one S6 Advanced Higher Drama class decided

to honour another famous man by one name of Andrew – Andrew Bell, the founder of the school. The fifteen minute drama covered Bell from his early school days and bad experience of corporal punishment through his adventures in America, his entry into the ministry and his period in India where he invented his monitorial system for which he has become famous.

The excellent cast later performed this production in the dark and freezing quadrangle of St Mary's College in South Street. There, against a Jon et Moniere projection of Andrew Bell's portrait they bravely acted before a huge audience of at least 200 people.

These S6 pupils are a credit to Madras College – Rory MacLeod, Daniel Johnston, Kyle Pryke, Andrew Nicoll, Yai Ledger, Camilla Tait, Suzanne Dillon, Elizabeth Baxter, Christine Haggart, Kate Adams, Caity Anderson and Cara Bunney.

Next Production - Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare, 25th to 27th February 2009 at 7.00 pm - following the hugely successful Midsummer Night's Dream last year the Quad Theatre will be performing this exciting play about love, ambition, disappointment, shipwreck and song. Tickets will be on sale from the South Street office in February.

Sweet Success

Every year, the English Department lend out literally thousands of books to pupils from S1-S6. Every year, many books are lost under beds and left on bookcases. If these books have to be replaced, it means that we can't buy new texts for pupils!

In the last week of term, the English Department ran 'Sweet Success'. If pupils returned or donated a book to the Department, they received a lollipop in return.

This proved extremely popular, and 363 books made their way back to book boxes and class sets. Thanks to everyone who returned books, and to those of you who always **bring your books back!**

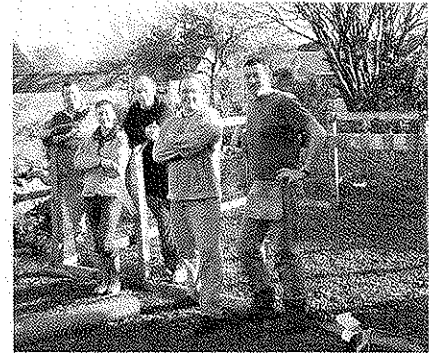
National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day took place on Thursday, 9th October. In Kilrymont Road, pupils celebrated by writing poems on this year's chosen subject of 'Work'. A fantastic variety of poems are now displayed in the English corridor.

Winners of the poetry competition were Kirsty Mason (S2) and Amy Fell (S1). Runners-up were Rory Malcolm (S2) and Fiona Powrie (S1). Congratulations to all four, who won Book Tokens.

A big thank you from Mrs Harvie to S6 pupils Sarah Brown and Philippa Lowe, who created a beautiful display of pupils' poems.

Tree Nursery



L to R: Henry Paul, Sarah Myles, Chris Dickson, Brendan Fox and Keith Himpson

The Eco-Club were busy building a tree nursery on the weekend of 8th November. Members of the Parent Council, the Eco-Schools Co-ordinator and two student teachers took about three hours to assemble the structure which pupils at the school had helped to design. Mr Fox the Eco-Schools Coordinator said that a group of about 10 pupils were going to search the local wooded areas for seeds and saplings for the nursery which Eco-Club members were then going to look after. The positioning and size of the nursery were discussed with a local gardening expert Mr Hamish Matheson before work commenced.

It is also intended that the area, which was cleared during an Environmental Action Day in late June, should also acquire a vegetable garden and the school's Natural Connections group are busy finalising their designs. Other parts of the area are to be used by the school's Department of Additional Support.

Sarah Myles and Chris Dickson, two fourth year Biology students who had been taking part in a rather new school placement initiative from the University of St Andrews volunteered their expertise and helped out.

Mr Paul told us it was great to see such multi-lateral participation, parents, pupils, teachers, members of the community, teachers and the university were all represented. Both Henry Paul and Keith Himpson's children, David and Katrina, also do a lot of work for the Eco-Club.



'There's No Place Like London'



Every year, a trip is taken to either London or Stratford, for the sake of the Advanced Higher Drama Class, and every year, it is an un-deniable success. This year, thirty students from Drama and English classes, spanning fifth and sixth year, were given the opportunity to visit the famous capital to see the sites, soak up the culture, and of course, experience the wonder of first-hand theatre.

On the Thursday around midnight, the thirty visibly excited students were piled on to the waiting coach that was to chauffeur us to the great city, and were soon hurtling down the motorways, all in varying stages of sleep – the most common stage being 'not'. However, sleeping problems aside, by noon on the Friday, the vehicle had reached our final destination and the students (by now still excited, but also rather dishevelled and grumpy) poured off the bus, straight into the Globe Theatre, where we were given an extremely in-depth tour of the famous site. The Theatre, itself steeped in history and a certain pride, was in no uncertain terms breathtaking for all, even those fortunate enough to have witnessed the spectacle before. The fact that the building is built as accurately as possible to the original was lost on no one, and it felt like an extraordinary trip into the past.

With only a small pause afterwards for a coke and an ice cream (one learns to live on these in London soon enough), the school party proceeded to act as typical tourists, and crossed the Millennium Bridge to the base of St Paul's Cathedral, which although only seen from the outside, was appreciated as something truly magnificent and awe-inspiring. Next, there was a brief stop inside the Tate Modern, where lovers of art could study the masterpieces inside, and those less interested could look at the more peculiar installations and just think 'Hmm'.

Finally, after it seemed we would not be able to fit no more into the jam-packed schedule, the teenagers were once more whisked off, this time to the Hostel in which they were to stay. I myself must speculate that I have never seen anyone so happy as these students to see a shower.

After a quick meal and a longer clean up, the party was again on the move, this time to the renowned West End, to see the Chekhov play, 'Ivanov' starring Kenneth Brannagh (Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets) and Gina McKee (Four Weddings and a Funeral). This piece of theatre, despite the extreme heat within, was possibly one of the most rapturing, heart-wrenching plays that the young theatre-goers had ever witnessed, and blended perfectly the mixture of comedy and tragedy so often seen in Chekhov's work. The cast was outstanding, and some scenes were so moving that the audience themselves felt like they were intruding on something deep and personal. I doubt any trip will be so lucky as to see a masterpiece like this again.

The next morning, there was a trip to London's South Bank, well known for its Bohemian atmosphere, and also the National

Theatre, where we paid a short visit to. At exactly ten o'clock, it was time to board the 'flight' on the really quite large London Eye. The views were phenomenal, and fortunately, the day was bright and clear, ensuring a view that went on for miles. After descending, the students were also treated to a boat journey along the Thames, and a rather amusing commentary about the river's surroundings and history. The voyage terminated in Greenwich, and the students were gifted some free time to explore their surroundings. The promise of shopping is never taken lightly by any teenager, and instantly they were off to patronise every shop available.

By the evening, the students were once again ready for a play, and this time, it was back to the Globe Theatre to bear witness to William Shakespeare's 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'. To get a real feel of the history of the place, the students took the place of the groundlings, and stood throughout the entire performance. This show was to comedy what Ivanov was to tragedy; a triumph beyond measure. Each of the Plots was executed flawlessly, and the comic timing was unmatched. We were even treated to encountering a television star, Tamsin Greig (Black Books and Green Wing) who was extremely courteous and kind-hearted to those brave individuals who meekly greeted her.

As a 'final night treat' the students were allowed to stay up in the Hostel lounge, and even went as far as to order in a vast number of Pizza's, which were very well received indeed.

On the final morning, the group of slightly overwhelmed teenagers were taken to Trafalgar Square, where they could visit the National Gallery if they so wished, partake in a little shopping, or just be tourists and take the typical photos of each other riding the lions. It was all done, and all enjoyed enormously.

When the time came to board the coach, it was with great sadness that the teenagers took their seats, gazing out of the windows, thinking wistfully about all they hadn't had a chance to do, but remembering fondly on the wonders they had experienced in those two short days.

Yai Ledger (S6)

Stock Market Challenge

Once again a team of five S3 pupils took part in the share dealing competition for 25 schools in North-east Scotland. Each team had £15,000 to invest in fictional companies and the aim of the game was to be the team at the end of the day with the most profitable portfolio.

The team of Cameron Anderson, Hayley Clark, Andrew Paul, Heather Powrie and Calum Williamson (all S3) competed very well and they finished a credible sixth. Sadly no dates ties this time!

The Scholars Challenge

A group of S5 and S6 students from Madras College are competing in The Prince's Trust 'Scholar's Challenge' where they are tasked with turning £3,000 into £20,000 by the end of March 2009. The group, collectively known as 'First Light Events' are going head to head against eight other schools from across Scotland; the goal is to raise the most money. This money is then funded back into The Prince's Trust so they can support disadvantaged youths in Scotland.

The group have successfully secured the initial £3,000 investment following an impressive presentation of their business plans to a panel of entrepreneurs. Over the next five months 'First Light Events' will plan, organise and host a series of events. This includes a Gala Dinner at Fernie Castle on 6th March, a Corporate Golf Day at Scotsraig on 11th March, an Eco-themed Fashion Show at Rufflets on 27th February and an Art Auction still to be confirmed at the end of January.



The pupils will receive valuable business advice from entrepreneur Richard Bailey and coaching from management consultant Fiona Barclay from the global firm Capgemini. Also supporting the team are members of staff from Madras College Jim Bennett (Depute Headteacher) and Jackie Mitchell (Business Management teacher) who are confident that the team will be successful in the challenge.

If anyone would be interested in attending these events details will be published in the St Andrews Citizen or through Parentmail.

HOLIDAYS

Christmas

Monday 22nd December 2008
to Friday 2nd January 2009

February (two days)

Thursday 12th and
Friday 13th February 2009

Easter

Monday 6th April
to Friday 17th April 2009

We need your help! Art Auction Appeal

One of the events we are holding is a charity art auction and we need as much help as possible in terms of original art donations and sponsorship. We have already acquired a limited edition print 'Long Time Gone' from renowned Scottish artists Jack Vettriano, and other donated original art works from Fife artists Will Maclean and Marion Leven. Any donation of original artwork of any size or type will be of massive aid to our cause. The target of £20,000 will go directly to the Prince's Trust to help disadvantaged children within Scotland. Please contact Mrs Mitchell at the school directly if you wish to make a contribution and arrange collection or delivery.

Theatre Trips

The English Department enjoyed a rare chance to see a production of 'A Streetcar Named Desire' at Perth Theatre in late October. This was a timely opportunity to see, in production, a playwright whose work is being studied by Mr Darge's and Miss Comber's English classes. Such is the enthusiasm for the theatre many other pupils too wished to see it, but were unable to secure a place. With over 40 pupils travelling to Perth, the general consensus was that this was a fascinating production of one of literature's key playwrights.

Earlier in the term, 60 pupils and staff made their way to The Lyceum in Edinburgh to see Macbeth, with Lyceum and Madras favourite, Liam Brennan, in the starring role. A thought-provoking and in some ways controversial production, ended with Macbeth (Liam Brennan) jumping aboard the Madras College bus to a rapturous spontaneous applause from the appreciative Madras College theatre buffs.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award group is off to a great start with all 3 levels currently involved in training for expeditions.

The staffing of the group has changed slightly this year with the retiral from the award of Ms McCormac, her invaluable training will be hugely missed. Thanks also go to Mrs Thomas for her penmanship on the certificates following the departure of Ms Russell in the summer.

The group would love to hear from anyone potentially interested in becoming involved in helping out with the group. Interest or experience in walking and camping in our beautiful glens helps!

Young Enterprise

A number of Young Enterprise companies have been operating in the school this term including the very successful *Keep it Local* who have been selling organic bags of fresh vegetables sourced from Ardross Farm near Elie. Customer satisfaction has been very high. Their sister company, *Keep it Recycled* are organising a fashion show to showcase the recycled fashions they have been developing.

SiMi (Simple Minded Solutions) have been working hard to develop their free trade and organic products which should be on sale fairly soon!

If you would like to order a bag of vegetables from *Keep it Local*, (£12 per bag or £40 for 4 ordered at the same time) an order form can be requested from Mr Forbes or Mrs Mitchell in the Business and Computing department and sent home with your son/daughter.

Scottish Space School

and Hurricane Ike

Although the Scottish Space School didn't run this year due to central funding issues, the winners of last year's competition did get their prizes. Holly Fleming (S6) attended the runners up Scottish version in Glasgow at the end of term in July but Kirsten Holmes trip to the winners USA based Space School turned out to be a little more eventful than anticipated.

After arriving and having a great fun weekend of pool parties, barbecues, football competitions, alligator farm visits, the full week of activities based around the Lydon B Johnston Space Centre in Houston was busy. However with the arrival on the Friday of Hurricane Ike the whole party had to be moved to another hotel as the original one was too near the ocean. With the power out and no water the party was evacuated on the Saturday morning to the safety of San Antonio, but the shopping opportunities of the 'Riverwalk' area made up for things. There was also an unexpected chance to visit the famous Alamo. After more shopping (well the dollar rate was very good in September!) and swimming the delayed graduation ceremony managed to take place on the Sunday night. Thankfully the flights home had been rearranged and all the party arrived home a couple of days late, safe but tired.

Madras had always been very successful in this competition and all the previous participants/winners describe the program as a life changing experience, so hopefully in the future the scheme will return.

Helping Africans This Christmas

Mr Smallwood's S3 Modern Studies class has been raising money in order to buy a donkey through the Oxfam Gift Wrap Scheme. This gift will help some of the poorest people in Africa and make a real difference to their lives this Christmas.

Tennis

Madras Tennis Teams have been competing in the Scottish Cup and have enjoyed some success. The Girl's Team led by Captain Claire Ness took on the might of Kilgraston School and triumphed in a tight match. Madras comprising Claire Ness and Sarah Watters (S6), Jennifer Humphreys (S4), Liv Darge (S1) and Mairi Grewar – Reserve (S5), tied the singles in two matches apiece. Everything hinged on the doubles: Watters and Darge won their doubles so everything rested on Ness and Humphreys. In a nail-biting match, despite, losing the first set 6-0, Ness and Humphreys showed great composure to take the rubber in a 3rd set tie-break. Madras won overall 4-2.

In the next round however, the competition was a little tougher. Strathallan girls, led by Eilidh McGeogh were a strong team and after the singles, again the match was tied two all. However as light faded, Strathallan overcame the Madras doubles pairings to take the match 4-2.

Madras Boys boast a young and technically gifted tennis team this year led by the talented and experienced Gordon Hill (S5). Drawn away to Grove Academy, who always provide stiff competition, Madras comprised: Gordon Hill (Captain), Ruaridh MacLeod (S1), Oliver Cocris (S2) and Scott McKinstry (S6). Astonishingly, Oliver and Ruaridh are still in the Junior school, but both possess a prodigious talent for tennis – at junior and at (in a few years) senior level.

After the singles, Madras led 3-1. With only one rubber to win in the doubles, this was done swiftly with Madras taking the match 5-1. The boys now progress to the next round of the competition.

Chamber of Commerce

Work Shadowing Programme

Congratulations go to Thomas Nicoll (S6) whose excellent management report has seen him qualify for the final of the above competition after completing a successful work shadow at the Castle Golf Course. Best of luck in the final!

BBC Radio Scotland

'Days like This'

BBC Radio Scotland and the Scottish Book Trust recently ran an event called 'Days like This'. People from all around Scotland were asked to tell a story from an important day in their lives. Celebrities like Roddy Woomble and Evelyn Glennie were asked to contribute and to kick off the event.

Being able to tell a good story and to reflect on their experiences is vital in Standard Grade English, and reading a variety of the stories from the website was good fun.

Forty-three pupils submitted stories to the BBC, and these can be seen on the BBC Radio Scotland Website. Well done to everyone who wrote their story!

ECO CLUB REPORT

These past two terms have been very busy ones for the eco committee. Though we have earned the green flag for the school, we want to keep it that way and already we have made more progress this year than we had this time last year. Two trips have taken place one for old Cannongate pupils to see their school accepting their flag, the other was a visit to Hollowhill Woods, with a guide to collect seeds from native Scottish trees. Both the talk and the tour were fantastic. It also gave us a chance to learn about other trees that don't originate from this country such as sycamore, horse chestnut and maple trees. Though it was raining part of the time everyone who came along enjoyed themselves.

We have also been collecting 'Lets Grow' vouchers from Morrisons to buy supplies and equipment for the garden, greenhouse and tree nursery. Thank you to anyone who collected these vouchers and we will be purchasing items with them soon. We collected 4,267!

Overall this half of the year has been successful and we will be just as prosperous in the next two terms.

Catherine Vallis (S2)

SPORTS NEWS

• ATHLETICS

Emma Gordon (S6) was selected to represent the Scottish Schools' Athletics Association in the International Track and Field Match in July and the UK School Games in September.

• FENCING

Charlotte Evetts (S5) finished in 3rd place in the O16 Girls Foil Competition at the Scottish Schools' Individual Fencing Championships.

Despite battling off the flu bugs of this time of year, Madras College entered the Scottish Schools' Fencing Competition held in Edinburgh early on a Sunday morning on St Andrew's Day. Madras, comprising Geir Darge, Owain Simpson and Leo Gordon all from S2, grew in confidence as the competition progressed and in the closing minutes of the competition secured 3rd place after winning nine consecutive hits, by one point. This is Madras College's second bronze in two years.

If there are any budding swordsmen looking to participate an active, skilful and rewarding sport, St Andrews' Fencing Club meet on a Tuesday from 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm, for primary aged pupils and 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm for secondary. Coaching is provided by the highly respected, Joan Riddell.

• FOOTBALL

The Madras College 1st XI Team won the School's Anniversary Tournament for the third year in succession.

The U15 and the U18 Teams have both qualified for the 4th Round of the Scottish Schools' Cup.

Alan Tulloch (S5) and Tom Randerson (S6) represented Fife Schools' at U18 Level.

• HOCKEY

Karen Cairns (S6) was selected for the Midlands U18 Squad and Catriona Scott (S5), who made the final trial.

The 1st XI was successful in winning the Fife Schoolgirls' Senior Hockey Tournament for the 6th consecutive year.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Years and 2 Senior Teams have been playing their regular Saturday morning fixtures.

• NETBALL

The following girls have been selected to represent Fife at Netball:

U15 Sian MacFarlane
Caitlin Stuart-Delavaine
Iona Johnston
Leonie Owen

U17 Alice Morrison

U19 Shanna Pitblado
Emily Morrison

• RUGBY

The U15 Team has reached the 4th Round of the Scottish Schools' Bell Lawrie Cup and is scheduled to play The High School of Glasgow.

The 1st XV narrowly lost 10-5 to Morrisons Academy in the 4th Round of the U18 Scottish Schools' Bell Lawrie Cup.

• SHOWJUMPING

Sally Nisbet (S4), Gemma McGregor (S4) and Charmaine Permale (S2) gained 1st place at the Scottish Schools' Team Equestrian Event.

• SWIMMING

Laura McInnes (S1) finished 3rd in the 50 m Back Crawl and 6th in the 50 m Front Crawl at the 11 and under Fife Schools' Swimming Championships.

• THE LOMOND CHALLENGE TRIATHLON

One male, two female and three mixed teams took part in the triathlon which consisted of canoeing, cycling and running. Fiona Bracegirdle (S6) finished first in the individual female event and along with her partner Fiona Callaghan (S6), won a Silver medal in the Female Team Event.

• D. E. B. GARLAND MEMORIAL TOURNAMENTS

Glenrothes High School hosted their annual D.E.B. Garland Memorial Tournaments for S2 pupils competing in football, netball and rugby against other secondary schools within Fife. Congratulations to the netball and rugby teams who were both successful in bringing the trophies back to Madras.

29th Swimming Gala - Additional Support Needs Pupils - Fife

On the 8th October a small but determined team from Madras took part in the annual Fife Gala held at Lochgelly High School.

The four swimmers returned with personal best times for every event they entered as well as a total of 5 Gold medals for winning events.

The team of Dylan Thorburn, Grant Mills, Emma Irons and

Colleen Nicol were excellent ambassadors for Madras displaying great team spirit and perfect behaviour.

All four were selected for the Fife team to compete at the National Gala in Glasgow on the 19th November. Grant Mills won a Gold medal in the Butterfly class, Dylan Thorburn won Silver in the 100 m Freestyle and both Emma Irons and Colleen Nicol made it through the heats to the final of their event.



INFORMATION

Fife Council

School Closure Information for Parents

Since 1st November 2006, Fife Council has continued to make it easier for you to find out if your school is closed. You can also access information on road closures and other key Council service closures.

The News Centre (www.fifedirect.org.uk/news) gives details of all the latest school closures information plus a range of other information including winter advice, services, activities as well as weather and travel updates for Fife. This is another way to access all the latest information during severe weather.

As early as possible on the morning of severe weather or other situations such as water, heating and building problems, there will be an update of what information is available and that parents can access from their home. Further updates will be given throughout the day.

So when the severe weather starts you should:

- listen to Kingdom FM (95.2 and 96.1), Radio Forth (97.3), Radio Tay (102.8 and 96.4) or other local radio stations
- or call the Council's Closure Line on 08451 55 11 99
- or log on to www.fifedirect.org.uk/news
- or access the information on your Sky or Virgin digital set-top box. See 'Fife Council TV' on the A-Z of Services on www.fifedirect.org.uk or in the Useful Guide to Council Services

Parents can receive text or email alerts sent direct regarding school and other council facility closures. Please note if your child has moved from a primary school to a high school in August you should amend the school details on Fife Direct to ensure you receive the correct school information.

Log on to www.fifedirect.org.uk/closures

Click on Closure Alerts

Click on School Closure Alerts and follow the instructions to either sign in or register

PLEASE USE THESE OPTIONS BEFORE TRYING TO CALL YOUR SCHOOL

FOR PARENT/CARERS

Using Fife Council Closure Line

- a) Call 08451 55 11 99
- b) Choose Option 2 for Schools Information
- c) Choose:
 - 1 for Kirkcaldy Schools
 - 2 for East and Levenmouth Schools
 - 3 for Cowdenbeath, Glenrothes and Lochgelly Schools or
 - 4 for Dunfermline, Inverkeithing and West Schools
- d) Then choose:
 - 1 for Primary
 - 2 for Secondary
 - 3 for Other Establishments
- e) Schools will be listed in alphabetical order so listen carefully for your school