



# Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2009

## Rector's Note

This has been a busy year during which I have been well supported by staff, pupils and parents in continuing the process of change. Our development priorities this session included attainment, homework, care and welfare and the curriculum. In all these areas we have made significant progress, and in addition much time has been spent in taking forward plans for the new single site Madras College. Substantial background work has been undertaken in developing a strategic brief, identifying potential sites, looking at current school design in relation to a changing curriculum and preparing a business case to go before Councillors in August. The school has been represented in all aspects of this work and time has been devoted to meetings between architects and representative members of staff to ensure a complete understanding of the brief. This is a wonderful chance for North East Fife to benefit from a new, fit for purpose school that will provide the very best of facilities, maintaining and enhancing Madras College's proud reputation in academic excellence, sport and community service. It also affords the opportunity to look to the future in developing strong, sustainable links with the University of St Andrews.

*continued on page 2*

## Fife Schools' Multi-Events



L to R Jon Price, Jordan Denwette, Greg Jackson, Catriona Scott, Peter Silvera

On Thursday 4th June several athletes took part in the Fife Schools' Multi-Events at Pitreavie, Dunfermline. The following pupils were rewarded for their achievements after competing in three track and two field events.

|         |                       |              |                      |
|---------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| S1 Boys | 1st – Jon Price       | Senior Boys  | 2nd – Peter Silvera  |
| S2 Boys | 1st – Jordan Denwette | Senior Girls | 2nd – Catriona Scott |

Madras College also won the Boys' C & G Team Shield for the school gaining the most points in all of the Events.

## French Exchange

The first leg of our first French exchange with Le College F Bloch Serazin took place from 10th -18th June. Thirty-three pupils accompanied by 3 members of staff travelled to Scotland by bus. Trips included visits to Loch Lomond, the Wallace Monument, Glasgow and Edinburgh. They also played golf and visited the British Golf Museum. The group also visited classes, had a music lesson with Mr Bell and a history one with Dr Gilbert.

The return leg will be in September when Mrs McCartney, Mrs Maix and Mr Grewar will accompany the group to France. We hope that this will be the first of many such exchanges.

There was also a very successful Ceilidh attended by pupils, their families and members of staff in Holy Trinity Church Hall on Saturday night. Mr Dennis also wowed all who attended with his piping display. The parents provided a magnificent display of food and drink. Special thanks go to Mrs McLean for all her help in the organisation.

### INSIDE

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Staffing News .....             | 2 |
| Duke of Edinburgh's Award ..... | 2 |
| Eco Club .....                  | 3 |
| 175th Anniversary Concert ..... | 4 |
| Debating Competitions .....     | 5 |
| Honorary Award .....            | 5 |
| Sports News .....               | 6 |

*continued from page 1*

As we look to the future we cannot forget our past and the legacy of Andrew Bell. We acknowledge:

- his establishment of Madras College by his own generosity,
- his desire to improve learning for all pupils by using every technique possible apart from corporal punishment,
- his important idea and principle that we often learn best when we learn from each other,
- his modern theory that learning is done best in small steps,
- the thousands of pupils who are proud to have gone before us through this school,
- the millions worldwide who have benefited from Bell's ideas,
- the value of having high standards, being positive and giving each other support,
- and the need every so often to dedicate ourselves to renewed effort to do our best for ourselves and for others.

Andrew Bell may not have been the easiest person to live or work with; he was quite fixed in his ideas and single-minded. He does not seem to have sought easy popularity. However, he made his mark in difficult and changing times, he gained great respect from the pupils he taught, and he contributed to the improvement of education for the whole of society. To have him as our founder, gives us a unique heritage, and challenges us to study and apply some of his ideas in the 21st century. By reflecting on our past we can learn much and understand what Madras College is aiming to achieve for everyone, how personal ambition and mutual support can go hand in hand, and how having a clear set of values is vital for a healthy school or society.

Founded in 1833, Madras College celebrates its 175th anniversary this session and we held an anniversary concert in South Street on 24th June. Also on display were a number of items and papers from the school archive.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout this session and to wish you a very enjoyable holiday.

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## German Exchange

The fifty-second German exchange took place from 3rd -12th June when 28 pupils made their way to Scotland, accompanied by 2 members of staff. Visits were to Edinburgh and Stirling. The pupils also went putting, attended classes and took part in sports competitions.

The farewell evening was a showcase for talent from both Scots and Germans. Highlights included Rory McLeod and Jessie Gordon (S6), both former participants in the Exchange, who performed to great acclaim. The night finished with a few Scottish dances.

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# Staffing News

At the end of term there are five members of staff retiring, Mrs I Copland, Ms W Grant, Mrs S Lowe, Mrs C Noble and Mrs E Wallace. We thank them for their work over the past years and wish them long and happy retirements.

We pass on our best wishes for successful futures to four of our five probationers, Mrs I Anderson, Miss J Black, Miss G McAdam and Miss H Reed and welcome Mr N Jardine to a permanent post in our Design and Technology department.

During this term we have said farewell to Mrs L McCafferty who has taken up a new post at Baldragon Academy and Mr J Lyden is leaving at the end of the term to take up a post in Woodmill High School. Our thanks and best wishes also go to Mrs C Forrest, Mrs N Smith, Mrs K Hansen, Mr C Bell, Mr F Christie and Mr I Boyd who have all held temporary posts during the session. We welcome Mr Boyd as a full-time member of our English department next session.

Mr A McNish, our Business Manager, left in April to take up a Bursar's post in Sussex and we have recently welcomed Mr D Brownlee as his successor.

We would also like to thank Mrs F Lindsay who has been Acting PT Physics for this session, and also Mr A Gourlay, Mrs J Soares and Mr D Grewar who have completed a period of Acting Principal Teacher Curriculum, and Acting Principal Teachers respectively in the Maths department.

Our grateful thanks is also passed to all of the supply staff who have worked with us throughout the session, especially Mrs C Orr, Mrs M Gourley, Mr D Simpson, Mr R Mennie, Mrs A Bankhead, Mrs M Smith, Mr W McGuinness, Mr A More and Mr M Mitchell.

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## Duke Of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's award group has had another successful year with an amazing 19 Bronzes and 12 Silvers achieving their awards. We also have 5 successful students at the Holyrood Garden Party, meeting the Duke himself and receiving their Gold award.

The expeditions this year have gone interestingly so far. The Bronzes covered a lot of ground with trips to Glenmore (near Aviemore), Guay (near Dunkeld) and Glen Almond. The Silvers and Golds were in Glen Tilt and successfully completed their qualifying expedition coping with extremes of weather that Scotland could throw at them. A massive thank you goes to all the staff involved for all their hard work and stamina.

A reminder to all the Bronzes and Silvers planning to go on to the next level next year - your award book needs to be completed and handed in to Miss Paterson by the October holidays.

## ECO CLUB

### Joint Sponsored Bridge Walks



On 28th March pupils from Inverkeithing High School and Madras College took part in a joint bridge walk across the Forth and Tay Road Bridges for Water Aid. The original bridge walking idea came about 3 years ago in 2006 when the Inverkeithing water group was trying to think of ways to raise awareness of the problems individuals in other countries



Inverkeithing High School pupils  
at the Forth Road Bridge

have when piped water is not available - to this end the pupils were to carry water with them on their walks. The figure that Water Aid quotes for average daily water carrying is 20 litres. In the Inverkeithing



Madras College pupils at the Tay Road Bridge

group there were 12 people doing the walk (6 adults and 6 pupils) and the Madras group had 13 secondary and primary pupils and 5 adults. In total they raised about £450.

Many more pupils from both schools helped by putting up posters, collecting sponsorship money and designing and producing the T-shirts, flyers, sponsor forms and posters. All the ideas were shared between the two schools and involved even more pupils in every aspect of the event.

## New Madras Question and Answer Session



Members of the Eco-Club invited Cllr Waterston to a question and answer session on Monday 22nd June at lunchtime. They were keen to find out all sorts of details relating to the new Madras and how important environmental issues were going to be to the new design. Cllr Waterston used to be a maths teacher at Madras College and has many fond memories of the school. Among some of the ideas talked about was the possibility of collecting rain water and using it within the new building. 'It was good to find out what's happening about the new school' said Adam McKay, the Eco-Club activities organiser.

## Herb and Sensory Garden



Dr David King, head of St Andrews Gardening Association is pictured with staff and pupils at the grand opening of the student designed Herb and Sensory Garden. Dr King was extremely helpful with planning and planting in the garden and is regularly in contact regarding advice.

## Dig for Victory!



Congratulations to all pupils involved with planting and growing vegetables this year. We have achieved the Royal Horticulture Society Level 2 award and have qualified for seeds, tools and a gardening book as a result.

The Royal Horticulture Society runs a National Benchmarking Scheme to recognise and reward schools' good gardening practice. There are 5 levels to the scheme, and we plan to achieve levels 3 and 4 next academic session.

- 1 Planning
- 2 Getting started
- 3 Growing and diversifying
- 4 Sharing best practice
- 5 Celebrating with the wider community.

Thank you to all members of the EcoClub, and in particular to S2 pupils Katrina Himpson (chair person) and Paul Sinclair (secretary) for their efforts. Thank you to Dylan Thorburn, Grant Mills, Corey Jordan and Scott Redpath (all S3) for creating and maintaining a vegetable plot in Kilrymont.

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# 175th Anniversary Concert

Last Wednesday evening saw Madras celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the school with a memorable concert, aptly showing the large array of musical and theatrical talents within the school. The memory of Andrew Bell played a prominent role in the proceedings - there was an archive overflowing with his works and Kyle Pryke (S6) acting as him to usher the parents round to the event, which was set on the lawn Quad, Rose Garden and Assembly Hall. This was the perfect way of showing the beauty of the South Street Building.

The Pipe Band started the proceedings on the front lawn, showing their talents to the whole of St Andrews. They marched out clad in their Madras tartan kilts and gave beautiful renditions of *Highland Cathedral*, *Bonny Dundee* and *Dark Island*. The sun shone over the awe-struck crowds, a powerful way to begin the celebratory evening.

The Senior Wind Band always put on a show and on Wednesday they excelled themselves. The winners of the Fife Festival of Music played catchy and contemporary tunes to give a modern twist on a classic sound.

The Orchestra played in the Rose Garden where guests were served strawberry tarts.

Next came the formal concert in the Assembly Hall. It began with an acting piece from *A Street Car Named Desire* performed by S6 pupils Camilla Tait, Cara Bunney and Rory MacLeod. Their exceptional acting skills were highlighted by their use of southern accents throughout.

We saw talent from the junior school when the Singing Programme performed *Fields of Gold*. Guitar and flute solos

from James Wright (S3) and Erika Bates (S5) showed the exceptional individual talent within the school. *Intoxicated*, a song written by, and undeniably artistic pupil, Finn Anderson who left this year to study music at Perth College was performed by some of the 6th year pupils. Mrs Nisbets higher class performed a perfectly harmonised version of Leonard Cohen's classic *Hallelujah*.

Wednesday was the perfect celebration of Madras' 175th Anniversary, paying tribute to Andrew Bell but proving the talent still within the school.

Annie Parker (S5)



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## *St Andrews - new and old!*



Congratulations to William Mills (S3) for creating a photography book contrasting photos of St Andrews today with St. Andrews 100 years ago.

The book showcases his stunning photography as well as how St Andrews has changed over the last century.

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## Geography Fieldwork 2008-2009

The usual busy schedule went ahead this session, with around 350 pupils in the school participating in some type of outdoor learning.

In September, our Higher Geography classes took part in the well-established residential fieldwork weekend to the Yorkshire Dales to study the unique limestone landscapes. They also were taken for a day to Edinburgh in March to study urban and industrial Geography. Charlotte Sloan (S5) and Annika Neukirch (S6) were presented with books of beautiful photographs of the Yorkshire Dales for producing the best fieldwork notebooks in each of the two Higher classes.

April saw the Higher Managing Environmental Studies class visiting the Cairngorms National Park for the weekend to study conservation, soils, effects of tourism and estate management; also in April, well over 100 S3 pupils were taken to the Highlands for a day to study landscapes and settlements. In May, 2 full minibuses of S3 pupils were taken on a Highland tour for their 3-day activities.

Throughout the session, all S1 classes - over 280 pupils - participated in 3 fieldwork exercises around Kilrymont.

Plans are already being made for this September's visit to Yorkshire!

# Debating Competitions

Madras has had one of its most successful years in debating for some years. Both Junior and Senior teams have succeeded in reaching finals for their respective competitions.

## JUNIOR DEBATING

Two teams (all S2), comprising Geir Darge and Leo Gordon, Johnny Watson and Rory Malcolm, made it to the semi-finals of the Courier debate.

Another two pupils, Natalie Cameron and Emma Ruskuc were successful in reaching the regional final in the ESU. Not bad considering they were both in S1!

Four of these juniors; Geir, Natalie, Emma and Johnny, along with other pupils, accompanied us to the Scottish Parliament for the final of the Donald Dewar Memorial and took part in the floor debate, unfazed by the grandeur of their surroundings! Great potential for the future.

## SENIOR DEBATING

Huge successes here again. Our S4 team of Miriam Martindale-Malek and Nikki Gordon made it into the third round of the ESU Mace competition.

Michael Weir and Alice Minick (S5) argued their way into the final of the Donald Dewar, which was held in the debating chamber of the Scottish Parliament. Despite not being successful, they put on a very credible show and were unlucky in not being placed.

A very enjoyable (if also very long!) day was spent here with pupils taking part in putting forward proposals and being informed about the work of the Scottish Youth Parliament and Young Scot. All pupils participating thoroughly enjoyed their day and made the most of the opportunity to be involved in the final debate. Huge congratulations to them all.

Our biggest success came in Debating Matters where we became Scottish champions at The Informatics Forum, University of Edinburgh. Our team of Jessie Gordon (S6), Michael Weir and Alice Minick (S5), Nikki Gordon and Miriam Martindale-Malek (S4), will be joined by Ellen Bowman (S5) when we go to London at the beginning of July to take part in the National Final against five other schools and India if we are successful in lifting the title.

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## Music Composing Audio Exhibition

Earlier this term 6 Fife Secondary schools took part in a showcase of compositions written for Higher music. Six pupils from this year's class represented Madras and each presented one piece of music to a very appreciative audience of parents, teachers and fellow pupils. Finn Anderson - a song with instrumental accompaniment, William Johnstone - a Bassoon Concerto. Gordon Hill - a Brass Quintet, Ruairidh Tarvet - a Polka for 2 clarinets and piano, Alice Tavakoli - a Dance for French Horn and Piano and Emma Hodge - a Blues piece for violin and piano.

## Latin Speaking Competition

Sixteen pupils, accompanied by Mr Lawrenson, took part in a Latin Speaking Competition which was held at the University of St Andrews on Thursday 11th June. The competition results are as follows:

### Senior Latin

1st Charlotte Evetts  
2nd Douglas Latto

### Projects

2nd Andrew Ruskuc  
Finlay Williamson  
John Waters  
Jacob Lamb

3rd Erin Taylor  
Emily Hawkins  
Sorrell Caddell-Walker  
Lindsey White  
Sarah Gordon

## Honorary Award



Congratulations to Mr Bell (pictured) who was recently presented with the honorary award of ARSCM (Associate of the Royal School of Church Music) at a special ceremony in Salisbury Cathedral. He was nominated for his contribution to Scottish church music. In addition to his work as part of a team of music staff at Madras College, Mr Bell teaches organ at the St Andrews University Summer School and finds time to be the administrator of a very successful national training scheme for organists. Sometimes he is even allowed to play the organ at the Madras College Great Assembly....!

# SPORTS NEWS

## ATHLETICS

- At the Fife Schools' Track and Field Championships held at Pitreavie on Wednesday 10th June, Madras College won 10 gold, 8 silver and 8 bronze medals.
- Following their success at the Championships four U15 pupils have been selected to represent Fife Schools at the Inter-Area Meeting on Tuesday 23rd June; Jordan Denwette, Calum Grewar, Leonie Owen (all S2) and Rory Henretty (S3).
- Karen Cairns (S6) won a silver medal in the Group 'A' Girls Discus at the Scottish Schools' Championships on Saturday 13th June.

## CHEERLEADING

Fiona Johnston (S3) represented Scotland at the World Cheerleading Championships in April, with the team gaining a very respectable 5th place.

## GOLF

The following pupils won the Fife Schools' Junior Boys' Scratch Team Championship which was held on Thursday 28th May, at Scoonie Golf Club, Leven.

S2 Ewen Scott  
Murray Watson

S3 Alex Price  
Ruairidh Robertson

The Senior Boys won the Fife Schools' Team Scratch Competition held on Thursday 11th June at Kirkcaldy. The following boys who represented Madras College were, Andrew Whyte and Neil Beattie (S4) and Alan Tulleth and Cameron West (S5). Cameron also finished 1st Individual Scratch.

Neil Beattie, James White and Iain Watson represented Fife Schools at the Scottish Schools' Championships held at Carnoustie, on Monday 8th June.

## HOCKEY

Kirsty Duncan, Alice Pridham and Ruth Reid (S3) have been successful in being selected to represent Midlands U15 at the District Championships to be held on 6th/7th June, at Peffermill, Edinburgh.

## RUGBY

On Friday 3rd April the senior rugby team won the Perth Academy 7-a-side tournament, retaining the trophy won in 2008.

On Wednesday 29th April nine rugby teams from Secondary Schools throughout Fife took part in a 10-a-side, S1/S2 Boys' Rugby Tournament hosted by Buckhaven High School and organised by Fife Rugby Development. Madras College won their sectional games to reach a three-way play-off in the final, resulting in the boys winning both games, bringing the inaugural trophy back to Madras. Throughout the tournament the boys scored 25 tries and conceded only 1, in the 4 games played.

## RUGBY AND NETBALL

On Wednesday 1st April, the S1 Boys' 10-a-side Rugby Team and the S1 Girls' Netball Teams won the D.E.B. Garland Memorial Tournaments, hosted by Glenrothes High School.

## SAILING

At the Scottish Schools' Sailing Championships, held on Monday 15th June at Loch Earn Sailing Club, Rowenna MacQueen (S2) was 8th, Robbie Paterson (S2) was 19th and Martin Blewett (S1) was 36th. The team finished in 8th place.

## TABLE TENNIS

Ian Johnston (S5) finished in 3rd place in the U18 Boys' Event at the National Schools' Finals in February. Ian played exceptionally well and in finishing in 3rd place, he has qualified for the Scottish Schools' Team to play at the British Schools' event later this month.



## INFORMATION

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(all dates inclusive)

#### School Begins

Wednesday 19th August 2009

Mon 12 to Fri 23 Oct 2009

Mon 21 Dec 2009 to Fri 1 Jan 2010

Thurs 11 and Fri 12 Feb 2010

Fri 2 Apr to Fri 16 Apr 2010

Mon 3 May 2010

Mon 7 Jun 2010

Mon 5 Jul to Fri 13 Aug 2010

### INSERVICE

Monday 17th August 2009

Tuesday 18th August 2009

Friday 13th November 2009

Monday 4th January 2010

Wednesday 10th February 2010

Tuesday 8th May 2010

### Senior Course Choice Changes in light of Exam Results

Once the SQA exam results are known in August 2009, pupils wishing to make any changes to their course choice are advised to contact the school office on 01334 659402 as soon as possible to make an appointment with their Guidance teacher for **Monday 17th August 2009**.

It is essential course choice changes are carried out on this day to ensure pupils are in their classes to allow learning and teaching to commence as soon as possible.