



# Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2010

## Rector's Message

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, Curriculum for Excellence, Care and welfare, Aims and Values and Improvement through Self-evaluation. 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. A business case has been approved and regular meetings are taking place with the University of St Andrews to finalise a site for the new school. Plans are under way to appoint a design team and we anticipate a major consultation exercise will take place in August/September as part of the planning process and the statutory requirement to consult over the proposal to move the location of the school. 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 involvement. It will be a school for all, irrespective of ability or aspiration and will afford the opportunity to look to the future in developing strong, sustainable links with the University of St Andrews.

A significant piece of work undertaken this session was to review our aims and values. In framing these we chose three headings that to us express the essential elements of a successful school; Achievement, Ethos and Partnership.

Achievement is not only measured by success in exams, important though this is. It encompasses the whole range of experiences that make up school life and in this 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.

Partnerships provide the contexts 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, Adam Smith College, Dundee College, RAF Leuchars, The Byre Theatre, the R&A, the Links Trust, the Rotary Club of St Andrews and to the many organisations in North East Fife with whom we are associated.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a relaxing summer holiday.

*Ian Jais*

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## Piper Wins National Burns Competition



Ewan Cameron receives his silver trophy, gold medal and award certificate as winner of the S1/2 Piping category of the Robert Burns World Federation national secondary schools' competition. Ewan is a Madras College Pipe Band member, and won his heat in Fife at the end of March, before travelling through to Coatbridge to win at national level on 24 April 2010. Ewan walked away with first place in the competition playing a Robert Burns tune, followed by a hornpipe composed by Madras College Bagpipe Instructor, Mr Barron. Fife was placed overall winning region for the competition.

## New Range of Clothing

As of next August there will be a new range of clothes, embroidered with the school logo and available to wear in Physical Education and sports clubs. Please look out for the order form on Parentmail.

## "Mini Sagas: Mini Marvels" Young Writers' Book

The English Department are delighted to announce that a number of pupils had work published in the Young Writers' "Mini Sagas: Mini Marvels" book. Each pupil rose to the challenge of writing a story which would be judged on style, expression, flair and technical skill. It had to be full of excitement and adventure, a gripping plot and intriguing characters – but could be no more than 50 words long!

Published pupils:

- S1 Sarah Maloney, Jessica Rough, Morgen Opala, Fraser Donaldson, Euan Gaul, Ellie Wheeler, Aimee Latto, Bethany Watson, Rea MacDuff, Alison Meek, Marisa Burch, Sarah Brett, Scott Fairfield.
- S2 Rhiannon Martin, Megan Pettegree, Liv Darge, David Pritchard, Maria Leonhardt, Natalie Cameron, Sean Cowan, Charles Stewart.
- S3 Lucy Harris, Zoe Davies, Ben Peddie, Stewart Addison, Courtney Gardiner, Euan MacNeill, Heather Dickson.

## Summer Concert

The Summer Concert took place on Wednesday 23rd June and as always, was a splendid way to celebrate the end of the school year. The Pipe Band commenced proceedings with spirited outdoor performance. Back indoors, there was the usual variety of music from the Senior Wind Band, Class Brass, solos, duets, and quartets. An innovative contribution was made by the story-tellers prepared by the English Department. Pupils told a complete story in no more than 50 words: each story punctuated the programme at regular intervals. Mr Jones gave the Vote of Thanks and the concert ended with a performance given by the Senior Wind Band.

## Soundstreams

This music project involved working to create new music with a small group of Madras music students from Higher and Advanced Higher classes. On Tuesday 22nd June, the professional performers and composers returned to St Andrews and gave public performances in the Byre Theatre of new music written by Madras pupils Callum Sinclair (S5), Charlotte Sloan, William Johnston, Alice Herrington and Ruairidh Tarvet (S6).

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### SESSION 2010-2011

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School begins:

For Staff: Monday 16 August 2010

For Pupils: Wednesday 18 August 2010

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## A Paris Panorama Experience

By Leo Gordon

This trip was the best experience I'd had in a long time. Departing school at 8.00 am we headed off relishing our relative freedom. After a stop for lunch, we reached Hull and, following a safety briefing from the ship's officer, boarded the ferry. On collecting our allocated cabin keys, we quickly freshened up and changed. A delicious evening meal in the restaurant stoked our excitement before going on deck to take pictures, get some air and explore the ferry.

Awaking with fresh enthusiasm, we ate breakfast ravenously and entertained ourselves on deck before packing and leaving the ferry for our onward journey through Belgium to Paris. Our excitement was high but on reaching Paris our exhilaration hit the roof. First stop was the Eiffel Tower. 'La tour Eiffel' was an experience in itself with its cafés, gift shops and the general, breathtaking view. Next a fabulous boat trip along the Seine seeing more of the city's historical points of interest which unfortunately we didn't have enough time to visit. After this fun packed day, we settled down for our evening meal by the famous Pompidou Centre, in the local Flunch, and then onto our hotel.



Thursday we were off to Disneyland Paris! On reaching the park, and after a short briefing, we sampled the Pirates of the Caribbean and Indiana Jones rides before lunch, continuing the day by heading off to the Studios for more adventurous rides and finally 30 minutes souvenir shopping before back to the hotel.

The last day of our 'frenzied' 3 day activity started with a visit to the Champs-Élysées where we stared wide-eyed at the expensive prices. Thankfully the 'Arcade' was smaller, quieter and most importantly, cheaper! We arrived at 'Basilique du Sacré-Cœur' to find you have to climb a steep hill of steps! So as not to disturb the people praying, we quietly toured the magnificent interior. Shops in the area were very interesting selling posters of famous paintings. Shopping over, we headed for Calais and the ferry to Dover. Ahead of us a 12-hour journey to St Andrews.

# Storytelling for the Digital Age

During the month of May pupils in two S2 classes had the opportunity to design an interactive computer game - their very own digital multimodal text. The English and Computing Studies departments worked with Heriot-Watt University to pilot Making Games in Schools. Pupils explored the fantasy genre and used 'Adventure Author' software to build their own computer games - in a bid to improve their creative, IT and literacy skills. The pupils wrote text for conversations between characters and built up plots and personalities within the game. Highlights of the project involved testing each other's interactive fantasy-based computer games and making traditional fantasy stories come alive. Cathrin Howells, a literacy specialist with Heriot-Watt University, was impressed by how the players interacted with the other characters through written dialogue.

# Fairtrade Tuckshop



Congratulations to Robert Carrick (S3) for setting up and running the Fairtrade Tuckshop in Kilrymont Road each Wednesday. The tuckshop has been a great success and makes a real difference to people's lives in developing countries.

Scott Cavin and Kayleigh Pitblado (both S1) will take over the running of the tuckshop after the summer holidays.

# Modern Languages

## • Department News

The Modern Languages Department is once again running its very successful German Exchange for the 53rd consecutive year with 32 pupils and 3 members of staff. This year's highlights include a trip to Lubeck and the marzipan factory, another hike across the mudflats and of course school visits. This year's exchange visit will coincide with the Kieler Woche when Kiel is transformed by the International Sailing Regatta with all the extra visitors, side shows and entertainment which this generates.

## • Distinction Gained by individual Pupils

The Modern Languages Department is happy to announce that Thomas Smout (S4) was successful in his application to take part in a visit to China this summer in order to learn something about the language and culture of this increasingly important country. He will also be given the opportunity to take part in a work experience visit to China later in the year. Tom was one of 5 Fife pupils selected to represent the authority in China and his application was rated very highly.

Rachel Gillespie and Alina Popa (Both S6) were selected for awards by the Franco-Scottish Society to allow them to visit France this summer, living in an environment where they will be speaking French. The girls gained 2 out of 3 awards given to pupils in North East Fife.

## • The Scottish Languages Baccalaureate

Ruairidh Tarvet (S6) and Alina Popa were among the first candidates to complete the Interdisciplinary Project for the new award of Scottish Languages Baccalaureate this year. They both achieved a grade 'A' in the project. Madras College was the only school in Fife and Dundee to present pupils for the Languages Baccalaureate and possibly the only one to have two candidates. Most, if not all, of the other 15 centres had only one candidate. Next session we are hoping to have 8 candidates for this very interesting and worthwhile project which encourages independent study and prepares our pupils for the next step of their education.

# Staffing Update

On Friday we say goodbye to Mr J Bennett, Depute Headteacher, Mrs M Brown, Principal Teacher Modern Studies, Ms H McCormac and Mr J McLaughlan, Chemistry Teachers, Mrs V Rough, Principal Teacher Guidance, Mrs P Robertson, Biology Teacher, and Mrs A Stephens Mathematics teacher. Between them they have given an impressive total of 141 years service and commitment to Madras College. They are all moving on to enjoy a more relaxing lifestyle and we wish them well.

We are also saying goodbye to the following teachers: Miss A Gillespie and Mrs E Menlaws, English, Mrs J Mitchell, Business Management, Mr N Jardine, Design and Technology, who are moving on to pastures new. Mrs L Harvie, English is going on Maternity leave, Miss F Paterson, Biology and Mr R Bell, Music are both taking career breaks. Our three Probationers: Miss G Baxter, Mr L Fraser and Miss J Shearer have all secured full-time teaching positions. We wish them a long and fruitful career.

To all those mentioned above, to the supply teachers who have helped us out over the session and to Mr Pardoe, Chief

Invigilator (SQA exams) and his team a big thank you for all your hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank Mr J Bell, Janitor, who was based in the Kilrymont building for all his help over the years and wish him well in his retirement.

We welcome Mrs N Smith as a permanent member of the Physical Education Staff and Mr R Hepburn on his appointment as a permanent member of the Guidance staff for Castle House. Lastly we look forward to welcoming Mr K Wishart who will be taking over from Mrs Rough as Principal Teacher Guidance (Blackfriars House) in August.





# Eco Club

## New Madras College Garden



The Madras College Parents' Association Eco-Club has recently had a state of the art organic garden built on the doorstep of the Kilrymont site where the old janitor's house used to be. Together with the pupils' Eco-Club, they spent a year raising the money needed to transform an overgrown and rather ugly area into a dream garden with a large pond. Most of the costs required were met with a grant from Awards for All and a Fife Local Area Improvement grant. The rest of the money was raised selling herbs to parents at parents' evenings, from donations by members of the community and through lots of enterprising activities.

The design of the area was a result of the collaboration between the pupils, staff and the professionals at 'Creating Eden', a local company, who completed the job just last week. Seven tonnes of the finest quality compost was provided by the Links Trust who have been extremely generous in their support of all 3 of the school's new gardens.



James Primmer, the Eco-Club's chairperson said "All 3 of our gardens have only taken two years to be completed. We designed them especially so that they can be disassembled and put together like Lego bricks in our new school when it is built". Recycling the building materials was always an important part of the designs according to Mr Bennett one of the school's Depute Head Teachers. "We'll have a whole school competition to design a garden for the new Madras in a few years probably, using every part of the 3 gardens we have now. In this way everyone will benefit from the resource before and after the move".

This newest garden is the largest of the three and contains raised vegetable beds, a large shed, a patio, a small pond and a rockery. Pathways through it allow it to be wheelchair accessible.

Miss Baxter, one of the teachers helping the Eco-Club said, "The pupils have

started to plan what to do in the garden area and have also begun a video diary of what they're up to which they intend to keep up-to-date on their new web site". Groups of pupils have already begun volunteering to get involved in the area, the first of which is a special pond group, led by Mr Crone from the Biology department who specialises in Marine Biology.

The pupils' Eco-Club have provided plants they have grown from seedlings, and along with the Department of Additional Support plan to grow potatoes, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, lettuces, peppers, chillies, onions, carrots, sweet pea, tomatoes, broad bean, asparagus and runner beans. As well as this, to increase Biodiversity, they plan to plant areas with wild flowers and bee and insect attracting flowers. All the produce will be sold to staff and parents at parent evenings or used by the school's very own Home Economics Department and Canteen.



There are already plans to design some enterprising activities now that will involve varied and creative cross-curricular approaches. Many of the departments have expressed an interest. Miss Kirsty Thomas from the school's Art Department has designed and built wicker frameworks for the climbing plants with her classes and a huge butterfly

mobile as a fixed decorative sculpture will be installed soon.



Hamish Matheson, an expert gardener, will be regularly assisting the Eco-Club in the new garden area also. Hamish and his neighbours are especially delighted as they live alongside the new garden which has improved the appearance of the entire area enormously.

Local gardeners will provide expert advice to pupils on the basics of gardening. Contacts are also being developed with the St Andrews Botanic Gardens. "We're lucky to be able to receive so much interest and expertise from the school and wider community" said Mr Fox, the Eco-Schools Co-ordinator. "Having this resource will allow the community and the school to work together in a really productive and educational way. This is what education is really all about".

In the photo ... Henry Paul (chair), Brendan Fox (treasurer), Jackie Himpson (secretary) of the Madras College Parents' Council Association Eco-Club, Department of Additional Support, the Madras College Eco-Club, class 2C4 and Mr Bennett, Depute Headteacher.

## Fantastic Flower Displays

*Thank you Hamish!*



Kilrymont Road Greenhouse

Keep a look out for the fantastic flower displays going up at Hope Park Church in the middle of St Andrews at the end of the month. Hamish Matheson, our friendly, local, expert gardener, is arranging and growing plants in the Kilrymont greenhouse with pupils from the Department of Additional Support, and they're just about ready. He has been preparing hanging baskets, tubs, planters and window boxes for years now and they always make a great impression. Since Hope Park is in the centre of town, everyone who visits St Andrews this summer will see these amazing displays and most of them will probably not realise that they were all grown here, at Madras College by Hamish! So, we'd like to bring to everyone's attention just how effective our links with the community are and thank Hamish for all his hard work, not only with the Hope Park project but also the hard work he voluntarily contributes to the Department of Additional Support and the Eco-Club year after year. Thank you Hamish!

## *Your Eco Club Needs You!*

The Eco-Club in Kilrymont began recruiting at the beginning of the summer term for new members. If you'd like to join us and learn about the environment by becoming active in all sorts of projects, keep an eye on the daily sheet.

## Nuffield Foundation *Science Research Bursary Scheme*

James Tooze and Tim Woollins have fought off stiff competition to gain a place on the prestigious Nuffield Foundation Science Research Bursary Scheme. They will be paid to carry out research during the summer holidays and will produce a report on their findings. They will both be at St Andrews University. James will be working with the Chemistry Department and Tim with the Physics Department.

## SCULPTURE DAY AT KELLIE CASTLE

On Tuesday, 11th May a group of S3 students had the opportunity to go on an Art Department sculpture trip. The sculpture day, which was held at Kellie Castle, was funded and run by the National Trust.

Professional Sculptor Kenny Munroe worked with Madras College students throughout the day. The pupils worked intensively to produce larger-than-life-sized sculptures, which are now on display in Art Room 311.

The pupils were inspired by the location of Kellie Castle, National Trust and found the setting really stunning and inspirational. In particular, the studio garden room they were working in had a very creative atmosphere and was conducive to some fantastic work. The displays of Hew Lorimer's work and the recreation of his workshop are fantastic for both pupils and staff to experience. Pupils involved were Sarah Jenkins, Dayna Martin, Heather Dickson, Lisa Stewart, India Lyall, Ross Turner, Jasmine King and Katie Law.

## *MUSA Young Artist Award 'Close Up, Far Away'*

Currently on display at the Gateway Gallery, University of St Andrews is an exhibition of work by pupils from across Fife Region. The Art Department at Madras College submitted a number of works by junior pupils all of which were of a very high standard. This high standard resulted in the following pupils being category winners each receiving a gift voucher and certificate: Chelsie Fossard, Barry Mann, Jonathan Price, Corryn Christie, Martin Blewett (S2) and Fraser Hutcheson (S4). Well done to all!



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The school group has had a very successful year with 8 Bronzes, 12 Silvers and 1 Gold award achieved.

This year 22 pupils started at Bronze, 16 at Silver and 12 at Gold. We were also pushed into coming up-to-date and learning the new eDofE system (the award is going electronic).

The expeditions all went very well – despite the unreliability of Entomological and Meteorological forecasting!! – midges were out in force at times, and the weather forecast only correct for about an hour!

A huge thanks go to all the staff involved especially for all the extra help given when Mr Gibbins went off ill – we wish him a speedy and full recovery. Congratulations to Mrs Nisbet for achieving her first Munro (and to Mr Paton and Mr Walker for helping her up it!). For the next year any queries should be directed to Miss McKimmie, Mr Kay or (for eDofE) Mr Kerrigan. Good luck to Mr Jardine as he moves on to new hiking grounds.

# SPORTS NEWS

## • ATHLETICS

The improving summer weather has increased the participation numbers in the extensive extra-curricular sports programme with athletics topping the poll with regular numbers of 80 plus to the Monday evening sessions. From this group 50 pupils competed at Fife Schools Athletics Championship winning 5 Gold Medals with an outstanding display from Jon Price (S2) who received the award for the most Meritous Championship performance.

Four pupils: Peter Silvera and Adam Delargy (S6), Jordan Denwette (S3) and Jon Price represented Madras at the Scottish Schools Championship.

## • BASKETBALL

A new Basketball club started up this term on a Monday evening where 30 boys have embraced this activity in an enthusiastic manner.

## • CRICKET

Willie Anderson from Largo Cricket Club has lent his expertise to the Thursday evening Cricket club where 42 boys and girls have been improving their skills and knowledge. A squad entered the Scottish Cup and played Arbroath, although ending up losing, the experience was valuable and the contest enjoyable.

## • GOLF

The golfers have been busy on the links with the inaugural Headmaster's Cup played against Carnoustie High School at their Championship course with Madras coming out the winners. 1-0 to Mr Jones!

The Junior Boy's team won the Fife Schools' Championship with a team of Ewan Scott, Murray Watson, Ben Kinsley and Fraser Hayles (all S3). Ewan was the overall Champion. The Girls and Senior Boys teams will be defending their titles next week.

At the time of press Lauren Whyte (S2) has won the Junior Girls' School Championship.

## • OPENTENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

Over 50 entries have been competing in the Open School Tennis Championship with most of the matches nearly concluded. Liv Darge (S2) has won the Junior Girls, Sholto Cocris (S1) has won the Junior Boys and Jennifer Humphreys (S5) won the Senior Girls Championships. Liv is also a member of the Junior team who are still in the Scottish Cup. Senior boys and girls have exited in the 3rd and 4th Rounds respectively but have combined to play in a very exciting match against Merchiston Castle.

## Tennis

This season has seen a great deal of tennis action for both girls and boys teams.

### • BOYS

Captained by Gordon Hill, the last surviving member of the Madras Scottish Cup Winners, the team comprised of: Gordon Hill (S6), Ruaridh MacLeod (S2), Oliver Cocris (S3), Sholto Cocris (S1) and Aidan Flegg (S4). Having got through the first 2 rounds of the Scottish Cup, the senior boys travelled to Nairn and defeated a strong Nairn Team 4-2. Progressing to the quarter-finals Madras boys met Strathallan, in a tight match. Despite a valiant display, and in a match where the scores were tighter than the final result would suggest, the boys were eventually defeated 5-1.

Gordon has been a superb Captain of a young squad in development and a real credit to Madras College. His prodigious talent and his sense of fairplay is an example to all.

### • JUNIOR BOYS

The Junior Boys are still in the U15s Scottish Cup Competition. Captained by the redoubtable and talented Oliver Cocris, the team comprises: Oliver Cocris, Ruaridh MacLeod, Sholto Cocris and Aidan Flegg. Last month the boys defeated James Heriots School 5-1 in an exciting match. They have still to play Merchiston and Glenalmond.

### • GIRLS

The girls this year are also a squad in development. Captained by Jennifer Humphreys the team comprised of: Jennifer Humphreys and Rebecca McGinn (S5), Mairi Grewar and Catriona Scott (S6), Laura Ryan (S3) and Liv Darge (S2). The girls made it through to the 3rd round of the Scottish Cup but were finally defeated in a close match by Glenalmond College. They also competed in a regular fixture against the High School of Dundee. As Captain, Jennifer has been a great role model for the team – full of good humour and scrupulously fair, as well as having one of the biggest serves in Scottish Schools' tennis.

## Sports Day Champions

Five hundred pupils entered this year's sports and an excellent day's entertainment was completed, with the following individual winners.

Shaw Palmer (S1 Boys), Milly Rochow (S1 Girls), Jon Price (S2 Boys), Corryn Christie (S2 Girls), Jordan Denwette (S3 Boys), Hannah Caswell (S3 Girls), Neil Docherty (Senior Boys), Kirsty Duncan (Senior Girls). Patrick Stewart won the boys' Senior High Jump and the Inter-House Trophy was won by Castle.

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