

After the long hard winter I am sure that we all looked forward to a fine Spring and a hot sunny June. Alas, far too often, the rain and the wind have met us each morning until this past week.

It may have been cool outside but the pace in school was hot enough. Scottish Certificate of Education examinations have involved 400 candidates for the three grades - 'O', 'H' and S.Y.S., and candidates have been prepared for the Certificate of Secondary Education in Typing, Accounts, Chemistry and Human Biology. In addition, concerts, plays, sports, school visits have been fitted in. In the South Street building Mrs Bridges and her drama team, adapting the school stage so that it became a miniature theatre, put on three One-Act Plays. The work which this group is doing is deservedly becoming recognised well outside the boundaries of Fife. In the Kilrymont Road building, Miss Kinnear, Mr Roche and their youthful charges have, with great success, put on the Minstrel Show. Many staff have been drawn into this. The Home Economics department has been stitching furiously; the Artists have at times commandeered the floor of the Assembly Hall to paint scenery; Mr Mole has toiled over his lights. Surely all this is the life blood of a school.

What can I say about leisure activities except that their number and scope is quite bewildering: visits to Barry-Buddon Camp, Ardroy Outdoor Centre; 30-mile trips by canoe on the River Tay; sailing in the Fife Schools Regatta and doing very well; shooting with the St Andrews Rifle Club where James Ward and Alastair Grierson were members of the Junior County Team; Helen Scott being chosen for the Scottish Schoolgirls Chess Team in the Faber Cup; the Junior golfers retained the Fife Schools Golf Championship as did the girls when Julie Rigg, Ruth Goodlad and Elaine Hunter were particularly successful; and so it goes on. These activities are possible because of the interest of staff in their pupils. My praise cannot be high enough.

This session all the sports events took place at Station Park, and as ever, under the sure guidance of Mr Croll and his staff (mercifully helped by a fine afternoon) all went well. The main results of the sports were as follows:

Senior Boys' Championship	A. Learmont;	runners-up	S. Wilson, S. Gemmell
Junior Boys' Championship	G. Smith;	runner-up	N. Weymouth
Under-13 Boys' Championship	J. Gillespie;	runner-up	R. Haylow
Senior Girls' Championship	V. Todd;	runners-up	J. Laverack, M. Brown
Junior Girls' Championship	J. McGregor;	runner-up	M. Monteith
Under-13 Girls' Championship	S. Headen	runner-up	F. McConnachie

Fiona McConnachie has a best performance in the Long Jump. The inter-house championship was won by Blackfriars with Priory in second place.

I congratulate Jackie McGregor on coming in second place in the Fife Schools Pentathlon. On the football front our under-15's reached the final of the Fife Schools Cup where they were narrowly defeated by Glenwood High School, Glenrothes.

This term we have welcomed to the staff Mr A. Cuthbert, Principal Teacher of Art, Mrs C. McCance, English Department, Mrs M. Reid, Art Department, Mr D. Stewart, Business Studies. We are grateful to Mrs Duncan, Mrs Hodge and Mrs McFarlane for the supply work they have done in school.

As always, not only do we welcome new members but sadly we say goodbye to others. Mr Day, whose quiet, helpful presence I have greatly valued, leaves school at the end of this term to take charge in Mid Craigie, Dundee. Mrs Sharpus-Jones, after a short stay, leaves in June to have a baby. After much

thought, Mrs Henderson, Deputy Principal Teacher of Home Economics, has decided to call it a day and retire in June. The place will not be the same without Mrs Henderson. Always friendly, always kind, often having grave misgivings about some of the new-fangled ideas, Mrs Henderson has been a splendid colleague. It is a credit to her and her department to note how many of her pupils (boys and girls) have gone into the catering business. I thank Mrs Henderson for all her loyal co-operation and hard work.

Session 1977/78, the school role will be at the 1700 mark - regrettably a new record. Staffing is tight; diversity of courses consequently becomes difficult to achieve. However, I feel that we have made a good beginning with an experimental course for those boys and girls not capable of reaching 'O' Grade standard but who nevertheless, are able to do good work. This surely should be one of the growth areas in schools. We wait with considerable interest for the publishing of the Munn and Dunning Reports.

I take this opportunity of thanking parents for their support during the session for without this school becomes a poor place. This support was more than evident during the Exchange Visit of the Kiel pupils which, as usual, was splendidly organised by Mr Macgregor. It was a happy visit.

The standard of school dress is reasonable but again I emphasise that I like to see pupils in uniform.

With great pleasure we learned of the success of Ursula McKane, who gained 4th place, Susan Cross who was 40th = and Bridget Scott who was 42nd in the Aberdeen Bursary Competition. All have gained bursaries. Bridget Scott has been awarded the Oleman Scholarship of \$ 500 by the N.C.R. Behind their success lies not only industry on the part of the pupils but also on the part of the staff. Denise Burns distinguished herself by winning the Leng gold medal for singing. Madras College won the Junior Latin section of the Greek and Latin recitation competition for schools organised by Tayside Classical Association.

June is all too short and no one finds it more so than the time-tablers. Miss Rain and Mr Blakey. Year after year the pair of them put together the mosaic of a time-table while at the same time meet most of the demands of the departments. I congratulate them.

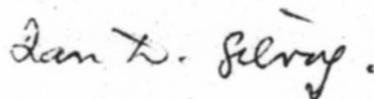
School closes for the Summer vacation on Friday, 1st July, 1977 at the end of the morning session and re-opens (for the pupils) on Monday, 22nd August, 1977.

It might help parents to plan ahead to know that the holidays for the first term are as follows:

Autumn Holiday - Monday, 17th October to Monday, 24th October, 1977 inclusive.
Christmas Holiday - Thursday, 22nd December to Wednesday, 4th January, 1978 inclusive.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs Blair who very generously increased by £200 the Bequest associated with the Smith Memorial Shield.

Lastly I should like to thank staff for all their hard work, tolerance and cooperation during the session. I wish both staff and pupils a happy holiday.



Rector.