

Madras College News Letter - Christmas, 1978.

By comparison with the Autumn term, the winter term always seems to be one of more varied and tightly packed activity, with examinations being followed in close succession by concerts, parties and dances. The contrast is of course heightened by the fact that the senior examinations are held as late in the term as possible in order to allow classes to cover a reasonable portion of the syllabus. As a result of this, while report sheets for SI, II and III will have been given out by the end of term, those for IV, V and VI will not be available until January. At the same time, the progress of each S.C.E. candidate will be reviewed and in cases where it seems advisable not to present a pupil for a particular subject, parents will be informed.

The term has seen a good deal of extra-curricular activity. The Drama Club tackled the 'Theatre of the Absurd' with a presentation of N.F. Simpson's 'A Resounding Tinkle' in the Quad Theatre at South Street in October, and return to Shakespearian comedy in 'Twelfth Night' to be staged in the Byre Theatre from 10th to 13th January. The Music Department presented its annual Carol Concert in the Kilrymont Road Hall on 13th December. The Debating Society which has now a Junior Section as well as a Senior, has been involved in the United Nations Schools Competition and the Senior team was one of the winning teams in the preliminary ties of the Scottish Schools Debating Tournament.

The Chess Club continues in good form, its B team doing well in the Scotsman Trophy. Congratulations are due to one of its former members, Tim Upton, who represented Scotland in the Students International Congress in Argentina. It is encouraging that three extra-curricular groups have established themselves - the Film Society, the Yoga Club and the Life-Saving Club.

One of the projects entered by the school for the Science Fair held at Kirkcaldy last session - a study of the bio-physics of blushing - has been selected for the B.B.C. 'Young Scientists of the Year' competition. The team - Matthew Allen, Andrew Cormack, Angela McClean, Nicola Pyle and Patrick Seymour have been filmed in preparation for the first round at Birmingham on 19th December. We wish them every success.

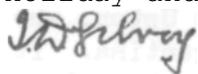
On the sports side, welcome innovations for 1st and 2nd year have been the lunchtime rugby and football competitions organised by Mr Auras and Mr Ronaldson. At inter-school level, the football teams are engaged in the rounds for the Fife Cup and have done well recently. The Rugby Club is maintaining the standards of last season with the 1st and 2nd XV's notching up a handsome tally of points, and the 2nd and 3rd A teams so far unbeaten. The girls' Hockey 1st XI have similarly matched last year's performance by retaining the Midlands District Tournament Trophy and the St Leonard's Tournament Trophy, while the Indoor Hockey Team won the Regional Competition - Congratulations to the following pupils who have been selected to play for District teams: Heather Fraser. Dorothy McGregor, Valerie Todd (Girls' Hockey), Mark Clacher (Boys' Hockey); Glyn Evans and Simon Wilson (Rugby).

The end of term sees the departure for retirement of three well-known figures in the school: Mrs Adams of the Home Economics Department, Mr A. Campbell of the P.E. Department, and Mr A. Lang, Head Janitor at South Street. Mrs Adam has given long service to the school, having been on the staff of the Burgh School when it amalgamated with the old Madras College in 1967 - Mr Campbell, after a career full of variety which has included P.E. teaching in St Andrews University and administration in Hong Kong, plans to revisit the Far East during his retirement. The Football Club especially owes much to Mr Campbell for his work in fostering its growth. Mr Lang who, as a former W.O.2 in the Scots Guards, brought to his job at Madras all the steadiness and sense of order of the regular soldier, is looking forward to well-earned leisure after ten years of early and late turns of duty. Pupils, parents and members of staff

will, I am sure, wish me to thank Mrs Adam, Mr Campbell and Mr Lang for all that they have contributed to the life of the school, and to wish them many years of happy retirement. Thanks are due also to Mrs MacCallum who has been helping out in the Chemistry Department since Mr Armstrong left, and to Mrs Findlay and Mrs Chisholm who have similarly helped to cover the vacancy in the Music Department. Mr E. Hamilton will be taking up a temporary post in the Music Department before the end of this term. Mr McLaughlan from Harris Academy will join the Chemistry Department after Christmas, and Mrs Stirton will join the Home Economics Department at the same time.

For your information, details are given below of holiday dates and forthcoming events. Among the latter, I would particularly draw your attention to the evening organised by the P.T.A. consisting of a dessert party followed by a visit to the Byre Theatre for the performance of Twelfth Night. The date of this is 11th January; parents wishing tickets should contact Mr C. Mackay through the school office.

I take this opportunity of wishing staff, pupils and parents an enjoyable holiday and a Merry Christmas.



Rector.

Holiday Dates and Forthcoming Events

- Christmas Holidays - 22nd December, 1978 to 3rd January, 1979 inclusive.
- Easter Holidays - 2nd April to 13th April, 1979 inclusive.
- Summer Holidays - 2nd July to 17th August, 1979 inclusive.
- "Twelfth Night" - 10th January to 13th January, 1979 in the Byre Theatre at 7.30 p.m.
- Parents' Evening - SII on 9th January at 7-00 P-m. Kilrymont Road building.
- Dessert Party - 11th January in the Staff Room at 6.30 p.m. in the South Street building.
- Parents' Evening - S5 and S6 on 25th January at 7-30 p.m. in the South Street building.
- Parents' Evening - S4 on 31st January at 7-30 p.m. in the South Street building.
- Parents' Evening - S1 on 14th February at 7.00 p.m. in the Kilrymont Road building.
- Parents' Evening - S3 on 6th March at 7-30 p.m. in the South Street building.
- Spring Concert - 27th March at 7-30 p.m. in the South Street building