

Madras College Newsletter - October. 1979

After a summer of indifferent weather, it almost seemed that pupils were more than usually ready to return in August for the start of the new session. Be that as it may, the session got under way with a slightly reduced 1st Year intake of 302 pupils who are, I hope, by now feeling quite at home. Although the drop in the 1st Year intake over the past two or three years has not been large, the cumulative effect on the roll in the Kilrymont Road building has allowed all of 2nd Year to be kept together in that part of the school - something that has not been possible for a long time.

The results obtained in the S.C.E. examinations held in the summer term of last session were very satisfactory, while those obtained by pupils working for the Certificate of Secondary Education indicate that they too have found their courses worthwhile. Both sets of results speak well of the sound work done by pupils and staff. Pupils following non-certificate courses have, for the most part, worked diligently. I hope that this new session is equally satisfactory.

In August, we welcomed the following new members of staff - Miss Taylor as Assistant Rector responsible for Guidance in the school; Mrs Edgar who at very short notice stepped in to help the Physics Department; Mrs Borthwick and Mrs Mackie, English; Mrs Page and Mrs Cockburn, Mathematics; Miss Wiseman, Biology and Mr Turk, R.E. Shortly after the session began, Mr Husk left to take up an appointment as lecturer in the Drama Department of Aberystwyth University, having made a substantial contribution to drama in the school, both within the English Department and with the Drama Club. Congratulations to Mr Reid on being appointed Principal Teacher of Physics at Ballingry High School. It is with regret, too that we said goodbye to Mrs Gardner, senior clerkess in South Street and Mrs Johnston, teaching auxiliary, whose cheerful and meticulous attention to their duties helped greatly to keep the wheels turning. Mrs Carmichael has taken over Mrs Gardner's duties, and we welcome Mrs Scott and Mrs Kinnear as replacements for Mrs Carmichael and Mrs Johnston. We were all delighted to hear of the birth of sons to Mrs McCance and Mrs Morrison and of a daughter to Mrs Clark, all of whom left last session. I am sorry to have to report that Mr Croll, Principal Teacher of P.E. was not fit enough to resume teaching after the holidays and remains on the sick list. In his absence, the responsibility for the department has been undertaken by Mr Neilson. Mr Chisholm continues his recovery from a serious illness, and I hope that it will not be long before he is back at his potter's wheel again.

Since the start of the session, to cover gaps due to illness and staff transfers, the school has had supply help from Mrs Paterson (Maths), Mrs Magee and Mrs Duncan (Art), Mr Mathieson (History), Mr Shand (Geography), Mrs Oswald and Mrs McGeoch (P.E.) and Mrs Lohoar (Biology). I am grateful to them for their assistance, and to the Director of Education for providing temporary cover.

As usual, there is much extra-curricular activity to report. Since the last newsletter, parties of pupils have visited the school's cottage at Glen Tilt, hostelled at Garth with the S.Y.H.A., and have undertaken 'Outward Bound' type outdoor activities at the , Region's Centre at Ardroy. Most of the clubs are going strong, and the following new additions are welcomed:- a bridge club, a social club within the Special Education Department, an agricultural club. The Debating Club has been extended to include current affairs. At the end of last term, the Chess Club won the Dundee-Fife computer chess competition and the 1st team reached the semi-final of the "Scotsman" Cup. Helen Scott took 3rd place in the Ladies' Section of the Scottish Chess Association Championship. Next term we shall be hosts to some 700 players taking part in the Scottish Schools Chess Jamboree.

At golf, the 'A1 and 'B' teams gained 6th and 8th places respectively in the Fife School Senior Boys Championship, while the 'A' team (Athole Reid, David Scott, Kevin Mackay and Michael Hamilton), won the St Andrews City Foursomes.

On the games field, the girls' Hockey 1st XI won the St Leonard's School Tournament for the third year running. Congratulations to Elaine Makein and Dorothy McGregor on being selected for the Midlands Schoolgirls XI. From the Boys' Hockey Club, Mark Clacher and David Tough have been invited to attend the Midlands coaching sessions. The rugby teams are going strongly, the 1st XV's tally being 99 points for - 16 against, while the 2nd and 3rd XV's and the 2nd Year teams have even higher points scores. Interest in rugby will be stimulated by the Scotland v All-Blacks game in November, especially since the All-Blacks will be practising at Station Park. The footballers, after a slow start, are settling down well, with the 1st XI showing many promising touches. Although the 1st Year teams in all games have not had many matches so far, their performance gives encouragement to the staff who devote their time to coaching them.

I wish all staff and pupils a pleasant October break.



Rector.

#### Holiday Dates and Forthcoming Events

Autumn Holiday:	School Finishes: Friday, 12th October at 4 p.m. School Re-opens: Monday, 22nd October at 9 a.m.
P.T.A. Meeting:	Thursday, 25th October, Kilrymont Road building at 7.30 p.m.
P.T.A Meeting:	Tuesday, 20th November, Kilrymont Road building at 7.30 p.m.
SI Party:	Tuesday, 11th December, Kilrymont Road building at 4.15 p.m.
SII Party:	Thursday, 13th December, Kilrymont Road building at 4.15 p.m.
SIII/IV Party:	Tuesday, 18th December, Kilrymont Road building at 7.30 p.m.
Carol Concert:	Wednesday, 19th December, Kilrymont Road building.
SV/VI Dance:	Thursday, 20th December, South Street building at 7.30 p.m.
Christmas Holiday:	School finishes: Friday, 21st December, 1979. School Re-opens: Monday, 7th January, 1980.