

Madras College Newsletter - Easter 1981

With the changing of the clocks emphasising the departure of winter, it is only at this stage that the spring term begins to deserve its name. The term always seems to be a long and heavy one, made more so by the lack of a mid-term break. It is to be hoped that the St Andrews District School Council will receive more support next year in its efforts to have a long weekend in February as part of the holiday pattern. In the meantime, staff and pupils are looking forward to the Easter break. For the S.C.E. candidates whose examinations begin the week after school resumes the holiday will be less of a complete break than usual, but I hope all will feel the benefit of the vacation. Individual time-tables of the S.C.E. exams have been given out to all pupils; and during the first week of the new term the candidates will be given letters for their parents explaining the attendance arrangements during the examination periods. I would ask for support of parents in seeing that these arrangements are adhered to. I wish the S.C.E. and C.S.E. candidates every success.

Following the death, in a road accident last November, of Neale Angood of S3, his parents expressed the wish to commemorate Neale's time as a pupil in Madras College. It was agreed that the most appropriate way to do this would be to plant a decorative tree in the grounds of the Kilrymont Road building near Miss Kinnear's room. Last week at a small ceremony attended by some of Neale's close friends and teachers, Mr & Mrs Angood planted the tree, a Chinese Mountain Ash, which was dedicated in Neale's memory by the Junior School Chaplain, the Rev John Patterson.

It was with regret that we said goodbye last week to Mr Robert Campbell, of the Physics Department who is emigrating to New Zealand. We shall miss his quiet presence in the Physics Department and the valuable help he gave with the micro-computer and with the Debating Club and the Electronics Club. We are grateful to Mrs Wyatt and Mrs Pirie for helping to fill the gap. Congratulations to Mr John Young, Depute Principal Teacher of Business Studies on his well-deserved appointment to the post of Principal Teacher in Business Studies in Waid Academy. Earlier in the term we welcomed to the Music Department Mr Rose. I am delighted to be able to report that Mrs Croll and Mr Kinghorn are making good progress after their operations. Thanks are due to Mrs Robertson and Mr Beaulier who have stood in during their absence. Mrs Harding is now on maternity leave, and Mrs Gumming, who left in October, has had a baby boy.

This term has been a busy one academically, but time has still been found for extra-curricular activities. The Drama Club, for their January production in the Byre Theatre, tackled a difficult play in "Measure for Measure" but handled it with sensitivity and mature skill. In February, the choirs and orchestras of St Leonard's School and Madras College joined forces in a concert of music as part of the St Andrews Festival, delighting a capacity audience in the Younger Hall. The music staffs of both schools and the performers are to be congratulated on a thoroughly professional effort. This month, in the Fife Schools Music Festival, the Windband under Mr Swiffen, were described by the adjudicator as 'outstandingly stylish, full of commitment, impressively poised and excellent overall', and were awarded 90 points out 100. The Debating and Current Affairs Clubs and the Film Society have all sustained lively programmes this term, and in the sphere of the written word, the pupil editors of 'Acta' and the 'Abbey Times' have kept up a good standard of output.

The Chess Club continues strongly, playing in a series of jamborees at Anstruther, Perth, Grangemouth and Edinburgh. The A team reached the semi-final of the "Scotsman" Cup, while the girls' team consisting of Natasha Sykes, Gill Hunter, Alison Coull and Katie Masterson won the Scottish Girls' Team Competition. The Bridge Club defeated Bell Baxter in friendly challenge games, while Ross Adamson and Jeremy Upton gained a commendable placing in the Scottish Under-25's Championship. Congratulations to Emma Seymour on winning the Glasgow University Latin Speaking Competition. Less competitively, but no less enjoyable, the darts, table tennis and stamp clubs meet regularly at lunch-times.

This year's 6th brought a touch of brightness to the dull days of February with their week of fund-raising 'goings-on', raising the magnificent sum of £325 which, appropriately for the Year of the Disabled, will be divided among local, national and international bodies helping disabled or handicapped children.

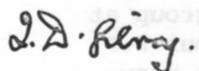
In the indoor and field sports, it is encouraging to see volleyball taking its place among the more established team games. It takes a little time to build up expertise, but the enthusiasm of the players has led to a notable rise in standard which promises well for next season. The Boys' Hockey teams have had a fuller fixture list this term playing both indoor and outdoor versions of the game. Though their wins have not been numerous, their defeats have been mostly by only narrow margins, and their enthusiasm is high. Bad weather has curtailed the fixture for Girls' Hockey, but the Junior and Senior Indoor Teams both won their sections in the Fife Tournament. In swimming, Claire Braidwood is to be congratulated on being chosen to swim for Fife Schools. The school team entered for the Fife Schools Cross-country Championship at Pitreavie all did well, with John Falconer coming 3rd in the under-19's.

In the Soccer Club, the 1st XI has, unusually, included on occasion boys from S3 and S4 and to good effect. The Under-15 team narrowly missed the league championship, but is still contesting the Fife Schools Cup. The Under-13's have produced attractive open football, and look forward to a more successful season next year. Regrettably, however, some of the Under-14's fixtures had to be cancelled because of the failure of team members to turn up. This is the first time this has happened in Madras College, and I hope we shall not see any more cases of players letting down their team-mates by failing to honour commitments. The Rugby Club is very strong at present in spite of the effect of weather on fixtures. The 1st XV are unbeaten since Christmas, and the junior teams are playing well, particularly the 1st Year teams who have lost only one of the six games played. Congratulations to Stewart Imlach of S6 who played for Scottish Schools against France, and for the Midlands team which defeated the South, Edinburgh, Glasgow and the President's XV for the first time in the history of Midlands School Rugby. The Badminton Club took part in the Fife Schools Championship, with Roderick Christie reaching the quarter finals in the singles and, with Angus Farquhar in the doubles.

As always, thanks are due to those members of staff who give up their time to make all of this extra-curricular activity possible.

Shortly before we break up at Easter, two school parties will leave for the continent - a group of skiers to Andalo in North Italy with Mr Geddes, Mr Pardoe and Mrs Stothard, and a group visiting Paris with Mr Grove, Mr Edward, Miss A. Young and Mrs S. Mackie. In closing I have to draw the attention of parents to the fact that from 20th April there will be an increase of 5 pence in the cost of the main course in the school cafeterias, with corresponding increases in the price of snacks.

I take this opportunity of wishing all staff, pupils and parents a happy Easter.



RECTOR.

Forthcoming Events and Holidays

Easter Holiday	: Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April
May Holiday	: Monday 4th May
June Holiday	: Monday 1st June
Art Exhibition	: 16th - 18th June
Quad Theatre Plays	: During month of June
Summer Holidays	: Monday 6th July to Thursday 20th August.