

MADRAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER - EASTER 1982

The recent spell of fine weather has been a welcome tonic at the end of a term which has told on the stamina of pupils and staff alike. As the bitter weather of January gave way to a mild February and March, the old adage about the effects on health of a mild spell early in the year was certainly borne out by the illness rate in school. At one point staff absence was running at 12%, and I would like to express my appreciation of the efforts made by the staff to ensure that the classes of absent colleagues were looked after. Although that is now behind us, the experience lends weight to the case that the St Andrews District Schools Council continues to present to the authorities for a mid-term break in February.

The end of the term sees the retirement of Mr Fea, Principal Teacher of Music, Mr Kinghorn, Deputy Principal Teacher (Technical Subjects) and Mr McKirdy, Deputy Principal Teacher (Resources). Mr Kinghorn and Mr McKirdy have been familiar figures in both the Burgh School and Madras College and have given fine service to the community in both spheres. Mr Fea has been with us for a shorter time, but he has maintained a high standard of music in the school with quiet professionalism. Miss MacWilliam, Deputy Principal Teacher of Physics, left shortly before the end of term to take up a post in Mackie Academy, Stonehaven. Her qualities as a teacher and colleague will, I am sure, be appreciated there as much as they will be missed here. Her place will be taken by Mr Pearce from Auchmuty High School. Earlier in the term we welcomed Mrs Rae to the Science staff. It was good to see Mrs Currie back in the Biology Department after a long illness, and to know that Mrs Geddes, Miss Kinnear and Mrs Reilly are making good progress and hope to be back with us soon. I extend the thanks to the school to Mrs Stewart (Remedial), Miss Weir (French) and Mrs Wyatt (Science) for the supply help that they have given us. Present and former pupils will have noted with regret the death of Mrs Mabel Kerby, who taught piano in the College from 1947 to 1978.

On the curricular side, considerable work has been done by the English Department in piloting a Foundation course for pupils in S3 which will continue into S4 as part of the national programme for implementing the Munn and Dunning reports. It is hoped that similar developments will be undertaken in Maths and Science. In session 1982-3, S3 pupils will be offered a course combining History and Modern Studies. The number of micro-computers in school has been increased this term by the addition of three Sinclair ZX81's, and RML 380Z, and a BBC micro-computer won by Andrew Cormack for the school in an essay competition last year. Each building now has a flourishing computer club, the South Street club meeting every lunch-time and the Kilrymont Road club four times a week.

Extra-curricular activities would almost require a newsletter to themselves. The Drama Club's presentation of Goldoni's "A Servant of Two Masters" in the Byre Theatre in January delighted us with its verve and professionalism. Preparations are in hand for the summer musical in the Kilrymont Road Hall in June - "Tom Sawyer". In addition to its annual Spring Concert, the Music Department took a very active part in the Fife Schools Music Festival. In the non-competitive section, the Wind Band and the Junior Windband Group were both highly commended on reaching an outstanding level of performance. In the competitive section, the Junior Choir took first place, while the Senior Girls Choir and the String Group gained second place. Susan Dingle was the first in the French Horn Class, Roger Henderson first in the Guitar Class, Shona Watson second in the Piano Concerto Class and Anne Cormack second in the Senior Violin Solo Class.

In all probability 1981/82 will be remembered by the Rugby Club as a vintage season. The first XV have not been beaten since October, 1980, the second XV have lost only one game, the Senior 7's won the Dunfermline Tournament and the Merchiston Castle Tournament, 2nd Year reached the finals in the Morgan 9-a-side Tournament while the 1st Year reached the semi-finals at Perth High School's 8-a-side Tournament. Congratulations to Joe Gamba on being selected for the Scottish Schoolboys' Trial.

Our footballers have had an interesting season. The first XI have finished in the middle of the league and have reached the semi-final of the league cup; the under-15's are still contesting for the top of the league position and have won the Fife Tournament; the under-14's are still challenging for the East of Fife Cup; while the under-13's after a mixed season, are showing considerable promise for next season.

Tommy Falls, Stewart Gatherum and Mark Simpson (reserve) represent Fife in the Scottish Cup, while Brian Donaldson and Jerry Lau have been selected for the under-14 Wemyss area team. An interesting development has been the series of lunch-time inter-class games of rugby and soccer organised for juniors by the P.E. Department to involve pupils who do not normally play for the main teams.

In Girls' Hockey, the senior team won the Scottish Schoolgirls' Outdoor Championship and did extremely well against F.P. teams in the Bell Baxter 7-a-side tournament. Alison Glover and Elaine Dochard represented Fife against the North and Edinburgh in the 1st XI, and Sara Headen and Irene Reid in the 2nd XI. In Boys' Hockey, the 1st XI have had a more successful season, and have reached the finals of the Perth 7's. Graham Mitchell has been chosen for the under-15 Scottish Schoolboys' Hockey team.

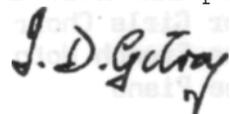
I am delighted to see the 3rd/4th Year Volleyball team is still involved in league matches and that there is keen interest among 1st Year boys, all of which augurs well for the development of the game in Madras College. Congratulations to Karen Christie on winning the Fife Schools' under-14 Badminton Championship, and to her brother Roderick on reaching the finals of the under-16 Championship. Karen and Roderick, Lorraine Dempster and Trevor Gray have been chosen to play for the Fife and Perth Schools. Interest in cross-country running is increasing, with a large entry for the school championship at the end of term. In the Fife Schools Championships at Dunfermline the over-15 girls' team came first, and the under-19 boys' team second, while Colin Paterson came second in the under-13 race.

In the annual gala against Waid and Bell Baxter, the school retained the Craig Shield. New records were established by Claire Braidwood for the front crawl and back crawl, and by James Strachan for the front crawl and breast stroke. The golf tuition by Laurie Ayton has proved popular, and there is a large entry from the school for the Elie Open Tournament during the Easter holidays. The Chess Club continues to maintain its high standards, with the girls' team winning the Scottish Girls' team Championships for the third time in four years.

The volume of these activities, together with quite a heavy programme of parents' evenings, represents a high degree of commitment on the part of the staff to voluntary activities in addition to their daily work, and I am sure that I speak for all parents in expressing appreciation of what is done for pupils.

In October 1983, Madras College celebrates its 150th Anniversary, and between 5th and 9th October, a series of events will be organised to commemorate the occasion. This programme and the special publications which are being prepared will involve the school in some expenses, and to offset these a fete will be held in the South Street building and grounds on Saturday, 12th June 1982. It is hoped that pupils, F.P.'s, staff and parents will support this by helping with the stalls or at least by attending. Offers of help will be welcomed by Mr Broom, Assistant Rector who is in charge of the fete.

I wish all parents, staff and pupils a happy Easter break



Rector.

Forthcoming Events and Holidays

<u>Easter Holiday</u>	Monday 5th April to Friday 16th April.
<u>SII Parents' Evenings</u>	Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th April.
<u>May Holiday</u>	Monday 3rd May.
<u>June Holiday</u>	Monday 7th June.
<u>Drama Club Production</u>	17th - 19th June.
<u>School Musical</u>	23rd - 25th June.
<u>Summer Holiday</u>	Monday 5th July to Wednesday 18th August.