

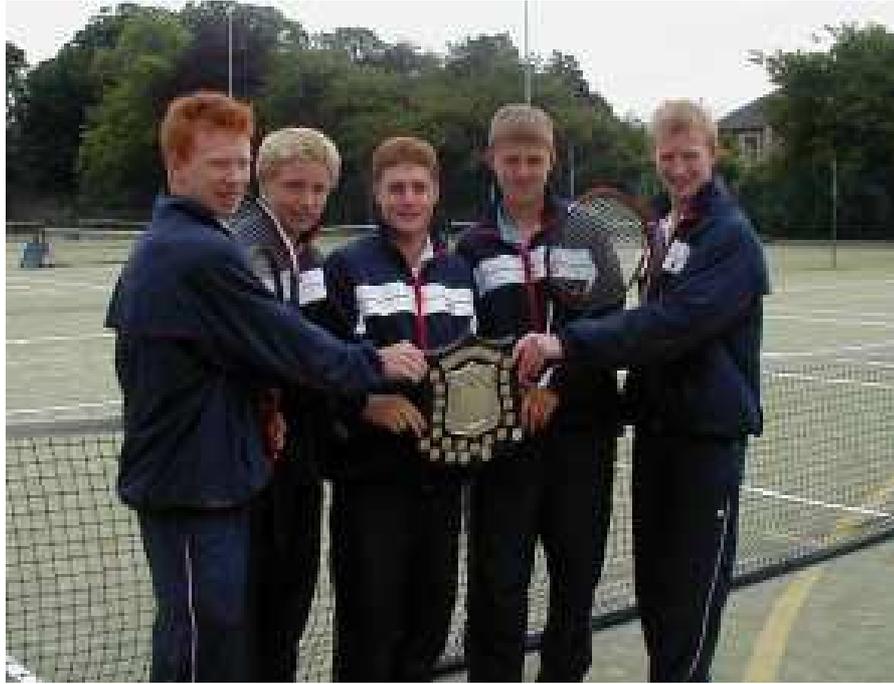


# Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2004

## Winning Aces



L to R Greig Ewing, Steven Birrell, Euan Forbes (Captain), Ross Carstairs and Tim Weir

The Madras College Boys' Tennis Team won the Scottish Schools' Team Tennis Championships in Edinburgh last Thursday.

The team were without their number one player, Graeme Hood, who was enjoying success at the pre-qualifying for the Wimbledon Junior Tournament at Roehampton.

The boys leave on Saturday 3rd July to travel to Queenswood School, Hertfordshire as they qualified to play in the LTA British Schools' Team Tennis Championships by beating Yarm Public School, Middlesbrough last Tuesday.

### The Dalai Lama

A group of 11 S5/6 RMPS pupils attended 'An Audience with the Dalai Lama' in Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline in June. They were among the privileged few to attend the Question and Answer session for school pupils where His Holiness answered pupils' questions. Afterwards, pupils watched the flag ceremony performed by primary children and listened to the Dalai Lama address the crowd. Despite the pouring rain pupils agreed they had been to a once in a lifetime event.

### INSIDE

Sixth Year Ball .....	2
Drama Snapshots .....	3
Mock European Elections .....	4
Staff News .....	5
Carnegie Medal for Fiction .....	6
School Dress Code .....	7
Scholarship Awards .....	8
School Board Vacancy .....	9
Sports News .....	10

## Rector's Note

What a strange contrast this month was given by the unfolding horror in parts of the world such as Sudan, the ethnic cleansing, the starvation and illness, or the Middle East, where deep-seated hatred prevents many ordinary people from being able to live ordinary lives. These places of war and evil seem a different world from our own, where our biggest worries are the health of our youth, the likely increase in pension age, the low turn-out at elections, the visual impact of windfarms on the rural landscape, and the fate of some nonentity on Big Brother. The real world needs to be constantly brought to mind.

*Continued on page 2.*

## School Committee Development

The new Charities, Madras College Diary and Public Areas Committees have recently been formed and are already working on programmes of activities for next August. These Committees span both buildings and one of the main initiatives for next session will be a fundraising campaign for lockers in Kilrymont Road.

The School Board and the Parent Teacher Association are actively involved and all Committees are enthusiastic about supporting them.

Keep your eye on the Diary in the St Andrews Citizen and our timely newsletters for more information. Also, try to get hold of a copy of "St Andrews in Focus" in July. An article on the school highlights what has been going on in and out of school to promote 'Collegiate Madras'.

Continued from page 1.

Well done to the Tayport “pirates” who brought us a touch of world reality in their charity walk last week. Well done to “Pi for Africa” cashing in on the amazing memory gymnastics of Philip Bond. Well done to the pupils who entertained the community at the Concert, and those who upheld our high standards in the sports in a whole range of sporting and other events throughout the summer term.

It all comes down to care and talent. We all should develop our talent to the best we possibly can, it's our duty to do this, it's a waste if we don't, like not opening a Christmas gift. Yet we do it to better ourselves, our school, our community, our country or our world, not to grind others in the dirt. We care for others as well as ourselves. This makes a good theme for the end of session, since just about everything that we are about is talent and care. Look in the pages of this newsletter.

The other week some senior officers of Fife Council came to visit us on a quality improvement visit. The theme we were asked to discuss with them was the school “ethos”, something we had not before been requested in quite this way.

Our response was to think how we could give some pointers to outsiders about the wider life and spirit of the school. We listed the various aspects of school activity outside the mainstream curriculum: the number of activities, the lists of clubs, the extra classes laid on voluntarily by staff, the charity organisation, school events, school trips, links with parents through

organisations and directly, communication through the press and by newsletters, pupil committees, the views from the community, exchanges with other schools around the world, the school website, FP clubs. This task is leading to a number of outcomes and will be mentioned in the Annual Report to Parents that we will now produce each October. We were also informed by the Council Officers that this type of “indicator” of wider achievement is now being used by the School Inspectorate when they come for a social call from time to time.

Another major national initiative about which we will be communicating with you is a different system of assessment that will be coming into use over the next few years. This is already being implemented in primary schools and is to be “rolled out” in secondaries by session 2006-07. The key features are helping pupils to think about their own learning, how it could be improved for each individual, and how parents can assist in the process. This is for the future, but watch out for terms such as “formative assessment” and “personal learning plans”. Don't panic. The terms are not so familiar to us either!

Meantime, read what we have pulled together in these pages. As you do so reflect what it says about the school's ethos, its heart and its spirit. Take in the splendid articles written by two of this session's seniors. Judge how quick, how high and how strong we are. Judge the quality of our products, in the humanity, care and ambition of the people we help to produce.

“We care for others as well as ourselves.”

## Great Achievement with Tesco Tokens

Tesco Computers for Schools. The Learning Support Department have once again been collecting the tokens and would like to say a huge **thank you** to everyone who donated. Your efforts this year will enable us to “buy” a new computer and printer.

## Great Valley Exchange

Lesley Aitken, Duncan Kinnear and Meredith Palmer (S5) are exchanging with 3 pupils from Great Valley High School, Malvern, Pennsylvania, USA. The American students attend Madras from August to December with the Scottish students travelling to the US January to May attending school there.

## Sixth Year Ball

The school's most high-profile social event, the Sixth Year Ball, took place in the South Street building on Friday, April 30th (writes Cecily Davie).

This monumental celebration marked the end of the long school careers of the S6 pupils who will finally leave this month. After months of tense meetings and complicated negotiations the Ball Committee succeeded in organising perhaps the most smooth-running and elegant ball the school has ever seen.

Around 180 pupils arrived at the school at 6.30 pm with much excitement and anticipation; the boys wearing kilts or smart evening suits, the girls dressed exquisitely in ball gowns.

They were welcomed by a piper at the front entrance and then took their seats in the Assembly Hall. Each table of staff and pupils was individually decorated in crimson and gold, and the hall itself was beautifully bedecked with crimson and gold drapes cascading from the ceiling, balloons and ribbons, complete with a splendid banner bearing the message ‘Congratulations, Class of 1998!’

The evening commenced with speeches given by the rector himself, the S6 guidance teacher Mrs Welsh, and Katriona Kay and John-Jo Ryan, the year group's award-winning debaters.

A delicious buffet dinner followed, and then afterwards, a live ceilidh band joined the festivities.

The last hours of the evening until 11.00 pm were taken up with a very lively and large ceilidh, in which everyone participated with much vivacity.

It was widely agreed by pupils that the event had been greatly successful, exceeding all expectations. It was both a magnificent way to say goodbye to their years at school and an effective distraction from the approaching exams!

The general opinion of the staff also was that this year's ball had been highly enjoyable and the most well-behaved by far.

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## The Prefects' Cup

The Prefects' Cup awarded for public speaking was won by Lewis Atherton (S1). The competition was judged by a student teacher and Grace Carradice of S3.

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## 10 Years of Peers

The idea of asking older pupils to help and support younger peers is, of course, not new. The school founder, Andrew Bell, began the whole system by using senior 'monitors' to teach lessons to the younger boys in the late 1700's.

In 1994, following a social education session, a few of our sixth year pupils expressed an interest in the work of the school Support Centre. This interest inspired the Peer Tutor Scheme of the present day. Each year we ask for volunteers who would be willing to give up one period of their private study time to offer help and support of any kind to younger peers. The response is always overwhelming – about half of the year group volunteer every year. All pupils can volunteer and use their school or personal experience to offer support to others. Over the years we've helped with every subject in the school, swum with the 'fearties' to give them confidence, joined in social skills groups, helped with reading, anger management, rock climbing, baking, we've walked timid people to school or to class. Staff can request a Peer Helper to offer subject help in classes or to help with almost anything within our Support for Learning Department.

From our small beginnings in 1994 we now have a Peer Tutoring Scheme that has inspired many other schools in Scotland, England and even in Ohio (USA). When Curtis Fine Papers heard about the scheme they offered us their conference facilities for our training days. We owe them a great deal of thanks. We have shared our training course with many other schools, we have been the subject of two university studies and we also have a place on the Childline website. Andrew Bell would surely be proud of us today.

## Music Notes

### Rock Band Competition

Madras College boasts a number of bands, many of whom compete at the Madras heat for the honour of representing the school. This year it fell to "Out of Nowhere" to perform with other Fife bands at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes. While the winning band came from Bell Baxter High School, Cupar, congratulations are due to Allan Kerr (S6) who was named Best Vocalist.

### National Burns Festival

In recent years, Madras College has grown accustomed to representing Fife at this important competition. In June a group of pupils accompanied by Mr Bell and Mrs MacLeod set off for Cardinal Newman High School in Bellshill for an afternoon's singing and reciting.

Congratulations are due to two pupils in particular for their fine singing of "Duncan Gray". This was also recognised by the judges who awarded Rory MacLeod(S1) **first** and Derek Dishington (S2) **second**. Both boys participate in the Madras College Singing Programme.

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## Drama Snapshots

- Pupils have recently visited the Byre Theatre to see a performance of 'Zlata's Diary'. This play is based on the real-life story of a teenager who lived through the Balkan crisis in Sarajevo and was directed by Gerry Mulgrew.

Pupils were delighted to be provided with a pre-show talk with the actress Gerda Stevenson and the director.

The next trip will be to see the Byre's production of 'Vincent in Brixton'. The department is looking forward to working with the Byre's new director, Stephen Wrentmore.

- Preparations are well under way for the annual Advanced Higher Drama/English visit to Stratford in October when pupils will be able to see the Royal Shakespeare Company performances of 'Hamlet' and one of the new Spanish season. There will also be opportunities for pupils to visit several Shakespeare properties and Warwick Castle.
  - The Advanced Higher team will also be going to the Edinburgh Festival this August.
  - A number of S4 Standard Grade pupils have been busy with Miss Hyslop after school rehearsing for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art exams in acting. An examiner will visit the school early next term to assess pupils on two scripted scenes at Medallion level.
  - Standard Grade pupils have also been along to Tay FM where they had an exciting time working with Alister Smith, Head of Commercial Production, in recording a radio show. The 12 pupils were chosen to represent the best work devised by the classes in the voice unit which forms part of their course.
  - Senior pupils Jonathan Reed and Michael Hassall have been successful in auditioning for roles in the forthcoming St Andrews Play Club production of 'Pigmen and Players' by local playwright Donald Lightwood.
  - Rehearsals are also under way for the school production of 'As you Like It' to be performed from the 21st to 24th September in the Quad Theatre. The production is being directed by Mrs Esler.
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## Fife Schools' Mathematics Competition



Congratulations to Irene Sucquart, Steven Brown, Jonathan Cameron and Kirsten Holmes (S2) who recently took part and won 1st prize in the Fife Schools' Mathematics Competition at Auchmuty High School, Glenrothes. They competed against 12 other high schools in Fife and gained 826 points, closely followed by Queen Anne High School with 818!

## Department of Special Education

### • Excursions

On Wednesday 9th June pupils and staff had a great day out to Craigtoun Park. The day was organised and hosted by the Rotary Club. The sun shone and everyone enjoyed the activities on offer.

### • Fair Trade

The pupils involved in Fair Trade have continued to supply Fair Trade products to staff on a monthly basis. This business enterprise will continue next year.

## Mathematiques Sans Frontiers

Madras entered 2 teams, one from S4 and one from S5. Both teams reached the top 10 in Scotland in their respective age groups – an excellent achievement. The prize-giving was on Thursday 18th June at Heriot Watt University.

## S3 Visit to Loches - Easter

This visit was enjoyed by all. One or two may have found the morning spent in the local secondary school a little hard but all agreed it was a good experience. The day at Futurescope, the visits to the castles of Amboise and Chenoneaux, together with the day spent in Tours will long be remembered. But perhaps the best aspect of this visit was the opportunity to get to know a French town, to eat French food, and to meet French young people, as well as to use French in real-life situations.

## Kiel Exchange

The Kiel Exchange has just taken place with 10 pupils having the opportunity to stay with German families and get to know a part of northern Germany. German speaking ability improves wonderfully when you have to use it!

## 3-Day Activity programme

In case some of the readers don't know, the school produces an activity programme for S3 pupils after their term's examinations in May.

This has been running for many years now and gives pupils and staff the opportunity to work together on outings in north east Fife, various regions in Scotland, England and in France.

A variety of events take place, from residential outings of three days to Paris, York, the north of England and the Highlands, to name but a few, and to one-day visits to places such as Ratho Outdoor Centre, Knockhill and Glasgow Science Centre and many more. In-house activities include specialist cookery classes, cycling and computing courses.

The year group is still buzzing with wonderful stories, entertaining, educational and extremely humorous.

The whole programme has been successful in the eyes of pupils and staff alike and sets the scene for an extremely positive start to fourth year – however, the memories will last a lot longer and some of our readers should reflect on the enjoyable times they had on their trips with the school!

## Mock European Elections

S3 Modern Studies standard grade classes ran a mock European election in Kilrymont Road. Pupils were organised into 7 parties (Conservatives, Green, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Scottish Socialist Party, Scottish National Party and UK Independence Party). Each party put forward a list of 7 candidates, and also produced campaign materials such as posters.

A good number of pupils attended the 2 lunch-time hustings, where they listened to speeches from the candidates and participated in lively question and answer sessions.

On election day there was an overall turn-out of 38%, with S1 and S3 having the highest voting rates.

Labour received 80 votes in total, and this was enough to elect the top 2 candidates from their list – Rebecca Malek and Alex Harper. The Greens' 76 votes would also elect 2 of their candidates – Claire Field and Alasdair Downes. The Scottish Liberal Democrats had 66 votes, but this was enough for only their top candidate from their list to be elected – Kyle Flegg. UKIP with 44 votes and SNP with 34 votes would also each have one candidate elected – Jenna MacFarlane and Lindsey Forbes respectively. Neither the Conservatives nor Scottish Socialists parties received enough votes to have any of their candidates elected.

The mock election was an enjoyable exercise for all pupils. It reinforced the learning of S3 classes about systems of proportional representation, which is part of their standard grade Modern Studies course, while introducing the concepts behind voting in European Elections to all S1 to S3 pupils.

## German Recitation Competition

The competition this year clashed with the Kiel Exchange. However, 3 pupils took part. Sarah Dunn (S5) won through to the Intermediate finals and was awarded a runners-up prize.

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# Staff News

At the end of session we say farewell to two probationers who have worked with us for a year under the national training scheme, Mr Hunter in Art and Dr Dobson in Physics/Science. We have enjoyed having them with us, appreciate the way they have taken a full part in departmental and wider school life, and wish both well in the next phase of their careers.

We thank Mrs Orr who has very capably filled in for a long-term absence in Maths. It has been our good fortune to have been able to call upon so experienced and resourceful a colleague.

Mrs McGregor, Head of the Department of Special Education, is taking a career break during next session. We wish her well in the exciting programme she has planned in Albania, and look forward to her return after next summer. Her department will be busy fundraising all session to support her charity work in Albania.

Three very long-standing colleagues are retiring this session, Mr Pearson (Physics/Science), Mr Pardoe (Principal Teacher of Computing), and Mr Cleland (Principal Teacher of Classics/RE). All three joined Madras College in 1972 and are therefore the three longest-serving members of the present staff. Their time has spanned that of four rector.

Mr Pearson came with an engineering background from Rolls Royce and taught mainly Technical subjects, including the famously-difficult Engineering Science, until 1976, when he joined the Physics department. Known for his quiet manner and modesty he has been a constant contributor to school life both curricular and more generally. His talent has been in getting the best out of pupils of all abilities as evidenced by his success in SEB, SCE and SQA results down the years. Extra-curricular involvements have included the annual 3-Day staff-pupil Karting challenge at Knockhill. As SSTA Safety representative Mr Pearson served for many years in keeping successive rector "on their toes". During the last three years he has reduced his timetable to part-time by mutual agreement. We all thank Geoff Pearson for his many years of service to Madras and wish him all the very best for a long and happy retirement.

Mr Pardoe came at the same time, and began his Madras career in Chemistry, arriving from the Midlands with four years of experience in teaching Chemistry, Physics and Photography. He quickly established his interest in helping to manage the curriculum, first

in Chemistry as APT then, after retraining in 1984, as APT Computing. He then went on in 1987 to become the school's first Principal Teacher of this new subject. Extra-curricular interests have been wide and include clubs in electronics, amateur radio, computing, plus several trips abroad for skiing. His Novelty Sports have also entertained generations of pupils down at Station Park on Sports Day. Very substantial advice and support has been given by Mr Pardoe in establishing computing and network access throughout the school. Thanks almost solely to his invention, inspiration and perseverance Madras had its own shrewdly-constructed "shoestring network" long before they became fashionable. His museum of computing in the school is a record of technological innovation and development from 1977 to the present day, and will remain an inspiration to others for many generations. We thank Arlen Pardoe for choosing Madras as the place to make his mark in life and we wish him every happiness and fulfilment in retirement.

The third of our retiring colleagues is Mr Cleland, Principal Teacher of Classics and Religious Education, who came to Madras in 1972 after two years' teaching in Glasgow. Apart from being a lively and enterprising teacher and head of department Mr Cleland has had a number of wider involvements, including tutoring in the Open University, a secondment as a Fife Curriculum Development Officer in Standard Grade, a national Higher Still secondment, chairmanship of the national association

of Classics teachers and numerous Scottish examination board contributions at various levels. His extra-curricular input has included several foreign trips and the annual Hadrian's Wall trip in June. While the teaching of Classics has suffered in most other parts of the country it has continued to flourish in Madras. The credit for this must in large part be given to Mr Cleland. We thank him for leading his department so ably for 32 years and wish him every success and happiness in retirement.

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## Greenfingers Club

Greenfingers Club continues to improve the school environment with the major contribution being the fence along the east end of the playground at Kilrymont Road. The fence is still being painted and a hedge planted behind but it is hoped the fence will prevent litter (and pupils) from ending up in the burn. We had 2 successful plant sales this year selling tomato (3 types), pepper, courgette, bedding and wild flower plants. Around £100 was raised and this money will be spent on paint for the fence, top soil for next year's big project outside the foyer area and our end of year party.

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## Late News

Philip Woollins (S2) who sat the Junior Maths Olympiad, has won a Bronze Medal. He qualified for the Olympiad as a result of his strong performance in the UK Schools' Junior Maths Challenge. This is the first time for well over ten years that one of our students has achieved a medal position in this contest. Congratulations to Philip for this remarkable achievement.

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## The Carnegie Medal for Fiction

### Madras Young Critics Rise to the Challenge

Our brightest, sparkiest and most opinionated readers have been enthusiastic judges, shadowing this year's Carnegie Medal shortlist. They were reviewing the six best novels published over the last year: 'Fire Eaters' by David Almond, 'Gathering Light' by Jennifer Donnelly, 'The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night-time' by Mark Haddon, 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Mopurgo, 'The Garbage King' by Elizabeth Laird and 'Sisterland' by Linda Newberry.

Our critics (70 pupils from S1 and S2, our largest group so far) have been reading like wildfire over the past month, completing as many of the six books as they can **and** posting lively reviews on the Internet website. At the time of going to press, the Madras choice for Medal winner has yet to be decided. A Judging Group tea-party (not quite champagne and hors d'oeuvres – crisps and juice perhaps) will produce the result on June 28th. Critics will be presented with Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates, according to their achievements. So far 15 critics have read and reviewed all six, earning a well-deserved Gold.

The 'real' Carnegie Judges will deliver their verdict in mid-July. Watch out for the news items in the papers. Did Madras agree? (Likely to disagree. Last year we chose "Across the Nightingale Floor" by Liam Hearn. The Judges preferred "Ruby Holler" by Sharon Creech. But we stick to our guns: many enthusiastically moved on to "Grass for his Pillow", the sequel to our favoured title.)

It's not too late to join in and read a few of the titles. You can look up our critics' reviews in the Postroom website: [www.ckg.org.uk](http://www.ckg.org.uk)

Many thanks to Library and English Department staff who have kept this worthwhile challenge rolling along so smoothly.

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## Scottish Space School

Sarah Leenhouts and Elliot Husband Powton (both S4) have been selected to take part in the Scottish Space School Program. They have attended the briefing day, will be completing assignments over the holiday and attending a competition day in September to try to win a place going to Houston, US. This is the second year pupils from Madras have taken part in the program. Last year Sarah Dunn (S5) gained a place on the September 2004 trip to Houston and Davey Rendle (S4) gained a place on the June 2004 Scottish Space School course in West of Scotland.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### Inservice

Monday 16th August 2004

#### School Begins

Tuesday 17th August 2004

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## Top of the Bench Chemistry Quiz

The team of Philip Woollins (S2), Sarah Gillespie (S3), Shona Leenhouts (S4) and Alistair Cushnie (S6) was unbeaten against Inverkeithing and Kirkcaldy High Schools to reach the final held in the Chemistry Department of the University of St Andrews. Having answered the initial rounds exceptionally well to go into the lead, the team unluckily lost the lead in the buzzer round to Perth Academy.

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## Scottish Maths Council Mathematical Challenge Competition

Our contestants had excellent results this year with Madras College gaining 7 Golds, 4 Silvers and 3 Bronze awards. Our school, for the purposes of this contest, was competing in the 'Central Region' which involved State Secondary schools from Tayside, Fife and Central Regions and included independent schools. Twenty-nine schools gained awards with Madras College leading the field with the most Gold awards and the most overall awards. The Gold and Silver awards were presented at a ceremony held at Bonar Hall, Dundee University where all the prize-winners were entertained by a fascinating account of barcodes and ISBN numbers delivered by Dr Ian Anderson from Glasgow University. Congratulations to all our competitors and to their teachers for their continuing encouragement.

## Kate Greenaway Medal

Following the growing success and popularity of the *Carnegie Medal Shadowing Project*, which we launched at the end of the 1990's, we ran a pilot study to shadow the *Carnegie Medal's* sister project, the *Kate Greenaway Medal*. This award is for the best illustrated children's book published in the preceding year. We had the support of staff from several Departments: Art, Learning Support and Special Education; and S6 pupils who gave up their lunchtimes to attend meetings. There were eight titles on the shortlist, nominated by a national panel of children's librarians.

The task in hand was found to be surprisingly challenging, but very rewarding, and we were delighted to find our pupils learning to appreciate the complexities of illustration, and emerging as discerning and observant critics. We look forward to running the project again next year.

The winner of the award will be announced in July, but during the last week of term our pupils will meet to decide on Madras College's nomination. Mrs L A Brown, Depute Rector, has kindly agreed to sign and present certificates to reward those who attended meetings and contributed reviews.

As with the *Carnegie Medal Shadowing Project*, the Madras *Kate Greenaway* critics' reviews are on the internet at <http://www.ckg.org.uk>, together with further information about the books and the awards.

## Scottish Schools' Business Project

The school is very grateful to Sandra Turnbull of Minto Finnie Parsons Turnbull, Chartered Accountants, St Andrews for nominating Madras College for The Scottish School Project. The project was used by the Business Education Department with the aim of introducing all 2nd Year pupils to the world of business and to make them aware of the vital role it plays in Scottish society.

The project adopts a quiz-based approach to help pupils enjoy learning with a family based quiz as homework. Achievement Medals were awarded to Philip Woollins and Sarah Baillie for the two best performances in the project. There were also commendations for: Bruce Moir, Derek Dishington, Sarah Johnson, Ruth Aitken, John Bayne, Stacey Oxenham, Jayde Ritchie and Hamish Tate.

## Green Design Challenge

In the first round of the Shell sponsored "Green Design Challenge" hosted on 21st to 23rd June by Aberdeen University, a Sixth Year Madras team of Sarah Dunn, Lesley Aitken, Rhona Mullins and Gillian Sneddon came first (out of 16 teams). The team with 3 others from Glasgow schools will compete in the National Final from 12th to 14th July in Imperial College, London.

In addition, Sarah's article on "Mars" was first equal in the National Astronomy Society's Competition; she also won the prize of £100 for an essay on Dams to be published in the British Dam's Society's Science Magazine.

## Senior Wind Band

The Senior Wind Band attended Fife Wind Band Festival in Rothes Halls on Monday 14th June. Fifteen bands from Fife secondaries performed to each other in the morning. After lunch a band of around 450 was formed and was rehearsed by Major Thornhill of Royal Marines in 2 pieces. Result – incredible sound and a wonderful experience for all.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This year has proved to be another successful year for the programme in Madras College. Over the year we have awarded 29 Bronzes, 7 Silvers and have 3 pupils going to the garden party at the end of June to collect their Gold awards. Congratulations go out to Chris Lucas, John-Jo Ryan and Hamish Findlay (S6) on their achievement.

The expeditions this year had an amazing bonus for Scotland – reasonably good weather. All had a good time and we wish the Gold canoe group a successful trip in July. Those interested in continuing next year need to complete their current level and get their award books into Miss Paterson before progressing. Further information will be in the bulletin or on the notice board in September/October.

## School Dress Code

The School Dress Code is summarised below. Please support this. We have been working very hard to keep up good basic standards of school dress and are pleased how many pupils show pride in their identification with the school. Of course the comments we receive from the public are not always entirely complimentary! We are often adversely compared with schools which include a blazer in their dress code. For several decades Madras has taken the view that while blazers are smart they are extremely expensive for most families (average cost £110). There seems more sense to us in having our more basic type of uniform, which can be bought in its entirety for less than the cost of a blazer. If a white shirt, tie, black trousers or skirt, dark footwear, and smart Madras blue hoodie, zippie or fleece – the whole shebang – can be bought for around £100, this seems sensible.

Main problem areas with some pupils? White footwear, cult tops or hoodies, which advertise something other than our school.

Please help by purchasing dark footwear and plain blue tops/hoodies or whatever style. The school ones are excellent value at £20.

Comments on the code are welcome, either to the rector or via the PTA or School Board, which both discuss uniform periodically.

- Plain navy or black v-necked jersey or sweatshirt.
- Formal black or navy blue trousers or skirt.
- Plain white or light blue shirt or polo shirt.
- School tie.
- Dark footwear.
- Clothes with cult or company advertising are not acceptable school wear.
- Safety and Security: Pupils' clothing must not place them at risk of accident. The length and width of trousers and the height of heels on shoes are two aspects of dress that may cause injury. Pupils are therefore expected to wear clothing that does not add to personal risk.
- For school events a high standard of appearance is expected. Staff will make expectations clear to pupils for particular events.
- Additional items of school wear are available for pupils to purchase (contact the school office *tel* 01334 412500 for purchase details). These are, at present, the school fleece, hoodie and scarf.

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## Prestigious Scholarship Awards



Charles Oliver and Alec Aitchison

Two S5 pupils from Madras College have been awarded the Arkwright scholarship.

Alec Aitchison and Charles Oliver have been selected to receive an Arkwright scholarship after successfully passing the Arkwright selection paper demonstrating flair and originality in solving engineering design problems and presenting Technological Studies course work to a panel of interviewers in April.

Scholarships are sponsored by industry and charitable trusts and will be formally presented at a ceremony hosted by the institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London on Friday 29th October 2004. During the day Scholars have an opportunity to meet their sponsors and other scholars.

The Arkwright trust was founded in 1990 and supports young people during their Higher and Advanced Higher years. By awarding £250 each year to assist with the purchase of books and equipment Charles and Alec will also carry the status of Arkwright Scholar and the support network this provides into University with them. Madras College Design and Technology also receives £250 per year for each scholar.

## *Water Warriors*

Following study of the crisis in clean water for the developing world, as presented in newspaper articles and sources from the Internet, some Higher classes produced useful essays persuading us to be more aware of the situation and indeed, to support those charities involved. Having used the material to pass their writing part of Unit 1, Internal Assessment, two classes decided to give something back. In a swift collection, they gathered the amazing sum of £134.00, which will be used by Oxfam to build clean water tanks for Brazil. Full details and an example essay from Anne Miller (S5) entitled "Water Warriors" can be found on the English Department school website.

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## *Round the Departments*

The Hadrian's Wall expedition, organised by Miss Watkins, on 25th – 27th June was another raring success. Fifty places were all booked by 8.40 on the morning after the forms were issued, such is the popularity of the event! It was an emotional time for Mr David Cleland going on his last pre-retirement trip, having first taken pupils from the West to the Wall in 1968.

Lizzie Lawrenson (S6) won Latin and Greek Cups in the Tayside Classical Association Latin Speaking Competitions. Our 3 teams in Junior Latin gained 3 of the top 5 places out of 14 with 2nd place being the highest.

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## Pi Matrix

Madras College saw a quite remarkable event in the shape of a World Record bid by Philip Bond, a former world record holder, to regain his 'Pi Matrix Record'. This was a charity event held over the lunch hour in the South Street Hall on Monday, 28th June, in aid of raising funds for the Yamikani Orphanage, Blantyre, Malawi. One of our former pupils, Zoe Nisbet has established a strong connection with the orphanage and has set up a continuing placement there for Project Trust volunteers during their 'Gap Year'. £86 was raised for the orphanage.

Philip entertained a large gathering of senior and junior pupils to a spell-binding demonstration of his memorisation of 12000 digits of Pi. Given 5 digits he responded with the 5 digits before and the 5 digits after. If he does this 50 times correctly in under

39 minutes he has established a new World Record which will become a Guinness Book of Records entry. Monday's event was a warm up for the attempt which he will tackle on Wednesday, 30th June during the afternoon. If he is successful there will be a press announcement.

Some of our juniors were involved in fun Pi memorising contests within their Maths classes in the lead up to Monday's event. The winners were presented with certificates and prizes by Philip Bond. They were Stefanie Gordon (122 places), Katherine Stark (101 places), Gary Hutchison (80 places), Zoe Johnston (80 places), Natalie Tate (80 places), Philip Woollins (68 places), Christine Haggart (60 places), Clare Dallas-Ross (57 places) and Cheryl McDill (52 places). Congratulations to them all.

# The Euroscola Experience

From March 21st to 25th, I was given the opportunity of a lifetime: visiting the European Parliament (writes Francine Toon).

I was selected by the Rotary Club of St Andrews to become one of 30 representatives for the United Kingdom at the European Youth Parliament Day (Euroscola) in Strasbourg.

Our UK group spent three days of activities in Strasbourg, visiting places of interest such as the stunning Strasbourg Cathedral and local schools.

On the third day, after much preparation, we travelled to the Parliament to take part in discussions with young representatives from all over the EU. We sat in the famous hemicycle, normally used by MEPs, and listened to multilingual discussions with the use of headsets, connected to translators who sat up in high booths.

We were split into groups for most of the day, discussing, in French and English, important issues such as the Environment, 'The Place of European Values in the World' (peace, security, justice and human rights) and 'The Future of Europe'.

Throughout the day I made friends with people of many different nationalities, it was interesting to see how much we had in common with each other. At the end of the trip, our group of 30 felt we had known each other for years and promised to keep in touch.

The part of the trip that sticks out most in my mind was when two representatives from Spain took their turn at introducing their country.

The group had all come from a school in Madrid. They spoke with compassion about friends and relatives they had known who were caught in the recent terrorist attack in Madrid. It was very moving for me to see 500 young people, from all over the EU, stand and fall completely silent in remembrance of the victims. At that moment it seemed to me that any barriers of language, history or politics were broken down. The troubled

faces of young Europeans just like me, spoke volumes.

It was the kind of humanity, solidarity and neighbourly support that I saw represented throughout the day that matters most to me about the idea of a European Union.

The trip enabled me to make lots of new friends, learn about Europe and form ideas on important issues. It is something I will never forget.

## Problem Solving Journal

Congratulations to Nicholas Higginson and Jennifer Kay (both S2) for a mention in the new Problem Solving Journal for secondary students Issue No 3. They correctly solved five out of the six questions in Issue No 2. This new venture by the Mathematical Association is to encourage Mathematical Problem Solving among the more able students in the country. Our students can obtain the new and latest batch of questions from their Maths teacher to try over the summer break!

## Madras College School Board

*What a school locker could do for your child's posture!*

The School Board as one of its initiatives is concerned about the effect carrying heavy school bags has on the long term health of children, particularly back problems in later years. Research evidence has identified that children carry well in excess of the recommended 10% of the child's weight. Examples of up to 30% of the child's weight have been reported.



From this



To this

The Board is negotiating with Fife Council to obtain financial support to increase locker provision but matched funding requires to be found from other sources. The Board would like to suggest the following scheme: '**Donate A Locker**' at a unit cost of £30.00. Before we go ahead with this scheme, we would like to hear from interested parents about any other ideas for raising the necessary funding – **Target Fund £20,000**. Write to Mrs E Rogerson, Madras College School Board, c/o Madras College, South Street, St Andrews, or e-mail your views via our website on [www.madrasboard.org.uk](http://www.madrasboard.org.uk)

The next School Board meeting will be held on Thursday, 16th September 2004 at 7.00 pm in the Staffroom at Madras College, South Street. Parents are welcome to attend.

## VACANCY

As from August 2004 the position of Clerk to Madras College School Board will be vacant.

Anyone who is interested in taking over this post, please contact Morag Wilson on 01334 412500 or [enquiries@madras.fife.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@madras.fife.sch.uk) for more information.

# SPORTS NEWS

## Athletics

It has been a very successful season with Madras winning 16 Gold, 11 Silver and 13 Bronze medals at Fife Schools' Track and Field Championships. At this event Nony Mordi (S5) won the most meritorious performance by winning Triple Jump with a new record of 11 m 05. Andrew Kinnear (S5) won the most meritorious performance in the High Jump with a new record of 1 m 90.

At the Scottish Schools Nony Mordi equalled the Championship Best Performance in Group A Triple Jump with 11 m 22, also winning a Silver in 100 m Hurdles and Bronze in Long Jump. Andrew Kinnear won Silver in Group B High Jump and Long Jump. Connor Hill won Bronze in Group C, 400 m and 100 m.

Four athletes Connor Hill and Frankie Scott (S3), Rachel Callaghan and Andrew Evans (S2), represented Fife in Inter-area match where Fife took the overall title.

Alison Colvin (S4) won Senior Multi-event title and Fiona Bracegirdle (S1) won Silver medal in Fife Event.

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## Golf

Madras College were winners of the Dunhill Schools' Golf Championship at Kingsbarns for the second year in a row.

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## Outdoor Experience

The East Neuk Outdoor Centre in Anstruther provided the location for an introduction into outdoor sports.

A group of 24 girls from S2 participated in a 12-week programme which included activities such as canoeing, abseiling, archery and sea kayaking.

It is hoped to continue the experience again next year with another year group.

## Inter-Register Class Football Tournament



Twenty-two teams entered the S1 Inter-Register Class Football Tournament held at Kilrymont Road. The finalists from both the boys' and girls' competitions enjoyed a trip to Tannadice where they received coaching from Dundee United development officers, a tour of the stadium then watched the team play Dunfermline in the evening.

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## SPORT SUPPORT



This session has seen the biggest ever involvement of fifth and sixth year pupils in after-school clubs in Primary schools under the direction of Mr H Munn, Primary Sports Co-ordinator.

Fifteen pupils have been coaching a variety of 7 sports in 8 primary schools in the catchment area.

SportsFests have regularly taken place at Kilrymont Road and at Newport and Wormit primaries involving a total of 342 primary pupils. The senior pupils in Madras have been active in refereeing and organising tournaments and all have been delighted with the success of the tournaments.