



Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2005

Mathématiques sans Frontières



Team Members pictured with Dr R Waterston, Principal Teacher Mathematics
See page 5 for list of team members

The Mathématiques sans Frontières Contest is a truly European annual event involving tens of thousands of students from all European countries. Teams of students are entered from individual schools competing by age groups in National Sections of the Contest. On the day of the contest the team is faced with a collection of ten or more tough problems to solve. They are allowed 90 minutes at the end of which they present their final draft solutions to as many questions as possible. However, there is a slight twist. One of the questions is presented in a foreign language and must be answered in that language. As a result the team not only requires top rate mathematicians but also first rate linguists!

This is the eighth year that Madras College has entered two teams for the contest, one from S4 and one from S5. Both of our teams were placed among the top 10 finalists in the competition and so representatives from both teams were invited to the prizegiving ceremony at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh on 16th June. At the ceremony it was announced that both the Madras College teams had come out top in their sections! As far as we know this is the first time in the history of the contest that one school has won both first awards, a truly remarkable achievement. And if that was not enough our fourth year team was awarded **full marks**, again a first for the contest! Congratulations to both our teams on their outstanding success.

Rector's Notes

We near the end of an extraordinary session. On the world scale the Tsunami, the continuing crisis in Africa, and the G8, have dominated. In Europe it has been the entire constitution of the super-state and the sharp contrasts of outlook and priority within the existing EU. In Britain, the General Election. In Scotland the massive environmental issues that must be addressed. Our local concerns seem hardly to stand comparison, and yet in each of the above, in a sense, we are closely involved, whether we like it or not.

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Primary 7

TRANSFER PROGRAMME

June has been a busy month for Primary 7 staff and pupils and S1 Guidance staff.

Two hundred and ninety pupils from inside our catchment area and beyond will be joining us in August and from 10th to 16th June they all enjoyed their visits to Kilrymont Road to taste what life will be like in S1. Enthusiasm and excitement were the key issues as they were ably led to classes and round the school building by groups of S3 volunteers. Friendships were struck, teachers were met and now the Primary 7 pupils feel ready for the real start in August.

Their parents also had the freedom of the school on the 16th taking part in discussion groups and visiting department displays. Feedback from the parents was extremely positive outlining how valuable the event had been and many took the opportunity to take a trip down memory lane along the corridors of the past!

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Former pupils from round the world are in contact with us regularly, describing their projects, hopes and ambitions. Their global view helps us to widen ours. The pupil and staff body responded in a major way to the post-earthquake disaster in Southeast Asia. In six months 70% of the £10,000 cash target has been reached. Links are being forged with our Madras “roots” in South India. The Special Education department has done an amazing job in supporting a colleague working during a career break in an Albanian orphanage. Two staff set off next week with a large van to provision this home for children. The Charity Committee goes from strength to strength. Pupil “politics” in the form of year and whole-school councils is taking a firm hold on school life. We are about to embark on the trail to become an Eco school. Even global warming has come to meet us. Last weekend an S4 Duke of Edinburgh’s Award expedition had to evacuate its camp early in the morning as the river Almond broke its banks and flooded the Sma’ Glen. Needless to say our intrepid party coped admirably with the situation, rather better, it has to be said, than many others only a mile or two away whose plight was on the national news.

In other words we can never ignore the bigger issues that face us as part of the “global village”. This helps us to keep a sense of perspective. The ambitions and schemes we have, the changes they involve, the pressures to continue the basic service we provide during a time of uncertainty, are all assisted by the realisation and knowledge that we are well placed for the future in many ways.

We are well placed in our common commitment to shape school changes so that a good service to the community can be made even better, in the regular and heartening reinforcement of the school’s ethos of achievement and care, in the engagement with council and officials about the provision of suitable accommodation in which to deliver the modern curriculum. We are well placed also in the remarkable dedicated effort by staff working in the draining and dispiriting split-site.

As this is the first time that we have issued the summer newsletter after the main prize-giving has taken place it is possible to relate the main theme of our guest of honour, who this year was Mr Roger Stewart, Head of Education. His very clear message was that schools are changing as they work towards meeting the needs and aspirations of all pupils, and as they reorganise internally as part of the national agenda. For Madras the most obvious change is the

“ . . . meeting the needs and aspirations of all pupils . . . ”

decision by Fife Council to end the split-site that has been in place since 1967. He further stated that there is openness about the possible ways of achieving this exciting goal. Consultation with all parties is an integral part of the process. He noted that the School Board had been the first to contact him and welcome him back to Fife three years ago.

Lastly, he commended the pupils for their achievements in their studies, in service, and in various activities sporting and cultural, wishing those about to leave all success and fulfilment in the future.

Parents have been active in other ways too. The PTA has had a good year of meetings, social events and fund-raising, such as at last Saturday’s “Summer Fair”. Support to the aim of providing lockers for all pupils in Kilrymont Road has been sustained for two years. We are now just about there and have ordered sufficient lockers for juniors to have their own or to share a locker from next session.

We have been celebrating many recent outstanding achievements, as other pages, including the front page, clearly show. There seem to be more than usual, perhaps a testament to the positive encouragement that parents and staff have given to pupils to do their very best.

It is therefore right to thank all who have helped in another good year for the school, despite the changes and uncertainties that we undoubtedly face. Lastly, we wish all parents an excellent summer and look forward to working with you in the coming session.

Staffing News

The summer term of 2005 has been very busy on the staffing front.

- Miss Watson left after eight excellent years of input both curricular and extra-curricular at Madras to become Principal Teacher of Physical Education at Braeview Academy in Dundee.
- Mrs McNeill took up the Acting Principal Teacher of Modern Studies post at Kirkland High.
- Mr Paton came from Lochgelly High and joined the Biology department in place of Mr Young.
- Mr Kerrigan came from Stonehaven Academy to join the Design and Technology department in place of Mr Anderson.
- Mr Lawrenson came from Robert Gordon’s to join the Classics department.
- At the end of this session Miss Lowing (English department) leaves to become Teaching Fellow in Newcastle University Department of Education. We thank her for her many contributions during her six years at Madras.
- Also at the end of session Miss Ogg leaves to take over as Principal Teacher of Drama at Elgin Academy. In her own subject as well as various productions and initiatives she has made her positive mark on Madras.
- We thank Miss Lister who ends her work this summer in the office and wish her well in the full-time university course that she is taking up.
- An internal promotion to note is that of Mr Nisbet who becomes the second Principal Teacher in the Maths Department as part of the school’s Staffing Plan.

We have five retirements of colleagues to note (*see page 4*).

New Team, New Office

Since Easter the school has added to the number of its staff by appointing the following non-teachers; Pupil Services Manager, Mr Edwards, and School Support Officers, Ms Binnie and Mrs Connolly. The school also welcomes back our Home School Link Officer, Mrs Dougall after a spot of maternity leave. Together they make up the Pupil Services Team which has the purpose of helping ensure a safe, secure and inclusive environment within Madras College, that helps to build confidence in pupils and enhances their ability to learn.

The first practical steps already undertaken are to provide and record late slips, exeats and uniform slips. The team will also administer the new lockers in the new term. The Pupil Services Office is positioned opposite the boys' locker area in the Kilrymont building (Room 105) where the team share the accommodation with Mrs Fildes and Miss Lister (previously based in the Auxiliaries' Office) and offers virtually a one stop shop for all those small but important administration tasks that befall the responsible pupil.

The team is currently assisting senior staff who are involved in encouraging better behaviour within the school, and through the Home School Link Officer helping with attendance procedures, but more of this later.

Kiel Exchange

The 48th Kiel-Madras Exchange has taken place. Our 8 guests enjoyed trips to Edinburgh and Stirling as well as having the opportunity to discover the local area. School life was also experienced!

When we host the 2007 Exchange visit, we shall be celebrating the Golden Jubilee. We are keen to track down any former exchange participants. Did **you** take part in the Kiel Exchange or do you know of anybody who did?

Computer Club 4 Girls (CC4G)

In January, Computer Club 4 Girls (CC4G) started in Madras College. The club has a membership of 30 S1 girls split into two groups and led by Mr Latona and Mrs Paterson. Madras College is one of only five schools (all in Fife) participating in the Scottish pilot of CC4G.

Using computers as a tool or medium for **creativity** is the focus of the club. Girls can learn new skills in using ICT applications including digital photography and photo manipulation, graphic design, sound recording, animation, video editing, desktop publishing and much more, all set in engaging themes such as Celebrity, Fashion, Dance, Music and Sport. So far, the girls have had great fun using digital camera and video technology. Their projects have included taking shots of themselves and superimposing them onto backdrops, creating the front cover of a celebrity fanzine and making some

very accomplished and entertaining videos (available soon on DVD).

An HMI Inspector had heard about the innovative approach to learning adopted by CC4G and had come along to Madras to see what all the "fuss" was about. He was so impressed by the skills he witnessed in the girls that he invited Mr Latona, Mrs Paterson and some girls to present a seminar at an HMI conference on "Sharing Good Practice in ICT". Four girls – Eilidh Dickson, Charlotte Harrison, Iona Nelson and Jessica Kennedy (S1) accompanied the teachers and contributed to the seminar with two short sketches about CC4G and a showcase of the projects they had completed. Their performance was sparkling and dynamic and they were highly praised for their exceptional contribution and conduct by both the Inspectorate and Madras College Management.

Space Club

Congratulations to all members! Some superb projects have been completed by a number of members – on topics ranging from The Aurora Borealis to Black Holes. Adam Fleming (S1) gave an excellent lecture on "Sedna – the 10th planet".

Members of the group enjoyed an interesting evening at the St Andrews University Department of Astronomy. Unfortunately the cloud cover meant that we couldn't do any "real" observing – but we learned a lot from Professor Cameron.

A big thank you to all members from Mrs Phillips.

Debating

The Madras College team won the annual Inter-School Debate against Waid and Bell Baxter. The team consisted of Nony Mordi (S6) in Chair, Claire Field (S4), Vote of Thanks, Daisy Radford (S5), 1st Proposer, Rosie Paterson (S5), 2nd Proposer, David Watson (S4), 1st Opposer and Rebecca Malek (S4) 2nd Opposer. The schools contested the motions: *This House would introduce a fat tax*; *This House believes that Britain needs to curtail its love affair with the car* and *This House believes that Prince Charles should follow the example of Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson and exile himself and his wife in some foreign city*. Six out of the eight individual prizes went to Madras.

German Recitation Competition

Against strong competition Sarah Dunn (S6) won 3rd prize in the Senior section. All of the other Madras entrants – Christopher Kinsley (S4), Sarah Leenhouts, Sandy Lamond, Cara Hamilton, Rachel McIntyre (S5) and Morven Leenhouts (S6), reached the finals of their respective sections and were awarded runners up prizes. Well done all!

Madras College Retirals

Mrs Alexander of the Learning Support department retires after a long and distinguished career at Madras which spans 38 years. This has been in two stages, the first going back to the very beginning of the “new” Madras, the large comprehensive school on the split-site set up on the completion of the Kilrymont Road building in 1967. Mrs Alexander was initially appointed by Dr Thomson to teach English. An enthusiastic and resourceful teacher she also involved herself in many activities, including debating, which she initiated in the junior school, folk singing and a play club. She moved away from the area for several years then returned in 1982 as a Remedial Specialist, as teachers of Learning Support were then described. Her initiatives included the Paired Reading Scheme that we still use to very good effect, and Action Aid work. She also assisted in the Chess Club and many inter-house activities. After completing her additional diploma in Learning Difficulties she became a Senior Teacher in 1990. Mrs Alexander’s work at Madras has been characterised by a deep and genuine interest in children as individuals along with a strong desire to assist each of them to achieve their very best possible level of work. We thank her for her many contributions to the school and wish her well for a long and happy retirement.

Mrs Baughan, PT1 within the English department, retires after 25 years at Madras. She has been the consummate professional in her departmental work, her pastoral work and her contribution to the wider curriculum and activity of the school. Within five years of arriving she had been promoted, first as a temporary Guidance teacher then to Assistant Principal Teacher of English. Held in the highest esteem by colleagues for her hard work, organisation, effectiveness and fairness, she will be a difficult member of staff to replace. From an early stage in the welter of curriculum development during the last two decades Mrs Baughan has been a major contributor within her own subject, first in the Standard Grade implementation programme, then in Revised Highers and Higher Still. In the extra-curricular field she has been very active, most notably in debating and public speaking. It is in no small part due to her that the school now enjoys a national reputation in this activity. Despite all this achievement and contribution Mrs Baughan has remained modest and unassuming. We can only think how fortunate the school has been to have benefited from her many talents for a generation, and wish her the most fulfilling and happy of retirements.

Mr Kennedy, Principal Teacher of Geography, retires after 15 years in charge. In his time there have been many curricular developments in which he has been closely involved. Indeed prior to joining us he was for two years Fife’s Curriculum Development Officer in Geography, focussing mainly on the new Standard Grade development. Since then he has contributed to many regional developments in his subject. Recently his department has worked with Biology in establishing the new courses in Managing Environmental Resources. Also, as befits his subject he has been a keen advocate of fieldwork and outdoor pursuits for all stages in the curriculum. For example, the annual Lake District trip has become a very important part of the Higher course. As a promoted

member of staff he also took a full part in many meetings and groups, including the weekly PT meeting, at which his pithy comments and tricky questions were regularly received! A quiet and modest man by nature he has been a thoroughly good and persistent advocate of his subject, a colleague liked and respected for his dry wit, and a real team-player in the best sense. We thank him warmly for his service to Madras and to Fife and wish him great fulfilment in retirement.

Mr Mole joined the Biology department in 1972. He has served the department and the school with enthusiasm and energy ever since, becoming Senior Teacher in 1990. Apart from his normal junior and senior classes in both Biology and Science Mr Mole also contributed in a number of ways to the wider life of the school, including Junior Red Cross, Duke of Edinburgh and Chess Club. Outside school he became a Warrant Officer with the ATC and was elected a full member of the National Institute of Biology. Mr Mole took various administrative tasks and roles as part of the collective management of the sciences, most notably in organising day-to-day class cover for the faculty, at times a task that could be quite demanding. In 2002 in line with the opportunities created within the new McCrone structure, Mr Mole’s Senior Teacher post was re-created as that of PT1 in Biology. We thank him for his contributions to Madras College for many years and wish him a very happy retirement.

As we go to press we have just heard that *Ms Williams*, Art and Design, is taking early retirement. We thank her for her 15 years of service and wish her all happiness and fulfilment in her new career.

Never too old

Guest of honour at last Wednesday’s stunning Summer Concert was Elma Cheetham, a local resident who had donated some valuable source material from last century to the History Department. Elma is quite a celebrity, being the oldest-ever graduate of Scotland’s oldest university. With a twinkle in her eye she told us that she plans to have a gap year before embarking on the next stages of her career.

Committee Continuity

Now that the change of session has taken place Guidance and senior staff have been busy advertising the various committees that run across the buildings in particular the Charities Committee (one of the biggest in Madras College); the Madras College Diary and Newsletter Committee (which will be pupil led next session); and the Public Areas Committee, a new committee this year created to look at ways of enhancing public areas in both buildings – look out for their photographs, art work and action events when you next visit us. The Whole School Council is up and running again after the SQA layoff and this group will certainly be making its mark in the months to come. Committee-wise we’re in for an enjoyable, busy and productive time.

Six Years of Joy

Mathématiques sans Frontières

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You may have noticed over the last two years that we have included comments from sixth year leavers on what school meant to them. Chris Dennis (S6) offers . . .

“It all began with timid and not so eager little kids. Reading class lists on the first day, I remember not knowing anyone, but now if I look at those same names, everyone has a horde of stories to tell. Over the next six years these little kids became little adults. I believe that this year we have turned out doctors, dentists, writers, scholars, and actors, just to name a few. Without the powerful education that we received and without the heavy support of the Madras team, many of those who fell along the way would not have got up again. Because of the support of our teachers, our dedicated year staff, our friends and, of course, ourselves, I can look back on what is, and what I hope will remain to be, the best six years of my life, with pride, enlightenment and, of course, joy. Whatever part of myself I look at, I find that I can never forget these last six years. I have learned so much more than the relatively simple things teachers and friends meant to teach me.

I remember back to when I was in primary seven and some used to say that we hated school, an attitude that I am sure kids that age still have. Now, that philosophy could not be further from the truth. Along the way education changes those attitudes and makes us realise that instead of trying to hate something, we should give it a go and eventually it will grow on us. School not only taught us how to do this, but is the single best example of it in practice. Although I may be ready, mentally speaking, to move on and get stuck into life, it doesn't mean that I want to. I never would have looked at school this way six years ago.

If you said that school only taught you English, Maths, French, or whatever, you would be wrong. In the beginning that would have been correct. But, as time passed and carried us through our school careers, the subjects that we were learning about changed from these simple, generic subjects into the much more complicated subject of our lives, and indeed we learned how to live. Although we were not taught this directly, school took on a different

meaning near the end. We were slowly realising that we were no longer kids and that we would have to make choices that would cause major changes in our lives. We had begun to learn about life and therefore, ourselves. We were actually beginning to discover who we were and are. For the first time we had actually started to put these new skills into practice and begun to live. If I had not stayed at school and learned to be the person that I now am, I would not only never have made all the memories that I have, but I would also not have the knowledge that I possess on life and, therefore, how to live.

Over the past six years I have cried, loved, learned, worked, and of course, lived. They say that these years are the best of your life and I can assure this fact to be a hundred per cent true.”

S4 Team

Helen Anderson	Iain Marshall
Robbie Baxter	Scott Palmer
Ruth Campbell	Emma Povey
Grace Carradice	William Prentice
Roisin Connolly	Ilya Rafailov
Sarah Dennis	Stephen Robertson
Alasdair Downes	Philip Salter,
Sana Eljamel	Thomas Salter
Jenny Falconer	Emma Toon
Sarah Gillespie	David Watson
Sam Harte	Gregory Weir
Philip Hodson	Gabriella Welsh
Patrick Jagger	Richard Wylde
Christopher Kinsley	Marina Zheleva

S5 Team

Alec Aitchison	Shona Leenhouts
Andrew Baxter	Jing Liu
Scott Cull	Sheila Norrie
Thomas Davies	Rosie Paterson
Malcolm Findlay	Simon Raeside
Elliot Husband	Dylan Read
Liam Keane	Scott Reid
Sandy Lamond	Alexander Walker
Sarah Leenhouts	Liam Yapp

Drama Snippets

- A number of pupils have been successful in gaining places on the Scottish Youth Theatre course this year. They will attend courses in Glasgow or Skye.
- Fraser Strachan (S4) is a finalist in a screenwriting competition.
- Several S1-S3 pupils have recently been involved in presenting a play for the Children's Panel Training Scheme. The production of *'it's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright'* was performed at the West Park Centre, Dundee in front of Social Services personnel and trainee panel members. The purpose of the venture was to highlight the importance of communication between outside agencies involved in child protection issues.
- S3 pupils involved last term in developing an animation project at the Byre Theatre with professional artists/film makers had the opportunity to see their film screened at the Byre Theatre. They were invited along with family

and friends and received their own copy of the DVD. Their film was titled *'Road To Nowhere'*.

- A busy kick-off to the new academic year – an Advanced Higher Drama trip to see Chekhov's *'The Seagull'* before the new term begins in August, followed by a big production of *'Macbeth'* (staff and pupils) which goes straight to the Byre for 3 nightly performances on September 26th, 27th and 28th and then an 'exhausted' Drama and English trip down to Stratford-on-Avon for what has become a hugely successful annual event!



by Charles McMonagle (S3)

PTA Summer Fair

On 18th June the PTA held a Summer Fair at the South Street building with some keen customers queuing up before the event even opened. Passers by, initially drawn in by the talented piping of Tom Barbour (S5), may have wondered what was going on as the less melodic sound of breaking china filled the air. No, Madras pupils had not turned to vandalism, but were trying their hand at plate smashing, and the queue for this attraction never disappeared all morning. Attempts to 'Beat the Goalie' (Steven Fox, S6), and win a football, brought the sweat to many a brow in the hot June sunshine – but there was a plentiful supply of ice cream and drinks to help everyone to cool down. Once inside the quad and school hall, visitors were spoilt for choice with an array of stalls including cake and candy, bric-a-brac, books, plants, guess the weight of the cake, tombola, lucky dip and a raffle with some very generous prizes donated by local businesses. Gareth Niven (S1) did a roaring trade selling beautiful handmade cards made by himself and a friend. A branch of the Charities Committee, headed by Mr Murray of the Art Department, ran a stall selling T-shirts with a great assortment of designs in aid of the Tsunami Fund. For those wanting to relax, there were delicious cream teas with a mountain of scones kindly donated by Fisher and Donaldson.

The grand total raised by the Fair was over £900, and this will be added to the money from other fund raising events to go towards the Locker Fund.

The PTA would like to thank everyone who has helped at and supported their events, and looks forward to an enthusiastic response to our programme next year.

Tesco Tokens

Once again the Learning Support department has been collecting these. The response has been tremendous and we will be able to "buy" new hardware and software which will benefit all pupils.

Tsunami Appeal Update

Further to the information in our Easter Newsletter, we were delighted to receive two cheques for our appeal: £774.50 from the residents of Gauldry who organised a dance in the village for Scottish International Relief, the organisation working in Tamil Nadu; £817 from the staff and pupils of Newport Primary School who contributed through their fundraising campaign.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the residents of Gauldry and all at Newport Primary School for their magnificent contributions. Aisling Connolly (S6) visited the primary school to give them an update on what has been taking place in Arryanatu, by Nagapattinam in South East India.

Just last week Andrew Parker, Material Aid Manager, Scottish International Relief, contacted Madras giving the latest news from that area. In the short run our contributions to the community are providing shelter and food and a chance for it to become self-sufficient once again through the repairing of boats and nets for the future. Those children who have lost parents and family are being supported through our donations.

He concludes "I hope this demonstrates how much help you have given to those in need. We shall be sending out an update to Madras College this summer on the situation in India. In the meantime you can get information on the appeal on our <website www.sircharity.org>".

Andrew will also be contacting the local secondary school in the hope that links can be made between the pupils of both Madras and Nagapattinam.



T-Shirt stall at the Summer Fair

Many thanks to all who participated in designing, printing and selling T-Shirts in aid of the Tsunami Appeal at the School Fair on Saturday 18th June. Alexander Gordon, Todd Stewart and Maisie Geelen (S6) worked especially hard on the day and managed to raise £300. A special vote of thanks to Maisie's tireless efforts and Mrs Houston who stayed up past midnight ironing T-Shirts! Thank you!

Fife Junior Maths Challenge 2005

A team of 1st Year pupils competed in the Fife Junior Maths Challenge on Thursday 23rd June 2005 at Auchmuty High School. Madras were already the cup holders – and we succeeded in bringing the cup back for a second year in succession!

The brilliant effort by Jamie Harris, Padrig Davies, Robert Woollins and Ian Johnston ensured that they finished the competition in first place just ahead of Balwearie High School.

An exciting and enjoyable morning was had by all. Thanks must go to the staff of Auchmuty High School for their hosting

of the contest and to all the staff who not only transported the teams to the venue but were called upon to help with the marking of the solutions.



by Lisa Ciftci (S3)

Keeping up with the Critics!

In both Kilrymont and South Street, voracious and sharp-minded readers have been “shadowing” important national book prizes.

Fifty 1st years were invited to read the 6 books on The Carnegie Medal shortlist (best fiction for young readers). They have been busy posting reviews on the website <www.ckg.org.uk>. At the moment the Madras favourite appears to be “*Looking for JP*” by Anne Cassidy – a controversial book with echoes of the James Bulger case. Alongside these readers, runs a group considering the illustration/artwork in books for very young readers – the Kate Greenaway Award. The Carnegie winners are announced early in July, so look out for the media coverage.

Meanwhile, down in the pressure pot of South Street over study leave, staff and pupils were encouraged to “take a break” now and then with a book from The Orange Prize shortlist (adult fiction, best novel by a woman writer, prestigious award and £30,000 at stake!). Sparky reviews from teachers and pupils have provided interesting reading displayed on the Staffroom wall and along the English corridor. The winner “*We need to talk about Kevin*” (a mother’s account of her teenage son, a serial killer) received mixed reviews: “A slow fuse on this one” (Mrs Baughan) but “Stick with it . . . and it becomes blackly riveting” (Ms Comber). Mrs Robertson (Biology – note, very cross-curricular staff here) really liked it and, amongst other points, wondered what a male response would be. On the other hand Claire Jarvis (S4) gave it the thumbs down. Her preference, with strong support from others, was for the quirky “*A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*” or “*The Mammoth Cheese*” which (alongside the problems of producing a litter of eleven babies following fertility treatment) introduced us to “the perils of History teachers!”

Fully hooked on this reviewing business, we are hoping to keep the buzz going into August/September as we approach keen readers with our latest challenge: The Booktrust Teenage Prize. The shortlist, announced last week, includes “*How I Live Now*” by Meg Rosoff, a book included in our Orange Prize

shadowing, under the new writers category. Others such as Julie Burchill’s “*Sugar Rush*” and “*Century*” by Sarah Singleton offer the caption in the TES: “Which novel will get the teenage vote?” The full list of 7 books can be accessed on <www.bookheads.org.uk>. The most exciting aspect is that this time our reviewers have the chance to be chosen as one of the 4 teenagers invited to join the actual judging panel . . . complete with their place at the glitzy award ceremony in London. The competition closes 20th September, so summer critics start revving up now!



by Alyssa Flegg (S3)

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award

As another successful year draws to a close the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award group would like to thank all those parents who volunteered to step into the breach when we experienced staff losses around Christmas. We have managed to go ahead with all the planned expeditions and have a total of 59 pupils fully active in current award levels with a further 30 or so completing previous levels.

A massive thank you must also go to all the staff who helped us out with the smooth running of the award, voluntarily giving up their weekends to sleep in midgy tents and walk through torrential rain.

Congratulations go to the successful award achievers. Since last July, 25 participants have received their Bronze award, 15 their Silver and 4 will be at the Garden Party this year to receive their Gold awards. At this moment we already have one Gold who just missed this year’s award ceremony so will hopefully be going next year.

The expeditions this year all went off well. The April ones were generally cold,

with snow, severe frosts and brilliant sunshine! The June qualifiers were also cold, and wet (though the snow didn’t add to the problems). At the time of writing there are still 3 expeditions to go. We hope for good weather with a nice breeze to control the midges.

STOP PRESS

A huge well done has to go to the Bronze level Duke of Edinburgh’s Award expeditioners. They were out the weekend that St Andrews had scorching sunshine. They however (on their second day) had 9 hours of thunder storms which started at midnight. They then (after very little sleep) fully followed staff instructions, quickly and with no argument, as we organised and oversaw all pupils down the glen, over very flooded rivers. All participants managed to walk out with the now waterlogged backpacks successfully completing their expedition (even if it wasn’t the one originally planned). It is an experience that will stay with them for years (and with the supervising staff!!) and one of which I’m sure that parents have heard *ad nauseam* . . .

HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2005-06 (all dates inclusive)

School Begins - Tuesday 23rd August 2005

Autumn	Mon 17th October 2005 to Fri 28th October 2005	February	Thurs 9th February 2006 and Fri 10th February 2006
Christmas	Mon 26th December 2005 to Fri 6th January 2006	Spring	Mon 3rd April 2006 to Mon 17th April 2006

SPORTS NEWS

Fife Schools' Track and Field

Andy Kinnear (S6) most meritorious performance in the High Jump, setting a new record. Nony Mordi (S6) – new Triple Jump record.

... and at the Scottish Schools' Events

Nony gained Gold in the Triple Jump (new record), Gold in the Long Jump and 100 m Hurdles.

Andy took Gold in the High Jump. Keith Simpson (S4) Bronze at 400 m and Jonathan Marks (S5) Silver in the Group B High Jump.

Football Snippets

- S1 7-a-sides: Winners of the Buckhaven Tournament and runners-up in the Dave Garland Memorial Shield (Glenrothes High School Tourney). They lost 2-0 to St Andrews High School in the Fife Shield.
- U/15s beat Beath High School 5-0 in the Fife Cup. Scorers: Tom Radford, Ross Grant, Mark Whatley and Scott Finlay (S3).
- Mark Whatley and Grant Manzie (S3) were selected for the Scottish Boys' Club's U/15 squad.
- Scott Henderson (Captain), Scott Grant, Stuart Matheson, Andrew Montgomery (S6) and Andrew Reid (S5) all played for Fife Schools' U/18 squad who lost in the National Shield Final 3-1 to Lothian Schools at Dunbar.
- Annual Staff v S6 Match – staff lost 3-0.

Sports Day Winners



S1 Champions
S2 Champions
S3 Champions
Senior Champions
Boys' Senior High Jump
Inter-House Championship Trophy

Adam Delargy
Kristopher Whyte
Euan Davidson
Frankie Scott
Keith Simpson
Castle

Catriona Scott
Emma Gordon
Rachel Callaghan
Freya Marks

Scottish Schools' Tennis Championship Winners



Pictured are Kirsty, Lauri, Lindsay and Hannah

Madras College Girls' and Boys' tennis teams won through to Tennis Scotland's finals day of the Scottish Schools' Tennis Championships on Thursday 16th June 2005. In the morning's semi-finals the girls beat Grove Academy 4-2 while the boys beat Stewart's Melville College by the same margin to set up finals matches against The High School of Glasgow's Girls' and Boys' teams in the afternoon finals. This was the first time in the history of the Scottish Schools' event that only two schools competed in both finals. Madras boys' raced to a 3-0 lead in the first round singles but lost the last singles after a very close three set match to lead 3-1. After losing both doubles in the second round of matches they were tied at 3-3 losing the deciding "shoot out" 2-1 to relinquish the title they won in 2004.

The girls' team won both doubles in the first round of the final to set up an exciting second round which they won 3-1 finally winning 5-1 for the fourth time in the history of the championship. Lindsay Forbes, Captain (S4), Hannah Moffat (S3), Lauri Mitchell (S5) and Kirsty Stewart (S5) were worthy recipients of their winner's medals, the coveted trophy for Madras along with £150 for the school tennis final.

The Madras Boys' team recently won the Scottish section of the British Schools' Championships to join 19 other schools from south of the border in the British Schools' Finals to be played at Queenswood School, Hertfordshire from 3rd to 8th July. Ross Carstairs, Tim Weir, Captain (S6), Steven Birrell (S4), Greig Ewing (S5) and Gregory Weir (S4) will travel to Queenswood on Saturday 2nd July.

Hockey

Congratulations to Jenny Gilbertson and Jade Milne (both S3) who were selected for the Midlands U15 Hockey Squad. Jade was also Vice-Captain.