



Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

March 2009

Rector's Note

This has been a busy term, punctuated by prelim examinations for senior pupils, assignments, SQA deadlines and course choice. Despite the appropriate emphasis on preparation for forthcoming examinations, we have achieved much in the wider school. The Burns Supper was a great success with excellent speeches and high quality entertainment. It was a good example of departments collaborating to produce a very enjoyable event showcasing some of our very talented pupils. Our Wear Red Day in support of Comic Relief and The British Heart Foundation raised in excess of £1,300. We are delighted with the success of our debating team, who won the Scottish final of Debating Matters in Edinburgh and to Mike Weir and Alice Minick who are through to the final of the Donald Dewar Memorial Debating to be held in the Scottish Parliament in June. Our S5/6 pupils who have been taking part in the Scholar's Challenge have held a number of highly successful events and their efforts continue to raise a substantial sum for the Prince's Trust.

We are preparing for our annual Great Assembly that takes place in the Holy Trinity Church. The twin themes of the assembly will be reflection and celebration. We will have the opportunity to look back over the year, to celebrate our successes and to look forward with optimism and confidence to the future. I am very grateful to Rev Rory MacLeod for allowing us the use of the Holy Trinity, and for playing an important part in developing the chaplaincy team that now operates in both buildings.

Preparation work is now under way for the new single site Madras College. Business cases are being developed for the proposed sites and a decision will be taken in the summer as to the preferred location. Consultation about the new school is under way with staff, pupils and parents and a Local Development Group will soon be established. This is an exciting project that gives us the opportunity to shape a school that will best deliver the curriculum as it evolves.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to wish you an enjoyable Easter break.

Increase to School Meal Charges

As from Wednesday 1st April 2009 a secondary school meal will cost **£1.60** per day.

Over and above the cost of a school meal, milk cartons will be charged at **15 p** per carton.



World Book Day



On 5th March, four S1 classes visited Lawhead, Canongate and Greyfriars Primary Schools to celebrate World Book Day. Each Madras pupil took along their own World Book Day voucher to show to the primary one pupils and one of their own fondly remembered childhood books, to read together. There were several old favourites such as 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and a few newer titles such as 'Eat Your Peas', and the primary pupils, buddied with the S1 pupils, thoroughly enjoyed the stories and discussing them afterwards. There are certainly a few teachers in the making in S1!

On return, S1 will write reflectively about their experience with the piece being added to their 'folio of good work' for S1. Primary one drew pictures to illustrate their story, presenting these to S1 at the end of the visit.

This visit was piloted to further links between Madras and associated primaries and it is hoped that this can be expanded, with visits further afield next year.

UK Mathematical Challenge

In the recent UK Mathematical Challenge (February), Madras pupils in S3 and S4 achieved 7 Gold, 20 Silver and 26 Bronze awards.

Particular mention is given to Callum Sinclair (best score in Madras) and Stuart Aitken (both S4) who qualified for the 'Pink Kangaroo' Competition, based on their high scores in the challenge. Well done to all participants, and good luck to Callum and Stuart!

Twelfth Night Triumph



In late February, the Quad Theatre presented Shakespeare's play 'Twelfth Night' to packed audiences. The excellent cast received standing ovations for their lively original performances. The school should be rightly proud of the hard work and talent shown by both pupils and staff alike in their preparation for this memorable production.

private peaceful

The latest English Department theatre trip, was a Friday night visit to Perth to see 'Private Peaceful', the novel having been studied by several classes in S4. On this occasion we were joined by a group studying World War I in Standard Grade History as well as by members of the Maths Department.

This one man show was atmospheric in places and the History pupils in particular enjoyed Tommo's first hand account of war and the historically accurate references. However the changing of the end of the story provided material for a heated discussion on the return journey and it was felt overall that the play did not capture the poignancy of the novel, nor deal with the family relationships which are central to the outcome.

Overall though, a successful trip, with more theatre visits planned for the summer term.

StAnza 2009

All S1 pupils were recently lucky enough to have a visit from a Creative Writing student from St Andrews University. The pupils were given a lesson on writing their own poem, on this year's StAnza Festival theme of 'Homecoming'. All pupils were then given time in class and then given the homework task of completing and illustrating their poem. The English Department were very impressed by the quality of the poems submitted. Congratulations to all pupils!

Well done to Sebastian Witherspoon who came 2nd and Rosie Watt, 3rd, in the senior category. Highly commended were Emma Ruskuc and Rebecca McPhee. Shortlisted were Jack Chinery, Lauren Whyte, Samuel Johnson, Fiona Powrie, Bryce McLaughlin, Natalie Cameron, Becky Adams, Liv Darge, Caitlin Stockton, Ruairidh James, Jamie Ritchie and Claire Nicoll.

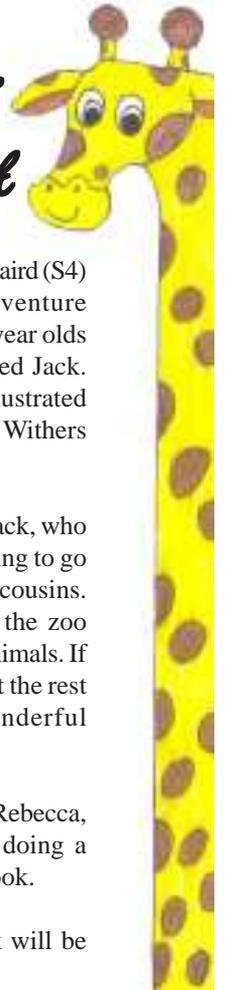
S1 pupils and English teachers would like to thank Mrs Petegree and the visiting students for their help and their enthusiasm.

Staffing Update

During this term the Maths Department has made three temporary appointments, Mr A Gourlay as Principal Teacher Curriculum with Mrs J Soares and Mr D Grewar sharing the post of Principal Teacher. Two temporary teaching posts have been filled by Ms K Hansen (Modern Languages) and Mr F Christie (Design and Technology). We welcome two new Pupil Support Assistants, Mrs A Collie and Miss H Nicholson and Mrs B Edward has joined us as a temporary School Support Officer while Mr S Edwards is on secondment within Fife.

At the end of the term we say goodbye to Mrs I Bletcher who is leaving Support for Learning after 22 years, we wish her well in her retirement.

Children's Story Book



This term Rebecca Caird (S4) has written an adventure story for up to five year olds about a giraffe called Jack. Ben Snape (S5) illustrated the book and Scott Withers (S4) helped too.

The story is about Jack, who lives in a zoo, wanting to go to Africa to see his cousins. Jack escapes from the zoo and meets talking animals. If you want to find out the rest then read the wonderful book!

Congratulations to Rebecca, Ben and Scott for doing a great job for this book.

Copies of the book will be available next term.

Dates for Your Diary

HOLIDAYS

Easter

Monday 6th to Friday 17th April 2009

May Day

Monday 4th May 2009

June

Monday 1st June 2009

Summer

Friday 3rd July to Friday 14th August 2009

IN-SERVICE DAYS

Tuesday 2nd June 2009

EXAMINATIONS

S3 Exams

Friday 1st to Tuesday 19th May 2009

PARENTS' EVENINGS

S1 Monday 25th May 2009

S3 Wednesday 3rd June 2009

Madras Sees Red!

What a term it has been for fundraising at Madras!

As you will have seen in the Citizen, on Red Nose Day there was a 3-legged race at Kilrymont Road won by sixth year pupils with Dr Gilbert not far behind (unfortunately his partner was way behind!)

At lunchtime in South Street members of the school Pipe Band entertained an audience of pupils and public on the front lawn while in the Assembly Hall there was senior sponsored volleyball . . . add to that large individual donations and various leg-waxing and shaven eyebrows activities and you have a fair idea of how seriously staff and pupils were taking the fundraising events.

Splashes of red permeated both buildings as pupils and staff brightened up for the day. £1,399 was raised for Comic Relief and The British Heart Foundation.

The 19th March saw the tenth Madras Talent Show in the Kilrymont Assembly Hall and the feeling is that it was one of the best on record with 13 stunning performances judged (with great difficulty) by Mr Jones, Mr Jardine, Mr Dewar, Miss Griffiths and former pupil Chloe Milne.

The winners were The Soul Sisters (Alice Herrington, Amy Rayner, Maxine Latinis and Jessie Gordon) singing and ‘dancing’

to ‘Lady Marmalade’ followed by Hit the Brakes, ‘I Bet You Look Good on the Dance Floor’ and a four pupil combo playing ‘Viva La Vida’. However, there were wonderful renditions – Aggro, Blowing in the Wind, Wonderwall, Another Brick in the Wall, Iris, Hips Don’t Lie, Other Side of the World, Fields of Gold (the favourite of this reporter) and a mellow version of ‘Let It Be’ by sixth year session artists.

What an evening for the 450 pupils, parents and staff who came along and to cap it all a record taking of £927 was added to Red Nose Day making a grand total of £2,326!

Thanks go to all who contributed and a special mention to the S3 and S6 Charities groups, the technicians and janitors, to Miss McAdam for the musical input to the Talent Show and to Mr Mackay for his usual front of house organisation.

How do you follow that!



‘The Soul Sisters’

Modern Languages

Modern Languages department news this session includes the launch of our first French exchange with the Collège France Bloch-Sérazin in Poitiers. Thirty-two pupils led by Mrs McCartney will host French pupils from 10th to 18th June and go to France from 23rd September to 2nd October.

We will also be hosting the 52nd German exchange from 3rd to 12th June.

This term saw Annika Neukirch (S6) representing the school at the European Parliament in Strasbourg in February.

February also saw the visit of the Onatt Theatre group who put on the French play called ‘Ecris-moi’ for our first year French pupils and primary 7 pupils from our associated primary schools.

HIGHER MODERN STUDIES

Visits to the Scottish Parliament

Yet again our annual visits to the parliament were successful in reinforcing knowledge and allowing pupils access to individual MSPs and First Minister’s Questions. Pupils impressed local MSPs with a range of issues raised when they met Iain Smith and Ted Brocklebank in one of the stunning committee rooms at the top of the building. Becky Williams (S5) challenged the timescale for the new school and Polly Joice (S5) offered her own solution to under-age and binge drinking in Scotland. The tour of the ‘behind the scenes’ areas of the parliament was also stimulating for both pupils and staff.

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HOUSE RESULTS 2009 (Matches held throughout week beginning 16 March)				
		1st	2nd	3rd
S1	Hockey	Castle	Priory	Blackfriars
	Netball	Castle	Priory	Blackfriars
	Rugby	Blackfriars	Castle	Priory
	Football	Blackfriars	Priory	Castle
S2	Hockey	Priory	= Blackfriars, Castle	
	Netball	Priory	Castle	Blackfriars
	Rugby	Blackfriars	Castle	Priory
	Football	Blackfriars	Castle	Priory
S3	Hockey	Priory	Blackfriars	Castle
	Netball	Priory	Castle	Blackfriars
	Rugby	Priory	Castle	Blackfriars
	Football	= Blackfriars, Castle, Priory		
Senior (S4 – S6)	Hockey	Castle	Blackfriars	Priory
	Netball	Castle	Priory	Blackfriars
	Rugby	Castle	Priory	Blackfriars
	Football	Priory	= Blackfriars, Castle	
	Boys’ Hockey	Castle	Priory	Blackfriars



The Eco-Club have been very busy over the winter term, working behind the scenes on a range of projects, some of which we've only just completed. We have been aiming to improve the environmental side of the school in as many ways as possible. We started by electing a Chairperson, Katrina Himpson (S2) and a Secretary, Rebecca Anderson (S3) for our meetings. A new logo has been designed by Corinna Rengger and Megan Taylor-Gaskell (both S2).

In February, two of our group were asked to go to a design day to get their ideas involved in the planning of the new school (see 'Trip to ASDARC on page 5').

ECO CLUB

The KR Eco-Club delivered the first seedlings to the new greenhouse lunchtime on Tuesday 17th March. They have started to resource the garden area and have also begun a video diary of what they are up to . . . all in a busy day. They plan to include it in a new website for the Eco-Schools' part of the school website shortly.

Let's Grow Vouchers

We have been collecting the Morrison's 'Let's Grow' vouchers so we could buy new seeds and gardening equipment. This will help us grow more plants and vegetables in the summer. We managed to gather £4,600 worth of vouchers and would like to thank everyone who helped raise this total. The seeds that we bought were planted and are now successfully growing in the greenhouse. Next term we should have a variety of vegetables and herbs to see and use.

Birds' Nests

About 6 birds' nests have been hung around the school. We're regularly checking in on them to see how that's going. Mr Tony Wilson, a Fife ranger came after school and showed a number of us how to do it. We built a bird table and assembled some bird feeders also. We hope this project will last about 5 years and provide us with lots of opportunities to attract and observe the brilliant bird life we have all around us here in North East Fife. The Department of Additional Support even have a birds' nest with a camera set up!

Sponsored Walk Across the Bridge

On the 28th March at 1 pm we're doing a sponsored walk across the Tay Bridge to raise funds for our Eco-Club and also to support Water Aid. Water Aid is an organisation that finds practical solutions to provide safe water, effective sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people. We've already got 10 pupils signed up. A number of staff and parents will be coming too. Let's hope for a sunny day!

New Herb and Sensory Garden

The Madras College Parents' Association Eco-Club has recently had a state of the art herb and sensory garden built on the doorstep of their Home Economics department in South Street. Together with the pupils' Eco-Club, they spent a year raising the money needed to transform a disused and rather dull area into a dream garden. Most of the costs required were met with a grant from the Fife Environmental Trust, a branch of ENTRUST. Money was also raised selling herbs to parents, from donations by members of the community and through lots of enterprising activities. The Royal and Ancient gave a particularly generous donation also.



The design of the area was a result of the collaboration between the pupils, staff and the professionals at Creating Eden, a local company, who completed the job just last week. Seven tonnes of the finest quality soil was provided by the Links Trust whilst local farmer and former pupil, Mr John Picking, provided a large quantity of fertiliser for the new raised vegetable beds and spiral herb feature. 'The St Andrews Gardeners' Club and the St Andrews Garden Centre have provided lots of advice and many of the plants today' said Mr Alistair Black, the Chairman of the Parents' Eco-Club. 'Our pupils have started to resource the garden area and have also begun a video diary of what they're up to which they intend to keep up to date on their new website', he added. The pupils' Eco-Club provided the first seedlings, all of which they grew themselves from seed. Katrina Himpson, the pupils' Eco-Club Chairperson said 'everyone is really impressed by the look of it. We can grow a lot of our own food and herbs here and it's going to be great fun'. Mrs Kyle, the Principal Teacher of Home Economics is enthusiastic about the new garden, 'we use a lot of rosemary and basil in our cooking' she said. 'It's going to be fantastic just to reach out the door and grab a handful of fresh herbs and vegetables whenever we need them!'

There are already plans to make soups and design some enterprising activities now that will involve varied and creative cross curricular approaches. Many of the departments have expressed an interest.

Mr Hamish Matheson, an expert gardener and Mrs Lowe, Technician, are going to regularly assist the Eco-Club in the new herb and sensory garden area also. Along with other local gardeners, they will be expert consultants to the pupils on the basics of gardening. 'We're lucky to be able to receive so much interest and expertise from the school and wider community' said Mr Fox, the Eco-Schools Co-ordinator. 'Having this resource will allow the community and the school to work together in a really productive and educational way'.



Trip to ASDARC

On Monday 23rd February two members of the Eco-Club along with other pupils in the school travelled to ASDARC in Cardenden. The purpose of our journey was to come up with creative ideas for the design of our new school.

To get our ideas flowing we were given a talk by an architect. He described other groups that had successfully designed and built new schools. One building looked like an armadillo and another had water features powered by rain water on the inside. He also showed us schools from other countries such as Norway where they had climbing walls in the playground. Although every school was unique, they were built as environmentally friendly as possible. The architect showed us different methods that could be used to make it more affordable to build an eco school such as installing bigger windows to let in natural light and how heating wasn't needed when so many people worked in the building.

Other schools, such as Dunfermline and Inverkeithing, attended although each school was split up to work on their own individual building. First of all our Madras group made a circle and introduced ourselves. We shouted our names into the circle then played out an action such as standing on one leg or making a star shape. The second time round we were told to shout the most boring word we could think of whilst doing a different action. Once this was over we played games that required our imagination. The first was to think of an adjective for each of the letters of the alphabet that would describe our new school. Another was to write the things we wanted to get rid of in our new school on the 'Bin It' poster and things we wanted to keep on the 'Save It' poster.

As soon as we were all feeling creative enough, we split up into groups of four to put our initial ideas on paper. The popular choices were big windows (not tinted), plants and water features, and that the school should be more colourful. Each group sketched a design of their dream school then presented it to everyone. Designs included a star-shaped school, different pods for each

subject, classrooms outside and a farm area.

The next stage was to think of a new, inventive addition to a lesson that tied in with the new design. Each group acted out a play that portrayed their perfect class. People had very creative brainwaves like music performances on a stage outside and practical biology such as growing plants and learning about them.

After an excellent lunch we returned to find a tunnel of gazebos had been put up. Every school was given a section to base their plan on. Madras was allocated the entrance and quickly began to work hard. We built up a tree around the pole in the middle and surrounded it with a pond. There was a farm area in the corner with pigs and rabbits, benches and chairs were placed at the sides and a curtain of beads was put over the door.

Headteachers and councillors queued to see our suggestions for the new buildings and asked questions about our more vague schemes but overall seemed pleased. Hopefully some of our thoughts will be taken into consideration when the new school is built.

(Catherine Vallis – S2)

TOUR TO HOLLAND Summer 2009

In July of this year, 82 young musicians and 10 staff will board coaches bound for a concert tour based in Valkenburg, Holland. The Senior Wind Band, Chamber Orchestra and Pipe Band will perform four concerts during the tour: Valkenburg Bandstand, Spa Gardens in Aachen, Germany, a hospital in Heerleen and at Bobbejaanland Theme Park. They will perform a wide range of repertoire from well known classics through film and popular music to traditional Scottish airs and marches. From past experience Madras' musicians have always been well appreciated and admired whilst on tour and this will hopefully be the case again this summer. Of course we will have fun and free time as well with bowling, tobogganing, swimming, a theme park visit and shopping in the plans.



Burns Song

Music staff organise two competitions. In the *Classroom Competition* each class in S1, S2 and S3 has the opportunity to learn and sing Burns songs. There is then a competition within each class to select the three best solo singers. These singers (around 60 in total) were presented with Certificates of Merit by Mr Jones during a special lunchtime event.

There is also a more formal *Song Competition*, judged by members of the local Burns Club, allowing pupils to compete on a wider school basis. The winners listed below performed at the school's Burns Supper and go on to represent the school at the Fife Schools' Burns Competition on Tuesday 31st March. In addition to the singers and reciters taking part, Paul Sinclair (S2) and Charlotte Sloan (S5) will compete in the instrumental part of the competition. Winners go on to represent Fife at the National Competition, held this year in Berwickshire High School, Duns, Borders.

S1/2 Girls

- 1st Megan Pettegree (S1)
- 2nd Caitlin Milne (S1)

S3/4 Girls

- 1st Kirsty Liggat (S3)
- 2nd Katie Morgan (S4)

S3/4 Boys

- 1st Rory Lamb (S3)

S5/6 Girls

- 1st Jessie Gordon (S6)
- 2nd Gabrielle Downie (S6)

S5/6 Boys

- 1st = Johnathan Elmer (S6)
- Douglas Latto (S5)

Ski & Snowboard Trip

Sixty-nine pupils and 8 members of staff will be travelling to Killington, Vermont in the USA in the Easter holidays for the Ski and Snowboard Trip. We hope they all have a great time.

A decorative header featuring a blue musical staff with various notes and clefs. The words "Musical Notes" are written in a large, black, cursive font across the staff.

Musical Notes

Regional Groups and Orchestras

Madras College Music pupils continue to take full advantage of the performing opportunities offered within the large music ensembles organised by Fife Council. Youth Music activities include the Fife Schools' Wind Band, String Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, String Orchestra, Concert Band, Youth Orchestra, Youth Jazz Orchestra and Young Fiddlers, all of which perform in and around Fife as well as Edinburgh and Glasgow. The most recent performance was that given in Madras College by the Fife Youth Orchestra. They performed music by Wagner, Bizet, Shonberg and Brahms but special mention goes to the exciting Tuba Concerto by Bruce Fraser and the iconic An Orkney Wedding with Sunrise by Peter Maxwell Davies, performances of which drew a high level of commitment from the young musicians as well as firm direction from the conductor Graeme Wilson. The current list of Madras College pupils in the Fife Youth Orchestra is: Rhiannon Bates, Lyndsey Wilson (S3), Annie Philpott, Callum Sinclair (S4), Erika Bates, Alice Herrington, Alice Tavakoli (S5), Gary Ewart, Andrew Howe, Rory MacLeod (S6).

Bell Baxter Competition

Held this year in Bell Baxter High School, Cupar on Thursday April 2nd, the three pupils who will represent Madras College are Andrew Howe (trombone), Rory MacLeod (voice), Ruairidh Tarvet (saxophone), reserve – Ben Raeside (guitar). This annual competition between the three north-east Fife schools features three young musicians from each and is always a musical feast.

Fife Festival of Music

A large number of soloists, groups, ensembles, bands and orchestras travelled to Kirkcaldy to participate in this important Festival. Special congratulations are due to those who won the following competitions:

Female Vocal: 15 and Under

Katherine Skene (S4)

Piano (Introductory)

Emily Wright (S2)

Piano Duet (Open)

Craig Dempster & Andrew Howe (S6)

Woodwind (Open)

Ruairidh Tarvet (S5)

Brass (Open)

Andrew Howe (S6)

Secondary School Wind Band

Madras College Senior Wind Band

Fife Schools' Rock Band Competition

At a (loud) lunchtime event, a pupil panel of judges selected the band *Shake Well and Enjoy* (comprising band members Joe Greig, William Johnston, Michael McCormick, James Wright, all S5) to represent the school at the final in the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes on 29th June.

Brass Group

Class Brass is a brass quintet. Current members are Andrew Goode (S4), Alice Tavakoli, Euan Todd (S5), Gary Ewart and Andrew Howe (S6). Together they rehearse a range of music for concerts, assemblies and other events.

Clarsach Ensemble

This small group meets on a Wednesday lunchtime and is coached by Miss Russell. They prepare music for school concerts and Fife Council events. Recently they took part in a concert given by the Fife Young Fiddlers. Currently, the group is preparing a varied repertoire from Burns to pop songs!

Guitar Ensemble

This group (which may be two, three or four guitarists depending on individual levels and timetables) is coached by Mr Morrison. Ross Lamond and Edward Dillon (both S4) recently rehearsed music from Brazil as well as a classical piece for the Fife Festival of Music.

Junior Fiddle Group

This group meets on a Tuesday lunchtime at Kilrymont Road and is directed by Mr Higgins. Most of the players are violinists but cellists are also welcome. They rehearse and perform traditional Scottish music, usually at school concerts and assemblies.

Piano Duet Class

This group has been running after school on Thursdays (South Street and Kilrymont) and aims to prepare pupils for the Fife Festival of Music. Mrs

MacLeod coached various groups in preparation for the Open, Advanced and Intermediate Classes.

String Quartet

Yet another lunchtime activity, this group is made up of four S3 pupils. They meet every week and recently performed at the Fife Festival of Music.

Singing Programme

Forty pupils of the Madras College Singers combined with 20 St Leonards School pupils under the direction of their Director of Music, Stuart Whatton, sang a special composed anthem at the St Andrews Day Civic Service in Holy Trinity on 30th November 2008. Mr Bell accompanied on the organ. The combined choirs sang 'The Fisherman's Song' composed by Tanera Dawkins. Both choirs were delighted to participate in this first ever performance of such attractive music. In addition to preparing music for concerts and other events, Singing Programme also offers opportunities for pupils to study solo repertoire that may be used in SQA examinations.

Senior Orchestra

The Senior Orchestra is directed by Mr Higgins and rehearses at South Street every Monday after school. Membership of the orchestra is by recommendation or audition. Most players are senior pupils from South Street but a growing number travel from Kilrymont every week to participate. The orchestra rehearses and performs challenging music at school concerts and annually at the Fife Festival of Music. This year they are also travelling with the Wind Band and Pipe Band to give several concerts in Holland.

Junior Wind Band

The Junior Wind Band, conducted by Mrs Craib and assisted by Mr Berthon and, this year, Miss McAdam (Music Probationer Teacher) meets every Wednesday lunchtime in Kilrymont Hall. There are 40 S1 to S3 members in the band this year. Junior band, as well as helping to train our young musicians in group playing, has actually developed into a social event with all members

continued over

continued from page 6

bringing their lunch with them and eating together as a group prior to the rehearsal. This has helped to gel relationships and encourage friendships. The junior band perform at school concerts and assemblies and also played admirably in the Fife Festival of Music. Our present repertoire includes 'Final Countdown' and 'Best of Queen'.

Senior Wind Band

The Senior Wind Band, conducted by Mrs Craib and assisted by Mr Miller has 54 members at present from S2 to S6. The band rehearses every Tuesday after school in South Street Hall. As well as performing at school concerts and assemblies the band has, in recent years, played on St Andrews Bandstand and regularly competes in Fife Festival of Music where we have held the Schools' Wind Band Trophy for the past four years. The band plays a wide variety of music from standard band repertoire to show, film and popular works such as 'Pirates of the Caribbean' and 'Stevie Wonder'. This summer we have been invited to perform at the Royal Highland Show shortly before heading off on tour to Holland.

Visits, Concerts and Other Events

- The Advanced Higher Music class visited the Special Collection of St Andrews University Library to view some of the wonderful music manuscripts kept there.
- In November, singers and instrumentalists travelled to Stenhouse and Carron Parish Church, Falkirk to give a concert.
- At Christmas, pupils entertained members of the St Andrews Blind Association with music, played carols to the residents of Balnacarron Home and sung around the Christmas tree at a fundraising Rotary event (with accompaniment from *Class Brass*).
- David Paterson (S6) took part in the BBC *Pianothon* in Glasgow.
- Individual pupils participated in the Perth Festival of Music, the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland and the National Youth Boys' Choir of Scotland.

External Performing and Music Theory Examinations

Many Madras College pupils study for external examinations, for example, those

offered by the Associated Board and Trinity. These offer pupils an opportunity to progress through a graded syllabus. Congratulations to the following pupils who have successfully completed exams throughout the year to date: Liv Darge, Rosanna Miller, Sorcha Pomeroy, Emma Ruskuc (S1), Geir Darge, Sadie Irving,

Danielle McFadyen, Jonas Neukirch, Paul Sinclair, Emily Wright (S2), Rory Lamb, Kirsty Liggat, Jennifer Rae, Jennifer Wood, (S3), Annie Philpott, Lindsay Wright (S4), Rachel Gillespie, Mairi Grewar, Jamie Harris, Gordon Hill, Ben Miller, Ruairidh Tarvet, Euan Todd (S5), Helen Crombie, Sarah Howe (S6).

Pipe Band

The Pipe Band has again performed at some key events in the town and university calendar, and others further afield. Starting the year, the St Andrews Harbour Gala Day on 31st August 2008 set the tone, and gained very favourable newspaper coverage and a police escort down South Street and The Pends to clear the way for the Band.

In September, the whole Pipe Band also played after the ceremony at the wedding of the assistant bagpipe instructor, Barry Johnston, at Craigsanquhar Hotel, and the Pipe Major Sharon Adams (S6) piped in the guests as a first solo event.



Pipe Major Sharon Adams

The highest profile event of the year was playing at the prize-giving on the 18th Green for the Dunhill Links Golf Championship at the beginning of October, which was executed to the high standards now expected, and reported in the local press. This is the fourth occasion that the band has played at the international annual event, and was extremely well received by the audience.

A mini-band contributed, alongside other Madras College musicians, to a concert at Stenhouse and Carron Church mid-November. Then, for St Andrews Day, on a freezing November night, the band led the torchlight procession again down South Street, cleared of traffic, into St Mary's Quad and across to The Scores and St Andrews Castle.

To mark Burns' 250th Anniversary, a mini-band played - unannounced, as a surprise - at the Scores Hotel at the end of January, receiving the highest compliments. There were further invitations to pipe in the haggis for related events, where the town piper had to cancel at short notice. In addition, solo pipers have been required for national conference events at Fairmont. Upcoming events include playing in the late evening sunset slot at St Salvator's Quad for St Andrews University Alumni Ball at the end of June, possibly the most atmospheric event of the year.



SPORTS NEWS

Athletics

On Thursday 5th February the Scottish Schools' Indoor Athletics Championships were held at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. Representing Madras were:

Fiona Bracegirdle (S6)	<i>Over 16 1500 m</i> (4th in 4 mins 59 secs)
Karen Cairns (S6)	<i>Over 16 Shot Putt</i> (9th – 7.51 metres)
Alice Morrison (S4)	<i>Over 16 Shot Putt</i> (personal best throw 8.82 metres)

Giant Heptathlon Event

On Tuesday 10th February the following pupils took part in a Giant Heptathlon Event at the Indoor Track Stadium, Dunfermline:

- S1 Freja Connell, Rhiannon Martin, Finlay Paul, Jonathan Price, Jamie Ritchie and Lauren Whyte.
S2 Stewart Addison, Emma Bowman, Calum Grewar, Iona Johnston, Michal Martin, Grace McLaren, Heather Pitblado and Euan Roger.

The Heptathlon was organised by Scottish Athletics and all the pupils competed in a 60 m sprint, 40 m hurdles, long jump, triple jump, shot putt, a one minute step up challenge and a bean bag endurance challenge. In spite of finishing in 3rd team place, the pupils gained valuable experience in competing in the Fife Schools' Event.

Lauren Whyte (S1) and Grace McLaren (S2) were selected to attend a development day at Pitreavie Indoor Track Stadium on Sunday 22nd March, as developing potential athletes.

Cross Country

On Tuesday 17th February the Fife Schools' Cross Country Championships were held at Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy.

Individual Winners

Lewis Kirk (S3) won a Silver Medal in a field of 86 S2/3 boys. Fiona Bracegirdle (S6) also won a Silver Medal in the S4/5/6 event.

Team Medals

Bronze Medal – S1 Girls: 9th Amy Reid, 11th Corryn Christie, 14th Lauren Whyte, 21st Freja Connell.
Silver Medal – S4/5/6 Girls 'A' Team: 2nd Fiona Bracegirdle, 5th Fiona Callaghan, 6th Fiona Duncan, 15th Emma Hodge.
Bronze Medal – S4/5/6 Boys: 9th Tom Le Feuvre, 12th Neil Docherty, 15th Rory Burt, 38th Iain Ronaldson.

On Saturday 14th March the Scottish Schools' Cross Country Championships were held at Irvine. Fiona Bracegirdle (S6) represented Madras College in the O17 Girls' Event and finished in 5th place out of a field of 40 runners. Fiona has been selected to represent Scotland in the British Schools' Cross Country Championships in Wales on March 28th.

Badminton



On Thursday 5th February the Fife Schools' Badminton Championships were held at the Fife Institute, Glenrothes:

<i>U14 Girls' Doubles</i>	Liv Darge, Emma Ruskuc (S1) – Silver Medal
<i>U15 Boys' Singles</i>	Aiden Flegg (S3) – Silver Medal
<i>U16 Boys' Singles</i>	Andrew Goode (S4) – Silver Medal
<i>U19 Boys' Doubles</i>	Gordon Hill, Calum McIntyre (S5) – Silver Medal

Football

U15 football team play Bishopbriggs High School in semi-final of the Scottish Cup on Wednesday 1st April. U18 team lost to Kirkcaldy High School 1-0 in the quarter final of the Scottish Cup and also play them in quarter final of the Fife Cup and in the League final.

Tom Randerson (S6) and Alan Tulleth (S5) are both in the Fife Schools' U18 squad who play Aberdeenshire Schools in the National Schools' final.

Netball

It has been another busy term for the netball squads. They have trained hard and played in a number of Fife League and Scottish Cup Games as well as Fife Tournaments.

The S1 A team are the Fife Champions for 2009. The three teams from Madras competed against 12 other teams for the title. The S1 team have also reached the quarter finals of the Scottish Cup. They play Peebles High School in this round. The S2 team were narrowly defeated in the semi finals of their Fife Tournament in February. They reached the quarter finals of the Scottish Plate but recently lost to Balwearie High School. The S3 and senior teams have been competing hard in the Fife League and have improved throughout the term.

The new strips have now arrived and are being sent to be embroidered with the school name. The girls are looking forward to wearing the new kit and looking like a team. Well done to all those who fundraised to allow us to buy them.



Swimming

The Scottish Schools' Swimming Championships were held at Tollcross, Glasgow on 31st January. Matthew Charnley (S4) represented Madras College in the Boys' 15-16 year group. Matthew finished in 2nd place in the 100 m Butterfly in a time of 1 min 1.25 secs. He also competed in the 200 m Backstroke, finishing in 7th place.

For House Match results see page 3.