



# Christmas Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

December 2010

## Rector's Note

We welcome Miss Grubb to the post of Depute Head Teacher. Among other responsibilities she has become head of Castle house.

The unusually severe weather at the end of November has resulted in the loss of a week of school, the disruption of work experience and the cancellation of our annual Christmas concert and staff pantomime. We were unable to take part in the annual St Andrews Day service. Nonetheless, the end of term arrives with its usual round of parties, carol competitions and assemblies. It is hectic but very enjoyable.

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## Assembly Performances

Many pupils have been brightening up, in some cases livening up, morning House Assemblies with their musical and theatrical talent. This has been a great addition to the assembly programme and has been much appreciated by staff and pupils alike. A full range of performances has been showcased: rock bands, piping, singing from musicals, punk bands, classical music and dance. Madras definitely has that X Factor!

### Poppy Scotland Appeal and Aids Awareness

Madras College raised £183.16 for the poppy Scotland Appeal and £59.60 for Aids Awareness week.

## Madras Meets Namibia



Twenty-five senior pupils from Madras College have been selected to take part in a life changing trip next summer to enhance the education of Namibian children. The pupils and staff have offered to give up half their summer holidays to travel to Namibia to teach in rural schools and make a difference.

Madras was originally approached by the Namibian Consul for Scotland, Alan Bernard, as he thought there was a Namibian German Teacher in the school. Although the teacher had left Madras, the school decided that this was an excellent opportunity for our pupils. We also have a Namibian pupil attending Madras. Angy Uumati, an S2 pupil, is living in St Andrews whilst her mum completes her PHD at the University. Angy is very proud that Madras pupils will be visiting her country.

The interest in the trip was overwhelming and resulted in pupils having to complete an interview process to secure a place. They are ready for the challenge and are excited to be given the chance to live with Namibian communities and learn about their culture and lifestyles.

The significance of the group's trip was reinforced when the Namibian High Commissioner and the first Secretary for the Commonwealth and Education, visited St Andrews. The pupils were honoured to have the opportunity to meet them, learn about their country and

show them around St Andrews. The pupils and staff were touched by their gratitude and vision for the trip. Martha Uumati joined the group and appealed to the pupils to help the Namibian children realise that education was vital if they wanted to get out of poverty. She hoped that they would enthuse and inspire the children.

To enhance the experience of the trip, the pupils have committed to fundraise half the cost of their flights. On top of this, they plan to raise funds to buy resources and equipment for the schools they will be visiting. They are planning various events involving the whole school and local community and hope that parents and citizens of North East Fife will support them in their mission.

If anyone feels they can offer financial support, items to be raffled, accommodation for events or materials to take to Namibia, they should contact Lynsey Seeley, Depute Headteacher at Madras College. Updates of these events will be included in the Madras College Diary.

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The Christmas and the New Year period is a time for reflection, for celebration and for looking forward. This newsletter illustrates some of the many successes that we have enjoyed since the session began. It is an opportunity for us to be proud of what has been achieved and for all of us to share in our many successes. I am pleased that we are able to continue with our regular diary page in the Citizen. This continues to be an effective, popular means of celebrating our achievements, providing information about the school and highlighting forthcoming events.

In the St Andrews Festival our singers performed in a concert at Holy Trinity and Madras College Pipe Band led the torchlight procession from South Street to the harbour. Madras College has a justifiable reputation for the impressive range of opportunities it provides for all its pupils. I am grateful to all the members of staff who devote so much of their time to this very important part of school life. On their behalf I thank you for your continuing support for all we seek to achieve.

Work is pressing ahead with the New Madras College. The education consultation ends on 22 December and we anticipate that planning consultation will begin in the New Year. A design team has been appointed and consultation meetings are under way with staff, pupils and the Local Development Group to produce a design brief. To support us, we are able to draw on work previously undertaken and I expect the brief to be completed in the near future. This is the first part of the design process, after which architects will begin the job of translating the brief into a building that I am confident will match our expectations. A new school situated on the North Haugh campus is a very exciting prospect and one I am confident you will support.

On behalf of the staff and pupils I wish you a happy Christmas and a relaxing holiday in preparation for what I know will be a busy and fulfilling New Year.



## Musical Notes

### Sydney Opera House

He'll be back.....!



Mr Bell, Principal Teacher of Music is currently on sabbatical, but is seen here playing the organ of the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, wearing the special hat presented to him by his Standard Grade Music class!

### North Fife Rotary Club

In June, Laura Ryan and Alia Linnegan (accompanied by Mr Bell) provided music at the Fortieth Anniversary Dinner of the Rotary Club of North Fife in Rufflets Hotel.

### Pipe Band

The Madras College Pipe Band have taken part in two major local events. They led the closing ceremony of the Dunhill Golf tournament and the torchlight parade through St Andrews which was part of the St Andrews week festival.

### Madras College Choir

Many of the Madras College choir took part in a large choral presentation in Holy Trinity Church which was part of the St Andrews Festival. They thoroughly appreciated working with the guest conductor, Michael Kibble White.

### Musical Outings

Two musical outings have been organised and have been enjoyed by certificate music classes this term. The first outing was to 'Carmen' which was performed by Scottish Opera in Dunfermline. An equally enjoyable trip saw pupils travelling to the Whitehall Theatre in Dundee to see an amateur production of 'Oliver'.

### Piano Masterclass and Concert

Organised by Mrs MacLeod, piano pupils had the opportunity to hear Richard Meyrick lead this event in Queen Anne High School, Dunfermline last June. Of the Madras pupils, Ruairidh Tarvet volunteered to play and subsequently received constructive comments on his performance. The concert in the evening was very impressive and pupils heard a wide range of piano repertoire performed to the highest standard.

### External Music Examinations

Pupils from Madras College continue to participate in external music examinations (Associated Board and Trinity/Guildhall). Pupils who have passed include: Annie Philpott, Lindsay Wright, Cameron Mackay, Kirsty Liggat, Callum Sinclair, Andrew Whyte, Rory Lamb, Jennifer Rae, Paul Sinclair, Emma Ruskuc, Ruairidh James, Laure McInnes, Lauren Whyte, Joanna Rickman, Alisdair Halkett, Eleanor Linton, Ailsa McGhee, Calum Willison, Ruairidh Miller, Rosanna Miller, Sara Valentine, Katrina Cruickshank, Owain Simpson, Katrina Himpson, Alia Linnegan, Rachel Gillespie, Megan Pettegree, Liv Darge, Rebecca Weir, Freya Simpson, Emily Wright, Clodagh Ryan, Jamie Macleod and former pupils Charlotte Sloan, William Johnston, Emma Hodge and Gordon Hill.



# Drama



# Art News

## THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Drama pupils have had an exciting time visiting major theatre productions recently.

A large group of senior pupils saw the National Theatre of Scotland production of 'Black Watch' at the SECC in Glasgow. This popular production presented a realistic portrayal of the history and present day life of the Black Watch regiment.

Senior pupils also visited Edinburgh to see 'The Importance of Being Earnest' at the Royal Lyceum Theatre and 'Doll's House' at Dundee rep.

S4 pupils will be visiting Dundee Rep to see 'Sleeping Beauty' to enable them to complete their SQA evaluation work.

## THE RIVALS

*The Rivals* production continues apace Zounds! Gad! Odd! It will now be on in late February (28th and onwards for 4 performances) in full 18th century costume with wigs and fans.

Do come and see what was on in the theatre while the Madras College founder Andrew Bell was a mere stripling of a lad.

## LONDON TRIP

For the 9th year running 30 pupils with Mrs Esler, Mr Dewar, and Mr Darge tripped the light fantastic out of St Andrews and headed down to London for a full programme of theatre and to experience the delights of this August city. The team went to the theatre to see *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller and Shakespeare's *Henry IV Part One*. They went up the London Eye and down the river Thames. They dined in style at The Real Greek Restaurant on the banks of the river after having been to the Globe. The brave ones climbed to the top of Christopher Wren's St Paul's Cathedral and the not so brave stayed below in the Whispering Gallery.

On Sunday, before the long journey north the happy band danced the conga in Trafalgar Square and saw themselves on the huge screen which had been erected for a festival event in the square. It was a wonderful trip with a terrifically cheerful, witty, interested group of pupils.

The three teachers look forward to this trip from one year to the next. "When one is tired of London, one is tired of life". We are already looking forward to our tenth journey south.

## • Causing Chaos

In September Mrs Houston and Ms Braggins accompanied the S6 art pupils to The St Andrews Museum to see an exhibition called. "Causing Chaos". We were given an in depth introduction to the sculptors work by Diana Sykes the director of Fife Contemporary art and Craft. The intention of the sculptors was to challenge balance, functionality, and use of materials.

## • S4 Trip to Gallery of Modern Art

On Thursday, 30th September the Art department went on their annual Art Gallery trip. The trip was a great success with pupils able to see their favourite works first hand.

## • Nick Sharratt



Nick Sharratt the Famous illustrator for Jaqueline Wilson books, notably Tracy Beaker, came to the St Andrews Book Carnival in South Street. Ten lucky Art pupils from S1 to S4 were invited to attend a master class. He showed examples of his work from his childhood and how he developed his style, through art college and beyond. He then set a task for them to design a cover for a Jaqueline Wilson Cook Book and gave them all advice. He was very approachable and signed books for the pupils as well.

## Staffing Changes

This session we welcomed Mr N Baillie, temporary teacher of English, Ms J Braggins, temporary teacher of Art, Miss P McIntyre, teacher of Biology, Ms J MacLaren, teacher of Pupil Support, Mrs F Page, temporary teacher in D.A.S., Mrs J Petrie, temporary teacher of Art, Mr E Reid, teacher in Pupil Support, Mr G Reid, temporary teacher in Chemistry, Mrs N Smith, teacher in PE and Mr K Wishart Principal teacher of Guidance in Blackfriars House. We also welcomed two new probationers, Mr S Povey in Music and Ms M Roslik in Biology.

We welcomed back Ms A Stewart to the Art department after a year's secondment at Buckhaven High School and Mr P Gibbins to the Department of Additional Support. We also welcomed Mrs P Jarvis to a temporary office post.

We wished Mr J Miller, Brass instructor, a happy retirement. His successor is Ms R Mair. Mrs Bartholomew, cello instructor, has also retired and will be replaced by Mrs F Macleod in January. We would like to thank Mrs P Woodburne for covering this post in the interim.

Our grateful thanks are passed to all the supply staff who have worked with us over the last two terms: Mrs A Bankhead, Mrs I Bletcher, Mrs I Copland, Mrs M Gourlay, Mr M Mitchell, Mr J Shepherd and Mr D Simpson. Our thanks also go to the Readers and Scribes who have provided an invaluable service during the S4 prelim exams.

## The Amazing Beastles Art competition

The drawings for this competition are currently being displayed in the Byre Theatre, St Andrews. Ten pupils (S4 – S6) from Madras College entered this competition. Congratulations to Dana Druka (S4) who gained a commendation for her excellent work.

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# Top of the Class Bulbs Project

The S3 XL group, as part of their SQA Personal Development Course, ran the Top of the Class Bulb enterprise project in September/October. This was the first time the group had run an enterprise, putting into practice their teamwork, organisation and interpersonal skills. The pupils ran the entire project which involved planning, organising promotion and advertising, distributing the bulb orders, collecting money and banking. All up the group made a profit of £172 for the school. We would like to thank everyone who supported this project and congratulations to Cara (S3)



who raised the most amount, for the second year in a row. We look forward to seeing some lovely flowers blooming around the school and local gardens in the Spring.

## Madras College: St Andrews

### Community Council Award Winners 2010

Congratulations to Hamish Matheson, our local community gardener and the Department of Additional Support for being one of the St Andrews Community Council Floral Award Winners 2010. Louise Roger from the St Andrews Botanic Garden presented the Yvonne Stewart-Meiklejohn Shield at a special ceremony in the Council Chambers on Thursday 23rd September. This is an award designed primarily for St Andrews' churches and demonstrates just how excellent the hanging baskets, tubs and planters were this year at Hope Park Church. Well done.

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## Theatre Trips

In November, the English Department took 60 senior pupils to see Ibsen's "A Doll's House" at Dundee Rep. Many of our regular theatre-goers as well as a few new faces greatly enjoyed the production. Despite changing the time period in which the play was set, from the 1880s to the 1950s, pupils agreed that many of the themes of the play, such as lies and deception, appearances versus reality and self knowledge are still relevant today. The set design was also commented upon – a doll's house design in which the audience could see all the rooms at once.

We also ran a smaller trip to see "Hamlet" at the Byre theatre in St Andrews. Mainly S5 pupils enjoyed a somewhat different interpretation of one of Shakespeare's most famous plays.

Next trip will be to see "A View from the Bridge" in February.

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## Paired Reading

This year, first year pupils are being offered the opportunity to take part in a project called Madras Paired Reading Club. It is a new initiative which aims to help pupils experiencing difficulty in reading through peer learning. Studies have shown that it may help raise levels in reading, leading to children being more motivated to work and having increased confidence in school. It follows a tried and tested method which has been refined over many years. Emphasis is placed on reading for understanding and enjoyment. It encourages pupil and tutor to talk about the text or book and a rapport is built up.

The Paired Reading Club project is managed by teachers from the English and Learning Support Departments and the school librarians. It runs on Wednesdays during lunch. If you have any questions about the project please contact Mr Jason Hynes.

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## Ohio Exchange

by Emma Sunter

In the October holidays fifteen lucky Madras pupils travelled to Upper Arlington, in the state of Ohio, as part of the American exchange. Even after the long seven hour flight the pupils were excited to meet and get to know their host partners and families. During the day the pupils got to experience American school life, visit a theme park, watch an American State University football game and of course do some shopping in the malls. They enjoyed the warmer weather and some even experienced a tornado alarm drill.



The Americans had many interesting comments about the Scottish accent and the pupils were even complemented on their outstanding English speaking skills. The hosts impressed them with their driving skills as they can learn to drive from the age of fifteen. The pupils will reunite with their exchange partners in March 2011 when the Americans visit Scotland.

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## LATIN LUNCHESES

by Théadora Blackadder

Madras College is one of the few comprehensive schools in Scotland which still teaches Latin. The subject remains popular at the school not only because it's incredibly interesting but because of the effort teacher, Mr Lawrenson, puts into making the subject as entertaining as possible for students. Mr Lawrenson recently started running a club called Latin Lunches for first to third year pupils at Kilrymont Road. The students meet during lunchtimes and take part in various Latin related activities such as translating myths and legends into English. The pupils create projects and are currently creating a Roman deck of cards. As well as running the lunch time club, Mr Lawrenson organises and assists pupil participation in the Latin speaking competitions held at St Andrews University.

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## Junior Debating

The junior debaters have had a successful start to the year with a team progressing to the second round of the East of Scotland Debater Competition. Third year pupils Emma Ruskuc and Aine Dodman gained their place in the next round by summarising for the proposition that this house would introduce a minimum price on alcohol.

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## Road Safety

by *Lauren Russell*

As the current fifth years near the age of 17 and are soon to begin driving, they attended the annual road safety talk for school pupils held in Glenrothes. Different to other school talks, this one involved many people who had first-hand experiences with road traffic accidents. The very emotional stories told by those who had themselves been involved or were related to those who had been involved in traffic accidents moved everyone who attended. One aspect which was particularly effective was how everything was told in great detail. This allowed pupils to understand just how important road safety is. The day proved to be very thought-provoking and undoubtedly raised awareness of the huge importance of road safety.

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## Young Enterprise

by *Théadora Blackadder*

Fifth and sixth year pupils from Madras College involved in 'Young Enterprise' recently attended a trade fair at the Kingdom Shopping Centre in Glenrothes. The pupils made up two teams, each with their own range of products, and sold them to the other attending schools and members of the public. The products included beauty and bath items created by the team 'Fruitful Opportunities' and a jewellery range from 'Button It Up'. Fruitful Opportunities made £32 and Button It Up made an enormous £110. The teams were judged on various aspects of their products and its presentation. The winners will then go through to the next round of the competition in Glasgow, with results to be announced in March. Everyone greatly enjoyed the day and found the whole experience to be truly rewarding, independent of the result.

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## Madras Radio Christmas Podcast

The Madras College journalism team have created their very own Christmas special radio show. You'll find great Christmas music, teacher interviews, shopping tips and more at <http://www.radiowaves.co.uk/madrascollegeradio>.

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## National Poetry Day

This year the theme was "Home" and what it means. Is it Britain? Scotland? St Andrews? your street? your house? Classes looked at poems by Carol Ann Duffy, Iain Crichton Smith and Hamish Maclaren before writing their own piece to show what home meant to them.

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## Oral History Archives

Senior pupils have been interviewing former pupils and rectors for the Madras Archive group; trying to capture what it was like at Madras in the past.

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## Blueprint

The Christmas edition of Madras College's Blueprint magazine goes on sale during the last week of term.

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## Pick up a Pen Club

Budding writers in S1 – S3 meet every Thursday at lunchtimes to enjoy a varied menu of writing activities. There is also the opportunity to enter writing competitions.

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## Week off school

by *Lindsay Wright*

A few weeks ago, school pupils swapped studying for sledging as across Fife they were given a week of holidays due to the severe snowy weather. The closure came as a surprise to Madras pupils as it has been a long time since the school has been closed for snow. Although this seemed like a holiday to the pupils, they will now have to catch up on a week of missed schoolwork before the Christmas Holidays, so maybe they won't be asking for more snow days after all!

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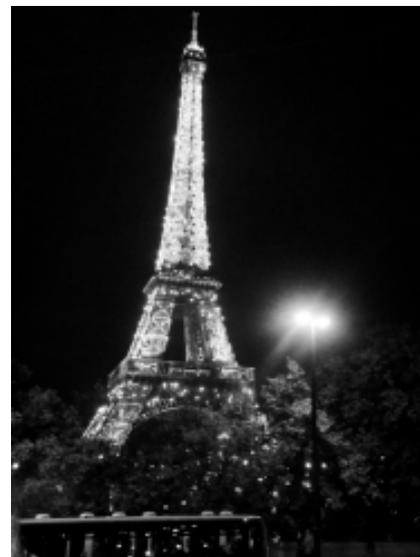
## Octobre à Paris by Lindsay Wright

During the holidays, six languages pupils from Madras College left for a four day trip to Paris accompanied by the head of Languages, Mrs. McCartney. This was an amazing opportunity and the pupils visited many famous places in the historic town. The Musée d'Orsay, Louvre, Champs Elysées, Arc de Triomphe, Sacré-Coeur, Galeries Lafayette and, of course, the Eiffel Tower were all included. The group saw a great many works of art.

The students were even lucky enough to take a Paris by Night tour on an open top bus and see the Eiffel Tower lit up at night. For many it was their first visit to Paris; even using the Metro was an exciting experience.

It was an ideal environment for practising the language, and the Parisians were all very tolerant of the Scottish pupils' attempts at speaking French! The French cuisine was fantastic, the highlight for many was eating crêpes on the Champs Elysées and profiteroles at the Chartier restaurant.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all those involved and was something that will stay with the group for a long time.



The Eiffel Tower at night

## CSV Action Earth - Best Regeneration Project 2010

Madras College in St Andrews has been awarded runner up for Best Regeneration Project 2010 by CSV Action Earth.

Money raised through ENTRUST, the school's Parent Council and the Bell Fund, enabled the school's Eco-Club to realise a garden area they had identified as urgently needing improvement. With the help of a local landscape company, 'Creating Eden', they designed a resource that could engage with teaching and learning and involve the community. The school's Department of Additional Support, Fife Ranger volunteers and Skills for Work groups all made an important contribution.

CSV Action Earth, which is sponsored by Morrison's, funded a small school project in March. A £50 grant the school received helped to make the newly built Kilrymont garden, an orchard. Consequently, the school was nominated for an award in the Regeneration category and a small film the Eco-Club had made (on a mobile phone), which further highlighted the school's achievements, became an important part of the continuing application process.

## Eco Club Visits Botanic Garden

On 3rd November some S1-6 members of the Eco-Club went to the St Andrews Botanic Gardens where they met Sandy and learned about 'Lasagna Composting' – and other techniques to help us look after our raised vegetable beds over the winter.

To create your very own lasagna composting patch in your garden, all you need are layers of cardboard (at the bottom), followed by layers of leaves, newspaper and grass cuttings; which you then soak with water. By Spring, not only should all the organic matter be composted into the soil, but there should also be fewer weeds to take care of when preparing for your sowing.

We were also given a lecture on winter vegetables and garden techniques, before we were shown how to plant garlic bulbs and broad beans. When we return in the Spring, we will be able to see how well everything has turned out.

It was also great to see Mrs Robertson, who turned up voluntarily to help us out. Thanks very much to everyone involved in making the day a success!

Mark Nicoll (S6)

## Going for the Second Green Flag

After consulting with Suzzi McGuiggan at Eco-Schools Scotland, we now have an inspection date for late March 2011. To qualify, not only do we have to keep on top of Litter, Waste Management and our Grounds; we also have to address other issues, including Energy, Transport, Biodiversity, Water and Global Citizenship.

We have a dedicated group of teachers and pupils who voluntarily contribute their help and time to this end. We are working hard on a number of areas and have already enjoyed a number of successes this year. This is impressive considering the size of Madras College and the fact that it's a split site school.

The Eco-club would like to thank everyone for all their help and dedication and hope we can continue to work together with our great teachers, concerned parents and environmentally conscientious pupils. Thanks very much!

James Primmer (S3)  
Eco-Club Chairman

## Waste Paper Recycling



Madras College recycles paper waste once a week at each site. Since the creation of our 3 new gardens, we've introduced a number of composting areas to help minimize waste as part of the process of qualifying for our second Eco-Schools Green Flag. We now have three reasonably large areas where we can compost organic waste. This has been very useful this year as we've enjoyed our first major harvest from the two new gardens we finished and managed to seed last year. As well as this Alanna Ratcliffe (S1) will be looking after a Wormery which will also be used to break down organic waste, starting in the Spring. She's looking forward to bottling the amazing juice that the worms will make and using it as fertilizer . . . Yummy!

Maude Woolf (S3)

## Green Map Application

Members of the Eco-Club are developing a Green Map for St Andrews which will help highlight the greener sides of our lovely town. The Green Map, as well as being available in printed form, will also be incorporated into an iPhone application which can be downloaded at Apple's iTunes. The software will also be available for Android users too and will therefore be available to tourists, visitors, students, pupils, residents and any other interested parties from anywhere in the world.

When the Eco-Club registered with Green Map, who are based in New York, Wendy Brewar gave them the contact details for Mike Avery, who is an enthusiastic

environmentalist and campaigner in Scotland, and who has already designed a Green Map for some of the villages in the west of Fife. Mike kindly agreed to come to the school and gave interested members throughout the school a chat about the possibilities and purposes of making their own Green Map.

The Green Map will highlight cycle routes, cultural spots, fair trade shops, organic shops and any business that promotes sustainability and any place of wild life significance as well as recycling areas and parks. To have a look at our new project have a look at: <http://www.greenmap.org/greenhouse/en/home>.

## FOOTBALL

The U18 team is having an outstanding season having won 11 out of 11 games. The team is top of the east section of the league and are in the quarter finals of the Fife Cup and the 4th round of the Scottish Cup. Jordan Davidson and William Finlay, both S6, have represented Fife Schools in the U18 squad. Tom Whyte (S3) has represented Fife Schools in the U15 squad.

## GIRLS' HOCKEY

The S1, 2, 3 and 1st XI teams have had mixed results this season but continue to practise with commitment and determination. An unprecedented number of games and tournaments have had to be cancelled because of the inclement weather. Hopefully, the weather will be more favourable after the holidays.

## SCOTTISH SCHOOLS' JUNIOR CUP TENNIS



Pictured are L to R: Aidan Flegg, Sholto Cocris, Mr Darge, Oliver Cocris and Ruaridh MacLeod

Madras College junior team featuring: Aidan Flegg, Oliver Cocris, Ruaridh MacLeod and Sholto Cocris, won the Scottish Schools Junior Cup at Craiglockhart Tennis Centre on September 16th. Having beating Heriot's School 6-0 and Merchiston Tennis Academy 5-1, the boys proceeded to beat Hutcheson's Boys' Grammar School in a closely contested final. With Ruaridh Macleod the only player to win a singles match, Madras doubles partnerships of Oliver and Ruaridh with Aidan Flegg and Sholto Cocris won both doubles in style which tied the match. The whole match was then decided by a tie break shoot out, leaving Oliver and Ruaridh to snatch victory for Madras. The Madras College Team will now represent Scotland in a British Schools Competition.

Although Madras College, both Boys and Girls, have won the Scottish Schools Senior Cup on many occasions previously, this is the first time that the Junior Cup has come to Madras College. Well done boys.

## 53rd Kiel Exchange Visit



Thirty-two S3 and S4 pupils, accompanied by Miss Orem, Mr Irving and Mr Fox, travelled to Kiel at the end of June to take part in the 53rd exchange visit. After an early flight from Edinburgh, the group arrived in Bremen in time for a German breakfast before boarding a coach to Kiel.

On arrival in Kiel we were met by Frau Sendler-Steer (wearing her exclusive Madras-Kiel hoodie) and many excited families. The S4 pupils were reunited with their German partners whom they had hosted last year and the S3 pupils, who were slightly apprehensive, met their partners for the first time.

Our stay in Kiel coincided with the famous "Kieler Woche" (international sailing regatta) and with the World Cup. The "Kieler Woche" culminated in a magnificent fireworks display on the Sunday evening. Many pupils had spent that afternoon watching the Germany v England football match on huge screens in the city centre where the atmosphere was amazing.

During our visit we attended classes at the "Gelehrtenschule", went on a walking tour of Kiel, visited the open air museum at Molfsee and travelled by train to Lubeck where most of us sampled the famous "Niederegger" marzipan. We also travelled by coach to the North Sea coast where we went on a guided "Wattwanderung" – a walk across mudflats. We were very muddy when we eventually reached an island for lunch. It was a relief to relax in the sun for a while before boarding a boat to take us back to the mainland. We stopped off in Friedrichstadt, a small, most picturesque Dutch-style town on the way back to Kiel.

The Farewell Evening brought the host families, pupils and staff together. Herr Schoeneich, the head teacher, said a few words before an evening of musical entertainment and Scottish dancing began. Performers included Alexander Fyffe, Abbi King, Rory Lamb, Kirsty Liggatt, Joanne McKinstry, Ruth Reid, Corinna Rengger and Rory White.

The next morning, after a number of tears had been shed, the Madras group headed by coach for Bremen to do some more sightseeing before flying back to Edinburgh in the evening.

Another successful exchange. We are already looking forward to the 54th exchange in 2011.



# INFORMATION

## Fife Council

### *School Closure Information for Parents*

As early as possible on the morning of severe weather or other situations such as water, heating and building problems, there will be an update of what information is available and that parents can access from their home. Further updates will be given throughout the day. So when the severe weather starts you should:

- Listen to Kingdom FM (95.2 and 96.1), Radio Forth (97.3), Radio Tay (102.8 and 96.4) or other local radio stations
- Or call the Council's Closure line on 08451 55 11 99
- Or log on to [www.fifedirect.org.uk/news](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/news)
- Or access the information on your Sky or Virgin digital set-top box. See 'Fife Council TV' on the A-Z of Services on [www.fifedirect.org.uk](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk), or in the Useful Guide to Council Services

#### **PLEASE USE THESE OPTIONS BEFORE TRYING TO CALL YOUR SCHOOL**

##### **FOR PARENTS/CARERS – using Fife Council Closure Line**

- Call 08451 55 11 99.
- Choose
  - 1 – for Kirkcaldy Schools,
  - 2 – for East and Levenmouth Schools,
  - 3 – for Cowdenbeath, Glenrothes and Lochgelly Schools, or
  - 4 – for Dunfermline, Inverkeithing and West Schools.
- Then choose
  - 1 – for Primary,
  - 2 – for Secondary,
  - 3 – for Other Establishments.
- Schools will be listed in alphabetical order so listen carefully for your school.

#### **HOLIDAYS**

##### **Christmas**

Wednesday 22 December 2010 to Tuesday 4th January 2011

##### **February (two days)**

Thursday 17th and Friday 18th February 2011

##### **Easter**

Monday 4th to Friday 15th April 2011

##### **Good Friday**

Friday 22nd April 2011

##### **May Day**

Monday 2nd May 2011

##### **June (single day)**

Monday 6th June 2011

##### **Summer**

Monday 4th July to Friday 12th August 2011

#### **IN-SERVICE DAYS**

Wednesday 5th January 2011  
Wednesday 16th February 2011  
Tuesday 7th June 2011

#### **EXAMINATIONS**

##### **S5/6 Prelims**

Monday 24th January to Wednesday 9th February 2011

##### **S3 Exams**

Friday 29th April to Monday 16th May 2011

##### **SQA Exams**

Tuesday 3rd May to Wednesday 8th June 2011

*Please note the S4 Art exams are week beginning 25th April 2011*

#### **PARENTS' EVENINGS**

**S2** Monday 14th February 2011  
**S3** Monday 23rd May 2011  
**S4** Tuesday 22nd February 2011