

Athletics

An S1, S2 and S3 athletics match was held between Albyn, St Margaret's and Robert Gordon's College on Thursday 18th May at Milltimber. After a number of track and field events the College were awarded the trophy for the best overall school.

Badminton

Senior Boys Champion - Logan Neave (S5)

Runner Up - David Ross (S5)

Senior Girl Champion - Louise Fleming (S4)

Runner Up - Jennifer Kennedy (S5)

Junior Girl Champion - Fiona Farquharson (S1)

Runner Up - Jessica Ouston (S2)

Chemistry

The Analytical Chemistry Team has been invited to participate in the National final of the Royal Society of Chemistry National Schools' Analyst Competition at the University of Lincoln in June. The team comprises Emil Hewage, Peter Frampton (both S6) and James Merrett (S5).

Girls' Hockey

The following girls have been selected for the Scottish U16 Hockey Squad: Louise Fleming, Claire Hunter and Morag Hardie (all S4).

The following girls have been selected for the U15 North District squad to play in the forthcoming Inter District Tournament being held at Countesswells in June: Kirsten Gilbert, Emma Ross, Sarah

Merrett (all S3), Lyndsay Ackers, Emily Thompson, Eli Workman, Suzi Blake and Julia Fleming (all S2).

Mathematics

The Scottish Mathematical Council MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE 2005-2006

Junior Gold: Corrie Robertson (S2); Heather Robertson (S2); Emma Wood (S2); Baocong Xia (S2); Glenn Bowen (S2)

Middle Gold: Jennifer Allan (S3); Christie Noble (S4);

Senior Gold Imogen Whiteside (S6); Denesh Srikantharajah (S5)

Music

Trinity College – Grade Exams

March 06: Beady Rice (S4) - Grade 4 Flute - Merit; James O'Kelly (S5) - Grade 6 Clarinet; Amy Lyon (S3) - Grade 5 Saxophone - Distinction; Cameron Skerrow (S2) - Grade 3 Saxophone - Merit; Eli Evans (S2) - Grade 2 Cornet - Merit; Michael Sawaryn (S2) - Grade 5 Trombone - Distinction; J. Calum Whyte (S3) - Grade 5 Euphonium - Merit; Oliver Brown (S2) - Grade 4 French Horn - Distinction; Keith Riddoch (S2) Grade 5 Euphonium - Merit; Andrew McLaren (S2) - Grade 3 Trumpet - Merit; Andrew Murray (S3) Grade 4 French Horn - Merit; Luke Borwell (S2) Grade 5 Euphonium - Merit; Stuart Clark (S2) - Grade 3 Trumpet - Distinction; David Livingstone (S2) - Grade 3 French Horn - Distinction; Stuart Allan (S3) - Grade 5 Tenor Horn - Merit; Michael Thornton (S1) - Grade 3 French Horn - Distinction.

June 06: Meghann Trotter (S6) - Grade 5 Flute; Oluwatosin Ogidan (S1) - Grade 3 Saxophone - Distinction; Christina

Johnston (S2) - Grade 4 Saxophone - Merit; Jessica Bonwell (P7) - Grade 2 Euphonium - Merit; Iain MacLeod (S6) - Grade 3 French Horn - Distinction; Jonathon Brown (S2) - Grade 3 Trumpet; Sarah Chedburn (S6) Grade 8 Cornet; Julia Redman (S4) - Grade 6 Trumpet; Daniel Sprague (S6) - Grade 8 Trumpet; Adam Foster (S6) - Grade 6 Trumpet; Joy Wigg (S6) Grade 8 Cornet - Distinction; Sam Paul (S5) Grade 8 French Horn - Distinction; David Pearce (S3) - Grade 6 Trumpet - Distinction; Phillip Ouston (S4) - Grade 6 Saxophone; Caitlin Ward (S5) - FC Singing; Georgina Hunt (S6) - Grade 8 Singing.

Associated Board Music Exam

Nina Scott (S3) - Grade 4 Flute - Merit.

Physics

Physics Challenge

The following S4 pupils obtained Commendation Awards in what proved to be a very challenging examination in the competition organised as part of the British Physics Olympiad: Maxim Collinson, Cristina Evans, Joanna Farmer, Tejas Guruswamy, Ross Miller, Lewis Morton, Jamie Niven, Christie Noble, Debbie Scott and Emma Thornton.

Tennis

The Girls Tennis team are through to the last eight of the Scottish Schools Cup. They are playing Madras College on June 1st in St Andrews.

Joanna Henderson (S1) continues to do well and is regularly competing in British U12 / U14 Tournaments. She has also been selected to represent Britain in an event in Belgium over the Summer.

COLOURS AND MERIT AWARDS MARCH 2006

COLOURS

CCF (RAF)

Peter Frampton (6C1) - Re-award, Emil Hewage (6S1) - Re-award, Andrew Charles (6S1) - Re-award, Lauren Rodman (6B2) - Re-award, Richard Beckett (6T2)

CCF (Army)

Fraser Maitland (6S1) - Re-award, Scott Ben Brahim (6B1) - Re-award, Aaron Gao (5T2), Craig Hawthorne (5T2), Robert Farrell (5S1)

DANCE

Caitlin Ward (5C1)

GIRLS' HOCKEY

Stephanie Nagel (5T2), Ellie Gill (5T1)

BOYS' HOCKEY

Graeme Johnstone (6B2) - Re-award, Ian Coffey (5T2), David Deboys (6S1)

MUSIC

Naomi Williams (6T1)

NETBALL

Lauren Pirie (5S2)

RUGBY

Mitchell Craig (6T2), David MacPherson (6S2)

SKIING

Seonaid Crosby (6T1)

SWIMMING

Adrian O'Neill (5S1) - Re-award, Claire McDonald (6C2)

MERIT AWARDS

ATHLETICS

Rowan Frost (6B2)

BIOLOGY

Andrew Swift (6T2)

CCF (Army)

Katherine Innes (6C1)

CCF (RAF)

Jonathan Leslie (6T2)

CHAMBER CHOIR

Stephanie Buchan (6C1), Adam Foster (6C1), Laura Chiverton (6C2), Georgina Hunt (6C2), Samantha Pearce (6C2), Chris Hales (6C2), Cassie Connell (6S1), Patrick Skene (6S1), Darren Eggenschwiler (6S1), Douglas Sangster (6S1), Anna Brand (6S2), Naomi Williams (6T1), Rebekah Wendes (6T2)

CHEMISTRY

Andrew Charles (6S1), Peter Frampton (6C1), Winston Ho (6B1), Emil Hewage (6S1)

JASPARS

Katie Gill (6T1), Adam Ingram (6B1), Mhairi Lindsay (6C2), Claire McDonald (6C2), Niall Mackenzie (6C2), Tania Robinson (6T1)

JUNIOR SCHOOL ICT

Tania Robinson (6T1), John West (6B1), Chris Currie (6C2), Alasdair Elder (6S1), Niall MacKenzie (6C2), Ross McDougall (6T2)

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

Stephanie Reid (6S2), Joanne Robertson (6C2), Claire McDonald (6C2), Mhairi Lindsay (6C2)

NETBALL

Emma Clark (6T2), Caroline Yap (6T1)

ORCHESTRA

Stephanie Buchan (6C1), Laura Chiverton (6C1), Hamish Naismith (6S1), Cassie Connell (6S1)

PIPE BAND

Iain Munro (6T1)

RUGBY

Tom Edgely (6C2), Alasdair Elder (6S1), Iain Munro (6T1), Jonathan Milne (6S2), Niall MacKenzie (6C2), Matthew Allan (6C1), Christopher Hales (6C2), Jason Fong ((6B1), Robert Gallon (6S2), Lewis Cameron (6S2), Max Schneider (6S2), Adam Ingram (6B1)

SCIENCE CLUB

Matthew Smith (6T2), Andrew Charles (6S1)

SENIOR CONCERT BAND

Iain MacLeod (6B1), Daniel Sprague (6B2), James Whittall (6B2), Adam Foster (6C1), Samantha Pearce (6C2), Chris Hales (6C2), Georgina Hunt (6C2), Joy Wigg (6S1), Robert Gallon (6S2), Seonaid Crosby (6T1), Naomi Williams (6T1), Sarah Chedburn (6T1), Meghann Trotter (6T2)

SKIING

John Grant (6S1)

S6 YEARBOOK

Judy Frary (6S2), Megan Herd (6S2), Joanne Robertson (6C2), Jing Wang (6B1), Lauren Rodman (6B2), Meghann Trotter (6T2), Rachel Brodie (6T1), Patrick Gray (6C2), Matthew Smith (6T2), Matthew Allan (6C1), Cassie Connell (6S1), Makela Milne (6C2), Stephanie Reid (6S2), Sophie Volker (6S2), Sarah Lumsden (6S2)

BLACKFRIARS HOUSE

Ruaridh Jackson (6B2), Sarah Lumsden (6B2)

SILLERTON HOUSE

Connie Mithen (6S2), David MacPherson (6S2), Robert Gallon (6S2), Alasdair Elder (6S1)

STRALOCH HOUSE

Rachel Brodie (6T1), Emma Clark (6T2), Francesca Worsman (6T2)

Netball champions

"Glasgow 2 miles" the sign read, and the whole bus erupted with cheers. Within half an hour all 3 squads would be in their kit and prepared to play netball. The 2nd year team started the day with a well-earned win against Taylor High School with a finishing score of 23-8, claiming the title of Scottish Cup Champions. So with the 2nd years in an elevated mood, the cheering began for the 1st years' consolation match and on the neighbouring court, the semi final of the Senior team. The matches began with the shriek of the whistle and when it sounded for the final time the 1st years had won a conclusive victory against Castlehead High School with a winning score of 20 - 6. The Senior squad continued the trend by beating their semi-final opponents. Unfortunately St Columba's deprived them of gold, winning 40-31. However, when the squads gradually regressed back to the bus, every member had a smile on their face and the knowledge that they had claimed victory.

Nikola Tait



Individual Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Robin Johnson (S2), Angus Forfar (S2) and Dmitri Olayzola (S1) who were chosen to take part in the National Boys Choir of Scotland and toured Northern Ireland with the choir in May. Dmitri has also been offered a place with the National Youth Music Theatre out of more than 1500 young people who auditioned. He will be performing in 'The Stones are Hatching' in London in August. Angus has been chosen to sing the part of Miles in the opera 'The Turn of the Screw' in the forthcoming Aberdeen International Youth Festival. Congratulations also to Fraser Maitland (S6) who won all 5 senior categories at the annual Strathmore Junior Piping competition held in Kirriemuir Saturday 29 April. Well done to Sean Greaves (S1), Mark Greaves (P7), Struan Ormston (S1) and Ailie Ormston (P7) who all achieved their Black Belts (1st Dan) in Choi Kwang Do.

Founder's Day speaker 2006

We will be welcoming former pupil Rob Watt back to Robert Gordon's as this year's Founder's Dayspeaker. After leaving Gordon's in 1977, Rob joined the Metropolitan Police in London, but his passion for travelling and exploring the world soon led him on to build his career as a documentary filmmaker and television producer. He has many fascinating tales of his travels which is sure to make him a very interesting and informative Founder's Day speaker.



Oceanlab talk and experiment

For two of our Biology lessons 1/3 and 1/4 were visited by Marine Biologist Nikki King from Oceanlab, University of Aberdeen. Nikki gave us an interesting and informative talk on her research. She showed us some amazing footage of deep sea fish and explained how all of the equipment such as the deep sea landers she uses work. We learnt how different the environment is on the sea bed, what fish have to do and how they have evolved so that they can survive and the amount of pressure the water can cause.

We then carried out an experiment to find out what water pressure can do to a polystyrene cup. We came up with our hypothesis, recorded the diameter of the top and base of the cup and then decorated them – for some reason Andrew's had a lot about football! Some people also decorated a full sized polystyrene head.

A few weeks later Nikki returned with our cups. She



had placed them in a pressure cabin and remarkably the cups were exactly the same with the only difference they were ten times smaller than before.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed our visit from Nikki and hope we will continue to have experiences like it throughout Senior School.

Erin Hopps 1C1



Sweet music

RGC pupils who make up the various musical ensembles within the college recently took part in a two-day recording session in the MacRobert Hall, the result of which will be a unique CD entitled 'Music from the Auld Hoose'.

The CD is currently in the production stages and will officially be launched on Founder's Day next term.

Debating

On Saturday 29 April two teams from RGC – Michael Sim and Joy Molyneux; Katherine Duncan and Joanna Farmer – took part in the Under 16 International Competition for Young Debaters Finals' Day.

After three rounds of debate both RGC teams reached the final of four teams. Joanna Farmer won the prize for best speaker on the tab; Katherine Duncan was named best speaker in the final; and the team of Joanna and Katherine won the competition.

Mrs D Gotts

Shooting Awards

RGC Combined Cadet Force teams enjoyed considerable success in the annual Wapinschaw Shooting competition at Blackdog Ranges on the 30th April, winning a total of 5 of the 10 cadet trophies awarded. A Senior and Junior team from RGC entered and both shot well, with the Junior team winning four trophies. The Senior team won the exciting falling plates competition for the second year running.

The Wapinschaw competition, which involves adults and cadets from Aberdeen and the North East, has its origins as far back as 1424 when, under James 1 the parliament, sitting at Perth, passed the Act which read: "it is ordanyt in ilk scherifdome of ye realme ther be maid Wapynschawing four tymis l' ye zer".

The Aberdeen competition dates from 1496, with the "modern" competition starting in July 1862. Queen Victoria presented the first prizes and this tradition was continued by King Edward VII and King George V.

The top Individual Junior Score (Cadet Quaich) went



Above: Members of the RAF teams with Mr John Smart, Lord Lieutenant for Kincardineshire, who presented the trophies.

to Thomas Raeburn of the RAF section. The RAF section won the Top Junior Team (Cadet Shield), Top Cadet Forces Team (Home Guard Cup) and the Top Junior + Senior Teams (Highlander's Shield), while the Army Section Team was the winner of the Falling Plates Competition.

Mr D W Montgomery, Sqd Ldr

Development News

In August 1881 Robert Gordon's Hospital became Robert Gordon's College. Boarding was phased out, and in September 1882 a new generation of day boys swept in. We would like to know if anyone has had relatives at the College since that time. We already know of one family who are on their fifth generation, dating back to that time. We would like to mount an exhibition to mark the College's 125th year in 2007. If you and your family can go back as many generations, please contact us at:

The Development Office
Robert Gordon's College
Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1FE
f.loughrey@rgc.aberdeen.sch.uk





Sports Day competitors put on a great show



The RGC 2006 Sports Day went ahead on Saturday 27 May thanks to some sterling work by the Countesswells Ground Staff who ensured that the playing fields were in excellent condition despite the heavy rain that had fallen beforehand. Throughout the afternoon, pupils produced some first rate performances and some very close finishes, particularly in the keenly contested House relays. Among the best individual achievements of the day were the 100m/200m performances of Lizzie Skingley who equalled the S3 girls 100m record and set new figures in the 200m.

Other record breakers were Kirsty Cadger - S2girls hurdles; Eli Workman - S2girls shot; Mairi Ward - S1girls hurdles; Taylor Collier-Brown - S1girls hurdles and Cameron Brown - S1 boys hurdles.

Mairi Ward and Cameron Brown were the S1 Champions while Eli Workman and Richard Murdoch were the successful S2 competitors; Lizzie Skingley and Cameron Bell took the honours in the S3 competition. Tabitha Smith-Lawrence and Adam Ouston were the P7 champions in Girls and Boys competitions respectively. The House Cup went to Blackfriars House while the Senior Pentathlon Championship, which was completed prior to Sports Day, was won by Jonny Curteis (Boys' Champion) and Jennifer Heritage (Girls' Champion).



Both the winners were from Collyhill House.

The Staff Relay Race was won by the PE Department who managed to hold off a strong challenge from the team captained by Mrs Watson of the RMPS Department. The Senior Management Team finished a creditable third despite a mix-up between Mr Ouston and Mr Skingley which caused them to drop the baton! The loudest cheers of the day, however, were reserved for the Junior School Staff egg and spoon race in which Mr Wilkinson triumphed in his final Sports Day.

Scottish Primary Schools' Cross-Country Championships

This important event in the Scottish Primary Schools' calendar took place at Kirkcaldy on Saturday, 22 April, and we enjoyed our greatest success so far. On the day, we travelled with four teams, boys and girls in Primary 6 and 7, and while all our competitors performed with great credit, particular praise should go to our Primary 6 girls' team. Kate Murdoch was first in her race, recording the second fastest time of the 700 girls competing that day, receiving a gold medal for her efforts. She was ably supported by her team-mates, Morvan Sneddon (11th), Sophie Taylor (14th), Julia Banks (15th) and Laura Murphy (38th), and together they won the team event for Primary 6 girls.

The Primary 6 boys' team, Kevin Wong, Timothy McGovern, Edward Lanaghan, Jack Taggart and Adam Hendry did very well to achieve 4th place in their event, narrowly missing out on a medal by 4 points.



P6 Girls team from left to right: Laura Murphy, Sophie Taylor, Julia Banks, Morven Sneddon and Kate Murdoch

Readathon

A big "thank you" to all the Junior School community who helped raise the magnificent sum of £3,572.08 in this year's Readathon, which finished on 2 March with World Book Day. This money has been donated to two worthy children's charities, Sargent Cancer Care for Children and the Roald Dahl Foundation, and it is particularly pleasing to know that it will be used in our area to help sick children and their families, during treatment and the recovery stage. Special thanks also goes to Mrs Rae, Mrs Bennett and Mrs Dressel, who organised this event for us.

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Founder's
Day
speaker



Children's
book
awards



Junior school
Flour babies

Junior School News

Our Flour Babies

On Monday we were set the task of looking after and caring for a bag of flour. We were instructed to treat them as babies. There were five babies and five groups to manage them. One baby was called Chelsea; one called Rozie; another Joey; a fourth Homer and a fifth Danny. In our groups we decided a few rules. We also had to choose a day to bring it home; at home we had to continue the rules. One of the rules the groups agreed on was you must not leave the baby alone. If you had to leave the baby you must arrange a responsible baby-sitter.

It was my turn on Tuesday to take the baby. We had lots of fun and played lots of games. One game we played was football and I put Danny on a crate so he was tall enough to save goals. It was a lot of fun also to play with my bother Robert. Before bed we had some



food. Once we were in bed I read him a bit out of the book "Family Stuff". In the morning we got dressed and had breakfast then we went to school where I had to hand Danny over to our group, which consisted of Scott, Laura, Elliot, Ellen and of course, me!

By Andrew Kemp P5K

P7/S1 Hillwalk

On Saturday 13 May, two groups made up of a few P7s, S1s and some older pupils travelled down to the 'Fungle' Hillwalk near Aboyne. I was in Mrs Rae and Mr Brown's group, and we walked from 'Birsemore' to 'Oldylieper'. The other group, led by Mr Bowman and Mr Snow, did the opposite. We had a turn of navigating, and although we went up one or two wrong paths (leading us through bogs and marshland) we got back on track easily and were glad we took the more exciting route.

Towards the top of the hill called 'Carnferg', the walk became steeper and more tiring, but we all made it and enjoyed our lunch (and squashed bananas) before we set off again. We all cooled down quickly and it began to hail as we packed up, swapped minibus keys, and started the walk down the hill to Oldylieper. I could feel my boots rubbing against my feet, and I was glad to put my feet up when we got to the bus. I really enjoyed the hillwalk and hope I can do more of it in S1.

Kirsty McLeod P7R



Junior school gets healthy

Junior School pupils have been taking part in healthy living initiatives raising awareness of the importance of regular exercise and healthy food.

Children of all ages at the Junior School participated in water activities, aerobics, dance and fitness classes. Additionally the children learned about the dangers of junk food and the benefits of more nutritious food such as fruit and vegetables. A healthy tuck shop was also available where children and staff alike were able to purchase bowls of grapes, fruit salads, fruit smoothies, yoghurt drinks and individual pieces of fruit.

KIC Training

We have currently 25 Primary 5 and 6 pupils undergoing "Kids in Condition" Training, an eight week programme run by Grampian Health Board, to help schools towards being 'Health Promoting Schools'. The children are being taught not only a range of traditional playground games but also skills to help them to encourage children to play together, to organise and promote games, to monitor games and mediate when necessary and to help organise and supervise equipment for the playground.



Robotics and rude mechanicals

Simon Watson, a former pupil of the Junior School, and currently a university student, came to the Junior School on Tuesday 18 April and delivered a fascinating talk and demonstration to Primary 7 pupils about robotics. The children were enthralled by Simon's explanation of just how major a role robots play in everyday life in industry, and his excellent PowerPoint presentation was interlaced with video footage of robots at work.



"The Rude Mechanicals", a technology education group, came to the Junior School on Friday 12 May and delivered workshops to our Primary 1 and 2 classes in the Science Room. It was a fun, hands-on experience for all the children and everyone went home with models they had made to remind them of their steps in technology.

These workshops were made available to us by BP through their schools link programme. Also recently, Primary 4 enjoyed workshops on "Environmental Impacts" delivered by Maureen Traquair, BP local schools organiser, and Phil Webb, the Junior School Link Officer.

We are again very grateful for the continued support of BP in providing valuable additional experiences for the children in the Junior School through a carefully planned programme of events.

Alltnacriche 2006

The P5s had a lot of fun this year at Alltnacriche. We had activities such as the flying fox, the rope course, indoor curling and a team building course which was very hard. The rope course had obstacles such as a rope slide, a rope tunnel and a rope climbing wall.

We also had a visit to the Highland Folk Park where we got to see horses, hens, pigs, an old school where some children got the pretend strap and an old post office and a highland clan village. We also got a tour round the park in an old fashioned bus. We had great fun in the play park after getting something at the gift shop with our own pocket money.

Back at Alltnacriche we got to go to the tuck shop. In our free time we played in the burn and the rope bridge which was great fun. On the last day we went swimming and then it was time to say goodbye.

Louise Ouston P5K

Congratulations to Kirsten Warrender who was 4th in the Primary 6 girls' 100m race and to Megan McLean who was 3rd in the P7 girls' 800m race at the Aberdeen Primary Schools' Sports held at the Chris Anderson Stadium on Saturday 27th May. Our congratulations also go to Christy Welsh, a member of the Aberdeen City Tennis Squad, who took part in the North East Tennis Tournament at Gordonstoun School on Saturday 13th May, winning the girls' under 12 competition. Mark Greaves gained his black belt in Choi Kwan Do after a three hour assessment. Mark's four years of practice and study have been recognised by his achievement of this very important award.

¡Viva España!



Talented, bilingual pupils from Robert Gordon's College have been busy early this year recording Spanish raps, songs, poems, jokes and conversations.

Cristian (S4) and Eli (S2) Evans, James (S2) and Karina (S6) Russell, Michael Sawaryn (S2) and Rhian Evans (P6) all came together with their mums Manoli Evans, Elsy Russell, Lisette Evans, María Alonso de Sawaryn and teachers Carole Nicoll and Nati Santana to produce a total of 3 fun CDs. They were joined by Erasmus students from Aberdeen University, and great fun was had by all.

The Primary Spanish CDs are now being used as one of the main Primary Spanish Resources for school in Britain. ¡Muy bien!

Mrs C Nicoll

The Grampian Children's Book Award

On Thursday 4th May, ten 1st year pupils and two staff from RGC attended the Grampian Children's Book Award ceremony at the Cowdray Hall. The pupils: Will Duncan, Nicole Gainska, Sean Greaves, David Logie, Fiona McGregor, Faatima Osman, Evie Rae, Alex Taylor, Olivia Taylor and Lucy Zou were entertained along with 250 other pupils from schools in Aberdeen city, Aberdeenshire and Morayshire regions by two authors, Cathy Cassidy and Robert Muchamore, who were two of 8 authors shortlisted for the award.

Children choose the shortlist for the Award from a longlist of books published in the previous 12 months. They are then encouraged to read as many of the 8 books on the shortlist and either write a review or design a poster.

RGC pupil Evie Rae had the honour of introducing Cathy Cassidy and she delivered her short biography with confidence and flair. The authors' talks which followed, delighted the assembled pupils and after



both had spoken there was time for questions before the results of the review and poster competitions were announced. Sean Greaves (S1) received 2nd place for his poster of "Millions" by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. Then followed the announcement of this year's winner overall which was Cathy Cassidy for her novel "Indigo Blue". Robert Muchamore came second for his novel "Maximum Security" which was voted as the favourite by 1st year RGC pupils. The afternoon ended with photographs and a book signing session.



The Pipe Band took part in a celebration of HRH the Queen's 80th Birthday on 21 April. The band entertained shoppers in St Nicholas Square with some classic Scottish tunes and a special rendition of "Happy Birthday" The event was organised by the Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeen (The Lord Provost) who arranged for a special card to be sent to HRH which included a photograph of the Lord Lieutenant and the Pipe Band.

As well as the pipe band playing for David Carry when he visited the school before the Easter break, Fergus Mutch also piped the Commonwealth Games athletes into the Town House at the start of their Civic Reception during the holidays.

Fantasy Football

Fantasy League Football has been played by 54 members of the College this year - 7 staff and 47 pupils. It involves picking a team of 11 Premiership players at the start of the season - no more than 3 players from each club, and a budget to stick within. You can make transfers at various points throughout the season.

Congratulations to Alistair MacDonald who won the FA Cup, and also to S4 pupils James Scott who took first place and to Fraser Clark and Jamie Niven who came in second and third. The Year Group winners of the 2005/06 League are as follows: S1: Mike Hendry, S2: Andrew McLaren, S3: Adam Bremner, S4: James Scott, S5: Richard Wood, S6: Alasdair Elder, and finally well done to Mr Elder who was the staff winner. Commiserations to Richard Wood who has been in first place since January but was beaten in the final week, and to Mr Skingley who was bottom of school league all year!

Mrs E Pascoe

Host families needed!

We need to find 25 host families for our exchange with our partner school in Graz, Austria. The pupils are coming to Aberdeen on Tuesday 26th September and leave on Friday 6th October.

We will not have enough pupils studying German who want to participate in the exchange to take all the Austrian pupils and need extra families willing to be hosts. No special arrangements are necessary as the pupils will attend school or go on excursions each weekday and be with the family at the weekend.

Mr T Cumming

Easter Winter Sports' Trips



Two trips went to New England in the USA at Easter, one to Sugarloaf and the other to Sunday River both in the state of Maine. A fabulous time was had by all pupils who participated and I'm glad to say that there were no major injuries sustained by either group. We had mixed weather but both groups were blessed with some lovely fresh powder snow during their stay and also some hot sunshine and blue skies.

The Americans, as ever, were wonderful hosts with plenty on offer for evening entertainment. The highlight of the trip for many was the two hours spent at the factory outlet shopping mall near Boston. How the pupils and staff managed to get all the purchases home I will never know!

Mrs Robertson was ably assisted by Mr Anderson, Mrs Currie, Miss Craig, Mr Hose, Mr Bisset, Mr Thomson and Mr Strang. Thanks to everyone involved. Roll on next winter!

Mrs F Robertson

Staff News

Monster marathon completed

At 4.17am on Sunday 30 April, the team of Mr Bisset, Mr Snow and Mr Strang, with Dr Jim Iliffe of BP completed the 2006 Maggie's Monster Bike and Hike Challenge in a time of 20 hours 17 minutes. The team set off on bikes at 8am on a crisp bright Saturday morning from Neptune's Staircase at the end of the Caledonian Canal near Fort William, and completed the first 30 miles in 3 hours 5 minutes (just 9 minutes more than the fastest woman cyclist). They then traded in the bikes



The Sponsored Head Shave and Leg Wax which took place last term

for the hiking boots and set off on the 43 mile trek to Inverness, arriving at the Bronze checkpoint in Invermoriston (8 miles) at 2.25pm. The next 18 miles to Drumadrochit were gruelling on the feet, and the team arrived there at 8.15pm where they enjoyed some food, live music and massages! They set off at 9pm into the dusk on the last 17 miles arriving to a rapturous reception at the Inverness Aquadrome stadium at 4.17am. So far, they have raised nearly £3,500, including over

£2,000 by pupils in school from the Sponsored Head Shave and Leg Wax last term, House Karaoke in December, MUFTI Day, and the sale of key rings and recipe books. The team hope to reach their target of £4,000 through sponsorship on their website at www.justgiving.com/bikeandhike2006. With BP pledged to match the fundraising effort, the total stands at over £7,000. Donations can be made on the website until 28 June 2006.

East meets West

During a very cold and wintry week in March, I was very fortunate to be able to attend a new and innovative Masterclass in Calligraphy at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design in Dundee.

It was a truly unique opportunity to be taught by Professor Lu Rui Xiang, a distinguished calligrapher and painter from China. As an introduction Professor Lu talked us through the history of calligraphy through the Dynasties, in effect covering 3000 years in three hours. The ancient art of Chinese calligraphy has developed over many centuries and is one of the most important parts of Chinese culture.

At the end of what was a thoroughly enjoyable and at times entertaining week where we covered many calligraphic techniques, we exhibited our work in the Graduate Centre, selecting our best pieces for Professor Lu to comment on and he was, as always, very polite and encouraging. It was a real privilege to have had the opportunity to work alongside and learn from such a skilled, dedicated and unassuming man who extended an invitation to go and visit him and the Guangzho Academy of Fine Arts in China.

Mrs F Michie



World Challenge Argentina - Buen viaje!

With less than a month to go, anticipation and excitement are reaching a peak amongst the two teams of pupils who will be departing from RGC on June 27 to spend a month on expedition in Argentina. An important part of the experience, and a key personal development outcome for the pupils, will be working alongside the local community on projects in remote parts of the country.

One of the major challenges for the teams will of course be their fitness. All team members are endeavouring to build their strength and stamina ahead of departure, as this will

undoubtedly play a vital role in the success of the expedition - especially during the long days of trekking at altitude. Preparations would not be complete without the challenge of getting to grips with the language and the teams are grateful to Mrs McGregor (Marie Claire!), their personal Spanish tutor, for the time and encouragement she has given over the past year. They wish to thank Mrs McGregor - particularly as she has resisted any temptation to test their linguistics!

Compadres and buenas vacaciones

Mr W Snow

Cricket 2006...the Cricket season is now well under way with many matches having already been played in some glorious May sunshine! The Colts XI, led by Callum Johnstone, are unbeaten after impressive victories over Dundee High School and Gordonstoun. They have a strong bowling attack with Greg Jones and Ross Gamblen leading the way with pace and accuracy. The Junior XI are fortunate to have two Under 13 Scottish Internationalists, Matthew Cross and Andrew Lewis, who have already had a 50 each with the bat, and this team have had a very impressive level of success over the last few years. They are more than adequately backed up by the likes of Bevis Reid and the much improved spin bowling of Stephen Smith. The Minors XI have just started their fixtures programme but Andrew Davie and Saif Ahmed have already shown considerable potential.

At the senior end a combination of injury and Exam leave have hindered the season to date. Ruaridh Jackson and Graeme Johnstone both played prominent roles in a comfortable win over Aberdeen Grammar with Ali Malik in excellent form with the ball. Ruaridh was selected for the Scotland Under 17 squad last year and hopefully if he recovers from injury he will continue to represent his country.

Mr C Filer

Sharedealer club was run by S5 Higher Accounts pupils. The overall winner was Chris Moulton (S5) who won the Mini Moto and Bell Lawrie Prize. The winner from the teachers was Mr Elder whose prize was a trip to Legends' Lounge to see the Aberdeen v Celtic game. He and his guests, Mr Skingley and Alasdair Elder, thoroughly enjoyed it.

Rugby latest...Following their triumphant win at the Royal Navy Scottish schools 7s in September of last year, the team from Gordon's were invited to take part in a tournament in Portsmouth in March against the winners of similar competitions in England, Wales and Ireland.

Unfortunately Ruaridh Jackson was absent from the team due to injury and we lost Captain and scrum half Morgan Ward in the first game so we were somewhat up against it. The boys all did well however and despite losing our games the event proved to be an excellent experience for the boys, who were all a credit to themselves and the school. The team were obviously disappointed not to make a better account of themselves but having two key players out in a 7s team makes a huge difference.

Other Rugby news includes this year's Captain, Morgan Ward (S6) playing in the Scotland u18 second team in all of the Internationals this Easter, including a competition in Italy.

Ruaridh Jackson and Michael McNaughton were selected to play for Scotland u18. Mike played all games (warmup and 3 home nations championship). Ruaridh unfortunately was injured in the second game but is expected to go on to big things.

Mr R Anderson

NiaD update...The College's 'Newspaper in a Day' has been shortlisted in the 'Best Secondary Newspaper in the UK' category of the Newsday Competition sponsored by 'The Times Educational Supplement'. Two members of staff and four pupils will attend the awards ceremony at the House of Commons on Friday 30 June. In addition, a 'Newspaper Celebration' will be held on the evening of Thursday 22 June in the MacRobert Hall. This event will pay tribute to the achievements of pupils and staff who have worked together to produce newspapers of a consistently high quality over the last ten years.