

STRATHEARN NEWS

Public Speaking Competitions

Congratulations to Strathearn who have retained the all-Ireland University Women Graduates public speaking trophy after their victory in University College, Dublin on 6 March. The team of Jasmine McCrory, Olivia Storey and Lucy Webb from 3R, entertained the audience and distinguished adjudicators on various topics relating to youth culture and they were singled out for both their humorous approach and sincerity of speech.

Three girls from Lower Sixth have won the local heat of the Rotary-sponsored public speaking competition, held in Strathearn on 15 March. The team of Katie Spratt, Naomi Wilkinson and Shelby DeBoer were rewarded for their unique take on the topic of problems associated with drinking and smoking in contemporary society, and will now travel to the UK finals which will be held in Stratford-upon-Avon on 8 May. This is the second year in a row that the Strathearn Team has won a place in the finals. Well done girls, and best wishes for the final!

The Spring Concert Drama

Best wishes to the Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Chamber Choir, Junior Orchestra and Senior Orchestra and the soloists who will be performing at the Spring Concert on Tuesday 23 March!



Bangor Drama Club's Schools' Committee ran a competition to reward young acting talent in the North Down area. They visited most schools in the area to watch productions, including *Pygmalion* at Strathearn School, and they have subsequently decided to present Katie Cummings and Amy Scott with acting awards for their roles as Eliza Doolittle and Alfred Doolittle. The girls and Miss Ferris will attend an Awards Ceremony later in the year at the Studio Theatre in Bangor.

CAREERS ROUND UP

A lot has been happening on the Careers front in this latter half of this second term. One Lower Sixth student attended a Speech and Language Open Day at the Belfast City Hospital while three girls attended a Clinical Psychology Open Day at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Another psychology event was held at the Whitla Hall entitled: 'A flavour of psychology' which was organised by the British Psychological Society. Six girls attended and they enjoyed the series of interesting and informative lectures. Two pupils in the Sixth Form also attended the QUB School of Dentistry Open Day. Four girls went to the annual Law Conference, and three pupils attended the Medical Symposium, both organised by Methodist College. Two girls in the Sixth Form also were involved in the GETSET into Engineering for Girls which gave students an insight into engineering. Two days were spent on placement with professional engineers in a discipline of their choosing.

All girls in Lower Sixth attended the UCAS Higher Education Convention in the King's Hall where students were able to attend a range of seminars and talk to many of the university exhibitors about applications for next year. Several universities have visited Strathearn over the last few weeks. These have included the Scottish University Tour, which includes Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot Watt, Strathclyde and Stirling universities, Liverpool John Moores University, Newcastle and Northumbria, Queen's, the University of Ulster, Leeds Metropolitan and Scotland's Modern Universities Tour which includes Abertay, Napier, Queen Margaret and Robert Gordon. We also had a presentation from Queen's specifically on personal statements which form an integral part of the UCAS application.

The series of guest speakers for Form 5 has continued this term with presentations on the following areas: medicine, the media, hospitality, law, psychology, journalism and architecture. After Easter we plan to have talks on social work and photography.

Tesco Vouchers

The Tesco Computer Vouchers for schools are available in Tesco stores and once again we would ask all of you to support our collection. Our target this year is 50,000 vouchers, so do ask your family and friends for their support!



Individual Successes

congratulations to...



Rachel McCarter, U6A, who has won through to the finals of the UK National Science and Engineering Competition.

Congratulations to Alanna Sloan, U6H, who has set up her own dance company.

Kate Hickey, 5R, who helped raise more than £500 for the Haiti Fund by organising a gig.

Emma Murphy, 3A, who came second in the Mossgrove Singing Festival.

Bethanie Chambers, 3A, who came first in Tennis Regional Matchplays.

Robyn Todd, 3A, who passed her Level Three Junior First Aid Examination.

Chelsea Griffin, 4A, who has been selected to play for the Linfield U16 Ladies Team.

Francesca Brown, 4A, who was placed first in the U17 Girls' NI Civil Service Race and was also placed fourth in the Armagh Road Race.

Lucy McCracken, 2T, who passed her Grade Six Speech Examination with Distinction.

Alex Milligan, 2S, who was placed third in a Scotland v N Ireland ATC Netball Competition.

Sophie Hood, 2S, who was placed first in the piano playing section of the Holywood Festival.

Lara Ernslie, 1A, who is performing in Dance NI.

Siobhan Escott, 1A, who has passed her Grade Four Piano Examination.

Rachel Bailie, 1A, who has passed her Grade Six Speech and Drama Examination with Distinction.

Tori Megarry, 1H, who was placed third in the Mossgrove Singing Festival for both her chosen pieces.

Jemma Gillan, 1T, who has been selected to play for Ulster in U13 Girls' Inter-Provincial Squash.

Evie Allister, 1T, who gained a Silver medal in the 100m backstroke in a graded gala at Bangor on 28 February.

Trips & Form News

- *Buon Viaggio* to the forty girls and accompanying staff, who are travelling to Verona, Assisi, Florence and Pisa on 24 March!
- **Form 3T** would like to thank everyone who supported their recent Form Effort! Their raffle and sweet and bun sale raised £1254.54 in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Spring Library News

World Book Day Competition

A competition was held during the week beginning 1 March to celebrate World Book Day (4 March) and the *ReadOn* sponsored read. It involved having to match members of staff with their favourite books, which proved to be more difficult than it looked!

The competition was open to staff as well as pupils and there was much discussion and speculation throughout the school as everyone tried to guess the answers.

Emma McCracken, 4H, and Rachel Stanfield, 4H, were joint winners for the pupil competition, while Mr Douglas won the staff prize. Well done!

Politics Students Meet Lord Mayor



Clare Andrews, Faye Davis and Laura Hutchinson were invited to Bloomfield Collegiate to meet Naomi Long, the Lord Mayor of Belfast. In the informal setting of the Sixth Form Common Room, Naomi Long spoke to the group about her busy life as a politician. Everyone who attended found it a most interesting and valuable experience.



BBC SCHOOL REPORT

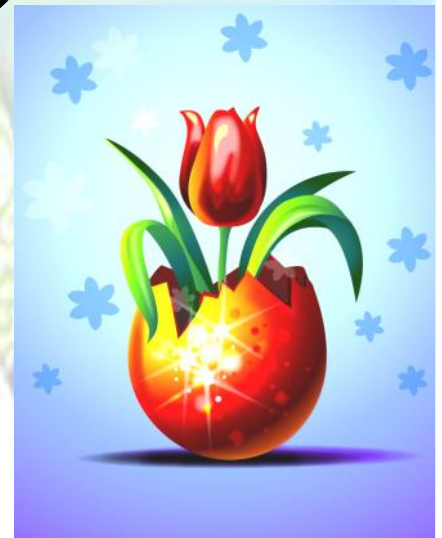
On 11 March, **Form 2T** took part in the *BBC School Report Journalism Project*. Working to a strict deadline, they produced news reports on national, local and school issues. Their work can be accessed in the 'News' section of the school website.

Sport for all!



HOCKEY

- The U12A and U12B Teams have finished their first Strathearn season with wins against both Regent House and Grosvenor Grammar School. Their success continued when a squad of 15 played in the Grosvenor first year girls' hockey tournament earlier this month. The girls played Glenlola, Victoria, Hunter House and Killicomaine and remained unbeaten in their section. Well done!
- Congratulations to Evie Bloor and Stephanie Jemphrey on their selection for the Belfast U15 Area Squad and also to Rebecca Blundell, Zara Millar, Rachel Scott, Kerrie Craig and Hannah Wishart who have all made it to the final stage of the Belfast U17 area selection! Further congratulations to Rebecca Blundell who was selected for the Ulster U16B Squad.
- With the end of the season comes Inter-House Hockey. There was plenty of team spirit at both the Junior and Senior Tournaments. The overall results are as follows: 1st McCaughey, 2nd Watts, 3rd Boucher and 4th Barbour. Many thanks to all those who took part!



Netball

Well done to Stephanie Jemphrey, who played for Northern Ireland in the U15 European Netball Championships in Lisburn last weekend. They played Gibraltar, Ireland and Switzerland over three days and were placed second overall - a brilliant result! At U13 level, Francesca Ringrow and Rebecca Davidson have been selected for the Belfast Regional Academy Squad.



Trampolining

Special mention goes to Frances Wilson in 2A who competed at the British Championships and who has also won the Under 12 *Young Sports Person of the Year Award*.

Tennis & Athletics

Training is starting up once more, so please remember to check the appropriate notice boards in the sports hall for more details.

Dance Swimming News

Eleven girls competed in the NICMAC – Northern Ireland Creative Movement and Aerobic Championships at Lagan Valley Leisureplex earlier this month. The team was formed by Tori Marsden, Carolyn O'Neill and Aimee Spence, who were also the producers. It was a very enjoyable day and overall they were placed fourth out of eighteen groups and hope to compete again next year. Well done to everyone involved!

Sycerika McMahon of 4T has been busier than ever with her swimming programme. She is part of the Elite Athletes' Training Squad at the University of Ulster. This operates under the title 'Sports Institute Northern Ireland' and also features former Strathearn pupil Melanie Nôcher. Sycerika hopes to emulate Melanie's feat of performing in the Olympic Games and is currently setting London 2012 as her goal. In the recent Ulster Open Championships she won no less than eight trophies one of which was a special achievement trophy presented by the Ulster Swimming Association for her record swims during the summer of 2009.

Happy Easter!

GOLF



On 12 March, Elyn Anderson, Hannah King and I attended Royal Portrush Golf Club for the Ulster Section of the Irish School Girls' Championships. We played 18 holes on the Valley Course with other girls from a variety of schools around Ulster, on a cold, windy but thankfully, sunny day. Everyone came in with respectable scores, considering it was the start of the season. In particular, Hannah King had a superb score of 41 points playing 5 under her handicap and was therefore winner of the best Junior Nett. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all and it was a privilege to play such an outstanding links course.

Kerrie Craig, L6R

SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

Belfast East was made up from pupils at Strathearn and Bloomfield. There were eight pupils from Strathearn on the U13 Team and five pupils on the U15 Team. Both teams qualified for The Ulster Final with the winner representing Ulster at the National Finals in Birmingham.

Results of the Ulster Finals: 2LAP: 2nd Isla Lockhart. 4LAP: 4th Lauren Wheeler and 2nd Sophie McKinney. 6LAP: 4th Jenny Drennan.

Relays Obstacle 2nd: Emma Watson, Charlotte Lowry, Alex Nelson.

4x1 Relay: 3rd Sophie Hood, Charlotte Lowry. 8LAP Paarlauf: 1st Isla Lockhart.

4X2 Relay 4th: Lauren Wheeler, Sophie McKinney. Shot: 1st Isla Lockhart. Speed

Bounce: 3rd Charlotte Lowry. Standing Long Jump: 1st Lauren Wheeler. Vertical

Jump: 1st Emma Watson. High Jump: 1st Sophie McKinney and 4th Alex Nelson.

The U13 Team was second overall in Ulster. We had five Individual Winners.

Brilliant! The U15 Team also performed very well; they achieved third place.

8Lap Paarlauf: 3rd Francesca Brown. 4x2 Relay: 4th Sophie Gribben, Deborah

Campbell, Jessica Lowry.

Overall individual placings: Jessica Lowry 12th. Deborah Campbell 13th.

Francesca Brown 17th, Lois Wilson 26th=. Well done to everyone!



CROSS-COUNTRY Gymnastics

Ulster Schools' Cross-Country Championships

3rd March 2010 - Mallusk Playing Fields

Minor Team - 4th Overall: Emma Watson 24th; Shannon Booth 33rd; Lauren Brooker 70th; Gabrielle Park 36th; Grace Turkington 66th; Amy Hepworth 37th.

Junior Individual

Jenny Drennan 11th - Qualified for Irish Championships in Cork.

Intermediate Team - 4th Overall: Rebecca Blundell 12th - Qualified for the Irish Championships.

Francesca Brown 13th - Qualified for the Irish Championships. Claudia Bedford 41st; Joy Dalzell 82nd; Hannah Martin 81st; Kezia Montgomery 84th.

Due to the Irish Championships being held in Cork, the three girls elected not to attend.

The overall Inter-House Cross-country results are as follows:

1st - McCaughey; 2nd - Watts; 3rd - Boucher and 4th - Barbour.

At the Northern Ireland Championships held at Lagan Valley Leisureplex on 13 February, Stathearn's U13 Team of Megan Marrs (replacement for the injured Nicky Montgomery), Shannon Armour, Clara Kerr, Laurel Cahoon, Lydia Millar and Aimee Irwin gave a very good account of themselves performing a rigorous routine to finish in a creditable fourth place. Shannon Armour in the U13 Tumbling event made the standard to qualify for the British Championships to be held in May in Stoke-on-Trent. Well done to all the girls!

Dates for your Diary!

3 May - May Day Holiday

19-25 - May Examinations for Forms 1, 2 & 3

19-28 - May Examinations for Form 4

28 May Exceptional Closure - School closes at 12.50 close

31 May Exceptional Closure

22 June - Form 4 Parents' Consultation Afternoon 1.45-4.30pm

23 June - Induction for Form One

SCHOOL RESUMES on 12 April at 8.45 am

