

STRATHEARN NEWS

October 2010



PRIZE DAY



This year, Prize Night took place on 7 October in the Sports Hall. A PowerPoint presentation of the year's highlights and an excellent programme of music by the orchestra set the tone for what was to prove a most enjoyable evening. Our Head Girl, Katie Entwistle, opened the proceedings by welcoming everyone to the event. In delivering his report on the school year, Mr Manning was assisted by Katie Dickson, Caitlin Butler and Erin Jeanes. Katie, our Sports Captain, spoke of the range of sport in Strathearn and the highlights of the year, and Caitlin Butler and Erin Jeanes gave us an insight into the Politics Society and the School Council.

The Chairman of the Board, Mr White, then introduced our Guest of Honour, Professor Deborah Boyd who is the Chief Executive of Re3 Group. Professor Boyd congratulated the prize-winners and presented the prizes and awards. In a thought-provoking speech to the girls, she spoke of her faith in them as the 'planet fixers' who care enough to put the planet right. She urged the girls to think outside the box, to think of waste as a resource which we can recycle and recover and to think of big solutions to the big problems which are facing the world. Recognising that it is hard to be a prophet in your own backyard, she nevertheless assured the girls that all change begins with the individual and an aspiring environmental entrepreneur would find Northern Ireland as good a place as any to initiate transforming solutions. Concluding, Professor Boyd told the girls that she had confidence in each and every one of them. She urged them never to forget where they came from and the community which had forged them, to always value others and to live a purpose driven life in which they should never be afraid to question everything. She told them to feel free to be exceptional and to feel free to change the world, for our generation is relying on them!

After a presentation by the Deputy Head Girls, the Chamber Choir brought the evening to a conclusion with a great performance of *El Condor Pasa* and *Lullaby of Birdland*.



U6 Prize Distribution

COMMONWEALTH GAMES SUCCESS

This year's Sixth Form Prize Distribution took place on 9 September. It was a pleasure to congratulate our recent school leavers on their success at A level and to wish them all well for the future. Refreshments were served in the Foyer and Prizes and Awards were distributed at an informal presentation. Souvenir photographs were taken in the library, and we hope to see the 'Year of 2010' back in school at other annual events.



Well done to Sycerika McMahon, who was in Delhi representing the Northern Ireland Swimming Team at the Commonwealth Games. At just 15 years of age she was the youngest member of the team, but that didn't stop her putting in a number of top quality performances, most notably finishing eighth in the 400m final, ninth overall in the 50m Breaststroke and sixth in the 4x100 Medley. Sycerika competed in nine swimming races breaking two Irish records in the process and with results like these, Sycerika is definitely a name to look out for in the future with London 2012 in her sights! (Turn to the back page for an interview with Sycerika!)

Sythes Award

Many congratulations to Rebecca Beattie, U6T, who is this year's winner of the Sythes Award! The standard of entries was very high and everyone who entered deserves praise for the quality of the essays which were submitted.

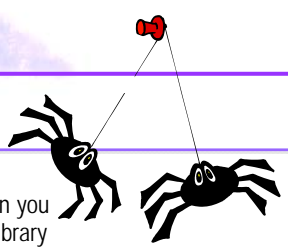


INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSSES CONGRATULATIONS TO...



Keziah Beattie, 1A, who passed her Grade Two Piano Examination.
Sophie Lewis, 1A, who passed her Grade One Piano Examination.
Anna Meldrum, 1A, who passed her Grade Three Violin Examination.
Saskia Craig, 2R, who passed her Grade Two Singing Examination with Distinction.
Emily McGowan, 2R, who qualified for the *Horse of the Year Show* in Birmingham at the Highland Show 2010.
Sophie Allen, 1T, who passed her Grade Three Singing Examination with Merit.
Eden McAllister, 1T, who was placed first in a gymnastics competition in her age group in London.
Rachael Harbinson, 3R, who passed her Grade Four Piano Examination with Merit.
Kirsten McFarland, L6R, who passed her Grade Seven Flute Examination with Merit.
Kezia Montgomery, L6R, who passed her Grade Seven Flute Examination with Distinction.
Stephanie Devlin, 2H, who passed her Grade Four Flute Examination with Distinction.
Tori Megarry, 2H, who passed her Grade Five Piano and Grade Four Clarinet Examinations.
Grace Turkington, 2H, who passed Grade One Piano, Grade Two Theory and Grade Three Violin with Distinctions.
Rachael Thomas, 2H, who passed her Grade Four Drama Examination with Distinction.
Catherine Trimble, 2H, who passed her Grade Four Piano Examination.
Louise Owens, 2H, who passed her Grade Four Piano Examination with Merit.
Rosalind Skillen, 2H, who passed her Grade Three Piano Theory Examination and her Grade Two Drama Examination with Distinctions.
Hannah Craig, 3T, who passed her Grade Five Piano Examination with Merit.
Sophie Trinder, 3T, who passed her Grade Ten Ice-skating Examination.
Georgia Jackson, 4A, who passed her Silver Level in Figure Skating.
Sophie Craig, 4A, who passed her Grade Four Piano and Grade Three Theory Examinations with Merit.
Cherith Montgomery, 4A, who passed her Grade Five Piano Examination.
Emma Murphy, 4A, who achieved her Bronze Medal in Speech and Drama.
Alice Hutchison, 1A, who passed her Grade Three Viola Examination with Merit.
Meabh Lowry, 1A, who came second in a Tennis Competition at David Lloyd, Belfast.
Megan McQuat, 1A, who got two clear rounds in a show jumping league at Birr House Riding School.

LIBRARY NEWS



Box Tops for Books

The time has come again to stock up on Nestlé cereals and help the Library to buy more books. If you eat Nestlé cereals then you can cut out the tokens at the top of the cereal packets and bring them into school. There is a posting box for the tokens in the library and colourful stickers for all those who take part.

Storyteller Visit

Alec Williams, a freelance professional storyteller, will be visiting the Library on 8 November. There will be poetry and reading workshops and performance sessions for all First Form classes throughout the school day. Alec has a background in librarianship, becoming Head of Children's Services in Leeds, before going to work independently as a freelance trainer, speaker, consultant and storyteller. He has chaired national bodies, contributed to publications from CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals), and written articles for professional journals. He is widely known as a speaker on children's reading and libraries at national and international conferences, and his work has taken him around the United Kingdom and across the world. We are looking forward to a very interesting and exciting day!

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be taking place again in the Library during the week beginning 15 November. All First to Third Form classes will attend the Fair as a class, but it will also be open every day at break and lunchtime for anyone else. So now is the time to start saving up your pocket money, as there will be lots of new and exciting books on offer!

CAREERS UPDATE

The term got underway with the usual range of university Open Days. Many Upper Sixth girls attended these events at the Jordanstown, Coleraine and Magee campuses of the University of Ulster and the entire year group went to the Open Day at Queen's and the Options XVII Careers Convention at Methodist College. These events are very useful in helping the girls finalise their university choices. Almost all the UCAS forms have been completed by Halloween and hopefully some girls will have offers before Christmas.

In the first half of this term, we welcomed a speaker from *Project Trust* to talk about Gap Years and we have had two students who have had placements in China and Malaysia with this organisation. A lecturer from Stranmillis spoke to girls in Fifth and Sixth Forms about careers in teaching, and a lecturer from Queen's talked to girls about careers in nursing and midwifery. We also had a pathologist talk to pupils about her profession and an art lecturer from the University of Ulster talking to art students about courses and portfolios. Several girls in Forms Four and Five attended an event at the University of Ulster promoting careers in STEM subjects.

Form Five girls have completed their *Getting Connected* questionnaire and interviews have already got underway with careers advisers from the Department of Employment and Learning. Form Three had a Careers Planning Day on 20 October. This proved to be a most informative session which should help the girls to start thinking about courses and careers and assist them in choosing subjects for the next academic year. Lower Sixth are organising their work experience for next January, and Upper Sixth are preparing for their 'Mock Interview Evening' in November. One student has attended a Pharmacy Open Day at the Royal Victoria Hospital and other pupils in Lower Sixth are booked to attend a range of professional Open Days later in the term.



Tesco Vouchers Update

TRIPS

Many thanks for all the vouchers you contributed to make up this year's total of 71,850 Tesco for Schools and Clubs vouchers. We spent these on equipment and sporting apparatus. Among the many Departments benefiting from the equipment are Science, PE, Drama, ICT and Penrhyn. The list of equipment we received thanks to all your efforts is as follows: LogIT Voyager ONE General Science Pack; 2 Canon Entry-Level PowerShot Digital Cameras; Canon SD Card Digital Camcorder; Flip USB Digital Camcorder; 15 Headphones; 4 Canon A4 Flatbed Scanners; Sequencing Spots - Action Stations; 20 Criss-Cross Hurdles; Vortex Howler; Slazenger Hockey Helmet and Hockey Dimple Ball; Primary Visualiser and 'Flip Video' Underwater Case.

Buen Viaje to the twenty-four girls and the staff who are going to Santander from 17-21 October!

Best wishes too to all the girls and staff who are taking part in the American Exchange Trip to Minneapolis and Saint Paul!

Dublin Trip

Upper and Lower Sixth Art Classes had a packed programme for their annual Dublin trip on 21 October. They visited a wide range of exhibitions at IMMA, the National Gallery of Ireland and the Douglas Hyde Gallery.

Greenhill 2010

On 23 September, 119 Form Two girls went to Greenhill in Newcastle. The girls were divided into groups and undertook three activities. The activities included bouldering, climbing, archery, canoeing, orienteering, high ropes, low ropes, the aerial runway and initiatives and they proved an exciting new experience for everyone who went. Many people conquered their fears (mostly of heights), made new friends and laughed all through the day. Greenhill was definitely one of the best days ever and we would strongly recommend going! *by Lucy Dolan and Jenni Watt.*



On 15 November, 15 girls from Forms 4 and 5 attended a Careers Conference focused exclusively on today's dynamic ICT industry. The event was run by *Momentum* and *e-skills UK* in conjunction with the Higher Education Academy for Information and Computer Science, the University of Ulster and Queen's University.

The event was highly informative and inspiring. The girls learned about career opportunities and skills required for the ICT sector in Northern Ireland. They were also given guidance on the selection of appropriate subjects at A level, an insight into computing at university, and an appreciation of the diversity of jobs and associated lifestyles available in the ICT sector.

The event had an informal interactive atmosphere with industry ambassadors assigned to each team of girls. There were videos about careers within ICT showing young people employed in the ICT Industry, presentations from key speakers, quizzes and prizes.

We were delighted, when yet again, one of the Strathearn teams won the overall competition for the day and each girl received a £10 Amazon voucher. The team comprised of Emma McGarrity, Caoimhe Brady, Victoria Wallace, Rachael Thomson, Emma Shaw, Beth Hamill and Rachel Stanfield.

Sporting Successes

Endurance Riding

Congratulations to Jenni Cunningham, 5A, and her horse Breeze! Jenni had yet another Grade 1 finish at the Home International held on 29 August at Burgie in Scotland and she also won the trophy for the Best Junior Competitor. This was the first time this trophy has come to Ireland, so well done, Jenni!

Karate

Congratulations to Sophie Rodgers, 5S, who has achieved the following successes. At the British Open in Glasgow in July Sophie was placed third in Kumite. At the World Karate Championships in Nagoya, Japan in August she was placed fourth in Kumite and Kata, and in the Japanese National Championships in Tokyo, she was placed in the Top 16 at Kata. In September at the British Championships in Edinburgh, she was placed third in Kumite. Well done, Sophie!

Trampolining

Congratulations to Frances Wilson, 3A, who was placed sixth out of fifty-two contestants in Trampolining and eighth out of forty in the Double Mini-Trampoline in her age group in the recent Loulé World Cup.

Hockey

Congratulations to Isla Lockhart, 3A, who has been selected for the Ulster Hockey Talent Development Squad.

Swimming

Congratulations to Eve Allister, 2T, who was selected to swim for Ulster and achieved a Division One time at the gala on 3 October.

Congratulations to Jenny Drennan, 3T, who represented Ulster in the Inter-Provincial Championships in Swimming.

Tennis

Congratulations to Bethanie Chambers, 4R, who has been accepted into the Ulster Squad for Tennis.



INTER-HOUSE DRAMA FESTIVAL

Art Club



The Strathearn Drama Festival will take place on 20 October and we look forward to a wonderful morning of drama from all four Houses. Boucher House is presenting *Romeo To Go* by Jonathan Rand, Barbour House is presenting *Cinders* by Geoff Bamber, McCaughey House is presenting *Bad Reception* by Paul Vincent and Watts House is presenting *How To Succeed In High School Without Really Trying* by Jonathan Rand. This year we welcome Mrs Leeman as our Adjudicator, and the results of the competition will be reported in our next newsletter.



The Art Club has been in full swing for girls studying Art at GCSE and A level. Speakers have included Mrs Rea, who discussed Art History, Rachel Dickson (Lecturer UUB) who gave us an insight into Foundation Art Studies and former pupil, Laura Morrow who shared her experience of studying Textile Art.





SWIMMING

Interview with Sycerika

So what was your accommodation like?

Well, the accommodation that we were originally supposed to stay in wasn't finished in time, so we were moved to another block. Although it was pretty basic, it was very clean and suited all our needs.

What was the food like?

It was awesome! At different stations in the canteen you could choose dishes from around the world.

There has already been some news about athletes failing drugs tests. Did you have to get tested while you were there?

No, not while I was there, but we all had to get tested before we went.

Did you get to meet many of the 'big names' of the sport?

Yes, I got to meet loads, such as Rebecca Adlington and Tom Daley. They were all really friendly!

What would be your highlight of the Games?

It has to be finishing 4th in the 4x100 Freestyle. Our relay team had never reached the final before and we took 40 seconds off the Ulster record time.

Would you say your experience in these Games has made you more determined to compete in other major Championships?

Definitely! Up next for me would be the World Championships in Dubai in December and the Junior Commonwealth Games in the Isle of Man next summer.



HOCKEY

This year's hockey season got off to a good start with the 1st XI Squad qualifying for the National Playing Fields' Tournament Finals after narrowly defeating Limavady High School on penalty flicks. The team played Ballymena Academy defeating them 3-0 and then drew 0-0 with Wallace High School in the semi-final which led to another nerve-racking, but successful, round of penalty flicks. This meant Strathearn played Lurgan College in the final, where they unfortunately lost 3-0. To date, all of our school teams have played matches against Glenlola Collegiate, Wallace High, Carrickfergus Grammar, Portadown College and Belfast Royal Academy.

Congratulations to the 3A XI who played in the first round of the 3rd XI Cup against Wellington College and won 2-0.

Well done to Kirby O'Donnell, who was selected for the Ulster U18 Team who were the eventual gold medal winners in the UK School Games! Kirby was also selected to play for the Ulster U18 Squad in the Inter-Provincial Tournament on 16 and 17 October.

The Captains for each team have been elected as follows:



1st XI Captain – Rachel Scott; Vice Captain – Claire Mercer

2A XI Captain – Emma Jordan; Vice Captain – Holly Magill

2B XI Captain – Sarah Greene; Vice Captain – Amy O'Donnell

3A XI Captain – Clare Andrews; Vice Captain – Kerry McCord

3B XI Captain – Kezia Montgomery

U14A Captain – Lauren Wheeler; Co-Vice Captains – Natalie Wallace & Isla Lockhart

U14B Captain – Lauren Naismith; Vice Captain – Amy Anderson

U13A Captain – Erin Larmour; Vice Captain – Gabrielle Park

U13B Captain – Louise Owens; Vice Captain – Amy Hepworth

Good luck to all the Captains and Vice Captains for the rest of the season!

Dates for your Diary

Netball



Exceptional Closure - 5 November

School Formal - 5 November

Autumn Musical Evening - 18 November

Upper Sixth Practice Interviews - 22 November

School Production - 1-3 December

Form One Consultation Evening - 7 December

Carol Service - 16 December

School resumes 1 November at 8.45

Once again, Netball got off to a great start this year. Abigail Crosby, Jenna Kerr, Niamh Johnson, Elly Drinkwater, Megan Coalter, Maeve O'Neill and Iseult Dawson were selected for trials for the Belfast U15 Regional Development Squad. All of the girls performed really well and Abigail, Jenna and Maeve were selected for the squad. Podium 4 Sport also held trials, and taking part were Maeve O'Neill, Tara Gouk, Megan Coalter, Elly Drinkwater, Niamh Johnson, Jenna Kerr and Abigail Crosby. Congratulations to Maeve and Abigail who were selected for the squad. Well done to all the girls who took part in the trials!

Congratulations to Stephanie Jemphrey on her selection for the Northern Ireland Netball Under 17 Squad and to Emily Mills and Barbara Jemphrey who have been selected for the Under 19 Squad. This is a great achievement and the result of much hard work!