

# strathearn news



October 2011

## PRIZE DAY

This year, our Prize Distribution took place on 6 October in the Sports Hall; it opened with a very enjoyable programme of music by the Octet and a PowerPoint presentation of the year's highlights. Our Head Girl, Rebecca Jordan, then introduced our new Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr McKeown, and welcomed our guest speaker, Professor Heenan, and the prize-winners, parents and friends of the school. Mr Manning reported on the wide-ranging achievements of the academic year, the excellent examination results and the visit of the school team to Uganda to bring to completion the Strathearn Nursery School there. He was also joined by Rachel Stanfield, who shared her experience of the Safer Internet Day Conference at Microsoft Headquarters in London.

The Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr McKeown, then introduced our Guest of Honour, Professor Deirdre Heenan, who is the Provost of Magee at the University of Ulster. Professor Heenan warmly congratulated the prize-winners and presented the prizes and awards. In a witty and inspiring speech, she spoke of the power of education to transform lives. She shared her own educational experiences and the rewards and challenges of her career. Professor Heenan urged the girls to be first-rate versions of themselves, to avoid short-term thinking, to do something they truly cared about, and to take advantage of the immense opportunities open to them. She told them that a positive attitude was crucial to success and advised them never to accept boundaries because ambition is the roadmap for life, and qualifications are the passport to somewhere else. Professor Heenan encouraged them never to be afraid of failure, setbacks or rejection, but to see these experiences as character building. She paid tribute to the creativity and innovation of Steve Jobs, whose immense contribution to contemporary culture had changed the world. She concluded her speech by quoting Benjamin Franklin's view that an investment in education pays the best dividend, and urged the girls to seize the opportunities open to them and to embark on their own journeys of discovery.

Following a presentation to Professor Heenan by the Deputy Head Girls, the Chamber Choir brought the evening to a conclusion with a wonderful performance of *Send in the Clowns* and *The Battle of Jericho*.



## U6 Prize Distribution

This year's Sixth Form Prize Distribution took place on 8 September. It was a pleasure to welcome back our recent school leavers and to celebrate their success at A-level. Refreshments were served in the Sixth Form Centre and prizes and awards were distributed at an informal presentation in Miskelly Hall. Our very best wishes follow the *Year of 2011* as they move on to the next phase of their lives, and we look forward to welcoming them back at school events in the future.



## Careers Round-Up



The new term got underway with the usual round of university open days. All the U6 girls attended Queen's Open Day and many others went to the University of Ulster's Open Days at Jordanstown, Coleraine and Magee. All the girls in U6 also attended the Options XIX Convention at Methodist College, where many UK and Irish universities were represented. Several L6 students have attended open days, which included radiography and physiotherapy, organised by professional bodies. We had a speaker from Project Trust to talk to the sixth form about gap years; two students are currently having gap years in Thailand and Guyana with this organisation. We also had a speaker from Stranmillis University College to talk about careers in teaching, a nursing speaker from Queen's to talk about opportunities in her profession and a lecturer from the Art Department at the University of Ulster to talk about applications to Art College. There have been eight guidance sessions on personal statements for the following areas – history, geography, modern languages, engineering, accountancy, science, psychology and teaching, and there have been three interview workshops for medical applicants. The career guidance interview programme for Form 5 is getting underway and presentations on the form's top ten careers will start in December. As always, a representative from Sentinus delivered a Careers Planning Day for Form 3. Girls in this year group have also had question and answer sessions in the careers suite, as they begin to think about choices which they will make later in the year. Many U6 girls have completed their UCAS forms and now can look forward to receiving some offers before Christmas.

## Sythes Award TRIPS



Well done to Lauren Graham who is this year's winner of the Sythes Award! Lauren deserves congratulations, as the standard of the entries was very high.

- ☺ Bon Voyage to the forty-nine pupils and staff who are going to France on 24 October.
- ☺ Best wishes to all those travelling to America this half-term as part of the school exchange with Cretin-Derham Hall in Minneapolis - St Paul. We wish the sixth form students a safe and enjoyable time away.



# INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSSES

## congratulations to...



Katy Skillen, 1A, who passed her Grade 3 Examination in ice-skating.  
 Hollie Croft, 1A, who passed both her Grade 3 Theory Examination and her Grade 3 Clarinet Examination.  
 Bethany Craig, 1A, who was awarded a Blue Peter badge.  
 Beth McColl, 1A, who was selected for a showjumping team and won first place in a competition in Killinchy.  
 Rhiannon Leatham, 1A, who came third in a bodyboarding competition in Cornwall.  
 Connie O'Callaghan, 1A, who has gained a place on the Howard Tennis Club Team.  
 Zara McVea, 1A, who has gained a place on the team at St Patrick's Tennis Club in Newtownards.  
 Lauren Clarke, 1A, who was placed first in an Irish Dancing competition at the Bangor Feis.  
 Beth Rankin, 1A, who won all her dances in the Bangor Irish Dancing Feis.  
 Nichola Kelly, 1A, who passed her Grade 2 Piano with Merit and her Grade 3 Acting Examination with Merit.  
 Erin McCormack, 1A, who achieved a Distinction in her Speech Examination .  
 Tegan Dunbar, 1A, who won a shield for gaining first place in the Single Jig in an Irish Dancing competition.  
 Jennifer Scott, 1H, who participated in the Kilkeel School of Dance Annual Competition and gained three firsts, two thirds and two fourth places.  
 Robyn Todd, 5T, who competed in the Sir Otto Lund Competition held in Dublin for first-aiders who volunteer with the St John's Ambulance Brigade and won the Birnie Cup, coming first in Ireland.  
 Georgina Gomes, 2H, who passed her Grade Three Piano Examination with Merit.  
 Suzanne McKinstry, 2H, who participated in the UK Tour of *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*.  
 Grace Turkington, 3H, who passed her Grade Four Violin Examination with Merit.  
 Rosalind Skillen, 3H, who passed her Grade Four Acting Examination with Distinction and her Grade Five Theory Examination with Merit.  
 Rachael Thomas, 3H, who passed her Grade Five Verse and Prose Speaking Examination with Distinction.  
 Anna Kane, 3H, who passed her Grade Four Drum Examination with Merit.  
 Stephanie Devlin, 3H, who passed her Grade Five Flute Examination with Merit.  
 Louise Owens, 3H, who passed her Grade Five Piano Examination with Distinction.  
 Chloe Young, 2H, who passed her Grade Four Violin Examination with Distinction.  
 Rachael Kelly, 2S, who passed her Grade Three Violin Examination with Merit.  
 Grace Deeny, 2S, who passed her Singing and Piano Examination.  
 Charlie Aston, 3S, who passed her Grade Two Piano Examination with Distinction.  
 Rachael Harbinson, 4A, who competed in the Irish Dance Festival in Disneyland Paris.  
 Chloe McMillen, 5H, who had the trip of a lifetime with the Ulster Project in July of this year. She spent a month in Ohio with an American family; the highlight of Chloe's trip was a visit to Cedarpoint Theme Park.  
 Eleanor Gorringe, 5H, who attended a flying trip to Liverpool with her RAF Cadet Squad to experience aerobatics.  
 Honor Rowley, 5H, who passed her Grade Six Clarinet Examination with Merit and her Grade Three Music Theory Examination with Distinction.  
 Susie Griffin, 3T, who passed her Grade Six Violin Examination with Distinction.  
 Fiona Gibson, 3T, who passed her Grade Six Flute Examination with Merit.  
 Rachel Hinds, 2H, who came second in Trek and passed her British Horse Society Level One Certificate.  
 Megan Marrs, 3H, who was placed first in the 'B' String 75m hurdles and first in the 'B' String high jump. Megan was also placed fourth in the 'A' String high jump at the UK McCain Young Athletes League in Birmingham. Megan was representing the City of Lisburn Athletics Club and NI at the event.  
 Sophie Gribben and Vikki Wallace, 5H, who both acquired their Grade Four Sailing Certificates in the Ards Sailing Club this summer.  
 Ana Cabecinha, 3T, who competed in the Cadets' Regional Hockey Tournament and got through to the National level of this competition.

## uganda update

Thank you and well done to all those who have helped to raise a further £20,000 for Strathearn Primary, Uganda This money has been used to build a nursery section of three classrooms and a kitchen to provide meals for the children. As well as this we have been able to provide the school with an electricity supply to power outside lights and run a laptop computer. Thank you to everyone for their generosity. A video of the summer 2011 team can be found on the school website.



## Inter-House Drama

This year the Strathearn Drama Festival took place on 26 October in Miskelly Hall. Congratulations to all of the Houses for the wonderful standard of drama which they sustained. Boucher House presented *Alice versus Wonderland*, Barbour House presented *Drama Freaks*, McCaughey House presented *Chemical Attraction* and Watts House presented *How to find love in two minutes*. This year we welcomed Mr Arthur Webb as our Adjudicator, and he allocated the awards as follows: the **Frances Mulley Rose Bowl** for *Best Actress* was awarded to Louise Brown as John in Watt's play; the **levers Shield** for *Best Cameo Performance* went to Sarah Hewitt as Bjorn in Barbour's play; the **McNeill Cup for Directing** was awarded to Amy O'Donnell in Watts; the **McMinn Cup for Best Supporting Actress** went to Susan Ogonda as the March Hare in Boucher's play; the **Gillian Douglas Drama Award** was awarded to McCaughey for the **Best Technical Performance** and the **Inter-House Drama Award** went to Boucher.

## Tesco Voucher Update

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's great total of 63,610 Tesco for Schools and Clubs vouchers! We spent these on ICT equipment and sporting apparatus. Among the many Departments benefiting from the equipment are Modern Languages, History, PE, Drama, Graphics, HE, Geography, Reprographics, ICT and Penrhyn.



# PUBLIC SPEAKING

Congratulations to Sophie Rodgers and Darcy Rollins who took part in a Sixth Form Public Speaking Competition held in the Senate Chamber of Stormont on 12 October. Twenty-eight competed and Sophie was placed third for her astute observations on sexism in contemporary culture and Darcy was given a commendation for sharing her views on the relevance of politics to our young people. The Ulster Unionist Women's Council have run this event for ten years and this was the first (but will not be the last) time we have entered a team!

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Syckerika McMahon whose dream of succeeding at the 2012 Olympics must be nearer to reality after a spectacular summer of swimming success. In the European Junior Championships at Belgrade, Syckerika gained two gold and one silver medal, and was ranked the overall top girl performer! At the Youth Commonwealth Games in the Isle of Man she took three gold and two silver medals. A semi-finalist at the World Senior Championships in Shanghai, Syckerika was placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the 50m breaststroke. She currently holds 42 Ulster Junior and Senior records and 21 Irish Junior and Senior records and is ranked number one in the world in the 50m breaststroke for her age group of 16/17 women. We wish her well as she continues her training programme in Egypt this half-term.



# Art Round-up

Strathearn Art Department enjoyed a workshop with textile artist, Lyndsey McDougall, who shared her expertise with Form Four Art students. The girls loved her quirky approach and created some beautiful hand-stitched samples.

Form 5 artists had a busy and interesting day in September visiting the Ulster Museum and enjoying a guided tour of galleries and public Art in the City Centre. On 27 October, the annual Sixth Form Dublin Art trip took in the current exhibitions at the Hugh Lane and National Gallery of Ireland.



# Dates for your Diary



Exceptional Closure - 11 November

School Formal - 11 November

Autumn Musical Evening - 17 November at 8pm

Upper Sixth Practice Interviews - 21 November

School Production - 6 & 7 December at 7pm

Form One Consultation Evening - 8 December

Community Service Christmas Party - 14 December

Carol Service - 15 December at 7pm

School resumes

7 November at 8.45 am

# SWIMMING



The Minor Schools' Swimming Gala took place on Saturday 22 October in Ballymena.

**Group 4 Individual results:**

Sarah McCracken was 15th in Backstroke and 18th in the Individual Medley.

Nicola McIlwaine was 26th in the Backstroke and 41st in the Freestyle.

Anna Robinson was 25th in the Breaststroke and 45th in the Freestyle.

Alex Reilly was 20th in Breaststroke and 34th in the Freestyle.

Beth Watson was 23rd in the Breaststroke.

**Group 5 Individual results:**

Victoria White won the bronze medal in the Individual Medley

and was 4th in the Backstroke. Ferne Blackstock was just out of

the medals finishing 4th in both the Breaststroke and Freestyle.

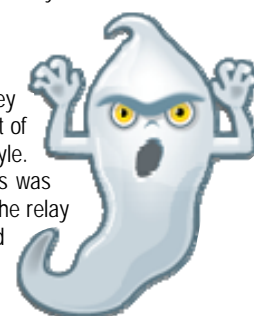
Caitie Williams was 13th in the Freestyle and Kathryn Childs was

22nd in the Freestyle. These four girls were all members of the relay

team which won silver medals in both the Freestyle and

Medley relays.

*Well done girls, a great start to this season!*



# SPORT



## INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

## NETBALL

### Trampolining

Congratulations to Frances Wilson, 4S, who was placed sixth in the Loulé Cup in Portugal. Frances achieved a personal best and the highest female score in Northern Ireland.

### Football

Congratulations to Catherine Sheridan, 5A, who has been selected for the U17 UEFA Women's Championship and will be playing football for Northern Ireland at a number of venues in October.

### Squash

Congratulations to Victoria White, 2H, who won the David Lloyd Junior Open and the Connacht Junior Open in Girls' U13 Squash, and to Hannah Craig, 2S, who won the Belfast Junior Open Squash Tournament and was placed third in the Connacht Junior Open Squash Competition.

### Kata

Congratulations to Sophie Rodgers, L6H, who came third in the Kata event at the British Karate Federation British Open.

The netball season has got off to a great start again this year.

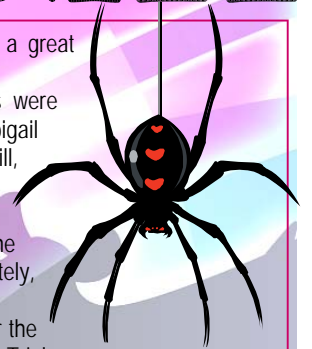
The Podium 4 Sport Netball trials were held on 22 September with Abigail Crosby, Jenna Kerr, Maeve O'Neill, Chloe Johnston, Bonnie Macrae, Francesca Ringrow and Hermione Anstey representing Strathearn. The girls played well but, unfortunately, none was selected for the team.

The following girls were selected for the Belfast Area U15 RDA Netball Trials on 20 October: Saskia Craig, Shannon Booth, Alex Cush, Erin Larmour, Lauren Watson, Florence Ogonda, Hermione Anstey, Emily McGowan, Lucy Robinson, Chloe Johnston, Bonnie Macrae, Francesca Ringrow, Charlotte Aston, Jemma Gillan and Nicky Montgomery. Shannon, Erin, Emily, Charlotte, Jemma and Nicky were selected for the Belfast U15 Squad which will be training regularly throughout the season for a tournament in May. Well done girls!

The Belfast Area U13 RDA Trials will take place on 25 October with Topaz Marshall, Francesca Lynn, Katie Miskimmin, Maddy Miskimmin, Sophie Allen, Lola Bingham, Rhia Prentice, Gemma Burnside and Suzanne McKinstry being put forward from Strathearn.

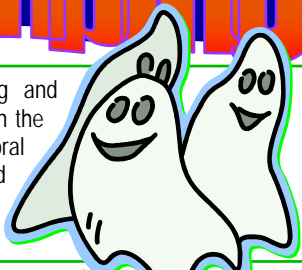
Stephanie Jemphrey, who played for the Northern Irish Under 17 Team last year, is again in the process of trials for this team. We wish Stephanie good luck as the team selection will be announced around Christmas time.

Well done to everyone who has showed great commitment to training so far this year and we hope it pays off for future matches.



## Showjumping

Well done to Chloe Armstrong, Georgie Young and Charlotte de Montmorency Wright who competed in the annual Schools' Showjumping Competition at Balmoral Showgrounds on Saturday 1 October and finished with a total of 8 faults under very slippery conditions.



## HOCKEY

The 2011 hockey season got off to a good start and, to date, all of our school teams have played matches against Glenlola Collegiate, Wallace High School, Carrickfergus Grammar, Portadown College, Belfast Royal Academy and Sullivan Upper.

The 3A XI played their first game of the group stages of the 3rd XI Cup against a strong Sullivan Upper side, and unfortunately lost 3-0. The 2B XI played Methodist College in the first game of the group stages of the 3rd XI Cup last Thursday and drew 2-2. Both teams will play two more group matches in November.

The 1st XI have been drawn against Banbridge Academy in the first round of the Schools' Cup, the 2A XI have to play Rainey Endowed in the McDowell Cup and the U14A XI will take on Grosvenor in the Junior Cup. These games will be played shortly after half-term.

Congratulations to Kirby O'Donnell who was selected for the Ulster U18 Team who were silver medallists at the UK School Games in Sheffield. Kirby was also selected to play for the Ulster U18 Squad in the Inter-Provincial Tournament on 22 and 23 October.

The Captains for each team have been elected and are as follows:

1st XI Captain – Kirby O'Donnell; Co-Vice Captains – Rebecca Blundell & Hannah Wishart

2A XI Captain – Hannah Simpson; Vice Captain – Tammie Finlay

2B XI Captain – Jemma Quinn; Vice Captain – Ali Finlay

3A XI Co-Captains – Janey Deehan & Hannah King

3B XI Captain – Susan Ogonda

U14A Captain – Shannon Booth; Vice Captain – Abby Larmour

U14B Captain – Chloe McCabe; Vice Captain – Dakota Armour

U13A Captain – Sarah Brown; Vice Captain – Maddy Miskimmon

U13B Captain – Rhia Prentice; Vice Captain – Emma Lowry

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

