

# Strathearn News



## TRANSFER OPEN DAY



On 22 January, we welcomed P7 and P6 pupils and their parents to Strathearn for our annual Open Day. The event proved a very enjoyable occasion as everyone had worked so hard to make it a success. There were varied and engaging displays in all departments and we were really proud of our guides and pupil support teams who did such a wonderful job. We would like to warmly thank all the pupils and parents who turned out to give us their support, and we look forward to seeing many of our visitors return as members of our school community in September!



## DRAMA TRIP TO LONDON



On 10 February, 34 Lower Sixth and Fourth Form Drama students flew to London on the annual Drama Department trip to see live productions in the West End. The pupils had an exciting line-up of events that stretched over two days. On Thursday night they attended the Fortune Theatre for a spine-chilling viewing of *The Woman in Black* - an amazing piece of theatre that Form Four will write about in their GCSE examination. On Friday they had the opportunity to have a guided backstage tour of one of Britain's oldest theatres, the Theatre Royal on Drury Lane. This tour was guided by famous figures from theatrical history and provided an invaluable insight into the

backstage areas that many never get a chance to see. On Friday night, everyone enjoyed a performance of *Wicked* at the Apollo Theatre, which was particularly inspiring as local Belfast girl, Rachel Tucker, assumed the main role of Elphaba. On Saturday morning the girls visited the British Museum where they were challenged to photograph one piece of art that could be used as stimulus for devised pieces of their own. The Lower Sixth also found the ancient Greek section fascinating due to their studies of Greek Theatre. All in all, the trip was educational and enjoyable.

## CAREERS ROUND-UP



It is a busy time in the Career's Department. Upper Sixth are in the process of interviews and offers from universities, and we wish them all well with these. Lower Sixth girls have returned from work experience placements. Feedback has been excellent, with girls placed in a wide range of job situations: hospitals, dentists, solicitors, photographers, publishing, youth groups, and primary schools, to name but a few. We even had one student in air traffic control at the George Best City Airport! Fifth Formers are currently making subject choices, and our series of outside speakers has begun again. Third Formers have also begun to consider subject choices, with a talk from an outside speaker from Queen's University.



# Individual Successes Congratulations to ...

Grace Deeny, 1S, who was placed first in Singing in the Hollywood Music Festival.  
Chloe Young, 1S, who was joint first in the Saintfield Horse Riding Competition.  
Anna Kane, 2H, who passed her Grade Three Drum Examination with Merit.  
Rachael Thomas, 2H, who passed her Grade Four Drama with Distinction.  
Rosalind Skillen, 2H, who passed her Grade Four Speaking Verse and Prose with Distinction.  
Stephanie Devlin, 2H who passed her Bronze Medal Speech and Drama with Distinction.  
Nicky Montgomery, 2H, who passed her Bronze Medal Speech and Drama with Distinction.  
Tori Megarry, 2H, who was placed first in the U13 Category in the Mosgrove Music Festival on 3 February 2011. Tori won a Cup and a medal.  
Megan McOuat, 1A, who came second in a Show Jumping Competition at Birr House.  
Kate Umphray, 3A, who, as a member of the Castlereagh String Orchestra, has been chosen to play a violin solo at the QUB Festival in April.  
Eden McAllister, 1T, who tried out for the Irish National Gymnastics Squad and was very successful.  
Georgina Young, 1T, who qualified for the Northern Ireland Working Hunter Festival.

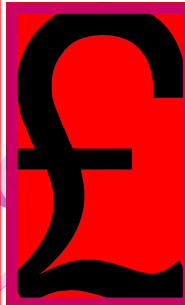
# Strathearn Uganda Appeal

In July 2011, staff and 19 pupils are going out to Strathearn Primary School in Uganda to build a nursery school on the same site. As a School we are very excited to be able to make a real difference to the life chances of children in Uganda and we ask for your support in this venture. The cost of the building programme is £15,000 and we have already received donations towards this total for which we are very grateful. Over the next few months there will be a number of fundraisers including *Cash for Clobber*, Sponsored Marathon runs and a Dinner Dance. We are particularly grateful to the *Clandeboyne Lodge Hotel* for offering to host our Dinner Dance which is to be held on Saturday 26 March 2011 and tickets (priced at £30 each) will be available from the Finance Office.

# DRAMA SHOWCASE Form Efforts



The Form Four GCSE Drama Showcase took place in Strathearn on 11 January in aid of the Children's Heartbeat Trust. Twenty-three fourth year pupils prepared three short, one act plays as part of their GCSE scripted assessments, and performed them to an audience of friends and family. *The Perils of Penelope*, *Josephine the Angel* and *The Fashionistas* were all very well received, and succeeded in raising £230 for the charity!



**Form 2H** raised £376 for *Help the Heroes*. They would like to thank everyone who supported their Christmas Fete.

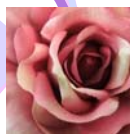
From 13-16 December, **Form 2A** held a Form Effort to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The Form Effort was held in the Foyer at lunchtimes where they sold sweets and buns and ran two competitions:

*How many sweets in the jar?* and *Guess the name of the Teddy*. Form 2A also showed a Christmas movie in the assembly hall, and all these events contributed to the grand total of over £400. A big 'thank you' to everyone who supported this worthwhile cause!

**Form 4H's** heart-themed bun and sweet sale, which took place from 7-9 February, raised a total of £427.65 for the MRI Scanner Appeal for the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event!

# Cinemagic Success

Chloe McLaurin took part in Cinemagic's inaugural International Film Camp in Belfast last August, and she and another Northern Ireland student have been chosen to take part in film and television master classes and presentations in Los Angeles. Chloe is going to Los Angeles during Oscar week, and we wish her continued success as she takes up this fabulous opportunity!



# Maths Challenge

# Library News



At the end of January the junior library assistants took part in a 'library effort' for charity to support a work in Kenya called *The Garden of Hope*, a centre in Kenya which aims to meet the needs of vulnerable children in the village of Gichagi, a short distance from the capital city, Nairobi.

The girls held a sweet sale over the course of two days and a staff coffee morning was held in the library. The effort raised a total of £251 for the *Garden of Hope* which will help provide much needed food for the children in Gichagi. Many thanks to all who supported this effort!

A huge thank you to the sixty girls from Form Four and Form Five, who participated in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge on 3 February! The Challenge involved answering 25 multiple-choice questions in one hour. The top 40% of students entered nationally will receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate, and one student from Strathearn will receive a *Best in School* certificate. The results can be expected from the University of Leeds in March. *Good Luck* to everyone who took part!

# Public Speaking Strathearn's Got Talent



Well done to our team of three girls who recently took part in the Queen's Women Graduates Public Speaking Competition! Erin Prentice (3A), Naoise Webster and Hannah McDowell (3H) prepared impromptu speeches on the evening of the competition

and, although the team was not placed, the girls were congratulated on their poise and content. Hannah McDowell received a special mention for her amusing take on the nature of Family Holidays. Thanks to Dominique Forson who was a loyal substitute and great supporter!



On 10 February the semi-finals for *Strathearn's Got Talent* began with pupils from all across the school, who had auditioned to take part with a variety of impressive acts. The following Monday the final took place, and the judges faced very difficult decisions! In the end, however, Eden McAllister won with her impressive dance act and Jenna Kelly was runner-up. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported the event in any way. We are delighted to announce that at least £650 has been raised for the Children's Heartbeat Trust and the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice!

## Dates for your Diary

Form Five Parents' Consultation Afternoon - 2 March 1.45-5 pm

Form Three Parents' Information Briefing - 8 March 6.30-7 pm

Form Three Parents' Consultation Evening - 8 March 7-9 pm

St Patrick's Day - 17 March - school ends at 12.50 pm

Exceptional Closure Day - 18 March

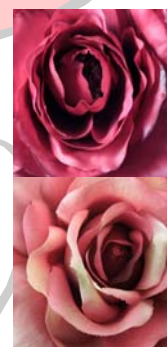
Form Two Parents' Consultation Afternoon - 24 March 3-5 pm

Dinner Dance in Aid of Uganda - 26 March - Clondeboy Lodge Hotel

Spring Concert - 29 March

Parents' Association Spring Ball - 9 April - Culloden Hotel

**Back to School on 28 February at 8.45 am!**



## School Trips



### Art Trip

Lower and Upper Sixth Artists had a chance to visit the University of Ulster Open Day, where there was a dynamic and stimulating display of Foundation Year work, and an opportunity to meet former pupils of Strathearn who are now studying at the Art College.

Form Five had a special workshop with Artist, Pen Jones, whose colourful work was very inspirational.

### Synagogue Trip

On 10 February, Form 2 went to the Belfast synagogue. The building is off the Antrim Road and if you took an aerial photo you could see that it is shaped like the Star of David, a symbol of Jewish faith. Dr Litvack, who is the cantor at the synagogue, showed us around and explained about Jewish faith and culture. We met the Rabbi and got to have a look at the Bibles and, since you read from right to left in Hebrew, you had to turn the book round and upside down to read it! Dr Litvack then sang the Prayer in Hebrew that starts a service at the Synagogue, which was very interesting. The trip was a great experience and we all learnt a lot about

the Jewish faith. *Aimee Irwin, 2R*

### Biology Trips

The Lower Sixth Biology classes have been taking part in the annual field trips to Delamont Outdoor Centre. Some of you know this area because of summer picnics or from school cross-country events. We visited the sheltered shores of Strangford Lough and studied the wide variety of animals and seaweeds that thrive there. Later we walked along the very windy and exposed coastline near Ardglass – a very different habitat. One day was spent at Murlough sand dunes with the beautiful view across the shore to the Mountains of Mourne. We had sunshine, hailstones, rain and wind all on the same day, so we were all very grateful for the long coats and wellies which are a regular feature of field work! The girls all worked very hard to complete their reports during the evening in the classroom – most were finished by 10 o'clock.



# SUPPORT

## HOCKEY



All of the hockey teams have been very busy catching up on their respective Cup, Plate and Shield matches after the Christmas break and the weather delays. The 1st XI played in the third round of the Senior Schools' Cup where they were outplayed by a very skilful Lurgan College and unfortunately lost 4-0. They then progressed into the third round of the Senior Shield where they played Methodist College and an outstanding team performance saw Strathearn win 3-2 with goals scored by Zara Millar, Evie Bloor and Rebecca Blundell. They will now play Regent House in the semi-final on 5 March.

The 2A XI played Ballyclare High School in the McDowell Cup, and after a nail-bitingly close match, were very unlucky to lose 2-1 in extra time. They also progressed into the 2nd XI Plate where they played Friends' School, Lisburn and won 3-1, with goals from Helen Harvey, Bethany Chambers and substitute Bexi Cowden. In the next round they played Methodist College and convincingly won 3-0 and are now waiting to see who they will play in the quarter-final.

Excellent team play by the 2B XI has resulted in them reaching the semi-final of the Gibson Cup. In the opening round of this knock-out stage of the competition, the team played Regent House in a tight match. Captain, Sarah Greene scored a fine individual goal to seal the victory. In the quarter-final the team were drawn against Ballyclare High. Bexi Cowden scored the only goal of the game 1-0. They now meet Sullivan Upper.

At Junior level, the U14A XI is progressing very well in the Junior Plate having defeated BRA 2-0; Captain, Lauren Wheeler scoring both goals. They then made the long journey to Limavady GS winning the match 3-0, with goals scored by Lauren Wheeler, Isla Lockhart and Natalie Wallace. The team are now through to the quarter-finals, but they are on the road again – this time to Omagh Academy. Congratulations to all the teams on their successes so far and good luck in the next stages of your respective competitions!

## Netball

Well done to the Minor Netball

Team who played in the Belfast Area Final where they were runners-up after a hard fought match against Rathmore GS. The squad consisted of Nicky Montgomery (Captain), Charlotte Aston, Shannon Booth, Jemma Gillan, Erin Larmour, Lucy Robinson, Emily Boyd, Alex Cush, Florence Ogonda and Saskia Craig.



## CROSSCOUNTRY

Congratulations to all those who competed in the Co Down District Cross-Country Championships at a surprisingly dry Delamont Park on 3 February. Both the Form 1 and Form 2 teams finished in a very commendable 5th place. At Intermediate level Strathearn had a superb individual performance from Francesca Brown who finished full of running in bronze medal position. Her team of Claudia Bedford, Holly McKeown, Katherine Beattie, Joy Dalzell and Arden Armstrong ran a great race and the team finished in 2nd place overall. Rebecca Blundell kept the Strathearn flag flying at Senior level and came home in 5th place.

Despite these superb results, the performances of the day were from the Junior Team who literally ran away with the Junior title! Jenny Drennan led from the start and stormed home in 1st place ahead of her team mates Anna Campbell 7th, Jessica Fairclough 11th, Lauren Wheeler, Natalie Wallace and Anieshia Bedford, whose combined scores contributed to the overall victory. Both the Junior and Intermediate Teams and Rebecca Blundell have qualified for the Ulster Championships later in the month. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

## TRAMPOLINING

Congratulations to Frances Wilson, 3A, who competed at the British Midlands Gala and was placed third in DMT. Frances has now qualified for the National Championships. Well Done!



## SWIMMING

Following their recent success at the Ulster Schools' Championships, the girls competed in the Ulster Secondary Schools' Swimming Championships which took place on 8 and 9 January.

At Junior level, Helen Navalli was placed 3rd in the 100m Backstroke and 5th in the 100m Freestyle. Tara Gouk was placed 9th in the Intermediate 100m Breaststroke and 14th in the 100m Freestyle. And at Senior level, Rebecca Blundell was placed 4th in the 100m Breaststroke and Marie-Claire Barry was placed 2nd in the 100m Backstroke.

The Junior Relay Team was placed 7th and 4th respectively in the Freestyle and Medley Relays; the Intermediate Relay Team of Tara Gouk, Shona Corry, Helen Navalli and Eve Allister were placed 4th in both relay events and the Senior Relay Team of Marie-Claire Barry, Rebecca Blundell, Claudia Bedford and Hannah Wishart was placed 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Freestyle and Medley Relays.

Congratulations to all the girls who competed!

