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Principal's Letter



Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends

My first year as Principal of Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools is drawing to a close and I am astounded at how quickly the academic year has passed.

Boys and girls at the schools can look back on the year with pride and satisfaction; they have demonstrated diligence and resilience in all their endeavours – academic, cultural, sporting and social. Beyond their own ambitions, they have continued to demonstrate a strong sense of good citizenship and a commitment to school values.

The third term has inevitably been dominated by SQA examinations for our older pupils. They have acquitted themselves well and shown their readiness to tackle these intellectual challenges. Beyond academic matters, the schools' full programme of Performing Arts, Outdoor Education activities and summer sports have ensured that school life is busy, purposeful and fun.

Following extensive consultation, the ESMS Three Schools' Development Plan has been drawn up and is published below for your interest.

THREE SCHOOLS' DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019/2020

1. To develop and promote the Outdoor Education programme for all children at ESMS.
2. To improve cultural literacy and knowledge.
3. To consider how the School Vision can be updated and articulated.
4. To consider responses to the key issues raised in the recent staff surveys.
5. To explore the re-introduction of the Middle School structure for S1 and S2.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

Work is well underway on phase three of the Queensferry Road development. The demolition of the obsolete Junior School buildings at the south end of the site has taken place and the construction of a building to house Modern Languages, RMPS, Classics and Outdoor Education will be complete by December 2019. This will then free up the Cromarty building currently shared between Primary 7 and languages for further development and expansion of Junior School accommodation. The extension to Easter Ravelston and the creating of a new bespoke dining facility for our youngest children is now all but complete with the finishing decorative touches now taking place, in preparation for the start of the new session in August.



"We believe that this arrangement will create better opportunities for social interaction, strong academic support and a consistent and supportive ethos for all our boarders."

BOARDING NEWS

From August 2019, our boarding community will be based together in Dean Park House and our boarders will continue to receive excellent pastoral and academic support from experienced and committed members of our current boarding team. All our boarders will benefit from the fabulous recreational areas in Dean Park House, which will include three common rooms, a study room, dining facilities, a boarders' kitchen and extensive social space. They will have secure, segregated study bedrooms with separate floors for boys and girls which will include toilet and washing facilities. We believe that this arrangement will create better opportunities for social interaction, strong academic support and a consistent and supportive ethos for all our boarders.

PRIZEGIVINGS

Our distinguished prizegiving speakers are both former pupils of the schools. At The Mary Erskine School, Ms Tamsyn McLean, Principal European Transaction Counsel at Assured Guaranty. At Stewart's Melville College Mr Kydd Boyle, founder of Horizons, a social enterprise helping to inspire, educate and connect future young leaders. We look forward to welcoming them both back to the schools.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

ESMS

Georgi Boev –	Visiting Music Teacher (Piano)
Catriona Clark –	Visiting Music Teacher (Singing)
Katy Harrington –	HR Manager
Jessica Leary –	Visiting Music Teacher (Singing)
Alan McIntosh –	Assistant Janitor

Stewart's Melville College

David Chalmers –	Assistant Head of Torridon House
David Foulds –	Head of Lochaber House
Fergal McNamara –	SI Tutor
Lauren Thow –	SI Tutor

The Mary Erskine School

Kathleen Culyer –	Teacher of Physics (maternity cover)
Richard Robertson –	Assistant Head of Kintyre House

NEW ARRIVALS

We wish the following staff, who have recently had children, well for the future:

Juliet and Aidan Brown:	a son, Arthur John
Jenny Flockhart and Liam Boucher:	a son, Lewis Spencer Flockhart
Laura and Robert Cowie:	a son, Presley
Julie and Richard Worrall:	a daughter, Rose Zhareena Lello
Emma and Jamie Coffey:	a son, Ruaridh Stevenson
Julia and Gareth Paterson:	a son, Jack Stewart
Alexis and Paul Curran:	a daughter, Charlotte Margaret Ann

IN CONCLUSION

A number of my senior colleagues will retire this academic year: Mr Graeme Brown, member of the Senior Management Team and Director of Administration, Dr Iain Scott, Director of Sixth Form and member of the Senior Schools' Management Teams and Mr Chris Spence, Regent and member of the Stewart's Melville Management Team. Between them their service to the schools totals over 100 years!

In the Senior schools, Mr Charles Nasmyth retired in January from Stewart's Melville College where he taught Art for 28 years. The same number of years has been completed by Mr Michael Chittleburgh who retires from his post as Head of Modern Languages at the end of term. Exceeding this high total is Mr Robin Miller who retires after 35 years teaching Biology at Stewart's Melville College.

In the Junior School, Mrs Dorothy Johnston and Mrs Norma Willis will leave the Snowdrop Room after 17 and 22 years respectively. Mrs Margaret Pringle worked as an ICT Assistant at New Ravelston for 19 years and retired earlier this session. Miss Fiona Burrows leaves her Primary 5 Year Group Leader post at the end of term after 10 years' service. Mrs Fiona Anderson, Housemistress of Erskine House leaves at the end of this session as does Mr Ord Adams, Classroom Assistant they have worked at the schools for 19 and 12 years respectively. Earlier this session, we said goodbye to Mr Rab Gardner who retired after 24 years as resident janitor on the Queensferry Road site.

I wish all these colleagues every good wish and we are grateful for all their contributions which have enriched the lives of pupils and staff alike.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish parents, pupils and staff a very enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

Linda A Moule

Linda A Moule
Principal

P6RC SHORTLISTED IN THE TOP 10 FUNNIEST CLASSES IN BRITAIN BY THE BEANO MAGAZINE

After Mr Cowie's Primary 6 class started a 'Worst Joke Wednesday' tradition, the classroom has heard plenty of funny gags, so much so that the children of P6RC entered one of their jokes into the Beano Britain's Funniest Class competition.

On Thursday 16th May, the class were thrilled to find out that not only had their joke been shortlisted in the top 10, but they were the only Scottish school on the list.

The story and class photo were featured in the Edinburgh Evening News, Harry Hill read out the class's joke and wished them good luck and P6RC (and Mr Cowie!) even featured on STV News, telling their favourite jokes and telling viewers how much laughter is shared in their classroom every day. Of course, we can't share this great news without telling you the joke...

*How do you fry a black and white bear?
In a pan...duh!*

Scottish schoolkids make UK top 10 in contest to find nation's funniest class



The P6RC class from 2018's one and only Scottish school featured in the top ten of the Beano's annual UK competition

PRIMARY 7 WEST HIGHLAND WAY CHARITY WALK



This year's Primary 7 West Highland Way charity walk saw 23 children trek an incredible 60 miles from Bridge of Orchy to Milngavie. This was the first year we had opted to walk the southern section of this famous route and we were not disappointed.

Our first day of walking consisted of a 20 mile jaunt from Bridge of Orchy to Inverarnan. The sun was out most of the day, the walking was enjoyable, and morale was sky-high; particularly when ice lollies appeared on our arrival at Beinglas Farm late in the afternoon!

Our middle day of walking was a particular challenge; 21 miles of beautiful but, in places, slow trekking along the eastern side of Loch Lomond. However, the sun shone again all day which compensated for the tough walking.

The final day began with a wonderful trek over Conic Hill outside Balmaha before heading south to Milngavie in once again, incredibly good weather. After a brief celebration in Milngavie we enjoyed a hearty Italian meal before driving back to School. The children were fabulous from start to finish. Not only did they raise over £13,500 for two charities, Future Hope India and the school's Access to Excellence fund, they amazed the staff by having sufficient reserves of energy to sing the entire way home! It was a wonderful end to a memorable trip.



PRIMARY 2 VISIT THE RNLI

At the beginning of May, Primary 2 visited the RNLI station at South Queensferry.

This fantastic charity is the organisation that the children have been collecting 'charity pennies' for all year and it was wonderful for pupils to see the how the money they have raised helps volunteers to save lives.



SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Interest in politics amongst young people has never been higher, with school pupils around the world engaging in e-petitions, marches, rallies and even strikes. They are determined to put pressure on governments and to bring about change on issues ranging from climate change to gun laws.



One way that young people in Scotland can make their voice heard is through the Scottish Youth Parliament. Elections to this influential body take place every two years and this year a record number of ESMS pupils have been successful in gaining seats. Three girls from MES have been elected – Andrea Byrne (S5), Thea Tjolle (S5) and Beccie White (S3), along with two boys from SMC, Euan Baird (S5) and Archie Flynn (S6). Between them they represent constituencies in Edinburgh and Fife and will be responsible for speaking up on behalf of young people in these areas.

Thea spoke at school assemblies in Inverkeithing and Dunfermline as part of her bid to be elected. Her manifesto promised to pursue lower public transport fares and cheaper access to sporting facilities for young people, along with better safety in the community for young women. MES pupils who live in Fife had the chance to vote for Thea at a pop-up election stall organised by Mrs Molloy (Modern Studies) and her Community Support worker from Fife.

The first full session of the new parliament is at the end of June, where members will set out their priorities for the next two years.

P6RC'S SOS AFRICA CHARITY PROJECT by Isabella Allan and Isla Keir, P6

It all started when I (Isabella) went to Cape Town and saw many children sitting on the side of the road in poorer parts of the city.

During that holiday I saw Kyleisha, an area consisting of thousands of homes constructed from scraps and other items that you and I would normally throw away.

Soon after my return I was speaking to Isla about my holiday. The subject quickly turned

to how dreadful the conditions are for many children living there. We spoke to Mr Cowie, our class teacher, telling him about our concerns and explaining that we wanted to help. He suggested that we research charity options to present to the class. Although several different options were found, it was decided to use SOS Africa. They support schools and children, and this was our goal.

Both of us spoke to the class and explained what we wanted to do and why; soon discovering that we had generous classmates. By the end of the term, the class were delighted to have raised £113.25 in donations. We would like to thank all our classmates who helped, it has paid for a vulnerable child's school fees in South Africa and given him or her a real boost.

LGBTQ+ GROUP MEETING

Stewart's Melville College held its first ever LGBTQ+ group meeting at the end of March.

The meeting was attended by 27 pupils from S1-S6. Miss Caddow, Mrs Herrera, Mr Millar and Mr Woolley supervised the meeting and were impressed by the confidence displayed and respect shown by all those who attended. The group aims to create a safe space where pupils can openly discuss issues relating to sexuality, diversity and equality. It is a positive step forward for Stewart's Melville College and we are excited to see what positive changes the group can bring to our unique family of schools.



MELVILLE COLLEGE TRUST PLAQUE UNVEILING

On 26th April 2019, the Melville College Trust unveiled a Plaque at 7 Melville Street to mark the presence of Melville College occupying the buildings between numbers 1 and 11 Melville Street, between 1920 and 1973. The School was known as Edinburgh Institution when it moved there from Queen Street in 1920 and then changed its name in 1937 to Melville College. The School then merged with Daniel Stewart's College in the summer of 1973.

The Trust were delighted that Margot Christie, who started teaching at Melville College in 1950 before completing her career at Stewart's Melville College, was able to perform the unveiling of the Plaque.

Also present were representatives from the School Governors, current School Staff, Former Pupils and former members of Melville Staff. In addition to Margot Christie, the Trust welcomed back to the School doorsteps — Andrew Todd, Iain Dunn, Anne Evans, Paul Caton and Tom Fraser.

The Melville College Trust is an independent charity and provides annual financial support for a number of Bursary applicants in the Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools as well as providing annual grants to many of the ESMS Clubs and Societies. More information about the Trust's work can be found on their website <http://melvillecollegetrust.uk/>



MES CONSERVATION CLUB VISIT P1 PUPILS

On Thursday 5th May, members of the Conservation Club at MES visited P1 to talk to them about the negative impact that humans can have on animals and the environment when we dispose of items irresponsibly. The children were keen to learn about how they can reuse items instead of throwing them away, reduce the impact they have on resources and recycle properly.

Thank you, Conservation Club!



MALAWI CLUB LUNCH



The P7 Malawi Club concluded on Thursday 23rd May and to celebrate our time together we enjoyed a delicious Malawi-themed lunch party put on by our excellent catering staff.

The Malawian diet is very healthy, and we enjoyed a main course of roasted vegetables, rice, nyemba (beans) and nsima (maize porridge), followed by some mango for dessert. It was delicious!



NEW DINING FACILITY AT RAVELSTON



At the Ravelston site, we are creating a new, state of the art kitchen and dining facility for the Nursery and P1 children.

The new kitchen will also be run by Inspire Catering. The dining facility will have five rooms, as opposed to one large canteen, featuring underfloor heating, plenty of natural light and specially designed booths. To encourage family-style dining, children will eat their lunches with their class, their teacher and a food service assistant per room. This new approach will focus on table manners and encourage children to try new foods in a safe and warm environment, mirroring the experience they have at home. If the weather is favourable, they will even be able to go straight out to play, as doors open onto the Ravelston Garden. The children will have a lunch that features soup to start, crudités, a hot main meal, fruit and then a dessert.

Children with allergies or intolerances will be provided with a meal that matches the main course as closely as possible,

encouraging everyone to eat the same wherever possible and feel included, much like they would with their caregivers at home.

The children and staff will eat their lunch on wooden chairs specifically sourced from Europe that enable staff to be at the children's height when interacting with them. This flexibility will also be useful for the school to use the spaces for various other occasions too. Primary 1 will start using the new facility in August with Nursery children joining them after the October break. As well as the dining spaces, other new rooms have been created including a new medical room, staffroom, Reception, washing room, walk in storage spaces and offices for the Deputy Head, Head of Nursery and Office staff. We are all really looking forward to using our new areas and to our very special, calm lunchtimes.

VIRTUAL REALITY AT ESMS

At the start of this session we were fortunate enough to purchase a class set of virtual reality headsets and be awarded Pioneer status by Avantis, ClassVR. We have invested in the use of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) to enhance the teaching and learning of our children throughout the Junior School and into both Mary Erskine and Stewart's Melville College.

Higher Spanish classes at SMC have enjoyed virtual walks around Madrid, hearing and seeing conversations in streets and markets. Higher Physics pupils at MES have visited the Atlas detector in the CERN site, something they would never have been permitted to do in person. Other subjects, such as History, Geography and RMPS have also enjoyed visiting the inaccessible.



At the other end of our age range, Primary 1 children have explored deserts and rainforests, as well as ridden on a dragon, to enhance their understanding of topics. The fundamental aim behind the use of the headsets is to enhance, not replace, the teaching of the lessons and Class Teachers use these devices in many ways; to supplement or summarise key points.

How many times have you, as a learner, heard a lesson begin with, "Now I want you to imagine..."? Sometimes it is hard to imagine being in a World War I trench and to then write a letter home, is far from easy. Now you can!

The use of these devices to enhance learning has proven itself already and we look forward to exploring many more opportunities in 360 degrees.

SUMMER FUN WITH 'PLANTS' TOPIC IN PRIMARY 5



Visitors to Primary 5 in the summer term will have found a group of budding botanists. The children have been learning about plant uses, features and processes such as germination, pollination and photosynthesis.

Learning has been enhanced by carrying out practical investigations, observing and exploring. For example, through the dissection of a flower and the creation of a digital poster to name the parts. Whilst growing their own plants, the students created experiments to investigate conditions for plant growth, starting with a hypothesis. They were surprised to discover that cress seeds could begin to grow without light! However, they were not very tasty and, for optimum growth, really needed light and water. By growing beans, children have witnessed first-hand the plant lifecycle and have observed growth of the root, shoot and seedling in class.

During an especially sunny week in May, Primary 5 visited the Botanical Gardens. This involved lots of practical work, putting into practice the theory learned in the classroom. Children investigated a variety of plants using lenses to inspect them more closely. They learned that some insects see through blue and red lenses. A great time was had by all when looking through coloured glasses to see using the eyes of different insects to discover which flowers are most attractive to each. Knowledge of pollination was shared using a role play. Classes dressed up as a bee and various parts of a flower, e.g. petals, stamen and pollen. The 'bee' then demonstrated insect pollination — how they help pollinate flowers by drinking the



nectar of a flower and consequently carrying pollen to the next flower.

This was an active and inspiring topic, enhanced by our beautiful school grounds, and one that the children are sure to remember!

IAN MURRAY MP VISIT



Modern Studies pupils and friends were delighted to attend a lunchtime Q&A session with Ian Murray MP in early March. Mr Murray is the Labour MP for Edinburgh South, and between 2015 and 2017 he was Labour's only Scottish MP at Westminster. He shared some refreshingly honest views about the challenges facing his party at the moment, especially in relation to anti-Semitism concerns.

He commented that traditional party lines in the UK are breaking down and that new allegiances are forming; he predicted that the new Change UK party, with whom his name was strongly linked, would do very well in any forthcoming elections, taking third or even second place in the polls. In response to a question about the whip system, Mr Murray confirmed that the role of the whips is virtually impossible in the current climate of the House of Commons. Asked if he had ever defied a three-line whip, he confirmed that he may have rebelled on one or two occasions, generating letters of reprimand which can sell for up to £50 at charity auctions!

Mr Murray is also a member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. He described a recent trip to China, which was particularly relevant as this is the international topic for Higher Modern Studies. There were many restrictions on this trip, not least gaining permission to travel there in the first place.

This was an excellent talk at a time of a rapidly-changing political landscape.

Thank you, Ian.

“THIS IS THE GREATEST SHOW!” FANTOOSH 2019

Under the striped canopy of The Stables at the Prestonfield House Hotel, 280 ESMS parents partied the night away on Friday 17th May 2019.



Living up to the glamorous theme of The Greatest Showman, the 2019 ESMS May Fantoosh featured circus performers, the now traditional Funpix photobooth and glitter face painting, fake beards and top hats galore, topped off with lively dancing to guest band GHOST. Our guests also enjoyed a delicious three course meal and flawless service. Beyond the glitz and glimmer, stunning dresses and fabulous music, what made the event so memorable were our

parents who are always the best feature of the Fantoosh – they certainly know how to party!

This year's ticket sales raised an amazing £3,700 for the Fantoosh charities: It's Good to Give and our own Bursary Fund, Access to Excellence. An event that will be hard to top – but roll on Fantoosh 2020!

We would like to thank the attending parents, suppliers and the generous sponsors who donated the table prizes on the evening:

Aurora, Bains Retro Sweets, Bia Bistrot, Brill Jewellery and Café, Can to Candle, Charlie Miller, The City Workshop, Dick's Edinburgh, The Edinburgh Hat Studio, Epitome of Edinburgh, Flowers by Isla, The Fudge House, The Guerlain Spa at the Waldorf Astoria, The Hilton Grosvenor, Livingston Designer Outlet, Maddie and Mark's Shoes, Marcos Pool Hall and Pizza, MyBearpaw, Pekoetea, The Royal Yacht Britannia, Saunderson's Butchers, World of Bowling and World of Football.



OUR WULLIE'S TRAIL



A few months ago, ESMS were very excited to be invited to be part of the 2019 Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail.

For the 'big' trail, artists from across the country were commissioned to paint more than two hundred life-size 'Oor Wullie' sculptures, in every possible design, which will then be placed in cities around Scotland to form a trail.

We were invited to decorate a 'mini' sculpture. Over the summer these sculptures will be displayed in community locations such as libraries and community centres, and once the trail is over, they will be returned to our school as a permanent memento of our involvement in the trail.

After a special Junior School at Ravelston competition, which attracted a huge number of entries, two designs by Jessica and Hugo were chosen by Mr Kane and amalgamated to form the final ESMS design. Children from Primary 1 then helped Mrs Lydon to paint the sculpture. It was named 'Oor Values' as the ESMS values are on the colourful sole of the shoe. We are now looking forward to visiting it in its new location before it comes back to school. Look out for news of the 'big' trail as well as where our Oor Wullie will be. <https://www.oorwullie.com>



GEOGRAPHY WORLD WISE QUIZ

Can you name five countries with the letter Z in their name? Read on and the answers will be revealed...

The East of Scotland heat of the Geography World Wise Quiz was held at our very own TFC on the last Thursday of the Spring term, with two teams of three boys from S1, S2 and S3 taking part. There were 14 committed teams taking part from SMC, George Watson's, Broughton High, St Georges, James Gillespie's, George Heriot's, Dunbar Grammar, and the Royal High School. Rounds 1-6 contained sections on an OS map survey trail, place names and features of the World with colours in their name, an observation round on rainforests, Lochs of Scotland, a Weather crossword and a Geography in the News round. After these rounds there were only 10 points between the top eight teams. SMC Team A comprising Sam Jefferson, 3A, Gregor Reddie 2A, and James Geddes 1D, and SMC Team B with Max McGowan 3G, Oli Tomczyk 2G and Arthur Ellis 1A did extremely well during these rounds with SMC A qualifying for the final four rounds in 4th place alongside both George Heriot's A, Broughton High and James Gillespie's. SMC B were one only one point behind!

In the final, Team A answered some challenging questions on the Geography of Japan, a Geography Spelling Bee, and a World Time Zones problem solving round and were slightly ahead at this point. It meant that the last Who Dares Wins 'Risk and Reward' round would be crucial for all the teams! In the end they



were pipped to the post by Broughton High School and came second equal with James Gillespie's. Both these schools now advance to the national finals. Mr Turnbull would like to congratulate both teams for their exemplary behaviour and helpfulness during the event and thank all the boys who came along to trials and training sessions and performed well.

Now for the possible Z answers. They were: Zimbabwe, Zambia, New Zealand, Azerbaijan, Switzerland, Uzbekistan, Brazil, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. Some will know that Swaziland has been recently renamed Eswatini so doesn't count!

HEALTHY PIZZA PARTY AT THE NURSERY

The Nursery classes were delighted to have the opportunity to make their very own log fired pizzas during their Health Week at the end of April. Mr Scott and his team from Tony Macaroni kindly volunteered to bring all the necessary ingredients and equipment for every child, and many of the staff, to create their very own healthy pizza.



The children learnt about the ingredients and the process involved in making dough for the base and then had fun choosing from a delicious range of toppings including ham, chargrilled chicken, roasted peppers and sweet corn to name but a few.

The pizzas were then transported to the Tony Macaroni mobile pizza trailer parked in the school grounds and the children watched intently as their pizzas were freshly cooked by the chef in the wood fired oven. There was great excitement when everyone returned to the classrooms to open their individual boxes to taste their delicious pizzas.



It was such a wonderful learning experience for the children as they were involved in the whole process. Some of the children even set up their own 'pizza restaurant' in the Nursery garden later that day, using wheelbarrows and trikes to deliver their 'pizzas' to their friends!

The Nursery team would like to thank Mr Scott, and everyone involved for making the event such a unique and memorable occasion. Snack in the Nursery has certainly never tasted so good!

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL BIKE SALE



The annual Safer Routes to School Bike Sale took place on Saturday 27th April. The sale runs in the format of a 'bring and buy', where parents and pupils arrive with bikes to sell that they no longer need or want, and others arrive looking to buy. There were around 50 bikes for sale and approximately 100 people who attended the bike sale, as there is always a bargain to be found. Sadly, not all bikes found a new owner, but it was a lovely sunny morning and plenty of bikes were rehomed. We ask for a charitable donation for facilitating the event, and Niamh (P3VM) was keen to support the Primary 3 charity this year (Simpson Special Care Babies). She raised £100 and presented it at her P3 assembly. We would like to thank everyone who attended and look forward to seeing you all next year.



ESMS SCHOOL VALUES WRITING COMPETITION

The Values Writing Competition was open to every child in Primary 4 to 7, with the aim of encouraging the children to consider the importance of our school values in their lives and in the lives of others.

Children who wished to enter were asked to write about one of our nine school values: Kindness, Respect, Appreciation, Confidence, Commitment, Responsibility, Integrity, Enthusiasm and Grace. There were many fantastic entries, including stories, poems, letters and cartoons, all of which demonstrated a huge amount of imagination and creativity. It was clear that the children had thought carefully about what their chosen value means to them and how it can be shown in our daily lives through our words and actions.

The judging panel of Mrs Tollerman, Mrs Johnston and Mr Kane had a very difficult job choosing the winners as there were so many excellent pieces of writing submitted.

In the Primary 4-5 category, two pieces of writing were Highly Commended: Thea Thomas (5KY)'s poem 'Kindness' and Poppy McMillan (4SS)'s story 'Emma and Grace'.

The Primary 4-5 winner was Zaria Ali (5KY) with her poem 'Appreciation'. In the Primary 6-7 category, two children received a Highly Commended award: Miriam Nadeem (6HP) with her story 'Grace' and Jasmine Mather (6AD), whose story 'The True Heart' considered the importance of Appreciation. The winning entry for Primary 6-7 was by Olly Simmers (6EC) whose poem 'Integrity' depicts a classroom scenario that may be familiar to other children too! Olly and Zaria are pictured with their winning poems.

Congratulations to all of the children for their high standard of writing and their thoughtful consideration of our school values.

Trips

GREECE TRIP

In the April holiday 16 children from Primary 6 and 7 travelled to Athens for a Greek Odyssey that would take them from the Ancient Capital, over the Corinth Canal and into the land of history and legend – the Peloponnese.



Through the narrow streets of Plaka and Monastiraki we walked to the Acropolis. The children wondered at the temples dedicated to Athena. A culinary journey too had begun and would continue all week. From Athens on to Ancient Corinth, descending to Palio Epidavros, the turquoise harbour, then inland to the famous Epidavros Theatre, renowned for its perfect acoustics.

Our base for the next five days was the charming coastal village of Tolo. From here we visited an olive press and orange grove enjoying the real taste of the region. We toured the UNESCO site of Mycenae, late Bronze Age Citadel perched high above the Argolid plain. Here excavation led by Heinrich Schliemann in 1876, discovered the golden mask of the legendary leader Agamemnon.



At Nafplio, Venetian and Turkish influences, the Palamidi Castle and a mini-train ride! There was a glorious cruise to picture postcard islands of Hydra and Spezes accompanied by dolphins! Finally, our BBQ Boat trip. With our family crew we sailed off and anchored at a secret beach. The team swam and enjoyed the peace of our deserted shore, as the BBQ was set up. We returned to Tolo salty and sun-kissed. A terrific week was had by all – and another to come in October!

Please contact JS Office for information on last places for this next Greek Odyssey (15-22 October 2019).

RMPS AMERICAN TOUR

During the February break, 32 SMC boys travelled to the USA. We arrived at the Rockefeller centre from which we viewed the New York skyline. The next day, we visited Ground Zero and the 9/11 Museum and saw the victim memorials and a film on the rise of Al-Qaeda. Later, at Madison Square Garden, we watched the New York Rangers beat the Toronto Maple Leaves 4 -1. The following day, we travelled by boat to Liberty and Ellis Island to learn about USA immigration and then took the subway to the UN Headquarters to see the General Assembly room where some of the most important decisions in the world are made. On our final day, we walked through Central Park and visited the American Museum of Natural History and the Jewish Museum followed by a Broadway show.

Our next stop was Philadelphia, enjoying a walking tour to learn of the independence movement and the famous Liberty Bell, before travelling on to Washington DC. That evening, we indulged in an Obama-approved establishment: Ben's Chilli Bowl, where we learned about the restaurant's rich ties to the civil rights movement. The following day, we embarked on another walking tour from an ex-campaign adviser who explained the psychology and philosophy of politics. He touched on the inspiration the Founding Fathers had from Scottish Enlightenment Philosophers such as David Hume. The highlights of the walking tour included seeing the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials but, most poignant, was the Martin Luther King Memorial.

In the afternoon, we visited the moving Holocaust museum and the Smithsonian Museums, and some students visited the US Museum of African American History which told the story of slavery. Our final day included a really engaging workshop at the Newseum on photo ethics, debating the morals of news outlets publishing photographs of terror victims and badly injured servicemen. We would like to thank Mr Park, Mr Innes and Mr Chalmers for accompanying us on the trip and Mr Woolley for organising.



PORTUGAL GOLF TOUR 2019

by Jamie Grainger, 5G

During the February break, a group of 13 S2–S5 boys spent a week golfing in the Algarve accompanied by Mr Longair, Mr Brown and Jonnie Cliff, the Head Professional from Murrayfield Golf Club. The golf trip was based in the small Portuguese fishing town of Alvor and over six days, we played five different golf courses in the area. The boys enjoyed playing the Palmares and O'Connor courses the most.

The daily order of play and match pairings were organised by joint tour captains Jamie Grainger and Charlie Campbell, who together did an excellent job of varying the playing groups and adjusting individual handicaps depending upon performance.

The eventual tour winner was Jake McGlynn of S2 who played consistently and to a high standard throughout the week.



COLORADO EXCHANGE

On Saturday 13th April, four pupils from Primary 6 (Ellie Brough, Katie Livingston, Amber Turnbull and Finlay Beeley) travelled to Colorado to take part in the American exchange programme.

They spent two weeks at Colorado Academy and one week at Crow Canyon camp. Below are some of their highlights from their trip:



Going to Colorado was the best thing I have ever done. The kids were very nice to us, but they asked us lots of questions – especially the fourth graders. I made lots of friends whilst I was there and I liked Music and Art, you could make whatever you wanted with any materials. I went on the bus to and from school each day, and the bus driver was very friendly. The skiing was amazing, even though I fell into a ditch and Grace, my Colorado host, face planted in the snow! We also went on a roller coaster around the ski area with its own speed control which was amazing. After this, we did an epic indoor skydive.

My favourite day in Colorado was Easter day, because Grace's parents organised an Easter egg hunt. The food was lovely – I liked bagel bites, ants on a log, peanut butter pretzels and the after school snacks. The family were really welcoming, and I loved their cats, Oscar and Buster. Being away from home was scary at times, but amazing. The places we went were better than anything I have ever done before.

By Ellie Brough



The reason why I liked the Colorado exchange so much was that I loved being able to meet new people, try different things and see the differences between ESMS and Colorado Academy. One of the main differences was not wearing uniform at CA, and the weather in Colorado it was very hot on some days which was lovely, but there was also lots of snow which was great for skiing in Breckenridge. The weather would chop and change all the time so be prepared for all weathers if you get the chance to do the exchange!

I was in Colorado for my birthday and we brought doughnuts into school, went to a trampoline park and had a silly string fight. At CA's camp, I saw the prettiest view in the world. We went to the Mesa Verde region and National Park where we saw cliff dwellings – it was amazing.

By Katie Livingston

ESMS JUNIOR SCHOOL SKI TRIP



During the February midterm, 40 pupils from P5 to S1 and five staff travelled to Sölden in Austria to enjoy six days of skiing and snowboarding.

Sölden is a fantastic resort with 143km of skiable piste with slopes suitable for all abilities. It is also famous for the incredible glass restaurant "Ice Q" which featured in the James Bond movie Spectre.

Although the weather on the first day was not conducive to good skiing, with a flat light and heavy snow showers, it did mean that we had excellent piste conditions for the rest of the week. All the children enjoyed five hours of instruction each day and were pushed to develop their technical ability on slopes of varying degrees of difficulty. Our instructors were all British which meant that communication was not a problem and the instructors developed a real bond with their groups.



Lunch was taken on the slopes each day and the food in our chosen restaurant was excellent. Although there were several visits to the local doctors, thankfully nobody had any serious accidents.

After a hard day on the slopes the fun did not finish! In the evenings the children participated in ice skating, swimming in the local leisure centre, a pizza night in a nearby restaurant, a movie night and a quiz night. On our last night in Sölden we had a presentation ceremony where the instructors presented each skier with a certificate to recognise their effort and skiing ability over the course of the week.

Thanks must go to Snowtraxx, our travel operator, all the ski instructors and the ESMS staff, Mrs Macpherson, Mrs Aitchison, Ms Tugwell, Mr Lockie and Mr Roxburgh, for making the trip such a fantastic experience.



S2 CRICKET TRIP TO SPAIN

Over the Easter break, a group of 14 S2 cricketers travelled to Spain for some pre-season training at The La Manga Sports Club.

La Manga boasts world class training facilities and number of International and First Class County sides use it as a base for their warm weather training programmes. Having been greeted by torrential rain on the Sunday, we feared that the weather may have halted any possibility of Cricket. However, four days of glorious sunshine and 20 degrees heat ensued, and the boys managed to get some quality sessions under their belts. Luckily, we shared the training facilities with the Scotland National team which gave the boys a great insight into the professionalism and intensity of an elite training environment. The highlight for them was getting



to join in with the Scotland T20 practice session and also getting whatever kit they had with them, signed! Credit must go to the 14 pupils who were fantastic representatives of Stewart's Melville College. A huge thanks must also go to Alex Ranson for his help throughout the trip. I hope that this is the first of many overseas Cricket trips for the school.

CCF ADVENTURE TRAINING CAMP

Once again, the CCF spent the first week of the Easter holidays at Adventure Training Camp at the Rothiemurchus Tri-Service Lodge in the Cairngorms.



A group of mainly S3 Cadets headed north in fine weather for six days of exciting activities. After pausing en route for springtime white-water rafting at Grandtully, the Cadets arrived at the lodge and embarked on a busy programme which included walking in the Cairngorms, mountain biking in the ancient forest of Caledon at Rothiemurchus and on skills courses at Glenmore Lodge, orienteering, biathlon training and indoor climbing at the same venue, high ropes at Inverdrue and visits to Craiggellachie nature reserve in Aviemore and the nearby Highland Wildlife Park. The camp was made even more exciting by the arrival of a polar plume on Wednesday, which brought a blanket of some 50cm of snow.



Plan A2 was implemented once the Winter Mountain Leaders had walked in on snowshoes, and the Cadets completed a round robin of winter survival skills, command tasks, indoor games and impromptu presentations. Following the traditional last night cabaret, the Cadets headed south down a picturesquely white A9 early on Thursday and arrived home safely, tired but enriched by a successful camp. Lt Col Hamid would like to thank all who attended, 2 Lt Coyle, Capt Leak, 2 Lt Scott, Lt Pilkington, C I Beaton, Mrs Hamid, Mr Kerr, various local instructors and the Cadets for making it such an enjoyable trip.

P6 CAMP

At the end of April, Primary 6 children journeyed to Lagganlia Outdoor Centre, just outside of Kingussie to start their four-day residential camp.



The children were very excited about all the activities they were going to take part in. Staying in different lodges and being part of an activity group made up of different P6 classes, the children were able to make lots of new friends whilst rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, gorge walking, snowboarding and more! Activities didn't stop in the evenings, as after dinner there was time to toast marshmallows on the campfire, enjoy a Drum Fun session, play plenty of ball games and even learn some Capoeira moves.



Although most of the challenges the children experienced were physical, it was also fantastic to see children supporting one another on occasions where some were missing home. We would like to thank the children for their enthusiastic attitude towards trying new things and the kindness they showed to one another whilst at camp.

Thank you also to all the members of staff who assisted with the smooth running of this trip.



S2 CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE TRIP TO SPAIN

During Projects Week, 39 excited S2 Spanish pupils set off for five days in southern Spain.



Despite the 5am rendezvous at the airport, the group was in good spirits and had a smooth journey, arriving in time for lunch at the Spanish immersion centre, Arbolar. The first afternoon was spent on the beach, playing beach games and swimming in the lagoon. Each morning started with a Spanish lesson, introducing all the words we would need for the day and all activities were conducted in Spanish, building the pupils' confidence and vocabulary. Tuesday brought sunshine, a scavenger hunt and the opportunity to try out a Spanish recipe, *tartas de abuela*, a traditional dessert of layered chocolate, biscuit and custard. The afternoon was spent sailing and kayaking, before an evening of fun team challenges. A trip to Cabo de Palos and a walk to its famous lighthouse was on the programme for Wednesday morning, after which the group travelled to the historical city of Cartagena for a harbour boat tour, a visit to the Roman amphitheatre and some free time to explore the town. After a busy day, the group returned to Arbolar for a fantastic tapas dinner and some raucous music games. All too soon it was the last full day in Spain. First on the agenda was a visit to the *mercadillo*, or street market, in San Javier. The afternoon brought an energetic photo beach race challenge, a salsa dancing workshop and a final swim in the sea. A farewell dinner and fiesta followed, as everyone said their goodbyes to Emilio, Fernando, Alejandra and José, the excellent, enthusiastic staff at Arbolar. All the S2s agreed that the sun-drenched, fun-filled week is one they will remember as a highlight of the school year.



Music, Drama and Dance

CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL CONCERT AT THE USHER HALL



On Saturday 23rd March, ESMS presented a concert of choral and orchestral music in the Usher Hall. Over 400 ESMS pupils took part in the event, from P7 to S6.

The Pipe Band began the evening and, in the middle of competition season, they were on top form presenting a selection of their repertoire which included Highland Cathedral and Scotland the Brave. The ESMS Orchestra gave a rousing rendition of Elgar's Imperial March which the strings then followed with movements from Peter Warlock's Capriol Suite. A combined choir of boys and girls from P7, S1 and S2 performed a suite of

folksongs from all four nations of the UK, singing with real energy and commitment. The first half of the programme was rounded off in great style by the ESMS Concert Band, with a programme including River of the Ancients, evoking the atmosphere of ancient Egypt and the river Nile. The second half of the programme was a performance of Mozart's Requiem, one of the great masterpieces of the choral repertoire.

MES and SMC Upper School Choirs were joined by the Community Choir, Community Orchestra and soloists and their combined forces treated the audience to a thrilling performance, with a suitably apocalyptic Dies Irae contrasted with a tender and introverted Lacrymosa. It was a huge privilege for all involved to be able to make great music in such a great venue.

P6 DAY OF DANCE



Our second day of Dance for Primary 6 took place on Wednesday 22nd May as part of our Indian project. The children worked on four different aspects of movement integral to Indian Culture: Yoga, Storytelling through mime and gesture, Bharatanatyam and Kalaripayattu which is a form of South Indian martial arts. The day was led by Felicity McLean and the sessions were taught by dancers from 'Dance Ihayami' who gave us a short performance at the end of the day. Primary 6 thoroughly enjoyed their day.

P5 MUSICAL, MADAGASCAR

In March, a group of committed and enthusiastic Primary 5 girls and boys chose to take part in the musical 'Madagascar' based on the Dreamworks animated film.

It was a great show for the children to be part of with lots of humour and well-known songs that all the audience would instantly recognise. The rehearsals allowed children to learn the words to challenging songs and steps for all the amazing dances which they performed to a high standard. As the performance date approached everyone felt really excited and maybe a little bit nervous too. The costumes looked amazing and the set really helped to bring the story to life. It was a fantastic show with some very comic characters and lots of high energy dances by varied animals. The children performed it over two nights to a lively audience in The Tom Fleming Centre.



KALEIDOSCOPE 2019

Well done to all pupils involved in Kaleidoscope 2019. Pupils performed dances in a variety of styles and they performed with confidence and captivated the audience with their excellent choreography and storytelling skills. The Mary Erskine pupils involved in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo during August 2018 performed a Malawian inspired dance which was a wonderful culmination of their experience and treasured memories of that time. All proceeds went to The Chesney Trust.



MONTH OF MUSIC

The final four weeks of the Spring Term saw our Junior School musicians performing in Joseph at the Edinburgh Playhouse (P6 Choir), the Usher Hall (JS Choir), two concerts in the TFC and one in the Recital Room. The TFC February concert showcased our P6/P7 Choir as well as the P4 Choir, with the instrumental groups consisting of the Prep Strings, the Recorder Group, the Guitar Groups and a Piano Trio. The Training Strings played a mixture of solos and group items in their Recital Room concertino. The TFC Spring Concert featured the Junior School Wind Band, the Junior School Orchestra, the P5 Choir and the Junior School Chamber Orchestra. It was an action packed month of music with 500 Junior School children providing top quality music to full houses, before enjoying their richly deserved holiday.

JAZZ AND BLUES NIGHT AT THE DEAN



On Saturday 27th April, groups from S1 to S6 delivered a fantastic evening of music at the Jazz and Blues night at The Dean.

The evening was kicked off by the Young Jazz Ensemble, a septet which has been tutored by Scottish National Jazz Orchestra's Martin Kershaw this year and who performed some beautiful jazz standards and concluded with Jimi Hendrix's 'Fire'. Next up, The Peter Hughes Experience performed a beautiful work called 'Butterfly'. The melody doubled on electric guitar (Peter Hughes) and soprano sax (Callum Madeley) performed with wonderful shape and accuracy. Dodgy Jammers, a jazz/funk group, then covered the challenging movie music from 'Super What' by Lyle Workman. Joining the Dodgy Jammers, Matty Moore's vocals sizzled in Maroon 5's hit 'This Love' and Ben Ellis delivered an equally scintillating delivery of Earth Wind and Fire's 'September'. Finishing the first half was a polished 2019 Hot Club, performing as a quartet – Callum and Matthew Madeley, (clarinet and violin) James MacConnachie (Guitar) with guitarist legend Steven Polwart (ESMS Tutor) having prepared a stunning group this year. Without a doubt, one of the evenings stand out performances.

The second half of the evening kicked off with an outstanding piece of 80s iconic music, Gary Moore's 'Parisienne Walkways'. Ben McKeigue fronted band Electric Blue and played superbly. We then heard from the veteran group Funktion Band, with vocals from Nico Hann-Renhifo and Catherine McLaren. Particularly outstanding was Karis Dlodlo's delivery of Stevie Wonder's classic 'Superstition'. The final act of the evening was the ESMS Big Band, led by Alan Bacchetti, our new head of Wind and Brass. They book-ended their with foot-tapping Stevie Wonder hits 'Higher Ground' and 'Wish'. These works were performed alongside more classic big band numbers 'Cheesecake' by Dexter Gordon, 'Brother Ray' by Michael Mossman and 'Sidewinder' by Lee Morgan.

Well done everyone and thank you for a wonderful evening of music!



P7 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM WIN THE SCIENNES TOURNAMENT



On Saturday 15th May, in torrential rain, the P7 Girls' Football Team won all of their games in The Sciennes Spring Tournament. They finished top out of 16 teams and did not even concede a single goal. Well done girls!

GIRLS' HARBALL CRICKET



Cricket is on the rise at The Mary Erskine School! The sport has been developing over the last few years in the Junior School and the Senior School is now reaping the rewards.

The club continues to grow with triple the numbers from last year with over 60 girls attending the sessions – 30 girls opting to try hardball. The girls competed in their first ever hardball fixture at Dollar Academy earlier in the

FP HOCKEY SUCCESS

Amy Costello (MES FP) is currently playing hockey 'on top of the world' as part of the GB Hockey team in the ongoing 'Pro-League' tournament. She has played in matches against Germany, USA and China to date. Well done Amy, what a role model for our young players!



EASTER HOCKEY INTERNATIONALS IN WALES



Congratulations to six MES hockey players who played in a successful International match series in Wales over Easter weekend. Grace D and Ellie M represented Scotland U18, Ava F, Ellie R, Ava Y and Olivia H represented Scotland U16. Well done also to four SMC boys, Cameron E, Jamie, Cameron B and Robbie (FP) who all represented their country and school with distinction.

S1 BOYS EAST OF SCOTLAND CHAMPIONS

Beating Lasswade High in the East of Scotland play-offs, the S1 boys football team secured the title of East of Scotland Champions on Monday 13th May, qualifying to play in the Scottish Cup Final, which took place on Tuesday 21st May.

Unfortunately, they lost out to Grange Academy, Kilmarnock, who are a Football Performance School.

The boys played really well and should be very proud of themselves!



2ND XI HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The 2nd XI were runners up at the St George's School 2nd XI Tournament on Saturday 9th March. The team were second in the group and went on to beat George Heriot's in the semi-final. They faced George Watson's College in the final which was 0-0 at full time. The result of the tournament was decided on running penalties and the six MES girls who

were involved were fearless in their attempts but unfortunately GWC won 2-1.

A special mention should go to Niamh Burns who was named Player of the Tournament. The silver medal winning team were Emma Hudson, Louisa Kidd, Sarah Hedley, Rosalind Aves, Beth Smith, Lara Herd, Janie McIntyre, Rowan Watson, Niamh Burns, Cara Robson, Lauren McNamara, Amber Alexander, Anna Oliver, Frankie Blair and Ava Yip.



MES 1ST XI HOCKEY UPDATE

The 1st XI Hockey team had a busy and successful end to their season.

On Monday 4th March, MES played George Watsons College in the final of the East District U18 Knockout Cup. In a thrilling end-to-end encounter, MES came back from a goal down to win the match 2-1.



The girls were also in action on Friday 15th March, as they travelled to the National Hockey Centre in Glasgow to compete in the Final of the U18 Scottish Bowl Competition versus Kilgraston School.

The team played a very united, strong and organised game and won the match 5-0.

Finally, on Thursday 21st March, the girls played in the Watson's 7's Tournament. The games were fast-flowing and high scoring. After beating Dollar in a tense running penalties contest in the semi-final, the girls went on to beat the hosts George Watson's College 1-0 in the final to win the trophy.

At this point we also say a big thank you, goodbye and good-luck to our 1st XI S6 leavers – Emma (Captain), Eve, Anna and Elisabeth. Each of these girls have shown incredible commitment to MES hockey and have played over 150 matches representing the school since Primary 6. We wish you success and hope you continue playing hockey in the future.



SCOTTISH SCHOOLS' GYMNASTICS



Two MES teams qualified for the Scottish Schools' Floor and Vault Finals at the Bell Centre in Perth on Sunday 3rd March.

The level 3 team of Ella Swanson, Libby Stops, Summer Manson and Heather Maclean, were 13th out of 23 teams. They performed two vaults and a short floor routine each. The level 4 team of Emma Clarkson, Emma Cunliffe, Yasmin Ali and Sophie Widdowson were 4th overall. Sophie was 2nd individual and 3rd on the vault.

Their competition also involved two vaults and a 60 second floor routine choreographed to instrumental music. Sophie Widdowson was also successful at the Scottish Artistic Championships, coming 8th in the Espoir (aged 12/13) all around and qualifying for vault and bars finals. She came 5th on bars and joint second on vault.

SCOTTISH U16 RUGBY IN WALES

Six Stewart's Melville College boys travelled to Wales in April to represent the Scotland U16 rugby side against the Welsh regional academy sides; Ospreys, Dragons, Blues and Scarlets. Robert Gordon, Matthew Russell, Jamie Burns, Aidan Boyle and Lachlan McGrigor all represented the Scotland Reds whilst Gregor Thomson (still in S3 and U15) represented the Scotland Blues. The teams played some fantastic rugby against some outstanding opponents and the players have learned so much from the experience. Our Head of Rugby, Mr Edwards, was also in Wales as the Head Coach of the Scotland U16 Reds side.



TREBLE CHAMPIONS by Ava Allan, 3K

This season has been very successful for the S3A Hockey team. The entire group has worked extremely hard both on and off the pitch and fortunately all of this effort paid off.

We managed to win both the East Cup on Monday 4th March against Fettes College as well as the S3 East District Tournament on Monday 11th March, which was fantastic.

However, the highlight of the year was winning the Junior Scottish Cup. The cup final was held on Friday 8th March at The Scottish Hockey

Centre at Glasgow Green. This is the first time that MES has won this competition, beating a strong Heriots team 6-0 in the final. I am so proud to be part of such a great team and the journey that we've been on for the last three years.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Thomson and Miss Lanigan for all the time, effort and faith that they have had in us. This season was truly the perfect way to end our time together as a team.

Sport continued

MES TENNIS NEWS

Congratulations to Lucy Brown (S3) who represented East of Scotland Tennis U15 at the Inter-District Tennis tournament at Kilgraston School in the Easter holidays.

Well done also to Emily Roger (S4) who played in the U18s County Cup in Hull for East of Scotland at the end of February.

The team were promoted a division as a result of their performances.

CROSS COUNTRY

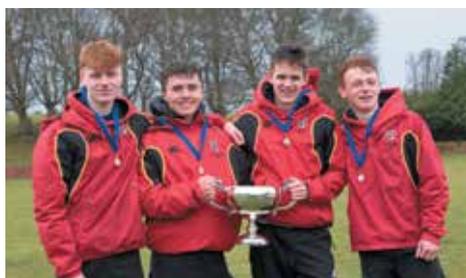
On Saturday 2nd March, two teams and some individuals travelled to Hopetoun House to compete in the annual Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships.

The individual runners in the S1 and S2 races performed well to all complete the race in very respectable times. Top performers were Felix Percy-Robb from S1 in 27th place and Ben Struthers from S2 in 14th place.

The newly formed S3/S4 team of Angus Chandler, Rory Munn, Muir Gillespie and Patrick Doyle performed very well over the tough 5km course and ended up claiming the silver medal in the team event.

Finally, the S5/S6 team of Andrew Rolland, Peter Molloy, Finlay Ross and Thomas Ross had the daunting task of defending the title over their 6km course. Of course there was no need for concern as they all ran extremely well to retain the title of Scottish Champions. However, not only did they win the team event but a fantastic run from Andrew meant that he crossed the finish line five seconds ahead of anyone else to win the individual title too. A brilliant achievement!

Well done to all the competitors again showing that Stewart's Melville College is the school to beat at Cross Country. A big thank you to Mr Canter who accompanied the runners on the day.



BADMINTON NEWS

Very well done to Emmy Todd who played strongly and successfully for the Lothian U15 Badminton squad in the Celtic Cup tournament in Ireland in March.

Congratulations to Ellie Venters (U14), Ariana Shams (U16) and Lucy Kerr (Senior) on their victories in the recent MES Badminton Singles Championships.

SISFA CUP SUCCESS

The SMC 1st XI football team have won the SISFA Cup for the fourth time in eight years with a 3-1 win against a spirited George Watson's College team in the final held at Falkirk Stadium on Friday 10th May.



In front of an impassioned crowd, SMC began the game in determined and impressive style, hitting the woodwork twice and taking the lead within the opening minutes when Kieran Ngwenya bundled home from close range following a corner.

A further period of dominance saw Scottish Schools' internationalist Sam Walker fire home a free-kick which took a cruel deflection off the Watsonian wall, but GWC rallied and struck the woodwork themselves before half-time.

Shortly after half-time, Sam Newman fired home his 22nd goal of the season with a sweet volley to stretch the SMC lead and round off a momentous week which had seen him make his full first-team debut for Edinburgh City F.C.

GWC kept battling until the end, giving SMC keeper Zaki Thompson the chance to earn the Man of the Match award with a series of fine saves in the final minutes, before the southside team scored a deserved consolation goal with the last kick of the game to make the final score an exact repeat of both the 2012 and 2014 SISFA Cup finals between the two schools.

Mr J.F. Marsh, who coaches the team with Mr S. Longair, was full of praise for the squad, which also reached the last 16 of the SSFA Scottish Shield this season: "All 18 boys can be proud of their efforts and achievements this year, having played excellent football in the right spirit, and represented their school with pride. They have been a pleasure for myself and Mr Longair to work with."

SQUASH SUCCESS FOR FP

Former MES sportswoman, Georgia Adderley, recently successfully competed for the Scotland Women's team at the European Team Squash Championships. The team finished fourth, their highest placing for 14 years.



U15 SCOTTISH SCHOOLS' SHIELD



The Mary Erskine School competed for the first time in the U15 Scottish Schools' Shield. The girls won convincingly in the first four rounds — scoring 18 goals and only conceding one. They were beaten in the Semi-Final to a very good Braidhurst High School side. They are a very talented group of girls who enjoyed showcasing their skills at the top level. Well done to all involved.

THE ABERLOUR HOUSE JUNIOR HIGHLAND GAMES 2019

On Friday 3rd May, Mr Bissett, Miss Douglas and a team of Primary 7 children from the Junior School drove north, after a busy week at Camp, to compete in the Junior Highland Games. Our eight athletes, two pipers and two drummers knew they had a proud record to uphold from previous years.

After staying in Aberdeen on Friday night, we arrived in the picturesque setting of Gordonstoun School on Saturday morning excited to be a part of this prestigious event. The athletes compete in traditional Highland Games events, such as 'Tossing the Caber' and 'Tug of War' and a gruelling 'Hill Race' around the grounds of the famous school. In every event the athletes collect crucial

points for the overall team score whilst our team of pipers and drummers are also involved in hotly contested competitions judged by the Pipe Band Major.

This year both teams excelled themselves. Gracie and Megan came first and second respectively in the girls' Hill Race and Calum a well-deserved third for the boys. Thomas

won the Open Piping Competition and in the Drumming Competition Jamie placed second, with Cameron a close third. The athletes were presented with gold medals as overall winners of the Games and all the children were presented by the Master of the Games, Paralympian and adventurer, Karen Darke. A wonderful effort from all involved.



ATHLETICS TEAM

Kirsty Daly (7MS)
Megan McKay (7GD)
Gracie Croall (7GD)
Emily Morris (7DM)
Jamie Paterson (7DM)
Calum Jessop (7VC)
Ollie Milne (7VC)
Joel Bennet (7MS)

PIPING AND DRUMMING TEAM

Thomas Fallon (7MS)
Jamie Jarvis (7MS)
Cameron MacMillan (7RA)
Calum Jessop (7VC)

BATH CUP WINNERS



It was another historic day for ESMS at the prestigious Bath Cup in London this year, where the SMC boys' team were not content to retain the Bath Cup and John Nalson (Otter Medley) Cup titles for a second year, rather they also set new records for both events in the process. With strong and renowned opposition from across the UK vying for medals at arguably the biggest swimming event of the school year, it is unprecedented that

a team would win both events and also break their respective records with incredible times.

Our MES team swam convincingly to make it to the girls' freestyle final placing 4th overall, a highly impressive result, before swimming a PB time (2:05.11) in their medley relay final and earning well deserved silver medals! Huge congratulations to all of our swimmers and their coaches, these are fantastic achievements.



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