

KILGRASTON Newsletter

Autumn 07

TOP OF THE LEAGUE

The Lower Sixth pupils achieved record Higher results this year with an outstanding 81% A/B Grades and a remarkable 96% A-C. These results were the highest in the country*.

Not to be outdone, the Upper Fifth achieved an excellent 87% Credit Level at Standard Grade (just 2% behind last year's record). This compares rather favourably to the national average of 43%. Commenting on this excellent performance, the Principal, Mike Farmer, said "I am delighted that the girls have achieved such tremendous results, they deserve praise for their efforts and outstanding achievements. I hope that this continued success will encourage all of our pupils to aim high".

*Independent schools following the Scottish exam system. Source ISC Statistics



Farewell to the Class of 2007: Some of this year's Upper Six leavers joining hands in a circle in Central Hall

Opens
Early08



Digging the Pool!

We have started digging! In April this year planning permission was granted enabling construction work to finally begin for our £0.75m swimming pool complex on 18th June. Much of the external work will be undertaken prior to the start of the new school year in late August. Thanks to our early fundraising successes, the Governors have agreed to extend the length of the pool to 25m. (More information on page 2)

Booming Boarding

– Kilgraston Opens the Year with Record Pupil Numbers

Once again Kilgraston is bucking the national trend in boarding with a 11% increase in boarding pupils this year.

In the News

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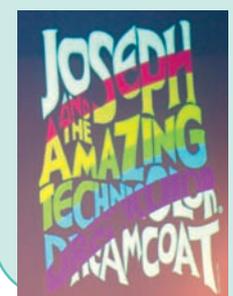
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Amazing Joseph



... Stop Press ... Look out for the new schoolstrader.com website. See page 3 for details!

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Swimming Pool becoming appealing!



Roderick Baird, Director of Development and PR said "We are all extremely grateful for the very generous support given to the project by parents and former pupils as well as a number of charitable trusts who have made significant contributions. Whilst our fundraising appeal is by no means over we have already achieved £300,000 of our £400,000 target". For further information on the project contact Roderick Baird on 01738 815535 or e-mail him at marketing@kilgraston.pkc.sch.uk.



"Everyone Deserves Your Attention"

Guest Speaker Suzanne MacNair (class of 1996/97) tells parents, staff, pupils and guests.

Our Guest Speaker at this year's Distribution of Ribbons and Prizes was former pupil Dr Suzanne MacNair who left Kilgraston in 1996 and is now a Registrar in Geriatric Medicine, currently based in Northern Ireland.

Addressing the audience she said "Gestures showing consideration can have an enormous impact on the lives of other people. Kilgraston was a place where my ideas and opinions were always listened to and acknowledged as being important, and I believe that this has led to me being more tolerant of the ideas and opinions of my junior staff – even when I know they are wrong".

Outgoing Head Girl, Laura Wright, concluded the proceedings with a moving speech bringing to an end another successful academic year for Kilgraston.



Suzanne MacNair with outgoing Head Girl Laura Wright

Appointment of two New Governors

During the last eighteen months Kilgraston has warmly welcomed Brigadier Davey Kirk and former pupil Emma Weir on to our Board of Governors. They bring with them an enormous amount of professional experience and expertise which will help further strengthen our Board and the school in coming years.

Brigadier Davey Kirk CBE, recently retired from the Army now lives in Angus. Originally commissioned into The Royal Highland Fusiliers, he spent much of his regimental service in Northern Ireland and the Balkans. His most recent appointments included Commanding The 51st (Scottish) Brigade and being Operations Director for all the NATO Alliance operations around the world during a critical period that saw the initial investment into Afghanistan.

Since leaving Kilgraston in 1977, Emma Weir has had an interesting career in Eurobond sales, advertising and computers. By the age of 25 she found her niche in life in executive search within the financial markets living and working in New York, Hong Kong, Tokyo and London where in 1995 she founded her own firm which now has offices in all four places.



TAKING OVER THE EQUESTRIAN REINS

Equestrian – new manager takes over the reigns

In April this year Anne McLennan formally took over as manager of the Kilgraston Equestrian Centre. She brings to the school her tremendous experience gained through her association with US Olympic riders and trainers. She has also worked with the world renowned Royal Lipizzanners where she was a member of their US show team based in Las Vegas, Nevada. During her time there she developed her skills at Dressage, specifically performing high level and very technical movements including performing the star solo spot in the show which included the famous "Airs above the ground". Since returning to Scotland she has been teaching all forms of riding and equestrian management and she has some exciting plans for future development of the Equestrian Centre at Kilgraston, details of which will be announced in the coming months.



Anne McLennan on Fivel and daughter Sydney, riding Poppy with head Groom Michelle Thomson

Faith Week 4-8 June

STOP PRESS NEWS for parents, staff, friends and family



During the week the girls demonstrated what it was like to be on a slave ship.

Our second annual Faith Week was held between 4-8 June. This year we used the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade to address the issue of what an active faith commitment really means in the modern world. During the week a series of talks and activities were undertaken highlighting issues relating to young people in the modern world with the conviction that faith and action can change unjust structures – just as, for example, William Wilberforce challenged and changed the injustices of slavery 200 years ago.

In workshops across the curriculum from Art to Drama, pupils looked at modern examples of slavery – especially the scandal of people-trafficking in the UK and the EU – and what a faith commitment could do to end the abuse of people. Members of the Cenacolo community from Kendal in the Lake District – a community of young men recovering from drug addiction – added their very personal and moving experiences about slavery to addiction to the pupils' experiences.

schoolstrader.com – a new website for school communities

www.schoolstrader.com is a new website for independent school communities. Parents, staff, friends and family can use it to advertise to each other or search for items for sale (from holiday homes and bikes to pets and musical instruments). The site has dedicated pages for each independent school and is fast, simple to use and completely free. Once registered, you can place your own advertisements or search for items under specific categories all by e-mail. To maximise coverage, you can place your adverts on your local school site and other local independent school sites as well as placing them nationally across the Schoolstrader network. There is also a Notice Board section, which can be used to promote local events.



Former Head Girl Elected

Congratulations to Mairi Evans, former Kilgraston Head Girl (2002/2003), for her election to Angus Council during this year's Local Government elections.

Mairi was one of the youngest people ever to be elected to public office. During her time at Kilgraston she was a very talented public speaker and held ambitions to become First Minister of Scotland – she is now well on the ladder to achieving that goal!

Fusion and our Second Annual Arts Festival

Building on the success of last year's highly successful Arts Festival, the penultimate week of the school year was devoted to our annual Fusion and Arts Festival. This year thirty-five presenters hosted fifty-four workshops, master-classes and presentations on subjects ranging from contemporary dance and clowning to stage make-up and play writing. The Festival was our Head of Drama, Angela Clayton's final fling before her return to Australia where her husband, Colin has taken up a position in Sydney. Speaking about the event Angela said "I am delighted that this year we have been able to attract a number of top name presenters including the Ambassador Theatre Group of Glasgow, Hatwalk, Twist Studios from Edinburgh and the much acclaimed 'Edinburgh Performers' and I am enormously grateful to all of the girls who have been enthusiastically participating in the week-long activities. I return to Australia in the knowledge that the Kilgraston Arts Festival is now a firm fixture in the school's busy calendar". Once again concluding the Festival was Fusion, an evening of short music and drama performances showcasing the best of Kilgraston arts with an art exhibition of works by 22 practising artists including former pupils and many emerging contemporary artists who are breaking new ground in a diverse range of art forms.

Technicolor Dream Performance

Dreams Come True in just a Day for Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat!

As part of the Arts Festival Week, a group of twenty five girls performed the highly popular musical, "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" by Andrew Lloyd Weber, from start to finish in just one day. Directed by Andrew Jenkins, Director of Music. The girls began rehearsals in the morning, plotting the scenes, at lunchtime a professional band of ten players joined the cast and in the evening, it was performed to a packed theatre. Many of the girls involved had never performed in a musical before and the standard achieved in such a short time was outstanding. The lead role of Joseph was played by Laura Wright; Pharaoh by Emma Hackland, who proved to be an excellent Elvis impersonator, and the Narrators were Gemma Burt and Zinnia Hall.



Laura Wright as Joseph

Emma Hackland as The Pharaoh

Outstanding Performance by the Prep School

During two evenings in March, the Prep School pupils performed "The Trolls" to a packed audience of parents and friends. Woodland creatures added a sense of eeriness and mystery to the superb performance by the main characters. The 'smart' and 'broken' armies were drilled to perfection and the bickering of the 'distracted' mothers was utterly believable.

This was a truly professional performance and Peter Skellern would have been delighted to have seen this adaptation of his work. One of the unforgettable moments (and there were many) was the duet between 'Nuffin Elf' and Droople, which was superb. The quality of music, drama, make-up and costumes was of the highest. Every child in the Prep School was on stage and was clearly confident and enjoyed themselves.

Trolls



NEW YORK NEW YORK

Ellie Jackson Fulfils her Dream by Winning a Place at the Prestigious New York Drama School

Keen thespian Ellie Jackson has always dreamt of going to New York. It was not surprising therefore when she heard that the New York's School for Film and Television were auditioning in London that she was going to apply. As a result she was one of just three budding actors who were successful at winning a scholarship for their Summer 2007 Programme.



BONESAPART

An inspiring performance from the all female trombone quartet 'Bonesapart'

During May, pupils were entertained by the lively all-female trombone quartet 'Bonesapart', one of the world's leading chamber ensembles who since their formation in 1999 have won a number of prestigious competitions and trophies. As Andrew Jenkins, our Director of Music commented "The girls of 'Bonesapart' are outstanding role models for our pupils and it is hoped that as a result of their visit some of our girls will be inspired to follow in their footsteps".

Vikings!



Upper Second Celebrating the Viking Fire Festival 'Up Helly Aa'

In a dramatic climax to their Viking Project pupils of U2 celebrated the Viking festival 'Up Helly Aa'. Wearing traditional costumes and helmets, and with axes and swords to hand, they carried a traditional longboat made from recycled old boxes. 'Blazing torches' were carried and thrown into the boat and, to the sound of a raucous Viking song the longboat was set alight.

On a Saturday in April around thirty Sixth Formers took part in a fundraising 'Dance-a-Thon' in support of Cystic Fibrosis Scotland. Having started at 3.00pm by mid-night there were seven girls left dancing: Anna Lamotte, Ilona Bluett, Jessica Fontaine, Natasha Hedley, Ellie Jackson, Vanessa Murray and Rachel Parrott. It was an enjoyable occasion raising £300 for the charity.

DANCING FOR CHARITY



Magical Musical Tour



Musical Tour of Yorkshire and the North of England

In early June around thirty pupils, led by Mr Jenkins and five other members of staff, set off on Kilgraston's music tour. They performed; Evensong at Ripon Cathedral, an afternoon concert at Malsis Preparatory School near Skipton, and a concert at Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland. A successful and very enjoyable experience for all!



Lower Fourth in York

Celebrating the end of their time at the Prep School

As an end of Prep School celebration, the girls from L4 and their Form Teachers made a visit to York. The combined wide ranging cultural experience with leisurely fun and (of course) some retail therapy. Visits were made to York Minster, where many of the girls climbed to the top of the tower, the Castle Museum, the Shambles, Jorvik, DIG and through the timeline of streets in the centre. The girls were told ghostly tales as they cruised down the River Ouse in the evening and they walked round the city walls from Bootham to Goodramgate.

On the way home, a most enjoyable visit was made to the Lightwater Valley theme park.



SPORTS Round Up



We've so much to show you this issue ... continues on the back page!

A Great Season for Sport!

This season has been particularly successful for Kilgraston on the sports field.

Tennis - Kilgraston Senior Tennis Teams were undefeated in their matches against Morrisons Academy, Strathallan and Dundee High School. Our Under 15 B Team was also undefeated in all of their matches. In addition our U11/U13 Teams were runners up at the New Park St Leonards Tournament.

At our own annual Invitation Junior and Senior Tennis Tournaments, our U12 doubles pair, Katy Barlow and Emma Carey, reached the finals and the U16 couple reached the semi-finals. Bearing in mind that over 70 players from seven schools participated on the Friday and eighty on Saturday this was a particularly good result for Kilgraston.



The Kilgraston Prep School Tennis Team (above) and (below) Lorna Balfour (left) and Victoria Bull (right), joint Captains, playing for Kilgraston on 9th June in our annual Schools' Tennis Invitation Tournament.



Rounders - A remarkable nine Kilgraston girls were selected to play for the 2007 WOSPS (West of Scotland Prep Schools) team in the match against the Dandy Lions on 18th May at Fettes. We were also delighted that eighteen of our girls were selected to play for the Scottish National Teams at Strathallan against England and the Isle of Man: U13 Zinnia Hall, Lydia Melville, Sophie Wade, Gillian Wood, Mhairi Miller, Stella Reilly, Indie McFarlane; U14 Heather Whiteside, Kiera Stewart, Gemma Burt, Anna Fearon; U15 Philippa Wilson, Fiona Campbell, Nicola Vermeulen; U16/17/18 Sophie Lyburn, Jennifer Vermeulen, Jayne Cameron and Ellie Jackson. Special congratulations to Sophie Wade who was the highest scorer for her Team.



Members of the Scotland Under 13 A Rounder's Team which included four Kilgraston pupils

Equestrian Leaps Ahead

Further Success for Katy Robertson at show jumping and Charlotte Robertson at Dressage

As reported in the previous Newsletter, Katy Robertson (L3, above) qualified to join the National team to represent Scotland in the 128 Grand Prix at the Pony of the Year Show, held in Cheshire in April. Subsequently she qualified to participate at the Royal International Horse Show held at Hickstead in July. Meanwhile Charlotte Robertson (L6) (no relation to Katy) had further successes at dressage. She has been training with the UK U21 Team and in July took part in the U21 International in Ireland, where she was placed in every test and in the individual championship at Elementary Level. Later she competed at Addington in England in the U25 Summer Championships finishing with two thirds, a fourth and a second, as well as winning the Reserve Medium Championship.



Katy Robertson jumping at the Horse of year Show



Charlotte Robertson riding Wilde Thyme

Race to the Finish

Athletics - Kilgraston achieved a magnificent result against the U13 Strathallan team at a match in June by winning 64:32.

Congratulations to Lucy Alexander (L6) and her horse Wise Man (owned and trained by her father) for her recent successes at racing Point to Point. This being her first season, she won four out of her six rides coming second and third in the other races. She also won the Novice Rider title of the Northern Area and the National U21 Novice Lady Rider. We look forward to following her promising racing career in future seasons.



SPORTS Round Up

(continued from inside back page)



Prep School Sports Day



Members of the Kilgraston Senior Team: Lorna Balfour, Hannah Gair, Antonia Green and Sophie Roebuck

Gleneagles Success

Success at Gleneagles for our Teams at the Scottish Schools' Equestrian Championships

Congratulations to Lorna Balfour, Hannah Gair, Antonia Green and Sophie Roebuck our Senior Equestrian Team and Anna Fearon, Lottie Murray, Anna Reilly and Susannah Taylor our Class Two Team. Both teams were champions at this year's Scottish Schools' Equestrian Championships hosted by Kilgraston and held at Gleneagles on Sunday 22nd April. To present the prizes we were delighted to welcome back Mrs Janet Newberry-McLeod, a former housemistress at Kilgraston who was responsible for establishing the first event at Gleneagles back in 1994. This year, 24 schools from both the independent and state sectors in Scotland were represented by a total of 150 young riders.



The winning House on Prep School Sports Day was Capercaillie. Capercaillie Sports Captain Georgina Fu Tong (top left) and Mhairi Stewart, Head of House with Champions Emma Carey, Joanna Leslie-Melville, Alexandra Melville, Raina Dalrymple, Annabelle Wilson and Katy Barlow



*Joanna Leslie-Melville
Prep School Champion on Sports Day*

WARM UP FOR THE WEEK!



An Aerobics session on the front lawn helping the girls to warm up for the start of our week-long Festival of Art and Sport.

For the first time sport played a part in our week-long Festival during the penultimate week of the school year. The girls had two fantastic days when they were able to sample a very wide range of activities such as archery, lacrosse, yoga, cricket, golf and much more. The event was a great success and enjoyed by everyone.

Kari Anderson, Captain of the Scottish Cricket Team with Natasha Hedley and Anna Lamotte following her demonstration of batting techniques with Kilgraston pupils during the Festival of Sport.



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