

10th December 2008

Dear Parents,

As the end of term draws near it gives an opportunity to look back on all that has been accomplished in the busy weeks since the end of August. For many, of course, this will have been the first term at a new school and I have been delighted at how quickly the “rookies” have settled and how warmly they were welcomed by the existing pupils.

As always there has been plenty of charitable giving and we had two very enjoyable non-uniform days in aid of Jeans for Genes and Children In Need; the latter cause struck a chord with many and set the ball rolling for a range of events. The £1600 that we raised for these charities has been gratefully received and our contributions to WRVS and CHAS, amongst others, have had a direct impact on the lives of our local old and young. The PTA Christmas Fayre was a great success and the £2000 raised will be put to good use purchasing play equipment for the younger year groups. The recent raffles at the fantastic Forms 1 – 5 productions also raised a substantial sum – our thanks to everyone who bought tickets or donated prizes.



F.3 Halloween Party

Our day begins at 8.30 am and I would ask that children are in school by that time as it is at the heart of the administrative and pastoral system for those in the Senior School while for those in the Middle and Junior Schools the early part of the day is a vital time for registration, assemblies, reading and other core language work.

Those of you with children in the Senior School will notice a couple of changes in the format of the reports. First, there is a report by your son or daughter's Form Tutor which will give an overview of his or her progress and I hope you will find this useful and informative. Second, there are no longer positions given for each subject or for the term and I hope that this will remove some of the anxiety for the children, allowing them to focus on **their** attainment, rather than that of others, without removing the desire to maximise their potential.



Children in Need:
The X-Factor Assembly

Academic work has, of course, been central to much of what has happened at the school and reading the children's reports I have been impressed by the amount of effort the pupils have given and the levels of progress they have made. As important has been the range of extra-curricular activities that have been pursued and the development of the children's characters and inter-personal skills.



The undefeated U-13 Hockey Team

Hope Whitelaw got our scholarship campaign off to a flying start with her Sports Award to Strathallan. Indeed, this has been a fine term for our girls games players with our Under 13 and Under 11 teams being unbeaten against other schools – the only defeat came in the final of the Fettes Under 13 competition. Not to be outdone, our Under 11 boys were unbeaten against Scottish schools on the rugby field and two of our senior XV, Grant Doig and Rory Wood, were selected for the Scottish Prep Schools side while another six were picked for the WOSPS squad. Nine girls were selected for

the WOSPS netball squads with Alexandra McLellan appointed captain and Sandie Smillie has qualified for the Scottish National Swimming Finals following her win at the Tayside Schools Championships in the 400m Freestyle.

Connie Snowie's ponies helped her become the Scottish U25 showing champion and Aiden O'Brien won the Central Scotland Open Ballet Championships for 10 year olds. Alex Gloag, Freya Kinloch, Henry Buckley and Austen Hay all picked up prizes in the Perthshire Society of Natural Science Essay Competition and for the first time in 13 years all three of our debating teams have qualified for the 2nd round of The Courier/University of St Andrew's Debating Competition having seen off opponents from senior schools.



The S.U. Explorers' Shoebox Appeal

Recently, twenty children sat Trinity Guildhall Music Exams: all passed and eight were awarded Merits and a further ten reached the level needed for Distinction. Tonight's Carol Service promises to be a wonderful occasion, as does the Junior version on Friday, and the recent Christmas shows have been filled with talent, hard work and pleasure.

Work on the school garden is underway thanks to the Gardening activity group and those of you who kindly offered help of any description will be hearing from Mr Dibnah shortly about the dates for working parties; it's not too late to volunteer! The Times and Sunday Times are producing Books for Schools tokens from January 2009 for 12 weeks and we will be collecting these to help boost the number of books in the library. Anyone collecting tokens should pass them on to Mrs Dibnah; with some titles on offer for just 10 tokens we could make a substantial difference to our stock of books in a short space of time.

Over the holiday I would be grateful if you could check the name labels in your children's school clothes; there are a number of items that have gone missing that may well be in someone else's wardrobe or cupboard at home. Please drop any items that need to be returned to the School Office. For those who will be skiing next term, please ensure that all pieces of equipment and clothing are clearly named or distinctively marked in order that they can be easily identified in the dark by tired children at the end of a long day when boots, skis and poles look very much the same!



The victorious U-11 Rugby Team

On the subject of skiing you will find in this report package a leaflet from Cairdsport who coach a number of our younger groups and who operate from Glenshee; they would be delighted to see you over the holiday or in the New Year. For events in and around Perth over the break I can recommend a visit to www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/ph1 or [ph2](http://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/ph2) who have listed a number of school events.



F. 4-5: "Countdown to Christmas"

Future term dates can be viewed on the website: www.craigclowan-school.co.uk/calendar.htm

Alex, Jack, Hamish and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year; as part of our Green initiative we have decided not to send Christmas cards to you all this year and will put the money saved towards the garden project. We hope that you and your children will not be too disappointed. The New Year kicks off with a Coffee Morning for all parents run by the PTA on Wednesday 16th January from 0830 in the Dining Room and I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes,

Andy.