

FOLLOWING IN RYAN'S TYRE TREADS?

The Academy has already produced one world-class racing driver in the shape of Ryan Dalziel who is about to make his Champ Car World Series debut in the US at the age of 24. Now Greg Stark of S2 looks ready to follow in his footsteps. Just like Ryan, 13-year-old Greg started in Karting and he has just been awarded the prize as 'Rookie of the Year' in his age group.

Greg is only one of a number of Academy pupils who have achieved significant success in sport outside school this term. Many congratulations to:

Jennifer Sinclair [S3] on winning the Girls' Scottish Junior Masters Golf competition on Sunday 8 October at the Queen's Course, Gleneagles.

Karin Belch [S1], who won the West District U/13 Cross-Country championships at East Kilbride in early December.

Lara Davidson [S3], who competed in the High Jump in the U/16 Scottish Indoor Athletics team in the Home International competition at the Kelvin Hall, also in December.



Greg Stark - Rookie of the Year - in action



SMILING IN THE RAIN: Atholl pupils brought in raincoats for the children in the Hoi An Orphanage in Vietnam. Now it's the rainy season in Vietnam and the raincoats were ideal.

SWIMMERS MAKE BIG SPLASH

Swimmers from The Glasgow Academy struck Gold at Glasgow Schools Swimming Gala Finals on Monday 30 October. First Year pupil Katie Archibald carried off both the Daily Record Cup for the 50m Freestyle and the Sandra Squires Cup for the 100m Breaststroke. In the 50m Butterfly, Lucy Richens took Gold in the Girls Under 16 class and Fraser Webster was second in the final of the Boys Under 14 event. To top off an excellent event for our swimmers, the girls' relay team of Stephanie Berger, Emily Colley, Katie Archibald and Lucy Richens won the Bronze medal in the Girls Open 4x50m relay.



DANISH VISITORS

In October we had the first of what was a very successful exchange with Hertufsholm School, in Denmark. Hertufsholm is a very traditional, highly prestigious boarding school. The present buildings date from 1870, but stand on the site of the original monastery, which was originally built in about 1200 and the remains of which can still be seen.



Some of our Danish visitors: Lee-Emilie Halberg, Morten Jensen, Marie Jespersen, Marie Steinruecke

Alistair Crawford, Chloe Henderson, Jane Leitch and Jennifer Wiggins of S6 hosted four Danish students for a week before returning to discover what life as a pupil at an international boarding school is really like.

The Danish students thoroughly enjoyed the experience of Scottish family life and everyone voted the experience a great success. We are already looking forward to next year's exchange.

The second wave of friendly Viking visitors to these shores arrived only a few weeks later when The Academy played host to a group of 13 Rectors of Danish schools. The group was in Glasgow as part of a cultural fact-finding visit to Scotland and they enjoyed visiting Kelvinbridge and Atholl, followed by high tea and a trip to a traditional Glasgow pantomime!

NEW HEAD OF PREP SCHOOL ANNOUNCED

At the end of the Autumn Term, we were pleased to welcome Mr Anthony Brooke, the recently-appointed Head of the Prep School.



He is currently Headmaster of Sutton Valence Preparatory School in Kent, his second headship. A qualified and practising Inspector of schools, Mr Brooke will take up his post on the retirement of Mrs Helen Fortune in June. After his visit, Mr Brooke commented: "I feel the chance to lead a school as good as The Glasgow Academy Preparatory School into the next phase of its development and in its wonderful new building is tremendously exciting and an opportunity not to be missed. The kind and warm Scottish welcome extended to me has made me look forward to the move even more."



CHRISTMAS MUSIC EVENING: Prep School pupils were among the many - parents and pupils - who took part in the Christmas Music Evening in December

LORD VALLANCE WARMS TO HIS THEME...

In September we were delighted to welcome Lord Vallance of Tummel as Dallachy lecturer for 2006.

As a member of an all-party select committee on global warming, Lord Vallance chose 'Climate Change' as his subject. In a fascinating lecture, his avowed intention was to present a complex scientific subject in layman's terms - something that he managed with great skill. He realised that 'green' taxes would not be popular with everyone, but felt that it was the only way to build up a significant 'war chest' that could be used to develop alternative means of producing energy.

Right: Lord Vallance with Head Boy Andrew Krazewski and Head Girl Kirsty McNaught

FAREWELL AND INTODUCTIONS...



Mrs Diana Frater

We recently said farewell to Mrs Diana Frater, a talented, compassionate teacher with 13 years' experience. She joined the Infant Staff at Atholl in August 2004 to teach the Prep 1 class before moving to Kelvinbridge the following autumn. Diana is an intelligent practitioner, astute in her judgment of children's needs and willing to give greatly of her own time and effort to help those children with developmental needs. She has a real interest in Learning Support, having worked previously with visually impaired children for two years. She has recently completed a certificate in Braille Competency from Moray House and hopes to further enhance her skills in this area. We wish her well.



Receptionist: Ms Gill Mackenzie

To anyone who has visited The Academy recently, Ms Gill Mackenzie - our Receptionist - will need no introduction. Gill, who studied theatre arts and dance, has brought lots of energy to her role: "When I joined The Academy, I had no idea that working in a school office could involve so much - from choreographing the panto, to climbing the highest mountains in the Pyrenees! All of which I have thoroughly enjoyed - even being circled by vultures at the top of L'aneto".

Despite all these exciting opportunities, Gill says that the part of her job she enjoys most is welcoming families to the school - oh, and eating the chocolates found on the reception desk!



Librarian: Mrs Samantha Keith

After the Reception area, the first thing that strikes most visitors to the main building is the library. There we meet Mrs Santha Keith, another relatively recent arrival at The Academy. A former teacher, she has found inspiration from an unexpected source: "Having a 15-year-old daughter provides me with great experience in coaxing reluctant readers to read."

If that makes being a librarian sound a chore, Mrs Keith is quick to contradict that impression: "I love my job as I actually get paid to do what I enjoy doing anyway which is buy books, read them and share them with others!"



BEST RESULTS IN SCOTLAND...

Many congratulations to Samira Rudig-Sotomayor who has received the SQA highest award for academic excellence.

At a gala dinner in November, Samira was presented with the Gold Award for her performance in the 2006 Higher Exams. She was the only pupil in the country to achieve seven Grade A Highers. Now in her sixth year, Samira is studying three Advanced Highers and has an offer to read Natural Sciences at Cambridge.

After being presented with the award, Samira said: "When I was nominated, I didn't even know the award existed so I was surprised but absolutely delighted when I found out that I had actually won. I want to try and go up to the highest level of education possible."

On hearing the news of her nomination, the Rector, Peter Brodie commented: "Samira is an absolutely outstanding student. Everyone at The Glasgow Academy is very proud of her achievement. The very first time I taught Samira I was immensely impressed by how quick on the uptake she is and how articulately she phrases her views. She has a very bright future ahead of her and we wish her great success."



Samira Rudig-Sotomayor has a bright future ahead of her. Picture: Ashley Coombes

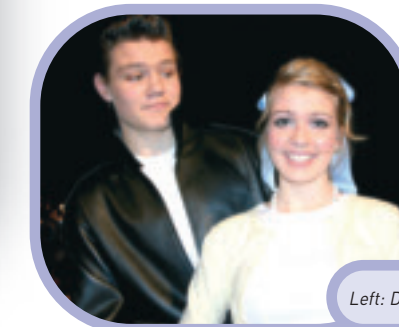
In July, Samira received a Nuffield Bursary for the Centre for Cell Engineering on a research project: Cell Adhesion to different types of surface. Her eventual aim is to be a research biologist.

According to Best-schools.co.uk, The Glasgow Academy was the top coeducational day-only school in the country for Advanced Highers in

2006. For a good example of this, one need look no further than Alisdair McClymont, one of last year's S6 pupils, who has won a prize of £220 in recognition of the excellence of his Advanced Higher Mathematics mark. Alisdair is now reading engineering at Cambridge University.

GREASED LIGHTNING SETS CARGILL HALL ALIGHT!!

One of the best school shows I've seen in years, was just one of the accolades for Grease: a show with a talented young cast produced by a group of three talented young teachers. [See page 2.]



Left: Danny [Jamie Swanson] meets Sandy [Kirsty McNaught] while the T-Birds meet Greased Lightning, above.



NEW PREP SCHOOL TAKES SHAPE



Prep 1 pupils Jack Wicklow and Eve Denholm clear up after the topping out ceremony while Mrs Fortune and Mr George Mackie, Robertson's Commercial Director, look on.

relatively slow phases of preparing the ground and piling had been completed, the steel and concrete superstructure has been going up at the rate of a floor every four weeks.

To celebrate the completion of the exterior of the building, Robertson's, the main contractors, held a 'topping out' ceremony on 15 December. Mrs Fortune, who will retire as Headmistress of the Prep School in June, smoothed the final section of concrete and was presented with a commemorative silver trowel.

Meanwhile, the building work going on at the end of the Terrace has provided a valuable source of project work for some of our Prep School classes.

Libby Strachan Brooks of P3.1 takes up the story:

On Thursday 2nd November a group of seven children and Mrs Berry went to the building site. We were welcomed by Fergus who is the manager. He gave us a hard hat and a yellow coat with a silver stripe on it. We went out onto the viewing platform. I was very excited when I saw the big crane. Fergus took us round to the big blue door. When we were in the building site I was very excited when I saw the big

Mortar silo. Then Fergus took us to the office. He showed us the plans. The plans seemed very very difficult. Fergus gave us a gift of a mouse-mat and two coffee mats. After that Mrs Berry took us to the reception. We looked at the model of the school. It looks beautiful.

Libby Strachan Brooks



DRESSING UP FOR CHARITY

The S6 charities committees have been busily organising events this term and the message seems to be clear: if it involves dressing up, they're all for it! Consider the evidence:



Making Christmas baubles and face-painting were only two of the attractions



In Santa's grotto: Israel and Donek, our guests from SIM-UK Ethiopia, join Santa and Rudolph in the grotto.

body-builder and a Batman and Robin combo (among others) were auctioned. Over £1200 was raised in less than 30 minutes of frantic bidding.

Santa's Grotto (well, CCF tent actually) was only one of the attractions available in a veritable winter wonderland of activities

put on by the 'Away Charities' Committee for Prep pupils at the end of term. The children who came along had almost as much fun as the Sixth Year pupils who staged the event. They raised £420 for SIM-UK, a charity with the aim of alleviating the effects of famine in Ethiopia.

At the moment the project is scheduled to be completed around the beginning of October - although this is, of course, subject to change depending on the vagaries of the weather. If this were the case, it may be possible to move in during the October week. More likely, however, is a more gradual move to allow classes to start in the new school at the beginning of a new year in January 2008.

ATHOLL NATIVITY IN CAIRNS CHURCH



The cast of Atholl's nativity play - which this year was entitled "It's a Party" - assemble at the beginning of an excellent show. Dairsie's nativity play - held in Newlands South Church - was an equally imaginative performance.

Anyone passing the site of the new Prep School will have been amazed at the rate at which the building has been taking shape since the end of the summer. Once the essential, but

GREASE THE MUSICAL



Caroline Muirhead (Marty) and Rachel Frew (Rizzo) seem less than impressed on meeting the new girl in town

It's the age-old story of boy meets girl and contains all the familiar elements of teenage life, but Glasgow Academy's *Grease* seemed to transcend its limitations as a young cast breathed fresh life into its tired, old cliches.

One reason for that was the enthusiasm of the acting and the singing from all cast members, another was the excellence of the direction provided by Miss Mackenzie and Miss Young, coupled with the musical talents of Miss MacLeod and her on-stage band. Well done to everyone who took part!

ANIMAL FARM THE PLAY

Another dramatic triumph this term was Eliza Grant's stunning production of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* in early November.

Her directorial debut featured strong ensemble acting from a cast that was drawn from several years in the Senior School. The work's stark message of idealism undermined by greed was emphasised by the starkness of the set - a few bales of hay sufficing to suggest the farmyard setting.

Eliza chose to put on the Peter Hall adaptation of the novel after watching the famous cartoon version while baby-sitting for neighbours. "I realised instantly that the dramatised story was very powerful and thought that it would be wonderful on stage."

And how right she was! Congratulations, Eliza.



Eliza Grant's sensitive direction ensured a smooth transition from book to play

THE LONELIEST BEACH ON THE PLANET...



Last summer, the nearest most teenagers got to the above situation is sipping a Coke with ice on a sun-drenched Mediterranean beach.

In July, 12 hand-picked pupils from S5 and S6 went on a pioneering expedition to East Greenland under the leadership of Mr Gwynne. As his personal motto is "onwards and upwards", he is already planning The Academy's next trip - although the location is a closely-guarded secret.

LORNA'S A STAR



Lorna with Philippa Bonella, EOC Scotland's Director of Policy and Ailsa Symeonides of Axios Systems.

Congratulations to Lorna Bonnington of S6 who was recently presented with an Axios "A Star" Award for Computing. Lorna achieved one of the top marks in the country for Higher Computing in 2006. The aim of the awards is to encourage girls in a traditionally male-dominated discipline. Ironically, however, Lorna has decided to study History at university next year.

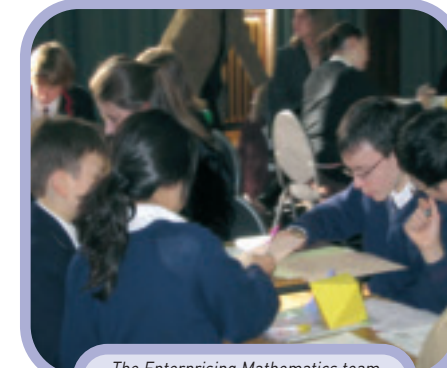
BEACH BOYS WIN



The Cargill Hall was full of noise and colour in October as the second House Singing Competition took place amid great excitement and good humour from an audience of senior pupils and staff.

This year's theme was the 1960s, one which generated several powerful performances, but Morrison House's surfing-inspired Beach Boys classic *I Get Around* narrowly won the day with the judges.

IT'S A NUMBERS GAME



The Enterprising Mathematics team hard at work.

After competing in the Dollar Academy Enterprising Mathematics Competition 2006, our team - consisting of Cosmo Grant and Haixi Yan of S4 and Alice Ahn and Jason Long of S2 - were invited to participate in the finals of the National Enterprising Mathematics Competition held at the University of Strathclyde. In a field consisting of 62 other Scottish schools, they did extremely well and finished in second place with a score of 691 points - only 5 points behind the winners.