

Strathcara News

Office Bearers 2012/2013

Head Girl: Megan Millar. Deputy Head Girls: Miranda Crawford and Rachel Macdonald.

Games Captain: Claudia Bedford. Deputy Games Captains: Francesca Brown and Stephanie Jemphrey.

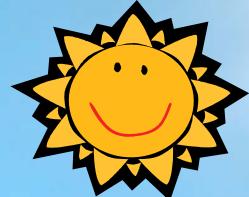
Chair School Council: Darcy Rollins. Vice-Chair School Council: Sophie Rodgers.

Barbour House Captain: Jessica Logan. Barbour Deputy House Captains: Tammie Finlay and Lizzie Howard.

Boucher House Captain: Susan Ogonda. Boucher Deputy House Captains: Megan McLaughlin and Sarah Redmond.

McCaughay House Captain: Chloe McLaurin. McCaughay Deputy House Captains: Erin McClean and Katie Tener.

Watts House Captain: Louise Brown. Watts Deputy House Captains: Joy Dalzell and Rachel Stanfield.



WELCOME!

On Thursday 21 June, we welcomed next year's form one pupils to the school for the Form One Induction evening. We look forward to seeing them all again in the Autumn Term!



Bugsy

The Junior Drama Production only happens every two years, but when it does it is always a great experience for all involved! The process began three months ago when the Lower Sixth Drama pupils selected the play, auditioned and cast members of the Junior Drama Club. Thirty-two pupils from the first, second and third form then rehearsed every Tuesday and Wednesday evening for three months to perfect New York accents and to learn key techniques like projection - which was much needed in the Miskelly surroundings sans microphones. The cast showed real commitment to the production and even sacrificed Saturdays to provide the audience with the required musicality and frivolity of *Bugsy*. Local sales of shaving foam also soared during the production and the girls were supported for two nights by audiences that packed out the available seating and who later were very vocal in their praise for the company. Many thanks again to all involved.



Olympics 2012

On 22 June, a special assembly was held to congratulate Sycerika McMahon on her selection for the Ireland Swim Team for the London 2012 Olympics. Mr Manning paid tribute to the successes Sycerika has achieved throughout her swimming career and highlighted the dedication to training that she has made to achieve this amazing opportunity. Sycerika spoke about her preparations for the Olympic Games, and pupils and staff alike were in awe when she revealed her 5am sessions in the pool! Mr Manning wished Sycerika every success in London and a presentation was made to Sycerika to mark this most auspicious occasion.



Modern Languages

Jessica Fairclough, 4A, recently gained a place on the German Pupil Course run by UK-German Connection. This is a two-week course run in August this summer to provide students of German with the opportunity to get first-hand experience of German life and culture, and improve their language skills at the same time. Pupils attend classes in the morning and have cultural activities in the afternoon. There are only twenty-four places available to all fourth year students of German in the UK, so many congratulations to Jessica on gaining a place!

Library News

The 2012 Library Awards Event was held in Miskelly Hall on 13 June, where forty-one junior and senior library assistants received certificates for their work in the Library. This year there were thirty-eight junior library assistants receiving First, Bronze and Silver Awards and three senior library assistants receiving the Platinum Award, all of which were presented by Mr Manning.



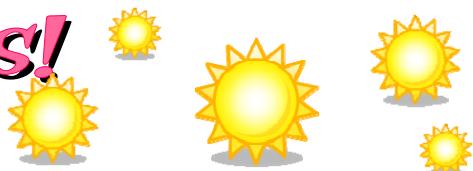
Many of the parents were able to attend and the girls delivered a PowerPoint presentation and a short talk about life as a library assistant, with some light refreshments being served at the end. Well done to all the girls receiving their certificates and many thanks for all their help in the Library this past year! Over the past few months the Library has produced a number of Podcasts with short book reviews, which are now on the Library page of the school website. You can find the Library page under 'Studying at Strathearn' if you wish to listen to these.

Tesco Vouchers

Many thanks to all of you who have helped us reach another great total this year! We have collected almost 46,000 vouchers and 3S have, once again, turned out to be the leading class in the school, closely followed by IH who ended up second overall! Well done!



Individual Successes! congratulations to....



Hollie Croft, 1A, who performed on a trapeze with the Belfast Community Circus School in Belfast, Derry and Bangor.

Tegan Dunbar, 1A, who won the PE Cup at the Girls' Brigade.

Bethany Craig, 1A, who got a Distinction in Grade Two Piano.

Beth Rankin, 1A, who was successful in an Irish Dancing competition in the South of Ireland.

Eve Truesdale, 1A, who competed in the Northern Ireland Irish Dancing Championships.

Oriel Dawson, 2R, who passed her Grade Three Piano and Theory Examination with Merit.

Alice Graham, 1H, who achieved five first places, two third places and two fourth places in a recent British Theatre Dance Association NI Competition in Portadown.

Sophie Gillespie, 1H, who achieved three first places in a group competition and one second place and two fourth places as an individual in a recent British Theatre Dance Association NI Competition in Portadown. In a Dance Competition at Hamilton House she achieved one first place and four second places. Sophie was also awarded the *Most Pleasing Overall Shield* and the *Best Single Jig*.

Lydia Millar and Anna Kane, 3H, who took their Vocational Ballet Examination in Dublin.

Susie Griffin, 3T, who has been selected for the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra.

Ammaarah Ghafoor, 3T, who has passed her Grade Five Ballet Examination with Distinction.

Philippa Ringrow, 2A, who took part in the *Race for Life* Cancer Research fundraiser.

Lisa Allsopp, 2A, who passed her Grade One Drum Examination with Distinction.

Katie Majury, 2A, who passed her Grade Four Singing Examination with Merit.

Maddy Miskimmin, 2R, who is a member of the Belfast Area RDA Netball Squad which was placed second in the Area Tournament.

Emily Richmond who took part in the Templemore Swimming Club's junior olympics where she won the freestyle competition.

Anna Kelly, 1H, who won the 133cm Working Hunter Pony Class at the Balmoral Show.

Chloe Young, 2S, who was placed sixth out of twenty-four entrants in a Dressage Competition held at Ardnacashel Stables.

Jessica Leeman, 1H, who has been chosen to represent Ulster at Tennis Tournaments in Dublin and Cork at the end of June.

Keziah Beattie, 3A, who finished in first place in the U14 Foil category of the Northern Ireland Age Group Fencing Championships. Keziah, as the Northern Ireland U14 Champion, represented NI at the British Youth Championships in Sheffield.

Sponsored Walk



On Monday 28 May, pupils from Form One to Four, along with staff, took part in a sponsored walk to Stormont Estate and back in aid of our new school build. Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported this event, as to date we have raised almost £9,000!

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Well done to all fifty-five girls who completed their Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition at Tollymore on a very wet weekend at the start of June. After much planning, a lot of walking and much rain, all those who took part are now well on their way to completing their award. Information for next year's award will be released to Form Three at the start of October.



Class of 2012

On Wednesday 9 May we said farewell to the *Class of 2012*, and wished them well for their examinations and the future, at a really lovely reception in Miskelly Hall. We look forward to seeing them again at the Sixth Form Prize Distribution in September.

Trips & Form News

• The Form Four GCSE History pupils enjoyed a brisk walk up to Stormont on 12 June for the annual visit to Parliament Buildings. An excellent delivery, given by the staff of the Education Service, gave the girls a sense of the history of the building and also an understanding of how it came to be operational nowadays as the Northern Ireland Assembly. A vocal debate on changing electoral boundaries was underway when sixty pupils from Strathearn listened attentively from the public gallery.

• On Saturday 23 June, forty Form Four History and German students and five staff will be setting off at 2am for a five-day visit to Berlin. *Gute Reise!*

• All good wishes to the eighteen fifth and lower sixth girls and two members of staff who have just left for a *World Challenge* trip to Croatia.

• Form 3S raised £537.97 for *WaterAid* through their Easter themed form effort and they would like to thank everyone who helped them raise this great total.

art exhibition

Congratulations to all of the GCSE, AS and A-level artists whose work was on display at the annual Art Exhibition! On 13 June, the Art Department showcased the work submitted for public examinations and the parents, staff, pupils, former pupils and friends of the school who attended were impressed by the wonderful talent so evident throughout the whole exhibition. All of the rooms were a delight to visit, so well done to everyone who made this another great event!

Sport

ATHLETICS



Strathearn's athletics teams have been competing very successfully over the last few months at the Co Down, Ulster and Irish Schools' Championships. Well done to all those girls involved, not just those that received individual medals, but to all those who competed and contributed to the overall team scores.

At the **Co Down District Championships** the results were as follows:

Minor Team: Alanna McHugh 5th Long Jump & 7th High Jump; Jessica Leeman 7th 800m & 10th Long Jump; Natalie McHugh 13th High Jump; Connie O'Callaghan 8th Shot.

Relay: 5th Eve Truesdale, Lauren Kirkwood, Victoria Hamilton and Alanna McHugh.

Junior Team: Shannon Booth 1st 200m & 10th Triple Jump; Megan Marrs 1st 75m Hurdles & 2nd High Jump; Lauren Brooker 2nd Long Jump & 5th 75m Hurdles; Georgina Gomes 10th 1500m & 14th High Jump; Emma Watson 8th 800m; Sarah Brown 13th 1500m; Gabrielle Park 2nd Hammer; Maddy Miskimmin 3rd Hammer; Kate Farrelly 5th Triple Jump; Aimée Irwin 5th Long Jump; Jemma Gillan 5th Javelin; Hannah Eakin 9th Discus; Sophie Allen 17th Shot; Laura Middleton 7th Discus.

Intermediate Team: Isla Lockhart 1st 100m & 2nd Triple Jump; Chloe Johnston 3rd 300m; Natalie Wallace 1st Javelin; Lauren Wheeler 3rd Long Jump; Elly Ahern 2nd Long Jump & 2nd 80m Hurdles; Hannah Crymble 3rd 100m; Tara Gouk 3rd High Jump.

Senior Team 1st Overall: Claudia Bedford 1st High Jump & 3rd 200m; Stephanie Jemphrey 1st Hammer & 3rd Shot; Jessica Lowry 2nd Triple Jump & 3rd Discus; Hazel Jordan 2nd High Jump & 3rd Long Jump; Rebecca Blundell 2nd 800m; Francesca Brown 2nd Javelin.

Relay: 2nd Rebecca Blundell, Claudia Bedford, Morgen Hunt and Hazel Jordan.

The girls who finished in the top three then qualified for the **Ulster Championships** on 18 & 19 May at the Antrim Forum, where they performed very well. The Individual results were as follows:

The Junior Team was overall =6th. Megan Marrs 1st High Jump & 1st 75m Hurdles (Qualifying for the Irish Championships); Shannon Booth 7th 200m; Gabrielle Park 7th Hammer; Maddy Miskimmin 8th Hammer.

Intermediates: Isla Lockhart 6th 100m; Chloe Johnston 7th 300m; Tara Gouk =8th High Jump.

Seniors Overall =4th. Claudia Bedford 1st High Jump & 8th 200m (Qualifying for the Irish Championships); Rebecca Blundell 4th 800m; Hazel Jordan 5th Long Jump & =5th High Jump; Jessica Lowry 8th Triple Jump. Relay 4th: Claudia Bedford, Morgen Hunt, Jessica Lowry and Isla Lockhart.

At the **Irish Championships**, which took place in Tullamore on 2 June, Claudia Bedford represented Strathearn in the Senior High Jump and finished in a very commendable 7th place. Megan Marrs was the 'star of the day' and, despite having to work very hard at both events, she was crowned Irish Champion in both the Junior High Jump and Junior 75m Hurdles. This is an outstanding achievement for Megan and one that will be difficult to top, but she is already focusing on the next competitions over the summer months.

INTERPROVINCIAL SELECTION: As a result of these brilliant performances Megan was selected to represent Ulster at the Irish Schools' Interprovincial Championships in Dublin on 23 June. This is a wonderful achievement, as it is an U17 competition and Megan is only in Form 3.

The Form 2 athletes have also been competing in the **U14 Team Competition**. They won the Area Heats and therefore went through to the District Final on 28 May. There was no room for error as only two teams would qualify for the Ulster Championships. Unfortunately, the Strathearn Team finished in third place overall and so missed out on the Ulster final. Georgina Gomes deserves special mention with her fantastic high jumping at this competition clearing 1m 46cm to win this event. The results were as follows: Georgina Gomes 1st High Jump; Emma Lowry 3rd Long Jump; Kate Farrelly 3rd 100m; Katy Miskimmin 4th Javelin; Kezia Beattie 4th 800m; Sophie Allen 6th Shot. Relay: 1st Hannah Craig, Georgina Gomes, Kate Farrelly and Emma Lowry.

As a result of their performances over the season Georgina, Kate and Sophie were selected to represent Co Down at the Inter District U14 Competition on 14 June. Well done!

SPORTS DAY

Despite the awful June weather, Sports Day went ahead on 27 June. Luckily, the weather held and, although the day was overcast, the rain stayed away. All available pupils were involved either as competitors or as helpers and, in addition to the usual Inter-House rivalry, everyone had fun and enjoyed themselves. A big thank you to the premises staff, teaching staff and senior pupils who helped make the event a success. The results are as follows:

FORM 1: 100M: 1st Jemma Mercer, Boucher; 2nd Eve Truesdale, McCaughey; 3rd Lauren Kirkwood, Barbour. Cricket Ball: 1st Abbie McDougall, McCaughey; 2nd Camryn Hill, Boucher; 3rd Alicia Grattan, McCaughey. High Jump: 1st Beth Crosby, Watts; 2nd Natalie McHugh, McCaughey; 3rd Kathryn Neill, Barbour. 800M: 1st Alanna McHugh, McCaughey; 2nd Sarah McCracken, Watts; 3rd Jemma Mercer, Boucher. Long Jump: 1st Ellen Hamilton, Watts; 2nd Ella Reid, Boucher; 3rd Rachael Geddes, Barbour. Shot Putt: 1st Connie O'Callaghan, McCaughey; 2nd Katharine McIntyre, Boucher; 3rd Hollie Croft, Barbour. Relay: 1st Barbour; 2nd McCaughey; 3rd Boucher.

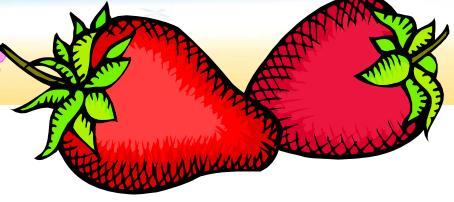
FORM 2: High Jump: 1st Georgiana Gomes, McCaughey; 2nd Chloe Armstrong, Watts; 3rd Topaz Marshall, Barbour. 800M: 1st Arianna Kennedy, Boucher; 2nd Sarah Brown, Watts; 3rd Keziah Beattie, McCaughey. Long Jump: 1st Emma Lowry, McCaughey; 2nd Lauren Kane, Barbour; 3rd Gemma Burnside, Boucher. Shot Putt: 1st Sophie Allen, McCaughey; 2nd Ailie McKinty, Boucher; 3rd Rachael McNeill, Watts. 100M: 1st Hannah Craig, Boucher; 2nd Ellen Meredith, Barbour; 3rd Sophie Lewis, Barbour. Cricket Ball: 1st Bonnie Ramsay, Watts; 2nd= Eve Johnston, McCaughey and Georgie Young, McCaughey. Relay: 1st McCaughey; 2nd Barbour; 3rd Boucher.

FORM 3: Long Jump: 1st = Aimée Irwin, Watts and Hannah Eakin, Barbour; 3rd Lydia Millar, Watts. Shot Putt: 1st Nicola Montgomery, McCaughey; 2nd Alice Campbell, McCaughey; 3rd Robyn McCollum, Barbour. 100M: 1st Hannah Eakin, Barbour; 2nd Shannon Booth, McCaughey; 3rd Ammaarah Ghafoor, Barbour. Cricket Ball: 1st Jemma Gillan, Watts; 2nd Anna Ross, Barbour; 3rd Sarah Simpson, Boucher. High Jump: 1st Lydia Millar, Watts; 2nd Lauren Brooker, Boucher; 3rd Gabrielle Park, Watts. 800M: 1st Emma Watson, Boucher; 2nd Anieshia Bedford, Barbour; 3rd Lara Sweet, Boucher. Relay: 1st Watts; 2nd McCaughey; 3rd Boucher.

FORM 4: Relay: 1st Barbour; 2nd McCaughey; 3rd Watts.

Summer Vacation

TEAM



STRATHEARN CONTINUES TO SHINE, WINNING BOTH THE MINOR AND SENIOR ULSTER TITLES

Another great season comes to a close with Strathearn remaining at the forefront of Ulster Schools' tennis. As you can see from the results below all five teams successfully won their sections to go through to the knock-out stages of their respective competitions. In each team there are four players ranked 1 to 4 who all play one singles match each and then combine with a partner to play two additional doubles matches, making up a total of six matches per fixture. A point is scored for the team for each match won.

YEAR 8 TEAM FIXTURES 2012: against Glenlola Collegiate won 6-0; against Down High School won 6-0; against Bloomfield Collegiate won 6-0 and against Hunterhouse College won 6-0.

JUNIOR A TEAM FIXTURES 2012: against Glenlola Collegiate won 6-0; against Belfast Royal Academy won 6-0 and against Regent House B won 6-0.

JUNIOR B TEAM FIXTURES 2012: against Ballyclare High School won 6-0; against Belfast Royal Academy won 6-0 and against Larne Grammar won 6-0.

INTERMEDIATE TEAM FIXTURES 2012: against Grosvenor Grammar School 3-3 won 41-35; against Rockport B won 6-0 and against Regent House won 6-0.

SENIOR TEAM FIXTURES 2012: against Foyle & Londonderry won 4-2; the match against Ballymena Academy was conceded.

The Junior B Team of Rachael Thomas, Meabh Lowry, Suzanne McKinstry and Emily Whiteside, with both Saskia Craig and Bonnie Ramsay featuring in one match each when players were unavailable, played Sullivan Upper in the quarter-final and lost 4-2. This certainly was no disgrace, as Sullivan went on to win the Junior Cup.

The Junior A Team of Ariana Kennedy, Jemma Gillan, Anna Warden and Jenny Maynes, with Rachael Thomas ably substituting in the team when Jenny was ill, reached the semi-final of the cup. At the quarter-final stage, the team defeated Dalriada in straight singles victories and they met an in-form Methodist College Team in the semi-final. This was a closely contested affair, but Methodist emerged the winners by 4 matches to 2.

The Intermediate Team narrowly lost in the final to neighbours Bloomfield Collegiate. Olivia Storey, Ashleigh Watson, Catherine Whiteside and Emma Flannigan, with 'super sub' Sophie Craig stepping in during the section matches and the final when Catherine was on the Berlin trip, beat Friends' School 4-1 in the semi-final. The team are to be congratulated on their Runners-up position in Ulster, especially with the Year 12 girls involved in their GCSE exams.

The Minor Team of Jessica Leeman, Megan Chambers, Victoria Hamilton and Claire Hunter played outstanding tennis and deservedly won the Ulster Minor Cup. The team played Wallace High School in the semi-final and cruised through to the final to play Victoria College. The team's dominance was apparent throughout with all four Strathearn girls winning their singles matches and claiming the Ulster Cup. Congratulations also to Jessica and Megan on their selection for the Ulster Team.

At Senior level we say a fond farewell to Helen Harvey, Kirby O'Donnell, Katie Allen and Tessa Eames, who have given such loyal service to Strathearn tennis throughout their school careers - and what a glorious way to finish as Senior Ulster Tennis Champions! Entries in this competition have dwindled in recent years mainly due to the pressure of exams, so to reach the semi-final the team had to beat Foyle College and then Victoria College B - not as easy as it might seem! The standard of the final against old rivals Victoria College A Team was excellent and, in fact, was one of the best finals in recent years and will live long in the memory. Helen fought valiantly at number 1, only to lose in three sets, while Kirby and Tessa also lost their singles matches in straight sets. It was Katie who kept Strathearn's hopes alive clinching her singles match in two sets - the score after the four singles 3-1 to Victoria. This meant that there was all to play for in the doubles, and when the second pairing of Katie and Tessa played a super match to win in straight sets, Helen and Kirby knew that a victory in their doubles was a necessity. In a highly skilled match Strathearn narrowly lost the first set 6-2, but really stepped up a gear in the second to win it 6-1. Being aware of the possibility of the match having to be decided on a games count with both teams level on matches won at 3-3 and equal on sets at 7-7, Helen and Kirby showed tremendous resolve and a huge amount of skill and teamwork to take the third set 6-2 and win the cup by 70 games to 65. This final lasted four hours and all players are to be commended on their fitness, will to win and sheer determination.

Something worthy of note is the fact that, in their seven years at school, Helen and Kirby have been in seven tennis finals and have been part of the winning team in six of them! An enviable record girls - well done!

Internal Tennis Competitions have not taken place this year, due to the unavailability of courts. It is hoped that these competitions will be resumed next year. However, the following awards have been made:

The Alison Mills Cup for Form 1 Doubles: Jessica Leeman, 1H, and Megan Chambers, 1T. **The Honor Braithwaite Cup for Form 1 and 2 Singles:** Arianna Kennedy, 2R. **The Hewson Cup for Form 3 and 4 Singles:** Catherine Whiteside, 4H.



SCHOOL RESUMES ON 28 AUGUST AT 10AM