



"I am grateful for the splendid education I received at Morrison's to which I look back with happy memories."

- Daniel Wylie

## NURSERY - THE BEST YEARS OF YOUR LIFE



Outdoor facilities are great! We are very lucky to have a magical garden and fabulous outdoor facilities so we choose to spend a lot of time outdoors. We have a large fully enclosed back garden with climbing frames, house on stilts, Wendy house, slides, building logs, bug garden and, best of all, a large cycle track with an assortment of bikes and trikes! Children have full waterproofs so even rainy days are good days to explore the outside.....even if we do get a bit wet and muddy at times!



The Nursery is situated on the ground floor of a lovely Victorian house in Victoria Terrace within a large walled garden. We are a Partner Provider with Perth and Kinross Council and after canvassing parents we have extended our hours this session.

and corruption!! The afternoons have proved so popular that we have had to employ another member of staff to help some of the afternoons and we are hopeful that she will soon be needed every afternoon!

The Nursery is now open from 8.45am until 3.15pm with the added option of a breakfast club and after-school club for children needing care outside these hours. These new hours are proving very popular for working parents and for parents who need their children to be in a happy, stimulating and safe environment on a more ad hoc basis.

The Nursery has great facilities and is extremely well resourced with a wide and varied assortment of equipment. We have fish, butterflies and stick insects as our pets and life cycle displays. We encourage children to be imaginative, creative and to problem solve with confidence. We encourage numeracy and literacy through play and experiential learning. The children have daily access to computers, CDs, electronic toys and a large range of other ICT equipment. Building blocks, cars, books, dolls and dressing-up clothes are still favourite pastimes. The children always have access to a wide and varied assortment of material to encourage imaginative play and creativity. This creativity is evident in one of the highlights of the year - our Christmas nativity show where nothing quite goes to plan.

The Nursery is working towards Eco status and we have a healthy-eating policy at snack time. Children now love the different healthy options on offer and we regularly bake our own cakes, biscuits or pizzas. We also support four different charities throughout the year and children become aware of others less fortunate than themselves.

We also have lots of regular 'visitors' from the 'Big' school.....Mr Robertson and Mrs Anderson come in weekly to interact with the children, Mrs Lauchlan comes in weekly to work with the pre-schoolers, Mrs Smart comes twice a week for fun music sessions and Sister McLeod comes weekly to talk about health and hygiene and play with the children. We also encourage other teachers and senior pupils to come down and read stories or play with the children whenever possible.

The Nursery is a MAGIC place to be - why not come and visit us for yourself?



# IN MEMORIAM



**ALAN S ANDREWS**  
 The recent sudden death of Alan Andrews, a week before his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, shocked his many friends and acquaintances in Crieff and Strathearn. Enjoying his retirement, he had seemed in full vigour physically and mentally.

Alan Andrews was, in large measure, a Glasgow man. A former head boy of Glasgow Academy, he attended Glasgow University. Graduating in 1963, he trained as a teacher at

Jordanhill, and then taught English for six years at Kelvinside Academy.

In 1969 he upped sticks and moved to Crieff, as head of the English Department at Morrison's Academy Boys' School until 1979, and from 1979 to 2002 at the linked school.

During his 32 years at Morrison's, Alan Andrews served under five rectors and saw many changes. Colleagues came and went; a multitude of pupils passed through the school gates.

As a teacher, Alan was notable for his clarity of thought and elegance of expression, in speech, on paper, and even on the blackboard. He valued these qualities in his pupils, especially if they were accompanied by a touch of humour or a flash of wit. He relished the interpretation of great literature, and had a special empathy with the poets of the 1914-18 War, whose values he greatly respected.

Yet what was most distinctive about Alan's professional career was his contribution to school life, and so to Morrison's pupils, outwith the classroom.

Over 32 years he voluntarily gave his time and talents to four main areas of activity. For 25 years he coached rugby at Colts level, insisting always on high standards of effort and on-field conduct, and deriving satisfaction from the successes of teams and individuals as they came along. Cricket didn't suit him temperamentally, but umpire it he did, of course. Over the years music at Morrison's benefited from his skill as an accompanist on piano and organ, be it at major musical events or on less formal occasions. The School's Carol Services he helped instigate, and they embodied his love of music and love of language, in the kind of formal setting he enjoyed.

Along with Jim McGregor he initiated the School Climbing Club in 1972. Camps were held in the Cairngorms, Glen Etive and Glen Nevis, and there were regular single-day trips to local peaks. A School magazine of that era tells of such a day: "we were flattered, but full of pride", records a pupil after a hard day on Ben More. Last of these principal areas was Alan's editorship of "The Morrisonian". He saw it primarily as a record of the life of a lively school.

This is by no means a comprehensive account of what Alan gave to Morrison's Academy (remarkably he didn't miss a School Sports Day in 32 years); but surely the point is made.

He will be missed.

# CLIMBING WALL

Well it's up! After all the fund raising and hard work the climbing wall was commissioned at the end of January. The official opening happens at the end of the term and the full story will be in the Morrisonian. This is, however, a chance to outline how the wall is going to be used and to let you know that everyone is most welcome to give climbing a go!

A pupil committee has decided a number of ways in which we can use the wall. All current and past pupils, parents and staff automatically become eligible to use the wall. You can come and try it on an occasional basis or become a member. There is a training scheme based on three levels. David Frost, Daniel Mestecky, Melanie Stephen, Catherine Lovegrove, Colin Gourlay, Robaidh Halliday quickly attained Level One with Sam Jones and Fraser Tait moving one step higher to Level Two.

The annual membership of £5 allows you priority bookings and half price every time you use the wall. The charge for using the climbing wall is £2 for non members and £1 for members; this covers a whole climbing session. These sessions are currently held between 5pm and 7pm on most Friday nights. Unfortunately, all Friday sessions in the spring term were fully booked within a week. If you wish to book a future slot (summer term) then please contact Mr Howell via email or in person at the PE Dept.

The wall is for the whole community and has been booked by Perth & Kinross Council and a number of local businesses for team building and socialising. Bookings can be arranged for external groups with minimal extra costs.



# PUPIL SUCCESSES

The schools climbing club had a special treat this term when Lawrence Howell invited his mountaineering friend Di Gilbert to give a special lecture. Di was the first female to lead a successful expedition to the summit of Everest. Her lecture, 'Mount Everest and Antarctica' provided an exciting insight into her adventures from the top of the world to Antarctica, leading expeditions climbing virgin peaks.



## SCOTTISH OPERA

Primary pupils at Morrison's Academy experienced the power of opera last week when they took part in the Scottish Opera's 'The Big Bang Show!' The pupils, from Primary 5 to Transitional, were given the opportunity to rehearse with an energetic team of music and drama specialists and then perform a thirty-minute opera for their friends and family – all in the course of one day.

'The Big Bang Show!' proved to be an informative and exciting way of dealing with the very relevant issues of energy production and consumption. Through the medium of opera, pupils explored everything from conventional, nuclear and renewable energy to where it comes from, how we create it and how we use it.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

Pupils from Morrison's Academy were delighted by their victory in the recent Glenalmond Cup Debating Competition. Sixteen teams from six schools took part in a Sunday afternoon of fierce debating at Glenalmond College. The motions included whether our society places an undue emphasis on sport and whether we should put people before pets.

In the Grand Final four teams did battle on whether or not we should turn off the television and do something more interesting instead. Morrison's pupils Hannah Logan and Ciaran O'Kane won the day and collected the prestigious Glenalmond Cup. In addition, Morrison's pupil Emma Robertson was congratulated on making the best speech in the final.

## MUSICAL TALENT

Notable individual achievements to report from the Music department include that of Rachael Smart, who auditioned successfully for the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland; this puts her well on track to realise her future ambition of playing for our other national team, i.e., the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. In addition, two of our singers, Jenny Murray and Peter Salmond will be flying the Morrison's flag in the training choir of National Youth Choir of Scotland, Jenny for the second year running. Particular congratulations must go to Peter for showing the world that our male singers are becoming a force to be reckoned with, alongside the girls.

## JOURNALISTIC SUCCESS

S3 pupil and Morrisonian contributor David Adamson recently had an article published in The Scottish Farmer magazine. In his critique he argued passionately for the government to implement a scheme which encourages young farmers and penalises the cheap imports that threaten this country's agricultural future. With his journalistic fires now kindled, we are sure it won't be long before David accepts his first of many Pulitzers.

## PIPE BAND PLAYS 18-12 OVERTURE

Another eventful term for the pipe band, with new equipment, new sets, new engagements and the return to the Six Nations. Through our continuing fund-raising efforts and generous donations, band members are now equipped with pipe band fleeces and t-shirts. The long-awaited pipe band ties have also arrived, and the first groups of those with the requisite number of public performances have now been presented with theirs. The band is busy rehearsing new sets and solos, which will no doubt be featuring in the Crieff market, which we shall be supporting throughout the year.

And what of Murrayfield? After winning a struggle with SRU to return to allocating match tickets to the bands to recognise the efforts they put in, the pipe band has twice in February filled the large screens there, as well as your small screens! After the defeat of France, who would have thought that the two performances the band gave on the pitch prior to the England game were to herald another Scottish victory?





## CO-CURRICULAR

### DEBATING SOCIETY

Morrison's debaters have enjoyed a busy but successful term with a full and frank exchange of views. Topics debated have included putting people before pets, re-introducing compulsory national service, legalizing euthanasia and introducing a tax on unhealthy food. The Society has also entered the National Youth Parliament competition, recently filming a spirited debate on a proposal to abolish prescription charges in Scotland. S1 pupils have also entered the competition, filming their debate on a bill to tackle youth crime in Scottish towns and cities.



### ESCAPE COMMITTEE

The Escape Committee continues to seek out adventurous and exciting ways to break out from school. This term's activities were to have included mountain biking Wolf Trax's legendary Airs Rock, and a bothy trip to exchange ghost stories by the fire in basic shelter at the head of an otherwise remote and deserted glen. However, winter returned with a dousing vengeance, so the Bothy Breakout had to be postponed.

### CCF

The CCF continues to offer fantastic opportunities to its members to undertake a wide variety of non-military activities.

The CCF offers an opportunity for its cadets to complete their Duke of Edinburgh awards, travel far and wide and complete numerous challenging activities. In August this year a group is heading to Southern Norway to complete a five-day trek on the Hardangervidda Plateau. Others are going on rock climbing and canoeing courses in England and Wales. A small group is bidding for places on a Royal Navy sailing and trekking expedition in Spain and Sam Jones has applied for an army expedition to Mount Kenya. Who said the CCF was all about marching?

But then there had been the biking! Mountain bikers come in two varieties; 'monsters' and 'control freaks'. We had both in a small band whose skills and experience ranged from the headstrong to the frankly anxious. It was a great day out for all!



## FROM THE RECTOR...

After the frantic activity of the second half of the Autumn Term and the build up to Christmas and the New Year, not to mention rush and hubbub of the festivities themselves, the Spring Term can seem quiet by comparison. However, for those pupils working towards public examinations it is of great importance, with the 'Prelims' being followed by a period of intense study as courses are completed prior to the revision period. While on the subject could I ask you to ensure that your son or daughter has somewhere quiet and free from distractions to revise during the Easter holidays? There is no substitute for careful revision and the Easter holiday provides an ideal opportunity. Four hours per day should be the objective.

So the Spring Term is important academically but much else goes on besides. By the time you receive this letter the school music competition will be over as will the Spring Concert. The new climbing wall will have been officially opened by the Provost of Perth and the Pipe Band will have played before the start of the Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield. Our debaters will have taken part in the final of the Courier Debating Competition in the Lower Parliament Hall of the University of St. Andrews in front of, amongst other people, the Scottish Parliament's presiding officer, Mr George Reid MSP. Traditional sports tend to claim most of the limelight and therefore you may not be aware that the school has a very successful curling team. Indeed its captain, Glen Muirhead, is in the Junior Scottish Squad. Of course much else has happened this term but there isn't the space to record it all here.

Once again this has been a busy term with plenty of variety. There won't be a major musical production at the end of the Summer Term but the members of S6 are putting on 'Pirates of Penzance' as the focal point of a week of activity and events, all organised by the senior members of the school prior to their departure. I hope to see many of you during the S6 'Arts Week', if not before. In the meantime, enjoy your Easter break and if you son or daughter has public exams during the summer term please make sure they do some concentrated revision during the holiday.



Simon Pengelley