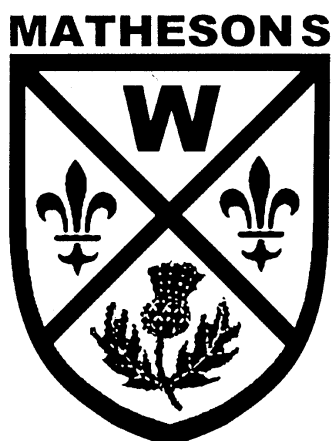


MATHESON'S HOUSE

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the Matheson's House Lent Term 2010 newsletter. As I hope you will see, all the boys have thrown themselves into a wide range of activities this term and, in spite of the weather, continue to excel all round the College.

This term, we started a "Room of the Week" competition, judged by our Matron, Mrs Maguire (congratulations to David Dalrymple, Edmund Wise and Conor Griffin for winning the coveted pizza prize so far), and the new Music Room, complete with electric organ, has been used by various musicians for practising and general enjoyment. They have all even managed to do some work as well!

George Pound

LENT TERM 2010

At a glance:



House Hockey Juniors prove that the team works



"It takes all the running you can do to stay in the same place" - House Steeplechase



House Swimming - gala performances in many races



Mathesonians rock the Give Gig shows



House Drama - a dark, challenging take on "songs from musicals"

"The boys need to spend more time with kittens" - see the House Drama report for more!

HOUSE HOCKEY: Junior teamwork

On a freezing January Saturday, the Matheson's Junior House Hockey team played with determination and passion to come a creditable 3rd overall in the competition. After a pleasing start against Reid's, Matheson's were beaten by a Goodacre's goal in the final 30 seconds of the match! Patchell's followed after a (cold) break, and finally Skrine's, rounding off a very tiring afternoon. The Matheson's boys showed

themselves what can be achieved with determination and, importantly, teamwork, coming 3rd on goal difference. Experienced players worked well with relative novices, including Savlador in goal, who had never picked up a hockey stick before, and who has since represented the College U15 and 1st VII! This was a great performance, and one which typifies the Mathesonian spirit of participation and teamwork.



The Matheson's juniors: cold and tired, but showing what can be done when you work as a team

HOUSE STEEPLECHASE



Mathesonian runners enjoying the Steeplechase

On the usual cold February afternoon (note the recurring theme!), the boys lined up in their reluctant droves to throw themselves at the rigours of the Inter House Steeplechase. I was very pleased to see so many boys participate, and, regardless of the overall result, that all had tried hard. Of particular note was Lewis Fyfe, who came an impressive 5th in the Senior event, closely followed by Will Sanderson who came 11th, with Oscar Eriksen our third placed runner. In the Juniors, Conor Griffin was our first back, in 17th place, with Orlando Pritchard-Barrett and Cameron Montgomery, our next finishers, putting in strong performances to come 21st and 24th respectively. This is a good event, bringing all together in competition, and all will have got something positive out of the experience, whether it be muddy trainers, sore legs or a personal best!



HOUSE SWIMMING GALA

The Thursday before Half Term saw the annual House Swimming Gala, and as ever, a good number of Matheson's boys put in bags of effort in every event. Notable performances came from Conor Griffin in the Juniors with some very close second places, and Tom Files who bravely covered several events. For the Seniors, team captain Will Sanderson swam strongly in the butterfly particularly, and Lewis Fyfe's breast stroke in the Senior Medley Relay pulled the team to 3rd place. Likewise Sam Macleod's leg of the Senior Freestyle Relay pulled the team into the lead, but this was unfortunately eaten back by some very impressive final legs from elsewhere. In all, this was a great event, and all the boys competing and supporting did themselves and Matheson's great credit.



“WELCOME TO GIVE GIG 2010!” Matheson’s talent at the forefront of this year’s shows

Ever at the forefront of things artistic, Mathesonians took the lead in video editing, sketch writing, compère-ing and acting in what was another very funny round of observations of College life. Sam Macleod, Lewis Fyfe, Jacob Reddy and Fraser Burt (fresh back from the Brooks Exchange) all took lead roles in various capacities, and comprised by far the bulk of performers on the evening. Yet again, I was very proud to see the boys throw themselves at a project with such energy and passion, but will never be able to look at Jacob again without thinking of Mr T!

The Give Gig Music Night provided yet another example of Matheson’s strong involvement in school entertainment. Oscar Eriksen seemed to be on stage the whole evening, providing a cool, composed performance on guitar. Theo Jones, official Matheson’s fashion icon, was also heavily involved in providing some mind-blowing riffs on guitar. Campbell Findlay proved himself as a multi-talented musician, playing the crowd brilliantly with his rendition of AC/DC’s Highway to Hell, as well as playing bass. Owen Martin and Tom Francis both took on the role of lead singer for a couple of songs. A Matheson’s Ensemble reunion was also to be found, with Campbell, Oscar and Tom playing two songs that they decided to do about 10 minutes prior to the performance. The night was a massive success, no doubt largely down to the talented Matheson’s musicians.

(Written by Tom Francis)

A week later, the Give Gig event itself was another huge success, and it was no surprise that Matheson’s boys were central in the preparation and delivery of this fantastic event.



Oscar on the guitar, and (above) Tom opening the show

ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL: Matheson's drama challenges and entertains



When the theme of "Songs from Musicals" was revealed for this year's competition, Team Matheson's relished the opportunity to prove that musical theatre need not be delivered with a spoonful of sugar. Under the skilful direction of Jacob Reddy, Owen Martin, Campbell Findlay and several others, the boys adapted Pink Floyd's "The Wall" for the stage. The performance featured Owen Martin singing unaccompanied, Sam Macleod as a tyrannical

headmaster, Jacob Reddy as a fanatical and horrible dictator, and the whole House as anarchic school pupils (fortunately they switched out of their roles when they came off stage!), as well as some slick multimedia additions. Aside from the quality of the track, which all the boys have now become fans of, and the convincing beating of Edmund Wise at the hands of the demonic Sam Macleod, most remember the cast kicking down the wall of cardboard boxes they had constructed during the song. The judge described their performance as "challenging and deep", and asked that they listen to James Blunt and spend more time with kittens. This was an excellent show, and while Matheson's did not retain their title, the whole House can be extremely proud of their memorable and thoroughly enjoyable performance.

HAPPY EASTER!

*Looking forward to seeing you
all on April 20th!*

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS



Lewis Fyfe has made full use of the wintry conditions taking part in one of the FIS (Federation Internationale du Ski) races on Saturday and Sunday 27th/28th February. Owing to the extreme conditions, only the Slalom races were held, and Lewis came an impressive 13th overall. Lewis said that having only the slalom races was a good thing as he needed to practise this event in particular!

Following this, Lewis competed as part of the Glenalmond team at the Scottish Schools Ski Races on Thursday 11th March. Glenalmond won the competition convincingly, with Lewis finishing 3rd.