

# SMART

St Michael's Academy Reliable Tabloid

**issues 2 – 4**

*(no filed copy of no. 1)*

**Nov. – Dec., 1973**

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The SMART newspaper was launched in November 1973 by

Mr John Kelly, Principal Teacher of English,

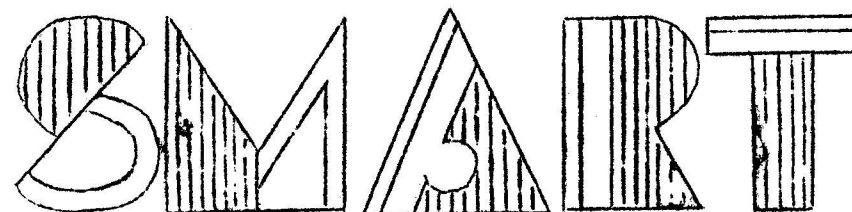
and was produced from 1974 to 1979 by

Mr Ian J Dickson, Principal Teacher of Classics

and the SMART team of reporters, staplers and sellers,

with further issues edited in 1980/81

by Mr Ricardo Lucchesi, English department



(St. Michael's Academy Reliable Tabloid)

Marie O'Sullivan, VIth, was successful in gaining a place in the Ayrshire Hockey XI and in their annual match against Renfrewshire scored the winning goal.

Ayrshire 2 - Renfrewshire 1.

Under 19 Ayrshire Netball - Six girls were successful in gaining places in the Pool. M. O'Sullivan, VIth, M. McCluskie, IIIrd, D. Scott, C. Walker, B. McLaughlan all IVth Year and B. McGrath, Vth Year.

Under 16 Ayrshire Netball - Three girls gained places. F. Tracey and K. Smyth, IVth Year, E. McDowall, IIIrd.

Basketball - Under 14 and Under 16 Boys Basketball Teams both won on Monday evening against Ravenspark Academy. (Much to everyone's surprise!)

Football -

|                        |                  |              |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Queen Margaret Academy | 1 - St Michael's | 3 U-18       |
| Irvine Royal Academy   | 0 - St Michael's | 8 U-16       |
| Irvine Royal Academy   | 8 - St Michael's | 2 U-15       |
| James Hamilton         | 5 - St Michael's | 2 U-14       |
| Kilmarnock Academy     | 2 - St Michael's | 1 extra game |

(Plaintive cries of 'We wuz robbed' were heard from the direction of Room 41)

## EDITORIAL

Our first edition of S.M.A.R.T. seemed to be successful as far as circulation is concerned. A hundred copies were printed and were sold within a couple of hours. More copies had to be printed. We hope there are enough copies of the second edition to go round.

Congratulation are due to the fifth year boys who, in the first eight weeks of this session, collected twenty pounds for the missions - a noble effort!

On the subject of the missions, we had visits from Sister Lelia and Sister Patrick from the Holy Cross Missionary Society, Belfast, last month to speak to some classes on the work of the missionaries. We are sure that the fifth year boys' effort for the missions must have encouraged them.

This year we are fortunate to have Father Flynn of Stevenston and Father Boyd of the Sacred Heart Fathers, Smithstone House, as additions to our chaplaincy staff. S.M.A.R.T. would like to offer them a belated welcome and good wishes for their work here.

On Tuesday, 27th November the Junior Examinations begin. There must be several pupils who are now wishing they had worked harder earlier this year. There are probably others who have not wakened up to the dire reality yet and are due for a rude awakening soon.

It/

It would be interesting to know what the pupils of the school feel about examinations. Are they an exhilarating challenge or a necessary evil? Any letters on this subject - or any other subject - will be read by the editor and considered for publication. They should be addressed to: "The Editor, S.M.A.R.T., Room 25", and handed to your English teacher for delivery.

#### FEATURES

Debating Society session '73-'74 was opened by Mr Kelly our new head. Since the beginning of the term we have had nothing but success.

Our E.S.U. team comprising of James McCourt, Vth and Anne Scullion, Vth have reached the 3rd round of the competition to be held on November 23rd, 1973.

The Daily Express Competition is equally important. Brian Kelly, Vth and John Boothman, Vth will compete in the the first round on November 27th, 1973 at Kilmarnock Academy. Supporters will be welcome!

There are many debates in the near future also a Debate'n'Dance with Auchenharvie Academy on Friday December 7th, a disco will be supplied. It must be stressed that only PAID-UP MEMBERS will be allowed to come so - hurry up and pay that 15p fee.

New members are always welcome so dispel shyness and join our Society.

Remember our motto: LOQUI EST DISCERE.

*Maria Langland*

Letter opposite by Hugh Donohoe, IA.

#### DRAMA

## "PLAY SCENES"

MONDAY 26th November  
in the hall  
at 4.00 p.m. - 4.50 p.m.

A great production combining comedy, and suspense in scenes from four great plays. Suitable for all ages.

#### FORTHCOMING VISITS

Senior: IV, V, VI.

To Close Theatre Company on Tuesday 4th December, Cost 75p.  
"The Collection" and "Old Times" by H. Pinter.  
Places still available. See Mrs. I. Smith as soon as possible.

Junior: I and II.

PANTOMIME - DECK WHISTINGTON. 11th January, 1974, Cost 75p.  
Drama club members get priority but give your name quickly to Mrs. Smith.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

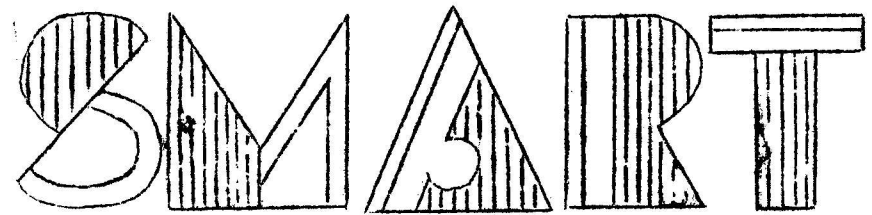
Dear Editor,

Every day at 11.00 a.m. a battle starts in the yard. The battle is centred round two windows in the boys' cloakroom. It is not unknown to fall and be tramped on by a horde of starving pupils.

As the interval nears an end the crowd has diminished in size, but those left are fighting on for a packet of crisps, a Mars bar or a packet of Polo's.

When the bell rings the windows shut, (sometimes on your outstretched fingers) and the battle is over until next day.

It is not very fair as hardly any first years get served, and if they do achieve success, they probably are covered in bruises, where they have been knocked about by pupils.



## SPORT

Basketball - St Michael's 26 - Ardrossan Academy 28

By losing 4 baskets in the last 3 minutes St Michael's threw away this North Ayrshire Under 16 league game.

Football - St Michael's Under 15 6 - Greenwood Academy 3

Yes, it really is true. Playing with real Christmas spirit Greenwood gifted this game to St Michael's. The dedicated approach of the St Michael's players and team coach Mr McNeil is obviously paying dividends.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

- 7 December - Debate with Auchenharvie Academy
- 13 December - 1st Year Party
- 14 December - Senior Dance
- 17 December - 2nd Year Party
- 18 December - 3rd Year Party
- 19 December - Christmas Concert
- 20 December - Christmas Concert

3rd Issue

December 1973

## EDITORIAL

We congratulate the school Debating Society on its recent successes in the English Speaking Union and Daily Express competitions. James McCourt and Anne Scullion are now into the regional final of the E.S.U. competition and will compete for the Strathclyde Trophy in early February. Brian Kelly and John Boothman easily qualified for the second round of the Daily Express competition and the support for both teams is growing rapidly.

The Debating Society Debate-and-Disco with Auchenharvie Academy is scheduled for Friday 7 December. Members only will be admitted. Membership cards are available from Mr Kelly at a cost of 15p each.

The members of the Technical Department presented Father Connolly with two fine pieces of craftsmanship in enamelled metalwork on Tuesday 4 December in recognition of his work as chaplain. The designs were chosen by Father Connolly and the work was done in the Technical Department.

We were sorry to say farewell to Sister Therese Martin who left St Michael's on 28 November and sails on Friday 7 December to Capetown and from there will fly to Botswana. From cold Kilwinning to boiling Botswana is quite a change!

We welcome Mrs Rattray to the Geography Department and Mr Alan Gooding our new laboratory technician.

## FEATURES

### SING-SING FOR XMAS

The dates for the Christmas Concert this year are Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th December - so keep these dates free!

The Xmas Concert programme should have contained Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus", but, to make life easier we substituted Ray Charles' arrangement of "Jingle Bells" - the hottest version of the "Hallelujah Chorus" ever heard!

A large orchestra of strings and oboes, with Mr. Hetherington of Ardrossan Academy at the organ, have volunteered their services. The proceeds will go to provide Xmas Parcels for elderly folk in the district - very acceptable in time like these. They will appreciate the efforts of 150 young folk taking part in the concert.

Our large senior choir, plus a junior choir and the Madrigal Group, will sing excerpts from Oratorio, Vivaldi's "Gloria", Xmas Carols (with the audience and orchestra) and, of course, "Jingle Bells". Soloists are Anne Scullion, Alicia Laughland, Maureen Delury, Maria Doyle and Bernadette McLaughlin.

Tickets (25p) are available from Religious Teachers. The more you sell, the more money for the old folks' parcels.

Dear Editor,

£1 worth of mission money was stolen from Room 13. Anybody knowing about this theft please report to Mrs. Wilson, Room 13. IK have been saving this money for the last month. IK thinks that the thief should put it back.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK MacINTYRE, GERARD LOVE IK

### My Solution to the Flannan Light Mystery

The first mysteries were,  
The three big birds,  
Too black and ugly  
For any words.

Three birds there were;  
But then;  
Where were the  
Three men?

Could it be some  
Hidden spell?  
Or the devil  
Come from hell?

The toppled chair  
The untouched meat,  
As suddenly  
They rose to their feet.

By TOM DOYLE IIA

It could have been  
A comet from the Sky,  
But not a trace  
Did we spy.

Then I thought  
Without a doubt  
It was pirates  
Who wanted the light out.

Because the pirates  
Without the light  
Could capture ships  
Without a fight

The case was solved -  
The pirates in tears,  
Are sent to jail  
For twenty years.

Reply to Hugh Donohoe's letter of last issue

Dear Editor,

I do not find it hard to get served at the tuck shop and have not received any bruises either. I have also seen a lot of other first year boys being served quite easily.

I have never seen anyone being trampled on trying to get served.

Yours faithfully,  
DANNY McCAMBRIDGE IK

## SPORTS REPORT

### Football

Under 16 won their game against Auchinleck 5-0, Auchinleck deciding not to play the second half.

Under 13 have had mixed fortunes in recent games being beaten by St Andrews 5-1; IRA 4-2; Ravenspark 3-2 and then beating Auchenhavie 5-4

### Netball

Eight girls have been successful in gaining Ayrshire places in the U-19 and U-16 teams.

### Hockey

This has been badly hit by weather in recent weeks and so there are no games to report.

### Basketball

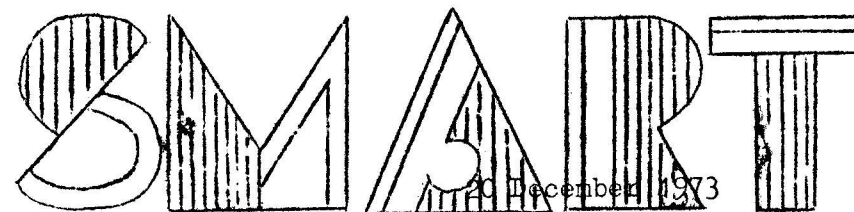
North Ayrshire League - St Michael's won their game against IRA, the final score being 24-20

## THE FIRST YEAR PARTY

The annual Christmas Party for First Years was held on Thursday 13 December. Soon after six o'clock the party was in full swing with dancing and party games. The high spot of the evening was a surprise presentation to David McGeough, who together with Mr McNeil, celebrated his birthday.

Several members of staff were present and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The dancing was very good and First Year wish to thank everyone who in any way contributed towards making the evening a great success.

No 4



## EDITORIAL

Merry Christmas to all our readers! S.M.A.R.T. now appears for the fourth time, and is poised ready to begin its first full year of existence.

Again, there are staff changes to announce. Mr Kelly, to whom is due the establishment of this reliable tabloid, S.M.A.R.T., has been appointed to St Joseph's Academy as Assistant Head Teacher (Curriculum). St Joseph's must be becoming popular - Mr McCutcheon starts there after the New Year! Mrs Wilson will be going to Burntisland in Fife where her husband has started a new job.

More bad news was the postponement of the Auchenhavie - St Michael's Debate and Dance owing to bad weather. It is hoped to run this event at a later date. All present members of the debating society will be eligible for it.

## A NEW CLUB

A DANCE CLUB will commence on Monday 14 January at 4 pm. All those girls interested are very welcome.

### HELP THE AGED PROJECT

This year the proceeds of the Christmas Concert went to charity. Here was an opportunity to help the old and needy especially at this time of year. Food parcels seemed the most suitable gifts.

The task of deciding what to buy and where, fell to Mr Dawson, a member of the Finance Committee within the School. Assisted by Mrs Stephen and Mrs McKinley he made up a list of items to be divided equally among sixty people.

Assembling and packing parcels is not easy as it sounds and IV8 are to be congratulated for the very important part they played in this project. They worked for a full morning giving of their free time willingly and pleasantly.

Fifteen parcels were sent to each district from which most of our pupils now come viz. KILWINNING, IRVINE, DALRY, KILBIRNIE.

Sincere thanks are due to the following members of staff who offered their services and the use of their cars.

- a) Mr Mellan - who covered the IRVINE area accompanied by III and IV girls. One old person was heard to remark:  
'Ah! St Michael's - Is John Frew still the Headmaster?'
- b) Mr McCourt - who went to DALRY accompanied by V girls
- c) Mr Connolly - who covered the KILWINNING area accompanied by some IV8 girls
- d) Mrs McKinley - who went to KILBIRNIE accompanied by IV8 boys.

### REPORTS FROM MR CONNOLLY'S GROUP

On Thursday 13 December some of our class made up some food parcels for the old folk of Ayrshire. Mildred and I went to Kilwinning with Mr Connolly. The old people were very pleased when we were giving them parcels, they were even trying to give us some money in return but Mildred and I just wouldn't take it and instead one old lady gave us a cake of chocolate each. Some of the old people just wouldn't believe us at first when we told them the parcels were for them. One of the old women said, "I hope you aren't here to rob me" when we were handing in her food parcel.

Maureen McCulloch IV8

They were happy and so pleased. Some of them even burst into tears. It was so nice just to see their faces lighting up.

We went to one house - the lady asked us in, she could not believe it was for her. Another lady was so happy she burst into tears. Her husband was in bed very ill. He was a cripple and was very pleased to see us. He brought everything out of the bag and looked at it. His wife was very pleased. The man told us that he had never received anything like that before although he had been a cripple for five years.

Georgie McLaughlin IV8