

SMART

St Michael's Academy Rumours & Tales

issues 57 – 58

Jan., 1978

pdf version May 2021

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

THE CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

In keeping with the tradition of our school the VI year aimed to bring a little Christmas Spirit into the lives of the sick, the needy and otherwise deserving in the form of Christmas Hampers. To finance this operation a few fund raising discos were held which together with donations came to a total of £115. Additional contributions of groceries, sweets and toys were also forthcoming from pupils and staff.

These parcels were distributed amongst our feeder parishes accordingly: Beith - 8; Dalry - 13; Kilbirnie - 9; St Winins - 10; St Margaret's, Castlery - 12; St Mary's, Irvine - 13; St John Ogilvie's, Bourtreehill - 13.

Another 30 parcels were received by others who came to our notice, non-Catholics as well as Catholics, and to our retired janitors. The total number of parcels issued was 108. In addition, 77 small packets of sweets, etc., were given to others, e.g. patients in Ravenspark Hospital, children in Duntonknoll and in Burnside House. Thus the total number of packages distributed this Christmas was 185.

(report from June Hughes)

MR WALSH

Mr Walsh has been at St Michael's for 1½ years. He thinks it is a tremendous school. He lives in a little village called Moscow and he thinks it's wonderful living there.

One of his hobbies is skin-diving (he admires Jack Cousteau very much); he likes it so much because it's like being on the moon - you just float (he also admires Neil Armstrong) - and you find lots of things you do not expect to find.

His favourite TV programme is Blakes 7. His favourite foods are Indian curries with IrnBrew as his favourite drink. Mr Walsh likes Fleetwood Mac and his favourite actors/actresses are Peter Ustinov, Clint Eastwood and Glenda Jackson. He says Chanel No. 5 is his favourite after-shave.

He thinks SMART fills a break in school communications. His ambition is to revolutionise science teaching in Scotland and to beat Mr P. at badminton. If he didn't teach Biology Mr Walsh's second choice would be 'Physical Jerks'. He is not married and his favourite pet is his spider plant.

(interviewed by Helen Kelly and Carol Finnigan)

ST. MICHAEL'S ACADEMY RUMOURS & TALES

NO.

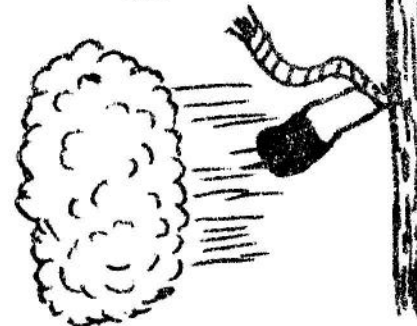
57

16th Jan. 1978

3p

Whose New Year Resolution is this?

See middle pages.



A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR
READERS !

SMART thanks go to:
Blane Savage for Christmas issue
issue title lettering.
This week's puzzle (p. 11) -
Alan Priest.
Regular staplers: Marco Biondi,
Martin McKee, John McCourt,
Paula, Maureen, Doreen,
Frances, Paul McArdle, John
McLaughlin, Billy McLaughlin,
and Michael Meehan.

WIN A RECORD TOKEN see page 4

Xmas hampers p. 12
3rd year dance p. 3
janitor Mr Quinn p. 10
Mr Walsh p. 12

Christmas Draw

Part of the school gathered in the Assembly Hall on the second last day of last term to watch the Draw. Firstly the Rector and Mr Westcott created suspense by announcing the number of tickets sold and the top sellers. 2793 books were sold, an average of about 3 books per pupil. Second year did best in sales. Top class 205 averaged 9.0 books per pupil, with 203 averaging 8.2 and 208 averaging 6.8. Top sellers were Thomas McIntyre (205) with 87 books sold (£5 prize), Gordon Ronney (201) with 80 books (£4 prize) and John Stirling (208) and Russell Waldron (203) at 50 books each (£3 prize each).

Then sixth year stunner girls' vice-captain Annabelle Millar made the draw. £100 went to E Docherty of Greenbank Rd., Irvine; £50 was won by A Armstrong of Highfield St., Kilwinning; and £25 by Mrs Robertson of Linthalls Farm, Lochwinnoch.

The draw made a profit of £430 for the mini-bus fund. Those who sold a large number of books were thanked but Mr Westcott thinks that many pupils could have made a greater effort to pay for the bus which is now ordered.

Letter to the Editor:

ARE GIRLS BETTER OFF THAN BOYS?

Two boys of 106 asked Mr Colgan for a change in our timetable. We asked for an extra period of Technical per week and two periods of Art. As it stands, the girls get three periods of Homecraft and two of Art. The boys get two of technical and have to suffer three of Art. Mr Colgan says there simply aren't enough teachers for it.

from Tom & Gerry

LUCKY NUMBER WINNERS

The boxes of chocolates offered in the Christmas issue were won by C Fallon 103 and M A Gilligan 403.

THIRD YEAR DANCE

Donning everything from ankle stranglers to drindl skirts, stiletto heels to hovver boots, the many members of third year gathered in the Assembly Hall on Dec. 21st for their annual 'dance'.

The first half went very well and as brave B.P. tugged the first flattered female onto the floor, R.G. and H.C. were seen to make a dive for the bottom right corner. During the second half things went wild. Some girls who will remain anonymous started pogoing on the floor, very bravely as stiletto heels can badly damage a bare foot. Mr Richardson actually made an appearance beyond the microphone and record player to dance with Miss Cunningham. A certain M.W. and N.McD. were seen kissing when J.H. held up the mistletoe. Mr McIlroy and Miss Cunningham who obviously fancied their chances in the pop world gave their rendering of 'Under the Moon of Love', not a pretty sight. The Ed. was seen pogoing with C.C. probably as a publicity stunt. The most dreaded thing was being in the finals of a competition as certain couples could be seen courting each other up and down the hall.

The person who probably enjoyed the night most was Fiona Darroch (306) who celebrated her 14th birthday that day. After 100 hearty voices sang Happy Birthday she was presented with a mysterious parcel but refused to kiss Mr Richardson.

Later that night we were told Mr Richardson was leaving. Most girls were sad but most boys pleased. He and Mr McKinley tied for the loudest clap at the end. On the whole it was a very enjoyable evening.

(by Peppy)

I.C.I. DONATION

I.C.I. have very generously donated a further £100 to St Michael's to be used for an annual prize or prizes. Further details will be available nearer the end of the year.

Sports Report



FOOTBALL
CRAZY

Here we see a 'footballer' - I use the term loosely - who came out of retirement a few years ago to take up amateur football seriously for the second time. Hence this action picture taken during a game between Aberdeen College of Education and Dundee C. of E.. Playing in midfield Mr. X helped his team to a 4-2 victory.

Can you guess the identity of Mr X and the year in which the picture was taken?

Complete this slip and hand in by Wed. at 4.00 p.m..
The winners will be drawn from the correct entries.

Mr X is: Year of pic.
Your name Class

Garnock 6 St Michael's 0 (December)

We started with nine men - a makeshift team. For the first twenty-five minutes we fought gallantly but lost three unlucky goals. Late in the second half McIntyre tackled the Garnock right back. He carried on for a few minutes but then found that he had suffered a gash in his leg. With this sad note the game ended 6-0. On our journey home we found that he needed five stitches in his leg.

(from Tony McIntyre 207)

FOOTBALL CRAZY COMPETITION

Who is Mr X and guess what year you think the photo was taken in.

Complete the form underneath the picture and hand it in to SMART, room 26, by Wednesday at 4.00 p.m.

Prizes: 1) One record token

2) 30p consolation prize

Winners will be announced in the next issue.

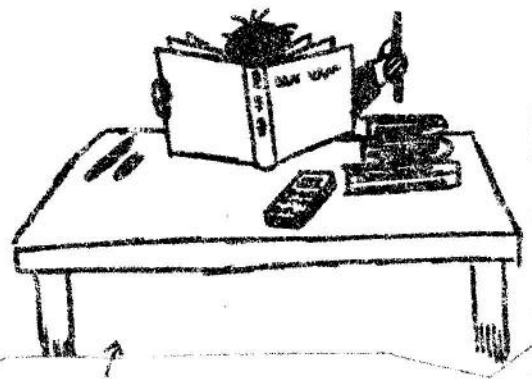
(Sports Report compiled by Sports Ed.) *P. McLean*

MISS CONWAY (interviewed by Helen and Carol, 305)

Miss Conway lives in Ayr; she likes it there very much and has lived there all her life. She has been at St Michael's just over a year and thinks it could be improved by better facilities, e.g. a place for pupils to go on rainy days. She thinks SMART is excellent and only occasionally uses the belt.

She doesn't watch TV too much and her hobbies are skiing and eating all different kinds of foods; she especially likes MARS BARS. Her favourite perfume is Youth Dew. She likes Bread, John Denver and Chopin. She would like to live in Lake Geneva, Switzerland. (in the Lake ?? Ed.)

Her second choice to teaching would be Traffic Warden but she likes all the subjects she teaches all the same. She thinks school dinners are incredibly b-d and her New Year resolution is to eat breakfast.



NEW 78 YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Anon. (Yr) To convince Mr Scullion that he really likes us.

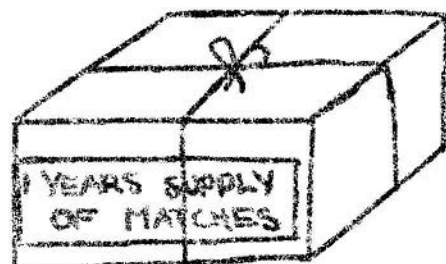
L.M.: To stop thumping L.A.

M.D.: To do more study.

S.W.: To grow 6 inches.

A.J.: To be nice to the VI year horrors. (No such thing as VI horrors - 'Ace')

Anon.: Not to be nasty to certain 5th year boys in Physics.



Mr G.: Not to buy matches.

Mrs H. (kitchen): To thump anyone leaving their plates on the tables.

M.M.: Not to study or do homework.

C.H.: To work out K to the millionth place.

P.H.: Not to laugh at Everton.

Mrs X: To be as perfect as I always am.

A.P.: To go out with as many boys as possible.

Mrs McK.: To be out of St Mike's at 4.03.

Mr K.: To wash my car.

M.W.: To go on a diet.

Mr McN.: To be a better man (if that is possible).

Compiled by 'Ace' drawings by Gerald Donnelly



CALLING PARENT READERS: a P.T.A. Burns Supper is being organised for you. Tickets from the school £1 each. Fri. Feb. 3rd. See you there.



"OLIVER" (by J Bloggs & Johann Jehosaphat)

Last Wednesday we interviewed Mr Westcott about the play called "Oliver" about Oliver Twist. He told us: "Oliver" will probably be on in the second week of June for 5 nights". Then we asked who would be acting the parts; he said he didn't know yet because the auditions were only last week and he and Mrs McDonald were still deciding. But we were told that 20 boys would be needed from 2nd year and a few girls. He would need someone to play Oliver and someone else to play the Artful Dodger and the rest would be in the chorus group. He would also need 30 seniors for other parts. People who would like to act and can sing are needed. It is not known yet what the ticket price will be. It will cost about £550 to put on and any profit will go to the school funds.

A WINTER'S TALE (from Peppy & Mash) A. Clancy

Last Tuesday a queer thing happened - the muck disappeared from the playground and the place (alias St Michael's Academy) could actually have passed off as a building.

But at 8.30 when the first pupils arrived the snow at the gate was scooped into grubby handfuls and thrown at people getting off buses. No longer was the playground a picturesque snow scene but a mass of grey slush. By the time 4.00 came there had been quite a few rain showers and the snow was almost non-existent.

That was the end of a day of change. Maybe next year there'll be more but until then I'm hoping for a mucky playground and warm feet.

FOR SALE

Pink Floyd, Relics, Piper at the Gates of Dawn, Saucerful of Secrets. See Iainey Barrett (303) or contact SMART.

TUCK SHOP PRICES THIS WEEK:

Mars 10p; Eggs * 9p; Agents, Chewits 5p; White Mice, Mint Tabs *, Plumps * 1p; Mojoes, etc. 3p; Drinks 6p; Crisps 7p; Forty-niners * 5p.

* new to Tuck Shop this year.

CHOIR REPORT on next page is by "P.6"

THE CHOIR

During the two weeks before Christmas, sales of ear plugs in Kilwinning chemists rose dramatically. SMART just had to find out cause and below we reveal that this was . . . (pause for trumpet fanfare) . . .

St Michael's Senior Choir !

That time again? Time for the choir to dress up in their nice white shirts and sing your traditional carols, aided & abetted by Mrs McDonald plonking away on her piano? No!

Note from Mr Keenan & Mrs McDonald to anyone who missed the performances: A note of informality was introduced. To begin with, a Christmas music selection was included this year as well as the usual carols. The audience were invited to join in and did (on some occasions). We hope to keep the choir going, so look out for us at Easter and summer., etc..

P.S. There might be vacancies for singers, especially boys now. See Mr K. or Mrs McD. (janitors need not apply).

- Comments : from Mr Geddes (Notre Dame College): The singing was excellent, atmosphere at rehearsals good and he looked forward to hearing them.
- from J.1 & J.2: Singing very clear; songs very well (allrrrruuup) sung.
- from S.2: Mr K and Mrs McD worked very well together.
- from almost everyone else: great, sooooooper, magic, etc..
- Rectorial comment: The rector is pleased so many seniors 'joined up'. He was also amazed at the high standard of singing after so little practice. His wish is that the choir will go on for a very long time.

MRS FITZPATRICK

Before Christmas we asked Mrs Fitzpatrick what she thought of St Michael's. She told us that she thought it was a very good school and that the staff were all very nice and friendly. Shethinks that the pupils (well, most of them!) are very good and that there is quite a good standard of English in the school.

When we asked her what she would ask for if she could have anything in the world she said she would like a lovely new house of her own.

(by Pauline, Lainey & Caroline)

ARE YOU HERE ?



Some of the pupils who took part in carol singing at St Michael's Academy, Kilwinning

INTERVIEW WITH MR QUINN

A few weeks ago we interviewed the new janitor, Mr Quinn, who took the place of Mr Gray who left for St Winin's. Mr Quinn has been working as a janitor for 5 months and likes St Michael's because he meets a lot of people, mostly mad. His job as janny is to keep the school clean, make sure the heating is OK and to try to stop vandalism. The reason he became a janny was because he is a former pupil of St Mike's. And before all you teachers take a fancy to him Mr Quinn is married so hard luck. He has three children aged 18, 21 and 22; they were also pupils of St Mike's. He lives in Kilwinning so that he can be near the school. He told us that he would like to live up in the Highlands or over in south Ireland. He told us that if he was younger he would like to play for Celtic and win a European Cup Medal.

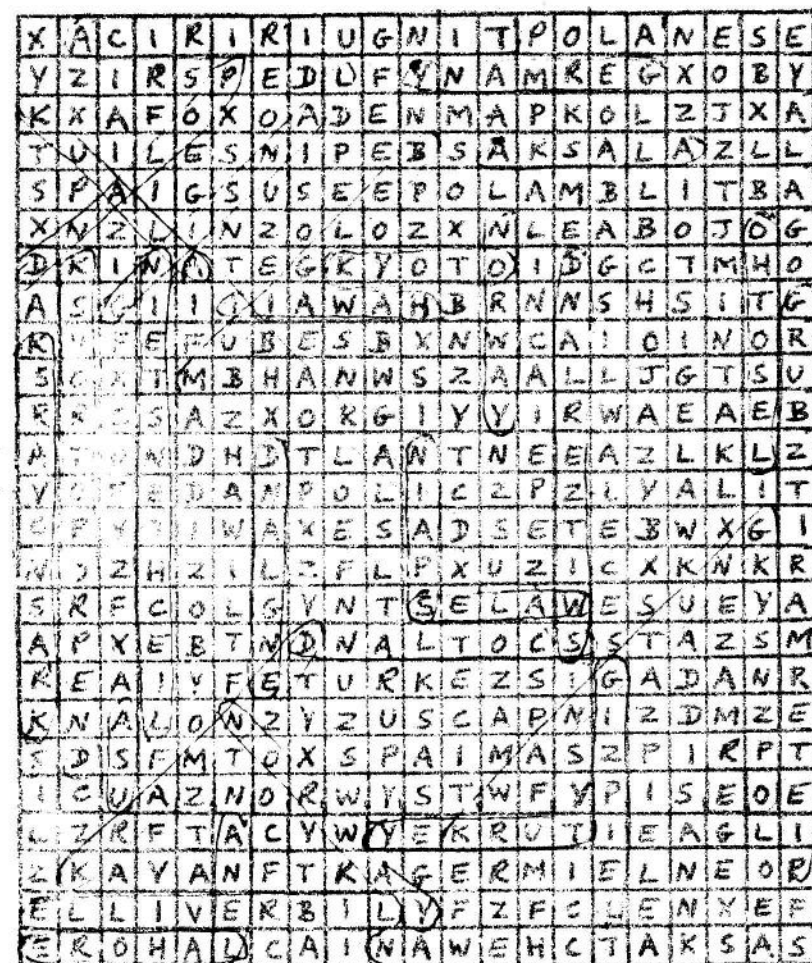
When asked if he liked the teachers, he said, "Yes, because they do a fine job in keeping us mad people in order and because they also do their bit to keep the school clean" (seok). He also likes the pupils but says that they could be a little bit tidier. Mr Quinn's favourite pastime is reading and his favourite sport is football. When asked if he liked SMART his answer was yes but he would like to see more quizzes init.

We asked Mr Quinn is anything funny ever happened to him; he told us that when he first came to the school a young girl (who shall remain unknown) ran home to tell her mother that Mr Quinn had just started school as a teacher.

The only thing that disappoints Mr Quinn is seeing vandalism being done. He also tells us that the janitors' facilities are good. When asked if he thinks this is a quiet school (he would have to be mad to say yes) he said that all secondary schools are noisy. But he thinks that it could be a bit tidier. So let's hope that Mr Quinn enjoys his stay at St Michael's.

(by Gerald Eadie and James Keen)

FIND THE CITIES, COUNTRIES AND TOWNS



Find: SCOTLAND, USA, DENMARK, SWITZERLAND, BELGIUM, ENGLAND, KYOTO, SPAIN, NORWAY, LENA, LAGOS, GERMANY, SAUDI ARABIA, TURKEY, LIECHTENSTEIN, KWANGTUNG, PIETERMARITZBURG, LIBREVILLE, DNEPROPETROVSK, TINGUIRIRICA, SACKATCHEWAN, KRASNOVARSK, LAHORE, LANSING, LEIPZIG, KUALA, LESOTHO, POLAND, ALASKA, HAWAII, WALES.

Norway

Ken Pitt

Sports Report

(compiled by the Sports Editor)

P. McGowan

We recently reported the abandonment of the U-14 cup game at Grange stating that Mr Mollroy had lodged an appeal. The matter was brought to a close when Mr Mollroy stood up before the Ayrshire committee to state our case but unfortunately the committee over-ruled the allegations (they were true) and awarded the game to Grange Academy.

St Michael's 2 Ardrossan 2

In the North Ayrshire cup the U-14 again started well with McDonald scoring the first goal. Although a handful of first year girls cheered St Mike's on, there were no more first half goals. In the second half St Mike's, playing into an icy northerly wind, scored again through substitute Ruddy. But with this wind in their favour Ardrossan pulled back with a couple of goals to make it 2-2. Late in the game the Ardrossan keeper was called upon to make a brilliant save from a shot by Ruddy.

(reported by Thomas Gilligan)

UNDER 19 VOLLEYBALL

We print the following Letter to the Editor:

"Due to our unfortunate scores in the volleyball league, I do not think it would be advisable to publish the scores. . . ."

(There's more to a game than the scores! - Ed.)

TAIL-PAGE RUMOURS

- that one teacher last Thursday slept in till 11.45 and arrived at lunch-time. Someone said: "What's the point of sleeping in for only ten minutes? It's a lesson in how to do it properly."

- that a SMART reporter called a teacher a "B----y Yap".

THIS SMART WAS STAPLED BY -

Marco Biondi, Martin McKee, John McCourt,
James Macan, Paul Dowie,
Billy McLaughlin, John McLaughlin

Cover drawings
by Blane Savage

LATEST NEWS
Senior
Basketball:
St. Mike's 19
Cumnock 76
aye, well, mmm



ST. MICHAELS ACADEMY RUMOURS & TALES

NO.

58

30th Jan 1978

3p

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mrs McKinley p.2

Mr Vernon p.6

Prize Competition p.6

Smart Survey results p.4 & 8

A short Story by a fifth
year pupil starts on page 9

This Week's Puzzle p.3

Sports Report p.12

For Sale p.5

Tuck Shop Special Offer p. 5

Plus all the usual rumours,

BE SMART . . BUY SMART



Bats in 12
year
belfries?

SEE Where are
PAGE the
4 missing
18 years?



WHO LOST 50p?

The pupil who lost 50p at the dining-hall will be very excited and pleased to know that it was put into the Tuck Shop for the School Fund.

SCRAP DEALER?

Mrs McKinley has been at St Michael's for years. She lives in Kilwinning and her hobby is knitting. She would like to live in the West Indies and her favourite food is Paella. When asked what she thought of SMART she says it is very good and should be out every week.

If she weren't a teacher her second choice would have been a scrap dealer. Her favourite TV programme is 'Cannon' and her favourite actor Dirk Bogarde; her favourite actress is Debbie Reynolds.

When asked who she admires most in the world she said Mr Maxwell. She also said her favourite perfume is Charlie (but not the Mr Scullion type). When asked what she thought of school dinners Mrs McKinley said she would rather be shot than poisoned. Her New Year resolution is to be out of school every night by five past four.

(Interviewed by Helen and Carol, 305)

*Helen Kelly
Carol Fingleton*

SMART APOLOGISES for a misprint in the last issue, caused by the terrible writing of reporter 'Peppy'. M.W. wishes to make it clear that she was not kissing N. McD. at the 3rd year dance and has no intention of doing so. The report should have mentioned M.N. instead.

SWAPSHOP or SALES

Two weeks ago a pupil sold records for £8.50 through advertising in SMART. If you wish to sell anything which you think others might like to buy, hand in to room 26 a note of the item for sale and your name and register class. Most folk in the school read SMART.

FIND THE DOGS

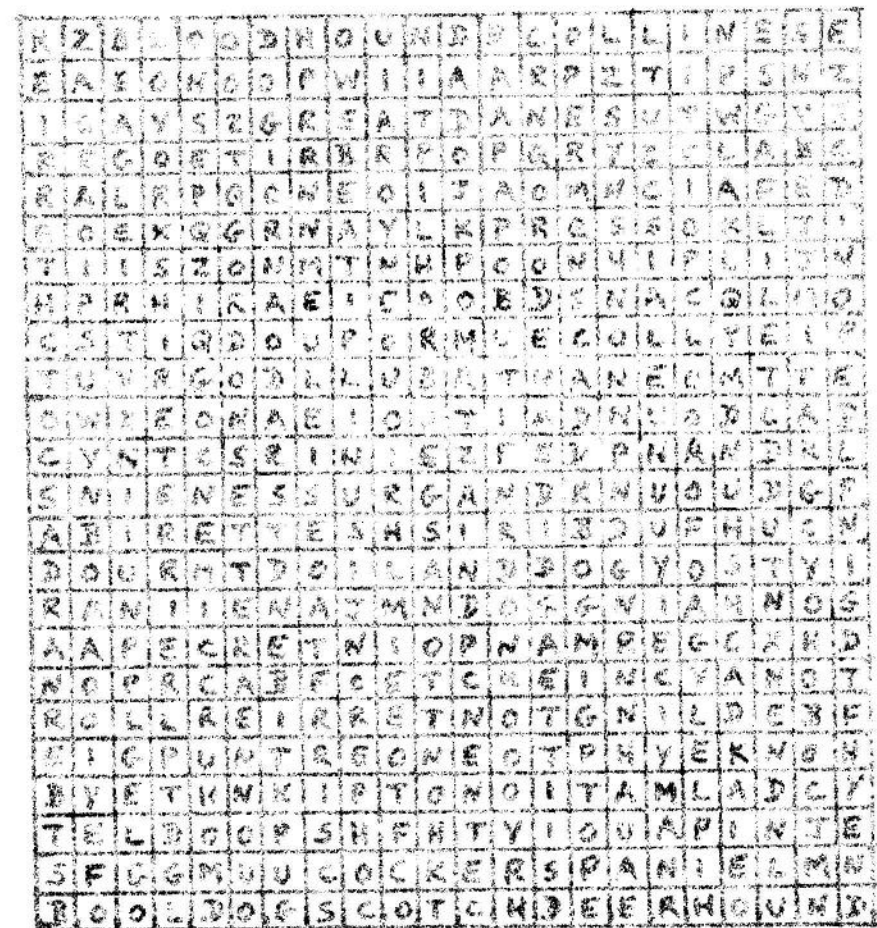
THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE

Last week's, by Alan Priest, puzzled some for ages, but the words were actually all there.

This week's, by Michael McKee, 207, has 23 dogs.

Find:

PUG, SCOTCH TERRIER, COLLIE, SPITZ, BLOODHOUND, COCKER SPANIEL, GERMAN POINTER, BEAGLE, FOXHOUND, GORDON SETTER, BOSTON TERRIER, BULLDOG, SCOTCH IRISH SETTER, DACHSHUND, GREAT DANE, GREYHOUND, ENGLISH SETTER, BEDFORDSHIRE TERRIER, Dalmatian, SCOTCH DEERHOUND, YORKSHIRE TERRIER, CH. BULLDOG.



DID YOU KNOW THAT

SMART recently carried out a survey among first year pupils. Most of the pupils were interviewed and very personal (1 2 3) questions were asked.

SMART hopes from now on to have a survey section in which you will be able to find many exciting things. In this issue, we start with pets.

animal type	no.	animal type	no.
dogs	45	cats (excl. alley cats)	24
fish	31	horses	4
tortoises	4	rabbits	4 (is that all?)
birds (excl. pigeons & page thrives)	17	ferrets	1
guinea pigs	1	pigeons/doves	3
canaries/canaries	4	puppies	1
gerbils gerbils birds		hamsters	5

Our sympathies go to J.S. of 106 whose dog died (1 2 3 awww) and to a 103 participant whose cat has disappeared.

We were amazed at the (big breath) imaginative orthographical transpositions of first year. (Ask your English teacher what this means.)

52 people answered 'none, non, nun, none, no, etc.' while one answered 'yes' (whatever type of animal it is, we don't know!)

SMART's computer worked out that each first year owns an average of 0.9 animals.

One thing did puzzle us. As there are 179 pupils in 1st year and only 149 answered, where were the other 30 ??

Report compiled by 'Ace' *11/3/04*

P.S. No one has admitted having bats: we wonder why !!!

P.P.S. Also, no one has replied that they have piranha fish. Are they the missing 30 ??

CAN ANYONE TELL SMART how a bottle label saying 'Home Brewed Lager' became stuck on 'A' stain a week ago. Was it the lesson that week in the Home Economics Dept.?

? SMART SURVEY DEPT.

FOR SALE

Four year old black horse; as new; one owner; good runner; low fuel consumption; 1 h.p. engine. See Anne Weidger 1st year or SMART.

Puppies: mixture of small Shetland sheepdog, beagle and dachshund; for sale next month. Very low price if going to good home. See Anne Weidger or SMART.

TUCK SHOP SPECIAL OFFER

Plumps usually 1p this week 1/2p only
Mini Tabs

Mr Dickson

So far this session (since September) the girls have sold a total of £1,800 to hungry St Mike's pupils and have made a profit for the School Fund of £300.

Did you know that

1 lb. of potatoes cost about 4p 4p

But

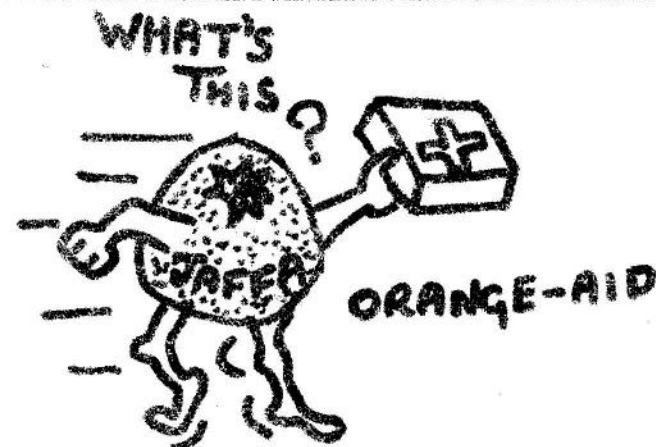
1 lb. of potato crisps (Tudor New Extra Value Pack) cost £1.22

(it's 7p for 0.92 oz.)

Are potato crisps worth 17 times as much as potatoes?

£1.22
drawn
to
same
scale
!

Cartoon
by
Ronald
Teale



1st YEAR ACTIVITIES (reported by Martin McKee and Andy Keenan 105)

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.
Modelling Mr Colgan dinner-time ↓ Galleons, Flagships, 2nd World War ships, tanks and aeroplanes and a build- up monster	Chess Miss Boyle Mr Whiteside Highland Dancing Miss Dorby	✓ ✓ ✓	Table Tennis Mr Keenan Knitting Mrs Nolan Miss Lennon Miss Cruickshank Board games Mrs Anderson	Volley- ball Mrs Graham

Mr Smith is starting an animation club for first year. No date or time is known yet, but is thought to be at dinner-time. No charge yet.

MALICIOUS HUMOUR: Next fire drill, Feb. 29th, 1980. *J. Heraghty*

THIS WEEK'S COMPETITION

Last week tradesmen were replacing the floor tiles

in the main staff room. What do you think the staff were doing that the tiles needed replacing? The funniest five answers will win a cash prize. Answer is not more than 15 words. Here are two examples:

- because the staff roll with laughter at the pupils.
 - because Mr Westcott practises pogoing every lunchtime.
- Entries must be handed in to room 26 by Thursday 4.00 p.m..

Your name: Class:...

I think the floor tiles had to be replaced because

(max. 15 words)

A DELIGHTFUL PERSON

Mr Vernon, who has been a P.E. teacher for at least thirteen years, is married with four children. He lives in Saltcoats and his favourite foods are: T-bone steaks; chips, mushrooms and fried eggs; and he also likes Chinese foods. He really detests macaroni. An old football player whom he admires is Jim Baxter; and a small player from Aston Villa, Brian Little. His favourite singer is Johnny Mathis and favourite group The Beatles. His biggest bores are Sidney Devine and Lena Zavaroni.

His ambition is to see St Michael's have a good reputation for fair play and good conduct at sport. He thinks that SMART is an excellent idea and is sure it helps to give both teachers and pupils a better interest in the school. He also said that there is not very much improvement needed in the school but he would like to see a games hall built. When we asked him what he thought of the belt, his reply was "only if it is used properly and at the right time" and he has not had the opportunity to use it yet.

Perhaps you are wondering what we think of Mr Vernon. Well, after chatting to him a few times, we think he is a delightful person to speak to.

(Interviewed by Joyce, Anne-Marie *J. Cashman*
and Theresa, 2nd year) *A.M. McCullagh*
T. Morris

ANY VALENTINE'S MESSAGES:

The next issue of SMART will be the day before St Valentine's Day, and will contain a page for all your Valentine messages. If you wish one published, write it on the space below and hand it in to room 26. Your name and class will be kept absolutely secret, even from the SMART team.

Your message

Your name and class:
(will be secret)

FIRST YEAR SURVEY RESULTS

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS INTERVIEWED = 149
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS BELTED (Aug.- Dec.) = 117
TOTAL NUMBER OF BELT-STROKES GIVEN = 1407
AVERAGE NUMBER OF BELT-STROKES PER PUPIL = 12.0
HIGHEST TOTAL FOR CLASS SECTION (103 boys) = 440

END OF COMPUTER SHEET RE/FY/SMART/DH

NEWS FLASH:

I wish to inform the rest of the world that I, that is Me, myself, have seen Mr FITZPATRICK'S LEGS. He was at the Magnum and was actually doing cross-country. Oh, Mr Fitzpatrick, I bet you have a beamer. by 'Boris' 208.

C. Hamilton

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY? A Famous General

My first is in win but not in last
My second in pole but not in mast
My third is in eel but not in fish
My fourth is in fairy but not in with
My fifth is in eye and also in see.
I captured Quebec . . can you name me?

(If you can't work it out, ask your History teacher.)

"WITCH WAY TO THE WEDDING"

The '77 Drama Group are doing another production, this time a pantomime. Now in the traditional '77 group way, this is like no other pantomime ever produced. It is a 'variation' of Sleeping Beauty and they have aptly named it "Witch Way to the Wedding" (see poster outside medical room). Anyone coming along should bring plenty of boos, hisses, cheers and claps. Bookings may be made by 'phoning Mrs Gault in Kilwinning or by seeing Mairi Dalton, 6th Year. Watch out for a certain other 6th year student in a star role on stage!!!

(by 'Ace')

D. Henratty

AS THE SNOW FALLS OUTSIDE . . .

A short story

It was the last straw! I knew that I could stand it no longer. Ever since my mother had re-married, after my father's sudden death, my life had become more miserable every day. Although my new step-father was a few years younger than my natural father had been, his temper was twice as quick. So I had made a decision - I would leave home.

Our latest quarrel had started because I refused to call him "father". How could I call this domineering, irritable man by the same name which I had used for my own loving father? It was impossible!

As I stood with my haversack packed I took a last lingering look round the bedroom which I had grown to love. With a tearful sob I snatched up my bag and prepared to depart.

The blanket of crisp, newly-fallen snow crunched under my feet as I hurried to the railway station. It was a Sunday afternoon and there were few people on the streets. They, unlike my family, would be sitting round the table enjoying their delicious Sunday lunch.

"A single to Littlehampton," I said to the man at the ticket office, so I fumbled for the money in my purse.

"Twenty pence," he barked. "The trains are being held up by the snow. You'll have to wait for an hour." And without a friendly word he slammed down the window and went back to the book he had been reading.

As I opened the door of the station buffet-bar a warm blast of air hit me. The room was crowded with people smoking, talking, complaining about the weather, British Rail or anything else they could think of. Lucky people, whose only problem was the rising price of bread.

Taking up my cup of tea and stale sandwich I wandered over towards a dark corner where two fat women sat clucking like hens. They reminded me of a holiday I had once spent on a farm. It had been a long time ago, perhaps ten years, when my father had whisked us off to the country to holiday on a farm in Wales.

pto 

"As The Snow Fell Outside" continued)

The farmer and his wife were friendly people, who, because they had no children of their own, had fussed over me. Every morning I would leap out of my small bed in the attic and rush out to the yard to help collect the eggs or milk the cows. How proud I felt to know that I was being useful. With my parents I had gone for long walks over the beautiful but wild countryside; we had visited the quaint local shops and basked lazily in the burning sun.

"Could you lift your cup for me, duckie? I'm trying to clear up." I was quickly brought back to earth with a bump as the harsh voice of the waitress broke into my thoughts. "It's horrible weather to be out in. You're surely not thinking of waiting for, dear?" She nodded towards my haversack. She was only being friendly, not inquisitive.

I shook my head. "No. I'm going to stay with some relations. I'll be fine."

"Well, make sure you wrap up warmly. We don't want you starting a flu epidemic or anything, do we?" And with a laugh at her own humour she pushed her trolley to the next table.

I had 'flu once when I was seven. At first I was quite miserable because I had to miss my Christmas Party at school but as I began to snow stronger again I started to look forward to Christmas Day itself. It was the best Christmas I had ever had. Of course, I no longer believed in Father Christmas but it was exciting to hang up my gaily-coloured stocking on Christmas Eve and wonder what presents I would find there in the morning. That was the Christmas I had first got Doc, my teddy bear. I still had him although he was ten years older and a little the worse for wear. He had only one eye and one ear - he had been in a fight with the poppy next door.

The door of the station buffet blew shut with a bang. Standing on the threshold was a man very similar in age and looks to my step-father. I watched the man as he walked to the nearest empty seat. He sat there, a pathetic figure, stirring his cup of cold coffee. His face was a picture of misery and I knew instinctively that he felt as lonely as I did.

"As The Snow Fell Outside" continued)

The more I looked at the man the more he reminded me of my step-father. He often had that same look on his face. Could it be that he too was lonely? Looking back, I had never really tried to understand him or to get to know him better. Perhaps things had not entirely been his fault.

Suddenly the loudspeaker gave a gurgle and a crisp voice announced, "The train for Littlehampton will be arriving at platform four in precisely five minutes. Thank you."

With a lot of scuffling and noise, people around me prepared to leave the buffet-bar. I did not move. The train would leave for Littlehampton without me. Outside the snow fell steadily, covering up old tracks. Someone would leave their footprints on the newly-fallen snow where once someone else had left theirs. I, too, would make a new beginning and start afresh with my step-father. Perhaps, this time, things would work out better.

P. Sweeney

MR X COMPETITION

The photograph in the last issue was of Mr Whiteside playing in 1971. The only entrant to have both the person and year right was Dennis McKay (203) who won a SMART record token for 70p. In the draw for second prize from those who were nearest, Alan Whyte (304) won 30p. Everyone was talking about the photo and guessing, but only 14 entered.

THIS WEEK'S MOST POPULAR TEACHERS compiled by Thomas Gilligan and John Hutcheon.

1st Mr Kavanagh	6th Mr Fitzpatrick
2nd Miss Cunningham	7th Mr McClure
3rd Mrs Brown	8th Mr Whiteside, Miss Lennon
4th Mr Gill	10th Mr Keenan
5th Sr Maura	