Jordanhill School Journal

April 2009

School Magazine 2009

To order a copy of the 2009 edition of the School magazine send a cheque for £7.00 to the school office together with your name and the delivery address.

You can download an order form from the web site. Click on Information For then Friends of Jordanhill.

Cover art courtesy of the Advanced Higher Art students. These pieces are drawn from their portrait studies.

Golf Outings 2009

Wednesday 6th May
Hayston
Golf Club
Tee-off 2.00 p.m.
Deposit £10.00

Wednesday 2nd Sept
Buchanan Castle
Golf Club
Tee-off 2.00 p.m.
Deposit £10.00

Former pupils and staff, female and male, are invited to attend this year's outings.
Please contact the secretary John Roxburgh for full details. Tel. 01360 622616

Jordanhill School Charity Dinner

Saturday 2 May 2009
7.00 for 7.30 p.m.
School Hall

In Aid of Alzheimer Scotland

Tickets £40.
Full details on the web site.

Alzheimer Scotland
Action on Dementia

www.alzscot.org

Linda and Gordon Bonnyman Trust Post Graduate Study in the U.S.A.

At the Prizegiving in June 2005 Gordon Bonnyman announced his intention to establish a trust which would support FPs seeking to undertake post-graduate study in the U.S.A.

We are delighted to announce that The Linda and Gordon Bonnyman Trust (Charity Number 1123441) has been established primarily to support Former Pupils of Jordanhill School who are seeking to undertake a programme of post-graduate study at one of the elite universities in the United States.

J. Gordon Bonnyman is a Former Pupil of Jordanhill School. He graduated from St. Andrews University prior to attending Columbia Business School. He has been Chief Executive of Charterhouse Capital Partners since 1990.

To be eligible for an award, pupils will normally have completed a minimum of **4 years of secondary education** at Jordanhill School including S5.

In addition, the university you are applying to must be recognized by the Trustees as an elite institution. The examples shown here are not exhaustive.

Full details of the application process and criteria can be found on the school web site. Click on *Information For* and then on *Friends of Jordanhill*

www.jordanhill.glasgow.sch.uk

On behalf of the future recipients of these awards we would like to thank Linda and Gordon for their generosity in establishing the Trust. It offers a unique opportunity to pupils from Jordanhill.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Brown

MIT
Massachusetts institute of Technology

Penn

Harvard

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Dartmouth

Yale

STANFORD
UNIVERSITY

Letter from Lilli Pilli

Dr John C Anderson FP, Lilli Pilli, Australia

There are two areas in New South Wales that are named Lilli Pilli. The one in which I live is approximately 20 km south of the Sydney central business district (CBD) in the Shire of Sutherland. The origin of the name Lilli Pilli is unknown. I thought that it may have been given to the area by some Welsh immigrant and therefore should be pronounced "Lithli Pithli" in the Welsh way! However there is no evidence to support this theory. The "Australian Encyclopaedia" states that the name Lilli Pilli is probably aboriginal in origin but the name today is the common name given to a shrub *Acmena smithii* and, loosely, to other species of the genera found in the area.

The first recorded sighting of a lilly pilly in Australia was *Syzygium paniculatum* on May 3 1770 at Botany Bay. Joseph Banks the famous botanist who accompanied Lieutenant James Cook on his first voyage of discovery, states in his journal on that date: They "*found also several trees which bore fruit of the Jambosa kind, much in colour and shape resembling cherries; of these they eat plentifully and brought home also abundance, which we eat with much pleasure tho they had little to recommend them but light acid.*"

Sutherland

The Shire of Sutherland is the most southerly of shires in the metropolitan area of Sydney. To its north lies Botany Bay, to its east lies the Pacific Ocean and to its south lies the Royal National Park, the second oldest national park in the world (est. 1872) after Yellowstone National Park USA. Also in the Shire, and only a few kilometers from Lilli Pilli is Kurnell, considered to be 'the birthplace of modern Australia', as it is the place where Cook (whose father was Scottish) landed on 29 April 1770, after entering Botany Bay during his first voyage of discovery in the HMS Endeavour. During their brief eight days stay here, a Scottish seaman named Forby Sutherland died of tuberculosis at the age of 19 years. Forby Sutherland was therefore the first European known to die in Australia and, although he was buried on the shore at Kurnell, his grave has never been found. In his honour, Cook named the most northerly point of the peninsula Point Sutherland. This forms part of the southern headland of Botany Bay known as Cape Solander.

Cape Solander and Cape Banks

Silver Beach, Sutherland

Cape Solander, the southern headland of Botany Bay, is named after the Swedish botanist Daniel Solander, who accompanied Joseph Banks on Cook's first voyage of discovery. The northern headland of Botany Bay is called Cape Banks, after Joseph Banks. The suburb of Sydney located within the northern headland of Botany Bay is called La Perouse after the great French Navigator Jean François de Galaup, comte de La Pérouse who arrived in the area 18 years later, just as Governor Arthur Phillip was leaving.

Kurnell

The original inhabitants on the Kurnell Peninsula and surrounding areas were an aboriginal tribe known as the Gweagal. They belonged to a clan of the Tharawal (or Dharawal) tribe of Indigenous Australians. They are the traditional custodians of the southern geographic areas of Sydney. The Tharawal people still own much of the land in the Sutherland Shire and surrounding areas. Due to the construction of Sydney Airport the suburb of Kurnell now lies under the final flight path of aircraft arrivals from the south and it is therefore subject to much aircraft noise.

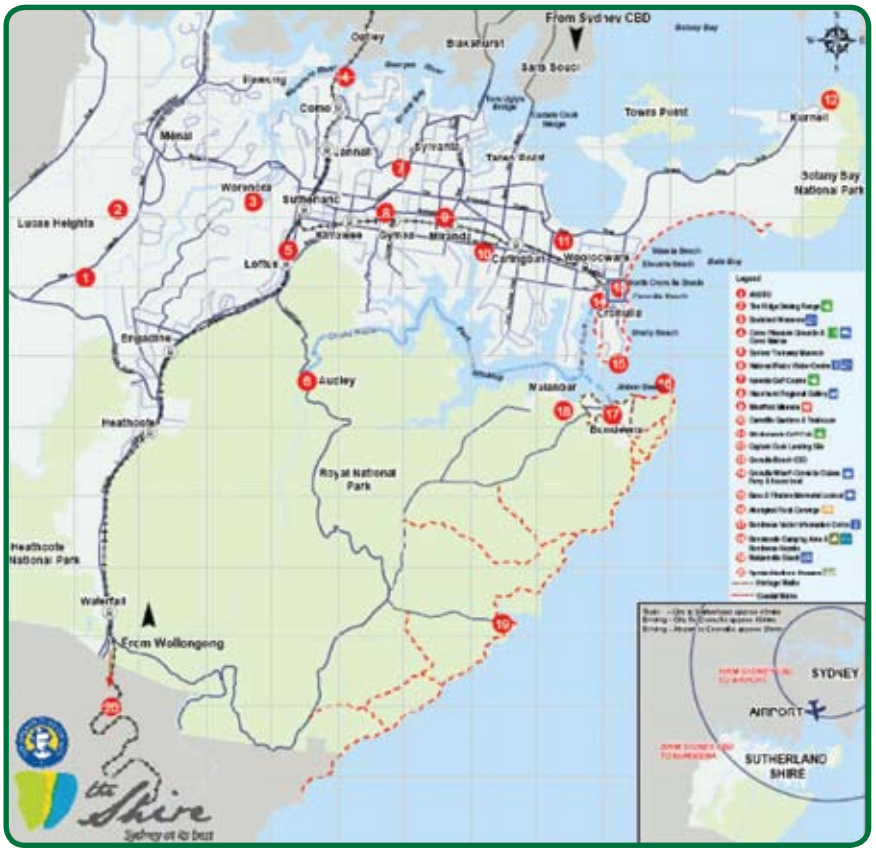
Botany Bay

Cook named the bay Stingray Harbour, but this was later changed to Botany Bay because of the many exotic plants botanist Sir Joseph Banks collected there. In his journals, Cook wrote enthusiastically of the well watered fertile meadows he had seen. His descriptions helped to convince the British government that New South Wales would be the ideal place to set up a penal colony. It was a misjudgement by Cook, as Governor Arthur Phillip would discover eighteen years later. Cook left Botany Bay on the 6th May 1770 after a stay of only 8 days and continued his voyage north. As he passed Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) he noted and charted the headlands opening to the west but did not enter them thus failing to see what is probably the greatest natural harbour in the world. This had to wait for Governor Phillip and the arrival of the First Fleet.

After Botany Bay was chosen as the new penal settlement, the First Fleet under Governor Phillip anchored off Kurnell on 18 January 1788 marking the beginning of European settlement. After sending a party to clear land for settlement, Phillip soon realised the area was unsuitable. There was lack of shelter for ships, inadequate water and poor soil and he therefore planned to visit Port Jackson in search of a more suitable place to establish the new colony. Nowadays Botany Bay is home to a huge container terminal on the northern headland and an oil refinery at Kurnell on the southern headland.

Port Jackson

The first recorded European sighting of Sydney Harbour heads, was by James Cook in 1770. Cook named the inlet after Sir George Jackson, (one of the Lord Commissioners of the British Admiralty, and Judge Advocate of the Fleet). His ship's log notation states "*at noon we were...about 2 or 3 miles from the land and abrest of a bay or harbour within which there appeared to be a safe anchorage which I called Port Jackson.*" Cook did not enter however.



Aerial photography of Sydney with Botany

Eighteen years later, after Phillip realised that Botany Bay was unsuitable to establish a new colony he left in a longboat and two cutters and went up the coast to examine Cook's Port Jackson, entering the heads that had been charted but not entered by Cook.

Phillip first stayed over night at Camp Cove, (given the name because he camped there) then moved down the harbour, landing at Sydney Cove and then Manly Cove which he so named because he thought that the aborigines there were more "manly" than those at Botany Bay!

He described a wonderful harbour "*in which a thousand sail of the line may ride in the most perfect security" and "in extent and security, superior to any I have ever seen*". Phillip returned to Botany Bay on the afternoon of the 23rd January. Phillip wanted to relocate the fleet to Port Jackson but he was unable to leave Botany Bay immediately because of the prevailing easterly and therefore he had to stand to waiting for a change in the wind. On awakening on 24 January, two French ships were sighted off the coast, causing Phillip to raise British colours near Sutherland Point. The French vessels were under the command of La Pérouse. One would think that the two might exchange pleasantries, some news and maybe a cup of tea whilst awaiting a change in the breeze but indeed they did not meet personally. Phillip did accept Le Perouse's journals and records which he sent back to England later in the *Sirius*, which was just as well as La Perouse was never seen again, both of his vessels having been wrecked on reefs in the South Sea islands.

Phillip returned to Sydney Cove in H.M. Armed Tender *Supply* on the 26th January 1788, where he established the first colony in Australia, later to become the city of Sydney. 26th January is now Australia Day and is celebrated by a public holiday. Sydney Cove is now often known as Circular Quay and is well inside the harbour just east of the Harbour Bridge where the largest ocean liners can be moored, within walking distance of the CBD, the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge.

Sydney itself was named after Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney (1732-1800), a British politician who held several important Cabinet posts in the second half of the 18th century.

So, that is how Lilli Pilli and a few other places around here got their names!

Now, can you tell me the origin of the name "Jordanhill"?

www.visittheshire.com.au

History of Jordanhill School

To find the answer to John's question go to our web site and click on **About the school**.

Thirty Years On

As Wee Frees are apt to do at all the best parties, I came to Jordanhill rather too late and left its pillared portals several years too early – joining Primary 3B in April 1974 and slinking off in March 1980, near the end of Second Year.

(In fact, I was chased off the premises in the last act by the merry Justin Currie, to the hilarity of Mr Moir... oh, Justin. You never call. You never email. Still out there, driving with the brakes on...)

So I never had the chance to don a green smock, play in the sandbox or take Mr Pinkwhistle, the class guinea-pig, home for the weekend.

Nor was I spared to join the lofty heights of senior school, grow a vague moustache, knead rock-cakes for the Staff/Sixth Year Coffee Morning or shake the hand of that fantastically remote and God-like figure, our headmaster Mr Branston.

I still – even in my early forties, now that my splendid primary teachers and I prop up middle age from either end – have eerie dreams of the school, the grounds, my new-launched puberty, all sweat and self-doubt. I am at morning assembly, having inexplicably forgotten my trousers, heroically warbling Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven; I am late for class, struggling up flight upon flight of stairs, and I never reach the end, and something awful is about to happen...

P4B Spring 1975: Back row, L to R - Our teacher, Mrs Kean; Neil Connolly, Iain Simpson, Andrew Walker, Grant Holroyd, Gary Davidson, Stuart Newton, Andrew Kennedy, Robert Angell, David Mitchell, Cameron Miller, Ewan Callison, Ewan Ogilvie. **Middle row, L to R** - Iain Hamilton, Paul Miller, Alan McNarey, myself (John MacLeod; left March 1980), Jacqueline Shaw, Lisa Murray, Sheona McIntosh, Gary Wilson, Kenneth Smith, David McGhee, Colin Mayer.
Front row, L to R: Fiona MacDonald, Lesley Short, Elizabeth Couper, Darryl Cumming, Muriel Braly, Jennifer Oates, Lesley Cherry, Fiona Campbell (flitted to Killin, '76), Rhona McGregor, Anne Crawford, Alison MacGregor, Lynne Stewart.

But, by day, churning out why-oh-why diatribes for the Scottish Daily Mail – rather sweetly, a Jordanhill classmate, Peter Jardine, is our outstanding football columnist – I thank God for my Jordanhill years and that so splendid launch-pad for life.

Here I learned to turn a sentence; mastered arithmetic that still impresses my accountant, learned that – with suitable application – I could make a speech to which people will listen, and was inspired by teachers who loved their job, loved children, loved life, opened a host of windows and taught us to fly.

I'm still in regular touch with Miss Hogg, Miss Goodwin, Mrs Kinnis and the regal Mrs Mann. Mrs Anderson was the ne plus ultra of English teachers; Grant Carson had an intuitive, brilliant grasp of the minds of boys and Mr Moir, still labouring at the chalkface, blew the dust off history and brought it to most vivid life.

So many others, alas – Major Paul, George Graveson, Ian McAllister, Jimmy and Margaret Dodds among them – are no longer with us.

And I haven't even mentioned the beautiful grounds, school dinners so delicious even the teachers ate them, the kindly dignity of two splendid janitors, McComiskey and McLeod, solemn morning assembly or the intimacy of what remains very much a family school with its own humour, its own wry voice and its quiet, abiding decency.

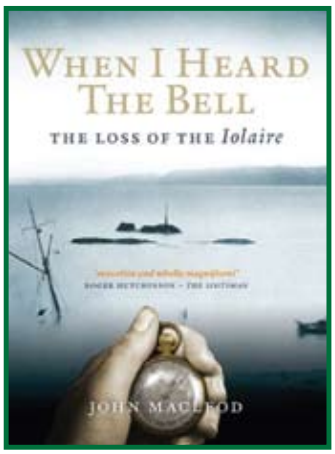
Thirty years is a long time and old ways pass quicker than you can say 'interactive whiteboard.'

I'm not sorry that corporal punishment is now as Nineveh and Tyre – by the standards of state schools in the 1970s, the belt was used most sparingly at Jordanhill: but it was still there, like the Bomb, and it is good to be in a world where such a thing is no longer possible.

I'm a wee bit sorry (you could pretend you were Jennings) teachers no longer stalk corridors in black, vampirish gowns; that the day is no longer launched with Christian worship, though we are in a different age and the school must reflect a new local diversity.

But pastoral support – especially for the vulnerable years of early secondary – is far better; guidance is properly taught; sex education is no longer a matter of cold, embarrassed details in plumbing; and in many ways now I feel – especially for children less gifted, nervous or otherwise vulnerable – Jordanhill is a happier, more caring environment than perhaps it was.

Teachers fade away; boys and girls grow up, move on, But a school lives, with its own unmistakable temper, its abiding folklore, its stately physical presence.



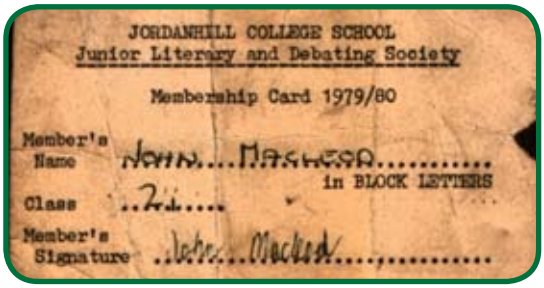
I cannot go back to March 1980, and the awful burden of being thirteen: nor would I choose to. Yet it's grand that Jordanhill abides, and still echoes to that timeless sound, the playground joy of children, without accent or difference or division and as a tugging mist in my ears.

John MacLeod

John MacLeod was the youngest ever winner of the Scottish Journalist of the Year Award in 1991 (age 25). He has published 5 books. His latest book *When I Heard the Bell (The loss of the Iolaire)* was published in 2008.

This is not John's first contribution to a Jordanhill publication. His article for the 1978 School Magazine demonstrates that his putative journalistic talents were already evident in P7.

Learning the Ropes


JORDANHILL COLLEGE SCHOOL
Junior Literary and Debating Society
Membership Card 1979/80
Member's Name John...MacLeod.....
in BLOCK LETTERS
Class ..2A....
Member's Signature ..John...MacLeod.....

I stood at the door of a classroom, looking shyly around at the occupants. Early in March my parents had received a letter saying "Dear Mr MacLeod, I am able to offer you a place in Primary 3b."

So here I stood, tongue-tied. A teacher came up and guided me to a seat. "Alan," she said. "Lend John your paints." Happily I sat down and drew some sheep in a field. Later, we went to Assembly. This was new to me and I was very interested to see Miss Bain take the hymns.

Back in the classroom, a boy helped me to fetch a desk. I removed from my bag a pencil-case and some sandshoes. Then I put them in my desk. My eyes wandered around and I saw an inviting library in the corner. Eagerly I trotted off to look at an interesting book on dinosaurs.

Later, Ian was explaining the school rules to me. "You don't read during lessons and you don't go on the grass in the winter and you mustn't read comics and you are never cheeky to the prefects."

"Oh," I said wisely.

Then he went on to point out teachers. "The man going up the steps is Major Paul and that lady's Mrs Mann. She's head of the Primary. She tells the other teachers what to do."

There followed a conducted tour of the school. There was a main hall with a stage at one end. There was a well equipped gym. There were huts where Music, Art and Science were taught, and there were swings in the playground. My favourite haunts soon became the "Triangle" at the corner of the field. When I found out that you were not allowed on it, I went there more often than ever.

However, buckling down to work was the main difficulty. And when I received two out of ten in Arithmetic, my teacher took drastic measures. Soon I was suffering lunch hour coaching. But it showed results. I rose to seven out of ten. Then-great-day I received full marks.

In composition, however, she only set me one. It was hopeless. For the very good reason that I had never heard the word "Composition" before in my life. I did better in later years, though.

So, nearing the end of my primary education, I have high hopes for my future. Perhaps I might even bring fame to the school's name. Who knows?

"I struggle for the highest."

J. MacLeod P.7B

New Mexico

First of all I should introduce myself. My name is Laura Ryan (Newbigging) and I have lived in New Mexico for the past ten years (so forgive any Americanized words or spelling – I hate these z's – not 'ZEDS' but 'ZEES').

I left Jordanhill College School in 1978 and subsequently enrolled in the B.Ed. program through Jordanhill College and Glasgow University. My first job as a teacher was on Islay (part of "Strathclyde Region" at that time). The transition from Glasgow was a bit of a shock, but I loved it and taught there at all levels in the primary school for 6 years before moving to Oban to embark on a career in Special Education.

However, there was a gap in my life. I wanted to travel. And so, I discovered the Fulbright teachers' exchange programme. That's how I first discovered New Mexico. Wow – was that an experience! A place where the sun shone most days and I could see blue sky! No mist, drizzle and no midges.

So here I am – living in a small town called Aztec. I initially worked solely with students who had been acknowledged as having a "Behaviour Disorder" or being "Emotionally Disturbed". (Hey – that's how you get a work permit to work in the U.S. – nobody wants THAT job: I loved my students – really! O.K. – Well, most of the time).

And so I eventually married a U.S. citizen (¼ Irish & ¼ Cherokee) and we will celebrate 9 years of marriage this year. I worked in Special Education in a Middle School for 2 years, then moved to the High School setting – something that I would never have imagined that I would like. I soon discovered that this is where I wanted to be; working with students with disabilities and ensuring that they had all services and supports required to help them achieve success after graduating from High School (which is a big thing here).

So I became 'Head of Special Education' in my school, which was "cool" - hey – so American – speak; but the job was becoming so demanding that I needed to find a change in direction. I had also been working as the "Transition Coordinator" for the past few years – that is 'transitioning' students with disabilities to workplace/college or independent living situations.

With great difficulty (as an "alien" Scottish citizen) I applied for a Master's in Counselling (with emphasis in Rehabilitation), and received a scholarship, due to an unfortunate hiking accident which resulted in a broken back and feet. The scholarship was a real help – Education is expensive in this country. If you have enough money, you can almost buy a PH.D. (did I really say this?...will I get deported?).

My Master's was very, very intensive. I completed the degree in 2 years through New Mexico Highlands University, working part-time (the only way – and a requisite of my scholarship) and received an education that far surpassed my expectations of American Education which has not impressed me, so far. Despite dedicated teachers, there is so much emphasis on testing and paperwork.

I would like to thank Jordanhill College School for an education that I could not have received in this country - unless, perhaps, I was a millionaire. I received my Master's with a GPA of 4.0 (the highest), was top of my class, nominated for student of the year, and embraced into " Phi Kappa Phi" - some organisation that allowed me to wear some bright yellow thingy that I has to wear around my neck at the graduation ceremony (which was about at freezing temperatures, despite being in May, and in New Mexico) and attempted to strangle me. But I'm glad I did it.

Chaco Canyon

I would highly recommend my own Masters and researching any U.S. course of study before embarking on such a venture. The experience of living in another culture is so rewarding; one can learn more by being open to, and living with, another culture, that reading about it. The population of my High School is: 1/3 Navajo, 1/3 Hispanic, and 1/3 Caucasian. Oh – and one Scottish teacher.

Laura (Newbigging) Ryan, Aztec, New Mexico

www.f1inschools.co.uk

Atoms and Airbags

The F1 in school competition was an amazing opportunity for six pupils in S2 to take on a challenge that was to take them on an unforgettable journey ….including the losing of a shoe, a broken TV, a laptop with no programmes loaded and a last minute over night delivery of a vital portfolio! Having recovered from the national finals the team are now embarking on their second season and hope to progress to the International finals in 2010.

Our rookie F1 in schools team **Atoms and Airbags** embarked on the technology challenge with big ideas and were so enthusiastic it was hard to believe anything could stop them…and nothing did. The team started out with very little experience in the skills needed for this high octane competition, but after a year and a half of hard work they had gained skills in CAD (computer aided design), VWT (virtual wind tunnels), sponsorship, and co-operate identity just to mention a few things. These skills where what lead them from the regional finals at Glasgow Science Centre to the National Final at the NEC in Birmingham during the prestigious Autosport show.

Atoms and Airbags had a fabulous weekend at Birmingham, and were exceptional representatives of Jordanhill. Luke McElroy the team manager kept the team well organised all weekend during the busy schedule of racing, interviews for the live web cast and presentations to teams of judges. The team were praised for their verbal presentations and their display stand which looked as professional as the businesses and "real" team stands spread throughout the exhibition halls of the Autosport show.

Atoms and Airbags enjoyed the whole experience from the trip down in their own chauffer driven rental van, luxury hotel (!) and a chance to meet some very famous people thanks to their supervisory teacher, Miss Bream, who is herself a bit of a petrol head! The team got to meet Drew Bowler the man behind the off-road vehicle featured on Top Gear, The Bowler Wildcat and in addition the team chatted to Nicky Grist, navigator to the late Colin McRae.

Already Atoms and Airbags are embarking on the 2009/2010 season with rumours of million pound sponsorship deals being brokered…well maybe not quite…but watch this space for more stories as another rookie team has signed up. This year with the help of Miss Bream maybe Jordanhill will have two F1 in Schools team racing to the finals and beyond….

Left
Luke McElroy, Ally Brown, David Hoey, Kieran McSorley, Paul Sanders, David Welsh

glasgow healthy schools

Excellent (Sector leading)

- Pastoral Care
- Organisation and use of resources and facilities

Jordanhill has been recognised as a **Health Promoting School** following a 2-day assessment undertaken by a multi-disciplinary task group from Glasgow City Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde.

Under the banner of a Safe-Healthy-Connected school, the school achieved 2 **Excellent** and 7 **Very Good** ratings against the 9 quality indicators. The benchmark for HPS status is 5 Very Good and 4 Good ratings.

You can read more in the February 2009 edition of the school newsletter on the web site.

Farewell

This summer sees the retirement of several long serving and well known staff who have given outstanding service to the school.

Gordon Smith, Head of Primary

Morag Gairns, Depute Head Primary

Ian Anderson, Director of Music

Dr Joe McKendrick,
Principal Teacher Pastoral Care

John Summers, Principal Teacher of P.E.

Edward Livingston, R.E. & P.E.

Mrs Aileen Brown, Administrative Officer

Mrs Liz McIntyre, Administrative Officer

To mark the occasion a retiral dinner is being held in the Hilton Hotel on Saturday 13th June.

We wish all of our colleagues a long and happy retirement.

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