



This issue has been written, produced and edited by our Junior School Editorial Team: Cara Macleod (L7); Katie McLennan (L7); Sophie Davidson (L7); Rory Johnston (L7), Lucas McConnach (L7) and Hannah George (L7). Our cub reporters have been busy interviewing, writing, proof-reading, sub-editing and even trying their hands at page layout. We hope you enjoy reading this special edition of Co-Curricular News. Merry Christmas!

## Welcome to our Nativity

Cara Macleod L7



The L1-3s are performing the annual Nativity, it includes 124 children. The director is Mrs Rose, the deputy head of L1-4s. This year's Nativity is called Tinsel and was written by Dave Corbett.

Mrs Rose started thinking about the Nativity in July. On the first week back after the October holidays the

costumes were picked, casting began and Mrs Rose choreographed the dances. The paper work and administration is still being dealt with. A small amount of rehearsals go on everyday, and when I asked Mrs Rose what the hardest part of the rehearsals is she said, "Getting the L3s to relax when they act." All the teachers from the Junior school and Mr Cowieson, the Drama teacher, help out. Mrs Scott-Brown, the Music teacher, holds a great role and we couldn't have the Nativity without her help. Mrs Rose thinks that the work everyone puts in pays off because the

Nativity is always "fantastic." All the speaking parts are done by L3s.

The Nativity has to be ready by Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> December and there are many dress rehearsals but the final show, which is held in Trinity, is on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December which is open for parents to watch. Also on the 14<sup>th</sup> there is a show for the Junior school.

### Tinsel - a summary

Sophie Davidson L7

In Tinsel the musical there is a little fir tree in the garden of Dad, Mum, David and Amy's house. Inside their home, there is a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. On it there are little white lights, baubles and garlands. The little fir tree was very lonely and cold outside, it wished that someone would spend some time with it and make it as pretty as the Christmas tree. Later that night the little tree was freezing because Freddy, Flora, Frankie and Fran were making it a very cold night. When Tinsel hears what they are going to do she stops them and tells them about her plan.....!

## Meet the Director

Katie McLennan L7

Mrs Rose is one of the deputy heads of the Junior School and she is also in charge L1-4s who annually produce a nativity and Mrs Rose directs them. This means that she has to decide on what show they do. Directing also means that she picks out all the costumes as well as giving out parts and choosing scenery. She starts to think about the nativity for that year around about June or July. This is Mrs Rose's fourth nativity. The second one Count Down to Christmas is one of her favourites so far. The story was one of the things she liked about it.

Mrs Rose said: "I love making up dance routines though I don't like nerves; I hate the feeling of butterflies! The thing I enjoy most about being involved in a nativity is working with the other staff as a team. Thinking about all of the different aspects of directing makes it quite hard but still it is enjoyable."

# A view from the cast

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Hannah George L7

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The L1 to L3 Christmas nativity takes place every year. This year the nativity is called 'Tinsel the Musical' and a lot of work and effort is put into it. There are two casts and they each perform once for adults and family, they will have a dress rehearsal and one cast performs for the rest of the junior school.

Melissa Mitchell from L3M, who plays the part of the Tree, said that this is her second nativity play at this school. Melissa also said that the hardest part of the nativity was learning her lines

because she has lots to learn and she was worried about performing as she might forget them.

George Youssef, also from L3M, who plays the part of the Teddy, said "My favourite part of the nativity is the dancing because I always dance in the corridors." George also thought that he compared with his character well because the Teddy is cute like him! Last year's nativity was a great success and hopefully this year will be too.

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## Actors are just the tip of the Iceberg!

### Behind the scenes at the Nativity play

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Lucas McConnach L7

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As the children take their bows spare a thought for the people who made this possible - like Mrs Rose, who spends so much time preparing for the big night. The actors are just the tip of the iceberg. None of this would be possible without the people who do all the work behind the scenes.

This year Mrs Rose has bought a script for the nativity and adapted and expanded it for our production.

Mr Cowieson manages our stage lighting and acoustics, and Mrs Scott Brown provides the music.

Without costumes all the children would be standing on the stage in their uniforms looking very

puzzled. Luckily we have Mrs Rose who organises the costumes on top of everything else. Mrs Rose gets some of them from the cast themselves, but a few come from the older years who put in lots of effort to make the younger years look fabulous. Mrs Rose decides who the costume will go to and which would best suit their character.

Last but not least, and as Mrs Rose pointed out: "The parents do an awful lot of work helping the children with their lines."

Now you know that the actors aren't the only people that make a great performance come together!

# Meet the characters!

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Rory Johnston L7

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*Say hello to some of the colourful characters appearing on stage in today's performance!*

## Tinsel

Tinsel is a helpful Christmas fairy. She helps the Little Fir Tree by decorating her to make her look as beautiful as the family's tree indoors.

## Squirrel

The Squirrel in this play is an army squirrel and is very helpful and organised. Along with others he decorates the Little Tree by putting berries on it and makes the tree feel lovely. The Little Tree then has a wonderful evening.

## Tree

The Tree is lonely and cold in this story but is helped by Tinsel, the Squirrel and all the Toys to look beautiful.

## Cowboy

The Cowboy is a cheery and helpful character. He is one of the toys and assists with the decoration of the Little Tree.

Mrs Rose said that she does not have a favourite character but "likes them all the same."

Mrs Rose thinks it is important to have a range of characters as there are many children who need parts. When casting, Mrs Rose already has a picture of what each character would look like.