



St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8 – NO. 2

December 2010

TRANSITION YEAR

With ninety Transition Year students, this is St. Mary's biggest fourth year group ever! Divided into three classes, the students are the beneficiaries of several new module courses. These include Accounting, Psychology, Consumer Studies, Food Science, as well as the huge range of other modules such as Log on Learn, Japanese, Fitness for Life, NIFTE, Reflexology, Classical Studies, Careers, Music Appreciation, Film Studies and Craft & Design to name but a few.

Over the last two months our Transition Year students have been a busy bunch. One highlight that must be acknowledged and applauded is the extremely successful fundraising for Temple Street Children's hospital. On 15th October the girls took to the streets of Dublin for the "Trick or Treat" fundraising event. Working tirelessly they managed to raise a staggering €9,600! What a fantastic day's work!

As we look forward to what the rest of the year will bring we will leave you with some memories of the year so far from the girls themselves!

**Ms. R. McCormack and
Ms. C. Murtagh**
Transition Year Co-ordinators

Leeann Boland, 4.23

My favourite TY trip so far was going to see the Book of Kells. I was amazed by it. I loved looking at all of the really old books and I found it so interesting that these books are so old. The Book of Kells is one of the oldest manuscripts in the world; it's a huge part of our heritage. The artwork in the book itself was stunning and full of detail. I really enjoyed it and was delighted to see it!

Sarah Roche, 4.23

We did Aromatherapy every Tuesday afternoon with a lady called Mary. She was really nice and told us about the different oils and how they suit different people and how they can heal cuts and scabs. She showed us how to give a deep tissue massage and an Indian Head massage. Mary showed us

the special movements of the hands and then we got into pairs and practised on each other. We also got the chance to use oils that she gave us and do back massages. It was very relaxing and I just wanted to fall asleep after the class. I loved all of these classes because I am very interested in aromatherapy and loved getting the deep tissue massage.

Mairéad Jordan, 4.23

The day we went to the National Art Gallery was one of my favourite days of TY so far. Seeing it was so much fun and I enjoyed every detailed painting. What made it so interesting was seeing many different types of painting techniques. Picasso had an extremely different outlook on simple things like the human body. In his paintings the body is almost square-like and he uses vibrant, unrealistic colours. But with Caravaggio's paintings he makes them so realistic and smooth. He tells the painting's story so well. I had such an amazing time that day and I know I will be going back not just because it's free but because of the brilliant experience I had that day.

Rebecca Clark, 4.27

My favourite event from Transition year so far has been my week of work experience in Temple Street Children's Hospital. Although it wasn't on the assigned week for work experience, the school was very accommodating and allowed me to go to Temple Street as it was too good an opportunity to miss. My work experience ran from the week of November 8th to November 12th and it was absolutely fantastic! The playroom where I was supposed to be working was closed for renovation and so I was asked to go out on the wards with the play therapists. Our job was to visit each child on the ward and make sure they had toys to play with and things to do. We also stayed with them if they needed company. It was a really enjoyable experience and it thought me a lot about the way a hospital works. I can't wait for the next work experience in February!

St. Mary's Secondary School



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary's follows the Holy Faith Philosophy of creating a school community whose central purpose is the religious, moral, intellectual, human, social and physical-recreational education of the student. The education programme of the school is directed to the growth of the whole person. It aims to form integrated and self-reliant Christian people who are eager to build a better world.

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Transition Year Students at Dublin Zoo

Claire Concannon, 4.27

The one thing that everyone really looks forward to in TY is the end of the year play. This year, we hope to put on a production of 'Twelfth Night' by William Shakespeare. As part of our preparation for the play, we took part in a drama workshop with the directors of the play. This was one of the craziest and most enjoyable things I have experienced in TY to date. It was a great opportunity for us to bond with other members of TY. It also encouraged us to come out of our shells as we had to perform scenes and play games. The workshop helped us to come up with many ideas for our production and it helped us to understand all the different jobs that need to be carried out in order to get ready for the play. This is certainly one aspect of TY that I'll never forget and let's hope that all the work we put into the workshop, pays off when the production begins in the New Year.

Amy Smith, 4.27

As part of our Transition Year programme, we have been learning Japanese. I found this six week course very enjoyable. We were given the opportunity to taste sushi and we learned how to use chopsticks. We learned how to write our names and also phrases like 'happiness' and 'love'. I really enjoyed the course and I would love to do it all again.

Niamh Molloy, 4.28

We had a guest speaker come to give us a talk on road safety. The talk was given by a member of An Garda Síochána. He talked to us about road accidents and how everyone thinks, "it won't happen to me", but it could happen to anyone at anytime. He explained to us that people drink and drive thinking that if they eat, the alcohol will leave their system. In reality the only thing that can get rid of alcohol is time. He showed us video clips of car accidents and the awful effects they can have. I think that

I have really learned a lot from this talk. I feel that in Transition Year we are at the right age to be informed about driving and safety on the roads.

Alison Greene McEnerney, 4.28

After only a few days in school, a group of T.Y. students was told that it had been chosen to go down to St. Kevin's for a couple of hours every Wednesday to learn Woodwork and Metalwork. I was nervous about this at the start but I was put into a Woodwork class and loved it! All of the T.Y. students in St. Kevin's were really nice too. I thought Woodwork would be really difficult, but we all took to it quickly and it is not as hard as it looks. It's fun too; you can look around the room and see how much everyone is enjoying the class (even if you make something that can't stand up straight when it's meant to!). Every Wednesday there is a great atmosphere when we walk down to class together, and afterwards I always think "bring on next Wednesday!"

Áine Holland, 4.28

On 10th November Transition Year students went on a very interesting trip to D.I.T. on Kevin Street. A Chinese rocket scientist called Cindy Lu gave a presentation on the China Space Programme. Cindy showed us a video of a rocket taking off for the first time. It was interesting to know that so many people are involved in making sure the rocket takes off successfully. It was funny when Cindy showed us a picture of a man she called "the man with the golden finger". She called him this because he is the man responsible for pressing the button to start the rocket. Cindy Lu showed us a lot of pictures of the space programme. She really made us want to go and see it for ourselves. Cindy really wanted to encourage us girls to become scientists because she thinks that there aren't enough women in the field. She really inspired us and maybe I'll become the first Irish female



GOLD MODULE

The fifth year students who are part of the Gold Module held a cake sale on Friday 12th November. They raised €200 for the "Friends of the Elderly Christmas Appeal". On Friday 26th November the girls went to Tesco Clearwater to buy Christmas presents for the elderly. They were also helped by many staff members who also contributed Christmas gifts to the appeal. The students handed over the gifts to a representative of "Friends of the Elderly".

Ms. M. Byrne



ART DEPARTMENT

September began on a great note with the arrival of our Junior Cert. Art results. The students did very well and we are proud to exhibit a selection of their work in the school. The prints, paintings, graphic designs, embroidery and batik on display are a great inspiration to our present 3rd Year students who are working hard exploring their art project themes.

First Year students have studied the principles of drawing and painting. They are applying this knowledge to a painting project concentrating on tints, tones, complementary colours and geometric shapes. The art elements will also be the foundation for lino-printing work based on 'China Cabinet Fly' by John Kindness (Graphic Studio/ 50 Years In Dublin- Irish Museum of Modern Art) and a representational printed series inspired by the work of Edvard Munch.

The Second Year art students have completed wonderful clay heads in 3D based on their self-portraits. They have also created posters influenced by Autumn and are currently learning stitching techniques in preparation for embroidery design.

All our Transition Year students visited The European Union House, Dawson St. to view the 'EU Street Art Exhibition', presented by the artist Fiona Mullholland. A guided tour of the National Gallery, Merrion Square, followed directly and the students had the opportunity to view, discuss and compare the various works they had seen that day.

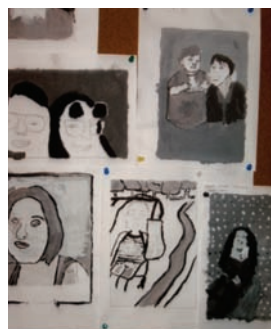
The first T.Y module was a collaboration with the music department and students explored the relationship between art and music inspired by the work of Wassily Kandinsky and Malin. They created expressive individual paintings using mixed media in response to chosen pieces of music which were filmed at the end of the project. The second art module concentrates on the entries to the D.I.Y. T.Y competition to be held at St. Michael's Holy Faith School in the New Year. Fantastic costumes will appear on stage made from recycled materials.

Fifth Years have focused on Modern Irish painters. They have used the painting styles and techniques of Irish Artists such as Louis le Brocquy and Paul Henry as inspiration for their individual pieces. The final presentation is an interesting pod-cast. They have also perfected their stitching techniques and have created an embroidery design using these stitches.

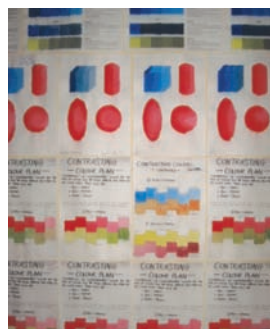
A visit to the 'Sculpture In Context' exhibition at The Botanic Gardens began this eventful year for our Sixth Year Art students. They are busy preparing for the Still Life and Craft Leaving Cert. exams. A gallery trip to 'The Moderns' exhibition at the Irish Museum of Modern Art will further their studies in Art History and Appreciation.

Students are also participating in several art competitions such as the Texaco Children's Art Competition, Design a Cover Art Project 2010 (for Mental Health Ireland), and Doodle for Google. The Art Department wish all our students well in their creative endeavours.

Ms. C. Kavanagh, Ms. N. Cunningham, Ms. M.Keogh



1st Year Study for Print



1st Year: Painting Studies



3rd Year Art Project



1st Year: Observational study of shoe



1st Year: Preparation for print based on the work of John Kindness

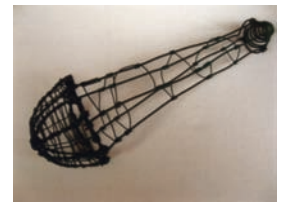


2nd Year: Clay Heads

3rd Year: Junior Cert Art Project



3rd Year: Drawing



3rd Year: 3D Art Project

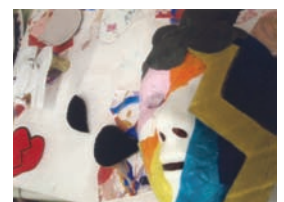


3rd Year: Drawing



3rd Year: Embroidery

Transition Year: Work Inspired by Music



ART DEPARTMENT (contd.)



5th Year: Embroidery Studies



6th Year: Textile Project



6th Year: Embroidery Textile Project



6th Year: Drawing



6th Year: Drawing

BUSINESS/LCVP/NFTE



NFTE Presentation from Derek Dunne of AIB Drumcondra to St. Mary's. Principal, M. Lennon, NFTE Teachers: Ms. O. Griffin and Mr. W. Donnelly and Transition Year NFTE Students.

Business

The Business department would like to wish Sile Crowley all the best in her retirement and thank her for all her hard work over the years. It was a pleasure to work with Sile and her expertise in enterprise initiatives was of great value to the whole department.

LCVP

I am delighted to inform you of the full day interview training and job seeking skills course that the 6th year class attended on 19th November 2010. This training day was carried out by Denise Wright. The skills and tips the girls got were to help prepare them for their exam but will also be beneficial in the future for college and job interviews. I hope that this training can give the girls that competitive edge to ensure them every success in the future. I want to thank students for their co-operation and for the hard work that they have put into their projects, which will be worth 60% of their final exam. Keep up the good work girls.

I congratulate the 5th year LCVP students for all their efforts on the fundraiser for the Central Remedial Clinic. The girls organised a raffle in school and also sold the "Santa Bears" in City Centre Dublin in early December. The CRC have expressed their thanks and we hope to establish a permanent link with them and their annual

"Santa Bear" Appeal. Well done girls!

NFTE

Once again this year I am delighted to announce a thriving enterprise class in Transition year. We have fifteen different enterprises up and running. Some examples are "Jade's Jars" with homemade jams, "TJ Soft Drinks", "Scented Sensations" candle company, "Chance Pierre" jewellery and "On Noms" brownie company. The girls are very enthusiastic about their ventures and would like to thank everybody who has supported them in the Trade Fair we set up in school in early December. The fair was a hive of activity with lots of wheeling and dealing going on. So keep up the good work girls and who knows you may be on your way to making your first million!

Four of the fifteen companies also had the opportunity to show case their products at the annual Christmas Craft Fair held in

the RDS in early December. They were Jade Brady with her homemade jam company "Jade's Jars" and Paulina Bucskowska and Caroline McMullen with their bracelet making company "Beads and Strings", Nadine Smithers and Siobhan McNamara with their "Scented Sensations" candle company and Hannah Kelly and Mollie Walker with their denim pencil case company called "Jeanius". This was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to attend such a well established trade fair in order to experience the real world of selling. It was also great to see other NFTE students from other schools and to share their experiences with each other.

I must also take this opportunity to thank AIB Drumcondra for their kind donation of €300 which has directly gone into each NFTE business. This money has gone a long way to help the girls in the financing of their businesses and has really given them that extra leg up to ensure their businesses are successful. So a big thank you to John Kelly and Derek Dunne for all their support in assisting the girls with their ventures. A special thanks to Derek Dunne who also regularly attends our NFTE class where he shares his expertise and knowledge with the girls. Having an outside business person in the class has definitely added to the dynamic of the class. So a big thank you once again.

Ms. O. Griffin



NFTE Presentation to St. Mary's Students from Derek Dunne of AIB Drumcondra

CSPE ACTION PROJECTS



A Trip to the Dáil

On the 11th of May 2010 my class went to Leinster House as part of our action project on the concept of Democracy. A lot of preparation was done by the committees in our class to organise the event. Firstly we had to ask permission from our principal to go and then we had to ask our parents. Next we sent an email to the Dáil informing them of our project and requesting a date on which we could visit. They replied swiftly to us confirming the date.

On Tuesday the 11th of May we got the bus to Leinster House with our C.S.P.E. teachers Ms. Lenehan and Ms. Griffin at 12.20 p.m. We arrived at Leinster House at 1.30 p.m. Firstly, we all went into a room and watched video clips which explained how the government in Ireland worked. We were then given a sheet on Democracy to test our knowledge of it. Then we went and sat in the gallery of the Dáil while the Taoiseach Brian Cowen was being questioned on his expenditure. It was interesting to hear the opposition parties insulting his running of the country.

Next we went to the Seanad and on our way the tour guide taught us the history of Leinster House. In the Seanad, senators were speaking about Head Shops and whether they should be illegal in Ireland. It was a controversial topic. Finally our tour guide told us about when John F. Kennedy came to Ireland and Bill Clinton's visit to the Dáil. Once the tour had finished we went and got our bags and said goodbye to our tour guide. Then we got the bus back to school. It was a great experience which we all enjoyed as a class.

As an extension to our visit to Dáil Éireann, our class organised an awareness raising campaign on the concept of Democracy. We designed and displayed posters around the school to inform everyone about Democracy as we learned a lot through doing our action project. We distributed leaflets to classes which taught everyone something new about Democracy and how it works. They included important facts which everyone should know.

Shauna Doran
Class 3 Tory



The Niall Mellon Foundation

Class 3 Valentia has been doing a CSPE project on the "Niall Mellon Foundation". We are trying to make people more aware of what it is Niall Mellon does and trying to raise money for the foundation as well.

The Niall Mellon Foundation sends out people from Ireland to some of the poorer countries like Asia and Africa. They build houses for them over a period of time. They put all the essentials in the houses and try to build as many of the houses as they can.

A speaker came into our class and told us about what they do and how we could help. They told us how much it meant to the people who were getting these houses. They also showed us a film of their work and all the class found it to be inspiring. After that we started organising our awareness day on the "Niall Mellon Foundation". In school we put up posters and gave out leaflets telling people what we intended to do. The speaker gave us badges and we sold them for €2 each. After selling all of them we had raised €125.

We are very proud to be able to make people more aware of the "Niall Mellon Foundation".

Katie Redmond
Class 3 Valentia

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Remembrance Day

On November 11th the History Department commemorated the armistice that ended World War I. The school community reflected on the thousands of Irishmen who had fought on the front line, and remembered those soldiers who sacrificed their lives for their countries. A minute's silence was observed as the dead of two World Wars were remembered.

Transition Year Projects

Transition Year students are currently presenting their research projects on "International Women in History". Personalities include "Marie Curie", "Veronica Guerin", "Countess Markievicz", "Marilyn Monroe" and many more. We wish the girls well with their presentations.

Ms. G. Lehane

EUROPEAN STUDIES

Transition Year students have been busy working on and presenting their projects on the 27 countries of the E.U.

On 22nd October students had an interesting talk followed by lively debate when Ms. Linda Rowan (a past pupil of St. Mary's) visited the school. She travelled for the occasion from Brussels where she works with the European Commission.

On 2nd November all Transition Year students visited the European Parliament Office in Dublin where they enjoyed a very colourful E.U. Street Art Exhibition and a talk by the curator Fiona Mulholland. This was followed by a talk on the E.U, a DVD showing and a quiz.

Mrs. A. Hughes (European Studies teacher, Transition Year)

AWARDS

Jingle Bells – Jingle Bells!

It was that time of the year again when a certain buzz could be felt among our first, second and third year students. Why? Of course, it was Christmas Award time!

Once again it was a pleasure for me on behalf of the staff to oversee our ceremony in the school hall. Twenty-five students from each year group received small Christmas themed gifts to say "well done" for their positive approach to school work and their general positive attitude and courteous manner.

Ms. N. Walker (Awards Co-ordinator)

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Film Club

Many first and second years have become members of the film club this year and have met once a month in the cinema. September's film was the popular 'Twilight' and October's film was the spooky comedy 'Hocus Pocus'. Senior students also got the opportunity to see the modern Irish classic 'The Wind That Shakes the Barley'. A Christmas classic was shown before the holidays to get everyone ready for the festive season.

Drama Club

This year saw the launch by the English Department of a new extra-curricular initiative in drama. Students from all year groups were invited to join and participate, no drama experience was necessary.

Four junior students attended a drama workshop in the Holy Faith Convent in September. This workshop involved groups from all the Holy Faith Schools and was preparation for the upcoming drama festival in March, which aims to celebrate the life of Margaret Aylward. The girls from St. Mary's will be writing and performing their own short production.

Building on the success of last year's T.Y. production of 'Romeo and Juliet', senior students have been preparing to stage their set play 'A Doll's House' by Henrik Ibsen. The group took part in an interactive after-school workshop and auditions were held. The cast is now busy in rehearsals, while behind the scenes work is taking place on set design, costumes and music.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this new drama initiative, particularly Mr. Eoin Cunningham and Ms. Mary McCarthy.

Sixth Year English: Poetry Lectures

Sixth year students attended an evening lecture on the poetry of William Wordsworth in Trinity College on Tuesday 16th November. The lecture was given by Professor Daryl Jones and offered some fascinating information on the context and interpretation of Wordsworth's work.

Library Visit

Class 2 Shannon was invited to meet children's author Jane Mitchell in the Phibsboro library on Tuesday 19th

October. Jane Mitchell has written many prize-winning novels including "When Stars Stop Spinning" and her latest bestseller "Chalkline". This was shortlisted for the Bisto Children's Book of the Year 2009.

She spoke to students at length about the inspiration for her writing and the publishing process. The girls also got the chance to discuss her writing, take part in role play and get involved in a Q&A session. The visit was thoroughly enjoyable and the girls got great insights into the world of a writer.

Halloween in the English Room

This October saw the annual tradition of "Halloween in the English Room" and students from class Slaney decorated the room in a suitably spooky way. All first and second years were brought to the room with their English teachers and got the opportunity to read the scary ghost stories and poems they had written. Well done to all the students involved on their creative and well-written efforts.

Ms. D. Callan

MODERN LANGUAGES

Open Night in Room 12 was a great success. Each language department organised an interactive corner. Pupils from the local primary schools enjoyed learning numbers in German, short dialogues in French and participated in a quiz in Spanish.

Ms. N. Walker

Spanish Language and Culture Trip to Seville: 25th -28th September 2010

During these dark, cold, winter days I'm sure that all twenty four students of Spanish and four staff members (Mrs Hughes, Ms Aird, Mrs Moggan and Mrs Lennon) look back and happily remember our four magical days in sunny Spain! We all savoured the sunshine as we enjoyed the magnificent city of Seville with its ancient castle, cathedral and bullring. Our evening at a Flamenco show was memorable as was getting wet in the Isla Magica

theme park. I think all of us thoroughly enjoyed the trip which was greatly enhanced by the wonderful behaviour of the students.

Mrs A. Hughes

Memories of Seville

On our first day in Seville we had a guided tour of the city. We visited El Alcazar which means castle and is used by the Spanish Royal family when they are in Seville. We also saw the Torre del Oro (Golden Tower) which was built by the Almohads to protect the city from the river side and keep Christian invaders from moving up the river El Guadalquivir, which is the second largest river in Spain.

On our last day in Spain we went on a day long excursion to Jerez and Cadiz which is on the coast. We had a picnic on the beach with lunches prepared for us by the hotel staff. While we were at the beach we sunbathed and went for a dip in the freezing



Students soaking up the culture in Seville

sea! After the beach we went to the main town square (Plaza Mayor) where we did some shopping and had lunch. On our return to Seville we went on a shopping spree in a large shopping mall on the outskirts of Seville and later had dinner there in T.G.I. Fridays.

Niamh Mangan and Laura Byas



Enjoying the lovely Spanish sunshine

Bhaineamar go léir an-tairbhe agus an-taitneamh as an obair – This school term has been an interesting and rewarding time for Roinn na Gaeilge in St. Mary's.

Bhí Taispeántas ar siúl sa scoil – Well done to all the students who prepared so well for "Open Night" which was held on Tuesday 21 September 2010. The Irish Area in Seomraí 27 agus 28 was beautifully decorated with Students' work from the many different Irish classes. The work, and indeed the endeavour, in putting together the worthwhile presentations by all the Irish classes were admired by everybody present on the night. None of this would have been possible, however, without the hard work, effort and dedication of all the Irish Teachers. Thanks to everybody for all their help and co-operation. Ní neart go cur le chéile!

Bhí dea-scéala againn maidir leis an gComórtas Díospóireachta a bhí ar siúl.

Cuireadh tús leis na Díospóireachtaí an Phiarsaigh arís i mbliana. Bhí Foireann Shóisearach agus Foireann Shinsearach ag díospóireacht sa chéad babhta den chomórtas agus bhí an-bhród orainn go raibh an Comórtas ar siúl inár scoil. Tá an comórtas seo á reachtáil ag Gael Linn do scoileanna dara leibhéal ar fud na tíre. Rinne ár bhfoirne tréan-iarracht agus bhí caighdeán an-ard ann i measc na scoileanna. Tá an-áthas orainn a rá gur éirigh go geal leis na cailíní.

Ar son na Roinne agus ar son na scoile, déanaimid go léir comhghairdeas leis na cailíní. Déanaimid comhghairdeas freisin leis na Múinteoirí a bhí acu, Iníon Ní Chonluain agus Iníon Ní Lúing – On behalf of Roinn na Gaeilge, and indeed on behalf of all the school community of St. Mary's, we congratulate the members of the teams. We must not forget their Teachers, Iníon Ní Chonluain and Iníon Ní Lúing. A more detailed Report on the Irish Debates is to found in this Newsletter. Maith sibh, a Chailíní, agus lean leis an obair iontach!

Tháinig an Comhlacht Amharclainne Oideachasúil 'Branar' chugainn –

On Wednesday, 20 October, Branar Theatre for Schools came to St. Mary's. All Fifth Year students and Iníon Ní Chonluain's Sixth Year Ardleibhéal class attended the workshops. Branar's secondary schools' programme focuses on using drama methods to enhance the students' understanding of the Irish element of the curriculum. Fun was a central element of the day's workshops, thus enhancing students' already

positive perspective of the Irish language through the medium of drama. Roinn na Gaeilge would like to thank Mrs. Lennon and the Board of Management for their generosity in part-funding this enterprise. Go raibh céad maith agaibh.

Cúrsa Nua Ardteiste – The Department of Education and Skills has introduced new changes to the Leaving Certificate Irish Course and these modifications are now being implemented in all Fifth Year Irish classes. These changes relate to the course content, to the examination layout and to the marking scheme for the Leaving Certificate Irish Examinations.

Turas go dtí an Ghaeltacht – Beidh turas ag dul go dtí Gaeltacht Ghaioth Dobhair i nDún na nGall i Márta 2011 D.V. An maith leatsa a bheith páirteach ann? On behalf of Roinn na Gaeilge, we would like to thank Iníon Ní Chonluain agus Iníon Ní Lúing for organising this trip.

Beannachtaí na nollag ó Roinn na Gaeilge.

Mrs. C. Bogan. Comheagraí – Roinn na Gaeilge.

Díospóireachtaí

Don chéad uair riamh chuir Meánscoil Naomh Mhuire isteach ar an gcomórtas díospóireachta de chuid 'Feachtas'. Is eagraíocht gaeilge í Feachtas agus reachtálann grúpa de mhic léinn ollscoile díospóireachtaí trí mheán na Gaeilge do dhaltáí meánscoile. Bhí foireann shinsearach na scoile seo ag díospóireacht in aghaidh Choláiste Belvedere – scoil ar bhfuil aithne mhaith again uirthí. Is é an rún a bhí á phlé ná 'Is saoránaithe maithe ias aos óg na tíre seo'. Bhí Meánscoil naomh Mhuire i bhfabhar an rúin agus rinne na cailíní a seacht ndícheall chun saoránacht ghníomhach an aos óig a léiriú sa tír seo. Ar an drochuair ní raibh an bua ag na cailíní ach ba thaithí iontach í don

fhoireann snas a chur ar a gcuid scileanna díospóireachta. Is iad na cailíní a bhí ar an bhfoireann shinsearach ná Lauren Craven (captaen) 5ú bl, Patrice Condon, 4ú bl, agus Eve Kavanagh, 4ú bl. Molaimid na cailíní as a gcuid iarrachtaí, agus go speisialta Lauren Craven a bhuaigh an cainteoir ab fhearr.

Cuireadh tús arís i mbliana le díospóireachtaí Gael Linn. Bhí áthás orainn áiseanna na scoile a chur ar fail do chéad bhabhta na díospóireachta, halla nua-mhaisithe na scoile san áireamh. Bhí foireann shóisearach chomh maith le foireann shinsearach ag díospóireacht i gcoinne na scoileanna seo a leanas:

- Coláiste San Doimín, Ascaill Uí Ghríofa
- Coláiste Chanel, An Chúlóg
- Coláiste Belvedere, Sráid Mhór na Danmhairge

Is é an rún a bhí á phlé ag na Sóisearaigh ná 'Tá deagóirí na linne seo ina sclábhaithe ag an Idirlíon'. Bhí na cailíní ag argóint ar son an rúin agus luaigh said bulaíocht idirlíon, easpa príobháideachais, agus an dáinséar a bhaineann leis an Idirlíon. Seo a leanas na hionadaithe a sheas an fód ar son na scoile – Eimear Tunstead, Jillian Caffrey agus Alyssa Corpuz.

Is é an rún a bhí ag na Sinsearaigh ná 'Ba cheart fáiltiú roimh Bhanríon Shasana go hÉirinn'. Rún fíor chonspóideach a bhí ann agus labhair na cailíní go láidir in aghaidh an rúin. Thaispeáin said go soiléir go mbeadh cuairt na Banríona chun na tíre seo ina chnámh spáirne dúinn. Is iad na cailíní a bhí ar an bhfoireann seo ná Patrice Condon, Shauna Caffrey agus Lauren Craven. D'éirigh leis an dá fhoireann ar an 11ú Deireadh Fómhair agus beidh an chéad babhta eile go luath i mí na Nollag. Comhghairdeas leis na cailíní uilig!

Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil le Roinn na Gaeilge us ucht na tacaíochta a tugadh dúinn ar lá na díospóireachta. Míle buíochas fosta don leas-phríomhoide agus don príomhoide.

N. Ní Chonluain, M. Ní Lúing



Eimear Tunstead, Jillian Caffrey agus Alyssa Corpuz



Patrice Condon, Shauna Caffrey agus Lauren Craven

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Little Chefs' Cookery Club

We are delighted that the Little Chefs' Cookery Club is up and running again this year, with first and second year students delighted with their baking and culinary wares. The students have enjoyed working with their friends and have gained huge confidence in their culinary skills...we may even have some potential Rachel Allens amongst us! This year the students have enjoyed making chocolate muffins, peanut krispie cookies, homemade pizza, chicken goujons with potato wedges, apple crumble, jam tartlets and many more dishes. The cookery club will continue for the last group after Christmas. Well done girls, we really hope you have enjoyed the fun of cooking with friends.

Ms. E. Doheny, Ms. C. Walsh

"READY...STEADY... COOK"

St. Mary's had great pleasure in welcoming St. Kevin's students back to the school to engage in the Transition Year module "Ready...Steady...Cook". This programme was initiated last year and allows students from both schools to do a module that is completely different from anything they have tried before. The boys have been excellent and are a pleasure to work with. They enjoyed making queen cakes, chocolate muffins, chicken goujons with wedges, homemade pizza, chicken fajitas with baked potatoes and chicken and pasta bake to name but a few of the dishes. The focus is on making simple dishes suitable for student life or cooking at home. A huge importance is placed on every dish being made from scratch,

Home Economics Transition Year Boys



maintaining the highest level of nutrition.

The girls have described their module in St. Kevin's as "brilliant" and are delighted that they were given the opportunity to do woodwork,

metalwork and first aid. They are making clocks and pencil holders, which I'm sure we can look forward to seeing on graduation night!

Ms. E. Doheny



Rebecca Wall – Little Chef



Niamh Gavin and Leeanne Tracey – Little Chefs



Katie Nolan and Lauren Doyle – Little Chefs

St. Mary's Christmas Cakes

A festive feeling brought some staff in St. Mary's Secondary School to participate in an after school Christmas Cookery course. The aim of the course was to show participants how to make and decorate their own Christmas cakes from scratch. The group stayed back after school once a week until the cakes were completely decorated. Although at times it was difficult, the teachers persevered with festive cheer in the hope that their creations would bring some Christmas magic to the staff room. Some fun times were had in the countdown to the Christmas holidays.

Thanks to all who participated,

Ms. C. Walsh



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The corridors of St. Mary's are well and truly alive with the sound of music. It's been an extremely busy term for the Music Department in St. Mary's.

Refurbished Music Room

Thanks to the success of the end of year 'Showcase' event funds raised were used for the refurbishment of the Music Room. The work done on the room has changed the room completely. The layout of the room is now different. We installed a digital projector which now projects the music notation software (Sibelius 5) onto the whiteboard. Wall mounted guitar hangers were hung as well as a music staved whiteboard. New lecture style chairs were bought to replace the individual chairs and desks. Overall the room has become more comfortable for the music students who use it and more efficient for the teaching of music. The room is another big step in the continual development and enhancement of the Music Department in St. Mary's.



St. Mary's School Choir

School mass

The year got off to a fantastic start with the school choir providing the school community with the joyous songs and prayerful praise at the opening school mass in September. The theme this year for the opening mass was, "Seeds of Hope". The choir sang a selection of appropriate hymns, including Tom Kendzia's beautiful song, "Endless is your love".

Tom Kendzia Music Workshop

The choir and 3rd year music students also participated in a choral workshop with renowned American liturgical

composer and conductor Tom Kendzia in October 2010. As a result of this workshop, the choir has been invited by Tom to perform in a concert with him on his next Irish tour.

Carol Concert All Hallows College

The School Choir was asked to be involved in an evening of Advent reflections and Carols entitled "Putting the soul into Christmas" in All Hallows College on the 9th December 2010. The Choir provided a selection of carols and many of the choir members sang solo pieces on the night. This was a lovely night and we are delighted to continue to be part of this annual event in the College.



School Choir workshop with Tom Kendzia

Christmas Carols – School Community and Marian House Convent Community

The School Choir helped the student body get into the festive mood with a selection of Christmas Carols at the end of term Christmas celebration. Members of the choir also teamed up with the student council to sing a selection of carols for the retired sisters of the Holy Faith Community in Marian House. Our convent community is always so delighted to see the students coming to visit, especially during the Christmas season.

There are many more exciting events planned for the choir this year.

Guitar Club

A new initiative started this year, which brings students together to be taught the basics of Guitar every Thursday at lunch time. There are two groups of ten students taking part in this club, they rotate the groups weekly. This provides a great opportunity for students to take up playing an instrument outside of class

time. We hope this club will help students discover their musical talent.

School Orchestra

A musical initiative has just started in the school (October 2010), whereby students who play a string or woodwind instrument now have the opportunity to join a 'chamber orchestra'. This small group rehearses every Friday from 8.15 – 8.50 a.m. It is hoped that this group will perform alongside the choir and also on its own, giving those students who are learning an instrument the chance to perform music in a fun and relaxed setting with other students.

6th year trip to the National Concert Hall

In October 2010, the Leaving Certificate music class attended a concert in the National Concert Hall on Gerald Barry's Piano Quartet No. 1 and also Bach's Cantata. This concert brought to life the set works they are studying for their Leaving Certificate.

Mr. C. Coll, Ms. M. O'Rourke

TY and 3rd years trip to the National Concert Hall

The current transition year students, along with the two third year music classes went to the 'Music in the Classroom' event in the National Concert Hall in November 2010. This concert was beneficial to Junior Cert students especially as the concert covered their set songs and set works. In addition, it was a great opportunity for all students (especially those in T.Y who have never studied music) to see a professional orchestra in a concert hall.



3rd Year Music trip to Concert Hall

VOYAGE SCOLAIRE À PARIS



On the 5th of December last fifty one students accompanied by six teachers travelled to Paris on a school tour. During the four day trip, students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the French culture and practise their language skills in a native setting. The group visited many of the capital's well-known sites including Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Louvre Museum, the Eiffel Tower and the Sacré-Coeur. They also enjoyed a boat trip on the River Seine by night and a fun-filled day in Eurodisney. An ever beautiful city was all the more magical at such a festive time of year and both students and teachers alike thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

Ms. M. Lenehan



P.E. DEPARTMENT

Activity Marathon

The PE department organised a very successful fundraising venture this term on the 23rd of November. All first and second year students participated in an activity marathon to



help raise much needed funds for the replacement of PE equipment. Judging by the elevated noise coming from the gym great fun was had by all. We would like to take this



opportunity to thank all students, sponsors and teachers for their support and we look forward to putting our new equipment to good use.

Halloween Fun

It was great to see the fun, frights and festivities in P.E. classes for Halloween week. The girls participated in a variety of games and activities to get them in the Halloween mood. We had witches and wizards, monsters and demons, all in the dark during blind man's bluff. This also caused great screams and shouts to come from the gym and gave us lots of laughs. It was great to watch and we hope the girls had just as much fun participating.



Who's for Tennis!

We got off to a great start this year with our new tennis nets. Each class had tennis as its first PE module and it seems we may have a few future stars in our midst. We had a teachers' tennis tournament and our club is up and running every Wednesday with the great help of Ms. Griffin.

Tag Rugby

Our first module for TYs this term was tag rugby and it was a great success. With the help of three development officers from the I.R.F.U. the girls were introduced to the game of rugby for a six week module. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the guys from the I.R.F.U. as they made the module a lot of fun for the girls and have sparked a lot of interest in the game among the Transition years.

Mrs. A. Moggan, Ms. D. Maher

Badminton

The badminton season has got off to a great start with seven teams representing Glasnevin in the Dublin League at Under 19, Under 16 and Under 14 levels.

Training takes place every Wednesday lunchtime and Thursday after school and is very well attended by all, with lots of fun and friendly rivalry between players.

League matches have already begun and all teams are performing extremely well with plenty of wins recorded. Well done girls – keep up the good work!

Mrs. A. Moggan

Basketball

Our basketball season got off to a great start again this year with four teams entered into the SSA league and the purchase of our new kit. Our senior Premier team, coached by Kieran Dunne, is unbeaten so far after great games against Drogheda and Manor House. We wish the girls every success in winning the league this year, especially after reaching the final last year. Big games to come are against Mount Sackville and Santa Sabina.

Our cadette team, coached by Mr. Gary Rooney, is entered in the Premier Division this year and has been hugely successful despite their young age at this level. The girls were narrowly defeated by just two baskets against Maynooth and beat Mount Sackville in a great game, 20-12. Santa Sabina are the next competitors and we wish the girls every success.

Our first and second years, coached by Ms. Murphy, are showing great potential in training so far this year. Their league begins with games against Dominicans and Manor House and we wish them every success.

Ms. D. Maher, Ms. E. Murphy



Tennis – Having a smashing time



Coaches from the IRFU putting some of our TY students through their paces in Tag Rugby



Some of the Under-19, Under-16 and Under-14 players competing in the Dublin Badminton League.

Gaelic Football

We are delighted to announce that Gaelic Football has returned to St. Mary's. With over seventy students showing interest we have entered Senior, Junior and first year teams into the Leinster League.

The seniors and juniors, coached by Mr. Donnelly and Ms. Maher, have shown excellent potential, displaying great skill and determination in all matches.

The seniors were narrowly defeated in their first game. However, they found their footing and beat Santa Sabina in a very exciting game of football. Our junior team beat local rivals Dominicans 2-10 to 1-5. With the skills shown on the day we feel we have every chance of winning the league if they can repeat this performance in the final two league games. All teams have been very well behaved on our trips and are a great credit to the school. Our captains Amy

O'Carroll (senior) and Kate Dwyer (junior) led by example and played pivotal roles in driving on our teams to success. Our junior captain Kate is currently out injured and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Our first years, coached by Ms. Cummins, are showing great potential already and have only been training since mid-term. We wish them every success in coming games against Manor House and St. Michaels.

Finally we would like to congratulate Aoife Nolan of Transition Year who won an U-16 All-Ireland Final with Dublin in August. According to match reports Aoife put in a strong performance on the day so well done to her!

Ms. D. Maher, Mr. W. Donnelly, Ms. A. Cummins

Hockey



First Year Hockey Team

***It's Hockey Time ...
It's Astro Time ...Hurrah!***

We had a great start to Hockey this year with the first years' Sports Day induction. This was a fantastic success, introducing the students to the many sports and activities that the astro pitch has to offer. The induction day resulted in a large number of new hockey players in first year!

In September we started with a first year introduction to hockey on Saturday mornings. The first years thoroughly enjoyed these sessions. We are now delighted to have two first year teams in the school.

We started our Leinster League matches in October. Great excitement mounted as the first year teams prepared for their first hockey matches. The girls were highly excited by the prospect of playing another school and took great pride in representing St Mary's in hockey. They played some closely contested matches and showed great skill and determination. They are now looking forward to preparing for the Northside League.

Our minor team, which is made up of second year students, started its games with great success this year. They have won their games against King's Hospital, The Teresian School and Loreto on the



Minor Hockey Team – 2nd Years

Green and are unbeaten to date. This is a great achievement in this year's Leinster League. Their enthusiasm has been fantastic. Well done to the minor team and keep up the winning spirit.

The senior team look forward to the Northside League and in preparation will take part in some friendly matches. Some of our senior team students also demonstrated their leadership skills with the first years by helping and preparing them at matches. Well done girls!

The students are also delighted this

year to get new hockey hoodies and new skirts. With our new gear, along with such enthusiastic and talented players, we will look great and play great. The future of hockey is bright. We highly recommend everyone to come along and join in.

**Go Astro ... Be Active ...
Play Hockey!!**

**Ms A. Boran, Ms B. Nolan, Ms D. Maher,
Ms J. Gavin, Ms O. Griffin,
Ms O. O'Keefe.**

Soccer

There has been a huge interest in soccer this term, particularly among our new First Year students. In November our First Year team took part in the North Dublin Futsal Cup and won. They did the school proud and were greatly helped by assistant coaches Nicole Joyce, Ciara Callery and Lauren Dolan.

The Under 14 team have played two games so far this term and we are delighted to say that they have won on both occasions.

The Under 19 team played their first league match this term and are looking forward to a busy match schedule in the coming terms.

Training takes place after school every Wednesday. Well done to all who have worked so hard this term.

Mr. P. Kelly

HIP HOP

Hip Hop classes for first year students take place every Monday lunchtime in the gym. Two talented sixth year students, Lorna St. Ledger and Isobel Dalglish are responsible for putting the juniors through their paces. Lorna provides the dance expertise and Isobel the music and they are proving to be quite a formidable team. The first year students are really enjoying the classes and we look forward to seeing them perform their dance later on in the year!

Mrs. A. Moggan

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Junior Students busy during Science Week

Science Week

The week was kick started with great enthusiasm by class 1 Derg. Three girls from the class described their Bubble Show adventure in DCU, which they had attended with their teachers Mrs. O'Keefe and Ms. Walsh.

Science week took place from the 7th to the 14th of November. Its aim was to introduce and make science available to all. It showed how science is relevant in everyday lives. The first science week started in 1996. This year there were four hundred events across the country. It was organised by

Discovery Science and engineering schools, libraries, universities, Institutes of Technology, community groups and industry. St Mary's got involved by having events like the science quiz between teachers and sixth year pupils, which the pupils won! There were also dissections in the science laboratory and a first year class was selected to go to the bubble exhibition in DCU.
By Ana Collins (1 Derg)

My class and I went to DCU for a Bubble exhibition. The man who was showing us the bubbles explained why bubbles change colour. He put smoke into them and when he popped them the smoke leaked from the bubble. It was amazing! On Tuesday at lunch time I went to the lab with my friends

and there were lots of things happening. I did an experiment on a lamb's heart. We were shown how to dissect it and look at the different veins and the different parts. It was a great science week.

By Helen Martin (1 Derg)

On Monday, the 8th of November, class 1 Derg went to see a Bubble Exhibition. We left at 11:00 and walked to DCU. It was interesting to see what you can do with bubbles. The scientist was good and he had a lot of equipment. He was able to blow bubbles with his hands. The show was about an hour long, and it was a good day. He tried making his experiments funny and he made people laugh a lot. Students and teachers enjoyed the show.



Class 1 Derg at D.C.U. Bubble Show.



First Year Students experience the Bubble Show in D.C.U.



Dr. Malachy McCann of the Chemistry Department NUI Maynooth giving his talk on 'Poisons in Medicine' to fifth and sixth year chemistry students.



Dr. McCann and fifth year students Megan Haverty, Claire Lillis and Niamh McArdle demonstrating how anti-cancer agents work.

By Órla McLoughlin (1 Derg)

Well done to our third year students who competed keenly in a science table quiz on Friday 12th November. Congratulations to the winning team of Malwina Grondzewska, Megan Stamp, Orla Kavanagh, Jodie Maher and Siobhan Duffy, who each received the book "How Science Works". The team in second place consisted of Kate Pajarillo, Ranzanellie

Caranay, Jane Fabian and Kimi Umpad and in third place were Isabel Reid, Michaela Topley, Emer Flanagan and Cheyenne Whelan.

Science week finished off with a bang as Transition Year students discovered what it is like to be a rocket scientist. Dr. Cindy Liu of DIT Kevin Street shared her experiences of working on the China Space Programme.

BIOLOGY

One Good Idea Project Competition

Well done to the two groups of Biology students that entered the above competition. They were awarded certificates for their participation in the 'One Good Idea Project', which was organised by The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. This competition gave students the opportunity to discuss and debate issues such as climate change and ways in which one can become more energy efficient.

Sixth Year Ecology Fieldtrip

Sixth year Biology students participated in ecology fieldwork activities in the Phoenix Park on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th September. Activities for the students included carrying out a quantitative and qualitative study of the habitat as well as identifying flora (plants) and fauna (animals). The students were also shown how to correctly use various pieces of equipment and how to

investigate the three abiotic factors in the habitat.

Independent Academy Seminars

Many sixth year Biology students expressed interest in attending two Biology seminars on Saturday November 6th and Saturday December 4th in the Independent Academy on Dawson Street. The first seminar concentrated on the topic of Respiration while the second seminar focused on Photosynthesis.



Irish Heart Foundation Talk
Aideen Lynch from the Irish Heart Foundation visited the school on Friday 19th November and gave a talk to all the Transition Year students as well as to all fifth year Biology students.

Science Department
Ms. B. Nolan, Ms. R. McCormack, Mr. E. Carr, Ms. O. O'Keefe and Ms. M. O'Donnell



"Rain, rain go away!" – The girls just before their fieldwork began



The importance of recording their fieldwork



Equipment such as pooters, bioviewers and sweep nets allow for the collection of fauna.



The use of a key to identify flora and fauna



The use of a beating tray to catch fauna

Beginning of the School Year Mass 2010

This year the school Mass took place on the 6th of October in our Lady of Dolours church. The theme chosen for this year's Mass was 'Sowing the seeds of Hope'. The readings chosen reflected this theme. They invited us to look forward to this year as a time during which we grow towards realising our gifts and potential. Ms. Byrne highlighted the theme of hope by referring to our new First Year Students. She outlined the historical and religious significance of the Irish lakes after which the first year classes are named. Fr. Mundow was our celebrant.

Through movement, use of incense and plaintive music we were drawn into the heart of the Eucharist at the offertory. As ever, the choir under the direction of Mr. Coll and Ms. O'Rourke raised our hearts.

Following the Mass, we had the Prefect Commissioning Prayer and the Sixth Year Prefects were formally presented to the school community.

Third Year Trip to the Mosque

This year all Third Year students went to the Mosque at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh. This was part of their Religion Journal work title: 'A Study of the way in which Religious Faith is expressed in the place of worship.'

Classes Tory and Arran went on the 14th of October with their teachers Ms. Byrne and Ms. Devaney, while classes Achill and Lambay went on Monday 1st November with Ms. Bohan and Ms. Kavanagh. Class Valentia plan to go in the New Year with their teacher Mr. Coll.

We were met by a guide, Wira, who was from Singapore. He showed us around the Centre explaining its various functions. The facilities include: a gym, a school, a hairdressers as well



as the Mosque. He spoke about Islam and Muhammad and showed us pictures of Mecca and Medina. These are the two holy cities associated with the life and teachings of the prophet.

The interior of the Mosque is stunningly beautiful. It is carpeted throughout and filled with natural light, the walls decorated in mosaic patterns. The walls were covered with the writings of the Shahada and to the left was a simple press containing copies of the Koran. On the upper floor there is a balcony reserved for the women who attend. There are no chairs in the Mosque as Muslims pray on a prayer mat and assume different positions including standing and prostrating. Out of respect we removed our shoes before entering the space. While inside we sat down and Wira continued to share the meaning of his faith with us.

Our visit to the Mosque was both informative and enjoyable.

Ms. L. Bohan, Ms. F. Kavanagh

November Prayer Service of Remembrance

A prayer service of remembrance was held in the Prayer room on Wednesday 24th November at 1:15 pm. During the month of November we remember those close to our hearts who have died. This prayer service was an opportunity for students and staff to take time out to pray for friends

and family who have died.

Students from class 5 Bronte helped with the proceedings by saying readings and prayers. Also some members of the choir sang at the prayer service accompanied by Mr. Coll.

Ms. M. Byrne

First Year Mini-Retreats

All first year classes took part in a mini retreat in St. Mary's Hall with Ms. Byrne. This retreat was an opportunity for the first years to talk about themselves and how they are finding their time in St. Mary's. It also gave the girls an opportunity to reflect on how they can work together as a class while still respecting each other's individuality.

Ms. M. Byrne

T.Y. Retreats

On the 28th September, we went on a retreat to Emmaus in Swords. Firstly we were introduced to three of the people who would bring us through the day. We did different group activities and the first one we did involved us separating into small groups, sitting in rows and passing a tennis ball from one end to the other without dropping it, only using our feet. This caused a lot of confusion and was a great laugh. Our group won of course because we're "winners"! Then the groups were separated and we had "circle-time" with one of the Emmaus mentors. Our mentor was Gearód. We

shared personal stories one at a time and there was no pressure. Gearód was very helpful and friendly. Then we had lunch (chicken curry), went to the gift shop and went for a walk around the grounds which were very nice and peaceful. After, we all got together to do a guided group meditation. It was really relaxing and most of us fell asleep. Overall, the day was great and really enjoyable.

Alison Greene McEnerney and Keeva O'Reilly
Class 4.28

Fifth Year Retreats

All fifth year students took part in retreats on Friday 10th and Tuesday 14th September in Marino Institute of Education. The retreats were organised and led by the Religion Department. The theme of the retreats was "Life Paths". During the day the girls got an opportunity to reflect on their paths in life. They explored their goals for the future and how they may achieve these goals. There was some fun thrown in; from running around after balloons to chatting over some Starbucks coffee.

Ms. M. Byrne

At the start of fifth year we were all a bit anxious. For girls like myself coming from Transition Year, we were all a bit worried about settling back into "exam" mode and if we would be able to handle the work load. For girls coming straight from third year, they didn't have a year of relaxing so I'm sure they found it stressful! This is why having the retreat at the start of the year was a good idea.

We were split into two groups so we would go on separate days, as there are a lot of fifth years. We made our way down to Marino College, one way or another for nine o' clock. We were allowed to go to Starbucks while we were waiting- a great privilege! After everyone arrived we filed into a hall and the teachers showed us a music video. Then we split up into groups of about ten and went off

RELIGION DEPARTMENT (contd.)



with different teachers. It was like a private session where we could express our worries and anxieties, and maybe admit that we all have little faults in the way we act or view life.

We set ourselves goals for the year and also read the poem "A Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost (my favourite poet) to remind us that the choices we make can decide our futures. We had lunch in the canteen, and you could tell that everyone was either emotionally tired or a little bit more relaxed!

After lunch we played a game outside, where we all had a balloon tied to our legs. If you weren't careful, the balloon could pop, and the goal was to pop everyone else's balloon. It was just a bit of good fun and we all had a laugh—especially when one balloon had to be chased before it blew away!

The last thing we did on the retreat was come together and have a prayer service. Emotions were running high at this point, but it was a lovely idea. We even got the chance to say aloud our own prayers for Prayers of the Faithful, if anyone wanted to ask for help with something or pray for someone. We all had to light our own candle and put them together, which I suppose shows that we all burn brighter together!

The day was a nice break from the drudgery of school and gave us fifth years a lot to think about.

Aoife Harbison

In September a large group of our sixth year students headed out to Balscaddan Beach in Howth, Co. Dublin to participate in their fieldwork activity on marine deposition. This year over seventy of our Leaving Cert. students are sitting geography and this fieldwork module is worth 20% of the final examination. The fieldwork involved a couple of weeks planning in the classroom, the work on the beach, and the follow up of analysing and presenting a written report of one

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

thousand words. Well done girls! You have done a great job in preparation for your exam. We would like to compliment this year's students on their cooperation which resulted in a very enjoyable day for all.

This term TY students have been studying the natural disasters of the world. It has been an interesting journey from Iceland to New Orleans to Indonesia; discovering the differences between disasters in less economically

developed countries to those in more developed regions and trying to put human faces to the many that lost their lives. The students completed some fantastic projects which included hurricanes, heat waves, floods and fires and lots of tectonic movement. We even took a look at some of the world's more bizarre occurrences...raining fish in Australia, exploding lakes and the giant snake killing cats of St. Pierre!

We are delighted to announce that we are planning a new Geography Film Club starting in the New Year. We intend to show a film/documentary at lunchtime in the geography room one or two times a month. These will be aimed at both senior and junior students. We hope to both enhance and broaden their learning experiences in the study of geography. Students may bring their lunch, relax and enjoy!

Ms. S. Mahon



MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Maths department and all students in the school had a busy, eventful, exciting, fun-filled first term. Both first and fifth years were introduced to statistics which is one of the new strands on the Project Maths course. This new strand generated great discussion of mathematical class content and students were eager to participate in class discussions. Thanks to the helpers in the Maths Club. They met first years every Thursday in the library to engage in problem solving. Well done to Patricia O'Beirne who was invited to take part in the warm-up classes for the International Mathematical Olympiad training programme in the University of Maynooth. The following events proved very exciting and stimulating for the students involved.

Mathematical Modelling Summer School

On the 21st-25th June, Katherine Joy Leal from class 6.37 and Suzanne Escalante from class 6.34 travelled to the University of Limerick for MACSI (Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry) mathematical modelling summer school 2010. Approximately fifty second level students ranging from 16-18 years of age from around Ireland were awarded a place in this residential summer school. Overall the girls felt that the

mathematical summer school offered them a glimpse of mathematical modelling in action, with visits to industrial sites such as some of MACSI's industrial partners, RUSAL Aughinish, Vistakon and Analog Devices. The girls also developed their problem solving skills and learned about various applications of maths. They really enjoyed two lectures in particular; the lecture given by Ms. Sarah Mitchell on the mathematics behind Origami and the lecture given by Mr. James Gleeson which focused on Modelling randomness and complexity. Suzanne and Catherine participated in some Physics tricks where they did Physics related experiments. The girls thought that the week was a worthwhile experience as they learned a lot about mathematics and applications of maths in domains as varied as the aviation industry and art. The students were grateful to Ms. Murphy who organised the event and travelled to Limerick with the girls.

Maths Week

Maths Week was celebrated in St. Mary's from the 9th-16th October. This week coincided with National Maths Week. Spirits were high in St. Mary's that week as an array of activities was hosted in the school, catering for each year group. The following is an outline of the events.



First years posing on the Maths Trail



First years enjoying the teamwork



First years standing in front of a clue



L to R: Aoibheann Brady, Olwyn Galbraith, Rachel Mc Mahon and Charlotte Smith were the winners of the trail.



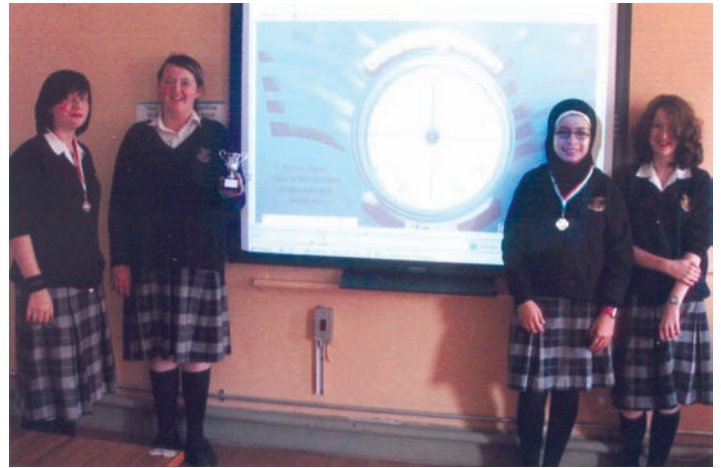
Katherine Joy Leal and Suzanne Escalante

- **First Years** – Well done to the many students who won prizes for the Maths poster competition based

on the theme of 'BEMDAS'. The winning posters were proudly displayed in the various classrooms. All first years were very excited on



L to R: Antonia Blankenberg, Lauren Clarke, Niamh Whelan and Katie Franzoni)



Winners of the 'Countdown Champion' competition

the Friday of Maths Week as they all walked down to the Botanic gardens with some maths teachers to eagerly participate in a maths trail. The aim of the maths trail was to give students the opportunity to solve maths problems outside the classroom.

- **Second Years** – An afternoon table quiz was organised for all second year students. There were many differentiated maths questions in the various rounds. The table quiz winners are pictured above left.
- **Third Years** – All third years had the opportunity to participate in the 'Countdown Champion' competition. Students competed against each other and the 'Countdown Champion' cup was presented to Laura Byas. Second, third and fourth

place were awarded to Sarah Farrell, Rana Khalil and Meagen Ledden, pictured above right.

- **Transition Years** – All TY students took part in the Hamilton Walk to Broombridge. They also involved themselves in the National Maths PRISM competition which is an annual event run every year in Ireland during Maths Week. It involves a series of problem solving mathematical questions for secondary school students. Well done to Ciara Ryan and Orla Fennelly (pictured below) both from classroom 4.27 who were the school winners in the competition. In addition to the aforementioned activities, TY students also enjoyed a maths class solving Sudoku puzzles!
- **Fifth Years** – Fifth Year students did one of the

following during their maths classtime. They either watched snippets from 'The Story of Maths' video by Marcus Du Sautoy, did Sudoku puzzles or they participated in a 'Maths 'n Music' lesson with Mr.Coll. The music lesson related to maths as Mr. Coll allowed the students to discover how note values can be transferred into a rhythm. Each specific note has an individual value of usually 0.5, 1, 2, or 4 beats. The number values were important in order to make

up a rhythm that would work. All the fifth year maths students involved in the lesson placed themselves in groups and made up bars of music with four beats in every bar. The students then thoroughly enjoyed performing their rhythms.

- **Sixth Years** – They had an opportunity to attend a careers talk given by Orla Donoghue regarding Science/Maths courses that are available at U.C.D.



Students from fifth year performing their composed rhythms



Winners L to R: Ciara Ryan and Orla Fennelly



TY's using problem solving techniques in the PRISM competition

TY Maths Trip to a Trigonometry Talk

The forty five TY honours maths students attended a trigonometry talk on Tuesday 9th November from 10.50am-1.00pm in Ballymun library. The talk was entitled 'How Trigonometry is used to make your iPod' and it was given by Michael Mc Carthy. The girls were told of the importance of trigonometry and how the knowledge of trigonometry is invaluable in the making of an iPod!

Ms. M. O'Donnell

GREEN SCHOOLS WEEK

We had a great Green Schools week which ran from Monday the 22nd to Friday 26th November. There were lots of activities running throughout the week, e.g. competitions, quizzes, check your carbon footprint, green accessories day, Captain Re-cycle and live music was played at lunchtime. The best result is that classrooms are cleaner as the girls are keeping their environment litter free. The green bins are filling up which is fantastic as this means there is less rubbish in the black bins. We are well on our way to achieving a 'Green Flag' for St. Mary's.

Thank you to all the staff and pupils for supporting the Green Movement. A special thank you to Mr. Coll and his singers Amy Hansard and Ranzanellie Caranay for the live music at lunch time. Well done to "Captain Recycle" and "Side-Kick" also!

Keep an eye on our Green notice board on the second corridor for updates and news.

Mr. W. Donnelly

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Class of 2010

HETAC

9 Students

Economics, Law and Politics
Languages
Analytical Science
Aviation Management
Common Science (2)
European Business & French
Journalism (deferred)
Contemporary Culture & Society

DIT

4 Students

Common Engineering
Nutraceuticals in Health & Nutrition
Business and Management
Business & French

BLANCHARDSTOWN IT

4 Students

Sports Management and Coaching
Business (3)

DUNDALK IT

Youth and Community

TRINITY COLLEGE

2 Students

Nursing (2)

UCD

5 Students

Arts & 1 deferred
Law
Forestry
Veterinary Nursing

ST.PATRICK'S COLLEGE, DRUMCONDRA

Primary School Teaching

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND (NCI)

4 Students

Business (4)

NUI MAYNOOTH

4 Students

Arts (3 students)
Music Technology

TALLAGHT IT

European Studies

CORK IT

Interior Architecture

FETAC

Coláiste Íde

14 students

Portfolio Preparation in Art & Design
Association Football
Portfolio Preparation in Fashion & Textiles (3)

Education & Training

Health Administration (2)

Childcare

Office Administration

Pre-Nursing

Applied Ecology

Coláiste Dhulaigh

12 students

Portfolio Preparation Course (3)

Hairdressing (3 students)

Health Science (Pre-University Nursing)

Communications

Journalism

Theatre Studies

Outdoor Adventure Management

Pre-Nursing

Liberties

2 students

Social Studies & Social Care

Social Care

Crumlin College

2 students

Make up for Fashion and Media
Beauty Therapy

Plunkett College

Holistic Health & Massage

Ballsbridge College

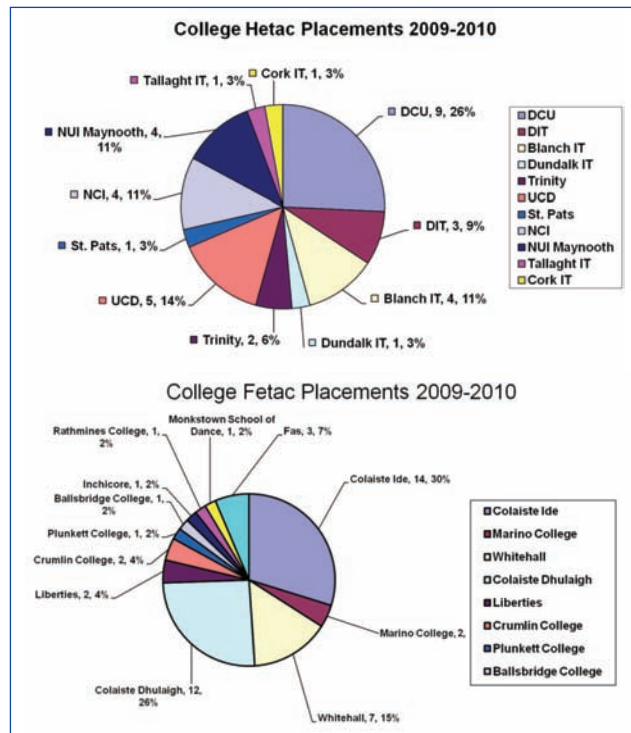
Event Management

Inchicore

Dance

Rathmines College

Office Administration



Modern Office Skills (5)

Sports & Leisure

Business

Tourism & Cosmetology (2)

Marino

2 students

Beauty Therapy

Pre-Nursing

Whitehall

7 students

Monkstown School of Dance

Dance

3 students

ECDL

Computer and Business (2 students).

GAP YEAR

3 students

REPEAT

3 Students

NUI Maynooth Award

Congratulations to last year's Sixth Year student Deirdre Coyle who won 1000 euro entrance scholarship award from NUI Maynooth for obtaining over 500 points in her Leaving Certificate. Deirdre is presently a First Year student at NUI Maynooth, studying Music Technology.

First Year

There was a meeting for First Year parents to highlight our programme to help the students settle into their new environment. The Year Heads and Form Tutors spoke to the parents about their roles and looked at the issues of healthy eating, homework and study, extracurricular activities and the results of the students' questionnaires.

Third Year

The Third Year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS) on November 22nd. These tests help the students to build up personal profiles of themselves. These help those going on into Fifth Year to make their subject choices. They are also of value to those students who are considering Transition Year. They enable them to explore subjects linked to their aptitudes. Each student will have an individual meeting with the guidance counsellors to receive feedback on the results of the DATS.

Higher Options

The 24th Higher Options Conference took place at the RDS, Ballsbridge on the 17th of September. Sixty-three Sixth Year students from the school attended the event and found it to be very informative.

Over 180 universities, higher education colleges, further education colleges, organisations and professional bodies were in attendance giving students an unrivalled opportunity to discuss college choices and entry procedures. It was an excellent opportunity for students to avail of information on choice and entry procedures to Irish and UK higher and further level institutions.

Careers Evening

A highly successful careers evening took place in St. Michael's in Finglas on Wednesday 3rd November. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth year students from St. Mary's, Beneavin De La Salle, St. Michael's, Colaiste Eoin and Mater Christi participated in the event. Over 47 colleges and organisations were in attendance on the night and it gave the students the chance to meet up with the college representatives to discuss their career options. There was a great turn out of students from St. Mary's at the event.

Better Options 2010

A unique one-day event for Sixth Year students with a disability or specific learning difficulty took place on Tuesday 30th November in Trinity College. This was a key event for students to learn about DARE – Disability Access Route to

Education; how to apply for DARE through the CAO and for examining what colleges and institutions of technology had to offer. The website for information is www.ahead.ie or for any queries please contact Lorraine Gallagher at ahead@ahead.ie

Tolka Area Partnership (TAP) formerly Finglas Cabra Partnership

*"I used to hate reading and I don't anymore".
"They really get us interested in the book which is good."*

The Better Reading Partnership (BRP), a project launched by the Tolka Area Partnership, began in St. Mary's in September. The programme helps young people improve their reading skills and gets them excited about books. Volunteers from our Sixth Year grouping participated in the training with the project co-ordinator Ms. Emma O'Connor to help First Year students improve their reading ability.

Sixth Year Talks

The Sixth Year students have participated in Third Level talks every Tuesday from early September. Speakers from Trinity College, NCI, DIT, Blanchardstown IT, Tallaght IT, DCU, NUI Maynooth, Liberties College, Senior College Dub Laoghaire, Whitehall College, UCD Science and Arts, Marino College and Colaiste Ide have been in attendance.

Mental Health

On November 29th, Allison Keating, a Registered Psychologist and the Director and Head Psychologist of the BWell Clinic in Malahide spoke with 6th years about 'Mental Health Issues for Teenagers'. Allison is a resident psychologist for TV3's "Ireland AM" and regularly participates in other TV and radio shows such as 'Teenage Lives' and 'How Healthy are you?' on RTE, Newstalk, Spin 103.8 and numerous other media outlets.

HEAR Scheme

A speaker from Mater Dei spoke with Sixth year students on Friday November 26th about the HEAR Scheme. This is a college and admissions scheme that offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The colleges participating in HEAR include DCU, DIT, Trinity College, Mater Dei, NUI Maynooth, St. Patrick's, Drumcondra and UCD.

The Hear Application Advice Clinics will take place nationwide on Saturday January 22nd for parents and students. See www.accesscollege.ie for locations and time.

Survival for Sixth Years

On November 30th, Ms. O'Keefe (BSc, MSc. Exercise and Nutrition) gave a presentation to Sixth Years on nutrition and lifestyle to help them prepare physically and emotionally for the Leaving Certificate.

Notice of up-coming career talks will be highlighted on the careers notice board on the Sixth Year corridor and on the notice boards in all Sixth Year classrooms.

Careers in the Medical Field

St. Vincent's University Hospital Seminar for Schools Programme was held on Monday 8th November. Twenty-eight Sixth Year students participated in the seminar. The career areas included Nursing, Dietetics, Medicine, Physiotherapy, Social Work, Radiography, Research Science, Occupational Therapy and Pharmacy.

16+Task Force

The 16+ Task Force was formed in 2007 to address the need for a multi-agency approach to meet the needs of young people aged 16 and over who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from service providers. It creates a structure and a process to work with individuals, placing paramount importance on their best interests. The task force has established a Service Directory, which maps out the roles of the services in the area and provides a simple and effective point of contact for other agencies and the young people in the Finglas/Cabra area. St Mary's is one of the services included in the directory and has been actively involved in the Task Force.

www.16plustaskforce.ie

Finglas Suicide Network

Finglas Suicide Network, based at 46-47 Mellowes Court, Mellowes Road, Finglas Dublin 11, is a community-based initiative supporting individuals, families and communities concerned and affected by suicide in a professional and culturally appropriate way. It is supported by CONSOLE through individual counselling and support groups.

CALL 8648899 for an appointment
CALL 1800201890 for Helpline

CAO /FETAC/ UCAS

In the weeks to follow, students will be deciding their college choices and filling out their CAO forms. A reminder to all Sixth Years, that if they apply by January 20th they will be able to avail of the 10 euro reduction in the application fee.

This year will also see a number of students applying to UK colleges through the UCAS system.

Students are also encouraged to start researching and applying for their FETAC courses in anticipation of interviews early in the New Year.

Reflection

"There are subtle pressures to keep up pace with a perfect world. Such a world doesn't exist or never will. It's a pace that can wear out, even the strongest. It is up to us to dictate our own pace through life, not what others think it should be at."

Author Unknown

Ms. C. Downey, Ms. F. Devaney

PARENTS' CORNER

New Members

A warm welcome to the huge numbers of parents who joined the committee. New members are always welcome.

We also have an "I can help list". This is for parents who want to help out when they can but don't want to join the committee.

If you want to contact us email:
Parents.stmarys@gmail.com

Parents at work – what does the Parents' Association do?

The Parents' Association meets every month or two and gets involved in a wide range of activities:

- Consultation on policies and decisions within the school.
- Support and recognition of the excellent work being done in the school by both the staff and pupils.
- Support for fellow parents – the Parents' Association ran the second hand book sale and the post graduation get together for 6th years and their parents.
- Fundraising- watch out for our various raffles and fundraising events during the year.

Anne Dermody,
Chairperson

COMPUTER CLUB



The Computer Club is open to all students every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime from 1.10-1.35pm. During the first term, students used the computer facilities to complete application forms, research information for history projects, play supervised online games as well as to view Google maps.

Students had the opportunity to use the computers during Maths Week and Science Week to look up sites such as www.mathsweek.ie, www.coolmath4kids.com and www.scienceweek.ie Well done to the first year students who logged

onto www.mangahigh.com/ireland to play free mathematical games such as 'Algebra Meltdown' and 'Pyramid Panic' during Maths Week. Megan Rothballer, Lauren O' Farrell, Sally Ahern, Ali Horan and Aoife Gleeson received certificates of merit for their participation in these mangahigh challenges! Students also used the Computer Club to log on to an online carbon calculator to measure their carbon footprints during Green Week.

All first and second year students were informed of the 'Smart Careers' competition which required each student to investigate a career of her choice and present her findings on a large A1 poster. Details of the competition were posted on the front of the computer room door. The students interested in submitting entries to the competition were asked to download the online application form at www.careersportal.ie/smartcareers.

Ms. M. O'Donnell

OPEN EVENING

On Tuesday 21st September St. Mary's hosted its annual "Open Evening". Primary school students with their parents/guardians were invited to visit our school. Our own students acted as guides and visitors enjoyed a tour of the many facilities on offer in St. Mary's e.g. gym, library, cinema, interactive whiteboard room, computer room, science laboratories, home economics rooms, art rooms and other specialist rooms. The school canteen was also included in the tour.

Well done to all the staff and students for their enthusiasm and hard work. We would also like to extend a sincere thanks to the parents, guardians and members of the wider school community for their support of the school on "Open Evening" and throughout the school year.

Continuing the positive trend in recent years an increase in numbers is projected for 2011-2012, so much so that demand for entry exceeds the supply of places available in St. Mary's.

Ms. C. Nolan

ST. MARY'S STUDENT COUNCIL

The members of our school student council 2010-2011 are:

6th Year: Catherine Cormican (Liaison with Prefects), Aisling Martin (Chairperson), Alison Martin, Ellen O'Connor and Delina Sava.

5th Year: Aisling Ahern (Vice-chairperson), Hannah Caffrey, Melissa Kitchin, Niamh McArdle (Secretary) and Meaghan Rose-Nel.

4th Year: Eve Kavanagh and Áine Dempsey (PRO)

3rd Year: Laura Byas and Rana Khalil

2nd Year: Robyn Molloy, Ciara King and Antonia Blankenberg

1st Year: Emily Carrick, Sally Ahern and Lauren Doyle (October to February), April Lamai, Ali Horan, Jessica Rafter, Shauna Sheridan (February to June)

The Student Council has been very busy and active during the first term, meeting every two weeks and discussing student issues ranging from school scarves and uniform to getting involved in a Bumper Christmas Raffle in conjunction with the Parents' Association. The Student Council is the students' voice in the school and all are welcome to give their ideas through their year representatives.

Mrs. A. Hughes