



St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10 – NO. 2

December 2012

Special Honour for St. Mary's



Professor Mario Molina with senior Biology, Physics and Chemistry students

Chemistry Nobel Laureate, Mexican Ambassador and DCU President Create "Electric" Atmosphere on their visit to St. Mary's

On Wednesday, 21st November 2012, St. Mary's was privileged to welcome very prestigious visitors to our school. Professor Mario Molina from Mexico visited the school with Mexican Ambassador, His Excellency, Carlos Eugenio Garcia DeAlba, DCU president, Professor Brian MacCraith and CEO of Magnet Networks, Mr Mark Kellett. Professor Molina is the winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize for his work on atmospheric chemistry. He delivered a talk to all senior science students on his study of the effect of CFCs on the ozone layer for which he won the Nobel Prize. Afterwards, students got an

opportunity to ask questions. At the end of the discussion, students Patrice Condon and Leanne Boland thanked Professor Molina for his visit in Spanish. Head girl, Claire Concannon and Deputy Head girls, Ranzanellie Caranay and Patricia O'Beirne, then presented the Ambassador and the Nobel Laureate with Waterford Crystal bowls as mementos. It was a great honour for St. Mary's to have been selected for such a visit. The following week Professor Molina met President Obama in the White House!

Mr. E. Carr

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.

CONTENTS

Special Honour for St. Mary's	1
PE AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT	2
TY Hike in Howth	2
Activity Marathon	2
Halloween Games	3
Gaelic Football	3
Camogie	3
Hockey	3
ART DEPARTMENT	4
Art Club	4
The Casino in Marino	5
SPHE DEPARTMENT	5
TY Relationships and Sexuality	6
Alcoholic Anonymous	6
RELIGION DEPARTMENT	6
The Pope John Paul II Award	6
ROINN NA GAELIGE	7
Turas hun "An Triail" le Máiréad Ní Ghráda	7
Fógra tábhachtach ó Roinn na Gaeilge	7
Bua Scoil Naomh Mhuire i ndíospóireachtaí Ghael Linn	7
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT	8
The Mary Carroll Library News	8
Book to Film Club	8
MUSIC DEPARTMENT	8
DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING	9
HETAC	9
FETAC	9
Higher Options	10
DCU Access Achievement Awards	10
HEAR Scheme	10
DCU Oral Irish workshops	10
Discover DCU	10
Careers Evening	10
Third Year	10
Better Options 2012	10
Sixth Year Talks	10
CAO/FETAC/UCAS	10
PREFECT NEWS	11
HISTORY DEPARTMENT	11
Remembrance Day 2012	11
TRANSITION YEAR	12
NFTE	12
Self-Defence	12
Sociology	12
Trip to Howth	12
Causey Farm	12
The National Ploughing Championships	12
DCU Trip	13
European Studies	13
Transition Year Literacy Initiative	13
Film Studies	13
Trick or Treat for Temple Street	13
MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT	14
MATHS DEPARTMENT	14
September News	14
October – Maths Week	14
Junior Cycle Activities	15
Senior Cycle Activities	15
November – Maths Olympiad	15
December News	15
HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT	16
Little Chef's Cookery Club	16
An Bord Bia to visit St. Mary's	16
"Fashion and Design" Transition Year	16
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT	17
CSPE DEPARTMENT	17
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT	18
Open Night	18
Science Week	18
Ecology Field Trip	18
STUDENT COUNCIL	19
PARENTS ASSOCIATION	20
Oliver!	20

PE AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT

TY Hike in Howth



Team building hike to Howth Head

On Thursday, 18th of October, the TY students took part in a team building hike around Howth Head. All students participated to the full and completed their tasks with great enthusiasm and creativity. We were lucky to pick the one bright, sunny and dry day amidst the many windy and rainy ones in October. During the hike the students were encouraged to develop their team building skills of communication, co-operation and problem solving.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the day and the entertainment proved to be great as each team wrote and performed a group song. We look forward to many more trips to come with our TY students.



Leah Dalton (TY) who took place in the team building hike



Activity Marathon

On Wednesday, 14th November, all first and second year students took part in a fundraising Activity Marathon for the PE Department. All students participated with enthusiasm and had fun doing so. It was great to see all the bright colours displayed so well during Musical Mats, Ship Shore and the Numbers game. Thanks to all those who supported this venture. The PE department really appreciate it and we will be sure to put the money to good use, providing more fun and games for the whole school community.



2 Leinster at the Activity Marathon



1 Jasmine at the Activity Marathon

Open Night

We were delighted to welcome to the Gym the many Primary School students who popped in to see us on Open Night. A Challenge Corner was organised and managed by St. Mary's students and this proved to be a great success and our visitors did not need to be asked twice to participate. They entered into the spirit of the evening taking on the challenge of Standing, Long and High Jump, Indoor Javelin, Step Up, Basketball Shots and Skipping. They were ably coached and encouraged by the seniors. A great standard was achieved which bodes well for the PE Department and extra-curricular activities in the future.



First Year Leaders 'Shoot a Hoop' Open Night.



Mairead McDonagh First Year Leader Open Night.

Good Luck

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our teams competing in Basketball, Badminton, Camogie, Gaelic Football, Hockey, Soccer and Tag Rugby Tournaments all the best in the coming year. We hope you have an enjoyable and successful year and develop a lifelong love of sport through participation.

Tag Rugby Blitz

On the 9th of November, ten first year students were selected to attend a Tag Rugby Tournament Day in association with Leinster Rugby and DCU. The blitz took place in DCU grounds and there were over fifteen schools involving both boys and girls. The girls played every game with great enthusiasm and their skill level improved immensely as the day progressed. Each of the girls received a certificate and award from Leinster Rugby to mark her achievement. We would like to thank Leinster Rugby for providing the girls with this opportunity and we look forward to attending further rugby tournaments in the years to come.

Ms. A. Moggan and Ms. D. Meagher

PE AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Halloween Games



Gaelic Football

This year in St Mary's, we have the junior and senior Gaelic teams. Both teams have entered into leagues where they have played their first matches and both teams played extraordinarily well. The teams have excelled this year with training every Tuesday after school. All students have showed their dedication to Gaelic. With their new kit, the teams look very professional and we wish them and their managers, Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Byrne, the best of luck in their upcoming games.

Mr. W. Donnelly

Camogie

On the 25th of October, a group of students took part in a "Sport agus Spraoi" day in D.C.U. This was an initiative held by D.C.U. Camogie Club to promote the sport within the college. The girls involved were given the opportunity to partake in a series of seven a side matches. This was a great success for St. Mary's: they won five out of their six matches on the day. Great commitment was shown by all players throughout the games. It was clear that the Camogie skills were excellent. Following the matches the girls were shown around the campus itself by the leaders on the day. They also had the opportunity to meet Michael Murphy (Donegal Football Captain), Paul Flynn (Dublin Player) and Aileen Lawlor (President of the Camogie Association). The team spirit was evident for all to see and everyone greatly enjoyed the day. Well done to all who participated. We look forward to developing their skills further and building on this successful day.

Ms. Moloney and Ms. Shelly

Hockey

It's Hockey Time ... It's Astro Time

*...
Hurrah!*

In September, the new first year students took part in an introduction to hockey on Saturday mornings. The players thoroughly enjoyed the Saturday sessions. They were a fantastic success. It also introduced the new first year students to the many sports and activities that the Astro has to offer.

The preparation for the league matches commenced in September. Great excitement mounted as teams prepared for their first hockey matches. The girls were highly excited at the prospect of getting back into playing matches and they always take great pride in representing St. Mary's in hockey. The teams had a shaky start in their practice matches against Holy Faith, Clontarf. The Leinster League matches commenced in October. They played some closely contested matches and showed great skill and determination.

We now have two senior teams competing this year as our Junior C Champs from last year move onwards and upwards into the Senior 4 League. The Senior 4 team (4th Year) started their games with a 2-0 win against Loreto, St. Stephen's Green. The team played its second game against Santa Sabina. The enthusiasm for training and playing matches is fantastic. It will be a big challenge for the team this year as it



Junior Team - Third Years

moves into the senior league! Well done to the Senior 4 team so far and keep up the winning spirit! We wish them luck in this year's Senior Leinster League.

The Junior C team (3rd Year) played Dundalk Grammar in their first league game. They are looking forward to many more wins!

The Senior 3 team and first year beginners look forward to the Northside League and in preparation will take part in some friendly matches.

We are looking forward to the new hockey season this year and new players

are always welcome. With such enthusiastic and talented players, we will enjoy playing for and representing St. Mary's with great spirit and enthusiasm. We highly recommend everyone to come along and join hockey.

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

Ms. Boran, Ms. Maher, Ms. O'Keefe and Ms. Cunningham

ART DEPARTMENT

This year all art students from St. Mary's sought their visual inspiration from the National Botanic Gardens. Artwork was realised in a variety of disciplines. First year students explored, "Painting in Context", and created paintings of the gardens concentrating on natural forms. This work evolved into delicate embroidered hanging sculptures. Second year art students used the diverse plant life in the Botanic Gardens as a starting point for mask-making. They focused their photographic and drawn observations on natural forms that best described the art elements. Third, fifth and sixth year students examined the, "Sculpture in Context", exhibition at the gardens and made a kinaesthetic response to the artists' work.

As part of their study of Art History and Appreciation, fifth and sixth year students visited the Casino at Marino. The experience gave them valuable insights into this fine example of neo-classical Georgian Architecture. Third year art students have been busy developing their Junior Cert. project themes. The portfolio of work each student completes demonstrates her visual awareness, drawing skills and personal creative responses. Transition year students embraced literacy and numeracy in art when they printed book covers using lino-block. The narrative and sentiment of each book were explored in single colour prints which were exhibited in the school.

Cross-curricular links were made with the Maths Department and the S.P.H.E Department. Maths Week in October afforded students the opportunity to participate in the photographic 'Maths Eyes Competition'. Second year students also designed posters focusing on the mathematical proportions of the human figure. In S.P.H.E students used the principles of portraiture in paintings to explore issues relating to self-esteem and identity.

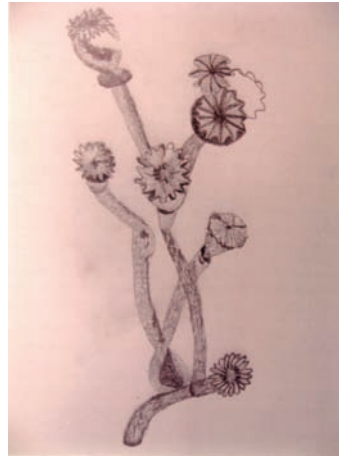
Ms. C. Kavanagh and Ms. N. Cunningham

Art Club

The Art Club continues this year, meeting on Fridays at lunchtime. All interested students have the opportunity to engage in Art activities led by Ms. Cunningham. In term one, students have had the opportunity to explore typography linked to poster design for the "Oliver" poster competition. Also Halloween fun, from origami bats to silhouette cats, was enjoyed by students of all ages. The second half of the term saw set design for "Oliver" All interested students had the opportunity to work on large-scale backdrops, small and large-scale props and to get involved with makeup and costume design. The term finished up with winter and Christmas festive fun decorations, card making and gift-wrapping ideas. We look forward to exploring animation in term two.



Ms. C. Kavanagh and Ms. N. Cunningham



"Sculpture in Context"

As fifth year Art students, our teacher Ms. Cunningham, very kindly brought us down to visit "Sculpture in Context" in the Botanic Gardens as part of our Leaving Cert. course.

We made the trip in our double class. The sculptures were all in relation to an aspect of the Botanic Gardens. We viewed a variety of different sculptures inside the gallery and also in the surrounding gardens. The sculptures were made from various different media including porcelain, metal, glass, textiles, wood and ceramics. They also varied in scale. Some were life-sized and others were on a smaller scale.

Having visited the "Sculpture in Context" exhibition and witnessed the huge number of amazing and original pieces, we were all influenced and inspired to create our own pieces. We designed and created our own interpretations and responses to the Botanic Gardens.

Our sculptures were personal and represented what we feel would feature well in the "Sculpture in Context" exhibition. This was definitely a very beneficial and inspiring trip.

Jodi Maher, 5 Nephin



ART DEPARTMENT CONTD.

The Casino at Marino

On the first of October, our Art class went to the Casino at Marino, located opposite Mount Temple School in Marino Park, Dublin. Constructed during the 1760s the Casino is a perfect example of Palladian Architecture in Ireland.

While in the Casino, we were taken on a tour and we visited each level of the Casino and learned a bit of history too. It was designed by Sir William Chambers, a British man who was employed by James Caulfield. Caulfield was a wealthy Irishman who went on the Grand Tour around Europe for a couple of years. While in Italy, he became influenced by Greek and Roman architecture and he yearned to bring his influences back to Ireland. He did just that with the Casino at Marino.

The Casino was built for three reasons: entertainment, pleasure and impressing friends. No one really lived there, and

only the rich and privileged got to step inside. Outside, the building is in the shape of a Greek cross surrounded by Doric columns. The glass in the windows is curved so that you can't see inside, allowing for some privacy, and four lion statues sit at each corner of the building. Inside, the walls and ceilings are beautifully decorated with stucco plastering and ebony wooden floors are present in almost every room. The ceiling in the library is covered with Zodiac signs and another room has the head of Apollo and a glowing sun behind it.

There are examples of floral wallpaper influenced by Chinese and Asian designs and flamboyant rooms coloured in purples, greens and golds.

The rooms in the Casino are really magnificent to see and the outside of the building really sets the tone for the tour. It was quite a privilege to go and see it first hand, but there's no doubt in my mind that it did the three jobs it was built for: entertainment, pleasure and impressing friends.

Alison Greene McEnerney
6 Sycamore



SPHE DEPARTMENT

First year

Settling into first year is a daunting task. In first year SPHE we aim to help students through this tricky change. The students have had the opportunity to take part in discussions and activities that deal with the idea of change and to learn coping techniques. They have explored the language of emotions and how to express themselves. The topic of bullying has also been discussed in class and in the 'Bully 4 U' talk received in October. Halloween party and stay safe tips saw the end of the first half of term one. Study aids, plans and self-management, as well as communication brought us to the end of the term. Well done to all the girls in first year for their enthusiasm.

Second year

Having settled back in, second year students began by reflecting on the changes they have experienced since first year. They have set themselves goals for their future, looked at academic language and created posters to aid their understanding of these key terms. This linked in with Maths week, so they also focused on mathematical terms and created gorgeous posters for the school.

The SPHE department has linked in with Ms. Cunningham's second year art students on a cross curricular project. All second year SPHE students have explored ideas relating to self-esteem, self-confidence and body image. In the Art room,

they then have the opportunity to explore this topic on a personal, visual level. The final result saw terrific self-portraits with strong personal reflections, symbolism and self-expression.

Study skills for the winter exams and the topic of communication through role-play and games brought them to the end of the term. Well done second years for all your hard work.



Ms. N. Cunningham

TY – Relationships and Sexuality

This year TY students experienced a brilliant new module on Relationships and Sexuality. In this module we learned about LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) people and how they are discriminated against and often bullied and the need to promote tolerance in the school. We also learned about STIs, different methods of contraception, addiction and mental health. In the month of October we discussed Breast Cancer and learned how to do a self breast check.

Alcoholic Anonymous

On October 5th, all transition year students had a talk from AA (Alcoholic Anonymous). We watched a short documentary on how alcohol addiction affects people from young to old. There were three speakers who explained what the AA does to help addicts and spoke about their own experiences with alcohol addiction. It was interesting and upsetting to hear how they felt their addiction was like a trap they couldn't break out of. At the end there was a question and answer session in which they answered our questions very honestly. They then finished with the prayer they say at the end of all their meetings.

Katie Franzoni and Lucy Carroll

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

The Opening of School Year Mass

The School Mass took place on Wednesday, 10th October, in Mother of Divine Grace Church, Ballygall. It was concelebrated by Fr Brendan Quinlan and Fr Jim Caffrey, the Parish Priest from Iona Road. He came to meet his former students who are now in First Year.

The theme of the Mass this year was, "Olympic Values in the Year of Faith". It acknowledged the great achievements of the athletes at the London 2012 Games and the qualities they personified such as strength, courage, determination, achieving one's goals and using one's gifts and talents. This theme was combined with the Year of Faith which began on 11th October, which was also the anniversary of the death of Margaret Aylward.

The Mass began with an address from Sr. Antoinette about Margaret Aylward and the ethos of the Holy Faith Order. She explained how they link in with the values of

the Olympic Athletes and our own students as they strive to reach their goals and use their talents to their advantage during this academic year. The theme of the Mass encouraged them to be the best that they could be academically, socially and spiritually as we journey through this year together.

Ms. Sullivan and Head Girl, Claire Concannon, read a reflection on Olympic values and how we can incorporate them into our lives. This was accompanied by a procession of Olympic Flags, representing each year group. All of the class names were drawn onto the Olympic rings. These flags were placed on the Altar for the duration of the Mass.

Our readers, Patricia O'Beirne and Kate Lawlor, did an excellent job, as did all of our readers for Prayers of the Faithful. They were assisted by the beautiful singing of Emma Humber who sang the Responsorial Psalm. The Offertory Procession involved a very spiritual dressing of the Altar, beautifully done by all of the girls involved.

After Communion the Commissioning of the Prefects took place around the Altar. The girls were led in their prayer by Head Girl, Claire Concannon and Deputy Head Girls Patricia O'Beirne and Ranazennaille Caranay. They received a well deserved round of applause for the commitment they made to do their best during the year ahead. This was followed by a reflection, read by Eve Kavanagh, on Katie Taylor and how her faith in God helped her to reach her goals and overcome all obstacles. It showed the importance of faith and God in her life.

The singing of the choir, under the direction of Ms O'Rourke and Mr Coll, really enhanced the Mass.

We, in the Religion Department, would like to thank all those who participated in the Mass and made it such a memorable and spiritual occasion. We would particularly like to thank Sr. Irene who was such a great help to us in setting up the Church.

Ms. L. Bohan

November Prayer Service for the Dead



On the 19th of November, we gathered in the prayer room for our annual prayer service for the dead. This was a nice opportunity for students and staff to come together to remember our loved ones who have passed away. Students read some readings from scripture and some reflections. All present were invited to remember their loved ones by writing their names on autumn paper leaves and placing them on the remembrance tree. It was a nice way to pray for our loved ones and to think of them at this time of year.

Mr. C. Coll

The Pope John Paul II Award

This year, senior students in St. Mary's have been given the opportunity to take part in the Pope John Paul II Award. The award was created to commemorate the late John Paul II who was so committed to young people and who had such belief and confidence in them. The award aims to enable young people to see that religion and faith are not just for learning, nor are they a list of rules, but that they are for living. It is committed to helping young people enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development through participation in school, parish and community activities.

Ten senior students from St. Mary's have volunteered to take a more active part in the life of their Church and in the life of their community. Our students will earn their award by dedicating two hours every week for twenty weeks, working within their parish and in their local community. It is a big commitment on their part and we wish them every success in this initiative.

Ms. C. Murtagh

ROINN NA GAEILGE

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 25 September 2012. The Irish Area in Seomra 1 Fraoch (Heather) 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!

Mrs C. Bogan

Turas chun "An Triail" le Máiréad Ní Ghráda a fheiceáil in Amharclann Uí Rathaille

Chuaigh rang ón gCúigiú Bliain go hAmharclann Uí Rathaille chun an drama "An Triail" le Máiréad Ní Ghráda a fheiceáil le déanaí. Tá an drama seo ar shiollabas na hArdeistiméireachta agus ba dheis iontach í seo chun an dráma a fheiceáil beo ar an stáitse. Bhain na cailíní an-taitneamh as an eispéireas seo a chur go mór lena dtuiscint ar an dráma

conspóideach, cruthaitheach agus dúshlánach seo.

Fógra tábhachtach ó Roinn na Gaeilge

Mar is eol do chách tá 40% ag dul don scrúdú cainte san Ardeistiméireacht agus ní mór do gach duine a bheith ag cleachtadh a gcuid Gaeilge go rialta. Tosaíonn an obair seo sa chéad bhliain. Is i ndiaidh a chéile a thógtar na caisleáin mar a deirtear!

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir agus go raibh bliain úr mhaith agaibh ina dhiaidh!

Bua Scoil Naomh Mhuire i ndíospóireachtaí Ghael Linn

Reachtáladh díospóireachtaí Ghael Linn sa scoil Deardaoin, 8 Mí na Samhna. Ghlac foireann shóisearach agus foireann shinsireach páirt sna díospóireachtaí seo. Chruthaigh Adela Bulliman, Chloe Dalton agus Amy Boylan, a bhí ar an bhfoireann shóisearach, go hiontach sa chéad díospóireacht I gcoinne Coláiste Loreto ar an bhFaice Mhór agus Scoil Cailíní Bhaile Formaid. Bhí an bua ag Scoil Naomh Mhuire. D'éirigh thar cionn le Gillian Caffery, Eimear Tunstead agus Eimear Martin a bhí ar an bhfoireann shinsireach chomh maith agus tá áit bainte amach acu sa chéad díospóireacht eile.

Guimid gach rath ar an dá fhoireann a bheidh ag dul ar aghaidh go dtí an chéad bhabhta eile sa chomórtas. Míle buíochas le foireann Roinn na Gaeilge a chabhraigh go mór leis na foirne agus a d'eagraigh oíche iontach shiamsaíochta do chách.

Mrs. M. Devine and Ms. L. Groszewski



Senior Team.

Awards

In keeping with tradition, an award ceremony was held in December to reward junior students for their contribution both academically and socially to the school.

Congratulations to all!

Ms. A. Hughes and Ms. E. Higgins

Third Year Trip

The Year Heads and tutors of third year brought all the third year students for a group bonding day to the Zoo in the Phoenix Park on Tuesday, the 23rd October. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Ms. M. O'Donnell and Ms. O. Griffin



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The Mary Carroll Library News

Our new computerised system has been purchased and we have already

uploaded over two thousand books onto the system! We hope to have all our fiction books uploaded by the end of the school year. Once all the fiction books have been uploaded we can begin using the new system to check out books. This means that students can also search our catalogue and renew books from home.

Library Opening Hours

A reminder that the library is open Monday to Friday at lunchtime, 1.00–1.40.

Library Notice Board

Keep an eye on the library noticeboard for details of writing competitions and library events!

Library Readathon

Following the success of our readathon last year we ran another one before the Christmas Holidays. Once again this year, the winning student was presented with a hamper of goodies. The hamper was on display in the library and sponsorship cards were collected from the library at lunchtime. All were invited to participate!

Sr. Maria and Ms. Sullivan

Book to Film Club

Film Club began this year with the showing of the very popular "The Hunger Games". Our second film will be "Twilight".



Trinity Lectures

Our 6th Year students once again took part in Trinity College's series of Leaving Certificate lectures. The girls attended talks on Derek Mahon and the sold-out, "Wuthering Heights". They participated fully in the question and answer sessions afterwards and found many new insights into their Leaving Certificate texts. The English Department would like to express its thanks to the girls for

their excellent behaviour and participation in these talks.

Senior Debating

Congratulations to Megan Stamp for reaching the next round of UCD's L&H School Debates. We wish her the best of luck in the upcoming debates.

Ms. J. Donohue

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

6th Year Music Trip

During November, all of the 6th year Music students travelled to the O'Reilly Hall in UCD to hear the RTE National Symphony Orchestra perform the beautiful work "Romeo and Juliet", composed by the renowned Russian composer, Tchaikovsky. This concert was both enjoyable and beneficial as students have studied this work in detail in preparation for their Leaving Certificate Music exam. During the concert, students were given an in depth presentation on the story of "Romeo and Juliet", and how Tchaikovsky portrays this through the music. The presentation then ended with a full performance of the piece. This was an enjoyable concert

and also gave the students an opportunity to hear a world class orchestra perform.

Teen Spirit – RTE Christmas Carol Programme

The students, who were involved in the "Teen Spirit" Concert earlier this year, were invited to sing a song at the annual RTE Christmas Carol programme from Dublin Castle, which included Sinead O Connor, Rod Stewart, De Dannan and the RTE Orchestra. This was a huge honour and a great opportunity for our students who were involved in the "Teen Spirit" project. Roger Childs, the Head of RTE Religious programming, was at the "Teen Spirit" Show in

the Olympia this year and was so impressed he wanted the "Teen Spirit" to feature in this year's programming. The programme was recorded on the 8th and 9th of December, but it will be aired on Christmas Eve on RTE One.

Choir sing at Opening Academic Year Mass

On the 10th October the school community celebrated the opening of our Academic year. The theme of the mass focused on reaching our potential as it was the year of the Olympics. With that in mind, the choir sang "Something inside so strong", alongside a number of songs from the Emmanual

programme. It was great to have so many first years involved in the choir this year and some were even singing solo. Well done to all our members.

"Oliver" Production

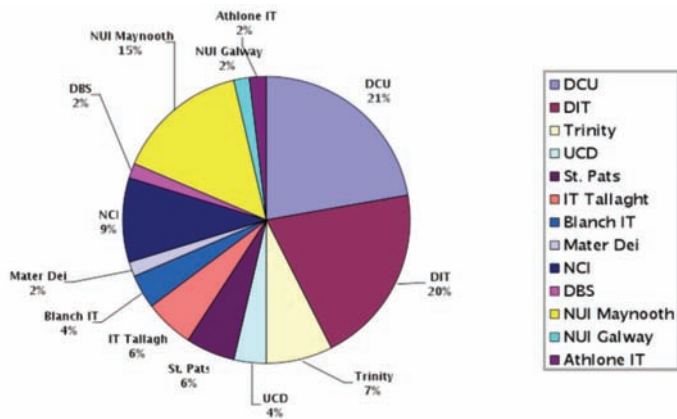
The Music department was involved in the production of 'Oliver'. It was great to have so many students involved in the show and it was a great success. There were many music students using their talents in the show both vocally and instrumentally. Both nights were very enjoyable and all involved loved being part of the production.

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

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Class of 2012

HETAC



12 Students
 Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies (2)
 International Business
 Common Entry into Science
 Intellectual Disability Nursing
 Genetics & Cell Biology
 Journalism
 Economics, Politics & Law
 General Nursing
 Physics & Biomedical Science
 Communications
 Contemporary Culture & Society



1 Student
 Music & Theology



4 Students
 BESS
 Science (2)
 Dental Nursing



2 Students
 English & French
 English & Film



8 Students
 Science (2)
 Biological & Biomedical Science
 Arts (4)
 Theology & Arts



5 Students
 Business (3)
 Accounting
 Computing



11 Students
 Business and Management
 Event Management
 Biosciences
 Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmaceutical Science
 Creative & Cultural Industries
 Visual Mechanising & Display
 Culinary Arts Health & Nutrition
 Tourism Management
 Hospitality Management (2)
 Bar Studies



2 Students
 Business
 Early Childhood Care and Education



1 Student
 Environmental Science



3 Students
 Humanities (3)



1 Student
 Film & Media Studies

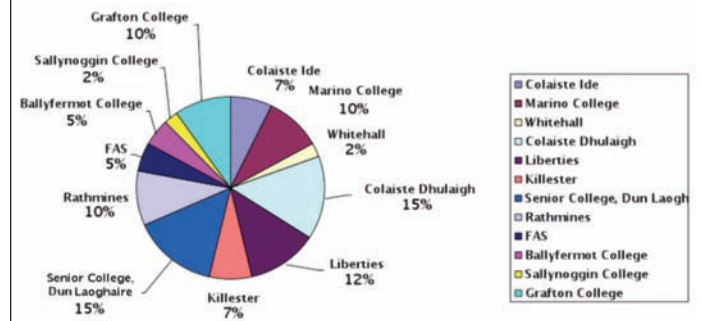


1 Student
 Culinary Arts



3 Students
 Applied Biology
 Business Management
 DNA & Forensics

FETAC



3 Students
 Leisure and Beauty (2)
 Pre-Science



4 Students
 Beauty Therapy
 Childcare and Education
 Introduction to Nursing (2)



1 Student
 Childcare



6 Students
 Pre-University Science (2)
 Applied Social Studies
 SNA
 Art & Design Portfolio Preparation
 Outdoor Adventure Management



5 Students
 Social Studies (2)
 Childcare (2)
 Health Care Assistant



3 Students
 Animal Care (2)
 Childhood and Early Learning



6 Students
 Theatrical and Media
 Make-Up Artistry (3)
 Beauty Therapy (2)
 Fire & Ambulance Service



4 Students
 Pre-Liberal Arts (2)
 Business & IT (2)
1 Student
 Repeat Leaving Cert.



1 Student
 Hairdressing



2 Students
 Childcare
 Music Technology



1 Student
 Beauty Therapy



4 Students
 Pre-Nursing (4)



2 Students
 Beauty Therapy (2)



3 Students
 Work
 3 Students



Higher Options

The 26th Higher Options Conference took place at the RDS, Ballsbridge, on the 21st of September. One hundred and twenty Sixth Year students from the school attended on the Friday and found the event very informative. Over one hundred and eighty 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 choices and entry procedures to Irish and UK higher and further level institutions.



DCU Access Achievement Awards

The Access Achievement Award Scheme was set up to reward and recognise the achievements and efforts of students attending schools linked to DCU. The awards ceremony was held on Thursday, 6th December, in the Mahony Hall in the Helix, DCU. Twenty students from 5th year were in attendance to receive awards for their achievement in sports, community spirit, arts and culture, academic and special nomination. The twenty students were: Vanessa Boland, Kate Dwyer, Aoife Reilly, Rebecca Doherty, Louise Dalton, Sinead McArdle, Mary Louise Tipones, Eilis Phelan, Megan Stamp, Kate Lawlor, Chloe O'Neill, Antonia Blankenburg, Amy Hansard, Jillian Caffrey, Abir Abbas, Brona Lynch, Isabelle Mulholland, Lauren Pike, Vanessa O'Leary and Leah O'Donnell. The school was also represented by our amazing choir which was a central part of the event.

HEAR Scheme

Susan Hawkins from DCU spoke with Sixth year students on Monday, 19th November, 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 12th, 2013, from 10 am to 2 pm

for parents and students.

See www.accesscollege.ie for locations and time.

DCU Oral Irish workshops

Oral Irish workshops were held on the 7th November in DCU. St. Mary's was offered a session at 4.30pm for the six weeks. This was open to sixth years at both ordinary and honours level. Each school was guaranteed seven places.

Discover DCU

Discover DCU is an initiative of DCU's Access Programme targeting Fifth Year students. It takes the form of a workshop for students intending to take at least two honours subjects for their Leaving Certificate examination. The aim of the workshop is to give information, to allow students to explore their fears, anxieties and expectations about third level and to offer guidance and support about studying at DCU.

The programme works with a cluster of three schools. The first workshop took place on 17th October and our school was asked to participate. The following fifth years represented the school on the day: Malvina Grondzewska, Kate Lawlor, Siobhan Duffy, Niamh Mangan, Vanessa Boland, Lauren Kearns, Moira Purvis, Leah Connolly, Lauren Brady and Lauren Hale.

Careers Evening

A highly successful careers evening took place in Mater Christi on Wednesday 27th November. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth year students from Beneavin De La Salle, St. Michael's, Coláiste Eoin, Mater Christi, St. Mary's, Patrician College and St. Vincent's participated in the event. Over fifty 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.

Third Year

The Third Year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS) on 16th November. These tests help the students to build up personal profiles of themselves which will help those going on into Fifth Year with making their subject choice. They also are 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 feed back the results of



Association for Higher Education Access & Disability

Better Options 2012

A unique one-day event for Sixth Year students with a disability or specific learning difficulty took place on Wednesday, 28th November, in The Helix, DCU. The event was a way for students to learn about DARE – Disability Access Route to Education; how to apply for DARE through the CAO and examined 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

Sixth Year Talks

The Sixth Year students have participated in Third Level talks every Tuesday from early September. Speakers from DCU, NCI, TCD, DIT, ITB, NUI Maynooth, UCD Science, Hear DCU Scheme, Liberties College, Liberties College, Marino College, Killester College, Colaiste Dhulaigh, Senior College, Dun Laoghaire, Whitehall College and Colaiste Ide have been in attendance.

Notice of up-coming career talks will be highlighted on the Careers notice board on the Sixth Year corridor, on the notice boards in all Sixth Year classrooms and on the St. Mary's Careers Page via Facebook.



CAO/FETAC/UCAS

In coming weeks, 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 ten euro reduction in the application fee.

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

Ms. F. Devaney and Ms. Jan Gavin

PREFECT NEWS



Patricia O'Beirne, Deputy Head Girl, Claire Concannon, Head Girl and Razanallie Caranay, Deputy Head Girl.

The prefects in St. Mary's this year have been very involved in the school community. As well as taking care of our first and second year classes, we have also organised many activities throughout the school. These have included the homework club, the lunchtime computer club and playing fun games with first years during Maths Week. The Homework Club takes place Wednesdays and Thursdays and prefects help first and second year students with their homework. During the school mass at the start of the year all prefects were officially inaugurated. At Halloween this year, for a bit of banter, we organised a dress up day for the whole school community. This took place on the 25th of October. In the morning all prefects went around the classes and collected two euro from all students to raise money for Barnardos and the Holy Faith Mission to Sudan. It was great to see how everyone got into the spirit of Halloween, even the teachers, with Ms. Murtagh winning best dressed teacher, as one of the famous Bennett sisters. Sixth years took it to another level with costumes such as Colgate toothpaste, a giant cupcake, Statue of Liberty and an old married couple. First year prefects organised a table quiz and party while second year prefects had parties with their classes. This was a fun filled day where prefects took charge of the event and raised €915. On Friday, 9th November, we met with Sr. Vivienne, Head of the Holy Faith Order, to give her a cheque for five hundred euro. It's a great honour to be a prefect in St. Mary's. One of the privileges is that you get to help first years settle into the school and share with them the "dos and don'ts" in St. Mary's but really it's all about the fabulous badge!



Prefects 2012-2013

From the Head Girl, Claire Concannon, and Deputy Head Girls, Patricia O'Beirne and Ranzanallie Caranay.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Senior History Trip Tour to Belfast

The History department is delighted that its first subject tour was a tremendous success. Girls from both fifth and sixth year took a two-day tour of the city of Belfast, taking in guided visits to the Falls Road, Clonard Monastery, Shankill Road, Memorial Garden, Parliament Buildings at Stormont and the Titanic Experience. As well as being a fantastic cultural visit and bonding experience for the students, the tour will be of great relevance to their study of the topic of Northern Irish history in the New Year.

Transition Year

Transition Year students had their first History trip of the year to Glasnevin Cemetery. The girls enjoyed a guided tour of one of Dublin's historical sites, seeing the final resting places of many people they learn about in Irish history. They visited the Round Tower to see the resting place of Daniel O'Connell and saw the grave of Michael Collins, still covered in flowers each day. They also viewed the cemetery's interactive research room where they could look up extra information on those interred in the cemetery.

Transition Year History students are currently presenting their research projects on, "Local History and Heritage". Local sites of historical interest were researched by students in pairs. The project allowed the girls explore the work of the historian as they had to interview staff on their chosen sites, take original photography, research in the school library and investigate sources online in an effort to dig deeper into the history of our locality. They then demonstrated their computer and presentation skills with five minute powerpoint slideshows given to their class and teachers.

10th November 2012

The History department continued its tradition of commemorating the armistice of World War 1 with a beautiful presentation on the History notice board which contained information, photographs and poppy artwork. It served as a reminder of this important day in history.

Ms. G. Hayes



Remembrance Day 2012

A Remembrance Service was broadcast over the intercom, on the 9th November 2012, to honour the dead of the two World Wars and all conflicts, past and present. This Ceremony of Remembrance was observed in order to recall the official end of World War 1, on 11th November in 1918. The major hostilities of the Great War ended, "at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month", in 1918.

Mr. B. Mc.Gill, Mr. E. Carr and Mrs. C. Bogan spoke at the Service and they asked each member of the school community to pause for prayer and reflection. Mr. Mc.Gill explained the reasons why so many Irishmen fought in World War One and he made reference to the fact that many Irishmen who died were members of our own families. He especially emphasised the waste of human life during the Great War - "the war to end all wars". He asked our school community to remember all who had died.

Mr. Carr explained that Irishmen fought and died in places such as Verdun, Ypres and the Somme on the Western Front;

HISTORY DEPARTMENT CONTD.

in Tannenburg on the Eastern Front; in Gallipoli in Turkey and even at sea, including the biggest naval battle of all at Jutland. He explained that there are indeed many Irishmen who have no known graves. They lie buried in unmarked graves.

Mrs. Bogan asked that, in communion with countries all around the world, St. Mary's would observe one minute's silence, during which the dead of two World Wars and conflicts past and present were remembered. She asked students to study the poignant World War One display, assembled by Miss A. Mullins (a History Teacher in St. Mary's for many years and now retired), Ms. N. Cunningham (Art Department) and members of the History Department. Mrs. Bogan concluded by asking the school community to remember the sacrifice of those who died in World War One by recalling the words inscribed on the Kohima Monument in the Military Cemetery of Kohima, Assam, India, which says – "When you go home Tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow We gave our today".

Ar dheis Lámh Dé go raibh a n-Anamacha Uaisle Óga go léir.

Mrs. C. Bogan

Open Evening

Under the new teacher-student based classroom system, Room 16 was showcased as a typical History teacher's room for Open Evening in September. Well done to all students and staff for their help and co-operation. Our visitors were able to sample the many varieties of work being done by students e.g. eye-catching posters and artwork, photographs of historic sites and project work on various topics being studied in history by students in different year groups.

Ms. G. Hayes

TRANSITION YEAR

Our enthusiastic TY students have had a very busy and varied first term, with trips to Causey Farm, Dublin Zoo, the Air Corp, the Ploughing Championships and Howth, just to mention a few. The TYs have also experienced new and different subjects including Italian, Sociology, Aromatherapy, Self-Defence, Modern Dance, and NIFT. Here are some of their highlights:

Ms. O. O'Keeffe

NFTE

In Transition year some students do a module called NFTE. This is a year-long course where you set up your own mini company. We have a double class a week. You choose your business name, your product and how you will buy/sell your product. Mr. Donnelly helps you with this process. I personally have set up a mini company with my friend Áine. We are selling posters and personalised calendars. NFTE is a great module.

Nicole Weldon (Marley)

Self-Defence

This year for Leisure Studies, Transition year students took part in Self-Defence classes. This module involves instruction in how to protect yourself on the street and what to do when you are being attacked. We were taught various self-defence techniques such as disarming somebody with a knife. We all enjoyed it and are now, "AWARE OF THE UNAWARE".

Áine Ford and Lucy Carroll

Sociology

This year in TY we started doing Sociology. We learned about how the society around us influences who we are and how we behave. We also learned about the impact of gender stereotypes in childhood play, Disney movies and in the media. It was really interesting to learn about this as it was something we hadn't thought about before.

Niamh Whelan and Zuryab Ahmed

Trip to Howth

We all met at Connolly station where we bought our tickets and headed off to Howth. When we got there we each got a balloon and a sheet of tasks. Each girl had to draw a face on her balloon and name it. We each had to compose a song and make a piece of jewellery. We did all this as we were hiking up to Howth head. When we got to the top, we had our lunch and then came down again. We performed our songs beside Howth harbour. It was a brilliant day, we all had great fun.

Ciara McDermott (Griffith)

Causey Farm

Causey Farm is a fun based venue for a variety of entertainment, tourism and educational programmes. Transition year classes, Marley, Phoenix and Griffith did lots of fun activities including; bog jumping, cow milking, sheep chasing, bread baking, Irish dancing, singing and painting. We found it very interactive and enjoyable.



Whoops, got a bit muddy at Causey Farm!



TYs at Causey Farm

The National Ploughing Championships



TYs 'posing' at the Ploughing Championships

On Thursday, the 27th of September, all Transition year students went to the National Ploughing Championships in New Ross, Co. Wexford. It was an early start for the Transition year students as they had to meet outside the school at 7:30am!! We arrived at

TRANSITION YEAR

the National Ploughing Championships at about 11:00 am. When we got there we were very surprised at the extremely muddy ground but luckily everyone had wellies with her. The funny thing was nobody actually saw any ploughing. Instead there were thousands of stalls selling and giving out free samples, lots of animal competitions and even a funfair.

We left the Ploughing Championships at about 2:30pm to make our way back to Dublin. Everyone was sad to go and wished we could have stayed longer.

Bronagh Leen and Lea Kane Sherlock



TY students sporting lovely wellies style at the Ploughing Championships in Wexford



TYs at Dublin Zoo

DCU Trip

On Friday, 19th October, class Phoenix went to DCU to see Brother Colm O'Connell, the Olympic athletics trainer, get a doctorate. We met David Rushida who won a gold medal in the London Olympics. We got to hold the Olympic torch also. It was a very memorable day.



Stephanie Ryan and Ciara Burke

European Studies

On 5th October, TY European Studies students visited European Union House, in Dawson Street, to view the C.A.P. exhibition, celebrating fifty years of the Common Agricultural Policy. The exhibition and talk were very interesting, highlighting the safe food and clean environment enjoyed by the twenty seven countries of the E.U. Following the exhibition we enjoyed a video, talk and quiz on the E.U. As always we received a warm welcome from Joan Flanagan and her team.

Mrs. A. Hughes

Transition Year Literacy Initiative

"To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all the miseries of life." - Somerset Maugham
This year, St. Mary's introduced a library class for TY Students. Once a week each group is timetabled for a reading period in the library. It is part of the "DEAR" initiative – Drop Everything and Read. It aims to promote literacy by encouraging

reading for pleasure in quiet surroundings.

Many thanks to Mrs. Lennon and Ms. Murphy for providing funds to buy a selection of novels suitable for the TY age group. Thank you also to Sr. Maria and Ms. Sullivan for their hard work in the library and for their efforts in choosing a wide range of reading material.

Students are encouraged to keep a record of their reading choices and subsequent book reviews in portfolios which they will present at Christmas and again in May.

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers."

– Charles William Eliot.

Ms. C. Nolan

Film Studies

When you are in Transition Year you will take part in many modules. One module you will take part in, is Film Studies. In this module you will learn about different genres such as teen, comedy and drama. This year we have watched many films in the teen genre such as "Mean Creek", "The Breakfast Club", "Maria, Full of Grace" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off".

In Film Studies you will learn also about the language of film and film techniques. At the end of the ten week module you will have to hand up a Film Studies project. Once you learn the skill of doing a film review you will find Film Studies very easy and enjoyable.

Nicole Weldon, 4 Marley, TY student

Trick or Treat for Temple Street



On the 21st October, Transition Year did "Trick or Treat" for Temple Street. We were given buckets, badges and torches and my group was placed outside Jervis Street Shopping Centre. We screamed out and sang, "We need a Euro, Euro, Euro for Temple Street". By the end of the day our bucket was really full and we were really happy. I'd definitely do it again, any day! It's a great cause and we were really happy to help.

Naoise O'Brien

Temple Street Hospital staff said that the St. Mary's Holy Faith students were phenomenal. They raised over €2,500. Congratulations and many thanks to the fantastic TY students.

Ms. O. O'Keeffe

MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

French Department



Voyage scolaire à Paris

On the 10th January 2013, thirty students (drawn from first to sixth year) accompanied by three teachers will travel to Paris on a school tour. During the four day trip, students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in French culture and practise their language skills in a native setting. The group will take in many of the capital's well-known sites including Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Louvre Museum, the Eiffel Tower and the district of Montmartre. They will also enjoy a boat trip on the River Seine by night and a fun-filled day in Disneyland, Paris. Both students and staff alike are looking forward to the trip.

Ms. M. Lenehan

Spanish Department



Las Chicas en Sevilla 2012

Trip to Seville 2012

On Saturday, the 29th of September, thirty six *chicas* and four *profesores* set off very early to visit the beautiful city of Seville. On arrival, we enjoyed a wonderful tour of the city and all its sights. The following few days were filled with sun, fun and Spanish! Highlights included La Isla Mágica, Cádiz, a Flamenco show and muchas compras. We were delighted with the girls' enthusiasm for speaking Spanish and enjoying all the Spanish culture. It was definitely a trip to remember! ¡Qué fantastico!

Transition Year Club Español

Transition Year students have set up a Wednesday lunchtime club for junior students to help them build up their Spanish. The aim is to have fun learning Spanish through games and interaction. ¡qué divertido!

Señoras Hughes y Higgins

German Department

In late September, fourth and fifth year German pupils enjoyed a morning out in DCU. Despite the heavy rain on the way there and back, the group was entertained by an activity troupe from



Hamburg who normally perform in the Hamburg area in a bus! The play, "Über die Grenze ist nur ein Schritt", about migration, was easily comprehended as there was a mixture of German and English used throughout. Following the play the group had the opportunity to enjoy a question and answer session with the director. Wir haben alle dieses Stück genossen.

Ms. N. Walker

On December 20th, all Transition year and fifth year students of German and History will welcome Mr. Tomi Reichental (Slovakia) to St. Mary's. Tomi is the last remaining Holocaust survivor in Ireland. He will share with us the unimaginable horror of his experience in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II and give us an insight into Nazi-occupied Poland through the eyes of a child.

Ms. S. McManus

MATHS DEPARTMENT

This year many events took place in the Maths department. Firstly, members of the Maths department would like to congratulate Mr. Neil Hallinan on his retirement last June. He is an amazing mathematician, a wonderful colleague and we wish him well. Secondly, well done to the following sixth year students who were awarded certificates for the John Hooper Medal for Statistics competition: Michaela Topley, Siobhán Mc Namara, Holly Dennon, Rachel Griffith, Jessica Mc Guinness, Sarah Mc Guinness, Aislinn Farrell, Danielle Noonan and Isabelle Kelly. They each received a certificate from the Central Statistics Office. One entry was entitled: "Are Students living in a Virtual World?" Their statistical study was with regard to students and their Facebook accounts. Data was gathered on how long the

students spend on Facebook each evening and the number of friends that the students have. Thirdly, the following is a summary of the events that took place in the department during the first term.

September News

From September 2012, the last new strand for Project Maths entitled, "Functions", was introduced nationally for incoming first and fifth year students. Also, major emphasis is being put on the elements of numeracy and literacy in every Maths classroom for the coming academic year. On Tuesday, September 25th, Ms. Murphy's room was a hive of activity on the open night for the national school students who attended with their parents. Well done

to the sixth year honours Maths students who participated in the Maths enrichment classes in D.C.U. The students have found these classes an invaluable help in preparation for their exams in June.

October – Maths Week

Maths Week took place in St. Mary's and nationwide from the 13th -21st October. The many events that were taking place in the school were registered on www.mathsweek.ie. Monday 15th got off to a great start as the whole school community was involved (even teachers!) in "Mental Monday" from 8.55-9.10am. During this time, all students enhanced their numeracy skills by attempting Maths puzzles (counting the number of triangles on a flash card/

a cross-number/ calendar puzzle/ pharaoh timeline/ take-aways/ weather chart). There were numerous activities for junior and senior students throughout the week.

Junior Cycle Activities

For all first year students, Ms. Murphy organised a Botanic Maths Trail in the Botanic Gardens. The questions involved students having to use problem solving skills to find the answers. The students enjoyed the teamwork activity. There were many entries to the first year poster competition. The following students had winning entries: Emma Russell, Eve Reid, Jade Lennon, Fern Supap and Leanne Castro. The second years enjoyed a Maths challenge contest in the hall. Teams were in groups of three and four. It was a closely fought contest at the end as Ms. Wilson had to ask a tie-breaker question to ascertain the winning team! The third years participated in Sudoku, Countdown or a Maths related activity.



First Years on the Botanic Maths Trail



Second Year table quiz winners

Senior Cycle Activities

The TYs had the opportunity to partake in two Maths events during Maths week. At the beginning of the week, the TYs participated in the Hamilton walk which was organised by Ms. Mc Cormack. The girls enjoyed the walk to Broombridge to see the quaternion maths formula which was carved into the bridge by the famous mathematician Hamilton. At the end of the week, the students completed the problem solving questions in the national PRISM competition. Each student was awarded a certificate for her endeavours. There was a treat in store for all the fifth years

on the Wednesday of Maths week as they got the chance to watch a Maths based film entitled "21". Also, Ms. Nolan's fifth year group participated in a Maths 'n Music lesson with Mr. Coll while Ms. O' Donnell's class attended a maths related workshop in D.C.U. This workshop involved two speakers who spoke on the fun side of maths and its application in real life. The sixth years enjoyed an in-class Maths activity which consisted of either Jenga, the use of target boards, involving themselves in Mangahigh challenges or another Maths based activity. Thanks to the sixth year prefects who run the computer club and engaged with junior students during Maths week. They helped them to create posters or complete online maths challenges. The class prefects did a 'Marshmallow' Maths activity with the first years.



Fifth Years at D.C.U.

There was a major cross-curricular link with the Art department during Maths week. All students had the opportunity to create a "Maths Eyes" style poster using a photograph taken in their local area. The photo had to have an accompanying tagline highlighting the mathematics that they had seen in the photo using their "Maths Eyes". Congratulations to Jodie Hanney who was the overall school winner.

On Saturday the 20th October, eight members of the Maths department were part of a five hundred maths teacher



Maths Eye Poster by Mariella Patricio



Maths Eye Poster by Jodie Hanney

cohort who attended the Mathsfest conference in Cork. The conference was opened by Minister Sherlock and numerous insightful presentations were enjoyed.

November – Maths Olympiad

Well done to the TY students who took part in the first round of the school's Maths Olympiad competition. The content of the questions in the competition included precalculus problems on projective complex geometry, functional equations and well-grounded number theory, for which extensive knowledge of theorems is required. The TY winner will compete in round two of the competition in 2013 against winners from other secondary schools.

December News

Well done to the students on their Christmas test results. There was great excitement among the junior and senior students who took part in the 'Tarsia' puzzles. The first years applied to partake in the Irish Maths Teachers Association quiz.

Ms. M. O'Donnell



TYs at Broombridge

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Little Chef's Cookery Club

We are delighted to announce that the Little Chef's Cookery Club has commenced again this year. The girls are really enjoying the after school club which takes place on Wednesdays. The relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere has led to some marvellous results. So far, chocolate muffins, homemade pizzas, chicken goujons, potato wedges and peanut krispie cookies have all been the delights of the first years.

An Bord Bia to visit St. Mary's!

The Irish food board, An Bord Bia, will visit St. Mary's in early January. This unique opportunity will involve a food demonstration and highlight the importance of buying Irish and supporting our own producers and industries... This is a component of the Leaving Certificate course. We hope the students will be encouraged to buy Irish at home!

Ms. Doheny, Ms. Walsh and Ms. Aird

"Fashion and Design"... Transition Year

Well done to the first group of Transition Year students who completed their Fashion and Design module. They completed an element of the "Colour Me Beautiful" course, studied fashion through the ages and various fashion designers. They also learned all about their body shape and colours that suit them as individuals. They applied this to a mood board and modified an item of clothing from their own wardrobe! Very innovative girls!



TY Fashion and Design – Leah Kane Sherlock



TY Fashion and Design – Meagan Looney and Aoife Kavanagh



TY Fashion and Design – Michaela Mullen



TY Fashion and Design – Open Night



TY Fashion and Design – Open Night



Little Chef's Cookery Club – Leah Riordan and Louise Lillis



Little Chef's Cookery Club – LAoife Steins, Rebecca Carney, Rachel O'Brien, Jessica Ho and Abigail Whelan

Home Cook Hero Awards

This year we are excited to be entering the, "Home Cook Hero Awards". Prizes include €1,000, €500 and €250, as well as a laptop and equipment for the school. Many of our students are hopeful that one of them may be crowned, "Home Cook Hero", of the year.

Ms Doheny, Ms Walsh and Ms Aird



Home Economics Open Night



Open Night Sewing Room



Home Economics Open Night

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

St. Mary's Geography Department is currently planning a trip to Iceland in October 2013. This trip is open to all pupils except current sixth years. Forty three pupils have signed up and are very excited about the adventure. Pupils will visit a volcano, walk on a glacier, experience what an earthquake is like in an earthquake simulator and bathe in the famous Blue Lagoon.

The transition year students are studying lichens as an indicator of pollution. Three sites have been chosen: the school grounds, the main road and the Botanic Gardens. The Whitebeam tree is present at each site. We aim to see different lichen species growing at each site. The more polluted the site the more pollution-loving lichens grow. Pupils must complete booklets as part of their Christmas exams.

Ms. A. Wilson

Get Well Soon



All in St Mary's wish Mrs. Lennon a speedy recovery and look forward to her return in the New Year.

CSPE DEPARTMENT

Class 3 Derg had a visit from local community Garda, Laura Sheridan, from Santry Garda station, as part of our CSPE Action Project. We are raising awareness on personal safety. We learned many personal safety tips from Laura. Some tips we learned from Laura were that when you delete things from your phone or Facebook they can be retrieved, and it is dangerous to have your Facebook profile on public. These tips and more can be seen on our posters and leaflets around the school.

During the visit from Laura we asked questions like "Why had she become a Garda?" We also learned about her training. She trained for two years in Templemore, Co. Tipperary. She had to study French, German, Irish, Law and Self Defence. All Gardaí must train and study these in order to become Gardaí. We are very grateful and thankful to Laura for taking time from her busy schedule to come and talk to us as part of our CSPE action project. We really enjoyed this action project, and we hope you enjoyed learning about the safety tips from our posters and leaflets around the school.

Helen Martin and Chloe Ray, Class 3 Derg

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Open Night

Well done to all the students who participated in experiments in the science laboratories for the open night which took place on Tuesday, 25th of September. It was a highly interactive experience for our visitors, who experienced a range of experiments from heart dissection to electrical circuits. The laboratories were hives of activity which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Science Week

Science week took place from the 12th to the 16th of November. The theme was, "Science in Everyday Life". All students were invited to enter a music competition. They had to compose songs about science from music genres of their choice.

First year students entered a poster competition. The posters were displayed around the school.

All junior students were given the opportunity to perform various laboratory experiments at lunchtime on Wednesday, 16th November. Senior students acted as mentors in the laboratory.



Junior students enjoying the experience of dissecting a lamb's heart during science week

Ecology field Trip



Creeping buttercups, Harvestman spiders and Speedwell are some of the many variations of plants and animals our sixth years identified and studied during their Ecology fieldwork in the Phoenix park on 13th and 14th September this year. The students worked diligently in teams, completing five of their mandatory practical experiments and revising the theory they had covered in class. Using biological keys to identify each organism, the students then studied the organisms to reveal their individual adaptations. Abiotic factors such as soil

temperature, soil pH, atmospheric temperature and light intensity were all recorded in the girls' practical booklets. In addition, various methods were used to collect organisms including sweep nets, pitfall traps, pooters and beating trays. The students completed all of their assigned tasks with enthusiasm, hard work and diligence.

Congratulations to the 5th and 6th year students who participated in a science quiz which took place in St Michael's School in Finglas. They represented the school extremely well.

Transition Year students went to DIT, Kevin Street, for an exciting interactive presentation on the use and abuse of Biological Sciences in the movies.

Fifth and sixth year Physics students attended a Physics and Maths open day in Trinity College on Saturday, 10th November. There was an exciting lecture programme, ranging from astronomy to the Higgs boson. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Professor Mario Molina was the winner of the 1995 Nobel prize in Chemistry for his work on the effect of CFCs on the stratospheric ozone layer. He is a former Professor of Chemistry, in Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and currently runs two research centres. One is in San Diego and it investigates the chemical properties of atmospheric particles. The other, is in Mexico City, and it studies the energy and the environment. He visited the school with His Excellency, Carlos Eugenio (Mexican Ambassador to Dublin), on November 21st, to meet some students and speak about his career in Chemistry to date.

In relation to careers in Chemistry, twenty eight fifth and sixth year students visited Trinity College Dublin, to attend presentations on life and work as a chemist. The event was run by the Royal Society of Chemistry and ChemNet (a website



Students participating in The Science Quiz in St. Michaels.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CONTD.

which supports students currently studying or thinking of a career in the

Chemical Sciences). A wide range of speakers showcased the diversity of careers available locally through studying the Chemical sciences. Representatives from the Forensic Science Laboratories and the PharmaChem sector were present. Some students from Trinity College talked

about what to expect in college and what it is like to study Chemistry there.

The Science department:
Ms. Nolan, Ms. McCormack, Ms. O'Keefe, Ms. O'Donnell and Mr. Carr

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council has been busy this term with regular meetings on Mondays at lunchtime in the library. An extended meeting was held on Monday 19th November to discuss student issues and questions raised by students. It included a lengthy discussion about our new teacher based classrooms. Ms Murphy joined us for some of our meeting. This extended meeting gave us a great opportunity to bond and have a lengthy discussion on various student issues. The student council ran a pink cake sale to raise funds for Breast Cancer research. Many thanks to all our dedicated student council representatives who are so energetic and enthusiastic. A particular thank you to Patricia O'Beirne who is such a dedicated and capable Chairperson and Ranzanelie Caranay who assists her as Secretary.

Mrs. A. Hughes
(Student Council Liaison teacher)

Open Evening

On Tuesday, 25th September, St. Mary's hosted its annual "Open Evening". Primary school pupils with their parents/guardians were invited to visit our school. The evening was cold, wet and wintry but the welcome from staff and students was warm and friendly. Our own students acted as guides and visitors enjoyed a tour of the many facilities on offer in St. Mary's, e.g. the gym, library, computer room, Science laboratories, Home Economics rooms, Art room and the Prayer room. They also got to view a selection of subject based classrooms. Every classroom now has a data projector and five rooms have been equipped with mimios. These allow the whiteboards to become interactive.

Well done to all the staff and students for their enthusiasm and hard work. A special thank you to our guides for the evening. They were as ever polite, cheerful and helpful to all. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the parents, guardians and members of the wider school community for their support on "Open Evening" and throughout the school year.

Continuing the positive trend in recent years an increase in numbers is projected for 2013-2014, 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 2012 -2013: Class reps and subs:



Year	Name	Year	Name
1 Primrose	Lorna Hanney	4 Marlay	Amber Linsay
1 Orchid	Czarinah Bulacav	4 Phoenix	Briza Dechavez
1 Heather	Rachel Brunton	4 Phoenix	Eimear Martin
1 Daisy	Marie Mirbel		
Subs		5 Brandon	Jillian Caffrey
1 Orchid	Gemma Reilly	5 Errigal	Christina Pulber (vice-chairperson)
1 Heather	Leanne Cantro	5 Nephin	Antonia Blankenberg
		5 Kippure	Lauren Kearns
2 Leinster	Chloe Dalton	Subs	
2 Munster	Sona Shiji	5 Brandon	Kate Lawler and Leah O'Donnell
2 Connaught	Kelly Fowler		
2 Oriel	Alex Mc Manus	6 Sycamore	Danielle Noonan
Subs		6 Willow	Patricia O'Beirne (Chairperson)
2 Leinster	Amy Boylan	6 Willow	Ranzanallie Caranay (Secretary)
2 Oriel	Allanagh Beatty	6 Chestnut	Kimi Umpad
2 Munster	Natasha Burke	6 Pine	Eve Kavanagh
3 Erne	Sally Ahern and Emily Carrick	Subs	
3 Conn	Sharon Ogunemi	6 Willow and Chestnut	Diana Cordova, Laura Byas and Kate Pajarillo
3 Allen	Marie Nollora		
3 Ree	Sibilrose Subu		
Subs			
3 Erne	Olywn Galbraith		
3 Conn	Shauna Sheridan		
3 Ree	Niamh Kelly		
3 Derg	Ana Collins		

Members of the student council like to hear what students have to say. Everyone likes to be heard and we like to make sure that students have a say in how the school is run on a daily basis. All suggestions from students are welcome and we have placed plastic pockets in each classroom and representatives go around with a suggestion box on Fridays. We want to hear all your suggestions and issues. Our weekly meetings with representatives from all year groups give us a chance to discuss and update our goals and plans.

Cristina Pulber (Vice Chairperson)

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Message from the Chair

A record-breaking seven new members joined the Parents' Association bringing our membership up to twenty six. I would like to welcome all our new members. The year ahead looks to be challenging in economic terms but we are confident that St. Mary's will continue to be a great place for our daughters to be educated. Best wishes to those students who are facing state exams and to their parents!

Anne Dermody
Chairperson

Parents' Association

St. Mary's Parents' Association continues to be a very active group within the school working behind the scenes in partnership with the school. We are involved in supporting many events in the school and providing feedback to the management team on the views and opinions of parents.

We as parents are very aware that the weight of school books is a problem for our daughters so watch out for upcoming talks on new technology.

Following on from the whole school evaluation earlier this year and the important role that the Parents' Association played, we are committed to continue in partnership with the school – through our board of management representatives and our Association members – to progress the recommendations of the Department of Education and Science.

Book and Uniform sale

The Book and Uniform Sale took place again this year in June. The Parents' Association was supported very willingly by students who helped to make it a great success. This sale gave parents an opportunity to purchase books and uniforms for half the original price, helping to alleviate the financial pressure on parents. The sale raised over €3000 of which €1800 was passed back to parents. Many thanks to those who donated books and uniforms.

Take Note!

At the school open night in September the Parents' Association was delighted to officially present the school with an electronic notice board. It is already in operation in the school, providing invaluable up to date information for staff, pupils and visitors to the school.

The AGM

The Parents' Association AGM took place on the 16th October. Thanks to all who attended, to those who signed up to the



committee and to those who joined the "I Can Help" volunteer list. We are always delighted to welcome new members. We meet every six weeks to discuss and plan a wide variety of events that take place during the school year. It also gives us, the parents, the opportunity to meet, discuss and share with each other the wealth of experience and knowledge that parents have in relation to the school curriculum, study, exams, the teenage years and so much more. Email us at parents.stmarys@gmail.com.

Jennifer Ryan was the guest speaker at our AGM this year. She is part of the "Bully4u" team who provided workshops for our daughters during October. Jennifer gave a very informative presentation about bullying and cyber bullying to those present. She was incredibly knowledgeable on the topic and gave a very professional and engaging presentation.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Chairperson: Anne Dermody, Vice Chairperson: Kathy King, Secretary: Niamh O Neill, Vice Secretary: Lisa Looney, Treasurer: Dolores Cashman Cooke, Vice Treasurer: Lisa Looney, Communications Officer: Ann Byrne. A big thank you to Dee Kinsella who stepped down from the role of secretary. Dolores Cashman Cooke and Ann Ford are the parents' representatives on the Board of Management.

If you would like to contact the Parents' Association for further information, to offer help or to share your ideas please do not hesitate to contact us at parents.stmarys@gmail.com.

Finally the Parents' Association would like to wish the staff, pupils and all their families a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Best in Class!

The Parents' Association would like to congratulate all the staff at St. Mary's for the outstanding report received from the Department of Education and Skills during the whole school evaluation in January. Take a bow – we are very proud of you!

Oliver!

The St. Mary's production of "Oliver" took place on December 12th and 13th in front of packed audiences of parents, teachers and students. The wonderful cast was comprised of students from first to sixth year, and included members of St. Mary's choir. Our version of the hit musical included renditions of the classic songs; "Consider Yourself", "You've Got to Pick a Pocket" and "I'd Do Anything" among others.

The cast delivered entertaining and moving nights of song and dance. After months of rehearsals and long evenings spent learning lines, the Christmas holidays are well deserved by all! *Congratulations on a wonderful show girls, you did us proud.*

Ms. C. Warren and Ms. N. O'Donnellan



Some of the cast at rehearsals for "Oliver"