



St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

May 2015

Tribute to Mrs. Margaret Lennon Retiring Principal

As this school year draws to a close so do the fourteen years of the exceptional school leadership of our retiring school Principal, Mrs. Lennon.

No words could adequately express on behalf of all of us, the Board of Management, students, staff, parents and the wider school community what this means for us: sadness yes, but deep gratitude and endless good wishes for a future for her filled with blessings.

As we look back in gratitude we see how St. Mary's has been blessed by the unique giftedness of this special woman whose spirit of Faith, caring and learning have benefited this school community both pastorally and educationally with wisdom, grace and dedication.

Throughout these years of selfless giving the school has become not just a highly respected successful academic institution, but a place which has so often become home from home for students offering so much more than the prescribed curriculum; acknowledging and encouraging talents, inspiring altruism, nurturing respect and caring, offering life giving opportunities, experiences and memories which defy time.

As a person and as a leader Mrs. Lennon is very highly regarded in education circles nationally and St. Mary's has been the envy of many in its progressive and holistic educational thrust. She leaves to us the legacy of a vibrant and dynamic school beautifully restored and in demand beyond its capacity, committed to a vision to be the best it can be for all its students and daily living out its Mission inspired by her example.

Each day of the fourteen years of her ministry and leadership has been a blessing for us and so as she continues her life's journey our wish for her is that the blessings of each day may be the blessings she most needs.

**Míle Buíochas agus
Rath Dé ort inniu agus i gcónaí.**

Sr. Antoinette Keelan

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Deputy Principal's Address

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great honour that I write in this newsletter as the new deputy principal of St. Mary's. I believe the newsletter goes some way towards acknowledging and showcasing the wide variety of talent and commitment which makes our school so unique. This was a special year for the school, as last December the school was committed to celebrating and marking the 75th opening of the red brick building as a school. Please see the school website and the previous newsletter for the events that took place to mark the occasion—a celebration that was not to be missed!

The school community is aware that Mrs. Margaret Lennon is retiring this year. Margaret is an inspiration and she is a motivational leader. It has been an utmost privilege to work with her for the past year in my new role. She has ensured St. Mary's has a fantastic staff. Margaret has also ensured that St. Mary's is a beautiful restored building and that our numbers have continued to increase significantly over the years. This didn't happen overnight. It was as a result of her fourteen years of tireless professional dedication to St. Mary's, to both staff and students. For this, we thank you

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

Tribute to Mrs. Margaret Lennon Retiring Principal	1
Deputy Principal's Address	1
P.E. and SPORTS DEPARTMENT	2
St. Mary's One Million Step Challenge	2
Tag Rugby	3
Sports Day	3
First Year Sports Competition	3
Galway Trip	4
Camogie	5
Gaelic	5
St. Mary's Hockey	6
Basketball	7
ROINN NA GAELIGE	8
An Ciorcal Comhrá	8
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT	9
Romeo and Juliet	9
Oral Literacy	9
Library News	9
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT	10
Transition Year Geography	10
Leaving Certificate Fieldwork	10
Sicily Trip	10
GOLD MODULE	10
SPHE DEPARTMENT	11
Mindfulness Week	12
Computer Club	12
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT	12
Transition Year Computers	13
TY Chemistry and Home Economics	13
MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT	13
German Breakfast	13
Modern Languages Treasure Hunt	13
French Department – The French Club	13
MUSIC DEPARTMENT	14
Past Music Students on Voice of Ireland	14
Emmanuel 2015	14
St. Mary's Holy Faith Chamber Choir	14
Emma Humber reaches The Voice Finals	15
MATHS DEPARTMENT	15
Quiz Mania – First Years	15
CSPE DEPARTMENT	15
Action Project for Simon Community	15
Your Carbon Footprint	15
Biomedical Engineering Workshop	16
ART DEPARTMENT	16
THE STUDENT COUNCIL	17
Prefects	17
TRANSITION YEAR	18
Trip to Rome	18
Fighting Blindness Talk	18
Trip to Google	19
A-Z of Transition Year	19
ST MARY'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION	19
Parents' Association Easter Raffle	19
Graduation Night	20
Second Hand Book and Uniform Sale	20
DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING	20
Career Guidance Information	20
HISTORY DEPARTMENT	21
Research Study Reports	21
RELIGION DEPARTMENT	22
The Novena of Grace 22	22
Transition Year Retreat	22
First Anniversary – Mrs Claire Bogan	22
HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT	23
Junior Certificate Practicals	23
First year "Mindful Breakfast"	23
Breakfast Club	23
Fifth Year Assignments	23
BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT	23
NFTE Trade Fair	23
EU Commissions Model Council Debate	24
AWARDS 2015	24

Margaret. In her time as principal Margaret lived out the spirit of Margaret Aylward (foundress of the Holy Faith Order). She so generously embodied that spirit and this will continue to challenge those of us who serve this school community.

I came across the following piece in an article earlier this month and I loved it so much that I wanted to include it here. It was about an elderly Religious Brother called Jeremiah who was once asked what he would do differently if he had his life to live again. This was his reply: "If I had my life over again I'd try to make more mistakes next time, would climb more mountains, swim more rivers and watch more sunsets. I would have more actual troubles and fewer imaginary one ... I would try to have more moments, one after another, instead of living so many years ahead of each day ... If I had my life to live over, I'd play

truant more, I'd ride more merry-go-rounds, I'd pick more daisies". Had these words been written by a young person, they would not have the same power. There's something within youth that more naturally, seizes the moment! Happiness is not a destination, but rather a manner of travelling. Happiness is not an end in itself but a by-product of working, playing, loving and living. So I wish each and every family a fun-filled memorable summertime and we in the school community look forward to your continued cooperation and support in the 2015/2016 school year-and remember unlike Jeremiah, seize the moment!

Hope everyone has a restful and restorative summer. Let's hope the sun continues to shine!

Ms. Mary O'Donnell.
(Deputy Principal)

P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT

St. Mary's One Million Step Challenge

This year during Health Week St. Mary's took on a new challenge of one million steps in five days. We asked a group of twenty participants to volunteer. It was made up of eight teachers and twelve students. The challenge invited twenty participants to walk ten thousand steps each a day, over five days, which would equal one million steps! Their progress

was monitored everyday by pedometers. **(20 participants x 5 days x 10,000 steps a day = 1 million steps!).**

We wanted the St. Mary's group of twenty to challenge themselves to hit the ten thousand step mark every day for five days in a row, and therefore the overall group would walk one million steps.

Research shows that walking ten thousand steps a day will significantly improve your health, but most of us only walk between three thousand and four

thousand steps per day. Therefore ten thousand steps per day certainly was a challenge for all the volunteers!

We were delighted, not only to achieve our target but to beat it with a total number of 1,136,179 steps achieved. This is a fantastic achievement for our first Step Challenge in St. Mary's and a big thank you to all our student and teacher participants. Keep on Stepping!

Ms. Boran, Ms. Maher, Ms. Walsh and Ms. Considine

Daily Scoreboard						
Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
Students	145,629	141,477	115,520	141,250	87,379	647,665
Teachers	100,026	108,079	108,770	112,885	75,164	504,924
Totals	245,655	249,556	224,290	254,135	162,543	1,136,179
Best Year Group						
1st	3rd year	118,528				
2nd	2nd Year	109,417				
3rd	1st Year	107,759				
4th	6th Year	102,355				
5th	5th Year	101,953				
6th	TY	91,243				
Best Student – Most Steps in One Day						
1st	Aimee Flanagan	24,577				
2nd	Izzie Matthews	22,750				
Best Teacher Team						
1st	Ms. Walsh/Ms. O'Donnellan	70,572				
2nd	Ms. Cunningham	65,142				
3rd	Ms. Warren/Ms. Donohoe	63,765				
4th	Ms. Rochford/Ms. Murphy	62,700				
Best Teacher – Most Steps in One Day						
1st	Ms. O'Donnellan	22,101				
2nd	Ms. J. Byrne	17,908				
3rd	Ms. Shanahan	16,305				



"Active Schools" Flag

We are excited to announce that we have officially registered for the "Active Schools" Flag. In the last few months we have worked with students, staff and parents in order to plan for the next academic year where St. Mary's will officially become an Active School. The process involves developments in our current P.E. programme, Extra Curricular activities at lunch and after school and becoming involved more with community partnerships. This is a whole school initiative and we look forward to the challenge that faces us next year.

Health Week

Our annual health week was a resounding success this year with huge emphasis placed on creating Health Awareness for our students both in their diet and their physical activity levels. The P.E. and Home Economics departments are currently working on a new Healthy Eating Policy for St. Mary's. We did much of our research for it during Health Week. We also placed a great emphasis on students' involvement in extra curricular activities as this ties in with our goal of attaining an "Active Schools" Flag. Throughout the week staff and students from every year group were bombarded by our transition year Health Squad offering free snacks at break and lunch time as well as many activities for all. Each day began with an Active Assembly where whole year groups along with their form tutors, year heads, Principal and Deputy Principal danced themselves awake, getting their day off



Health Week – Active Assembly

P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

to a great start. Staff were offered Healthy Breakfast alternatives as well as a Daily Healthy Recipe to try out. We had a Zumba Teacher in for our senior cycle classes and she also got the teachers moving at lunchtime. We worked with Rowing Ireland who supplied us with rowing machines for the duration of the week. Students in P.E. classes and at lunch time fought to beat the top scores in the different rowing competitions that we held throughout the week. Other activities included Early Bird Runs, Challenge Corner, Skipathons, Basketball Shoot Outs etc. We are delighted with the success of Health Week and we would like to thank all staff and students who gave up their free time to get involved and also help run many of the activities during the week.



Health Squad



Teacher vs Student Tug of War – Health Week



Left: Health Week – Céilí

Centre: Health Week – “Rowing Ireland” Challenge

Above: Active Assembly 2015



Health Week – Zumba

Tag Rugby

On April 19th a group of twenty first years took part in the annual D.C.U. Tag Rugby Tournament. The tournament took place on St. Claire’s pitch. The girls competed against a number of schools including St. Dominic’s Cabra, and St. Michael’s. On the day the girls met international rugby player, Sophie Spence, who was very impressed with how the girls were playing. It was a great day and was enjoyed by all involved.



D.C.U. Tag Rugby Tournament

Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day took place on Wednesday 6th of May where all first and second year students took part in a multitude of activities. Games included egg and spoon, sack races, tug of war, three legged races, rounders and many more. Each team was given a colour and the girls went all out this year with their costumes. It was a great day enjoyed by all. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers who gave up their time to plan and implement such a successful sports day.

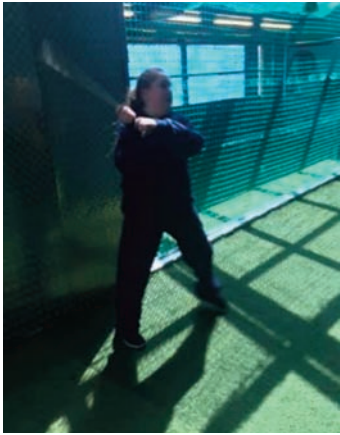
First Year Sports Competition

Our first years students must be commended for their dedication to our after school competition this year. Eight teams fought to the bitter end to attain the winning prize of A Mystery Trip to Croke Park’s Skyline Tour. The final was between Cork and Limerick and Cork won out in the end in a heart stopping game of Dodge Ball. The winning team, which was made up of half of class Emerald, went to Croke

Park on a sunny day in April. The day started with a hike to the park where they were greeted by their tour guide J.J. The girls were geared up and began the climb to the top of Croke Park. This was an amazing opportunity for the girls as many of them had not been to Croke Park before let alone climbed to the very top of it where they had a view of the whole city. After the Skyline tour the girls visited the GAA museum where they sweated it out to beat each other in the many GAA challenges they offer. They included target shots with hurleys and Gaelic footballs and many agility tests. The girls thoroughly enjoyed their day and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers who gave up their free time every Thursday to make the Sports competition possible.



P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT (Contd.)



Dance

Our second year students put huge effort into their Dance module, 'Dance through the Ages', in P.E. this year. Over six weeks the girls learned line dances, jives, '90's pop dances as well as modern Hip Hop dances. To complete the module the girls had to make up and perform their own dance moves to the song "Uptown Funk". Not only did the girls make up moves that would outperform Bruno Mars himself but they also put huge effort into their costumes also. Well done girls!



Galway Trip

Our annual Team Building Trip to Petersburg in Galway was as usual a trip to be remembered. On a cold wet day in March, forty students set off across the country to face activities that would challenge and exhilarate them beyond anything they had experienced before. The aim of the trip was to work on the core team building skills presented to the students during P.E. class. On arrival the sun began to shine as did the girls' enthusiasm. They were greeted by the centre manager and were divided into task groups. In these groups the girls got to take part in activities: Gorge walking where the girls dived into the ice cold waters of the west; Abseiling down a massive sink hole; Kayaking; Obstacle course work and many more. Evening activities included ghost walks, orienteering, campfires, charades and singsongs in front of the fire. Each group was also responsible for one meal during the day. This included setting the table, serving food and drinks, washing up and cleaning up the canteen afterwards. This gave each student a sense of responsibility throughout the three days of the trip. The sleepy heads on the bus home suggested that the trip was a resounding success and we would like to say well done to the girls for their enthusiasm and participation. Although we were very lucky with the sunny weather, the water was very very cold.



Dance – P.E.



**THREE SUCCESSFUL
FIRE DRILLS TOOK
PLACE DURING THE
ACADEMIC YEAR
2015/2016**

P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT (Contd.)



1st and 2nd year Gaelic Football team



1st and 2nd year Gaelic Football team



Gymnastics – P.E.



Gymnastics – P.E.



Gaelic

St. Mary's has taken part in a first and second year Gaelic Football competition and has reached the semi-finals. Day one events were on in Malahide where the girls played Malahide Community School, St. Mary's Baldoyle and Le Chéile Blanchardstown. St. Mary's won all three games which qualified them for the semi-finals.

Day two was semi-final day and Naomh Mearnóg grounds was the venue. The team from St. Mary's Baldoyle was our first challenge. Through hard work and determination we overcame Baldoyle. Next up was Pobalscoil Neasain and St. Mary's put up a high score to win easily. The final game was the decider and St. Mary's needed a win against Santa Sabina. Having previously played this team earlier in the year we knew it wouldn't be easy and this game proved that. Santa Sabina was ahead for the entire game until we were awarded a last minute penalty that Jade Kelly coolly slotted home resulting in a one point win. St. Mary's team was through to the semi-finals.

The semi-final took place against Bush PP school on Thursday the 30th of April.

Ms. E. Considine

Camogie

Our senior camogie team reached the final of the Colleges' Shield competition against Clontarf on Friday 16th January. The girls played extremely well during the year but unfortunately got beaten by a narrow margin in the final. Well done to everyone who played camogie during the year in school. We have some very talented players and are looking forward to next year already.



Senior Camogie 2015

Transition Year – Peer Teaching Module with St. Brigid's Primary School

In March 2015, St. Mary's Transition Year students formed a partnership with St. Brigid's Primary School. The project was aimed at developing leadership skills by introducing health related and sports activities to primary schools in the local community.

The module consisted of practical and theory sessions. The T.Y. students had the opportunity to develop their leadership skills. The module included information on coaching, leadership, organisational skills, communication and social skills. The T.Y. students organised health related activities in a fun, safe and

structured environment.

The T.Y. students helped organise sports and health related activities for groups of third class pupils from St. Brigid's school. The T.Y. students were assessed on their personal techniques, presentations and teaching skills during the teaching practice. They each completed an evaluation and assessment based on their teaching and personal skills.

Many thanks to St Brigid's school for volunteering. The programme was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by both the T.Y. students and the St. Brigid's third class pupils involved.

Ms. Boran



St Brigid's 3rd Class – Group 1



St Brigid's 3rd Class – Group 2



First and second year Gaelic football team



St. Mary's Hockey

Congratulations to all the hockey teams on their successes this season. We are delighted to have five hockey teams in St Mary's this year all competing in leagues. It is fantastic to be able to report that the Minor team reached a Northside League semi-final and a Leinster League semi-final. The First Year beginner's team reached a Northside League semi-final.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in helping with hockey this year and for helping to make it a great success. Thank you also to the players who attended training in all weathers. Thank you to our umpires Mr. Mc Gill, Ms. Nolan and Maureen Smyth. The support we received from the side line was brilliant all year also with lots of parents, teachers and friends supporting the teams even on the chilly days. Thank you to all those who cheered us on along the way!

Senior Hockey

The Senior Team entered the Northside league and had excellent games against Cabinteely Community School, Holy Faith Clontarf and The King's Hospital, However, in this their final year the girls were unsuccessful in reaching the final. They were narrowly beaten by Holy Faith Clontarf. The team thoroughly enjoyed its early morning training showing great dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year. Well done to the team on a fantastic year! Best of luck to our sixth year students (Hannah Kelly, Eimear Martin, Briza Dechavez, Ciara King, Megan Looney, Emily Carey, Lucy Carroll, Carlita Kavanagh and Niamh Hyland) who will be leaving us and the St. Mary's hockey team. This senior team has certainly done St. Mary's proud during the last six years by winning two

Leinster League titles and five Northside League titles. The girls certainly will be missed and we wish them every success in the future!

Third Year Hockey – Junior Team

The Junior team played against teams such as Dominican Cabra, Maryfield and Loreto Balbriggan. It competed very well in the Northside League, but was unable to win its group. The Junior team missed out on reaching a final this year but look forward to next year.

Second Year Hockey – Minor Team

The Minor team had a very successful run in the Leinster league reaching a semi-final. However it was beaten by a strong Mt. Sackville team on the day. The girls played excellent games against teams such as Tullamore, Newbridge College, East Glendalough, Dominican Cabra and St Wolstan's. They also competed very well in the Northside League against teams such as Mt. Temple and Holy Faith Clontarf. They reached a semi-final but were unable to beat Mt. Temple, losing narrowly by a score of 1-2. They missed out on reaching a final this year but are now even more determined for next year.

First Year Hockey

We are delighted to have two First Year hockey teams this year. The teams are so enthusiastic at training and have shown a fantastic advancement in their skill and knowledge of hockey throughout the year. The First year teams entered the Northside League with huge anticipation and excitement at playing their first matches representing St Mary's. They played matches against Dominican Cabra, Manor House, Mt. Sackville, Mt. Temple and Dominican school, Griffith Avenue. They reached a play-off against Mt. Sackville and after extra time and finally a nail-biting shoot-out they beat Mt. Sackville. Unfortunately they were beaten by Holy Faith Clontarf



Senior Team

in the Semi-Final. This was a great experience for their first year. Congratulations on getting to a Semi-Final and both teams are now even more determined for next year.

Well done to all our goalies this year, who made some outstanding saves, almost like Inspector Gadget!!

The achievements this year are a huge credit to all involved and have without doubt inspired and encouraged the uptake of hockey in the school for the future. The season ended with a mini tournament to celebrate the year. We greatly encourage everyone to come along and join hockey.

First to the ball, last to give up....go St Mary's!! Onwards and Upwards to next year!!

Ms. Boran, Ms. Maher and Ms. Considine



First Years' first goal!



3rd Year Team



2nd Year Away Trip to Tullamore in the snow!!



1st Year Team



Senior Team



First and Second Year Teams – Trip to see the Ireland Women's Hockey Team

P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

Basketball ... A Slam Dunk of a Season!

St Mary's Basketball Teams had an unbelievable year!! With such huge interest shown we were able to enter six teams into competitions this year. They consisted of a first year Division 1 and Division 2 team, three U-16 teams, which consisted of two Division 2 teams and a Premier team and also a U-19 Division 2 senior team.

U-19 Division 2 (Semi Finalist)

Our seniors reached the semi-final of the SSA league in Division 2. They beat St. Dominic's Ballyfermot B, St. Dominic's Cabra B and drew with Presentation Terenure in their league matches. They met Presentation Terenure again in the quarter finals and this time were able to win the game and take their place in the semi-finals. They then played against Maryfield and although the girls put up a good fight they were defeated in the end.



Back R-L: Holly Bell, Adela Buliman, Kelly Flower, Erica Egan and Michaela Cambe
Front R-L: Seth Banaga, Angela Molina, Jessica Rafter, Emma Bolger and Ciara Kelly

Well done to the girls for their commitment and determination throughout the season. We will be sad to say goodbye to our sixth years and we hope they continue to play basketball in years to come.

U-16 Premier (Champions)

The premier league consists of players from the top clubs in North Dublin so the results in all the games in the league were extremely close. In the league games St. Mary's beat Maynooth PP, Manor House, and Santa Sabina A. Their only loss of the season was to St. Louis Rathmines going down by one point. They met Santa Sabina in the semi-final. The game finished in a draw and went to extra time. St. Mary's showed great strength and determination and won in the end by four points.

On the 29th of January the team travelled to the National Basketball Arena

for the SSA League Finals. We were accompanied by thirty supporters along with teachers Ms. Maher and Ms. Nolan. St. Mary's got off to a rocky start losing the first quarter 9-4, it was then all level after the second and third quarters. With three minutes left, in the final quarter St. Mary's girls were four points down, it looked like it was going to be St. Louis' day but our captain Julie McEvoy showed great leadership and skill to pop a three pointer and then a two pointer in the last fourteen seconds. St. Mary's held their defence in the dying seconds and were crowned champions!

With the talent, commitment and team spirit shown by this team I can safely say the future of St Mary's Basketball is in good hands.



Julie McEvoy MVP



The winning team and its amazing supporters!

U-16 Division 2 (Quarter Finalists)

Our U-16 Division 2 team had a brilliant season; winning three out of their four league matches. They beat St. Dominic's Ballyfermot, St. Dominic's Cabra B and Mt. Sackville B but lost out to Presentation Terenure by just one point. They were up against it following a tough draw against Santa Sabina in the quarter final. The girls played brilliantly but Santa Sabina proved the more experienced team on the day. The team members were Nerice Polintan, Mikaellah Sandiego, Rabeca Roy, Megan Cluskey, Fergie Nicole Oller, Carla Coulahan, Kayleigh Hughes, Sarah Basangan, Vanessa Educave, Orla Lowery, Emily Clarke and Abby Buluran. With most of the players still eligible for U-16 again next year, watch this space!!

Ms. E. Murphy



Back row: L-R Alanna McDonagh, Trish Azubike, and Keirsha Roche
Front row: L-R: Megan Sheehan, Laura O'Connor, Juile McEvoy, Jade Kelly, Megan Kelly

The Running Club

The Running Club took place this year with excellent participation by all members. It was scheduled every Tuesday during lunchtime. Running is a great way to relieve stress, build strength and burn calories. After Christmas, we held fun-filled indoor exercise classes which always finished with a powerful plank challenge! Well done girls!

Ms. C. Salmon, Ms. G. Shanahan and Ms. M. Rochford



ROINN NA GAELIGE

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge den scoth againn i mbliana ón 9ú-13ú Márta.

- Dé Luain tháinig grúpa ceoltóirí chun na scoile agus sheinneadar ceol traidisiúnta Gaelach chomh maith le amhráin ar an sean-nós as Baile Átha Cliath. Bhí Biongó againn ag am lóin.
- Dé Máirt tháinig T-Rex ó Ghaelgory chugainn agus chuir siad seó ar fáil do mhuintir an chéad agus an dara bliain. Bhíodar lán le fuinneamh agus bhí lá iontach againn!
- Dé Céadaoin bhí Tráth na gCeist againn sa halla, comhghairdeas leis na buatóirí!
- Ar an Déardaoin bhí céilí againn, míle buíochas leis na daltaí ón idirbhliain a chabhraigh linn leis sin.
- Dé hAoine labhraíomar faoin nGaeltacht agus d'fhéachamar siar ar an tseachtain iontach a bhí againn.

Do muintir na hidirbhliana, bhí Bronnadh na bhFáinní againn do na daltaí a rinne scrúdú cainte do i mí Eanáir. Bhí sé lán tuitle acu tar éis an dian oibre a rinneadar ar fad.

Comhghairdeas libh! Ansin bhí deis acu a scíth a ligeant nuair a ghlac siad páirt i rang íoga as Gaeilge; míle buíochas le Óga íoga a rinne é sin linn.

Míle buíochas do na daltaí ar fad a ghlac páirt go fuinniúil i Seachtain na Gaeilge; maith sibh! Caithfimid buíochas speisialta a ghabháil leis an nGael Squad a d'eagraigh Seachtain na Gaeilge le múinteoirí Roinn na Gaeilge; bhí sibh ar fheabhas! Míle buíochas freisin do gach duine a chabhraigh linn le Seachtain na Gaeilge a reachtáil; Mrs. Lennon, Ms. O'Donnell agus na múinteoirí ar fad.

Grá don Ghaeilge go deo!

Seachtain na Gaeilge was held with great success in the school from 9th to 13th of March.

- Monday: Musicians came to the school and demonstrated the basics of

Irish music and Dublin based ballad singing. Many thanks to them for facilitating that session. We had bingo at lunchtime.

- Tuesday: "T-Rex" from Gaelgory came in and entertained first and second years with their songs and dancing. Many thanks to them for their time and energy.
- Wednesday: We had a quiz in the hall as Gaeilge. Well done to the winners!
- Thursday: We had a céilí in the gym where we witnessed great enthusiasm and dancing talent!
- Friday: We spoke about the Gaeltacht and gave out prizes, and also had a look back on the week.

Transition Year students were given their fáinnes which were well deserved after all their hard work and their exam in January. Comhghairdeas libh go léir! They then relaxed with Yoga as Gaeilge. Many thanks to Óga Yoga for coming in and helping us to relax.

Thanks to all students who participated so well in all activities and really got into the spirit of Seachtain na Gaeilge. Maith sibh! A huge thanks must be given to the Gael Squad who ran Seachtain na Gaeilge in collaboration with the Roinn na Gaeilge teachers. Maith sibh a chailíní, bhí sibh iontach! Many thanks to all who facilitated Seachtain na Gaeilge, including all staff and in particular Ms. O'Donnell and Mrs. Lennon.

Grá don Ghaeilge go deo!

Bhí na Scrúdaithe Cainte ag muintir an séú bliain ón 13ú-17ú Aibreán. Rinne na cailíní ar fad an-chleachta agus bhíodar lán réidh do na scrúdaithe. Bhí na scrúdaitheoirí an-sásta leo agus bhí na múinteoirí an-bhródúil astu. Táimid cinnte gur éirigh go maith libh! Comhghairdeas as ucht 40% den Ardteistiméireacht sa Ghaeilge a chríochnú, agus go n-éirí libh i mí an Mheitheamh agus amach anseo.

Sixth year students had their Leaving Certificate oral

exam from 13th-17th April. All the girls did a lot of practice and were ready and prepared for the exam. The examiners were very happy with them and the teachers were very proud of them. We're sure they got on very well. Congratulations for having finished 40% of their Leaving Certificate Irish exam, and the best of luck in June and in the future.



T-Rex



Céilí



Above: Ceol and Talent Show



Tráth na gCeist



Above and left: Fáinne

An Ciorcal Comhrá

Bhí an Ciorcal Comhrá ar siúl gach Aoine ag am lóin. Thosaigh sé ag tús na bliana mar tá 40% ag dul do bhéaltriail na hArdteiste anois!

Thug sé deis do dhaltaí a gcuid Gaeilge labhartha a chleachtadh! 'Bhí an Ciorcal Comhrá go hiontach!' a dúirt Michaela Mullen. 'Chabhraigh sé go mór liom le mo chuid Gaeilge labhartha!' a dúirt Sabat Ahmed (daltaí ón 6ú bliain).

Maith sibh go léir! Gaeilge go deo!

Ms. C. Salmon



Romeo and Juliet

Lauryn McCausland from Class 3 Orchid gives her review of Cyclone Theatre Company's performance.

On Friday 20th March, all third year students took a trip to the Helix in D.C.U. to watch Shakespeare's famous tale of "star-cross'd lovers", "Romeo and Juliet". We have studied this play for our Junior Certificate and this gave us an opportunity to expand and reinforce our knowledge of the play.

At the beginning of the performance, four actors took to the stage and were arguing over having no director to direct the show. In the end, they theatrically invoked the ghost of Shakespeare himself who became the director. I found this interesting as he told us what it was like back when he wrote the play. We learned that women didn't have the same rights then, so all men had to act out the characters' parts, even the female role of Juliet! This wasn't a regular Shakespearean performance. It was created to aid Junior Certificate students studying the play, so every so often the actors would stop the scene to describe what was happening and to give us students a better understanding of key themes or characters. I found this made the parts of the play more entertaining and easier to remember.

My favourite scene was Act 3 Scene 5, where Juliet admits to her parents that she doesn't want to marry Paris. The powerful acting really showed in this scene as Lord Capulet became enraged and slapped Juliet. The tension throughout the whole theatre was very apparent as the rawness of this scene was played out fantastically, especially through Lord Capulet's dramatic delivery of key lines and furious facial expressions. A funny scene was the fight scene. This is also an example of how this stage company put their own twist on the story. During the fighting a bit of slapstick comedy was incorporated as it started out as a 'poke' war. Then the song "Kung Fu Fighting" came on as Tybalt and Mercutio broke into slow motion fighting. I found this quite comical and it will definitely be another scene that sticks in my head.

In the entire production there were only four actors. We saw how skilled and versatile these actors were in their performances of each character. I didn't find this confusing at all as the actors played each part differently which made it easy to see the characters as individuals. Marie O'Donovan who played both Juliet and Tybalt, did an amazing job in the role of Juliet, especially during Act Four where she actually cried on stage. I didn't feel Tybalt's character was portrayed as well

though as he should have seemed more villainous, fiery and headstrong.

In conclusion, I thought the play was extremely funny and many scenes left me crying with laughter. There was great interaction between the audience and the cast and I found it very helpful towards my studies, (although I still have to work on my quotes!) I think the play would be perfect for Third Year students who have studied "Romeo and Juliet" as it prepares them in an entertaining way for their English examination. I would give this play 8/10, as I feel there is room for improvement in the staging and backdrop, but it was still a brilliant day out.

Oral Literacy

As part of the drive to promote oral literacy first year students researched a topic of interest, female infanticide, and presented their findings to their peers. Their presentation made such an impact that it sparked a sense of social justice which caused the students to lobby Ministers on the matter. This proved to be a rich multi-dimensional learning experience for all.

Students Teaching Students about Female Infanticide

By Melia Mc Evoy (1 Amber) & Ciara McKenna (1 Opal)



Recently we read a short story from the book, "Better Than Fiction. True Travel Tales From Great Fiction Writers" edited by Don George. We came across a story by Isabel Allende, 'Who Wants a Girl?' She talked about her travels in India where on a visit to a village she experienced a young mother offering her a new born baby girl.

We thought this was curious and we wanted to find out why this was happening, so we started to do some research. We discovered that this was due to female infanticide, where female babies are killed, mainly due to poverty and pressures of providing a dowry. It is not confined just to India, this also happens in China and many other parts of the world.

Library News



The Book Club continue to meet each Thursday from 3 pm to 4 pm. This term we watched the films: "The Maze Runner" and "Divergent" based on the popular novels by James Dashner and Veronica Roth.

Our library computerised system has worked very well in its first year of operation. Many thanks to our hard working team of Prefects and helpers especially Sandra Joshy, Sibil Rose Sabu and Jana Khalil. We will miss our sixth years Sandra and Sibil in the library and would like to wish them all the best.
Sr. Maria and Ms. Sullivan

As students in an all-female school we find it horrific to imagine that this could have happened to us thirteen years ago if we were not lucky enough to have been born in Ireland. Ten million girls over a twenty year period have been murdered or left to die in southern India as a result of female infanticide. This, shockingly, amounts to all the girls in our school plus twelve other girls' schools of the same size being wiped out every week.

We decided that it was important to make other students aware of this. We asked to teach a lesson during S.P.H.E. We prepared a lesson plan and tried to make it as interactive as possible. We showed class 1 Amber the Microsoft Photostory we had prepared. This showed some

THE THREE DEADLIEST WORDS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD ARE

— IT'S A GIRL. —

BUT I BELIEVE WE CAN CHANGE THAT. I STAND FOR THE GENERATION WHERE THE FULL RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN WILL BE FULFILLED EVERYWHERE BECAUSE WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WOMEN'S RIGHTS. BECAUSE OF GENDERCIDE, 200 MILLION GIRLS ARE MISSING. THAT'S 200 MILLION FEWER CHANGEMAKERS. LEADERS. MOTHERS. DOCTORS. TEACHERS. WIVES. THEY'VE BEEN ABANDONED. NEGLECTED. ABUSED. MURDERED. UNWANTED. THIS HAS CREATED AN INCREASE IN VIOLENCE, SEX-TRAFFICKING AND CHILD ABDUCTION.

A GIRL HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE NOT JUST BECAUSE SHE IS A GIRL, NOT JUST BECAUSE SHE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY, AND NOT JUST BECAUSE SHE COULD

— CHANGE THE WORLD —

BUT BECAUSE IT IS HER MOST BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.

I STAND FOR GENDER EQUALITY. I STAND FOR JUSTICE. I STAND AGAINST INDIFFERENCE. I STAND FOR HER. I STAND FOR CHANGE. STAND WITH ME AGAINST GENDERCIDE.

ITSA GIRL MOVIE.COM

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

shocking images and statistics about female infanticide in southern India. We followed this up with a documentary clip from www.itsagirlmovie.com. Props such as a pink baby shoe and baby grow were passed around so that the students could feel empathy. Groups fed back their reactions to the issue on mini whiteboards. Each student was given a photocopy with photographs and names of the three Ministers we had written a letter to seeking their help to stop female infanticide. Everyone signed the petition and sent it with the letters to Charles Flanagan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sean Sherlock, Junior Minister for Foreign Affairs and James Reilly, Minister for Children.

We learned a lot about how to plan an interactive lesson, and how long it takes to deliver each point in your lesson plan. We learned about events beyond our curriculum that are happening in our world, how to use Microsoft Photostory, how to write a formal letter and the names of the Senior and Junior Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Children. It was great that the Ministers replied to our petition and we felt that they had listened to us.

Gold Module

Terms 2 and 3

The sensory garden is looking wonderful due to the hard work of the Gold module students over the past two terms. Their winter crops of garlic and broad beans are thriving, the sunflower, runner bean and sweet pea seeds (collected in October) have been sown, germinated and are now growing outside.

Much fun was had by 6 Gold. They created their own St. Mary's student scarecrow in a break from their studies.

The seeds they bought from the money raised in the harvest raffle are thriving since been planted. We look forward to coming back in August and seeing a beautiful array of flowers (poppies, lupins, nasturtiums and sunflowers) and who could forget our pumpkins?!

Big thanks to Kieran Murphy and Gerry for all their support and hard work in the garden.

Ms. N. Cunningham



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Transition Year Geography

This year Transition year students worked with the medium of clay to create models of volcanoes and volcanic eruptions. The girls did a great job showing the differences between different shaped volcanic cones, basic and acidic lava and effusive and explosive eruptions. With a bit of imagination, some pipe cleaners, cotton wool and a lot of red paint, they produced some great models.



Leaving Certificate Fieldwork

On the 22nd of April all of the fifth year geography classes went on their field trip to Balscadden Bay in Howth. As part of our fieldwork we had to carry out a number of tasks along the beach. We worked in groups to do each task, with the help of the teachers. As it was such a nice day we were able to really appreciate the scenery around us as we carried out each task. The day was really enjoyable and we were all able to have a laugh while we were working, even when we were just watching and counting waves. It will definitely be a day to remember. If only all classes were on the beach!



Sicily Trip



We were absolutely delighted with the interest in the upcoming trip to Sicily. All the places have been filled and the countdown is on. We will be based in Hotel Scrivano in Randazzo, which reputedly serves some of the best food on the island! Some of the geographical highlights to look forward to will include Mount Etna and the Aeolian Islands.

Isabel Maher



SPHE DEPARTMENT

Terms 2 and 3

It has been a busy time for the S.P.H.E. department. We prepared for Mindful Week (23-27 March) and completed the course (including the topics of relationships and sexuality, and substance abuse). It's been really enjoyable for all the team to have the opportunity to work with the students in St. Mary's.

A selection of different activities was put in place for all students in St. Mary's during Mindful Week. These included: a film presentation for first and second years; meditation in S.P.H.E. class for third years; the Mindful Mystery Tour for fifth years and a dance meditation workshop for Transition year students and sixth years. The week concluded with Transition year students enjoying a delicious mindful breakfast as a year group, followed by their 'capture, create and celebrate' Botanic Walk.

As part of Mindful week Transition year students engaged in Mindful Morning. It started with breakfast together in the choir hall with pancakes, croissants, pan au chocolates, fruit smoothies and most importantly: tea! We then walked down to the Botanic Gardens where students were given a mindful minute sticker which they had to use to focus on life in the moment. Then students were asked to:

- **CAPTURE** – Take an image of something they found inspiring and beautiful
- **CREATE** – Write a song, poem, rap or slogan around the image they had selected
- **CELEBRATE** – Students presented their creation to the group

Well done girls. We were so impressed with your behaviour on the day and with how involved you all got in the different activities.

Ms. N. Cunningham

Some thoughts on the year from our second years:

The week before our Easter holidays, our school had a Mindful Week. Each class could take a break from the usual classes and watch a movie. We watched, "The Strange Life of Timothy Green". All students enjoyed the break very much.

In S.P.H.E. we learned about how to take care of our mental health. Ms. Cunningham told us that activities such as reading, listening to music, gardening and exercise would be good for our mental health. During class we went outside and planted potatoes.

Aoife Ure – 2 Wren

In S.P.H.E. we have learned many things. We have learned about our body image, personal hygiene, how we are all unique, how our body changes and how to be confident.

I think that in S.P.H.E. the things we learn are helpful for now and the future. When discussing our personal hygiene and body image, we learned about the different ways that we take care of ourselves. Our teacher has taught us how, no matter what, we are all unique and we have also learned about confidence. We learned that no matter how you act, what you say or what you do, that's just what makes you who you are. No matter what, you don't have to change anything.

Enoh Brownson – 2 Wren



Transition Year Botanic Walk



Mindfulness Week



The Bridge

*So we're in the Botanic,
Six of us on a bridge,
As we're crossing from childhood to adulthood,
Thinking how fast the years go past,
The journey we're talking and memories we're making,
These are the best years of our lives.*

**By Sinead Keogh, Chloe Nicholson, Gillian Doherty,
Chloe Dalton, Abbie O'Leary and Alex Fagan**



Transition year reflections on Mindful Week:

SPHE DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

Mindfulness Week

5th Year Mystery Trip

In March, the fifth year students went on a Mystery Trip tour. Throughout that week there was great excitement among our year as everyone was guessing where we would go.

Thursday morning came and we were told our Mystery Tour would be based in Killiney, Co Dublin. We all met at Connolly Station that morning to get the train to our destination.

When we arrived, there wasn't a cloud to be seen in the sky! What more could you ask for? Ms. Boran planned a scenic walking route from Dalkey so we could see all the beautiful views that were around us. Breath-taking was not the word!! The cameras were out in plenty that day!

After our lovely walk, we reached Killiney Beach. Here we had time to chill

out, eat our lunch and enjoy our surroundings. We also had a task to do, that would contribute to our graduation at the end of sixth Year. Each of us had to go down to the beach and pick up a rock we liked. While we held this rock we had to think of a goal we hoped to achieve by the time of graduation. We had to write the goal on the rock. Our next activity was to pick up a small stone, which we called our "worry stone", and on the count of three, we all threw our worries into the sea. There was a great sense of relief after this activity.

We then brought back a few memories by playing some of our favourite childhood games.

This day was so much fun and it was great to see our year group bond the way it did. There's no doubt we'll never forget it.

Amy Ray, 5 Earhart

Computer Club

Here, in St. Mary's we have a well-equipped computer room. At lunch break, there has been a Computer Club organised for any students who wish to use the facilities. It is on every Monday, Thursday and Friday from 1:00-1:40pm. Supervision is facilitated by Mr. Duffy and Mr. Cannon. Students enjoy the space to do their research for projects, to learn about computers, and to receive support in their endeavours. At the end of the year a 'Creative Writing' competition was organised for first year students. There was great interest among the first year cohort! It proved very difficult for the coordinating team to choose a winner. Together, with the coordinating team, we work hard to make The Computer Club a friendly environment. Students from all year groups use the computer room and whether it is Word, Powerpoint, the internet or use of the printers, they learn key skills that further their education. These skills lead the way to new forms of studying and doing their required work. It has been amazing to be part of such a positive initiative within the school.
Ms. R. Nugent
(Coordinator of the Computer Club)

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

There are exciting times ahead for Science students enrolled on the London Science trip, Autumn 2015. Thirty-seven students will explore the many Science museums and exhibitions that London has to offer, including a visit to Thorpe Park to fully engage with the concepts of gravity, momentum, cell structure and human physiology. The three-day whirlwind tour is the second Science related school tour here in St. Mary's. We hope that following on our inaugural New York Tour in 2013, London will be just as enthralling for our girls.

Fifth year physics and biology students congregated on the basketball court on the 20th march at 9.30 in the hope of seeing the solar eclipse. Despite the poor visibility students did notice the darkness fall over Glasnevin.

Back in the classroom, we were as busy as ever. Some of the fifth year Biology students were creatively producing models of the DNA double helix. This is the structure on which genes are found. Our genes carry the instructions from our parents to form us! Sixth year Biology students carried out practical ecology experiments in the extensive

school grounds.

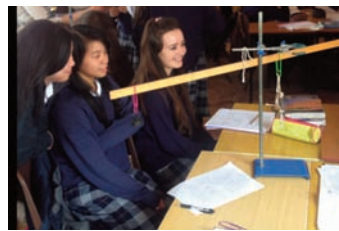
Fifth year Physics students have discovered how a fridge can heat the room which it's in while sixth year Physics students learned how to smash a glass using a loudspeaker.

First year students have been studying a particle module and have made a computer simulation of solids, liquids and gases. The second year pupils were investigating the properties of forces using levers. They had the challenge of balancing a metre stick using different forces on the left and right hand side. They all succeeded after many attempts. Finally, all of our examination classes finished each of their respective syllabi. We wish them all the very best in the weeks and years ahead.

Transition year students have been spending their time learning about human physiology and then making models of the skeletal system using different coloured clay. They have also been discovering the wonders of the solar system and investigating the effects of electricity.

All Transition year students went to the Young Scientist competition in January. Whilst St Mary's had no entries this

year, the students were enthused by the experience and will hopefully consider entering a project next year.



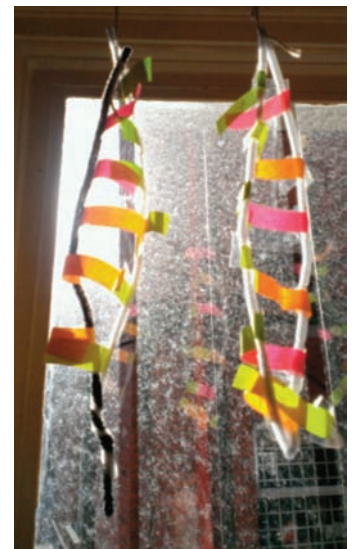
Sarah Grace, Mikaallah San Diego and Nerice Polintan participating in The Law of the Lever challenge during science class.



This is an image from space of the shadow caused by a solar eclipse on the earth'



Ireland from Earth on a clear day without a solar eclipse. Can you see yourself?



DNA models made by some of our fifth year Biology students.



Some of the TY students made models of the human skeleton.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT (Contd.)



Sixth Year Ecology Fieldwork

One student's account of the Transition year Physics experience:

On Tuesday, the 24th of February, my classmate Erica and I went to Trinity College for the annual Transition Year Physics Experience (TYPE). We started the day with a lecture from the esteemed Dr. Eric Finch about our universe. It was fascinating and his passion for teaching really came through. We participated in other lectures and activities with different doctors and professors who were all very interesting people. I really enjoyed the experiments we did: we used volume to smash a glass and used marshmallows and a microwave to teach us about radiation. Overall, it was a really fun filled and interesting day and I was delighted to get the opportunity to participate.

Chloe Dalton, Transition year student

Transition Year Computers

Students engaged in an advocacy initiative whereby they used their I.T. skills to create and develop an audio-visual animation on a topical environmental issue of their choice and to show how it affects their lives. Following their research on the E.U. parliament system in Brussels, they sent their animations to an M.E.P., in this area to communicate their message.

Mr. Carr

German Breakfast – Second Year Students

On April 17th, all second year students of German enjoyed a traditional German breakfast in class. The girls sampled typical German salami, ham and cheese. There was also a selection of Pretzels and bread rolls served with Nutella. The girls enjoyed a chat "auf Deutsch" over a glass of fresh orange juice!

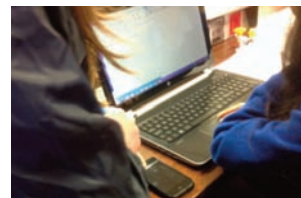
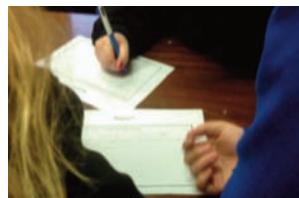
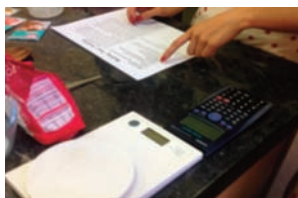
Ms. S. McManus



Transition Year Chemistry and Home Economics – The Proof is in the Pudding

At the start of the new year, Transition Year students engaged in a cross-curricular curriculum activity where their task was to research, make and report on what they thought was the best way of producing a chocolate pudding of quality, texture and appearance. Students had a limited time in which to plan their strategy and calculate how the variables they chose to change would affect the outcome. The project winners were Sarah Moran and Maria Salma Pogba.

Mr. Carr and Ms. Doheny



MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



Modern Language Treasure Hunt

On Thursday, the 19th of March, all of the Transition Year Modern Language classes of French, German and Spanish, took part in an Easter local area treasure hunt. Each class was divided into teams of four and searched the surrounding areas of



Modern Languages Treasure Hunt

Glasnevin and the Botanic Gardens to find the clues to answer the questions on their worksheets.

All of the questions were asked in French, Spanish or German and each group had to work as a team to translate the questions and find the answers. It was a great opportunity for all the language classes to come together and put their knowledge of their modern language to good use.

The sun was shining on Glasnevin hill and on the greenhouses of the Botanic Gardens. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all transition year

Modern Language students and their accompanying teachers, Ms. Shanahan, Ms. Lenehan, Ms. Walker and Ms. Hughes.

Ms. G. Shanahan

French Department – The French Club

The French Club has been a great success again this year with all of the enthusiasts of French meeting every Monday at lunchtime to experience French culture and language in a fun filled environment. The French Club is a great place for students to come and enjoy French activities while improving and practising the language skills they have learned in the classroom.

This year the French Club enjoyed tasting French treats, playing French games, listening to French music, doing French karaoke, watching French films, doing tables quizzes based on France and its culture, playing French bingo, dancing and much more.

This year French Club Captains were chosen to help organise the games and activities. The French Club Captains are: Jodie Hanney, Fiona Conway, Heather Dunne, Ciara McKenna and Ali Mooney. A big thank you to these students who worked so well with Ms. Shanahan throughout the year!

Ms. G. Shanahan



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Past Music Students on Voice of Ireland 2015

The Music department is very proud of three music students who were on this year's "Voice of Ireland". They are Shannon Doyle, Amy Hansard and Emma Humber. All three girls were part of the school choir and studied music during their time in St. Mary's. This was a great opportunity as all three girls are hugely talented. Emma Humber made it all the way to the final of the show and we wish her continued success in music.



Emma Humber with Bressie from the "Voice of Ireland"

Emmanuel 2015

St. Mary's was well represented again this year at the Emmanuel Concert in the Helix on the 4th of March. Fifty members of the choir participated in the concert. The students had a great day in the Helix where they joined with the choirs of other schools to attend workshops and rehearsals. All pupils enjoyed the experience of singing in the Helix and a huge thanks to all the students in the choir who always work so hard throughout the year and who are always so dedicated.



Emmanuel 2015, The Helix, DCU

Music Practicals

Fifty two Junior Certificate students, thirty eight Leaving Certificate students and close to three hundred pieces of music, made for a busy time in the Music Department in preparation for the Music practical examinations. All the girls have worked hard and both examiners commented on the high standard of music performed. The style of pieces performed varied from Irish Traditional music to classical, and from contemporary music to rock. Finally we wish our 3rd and 6th years every success in their written examinations in June.



Naoise O'Brien practicing for her Leaving Certificate Practical

The Annual St. Mary's "Music Showcase"

Towards the end of the school year the musical talent of St. Mary's was showcased in one night of great entertainment in St. Mary's choir hall. Performances on the night consisted of students from the Junior and Leaving certificate classes performing their practical pieces. Class performances from first, second and fifth year music classes, the T.Y. music classes and the school choir also featured. It was a great night of music and a great way to end the musical activities of the year.

We are looking forward to more exciting musical projects next year.

6th Year Music Students Continuing Music Studies

The Music Department would like to congratulate two of its students who have earned their place in third level music courses next year. Naoise O' Brien is going to study performance/composition in BIMM (DIT), and Sarah Kelly has attained a place in The Royal Conservatory of

Music in Glasgow where she will study Musical Theatre. Best of luck also to the other music students who have applied for music courses in other colleges. We are extremely proud of our all our Music students and wish them every success in their futures.

Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Coll
Music Department

St. Mary's Holy Faith Chamber Choir

The St. Mary's Holy Faith Chamber Choir was set up at the beginning of this school year. It has provided a great opportunity for students to sing and perform in a smaller choral group. The choir meets every Friday at lunchtime to rehearse for school events throughout the year.

The choir's first performance was at the beginning of the school year at the school's Seventy Fifth Celebration Anniversary Mass. The choir performed Eric Whitacre's 'Seal Lullaby'.

At Christmas the choir opened the annual Christmas ceremony performing an enchanting piece called 'Jerusalem'; an alternative piece of music that included the choir walking slowly around the church in candlelight.

In January, the Chamber Choir performed at the Mass in Our Lady of Dolours Church in Glasnevin during "Catholic Schools Week".

The choir continued to work each week on new and challenging material including a French Choral piece that was made famous by the well-known French film, 'Les Choristes'. The piece is called, 'Vois Sur Ton Chemin'.

This is a list of the 2014-2015 dedicated Chamber choir members who have enriched the choir with their enthusiasm and talent:

Soprano 1:

Emily Carrick
Casey Harris
Gemma Reilly
Niamh Kelly
Mikaela Lunar

Soprano 2:

Czarinah Bulaclac
Joanna Agnes John
Claire Mulcahy
April Lamai
Lauren Russell

Alto:

Amy McLoughlin
Orla McLoughlin
Emma Hardiman
Neave D'Souza
Rachel Watters



Thank you to all the Chamber Choir members for all their great work!

Ms. Shanahan

A happy bunch!



MUSIC DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

Emma Humber reaches the Finals in RTE's "THE VOICE"

My musical journey with Emma

Emma Humber, a recent past pupil of Saint Mary's, Glasnevin, reached the Final in RTE's, "The Voice". It took place on Sunday April 26th. I have known Emma since she was a first year pupil in the school in 2007. I had been Chaplain at the school from 2001 to 2002, and continued to be connected to the school through music and liturgy. Emma was part of the school choir who sang on RTE for a Sunday Mass Broadcast in 2007 and for which I composed a new Mass Setting. It was here that Emma sang her first solo piece for me!

In December of that same year, Emma recorded **Let the Children Come to Me**, a song I composed for Suzanne House. Suzanne House is a special place – run by Saint John of God Brothers - for children with life-limiting conditions. It was fitting that Emma's sweet and young voice should be the one for this recording. Emma got to visit these children and to sing for them and their parents and really touched the hearts of those who heard her. Emma went on to sing this song in Knock for the Grandparents' Pilgrimage.

Following this event, I was invited to compose a special song for grandparents. This song **You're my Guiding Light** was also recorded by Emma. Again Emma went to Knock on a few occasions to sing this song to a congregation of about six thousand people. During our trips, Emma got to meet with a number of well-known artists, including Dana. She has also sung at events which featured Fr. Liam Lawton.

I have always included Emma as one of the soloists in fundraising concerts I have organized. (The most recent concert was in November last - to raise funds to help alleviate the suffering of those who have contracted the Ebola virus in West Africa. At that time Emma had already begun her journey on "THE VOICE".)

Emma is now a second year student at N.U.I. Maynooth. She continues to sing and has developed a wide repertoire in a variety of genres and styles.

I know that I am just one person who has had the privilege of working with Emma on her musical journey in and out of school. Her musical journey continues! ... and who knows where it will lead her? Let us hope that Emma will get all the support she deserves! GOOD LUCK EMMA.

Sr. Marie Dunne CHF

CSPE DEPARTMENT

2 Robin's C.S.P.E. Action Project raises €260 for Simon Community

2 Robin's car wash on 19th March raised an impressive €260 for the homeless charity "Simon". The teachers were delighted to have their cars hoovered and washed by the girls from 2 Robin. The girls enjoyed listening to music in the sunshine on what was a beautiful day. They then wrote their action projects which make up a large part of the marks of their Junior Certificate C.S.P.E. examination.

Mr. P. Montague



Your Carbon Footprint



Do you walk to school?

Do you use renewable energy?

Do you buy locally produced products?

If not, then you most likely have a big carbon footprint.

In fact in Ireland the average person produces twelve tonnes of carbon dioxide each year – forty times more than the 0.3 tonnes each person in Kenya produces.

This seriously damages the environment and is causing global warming and rising sea levels. This means that places near the sea, such as Clontarf, could get flooded even more often. We have to save our planet and this all comes down to every individual. If we all walked or cycled or took the bus instead of driving this could make a difference.

See carbonfootprint.com, recyclemore.ie or change.ie for more suggestions on ways you can reduce your carbon footprint."

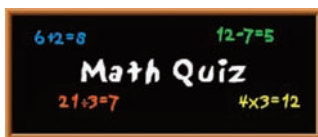
Amy Dorgan Hughes, Sarah O'Flaherty, Amy Wall and Georgia Walsh

1 Topaz C.S.P.E.

MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Maths Department in the school had a dynamic second term with our students taking part in a number of exciting competitions and attending educational workshops.

Quiz Mania – First Years



Our first year students took part in a Maths quiz held on Wednesday 2nd April in DCU. We had two team representing St. Mary's with, "So you think you can add", coming in first place! The team members were Avia Sanders, Diana Chica Rosie, Rosin Green and Maebh Scahill O' Loughlin.

Well done to, "The X Factor" team Fiona Conway, Alexandra Rosus, Ciara McKenna and Anne Monique Fabian who competed to a high standard in the competition. Congratulations also to their teacher Ms Gavin.



R-L Avia Sanders, Diana Chica Rosie, Rosin Green and Maebh Scahill O' Loughlin



R-L Fiona Conway, Alexandra Rosus, Ciara McKenna and Anne Monique Fabian

MATHS DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

Second Years

Our second years competed in a Maths quiz held in D.C.U. on Wednesday 11th March from 10am until 1pm. We had two team representing St. Mary's: "Every day we're calculating", which consisted of Rebecca Roy, Shrine Shibhu, Caoimhe Macken Tara Rose Wilson and, "So you think you can add", which consisted of Aoife Ure, Kristen Lee, Lauren Wilson and Alaina Duffy. "So you think can add" was placed fifth out of thirty teams. Well done to the girls.

Biomedical Engineering Workshop

Dublin City University's School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering held a one-day workshop for second level students interested in pursuing a career in Biomedical

Engineering. The following fifth year students attended the workshop on Saturday 23rd May in D.C.U.: Ali Horan, Avril Reddy, Tara Nelson, Fitzsimmons, Angela Molina, Mariella Patricia, Mica Lane Cruz, Karen Pajarillo, Vivien Enriquez, Sally Ahern and Adela Buliman. The day was a fun-filled event which allowed students to familiarise themselves with the D.C.U. campus and facilities. The activities for the day included an overview of the Biomedical Engineering degree at D.C.U., biomedical engineering brain teasers and talks on implant design, the latest medical devices and technologies for tissue regeneration therapies.

Transition Years

DCU Video Competition

Our Transition year students entered the D.C.U. Maths Video Competition. We had

two placed teams from our school. Second prize went to Orla Carney, Megan Brien, Niamh Reilly and Rebecca Lawless for their video on Geometry. Third prize went to Ciara Kelly, Emma Bolger, Rachel Watters and Neave de Souza for their video on Geometry. The winning groups got the opportunity to make a professional video in D.C.U. The students were given the chance to make a three minute video supported by Stuart Kehoe from CTYI who helped with the maths element of it and Darran Heaney who is the e-learning project officer in D.C.U. The finished product is available for the school to use. This was a brilliant opportunity for the girls to showcase their many mathematical talents and their creative skills. The videos are both funny and engaging. Well done to all the students who took part.

Ms. E. Murphy

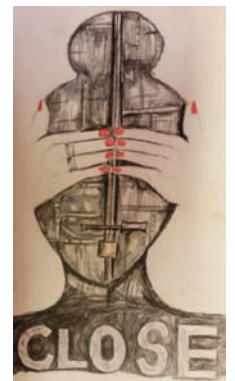
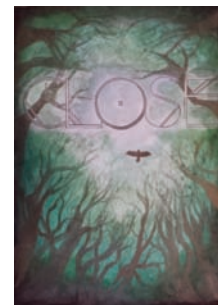
ART DEPARTMENT

Our first year art students have completed three cross-curricular projects with the Maths and Physics Departments exploring 'Numerical Wonder'. Students have observed distance, temperature, scale and shape in relation to the different phases of the moon, Halley's Comet, the planets in our solar system and the sun. They recorded their findings in a range of handmade accordion and butterfly bookcraft. They have made a creative response to The Fibonacci Sequence looking at mathematical numerical sequences found in all natural forms. The measurement and magic of time acted as inspiration for our clocks and our final first year porcelain project. All porcelain artwork is exhibited in St. Mary's school building. First year students also completed a print module focusing on mono printing, lino printing and collage. They created a series of book marks based on decorative motifs found in Henri Matisse's paintings.

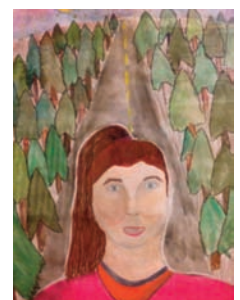
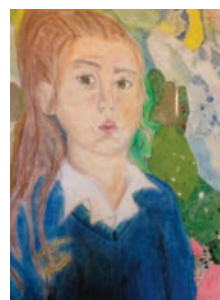
Second year students made excellent expressive self-portraits in term one. They went on to use their research in portraiture to create super spooky monster heads in ceramics. Each student demonstrated her model making skills through this three-dimensional animated and tactile project. They completed their year by learning the process of two colour block printing with chine colle. Their prints were based on animals of their choice.

"The Architects in Schools" Initiative supported by The Irish Architects Foundation was a great success. Evelyn D'Arcy was the practising architect who collaborated with Transition Year students throughout the project. They visited the new Sr. Margaret Aylward Spiritual Centre and made research drawings

and photographic references. The students discovered what's involved in architectural practice and prepared design possibilities for the school canteen. On May 1st the group made



Fifth year 'Close' film posters



First years' "Numerical Wonder"

Second Year Animated Monster Heads

Fifth year life drawings

Second Year Self Portraits

ART DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

a presentation in the New Library and Conference Centre, St. Patrick's College, D.C.U., Drumcondra, with Evelyn. The event was supported by the Arts Council, Department of Education and Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. For the final art module students designed and made a ceramic mosaic promoting positive mental health which will be put in situ over the summer.

Fifth year art students developed storyboards and narratives for film. They studied the process of filmmaking and cinematography. 'Close' is a short live action film made by the students which they intend to enter into "The Fresh Film Festival" in 2016. To support this work they went on to create posters based on

their film concepts and explored this graphic medium using image making and typography. Students also continued to develop their life drawing skills throughout this term and have made specific sketchbooks to hold their observations of the human form. In Art History and Appreciation we concentrated on ancient Irish art and introduced bookmark flashcards as revision aids.

Our third and sixth year exam students successfully completed their Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate practical exams in May. We wish them further success in their remaining exams in June.

Ms. C. Kavanagh and Ms. N. Cunningham

THE STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council has undergone a number of changes in leadership over the past few weeks. Firstly, we would all like to formally thank our former co-ordinator, Mrs. Hughes, for all her effort and dedication to the Student Council. Without her guidance and enthusiasm, we wouldn't have been successful in achieving our goals. For example, we saw the introduction of the new school scarves and the water dispensers which seem to be very useful for the students and staff of St. Mary's.

We are also delighted to announce the new Student Council co-ordinators: Ms. Hayes, Ms. Lenehan and Ms. McManus. We look forward to co-operating with them to improve our school and the student facilities.

On the 9th March, we elected Adela Buliman as Chairperson and Seth Grace Banaga as Secretary. We would like to thank our former Chairperson (April Lamai) and our former Secretary (Lara Eguia) for leading the Student Council and for their commitment to making a positive change in the school.

The Student Council continued to have an active role in fundraising for the betterment of the school community at this year's Fun Day. Everyone was supportive and took part in our fundraising events!

Finally, we would like to wish all third and sixth year students every success in their Junior and Leaving Certificate exams in June. We look forward to listening to all of your opinions and suggestions so please let us know if you have any concerns and positive ideas to improve our school.

Prefects

Thanks to all the prefects for their hard work and dedication during the year. Throughout the year, with events such as Halloween Dress up Day, first Year Sports Day, Homework Club and Computer Club, the prefects have played a very active part in the school community and have built up great relationships with their classes. We wish all our classes the best on their journey through St. Mary's. It is really hard for us to say goodbye.

Head Girl: Eimear Martin

Deputy Head Girls:

Eimear Tunstead and Katie Franzoni

Prefects:

Aoife Byrne
Ann Mariya José
Megan Looney
Sophia Byrne
Shannon O'Brien
Hazel Doyle
Jairrah Gongora

Nimah Hyland
Rochelle McGinley
Naoise O'Brien
Hannah Kelly
Miliscent Reyes
Ciara King
Sandra Joshy
Sibirose Sibou

Lara Eguia
April Lamai
Lucy Carroll
Shannon Farrell
Aine Ford
Molly Franzoni
Emily Carey
Lauren Clark

Raluca Ghinescu
Briza Dechavez
Anglea O'Hara
Niamh Whelan
Nicole Weldon
Ciara Scott
Hayley Gorman
Sarah Kelly



St. Mary's Student Council 2014-2015

First Year:

- 1 Topaz:** Amy Dorgan Hughes
Georgia Walsh
1 Amber: Melia McEvoy
Julia Bayrami
1 Emerald: Denisa Mihalute
1 Opal: Maebh Scahill
O'Loughlin
Tara Macken
1 Sapphire: Anna Mandzyuk
Niamh Finnegan

Second Year:

- 2 Wren:** Brianna Nutley
2 Lark: Emily McElroy
Nicole Ledden
2 Kestrel: Kirsten Lee
Rebecca Roy
2 Robin: Erika Byrne

Third Year:

- 3 Jasmine:** Alannah Masterson
3 Heather: Wendy Quijano
Leanne Castro
3 Daisy: Joanna John
Jana Khalil

Transition Year:

- 4 Botanic:** Nidhi Shiji
Sona Shiji
4 Aylward: Amy Boylan
Ciara Kelly

Fifth Year:

- 5 Curie:** Adela Buliman
(Chairperson)
Seth Grace Banaga
(Secretary)
Megan Rothballer
Victoria Kursite
5 Christie:

Sixth Year:

- 6 Spring:** Rochelle McGinley
6 Summer: April Lamai (Former
Chairperson)
Sophia Byrne
Katie Nolan
Shannon Farrell
6 Autumn: Lara Eguia (Former
Secretary)
6 Winter: Nicole Leblique
Aine Ford
6 Solstice: Eimear Martin
Leanne Gibbons
Chloe Dobbyn



Adela Buliman (Chairperson) and Seth Banaga (Secretary)

Trip to Rome, Italy



On the 12th of February 2015, a group of Transition year students got to go on a trip to Rome. We all met at Dublin Airport and we were all extremely excited. We landed safely at 8:30pm in Rome. Next day we all got up early to go to the Vatican, St. Peter's square and the Sistine Chapel. This was amazing and we were all speechless at how brilliant each painting was. That evening we went pizza making! It was great fun and our pizzas tasted wonderful.

On the Saturday we went to the Colosseum where all the gladiators fights were once held. Later we went ice-cream making and we got to taste lots of ice-cream. We had a meal in the hotel that evening and had evening games with quizzes and toga making. On our last day we went sightseeing to the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon. These were amazing to see in reality. That afternoon we went shopping! We then had a night tour with our guide Richard and he brought us to the fountains of the Gods. It was a brilliant night tour. The whole trip was fantastic and none of us will forget it.

Katie Bates



Galway Trip

My favourite part of Transition year was when we all went to Galway. It was one of the best trips I've ever been on. We met at the school at quarter past eight and we got a bus. It was a three hour long journey. When we got there we were staying at this place called Petersburg Adventure Centre. It looked like a lot of big barns. I got put in a room with people I wanted to be with and I was happy about that. On the first day we were put



into groups and my group got a boat across a lake to an obstacle course. It was great fun. Then that night in the dark we went orienteering. The next morning we went gorge walking and that was definitely the best part. We walked through rivers then jumped off big cliffs. That evening we went abseiling into a sixty seven foot deep cave. It was so scary but I gave it a go. Then the last day we went kayaking in the rain. It was so funny. I really am proud of myself for doing all the activities and I really pushed myself. I got much closer to so many people and also to the teachers who came with us. It was one of the best experiences I've ever had.

Megan O'Brien

Fighting Blindness Talk



On the 13th of April, Tony and Clodagh from "Fighting Blindness" came in to talk to us. Tony explained to us that he has a condition called Retinitis Pigmentosa, which means he only has peripheral vision, so he can't see straight ahead. He explained that he slowly lost his sight, and that it was really difficult. We did some challenges like throwing ball into a bucket or making paper airplanes, all while blind folded. When you can't see they become difficult tasks that require a lot of concentration. We really enjoyed it. Tony and Clodagh were so nice and answered all our questions in detail. It was really interesting and I am glad we got the chance to learn more about the charity. We hope to do some fundraising for them in the future.

Amy Boylan and Andrada Boglis

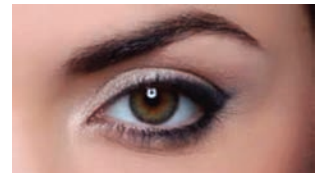
Create School Movie Making



The best thing I have done in Transition year was the "Create Schools Movie Making" with Joseph and Cormac. We had to think of a script and a name for our film. We got into groups and thought about names. We finally called it, "When School Strikes". Our film is a horror film but is full of comedy. I really enjoyed making the film but the two days of filming went by really fast. It was very enjoyable and everyone got on really well. The Oscar night was on the 30th April and we dressed up and saw the other films. There are lots of great memories from Transition year but "Create Schools" was a big highlight for me.

Sophie Harris

Leisure Studies



Every Tuesday we did Leisure Studies for three classes and they changed each term. We have done Fitness Camp, Make-up, Modern Dance, Self-defence, Sign Language, Hairdressing, Aromatherapy and Reflexology. Our favourite was Make-up. We had a guest speaker who was a professional make-up artist. We learned about keeping our skin healthy and nice. We learned how to clean, tone and moisturise. Then we learned about hygiene and finally we learned how to apply make-up for an interview and then for a night-time look. We really enjoyed this module.

Niamh Gibbson, Alex McManus and Simone Berheciu

Mindfulness Week

On Wednesday the 25th of March, my class and I went on a trip to the Botanic Gardens for Mindfulness week. That morning we all met up in the Choir Hall and were treated to a lovely tea break with pancakes, Nutella and croissants etc. We then made our way down to the Botanic Gardens. When we arrived at the Botanic Gardens we were all given a sheet with some tasks to do like finding a nice image that we liked, for example a flower. We had to make up a nice poem to sum up the lovely day we had together. When we finished our tasks we met with the teachers and decided to sit down and listen to each other's poems. This day made me feel really calm, and made me think positive thoughts. I really enjoyed it.

Nadine Kavanagh

TRANSITION YEAR (Contd.)

Retreat

On Wednesday the 25th of February, we went on a retreat to a convent on Iona Road. Many of us had been there in second year but for some it was their first visit. Many people think a retreat is a day of prayer and talk about God. But not this retreat. It was so eventful and it was never boring.

At half nine on Wednesday we met with the leaders Elaine, Deirdre, Stephno and Kevin in the Spirituality Centre. Everyone picked three different coloured skittles and when each colour was called, everyone with that colour said something about herself. The topic we based the day on was, "You shouldn't have to wear a mask to be different".

There were games that we played. We formed a chain of people on each side and it was a race to see who could pass the hoola hoop without breaking the chain. We made masks to show our attitudes on the outside and inside. You could be shy on the outside but you are not on the inside. We also made a collage and we got to eat sweets. We also met a nun who was really nice. It was a good day and I was sad when it was over because it was so much fun.

Rebecca Dunne

Trip to Google

My favourite trip was the trip to Google. I got the chance to go when I was one of twenty picked from the interviews. We met at Google early on a Friday morning to get our name tags and to wait on a fellow Googler to show us around. While we waited there we tried to play Foosball, but there was no ball. But I came to the rescue when I whipped out my EOS lip balm to use as a ball. We then took a tour and met other Googlers who were really nice and funny. The place is huge and on each station there is a food station where you can eat whatever you want! It is such a cool place to work and I envy everyone there. We learned how to produce a good CV, pitch ideas and present them to everyone. It was great and was truly a day well spent.

Shannon Joyce



A note from your Year Head and Co-ordinators

THANK YOU so much girls for making this year so fantastic. It has been a joy to watch you mature, become more confident and develop into young women this year. In trying to sum you up as a year group we came up with fun loving, enthusiastic and positive. We all noted how we were always greeted with smiles! Well done! This newsletter only gives a flavour of some of the things you have done, for more articles and images about T.Y. see the Transition year blog: <https://www.tumblr.com/blog/stmarystyeexperience>

Ms. Hughes, Ms. O'Keeffe and Ms. Griffin



Transition Year Retreat

The A to Z of Transition Year

Arts and Crafts
Bantaa
Cinema
Exploring the City
Fundraising
Galway
Howth Hike
Ice-skating
Jokes
Karate
Leisure studies
Modules
New Friends
Opportunities
Progress
Quality Time together
Rome
Self Confidence
TY Movies
Unforgettable Moments
Views Across the Country
Work Experience
Xtream Fitness
Young Scientist
Zoo

**Allanah Beatty, Chloe Dalton,
Chloe Nicholson, Emma Malone and
Martha Dwyer**

ST. MARY'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

St. Mary's Parents' Association represents the entire parent body as a partner in the school community. We review school policies, contribute parents' views on many issues that concern our daughters, work on many projects together with staff and students and help with endeavours to bring new Information Technology to our school. We are very fortunate to have worked with many students in the school including transition year, the prefects and the student council. We are delighted to take part in the annual student Fun Day and the 6th year Graduation. We are very lucky to have on the committee, representatives of each year group from first year to sixth year and this enables us to be fully aware of all the issues that are relevant to our daughters and allows us to relay these views to the school. Such is the ebb and flow of school life that new members are always needed as we say a fond farewell to sixth year girls and their families. Being part of the committee is a wonderful way of finding out about school life in St. Mary's. It is a great way to meet and hear news from other parents and learn too from others who have older daughters and have almost done it all! It is also very rewarding to continue to be active participants in our daughters' education. So get in contact with us at parents.stmarys@gmail.com and if you are not able to join the committee you can always join our "HELP" list. We have many parents who give us great help and support at school activities who are not available to become committee members.

Parents' Association Easter Raffle



A huge thanks to all our parents, students and staff of St. Mary's who supported our Easter Raffle to raise much needed funds for our school. The amount raised was €1,782.00. So again well done to all who donated, wrapped and raffled the prizes and to the whole school community who so generously supported us by buying lines. There are always so many projects in our school which need funding and we will keep you updated as to how these funds are used in the next newsletter.

ST. MARY'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

GRADUATION NIGHT



We look forward to helping out each year at the Graduation Night with cups of tea and coffee, sandwiches and lovely cakes and sticky buns. This is a lovely night to be a part of. This year's graduation was on 19th May and it was lovely to see the young women leaving the safe haven of St. Mary's, well equipped and ready to embark on the next stage of their voyage. We wish our sixth year girls and their families well.

Second Hand Book and Uniform Sale

Our now annual **SECOND HAND BOOK AND UNIFORM SALE** will take place again during the summer. We can sell your books on your behalf and we will also accept donated books. All uniforms (jumpers, skirts, jackets) are donated and the proceeds of all donated uniforms and donated books will go directly to the school. **FOR THIS EVENT TO BE A SUCCESS WE NEED YOUR BOOKS AND UNIFORMS.** There will be a night to **DROP IN** books and a night to **BUY BOOKS**. It has been hugely successful each year with both sellers and buyers availing of lots of bargains and making a bit of cash. The books are fairly priced and in really good condition. There will be texts sent to give details of the "drop in" and "buy nights" when book lists are confirmed nearer the summer break.

Website

www.stmaryshfcglasnevin.com

The Parents' Association works with the school to keep the school website up to date. There are lots of current news items and great information on a variety of topics. These include all subjects options available to study at St. Mary's, the school calendar, including exam timetables, CAO information, Transition Year news, school facilities, lots of lovely photos of the various activities our daughters participate in and much more. Keep checking in to see all that goes on in St. Mary's and the wonderful times our daughters have.



DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Career Guidance Information Evening for Parents of Fifth and Sixth Year Students

A career evening for parents of fifth and sixth year students was held on 7th January. The speakers on the evening included Deryck Tormey, School Liaison Officer, National College of Ireland, who spoke about the HETAC System/CAO System, Anne Skelly, Liberties College of Further Education, who spoke about the FETAC System and Susan Hawkins, Pre-Entry Project Officer, DCU, who spoke about the HEAR Scheme.

Incoming First Years

Entrance exams for First Year students took place on Saturday 7th February. To help facilitate the transition from primary to secondary school we visited the primary schools and talked with the sixth class teachers about the students' progress and interests.

There was a very positive information meeting with the parents of incoming first years on 22nd April to review the issues for students and parents and to initiate our long term partnership for the next five or six years. To further this partnership we invited parents of incoming first years to make an appointment at the end of May for an informal interview with a member of the Care Team.

Third Years

The third year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS) in December. This was to help those going on into fifth year with making their subject choices. They each received a booklet outlining what was involved in the study of subjects for the Traditional Leaving Certificate. Third year students planning to do fifth year had the opportunity to meet with the guidance counsellors to get feedback on the results of their DATS. The third year students with their parents attended a meeting on 9th February to look at the options for next year in regard to Transition Year, Fifth Year and LCVP.

Second Year Subject Choice

There was a meeting with the parents of the present first year

students on March 11th to look at subject choices for second year. A subject choice booklet was distributed to all parents on that night. The counsellors also met with the students individually throughout February and March to answer any questions about their subjects.

DCU Access Programmes

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 aims of the workshop are: 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. A number of our students participated in the programme.

The programme works with a cluster of three schools. The first workshop took place on 25th March and our school was asked to participate. The following fifth year pupils represented the school on the day: Leah Deegan, Kodie Dowdall, Zoe McDermott, Ciara Murphy, Michaela Cambe, Eimear Callery, Orla McLoughlin, Katie Donlon and Erica Keogh.

The OneDay@Google programme was developed in order to provide pre-university students with an enriching, creative and challenging work experience within a new media technology company. As part of Google's commitment to diversity and to providing opportunities to students from all academic backgrounds, it offers a One Day@ Google programme to help influence the educational paths students take to reach their desired careers. Students had an introduction session to Google and looked at careers in Google. They also participated in group activities and did a CV session. Kelly Fowler, Chloe Dalton, Alex Fagan, Chloe Bergin, Nikita Porter, Nidhi Shiji, Aoife O'Grady, Emma Bolger, Sinead O'Rourke, Sinead Keogh, Alison Kennedy, Neave D'Souza, Shannon Joyce, Megan Reilly, Amy Boylan, Abbie O'Leary, Hannah Lawler, Sona Shiji, Bronwyn Tracey and Martha Dwyer from TY participated in the programme for a week and also received free laptops for their contribution.

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Biomedical Engineering Workshop

D.C.U. provided an exciting opportunity for young and enthusiastic fifth year students who were interested in pursuing a career in Biomedical Engineering to attend a workshop on 10th May. The activities on the day included an overview of the Biomedical Engineering degree at D.C.U., a day in the life of a Biomedical Engineer, guest speakers and brain teasers as well as prizes for team work. The fifth year students who participated on the programme included Ali Horan, Avril Reddy, Tara Nelson, Lisa Fitzsimmons, Angela Molina, Mariella Patricio, Mica Lane Cruz, Karen Pajarillo, Vivien Enriquez, Sally Ahern and Adela Buliman.

D.C.U. has been outstanding in opening up Third Level education to our students and in sowing the seeds for students to aspire to apply for university from fifth year onwards. We are very grateful for its support over the past school year.

Sixth Years

CAO applications are now well and truly in and some students will be planning to readjust their choices on their change of mind form which is accessible online from May 5th to July 1st.

FETAC

Many of the students applying for FETAC have had interviews and have been offered places, subject to their results in the Leaving Certificate.

We wish all of our sixth year students every success in their Leaving Certificate and look forward to linking in with them in mid-August for the results. Both Ms. Devaney and Ms. Gavin will be available in August to support the students when they receive their results and later on when offers are being made.

Ms. F. Devaney and Ms. J. Gavin

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Junior Cycle

First Year Bronze Age

Creations

Well done to class 1 Emerald and 1 Sapphire who, as part of their study of the Bronze Age, created Lunula and Torcs which would have been worn as jewellery during the period. The girls were all really enthusiastic in modelling their creations and everyone had great fun!



Senior Cycle

Irish History Talk

On 6th March this year, the History department welcomed Mr. Paul Callery to the school to address our fifth year students on the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence. Mr. Callery is a member of the Dublin Brigade of the Irish Volunteers. Students and staff were bowled over by the volume of sources that adorned the hall that afternoon. Among the highlights were Mauser rifles and ammunition that were retrieved from the *Aud* following the Howth Gunrunning, replica flying column uniforms and medals that were awarded to those who had served in both the Rising and the subsequent war. Mr. Callery delivered a highly informative talk on the events of Irish history from 1916-1922. He gave students great insights into the lives of ordinary citizens during these times of great upheaval. Following the talk students were given the opportunity to examine the sources up close and to ask questions. This was a wonderfully informative afternoon for our fifth year students and we are extremely grateful to Paul Callery for sharing his knowledge with us.



Fifth year students being addressed by Paul Callery



Replica flying column uniforms and uniform worn by Michael Collins



Research Study Reports

Congratulations to all sixth year history students who completed their research study reports which are worth twenty percent of their Leaving Certificate examination. There were some really interesting topics this year ranging from "Pope John Paul's visit to Ireland" to "Agent Zig-Zag". Well done girls!

The Novena of Grace 2015

The Novena of Grace took place this year, from the 4th to the 12th of March, in the Prayer Room from 1.05 to 1.15 each day. It is a series of prayers in honour of St. Francis Xavier and his dedication as a Jesuit Missionary in the Molucca Islands four hundred years ago.

Members of the Religion Department led the prayer service, which was attended by staff and students alike. They came to pray for important events in their lives or for special intentions, which we hope were granted.

Ms. L. Bohan

Faith Friends 2015

This year Faith Friends took place from 2nd February to the 2nd of March. It involved two of our Fifth Year Classes: 5 Curie and 5 Pankhurst and Ms. Ryan's and Ms. Phelan's Sixth Classes also.

Our girls went to St Brigid's each Monday for three weeks to meet the Sixth Class girls. They helped them with Confirmation preparation worksheets and shared their own experiences of Confirmation with them.

On Monday 2nd of March the girls from St. Brigid's came down to St. Mary's to attend two Prayer Services in the Prayer Room, which were led by Fr. Richard. These were also attended by Ms. Phelan, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Bohan and the girls from Classes Curie and Pankhurst. The Principals of each school, Mrs. Lennon and Ms. Burke, also came to pray with and support the girls.

During the service the Fifth Year Faith Friends presented the Sixth Class girls with Certificates of Completion of the Programme, and Confirmation cards to wish them well on their big day.

On Wednesday 11th March, three of our girls: Laura Young, Aoibheann Brady, Edel Sintos and Seth Banaga were invited to attend the Confirmation ceremony to represent the school and act as ushers. Laura also read out a Prayer of the Faithful.

We would like to thank the Fifth Year girls who were outstanding in their roles as Faith Friends. They were excellent representatives of the school and embodied the ethos of St. Mary's as they passed on their faith to the girls from St. Brigid's.

Ms. L. Bohan and Ms. L. Sullivan

Transition Year Retreat 2015

In February all transition year students participated in a retreat day in Ruah Retreat Centre. Ruah is located in the Redemptoristine Convent on Iona Road. The three retreat days were run by the All Hallows trained Shekinah retreat team.

The themes included friendship and identity. Students participated in many activities including making masks to represent the difference between what we present to the world and what we may be feeling inside. Students also participated in meditation and wrote very meaningful prayers which included a poignant tribute to Mrs. Bogan. The behaviour and attitude of the fourth year students were exemplary.

Ms. L. Sullivan

First Anniversary of Mrs. Claire Bogan

Thursday, the 12th of March, marked the first anniversary of the untimely death of our beloved teacher and colleague, Claire Bogan. On this day, students were invited to visit the prayer room at lunchtime to light a candle, say a prayer and remember Mrs. Bogan. After school, a memorial mass celebrating the life and memory of Mrs. Bogan was held for all staff members. Fr. Richard Sheehan paid tribute to Claire and gave thanks for her life, her kind nature and for everything she brought to St. Mary's. She is dearly missed by all.

Lord, give us the certainty that beyond death there is life where broken things are mended and lost things are found; where there is rest for the weary and joy for the sad; and where we will meet again our loved ones. Amen.

Graduation 2015

The Sixth Year Graduation took place this year on Tuesday 19th May in the school gym. It is always a much anticipated event on behalf for Sixth Year students and a milestone for their parents and teachers alike.

As the classes are all called after the seasons, we tried to incorporate this into the theme, which was chosen by Eimear Martin, our Head Girl. It was; "With the Changing Seasons Come New Beginnings". This was quite appropriate as the girls leave us to begin a new phase/season in their lives. Fr. Richard celebrated the Mass again this year for us.

The celebration began with an introduction to the theme of the Mass by the Chaplain, Ms Byrne. This was followed by an entrance procession of the girls with their personalised graduation candles. Fr. Richard then began the Mass and the Head Girl Eimear and Deputies, Eimear Tunsted and Katie Franzoni did the readings. The theme of the Offertory Procession was, "The Seasons of Our Academic Career". Spring was represented by a small girl who brought a toy to the altar as a sign of Montessori school. A Sixth Class girl from St. Brigid's,

represented Summer as she brought her trolley case up. A Junior Cycle student brought her oversized schoolbag to the altar, representing Autumn, while one of our sixth years brought up a folder, representing Winter. Finally a college student, representing Solstice brought her laptop to the altar. These are the academic stages our sixth years have gone through and are moving on to.

Students, parents and teachers were all prayed for in the Prayers of the Faithful. After Holy Communion, the reflection was an interpretative ballet dance performed by Rebecca Clifford, who took jigsaw pieces of the school from key people in school life to show all the pieces which make St. Mary's what it is. These included: Mrs. Lennon, a parent, Sixth Year Yearhead Ms. Griffin, Ms. Walker, Sr. Antoinette and finally, a fellow student. This was accompanied by the choir singing, "For Good".

After the Mass, Sr. Antoinette paid a very moving tribute to Mrs. Lennon who retires this year. This was accompanied by a visual slide show of her time here in St. Mary's, showing all she has achieved for the school. Ms. Walker and Mrs. Devine were also acknowledged as they too retire after many years of dedicated service to the school.

The Award Ceremonies followed and all of the girls received certificates and emblems, for the last time, from Mrs. Lennon and Ms. O'Donnell. Special achievement awards were given to some of the students, including the Margaret Aylward Award, which the girls voted for themselves.

The evening was then brought to a lively conclusion with the girls and choir singing the Graduation Song, "It's Been a Long Road" and "These Days" by Take That.

We, in the Religion Department, would like to thank many people whose hard work helped to make this year's graduation such a special occasion. We thank Fr. Richard for his enthusiasm and dedicated commitment to St. Mary's; Mr. Coll, Ms. O'Rourke and the school choir, whose beautiful singing always enhances the night; Ciaran and Gerry for transforming the gym into such a special venue; Ms. Cunningham for the beautiful flower arrangements; Liz for all her help with the booklet, not to mention anything else we might need!; Maria for organising the invitations; the staff, who always support us; and Mrs. Lennon and Ms. O'Donnell whose constant support gives us the freedom to be creative and make graduation such a memorable occasion for all.

Ms. L. Bohan and the Religion Department

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Junior Certificate Practicals

A big well done to all the third year Home Economics students who completed their Junior Certificate practical cookery exam this term. There was a wide variety of dishes created from chicken kormas, pasta bakes and fish fingers to brownies, muffins and white chocolate tartlets. The skills on show were incredible and we are very proud of all their hard work.



Junior Certificate Practicals

First year 'Mindful Breakfast'

During "Mindful Week" this term, class Topaz had a "Mindful Breakfast" during Home Economics class where they had time to chat, relax and spend some time together as a class group (as well as eating some yummy breakfast treats!!!). It was a great morning and hopefully next year's will be just as good.

Hope you all enjoyed it!!

Ms. Walsh



Mindful Breakfast



Breakfast Club

A big thank you to all our fifth year helpers this year. You all helped so much and made everything run so smoothly. Also a huge thank you to all the teachers who have given of their time to help run the Breakfast Club. Without you it would not be possible. Breakfast Club ran from Tuesday to Friday in St. Mary's kitchen at a small cost of 30 cent, and all years were welcome. Don't forget girls **breakfast is the most important meal of the day!!**

Ms. Walsh and Ms. Griffin



Fifth year assignment – Afternoon Tea

Fifth Year Assignments

This year we got to enjoy a special treat when completing the Leaving Certificate assignments, 'Afternoon tea'. During this task fifth year students created a wide variety of yummy treats fit for any five star hotel. They included lemon meringue pie, mini cupcakes, mini meringues, cupcakes and chocolate brownies to name but a few. It was a well-deserved treat for all of us.

Well done girls for all your hard work.

Ms. Walsh and Ms. Doheny

BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

NFTE Trade Fair

On Monday December 15th, St. Mary's transition year students held the annual NFTE trade fair within the school in St. Mary's hall.

It was a wonderful festive event, with the choir hall full of students doing some last minute Christmas shopping and teachers filling those Christmas stockings.

Festive music bellowed from the speakers and the mood of all who attended was very joyful.

There was a wonderful array of businesses trading, such as Kiko Makeup from "Etre Belle", "iPhone Accessories" which included phone cases and chargers etc., "That's Charming" dust covers, "TY Hoodies", numerous beautiful home baked products, handmade chocolates, "Necklace Chokers", "JN Jewellers", "T Shirt Designs" and a wonderful social entrepreneurial business raising much needed funds for suicide awareness.

The girls were a pleasure to work with and were very driven and dedicated to entrepreneurship.

Each company had a unique selling point and the girls had all contributed in a practical manner to forming their businesses.

It was a very enjoyable Christmas Fair which was wonderfully supported by the staff and students in St. Mary's. A special

thanks to you as without you this would not be possible. We are looking forward to a wonderful year's trading in 2015 and to a successful NFTE campaign. Many thanks to Ms. Lennon and Ms. O'Donnell for allowing us the use of the hall and their continuous support of NFTE within St. Mary's.

Many thanks,
Mr. W. Donnelly.



BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT (Contd.)



NFTE Trade Fair

EU Commissions Model Council Debate

On March 2nd 2015, three students of St. Mary's took part in the EU Commissions Model Council debate on Renewable Energy.

The students who represented St. Mary's with distinction were Aine Ford, Eimear Tunstead and Miliscent Reyes.

There were twenty eight schools present. Each one represented one of the twenty eight countries within the European Union. The debate took place in the Printworks Conference Centre in Dublin Castle.

St. Mary's students were chosen to represent Finland and discuss their interests on renewable energy and on policies associated with the creation of a Union of Energy within the European Union. The Debate was chaired by the leader of the Green Party, Eamon Ryan, and Minister Murphy. The debate judges on the day were Duncan Stewart, environmentalist, architect and TV presenter and Noelle O'Connell, Executive Director of the European Movement Ireland.

Aine Ford was interviewed by RTE on the day and here is the link to the RTE News2Day segment on the Model Council debate: <http://www.rte.ie/player/lu/show/10382516/>.

The girls represented St. Mary's with pride and have achieved certification for their debating skills. A wonderful day was had by all three girls and our supporting team.

We are looking forward to continuous collaboration with Ms. Joan Flanagan and the European Commission in Ireland and would like to thank them for their support over the past year.

Mr. W. Donnelly



Aine Ford, Eimear Tunstead and Miliscent Reyes with Minister Dara Murphy and the Finnish Ambassador to Ireland, Hilikka Päivikki Nenonen, along with their teacher Mr. Donnelly.

EU Commissions Model Council debate on Renewable Energy.

Green Schools Project

Water Green Flag

On April 24th 2015, St. Mary's was awarded an International Green Flag award for water conservation. This is our third green flag and is a wonderful achievement for a school of our size. The Green Schools programme is an International Programme which is run in Ireland by An Taisce and Dublin City Council.

Mr. Donnelly and the Green school committee would like to thank the Management in St. Mary's along with the wonderful support offered from Mrs. Lennon (Principal) and Ms. O'Donnell (Deputy Principal). None of this would be achievable without the whole school community's involvement. A special thank you to the teachers, students, the administrative staff, and in particular to Kieran our caretaker, without whose knowledge and expertise this would not have been possible. We were presented with our flag at the National Awards Ceremony in The Helix D.C.U. on May 19th.

From September, St. Mary's will be aiming to achieve our fourth green flag for Travel. This is a one year programme with a completion date of April 2016. We are well on our way to successfully achieving our goal. The travel theme is funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and supported by the National Transport Authority. As part of this theme we will be proposing to increase the number of students who travel to school by using sustainable transport methods, (walking, cycling, car pooling or public transport).

Mr. Donnelly

Head of Green Schools Committee



Green Flags



Awards 2015

The awards ceremonies for first to fifth year students took place in May. Students received awards in many categories including academic achievement, leadership and extracurricular activities. Well done to all the girls who received awards!

Ms. E. Higgins

Well done to the 126 students who signed up to the Easter Supervised Study!

