



# St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

May 2016

## A Message from the Principal

**W**elcome to the summer edition of St. Mary's Newsletter. This published edition can also be accessed through our website and our school app. Our school website is presently undergoing a major facelift and when the new site is launched in the coming weeks all the past editions of our newsletters will be archived and available for your perusal. This newsletter is packed with reports and supporting photographs which should give you an overview of what has been going on in St. Mary's since our online edition in December 2015, and should outline some of the many academic, sporting, cultural, dramatic, musical, artistic and religious highlights of the year to date.

It has indeed been an action packed few months incorporating trips to Blessington Lakes for our T.Y. students with the P.E. department, a Gaisce trip for our sixth year 'Education for Living Module' students during which they completed the mandatory 25km hike, the geography field trip for fifth year students, the fifth year art trip to the Casino in Marino, alongside the myriad of T.Y. outings that happen on a weekly basis throughout the programme. Our senior and our junior hockey teams brought victory back to St. Mary's on 16th March when both teams won their finals! Basketball victory was also ours with our second year Division One team winning their final in the Basketball Arena in Tallaght on 11th March. Proclamation Day, 15th March, was a memorable day for the school community, following so closely on the wonderful success of "Rising Voices", an original dramatic work created by our students commemorating the 1916 Rising and especially the women who participated in it. The women of 1916 were also remembered in a wonderful artistic piece created by T.Y. students and made up of one hundred porcelain flowers, which was unveiled on Proclamation Day. Our Schola Choir reached great heights in the Navan Choral Festival on 5th May where they competed to a very high standard in two competitions – the Liturgical Music Competition and the Irish Language Competition. On the same day two of our T.Y. students represented us in the Mansion House at the NIFTE finals. While this account captures a flavour of the wide array of extra-curricular activities flourishing in the school due to the selfless commitment of teachers in their own time, it is thoroughly inspiring to bear witness also to the high standards of teaching and learning that continue to be the most important hallmark of the academic life of St Mary's.

Our first years have settled in well, and are now ready to greet our new incoming cohort and to support them as they were supported with the genuine warmth of the St. Mary's welcome. As we look forward to the arrival of our new first years I would like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to our sixth year students who graduated on 24th May. You are a talented and creative group of young people and I hope sincerely that you all achieve your academic and personal goals, and I wish you happiness and health as you go forward on the road of life.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community – Board of Management, staff, students and parents – for the support and encouragement shown to me since taking up my position as Principal. I continue to feel sustained in the warmth of your welcome and hope that each member of the school community feels equally cherished and included as we move forward together. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself, Ms. O'Donnell and all the staff of St. Mary's to wish all of our third years and sixth years the very best of luck in their forthcoming State Examinations in June.

*Wishing you all a very happy summer,*

**Bernadette Bourke**  
Principal

## St. Mary's Secondary School



### MISSION STATEMENT

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

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## Seachtain na Gaeilge 2016

Gan dabht ar bith, bhí seachtain iontach, spraoiúil ar siúl inár scoil i mbliana. D'éagraigh na múinteoirí Gaeilge imeachtaí den chéad scoth. Thosaíomar le Tráth na gCeist ar an Luain. Bhí Céilí againn ar an Mháirt. Thairis sin, bhí ceol traidisiúnta agus chualathas ceol ó cheoldráma na scoile 'Rising Voices'. Moladh 'an Ghaeltacht' le físeáin agus bhí cur i láthair spreagúil ann. Bhí Bronnadh na nDuaiseanna ar siúl sa halla freisin. Bhí na himeachtaí ar fad trí mhéan na Gaeilge.

Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil chuig bainistíocht na scoile (Mrs. Burke & Ms. O' Donnell), an Roinn Ceoil agus chuig na ceoltóirí agus na damhsóirí.

**Ms. Gilhooley**



## An Ciorcal Comhrá/An Club Gaeilge

Bhí sé ar siúl arís sa Seomra Urnaí ag am lóin gach seachtain. Tá 40% ag dul do bhéaltrial na hArdeiste anois. Bíonn neart cainte, ceoil, agus cluichí sa chlub seo! Thug sé seans mhaith do na cailíní sult a bhaint as an nGaeilge. Tháinig muintir na Céad Bliana go dtí an club freisin! "Bhí an biongó agus cluiche ceoil is cathaoireacha go hiontach" a dúirt Charley Grant. "Is breá liom Gaeilge!" a dúirt Grace Mckenna. (1 Mac Diarmada). Maith sibh na cailíní go léir!

**Ms C. Salmon**

## T.Y. Fáinne – Irish Oral

Congratulations to all the transition year students who completed their Irish oral exams. The oral examination comprised a general conversation based on topics such as: Mé Féin, Mo Chlann, Scoil, Idirbhliain, Spórt, Ceol, Gaeltacht and Laethanta Saoire.

The exams took place in a formal setting. The students were presented with their Fáinnes at an awards ceremony in the hall.

Thanks to Irish teachers for their preparation and hard work with the classes.

*'Beatha teanga í a labhairt',*

**Ms. Gilhooley.**



## ST. MARY'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

### Membership of the Parents' Association

St. Mary's Parents' Association continues to be a very active group working behind the scenes in partnership with the school. We are involved in supporting many events in the school and providing feedback to the management team on the views and opinions of parents. All parents of St. Mary's girls are automatically members of the Parents' Association so why not join our team as we partner with the school in our various activities. 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 be included in policy making as we review the numerous school policies with our fellow partners in education.

So get in contact with us at [parents.stmarys@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### BOOK AND UNIFORM SALE

Our annual **SECOND HAND BOOK AND UNIFORM SALE** will take place again in June. Keep an eye out on the school app and website for dates. Text messages will be sent out in advance of the sale.

The book sale works by the Parents' Association selling your books on your behalf during the sale night. All monies received go back to the seller.

We also accept donated books and uniforms, which are sold to help fund school activities.

Please note we only accept donated uniforms, we cannot sell uniforms on your behalf.

There will be an evening to DROP IN books and an evening to BUY BOOKS. It has been hugely successful scheme each year. Both sellers and buyers benefit from lots of bargains and they make a bit of cash. The books are fairly priced and in really good condition.



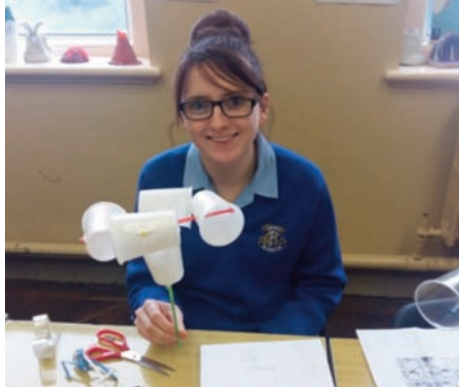
# GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

The transition year geography students have been engaging in a Weather Module. Topics covered include the water cycle, cloud formation, types of rain and wind speed.

Each week the students made a weather instrument and demonstrated its use in the field. The pupils displayed great enthusiasm and an ability to work both independently and as part of a group.

The images show the girls in action.

Ms. Wilson



## A fine day for a fieldwork trip in Howth!

On Tuesday, the 12th of April 2016, the fifth years came prepared for fieldwork in the rain. However, we were all pleasantly surprised by the beautiful spring weather we got at Balscaddan Beach in Howth!

The sun was shining on us as we explored a variety of tasks including beach



profiling, rock identification and wave frequency. The fieldwork is worth 20% of their geography Leaving Certificate examination. The girls worked in groups to complete their fieldwork booklets and write up their notes. They were a credit to themselves. Well done girls – you rocked!

– The Geography Department



## Upcoming Trips

Following fast on the heels of our Sicily adventure, we are delighted to announce a senior trip to Northern Ireland in September 2016 and a return to the geographical paradise of Iceland in 2017.

After the summer break we will be paying the Marble Arch Caves a visit to see underground limestone features, including caves, stalagmites and stalactites. From then we will head north to the UNESCO World Heritage site that is the Giant's Causeway. Our final stop will be the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge where only the bravest will cross!

We are very excited to be planning a return to Iceland in October 2017. Here, the highlights will be: bathing in the Blue Lagoon; walking on a glacier; witnessing the geothermal power of the geysers; not to mention standing between two tectonic plates. It doesn't get any better than that!

Ms. J Byrne

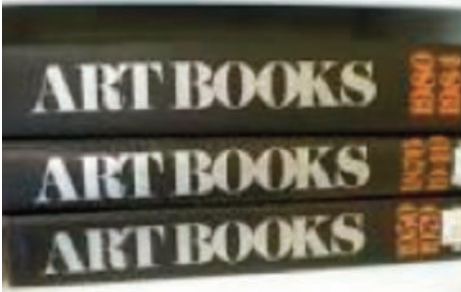


## Library News



This term the Library Club showed the film "Inside Out" after school and turn out was excellent. It was a very enjoyable film with an excellent message.

All of the Art non-fiction books have now been added to our computer system. This will mean Art classes will be able to borrow Art books from the library.



We have a team of dedicated students who run the library at lunch time. These students have been trained to operate the computer system. Well done to all involved!

The library is open each day at lunch time from 1.00 to 1.40.

Sr. Maria and Ms. Sullivan.

## "Rising Voices"

To mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising, the students and teachers of St. Mary's collaborated on a dramatic, musical and artistic production called "Rising Voices".

In September, Ms. Bourke met with a team of teachers to generate ideas for how the school could creatively mark the Easter Rising through history, drama, music and art. We decided to focus particularly on the role of women during the rebellion and all students were invited to contribute their suggestions. Thanks to a generous grant from "Creative Engagement", we were able to invite creative artists to school to share their professional expertise with the students and purchase stage lights for the hall. A scriptwriting group was made up of students from first to fifth year who chose various historical figures and moments to focus on and prepared their draft scenes. After a dynamic workshop with John Delaney from the Gaiety School of Acting, the group refined its work and a final

script was written.

Then the rehearsals began in earnest! Over thirty students were cast as a range of historical characters in various scenes. These included the well-known signatories led by Padraig Pearse, female rebels like Countess Markiewicz, the Gifford sisters and Elizabeth O'Farrell, and the literary figures of W.B. Yeats and Sean O'Casey. Second year student, Fiona Conway, also sought to recreate a moment of family history with a script depicting her relative Simon Donnelly's escape from Kilmainham Jail. They were given more guidance in getting into character through an acting workshop with Conal Kearney, and proved their determination to shine in the spotlight through months of after-school and mid-term rehearsals.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes a number of exciting developments occurred in the run up to the production. Thanks to Ms. Bourke the costume department expanded hugely, with the arrival of a range of beautiful period costumes which were carefully stored and catalogued. The Art Department and a large group of students began their work on the striking backdrop for the stage, inspired by the Proclamation itself and featuring quotes from the rebel leaders' surrender letters and the closing lines of "Easter 1916" by W. B. Yeats. First Year students worked to create "Whispers"; a

shadow puppet film and accompanying soundscape based on children's experiences in the tenements. Alex Hreharciuc from Fifth Year designed the stunning poster for the play and T.Y. students led the publicity drive. The new lighting system was installed in the school hall, and is now permanently in place for all future productions. Students who wished to share their singing talents were invited by Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Coll to join the show's chorus, and a traditional Irish instrumental band was also formed.

After a frantic dress rehearsal on Tuesday 2nd of March, the cast performed its first matinee show on Wednesday for one hundred and seventy fifth and sixth class students from local primary schools. Another matinee and two evening performances followed to rave reviews, and the cast starred in a reprisal performance on Proclamation Day for all our First Year students. The girls recreated moments from history on stage that showed the women's political efforts at this time, the life of ordinary families in the tenements, the poignant wedding scene of Grace Gifford and Joseph Plunkett and the executions of the signatories. They finished with a soliloquy from Countess Markievicz. Through drama, music and song they celebrated the spirit of the Rising and the cherished dreams of the rebels. Members of the show also contributed to the



# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

Proclamation Day ceremony, with Shauna Sheridan, as Pearse, recreating his proclamation address on the steps of the GPO, while Casey Harris, Katie O'Toole and Neave D'Souza performed "Mo Ghile Mear" and "Amhran na bhFiann". The students' hard work also made national news in a feature article in "The Irish Independent".

We would like to thank everyone whose hard work helped to make the show such a tremendous success and to all students, staff members and families who generously supported the production. Below, members of the production share their reflections on the creative experience.

**Ms. Callan & Ms. O'Donnellan**

As I look back on the amazing experience of participating in this year's

show "Rising Voices", I feel a huge sense of pride. I was honoured to play the role of Padraig Pearse, one of the leaders of the 1916 Rising. This year's production has been more important to me than any previous performance for two main reasons. Firstly, as a sixth year student "Rising Voices" was my last opportunity to be involved in a school show, and was by far the best one yet! This was due to the enthusiasm and hard work of everyone involved. Secondly, the theme of the play was significant as this year marks the centenary of the 1916 Rising and it gave me the opportunity to learn about the history of Ireland in an enjoyable manner. Overall, the show was a massive success and I was extremely grateful to be a part of it.

– Shauna Sheridan

Being part of St. Mary's production "Rising Voices" was such an incredible experience. I was part of the chorus and I also got the opportunity to write the script for one of the many scenes in the play. It was a fun-filled production which combined a wide variety of talent and huge commitment from all students involved. There was huge excitement during the performances and the outstanding response we got from the audience was overwhelming. Everyone was so supportive, especially Ms. Callan and Ms. O'Donnellan, who encouraged us all throughout the whole process. It was an amazing project to have been involved in, and I will never forget being a part of it.

– Joanna John

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT

### Fifth year History visit to Sackville Street Art Project in the Botanic Gardens Gallery



This year as part of the Leaving Certificate curriculum fifth year history students studied the 1916 Rising. Students focused on the causes of the rising, the week itself, the role women and children played (which is often ignored in history) and the consequences of the Rising. Students learned how of the 485 people who died during the Easter Rising, 262 were civilians – men, women and children who were not involved in the fighting. We visited the Sackville Street Art Project which was on display in the Botanic Gardens. This exhibition brought together people to build model houses to represent each of the civilians killed during the Rising. Each model

commemorates the life of one of the victims, attempting to shed light on his or her life or family. The girls really enjoyed the trip and after all the jubilation with the centenary celebrations it was interesting to reflect on the victims' homes and the families left behind.

**Ms. O. A. Griffin**

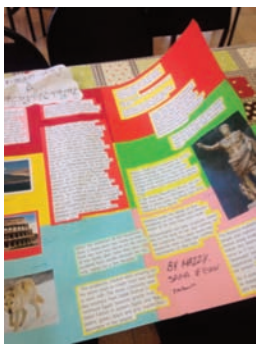


### First Year Ancient Rome Projects

Every year as part of their study of Ancient Rome, first year history students engage in the construction and presentation of a project based on a particular topic relating to Ancient Rome. The students undertook this activity in small groups and found the experience a thoroughly enjoyable one. Students made full use of the course knowledge and information as they embarked on their own research for their topic. Students presented their projects on A3 paper or used PowerPoint. These presentations were absolutely fantastic and a brilliant



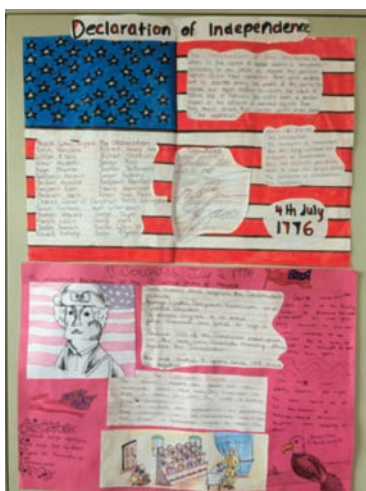
experience for all involved. All presentations, ranging from Roman food and entertainment to their religion and armies, highlighted the creative minds of our first year students. The history department would like to express our heartfelt congratulations to the students on a truly magnificent job. Well done girls on both your excellent projects and completing first year in your new school.  
**Mr. C. O'Connell and Ms. E. Ford**



## Second Year History Project

Well done to classes 2 Emerald and 2 Sapphire who, while studying The American War of Independence in history, designed their own declarations and then presented their work to their respective class. Some students re-worded what was said in 1776, adding some laws and rights they would see as important today while others researched fun facts. For example – did you know that the first copy of the declaration was printed by an Irish man, John Dunlap?

**Mr. P. Montague**



# GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

## Incoming First Years



Entrance exams for first year students took place on Saturday 6th 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 20th 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 the incoming first year parents to make an appointment at the end of May for an informal interview with a member of the guidance and counselling department.

## 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 March to look at the options for next year in regard to transition year, fifth year and L.C.V.P.

## Second Year Subject Choice



There was a meeting with the parents of the present first year students on March 1st 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 second and fifth year students. It takes the form of a workshop for students who have an interest in going to third level once they complete their Leaving Certificate. The aim of the workshop is to give information, allow students to explore their fears, anxieties and expectations about third level and 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 16th of December and the 3rd of February for senior students and those who took part were Louise Doyle, Shannon Joyce, Alex Herhorciuc, Natasaha Kearney, Nikita Porter, Aoife Killoch, Alex Fagan, Chloe Dalton, Rachel Watters, Isobel Matthews, Megan Reilly, Ellen Aherne, Katie Coll, Rebecca Dunne and Emma Kelly. The second workshop was for junior students on the 13th April and our school was asked to participate. The following second years represented the school on the day: Lauren McGuinness, Corinne Batsayda, Liva Gutmane, Kerry McManus, Molly Keating, Carla Ward, Julia Wysocka, Ciara Whelan, Ciara McKenna and Jade Hunter.

### DCU Access Achievement Awards

The Access Achievement Award Scheme was set up to reward and recognise the achievements and efforts of students attending schools linked to DCU. The awards ceremony was held on Tuesday 1st December at the Mahony Hall in the Helix, DCU. Twenty students from fifth year were in attendance to receive awards for their achievements in sports, community spirit, arts and culture and academic achievement. There were also "exceptional nomination" awards. The students who received awards on the night included Diana Penamora, Alice Mirt, Chloe Dalton, Amy Boylan, Lucy Proctor, Alyssa Simbulan, Ciara Kelly, Chloe McLoughlin, Kelly Fowler, Joanna John, Rebecca Lawless, Jana Khalil, Lucy Forde, Ciara Lennon, Neave D'Souza, Rachel Watters, Louise Doyle, Martha Dwyer, Isobel Matthews and Alison Kennedy.

## Sixth Years



CAO applications are now well and truly in and some students will be planning on readjusting their choices on their change of mind form which is accessible online from May 5th-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. Ms. Sullivan 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 & Ms. L. Sullivan

## Life Skills Module



All three transition year classes participated in a six week life skills module which was facilitated by Aware. The module aimed to help students build resilience and learn coping strategies for use in challenging times. Aware also gave positive mental health talks to all fifth year class groups.

## Revised points grading system 2017

All fifth year class groups have received a presentation on the changes to the Leaving Certificate grading and points system. The changes were outlined to students as well as how these changes will impact on matriculation requirements and allocation of points.

Higher Level Grade	Points	Ordinary Level Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20

Ms. F. Devaney and Ms. L. Sullivan

# HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

## Third Year Practicals

Well done to all of the third year home economics students who completed their Practical Cookery Exams. The girls prepared and cooked an array of exciting and very skilful dishes from Italian meatballs, chicken kormas, stir-fries and quiches to fruit crumbles, muffins and scones. The girls had done a huge amount of practice and preparation. Well done girls, I am very proud of you all.

Ms. Doheny



## Health Week in the Home Economics Department

Health Week took place in St. Mary's school from the 18th to the 22nd of January. The school became a centre of health and fitness, encouraging healthy eating among students and teachers. We introduced more healthy foods to our vending machine and gave the students free healthy snacks throughout the day, ranging from bags of popcorn to fruit bags. The Health Squad was amazing in organising the smooth running of these activities for its fellow students. The students also engaged in activities during break and lunchtime to encourage fitness. The staff enjoyed a healthy breakfast each morning with "a healthy recipe a day" to take home.

Ms. Doheny



## T.Y. Christmas Baking



Each year transition year students engage in a cookery module, where they prepare and cook dishes that would be beneficial to them after school when at college or work. The dishes are centred on nutrition and use fresh ingredients and are easy to complete. In late December, the girls made Christmas cookies to complete the module. The girls also got cookery booklets at the end of the module to take with them, which will encourage them to cook these dishes at home.

Ms. Doheny

**GOOD LUCK!**

Good luck to all our students in sixth and third year who will be sitting their exams in June.

Ms. Doheny & Ms. Walsh

# HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

## Christmas Fair

The Christmas fair took place on the 5th of December. The day really created a Christmas atmosphere in the school. The Home Economics department organised and ran the coffee shop on the day with immense help from other teachers and students. The baked items were homemade and ranged from oreo and lemon cupcakes, chocolate muffins and cinnamon swirls to carrot cake. We also organised a "guess the weight of the cake" raffle. The coffee shop raised a huge amount of money for the school that was put towards I.T.

**Ms. Doheny and Ms. Walsh**



## First Year Sewing Projects

The first year home economics students created their very own felt phone covers. This entailed the use of many skills such as design and measuring, as well as stitching using the blanket stitch. They looked great and we were delighted to see the finished products.

**Ms. Walsh, Ms. Doheny and Ms. Coleman**



and 45% for Ordinary Level students. The marks given went towards their summer exam results. They had four dishes to pick from and they had to meet the taste test as well as show adequate skills to gain maximum marks.

Well done on all achieved so far.

**Ms. Walsh**

## Second Year Practical Preparations



The second year students were busy preparing for their summer practical exam this term. They partook in this as a practice for their Junior Certificate practical exam worth 35% for Higher Level

## Fifth Year Assignments



The fifth years are geared up for their Leaving Certificate exam next year and have now completed many of their assignments. These included 'Iron in the Diet', 'Feeding children', 'Sensory Analysis' and 'Ice-cream making'. They have worked really hard this term and we hope they will continue this next year.

**Ms. Walsh and Ms. Doheny**



## Breakfast Club

Well done to all our new Breakfast Club members this year. A reminder to all: Breakfast Club will hopefully continue every Tuesday to Friday in St. Mary's kitchen, next year. At a cost of just 30¢ students can have many treats to keep them going during the busy school day. These include cereal, toast, juice and even pancakes and hot chocolate on special days. All students of any age are welcome any day.

**Ms. Walsh and Ms. Griffin**

## Gardening Club

The Gardening Club is open to students who are interested in gardening. It's a fun and relaxing way to spend your lunchtime. It's held every Thursday at 1:20pm, in our very own sensory garden, near the student gates.

Last November we planted daffodils, which are flowering, and before Easter we sowed pumpkin seeds. They are growing well. With good weather we hope to have our very own school pumpkins for next Halloween! We are continuing to sow seeds and plant bulbs out so we can increase the flowers and vegetables growing in our sensory garden. If you have green fingers, come join in!  
**Queenie Joy Celedra, 5th year**





The science department will engage this year in a pan-European ERASMUS project hosted by Istituto Statale, Federico Enriques, Castelfiorentino, Italy.



The title of the project is 'e-learning from Nature' and aims to simultaneously promote:

- \* active learning
- \* innovation in pedagogical approaches

along an axis of a transnational network of secondary school science teachers.

Transition year students will learn about the impact of human intervention on specific geographical areas. This work represents a cross-curricular activity between science, English and I.C.T. departments.

Mr. E. Carr

## Creative Biology Students



Some of our fifth year biology students created a larger than life chalk flow diagram out on the tennis courts. They were studying the topic of genetics and the mechanism behind how normal body cells change in order for the correct number of genes to be passed on from one generation to the next.

Ms. R. McCormack

## Amgen Biotech Experience for Senior Biology Students

All the students studying biology in fifth year and some sixth years got to participate before the Easter break in a very exciting initiative organised by DCU! It was the Amgen Biotech Experience! This wonderful experience was run by Systems Biology Ireland (University College Dublin) and Biomedical Diagnostics Institute (Dublin City University) and was funded by Amgen, one of the world's leading biotechnology companies. As a result of the biology teachers attending an engaging and informative training workshop, they were able to access professional grade, high-tech scientific equipment that they borrowed from DCU.

Students got to experience two main cutting-edge research methods/skills in the classroom that have real-life applications.

**1. Micro-pipetting Dye onto Filter Paper:** Students carried out the technique of micro-pipetting. The students practised using micropipettes to deliver different volumes of either a red dye or blue dye onto a filter-paper exercise.

**2. DNA Profiling and DNA Gel Electrophoresis:** For this exercise, the students were required to work in big groups of eight to undertake a forensic analysis investigation where they analysed samples of DNA taken from a fictional crime scene of a burglary to determine who had carried out the illegal act! The students loaded their DNA samples onto an electrophoresis gel in order to compare the DNA samples of all the suspects of the crime with the DNA sample collected from the crime scene.

The aforementioned experience was absolutely fantastic for the students as it coincided with the genetics theory that was being taught to them. Value was added to the class as students were excited to learn the new techniques and to use very expensive laboratory equipment! They got the opportunity to have a hands-on experience of the techniques that they study as part of their Leaving Certificate course.



## Young Scientist Competition

In January, two of our third year students, Zuzanna Bartkowska and Nicole Ledden, represented St. Mary's at the BT Young Scientist of the Year. The project was titled, "Does the use of electronic devices before sleep affect secondary students' cognitive ability the next day?" The students explained their findings to many different judges, politicians, radio presenters, fellow students and very interested parents. Zuzanna and Nicole found that there was approximately a 9% improvement in concentration the next morning when the students did not use electronic devices before bedtime. Many students from second to fifth year participated in the study and our Young Scientists are very grateful for their assistance. Well done to Zuzanna and Nicole who worked so hard on this very interesting and topical project.

Ms. O. O'Keefe



Nicole Ledden, Senator Averil Power, Zuzanna Bartkowska and Erin Kennedy



Nicole and Zuzanna presenting their project at the BT Young Scientist Competition

## STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) Club

Ms. Cahill organised and launched the inaugural STEM Club meeting for students in April. Some of the students who attended are pictured here. It is a club designed to promote student interest in the sciences by meeting on a weekly basis in the upstairs lab at lunch-time. It gives those who are interested an opportunity to engage with enjoyable activities such as puzzles, experiments and short career-related talks that may not be possible during class time. Thanks to the prefects-to-be, Kelly Fowler and Alison Kennedy, who help with the organisation and running of the meetings.



## THE NOVENA OF GRACE 2016

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 to working as a Jesuit missionary in the Molucca Islands four hundred years ago.

Members of the religion department led the service, which was attended by staff and students alike, who came to pray for important events in their lives or for a special intention, which we hope was granted.

**Ms. L. Bohan**

## Lenten Reconciliation Services

*"Come to me all you who are burdened and I will give you rest"*



On Tuesday, the 8th of March, all year groups attended a Lenten Reconciliation Service in the Holy Faith Convent Chapel. The theme of this year's service was closely linked to Pope Francis, Year of Mercy. Students and staff had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the service.

**Mr. P. Farrell**



## Second Year Retreats

This year the second year retreats took place in the Margaret Aylward Centre for Faith and Dialogue. The retreats were run by the Shekinah group who are based in

All Hallows. Each class group went on a day retreat with themes ranging from positivity to identity and friendship. The girls participated in activities such as mask building, clay making as well as creating a prayer circle and remembering loved ones and special intentions. The students were surveyed after the retreat and comments included:

*"We got to do things as a group with our whole class"; "We bonded"; "They made us feel very comfortable to speak"; "I learned more about people in my class".*

The behaviour of students was excellent and the retreats were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

**Ms. L. Sullivan**



## Ash Wednesday

Students were given time during Ash Wednesday in school to explore the message of Lent where God asks us to set aside our attachment to material things and rely solely on him. Prayers were said as a community and ashes were distributed by the religion teachers to staff and students.

**Mr. P. Farrell**

## Le Chéile Schools Collaboration

**St. Mary's, Glasnevin and St. Louis High School, Rathmines**

On Tuesday the 26th of January, St. Mary's and St. Louis joined together to celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2016. St. Mary's students travelled to

Rathmines, accompanied by their R.E teachers, Ms. C. Murtagh and Mr. C. Coll.

As the theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week was 'Mercy', we were mindful that all of the activities organised reflected this theme. The morning began with a talk from "Team Hope". Rachel and Carol guided us through the work the charity carries out and how, behind it all, is the strong belief that showing mercy to others is a way of putting faith into action. The students watched a video showing the joy brought to the children when they opened the shoe boxes sent out to them before Christmas. This talk was included in the day to reflect the commitment of both schools to Development Education and to encourage our students to look outwards and take responsibility as global citizens.

Once the talk concluded, students and teachers from both schools enjoyed refreshments and discussed some of the issues raised by "Team Hope". This was a wonderful opportunity for all involved to connect with and get to know other members of the Le Chéile community.

The day's events concluded with a prayer service which was prepared by both schools in the weeks leading up to the event. Students presented symbols, read prayers and sang hymns all centred on the importance of mercy. Students also recounted the story of how the Holy Faith Order and the Sisters of St. Louis were first established. Sharing in this liturgy was a unique opportunity for two Le Chéile schools to come together in prayer, get to know one another and learn about the founding story of each school.

The day was a very enjoyable experience and something that we hope

## Exploring World Religions

First year classes have explored the five major world religions over the last year. Two first years classes, 1 Connolly and 1 McDonagh, researched different parts of each world religion and made presentations. At the heart of their research is the Hans Küng quote:

*"No peace among the nations without peace among the religions. No peace among the religions without dialogue between the religions. No dialogue between the religions without investigation of the foundation of the religions."*

**Mr. P. Farrell**



# RELIGION DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

will be repeated on an annual basis. We are looking forward to hosting St. Louis students in Glasnevin next year. Sincere thanks to the religion and music departments in St. Louis for facilitating this wonderful Le Chéile Schools' collaboration.

**Ms. C. Murtagh**



## GRADUATION 2016

The sixth year graduation took place this year on Tuesday 24th May in the school gym. It is always a much anticipated event for the sixth years and a milestone for their parents and teachers alike.

The theme chosen this year was, "Take Your Place Among The Greats", which was quite appropriate as all the classes were

## Pope John Paul II Award

Ten of our senior students took part in the Pope John Paul II Awards this year. These students are: Lisa Fitzsimons, Vivien Christi Enriquez, Roja Maria Roy, Ella Donlon, Kelly Fowler, Rachel Bellew, Emma Bolger, Sona Shiji, Nidhi Shiji and Amy Boylan.

The Pope John Paul II Award is dedicated to the memory of the late Pope John Paul II whose love of young people was so profound. The Award enables students to become more actively involved in the life of their parishes and communities. Religion is not just for learning, nor a list of rules designed to stop you doing what you want. Religion is for living and through taking an active part in your church and community the students experienced the contentment and fulfilment that comes from serving others, especially those in great need.

Completing the Gold Award was a big commitment undertaken by the girls. Students had to dedicate two hours every week to working in their parishes and in their local communities. These placements lasted for twenty weeks. The work undertaken by the girls included: working with the elderly, volunteering for the St. Vincent De Paul, working with those suffering from Alzheimer's disease, singing in the church choir, reading from the Bible at Sunday mass, assisting with children's liturgy, altar serving and helping sixth class students prepare for Confirmation.

The girls were given their awards by the Dublin diocese and each girl was presented with a commemorative John Paul II medal.

**Ms. C. Murtagh**



named after great women in history who excelled in many areas. They were: Marie Curie, Emmeline Pankhurst, Amelia Earhart, Constance Markiewicz and Agatha Christie. We hope that the students will be inspired to emulate these great women and do their best to make a difference in the world. Fr. Richard celebrated the Mass again this year for us.

The celebration began with the introduction of the theme of the Mass and an explanation of the portrait artwork which decorated the walls as well as the symbolism of the offertory procession. This was followed by the entrance procession of the girls with their personalised graduation candles. Fr. Richard then began the Mass and the Head Girl Amy Ray and Deputies, Roisin Byrne and Seth Banaga did the readings. The stones, collected on Killiney Beach in fifth year as part of a mindfulness exercise, were included in the offertory procession.

Students, parents and teachers were all prayed for in the Prayers of the Faithful. After Holy Communion, the reflection was a poem, written by the sixth year students, reflecting on their time here in St. Mary's.

This was followed by the Award Ceremony where all of the girls received certificates and gifts from Ms. Bourke and Ms. O'Donnell. Special achievement awards were given to some of the students, including the Margaret Aylward Award, which the girls voted on themselves.

The evening was then brought to a lively conclusion with the girls and choir singing the graduation song.

The religion department would like to thank many people whose hard work helped to make this year's graduation such a special occasion including: 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; Colin for helping us transform the venue; Ms. Cunningham for the beautiful flower arrangements; Liz for all her help with the booklet, not to mention anything else we might need; the staff, who always support us and, finally, Ms. Bourke 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.**

## FAITH FRIENDS 2016

This year "Faith Friends" took place from 2nd February to the 1st of March. It involved two of our fifth year classes, 5 Fauna and 5 Cedar, and Ms. McGrath's and Ms. Cooney's sixth classes, respectively.

Our girls went to St Brigid's school each Tuesday for three weeks to meet the sixth class girls, to help them with Confirmation preparation worksheets and to share their own experiences of Confirmation with them.

On Tuesday 1st of March the girls from St Brigid's school came down to St Mary's school to attend two prayer services in the Prayer Room, which were led by Fr. Richard. These were also attended by Ms. McGrath, Ms. Cooney, Ms. Murtagh, Ms. Bohan and the girls from Fauna and Cedar. The Principals of each school, Mrs. Bourke 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 for completion of the programme, and Confirmation cards to wish them well on their big day.

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. C. Murtagh**

# ST. MARY'S NEW GENERATION PROCLAMATION 2016

In 1916, the leaders of the Rising had a vision for Ireland which they read out at the GPO at the start of Easter week. This Proclamation set out their vision for the New Irish Republic. It called on the Irish people to support their flag and fight for freedom, stated that they owned Ireland and had full control over what happened to Ireland and its people. They wanted a nation which promised freedom, tolerance and equal opportunities for all citizens. To achieve this they intended to use the rebel forces to win freedom.

However, this proclamation was written by just a few men, one hundred years ago. Students in St Mary's explored three questions: How has this vision evolved? Are the wishes of the founders of the state still as relevant today as they were in 1916? Do any of the visions need to be updated to take account of new and modern ways?

Students were asked what needed to be added to or removed from the Proclamation to make it relevant to them today and for the next one hundred years.

Lauryn McCausland and Aisling Byrne were successful in writing our "Whole School Proclamation". The themes included in our proclamation are: Irish Citizens, Freedom, Equality, Children, Suffering, Dignity, Rights, Education, Safety, Comfort, Culture and Animal Rights.

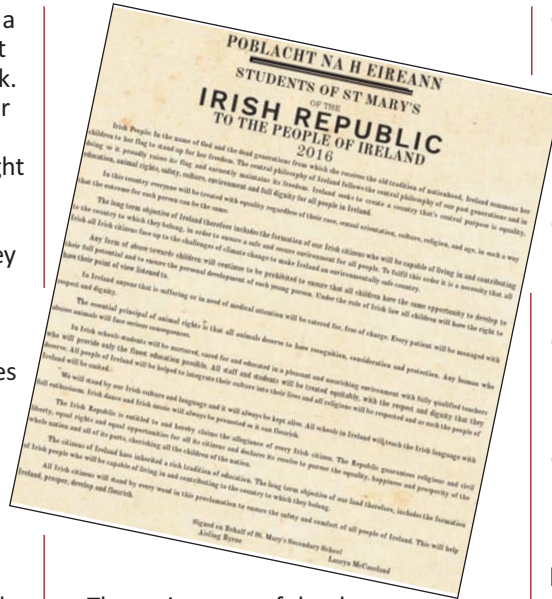
A copy of "Our New Generation Proclamation" hangs in school to remind students and staff of the values that St. Mary's believes Ireland of 2016 stands for. **Mr. P. Farrell**

## Proclamation Day

*St. Mary's marks Proclamation Day in style!*

Tuesday, March 15th, was a day of song, music, drama, poetry and art in St. Mary's as we celebrated Proclamation Day, commemorating 1916 events and creating a vision for the country for the future. Proclamation Day was celebrated in every school in the country. Schools were encouraged to put significant time aside for activities to commemorate 1916 and to celebrate the present and the past. St. Mary's marked this day in style!

The day started off with students in their class groups completing a Proclamation Quiz which members of the T.Y. Proclamation Committee had organised. First year pupils went to the Choir Hall to see Act 2 of the 1916 school production, 'Rising Voices'. Before break T.Y. students unveiled their, 'Women in the Rising', Creative Engagement Piece which is displayed in the office area.



The main event of the day was conducted in a very dignified and respectful way when the whole school community gathered in the Sensory Garden Area for the flag ceremony. Our whole school community was represented during the ceremony. The format of the flag ceremony was as follows:

- Introduction was given by Principal, Ms. Bourke.
- Reflections were prayed by Sisters of the Holy Faith.
- History of the Flag was outlined by four third year students: Kirsty Conner, Hannah Gaffney, Chloe Halpin and Sophie Pitshou.
- The poem, 'The Mother', was read by a parent, Board of Management representative Mary Mulcahy.
- The song, 'Mo Ghile Mear', was sung by T.Y. student, Casey Harris.



Ms. Bourke, Principal and Shauna Sheridan

- The Proclamation was read aloud by sixth year student, Shauna Sheridan.
- The Tricolour was raised by Sister Vivienne Keely, Holy Faith Congregational Leader, Ms. Bourke, Principal and the Head Girl, Amy Ray at 12 noon.
- The National Anthem was sung in English by sixth year student, Katie O'Toole. Then the whole school community sang it in Irish.
- St. Mary's New Generation Proclamation was read aloud by its authors, T.Y. students Aisling Byrne and Lauryn McCausland.
- The ceremony was concluded by Deputy Principal, Ms. O'Donnell.

After the ceremony all students went back to their base classrooms with their tutors to view the Proclamation PowerPoint Presentation specially created by Ms. Grant for the occasion. It was most engaging, including video footage prior to the Rising and James Connolly's daughter Nora Connolly O'Brien speaking about how she made the leaders' breakfast in Liberty Hall on Easter Sunday morning.

Finally Easter treats were sold by second year classes Amber and Topaz to raise funds as part of their C.S.P.E. action projects.

A day as successful as Proclamation Day shows the amazing things we can achieve when we work together. Well done to all students and staff for helping to mark this proud historical day in style.

**Mr. P Farrel**

## 1916 Commemoration

On the 3rd of April, we represented the school at an Inter-Faith service for the unveiling of the Remembrance Wall in Glasnevin Cemetery to commemorate all those who died in 1916. Upon arrival, we found out that, along with four students from other schools, we would be unveiling the wall.

We were shown to our seats, which were, surprisingly, behind Bertie Ahern and other important T.D.s. We nervously waited to be called up to reveal the wall. Just our luck: the curtain got stuck! We were on live television and the clip was repeated on RTÉ throughout the day. Following the ceremony, we were invited into the museum for refreshments and happened to bump into An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny.

The next morning we woke up to discover a photo of us with An Taoiseach on the front page of the Irish Independent. It was a great honour and privilege to take part in the ceremony and we will remember it for the rest of our lives.

# PROCLAMATION 2016 (Contd.)

## Unveiling Wall in Glasnevin Cemetry



Kelly Fowler, an Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, Emma Bolger and Ciara Kelly (Fifth year history students).



## Prefects

Thank you to all the prefects for their hard work and dedication during the year. They have played an active role in school life and have built up great relationships with their classes. We wish all the girls the best of luck in their Leaving Certificate exams and in the future.

**Head Girl: Amy Ray**

**Deputy Head Girls:**

**Seth Banaga and Roisin Byrne**



### Prefects:

- 1 Sally Ahern
- 2 Holly Bell
- 3 Aoibheann Brady
- 4 Adela Buliman
- 5 Emily Carrick
- 6 Niamh Cole
- 7 Mica Lane Cruz
- 8 Patricia Dowling
- 9 Vivien Enriquez
- 10 Aoibheann Farrell
- 11 Lisa Fitzsimons
- 12 Olwyn Galbraith
- 13 Emma Hardiman
- 14 Megan Hayes
- 15 Rebecca Harrison
- 16 Ali Horan
- 17 Niamh Kelly
- 18 Isabel Maher
- 19 Mairead McDonagh
- 20 Aoife McGrath
- 21 Amy McLoughlin
- 22 Orla McLoughlin
- 23 Angela Molina
- 24 Megan Murphy
- 25 Eimear Nolan
- 26 Karen Pajarillo
- 27 Jessica Rafter
- 28 Avril Reddy
- 29 Megan Rothballer
- 30 Roja Roy
- 31 Amy Sheehan
- 32 Shauna Sheridan
- 33 Edel Sintos
- 34 Laura Young

## SPORTS/P.E. DEPARTMENT

### Camogie

St. Mary's teams competed at both junior and senior level this year. Unfortunately, we have not had any success this year, However we are delighted with the talented new players who have started in St. Mary's. We are looking forward to next year already.

### Badminton

There has been a great turn out at the badminton club this year. Every Monday evening, girls from all year groups meet in the gym to play. It has been a great year and the girls are really improving.

### Tag Rugby:

Our second year students took part in the annual Tag Rugby blitz that is run in DCU by Irish women's international rugby player, Sophie Spence. St. Mary's entered two teams and had a great day full of sunshine.



### Active Schools Flag



The Active Schools Flag process came to a close. The final step of the process took place on April 4th. An active schools accreditor visited the school to see for herself how active we are in St. Mary's. Well done to everyone this year for embracing this process and being so positive. Over the summer don't forget: "Eat Smart, Move More!"

### Gaelic Football:

This year we had three Gaelic Football teams representing the school. Our seniors, captained by Mairead McDonagh and Shauna Halpin, had two hard fought games winning one and losing out to Loreto, Swords, in the second game.

Our Junior team, led out by Captain, Naoise Finnegan, overcame St. Michael's, Finglas, but unfortunately lost out narrowly to Santa Sabina, Sutton.



Our first and second years again took place in a one day blitz in St. Sylvester's Malahide GAA grounds in April. They played four games on the day, winning two. There were some great team and individual performances on the day.



The Gaelic football teams were lucky enough to have the opportunity to meet two All Stars this year when Jonny Cooper and Colm 'The Gooch' Cooper came to visit the school.



# SPORTS/P.E. DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

## First Year Sports – Winners Mystery Trip

In February the winners of the first year sports competition got a trip to Croke Park. The girls braved the skyline tour, getting a great view of Dublin. They got out on the side line, into the dressing rooms and got to test their skills in the museum. A great day was had by all. Well done girls.



## Camping

The T.Y. camping trip occurred in May. The girls travelled to Blessington, Co. Wicklow on May 18th. Here they canoed across a lake to reach their campsite. We enjoyed the campfires, sing songs, stories and outdoor activities.

## Sports Day

Sack races, sunshine, slides and sports- it must be the annual sports and fun day. This year we were delighted to have the whole school participating on May 23rd. Students and staff embraced all the events- the highlight of course was the sixth year students versus staff rounders game.

## A Mile a Day for May



The month of May was selected as 'a mile a day' month for all first years. We trialed a whole school initiative to improve the health, fitness and wellbeing of all first years. Each day in the month of May first year students met on the tennis courts at 12.50 and completed two laps of the beautiful school trail at their own pace. In P.E. lessons during April we tested all first year students' fitness and we retested at the end of May to see if their fitness score had improved. We hope that this simple change will make a dramatic difference.

**Ms. H. Bunnett**

## BASKETBALL... Shooting to Success!

This year was another busy and successful year for basketball in St. Mary's with seven teams in total.

### Second Year Junior Division 1 Champions



Our second year division one team reached the finals in Tallaght and after a last minute score by Amy Wall we came away with a two-point victory over Our Lady's, Drogheda. Laura Berry was MVP on the day after a great performance.

Our second year division two team also had a good campaign this year and I look forward to its season starting again next year.

### U-16 Premier league Finalists



The under 16s were title holders and were returning to Tallaght for the second year in a row. After a close match, it went to extra time but unfortunately the result didn't go our way. It was a hugely exciting team performance. Well done to Ms. Murphy for coaching the team.

Our U-16 Division 2 team had another great season, reaching the quarter final again this year. With a lot of the team still under age next year, this team is definitely one to watch for in 2017!

### First year Premier League semi finalists



Our first year premier team reached the semi-final of the SSA league. It beat Coláiste Bríde, Santa Sabina A, Maynooth and drew with Manor House in its league matches. It met Manor House again in the semi-finals. Although the girls put up a good fight they were defeated in the end.

Well done to the girls for their commitment and determination throughout the season. We were sad saying goodbye to our sixth year players and we hope they continue to play in the years to come.

**Ms E Murphy**

## Health Week



Health Week took place in January this year. Firstly the Health Squad need to be commended on their enthusiasm, initiative and energy this year. They made sure the week was a great success, We could not have done it without them.

The week was jam packed with activities. Everyone got moving in the mornings with active assembly. We attempted to walk the distance in miles around Ireland as a school community. This saw both staff and students outside, walking our school trail during P.E. and at lunch and breaks. We made it from Dublin to Donegal via Kerry.

Between "Drop Everything and Dance", staff vs student tug of war, heathy food tasters and break time challenges we were all kept busy. One of the main highlights of the week was the visit of a special guest to St. Mary's. On Thursday, 'Dubs Day', the school was blue and navy for Jonny Cooper. He participated in active assembly with first years, spoke to the whole school about sport and health and he attempted to save penalties taken by students and staff. On Friday evening, Health Week drew to a close with the whole school on the tennis courts doing the Operation Transformation dance. This was filmed and appeared on RTE soon after.

# SPORTS/P.E. DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

## St. Mary's Hockey



Congratulations to all the hockey teams on their successes this season. We were delighted to have four hockey teams in St. Mary's this year all competing in leagues. It is fantastic to be able to report that this year was successful for St. Mary's hockey teams as they reached two finals! The senior and junior teams were both winners in the Northside League.

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. McGill, Ms. Nolan and Maureen Smyth. The support we received from the sidelines was brilliant all year also, with lots of parents, teachers and friends supporting, even on the chilly days. Thank you to all those who cheered us on along the way!

### Senior Hockey



Senior Team

The senior team reached the Northside League final and had a terrific game beating St. Dominick's Cabra 4-0 on the day. The team notched up wins against long established hockey schools such as Loreto Balbriggan, St. Wolstans and Maryfield. 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 (Sally Ahern, Eimear Nolan, Rachel McMahon Shauna Halpin, Olywn Gailbraith, Adela Buliman and Niamh Kelly) who will be leaving us and the St. Mary's hockey team. A special thank you

also to some new recruits Amy Ray, Roisin Byrne and Amy Sheehan who were adopted to the team this year and helped the team to winning ways! This senior team have certainly done St. Mary's proud during the last six years by winning Leinster League titles and Northside League titles. It certainly will be missed and we wish the girls every success in the future!

### Third Year Hockey – Junior Team

The junior team reached the Northside League final and had a very closely contested game against St. Dominick's Cabra, finally beating them 1-0 on the day. The junior team played against St. Joseph's Lucan and St. Dominick's, Griffith Avenue, to win its group. 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.



Junior 3rd Year Team

## St. Mary's One Million Step Challenge



This year during Health Week, St. Mary's took on the 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. We wanted the St. Mary's group of twenty participants to challenge themselves to hit the 10,000 steps mark every day for five days in a row, and therefore the overall group would walk 1 million steps.

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

Research shows that walking 10,000 steps a day will significantly improve your health, but most of us only walk between 3,000 and 4,000 steps per day. Therefore 10,000 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 1,582,143 steps achieved. The best year groups were: 1st Place : TY (162 thousand). 2nd Place: 2nd Year (143 thousand). 3rd Place: 6th Year (141 thousand). The students with the most steps achieved in one day was Amy Wall, 2nd Yr: (25,763) and Aimee Flanagan, TY (25,071). The teacher with the most steps achieved in one day was Ms. B. Nolan: 22,206 and Mr. Beirne 19,189, Ms. McManus, 18,676. This is a fantastic achievement for our third Step Challenge in St. Mary's and a big thank you to all our student and teacher participants. Keep on Stepping!

**Ms. Boran/Ms. Walsh/Ms. Considine/Ms. Bunnett.**

### Daily Scoreboard

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
Students	141,120	168,078	168,383	187,243	133,110	807,584
Teachers	156,126	172,187	175,582	146,543	124,121	774,559
Totals	297,246	340,264	343,965	343,436	257,231	1,582,143

### Best Year Group

1st	TY	162,157
2nd	2nd Year	143,557
3rd	6th Year	141,138
4th	1st Year	125,725
5th	5th Year	122,366
6th	3rd Year	102,991

### Best Teacher – Most Steps in One Day

1st	Ms. B Nolan	22,206
2nd	Mr. Beirne	19,189
3rd	Ms. McManus	18,676
4th	Ms. Devaney	17,289
5th	Ms. O'Donnellan	17,034
6th	Ms. C Walsh	16,172

### Best Student – Most Steps in One Day

1st	Amy Wall – 2nd Year	25,763
2nd	Aimee Flanagan – T.Y.	25,071



# SPORTS (Contd.)

## Second Year Hockey – Minor Team

The minor team had a very successful run in the Leinster League. However, it was unable to finish top of its group. It played excellent games against teams such as Mullingar, Wesley College, Manor House, Holy Child Killiney and High School Rathgar. The minor team battled through all sorts of orange weather warnings and storms. It also competed very well in the Northside League against Malahide, Castleknock and Griffith Avenue. The girls were very committed to training every Monday despite the weather. They would like to thank the Principal, Ms. Bourke, for bringing them luck during one of their games! They missed out on reaching a final this year but are now even more determined for next year. We finished the season with a hockey blitz against Holy Faith Clontarf.

## First Year Hockey

We are delighted to have two first year hockey teams this year. The teams were 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 Mt. Sackville, Maryfield and St. Joseph's, Lucan. These were great experiences for their first year. They missed out on reaching a final this year, but look forward to next year. We finished the season with a hockey blitz against Holy Faith Clontarf.

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 strongly 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. Bunnett**



Second Year Team



First Year Team

# C.S.P.E. DEPARTMENT

## 2 Emerald's C.S.P.E. Action Project

On the 19th April class 2 Emerald, with the help of class 1 McDermott, undertook its C.S.P.E. Action Project. The title of the project was 'Raising Awareness about Democracy Amongst Younger Students'. The General Election held on 29th February and the continued hung Dáil debate in the media afterwards were the catalysts for choosing this concept.

A lot of preparation took place before the Action Project event. It was decided that it would be beneficial for younger students to be made aware of these political current affairs. We decided to focus on four sub topics within

democracy: A. The Origins of Democracy. B. What is The Oireachtas? C. Who's Who in the 32nd Dáil? D. Elections and Voting. As learning is more fun through games and activities the decision was made to develop four varieties of games to act as vehicles to impart knowledge about this CSPE concept. Topic Research, Game Research and Game Development Committees were established to produce a different game for each topic.

On the morning of the Action Project the Hosting Committee arrived at 8.00 am to organise the Mary Carroll Library for the event. They set up four game stations and prepared the I.T. equipment for the Teaching Committee.

Upon arrival class 1 McDermott was requested by the Survey Committee to fill out a Democracy Survey to establish what the students knew before the Action Project awareness drive. Next the Teaching Committee delivered a brief audio-visual presentation about democracy to the first years, after which they divided into four teams, each starting at a different game station. Assisted by students from Emerald, the first years applied what they had learned during the presentation to play the games. After fifteen minutes the alarm sounded and the first years rotated to a different topic game station.

# C.S.P.E. DEPARTMENT

When all four game stations were completed the Survey Committee asked the first years to repeat a duplicate survey, except this time it was used to capture whether their awareness about democracy had been raised by the Action Project games. At a quick glance it would appear there was a marked improvement in their knowledge of the concept, but the data has yet to be fully analysed. The students from 2 Emerald must produce their write up on the Junior Certificate C.S.P.E. Action Project examination booklet, which accounts for 60% of the exam marks.

Well done to all students from 2 Emerald and 1 McDermott.

Ms. A. Duffy



## 2 Topaz Raise money for Focus Ireland



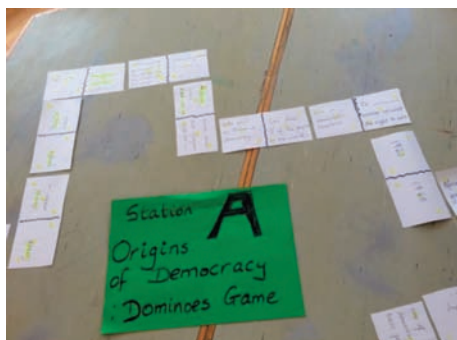
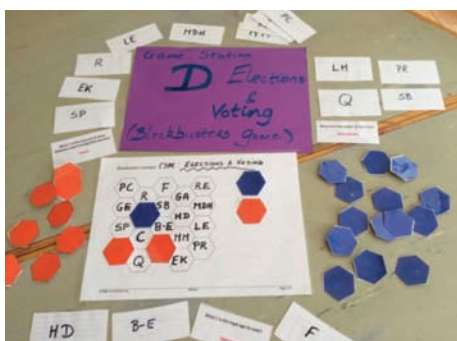
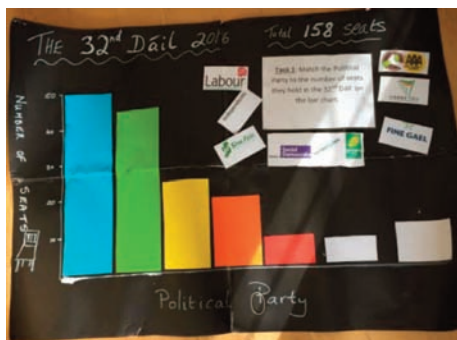
2 Topaz raised money and awareness for Focus Ireland by holding a bake sale in Saint Mary's Kitchen on the 15th of March. There were different types of cakes sold like brownies Rice Krispie buns and cupcakes. We asked our C.S.P.E. teacher Mr. Kelly to get in contact with Johnny Cooper, the Dublin Gaelic football player, to ask him to endorse our cake sale and to attract more students and teachers to the sale. We raised €222.70.

Aoife Roche (Class 2 Topaz)

# S.P.H.E. DEPARTMENT

Community Gardaí Dave and Mairead came to talk to the first year and second year students in St. Mary's on the topic of internet safety. Each form class had a forty-minute talk and group discussion with them. The student feedback suggested that they found the talk to be really informative and eye opening. This initiative linked in brilliantly with our internet safety awareness day which was led by Ciara Lennon of fifth year. All first year S.P.H.E. students were invited to enter a poster campaign to highlight internet safety. The winning posters show great understanding from the students on the potential risks they need to be aware of when using social media. Thank you to all the first years for their excellent posters and congratulations to our winners, whose posters are printed here for you to see.

Ms. N. Cunningham



## Breast Cancer Awareness Talk

With one in nine Irish women being affected by breast cancer, transition year groups Childers, Farrell and Larkin were really fortunate to have Trudi Roche (Outreach Nurse Coordinator) from Breast Cancer Ireland come to speak to their classes individually on the topic of breast cancer awareness and on how to perform a breast check



# S.P.H.E. DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

accurately. The talk was really well received, the students all giving very positive feedback. One piece of very useful advice she offered included the use of a Breast Aware app that the girls could download onto their phones (this app is available for smartphones via [www.breastcancerireland.com](http://www.breastcancerireland.com)).

Ms. N. Cunningham

## “Pay It Forward Day”, April 15th

All schools in the Le Chéile trust celebrated “Pay It Forward Day” on Friday 15th April.

Throughout the day there were random acts of kindness happening among the staff and students. The focus of the day was on the concept of ‘selfless giving’. Many thanks to the student reps Chloe Dalton and Kelly Fowler who attended the Le Chéile conference earlier in the year, and they came up with the following ideas for the day.

At tutor time, Chloe and Kelly came on the intercom to introduce the “Pay It Forward Day” to the school community. This was followed by a reflection. The girls explained that each tutor pack contained a polypocket full of pieces of paper with ‘random acts of kindness’ written on them. Each student then picked one out and this was the one act she had to do that day. For example: Ask someone today, “How can I help you?”. There was a blank brick wall outside the staff room where the students were encouraged to write up on a brick what ‘random act of kindness’ they had been assigned and



Kelly and Chloe

how they had completed it. Tutors then showed the “Pay it Forward” clip, which helped set the context for the day.

There was also a surprise treat for the lucky students who happened to find a star randomly under their desks in each classroom. There was also a visit by the “Pay it Forward Bear” at breaktime and lunchtime handing out treats randomly!

Towards the end of the day the girls read out some of the acts students had written up on the “Pay it Forward Wall” and they brought the day to a close with a prayer they had written which encouraged us to show kindness, compassion and mercy every day not just on ‘Pay it Forward day’.

Mr. C. Coll



The “Pay It Forward Wall”



The Students with the Bear.

# MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



## French Culture



France has a diverse and exciting culture that is appreciated throughout the world. From the late 19th century, France has played an important role in cinema, fashion and cuisine.

The T.Y. and L.C.V.P French Culture classes have immersed themselves in the French language and have enjoyed learning and experiencing the culture of France. A number of activities have taken place in the L.C.V.P and T.Y. French Culture classes throughout the year.

*Vive la Culture française!*

Ms. Shanahan



(Right): French Cinema trip to the Lighthouse Cinema where both classes watched the French film ‘La Vie en Rose’:



Cooking French Macarons:



Enjoying a French petit déjeuner:



# MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT (contd.)

## Transition Year



T.Y. students of French, German and Spanish have been very busy working on various enjoyable, activities in the last few weeks. On April 22nd, the three language classes took part in a local treasure hunt, solving clues and answering questions in the target languages. We were most impressed by both their language skills and enthusiasm. By the end of term we enjoyed more communal activities including a fashion show and a continental breakfast.

**Ms. S. McManus**



## German Breakfast – Second Years

On April 21st, all second year students of German enjoyed a traditional German breakfast in class. To whet their appetites, there were typical German sausages, meatballs, meatloaf, salami, ham and cheese. Alongside these was a selection of pretzels and bread rolls, served with Nutella. The girls also enjoyed a chat “auf Deutsch” over a glass of fresh orange juice!

**Ms. S. McManus**



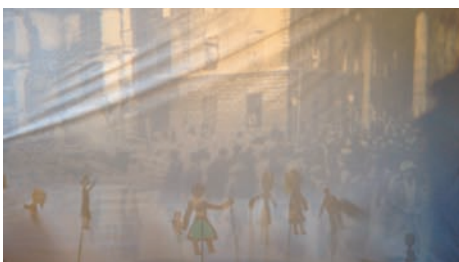
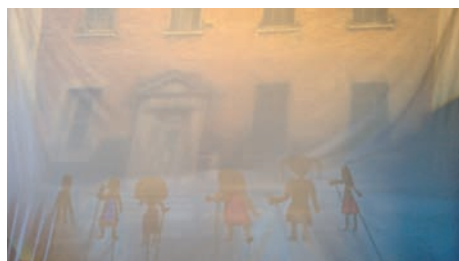
## ART DEPARTMENT

### Creative Engagement Project ‘Whispers’

First year art students played a meaningful role in St.Mary’s Creative Engagement Project, ‘Rising Voices’. Each student took part in a puppetry workshop with visiting artist Niamh Lawlor from Puca Puppets. Inspired by her workshop every student created a shadow puppet reflecting the lives of the children living in the tenements during 1916. Composer Aoife Moriarty further informed the work by adding a sound piece created by first year students. Music teachers, Ciaran Coll and Martina O’Rourke, taught their students how to collect sounds imagined to have been heard by children living in Henrietta Street and Sackville Street at that time. This creative process led to a short film, ‘Whispers’, shown at each performance. It was filmed and edited by sixth year art student Megan Hayes.

**Ms. C. Kavanagh**

**Ms. N. Cunningham**



### ‘Rising Voices’ Porcelain Flowers

On Proclamation Day 2016, as part of St.Mary’s celebrations, a porcelain artwork created by transition year students from classes Larkin, Childers and Farrell was unveiled at the reception area in the school building. The work consists of one hundred white porcelain flowers and includes each transition year class name. It was a creative collaboration with ceramic artist Isobel Egan.



**Ms. C. Kavanagh**

## Casino at Marino



On the 21st of April, my fifth year art class went on an art trip to the Casino at Marino.

At first my class thought the Casino at Marino was not that far away, but we were wrong, it was a hike of a walk but it was worth it because we got good hot, sunny weather. When we got there, I thought to myself, "It's actually quite small". Our tour guide Rachel showed us around and for such a small house, it has four floors. The rooms were so carefully designed with amazing detail. You went into a room and it had secret rooms and passages. I'm not going to spoil this for next year's art class but it is something that could surprise you. I am glad to say we were the first group to be told about the tunnel that was used. We discovered that Michael Collins had brought troops down to practise shooting guns and among them was my great-grandfather, Joseph Dunne. It was also interesting to learn that such a building from the Georgian period was used for entertainment by Lord Charlemont and that my relative is now a part of that legacy.

Emma Kelly 5 Fauna.

## Second year self portraits



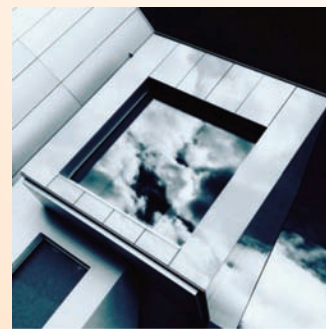
In the second term we worked on self-portraits in art with Ms. Cunningham and Ms. Kavanagh. We started by observing the proportions of the face using the art elements,

tone and form. We then focused on the facial features and considered possible backgrounds. During the process we studied other artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Frida Kahlo, Vik Muniz and Andy

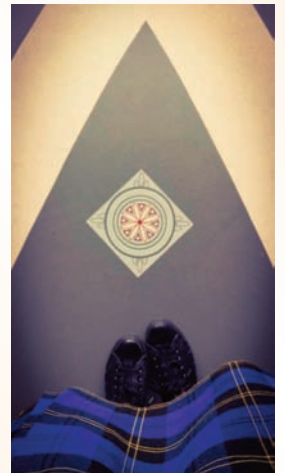
## Creative Engagement Project 'Sacred Spaces'



The Creative Engagement Project, "Sacred Spaces", was exhibited in The Margaret Alyward Centre for Faith and Dialogue, Holy Faith Convent. This transition year photographic exhibition ran from Monday 4th until 7th of April. The project was a collaboration with architect-in-residence, Evelyn D'arcy, historian, Dr. Jacinta Prunty and art teachers, Cathy Kavanagh and Nadine Cunningham. The exhibition explored a visual dialogue between The Margaret Alyward Centre and transition year art students. The exhibition was opened by architect Ralph Bingham. Also present were Rebecca Blake, Education Officer at IAF and Dermot Carney, Arts Officer N.A.P.D. Each student made a unique response through the mediums of photography and 3D model making. The work examined a sense of place and was inspired by the beauty of the surrounding natural landscape. The students made observations of perspective, scale, space and materials. They visually commented on the aesthetics of the building and how it related to the human, spiritual and



built environments inhabited by the students. "Sacred Spaces" explored themes of contemplation, both spiritual and personal in an ever changing world. The project was supported by The Irish Architects Foundation led by Evelyn D'arcy as part of the National Architects in Schools Initiative.



Ms. C. Kavanagh

Warhol. We admired their unique styles and the concepts expressed in their work. We saw the improvement in our drawing skills when we put together our preparatory sheets, which contained all our practice drawings. We enjoyed seeing how much our drawing work had developed and liked learning about other artists. We also were happy with how the finished portraits turned out and are proud of our work.

Ceri Doyle and Zoe Salvador,  
2nd year Sapphire



## Transition year "Creative Engagement" Mosaic project

In term three all the Transition year students had the opportunity to learn the art of Mosaic. They began by learning about the history of mosaic art. This was followed by a workshops with artist, Eleanor Phillips, who taught them the principles of mosaic art and worked with them to transform a dull area opposite the students' entrance. The students took inspiration directly from the plants and produce grown in the sensory garden, initially drawing out in the garden and then working from photos of the garden to create each of their individual designs. The result is fabulous and has brought vibrant colour and a sense of fun to this area. Well done transition years! Leanne Castro reports on the experience:

"Transition year did a very interesting Mosaic module. We were full of energy and a warm respectful atmosphere was

## ART DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

created. There were some hardships while putting our tiles on to the mortar to stick them to the wall but we soon got it right. I asked two transition year students what they thought of the Mosaic project.'

"It was good, really interesting learning how mosaics are made. I liked working with the mosaic and I'm glad I had the opportunity to be involved in making it"  
**Sarah Hammond, 4 Childers.**

"It was a great activity to do in Transition year and gave us something really special to remember, that we each had made something unique, expressing our own talents as we worked together as a team. It bonded us closely and we learned the art of mosaic in the experience. We will be able to remember our work in this over the next two years and even years after we leave."  
**Samantha Vodo, 4 Childers.**



## MATHS DEPARTMENT

The maths department and students in the school had an eventful second term with our students entering an array of exciting and challenging national competitions.

### John Hooper Medal for Statistics 2016 Competition

Well done to all our T.Y. students who entered the 2016 John Hooper competition. A range of interesting topics was covered in this year's entries. The goal of the competition is to improve students' abilities to describe their environment with the help of statistics and to use statistics as a tool for making sense of daily life. There will be an international element to the poster competition so not only does the student's poster get a chance to win the John Hooper Medal for Statistics, but it could also represent Ireland in the International Statistical Literacy Project poster competition.

### Quiz Mania - First Years

Our first year student took part in a maths quiz held on Wednesday 2nd April in DCU. The following students took part in the competition: Aine Rooney, Gunjan Shahapurkar, Alana Kennedy, and Nadia Labuda. Well done to the girls, who competed to a high standard in the competition.



L to R : Nadia Labuda, Alana Kennedy, Aine Rooney and Gunjan Shahapurkar.

### Transition Year Maths Module

This year transition year worked on a creative maths module. They investigated the Fibonacci numbers and how these

special set of numbers are exhibited in nature. The students worked out how shells developed using these numbers.



As part of their maths module the students has to work on 'nets', a two dimensional version of a three dimensional shape. The students completed nets by working out how to construct a peacock from a net.

**Ms. E. Murphy**



# BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

## Transition Year Enterprise in St. Mary's

It was a busy first term from September to Christmas for the T.Y. enterprise students who had worked steadily on their mini-companies in preparation for the Christmas Fair on 6th December. There was a disparate range of businesses on display, ranging from cosmetic goods to homemade delights and technological gadgets!



The students entered two separate enterprise competitions, namely N.F.T.E. (*Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship*) and S.E.A. (Student Enterprise Awards). As it proved extremely difficult to choose between the various businesses to represent the school, independent judges from AIB, Drumcondra, were invited into St. Mary's to hold a 'Dragon's Den' style competition on 18th of January. Many thanks to Derek (AIB Branch Manager) and Stephen (AIB Business Development Advisor) for conducting such a thorough competition and for the constructive advice offered to all the girls involved. They were most impressed with the standard of presentations and took much time deliberating on the teams to be selected to proceed to both competitions.



## Student Enterprise Awards

The teams chosen to participate in the S.E.A. competition were *Leilani* (Naoise Finnegan and Emer Carney) with their make-up business and *Beauty Bits and Bath Bombs* (Lynn McDermott, Rachel Hogan, Ciara Kelly, Jade O' Connor and Emma Daly) with their cosmetics and homemade bath products. Both teams prepared fastidiously ahead of the S.E.A. county final in The Printworks, Dublin Castle on Wednesday 15th March. The girls were commended by the judges on the day and drew the attention of Richard Bruton, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to their stand with their timely and eye-catching green bath bombs to coincide with 1916 centenary celebrations as the competition was held on 'Proclamation Day'!



## Fifth Year Business Trip to 'Steve Jobs'

On Monday, 29th of February, Mr. Lyons and Ms. Burrell's business classes went to see the film, "Steve Jobs", in the I.F.I. in Temple Bar. The film was structured into three acts which spanned fourteen years (1984 – 1998) in the life of personal computing innovator and Apple Inc. co-founder Steve Jobs, with each act taking place immediately prior to the launch of a key product – the Apple Macintosh, the NeXT Computer and the iMac.

We really enjoyed the film as it linked in with topics we had learned in class such as 'Enterprise', 'Business Ethics' and 'Management Skills and Activities'.

Hannah Lawler, 5 Cedar

## Treasure Bank

This is the very first year that the school has been involved in the AIB 'Build a Bank' Challenge. To become involved in this initiative we were interviewed by AIB's Bank Manager and our future Student Officer, Stefan

Connolly. This gave us a great insight into the format of a job interview for the future. We were all assigned different roles such as Bank Manager, Digital Officer etc. Having meetings every Friday gave us the opportunity to express our creative sides and also helped us to develop skills such as communication, listening, finance, organisational skills, presentation skills and team work.



Throughout the year we organised numerous events such as our launch, raffles and treasure hunts. On Valentine's

# BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT (Contd.)

Day we set up a chocolate fountain with marshmallows and strawberries for all our customers. In organising these events we had to be very smart about how we managed our budget.

On the 23rd of February, we participated in the Regional Finals in Leopardstown. We met lots of other competitors there. To begin we had thirty minutes to set up our stall and once we did that two judges came to our stalls to hear about our Treasure Bank. The first judge gave us ten minutes, and with the second judge we only had two minutes to sell our bank. Colm Cooper came on the day to give us some words of wisdom. There was also lots of dancing and free food which we thoroughly enjoyed! Unfortunately we did not win a prize but the experience itself was fantastic, and we truly enjoyed ourselves whilst competing in the AIB 'Build a Bank' Challenge.

**Lauryn McCausland, Treasure Bank Manager (Transition Year)**

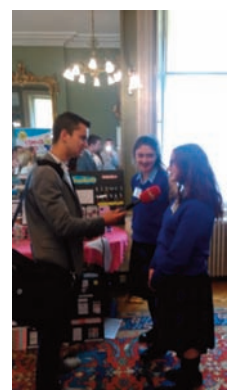


# N.F.T.E. DEPARTMENT



Tech Solutions (Hannah Ryan Murphy and Aimee Flanagan) was the business selected to represent St. Mary's in the N.F.T.E. Regional Final in Tallaght. The girls had invested much time in market research earlier in the year and had ascertained that there was a niche in the market for products that would alleviate some of the common problems encountered by users of technology. They sourced suitable products from overseas, utilised admirable negotiation skills to reduce their purchasing costs, promoted their products in a variety of ways and traded both in school and within the wider community, including local car boot

sales! The girls were well prepared for the N.F.T.E. Regional Final on Thursday 16th March when they had the opportunity to showcase their business and the many skills they had developed over the course of the N.F.T.E. programme. The girls were very pleased with their pitch on the day but would have to wait a week for the judges' verdict. The girls were thrilled when the news came through that they had been declared the winners of their regional final and they participated in the N.F.T.E. National Final in the Mansion House on Thursday 5th May. Congratulations to Hannah and Aimee on this fantastic achievement!  
**Mr. Lyons.**





# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## Navan Choral Festival 2016



The choir that performed in the National Concert Hall earlier this year has now been formed into the 'St. Mary's Holy Faith Schola'. This group was entered into the Navan Choral Festival which took place on May 5th. They competed in a new competition entitled, 'Liturgical Choir'. They sang two pieces in this competition, "Praise His Holy Name" by Keith Hampton and 'Restless is the Heart' by Bernadette Farrell. They also competed in the Irish Language Competition in this section. They performed the piece, "Suantraí ár Slánaitheora", which is a traditional Irish Christmas Lullaby. Well done to the girls for all their commitment to practices and for their performances.

## Emmanuel 2016



St. Mary's was well represented again this year at the Emmanuel Concert in the Helix on the 4th of March. Thirty members of the choir participated in the concert. The students had a great day in the Helix where they joined the choirs of other school to attend workshops and rehearsals.

All students 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.

## Music Practicals

It's been 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. We wish our third and sixth year students every success in their written examinations in June.

## The Annual St. Mary's "Music Showcase" Friday May 20th

Towards the end of every year the musical talent of St. Mary's is showcased in one night of great entertainment in St. Mary's choir hall. Performances this year 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.

## The Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir is a great opportunity for students who love music to experience choral singing in a small choral group. The Chamber Choir allows the girls to challenge themselves musically as often they would be singing and holding a line of melody individually.

The Chamber Choir performed at the Christmas Carol Services and at the evening concert. They performed 'Winter Song' and the enchanting 'Jerusalem', as they walked around the church holding candles.

The Chamber Choir members also volunteered to sing as part of the chorus for the school musical this year, "Rising Voices".

The girls have been working on a French choral piece called 'Vois sur ton Chemin', from the French film 'Les Choristes', an accapella arrangement of The Beatles' 'Blackbird' and Eric Whitacre's 'Seal Lullaby'. They performed at the Musical Showcase in May.

It has been a pleasure singing with these girls this year. Their effort and enthusiasm have been fantastic.

**Ms. Shanahan**

## Highlights of 2016

Two major highlights this year were the Schola Choir singing in the National Concert Hall with the Glasnevin Musical Society, and our "Carols by Candlelight" Concert in the Convent Chapel before Christmas.

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

**Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Coll**



*Choir singing in the National Concert Hall*



*The choir in the National Concert Hall*



*Carols by Candlelight*

# STUDENT COUNCIL

## ISSU – Student Council A.G.M.

This academic year the Student Council has given me a lot of wonderful opportunities. On the 24th of March 2016, Alexandra (class rep) and I got the chance to go to Trinity College to take part in the Annual General Meeting (A.G.M) of Student Councils. It was an incredible experience because I got the chance to meet students from all over Dublin and hear different ideas and opinions from them on various issues regarding school and the general issues in society. I will never forget this experience.

Joanna John

## Questionnaire to the School Body

Last month, with permission from our Principal, Ms. Bourke, we conducted a survey on having a new school jacket in St. Mary's. There was a wide variety of opinions and suggestions regarding the jacket but mostly the results were positive. Following further negotiations, the new school jacket will be introduced to the incoming first year students.

Joanna John

## Christmas Fair

During December the school hosted its annual Christmas fair. After careful consideration the student council decided that it would have a face painting stall, a baked goods stall and a gift wrapping service. The council split into groups and everyone got a chance to work on the stalls they wanted. It was a very successful day and it was a great opportunity to help raise funds for the school.

Rachel Bellew

## Policy Review

The council, at the request of Ms. Bourke, reviewed the new policies that will be placed in the journals for the new school year. After carefully reviewing the policies, two members of the Student Council then met with Ms. Bourke to discuss with her the changes we thought should be made to them. It is great that students are involved in the decision-making process.

Rachel Bellew

## Second Anniversary of Claire Bogan, R.I.P.

In March the school community marked the second anniversary of the death of our esteemed colleague and friend, Mrs. Claire Bogan. What follows is an extract from the prayer service attended by the staff on that day.

*“Let us pray.*

*Today we remember our friend and colleague, Claire Bogan. We remember her with great affection: her smile, her kindness, her presence, her spirit.*

*We remember her family today and all her close friends, especially those here on the staff. In a moment of silence let us remember her.”*

The service concluded with the reading of “St. Patrick’s Breastplate” and Ms. Gillhooly led the staff in the “Hail Mary” in Irish.

Ar dheis dé, go raibh a hainm dílis.

Mr. C. Coll

# TRANSITION YEAR

## 1916 Bus Tour



As part of their history module, transition year students got the opportunity to visit the sites of the 1916 Rising. They started the morning in the Little Museum of Dublin, where they took part in a tour which explored the conditions that the people of Dublin lived in at the time of the Rising. The students then boarded a specially restored 1916 bus which took them around the city where they learned about what happened during the Rising at different sites. Students even got the opportunity to hold weapons from the era. A great day was had and it got students excited for the centenary events.

## Bodhran Workshop



In January all transition year students participated in a bodhran workshop in which they learned a song and then performed it as a year group at the end of the day. The girls learned how a bodhran is made, how to work together in rhythm and even composed their own tunes.



Joanna John and Rachel Bellew



# TRANSITION YEAR (Contd.)

## T.Y. Students visit the G.P.O. Witness History Visitor Centre



G.P.O. Witness History is a brand new permanent visitor attraction in the iconic G.P.O. building on O'Connell Street, Dublin. This highly immersive and engaging exhibition puts you right inside the G.P.O. during Easter Week in 1916. Our transition year students were there on Monday 25th April.

History came to life for them as they experienced events from both sides of the conflict and through the eyes of bystanders caught in the crossfire. This was made possible by means of electronic touch screens, video, audio visual booths, sound and authentic artefacts – many previously unseen.

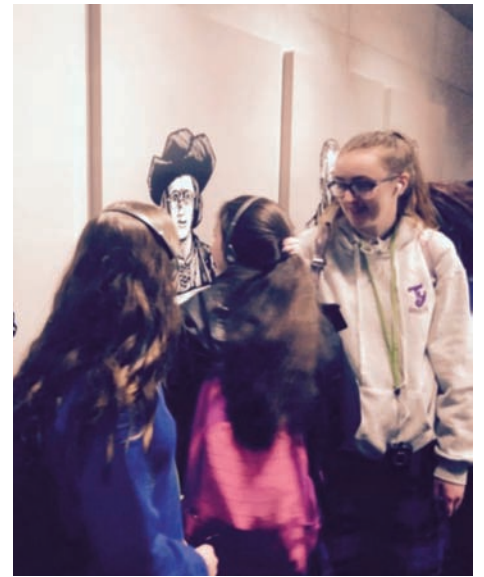
Our transition year students were immersed in the action as they composed newspaper reports, examined the original copy of the Proclamation and send Morse code to declare the Irish Republic by radio.

After the exhibition they got to visit the courtyard which is home to a commissioned sculpture called, 'They are of us all', commemorating the forty children who died during the Easter Rising.



### Work Experience

Students kicked off the New Year with two weeks of work experience in late January. They worked very hard over the year to find their own placements and to prepare themselves for the world of work. Some placements included RTE, Ebay, the Mater Hospital, local primary schools, architecture firms and hairdressers. We received glowing reports from their employers and the students all agree that this was a most worthwhile experience. Well done girls, you have done us proud!



### Create Schools and Oscar Night

In February of this year "Create Schools" began their exciting film workshop with students. Groups of ten were formed and students then began brainstorming for ideas for their scripts. Over the course of two days the groups then embarked on producing and filming their projects. Their work came to fruition on our Oscar night where all of the films were showcased for parents and staff. Awards were granted for categories such as Best Use of School Grounds, Best Original Screenplay and Most Effective Cameo by a Teacher! It's safe to say we have some budding writers, actors and directors among us.

**Ms. O. A. Griffin**

### "Rising Voices"

I've been involved in the play this year with other girls from T.Y. This has definitely been one of the best experiences of the year. I mean, when else can you wander around the school in a soldier's hat? I loved doing the play. It felt amazing to bring people from the past back to life through the play. I made so many friends and have a lot of great memories from the days we performed it and from our many workshops and rehearsals. We even got our picture in newspapers after Proclamation Day. I would perform it every single day if I could. It was really sad not doing it afterwards and school wasn't as much fun without the magic of the play. T.Y. students also made the best drama squad with our amazing categorising and labelling of costumes. It seemed to take us forever to get through the piles, as we stopped to "fangirl" over the Harry Potter cloak and funny hats. We did it eventually. All parts of the play were so much fun and I'm really glad I got to take part in it.

**Riodhna Mackin, 4 Farrell**



# TRANSITION YEAR (Contd.)

## Croke Park Skyline Tour

On the 14th of March all transition year students attended the Croke Park Skyline Tour and GAA museum. The tour was based on the events around the time of the 1916 Easter Rising and the GAA's involvement in 1916. We walked along the top of Croke Park and from the top you could see the school and all the way out to Howth Head.

**Naoise Finnegan, 4 Larkin**

## Graduation and the final events of Transition Year

In May, as the transition year came to a close, students were still kept busy enjoying various activities. All students went through an external interview process in which they were asked questions about how they felt the year had gone and what skills they had developed. This form of assessment would help to shape students overall grade of distinction, merit or pass for transition year and also prepare them for and give them the skills to take part in future interviews.

Students also engaged in cultural and musical activities by taking part in a Wassa Wassa African drum, song and cultural workshop. Students learned about African culture and history, traditional dance, and to sing and perform



traditional African songs to drums. They showcased their work at the end of the day in a performance for first year students. Students also engaged in a "Song School" workshop in their class groups. Each class wrote a song and learned to perform it as a group as part of preparation for graduation.

One of the final highlights of the year was the transition year camping trip in Avon Ri. Students enjoyed activities such as the climbing wall, archery, a low ropes course, canoeing Canadian canoes across the lake, ziplining, team building and kayaking. It was a fantastic trip.

Finally the transition year graduation

ceremony took place on the 26th of May. Students performed the songs they had created with "Song School" and many spoke about different trips, modules, workshops and aspects of the year they had enjoyed. Students then received certificates stating their overall grade for transition year. It was a lovely afternoon and a great way for the students to reflect on all they had enjoyed throughout the year.

If any parent or guardian would like further information on transition year, please access the blog on the school website.

**Ms. O. A. Griffin**

# GREEN SCHOOLS

## Green Schools Bike Maintenance Workshop

On April 20th 2016, Marina from Green Schools came to school to talk to all T.Y. students about bike usage and repair. She showed us how to fix a tyre puncture. We learned things like the different types of bikes available for us to use and how cycling has a more beneficial impact on our lives over walking. It's a quicker mode of transport and a good way to exercise. We found it really beneficial. Now we are more confident about cycling than we were before.

**Sarah Conway, 4 Childers**  
**Aoife Stynes, 4 Farrell**

## Green Schools Committee Improves Sustainable Travel for Saint Mary's

St. Mary's has always had a very active "Green Schools" committee and this year was most definitely no exception. A large portion of our efforts went towards The Big Travel Challenge as we aimed to achieve our fourth Green Flag for Travel. The Big Travel Challenge is an initiative set up by Green Schools Ireland to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport during the month of February. These include walking, cycling, carpooling, public transport and our chosen mode-park and stride. This is the idea that students who are usually driven to school are dropped off 1 km away and walk the rest. Not only does this reduce carbon emission and traffic congestion around the school but it is also helps to keep our students healthy. In November we conducted a survey to find

out which modes of transport our students used to get to school and found out that a mere 6.3% parked and strode. However, through our posters, announcements, Facebook page, PowerPoint presentations and even some highly sought after prizes, we managed to encourage an extraordinary 39% of students to park and stride. This has been a huge success and we have already started to look towards how else we can make St. Mary's greener. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Montague and all of the other teachers and students who have dedicated their time and efforts to the committee, without them none of this would be possible.

**Kelly Fowler,**  
**Head of the "Green Schools" Committee.**

