



St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7 – NO. 2

December 2009

St. Mary's
Secondary School



MISSION STATEMENT

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

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The day was probably one of the worst days of the year but the community spirit in St. Mary's refused to be dampened. It rained heavily and was very cold. In spite of this the Christmas Fair was a great success, we surpassed our target of €10,000 against these odds and all enjoyed the day. We had numerous stalls ranging from toys, breads, bric-a-brac, books, bottle stall, crafts, to a cafe, make over room, film, raffle, shop, giant slide,

numerous games, wheel of fortune and photographs. Santa Claus paid us a visit and the Christmas atmosphere was enhanced by our carol singers. Thank you to staff, students and parents for volunteering your precious time to this venture. The money raised (€11,256) will go towards paying for the new computers in the Computer Room. Well done to all concerned.

German Department



The Fall of the Berlin Wall

November 9th 2009 marked the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in Germany and the end of communism in Europe. For decades, this wall physically separated thousands of families and friends in communist East Germany from those in democratic West Germany.

Between 1949 and 1961 millions of Germans fled from East Germany in the hope of finding a better way of life in the West. Most of these people were young, highly educated and skilled Germans such as doctors, teachers and engineers. Fearing that they were losing some of their best people, East Germany decided in 1961 to erect a physical barrier – *the Berlin Wall* – to stop emigration from East Germany. While some 5,000 escape attempts were successful between 1961 and 1989, 171 people lost their lives in a desperate attempt to escape to the West.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, students studying German from 1st to 6th year examined this gripping period of German history. Furthermore all Transition Year students, in conjunction with the History Department, took part in a brief module analysing post WWII Germany and the Berlin Wall. TY students also had the opportunity to watch the award winning German film "Goodbye Lenin", which is set in 1989 when the Berlin Wall fell.

Ms S. McManus

CONTENTS

Christmas Fair	1
German Department	1
Home Economics	2
Open Evening	2
Computer Club	2
Spanish Department	2
Business Department	2
European Studies	2
Art Department	3-4
Gaeilge Department	5
Geography Department	5
Modern Languages Department	5
CSPE Department	6
Guidance and Counselling Department	6-8
SPHE Department	8
Religion Department	9
Cinema News	9
Maths Department	10
Transition Year	11
History Department	12
Science Department	12
Prefect News	13
Music Department	13
Transition Year Retreat to Emmaus	13
PE Department	14-15
English Department	15
Green School Initiative	16
Fifth Year Trip to Lough Derg	16
St. Mary's School Council	16

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT



“Little Chef’s Cookery Club”

The Home Economics department was delighted to announce this October, the launch of a new exciting venture in St. Mary’s run by the Home Economics teacher – Ms. Doheny. The first after school cookery club began, for the first and second years. It has been a real success in the school, with students getting a chance to try different recipes than those done in school. The students have gained huge confidence in cooking and enhanced their culinary skills immensely. The club runs each Wednesday afternoon from 3.15pm until 5.00pm

Ms. E. Doheny

Transition Year Home Economics Module for St Kevin’s

For the first time in St Mary’s, the students from St. Kevin’s transition year engaged in a Home Economics programme entitled “Ready ... Steady ... Cook”. The programme invites and encourages all students to do a cookery course, incorporating culinary skills that will be vital in their lives ahead. So far the students have made queen cakes, scones, Potato and Leek Soup, Homemade Beef Burgers and Chilli mince tacos. The students have really enjoyed the programme, even citing it as one of “highlights” so far.

Ms. E. Doheny & Ms. T. Aird

An Bord Bia Demonstration November 26th 2009

On the 26th November we were delighted to welcome An Bord Bia to our school. A presentation on food nutrition and the importance of the food pyramid in meal planning was seen as very valuable to the 5th and 6th year Home Economics students who attended. The food demonstration highlighted student-eating habits and the cooking of healthy student-friendly, nutritious meals that are quick and easy to prepare. The students found it very interesting and of course loved the sampling session that took place at the end of the demonstration!! We would like to thank An Bord Bia for taking the time to come to St. Mary’s and allow the students a different insight into the world of cookery and nutrition.

Ms. E. Doheny & Ms. T. Aird

OPEN EVENING

On Monday 21st September St. Mary’s hosted its annual “Open Evening”. Primary school students with their parents/guardians were invited to visit our school. Our own students acted as guides and visitors enjoyed a tour of the many facilities on offer in St. Mary’s e.g. gym, library, cinema, interactive whiteboard room, computer room, science laboratories, home economics rooms, art rooms and other specialist rooms. This year we were proud to be able to include in our tour a new arts and crafts room and the new school canteen.

Well done to all staff and students for their enthusiasm and hard work. We would also like to extend a sincere thanks to all the parents, guardians and members of the wider community for their support of the school on “Open Night” and throughout the school year. Continuing the positive trend in recent years an increase in numbers is projected for 2010-2011, so much so, that demand for entry exceeds the supply of places available in St. Mary’s.

Ms C. Nolan

THE COMPUTER CLUB

The Computer Club was set up in September for another academic year. All students are welcome to the club which runs on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime from 1.10-1.35pm. Well done to the many First Years who have signed up to the club. Thanks to the Computer prefects Naomi Wilson, Aimee Rondthaler and Amy Connolly who have helped out so well in the Computer Club for the first term. The Computer Club is delighted that the computer room has been upgraded with the addition of thirty new computers. Students had an opportunity to play online mathematical/science games that were on the Scoilnet website during Maths and Science Week respectively.

Ms. M O’Donnell

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

The Spanish Department are planning an exciting trip to the beautiful city of Seville. This trip offers students the opportunity to experience and enjoy Spanish culture. It will take place in September 2010. *iQue aprovech!*

Ms. A Hughes & Ms. E Higgins

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Business/NFTE

The Business department is delighted with the enthusiasm and originality of the businesses that have emerged in the NFTE (National Foundation for Teaching Enterprise) class. NFTE is an initiative run by Foroige where students are given a start up business grant of 15 euro per student. Students then work in pairs in order to come up with original money making business ideas. The businesses are just up and running and starting to thrive even in these recessionary times. Some of the businesses include Graffiti Shoes, Beauty Bags, Shelly Ryan’s school stationary shop, J&G Charms, Bijoux Be You.

Keep up the great work girls! And who knows....you may be on the way to making your first million!

LCVP

The 6th years are working hard at completing their project work for the exam. Keep it up girls. Also the students had a full day’s interview training and preparation from an interview specialist Denise Wright on 27th November. Ms Wright went through the ‘do’s and don’ts’ of interviews and gave the girls handy and practical advice on having the most successful job interview possible. The girls all said that they enjoyed the day thoroughly and that the skills and tips they received would definitely make them more prepared for the recorded interview in their exam and also for their future career paths.

Ms. O. Griffin

EUROPEAN STUDIES

On Friday 4th September 2009 we were very privileged to have a visit from two past pupils of St Mary’s who work in Brussels. They hold senior positions in the European Commission. Linda Rowan and Linda Johnson both gave lively and interesting presentations on the European Commission and their work in Brussels to all transition year students.

On 20th November all TY students visited the European Commission Representation in Dublin. Students watched a DVD about Ireland’s membership of the E.U. and the many benefits of E.U. membership. Students then participated in a lively table quiz.

Ms. A Hughes



ART DEPARTMENT

Our first year art students were introduced to the art elements of line, texture, form, tone and colour theory. We are delighted with the great progress they are making. They have developed their observational skills using a variety of techniques and materials. Their confidence has grown and we can identify many aspiring young artists. The students have also begun to look at works of art, reflecting on the individual artist's use of materials and painting styles. Our first year students designed posters for Maths Week, had fun with Halloween themed painting and some took part in an initiative run by Transition Year. The brief required students to create an outfit out of clean recyclable waste. The results were fantastic and the students modelled their designs in a fashion show on 17th of November. All of our first year students have had the opportunity to work with clay, creating beautiful hand-made ceramic Christmas decorations that went on sale at the Christmas Fair.

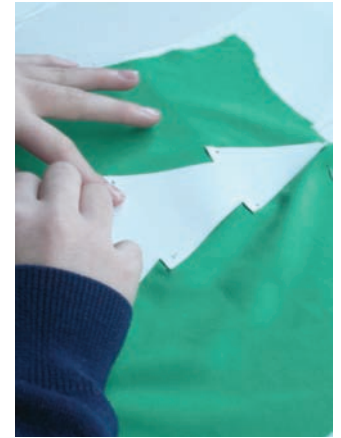
Our second year students have re-visited their drawing and painting skills. This has enabled them to progress into the craft area of lino print and graphic design. Students completed original C.D cover designs using typography and illustration. They too have contributed to the work sold at the Christmas Fair. They produced hand-crafted reusable bags which were sold at the Fair. Presently our Second year students are working on life-sketching with an emphasis on anatomy and movement.

Our third year students have begun their Junior Certificate Art Project. Students selected a theme for the exam which they will develop into two dimensional and three dimensional finished pieces. As support studies are an integral part of the project each student will be expected to research a variety of artists and become familiar with their work. It is a dynamic and rewarding project. We wish our students well and encourage them to make projects which they will be proud of.

Our first art module in Transition Year was influenced by a visit to the annual "Sculpture In Context" Exhibition held in the



2nd Year Textiles



2nd Year Textiles



2nd Year Graphic Design



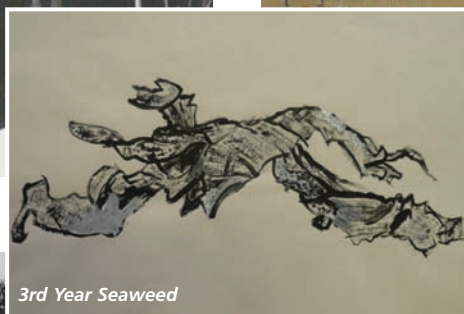
2nd Textiles



6th Year – Life Drawing



2nd Year Graphic Design



3rd Year Seaweed



2nd Year Lino Painting



3rd Year Observational Study – Seaweed

ART DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Botanic Gardens. Together with some reflections on The Monument of Light, O' Connell Street, our T.Y students divided into groups and fulfilled the task of creating a piece of sculpture that they considered to be in context with St. Mary's and its environment. They explored themes that would reflect areas of study within the school. The second art module will see our students participating in the annual D.I.Y T.Y competition held in St. Michael's Holy Faith Secondary School. The criterion of the competition is for the students to create something wearable from materials not usually used for wearing. Students will work in groups and each outfit will be showcased with a dance routine to a backing track of 3 minutes on stage/catwalk. We look forward to seeing their weird and wonderful creations.

Our fifth year students have completed a very diverse and skilled sculpture project. Each student made her own personal response to the task, using methods of modelling, construction and carving in her final piece of work. Their themes were self-motivated and demonstrate great originality and talent. They have also begun to look at the Pre-Christian world of Irish art in their studies of Art History and Appreciation.

Our sixth year students continue to perfect their craft skills working in embroidery, clay modelling, puppetry, posters, book craft, lino and batik. They have also completed studies in foreshortening and gesture in life-drawing. Students have concentrated on film appreciation and product design. Their studies in art appreciation were further enhanced by a presentation given by Ms. Mary Greene from the National Museum of Ireland. Ms Greene spoke to fifth and sixth years students about the Eileen Gray Exhibition at Collins Barracks. She informed the students on a lay-out and presentation of the exhibition, while describing the diverse work of such a talented and influential woman. Now that our sixth year students have moved away from contemporary art in Ireland they are beginning to embrace the world of European art. There is much work ahead and again we wish them well in their preparations for their Leaving Certificate Exam with thought also to those students who are preparing their portfolios for Art College.

Ms. N. Cunningham, Ms. C. Kavanagh



6th Year Batik – Craft



6th Year Life-Sketching



2nd Year Graphic Design



2nd Lino Painting



1st Fashion Recycling



Clay



1st Year Clay



2nd Textiles



5th Year Sculpture



5th Year Sculpture

GAEILGE DEPARTMENT

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

Bhí Taispeántas ar siúl sa scoil – Well done to all the students who helped out on the Irish stand at the "Open Night" on Monday 21 September 2009. The stands were beautifully decorated with Students' work from the many different Irish classes. The work, and indeed the endeavour, in putting together all the worthwhile presentations by all the Irish classes were admired by everybody present on the night. None of this would have been possible, however, without the hard work, effort and dedication of all the Irish Teachers. Thanks to everybody for all their help and co-operation. Ní neart go cur le chéile!

Bhí dea-scéala againn maidir leis an gComórtas Díospóireachta a bhí ar siúl. Cuireadh tús leis na Díospóireachtaí an Phiarsaigh arís i mbliana. Bhí Foireann Shóisearach agus Foireann Shinsearach ag díospóireacht sa chéad babhta den chomórtas. Tá an comórtas seo á reachtáil ag Gael Linn do scoileanna dara leibhéal ar fud na tíre. Rinne na foirne an-iarracht agus bhí caighdeán an-ard ann i measc na scoileanna. Tá an-áthas orainn a rá gur éirigh go geal leis na cailíní.

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

Chuaigh Ranganna go dtí Amharclann an Axis – Bhí na puipéadóirí, ar a bhfuil gear orthu, arais leis an turas náisiúnta meánscoile, dírithe go háirithe ar Churraclam na hArdteistiméireachta. Chuir an comhlacht "Fibín" an dráma "An Triail"

ar an stáitse san Amharclann Axis i mBaile Munna ach ní hé "An Triail" mar a bhfaca tú riamh é! Bhí puipéid agus ard-siamsaíocht i gceist an lá sin.

Mrs. Bogan's 6th Year Honours Irish class along with Mrs. Murphy's and Iníon Ní Chonluain's Fifth Year classes attended performances of "An Triail" in the Axis Theatre in Ballymun. Bhain na cailíní an-sult agus an-thairbhe as an dráma.

Turas go dtí an Ghaeltacht – Beidh turas ag dul go dtí Gaeltacht Ghaoth Dobhair i nDún na nGall i Márta 2010 D.V. An maith leatsa a bheith páirteach ann? A more detailed Report on this proposed trip to the Gaeltacht is to be found in this Newsletter. On behalf of Roinn na Gaeilge, we would like to thank Iníon Ní Chonluain agus Iníon Ní Lúing for organising this trip.

Beannachtaí na nollag ó Roinn na Gaeilge. Mrs. C. Bogan.

Díospóireachtaí Cuireadh tús le Comórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh arís i mbliana. Bhí foireann shinsearach agus foireann shóisearach na scoile seo ag díospóireacht sa chéad babhtale déanaí. Triúr a bhí ar gach foireann agus bhí ceithre fhoireann ag iomaíocht lena chéile. Is iad seo a leanas na scoileanna a bhí páirteach sa chomórtas ar an 12 Samhain.

Meánscoil Mhuire,
Clochar an Chreidimh Naofa, Glasnaíon
Coláiste Pobail Chaisleán Cnucha
Coláiste Belvedere, Sr. na Danmhairge
Thuaidh
Coláiste Chaisleán Cnucha

Chuaigh dhá fhoireann ar aghaidh go dtí an dara babhta, Clochar an Chreidimh Naofa agus Colaiste Belvedere. Bhí an lámh in uachtar ag an dá scoil thuasluaite agus thaispeáin said go raibh caighdeán an-ard acu sa Ghaeilge. Is é an rún a bhí á phlé ag na sóisir ná "Ba cheart dúinn ár gcuid laethanta saoire a chaitheamh in Éirinn", agus bhí said ag díospóireacht ar son an rúin. Léirigh captain na foirne, Patrice Condon go bhfuil dualgas orainn tacaíocht

a thabhairt d'ár tír féin agus laethanta saoire a chaitheamh sa Ghaeltacht. Ansin phléigh Eve kavanagh (cainteoir 2) na buanna móra turasóireachta ata ag an tír seo nach bhfuil ag alán tíortha eile timpeall an domhain. Labhair Shauna Caffrey (cainteoir 3) faoi na buntáistí móra eacnamaíochta don tír seo a bhaineann leis an tionscal turasóireachta. Léirigh sí nach bhuil neart go cur le chéile agus go gcothaíonn an tionscal seo a lán postanna dúinn. Bhí rún casta á phlé ag na Sinsir, sé sin go bhfuil an iomarca airgid phoiblí á chaitheamh ar na hEalaíona in Éirinn. Bhí na cailíní ag díospóireacht in aghaidh an rúin agus bhí pointí éifeachtacha acu. Luaigh captaen na foirne (Catherine Cormican) go bhfuil géargá le hairgead poiblí a chaitheamh ar na hEalaíona, go speisialta an tionscal turasóireachta. Phléigh Denise Callaghan (cainteoir 2) scéimeanna éagsúla a thugann tacaíocht do na hEalaíona in Éirinn. Léirigh sí chomh tábhachtach is atá sé tacaíocht a fháil ón sparán poiblí. Ansin thug Lauren Craven (cainteoir 3) eolas dúinn faoin gcomhairle Éalaine. Luaigh sí go gcuireann an Chomhairle seo postanna fiúntacha ar fáil go díreach agus go hindíreach. Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil leis an lucht tacaíochta a d'fhreastail ar an gcomórtas díospóireachta. Comhghairdeas libh a chailíní!

Turas Gaeltachta

Beidh daltaí ón dara agus ón gcúigiú bliain ag dul ar thuras gaeltachta go Gaoth Dobhair, Co. Dhún na nGall. Beidh daichead daltaí agus múinteoirí ó Roinn na Gaeilge ag taisteal go Gaoth Dobhair chun deireadh seachtaine an-taitneamhach a chaitheamh ann san Earrach. Tá na daltaí ag tnúth go mór leis an deireadh seachtaine seo agus beidh deis an-mhaith acu a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh agus a fheabhsú. Beimid go léir ag fanacht i dtithe le teaghlach áitiúla. Beidh imeachtaí éagsúla ar siúl do na daltaí, céilithe agus ranganna ceoil ina measc! Tá súil againn go mbainfidh gach duine an-sult as an deireadh seachtaine seo.

M. Ní Lúing, N. Ní Chonluain & M. Devine

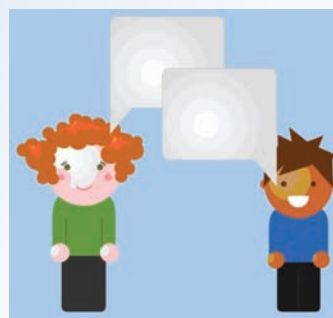
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

On Monday 14th September the Leaving Certificate Geography classes of approximately seventy students went to Balcaddan Beach in Howth, Co. Dublin to do their fieldwork assignment. This has become an annual event for 6th year Geography students. The fieldwork aspect of their course accounts for 20% of their final exam. The theme of this year's work was "Coastal erosion" and involved measuring the height of a cliff and also measuring the beach material. The students are prepared in advance in school for doing this work. The girls formally wrote this up for their exam at the start of the Christmas tests this year. Ms Wilson, Ms Mahon and Ms Fay would like to thank the girls for their great participation and cooperation in this venture.

As you know we have lost an extremely valued member, Ms Anne-Marie Fay, from our Geography Department during this first term. She has now returned to teach in her home county of Cavan. We miss her but wish her a happy and successful career in her new school.

Ms. S. Mahon

MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



language learners in the not too distant future.

The Modern Languages department was delighted to meet local primary school pupils on September 21st at Open Evening. Room 12 was the venue for an interactive language experience. Bingo through German, conversation in French and fun quizzes in Spanish were enjoyed by all. We look forward to meeting these enthusiastic

Ms. N. Walker

CSPE DEPARTMENT

Class 3 Elm's C.S.P.E. Action Project on Amnesty International

As a class 3 Elm decided to do an Action Project on Amnesty International. We got the idea from our English teacher Ms Murtagh as she told us that she wanted to set up an Amnesty group in the school and asked if any of us wanted to join. We all then decided as a class to raise awareness and do an Action Project on Amnesty.

Amnesty International was set up by a British lawyer Peter Benson in 1961. Benson set this up to have an international campaign to protect Human Rights as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He decided to do this when he heard of two Portuguese students who were imprisoned for seven years for making a toast to freedom. Amnesty has over 22 million members. They help Amnesty by protesting and by writing letters to Governments.

Our class 3 Elm invited a speaker from Amnesty International to talk to us on Friday 9th October about Amnesty and how it works and how it protects people's rights. Her name was Sian Thompson. Sian showed us pictures of members of Amnesty protesting.

We then invited Sian back to our school on Friday 13th November for the launch of our Amnesty group in the school. With help from our C.S.P.E. teacher Ms, Bryne and Ms. Murtagh we set up the Interactive whiteboard room where we were doing the launch. Ms. Lennon, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Hanillan, Ms. Murtagh and Ms. Bryne all attended our launch as well as a few 6th years. Sian Thompson came back to help us launch the Amnesty group in our school and she talked about what Amnesty does



Class Elm: C.S.P.E. Action Project. Reporting Committee, Eva Thornberry, Jessica Kavanagh, Susan O'Reilly

and how it helps people.

The Amnesty group in our school had its first meeting on Wednesday 18th

November. All students are welcome to join. The meetings are held in the prayer room every Wednesday at lunch time.

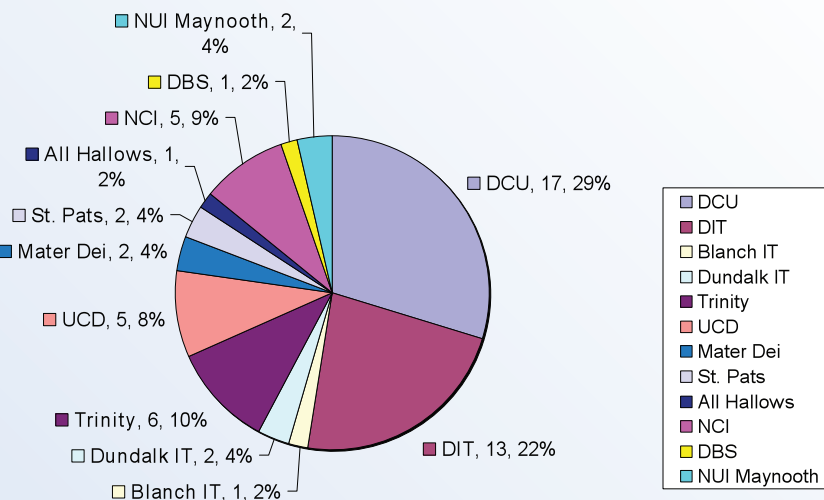


C.S.P.E. Class Elm Action Project



GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

College HETAC Placements 2008-2009



HETAC

DCU

17 Students

Engineering
Biomedical Engineering

Law and Society BCL
Science
Children's and General Nursing
Marketing Innovation and Technology
Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
General Nursing

Sports Science and Health
Law and Society BCL
Children's and General Nursing
Engineering
Science
Business Studies
Analytical Science
Science
Education and Training

DIT

13 Students

Accounting and Finance
Culinary Entrepreneurship
Bar Studies (Management and Entrepreneurship)
Event Management
Product Design
Retail Management and Services
Physics with Medical Physics and Bioengineering
Business and German
Neutraceuticals in Health and Nutrition
Culinary Arts
Food Innovation
Retail and Services Management
Food Innovation
Business

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT (cont.)

BLANCHARDSTOWN IT

Applied Social Studies and Social Care

DUNDALK IT

Event Management
Midwifery

TRINITY COLLEGE

6 Students

Occupational Therapy
Medicinal Chemistry
European Studies
Engineering
General Nursing
Arts (German & Spanish)

UCD

5 Students

Physiotherapy
Social Science
Arts
Psychiatric Nursing
Arts

MATER DEI

2 Students

English and Religion
History and Religion

ST.PATRICK'S COLLEGE, DRUMCONDRA

Primary School Teaching (2 students)

ALL HALLOWS

Religion and English

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND (NCI)

5 Students

Accounting (Deferred)
Business

Accounting and Human Resource Management (2 students)
Management of Business and Technology

DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL (DBS)

Social Care

NUI MAYNOOTH

Arts (2 students)

FETAC

COLAISTE IDE

6 students

Front Office Management
Marketing, Human Resource and Business (3 students)
Travel and Tourism
Sports Management

MARINO

8 students
Pre-Nursing (3 students)
Child Care (2 students)
Travel and Tourism (2 students)
Beauty Therapy

WHITEHALL

6 students

Health and Administration
Receptionist (2 students)
Legal Secretary
Health Administration
Computers

CRUMLIN

4 students

Fashion Buying and Merchandising (2 students)

Make-up and Special Effects
Fashion Merchandising

DUN LAOGHAIRE INSTITUTE

Beauty Therapy (2 students)

COLAISTE DHULAIGH

3 students

Portfolio Course
Hairdressing (2 students)

LIBERTIES

3 students

High Scope Childcare
Childcare and Montessori
Youth and Community

PLUNKETT COLLEGE

Holistic Health

BALLSBRIDGE COLLEGE

Event Management

BALLYMUN TRINITY

Childcare

INCHICORE

Creative Writing
Costume Design and Make-up

FÁS

7 students

Hairdressing (3 students)
Computer and Business (2 students)
Apprenticeship Hairdressing (2 students)

GAP YEAR

1 student

EMIGRATED

1 student

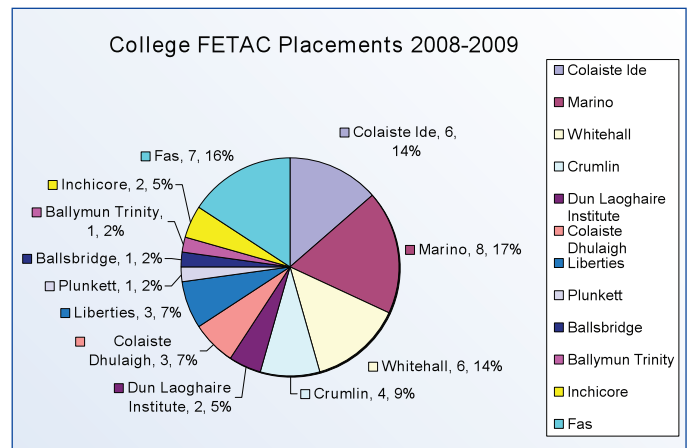
WORK

8 students

Retail (5 students)
Clerical (2 students)
Hairdressing (1 student)

REPEAT

6 Students



NUI Maynooth Award

Congratulations to Orla McGrath who won 1000 euro entrance scholarship award On Monday 2nd November in NUI Maynooth for obtaining over 500 points in her Leaving Certificate.

First Year

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

Third Year

The Third Year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS). These tests help the students to build up a personal profile of themselves which will enable those going on into Fifth Year to make their subject choice. They also are of value to those students who are considering Transition Year to explore subjects linked to

their aptitudes. Each student will have an individual meeting with the guidance counsellors to feed back the results of the DATS.

Higher Options

The 23rd Higher Options Conference took place at the RDS, Ballsbridge on the 18th of September. Sixty-three Sixth Year students from the school attended the event and found the event very informative. Over 180 universities, higher education colleges, further education colleges, organisations and professional bodies were in attendance giving students an unrivalled opportunity to discuss college choices and entry procedures. It was an excellent opportunity for students to avail of information on choice and entry procedures to Irish and UK higher and further level institutions.

Careers Evening

A highly successful careers evening took place in our school on Tuesday 13th October. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth year

students from St. Mary's, Beneavin De La Salle, St. Michael's, Colaiste Eoin and Mater Christi participated in the event. Over 47 colleges and organisations were in attendance on the night and it gave the students the chance to meet up with the college representatives to discuss their career options. The night was a huge success.

Tolka Area Partnership (TAP) formerly Finglas Cabra Partnership

The Better Reading Partnership (BRP) a project launched by the Tolka Area Partnership began in St. Mary's in October. The programme helps young people improve their reading skills and gets them excited about books. Twenty-two volunteers from our Transition Year grouping participated in the training with the project co-ordinator Ms. Emma O'Connor to help first year students improve their reading ability. Plans are being put in place to start the programme as soon as possible.

Discover DCU

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT (cont.)

A Discover DCU workshop under the initiative of DCU's Access Programme targeted at Fifth Year students took place on November 25th at DCU. It took the form of a workshop to give information to allow students to explore their fears, anxieties and expectations of third level, and to offer guidance and support about studying at DCU. Twenty-eight students participated in the workshop, which included seven students from St. Mary's, Kim Kiernan, Paige Dobbyn, Ellen O'Connor, Kelsey Carter, Stacey Bennett, Christina Kenna and Claire Sweeney.

DCU Achievement Awards

The Accenture Achievement Awards scheme was launched by the DCU Access Service for students from secondary schools in the North Dublin region. It is designed to recognise, reward and encourage excellence in both the academic and extra mural aspects of a student's school life. Each year over 400 students are recognised for their various accomplishments and achievements. On the 10th of December the following 4th and 5th year students were awarded under this scheme at the Helix, DCU:

Special Nomination – Lauren Craven, Olga Muhall, Jenny Moriarty, Kim Kiernan.

Community Spirit – Karen Cullen, Elizabeth Gallagher, Laura Colgan, Grainne Lynch, Ellen O'Connor, Kelsey Carter.

Sports – Jessica Jones, Michelle Lynch, Lauren Coulahan, Lorna Dunne, Chloe O'Rourke

Academic – Rachel O'Connell, Aisling Ahern, Niamh McArdle, Ariana Rondthaler, Merrusa Matusalem, Amy Campbell.

Arts and Culture – Jennifer Moran, Aoife

Harbison, Shannen O'Brien, Amy Coleman, Kellie Anne Murphy.

Fifth Year Evening

A meeting of Fifth Year parents and students looked at motivation and organizational skills, study skills, diet and healthy eating, use of the journal, new career developments and the Fifth Year Retreat Programme. The meeting was introduced by Mrs. Margaret Lennon and the issues were addressed by the Year Heads, Form Tutors, Guidance Counsellors and Chaplain.

Sixth Year Talks

The sixth year students have participated in Third Level talks every Tuesday from early September. Speakers from Trinity College, NCI, DIT, Blanchardstown IT, Tallaght IT, DCU and NUI Maynooth have been in attendance.

Notice of up-coming career talks will be highlighted on the careers notice board on the sixth year corridor.

CAO /FETAC/ UCAS

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

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

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

Fingal Centre

Life skills programme for a Fifth Year class was facilitated by a team from the Fingal centre. A follow up programme will be offered in the New Year. It is hoped that they will offer the programme to other classes after Christmas.

16+ Task Force

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

www.16plustaskforce.ie

Finglas Suicide Network

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

CALL 8648899 for an appointment

CALL 1800201890 for Helpline

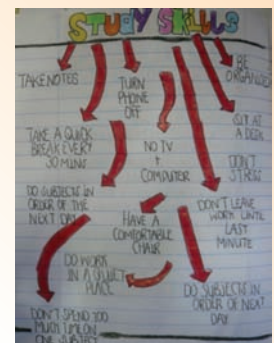
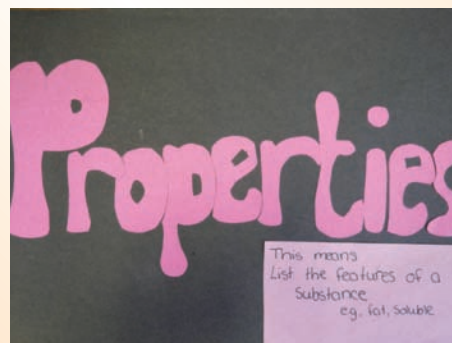
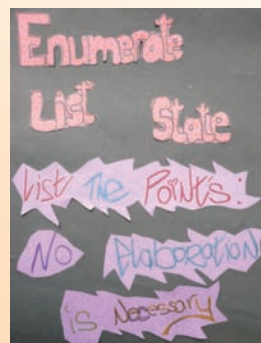
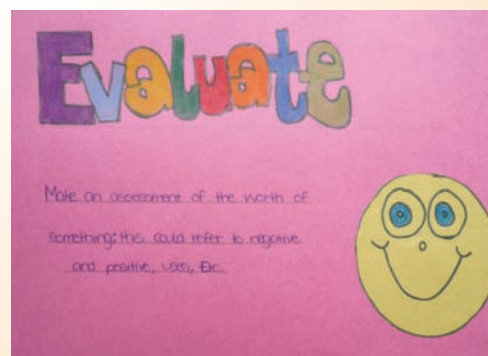
Ms. C. Downey & Ms. F. Devaney

SPHE DEPARTMENT



As the Christmas exams approached, the 2nd year SPHE students prepared by revising different styles of study techniques as well as focusing on exam language that often causes difficulty in exams. Class 2 Valentia created beautiful posters that highlight these key words. These posters are displayed through out the school and will be of benefit to all the students in the school, particularly our 1st year students as they prepare for their biggest exams in secondary school so far.

Ms. N Cunningham



RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Mass for the School Year

This year the school Mass took place on the 14th October 2009 in Our Lady of Dolours church. It was an extra special occasion. Not only did it mark the opening of the academic year it also marked the handing over of the Trusteeship of the school from the Holy Faith Sisters to the newly formed Le Cheile Trust.

The theme chosen to mark this occasion was: "Diversity in Unity". This theme was chosen to celebrate that, while the Holy Faith Sisters are joining a Trust of eleven other Religious Orders, we will still retain our unique identity and ethos as a Holy Faith School.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Eamon Burke who did an excellent job of officiating at this most significant event.

Opening Procession

The Mass began with an introduction by Mrs Lennon who explained the meaning of the theme and spoke about Margaret Aylward, the work of the Holy Faith Sisters and the move to the Le Cheile Trust. Miss Murphy led the procession bringing symbols to the altar. Each symbol represented aspects of our Holy Faith school community. Students from each year group brought: The Holy Faith Emblem; The School Mission Statement; The Ethos Statement. Sr. Maria Concilio and Sr. Mary Lalor carried candles to the Altar that represented the central message of the Holy Faith Sisters "Faith – the presence of light in darkness".

Readings

The readings of the Mass reflected the theme "Diversity in Unity" while Fr. Eamon's homily on the "X Factor" and everyone's unique talents went down very well with the students.

Offertory Procession

The Offertory procession presented symbols of St. Mary's. Students brought a painting of Margaret Aylward's lamp, a lamp donated to the school by the Holy Faith Sisters. The first year students were represented by a poster of the Holy Faith symbol with the river names of our First Year classes on it. Finally, the bread and wine which would become Christ's presence among us were presented to Fr. Eamon.

Communion Reflection

This reflection was taken from the Irish spiritual writer, John O'Donoghue. The title was aptly called "New Beginnings".

Transfer of School Trusteeship to the Le Cheile Trust

This was read by Mrs. Carole Downey. The reading was accompanied by a procession of symbols representing the Le Cheile Trust. The Le Cheile symbol, with all twelve school crests of the religious orders involved, was first to the altar. The symbol is a St. Brigid's Cross which reminds us of our Catholic roots and traditions. The design imagery is inspired by the Book of Kells. Togetherness is symbolised by different pathways to a central maze, where there is searching, challenges and new directions. Finally, the interlocking keys symbolise that education gives access to and opens up new knowledge and new possibilities.

Then the Le Cheile Charter, with the outline of the Mission and Vision that all twelve congregations entrust to the new venture was presented.

Finally the Le Cheile Candle was brought up and placed on the altar. Sr. Antoinette Keelan of the Holy Faith Order and Mr. Sean Goan of the Le Cheile Trust both lit this candle together, symbolising the unity of the Trust.

This ceremony was beautifully concluded by the choir who sang "We are one in the Lord" which was specially commissioned by Le Cheile and composed by Se. Marie Dunne for this transition.

Commissioning of the Prefects

Then, after Holy Communion, the Commissioning of the Prefects took place. The Head Girl Rachel Nugent and Deputy Head Girls Sophie Gaughran and Emma Gibbons led the Prefects in their prayer, which was followed by a well deserved round of applause from the school community.

The Mass this year was an especially significant occasion for the school and the Holy Faith Order and we in the Religion Department would like to extend our gratitude to all who helped to make this year's Mass extra special. In particular, we thank the Holy Faith Sisters, Sr. Antoinette, Mr Sean Goan, the Staff, Prefects, our great choir and Fr. Eamon Burke. His good humour and spiritual insight made the celebration of "New Beginnings" enjoyable and memorable.

Ms. F Kavanagh & Ms. L Bohan



CINEMA NEWS

TY Calling the shots – filmmaking in St Mary's



Last year a group of Transition Year students and Ms. Cunningham embarked on a short filmmaking project. They began in January, committing approximately one hour of their time each week after school. They analysed a variety of the film techniques used in mainstream filmmaking. Then, they brainstormed looking for ideas for their theme and agreeing on one proved difficult.

They persevered however and after being advised that it might be a good idea to work on something most people had experience of, they agreed that their theme would be bullying. Ms. Cunningham suggested collaborating with first-year students, as they had covered this topic in SPHE. This gave the TY film group a fantastic opportunity to improve their communication skills and the first years a chance to make connections, friendships and have an impact on their school.

The result of this process was a terrific short film called "The Music Room". The team used clever direction, photography, editing and music to create a dramatic and emotive work, which delivered a strong punch. The team of first year actors also played their part in creating this successful piece. Initially, they auditioned, then the successful few received an acting workshop delivered by the TY students involved. The first years then volunteered their free time during the Easter holidays and filming took place.

May '09 saw the official screening of "The Music Room". All participants and their parents were invited to attend. It was a great evening. There was a positive response to the film and it is the intention of the school to use it as part of the 'Friendship Week' initiative, which tackles bullying in a positive and proactive way.

On a personal note, I wish to thank all the students who participated in the TY "Calling the Shots" film project for their dedication. I particularly would like to acknowledge Aisling Martin who gave freely of her time to edit the film. This took a great number of hours and she did an excellent job.

I look forward to working on other film projects with the current Transition year students during the coming year.

Ms. N Cunningham



MATHS DEPARTMENT

Open Night Maths Stand

Well done to all First Years who submitted a creative and colourful poster on BEMDAS for the Open Night competition. Mr. Mc Carthy, Ms. Gavin and Ms. Murphy, at the Maths stand, answered any questions that parents had, when they visited the school on Open Night. The Maths stand displayed many puzzles for perspective students to solve including a rubrik cube, a crossnumber, a jigsaw puzzle and a variety of mathematical test sheets. There was also a PowerPoint presentation on different mathematical concepts for parents to view and there was information displayed on the 'Misconceptions about Maths.'

Maths Week

Maths Week was celebrated in all schools countrywide from 10th – 17th October. St. Mary's was no exception! St. Mary's aimed to raise awareness, appreciation and an understanding of mathematics for all students during that week. Interesting mathematical facts were posted on stands on each corridor as well as on the Maths notice board. The events of Maths Week were designed to present Maths as interesting, challenging and yet rewarding – and yes, even fun! There were cross curricular links with other subject departments during Maths Week. Art students created colourful mathematical posters and articles on famous mathematicians were sited on the History notice board. All students in the school were informed over the intercom about the 'Maths in the City' event which took place on Grafton Street on Saturday the 10th October from 11.30-3pm where presenters talked all about numbers! In addition to this students were made aware of the many activities organised by the Maths teachers in the school for each year group.

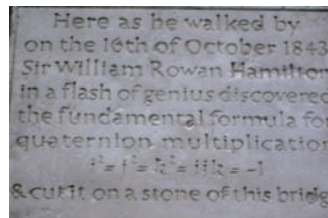
All First Years completed a Maths trail, which was organised by Ms. Murphy in the Botanic gardens on Friday the 16th October from 11am until 1pm. Students observed on the trail and focused on the Maths in the environment. The trail included a variety of tasks for the students to do. The winners of the Maths trail were Megan Nolan, Rochelle Mc Ginley, Jemma Ennis and Mary-Louise Tipones.

All Second Year students were delighted to take part in 'The Maths Challenge 2009' quiz in the Choir Hall on

Tuesday the 13th October from 9.30-10.50am. This was a very enjoyable event for all second years and thanks are expressed to Ms. Wilson and Ms. Gavin for their organisation of the event. Well done to Orla Kavanagh, Jodi Maher, Megan Stamp and Malvina Grondzewska as they were the outright winners.

All Third Year students were invited to participate in the 'Countdown Champion Competition 2009' organised by Ms. Mc Cormack and Ms. O' Donnell in the Interactive Whiteboard Room on Wednesday the 14th October during lunchtime. Such was the enthusiasm and interest from the Third Year students that the final had to take place the following day at lunchtime. The overall winner was Nessa Farrell while second and third place went to Hannah Kelly and Jessica Kavanagh respectively.

All TY students endeavoured to solve Sudoku Puzzles with Ms. Griffin and Ms. Gavin in the TY rooms on Monday the 12th October from 3.00-3.40pm. Transition Years also had the opportunity to challenge themselves mathematically by taking part in the 'Prism Challenge' on Thursday the 15th October from 1.40-3.00pm. This is a national competition involving a series of problems in multiple-choice format, to challenge the problem solving dexterity of students. Mr. Hallinan organised both this activity as well as the Hamilton Walk for Transition Years. Students walked from the school to Broombridge on Friday the 16th October. At Broombridge, students saw at first hand the famous inscription that was etched by Hamilton in 1893 on the wall at Broombridge.



Famous inscription by Hamilton

Fifth year Maths students attended either the 'Magic of Maths' show in the RDS organised by Ms. Nolan and Ms. O'Donnell or they participated in a Maths quiz during class. Andrew Jeffrey, a mathematician entertained the audience in the RDS with a range of fabulous tricks. Many of his tricks relied on the wonderful world of mathematics.

Finally all Sixth Year students were surprised by a mathematical activity during Maths week! They were either shown the fascinating Dürers Square – a square that the sums in any of the four quadrants as well as the sums of the middle four numbers are all 34. Sixth Year students and teachers also enjoyed games of Jenga against each other.



Dürers Square

Maths Club

The Maths Club was launched during Maths Week by Mr. Mc Carthy and Ms. O' Donnell. The Maths Club aims to help all students who have a difficulty with Maths and want that little bit of extra help. The Maths Club runs Monday lunchtime in the Interactive Whiteboard Room from 1.10-1.35pm. Many of the Maths teachers in the Maths Department are willing to help out in the club. This is a wonderful opportunity and students who have been absent for periods of time or have a difficulty with a particular topic are encouraged to attend.

Maths Squad

This is a new TY initiative involving a group of twelve Transition Year students that help First Year students with problem-solving skills in Maths. The Maths Squad and First Years work together in the English Room Wednesdays at lunchtime and to date it has been a huge success for all involved.

New Changes in the Maths Syllabi – Project Maths

A new revised Maths course will be rolled out nationally for both incoming First Year and Fifth Year students in September 2010. Project Maths is designed to teach Mathematics in a way that promotes real understanding, where students can appreciate the relevance of what they are learning and its application to everyday life, and how mathematics can be used to solve problems. New strands on Statistics and Probability as well as Geometry and Trigonometry will be introduced.

Ms. M. O'Donnell



TY Students solving Sudoku puzzles



2nd Years in the Maths Challenge 2009



3rd Years in the Countdown Competition



5th Years setting out on a Maths Trail!



1st Years in the Botanic Gardens



6th Year students trying to recreate Dürers Square from memory



Winners of the 'Maths Challenge' Quiz!



5th Year students outside the RDS



Countdown Champions in Third Year!

TRANSITION YEAR

Tales from TY

Our Transition Year students are a terrific group of young ladies, so full of confidence and enthusiasm. During each event, activity, class and talk this year they have worked happily and diligently. And what a list of experiences they have had so far:

Glasnevin cemetery tour, Dublin Zoo, Drama workshop, Defend Ireland talk, Bonding Hike to Howth, AA talk, Emmaus Retreat, Traffic school, CARA talk, Song school, Hamilton walk, Temple Street Hospital fundraising, Cycling in the Phoenix Park, a visit from European Commissioners, Newgrange, Science talk in the RDS, Kilmainham Gaol, Personal development workshop, peer learning activities, RTE orchestra recitals, GAA museum tours.

But don't just take our word for it, read what the girls have to say!

Ms. R McCormack & Ms. Hayes

Song School

On Thursday 12th November, all the transition year students took part in the SongSchool. Paul, Peter, Joe and Catriona are from Balbriggan and they visited us for a day and what a fun day that was. We first played games where we had to imitate Paul. We repeated everything he did, making noises, moving our hands, clapping them, kicking our feet, anything he did we had to do. It was all about concentration. After those sort of games, the guys put on a show for us. They sang a few songs and played the guitar. We were all singing and clapping along with them. After that they separated us into groups. I was in a group with Sarah, Gemma, Lizzie, Alison, Catriona, Jessica, Lauren, Michelle and Niamh. So we spent the rest of the day writing a song! It was actually very hard to do. We decided to write a Christmas Carol as Christmas was just around the corner.

Lizzie and I were the lead vocals, while Sarah, Alison, Catriona, Lauren and Michelle were the backing singers and Gemma, Niamh and Jessica were the rappers. Yes we decided to add a rap to our Christmas Carol. We thought it would sound cool with a bit of a mix and it did! So we wrote and rehearsed our song for ages to try and get it right. It finally came to the end of the day when we had to perform our song! We were so nervous. I remember feeling so hot, the heaters were on and the nerves were getting to me, that was no help. But we got up there and we sang our Christmas Carol in front of all the students, a second year class, a few teachers and elderly people from the Log on Learn group.

It definitely boosts your confidence, getting up there and singing in front of people, especially if it's something you want to do! I really, really enjoyed the day. Finally, Ms. McCormack and Mr. Coll thought everyone did such a good job that they are going to let us record our songs!

Hannah Evers 4.27

Kilmainham Gaol

My friends and I met at the bus stop at 7.30 in the morning. We got it at that time because the traffic is usually really jammed in Phibsboro. When we got to the jail we



Bonding trip to Dublin Zoo 7th September 2009

were split into two groups. The jail itself was really interesting. The tour guide told us that in the past people were hanged outside as a warning to the public. We also learned that women and men were separated for mass. The cells were really small and because of the famine some people used to get into jail just to be fed. Then the guards realised what they were doing and stopped it. We saw a room where there was an oval staircase. I was going to ask if it was where the film "Michael Collins" was shot but then the tour guide told us it was. I thought that was deadly. The tour guide showed us much more but I can't write it all down as there was so much, but I thought it was deadly!

Aisling Regan 4.38

The year so far

Transition year has been a brilliant experience so far! We have either a trip or a talk nearly every week so no week is ever the same. We are also learning a lot of different things; Japanese, Music skills, Careers, Leisure studies and some of us (including myself) get to go to St Kevin's boys' school to do Metalwork, Woodwork and First Aid! I think it's great that we get the chance to try new subjects and get a chance to sample all the subjects on the Leaving Certificate syllabus. We don't do all classes as normal. We do projects and in certain subjects, like French and Irish, we watch movies and films in those languages. All I can say is, I can't wait for the rest of the year! We have only started and we still have TY production, work experience and a ski trip in February. It's going to be great!

Aoife Harbison 4.28

TY Log on, Learn (TY LOL)

Well done to the girls of class 4.38 who participated in the Transition Year Log on Learn initiative. TY LOL was developed as a result of collaboration between Intel,



Log on and Learn



Collecting bikes in the Phoenix Park 13th October 2009

Microsoft and An Post. It involves Transition Year Students teaching computers to older people from their local community. It works using a "buddy" system whereby each student is paired with an older person so that training is on a one-to-one basis.

The programme was a huge success and we already have a waiting list for next year. The key to its success and indeed, the magic ingredient was the co-operation between the two generations involved. It is seldom that these two generations get the opportunity to work together outside the realm of family environments, but from the get-go there was a real buzz in the computer room and a sense that both groups were enjoying the task at hand.

I have to hand it to the transition year students, most of whom had never done anything like this before. It is not an easy job to take on the role of teacher, but they did a fantastic job. I could see many qualities of a good teacher shining through – patience, ability to listen to their buddies and generosity in imparting their knowledge. Some of them should definitely consider a career in training or teaching.

We also had a marvellous group of participants who joined us every Thursday. They were all a pleasure to work with. I know that there can be a big fear factor involved in learning to work with computers, but everyone got stuck in with enthusiasm. What struck me most was that in a school full of young people, it was the so-called older people who stood out as being full of energy! If I have half their energy, zest and positive attitude in my later years I'll be a happy retiree. I sincerely hope that they now have the confidence to continue to experiment with computers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their time and for inspiring us to run this initiative again next year and hopefully for many years ahead.

If anyone is interested in participating in future courses contact Liz on 01 8374413.

Ms J. Byrne



TY Students cycling in the Phoenix Park

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Poppy Day Remembrance

On Wednesday 11th November, we commemorated Armistice Day, the day which brought World War I to an end in 1918. The poppy is the symbol of all those who have died in conflicts past and present. Hence, the 11th November is known as Poppy Day.

A service of remembrance was held at 11 o'clock. Six students from 3 Elm participated. They were Patricia Condon, Keeva O'Reilly, Aine Holland, Naomi McEvoy, Rebekah Reid and Emma Scott. The roll call of honour was read by Mrs Bogan. The History noticboard was beautifully decorated with poppies made by Ms Cunningham. The poem "Poppy Petals" and various posters were also displayed.

This tradition began last year on the 90th anniversary of the ending of World War I and it is a tradition we hope to continue in St. Mary's as it offers us that opportunity to remember fallen heroes who in the words inscribed on the Kohima Monument, gave their to-day for tomorrow.



Ms. A Mullins

Transition Year students have been extremely busy with the History Department since the beginning of the school year. Our first history trip was to Glasnevin Cemetery, which is a graveyard and heritage centre. We visited the Little Angels' plot and visited the graves of historical figures like Daniel O'Connell. We also saw the graves of Michael Collins, Eamon de Valera, Cathal Brugha and other forgotten leaders and fighters of the 1916 Rising and War of Independence. We visited Kilmainham Jail where many of the



same men were imprisoned and executed. We found these trips interesting because it reminded us of Irish history and made it seem more real to us. We recently visited Newgrange, a Neolithic passage tomb which is over 5,000 years old. An artificial light was shone through the passage tomb and it was fascinating to see how sunlight shines through the roof-box and lights up the tomb on Winter Solstice.

We have also been working on projects about "Women in History". In groups of two we have chosen a particular female historical figure who we believe will be remembered in 100 years time and based our entire project on her. The chosen personalities include Mother Teresa, Grace Kelly, Shirley Temple, Rosa Parks, Mary McAleese and Princess Diana. The projects consist of typed information based on resources and pictures in a folder to be handed up to our teacher and a visual presentation that is presented in front of our class.

Overall, history has been an interesting subject for Transition Years to be studying as we are learning about different aspects of history that are not included in the usual curriculum. The trips are great fun and generate a lot of interest and excitement within our year and we are looking forward to the events that will take place over the coming months.

Laura Colgan 4.28

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Sharing our Science week experiences and more in St. Mary's

St. Mary's Science Club was officially launched during Science Week (8th-15th November) The Science Club is open to all curious and enthusiastic first year students and meets every Monday and lunchtime in the upstairs laboratory. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to question the world around them and then to roll up their sleeves and participate in good scientific research. We hope this will encourage our students to take science to Leaving Certificate and beyond.

In addition to the launch of the Science Club, many other activities took place during Science Week. Our Biology students were invited to attend a lecture in the RDS entitled "From Passion to Practical Benefits: Why it's great being a Scientist", given by Prof. Luke O'Neill. They were also given a talk on the importance of probiotic bacteria in our body. Our Physicists participated in the Nanoquest challenge and Chemistry students attended a set of chemistry demonstrations given by a guest speaker. The TY students participated in the Science Fusion experience in DCU. Our third year students were challenged to a Science Quiz, while our first and second years allowed their creative side to shine in a Science poster competition. As you can tell, Science Week 2009 was jam-packed in St. Mary's. Remember next year to get involved!

Finally, we must not forget to mention the Biology Fieldtrip to the Phoenix Park (10-11th September) in which our sixth year students participated. They completed five mandatory Ecology practical experiments during the day and did so with care and diligence. A portfolio of these experiments will be prepared by each student for revision purposes.

Ms. R McCormack



Some members of St. Mary's Science Club 2009



Sixth Year Students working together on their ecology field trip



Science Week – Using a quadrat



Science Week – Collecting bugs using a pooter and sweep net

PREFECT NEWS



Rebecca Nugent (Head Girl) with Sophie Gaughran and Emma Gibbons (Deputy Head Girls)

Hi there! Rebecca, Sophie and Emma here to update you on the development of our role as sixth year prefects. We began our school year early with a two day Lucca Leadership programme which we really enjoyed. We learned valuable leadership and communication skills to help us fulfil our roles as prefects. We were then introduced to the first years in a funfilled orienteering day including games and treasure hunts. It was a great way to get to know our prefect classes and for them to feel comfortable in our school community. Our next step as prefects was to keep up with our visits to 1st and 2nd year classes. We quickly realised a strong connection was being built.

Halloween quickly came upon us and it was the first opportunity since the start of the year to organise a fun event with our prefect classes. A day full of apple bobbing, mummy-wraps and loads of sweets was enjoyed by all. Needless to say our prefect classes warmed to us! Other prefects involved in the film and the computer club have also been working hard to add to the extra-curricular activities in our school.

A day to remember that is special to all prefects took place in October. That was the day we took our oath at the school mass. Other school events included our Christmas surprise for all 1st and 2nd years and our Christmas fair. They were anticipated with great excitement. So far, the year has gone well and we hope to do many more fun things in the future.

Sophie Gaughran, Rebecca Nugent and Emma Gibbons

The Homework Club has been a great success. It is a chance for first years, every Wednesday and Thursday, to get help from sixth years with their homework or any subject they need assistance with.

Every week there is a great turn out and the students find it very beneficial. Not only did the Homework Club help the girls with their school work but it also gave them the chance to make new friends with students from other classes and they were even able to help each other in some cases. It created a stronger link between first years and sixth years.

Now we're sorry to say that because of the stress and strain of sixth year, we have

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Choir Fundraising Marathon

It has been a very busy term indeed for the Music department with many exciting activities taking place. On Friday 25th September, the school choir was asked to sing in the Pro-Cathedral to fundraise for the homeless people in Dublin. The choir performed for over two and a half hours with several other school choirs from Dublin in a singing marathon. Throughout the night, the choir also heard a number of stories about how the money it raised would help those people who are homeless. The night was a great success and overall, the girls helped to raise 2250 Euro. Well done to all the girls involved!

School Mass

The choir has been extremely busy during the term. It helped provide joyous songs at the opening school mass. To celebrate the handing over of the school to a new trust – 'Le Cheile', the choir sang a specially commissioned piece called 'New Beginnings' by the composer Ian Callanan, who worked with the choir during Emmanuel 2009.

Christmas Carols

Students from the choir were involved in an evening of Advent Reflections and Carols in All Hallows College Chapel on Wednesday 25th November. The girls were asked to sing a selection of carols and provide backing support to the soloists on the night. All Hallows College hope to make this an annual Carol celebration and it's great that our students have been involved in it.

The student council decided that they would like to provide carols and Christmas music for the convent community. With the help of some choir members, this went ahead and was most enjoyable for the sisters in the convent.

LYRIC FM Competition

The choir has been entered into a competition, which is being run by Lyric Fm. The girls have been working on building up their repertoire and have recorded two challenging pieces in three-part harmony for the competition. The results of the competition will be known in late January so we wish all the girls the best of luck!

RTE Concert Orchestra

On 19th November, the 6th year music class along with the transition year music appreciation group travelled to Griffith College to hear the RTE Concert Orchestra perform Hector Berlioz's 'Symphonie Fantastique'. The RTE Orchestra performed both movements of the symphony, which will be examined in the Leaving Cert Music exam in 2010.

The concert was followed by an interactive talk where the orchestra dissected important parts of the symphony, explaining and illustrating the many techniques present in the music. It was a wonderful opportunity for the girls to see and hear a world-class orchestra in such a small setting as it really brought the music which they had studied in class to life. We look forward to attending many similar events throughout the year.

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

Transition Year Retreat to Emmaus

On 28th September '09, Transition Year students took part in a religious retreat at Emmaus Retreat House, Swords. When we got there, we were divided up into small groups and given a team leader. We worked on topics such as team-building and self-confidence. The girls and I though this was an unforgettable experience as it really gave us a chance to get to know each other much better. We shared our thoughts and opinions of the spiritual dimension of our lives and we exchanged stories of our hopes and dreams for the future. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and got a lot of the day of prayer and reflection.

to hand our role as co-ordinators over to the fifth year students.

We hope they enjoy it and find it to be just as successful as we did! Best of luck girls.
Niamh Ronan & Ciara Dalton 6.37



Right: Homework Club
Below: Prefects 2009/2010



PE DEPARTMENT

Gaelic Football

Gaelic football will be reintroduced this year with an U14 team in the Leinster league. This will commence in the New Year. Seniors will also be training and playing friendly games in the New Year in preparation for entering the league in 2010. We wish all players every success.

Soccer

The soccer season has kicked off again this year with the girls training every Wednesday on the new Astro. St Mary's school has entered a U14 and a U16 team into the Leinster league and we wish them every success in their up and coming games.

Ms. D Maher

Basketball



1st Year Basketball Team

Basketball got off to a flying start this year with the introduction of two new coaches and four teams entered in the SSA league. Ciaran Dunne, experienced coach of UCD Marians has come to train our seniors and cadettes. Ms. E Murphy has taken on the first and second years teams after much experience in schools in the past.

Our seniors are in the premier division and showing every chance of coming out on top. After defeating Maryfield 48-31 and narrowly missing out by five baskets against Mt. Sackville, we feel they have every chance of beating local rivals DCGA and this will take them to the semi-finals.

Our cadette team is also training hard this year and have some tough games ahead against such teams as St Mary's, Baldoyle and Our Ladies, Drogheda.

Participation levels have risen substantially in our junior teams this year so students are training hard to prove themselves worthy for the teams. Both teams have games coming up against St. Mary's, Baldoyle and Our Ladies, Drogheda and we wish them every success in their league.

Ms. D Maher

Badminton Club

Every Wednesday a dedicated group of first and second year students stay after school to practise their Badminton skills. Some of these students have never played Badminton before and so for over an hour each week they learn to play while enjoying spending time with their classmates. The girls are now looking forward to participating in a Christmas Tournament against each other.

Badminton Teams

We wish all our teams every success during the 09/10 Badminton Season. Already St. Mary's have got off to a very good start with some exciting and excellent play from all those students participating. Keep up the good work girls but most importantly continue to enjoy it!

Ms. Moggan & Ms. McCormack

Hockey

If you build it.....they will come! It's Hockey Time.....It's Astro Time...Hurrah!



Junior Team v St. Louis Rathmines

We now have our very own Astro-turf pitch. The excitement started on day one with the first years' sports day induction. This was a fantastic success, introducing the students to the many sports and activities that the Astro has to offer. The induction day also led to a great response from students for new hockey players both in first year and throughout the other years!

With the excitement of playing hockey on our new pitch the First years were eager to join the school hockey teams. We immediately got started with a First year introduction to hockey on Saturday mornings in September. The First years thoroughly enjoyed the Saturday mornings. We are now delighted to have three First year teams.

We started our Leinster league matches in an upbeat and positive mood. The Senior team with students from 4th, 5th and 6th year have played some very closely contested matches. Some Senior team students also demonstrated their leadership skills with the First years by helping and preparing them for matches. Well done girls!

Our Junior team started their games with great success beating Dundalk and Loreto Beaufort and are unbeaten to date. This is a great achievement in this year's Leinster league. Well done to the Juniors and keep up the winning spirit.

Great excitement gathered as the First and Second year teams prepared for their first hockey matches. The girls were highly excited by the prospect of playing another school and took great pride in representing St Mary's in hockey. The enthusiasm was fantastic.

With our new Astro pitch and such enthusiastic and talented players, the future of hockey is bright. We highly recommend everyone to come along and join hockey.

Go Astro, onwards and upwards!!



First Year Hockey Team

Ms Boran, Ms Nolan, Ms Maher, Ms Gavin

PE DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Hip Hop

I would like to take this opportunity to thank three of our Senior students, Hazel McCarthy, Caroline Cummins and Aoife Jennings who give generously of their time and energy to organise Hip Hop classes for the Junior students. The girls have created really lively and original dances for the Juniors to perform and in turn they are learning and loving it.



Hip Hop Dancing

Ms. Moggan



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Creative Writing Club

Students have responded very enthusiastically to the new creative writing club set up by Ms. Leahy. Our budding writers meet every Monday at lunchtime in the English room where they are guided through workshops to improve their writing skills. There is much talent amongst our members who have produced very impressive work so far. With such promise we may even see some of our students' names on bookshelves in the future!

Ms. E Leahy

Cinema News

The school community continued to benefit from our wonderful resource of the school cinema. The students of English were able to enjoy film versions of their exam texts e.g. "King Lear", "Wuthering Heights", "Of Mice and Men", "Romeo and Juliet", etc.

Transition year students have a "Film Studies" module as part of the TY curriculum. They study "Genre" in film and in particular the "Teen Genre". They enjoyed films such as "Mean Creek", "The Breakfast Club", "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and "Maria, Full of Grace". This helps prepare them for the film study which is part of the Leaving Certificate curriculum in English.

The "Film Club" continues after school – usually once a month on a Thursday. So far members have enjoyed films such as "Wild Child" and "Halloween". New members are always welcome.

Ms. C Nolan

Library News

Sincere thanks, on behalf of the English department, to Sister Maria Concilio for her ongoing work in the school library. We

especially appreciate her help in introducing first year students to the contents and workings of the library. She welcomed each class enthusiastically and explained to them how the library operates. She assisted them in choosing suitable books and made them feel at ease using the library. First year students are now busy doing book reviews and extending their class "book worms". Well done girls!

St. Mary's school is very lucky to have the valuable resource of a well stocked library. It certainly enhances the teaching and learning in the school. The library also supports and encourages lunchtime/leisure time reading so that students can appreciate the joys of reading for pleasure.

Ms. C Nolan

Stratford Trip

In September, an English trip was organised to Yorkshire and Stratford to learn more about the famous writers William Shakespeare and Emily Bronte. The students, from sixth year and transition year, travelled with their teachers Ms. Callan, Ms. Murtagh, Ms. Nolan and Ms. McCormack.

The tour started early Friday morning with the ferry to Holyhead. From here, the group made their way to the beautiful historic city of York. The main event this evening was a Ghost Tour. The guide entertained and terrified the girls with tales of war, plague and orphans, pointing out various gruesome sites as they made their way around the city.

Nerves recovered, Saturday morning started with a visit to the Haworth Parsonage, home of the famous Bronte

sisters. This beautifully restored museum provides background on the lives of Emily, Charlotte and Anne as well as information on their famous literary works such as "Wuthering Heights" and "Jane Eyre".

That afternoon, the group travelled to Stratford, home of William Shakespeare. The girls got the opportunity to wander the cobbled streets and explore the quaint shops on arrival, then later they attended a powerful performance of the history play "Julius Caesar" in the Courtyard Theatre. Tours of Shakespeare's Birthplace and Anne Hathaway's cottage on Sunday completed the cultural visit to this town and Sunday evening was spent in a more modern way in the shops and cinema of the Cheshire Oaks Retail Outlet.

Overall, the trip was really enjoyable and there was excellent participation and behaviour from all students. Hopefully the English trip will become a regular event in the school calendar. Thank you to everyone involved.

Trinity Lectures

Students from sixth year got their chance to experience college life when they attended a recent lecture on "Wuthering Heights" in Trinity College. Dr. Jarlath Kileen explored the theme of cruelty in the novel and also raised interesting issues about our fascination with the central relationship between Catherine and Heathcliff. After he spoke, a lively discussion took place with the audience, with students from St. Mary's asking some challenging questions.

The next English event for sixth year students will be the UCD DramaSoc performance of "King Lear" which takes place in early January.

Ms. D. Callan

Green School Initiative

TY Recycling Fashion Competition

A Greenschool committee was set up on November 5th 2009. Its aim is to reduce the amount of waste generated in the school. It meets at lunchtime most Thursdays. The Committee comprises of teachers, fourth year students and two sixth year environmental prefects.

Ms. A. Wilson

This year transition year students started a new module about sustainable living. One group wanted to create awareness about litter in the school. For this they held a competition in a first year Art class. The students had to design a piece of clothing from 'rubbish'. The end products were fantastic. Well done to all the first years involved and the transition year group for this excellent initiative.

Ms. M Byrne



Fifth Year Mystery Trip to Lough Derg and the Boda Borg

On Thursday 24th November all fifth year students along with some very willing teachers headed off for the annual fifth year "Mystery Trip". And, yes it remained a mystery until three buses pulled up outside Lough Key Forest Park, Co Roscommon. Even then it was still a bit of a mystery as no one had ever heard of the Boda Borg, but not for long, as over one hundred teenage girls descended on this maze of forty seven rooms. It contains fun-filled activities, imaginative puzzles and enjoyable tasks but no instructions!! Not a bother for St. Mary's girls!!

Ms. M Byrne

Here is one student's comment on the day...

For our mystery trip, we went to Boda Borg in Roscommon. We did not know where we were going until we got there. When we arrived we split into groups of four. Before entering, we left our bags and valuables at the front desk. In the room there were loads of different coloured doors. The black door had the hardest tasks inside. The red door had the easiest tasks inside. When you pass a task, you would go through a secret door to do another task. If you pass three in a row you got your card stamped. The group with the most stamps at the end won. Some tasks were mind puzzles and others were physical tasks. In one of the physical tasks we were not allowed to touch the ground. We had to swing from ropes. The trip was a lot of fun and helped us get to know other people and make more friends.

Naomi Murphy 5.32

St Mary's School Council

The student council has been busy this term discussing student issues such as scarves, sixth year privileges and plans for getting involved in the School Fair and singing for the Sisters in the convent before Christmas. We had a training and bonding afternoon on Tuesday 10th November. It started with lunch in the canteen and continued with lots of discussion and finally a full council meeting was held. It was great for the whole council to be able to spend so much time together and the afternoon was enjoyed by all. As the student council is the student voice in the school we welcome all new suggestions and ideas. Please contact your year representative with any ideas and suggestions you have. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Mrs. A Hughes (student council liaison teacher)
Laura Scanlon (chairperson), Ciara Dalton (secretary)

Student Council 2009/2010:

- Chairperson:** Laura Scanlon 6.34
- Vice chairperson:** Lisa Barry 5.33
- Secretary:** Ciara Dalton 6.37
- Assistant Secretary:** Catherine Cormican 5.30
- P.R.O.:** Amy Connelly 6.37, Yseult Byrne 6.37, Aisling Ahern 4.28
- Treasurer:** Eilish Kelly 5.33
- Council Weblink:** Aisling Martin 5.33
- Liaison with prefects:** Rebecca Nugent 6.34, Jessica Powell 6.34
- 5th Year:** Alison Martin 5.33, Emma Carter 5.30
- TY:** Aisling Ahern 4.28, Melissa Kitching 4.38
- 3rd Year:** Emma Humber 3 Beech, Jade Brady 3 Maple, Hannah Kelly 3 Maple
- 2nd Year:** Laura Byas 2 Lambay, Anna-Korena Doherty 2 Tory, Ranzenallie 2 Valentia
- 1st Year:** Aine Ford 1Shannon, Kate McNamara 1Liffey, Rochelle McGinley 1Lee