

A Christmas Carol

This Christmas saw an exciting new drama and music initiative in the school. A number of students took part in a stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol". Due to the generous fundraising from the Parents' Council, the stage in St. Mary's Hall had been beautifully refurbished with new curtains. It was decided to celebrate this by performing a Christmas play and students from all years were invited to participate.

Auditions and rehearsals began in September, with the invaluable help of Frances Blackburn, an experienced director and former member of staff. Other departments contributed to the production including the Art Department who designed the set, the Home Economics Department who worked on costumes and make-up and the Music Department who prepared the festive songs.

The play ran on Friday 9th December and Monday 12th December to a large audience and was a resounding success. Shauna Caffrey from 5th Year delivered a wonderfully comic and memorable performance in the leading role of Ebenezer Scrooge. She was supported by an excellent and talented cast including Claire Concannon as the Narrator, Rebecca Clark as Bob Cratchit, Leah Donnelly as Mrs. Cratchit, Patricia O'Beirne as Scrooge's nephew and Shannon Delaney as Tiny Tim. There were also notable appearances by the Ghost of Marley (Aislinn Farrell), Christmas Past (Eve Kavanagh), Christmas

Present (Rebecca Reid) and Christmas Future (Sharon Ogunyemi.) Scrooge's unhappy history was brought to life through Lisa Fitzsimons' role as Young Scrooge and Siobhan McNamara playing his old flame Belle.

Many other students got involved and had their first experience of taking part in a school dramatic production including Malwina Grondzeswka, Aoibheann Brady, Charlotte Smith, Niamh Kelly, Megan Rothballer, Rachel McMahon, April Lamai, Rebecca Wall, Rebecca Dunne, Leah Deegan, Olwyn Galbraith, Kodie Dowdall, Ella Donlon and Danicah Donnelly.

Musical numbers on the night were sung beautifully, including the atmospheric opening song "Ring Christmas Bells" performed by the whole choir, and other Christmas favourites such as "In the Bleak Midwinter", "O Come All Ye Faithful", "Once in Royal David's City" and "Away in a Manger". Two more modern songs; "What if I Had Never Let You Go" and "Feels like Christmas" added to the portrayal of Scrooge's edifying journey before the final rousing song, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

We would like to thank everyone who contributed in the run up to the production and helped out on the night. Congratulations to all performers on a wonderful Christmas show!

**Ms. D. Callan and
Ms. C. Warren**



Cast of "A Christmas Carol"



Poster for the production



MISSION STATEMENT

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

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P.E. & SPORTS DEPARTMENT

The 2011/2012 school year got off to a great start due to the substantial funding received from the J.M.B. and sanctioned by our own Board of Management. A considerable amount of time was given to the selection of new equipment to ensure that we are now able to provide a varied and extensive P.E. programme, for the present cohort of students, and one that will take us well into the future. We are now in the position to offer new modules such as ultimate frisbee, step aerobics, field athletics while also increasing the challenges within already existing modules by introducing new equipment, for example the beam and box in gymnastics and the high jump, shot and javelin in athletics. To ensure that this new equipment is put to the best possible use we would encourage full participation in P.E. from all students and would appreciate parents' involvement in promoting this.

Fun activities are an integral part of our P.E. programme in St. Mary's and the Halloween games that took place before midterm were no exception. Great fun and lots of laughs were had by both PE staff and students and we hope that the next fun activity will be a similar success. We'll keep you posted.

A big THANK YOU to the many staff members who are giving up their time to ensure a varied extra-curricular programme is offered in St. Mary's. It's not too late for students to join any of these activities and we would encourage all students to get involved in at least one. A major aim of our P.E. programme is to promote a lifelong participation in sport.

Gaelic Football

With over sixty students involved in Gaelic football this year we are delighted to say that the sport has become very strong in the school. Both the Senior and Junior teams have performed very well having got out of their groups unbeaten, competing against teams such as Kilinarden and Deansrath. This is due to all the hard work and training sessions every Wednesday after school and we are now looking forward to advancing into the Leinster Championship after Christmas where we will be meeting teams from further afield. The future of Gaelic looks bright in the school with a strong team of first years training every Thursday with Mr. Madden and Mr. Beirne. The girls are facing into their league which begins in January and we wish them every success. All Gaelic

players took part in a 10km hike, from Enniskerry to Powerscourt, on Monday 28th of November in order to raise funds for new jerseys for all players. The hike was a fun day out and both staff and students enjoyed the day. The teams would

be nothing without our coaches Mr. Donnelly, Ms. Maher, Mr. Madden and Mr. Beirne, our team captains, Senior Aoife Nolan and junior Kate Dwyer and of course the dedication of all students involved in Gaelic in the school.

Congratulations to our senior captain Aoife Nolan who competed at senior club level in an All Ireland final with local club Na Fianna. They were narrowly defeated by just four points in the end, however we are very proud of our team captain. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Na Fianna Club for kindly allowing us to use their grounds for our home games. Gaelic in the school would be impossible without their help.

Claire Concannon (5th Year)



Students participating in the 10km hike to Powerscourt



New Gym Equipment

Basketball



3rd Year Basketball Team

Our senior basketball team is competing in the Premier division again this year and is holding its own with three wins under its belt so far against teams such as Dominicans Griffith Avenue and Manor House. With just one more game to play to bring us to the semi-final stages of the SSA league, we wish the girls every success. Thank you to coach Ciaran Dunne for his excellent sessions and dedication to the team. Our junior teams are just starting their competitions with games coming up against St. Mary's Killester and Santa Maria. We wish them the best of luck for the season and hope that they continue to show such dedication to improvement in the future. A big THANK YOU to Ms. Murphy who has been so dedicated to basketball this year taking on the 1st, 2nd and Cadette teams.

Badminton



Some of the students competing in the Christmas Badminton Tournament plus Glennalyn our score keeper.

It is great to see that all of last year's players have returned to the school Badminton Club along with our new recruits, who are all very welcome. Training takes place every Monday after school for non-team players with Ms. McCormack and every Thursday after school with Ms. Moggan for team players. All 1st and 2nd year students are at present participating in a Badminton module as part of their PE Curriculum and we would encourage even more students to become club members as their individual skill levels improve and they become more confident. The Dublin Schools league is well under way this year and St. Mary's have a number of teams competing at U19 and U16 level. So far the teams have got off to a great start with a number of wins under their belts. We wish them well for the rest of their games.

Ms. D. Meagher, Ms. E. Murphy and Ms. A. Moggan



St Mary's v Loreto Foxrock

We had a great start to hockey this September with an introduction to hockey on Saturday mornings. The players thoroughly enjoyed the Saturday mornings. This was a fantastic success and also introduced the new first year students to the many sports and activities that the Astro has to offer.

The preparation for the leagues' matches commenced in September. Great excitement mounted as teams prepared for their first hockey matches. The girls were highly excited by the prospect of getting back into playing matches and as always take great pride in representing St. Mary's in hockey. The teams had great wins playing practice matches against Manor House, Clontarf and Mount Temple. We started our Leinster League matches in



Junior Hockey Team – 3rd Years

HOCKEY

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

October. They played some closely contested matches and showed great skill and determination.

Our Junior team (3rd Year) started their games with a 0-0 draw against High School, Rathgar. The girls did everything but score a goal and were unlucky not to get a win. It was nail-biting even up to the last minute!! The team played their second game against Loreto Foxrock and had a great result winning 3-1. Their enthusiasm for training and playing matches is fantastic. Last year's Leinster champions have moved up division and are looking forward to an even bigger challenge this year! Well done to the Junior team so far and keep up the winning spirit. We wish them luck

in this year's Leinster League as they compete in the higher league.

The Minor team (2nd Year) play Dominican Cabra in their first league game and won 2-0. This is a great start and they are looking forward to many more wins!

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

We are looking forward to lots more success on the hockey pitch this year and new players are always welcome. With our new gear, such enthusiastic and talented players, we will look great and play great. We highly recommend everyone to come along and join hockey.

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

Ms. Boran, Ms. Maher, Ms. O'Keeffe



First year students having a "smashing time" in PE class.



New PE equipment – Javelin..



Students enjoying Halloween in PE

ART DEPARTMENT

This year we celebrated our magnificent school building and its beautiful surroundings. Our first year Art students took photos and made sketches of architectural and botanical interest. From these observational studies they created artwork that explored colour, painting technique and personal creative response. It was a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate the aesthetic in our immediate environment. The students then had some festive fun with clay. They designed and made ceramic Christmas tree decorations. Preparations were also undertaken for a ceramic vessel project inspired by insects.

Our second year art students have made great progress in their drawing skills and continue to explore different drawing media. They have also completed a packaging project. Inspiration was taken from William Morris, the Arts and Crafts Movement and Pre-Christian Irish art. Each package has a beautiful repeat pattern rich in colour, shape and style. Following on from this successful project the students have concentrated on life-drawing.

The Junior Cert. Art Project is keeping our industrious third year students very busy. They have sought inspiration for their chosen themes from art museums and galleries, to enable them to create original paintings, graphic designs, sculptures and crafts. There is great potential present in all their ideas and hard work.

Ms. Mary Greene from The Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks, gave a very informative tour on the work and life of prolific designer and architect Eileen Gray, to all our Transition year students. Other exhibitions visited included "Soldiers and Chiefs" and "Irish High Crosses". The Art module for Transition year is concentrating on the appreciation of architecture and stage set design. The set design and props for "A Christmas Carol" were a great success and definitely enhanced the enjoyment of this fantastic production.

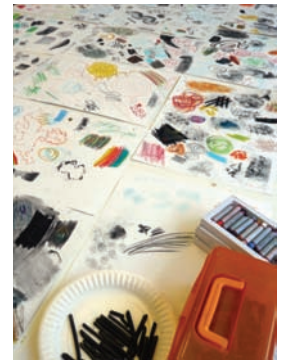
All our senior Art students had the opportunity to visit "Sculpture In Context" at The Botanic Gardens and "Dublin Contemporary 2011" at Earlsfort Terrace. Both exhibitions have acted as inspiration for artworks created by the students and have broadened their appreciation of art within a social context.

The Street Art Movement and the work of Banksy were the main influences behind the poster project by fifth years. Each student made a creative response to a social, political or environmental issue. The posters were exhibited and there was a fantastic response from the whole school community to the variety of messages our students wanted to communicate. Students then spent time developing their life-drawing skills, observing and drawing the human form.

The sixth year art students began the term working on the still-life section of the Leaving Cert. exam. The "Dublin Contemporary 2011" and "Sculpture in Context" exhibitions they visited broadened their exposure to contemporary Irish and International art and will be a catalyst for their Leaving Cert. Craft exam. The students have spent time creating and perfecting embroidery, bookcraft, 3D modelling, lino-print and poster work.

We were delighted also to welcome back some of our past pupils who are now studying Art at Third level. They spoke with confidence to Art students about their experiences and the broad range of courses they are currently studying. We wish all our students well in the year ahead.

Ms. C. Kavanagh and Ms. N. Cunningham



Art Club

An Art Club was set up for first year students this year by the 6th years Roseanne Brabazon and Aoife Keating. The club has had some brilliant meetings so far and has successfully completed its own 'Origami Penguins.'

We intend to do holiday-based projects from now on, starting with Christmas and going on to do projects for the Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.

We hope the club continues to be a success.

Roseanne Brabazon and Aoife Keating



Sculpture in Context 2011

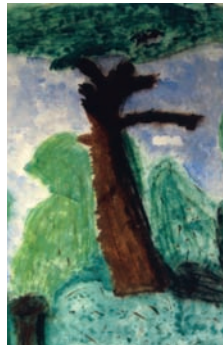
On September 20th, the 6th year art class, along with our teacher, Ms. Cunningham, attended the 'Sculpture in Context 2011' exhibition in the Botanic Gardens. The indoor and outdoor exhibition featured sculptures of all different styles and media.

All of the works were incredibly eye-catching and detailed. Outside, they were placed throughout various spaces in the grounds while up in the gallery, each piece lay on a tall, white plinth.

One piece that we all found very appealing was 'Cephalophilia' by Ruth Power. Coming out of a small pond which already existed in the grounds were four stoneware tentacles. As if this wasn't enough to catch your eye, when you got up close to the piece, the detail on each tentacle was incredible. It was dizzying to think about the amount of work that went into the creating of this fantastic piece.

This was an absolutely brilliant trip for the 6th years, we really enjoyed it. I would recommend this exhibition to everyone.

Roseanne Brabazon (6th Year)



Dublin Contemporary 2011

On the 25th of October, the fifth and sixth year art classes went on a trip to Dublin Contemporary 2011. We visited "Terrible Beauty", an exhibition situated quite close to the National Concert Hall, Earlsfort Terrace. The materials used in the sculptural artwork were varied. For example work by Jota Castro was made entirely of razor wire, and "Desire" by Kathryn Maguire consisted of a rainbow made of plastic bags. Many of the gallery pieces were interactive such as an installation, "Hungry Again" by Ciara Scanlan. With this work the audience was invited to make a recording of a quote from "Gone with the Wind" and "Le Berceau" (The Cradle) by Wang Du. It was then requested that the class pile into a giant bed on rockers. I really enjoyed the trip. It was a chance to see some very interesting works, observe a larger indoor gallery space and question the nature of art and how people interpret it.

Shauna Caffrey (5:Pine)



BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

NFTE

- The Business department is delighted to be running the NFTE programme once again in Transition Year. Thirty two lucky students have the opportunity to experience this unique curriculum where students come up with an original business idea, and throughout the course they work on developing a business plan which they then present and defend at the end of the course. Winning the NFTE competition will mean an all expenses paid holiday to New York so there is a lot at stake.
- We would like to congratulate Jessica Corbally of last year's NFTE class who experienced great success in winning a NFTE award for her business idea. It was presented to her at the National NFTE awards which were held in May 2011. Jessica has been an inspiration to other NFTE students and also has become an ambassador for NFTE. Only recently she was asked to speak at NFTE University to all new incoming facilitators of the course, on her NFTE experience. Well done Jessica!!!
- We also would like to express our thanks to AIB Drumcondra who has been a great support to us in delivering this programme successfully. Derek Dunne has attended our NFTE classes, where he has helped the students in their endeavours by giving practical business advice to the students. Also AIB have matched the NFTE grant that students receive, meaning that all students now have start up capital of €30 for their prospective businesses. Thanks Derek!!
- The businesses evolving this year are once again very impressive, from candle making to false nails and spray

tanning, from baked goods to a very impressive range of jewellery businesses. The businesses have really started to take off especially with the Christmas shopping rush. The NFTE class held a Christmas fair in December where all the school was invited to view and purchase their products in St Mary's Hall and this was a very successful selling day for our businesses.

- Also a few of our businesses had the opportunity to attend the RDS Craft fair from Nov 30 to Dec 4. This was an amazing experience for the girls and proved financially very successful.
- The NFTE class has been a hive of business activity, so well done girls on all your hard work. It will all pay off.

Ms. Griffin, Mr. W. Donnelly and Ms. C. Walsh.

C.I.M.A. Quiz



Leah Christie, Rebecca O Dálaigh, Megan Donnelly and Niamh Whelan

Our 3rd Year Business and Finance team who took part in the first C.I.M.A. School quiz. This was held in IT Tallaght in November. The girls performed very well and represented St. Mary's with pride.



Shauna Callaghan and Lauren Gallagher with their hair accessories business "Clips and Curls".



Andrada Costea and Niamh Gibbons with their photo framing business "You've Been Framed".



Aoife Maguire and Kellie Fitzgerald with their "Finger Tips" business.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Visit to the Islamic Cultural Centre

On Thursday 22nd September, class 3 Lee visited the Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh. The students were researching how the Islamic community operates, as part of their Junior Cert. project. We were warmly welcomed by our tour guide; Mr. Ali Selim. We all removed our shoes to enter the Mosque, as is customary for the Islamic community. Mr Selim explained the layout of the Mosque and the history of the building. Students then participated in a question and answer session about the needs of the Islamic community and how they are met by the centre. This is the focus of class 3 Lee's project. We then toured the grounds of the campus and saw the school, the new hair salon, the restaurant, the sports facilities and the women's centre. It was a very informative, interesting and enjoyable trip. Since the visit, class 3 Lee has completed excellent projects on the Islamic Cultural Centre. Special thanks to Ms. McGann for accompanying us.



Ms. Sullivan

Opening Academic Year School Mass

As a Holy Faith Catholic School our school community marked the beginning of the new academic year by celebrating the Mass. We gathered together in the church of "Our Mother of Divine Grace" on Ballygall Road East. The celebrant was Fr. Harry Gaynor. For many years Fr. Harry has been a great spiritual friend here in St. Mary's.

The new church venue assisted greater participation by virtue of its inclusive physical layout. As usual, the Liturgy was enhanced by the music provided by the choir. The theme of the Mass reflected the theme of next year's Eucharistic Congress – "Communion with Christ and one another".

Within the context of our Eucharistic celebration the Sixth Year Prefects took their pledge and were commissioned.

Ms. F. Kavanagh

November Prayer Service of Remembrance

A prayer service of remembrance was held in the Prayer room on Tuesday 29th November at 1:10pm. During the month of November we remember those close to our hearts who have died. This prayer service was an opportunity for students and staff to take time out to pray for family and friends they have lost.

The school prefects helped with the proceedings by saying readings and prayers. Also some members of the choir sang at the prayer service accompanied by Mr. Coll.

Fifth Year Retreats

All fifth year students took part in retreats on the 20th and 21st September in Marino Institute of Education. The retreats were organised and led by the Religion Department. The theme of the retreats was "Life Paths". During the day the girls got an opportunity to reflect on their paths in life. They explored their goals for the future and how they would achieve those goals. There was some fun thrown in; from arguing over Pictionary to chatting over some coffee.

3 Liffey Journal Work

For the Journal Work, which is a part of the Junior Cert., Class 3 Liffey has chosen to explore the work done by the Holy Faith Sisters. For this the girls did research on the internet and read books. However they got most of their information from Sr. Kathleen, a Holy Faith Sister they invited to talk to them. She came on the 4th October for an hour. She talked about her role as a Holy Faith Sister and the girls got plenty of time to ask questions about the work of the Holy Faith Sisters.

T.Y. Retreats

On Monday 12th September Transition year students took part in a religious retreat in Emmaus Retreat House, Swords. For

the day the students worked with team leaders in small groups. They explored themes such as self-image, personal reflection and the spiritual dimension of their lives. Everyone enjoyed the day and went home having got something from the day of prayer and reflection.

Ms. M. Byrne

Christmas Prayer Service 2011

This year for the first time, we decided to hold our Christmas Prayer Service in the Church on Ballygall Road East on Tuesday 13th of December. This enabled us to gather together as a whole school community to celebrate the Christmas season.

The theme chosen this year was "Jesus is the reason for the season". We displayed this theme throughout the school during Advent and culminated with a celebration at the Prayer Service.

The whole school community arrived in the Church to the wonderful singing of the choir in the background. There was an introduction outlining the service and then the pink candle of the Advent Wreath was lit, symbolising Gaudete Sunday in honour of Our Lady.

Two students read the diary entries of Joseph and Mary's father Theodore, building up to Mary's marriage and the birth of Jesus. This was followed by the dressing of the Altar with the Crib figures and an explanation of the meaning of each of them. Finally a reflection was read incorporating the meaning of Christmas with issues of social justice which are relevant to us now.

The choir sang beautiful carols which were appropriate to each section of the service and concluded with a medley of festive songs to get staff and students into the Christmas spirit.

We would like to thank all of the students who participated in the Prayer service this year and the choir, under the direction of Ms O'Rourke and Mr Coll, whose beautiful singing made it so memorable.

Ms. L. Bohan.

ROINN NA GAEILGE

An Cumann Gaelach

Tosaíodh an Cumann Gaelach i mbliana do dhaltáí atá ag iarraidh spórt agus spraoi a bheith acu trí Ghaeilge. Buaileann daoine ó gach bliain le chéile ag an lóin gach dara Déardaoin sa seomra clár bán idirgníomhach nó sa leabharlann. Féachaimid ar scannáin agus teilifís as Gaeilge, imrimid cluichí cosúil le "Bog Má Tá", "Cé Mise" agus "Stad an Bhus". Bíonn bia agus deoch ar fáil agus baineann gach duine taitneamh as an Ghaeilge a labhairt le chéile. Gach seachtain nach bhfuil an Cumann Gaelach ar siúl bíonn cruinniú ag an gcoiste. Labhraíonn an coiste mar gheall ar cad a dhéanfaidh an Cumann an tseachtain ina dhiaidh sin. Táitear ag súil le turas a reachtáil san athbhliain leis an gCumann Gaelach. Bigí linn gach ré Déardaoin sa seomra clár bán idirgníomhach! (Buíochas le Caroline Ní Mhaoilean agus Melissa Kitching a thug cabhair an píosa seo den nuacht litir a chur le chéile.

Ms. N. O'Donnellan

Ceardlann Drámaíochta

Tháinig Ceardlann Drámaíochta 'Caith Amach é' chun na scoile ar an Déardaoin an 10 Samhain. Bhí maidin iontach ag scoláirí na séú bliana ag an gceardlann seo. Séard a bhí i gceist ná gearrdhrámaí barúla bunaithe ar an scrúdú béil a bheidh roimh na cailíní sa bhliain nua. D'úsáideadh modhanna drámaíochta chun deis a thabhairt do na cailíní comhrá a chleachtadh ar shlite difriúla agus taitneamhacha. Dhírigh siad isteach chomh maith ar ghné nua den chúrsa, sin iad na sraith pictiúr.

Bhí na cailíní ar bís tar éis na cearlainne seo agus mhol siad an drámaíocht

go hard na spéire. Bhaineamar ar fad fíor-thaitneamh as.

Ms. M. Ní Lúing



Na Ceardlanna



ROINN NA GAEILGE

Díospóireachtaí Gael Linn

Cuireadh tús arís i mbliana le díospóireachtaí Gael Linn. Bhí áthás orainn áiseanna na scoile a chur ar fáil do chéad bhabhta na díospóireachta. Bhí foireann shóisearach chomh maith le foireann shinsearach ag díospóireacht i gcoinne na scoileanna seo a leanas:

- Coláiste Belvedere, Sráid Mhór na Danmhairge Thuaidh
 - Scoil Pháirc Sandford, Raghmallach
 - Colaiste Pháirc Mhucrois, Domhnach Broc
- Is é an rún a bhí á phlé ag na Sóisearaigh ná: "Is miotas í cairdiúlacht mhuintir na hÉireann" agus bhí na cailíní ag díospóireacht i gcoinne an rúin. Seo a leanas na hionadaithe a sheas an fód ar son na scoile – Ella Mae Cruz (captaen), Amy Grenham agus Eliza Corpus. Is é an rún a bhí ag na Sinsearaigh ná 'Is beannacht í an eisimirce'. Rún fíor chonspóideach a bhí ann agus labhair na cailíní go láidir ar son an rúin. Is iad na cailíní a bhí ar an bhfoireann seo ná Patrice Condon

(captaen), Eve Kavanagh agus Shauna Caffrey. D'éirigh leis an dá fhoireann ar an 24ú Samhain agus beidh an chéad babhta eile go luath i mí Eanáir. Comhghairdeas leis na cailíní uilig!

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

Ms. N. Ní Chonluain

Foghlaim Furasta

Tá suíomh gaeilge ar an bhfód ag Roinn na Gaeilge do dhaltaí agus do mhúinteoirí na scoile seo. 'Foghlaim Furasta' is ainm don suíomh seo. Beidh an suíomh úr nua le fáil ar líne i mí Eanáir 2012. Beidh deis iontach ag daltaí nótaí agus ábhar na ranganna Gaeilge a fháil ón suíomh seo. Bígí ag faire amach don suíomh seo!

Ms. N. Ní Chonluain



Junior Team (left to right) Ella Mae Cruz, Amy Grenham and Eliza Corpus



Senior team (left to right) Patrice Condon, Eve Kavanagh and Shauna Caffrey

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The Mary Carroll Library News

Library Changes

If you have not visited your school library yet this year, you may not be aware of the changes we have made. We have reorganised the books! The room on the right as you enter the library is now the fiction room, containing all of our fiction books. There are two sections: senior and junior fiction and these books are organised alphabetically, according to the authors' surnames. The room on the left as you enter the library contains all our subject, or reference books. Here you will find art books, history books etc. These books are organised according to their subject. Many Art and History classes have had inductions on how to find books relating to their subject. If you have a project, please come and explore the books available.

Library Opening Hours

Your library is open every day 1.00-1.40. It is a great place to go to borrow books, study, work on projects, chat with others, or just curl up on a comfy chair and escape with a good book!

A Visit from Sr. Juliet



Sr. Juliet, a Holy Faith nun from Trinidad, visited the library during her recent trip to Ireland. We were delighted to welcome her and show her around the library. She spoke with students, and told them about life in Trinidad. She was very impressed to hear that so many students love to read. We wish Sr. Juliet a safe journey home to Trinidad.

Library Clubs

The Book Club meets every Thursday at 3.00. Meetings begin with some refreshments and a chat about the books people are reading. Then we all read, and for the last fifteen minutes we discuss interesting plot developments, characters etc. It is a great way to learn about

what other people are reading and to discover new authors!

The Creative Writing Club

is on every Friday at 1.10. The members are in the process of putting together their third collection of work. Poems, stories, illustrations and book recommendations are being included. All contributions welcome!

Author of the Week

Each week in the library we have a different *Author of the Week*. The author's books are displayed, along with some information about his/her life. If you have a suggestion for *Author of the Week* please let us know!

Library Notice board

Keep an eye on our library notice board for information, especially *Competition Corner* where details of national competitions can be found!

Sr. Maria Consilio and Ms. Sullivan

English Debating

Congratulations to Abir Abbas and Megan Stamp from 4.38, who successfully competed in the "Aoire

Begley Debates" in NUI Maynooth on 21st November. Despite tough competition from several schools, St. Mary's, alongside Mount Sackville, were put through to the next round, which will be held in February 2012. We wish the girls every success.

Ms. J. Donohoe

Trinity Lectures

During the first term, a number of sixth year students attended the Trinity Evening Lecture series. Members from the English Department of Trinity College Dublin spoke on various writers from the Leaving Certificate course including Sylvia Plath, Seamus Heaney, Philip Larkin and William Shakespeare. The lectures provided students with deeper insights into the writers' backgrounds and work, in addition to offering the girls a taste of college life and revealing what studying English at Third Level entails. Thanks to all students who participated in this effort.

Ms. D. Callan and Ms. C. Warren

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The Help

On Tuesday 25th of October class 4:38 was lucky enough to be given the chance to go to see a preview of "The Help". Along with Ms. Donohoe and a couple of other classes from different schools we got to see "The Help" at the Savoy.

"The Help" is based on a novel by Kathryn Stockett. The film is set in the 1960s in Jackson, Mississippi. The story follows a young white woman called Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan (who is trying to be a journalist) and her relationship with two black maids, Aibileen Clark and Minny Jackson. Skeeter is uncomfortable with the way her friends treat the maids, better known as "the help" during the 1960s, so she decides to write a book on their views and experiences with white people. The maids are reluctant to open up at first about their experiences with their employers because of their fear of getting attacked due to the discrimination and racism in Jackson, Mississippi. They soon start to trust Skeeter and their adventure begins as they start to write their stories. The women have to be careful and watch out for Skeeter's racist friend, Hilly Holbrook, who is suspicious of them.

The film stars Emma Stone as Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan, Viola Davis as Aibileen Clark, Octavia Spencer as Minny Jackson and Bryce Dallas Howard as Hilly Holbrook.

The film was good because it showed us the power of friendship and trust between the three women. The film also showed us another aspect of life in America in the 1960s since the transition years are reading "The Secret Life of Bees" which is also set in the early 1960s. I think I can say all of us enjoyed the film quite a lot. It was a fun day and we know that we were quite lucky to be given the chance to see the film.

Eilis Phelan (4.38)

Choir Perform at DCU Access Programme 25th Celebrations

Having auditioned in DCU in early October, the choir was chosen to sing in the Helix DCU on the 14th October at an event which celebrated the 25th Birthday of the Access Programme which is a programme that St. Mary's has been part of for many years. The Choir sang "Use Somebody" and "Something Inside So Strong" at the award ceremony which was attended by keynote speakers such as, Matt Cooper, Mary Davis and members of the Dublin Senior Football team. Seven members of the choir sang solo at this event. They were: Eve Kavanagh, Ranzanallie Caranay, Meaghan Rose Nel, Olga Mulhall, Hannah Evers, Elizabeth Ford, Anna O'Hanlon and Linda Robinson. It was a great experience for the soloists and choir to have the opportunity to sing at this important DCU event.

Choir sing at Opening Academic Year Mass

On the 6th October the school community celebrated the opening of our Academic year. The theme of the mass was "Communion with Christ and One Another" and the choir provided the music to complement this theme. Among the pieces were, "Endless is your Love" and "Thanks and Praise". It is a joyous and uplifting Liturgy that we are always happy to be involved in.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

"Christmas Carol" Production



The Music Department was involved in helping with the musical elements of the play. Cast members and choir members were involved in singing many well known carols along with other popular songs such as, "What if?", "It Feels like Christmas" and "Ring Christmas Bells". The production was a great success and it was great opportunity to work closely with the English Department. All involved were delighted to be part of the show over the two nights.

Thanks to all involved.

Mr. C. Coll

6th Year Trip to the National Concert Hall

On 18th October, the 6th Year Music class travelled to the National Concert Hall in Dublin to hear the RTE Concert Orchestra perform Tchaikovsky's 'Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture'. The concert was preceded by an interactive talk which was specifically tailored to Leaving Certificate Music students as this piece will be examined in their Leaving Certificate in 2012. During the talk, the orchestra dissected important parts of the Overture, explaining and illustrating the many techniques present in the music. After the talk, the Orchestra performed the piece in its entirety. The concert was thoroughly enjoyable, bringing the music which the students had studied in class to life. It was also a fantastic opportunity for the music students to see and hear a world-class orchestra perform this beautiful piece of music in the beautiful surroundings of the National Concert Hall.

Ms. M. O'Rourke



DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Class of 2011

DCU

– 14 Students

- Business Studies (3)
- Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies
- Business Studies International (4)
- Common Entry into Science
- General Nursing (2)
- Biotechnology
- Children and General Nursing (Integrated)
- Engineering



All Hallows College

– 1 Student

- Theology and English Literature



Trinity College Dublin

– 14 Students

- Arts – German/Irish
- Arts – Irish/History
- Arts (2)
- History
- World Religions and Theology
- Business Studies and French
- Midwifery (5)
- Sociology and Social Policy
- Medicinal Chemistry



University College Dublin

– 9 Students

- Arts



NUI Maynooth

– 3 Students

- Finance and Accounting
- Theology and Arts
- History



National College of Ireland

– 4 Students

- Business (4)



IADT – Dun Laoghaire

– 1 Student

- Audio Visual Media Technology



DIT

– 8 Students

- Baking and Pastry Arts Management (2)
- Clinical Measurement
- Social Care
- Early Childhood Education
- Environmental Health
- Business and Management
- Bioscience



ITB – Blanchardstown

– 4 Students

- Creative Digital Media
- Business (2)
- Early Childhood Care and Education

AIT – Athlone

– 1 Student

- Bar Management



Institute of Technology

– Carlow

– 1 Student

- Applied Social Studies



Dublin Business School

– 3 Students

- Social Science (2)
- Media and Cultural Studies



Portobello Institute

– 2 Students

- Beauty Therapy (2)



FETAC

Coláiste Íde

– 2 Students

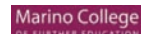
- Leisure and Beauty
- Association Football



Marino College

– 12 Students

- Beauty Therapy
- Portfolio Preparation
- Journalism with Photography
- Travel and Tourism (6)
- Legal Secretarial Studies
- Computer and Business Studies
- Childcare and Education



Whitehall College of Further Education

– 13 Students

- Insurance and Banking (2)
- Community Care
- Education and Training (2)
- Business and Finance (4)
- Computers and Business Studies (2)
- Working in Childcare with Special Needs (2)



Coláiste Dhúlaigh

– 9 Students

- Hairdressing
- Theatre Studies
- Pre-Nursing
- Social Care (2)
- Pre-University Science
- Hairdressing (3)



Liberties College

– 3 Students

- Classroom Assistant – Special Needs Assistant
- Social Studies
- Applied Social Studies



Killester College of Further Education

– 3 Students

- Veterinary Assistant
- Childhood and Early Learning
- Classroom Assistant/ Special Needs Assistant



SCD – Senior College, Dun Laoghaire

– 3 Students

- Theatrical and Media Make-Up Artistry (3)



Rathmines College

– 2 Students

- Repeat Leaving



FÁS

– 5 Students

- Hairdressing (5)



WORK

– 4 Students



Higher Options

The 25th Higher Options Conference took place at the RDS, Ballsbridge on the 16th of September. Eighty-nine Sixth Year students from the school attended the event and found it to be very informative.

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

DCU Access Achievement Awards

DCU's Access Service is 21 years old this year. To mark this milestone a day of celebration was held on Friday 14th October at the Mahony Hall in the Helix, DCU. Twenty-five students from 5th year were in attendance to showcase our school at the morning seminar and to receive awards for their achievement in

sports, community spirit, arts and culture, academic and special nomination. The twenty-five students were: Mollie Walker, Patricia O'Beirne, Alison Greene McEnerney, Leeann Boland, Lisa Kelly, Katie Moore, Kate Pajarillo, Michaela Rodden, Sarah McGuinness, Ciara Ryan, Michelle Farrell, Lorraine Liu, Paulina Buczkowska, Aoife Nolan, Jessica Cray, Rachel Griffith, Jessica Kavanagh, Shauna Caffrey, Nicole Joyce, Eve Kavanagh, Niamh Flanagan, Emma O'Reilly, Patrice Condon, Ranzanalie Caranay and Sarah Louise Horan. The school was also represented by our amazing choir which was a central part of the event.

Careers Evening

A highly successful careers evening took place in our school on Wednesday 27th October. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth year students from Beneavin De La Salle, St. Michael's, Colaiste Eoin, Mater Christi and St. Mary's participated in the event. Over fifty-three colleges and organisations were in attendance on the night and it gave the students the chance to meet up with the college

representatives to discuss their career options. There was a great turn out of students from St. Mary's at the event.

Careers in the Medical Field

St. Vincent's University Hospital Seminar for Schools Programme was held on Monday 10th November. Twenty Sixth Year students participated in the seminar. The career areas included Nursing, Medicine, Physiotherapy, Social Work, Radiography, Research Science, Occupational Therapy and Pharmacy.

Discover DCU

Discover DCU is an initiative of DCU's Access Programme targeting Fifth Year students. It takes the form of a workshop for students intending to take at least two honours subjects for their Leaving Certificate examination. The aim of the workshop is to give information, allow students to explore their fears, anxieties and expectations about third level, offer guidance and support about studying at DCU. The programme works with a cluster of three schools. The first workshop took place on Wednesday 16th November

and our school was asked to participate. The following 5th years represented the school on the day: Emma Humber, Lauren Daly, Rachel Dwyer, Aoife Nolan, Meagan Ledden, Shauna Doran, Michelle Farrell and Siobhan McNamara.

Third Year

The Third Year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS) on November 18th. These tests help the students to build up personal profiles of themselves which will enable those going on into Fifth Year to make their subject choices. They also are of value to those students who are considering Transition Year. They help them to explore subjects linked to their aptitudes. Each student will have an individual meeting with the guidance counsellors to feed back the results of the DATS.

Better Options 2011

A unique one-day event for Sixth Year students with a disability or specific learning difficulty took place on Tuesday 30th November in NCAD. The event was key for students to learn about DARE – Disability Access Route to Education; how to apply for DARE through the CAO and examined what colleges and institutions of technology had to offer. The website for information is www.ahead.ie or for any queries please contact Lorraine Gallagher at ahead@ahead.ie

Sixth Year Talks

The Sixth Year students have participated in Third Level talks every Tuesday from early September. Speakers from DCU, NCI, DIT, Blanchardstown IT, DCU, NUI Maynooth, Liberties College, Liberties College, Crumlin College and Colaiste Ide have been in attendance. Notice of up-coming career talks will be highlighted on the careers notice board on the Sixth Year corridor and on the notice boards in all Sixth Year classrooms.

Health and Well-Being

Throughout the month of November, Ms. A. Boran spoke with each 6th year group on the issue of healthy eating, exercise and general well-being in advance of their busy year ahead as they prepare for their Leaving Certificate exams.

HEAR Scheme

Orla Conlan from the DCU spoke with Sixth year students on Thursday 17th November about the HEAR Scheme. This is a college and admissions scheme that offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The colleges participating in HEAR include DCU, DIT, Trinity College, Mater Dei, NUI Maynooth, St. Patrick's, Drumcondra and UCD. The Hear Application Advice Clinics will

take place nationwide on Saturday January 14th 2012 for parents and students.

See www.accesscollege.ie for locations and time.

5th/6th Year Parent Information Evening

An evening seminar on Third Level opportunities at CAO College/University level and at Colleges of Further Education was held on Wednesday 30th. It was addressed by Mr. John McGinnity NUI Maynooth, a leading expert in third level entry requirements and Ms. Sinead Lambe of Whitehall College of Further Education. It was a very beneficial and informative evening for parents and students.

ACADEMIA – European Exchange of Guidance Practitioners

Two Guidance Counsellors from the UK, Mick Carey and Trevor Mason, spent the afternoon of December 6th with us at St. Mary's as part of an exchange programme organised by the National Centre for Guidance in Education. They sat in on a number of classes and spoke with staff and students about school life in Ireland. They really enjoyed the experience and learned a great deal about second level education.

Jigsaw youngballymun

Jigsaw youngballymun is part of a national network of Jigsaw projects supported by Headstrong, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health. Jigsaw youngballymun brings together community support for the mental health needs of young people aged 12 to 22. Jigsaw youngballymun has two main strands which map onto varying levels of mental health and wellbeing needs among young people in Ballymun: "All young people" and "Young people at risk".

1. All young people

In developing Jigsaw youngballymun it was recognised that there was a unique opportunity to embrace a universal approach to the promotion of mental health among young people in Ballymun. A number of programmes comprise this strand:

Community Based Training

Our "An Introduction to Youth Mental Health" training is for professionals working with young people in Ballymun. This one day training covers youth mental health, promoting resilience and signs of mental health difficulty. See our news and events page for upcoming training dates!

Stress Control

In conjunction with our colleagues in the HSE Primary Care Psychology Department we run a free six week Stress Control course. Stress is something that affects everyone to varying degrees.

Some common signs include worrying, poor sleep, drinking too much, feeling angry, tearful or irritable. This exciting new evening course was open to all adults in Ballymun. The course provides people in the community with information and skills needed to cope with stress in their lives. See our news and events page for upcoming training dates!

Youth Participation

The Mater Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) recently approached Jigsaw youngballymun (JSYB) regarding plans to extend the remit of their service to include 16-18 year olds. They expressed an interest in consulting with young people in the local community to elicit their views about what young people want in a mental health service for 16-18 year olds. JSYB recruited a group of interested young people with the help of BRYR youth workers. Three females and one male, all aged 16 years, expressed an interest in becoming involved. The young people planned, designed, carried out the research and surveyed the views of 45 of their peers. A report of the results was compiled and the young people fed back the results to the Mater CAMHS team. When asked, "What should a mental health service for 16-18 year olds look like?", some of the responses from teens included, "Homely and cosy with bean bags", "Colourful, bright and relaxed – not like a clinic", "Like The Reco", "They should have couches and be youth friendly", "Cool and funky with music". The four young people did an excellent job and brought a really rich dimension to the project!

Lunchtime Lecture Series:

Since it began in 2009 the Lunchtime Lecture Series has gone from strength to strength. The lecture series was designed to act as a helpful resource for professionals in the community, to raise awareness of mental health issues, to promote local and regional services for young people, to highlight referral pathways and to provide information about best practice when working with young people. The series runs on Wednesdays in the axis arts centre from 12.30 – 1.30 (lunch is provided) and is open to anyone working with young people in the Ballymun area. Check out our news and events page for more details!

If you are working with young people from the Ballymun area and would like to be invited to our lectures simply email catherine@youngballymun.org and we will add you to our mailing list.

2. Young people 'at risk'

Jigsaw in the Reco:
Jigsaw youngballymun is committed to making youth mental health supports and services more flexible and accessible.

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

The Jigsaw in the Reco initiative involves counselling and mental health services offering therapeutic sessions to young people in the youth friendly space of The Reco. Our partners in this initiative are: Primary Care Psychology HSE The Samaritans, Claidhe Mor Family Centre, Teen Between, Substance Abuse Service Specific to Youth, Mater CAMHS We work with variety of partners including:

An Garda Siochana (JLO Division)
Axis Arts Centre
Ballymun Job Centre
BLDTF Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force
BRYR- Ballymun Regional Youth Resource
HSE Psychology Primary Care
Mater CAMHS
Teen Between
The Aisling Project
The Probation Service
Trinity Comprehensive
Youthreach

For further information on Jigsaw youngballymun – please contact: Catherine McGowan, Programme Coordinator
catherine@youngballymun.org Tel: 01 8667622
Gillian O'Brien, Senior Clinical

Psychologist, Clinical Coordinator
gillian@youngballymun.org Tel: 01 8667623

16+ Task Force

The 16+ Task Force was formed in 2007 to address the need for a multi-agency approach to meet the needs of young people aged 16 and over who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from service providers. It aims 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 Rd., Finglas, Dublin 11, is a community-based initiative supporting individuals, families and communities concerned and affected by

suicide in a professional and culturally appropriate way. It is supported by CONSOLE through individual counselling and support groups.

CALL 8648899 for an appointment
CALL 1800201890 for Helpline

CAO /FETAC/ UCAS

In the weeks to follow, students will be deciding their college choices 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. Students are also encouraged to start researching and applying for their FETAC courses in anticipation of interviews early in the New Year.

Reflection

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

Ms. C. Downey, Ms. F. Devaney

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Fieldtrips form an integral part of the Geography syllabus. They enable pupils to investigate a topic first hand, gather data, calculate results and draw conclusions from them.

On the Senior course the fieldtrip is compulsory, accounting for 20% of the overall grade. This year all sixth year Geography students went to Howth on a fieldtrip accompanied by their teachers. We aimed to investigate processes of transport and deposition in coastal areas. Students were successful in their gathering of data and have since compiled a report in the classroom. Well done to all sixth year pupils.

The Transition year students have also taken part in a fieldstudy. The topic under investigation was "Lichens and their relationship with pollution". Pupils took one of three species (White Bean) and studied it in the three locations (The Botanic Gardens, the school grounds and a busy main road). The findings have shown a higher growth of lichens in polluted areas. Pupils completed a report for their Christmas exam.



Ms. Wilson, Ms. Mahon, Ms. Byrne, Ms. Maher and Mr. Byrne

Article from the Head Girls

(Niamh McArdle, Gráinne Lynch and Meaghan Rose-Nel)



Meaghan Rose-Nel (Deputy Head Girl), Niamh McArdle (Head Girl) and Grainne Lynch (Deputy Head Girl).

We are happy to say that the prefects have been very involved in many varied school activities already this year. We started off the year with our school mass, where we had the commissioning of our prefects. It was a lovely celebration to have for our final opening mass of the school year. From then on, we got involved straight away in the school community and got cracking on our many great ideas and activities.

The first year prefects took it upon themselves to organise a picnic lunch for each of their first year classes. This was a great opportunity for them to bond with their classes while having lunch outside followed by fun-filled games on the basketball courts. It was definitely a memorable afternoon! We hope to organise more activities like this in the coming year.

Prefects were also involved in both Maths and Science weeks. They accompanied the first years to the Botanic Gardens for a "Maths Trail". Science week was another big hit. An experiment day was organised where Junior students had the opportunity to get involved in some SCIENCE-SATIONAL experiments! Experiments such as a flame test in Chemistry, dissections in Biology and the Van de Graff generator in Physics. Everyone was in her element!! As prefects, we are involved in almost every aspect of the school, including foreign languages, science, art, and music.

At the moment, the prefects are currently involved in the environment competition in the school. They are working closely with the Green Schools Committee to help ensure there is a clean environment for everyone to work in.

The prefects have already been involved in a lot this year and are doing fantastic work that will definitely continue in the new year!

Niamh McArdle, Gráinne Lynch and Meaghan Rose-Nel

The Computer Club

The Computer Club is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime from 1.10-1.35pm. Last term the Club was full of activity as many Transition Year students completed history and french projects. Other students engaged in microblogging on the Edmodo website. Many junior students logged on to <http://www.girlsgogames.co.uk> to play numerous games.

Ms. M. O'Donnell



6th Year Prefects

Second Year Spook-tacular!

After the success of the first year picnics, the second year prefects decided that we wanted to organize an event to get to know our classes. We put our heads together and thought about it. We wanted to do something simple, yet a little bit different from what the first years had done. It was coming into mid-October and the weather was becoming dreary and blustery, so an outside event would be tricky. After a brainstorming session, Laura and Ria came up with a great idea – a once off screening of a show that all classes would watch in their classrooms, while eating lunch together and having a laugh. It was decided that it would be incorporated into a Halloween celebration, as it was just before the midterm break. We picked "Simpson's Treehouse of Horror" to go with the theme and everyone knows how funny the Simpsons are. Thus began Operation "Second Year Spook-tacular"! It was a challenge to synchronize every showing in the different classrooms, but with some technological expertise from Hannah, we sorted it out quickly and the screening ran smoothly. The second years really enjoyed it and the additional sweets helped! As prefects, we really enjoyed it – spending a little extra time with all of our classes and getting nostalgic over old Simpsons episodes. Another event like this would be really enjoyable again later in the year.

Aoife Harbison, 6 Bronte



Christmas Awards

The Christmas Awards for Junior students took place in December. There was an air of excitement as students received small gifts of a festive nature to celebrate their efforts. Gifts were awarded for academic effort and for an overall good attitude to school life. Each year group gathered in the school hall with staff, year head, principal and deputy principal. Approximately seventy students received a "well done" award.

Ms. N. Walker (Awards Co-ordinator)

Film in St. Mary's: The Music Room

In 2009, I had the opportunity to work with a wonderful group of girls from First Year and Transition Year, who were interested in making a film. They gave up their time after school, and even came in to shoot the film over the Easter holidays. They also edited it in their own time.

The final piece, "The Music Room", was written and directed by the Transition Years. They also created the music used throughout the film, while the lovely First Years were their actors.

I would like to thank them all sincerely for their hard work and wish them every success in the future. I hope the experience of creating a piece of film was memorable and that it inspires them to try it again in the future.

Ms. N. Cunningham

Catherine Cormican – Past Pupil Report

On the 18th of May 2010, Miss Cunningham, along with all the 5th years and 2nd years who had produced a short film in 2009, went to Mullingar for the "Young Film-Maker Festival".

The film we produced was based on the topic of bullying and how students seek refuge in music and art as means of escape from the torture they are subjected to.

We met at the school at 8 in the morning (a bit early for some-but to name names would be bad *cough ALISON cough*).

We travelled by mini-bus to our destination in Mullingar. All the 5th years paired up with the 2nd years and we went into the auditorium.

Unfortunately, our film didn't make the final top ten but we did manage to get into the semi-finals which is a huge achievement for the school seeing as it is the first time anything has ever been done in the field of film and cinematography. Sitting in the auditorium we had a little chat, a little bop to a bit of ceol, and had



"munchtime" with rich-tea bikkies {to quote Miss Cunningham herself}. Then the films began to roll...

After pulling a few strings with the organizer Joe Rayfus, Miss Cunningham managed to get our non-finalist film up on the big screen! Proud moment!

Then the actual finalists were shown including:

- *The Mystery of the Gardener in the Night* – this film wasn't so great in my opinion but then again it did have a tough act to follow! It contained really bad English accents and oversized clothing but to be fair the use of camera angles was highly commendable.

- *Detention* – this film actually scared me! It had extremely good camera angles and the make-up on the "blue nun" was pretty wow!

- *A Chance Encounter* – in my opinion, this was the best film overall. It was a silent movie, very Laurel and Hardy-esque, and was also in black and white. The storyline, even for a short film, had me gripped till the end until the final gunshot was fired and even left me with a cliff-hanger, not knowing who was the one who got shot! Seriously deserves a sequel!

- *D4 Guide to Mayo* – this film was hilarious. It contained rules on how to survive the west of Ireland and Mickey Joe Joe Joe was the star of the show!

Dun Laoghaire Free Running

- *Coulro* – this film was well done but really weird with flashbacks about a clown dying. Not my favourite film!



- *Pimp My Trolley* – this film was the winner of the Audience Award and I can see why. It was very imaginative and clever with the play on the actual hit television show "Pimp my Ride".

- *Bracism* – this film resembled number 3 in the way it was black and white with no spoken words. It wasn't the best but still wasn't the worst.

- *Kult* – this film must have taken some messed up mind to create it. It was as if the Ku Klux Klan had brainwashed this boy but in the end it turns out there was no clan. It was all in his head tormenting him and that's why he killed himself. Very, very confusing.

- *Chairs* – this was the most imaginative and creative film on show the whole day. It showed the chairs in a school as characters and had faces stuck onto them. AMAZING – so it was!

After that, we had the pleasure of watching a film produced by the local community school, which was of an extremely high standard and has won many awards aside from the competition.

We then went down the town and had lunch in the local park before heading to the Community College for a workshop on "Directing and Editing".

The workshop was led by a man called Patrick Butler from Waterford, who studied in the National Film School in Dún Laoghaire.

He discussed with us his experience of making films and documentaries and the processes he goes through each time he edits his footage. He gave a truly excellent insight into the world behind the camera with his personal anecdotes adding to the intimate workshop.

After that we had to say our goodbyes and head home to Dublin. It was a fun yet educational day out with many laughs thrown in for good measure. On behalf of all the students involved, I would really like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Cunningham for being the brains behind this whole venture. Without her we would never have achieved anything or managed to get anything done. She is a true legend for believing in us right to the end!

Catherine Cormican
(Class of 2011)

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Transition Year

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

Trips organised by the History department for Transition Year have so far included a guided tour of Glasnevin Cemetery and a historical walking tour of Dublin city, both of which were very successful.



11th November 2011



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

Open Evening

Once again Room 13 was transformed into a "History Room" for Open Evening in September. Well done to all students and staff for their help and co-operation. Our visitors were able to sample the many varieties of work being done by students e.g. eye-catching posters and artwork, photographs of historic sites and project work on various topics. The room was transformed with very interesting, informative and beautifully presented displays.

Ms. G. Hayes

Remembrance Day 2011



History Notice Board on Remembrance Day

A Remembrance Service was held over the intercom on the 11th of November 2011, to honour the dead of the two World Wars and conflicts, past and present. This Ceremony of Remembrance was observed in order to recall the official end of World War 1 on that date in 1918 as the major hostilities of the Great War ended at the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" in 1918.

Mr. B. McGill, Mr. E. Carr and Mrs. C. Bogan spoke at the service and they asked each member of the school community to pause for prayer and reflection. Two hundred thousand Irishmen fought in World War One, Mr. McGill told us, and of those men, historians say that at least thirty thousand of them were killed in the Great War – "the war to end all wars". He asked us in our school community to remember all who had died.

Mr. Carr explained that Irishmen fought and died in places such as Verdun, Ypres and the Somme on the Western Front; in Tannenburg on the Easter Front; in Gallipoli in Turkey and even on the sea, including the biggest naval battle of all at Jutland. He explained that there are indeed many Irishmen who have no known graves. They lie buried in unmarked graves. Mr. Carr asked us to bring to mind all those soldiers who were "shot at dawn", soldiers who were executed for military offences. Many of them were suffering

from shell shock and post-traumatic stress disorder at the time of being put to death.

Mrs. Bogan asked that, in communion with countries all around the world on that day and at that time, St. Mary's would observe one minute's silence, during which the dead of two World Wars and conflicts past and present were remembered. She asked students to study the poignant World War One display, assembled by Miss A. Mullins (now retired), Ms. N. Cunningham (Art Department) and members of the History department. She concluded by asking the school community to remember their sacrifice by recalling the words inscribed on the Kohima Monument in the Military Cemetery of Kohima, Assam, India, which says-

"When you go home
Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow
We gave our today".

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

Mrs. C. Bogan

Gold Module


The sixth year Gold module organised a Halloween Fancy Dress day with the help of the Prefects. Students and staff put a great effort into dressing up. There were some very convincing costumes ranging from Justin Bieber and Snow White to a "Shower". The students raised a total of €1,100. The money raised was divided between UNICEF and the Gold module community involvement initiative for the Gaisce Award.

Ms. M. Byrne



French Department

Le Buddy Club Francais

 "Le Buddy Club" runs at lunchtime on Tuesdays. It provides a platform through games, activities and tasks for senior French students to mentor junior French students. Junior French students benefit from their personal French "Buddy" while Senior French students revise in a fun environment!

Bonne continuation les filles!


Ms. I. Conneely

6th Year French Lunchtime Conversations and Activities

In preparation for their oral exam, sixth year French students have been taking part in lunchtime conversations and activities every two weeks. The girls choose from a selection box of questions or are simply given a topic and asked to impress in three minutes! These activities are excellent practice for the exam.

Ms. I. Conneely and Mrs. A. Hughes

Spanish Department

 The Spanish department has organised a trip to Seville from the 29th September to 2nd October 2012. It is hoped that thirty two students and four teachers will enjoy the beautiful cultural and historical city of Seville. Students will get the opportunity to practise Spanish in its native setting. *Qué aproveche.*


The Spanish department has set up a mentoring system in which Senior students work with Junior students who wish to improve their Spanish; Buena Suerte, Chicas!

Spanish Conversation Classes for Sixth Years

All sixth year students have the opportunity to speak Spanish at lunchtime every second Monday in the Interactive Whiteboard Room. This is a great opportunity to prepare for the oral exams in April.

Mrs. A. Hughes and Ms. E. Higgins

German Department

 Transition year and fifth year students of German enjoyed a morning out on 1st December in the IFI in Temple Bar. There they viewed a German movie, "Neukoelln Unlimited". They enjoyed this hard-hitting documentary about a family's struggle for the right to stay in their adoptive country.

Ms. N. Walker

Open Night

Open Night on 28th September was an exciting time for local primary school pupils as they had an introduction to all three languages (French, German and Spanish) in Room 12. Second year students helped language teachers on the evening as they engaged in language activities with the young visitors. French conversations were flowing. One could also hear the chant of German numbers and an exciting Spanish quiz kept the primary school pupils entertained.

Well done and thank you (Merci, Danke, Gracias) to all those who helped on the evening.

Ms. N. Walker

The Maths Department and students in the school had an eventful and exciting first term. The current Sixth Year students completed new strands in Geometry and Trigonometry and they will be the first cohort of students in St. Mary's to sit the new Project Maths paper in 2012. One of the main aims of senior students doing Project Maths is that the students' experience of Mathematics will enable them to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for their future lives. <http://www.projectmaths.ie> contains numerous problem solving questions, learning resources and examination papers for students as well as information for parents. In addition to the new syllabi the following events took place in the Maths Department during the first term:

John Hooper Medal Competition

Well done to the senior students who received certificates of achievement in September for their entry into the John Hooper Medal for Statistics poster competition.

'BIMDAS' Poster Competition

Well done to the many First Year students who won prizes for this competition. The winning posters were proudly displayed in the various classrooms and many of the posters were placed on the Mathematics Open Night stand.

Maths Week

Maths Week was celebrated in St. Mary's from the 15th-22nd October. This coincided with the sixth annual Maths Week Ireland. Maths Week has gained huge popularity among the students as they eagerly anticipated what event the Maths teachers had planned for their year group.

First Years

All First Years were very excited on the Wednesday afternoon of Maths Week as they all walked down to the Botanic Gardens with their Maths teachers and class prefects to enthusiastically participate in a Maths trail. The aim of the Maths trail was to give students the opportunity to work as part of a team and to develop their problem solving skills which is a main objective of the Project Maths course. The winners of the trail were Simone Berheciu, Amy Boylan, Hannah Lawler and Chloe Matthews and each pupil received a prize for her achievement. Prizes were also given to the following students – Seth Banaga, Erica Egan and Alexandra Fagan who came in a close second. Third placed prize winners were Camron Draper, Rebecca Lawless, Isabel Maher, Jessica McSweeney and Megan O'Brien



The Maths Trailers!



Enjoying the Maths Trail.



Working on the Maths Trail Clues

Second Years

An afternoon table quiz was organised for all Second Year students with the help of some senior students in the Choir Hall. The students worked in teams and there were many differentiated Maths questions in the various rounds. The teams were very competitive but the prize winning team members were Ghdir Abbas, Sally Ahern, Holly Bell and Aoibheann Brady. Congratulations to the three second-placed teams who each received a prize. Members on these teams were Adela Buliman, Laura Burke, Elora Caffrey and Michaela Cambe; Róisín Byrne, Rebecca Harrison, April Lamai and Amy Ray; Niamh Doyle, Lara Eguia, Amy Grenham and Jairrah Gongora.

Third Years

Many Third Year students participated in either a Maths class quiz or some group work activity with their Maths teacher.

Transition Years

All TY students took part in the Hamilton Walk to Broombridge to see the maths formula that the mathematician Hamilton carved in the stone of the Bridge. They also involved themselves in the National Maths PRISM (PProblem Solving for Irish Second Level Mathematicians) competition. The prize-winner of the competition in St. Mary's was Megan Stamp. Three students namely Róisín Cregan, Isabel Mulholland and Isobelle Reid were awarded prizes for second place in the competition.

Fifth Years



On the Wednesday of Maths Week all Fifth Year students saw the film '21' starring Jim Sturgess and Kevin Spacey. The film is based on the true story of a group of American students who "counted cards" to improve their probability of winning the card game Blackjack at casinos. The movie had a lot of Maths in it such as the counting of cards, reference to the Fibonacci Series, probability and the Newton-Raphson method for finding the roots of $f(x)$.

Sixth Years

To start off Maths Week all Sixth Year students attended a talk given by Professor Eugene O' Riordan from D.C.U. Mr. O' Riordan outlined to the students the importance of doing well in the Maths exam by attempting all parts of chosen questions no matter how difficult they appear to be! He promoted a positive attitude towards Maths by informing students of the many Maths courses and career opportunities available. There was a question and answer session at the end of the talk.

Ms. Griffin's class participated in a 'Maths 'n Music' lesson with Mr. Coll. The music lesson related to Maths as Mr. Coll allowed the students to discover how note values can be transferred into a rhythm. Each specific note had an individual value of 0.5, 1, 2, or 4 beats. The students involved had to make up their own rhythm with a particular time signature and they then realised the significance of note values.



Some of the Second Year Students who took part in the Quiz.



Senior Students who helped out with the Quiz.



The winners of the Quiz.

Maths Olympiad

Congratulations to Megan Stamp of Transition Year who was invited to partake in the first round of the Mathematical Olympiad which will involve a series of Maths enrichment classes in N.U.I.M. Winners of this competition will have the chance to take part in the World Championship Maths competition.

Ms. M. O'Donnell

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Another Year for St. Kevin's.....

The students from St. Kevin's have once again initiated their "Ready... Steady... Cook" Home Economics module in St. Mary's. We are delighted to welcome the boys and really hope they have enjoyed the module and the chance to engage in a school exchange. This year sixteen boys came down to St. Mary's and have enthusiastically developed their culinary skills in making Eve's pudding, chocolate muffins, apple tart, tomato, vegetable and mince pasta bake, chicken and vegetable noodle stir-fry, sausage rolls, homemade potato wedges and homemade pizzas. They have also learned the importance of hygiene and food safety as well as the nutrition relating to each dish. Many of the boys are interested in the food industry and so I hope this module will have encouraged their interest even more.

Ms. Doheny



From Oven Mitts to Tray Cloths ...



Well done to the 2nd Years who have completed their household items. Ms. Doheny's class made colourful and festive oven mitts and developed huge skills in sewing, textiles, bias binding and machine sewing. Ms. Aird's class made beautiful tray cloths which were embroidered with stitching. Both classes put support folders with their projects to explain the design process, which is great preparation for the Junior Certificate Craftwork Project. Well done girls!!

Ms. Doheny and Ms. Aird

TY 'Spook-a-licious' Fundraiser

This year the transition year students undertook a 'Bake-off' fundraiser in aid of Temple Street Children's Hospital. The theme was 'Spook-a-licious Treats' and they certainly went down a treat with all St. Mary's staff and students. A great day was spent with the pupils baking and selling the yummy treats with a special appearance by our very own Justin Bieber look a-like, who busked on the day for this worthwhile cause. In total they raised €600 and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported this great cause.

Ms. C. Walsh and Ms. O. Griffin

RDS Knitting and Stitching Show



This year transition year students had the opportunity to visit the Knitting and Stitching show. During this day they explored the products on offer and met some wonderful characters. The day ended with a trip to the "Innocent Smoothie" Knitting area, where the students were shown how to knit hats. After some frustration and a lot of laughter, they created numerous hats which are to be sold in aid of Age Action Ireland. A great day was had by all.

Ms. C. Walsh, Ms. J. Donoghue and Ms. N. Walker

'Little Chefs' Cookery Club

With great delight the 'Little Chefs' Cookery Club continued this September with a new group of eager 1st years. Again the girls gained confidence in their cookery skills as well as having some after school fun. We look forward to continuing it after Christmas.

Ms. C. Walsh

T.Y Fashion and Design

A new TY module has begun in St. Mary's with the introduction of fashion and design. This new module has allowed TY's to explore the fashion industry and work on their design and sewing skills by regenerating their old unwanted clothes.

Ms. C. Walsh

St. Mary's Christmas Cake Club

We are delighted to say that the St. Mary's Christmas Cakes were a huge success again this year. The teachers of St. Mary's worked very hard on this year's creations and brought the festive cheer to the staffroom. Many thanks to all those who participated.

Ms. C. Walsh



Top Left: Ms. Lennon, top right Ms. McCormack, Above Ms. Wilson and Ms. O'Donnell – St. Mary's Christmas Cake Club.

5th Years Excitedly Await their Trip to "Howth Castle Cookery School"

After a very successful trip to "Howth Castle Cookery School" in 2009, we have decided to venture there again. We intend to go in January on three different dates with approximately 14-16 students in each group. I know the students are excited and enthusiastic about going but I have to say I can't wait myself! The experience that the girls will gain is invaluable. It's a unique opportunity to see a cookery school and enjoy the comfortable, fun side to cooking on a professional level and at an affordable price. Although the girls will have a great experience, it is also of huge educational value as the girls will actually be cooking their 3rd Food Studies assignment on the topic of ruff puff and choux pastry. These assignments are a compulsory element of the Leaving Certificate course. We would like to thank Ms. Lennon for kindly subsidising the trip for the girls.

Ms. Doheny and Ms. Aird

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science week took place this year from November 14th to November 18th. There were various events organised for different year groups.

The 5th year Physics class and the transition year Physics class went to DCU for a tour of the Physics laboratories. Three students from DCU introduced them to the topic of sound using various games and activities. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Well done to all the second year students who entered a poster competition. Their fantastic artistic efforts are on display in the Science lab. The winners were Lara Eguia from class 2 Conn and Megan Hayes from class 2 Allen.

Many groups of students have entered a proposal for the St. Mary's Young Scientist competition. The girls will complete their investigations over the next few weeks and their projects will be on display in the school in January 2012.

To celebrate Science Week, many Biology students played questions and answers Bingo whereby the questions asked related to a particular topic on the Biology syllabus. Many thanks to the prefects, who organised a lunchtime of exciting experiments. Junior students were given the opportunity to dissect a heart, react an acid and a base, witness a lightning strike and do many more experiments. It was a great success.



Students enjoying experiments at lunchtime during science week

Chemistry

Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Award Winners



Pictured are Aisling Ahern and Niamh McArdle with Dr Brian Murray (Institute President), receiving their awards for coming second in a All-Ireland Competition to write a newsletter on the topic 'Positive Impacts of Chemistry in the Twentieth Century'. The pair now join forces with Aoife Harbison in January as they compete in the BT Young Scientists competition at the RDS with their chemistry project on the anti-microbial effects of metals.

Mr. E. Carr

Physics

Recent TY Physics Class Trips

On Monday November 7th the TY Physics group visited Dublin City University for an interactive class on Sound. The class took part in various experiments on Sound which took place in the first year physics labs in DCU.

On Monday November 14th the class went to see the weather display which was organised by Met Éireann to celebrate their seventy five years in business. We were so lucky as Evelyn Cusack, one of the main meteorologists with Met Éireann, was available and gave a talk to the class on all aspects of weather and also on Physics and how important a subject it is.

Ms. Compelli



The picture shows Evelyn in discussion with the TY Physics class.

Biology

Ecology Fieldtrip

Over fifty sixth year Biology students undertook four of the mandatory fieldwork activities in the Phoenix Park. The students were divided into two groups and they participated in the fieldtrip on Thursday the 8th or Friday 9th September. The grassland habitat study was the main focus. The students mapped their own habitat, set pitfall traps and identified and described many fauna and flora. They conducted a qualitative and quantitative study of plants. Following this they recorded abiotic factors such as light intensity, soil temperature and soil pH. They familiarised themselves with the use of faunal collection equipment. Students compiled a comprehensive fieldwork report to help them understand the different concepts in Ecology.



Some of the Biology students who attended the Field Trip



Using a quadrat for the quantitative and qualitative survey.



The use of the equipment.



Use of the Beating Tray.

Ms. B. Nolan, Ms. M. O'Donnell

Self-Defence Class

On the 11th of October, TY students got to do a two hour self-defence class. A man named Liam and a woman named Sylvia came into our school to teach us the skill of self-defence.

We started off the day by learning what exactly self-defence is. We learned what to do if we were ever attacked. It is a lot more violent than I thought it would be! I was shocked to find out that you really do hurt the attacker, but it is for your own safety and we were warned not to try it out at home!

We started out by getting a partner and a punch bag. We learned how to punch it properly (the bag, not the partner!). The key is to use your hips. Then we learned how to kick and hit with your elbow. The aim of doing all these things is to put your attacker off balance and confuse him so you can run away and raise the alarm. Liam said that men can't multi-task like women can so you have a better chance of getting away!

Overall, I absolutely LOVED self-defence and I really want to do it again!

Jillian Caffrey 4.27

Psychology Class

As part of the TY programme, we have been given the opportunity to take part in a Psychology module. This subject is very different compared to any other subject we have ever done. We learn all about how the mind works and how we think. It is very interesting.

We also have been given the opportunity to conduct experiments to see how accurate our memories are. We have discussions about whether we remember things by choice or whether we block out memories without ever being able to retrieve them. I found this very beneficial because we never actually stop and think what is going through someone's mind when she is doing something. This is only a small example of the kinds of things we do; we do a huge amount of other activities. Psychology is one of my favourite TY modules. I never knew what psychology was and I certainly never thought that I would find it as interesting as I do. I am really enjoying this module!

Fashion and Design

In TY we take part in a fashion and design module. In this class we learn what shape our body is, what colours suit us and what type of make-up we should wear. We have to make up mood boards on all of these topics and design it with what suits us. We also have to design an outfit based on the mood board.

This class is great for anyone who likes fashion or design. I think it's one of the best classes I have participated in since the beginning of TY. Most of the classes in TY are really fun and interesting. Students have the opportunity to learn new skills, to go out on trips and to enjoy different talks given by speakers from various organisations.

Katie Redmond 4.28

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Student Council

Chairperson Aisling Ahern
Vice Chairperson Patricia O'Beirne
Secretary Olga Mulhall
Vice Secretary Melissa Kitching
P.R.O. Meaghan Rose-Nel

1st Year
Natasha Burke
Rachel Bellew
Shannon Curley
Chloe Dalton
Brona Saunders

2nd Year
Sally Ahern
Emily Carrick
Ana Collins
April Lamai
Sharon Ogunyemi

T.Y.
Sarah Farrell
Moira Purvis
Megan Stamp

5th Year
Ranzenallie Caranay
Patricia O'Beirne
Kate Pajarillo
Ciara Ryan

3rd Year
Antonia Blankenberg
Michaela Mullen
Nicola Sinnot

6th Year
Aisling Ahern
Meaghan Rose-Nel
Melissa Kitching
Roseanne Brabazon
Olga Mulhall



St. Mary's Student Council – 2011–2012

A Message from Mrs. Hughes (Student Council Co-ordinator)

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to all this year's student council members for their hard work, commitment and good humour this term.

It has indeed been an eventful first term and our student council members, 2011-2012, are proving themselves to be a vibrant, active voice representing all students in St. Mary's.

A very worthwhile training session was held on the afternoon of the 15th September 2011 led by Mr. John Murphy. Student council members were challenged on that day to work together as a group for the good of our school.

The student council also had a forty minute meeting with Sr. Antoinette (chairperson, B.O.M.) and Mrs. Lennon, our principal. A very enjoyable and worthwhile discussion was held on student issues ranging from uniform to the school canteen. All involved felt it was a valuable meeting.

The student council energetically raised €650 for Breast Cancer Research and a cheque was handed over to a representative of the Irish Cancer Society, Ms. Elaine Gillespie, on 1st December.

Students from the council became involved with helping the Parents Association with their annual bumper raffle.

Finally the student council spread their good cheer when they went over to Marion House to sing Christmas carols for the sisters.

It has been a pleasure to work with all the girls on the student council this year.

Mrs. Hughes



Student Council presenting cheque to Elaine Gillespie of the Irish Cancer Society

A Message from the Chairperson

As a seasoned Student Council member, I speak from experience when I say that the Student Council is the best thing about St. Mary's.

Perhaps I am just a tad biased. However, it is my firm belief that we can and do make a world of difference in our school community. This year, there is so much enthusiasm from all members that I'm certain this will be our best year yet.

During our training programmes and fortnightly meetings, seniors and juniors work together to make this school an even better place for students. Our aim is to be a positive voice for change on behalf of every student in St. Mary's. We regularly gather suggestions from other students and do what we can to make them happen. We also organise fundraisers and charity events. Raising €650 for the Irish Cancer Society has been our greatest achievement so far this year. Everyone on the Council got involved by baking cakes, making posters, selling badges and more. It took a lot of cupcakes, time and teamwork, but I'm proud of everyone for making it such a success.

Belonging to the Student Council is also hugely beneficial to each member. You make friends in other year groups and learn valuable social skills. You get the experience of representing and listening to opinions very different to your own. You gain confidence by speaking up at meetings. As a senior member, you even have the chance to take on a role such as Secretary, Chairperson or P.R.O. This is a unique opportunity to practise and develop skills such as people management, organisation or even graphic design. Above all, it's great craic. I would encourage every student to apply to the Student Council next year. New enthusiasm and ideas are always welcome!

Aisling Ahern (Chairperson)



OPEN EVENING

On Wednesday 28th 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. the gym, library, cinema, interactive whiteboard room, computer room, science laboratories, home economics rooms, art rooms and other specialist rooms. The school canteen was also included in the tour.

This year we were delighted to be able to highlight the technological developments in St. Mary's. Every classroom now has a data projector and five rooms have been equipped with mimios. These allow the white boards to become interactive. Well done to all the staff and students for their enthusiasm and hard work. We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to the parents, guardians and members of the wider school community for their support on "Open Evening" and throughout the school year.

Continuing the positive trend in recent years, an increase in numbers is projected for 2012-2013, so much so that demand for entry exceeds the supply of places available in St. Mary's.

Ms. C. Nolan



Open Evening – Guides



Science Lab



The Art Room



Home Economics Kitchen



Sports Hall/Gym



Art Room



Music Room



Science Lab

GREEN SCHOOLS



After all of St. Mary's great efforts last year, our Green Schools flag for recycling was raised by Éanna Ní Lamhna on 4th October. Mrs. Lennon, Ms. Murphy, students from second and third year, as well as members of the Green Schools committee were on hand to welcome Ms. Ní Lamhna and witness this important occasion. Music was provided by Amy Hansard, Sophie Mulhall and Ranzenallie Caranay. This added to the celebratory atmosphere.

St. Mary's has now started its campaign for its Energy Flag, which will take two years to complete. Already we have had our annual Green Week from 3rd- 7th October, in order to raise awareness of our campaign to reduce our consumption of electricity.

In order to help maintain the school's clean environment St. Mary's launched the Christmas Environment Challenge. Every classroom was inspected over four weeks and awarded marks for cleanliness. There were prizes for the winning class. The Green Schools committee and class representatives are thankful for everyone's support!

Ms. J. Donohoe

