



# St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6 – NO. 2

MAY 2009

## FUN DAY

Even though the sun did not shine, the day was a great success thanks to the enthusiasm of staff and students alike. All year groups dressed in bright colours, class 3.25 winning the prize for best costume. The activities for the day included singing, dancing, a carnival, cinema, giant slide (sponsored by Botanic Hockey Club) and a bungee run. Students played hockey,

Olympic Handball and Gaelic on our new Astro pitch. The Student Council ran a cake competition and a cake sale which raised funds. Overall we raised over seven thousand euro, a great achievement in these difficult times. The much needed funds will go towards refurbishment of rooms for next year. Thank You for your support, as always, it is much appreciated.



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.*

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## BOOK LAUNCH

On May 15th Eilish O'Mahoney's book "SPELL WRITE" was launched in the school. Ms. O'Mahoney taught English in the school for many years and retired three years ago. In September she published a resource book on Spelling, a testament to a life's dedication to teaching. The school officially marked the occasion. Congratulations to Ms O'Mahoney on the publication of the book which is selling very well in schools.

### TRIBUTE TO MARY CARROLL R.I.P.

Mary Carroll taught English in the school from the early fifties and retired in the nineties. She founded the school library now named "The Mary Carroll Library", fostered a love of Shakespeare and produced many excellent plays in the school. Past pupils from near and far, teaching staff, Holy Faith sisters, relatives and friends gathered together in May to pay tribute to her indelible legacy. Readings, music, prayer, reminiscences and a tour of the library formed part of this memorable evening.

### TRANSITION YEAR RETREAT TO EMMAUS

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 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.

### TROCAIRE 24 HOUR FAST

Once again, students and teachers in St. Mary's took part in the Trocaire twenty four hour fast on 6-7<sup>th</sup> March. Class 5.33 did a great job promoting the fast by visiting classes and distributing Trocaire cards and boxes. 1,689 was raised by those who took part in the fast.

### A TALK FROM ST. PATRICK'S COMMUNITY MISSION GROUP

St. Patrick's Community Mission Group was holding a Mission in Our Lady of Dolours church, Glasnevin. While doing this they also visited schools in the area. Two members of the team came to speak to all 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. They spent a class period sharing their life experiences and how their faith in God strengthened them in difficult times.

Ms. M Byrne

## RELIGION DEPARTMENT

### Advent Prayer Services

The Religion Department organised Advent Prayer Services for each Year Group to prepare for Christmas 2008.

These celebrations included a variety of vocal and media presentations including: the Choir, Power Point, Readings, Prayers and Reflections. The Advent Wreath, Christmas Tree, Candles and Nativity Crib also featured.

The Choir concluded the services with a medley of Christmas Carols and songs getting all into the spirit of the season.

Ms. F. Kavanagh

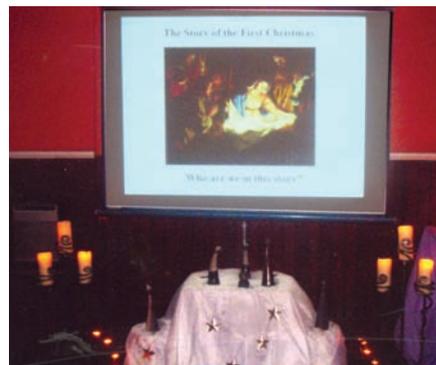
### The Prayer Room

Over the last two years the Prayer Room has been given a "make-over". The walls and floors have been painted and freshened up. An Altar Tapestry of Our Lord from the old Oratory hangs proudly on the wall, while a section has been dedicated to our multi-denominational students. Cushions have made it a cosier, more comfortable place for students to visit for prayer or quiet reflection.

However the most valuable addition to the room has been the Stations of the Cross. They were originally displayed in the old Oratory and were found in a store room in St. John's by Noel. They have been beautifully remounted and were hung around the walls just in time for the Day of Reflection given by Sr. Veronica and Sr. Una Collins of the Holy Faith

Order, for all of their Religion Teams.

The Prayer Room is open every day at lunch time for students, should they wish to visit it.



### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday took place this year on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. As part of our celebration of it, Ms. Byrne read a reflection over the intercom to the whole school to explain the meaning and significance of the day.

This was followed by the distribution of Blessed Ashes to all those who wished to receive them. Two of our students, Jane McKenna from 6.35 and Catherine Cormican from 4.28, assisted members of staff in the distribution of Ashes to their fellow students.

Ms. L Bohan

## YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS

Transition year students spent a lot of time working on their YSI projects. Class 4.28 investigated the area of taxi safety, especially for females taking taxis on their own. Their project was called "Are you safe?". Class 4.38 researched the topic of depression. Their project was titled "Be aware of Depression". Class 4.27 worked on helping the elderly in their own community. They did this by linking up with Seanchara day care centre in Ballygall. The title of their project was "Forget me not - Our Elderly, cherished and valued".

All three groups displayed their projects in poster form at the YSI Showcase 2009 in the RDS on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. It was a great opportunity for the students to display their work and to look at what other students around Ireland had done.

## GRADUATION

This year graduation took place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. The theme chosen by the girls was "Today is the beginning of a new chapter". This was represented by quotes around the walls which signified the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one in their lives.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Eamonn Burke, who made it a very spiritual and memorable experience. Readings were said by the Head Girl, Ciara Murphy and Deputy Head Girl, Sarah Callinan. Each class was represented in the Prayers of the Faithful. Then, for the Offertory Procession, symbols representing the hopes and dreams of each class were brought to the altar and spoken about.

The school choir, under the direction of Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Coll, made the night extra special with its beautiful singing. Mrs. Lennon, Ms. Murphy and Mrs. Forde presented the girls with their emblems, to represent their time in St. Mary's.

We, in the Religion Department would like to thank all of the staff, students and parents who worked so hard to make Graduation such a special night. A special thank you to Fiona Haughton for doing the flowers and to Noel, who worked to transform the gym into such a great venue.

The Religion Department

# Sports and P.E.



## Basketball

Congratulations to the Senior Premier Division Basketball team for reaching the semi final of the S.S.A. league. The girls fought hard to beat Dominican College to get to the semi final where they met Maynooth secondary school. The semi final proved to be a very exciting game. The match was played in Leixlip Amenities, common ground for both teams.

From the start of the game it was clear that this would be a close match. St. Mary's students were focused and determined going into the semi final and they battled hard for all four quarters. Unfortunately however St. Mary's players fell short by just two baskets in the end with a score line of 32 to 28. The girls were very disappointed however they must be commended for their skilful play as well as their great participation and team work throughout the year. Congratulations also to coach Ciaran McAvinue, who coached the school teams so well all year.

The future of basketball in the school looks bright judging by the great potential of our first year basketball team. After only a short time training, the girls have shown great interest and commitment to the game. They were very successful in their first competitive game against local friendly rivals St. Michael's Secondary School, Finglas, which resulted in St. Mary's girls finishing the game with a substantial lead. We hope that the girls continue to play next year with the same commitment and look forward to seeing them compete in the SSA league.



**First Year Basketball Team** – Back row: Ciaran McAvinue (coach), Kellie Nelson, Sinead McArdle (c), Jillian Caffrey  
Front row: Chloe O' Neill, Rana Khalil, Lauren Wall

## Futsal Tournament

The 1<sup>st</sup> year Futsal tournament is a new football development initiative run by the FAI to which St. Mary's players were lucky enough to be invited. Futsal is a game like indoor soccer but with modified rules and is excellent for the development of skills. The tournament was held in Ballymun Comprehensive school's new BRL Umbro Arena and up to fourteen teams were involved. In the first round St. Mary's won three out of their four games qualifying them for the semi finals. Unfortunately the girls were narrowly defeated 1-0 in the semi-final by St. Mary's Killester who went on to win first place in the tournament. In an excellent play off for 3<sup>rd</sup> place against Alexandra College the girls won 1-0 putting them in line for bronze medals. All involved had a very enjoyable day and we hope to attend again next year.



Futsal Tournament, Ballymun Comprehensive



## Soccer

A lunch time soccer tournament was held this year and was a great success with up to eighty pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> year involved making it a ten team tournament. Each team got to play 5 games in the qualifying rounds and four teams, the Bulls, Raptors, Bears and Colts made it through to the semi finals. Qualifying rounds took place for four weeks before Easter and the semi finals were played after Easter and they proved to be very exciting games. Goals from Amy Hansard, Nicole Hyland, Lauren Dolan, Dionne Draper and Shauna Owens

ensured a place in the final for the Bulls and the Bears despite great enthusiasm and effort from all teams involved. The whole tournament was great fun for all involved and we hope to continue with it next year.

Congratulations to Lauren Dolan, M.V.P. of the tournament. Lauren is a TY student who shows great interest and skill in the game of football. Lauren has also completed a Kick-start level 1 course with the FAI putting her in the right direction to becoming a great coach.



Lunchtime Soccer Tournament Finalists – The Bears



Lunchtime Soccer Tournament Finalists – The Bulls

## Gaelic Football

The first year Gaelic football team was very successful this year in the Leinster Schools Development Blitz in Ballyboden, St. Endas. There were fifteen teams involved in the blitz and each team got to play five matches. St. Mary's girls were up against teams such as Cabinteely Community School and local friendly rivals St. Michael's Secondary School Finglas. The girls won four out of five games making them one of the most successful teams of the day. They each played with great determination and effort with a significant number being brand new to the game. The future looks bright for Gaelic in St. Mary's school and we hope to see all the interested girls out training on our new astro pitch next year.

Ms. D. Maher

## Camogie

St. Mary's camogie team had a very busy year. The girls were very committed to their training sessions every Monday and Wednesday after school, all year. The team was rewarded with a successful junior league campaign. They reached the semi-final having finished top of their group. Unfortunately they were narrowly beaten by Lucan Community College in the semi-final, despite a great effort.

The junior championship proved to be a tough battle this year with games against St. Wolstan's and Mac Dara's in Templeogue. The girls put up a brave fight but were pipped at the post by a very determined squad. The future of camogie in St. Mary's looks very bright and with the new Astro turf facilities we envisage camogie going from strength to strength in the school.



Ms. D. Maher & Ms. AM. Fay

## Hockey

### It's Hockey Time ...

### It's Astro Time!

Have you heard the news? A new Astro-turf pitch. The builders arrived, we all watched in amazement and anticipation.

This year our hockey training had a change of venue. Every Tuesday we packed our gear to go to DCU. We eagerly awaited the commencement of our new Astro-turf pitch.

We may have had no home pitch but that didn't stop us. We started our league matches with an upbeat and positive mood. Along the way we braved the elements, a few pulled muscles, or slips, but all in all a great year!

What a year for hockey! The Senior team had a fantastic season, narrowly missing out on a place in the final on goal difference. This year the Senior team also learned some coaching, leadership and umpiring skills. The girls demonstrated their skills with the Minor team by travelling to matches, umpiring the matches and also preparing them for final day. Well done girls!

Our Minor team was simply superb – An unbeaten season, a wonderful final in RSCI on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and now Minor Champions of the Northside League. It was a tense and exciting match to the last whistle but the better team won on the day. Despite the

misty weather conditions the team captain Aoife Nolan led the team to a fantastic win! The final score was 1 – 0, with Isabelle Kelly scoring the winning goal. It was a wonderful team performance with each team member making a great contribution. What a team! Well done and thanks to all the wonderful supporters cheering us on!

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

Roll on next season...Go Astro, onwards and upwards!!

Ms Boran and Ms Nolan

### Minor Hockey Team

Congratulations and well done to all the Minor Team who reached a final for the second year in a row.

Our final was played in foggy conditions in RCSI against Santa Sabina. This year we went on to win the final due to a brilliant goal scored by Isabelle Kelly.

This was a great achievement for St. Mary's considering we had no home pitch all season. A big thanks also to senior hockey team players who helped us prepare for the day.

We are really looking forward to playing on our new Astro and hopefully keep our name on the trophy for another few years.

Aoife Nolan, Captain, 2 Ash

### Senior Hockey Team

The Senior hockey team this year was made up of Senior students and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. We played three league matches but narrowly missed out on the final on goal difference.

It was a tough season trekking up to DCU every week for training but this didn't dampen the team spirit or determination. Everyone put her heart and soul into the matches. We were just unlucky in the end!

Well done girls!

Jane Barry, 6.31



## AWARD CEREMONIES

There were many happy faces among the student body this May following our Annual Awards Ceremony. Each year group celebrated in the company of class teachers, its year head, the Principal Mrs. Lennon and the Deputy Principal Ms. Anne Murphy.

Certificates were awarded to many deserving students in various categories e.g. academic progress, reliability and cooperation, art, P.E., leadership, extra curricular activities and attendance.

Forty five junior cycle students received medals to acknowledge their dedication to their studies.

Transition year students finished up their year with an award ceremony also. The TY Student of the Year was chosen from among the cohort.

Senior students (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years) enjoyed new categories of awards at their ceremonies. Academic Excellence and Academic Dedication were acknowledged with medals and certificates.

Our awards ceremonies are a very positive aspect of school life. Well done to all.

Ms. N. Walker, Awards Co-ordinator



# TRANSITION YEAR

## 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, 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 weathered the early mornings and some very cold temperatures to join us every Wednesday. 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 first thing in the morning! 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 the next course, which is provisionally planned for October 2009, please contact Liz on 01 8374413.

**Ms J. Byrne**

This year TY students have been very busy. We have partaken in a number of exciting events, from web design in DCU to a musical, and from Irish dancing to eating tapas in Barcelona!

Unfortunately, only twenty five of us got the chance to go to DCU for a week and create our own personalised web pages. The week was most enjoyable and highly successful as one of our students, Aisling Martin, won first prize in the entire Compute TY Web Design competition: A laptop!

The play we staged was by far the most memorable event of the year. We worked very hard for a whole week and with the help of "Art Scope" we managed to produce a thrilling musical! "Thank You for the Music" was a sell-out performance containing three original drama pieces produced entirely by the drama students themselves. They were all centred on music which related back to the main theme. We also had a piece from the famous "High School Musical" in which some of our students got the chance to show off their talents in the audition scene. There was singing and dancing in the memorable "Joseph and his Technicoloured Dreamcoat" piece as well. Many jokes and memories were shared and created during this amazing week.

Work experience was a time of great stress and tension for most of us. It lasted two weeks at the start of February and we got placements in two very different work environments. We all found our placements on our own. They included childcare,

teaching, medicine, radiography, office work, hairdressing, florists, accounting and many many more. It was a very memorable time.

Barcelona, what can we say? Words simply cannot describe how amazing that trip was! Apart from all the famous sites we visited including "La Sagrada Familia", "Parc Guell", the Olympic Stadium and "L'Aquarium", we went to Port Aventura! We stayed in an upgraded four star hotel called "Salou Park" in Salou, one and a half hours away from Barcelona.

YSI is Young Social Innovators. We worked at it in our three separate classes throughout the whole year in religious studies. Each class dealt with a different social issue and tried to help find a solution to the problems such as taxi safety, old age and suicide. Each class was lucky enough to get through to the poster stage of the competition. It was an amazing learning experience in which we matured as young adults and helped our society. We then went to the showcase in the RDS and displayed our posters in the arena for judging. It was an amazing day, even though this year YSI was cut down to only one day instead of two, but we had so much fun and shared so many laughs that it made up for the lost day.

We also took part in a Ceili Mor with the St. Kevin's Boys school in our school hall near the end of Transition Year. Some of the girls and boys were a bit shy and reluctant to start dancing at first but once we got into it, we had such an amazing time, even though for the majority of us, Irish dancing would not be our forte. Irish dancing has never been so much fun. Ah memories...

As part of our final grade and graduation we all produced memory boxes and decorated them ourselves. They contain everything we want to remember about TY and all our own personal memories. They're lovely to have to look back on in years to come and say "hey...do you remember the day when we did this?"

Graduation was a high and a low for us: A high point because it showed off all the work we did throughout the whole year but also a low point because it forced us to realise that the best year of our school lives was finally over. Looking back it truly was an unforgettable year with memories that will live on with us forever. We're so sad that it's over.

**Ramona Ciulei & Catherine Cormican**

## TY Crafts

Transition year students enjoyed a break from their academic subjects by taking a class in crafts. They showed great imagination and creativity in producing a wide variety of jewellery. These included beaded necklaces, charm and link bracelets, and drop and stud earrings. Making colourful braids proved very relaxing. The students were proud to display a sample of their work at graduation.

**Ms. S Crowley**



Yearbook Committee 2009 – Back Row: Bronagh Redican, Tara Murphy, Orla McGrath, Melissa Boland  
Front Row: Rachel Tate, Stephanie McGlynn, Fionnuala Fitzpatrick, Nadine McLoughlin, Jane McKenna. (Missing in Action – Anna Ryan)

This year saw the beginning of the first ever official yearbook in St. Mary's. The work began in February '09, with two representatives from each sixth year class forming a committee led by Ms. Moggan.

We have had numerous meetings during lunchtime, after school and also over the Easter holidays. This was to ensure that the yearbook was the best it could be. Although at times it was very hectic and required a lot of hard work, we also had many light-hearted moments when collecting all of our treasured memories (not to mention photos) of our years here in St. Mary's.

All of our efforts have paid off and we hope you enjoy the finished product which includes class photos, our future plans, quotes, personality surveys and articles on significant school events which the class of 2008/2009 can keep with them throughout their lives.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Ms. Moggan for all of her time, patience and dedication to the yearbook – not forgetting the tea and biscuits! We also hope we helped improve her computer skills! The yearbook really wouldn't have been possible without her and no doubt we will appreciate it long into the future. Finally, thanks to all who contributed to the yearbook and best of luck to all 6<sup>th</sup> years!

Melissa Boland, 6.31

## FRENCH DEPARTMENT

### Tour to Paris



On December 11<sup>th</sup> last year, a group of students and teachers went on a four day trip to Paris, France. It was an amazing experience for students to see the huge city which had a very different atmosphere to Ireland.

Our hotel was right in the centre of Paris so we had the "buzz" of the city surrounding us the whole time.

The trip was completely unforgettable. We went on historical tours to places like the Louvre Museum and Notre Dame. We also went on a cruise on the Seine and, of course, visited the Eiffel Tower and Disneyland for a day!

We went on a few shopping trips which were great because not only did we get to buy plenty of souvenirs to bring home, we also got to experience ordering lunch in French and asking for directions.

All together, it was an incredible trip and all of us students are very grateful to the teachers who organised it.

Meaghan Rose-Nell 3.22

Bhaineamar go léir spraoi agus taitneamh as an obair – We are very happy to say that this School term has been an interesting and rewarding term for Roinn na Gaeilge in St. Mary's.

Bhí an-obair ar siúl 'sna ranganna – We are very grateful to all the Irish classes who decorated their Classrooms with items of Irish interest during the year. Lean leis an sár obair seo, a Chailíní!

Tháinig Cuairteoir ó Fhoras na Gaeilge chuig na Ranganna Idirbhliana – Seosamh Ó Cuinn, Uasal, Feidhmeannach ó Fhoras na Gaeilge, came to speak to all Transition Year Irish classes on Thursday, 22 January 2009. Is iad seo a leanas cuid de na na feidhmeanna atá acu – an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus úsáid na Gaeilge a éascú agus a spreagadh sa chaint agus sa scríbhneoireacht sa saol poiblí. He spoke to the classes about the work of Foras na Gaeilge in such areas as the promotion of the Irish language and its facilitation in speech and writing; undertaking research; promotional campaigns; developing terminology and dictionaries; supporting Irish-medium education and the teaching of Irish. This was indeed a very lively and interactive workshop.

Bhí paidreacha ann – There were special prayers this term, over the intercom, to celebrate the feasts of Naomh Brid, patronness of the Holy Faith Order & Pádraig Naofa, our National Saint.

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge againn – "Seachtain na Gaeilge" was one of the main events which was celebrated in the School during the month of March. There were events for all in which to participate including Díospóireachtaí, Ciorcal Chomhrá, Céilithe, Scannáin, Fiseáin, Canadh and Tráth na gGeist to mention but a few.

Bhí Béaltrialacha Gaeilge ar siúl sa scoil – The Oral Irish Examinations for the Leaving Certificate Examination were held in the School from Monday 23 March until Friday, 27 March 2009. All Sixth Year Students & their Teachers were very busy, both before & during that time, in their preparations for these Examinations as they form such an important part of the overall Leaving Certificate Examination, i.e. 25% of the total marks. A Representative from Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit visited the school during that week and he was most impressed by the dedication and hard work of the Irish Teachers and their Students. Roinn na Gaeilge wish every success to all the Candidates. Ádh Mór oraih bh go léir, a chailíní!

Tháinig Cuairteoir chuig an 2ú Bhliain – Micheál Ó Murchú, Uasal, spoke to all Second Year classes about the Irish Language and visiting the Gaeltacht on Thursday, 23 April 2009.

Bhí Foirmeacha don Ghaeltacht ar fáil sa scoil – During this term, Roinn na Gaeilge distributed information on Irish courses to be held in the Gaeltacht during the summer months. Roinn na Gaeilge has found down through the years that going to Irish College during the summer holidays has become a popular option for many of the students in St. Mary's. The Irish Colleges offer an environment where Gaeilge is the language of the community and where the ultimate aim is to improve students' abilities and confidence in communicating as Gaeilge. Students themselves have found, on their return to school, that their aural and oral skills have improved in preparation for their Certificate Examinations.

Mrs. Bogan would like to add a special word of thanks to all the Girls who helped and assisted Roinn na Gaeilge during the year, especially Merussa Metusalem and Meaghan Rose Nell (Rang 3.22); Jesse Keech and Ashling Martin (Rang 4.27) and Sophie Gaughran (Rang 5.29). Míle Buíochas, a Chailíní.

Go néirí an t-ádh libh – Roinn na Gaeilge would like to take this opportunity of wishing Good Luck to all the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Year Students who will be sitting for their Examinations soon. Go néirí go geal libh uilig!

Mrs. C. Bogan. Co-Ordinator of Roinn na Gaeilge

# ART DEPARTMENT

First year students have been developing their observational drawing skills since January with Ms. Garvey and Ms. Cunningham. Focusing on the proportions of the face each class has created a vibrant self-portrait using a variety of materials.



Using individual themes as a starting point, Ms. Garvey's second and fifth year students studied product design, brainstormed with a series of thumbnail drawings and then developed their ideas into sophisticated perfume bottle designs. They then looked at advertising and graphic design and each student created a poster to promote their perfume. Ms. Garvey's second years also constructed three dimensional paper mache head sculptures using their life drawings as a source.

Ms. Cunningham's second years worked on two cross-curricular projects. The first was based on 'Romeo and Juliet' and was in collaboration with the English department. The aim of this project was to use contemporary graphic design and calligraphy as a visual means to reinforce students' study of Shakespeare's play. Each student took a quote from the play as their subject matter. The quotes were displayed around the school, helping Junior Certificate students with their studies. The second project was in collaboration with the Science department, linking in with the physiology section of the Biology course. Students studied the proportions of the human form through a variety of drawing techniques. They worked in groups to construct three skeletons. They labelled the bones and the skeletons were displayed in the two Science labs and in the Art room.

Third years worked frantically on their Junior Certificate projects until the deadline of the 1<sup>st</sup> May. They sat their two

drawing exams on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Working in groups, Transition Year students designed and painted the sets for their fantastic show 'Thank You for the Music'. They also worked on a large-scale wall piece based on the theme 'Under the Sea'. This wall-piece was created using paint, materials, sequins, beads and a variety of sewing techniques.

Transition Year students with an interest in film signed up to take part in a new initiative run by Ms. Cunningham. It offered students the opportunity to analyse film techniques, prepare their own script and create a short film. The students held acting auditions for first years. There was a great response and a wealth of talent. Having filmed and edited during the Easter holidays, the screening of 'Calling the Shots' took place in May.

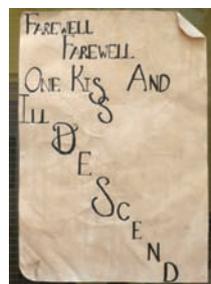
In March Ms. Garvey's and Ms. Cunningham's fifth year students took part in a very exciting fashion competition run by Griffith College. The students worked in groups and created innovative and contemporary outfits that were modelled by the students in a fashion show in Griffith College. Their creations were highly praised by the judging panel. In May both classes visited the National Museum and IMMA as part of their Leaving Certificate Art History course.

Sixth years completed their three practical exams on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May. The very best of luck to all sixth year students in their chosen courses and careers!

In February work began on the renovation of the room to be used as an 'overflow Art space'. A sincere thank you to Noel, Gerry and Matthew for all their work in clearing out this space. Barbary Construction repaired the roof and fitted two new sunlight windows. Again, thank you to all students, parents and staff for supporting the Art Fair last December and making this 'overflow Art space' possible. We really appreciate it!

Note: Thank you to Evans Educational in Finglas for kindly donating canvasses and art materials for students to use for the Art Fair. (This 'thank you' was accidentally left out of the December newsletter).

Ms. Garvey & Ms. Cunningham



## COMPUTER CLUB



Well done to all the students who attended the Computer Club this term.

Congratulations are extended to the students who were involved in the online poster Euro competition, organised by the European Commission. To celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the euro, students were asked to express their views and thoughts on the "10 years of the euro" in a creative way in the form of a poster. Well done to Nadine Mc Carthy, Roisin King, Rana Khalil and Moira Purvis who designed artistic posters.

M.O'Donnell

## CSPE DEPARTMENT

We, in 2 Ash, did our C.S.P.E. Junior Certificate Action project on "Bothar". "Bothar" is an organisation which improves people's lives in developing countries by giving them a livestock animal. On Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, we had a guest speaker from "Bothar" to tell us more about the work of the organization. Following this we raised awareness of the important work they do by designing and displaying posters around our school. Then on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of April we held a Candy Shop in St. Mary's kitchen. As a result of all this work we have raised 583.28 which will now buy an animal for a family. We really enjoyed doing our Action Project because we worked together as a team and know that we have helped less fortunate people in the Third World. We would like to thank all the staff and students who supported us.

Nessa Farrell & Aine Dempsey,  
on behalf 2 Ash.

Class 2 Maple recently completed its Junior Certificate Action Project on the "Niall Mellon Township Trust". This is an organisation which was set up in 2002 with the aim of providing quality social housing for the impoverished communities in the townships of South Africa. There were three different parts to our project and everyone in the class had a task to carry out. Firstly, on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, we invited a guest speaker from the organisation in order to learn more about it. Then following an awareness raising campaign around the school, we held a cake sale to raise funds for the charity. We feel very proud of the work we did for the "Niall Mellon Township Trust" and know that the 267.50 we raised will go towards building homes for people who are less well-off than we are.

Emer McDonagh, 2 Maple

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### DCU Science Olympiad

The 2009 Irish Senior Science Olympiad took place on Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> January in D.C.U. The Olympiad involves students having to complete a morning and afternoon exam in either one of the four disciplines of biology, chemistry, physics or computer programming. Two of our sixth year students Megan King and Ciara Brady participated in the event. Overall there were sixty participants from all over Ireland competing to be chosen for the final panel of three students for the international Science Olympiad competition in Hungary this summer. Both students achieved very well in the exams and they were presented with Certificates at the award ceremony which was held that evening. Well done girls!

### TY Laboratory Work Experience in Trinity College

Three TY students got the opportunity to work in Professor Campbell's Science laboratories located in Trinity College. During their busy week, the students attended a pharmacology lecture, received a guided tour of the Neuroimaging Suite in the Institute of Neuroscience and talked with final year physiology students about a career in Science. Of course, the students also worked in the Science laboratories carrying out a variety of scientific experiments including DNA-damage measurement, SDS-gel electrophoresis, cell staining and many histology methods. The students worked extremely hard in Trinity College and they enjoyed their time there.

### Darwin Day

February 12<sup>th</sup> was a global day of celebration of science as it marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. He was one of the most prominent evolutionary biologists. Darwin's theory of evolution (which is how living things have changed over many millions of years) forms the basis of our knowledge on evolution. Details about him and his work were posted on the wall outside the upstairs laboratory for students to read. Some students saw part of a documentary on the life and work of Darwin in the Interactive Whiteboard room.

Ms. M O'Donnell

### Sustainable Energy Ireland Competition.

Congratulations to the fifth year students who captured in a photograph how we might make changes to the way we use energy in the future in order to reduce the impacts of climate change. The theme for this year's competition was "Energy – The Next Generation." The following entries were submitted by fifth students to the competition.



"Change your wheels and save energy"  
– Aisling Darcy



"In 2009 think before you bin it"  
– Niamh Ronan



"Give him his chance to turn off the Light"  
– Nicole Daly



"Tick Tock – Educate the next generation to be energy efficient – their running out of time"  
– Leanne Sutton



"Bright Idea – Long Life Bulbs save Energy"  
– Jennifer Daly

### Transition Year Young Scientist Projects

All Transition Year students participated in the Science module this year. Each student got the option to study Biology, Physics and Chemistry on a modular basis. Some Transition Year students completed scientific projects. It is hoped that these projects will be entered into the Young Scientist competition next September. The girls are wished well in their endeavours.

T.Hallinan

## GERMAN DEPARTMENT

On March 13<sup>th</sup> 2009, forty students studying German along with five teachers Ms McManus, Ms Fay, Ms. Griffin, Inion Ni Chonluain and Ms. Callan embarked on a four day language and cultural trip to Germany. On arriving in Frankfurt, our first stop was Heidelberg Castle. We then made our journey by coach to the Bavarian capital, Munich, where we visited many cultural sites such as Nymphenburg Castle, Dachau concentration camp and the Bavarian film studios. A day excursion took the group to Salzburg (Austria), the home of the film "Sound of Music" and a visit to the saltmines in Berchtesgaden. There, we dressed as miners and explored the mysterious world of salt and mountain. Other highlights included ice-skating, shopping and let's not forget sampling those sausages and schnitzel!



Ms. S. McManus

## STUDENT COUNCIL

St. Mary's student council has been busy again this term with regular meetings during which student issues were discussed and resolved. Student council members from each year group have been visiting classes to get students' opinions and suggestions. We set up next year's Executive Council before the end of this academic school year. Application forms were distributed to senior students in May. All students in St. Mary's were invited to apply to be members of our student council which is after all the students' voice within the school. We would like to thank and pay tribute to our 6<sup>th</sup> year council members who have contributed in such an enthusiastic way to our student council this year. They are: Jennifer Ryan, Karen Blaney, Tara Murphy, Sarah Flannigan, Bronagh Redican, Niamh Mulhall, Ciara Murphy and Caitriona Healy. We wish you all the best in your Leaving Certificate exams, may all your dreams come true!

The Student Council decided to become involved in a very active way in our fundraising playday on May 1<sup>st</sup>. A "bake a cake" competition was organized and we were thrilled with the large number of delicious and creative entries. Congratulations to the winners, Shauna Brennan and Lauren Wall from class Achill, and the runner-up, Emer Curran from 5.29. Third prize went to our council vice chairperson Laura Scanlon. We look forward to another exciting year in September 2009.

Ms A Hughes

## THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Well done to all the staff and students who have worked hard to make St. Mary's a clean and tidy place to be. Both classrooms and corridors are kept clean and tidy after break and lunchtimes, thanks to the students on duty.

The "whole school" clean up at Easter gave the building a fresh make-over, which was maintained by the students when they returned to school.

Congratulations to class 5.32, who won the Tidy Classroom Competition this term and got a pizza lunch and a trip to the school cinema as their prize. Well done girls!

Ms. L Bohan

## LCVP

### Link Modules

All 6<sup>th</sup> year LCVP students had the opportunity this year to engage in a one day intensive training course on job seeking skills and interview training. This course was held in school and was given by a highly reputable trainer, Denise Wright. The training day was very successful with all students gaining some essential life skills. The day was thoroughly enjoyable and of immense relevance for the girls not only for the recorded interview section of their project but also in their preparation for the world of work.

The girls have worked hard on the completion of their projects which are worth 60% of the marks. They were handed up on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and they sat their written exam on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Best of luck girls!!

## NFTE

Congratulations to all the NFTE participants who presented their business plans to judges from Grant Thornton on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The judges were impressed with the level of professionalism and knowledge displayed by the girls. The competition was very tight with a special merit award being presented to **Catherine Cormican** and **Ramona Ciulei** of class 4.28 for their "Smoothies" business. The overall winners from St. Mary's were **Michelle Moran** and **Laura Farrell** of class 4.38 for their "Spin Watches".

Michelle and Laura have since attended the next round of the competition where they had to compete against all other winning businesses from the other NFTE centres in the National BizPlan Competition held in DCU on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The winner of this was announced in **NFTE Ireland Awards Ceremony** on April 30<sup>th</sup>. This ceremony was held in the Helix and was a great opportunity for the girls to interact with other students and share their experiences in the NFTE programme. Each of the girls was presented with a special NFTE certificate for her participation in the NFTE programme. Well done girls!

## BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

The business department would like to wish all 6<sup>th</sup> year students of economics, accountancy and business the very best for the future, especially the students who have decided to continue their education in these areas. We would also like to thank the Business School of DIT for coming to speak to all Business/Economics and Accountancy students on the different areas and courses that can be followed at third level. This talk was very insightful for students wishing to continue on in the area of Business.

Ms S Crowley, Ms O Griffin,  
Ms A Connolly, Ms G Lehane

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT

### Fifth Year History – Trip to the Dail Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

2009 marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first meeting of Dail Eireann in the Mansion House in January 1919. As part of the celebrations to mark this hugely important event, the Dail and Seanad launched a photographic exhibition in the Houses of Oireachtas in Kildare Street. The fifth year history students, with Ms. Lehane and Ms. Hayes went to see the exhibition and had a tour of both Houses of the Oireachtas. Led by Phil, their fantastic tour guide, the girls had a bird's eye view of the Dail chambers from the public gallery where the daily business of government was explained by Phil. They then sat in the chamber of the Seanad to hear a history of the house itself and of the Fitzgerald family who originally built it. Having viewed portraits of such famous Irish leaders as Collins, de Valera, Griffith, Countess Markievicz and Mary McAleese, the group finished up with a look at the photographic exhibition in the new Dail building.

Ms. G Hayes

# DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING

At this time of the year we are planning on welcoming our new group of First Year students to St. Mary's. To help facilitate the transition from Primary to Secondary we are visiting the primary schools and talking with the Sixth Class teachers about the students' progress and interests. There was a very positive information meeting with the parents of incoming First Years and many signed up for an informal interview with us at the end of May.

There was a meeting with the parents of the present First Year students to look at subject choice. The counsellors also met with the students and distributed booklets about their subjects.

The Third Year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS). This was to help those going on into Fifth Year with making their subject choice. They each received a booklet outlining what was involved in the study of subjects for the Traditional Leaving Certificate. Each Third Year student had a meeting with the guidance counsellors to receive feedback on the results of the DATS. The Third Year students with their parents attended a meeting to look at the options for next year: Transition Year; Fifth Year; LCVP.

## Tolka Area Partnership (TAP) formerly Finglas Cabra Partnership

### Choices programmes

TAP have funded tutorials for students from the area to help with honours Maths at Junior cycle and to facilitate senior cycle students who have taken up a science subject to reach an equivalent standard as their peers. These students wish to pursue a career in Nursing and this will keep this possibility open to them.

### Opt in Youth Programme

Three of our students took part in the final graduation that took place in the Finglas Resource Centre. This programme has run in Finglas and Cabra for the past fourteen years. It has helped hundreds of young people to stay in education. "Opt In" was the only programme of its kind in Ireland. The funding was cancelled by the Minister of Education and Science.

The summer programme gave young people the opportunity over a ten-week period to stay in education and further their confidence, skills and talents. It also supported the students over their remaining years in school with Follow up Days and one to one meetings with the students.

It is a very short sighted move that will incur far greater expenditure in the long term in order to help these young people.

### 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 aimed 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 that 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](http://www.16plustaskforce.ie)

### Finglas Suicide Network

Finglas Suicide Network was launched by Brett Pope at their new premises 46-47 Mellows Court, Mellows Rd Finglas Dublin. 11. This 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

### DCU Access Programmes

Many of our fifth year students have taken part in a variety of DCU programmes which encourage students from an early stage to think about Third Level.

Ten students took part in a shadowing day that allowed them the opportunity to take part in student life at DCU. They were matched with undergraduate students pursuing a course in an area of interest to them. They attended lectures with 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year students in a faculty of their choice. The students really enjoyed their experience on campus and found it very worthwhile. They were Georgina King, Niamh Ronan, Jessica Smyth, Jessica Powell, Ciara Tunstead, Sophie Gaughran, Amy Connolly, Megan Daly, Eimear Howe and Naomi Lumsden.

Another group of fifth year students took part in a "Discover DCU" workshop to allow them to explore their fears, anxieties and expectations of Third Level. They were Rachel Byrne, Susan Mohamed, Stephanie Judge, Emma Hinchy, Sophie Cooke, Ann-Marie Monaghan and Simone Donoghue.

Our Sixth Year Access students were invited to take part in free Easter revision courses in a wide range of subjects. Students who participated in the programmes found them very helpful.

A group of students under the guidance of Ms. D. Callan, embarked on the third year of the DCU debating competition. Our debaters were Laura Scanlan, Sarah Kenny, Edel McNamara, Rebecca Nugent, Ciara Dalton and Emma Gibbons.

"Take Five" is a programme open to our Fifth year students to explore the five different colleges over a five day period in June. These colleges include DCU, UCD, Trinity College, NUI Maynooth and DIT. The successful students chosen for the

programme will participate in taster-college activities – attending lectures and workshops and visiting laboratories, taking part in sports halls and visiting sites around campus.

A group of fifth year students is also planning to participate in DCU Model United Nations. The aim of the programme is to allow students to explore international politics and current affairs through public speaking and debating in a diplomatic manner. Conferences are a full simulation of a United Nations Committee in which students must debate a wide range of global issues. The issue up for discussion is "Climate Change" and its economic, political and environmental effects on the world. The students participating are Leanne Sutton, Emma Gibbons, Gemma Daly, Jessica Powell, Laura Scanlan, Niamh O'Donoghue and Stacey Walsh.

DCU have been outstanding in opening up Third Level education to our students and in sowing the seeds for students who aspire to apply for university from fifth year onwards. We are very grateful for their support over the past school year.

### Sixth Years

CAO applications are now well and truly in and some students will be planning on readjusting their choices on their change of mind form which is accessible online from May 1<sup>st</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

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

*A group of students was asked what they thought were the present 'Seven Wonders of the World'. Though there were some disagreements the following received the most votes.*

- (1) Egypt's Great Pyramids
- (2) Taj Mahal
- (3) Grand Canyon
- (4) Panama Canal
- (5) Empire State Building
- (6) St. Peter's Basilica
- (7) China's Great Wall.

While collecting the votes the teacher noted that one student had not finished her choices. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied "Yes a little. I couldn't make up my mind there were so many".

"Tell us what you have and perhaps we might help" said the teacher. Here was her list:

- (1) to see (2) to hear (3) to touch (4) our health (5) to feel (6) to laugh (7) to love.

The room was so quiet there wasn't a word. What we take for granted is indeed most important of all.

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

It has been an extremely busy and productive term for the music department. At Christmas, the school choir was kindly invited to perform on TV3's 'Ireland A.M.' as part of their special Christmas show. Armed with Santa hats and music, the choir met bright and early at the school at 7 a.m and made its way to the Mansion House in Dublin City. After rehearsals inside the Mansion House, the choir made its way outside where it sang a number of Christmas songs live on TV3. After performing the girls met the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and then made their way back to school. It was a great honour to sing there and the choir was complimented on its great performance.

During March, the choir also sang in the 'Emmanuel '09' concert in the Helix. This concert was a project of the Dublin Diocesan Commission which involved over a thousand students from different



schools in Dublin. As part of this project, the choir participated in different workshops and rehearsals in Clonliffe College. After rehearsals in Clonliffe College, all students made their way to the Helix where they rehearsed with a full orchestra before the concert began. The choir performed over twenty three liturgical songs to a packed audience. They ranged in styles from Gospel, Latin and Irish to African music. It was an incredible night and experience for all students involved. We'd like to thank all students for their great work and dedication to the choir this term. We look forward to participating in many similar events next year and can only imagine how great they will sound!

### Department of Education Exams

At the beginning of March, the first years of St. Mary's got their first taste of a formal state exam as they participated in the Department of Education Choir Exams. The girls performed a wide variety of songs for their exam ranging from Mamma Mia, Mary Black, Sister Act and Classical pieces. They then answered a number of music theory questions. Both examiners complimented the first years on their singing. The girls were outstanding in their exam and received an A1 overall! Well done to all first years!

A final word goes to all the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year music students who sat their performing exam for their Junior and Leaving Certificates in the middle of March. Well done and we wish them all the best of luck in their written exams in June.

Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Coll

## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

### First Year Field Exercise

Our first year students were exposed to the experience of fieldwork this year. Fieldwork is an important element in Leaving Certificate Geography and accounts for 20% of the final exam. The classes were set the task of collecting temperature readings from a thermometer outside the school building. The girls collected the data both before school and at lunchtime every day for several weeks. Then they calculated maximum and minimum temperatures and the range of temperature for that period of time. They drew graphs of their data, analysed and presented their results in a project that was displayed on the main corridor. This is great

preparation for future fieldwork, well done girls!

### Second Year Fieldwork

Once again all our second year students went on a fieldtrip to Ballyhaise Agricultural College in Cavan. Second year students study farming as an economic activity for their Junior Certificate. The college allows us access to its farm for a full day; students at the college took us around in groups showing us how the farm operates on a daily basis. Horses, calves, lambs and pigs are all reared on the farm. The girls really enjoyed the experience (though not the smells, they tell us!) of seeing all that happens but especially holding some of the newborn animals. Many thanks to the

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

### Cinema News

Revision for the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate students was enhanced by the use of the school cinema. They were able to enjoy film productions of their prescribed texts. At Junior level pupils watched "To Kill a Mockingbird", "Of Mice and Men" and "Romeo and Juliet". Senior students viewed "Jane Eyre", "MacBeth", "Inside I'm Dancing", "Philadelphia, Here I Come" and "Wuthering Heights".

Transition year pupils continued this term to explore the teen genre, by analyzing such films as "Mean Creek", "The Breakfast Club" and "Rebel Without a Cause" etc. The Transition year film module gives the students the necessary skills to enable them to study film at Leaving Certificate level. The English syllabus at this level involves a film study as part of the prescribed course.

The after school film club continued this term. Students particularly enjoyed viewing "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" and "High School Musical 3". We look forward to continuing the club in September and we always welcome new members.

### World Book Day

World Book Day was celebrated in St. Mary's in March. Free book tokens were distributed to students to be used in selected book shops. Reading classes, library visits and book reviews were arranged. We are very lucky to have the facility of a well-stocked library and a dedicated librarian, Sr. Maria Consilio. The school library is a great resource for learning and a valuable means of enjoying leisure time.

Students with the help of Mrs. E O'Reilly organised a second hand book sale in the English Room during lunch time. They raised much needed funds for resourcing the English Department. Well done girls. Keep up the reading!

### Class 5.33

Congratulations to all in class 5.33 for their great efforts in producing their study guide and revision booklet on "Wuthering Heights". It was a genuine class effort and it showed a great spirit of co-operation and team work. Each student wrote on one topic. Topics included themes, genre, character studies, narrative style and techniques, genealogy and the relevance of the novel for the modern reader. Special care was taken with the cover design. The finished product was a credit to all concerned. Well done girls!

Ms. C. Nolan

class tutors and teachers involved in this venture. The classes all presented a project on farming based on their visit to Cavan.

Students' Opinions on the Fieldtrip

*It was a good, fun filled day getting stuck in the mud and seeing all the animals. It was a good day for all the classes to bond – Jenny Redden, 2 Ash*

*I think the staff at Ballyhaise must have thought we were mad with all the different colour wellies getting off the bus – Rachael Dwyer, 2 Ash*

*I really liked the day out in Ballyhaise. It was a nice experience on the farm because I had never been on a farm before – Michaela Rodden, 2 Ash*

### Transition Year Geography

Transition year geography included a wide variety of cultural topics this year. The year started with a module on the states of America and concluded with a group poster from each class, and these were displayed on each corridor in

the school. This was followed by an in-depth study of the economic conflict in Zimbabwe.

The second term saw students researching the film "Touching the Void". The students watched the film and completed a review afterwards. During the last term students focused on the geography of Spain, with an emphasis on Barcelona – seeing as this was the destination of the T.Y. tour. Students completed fabulous tourist brochures as part of their assessment for this module.

The last trip for TY geography was to the IFI where students saw an advance screening of "Encounters at the End of the World". This is a documentary film about Antarctica.

### Exam Classes

The Geography Department would like to wish all 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students every success in their forthcoming exams in June.

Ms. Mahon, Ms. Fay  
Ms. Wilson, Ms. Bohan  
Ms. Maher, Ms. Byrne