



St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

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HOCKEY 3 Finals and 3 Wins

Hockey Time ... is Astro Time!

Hockey development in St Mary's has undergone a huge resurgence in the last two years. The introduction of the new astro pitch has enabled major steps to be taken in re-building a solid reputation for St Mary's in the hockey school leagues. We have finished our second school year on our very own new astro-turf pitch. The drive to promote and enrich sport in the school has led to the introduction of two first year teams, one minor team and one junior team. It has been a very successful year. We have reached three finals and won three titles.

First Year Hockey

The excitement started on day one with the first year sports day induction. This was a fantastic success, introducing the students to the many sports and activities that the astro has to offer. With the excitement of playing hockey on our new pitch the first years were eager to join the school hockey teams. We immediately got started with a first year introduction to hockey on Saturday mornings in September. We are now delighted to have two first year teams. The first years trained every week and



Minor Team – Leinster and Northside Champs!



Minor Team – Northside Champs!

were very enthusiastic. The girls were highly excited at the prospect of playing other schools and took great pride in representing St. Mary's in hockey. They entered the Northside league and played against teams such as Holy Faith Clontarf, Manor House, Santa Sabina and Cabra. The teams narrowly missed out on reaching a final this year but are now even more determined for next year.

Second Year Hockey – Minor Team

The second year minor team, entered the Minor Leinster League, the Minor Leinster Cup and the Northside League. Having narrowly missed out on a final last year, great excitement mounted as the team prepared for their first hockey matches. The enthusiasm was fantastic. They started their league matches in an upbeat and positive mood. Along the way we braved the elements! The team played against teams such as Alexandra College, Sion Hill, The King's Hospital and Loreto Foxrock. This year the minor team did the double, achieving both the Minor Leinster title against Muckcross College and the Northside League title against Santa Sabina. The team



Leinster presentation



Presentation of medals for Junior Northside final.

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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Loyal supporters

narrowly missed out on the Minor cup and was beaten by Alexandra College in the semi-final. This was a fantastic achievement for the team and the school. The team thoroughly enjoyed training and showed great dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year. Well done to the Minor Team on a fantastic year!

Junior Hockey

The junior team entered the Northside League and played some very closely contested matches. They also notched up wins against long established hockey schools such as The King's Hospital, Mount Sackville, and St Wolstans. They have now won the Northside League for three years in a row. This is a fantastic achievement and they have also set a great example for the up and coming players. Some junior team students also demonstrated their leadership skills with the first and second years by helping



Semi-final against Alexandra College



New Hockey Hoodies

and preparing them for matches. Well done girls, another great season!

This year we purchased new hockey hoodies and all the hockey players took great pride in wearing them, creating fantastic team and school spirit. The hoodies have been admired by all and the students look professional when representing St Mary's.

We ended our hockey season with a 6-a-side tournament for all hockey players. The sun was shining on us again



First year team

for the event. It was a closely contested tournament, with the RATLS beating JT's in the final!

Many thanks to all our supporters, umpires and coaches throughout the season who travelled to many matches and helped us on our way. The achievements of the school this year are a huge credit to all involved and have without doubt inspired and encouraged the uptake of hockey in the school for the future. The St Mary's girls certainly do have a passion for hockey!

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

Roll on next season ... Go Astro, onwards and upwards! First to the ball, last to give up ... go St. Mary's!

Ms Boran, Ms Nolan, Ms Maher, Ms Gavin, Ms O'Keeffe, Ms Griffin

Fifth Year Chemistry Students Scoop 2011 International Year of Chemistry Award

Fifth year chemistry students Aisling Ahern and Niamh McArdle received €250 each as a runners up prize in a competition to produce a four page newsletter on the topic 'Positive Impacts of Chemistry in the 21st Century'. The competition, to celebrate 2011 being the International Year of Chemistry, was sponsored and organised by The Institute of Chemistry of Ireland together with The Royal Society of Chemistry and The Society for Chemical Industry. It was open to all second level students, both North and South, who were interested in Chemistry. The award ceremony is due to take place in the coming months
Mr. E. Carr

Log on Learn

A group of people completed its log on learn programme with a graduation ceremony in April. Mary Flood spoke of the gifts that the Transition Year students displayed while teaching their older counterparts in a very welcoming atmosphere which was most conducive to learning. She also mentioned that it was as though the generation gap did not exist between older pupil and younger teacher at all. The transition year students enjoyed the experience very much and it added to the work experience they gained over two weeks in January.



The log-on learn graduation ceremony commences with Ms. McCormack presenting a certificate to Mr. Bernard Hughes.



Mary Flood addresses the group of TY students and participants at the end of the ceremony

European Studies



T.Y. European Studies students highlighted Europe Day on 9th May by making posters for the event and putting them up around the school.

Mr. Proinsias de Rossa M.E.P. visited our school and spoke to T.Y. students about his work in the European Parliament.

Mrs A. Hughes

GREEN FLAG FOR ST. MARY'S



Class Liffey listening to a Green Schools presentation.



St. Mary's Green Schools campaign has gathered great momentum since its beginning in September 2010. Students and staff alike have contributed greatly to St. Mary's effort to achieve our first green flag for "Litter and Waste". We prepared for our inspection by taking part in an An Taisce cleanup week. This took place on Tuesday April 12th and the whole school rallied around and did tremendous work in light of our looming inspection.

On April 13th last Ms. Alison Sheridan from D.C.C. visited St. Mary's school in order to carry out the inspection. The



Reminders to recycle!



Our Green Logo

"Green School Committee" and class group Liffey welcomed Ms. Sheridan to our school.

The anxious waiting period ended on the 5th of May when it was announced that St. Mary's school had been awarded its Green Flag. At a ceremony in Croke Park it was presented to the school on the 24th May. Another proud day for the school. Well done to all!

We would like to thank all staff, students and management for their continued support for the project.

Mr. W. Donnelly

Green Schools Co-ordinator

TRANSITION YEAR

Work Experience

For the first week of work experience I was working in the Sacred Heart Primary School. It was an amazing experience. I loved it! I chose to do my placement there because I have always wanted to be a primary school teacher and I wanted to see what it would be like. All the teachers were very friendly and they had no problem answering any questions I had about the job. The school was lovely and the pupils were really nice. The respect that was shown to me by the pupils was insane! I really felt like a teacher, which was the whole point of the exercise.

I think that I was very prepared going in to my placement because I knew exactly what I wanted to get out of the experience. I wanted to see if this really was the career for me.

I feel that I have benefitted a lot from my placement; I am now surer than ever that I want to be a primary school teacher in the future.

What made my work experience so beneficial was the fact that I wasn't just reading about the job or watching it on TV; I was actually getting to work as a teacher for the week.

I would never have had the chance to teach if I had not done T.Y and so for this reason, among others, I am glad I chose to do fourth year.

Niamh Molloy 4.28

For my work experience placement I went to work with The Garda Band in the Phoenix Park. I enjoyed it so much. I was doing my work experience with three other TY students. Each of us played an instrument. On the first day of work the band was playing at a rugby match so we were encouraged to practise our own pieces. We were also taken up to the Mounting Unit in Áras an Uachtaráin. The next day we all had a music lesson from different members of the Garda band. In my group we got to learn 'The Flower Duet'. While we were there the band members asked us if we would be available to play a gig with them on the following Friday night. We were really excited at the thought of this great opportunity. I was asked to play seconds for Damien, one of the band members. I was a little nervous so the next day I practised my piece to prepare for the gig. We were allowed to travel to the venue in the Garda van with the band. We had a great time and the gig went really well! Our instructor, Pat Kenny, told us that we were the first group of transition year students to ever play with the Garda Band. We were delighted with this and we had a great sense of achievement.

I thought that this week of work experience was better than I could have hoped for and I would love to go back again if I had the chance.

Caroline McMullen 4.27

TY Fashion Show

On the 28th of January 2011, the transition year students put on a modern language fashion show. We were divided into groups of two: one person modelled and the other read a piece describing the model's outfit in German, Spanish or French. We all got to choose a piece of music to walk to and we were told we could wear any type of outfit we wanted. In my group there were two models, Kim and I. We both decided to wear our mothers' wedding dresses. On the morning of the fashion show, we all got into our clothes and lined up. Everyone really made a great effort with her outfit and there were girls dressed as boys, others were wearing 'onesie' pyjamas and there was even one wearing her little sister's Spanish flamenco dress. It was so much fun and definitely an event we'll all remember. We all got to hear what the other language classes had learned and we had a great time dressing up and playing models!

Katie Moore 4.23



Transition Year Play – ‘Twelfth Night’

The TY production this year was William Shakespeare’s comedy ‘Twelfth Night’. It was an unusual choice for a school play. It is not as well known as some of Shakespeare’s other works and it is quite complicated. Basically, everyone falls in love with the wrong person but they all end up living happily ever after!

We began the process of putting the play together quite early in the year. We studied the play in our English class and we also took part in a series of drama workshops. By the time all of the actors were chosen and the different roles assigned, there wasn’t a whole lot of time until opening night.

Rehearsals for the actors were non-stop and each of the production groups was kept busy. A lot goes into a play before it is fit for the stage: the set design, the costumes, the publicity, the music, the sound effects, the lighting, the hair and makeup and the stage management.

When the play was finally ready for the stage there was a great feeling of relief and pride. This was something

which we, the TYs, had created. We worked really hard and we had achieved something great. When we saw the play in its entirety, we all felt like proud mothers in the audience. For me, it has been the most enjoyable part of transition year to date.

Ciara Ryan 4.27

Our production of Shakespeare’s ‘Twelfth Night’ has been my favourite part of TY so far. I was one of the lucky students chosen to be an actor. Each actor had to carry out a number of auditions in order to be cast in the correct role. This gave me an opportunity to try out different character roles and see which one suited me best. After a few days we were assigned our roles. I was given the part of Valentine, Duke Orsino’s servant. I also played the part of a sailor and a policeman. The rehearsal process was really intense and exhausting. We only had a couple of weeks to put the show together. Our directors, Charlotte and Oonagh,

pushed us really hard but it was all worth it in the end. When we saw it all come together it was truly amazing! I loved getting into costume and I enjoyed working with different props. I even enjoyed getting crazy eyebrows and moustaches painted onto my face. I never thought I would experience walking around with a beard, it was hilarious! Even though I was really nervous, I loved performing. We had so much fun on the stage and behind the scenes.

During the play I felt that our year group bonded very well. I became friends with a lot of girls I had never really spoken to before. I had never been in a production like this one and I found myself doing things almost instinctively on stage. I learned how to do things like projecting my voice so that I could be heard at the back of the hall.

The whole experience was fantastic and it was definitely the best TY experience I’ve had so far.

Aislinn Farrell 4.28

Transition Year Ski Trip to Austria

We have taken part in a lot of activities since January but one of the best so far has to have been the TY ski trip to Austria. This took place after our work experience placements in February and it was one of the best trips I have ever been on. Thirty-seven students and four teachers travelled to Bregenz in Austria and stayed for five days.

Each morning we travelled up the mountains to ski and we returned later in the afternoon. I felt that I put a lot of effort in while on the slopes and I was one of the fifteen students and teachers who progressed to the blue slope, which was a pretty big deal! As a group, we did extremely well at what proved to be a difficult sport.



Every evening our teachers arranged activities for us to take part in. We went bowling and swimming, we had a movie night and we even had a ‘ski-factor’ competition which was hilarious!

I found the whole trip to be a very positive experience and I know that my feelings are shared by everyone involved. I got a lot out of the experience. I learned to ski and I also became more independent as I was away from home and with my friends. I got on really well with my room-mates and also with the teachers. I’m so glad I went, it was class!

Alison Greene McEnerney 4.28



Poise, Confidence and Makeup Workshop

As part of our preparation for work experience, the transition year students took part in a poise, confidence and makeup workshop with a lady called Dolores Corcoran. When going out on work experience, grooming and presentation are essential. She taught us about makeup and tan application, hair styling and about how to take care of our skin. We learned different things like the fact that there are four different skin types; oily, dry, combination and normal. She told us our skin type and gave us tips on how to care for it. She also told us which products would work best on our skin types. She taught us how to cleanse, tone and moisturise. We also learned how to treat blemishes and how to apply makeup and tan correctly.

I found the work shop to be really interesting and full of practical advice.

Rachel Griffith 4.27



The Irish debating team – Left to right (front) Patrice Condon, Shauna Caffrey, Lauren Craven (back) Ms Ní Lúing, Ms. Ní Chonluain



Gaeltacht trip to Donegal

GAEILGE

Tháinig Cuairteoir linn ó Ghael Linn chuig na Ranganna Idirbhliana – Seanán Ó Coistín, Uasal, came to speak to all Transition Year Irish classes on Friday, 21 January 2011. He spoke about the work of Gael Linn in the three main areas of education, language promotional schemes and business. Is í príomhaidhm na heagraíochta ná an Ghaeilge agus a hoidhreacht a chothú agus a chur chun cinn ar fud na hÉireann mar theanga bheo.

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

Bhí dea-scéala againn maidir leis an gComórtas Díospóireachta a bhí ar siúl – On behalf of Roinn na Gaeilge and indeed, on behalf of the whole school community of St. Mary's, we congratulate the Senior Debating Team on their success in the Gael Linn Debates. A more detailed report on the debates is to be found in this newsletter.

Déanaimid comhghairdeas leis na cailíní agus déanaimid comhghairdeas leis na Múinteoirí, Iníon Ní Chonluain agus Iníon Ní Lúing. Maith sibh go léir!

Thug cailíní agus Múinteoirí cuairt ar an nGaeltacht – Iníon Ní Chonluain and Iníon Ní Lúing accompanied a group of Múinteoirí agus cailíní to the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking district) of Gaath Dobhair in County Donegal in March 2011. Here the students experienced Gaeilge being spoken as part of everyday life and indeed, they sampled Gaeilge in the song, literature, dance and folklore of the people. A more detailed report on the trip to the Gaeltacht is to be found in this newsletter. Bhain an grúpa go léir tairbhe agus taitneamh as an turas sin.

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge againn – "Seachtain na Gaeilge" was celebrated in the school during the month of March as well. There were events for all to participate in. Bhí Céilí ann do na cailíní sa Dara Bhliain. Bhí Seó Aon-Fhir againn do na cailíní sa Séú agus sa Chúigiú Bliana. "In High Germany" an t-ainm a bhí air. Bhí sé scríofa ag Dermot Bolger. Rinne Gerry Motherway, Uasal, aisteoireacht agus ba é Liam Weir, Uasal, a rinne an léiriú. Baineann "In High Germany" le scéal agus saol duine de lucht leanúna d'fhoireann na hÉireann ag cluichí craobhe sacair na hEorpa le linn an t-samhraidh i 1988, an chéad uair a cháiligh foireann sacair na tíre do chluichí ceannais idirnáisiúnta peile. Bhain na cailíní spraoi agus sult as an seó. Roinn na Gaeilge are indebted to Mrs. Lennon for funding this venture and they would like to thank her for her contribution to Roinn na Gaeilge's activities during Seachtain na Gaeilge. Míle Buíochas, a Phríomhoide.

Bhí Béaltrialacha Gaeilge don Ardteist ar siúl sa scoil – The Oral Irish Examinations for the Leaving Certificate were held in the school from Monday 4 April until Friday, 8 April 2011. All sixth year students and their teachers were very busy, both before and 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 Scrúdaithe Stáit (The State Examinations Commission) visited the school during that week and he was most impressed by the dedication and hard work of the Irish teachers and their students. The State Examinations Commission is responsible for the development, assessment, accreditation and certification of the Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations. Roinn na Gaeilge wish every success to all the Leaving Certificate candidates. Ádh Mór oraibh go léir, a chailíní !

Bhí Foirmeacha don Ghaeltacht ar fáil sa scoil – During the school year, 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 in Gaeilge have improved in preparation for their Certificate Examinations.

Go néirí an t-ádh libh – Roinn na Gaeilge would like to take this opportunity of wishing good luck to all the 3rd and 6th Year students who will be sitting for their Examinations in June. Go néirí go geal libh uilig!

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

Comórtas Díospóireachta Ghael Linn

Comhghairdeas leis an bhfoireann shinsearach a shroich an Craobh Reigiúnach i gcomórtas díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh 2010/2011. Tá an comórtas seo á reáchtáil ag Gael Linn do scoileanna dara léibhéil, nach ndéantar teagasc iontu trí Ghaeilge. Bhí na cailíní seo a leanas ag díospóireacht ar son na scoile:

Patrice Condon (captaen)
Shauna Caffrey (cainteoir 2)
Lauren Craven (cainteoir 3)

Is é an rún a bhí á phlé acu sa chraobh ná 'Tá na rudaí is luachmhaire sa saol seo saor in aisce!'

Bhí áthas orainn go raibh muid ag díospóireacht ar son an rúin. Bhí ceithre fhoireann ag glacadh páirte sa chraobh Reigiúnach.

Foireann A: Meánscoil Loreto, Bré, Co. Chill Mhantáin
Foireann B: Scoil Pháirc Sandford, Raghallach, BÁC 6
Foireann C: Meánscoil Naomh Mhuire,

Glasnaíon, BÁC 9
Foireann D: Coláiste Belvedere, Sráid Mhór na Danmhairge, BÁC 1

Ní dheachaigh ach foireann amháin ar aghaidh go dtí Craobh na hÉireann (Scoil Pháird Sandford, Raghallach, BÁC). Cé nár bhuaigh na cailíní an Craobh Reigiúnach bronnadh trófaíthe orthu. Molaim na cailíní us ucht na hoibre go léir a rinne siad ag ullmhú do na díospóireachtaí. Is léir gur chainteoirí ghaelacha den scoth iad!

Comhghairdeas leis an bhfoireann shóisearach a shroich an triú bhabhta ar an 11ú Eanáir.

Cé go raibh na cainteoirí go léir an-chumhachtach agus an-mhaith, níor éirigh leo áit a fháil sa chéad bhabhta eile. Rinne said an-iarracht ach bhí caighdeán an-árd i measc na scoileanna. Gabhaim buíochas leis na cailíní go léir (Eimear Tunstead, Ella Mae Cruz, Eliza Corpus), agus mar a deir an tseanfocal 'Beidh lá eile ag an bPaorach.'

Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil leis na múinteoirí go léir chomh maith leis an bpríomhoide agus leas phríomhoide, a thug go leor tacaíochta dúinn le linn na ndíospóireachtaí.

Táimid ag tnúth go mór leis an gcomórtas arís an bhliain seo chugainn! Ádh mór.

N. Ní Chonluain
M. Ní Lúing

P.E. & SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Even in these recessionary times there is light at the end of the tunnel. The P.E. department has been issued a grant from the J.M.B. to help with the upgrade of present equipment and the introduction of new activities to the P.E. curriculum. We, as P.E. teachers, are really excited to be introducing new activities (such as step aerobics and field athletics) and gymnastics vaulting equipment and we look forward to working with the students on these new initiatives.

GAELIC

St. Mary's Gaelic players had a great year with many exciting matches against teams such as Dominican College and Loreto Swords. The girls were very committed to training every Tuesday and both the junior and senior teams developed excellently throughout the year. Our seniors, under the guidance of Captain Amy

O'Carroll, came out second in their group after beating Dominican College and Loreto Foxrock. However they were pipped at the post in their final game against Loreto Swords. Unfortunately this brought the seniors' season to an end as only one team was put through in the group. Our Juniors were very unlucky this year with injuries to key players such as Captain Kate O'Dwyer and mid fielder Lisa Kelly. They put on powerful performances against Maryfield and Dominicans but were unable to make it out of their group. Despite this the future of Gaelic in the school looks strong and we look forward to getting back into training next year. We would like to thank Na Fianna GAA club who very kindly allowed us to avail of its pitch for our home fixtures. Without their input Gaelic football would not be possible in the school. Our first years took part in a lunchtime Counties Gaelic Tournament in May and

Donegal and Tipperary are currently in the lead with Dublin coming a close second. We look forward to seeing how the tournament finishes and seeing the girls playing on the junior team next year.

ATHLETICS

Cross Country

A big congratulations to our Senior Cross Country team who brought home the silverware after winning the West Leinster Cross Country Race which was held in the Phoenix Park in February. It was a hard fought battle in which the girls showed great grit and determination and were worthy winners in the end.

The Team – Denise Callaghan, Aisling Ahern & Irene Falvey

Track and Field

It is great to see the revival of the Holy Faith Schools Sports Day which was a very popular event in the school calendar

many years ago. It was held in the grounds in Glasnevin. In fact some of the staff members have very fond memories of participating in the event as students and have the medals to prove it! Our present students really enjoyed the day out in Santry Stadium on Tuesday 5th April. The event was organised to celebrate the bi-centenary of the birth of Margaret Aylward, foundress of the Holy Faith Order. Our athletes represented St. Mary's school with great style in the various running, throwing and jumping events and we also had some successful medalists.

- Leah Bergin – First in Senior 100m and Long Jump
- Sally Ahern – First in Minor Long Jump
- Vanessa Boland – Third in Inter 800m
- Aisling Ahern – Third in Senior 800m
- Katie Jones – Third in Senior Shot
- Kayleigh Coulihan, April Lamai, Sally Ahern and Ali Horan –

P.E. & SPORTS DEPARTMENT (contd.)



Holy Faith Sports day – Long jump – Leah Bergin



Holy Faith Sports Day – Race Winner – Leah Bergin



Holy Faith Sports Day Medalists – Aisling Ahern, Sally Ahern, Vanessa Boland, Keiligh Coulihan, Ali Horan, April Lamai & Katie Jones

Third Minor Relay
Well done to all who participated and a big thank you to the Holy Faith Order, and to Sr. Eileen McGuirk in particular, for organising this very successful event. We look forward to taking part again next year.

BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our Senior Premier basketball team for reaching the semi-final of the SSA league. After being narrowly defeated in the final last year the girls were geared up for another shot at the title. However they were unfortunately beaten in the very last quarter by local rivals Dominican College. The girls put up a great fight and showed great skill and determination all year. We would especially like to thank our three sixth year players Niamh Gibney, Denise Callaghan and Ciara Delaney who have contributed so much to basketball during their years at St. Mary's and we are sad to see them leave us.

Our Cadettes were very successful this year for such a



young team, winning two out of their four matches in the premier league. The team was only established this year with the hope of developing into a strong cadette team next year and judging by its potential the future of basketball in the school looks bright.

First and second years have trained hard all season but were unlucky in their league matches, coming up against very strong opposition. We look forward to next year to see how their hard training has paid off.

Our season ended on a high with St Mary's Easter Basketball Tournament. With

over thirty girls in attendance from 1st to 3rd year it proved to be a great success and we look forward to working with the girls next year.

TENNIS



After the introduction of tennis as a PE module at the beginning of the year, there has been a keen interest shown by many students. Our spring league got underway with a beginners and an advanced section and it has proved to be a great success with many skilful, competitive matches entertaining students at lunchtime and after school. The teachers have also taken to the sport with an in-staff tournament which took place after school and kept us fit well into the summer term. We would like to thank Ms. Margaret Lennon and Ms. Anne Murphy for the introduction of the new nets as they have been a great addition to the school.

BADMINTON

Another successful year in the badminton calendar comes to an end. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated throughout the year for their commitment and dedication. All teams played to the best of their ability and were placed well in their sections. The Under 16 B team of

Jane Fabian, Ranzenallie Caranay, Eve Kavanagh, Krisha Arboleda and Briza Dechavez reached the Semi-final of their Division competing against a very strong team from Holy Faith Clontarf. Both teams played a very good game of Badminton with Clontarf being the stronger team on the day.

The Under 14 B Team of Michaela Cambe, Glennalyn Lantin, Amleth Banaga and Trixia Ordonio reached the Finals of their division, playing Holy Child Community School in Whitehall Road Badminton Centre.

The match was a very close one with both teams winning the same amount of games. However Holy Child edged ahead on points to take the gold. There was a great atmosphere at the game and both teams enjoyed the experience after they managed to shake of their initial nerves! They can both look forward to meeting up again next year.

Unfortunately not all of our players will be with us again next year. Three of our senior students Suzanne Escalante, Merussa



Amleth Banaga, Michaela Cambe, Glennalyn Lantin and Trixia Ordonio



Easter Basketball Tournament



Briza Dechavz, Jane Fabian, Ranzenallie Caranayand Eve Kavanagh

Matusalem and Windy Chai will be sitting their Leaving Cert. in June.

The girls have been valued players on the school teams since first year and it will not be the same without their good humour, sense of fun and willingness to help and participate whenever it was needed.

Along with Catherine Leal who has recently returned to the Philippines they have been a great example to the rest of the club players and we will miss them all very much. We wish them every success in the future.

The girls had their last chance to compete for St. Mary's in the Club Summer Tournament which was held in May. All participants enjoyed it!

SOCCER

The senior team rounded off a fantastic season by playing in the semi-final of the Leinster League against Alexandra College. The team, captained by Ciara Callery of sixth year, has shown great commitment and talent this season. We are sad to see a lot of our team leaving us this year after their Leaving Certificate exams. We would like to wish them the best of luck in the future.

Mr. P. Kelly

Holy Faith Drama Festival

On 15th March a Holy Faith Drama Festival was held in St. Mary's Hall to celebrate the bi-centenary of Margaret Aylward's birth. Margaret Aylward was the foundress of the Holy Faith order. In preparation for the Drama Festival four Holy Faith schools took part in a drama workshop in the Holy Faith Convent in Glasnevin. Students were then asked to prepare a ten minute drama based on the needs of today's society and the ways in which Margaret Aylward would address these needs if she was alive today.

Our first year students chose to tell the story of homelessness in Dublin and how a little help goes a long way. They worked very hard at learning their lines and perfecting their acting skills in the weeks coming up to the event. The girls represented St. Mary's extremely well on the night showing great confidence and enthusiasm. It was a very enjoyable evening and a great opportunity to commemorate the foundress of the Holy Faith Order, whose ethos of care and kindness still resonates in the school today.

Ms. C. Warren

SPORTS DAY

St. Mary's Annual Sports day took place on the 19th of May and this year it involved first, second and third years. We hope to make it a whole school event in years to come. Events included soccer, tennis, hockey, basketball, novelty events and many more fun activities. With the help of staff and the enthusiasm of students it was as successful as last year.



Novelty Races

HEALTH WEEK

Due to the success of Health Week over the last two years we are delighted to announce that it ran again this year from the 9th to 13th of May. Our TY Health Squad was busy preparing campaigns and posters for the week and coming up with new and exciting ideas. We organised early bird activities, mini gym, health talks, passport challenges, healthy snacks as well as many more initiatives to help promote a healthier lifestyle for the girls. Keep an eye on the next newsletter for an update on its success.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



TY Production- "Twelfth Night"

Many talents were discovered during this year's TY production and music was no exception. The students creatively added music to the play. Some of the songs performed in the play were "If I Were A Boy", "If My Friends Could See Me Now" and "Marry You". A band was formed to provide the musical backing for the play. It consisted of:

Alison Greene McEnerney (Drums)
Caroline McMullen (Flute/Clarinet)
Claire Mulvey (Guitar)
Karen Sinnott (Guitar)
Keeva O'Reilly (Piano/Keyboard)
Nicole White (Piano/Keyboard)

A choir group was formed to sing the selected songs. Students involved in this were:

Aine Holland, Claire Concannon, Eve Kavanagh, Laura Gaffney, Kate Uzell, Lauren Carrick, Niamh Molloy, Rosie Murphy and Nadine Smithers Moore. The musicianship and singing were exceptional and we get the feeling that this is not the last we'll see of this talented group.

St. Mary's Music Showcase

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



Practicals

Forty-eight Junior Cert. students, eighteen Leaving Cert. students and close to three hundred pieces of music, makes for a busy time in the Music Department in preparation for the Music practical examinations. All the girls have worked hard and both examiners commented on the high standard of music performed. The style of pieces performed varied from Irish Traditional music to Classical, and from Contemporary music to Rock. Finally, we wish our third and sixth years every success in their written examinations in June.

Emmanuel 2011

St. Mary's was well represented again this year at the Emmanuel Concert in the Helix on the 24th March. Fifty members of the choir participated in the concert. We were all delighted to hear that two of our choir members were picked out of all the auditions to sing solo at the concert. The two students picked were Emma Humber and Aine Holland. The students had a great day in Clonliffe College when they joined the choirs of other schools in rehearsals and workshops. All students enjoyed the experience of singing in the Helix and a huge thanks to all the students in the choir who always work so hard throughout the year and who are always so dedicated.

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

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

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent. This year ashes were distributed to all students and staff during the 9 o'clock class. Mr Coll started proceedings by reading a reflection and prayer over the intercom for the school community.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week was marked in St. Mary's from January 31st to February 6th. Each morning a member of the religion department read a reflection over the intercom. Tuesday 1st February was St. Brigid's Day and for this Mrs. Bogan read a piece about the significance of St. Brigid. Also classes 6:34 and 6:36 made St. Brigid's crosses in their religion classes. Thursday 3rd February was the feast of St. Blaise. Members of the religion department blessed the throats of staff and students at lunch time that day.

Ms. M. Byrne

Graduation 2011

This year graduation took place on Thursday 26th of May. The theme chosen by the girls was a saying from St. Catherine of Sienna, "If you are what you are meant to be, you'll set the world on fire!" This was illustrated in the quote on the banner and the back wall of the gym was decorated with fire, from which flames, containing the girls' names, spread out to illuminate the wall. The side walls were decorated with the hopes and dreams of each student in sixth year and a powerpoint presentation of the students throughout their time here in St. Mary's was displayed before the Mass began.

The Mass began with a candle procession, where each student carried up her personalized graduation candle to represent the theme of light and fire. These candles were made by the Redemptoristine Nuns from St. Alphonsus Road, who prayed for each student as they decorated her candle.

Fr. Tony Draper celebrated the Mass with readings from Catherine Cormican, Head Girl and Ramona Ciulei and Leanne O'Dalaigh, Deputy Head Girls. The Gospel was from Matthew 5:14-17, "The Sermon on the Mount", which says that we are the light of the world.

A representative from each class, a parent and a member of staff each read a Prayer of the Faithful. The Offertory Procession was preceded by four Irish Dancers: Leanne O'Dalaigh, Danielle Slattery, Rachel Harding and Shonagh Rooney, who greatly enhanced the ceremony with their beautiful dancing. This was followed by a reverential

Second Year Retreats

Retreats have become an important part of the school's diary for second years. Once again all second year classes were given a day retreat in the Ruah Retreat Centre on St. Alphonsus Road, Drumcondra. This retreat was a great opportunity for the classes to reflect and to take time out from their busy lives to think about the greater things in life. They learned a lot about themselves and about others in their class. The retreat facilitators were full of praise for the group and the second year students themselves said that they really loved the day and they felt it was something they would always remember.

Mr. C. Coll

dressing of the Altar and the bringing up of the Gifts.

After Communion, Ciara Mangan read out a poem she had written about her time in school by way of a Reflection and then Helen Kelly, Lorna St. Ledger and Michelle Dowling performed a beautiful interpretative dance accompanied by Catherine Murphy, Catherine Cormican and Ailish Kelly. This all showed the wealth of talent among our sixth year students which we were able to celebrate during our ceremony.

After the Mass, Mrs Lennon addressed the students and their parents and then she and Ms Murphy presented the students with their emblems and certificates, followed by the presentation of the Margaret Aylward Award. All were greeted with great enthusiasm by the students. The Head Girl and Deputies then gave their speeches and finally the choir closed proceedings with a selection of well chosen songs.

A great night was had by all and we would like to thank Fr. Tony Draper for making the occasion so memorable with his Homily and words during the Mass.

We would also like to thank Ms O'Rourke and Mr Coll for the beautiful music and singing which greatly enhanced the night, Ms Moggan for the balloons and Ms Kavanagh and the third year girls for the beautiful new paintings behind the Altar.

We would like to wish the girls health, happiness and success in the future.

Ms. L Bohan, Ms. F. Kavanagh

Faith Friends 2011

We were very happy to continue the tradition of Faith Friends again this year. Two of our fifth year classes; Bronte and Austen, were paired up with Ms Phelan's and Ms Moran's sixth classes in St. Brigid's school.

Faith Friends began on the 18th January when the fifth year Faith Friends went to St. Brigid's school to work on worksheets with the sixth class pupils and to talk to them about their own experience of Confirmation. Over the following three weeks the girls got to know each other better ensuring there will be friendly faces when the sixth class girls come to St. Mary's next year.

Then on 8th February two Prayer Services were held in

the Prayer Room where Ms Phelan's and Ms. Moran's classes were given certificates by their Faith Friends. Prayers were said and some members of the choir led the girls in song. Finally, the girls were given the Confirmation cards by their Faith Friends and received thank you cards in return.

We would like to thank the girls of Bronte and Austen for the enthusiasm, dedication and great sense of spirituality they exhibited at all times. They made Faith Friends a very memorable and enjoyable occasion for all this year.

Ms. L. Bohan, Ms. M. Byrne

The Novena of Grace

Each year St. Mary's school honours the memory of St Francis Xavier by taking part in The Novena of Grace. The Novena took place from the 7th to the 11th of March.

Students were invited to the prayer room during lunchtime everyday to pray the Novena of Grace. It is traditional to pray the Novena for a particular intention: to ask for what you desire from God, to pray for your own needs, those of your loved ones, or the needs of the world. It was also an

opportunity for both staff and students to take time out from the day and sit quietly in reflection.

Prayer

Most amiable and most loving Saint Francis Xavier, in union with thee I reverently adore the Divine Majesty. I rejoice exceedingly on account of the marvellous gifts which God bestowed upon thee. I thank God for the special graces He gave thee during thy life on earth and for the great glory that came to thee after thy death. I implore thee to obtain for me, through thy powerful intercession, the greatest of all blessings—that of living and dying in the state of grace. I also beg of thee to secure for me the special favour I ask in this novena. *(Here you may mention the grace, spiritual or temporal, that you wish to obtain.)* In asking this favour, I am fully resigned to the Divine Will. I pray and desire only to obtain that which is most conducive to the greater glory of God and the greater good of my soul. *Amen.*

Ms. C Murtagh

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Chemistry Scifest

When our Chemistry teacher, Mr. Carr, came to us with the idea of doing a science project for Scifest 2011 we were excited but it seemed so far away. We found out that we had a lot of hard work to do, but we did it all over three months. Finally on the 14th April it all came to a climax when we headed to St. Kevin's D.I.T. to compete. There were many different projects, showing so many different aspects of science, it was really interesting to see. We were judged by two different members of D.I.T. and had to answer so many questions and explain concepts that we felt like true PhD students! Our project was to investigate the anti-microbial properties of different metals and variations of concentration of those metals. In other words, we were testing out silver, copper and calcium to see which metal is most effective against bacteria and fungi, and to see if you have a more concentrated dose, would



Fifth year Chemistry students Niamh McArdle, Aoife Harbison and Aisling Ahern after winning their awards at Scifest 2011 for their project on 'Homicidal Hydrogels' which was placed second in the Senior 'Physical Sciences' category.

it kill more bacteria? We had fun looking at all the different projects and getting free lunch in the cafeteria. We even heard a mini-lecture from a computer scientist. Then the results were in! We came second in our category so we were pleased. It was an added bonus that we got a twenty euro "One4All" voucher each as well! The day was exceptionally interesting and it felt nice that we had won an award for all the effort and work we had done.

We have decided to continue on with the project, and it's only onwards and upwards from here...next comes the BT Young Scientist!

Aisling Ahern, Aoife Harbison and Niamh McArdle

Junior Science



Third year Science students Roslyn Colgan, Rana Khalil and Ranzanallie Caranay with their teacher Mr. Carr and Dr. Malachy McCann of the Department of Chemistry NUI Maynooth. The girls are holding awards they received during the mid-term break from Dr. McCann for their work on a project last year, 'Designing Magic Matches'.

The full article can be read on <http://www.chemistry.nuim.ie/news.htm>

All second year science students participated in a crystal growing competition. The winning crystals were submitted to DCU Chemical Sciences department where they will be judged against other competing schools. Congratulations to the two winning groups from St. Mary's: Kate McNamara, Aisling O'Riordan and Eimear Tunstead and Aoife Byrne, Niamh Hyland and Amber Lindsay.

Well done to all third year science students who completed their investigations and reports for their Junior Certificate exam.

Biology

Genetics Survey

In January, many fifth year Biology students completed a survey on their attitudes to Genetics. The information compiled was used for research by Trinity College Dublin.

Irish Blood Transfusion Service



Many fifth year Biology students were made aware of the importance of blood donation. The students watched a DVD about the significance of giving blood as

it informed them about what the process involves and how to become a donor. The girls learnt that the Irish Blood Transfusion Service is constantly seeking new donors who are a minimum of eighteen years of age as about 3,000 donations are needed per week to keep pace with the demand. There is no substitute for human blood and one in four people will need a transfusion at some point in their lives. After watching it the students participated in a quiz and many students expressed an interest in donating blood at some time in the future.

Ms. B. Nolan, Mr. E. Carr, Ms. R. McCormack, Ms. M. O'Donnell and Ms. O. O'Keefe

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

"Take Away My Way"

Congratulations to all the first years who took part in the recent cookery competition, "Take Away My Way".....It was an initiative run by St. Angela's college for Home Economics in Sligo and was introduced to the first years by Ms. Walsh. The girls were really enthusiastic to take part. The students had to cook and serve a dish that one would find in a take away and recreate it in a healthy and nutritious way, also taking into consideration that it must not be too expensive!! Some of the dishes produced were: spring rolls; chicken chow mein; sweet and sour chicken; spicy chicken noodles; yeast based pizza and chicken sweet-corn and noodle soup.

The competition prize would allow the students a day in Sligo with a professional chef where they would make the dish again and get an insight into the world of professional cooking.

Ms. C. Walsh

T.Y. Teacher Lunch

"Twelfth Night" was a huge success as the T.Y. production this year in St. Mary's. The T.Y.s organized a teacher lunch with soup and sandwiches to help raise funds for the play. This went down a treat with staff. Well done girls!

Ms. C. Walsh

"Little Chefs" Cookery Club



With enthusiasm, the little chef's cookery club continued after Christmas for a few weeks. Again the girls gained confidence in their culinary skills and loved the relaxed atmosphere. We will be starting the club again next year in September, so we look forward to more exciting dishes and new ideas ...

Ms. E. Doheny & Ms. C. Walsh

Junior certificate Cookery Exams

Well done to all third years Home Economics students, who successfully completed their Food and Culinary Skills

Exam in April. We are extremely proud of you! The levels of preparation and enthusiasm that the girls showed in the weeks leading up to the exam were immense and showed dedication and great organisational skills. Some dishes prepared were: potato and leek soup with a vegetable stir-fry and noodles; chicken a la king with boiled rice; queen cakes with a butter icing with coconut buns; chicken korma with boiled rice and raita; wholegrain pasta chicken and tomato bake with a mixed fruit smoothie and pear and berry Crumble with a vegetable stir-fry with noodles.

Well done girls!

Ms. E. Doheny & Ms. T. Aird

"Ready, Steady, Cook" ... St. Kevin's...

Well done to all the students from St. Kevin's who completed another great year in St. Mary's. The students were fantastic and enjoyed the module, which focused on dishes that would help them in their future lives whether living as students or at home. The link between St. Mary's and St. Kevin's has proved to be very successful over the last two years and opens the door for further co-operation between both schools next year. It is great to see such an event take place, as the boys seem to really enjoy the classes each

week. The girls from St. Mary's undertook first aid, woodwork and metalwork and again have really enjoyed this opportunity to do subjects that they might never have been able to do otherwise. Who knows ..next year may take on an even more exciting schedule?



The boys from St. Kevins hard at work

T.Y. Recipe Book

Entitled "Future foods", the T.Y. students are undertaking to make their very own recipe book ideal for school or college students. It will contain simple yet nourishing

recipes that will encourage the idea of home cooking and nutritious cooking... Hope it goes well girls.



Junior Certificate Cushions Bring a Book, Buy a Book

Many students donated and bought books for the *Bring a Book, Buy a Book* initiative in aid of St. Michael's House. A sale was held in the library and €200.00 was raised. Thanks to everyone who got involved and contributed to such a worthy cause.



Lauren Clark, Aijun Xu, Sandra Joshy, Antonia Blankenberg, Niamh Whelan Back: Ms. Sllivan



Niamh Whelan, Lauren Clark, Antonia Blankenberg, Aijin Xu, Sandra Joshy



Lauren Clark, Aijin Xu, Sandra Joshy, Antonia Blankenberg, Niamh Whelan

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Stratford-upon-Avon Trip

On Friday 4th March, thirty one senior students and four teachers travelled on the English department trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England. This town is the home of William Shakespeare, the famous poet and playwright.

Friday morning started with an early morning walk around the beautiful Tudor town and the group visited many important locations in Shakespeare's life including his birthplace, grammar school, final home and grave. A dramatic and fun-filled workshop with an experienced actor from the Royal Shakespeare Company followed. He gave the girls insights into the world of theatre and the acting profession.

There was great excitement in the town of Stratford that day as the Queen was making a royal visit. She arrived to open the new playhouse and was given a private performance of the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet". The girls were able to join the vast crowds of royal fans, and some students even managed to get pictures of the Queen (and a wave) as she passed by.

That evening, the group attended the opening night of "Romeo and Juliet". The production was spectacular, featuring violent swordfights and a fiery set-design. The cast gave excellent performances, including Northern Irish actor Johnjo O'Neill as the cheeky Mercutio.

Guided tours of Shakespeare's birthplace and Anne Hathaway's picturesque cottage took place the following morning. The girls were then at their leisure for lunch and shopping in some of the quaint Stratford stores during the afternoon. The group returned safely to Dublin that evening.

The English Department would like to thank all the students who travelled for their excellent behaviour and participation. They would also like to express their appreciation to all parents and staff who supported the trip.

Ms. D.Callan



Anne Hathaway's cottage



Stratford-upon-Avon



Students outside Shakespeare's house

Author Visit



Top: Students taking part in the Marilyn Taylor Workshop. Above left: Marilyn Taylor. Above right: Sr. Maria, Marilyn Taylor and Ms. Sullivan



On Friday 11th March, author Marilyn Taylor visited The Mary Carroll Library. Nineteen students from 1st to 3rd year attended a workshop with Marilyn. They listened to a very interesting speech about *17 Martin Street* and *Faraway Home*, Marilyn's historical fiction novels, which are set in Dublin. Marilyn then led students in a creative writing workshop. She was very impressed with the standard of writing from the students, and thinks we have some budding novelists! Marilyn kindly signed copies of her books, which are available for borrowing from the library.

Book and Breakfast

On Wednesday 9th March many students participated in *Book and Breakfast* in the English room. Everything from croissants to muffins was available as students enjoyed a tasty breakfast. All students brought along books and read them as they munched on the yummy food. A great way to start the day!

Ms. L. Sullivan



Amy Rehnham and Keiligh Coulahan

Clodagh Ford, Jade Croghan (back) and Megan Dunne



Mairead Lowther, Eimear Tunstead, Ciara King

School Cinema – Lights! Camera! Action!

“Cinema 2000” has had a makeover! This would not have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of Mrs Lennon and Ms Murphy. Sincere thanks to them both.

St. Mary’s students are privileged to have a school cinema which greatly enhances the teaching and learning in the school. All subject areas use the cinema, but it is of special importance to the English department. Leaving Certificate students of English study film as part of their syllabus and Junior Certificate students get to see film versions of their texts. Transition Year students have a “Film Studies” module which helps them prepare for the senior course. This year they studied the “Teen Genre”, watching films such as “Mean Creek”, “The Breakfast Club”, “Maria, Full of Grace”, “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” etc. There is an afterschool film club where

students can relax and watch films at their leisure.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to our caretakers Noel, Gerry and Matthew. They worked very hard over the Easter break to refurbish the cinema. Plasterwork was repaired, some serious cleaning was done and the cinema was repainted. They have installed new shelving for our increasing supply of DVDs. Noel’s talent for interior design came to the fore as he chose such an attractive colour scheme and organised the hanging of our movie pictures and posters. We would like to acknowledge their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm by saying a big “thank you” to them.

Let’s all show our appreciation of their endeavours by keeping the cinema in tiptop condition – a facility we can be very proud of and which we are lucky to have.

That’s all, folks!

Ms. C. Nolan

The Mary Carroll Library

Thank you to Sr Maria Consilio for her hard work and enthusiasm in maintaining our school library. She is a welcoming presence to all and is always very helpful. 1 Allen students enjoyed their visits to the library and were inspired to do some amazing book reviews as a result! Keep up the reading, girls, and well done!

Ms C. Nolan

The Mary Carroll Library – Competition News

Thank you to all who entered our Design a Book Cover Competition. The standard was excellent.

Congratulations to our winners:

1st : Clare Purvis (2 Lee)

2nd: Aijin Xu (2 Corrib)

3rd: Antonia Blankenberg (2 Shannon)

Special Mention:

April Lamai (1 Derg)

Niamh Gavin (1 Allen)

Jessica Moran (1 Allen)

Ghdír Abbas (1 Allen)

The Creative Writing Club

The Creative Writing Club with Ms. Maguire and Ms. Sullivan met every Friday at 1.10 in the library. New members are always welcome! We put together a creative writing magazine this term, following the success of our Christmas magazine. Students, even non-members, were invited to submit stories, poems, photos or drawings.

Book Buddies

The new reading group **Book Buddies** met in the library every Wednesday at 3.10. It provided students with a chance to read quietly and to chat with others about what they were reading, while enjoying some refreshments.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Holocaust Survivor visits St. Mary’s

Tomi Reichental, who lost thirty five members of his family in the Holocaust, recently visited senior history students in St. Mary’s to give his account of being imprisoned as a child in Belsen.

Tomi Reichental was nine-years old in October 1944 when he was rounded up by the Gestapo in Bratislava. Along with twelve other members of his family he was taken to a detention camp. Tomi, his mother Judith, his brother Miki, his granny Rosalia and two other relatives were dumped into a cattle wagon on a train bound for Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The others were sent to the slave labour camp at Buchenwald, where inmates were worked to death. It took seven days and nights for the train to arrive at Belsen. All together, thirty five members of the

Leaving Certificate History students completed twenty per cent of their History exam when they wrote up their Research Reports on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th March. We wish the girls every success in June and in their future careers.



Reichental family – grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins – died in the Holocaust.

For fifty five years, Tomi didn’t speak of his experiences

“Not because I didn’t want to, but because I couldn’t.”

Since breaking his silence he has been on a mission of remembrance. As one of only three Holocaust survivors left in Ireland, Tomi is mindful that the horrors of the Holocaust will soon pass from memory to history.

“The Holocaust happened and it can happen again, and every one of us, has a solemn duty to ensure that nothing like it ever occurs again”

Tomi puts it very simply: *“In the last couple of years I realised that, as one of the last witnesses, I must speak out.”*

Tomi’s story is a story of the past. It is also a story for us to remember today. The Holocaust reminds us of the dangers of **racism and intolerance**.

“... The Holocaust didn’t start with cattle wagons and gas chambers, but with whispers, taunts, daubing and then abuse and murder. One of the lessons we must learn is to respect difference and reject all forms of racism and discrimination.”

Ms. G. Lehane



Tomi Reichental



Fifth and Sixth Year presentation

A 6th year's Account of Tomi's Visit

When we were told that a Holocaust survivor was coming in to talk to us, everyone was excited at getting a first-hand account of his experiences, as we had never heard the story of the Holocaust from a personal perspective.

On our way down to the hall, we were all expecting him to be an old, weak emotional man who would be quiet and nervous. To our surprise, we were greeted by a friendly, lively, happy man, who one would never guess was in his seventies. He began the talk by giving us background information on himself and on what his life was like in Slovakia before the Holocaust. He also wore the Star of David on his jumper for the entire talk which really added to the effect of the experience. He described how his life changed and how in school other children would spit on him, which he vividly remembers, even though he was six when this happened. He told us

about how he managed to leave his village with his mother and brother by getting forged Catholic papers and lessons in Catholicism from a local priest. His father was captured, but managed to escape while being transported and joined a resistance movement in Slovakia. We all found this to be very interesting.

He then went on to tell us about when he was captured by the Gestapo and brought to Bergen-Belson. Seeing as it was towards the end of the war (1944), the gas chambers had been blown up, so he wasn't taken to Auschwitz. However, if he had been captured even a week earlier he would have been gassed.

He described the poor conditions of the camp, how he wore the same clothes for six months and experienced the smell of the thousands of bodies decomposing around him. Also, how he as a boy of nine years old, would have to stand for roll call in temperatures of up to minus twenty five for hours. He told us about his liberation from the

camp and about how he had to stay in quarantine after it, because of the outbreak of typhoid.

We learned that thirty of his family members died in the camps and it took him months to be reunited with his father. He hadn't known if he was alive or dead. The thing we found most upsetting was that for fifty years Tomi wasn't able to speak about the Holocaust to anyone and only began talking about it a few years ago, getting very emotional when he began giving lectures.

The talk lasted the best part of two hours, but he had our attention from start to finish. It was so interesting we easily would have stayed longer to listen to him. We were able to ask him questions about it all and he gave detailed answers. Afterwards a representative from each fifth and sixth year history class presented Tomi with the €150 donation to the Holocaust Memorial fund. He was very grateful for this contribution.

Amy Campbell 6.37

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

NFTE

The Business department is delighted with the enthusiasm and success of all the different businesses that participated in the NFTE programme this year. Since September the girls have been setting up and running their businesses and selling their products in the many fairs we held in the school. Some businesses even got the opportunity to attend the Christmas Trade Fair in the RDS. The girls' products went down a storm at the fair and the revenue the girls took in was phenomenal. At the fair we had Paulina and Caroline with 'Beads to Strings' bracelets, Nadine and Siobhan with 'Scented Sensations' candles, Mollie and Hannah with 'Jeanius' denim hand made pencil cases and Jade with 'Jade's Jars' home made jams.

The girls did exceptional jobs on their business plans and all companies entered their business plans in the NFTE 'Biz Plan' Competition. On the 31st March each business presented its business plan to two NFTE judges explaining its business

concepts and its financial information. The two judges were Conor Herlihy and Derek Dunne from AIB Phibsboro. Both judges said that the businesses were extremely innovative and that the standard of the presentation skills was exceptional. As daunting as the experience was for the students having to do a fifteen minute presentation, each girl thoroughly enjoyed the experience as it was such a positive one.

However there could only be one winning company. The winner of the class competition was Jessica Corbally with her vintage scarf business 'Vintage Boho'. Jessica's business success can be widely seen throughout the school where she has single handedly set this new fashion trend. Jessica went on to represent St Mary's in the All-Ireland NFTE Business Plan competition in DCU on 11th April.

Since October the girls have done a fantastic job and there are definitely some budding entrepreneurs in our midst. To celebrate the success and end of the TY NFTE programme all participants attended the All

Ireland NFTE Awards Ceremony which was held in the Helix in DCU on 5th May. This was a great day and was a great opportunity for the girls to mix with other NFTE student from all over Ireland. Another trade fair was held there and a number of our companies had the opportunity for one last sales boost. So congratulations girls on all your hard work during the year. We hope that your businesses continue to prosper and who knows maybe... one of you could be on the way to making your first million.

LCVP

The 5th year LCVP class has been working very well all year and put great effort into our fundraising activity for the Central Remedial Clinic in Clontarf at Christmas. The girls have also completed a week's work experience during their February mid-term break. We would like to thank all the employers who kindly allowed the girls to carry out their work experience. The employers' reports on the students' efforts were exceptional. So well done girls.

The 6th year LCVP class has completed projects which were successfully handed in by all candidates on 15th April. The girls also sat the recorded interview section of their exam on Tuesday 22nd March. All candidates sat the LCVP exam on May 4th where candidates were examined on their activities over the two year course. Well done to all the girls who have worked hard throughout the two years and we wish you every success in the future.

Ms Griffin, Ms Lehane, Ms Ni Luing and Mr Donnelly

Fifth Year Mystery Trip

Fifth year students finally solved the mystery destination of their school trip when they arrived at Lough Key Forrest Park in Co. Roscommon on Wednesday 18th May. They had guessed nearly every county in Ireland except Roscommon! We're glad to report that they were pleasantly surprised as it was a great day. Even though it was an early start and they were late back that evening the girls enjoyed some good fun at the Bodh Borg. In teams they tried to make

their way through a maze of rooms. You could only follow on to the next room when you had solved the puzzle in the room that you were in. So there was a lot of scratching of the heads!! Overall it was a great day and an excellent way to end a very good year in Fifth year.

Ms. O. Griffin & Ms. M. Byrne

Friendship Week

Friendship Week took place this year from March 7th to 13th. Our theme this year was simply 'Be Kind'. Assemblies were held for all year groups on Monday morning. The students were introduced to Friendship Week and were encouraged to make that extra effort during the week to do a 'Random Act of Kindness'. During the week every student recorded a random act of kindness that they experienced, witnessed or did. These acts of kindness were then recorded on the walls of three corridors. All first years took part in a workshop in the library. For this they took time out to explore what it would be like to be in someone else's shoes and how they would treat that person. Also during SPHE class and Religion classes all students filled out a class 'Charter of Kindness'. For this they had to agree on four rules of kindness that the class had to follow.

Ms. M. Byrne

CSPE

As part of its CSPE Action Project, Class 2 Liffey decided to raise awareness about battery recycling. Students divided into committees and targeted different sections of the community. They visited St. Brigid's Primary School and gave a talk to a 4th class. They designed a mascot called, "Bobby the Battery Bear", and presented him to the primary students, who were delighted with the new addition to their classroom! Class 2 Liffey targeted first and second year students in St. Mary's, and gave a prize to the class that collected the most batteries. Finally students visited the Holy Faith Convent, and spoke to the nuns about battery recycling. They gave posters and battery boxes to the nuns. Students were shown around the Convent chapel which they really enjoyed. Class 2 Liffey has documented its project through photos and a video. The project has been a great success and the students have certainly succeeded in raising awareness about battery recycling!

Ms. L. Sullivan.

2 Shannon

Class 2 Shannon was delighted to get an opportunity to visit the Criminal Courts of Justice, on April 1st, for their Junior

Digital Creator

This year a new module was started in Fifth year. A group of students was selected to take part. One of the programmes the girls have been working on in this module is a new course called 'Digital Creator'. This is a course that is run and organised by Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design. The students involved have so far completed one core assignment called 'Digital Media'. During this assignment the students had to learn how to take digital images, upload them, edit them and then create a slideshow of their work. The girls had regular assignments to complete which were uploaded and sent to IADT to be graded.

There has been a marked improvement in the quality of the work that the girls are producing. The following are just samples of their work.

Ms. M. Byrne, Ms. A. Boran, Ms. J. Byrne



Digital Creator Photos



The sisters in Holy Faith Convent



Class 2 Liffey

Certificate Action Project. They took part in an impressive mock trial in one of the courtrooms in the state of the art building on Parkgate Street. The students also got to sit in on a criminal and a civil trial. It was both a memorable and a highly educational trip. It was an excellent way for St. Mary's students to learn how the courts system in Ireland operates. 2 Shannon wrote their reports on the visit.

2 Lee

After studying animal welfare, class 2 Lee was keen to work on an Action Project on the care of domestic animals. They voted to carry out an awareness campaign about "Dogs Trust Ireland". They designed excellent posters to raise awareness about the work of "Dogs Trust". They also collected blankets from the school community to bring to the care centre. The class was invited to visit "Dogs Trust" to see what life is like for the dogs there. The pupils took a tour of the centre and had an educational talk. As well as having a lovely time looking at the dogs and, of course, the puppies in the Puppy Palace, the students learned many different facts about the welfare of domestic animals in Ireland.

Ms. A. Maguire

Computer Club

The computer club was well attended all year at lunchtime on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday. Many students used this facility to research and write projects, write CVs and play authorised online games. Some girls even used the computer club time to apply online for the mini marathon! Thanks to the six teachers who supervised the club throughout the year.

Ms. M. O'Donnell

Art Department

Our first year students completed several projects in a variety of disciplines. Their painting project gave them an opportunity to use their knowledge of mixing colours, shades and tints to create three dimensional realism, to introduce pattern and to add depth to their individual paintings. They modelled and painted clay "funky fish". Each one is bright, funny and colourful. Using clay they created slabs of zoomorphic design using inlay techniques, fired in the kiln, and painted clay tiles based on observed portraits. The art students also created designs for t-shirts which promoted the sponsored walk in the school. Each experimented with typography and image to create interesting graphic designs. The large lino-printing inspired by the work of Belfast artist John Kindness is on display in the school and was a fantastic achievement in group project work. Other printing projects included a scheme based on designing and printing the initials of the students' names inspired by ancient Irish manuscripts such as The Book of Kells. There was also time for a textile 'Dream Catcher' project using embroidery, collage, applique and beading. Finally congratulations to Orleigh King in 1 Allen who was awarded the school's medal for her book cover entry for Mental Health Ireland.

Ms. Keogh has sewn together all the wonderful embroidery panels created by our second years which are on display in the school. Second year students have also worked on a graphics project portraying individual idioms. Each student learnt how to graph letters and create a composition that represented the meaning of her idiom. They also completed lino-printing projects using their horoscope star signs as inspiration and have successfully created abstract paintings of animals using their knowledge of colour theory.

May was a great month for our Third Year students. After all their hard work and dedication they completed their Junior Certificate Art projects and drawing exams. Each project is a unique response to themes that explored all the art elements. The students' work is skilled, diverse, imaginative and a credit to them. We wish them well in all



First Year Clay Fish

their exams in June. Well done girls.

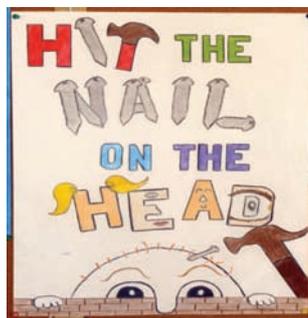
Many congratulations also to Patricia O'Beirne and Emma O'Reilly 4.23 who participated in the D.I.Y. T.Y. annual competition held in St. Michael's Holy Faith School in Finglas. Patricia and her group won second prize for her costume "Junk Mayhem". It was made entirely from crisp packets which explored the idea that teenagers are eating too many fatty foods. Emma won the prize for creativity. Her costume "Recession Buster" portrayed the value of money in times of recession. Both students performed fantastically well on stage and truly deserved their wins. Transition Year students also created a wall panel of clay tiles that explore and express the shapes and images present in typographical design.



First Year Clay Panel



Second Year Clay Work



Second Year Graphic Work



Fifth Year Clay Panel

Transition Year D.I.Y. Competition 2011



The D.I.Y. fashion show was held in St. Michael's Holy Faith Secondary School, Finglas. Our Art module group was chosen to make an outfit. After weeks of collecting crisp packets we completed the dress together. Our team of four included Kym Robinson, Aoife Nolan, Shauna Walsh and myself. Emma O'Reilly also entered an outfit. Both costumes were made from recycled materials. We performed our routines separately on the night. Our group won second prize for 'Junk Mayhem', while Emma's 'Recession Buster' dress won the prize for most creative costume. It was definitely a great experience.

Patricia O'Beirne, 4.23

Our fifth year students spent time on an intense drawing block focusing on the study of the human form and Still Life observations in preparation for their exam next year. They also produced painted relief clay tiles exploring forms and textures found in the animal kingdom.

Sixth year students have completed their art practical exams for the Leaving Certificate 2011 in Still Life Composition, Craft and Life-drawing. We wish them well in their Art History exam in June and hope that all the budding young artists share with the world their unique talent and creativity.

Ms. C. Kavanagh, Ms. M. Keogh



Fifth Year Embroidery



Sixth Year Still Life



First Year Clay Tile in relief



Sixth Year Still Life



First Year Lino Block



First Year Portraits – Clay Tile in relief



Cover competition for Mental Health Ireland

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Incoming First Years



Entrance exams for First Year students took place on Saturday 5th February.

To help facilitate the transition from Primary school to Secondary school we visited the Primary schools and talked to the sixth class teachers about the students' progress and interests. There was a very positive information meeting with the parents of incoming first years on Tuesday 22nd of March to review the issues for students and parents and to initiate our long term partnership for the next five or six years. To further this partnership we invited any of the incoming first year parents to make an appointment at the end of May for an informal interview with a member of the Care Team.

Second Year Subject Choice



There was a meeting with the parents of the present first year students on Monday March 14th to look at subject

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



ACADEMIA – European Exchange of Guidance Practitioners

Four Guidance Counsellors from Europe, Ulla Yli-Hongisto and Hikka Helavouri from Finland, Barbara Rosina from Italy and Patricia Bouscharain from France spent the day 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.

Third Years



The third year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS) in December. This was to help those going on into fifth year with making their subject choices. They each received a booklet outlining what was involved in the study of subjects for the Traditional Leaving Certificate. Each third year student had a meeting with the guidance counsellors to get feedback on the results of her DATS. The third year students, with their parents, attended a meeting on Monday March 7th to look at the options for next year in regard to Transition Year, fifth year and LCVP.

Skills Schools Programme

The Fingal Centre presented the living Skills Schools programme to class 5 Bronte over a two day period. The programme looked at Alcohol and Drug Awareness, Sexual Health Awareness and Positive Choices. The Fingal Centre provides community, family and employment support to the people of Finglas and the surrounding area.

DCU Access Programmes

DCU Access Service Student Shadowing Day

A number of our fifth year students took part in a variety of DCU programmes which encourage students to start thinking about Third Level.

Ten fifth year students took part in the DCU Access Service Student Shadowing Day on Tuesday 1st March. It 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 a 1st or 2nd year students in a faculty of their choice. The students really enjoyed their experience on campus and found it very worthwhile. The students who participated were Elizabeth Ford, Nicole Mountaine, Nicola O'Brien, Leanne Fetherstone, Sinead Mahon, Roseanne Brabazon, Rachel Nugent, Lorna Dunne, Irene Falvey and Olga Mulhall.

DCU Easter Revision Courses

Sixth year 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.

Take Five Programme

"Take Five" is a programme open to one of our fifth year students to explore the five different colleges over a five day period in June. These colleges are DCU, UCD, Trinity College, NUI Maynooth and DIT. The successful student chosen for the programme is Karen Cullen from 5 Bronte who will participate in taster-college activities such as attending lectures and workshops and visiting laboratories, taking part in sports and visiting sites around campus.

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

Sixth Years

College Talks

Students had the opportunity to participate in talks with FETAC colleges during January. Speakers from Colaiste Dhulaigh, Killester College, Marino College and IT Tallaght were in attendance. Students learned about the variety of courses on offer at each college and had the opportunity to ask questions and find out information in advance of their FETAC interviews and CAO deadline.



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



FETAC

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

We wish all of our sixth year students every success in their Leaving Certificate and look forward to linking in with them in mid August for the results. 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.

Mrs. C. Downey & Ms. F. Devaney

MODERN LANGUAGES



Europe Day

Europe Day May 9th was celebrated in St Mary's school with a focus on highlighting the three European languages studied in the school: French, German and Spanish. T.Y. students organised a tri-lingual quiz for first year pupils.

All students were encouraged to "Parler francais", "Hablar espanol" and "Sprechen die Deutsch" on the day.

Mrs. A. Hughes

Spanish Department

Well done to all 6th year students who completed their oral Spanish exams in May. We wish them good luck in the June exams.

The two 5th year Spanish classes came together to enjoy a Spanish lunch and speak Spanish.

The 5th years also went to the IFI to see a Spanish film called "The Spirit of the Beehive."

Mrs. A. Hughes

Modern Languages

The S.E.C. Orals took place in the school from 11th-15th April. The three languages, French, German and Spanish were examined. The Oral examination is an integral part of the Leaving Certificate. The importance of hard work in preparation for this vital examination cannot be stressed enough by all the language teachers. We wish all our Leaving Certificate students success in their examinations in June.

Our first year student body has shown great enthusiasm in the sampling of modern languages this academic year. Students chose to continue to study one of their languages at the end of the school year. We look forward to teaching hard working second years next year.

9th May was Europe Day and in conjunction with Transition year students of European Studies we organised some enjoyable activities to promote European Languages in our school.

Ms. N. Walker

MATHS DEPARTMENT

The following activities took place in the Maths department from January to May 2011. Well done to all the students who participated in the events outlined below.

Maths Engineering Competition

Aisling Ahern, Rachel O'Connell, Jenny Moriarty and Shannen O' Brien entered this competition in January. Due to the small number of students entering in the Dublin area, this Maths event was cancelled. Well done however to the students who put their names forward. They each received a 'goodie bag' from UCC which included school stationery and chocolate.

Junior Mathematics Competition.

All first years participated in the Junior Mathematics competition organised by the Irish Maths Teachers Association. Adela Buliman (class Derg), Michaela Cambe (class Ree), Jessica Corcoran (class Allen), Aoife Murphy (class Erne) and Shauna Sheridan (class Conn) were the class winners of the competition. The aforementioned students received Easter eggs as rewards for being the overall winners in their classes. Aoife Murphy attained the highest score in first year and was awarded a school plaque which was presented to her at the first year awards ceremony.

First Year Maths Club.

The Maths Club took place for first years on Thursdays lunchtime in the library from 1.05-1.25pm. Some first year students engaged in probability tasks as well as simplifying and solving algebraic expressions. Thanks to those transition year students who gave of their time to help out in the club from September to January.

Trinity Involvement with the Maths Department in St. Mary's

Thanks to Mr. Kevin Lynch from Trinity who assisted in the teaching of Maths in some junior and senior classes from January to April with Mr. Hallinan, Ms. Griffin and Ms. O'Donnell.

John Hooper Medal Competition for Statistical Analysis

The goal of this competition was to improve students' abilities to describe their environment with the help of statistics and to use statistics as a tool for making sense of daily life. The students worked in teams of two to three students, investigating real questions using data and they interpreted their statistical results. Their entries were displayed on the Maths notice board. The names of the fifth year entrants from St. Mary's as well as their research title are as follows:

- Things Teenagers Depend On – Irene Falvey and Megan Haverty

- Teenage Lives on the Weekend – Kelly McGuinness and Michelle Gahan
- Misrepresentation of Statistics when Tested on Small Samples – Amy Coleman, Claire Lillis and Rachel O'Connell
- Fat is Back – But what is Fat? – Gráinne Lynch, Jennifer Moriarty and Niamh O' Doherty
- Tattoos – Alison Connell, Elizabeth Gallagher and Emma O'Reilly
- Jobs and Mobs! – Shannen O' Brien and Aisling Ahern
- The Influence of Pop Culture on Teenagers – Hannah Caffrey and Claire O'Brien
- Is it really the End? – Aulin Contredas and Marie Jacinto
- Internet Users of the World in 2010 – Doreen Loma and Patricia Villamar
- Facebook Survey – Lisa Barry, Michelle Owens and Michelle Lynch
- Video Games Statistics – Ria May Beloso and Katherine Garfin

Research into the Impact of Project Maths

The Maths department agreed to take part in research that is to be carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). The NFER has been commissioned by the Department of Education and Skills to research the impact of Project Maths on student motivation, learning

and achievement in Irish schools.

Some Student Reports from those involved in the John Hooper Medal Competition.

We participated in the John Hooper medal Maths competition. All the participants had the chance to choose a topic to survey. We chose 'Things Teenagers Depend On' as we felt that teenagers could relate to and be interested in this. It took us several lunchtimes to complete our survey. To get a variation of answers we surveyed fifty five first years and fifty five fifth year students. We questioned them in relation to everyday dependencies including topics such as friends or make-up. We found that first years had more time for watching TV and going on the internet and relied a lot on their parents for transport. Fifth years depended more on their mobile phones, music and also their religion as a way of reducing stress in their daily lives. We thought it was a great experience to use Maths to highlight factors of everyday student life. We felt proud to see the final product.

Irene Falvey and Megan Haverty.

We entered a poster competition to research how many students used the internet, what sites they were



First Year winners of the IMTA Competition



Fifth Year entrants to the John Hooper Medal Competition

on and how long they spent on each site compared to their daily activities. In our findings, we discovered that most students spent their hours on the internet rather than doing homework, going out with their friends or doing sports.

Kelly McGuinness and Michelle Gahan.

Maths World Day and Maths π Day

Posters were placed around the school for Maths World Day which took place on the 1st March. Some students were made aware that Maths π Day was celebrated across the world on the 14th March.

Maths Talk organised by D.C.U.

Fifth Year honours maths students attended a talk entitled, 'A Morning in Space with Cosmonaut Mikhail

Kornienko,' in the Helix in D.C.U. on Thursday the 14th April. This talk was organised to mark the 50th anniversary of the first manned spaceflight. Mikhail Kornienko talked about his amazing experience of living and working aboard the International Space Station for six months.

Mathematical Modelling Summer School

Fifth Year honours maths students were asked to give their names to Ms. Murphy if they were interested in attending the summer Maths school from the 20th-24th June 2011 at the University of Limerick. The course aims to introduce the ideas of mathematical modelling through lectures, individual and group mathematical modelling activities and industrial visits.

Ms. M. O'Donnell



Fifth Years who attended the talk in D.C.U. given by Mikhail Kornienko

St. Mary's Student Council

On Monday 28th February four senior students from our student council: Aisling Ahern, Meaghan Rose Nel and Melissa Kitchin (all from 5th year), Eve Kavanagh (T.Y.), and Mrs. A. Hughes (Council liaison teacher) attended a student council training evening in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra from 5-8 pm. The training covered topics such as: the role and function of a student council, how to run effective meetings, how to plan activities, create a profile within the school and liaise with the whole school community.

Links were made with student councils from other local schools: St. Kevin's, Ballygall, St. Aidan's, Whitehall, Santa Sabina, Sutton and St. Fintan's, Sutton. It is hoped to organise a joint event such as a table quiz in the near future with one or more of the other student councils.

The evening was very helpful and informative.

Mrs. A. Hughes

Awards Ceremonies

The annual awards ceremonies took place in the month of May for students of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th year. This year saw the introduction of subject awards for the junior year groups. Subject awards for the senior years were introduced in St. Mary's two years ago.

Pupils were rewarded for their excellence and for their dedication to the many subject areas. Awards for cooperation, leadership, debating and extra-curricular activities were also presented.

Well done to all the recipients. We, the staff of St. Mary's, see the award system as an extremely positive way of affirming our student body. So students, remember to work hard in order to reach your potential, show courtesy at all times to both staff and your peers and the world will be your oyster.

Ms. N. Walker
(Co-ordinator of Awards)

Condolences to Japan



An earthquake of magnitude 9 on the Richter Scale occurred in Japan on 11th March 2011. A subsequent tsunami severely affected the entire north east coast and caused widespread loss of life and destruction.

The tsunami also severely damaged the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima Prefecture (north east of Japan; 240km from Tokyo). The situation regarding the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant remains serious and uncertain.

There have been multiple aftershocks since the 11 March earthquake, many of them measuring 5 or higher on the Richter Scale. An earthquake of magnitude 7.4 on the Richter Scale took place on 7th April 2011.

Students from 3 Tory and 1 Allen made cards of support and sympathy as a way of expressing our deepest condolences especially to the victims and their families. The cards were sent to Kamakura Gakuen, a school in Kamakura, Japan which is close to Tokyo. Junior and senior students from the school will write in return, to let students know how they are doing and how everyone in Japan is dealing with this crisis.

ご家族や友人を失ったつらさと向き合い、
この大変な災害を経験している日 本の方々の事を、
忘れずに想い続けてあげてください。
早く復旧できることを 願っています。

Ms. F. Devaney