

Winning Streak for St. Mary's, Glasnevin

1. Business:

- A. Won International NFTE Competition
- B. Finalists in Young Entrepreneur of the Year Competition



2. Science:

BT Young Scientist Competition:
Second place in the "Physical, Mathematical and Chemical Sciences" section



3. Gaelige:

For the first time both Junior and Senior Irish Debating teams reached the Leinster Final.



4. Sports:

Hockey:

Four finals – three wins!

- A. One Junior Leinster League Trophy
- B. Two Northside League Trophies – one Junior, one Senior



Basketball:

Team won Junior Division 1, Dublin SSA League.



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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BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

NFTE

A huge congratulations to the NFTE class of 2012. What a year of success!!!

In a class of thirty two students, there were eighteen different businesses, ranging from scrumptious baked goods and dazzling jewellery to fabulous beauty products. We can confidently say that we are surrounded by inspirational young entrepreneurs.

When the girls undertook the NFTE module in September, they slowly began to realise the commitment and level of work that would be needed for success and we were not let down.

The girls quickly came up with their business ideas and were busy marketing their businesses. It didn't take long for the school community to be aware of what products and services were so easily available in the school at such affordable prices. We organised in-school trade fairs at lunchtime and invited the whole school to attend. These proved to be very profitable for the businesses and they gave a great financial boost to their further expansion.

Many of the businesses then got the opportunity to trade at the RDS Christmas Craft Fair in late November and this was not only a very profitable experience for the girls but also gave the girls a chance to meet with other young entrepreneurs from around Dublin.



Kellie Fitzgerald and Aoife Maguire receiving their international NFTE award in NYC in April.



Kellie Fitzgerald and Aoife Maguire, International Winners with their Business "Finger Tips".



Niamh Hickey and Aileen Keane, Regional Finalists with their business "Naybaileen".



Jessica Corbally, NFTE Alumni student was also presented with a special award at the NFTE finals.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

All this hard work paid off when Kellie Fitzgerald and Aoife Maguire entered the International NFTE Competition on February 2nd, with their business "Finger Tips". The prize was an all expenses paid trip to New York for four nights in April, where they would represent NFTE Ireland and meet all other International NFTE winners. The girls presented their business plan and despite the stiff competition on the day, we got the news that they had won. The girls were on a high, what an achievement! The girls travelled to NYC on April 16th and had an amazing experience and met other inspirational young entrepreneurs from around the world. They have even been offered scholarships to study in the states in the future. Congratulations girls, what an amazing opportunity.

We must also mention the mentoring the class received from Derek Dunne and Tom Forde, AIB Drumcondra. We really appreciate their help and support. Derek even came to the school to judge our in-class competition. Derek was very impressed with the standard and had a very difficult time reaching a decision. After much deliberation, Niamh Hickey and Aileen Keane, were announced as class winners. Niamh and Aileen's business, "Naybaileen" was the imported high quality ELF make up, which as you can imagine was highly popular in a school of eight hundred girls. "Naybaileen" went on to present its business plan in March and won that section of the National competition. The girls were now one of six finalists from all NFTE businesses in Ireland to compete at the NFTE National Awards, to become Young Entrepreneurs of the year. Unfortunately the girls were pipped at the post by Conor Murray of Blanchardstown Youth Service. But what an achievement girls, you did yourselves and the school proud to be one of the six overall finalists. Congratulations to you and all of the NFTE class who have really outdone themselves this year.

What a year!! Can we top it next year? Watch this space.

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



Denise McDonald, Niamh Gibbons, Chloe O'Neill, Andrada Costea and Marie Tuohy at the RDS Crafts Fair in November.



Aoife Maguire of "Finger Tips" giving a personal touch at the RDS Crafts Fair.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

BT Young Scientist Competition

Last January Aisling, Aoife and I competed in the 2012 BT Young Scientist competition in the RDS. We were one of five hundred and fifty projects which qualified to go to the RDS out of one thousand, seven hundred and forty three projects that had entered the competition. The projects were divided into four categories: Chemical Physical & Mathematical (which was our category); Technology; Social & Behavioural and Biological. We were so excited, all our hard work resulted in this moment. The opening ceremony was held on Wednesday the 11th with Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, formally opening the exhibition. From then on we were in competition mode, eager to do our school proud! Over the next three days our project was assessed by several judges, who questioned us in detail about our work. When we weren't being judged we were sussing out the competition and making loads of new friends. We were also able to enjoy the various activities the exhibition had to offer. Although the days were long (really long) we still had a blast and were sad to see the exhibition come to a close. The award ceremony took place on the Friday evening in the BT Arena. The special awards were given out first followed by the category awards. As we waited for our category to come around our hopes of winning a prize were fading. Eventually it was time to give the prizes for the Chemical, Physical and Mathematical section. The senior prizes were the last to be given out. Third place was announced first and when it wasn't us our spirits were low. Then we heard our names being called out to receive the second prize. With a shared look of bewilderment we headed to the stage to receive our prize. We were on cloud nine and so was our teacher Mr. Carr who had to refrain from jumping out of his seat with excitement. After a few pictures we headed home for a well deserved rest.

The experience we had and the friends we made at the exhibition were incredible. The support and encouragement from our teacher Mr. Carr did not go unnoticed. We are extremely grateful for all his help and hard work. Thanks sir!!! We would also like to thank everyone who came over to the RDS to support us, it was very much appreciated. Thank you also to all the staff and pupils who congratulated us on our return. It was a fantastic week and one none of us will forget!

Niamh McArdle



Minister of State for Development and Trade, Joe Costello, T.D., Aoife Harbison, Aisling Ahern and Niamh McArdle

We were delighted in St. Mary's to receive an email on behalf of Minister of State for Development and Trade, Mr. Joe Costello, T.D., congratulating our students for their participation and success in the BT Young Scientist Competition in the RDS.

Mr. E. Carr

Well done to all the students who took part in the St. Mary's Young Scientist Competition which took place in January.

Congratulations to Niamh Gavin and Megan Hayes from second year who were the overall winners.

Ms. Nolan and Ms. O'Keeffe

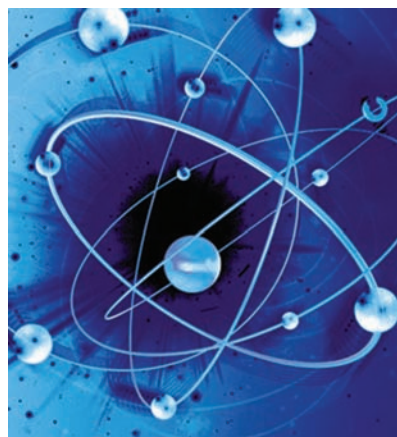
Biology

A group of fifth year Biology students attended a drama entitled, 'Stopping the Spread of Superbugs' in the auditorium of the Convention Centre in Dublin on Wednesday the 28th March from 6.30 to 8.00pm. It was a fast-moving, hospital-based drama where the audience could get involved by questioning the experts! Dr. Anthony Hilton guided the students through the scientific and ethical issues faced by infection control professionals and patients alike. The students enjoyed the experience and found it related well to the microbiology aspect of their course.



Ms. M. O'Donnell

TY Physics



Well done to the TY Physics students who submitted a question to the Irish Independent newspaper. On May 1st, The Science for Life supplement featured the question: "How come we can't cure the common cold?" Roisin Cregan's picture was featured in the paper as a representative from the class.

Congratulation to Claire Slevin from transition year who recently won a place to attend CRANN (Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices) at Trinity College.

Ms. Nolan and Ms. Compelli

Comórtas Díospóireachta Ghael Linn

Don chéad uair riamh d'éirigh leis an bhfoireann shinsearach agus leis an bhfoireann shóisearach áit a shroichint sa Chraobh Reigiúnach ar an 29ú Márta. Bhí na díospóireachtaí ar siúl in óstán an Glenroyal, Maigh Nuad, agus d'fhreastail lucht tacaíochta ollmhór ónár scoil ar an ócáid ghaelach seo. Is é an rún a bhí á phlé ag an bhfoireann shóisearach ná 'Tá áit go fóill ag an reiligiún i saol an déagóra in Éirinn'. Bhí na cailíní seo a leanas ag díospóireacht ar son na scoile – Eliza Corpus (captaen); Ella Mae Cruz (cainteoir 2); Adela Bulliman (cainteoir 3)

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

- Meánscoil naomh Mhuire, Glasnaíon, BÁC
- Coláiste Chiaráin, Léim an Bhradáin, Co. Chill Dara
- Coláiste De La sale, Dún Dealgan, Co. Lú
- Meánscoil Iosaif Naofa, Leamhcán, BÁC

Ní dheachaigh ach foireann amháin ar aghaidh go dtí Craobh na hÉireann (Meánscoil Iosaif Naofa, Leamhcán). Bronnadh trófaíthe ar na cailíní cé nár bhuaigh siad an leibhéal sin den chomórtas. Molaim na cailíní us ucht na hoibre go léir a rinne said ag ullmhú do na díospóireachtaí.

Is é an rún a bhí á phlé ag an bhfoireann shinsearach ná 'is méanar dóibh siúd atá fostaithe san earnáil phoiblí in Éirinn'. Bhí foireann na scoile seo ag díospóireacht i gcoinne an rúin. Cé go raibh na cailíní an-chumhachtach agus an-mhaith, níor éirigh leo áit a fháil i gcraobh na hÉireann. Rinne siad an-iarracht ach bhí caighdeán an-ard i measc na scoileanna. Gabhaim buíochas leis na cailíní uilig – Patrice Condon (captaen); Eve Kavanagh (cainteoir 2); Shauna Caffrey (cainteoir 3)

Seo a leanas na foirne a ghlac páirt sa Chraobh:

- Meánscoil Mhuire, An Longfort
- Meánscoil Naomh Mhuire, Glasnaíon BÁC
- Meánscoil Iosaif Naofa, Leamhcán, BÁC
- Iarbhuscoil Mhá Nuad, Maigh Nuad, Co. Chill Dara

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

Ms. N. Ní Chonluain & Ms. N. O'Donnellan



Patrice Condon, Eve Kavanagh and Shauna Caffrey



Left to Right: Patrice Condon, Shauna Caffrey and Eve Kavanagh



Debating team and supporters

Na Béaltrialacha

Bhí béaltrialacha ag daltaí na hArdteiste idir an 16ú agus an 20ú Aibreán. Is fiú 40% den scrúdú iomlán an bhéaltrialail. Guímid gach rath ar dhaltaí an teastais shóisearaigh agus ar dhaltaí na hArdteiste. Ádh Mór oraibh a chailíní.

Roinn na Gaeilge

ROINN NA GAEILGE (contd.)



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge a siúl sa scoil ón 12ú – 16ú Márta. Bhí an-chuid imeachtaí ar siúl. Bhí comórtas póstaer agus comórtas aiste ar siúl. Rinne rang Ms. Devine sa 6ú bliain rang cócaireachta. Tháinig ceoltóirí isteach sa scoil agus sheinn siad ceol Éireannach tradisiúnta. Bhí céilí agus tráth na gceist ar siúl sa halla. Ag deireadh na seachtaine bhí bronnadh na nduaiseanna agus taispeántas griangraif agus físeáin. Bhuaigh daltaí duaiseanna le haghaidh an damhsóir is fearr, an póstaer is fearr, an fhoireann a bhuaigh tráth na gceist agus don iarracht is mó ag labhairt Gaeilge. Bhain daltaí agus múinteoirí an-taitneamh as agus táimid ag tnúth leis an mbliain seo chugainn!

Ms. N. O'Donnellan



P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Hockey



Four Finals and Three Wins

Congratulations to all the hockey teams on their successes this season. It is fantastic to be able to report that this year was a very successful one again for St. Mary's Hockey Teams! A treble winning season with four teams in finals!

Lots of different factors contributed to this success. Starting in September, hockey sessions on Saturday mornings got all the girls eager to go for the year!! We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in helping with hockey this year and for helping to make it a great success. Thank you also to the players who attended training in all weathers and who subbed for different teams this year. You stepped up to the level so well and made a huge difference when needed. The support we received from the side line was brilliant all year also with lots of parents, teachers and friends supporting, even on the chilly and rainy days. Thank you to all those who cheered us on along the way! The achievements of all teams this year are a result of our hard work and commitment. It didn't come easy on occasions but our belief never wavered.

Senior Hockey – Northside League Winners



The senior team aka "Action Hero Team" started its hockey season with a coaching blitz given by guest coach Ben. The girls really enjoyed Ben's training session and he inspired them to get back into hockey mode this year! They entered the Northside League and played some very closely contested matches. It was also fantastic to have sixth year players, Aishling Ahern and Jenny Moriarty, representing St. Mary's in their last year. They made a valuable contribution to the senior team. The team notched up wins against long established hockey schools such as The King's Hospital, St. Joseph's Lucan, Holy Faith Clontarf and Manor House before finally beating Mt. Sackville in the final. They have now won the Northside League for four years in a row. This is a fantastic achievement and they have also set a great example for the up and coming players. Well done Action Hero Team on another great season!

Third Year Hockey – Junior Team – Junior Leinster Winners & Northside League Winners



The Junior team entered the Junior Leinster League and the Northside League. Having won both titles last year, great excitement mounted as the team pondered whether this could be repeated again!! Despite competing in a higher division the enthusiasm was fantastic. They started their league matches in an upbeat and positive mood. There were many matches with goals in the last few minutes and also an EPIC quarter final performance with extra time and a penalty shoot-out. This set them up well for the Leinster Final against Mt. Anville, which they won 1-0 in the last six minutes! The team played against teams such as The High School, Loreto Foxrock, Rathdown, Notre Dame Des Missions and Alexandra College. It is fantastic that they won the double again and it was a little surreal achieving both the Junior C Leinster title and the Northside League title against Santa Sabina. This was a fantastic achievement for the team and for the school. The teams thoroughly enjoyed training, showing great dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year. Well done to the Junior Team on a fantastic year!



Sister Act – Senior Team with four sets of sisters!!

P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Second Year Hockey – Minor 1 & Minor 2 Teams

We are delighted to have two Minor teams and 2012 was a great year for the teams. The Minor 1 team entered the Leinster League and Northside League and played against teams such as Holy Faith Clontarf, Manor House, Sutton Park, Dundalk Grammar and Cabra. It competed very well in the Leinster League, but was unable to win its group. The Minor 1 team went on to reach the Northside League final, having narrowly missed out last year. The girls were determined to reach a final, however, they were beaten by Sutton Park in the final. These two teams had already met in the league and they were very closely matched with a 1-1 draw. However, on the day of the final Sutton Park took the gold. The Minor 2 team missed out on reaching a final this year but is now even more determined for next year. The minor teams trained every week and were very enthusiastic.

Well done to all our goalies this year, who made some outstanding saves, almost like Inspector Gadget!! This year we had special power from our custom made colourful wristbands, stating our favourite mottoes, 'First to the Ball, Last to Give Up' and 'Action Hero Team'. Everyone wore their wristbands with great pride!!



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! We highly recommend everyone to come along and join hockey.

*First to the ball, last to give up ...
go St. Mary's!!
Onwards and Upwards for next year!!*

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

Basketball

Second Years shoot to success in Dublin Junior Final!

On the 28th of April our Junior Division 1 Basketball team travelled to the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght to compete against league leaders Mt. Sackville. After a great season and many intense training sessions the girls were fired up for a tough final and they did us proud. All four quarters were played with great skill and determination and resulted in a nail biting finish, with St Mary's team winning by just one basket. Congratulations to team captain Michaela Cambe who led the team so well throughout the season and to Sally Ahern who received an award for player of the match.

A big **THANK YOU** to coach Ms. E. Murphy, her dedication to the team throughout the whole season made success possible. Thank you also to the parents and the supporters who travelled to Tallaght and helped to make the day so special.

Our Senior and Third year teams were also very successful this year. They reached the final stages of their leagues against Mt. Sackville and Maynooth CC. Both teams did us proud. However they were unfortunate not to reach the final. We wish them all every success in the future.

Ms. D. Maher, Ms. E. Murphy

*Right: Sally Ahern
(Player of the Match);
Ms E. Murphy (Coach)
and Michaela Cambel
(Team Captain)*



*Below:
Junior Division 1
Basketball Champions*



P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Gaelic Football

Sam Visits St. Mary's

In November 2011 Dublin footballer, Paul Casey, visited St. Mary's with the Sam Maguire Cup. This brought great excitement to the school with all the girls kitted out in their blue and navy. A special thank you to Ken Keoghan for organising this as it meant a lot to everyone in the school. Hopefully this will encourage the girls to keep up their participation in GAA in St Mary's for 2012/2013.

Gaelic football got off to a great start this year in St Mary's with our fundraising walk to Enniskerry. This walk raised over one thousand euro which went to kitting us out for the year ahead. The fundraising has supplied the school with a new kit which will be here for September 2012. Hopefully this new kit will bring great success to GAA in the school.

We would just like to thank the girls and their parents for all their support throughout the last year for both the games and the fundraising. To all of the St. Mary's girls who are representing Dublin at present, at different age levels, congratulations and best of luck.

Under 14s Gaelic

Our first and second years made a very impressive start in their debut season in the Under 14 Leinster Championship. The girls showed great dedication in training throughout



Some of our Gaelic Football players with the Sam Maguire Cup

the year which proved to be the foundation upon which their excellent championship results materialised. Having defeated St. Josephs Rush, St. Michaels Finglas and St. Dominics, Sutton, the girls topped their group and qualified for the Leinster Quarter Final. The girls were defeated by a very strong Templeogue team but showed great effort throughout. This impressive start will be extremely beneficial to the girls next year. Well done to all involved. A special mention to all the teachers who helped us out on match days.

Mr. Donnelly, Ms. Maher, Mr. Beirne & Mr. Madden

Health Week

Health week was another huge success this year raising awareness of health, diet and fitness in St. Mary's. The week included Early Bird activities, skipathons, trampolining, healthy snacks and crazy relay races. We also incorporated our annual sports day into the week including all students from 1st to 4th year. All classes kitted out in their colours and competed in a very friendly yet competitive manner. The day was a huge success and we hope it has promoted sport in the school, inspiring the girls to get involved in the many extracurricular activities provided in St. Mary's.

Ms. D. Maher

Tag Rugby

Well done to all the TY students who took part in a tag rugby tournament in DCU. This tournament was run by DCU students in conjunction with Leinster development and it was a great success. Coming up against teams from Loreto on the Green and Manor House the girls had their work cut out for them. St Mary's entered six different teams. They really represented St Mary's very well with one team in particular coming out on top, beating Loreto in the final. We hope that this will inspire some of the girls to take part in Tag Rugby in the school and possibly in the local clubs in the area.



Tag Rugby Winning Team

Kate Dwyer, Sophie Mulhall, Louise Dalton, Sarah Lloyd, Sinead McArdle, Lauren Brady, Lauren Lambert, Kellie Hanlon, Jillian Caffrey

Athletics



Sally Ahern

Congratulations to Sally Ahern from class Erne on a fantastic Athletic season. She competed in both schools cross-country and track and field, clocking up impressive achievements:

- First place in the West Leinster 1,500 m confined Cross Country
- Third place in the West Leinster 1,500 m Track
- Fifth place in the West Leinster 2,000 m Cross Country

• Twenty-fourth in the Leinster 2,000 m Cross Country
Well done Sally, best of luck in your upcoming events.

Badminton

This is just a short note to say a fond farewell to five of our Senior Badminton players who leave us for pastures new in June. They are:

Doreen Loma, Ria May Beloso, Patricia Villamar, Maria Kristina Jacinto and Aulin Contredas.

They have been great representatives of the school for the last five years both on and off the court and I will miss having them around at training sessions for their sheer dedication and sense of fun. I wish them every success in the future and hope they continue to play badminton.

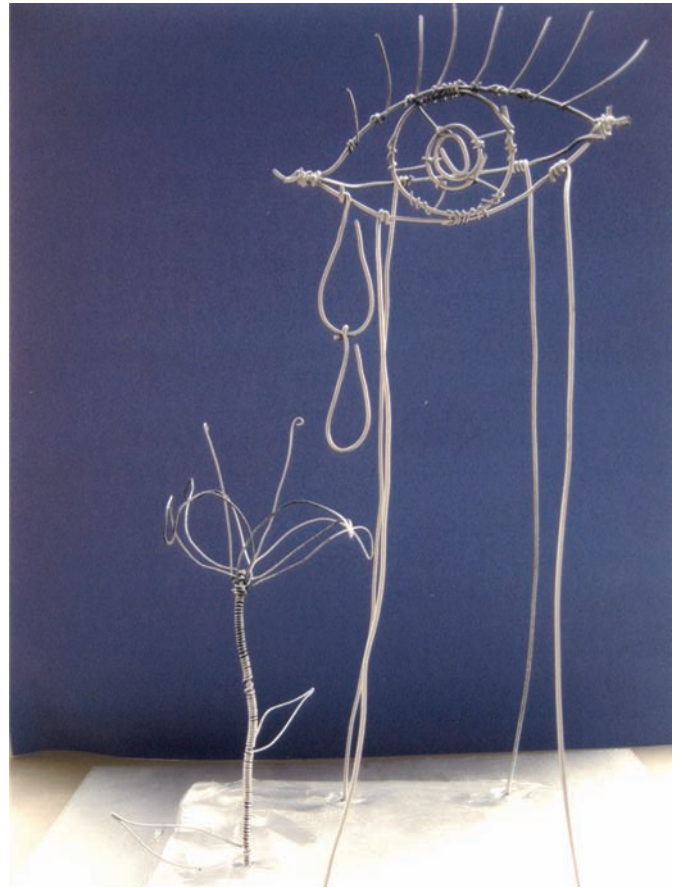
Ms. A. Moggan

ART DEPARTMENT

Our First Year Art students created fantastic clay vessels using a variety of modelling techniques. They explored the form and textures of insects, birds and animals. Following on from that the students learned the principles of portraiture as a starting point for work on their shadow puppets. They have chosen subjects as varied as Justin Bieber, Cinderella and Marilyn Monroe. Finally, fish and their wonderful patterns have acted as inspiration for a lino-print. Students have carved beautiful details into each block and have made stunning prints in a broad spectrum of colours.

Second Year students completed original and expressive self-portraits that were exhibited in the school. They sought inspiration from Irish and International 20th century artists and gained an understanding of the relationship between painters and their subjects in their artwork. Seachtain na Gaeilge was enhanced by banners created by students depicting seanfhocails using original typography and design. Students also developed this work further into individual calligraphy pieces. The final term was spent familiarising students with the 3D section of the Junior Cert. Art Project.

Third Year students completed their Junior Cert. Projects and Drawing Exams. It was very rewarding to see all the work presented together. Students have focused on 3D work, lino, puppetry, embroidery, calligraphy and packaging since Christmas. Well done to all.



ART DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Transition Year students have continued to develop their appreciation of architecture. They have followed Brian Sewell as he travels the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela examining the amazing light filled wonder of St. Chapelle in Paris, Chartres Cathedral and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao en route. They have also looked at Georgian architecture and futuristic architectural models as inspiration for their chosen buildings for their project work.

'The Monument of Light', O'Connell Street, proved an interesting stimulus for our Fifth Year Art students who created original marquettes in 3D. They explored a variety of materials and methodologies to depict a public sculpture examining the relationship between the urban landscape and Street Art. They further developed their skills in Still-Life, Craft and their appreciation of Art History. The National Gallery of Ireland and The National Museum provided a wonderful opportunity for students to view Irish paintings and artefacts that they are studying for their Leaving Cert.

Our Sixth Year students built on their Life-Drawing skills with practise and through their investigation of the work of the Renaissance painters and sculptors. After much careful preparation they took their Leaving Cert. Practical Exams in May. We wish them well in their Art History Exam in June.

**Ms. C. Kavanagh and
Ms. N. Cunningham**
Art Department



SPHE DEPARTMENT

World Cultural Day

The SPHE and E.A.L department joined together to celebrate World Cultural Day on Wednesday 21st March. The following is a student account of the day.

In celebrating World Cultural Day, we got a chance to learn about other countries and their cultures. Ms. Griffin and Ms. Cunningham did a great job in organising this event. There were different cultures participating on the day. These included girls from Spain, India, Poland, the Philippines and England. We explored these cultures through powerpoint presentations, dances, song and food. We enjoyed learning about the history, culture and traditions of each country. We especially enjoyed tasting all the delicious food served by students from each country. We can't wait for next year already!

**Marie Nollora, Raluca Ghinescu,
Miliscent Rayes and Anna Maria Jose**



Friendship Week

In conjunction with the SPHE department, students explored ideas relating to friendship: e.g. what it is to be a good friend and how to identify bullying. Every student in the school had the opportunity to create a friendship bracelet for a member of her class. Each student chose three different colours to represent important characteristics of friendship. They had the opportunity of learning the skill of creating a friendship bracelet.

Ms. O. Griffin

Graduation 2012

This year Graduation took place on Thursday 24th of May. The theme chosen by the girls came from Isaiah 60:20, "Our sun will never set". This was to signify the fact that although one chapter of their lives was drawing to a close, a whole new and exciting chapter was beginning.

This theme was evident in the many suns which brightened up the walls and which represented each student's sunniest moment in St. Mary's. More light was added with the lighting of the beautiful Graduation Candles which were hand made for the girls by the Redemptoristine Sisters of St. Alphonsus Road.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bob Whiteside, who made it a very spiritual and memorable experience. Readings were said by the Head Girl, Niamh McArdle, and Deputy Head Girls, Meaghan Rose-Nel and Grainne Lynch. Each class was represented in the Prayers of the Faithful. Then, for the Offertory Procession the students brought up a basket of scrolls representing each class. The scrolls contained accounts of what each of girl hopes the next sunrise will bring.

The Mass was further enhanced by the many talents of the girls which included dancing, music and for the first time ever, a 6th Year DVD, created by Anna O'Hanlon from 6 Years.

The school choir, under the direction of Mr. Coll and Ms. O'Rourke, made the night extra special with its beautiful singing. Mrs. Lennon and Ms. Murphy presented the girls with their emblems, to represent their time in St. Mary's. It was with a sad heart that we said goodbye to Mrs. Downey, Mr. Hallinan and Mr. Dempsey who retired after many years of dedication and service to the students of 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 thanks to Noel, Gerry and Matthew who worked so hard to transform the gym into such a great venue.

The Religion Department

Faith Friends

Once again, two of our fifth Year classes, 5 Birch and 5 Pine, took part in the "Faith Friends" programme with Ms. Phelan's and Ms. Cooney's 6th classes in St. Brigid's National School in January and February of this year.

All involved participated with great enthusiasm and found the weekly visits both enjoyable and enlightening. The programme culminated with two Prayer Services in the school Prayer Room where certificates were presented to the girls from St. Brigid's by our fifth Years. The service was enhanced by the beautiful singing of some members of the school choir.

It was a very worthwhile and enjoyable experience for all those involved and we would like to thank all those concerned, especially our fifth Years who represented the school so well.

Ms. L. Bohan and Ms. M. Byrne

Second Year Retreats

The second year Retreats have become an important part of the school's diary and once again all second year classes were each given a day retreat in the Ruah Retreat Centre on St. Alphonsus Road, Drumcondra. Over the course of five weeks each class made its way down for some time out of its busy life. The retreat was a great opportunity for the classes to reflect and think about the greater things in life. They learnt a lot about themselves and about the other students in their class. The retreat facilitators were full of praise for the second year students, they enjoyed working with the girls. The students said that they really loved the day and they felt it was something they would always remember.

The Religion Department

Catholic Schools Week 2012

Catholic Schools Week took place this year from Monday, the 30th of January, until Friday, the 3rd of February. The theme of the week for this year was, 'Christ's Living Body Active in Our World'. The week was an invitation to us to think about the difference our faith can make to our personal lives and to our school community. The week was also an opportunity for St. Mary's to celebrate the fact that we are a Catholic school.

We chose to mark the week in a number of ways. Each morning, a 'thought for the day', was read out over our school intercom. Staff and students alike were invited to pause, listen to the thought and take a moment to reflect upon it. For our senior cycle students, their religion teachers prepared classes that focused on the road to Emmaus story. This story is a symbol of Christian life. It is a story about hope and reminds us that when we feel discouraged, the Lord brings support and hope.

For our junior students, their religion teachers prepared classes that focused on the Beatitudes. As Christians, we are Disciples of Christ and are called to live as Jesus lived. The Beatitudes prompt us to think about the way we are living and how we might improve our behaviour and our attitudes towards others. Posters were displayed all around the school, reminding us of the different Beatitudes and the meanings behind them. First year students were invited to draw their own posters based on a particular Beatitude that they liked.

Two important feast days took place during Catholic schools week, St. Brigid's Day and also the feast of St. Blaise. We celebrated St. Brigid's Day by listening to a reflection about her life, her deeds and the importance of St. Brigid to St. Mary's. We also made St. Brigid's crosses with senior students and then displayed them in the Prayer room.

On the feast of St. Blaise Catholics have their throats blessed, as Blaise is said to have once healed a child who was choking. We decided to provide students and staff with a chance to have their throats blessed by a minister of the Eucharist, using blessed candles. The response from the school community was very positive and a lot of people took time out of their lunch break to come to the prayer room. It was with this ceremony that we ended Catholic schools week. It was a great celebration and helped us to remember and celebrate the fact that we are a Catholic school.

Ms. C. Murtagh

The Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace took place from the 4th to the 12th of March this year. A member of the Religion Department was in the Prayer Room each day from 1.15 to 1.30, to guide all those who wished to take part in the Novena and pray for their special intentions.

Ms. L. Bohan

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday took place on Wednesday 22nd of February this year. It was marked in the school by a reflection over the intercom by Ms. Byrne on the significance of Ash Wednesday and its relevance to our lives today. This was followed by the distribution of blessed ashes throughout the school by members of the Religion Department to all those who wished to receive them.

CSPE DEPARTMENT

Class 3 Shannon's Action Project

We are in class Shannon of third year and we visited Dogs Trust for our action project on Friday the 16th of March 2012. Dogs Trust set up a nationwide campaign in 2005 to help prevent unwanted dogs being left homeless and to prevent stray dogs from roaming the streets. Due to the high destruction rate in Irish pounds, Dogs Trust rescue and re-home over one thousand puppies and dogs each year. As it receives no government funding, it is up to it as a charity to raise money for food, shelter and veterinary care for all dogs. Dogs Trust help people who are on social welfare to enable them to get their dog neutered for a fee of twenty euro.

While doing this particular aspect of our action project, we enjoyed learning new facts about Dogs Trust and the work it does. Many of the class pupils were emotionally attached to some of the helpless dogs. As a class we all participated in a cake sale to fundraise for Dogs Trust. We raised three hundred euro and we donated it to Dogs Trust. We raised awareness around the school and at home. Many of the students were so attached that they have now gone and got dogs. Thank you to all who came and supported us at the cake sale and helped us to raise money for a worthy cause. Also thank you to Ms. Byrne and Ms. Sullivan for helping us to complete this action project.



Lucy Carroll and Hannah Kelly, Class 3 Shannon.

COMPUTER CLUB

Many students have attended the club since Christmas. Many activities have taken place in the club. To celebrate Maths World Day, first year students attempted to go onto specific online Maths websites. Some of these students also completed IT 'Maths World Day' posters in the Computer Club.

TY students completed projects. Senior students added the finishing touches to their L.C.V.P. projects. Thanks to Ms. Murphy, Ms. Byrne, Ms. Duffy and Ms. O'Keefe who help Ms. O'Donnell supervise the club.

Ms. M. O'Donnell

MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Let's Celebrate Europe

The department of modern languages celebrated Europe day, 9th May, with great gusto. A lively European-themed table quiz was enjoyed by all first years under the guidance of T.Y. language students. Second years engaged in flag making and helped decorate classrooms. Our fifth year language pupils enjoyed a European breakfast while chatting in the various European languages they study.

Ms. N. Walker (Co-ordinator)

2 Allen's CSPE Action Project

For our action project we chose to look at the issue of homelessness. We got into pairs and came up with ideas on what we could do to help. Each pair got a job to do and we invited a speaker in from the Simon Community. We learned all about the life of homeless people and he gave us tips on how to help. In return we collected old books, clothes, CDs and toys and donated them to the Simon Community. Thanks to everyone who helped us with our action project.

Aoife Ennis and Megan Murphy

2 Ree's CSPE Action Project

For class 2 Ree's CSPE action project, we went to Dublin Zoo to raise awareness about endangered animals and conservation. We had thirteen committees in our class, each having a different task to do. The tasks included finance, communication, photography, newsletter and using the intercom. We also had a cake sale to raise money, so that we could adopt an animal in Dublin Zoo. We raised €137.50 for Dublin Zoo. Many thanks to everybody who supported our action project.

Shannon Confrey and Shauna Melia

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

A group of fifth year students has taken over the running of the History notice board. They have volunteered to take responsibility for ensuring it is up to date on a weekly basis by researching what happened around the world on each date. Many thanks to Eve Kavanagh, Sarah Horan, Aislinn Farrell, Patricia O'Beirne, Claire Concannon, Niamh Molloy, Jessica Cray and Aimee Bennett.



Transition Years recently completed a history and heritage day where they visited the Book of Kells, the National Gallery and the Natural History Museum in Dublin City Centre. They are currently completing source evaluations of films for their final history module of the year, World War II Through Film.

Leaving certificate history students completed twenty per cent of their history exam when they wrote up their Research Reports on Thursday 19th April 2012. We wish the girls every success in their exams in June and in their future careers.

Ms. G. Hayes (History Co-ordinator)

Library News



Once again this year, the library held a Bring a Book, Buy a Book sale in aid of St. Michael's House. Thank you to all who donated or bought books during this campaign. Over two hundred euro was raised for this worthy cause.

Thank you to all who supported our Library Book to Film Festival in January. As part of our continued effort to raise money for a computerised library system, we are running a Library Readathon! Call into the library for a sponsorship card and to see the prize for the student who raises the most money.

We are delighted to announce that bestselling author Siobhán Parkinson, visited the school on May 10th. She met with students to speak about her work and the writing process. As her books are so popular, we were very excited about her visit.

The members of the Creative Writing Club continued to meet each Friday at 1.10 in the library. Preparation is underway for the group's fourth magazine. All contributions welcome!

The Book Club met every Thursday at 3.00pm in the library. It was a great opportunity to catch up on reading. This term we showed films of books students had read. All suggestions were welcome.

We went book shopping last month and have a great selection of new books available for borrowing! The library is open every lunch break for reading and project work.

Sr. Maria and Ms. Sullivan



English Trip to Haworth and Stratford-Upon-Avon

This year senior students travelled to the birthplaces of the Bronte sisters and William Shakespeare. The trip took place over three days and involved travel to parts of Yorkshire and Leicester in England. On Friday morning we met in Dublin airport and flew to Leeds Airport. From there, we made our way to the beautiful and historic village of Haworth. Haworth Parsonage was once home to Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte and has been lovingly restored to its 19th Century condition. The girls could see the crumbling graveyard that inspired their gothic imagery, view the table where many of the classic novels were written and visit the museum dedicated to their work and legacy. We also took part in an engaging walking tour around Haworth, led by our guide Johnnie Briggs. He pointed out and discussed numerous places of interest to the lives of the Bronte sisters.

We then travelled to Stratford-upon-Avon on Saturday and visited Shakespeare's birthplace. The girls explored the house, museum and grounds in beautiful weather and were treated to an impromptu puppet version of "Romeo and Juliet" performed by actors in the walled garden. The real performance took place that evening however, when our group attended a RSC production of "Twelfth Night". We really enjoyed a witty romantic comedy of mistaken identities and unrequited love - it was the definite highlight of the trip.

There were plenty of opportunities for us to relax and unwind too. One of the lovely cultural aspects of the tour was the leisure time: students could wander along the cobbled streets of each town, browse their quaint shops and sample the local delicacies and treats (or sweets!). Congratulations also to Ciara Ryan and Laura Byrne, the bowling champions of Friday night, and to Paulina Buczkowska, Jessica Jones and Kate Uzell who won the Photo Competition.

Thanks to everyone who supported the trip and to the students themselves for their excellent behaviour and participation. It was a great success!

Ms. D. Callan (English Co-ordinator)

Drama Day Out!

As a reward for their hard work and dedication, all the actors involved in the Christmas production of "A Christmas Carol" were treated to a special day out. The girls had spent months rehearsing and delivered superb performances on both nights so it was only fitting they got a day to relax and enjoy their efforts. They spent the morning in the Irish Film Institute watching Roman Polanski's version of "Oliver Twist" before heading to Temple Bar for a delicious lunch. Well done to the girls again for a wonderful show!

Ms. D. Callan (English Co-ordinator)

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council has reached the end of another very busy and productive year. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and thanks to three sixth year students who have been so dedicated to the Student Council and who have contributed so much during their years on the council. Aisling Ahern, our chairperson this year, led the council so ably and willingly. Melissa Kitching and Meaghan Rose-Nel were also very dedicated members of the council and worked hard on behalf of all the students in our school. I wish you all the best in your Leaving Certificate girls and hope that your experience on the Student Council will be valuable to you in the future. On behalf of the Student Council I would like to wish all the sixth and third year students every success in their exams.

I would like to pay tribute to Patricia O'Beirne, Vice Chairperson, (5 Willow) who has stepped in to act as chairperson in recent weeks. Finally, I would like to encourage all students to seriously consider joining our Student Council next September. Application forms are available from Mrs. Hughes.

Mrs. A Hughes

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Liam Lawton – All Hallows Concert

The members of St. Mary's Choir were invited as special guests to Liam Lawton's 20th Anniversary concert, in All Hallows College, on the 16th December 2011. The choir was asked to provide the choral accompaniment to five of his songs. The choir also had the honour of singing one of its own repertoire at the concert. The college chapel was full which gave a great atmosphere to the night. It was a great night of inspirational music and the choir was delighted to be part of it. Since this performance, Liam has kept in contact with the choir and he intends to invite the choir to join him again in a future project.

Emmanuel 2012

St. Mary's was well represented again this year at the Emmanuel Concert in the Helix on the 13th March. Sixty members of the choir participated in the concert. The students had a great day in Our Lady of Victories Church when they joined the choirs of other schools for rehearsals and attended workshops. All students enjoyed the experience of singing in the Helix. A huge thanks to all the students in the choir, who always work so hard throughout the year, and who are always so dedicated.

Practicals

Forty-eight Junior Cert students, nineteen Leaving Cert students and close to three hundred pieces of music - this made for a busy time in the Music Department in preparation for the Music practical examinations. All the girls had 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.

Navan Choral Festival 2012

The choir attended the Navan Choral Festival for the first time on Friday 11th of May. It was a great experience for the choir. It has worked really hard all year and this highlighted everyone's commitment to all the practices throughout the year.

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 1st, 2nd and 5th year music classes, the TY 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.

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

Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Coll
Music Department

Teen Spirit – Olympia Concert

On the 29th April, seventeen members of the St. Mary's Choir were involved in the first ever Teen Spirit concert in Dublin. The project has been a huge success story in Munster with hundreds of young people being involved over the last four years and now this was the first time the project was brought to the capital. The aim of the project is to showcase Teen talent and Christian faith, by using a mix of popular chart music, together with well-known classics and also the most contemporary Christian music. St. Mary's Choir Hall was the host venue for the boot camp rehearsals and the concert itself was in the Olympia Theatre. Eight St. Mary's students got solos in the concert which was a huge honour and there was great support for the girls from staff and parents on the night.

The students involved were:

1st years – Megan Reilly, Amy O'Connor, Julia Holbanel, Sarah Moran, Lisa Fitzsimons

2nd years – Leah Deegan, Sharon Ogunyemi, April Lamai, Nadia Keatinge Hempenstall, Holly Bell

3rd years – Michaela Mullen

4th years – Roisin King

5th years – Eve Kavanagh, Claire Concannan, Kimi Umpad, Siobhan McNamara and Ranzenallie Caranay

Our students joined one hundred and forty students from different school choirs to make up the choir on stage that night. Overall it was a very uplifting and inspiring project and it certainly marked the beginning of a great project for young people to be involved in.



Rehearsal taking place in St. Mary's Choir Hall



160 strong choir on stage in the Olympia

Incoming First Years

Entrance exams for First Year students took place on Saturday 4th February. There was a very positive information meeting with the parents of incoming First Years on Tuesday 5th 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 help facilitate the transition from Primary to Secondary School, in April we visited the primary schools and spoke with the sixth class teachers about the students' progress and interests. To further this partnership we invited the incoming first year parents to make an appointment at the end of May for an informal interview with a member of the Care Team.



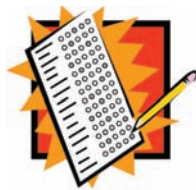
Second Year Subject Choice

There was a meeting with the parents of the present First Year students on Wednesday 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 February and March to answer any questions about their subjects.



Third Years

The Third Year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS) in December. This was to help those going into Fifth Year to make 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 get feedback of the results of their 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.



Female Engineering Role Model Day



As part of Engineers' Week, DIT WAVES (Women A Voice in Engineering Society) planned a day for female secondary level pupils on Wednesday 29th February to give an insight into the world of women engineers and technologists working in all areas of society. Through a series of talks and Q&A sessions the role models told their own stories of working in the world of engineering and the routes they took to get to their current jobs. The students who participated in the day included Kate Steffany Pajarillo, Karen Sinnott, Lauren Wall, Aine Dempsey, Emma O'Reilly, Lauren Nugent, Hannah Kelly, Nicole Sheridan, Rachel Clusker, Isabel Mullhand, Queency Eduave and Mollie Walker.

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 28th February. It allowed them the opportunity to take part in student life at DCU. They were matched with undergraduate students pursuing courses in areas of interest to them. They attended lectures with a 1st or 2nd year student in a faculty of their choice. The students really enjoyed their experience on campus and found it very worthwhile. The students who participated were Laura Byas, Aisling Mahon, Jennifer Hazel, Lisa Kelly, Kiara Mulvey, Naomi McEvoy, Caroline McMullen, Jennifer Cunningham, Isabelle Kelly and Claire Concannon.

DCU/CITI Career Exploration Programme

A group of 5th years participated in the DCU/Citi Career Exploration Programme for Senior Cycle Students. There was a graduation ceremony held on Thursday 3rd May at 7pm in the Mahony Hall, Helix, for students who participated in the programme and the group received a certificate for its contribution and participation.



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.

Free Maths Revision grinds were also offered for Junior Certificate students during the Easter break over a four day period. Sixteen of our students participated in the grinds course and another twenty students participated in a two hour one-off session on Algebra for higher level maths, by George Humphreys. This was held on the 10th April and a lecture on functions and graphs was also held on 30th April. Over seventy students from St. Mary's attended both sessions. The third year students who took part in both programmes found them extremely helpful.

Sixth Years

College Talks

Students had the opportunity to participate in talks with FETAC colleges during January. Speakers from Whitehall College, Pontifical University Maynooth, Rathmines College, ITB and Colaiste Dhulaigh 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. The guidance counsellors will be available in August to support the students when they receive their results and later on when offers are being made.



HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Junior Certificate

Well done to all the third year pupils who completed their practical cookery exams this term. Some of the dishes included cupcakes, stir-fries, Mediterranean chicken bake and pasta bake to name but a few. They all turned out beautifully and we would like to wish the students the best of luck for the written exam.



Ms. Walsh and Ms. Doheny

Leaving Certificate

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish this year's Leaving Certificate students the best of luck in June and we hope that their hard work pays off.

Ms. Walsh, Ms. Aird and Ms. Doheny

Kitchen in the Castle Cookery School

All fifth year students studying Home Economics this year, got the opportunity to visit 'Kitchen in the Castle Cookery School' in Howth. There they had the opportunity to take part in a hands on cookery course on 'Choux Pastry'. This was very beneficial as it covered one of the Leaving Certificate assignments for their Leaving Certificate next year. The students learnt a lot under the guidance of two professional chefs.

Ms. Doheny and Ms. Aird



Chicken and mushroom Gougère and chocolate profiteroles made by students at cookery school.

Left to right: Amy Bates, Amy Corcoran and Chef at the 'Kitchen in the Castle' cookery school.



Left to right: Niamh O'Rourke, Nicole Hyland and Lauren Tuite at the 'Kitchen in the Castle' cookery school.



MATHS DEPARTMENT

Project Maths in Action

In the winter months, many sixth year students took to the grounds of St. Mary's to carry out fieldwork activities based on elements of 'Project Maths'. Students used clinometers to measure angles of elevation. Using trigonometric ratios (and remembering to add on their height to the calculated height of the building, as the students' reference point was their eye level above the ground!), students were able to calculate the height of the green flag pole and the height of the gym wall.



Sixth Years carrying out measurements

Mathematical Olympiad

Well done to Megan Stamp, a transition year student, who was invited to attend a number of Maths enrichment classes in U.C.D. as preparation for a chance to be chosen to represent Ireland at the International Mathematical Olympiad. This is a prestigious international mathematics competition which will take place in Argentina in July. Megan did very well and enjoyed the experience. The classes covered a range of topics such as arithmetic progressions, prime numbers and proofs, game theory and



Megan Stamp from class 4.38

probability, algebraic factorisation, the 'pigeonhole' principle as well as how to maximise a function.

Maths Department Links with D.C.U.

Some sixth year students attended Maths workshops before Easter in D.C.U., which focused on engaging students in problem-solving skills. The students found it worthwhile and it is hoped that the skills learnt will be transferred, when answering the Maths exam papers in June. St. Mary's had two teams competing in the first year D.C.U. Maths quiz which took place in the sports hall in D.C.U. from 2-4pm on Wednesday the 25th April. There was at least one representative from each first year class in St. Mary's. Karen Pajarillo (class Munster), Priya Alipo-On (class Connacht), Seth Banaga (class Connacht) and Orla Hardiman (class Ulster) represented one team. On the other team, class Oriel was represented by Alison Kennedy and Roja Roy while class Leinster was ably represented by Amy Boylan and Hannah Lawler. Congratulations to both teams who achieved very high scores in the competition.



First year students who were involved in the D.C.U. Maths quiz competition

Maths World Day

Maths World Day was celebrated in the school on the 7th March 2012. To celebrate this day, first year students had the opportunity to log onto online mathematical sites in the Computer Club and to take part in the IT poster competition. Well done to Sona Shiji from class Munster who won the overall prize!

Some fifth year students attended a talk in D.C.U. with Ms. Murphy which was enjoyed by all. The speakers outlined the importance of Maths to students and how Maths is so relevant to everyday life.



Fifth Year students celebrating Maths World Day

First Year IMTA Competition

Congratulations to all first year students who participated in the first year Maths competition organised by the Irish Maths Teachers Association (IMTA). Allannah Beatty was the overall winner in St. Mary's. Allannah represented the school brilliantly at the final of the IMTA competition, which was held on Friday the 27th April at Castleknock College.



Allannah Beatty – St. Mary's winner of the I.M.T.A. competition

John Hooper Medal Statistics Competition

Congratulations to the five groups of fifth year students who submitted entries to the John Hooper medal competition on the 4th May. Each group designed a statistical poster on a topic of interest. For example, one group's poster was based on a 'Facebook' survey carried out by the group. Another group's poster endeavoured to obtain statistical data on whether students who study Home Economics are healthier than students who don't! All groups were wished well in the competition.

Monthly Maths Challenge

All junior students were encouraged to take part in the May Maths challenge online competition which was organised by the national project Maths development team and Engineers Ireland. Best of luck with your entries girls!

Ms. M. O'Donnell

TRANSITION YEAR

Biology

In our Biology module this year we have looked into a few interesting aspects of the Leaving Certificate Biology course. At first we went over the basics, e.g. the cell and how to use a microscope etc. We learnt about the skeleton and the bones and we made a skeleton out of Play-Dough. We then had a class about the workings of the heart and all the valves. The highlight of all the classes was the dissection of the lamb's heart. I found this very interesting.

We have recently starting learning about the body's senses. Overall I have enjoyed the whole module.

Leah O'Donnell

TY Food Module



We went to the 'Edible exhibition' in Trinity College in February with Ms. O'Keefe. We were brought around the exhibition and we looked at different books and also looked at rotting food under the microscope. We learnt how all the different parts of a pig can be used to make things. At the end we went through the 'gas bag', which was like a bouncy castle stomach digestive system. It was an enjoyable exhibition and I liked it a lot.

Aileen Keane

During the TY Food Science module the students also learnt about healthy eating, food diaries, supermarket psychology, food additives, eating disorders and food labelling. The students also learnt how taste testing can be used in market research. They blind tasted chocolate mousse - a very enjoyable class!

Ms. O. O'Keefe

TY Fashion Show

TY language students put on their own creative fashion show in March of this year for first year students. The girls strutted down the catwalk to the beat of their favourite songs, showcasing their individual styles. Through the medium of their chosen language (French, Spanish or German), the TY students revealed their favourite fashion trends!

Ms. S. McManus

French Film



On February 28th, Transition Year students of French visited the Irish Film Institute to see the French/Belgian movie, "Panique au village", (A town called Panic). This whacky animated film tells the story of three plastic toys – Cowboy, Indian and Horse and their surreal adventures to the centre of the earth and a parallel underwater universe. On s'est très bien amusé!

TY Work Experience

As part of TY we had the chance to do some work experience for two weeks. We had been preparing for work experience since the end of the summer. We were free to choose where we wanted to work and then it was up to us to apply for the jobs. We had to choose two places of work, one for each week. It was great because it gave us a taste of what real work is like.

I did my work experience in a hairdressers for the first week and for the second week I worked in a beauty salon. My first week was brilliant. I learned so much about hairdressing and the people I was working with were really nice. It was a great experience for me. The second week was just as interesting. I loved watching how manicures and gel nails are done. The person I was working with even did my own nails for me. It was great and it really made me think about my future career and what I want to do when I am older. I realised that I would like to work in this area when I leave school.

Work experience was my favourite part of TY and I would advise everyone to give TY a go so they can experience new and different things like work experience.

Leanne Gavin



TY Film Festival

For the annual Transition Year production this year, our TY students decided to try something a little different! They decided that this year they would host the very first St. Mary's Film Festival! All Transition Year students were given the opportunity to create, write, shoot, edit and star in their very own short films using the latest technology. There were eleven groups in total, each producing its own film with the help of a company called, 'Create School'. The Transition Year students proved to be creative and imaginative when putting their films together and they really enjoyed the experience. In order to show case their creations, it was decided that St. Mary's would host an Oscar themed Film Festival in St. Mary's Choir Hall! The night was a huge success. TY students had the chance to walk the red carpet, mingle with fellow movie stars and dress head to toe in Hollywood Chic! Each group presented its film to the audience by giving a short introduction to explain what the inspiration behind its film was. After each introduction, the film was screened and each met with a really positive reaction from the audience. It was clear to see that everyone was bowled over at how imaginative, creative and talented our TY students are. When all the films had been shown, we had an Oscar style award ceremony and students were awarded their very own mini Oscar for many different categories. The atmosphere on the night was electric, everyone had a great time and our TY students got a great sense of achievement when they saw their films up on the big screen!

Ms. G. Hayes, Ms. C. Murtagh,
Ms. R. McCormack
T.Y. Co-ordinators



ST. MARY'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

St. Mary's Parents' Association is a very active group within the school. The Association takes part in a wide variety of very enjoyable activities throughout the year:

- Consultation on the formation of school policies
- Participating in the Whole School Evaluation
- Support and recognition of the excellent work being done in the school by both the staff and pupils
- Hosting the reception on graduation night
- Running the second hand book and uniform sale
- Attending the open night
- Assisting with the school fun-day
- Running a Christmas raffle
- Running a monthly draw

In the past two years we have been very fortunate to have doubled our numbers and we now have representatives from each year, from first to sixth year. We meet approximately every six weeks to discuss and plan the wide variety of events that take place during the school year. It also gives us, the parents, the opportunity to meet, chat and share with each other the wealth of experience and knowledge that parents have in relation to the school curriculum, study, exams, the teenage years and so much more.

Such is the partnership that exists between the school and the parents' association committee that we played a very important role in meeting with the Whole School Evaluation Board earlier this year. The committee was commended for their relationship between management, staff and the student body. We would like to express our congratulations to the whole school community on the exemplary report received.

On the 8th of March 2012 the Committee, Mrs. Lennon, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Devaney, Ms. Hughes and the Student Council, met with local politicians to discuss our concerns regarding recent cuts to education and issues such as school books, Guidance Counsellors and Teacher-Pupil ratios. We are looking forward to a response to these concerns.

St. Mary's Parents' Association Committee is an open and relaxed group of parents which is delighted to welcome new members, to share their ideas and experience and to support our daughters' school. Please contact us at parents.stmarys@gmail.com and join our team.



Left to right: Pascal Donoghue, Fine Gael, Mary Fitzpatrick, Chairperson of the Student Council, Mrs. Lennon, Principal, Meaghan Rose-nel, Student Council and Anne Dermody, Chairperson of the Parents' Association



Parents Anne Kelly and Lisa Looney at the St. Mary's Open Night