



St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 12 – NO. 1

May 2014

ART DEPARTMENT

The art department and first year art students participated in "The Creative Engagement Project 2014", supported by the N.A.P.D, The Department of Education and Science and The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. It was a wonderful creative experience for all involved. We were delighted to invite ceramist Isobel Egan, our Artist-In-Residence, to work with our first year students. The result of this unique creative collaboration is a porcelain installation, "Flight". It was opened by Mr. Dermot Carney, N.A.P.D and is in situ beneath the staircase close to the school reception. Each student contributed to this inspirational sculpture by making three porcelain butterflies. The translucent nature of the porcelain allows the colours, pattern and textures of each butterfly to shine through. The subtle movement of the flight of the butterfly is captured in the gentle folding of each wing.

'Flight' is a suspended artwork that encourages the viewer to enjoy it from a variety of different perspectives. Inspiration for the sculpture was taken from The Botanic Gardens and St. Mary's sensory garden. It is quite fitting that such a unique, positive and natural artwork is dedicated to our beloved and inspirational Deputy Principal, Anne Murphy.

Second year students have focused their energies on painting portraits. The work demonstrates versatility with the application of several art mediums. There is evidence of fine skill, attention to detail and personal expression. Students used acrylics, watercolours, pencils, oil pastel, inks and paint to achieve their individual realisations of the human face. Following on from this project artwork was created using mono-printing and porcelain as craft mediums.

Third year art students met their

SECOND YEAR PORTRAITS



Sonia Gonzalez



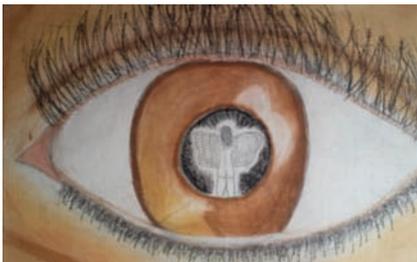
Eleysha Penrose Walsh



Trish Azubike



Janine Barber



Lauren Lawlor



Alyssa Simbulan



Laura O'Toole

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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ART DEPARTMENT CONTD.

Junior Certificate project deadline in May with work that they should be very proud to have created. The drawing exam allowed the students to portray their observational skills while studying the forms of both natural and man-made objects. The art project enables each student to explore and become proficient in several two dimensional and three dimensional art disciplines. It promotes self-directed learning, research based study and creative problem solving.

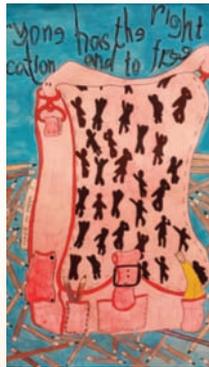
The transition year art module continued with further work on, 'My Architecture Design Journal', a project initiated by The Architects Association of Ireland. Students had to study a design brief that asked them to create a series of interesting spaces. After brainstorming several concepts students used their numeracy skills to measure, calculate and draw their architectural designs. These studies evolved into architectural forms that were manipulated, cut, folded and constructed into original buildings and unique spaces. Transition year students also worked with our Artist-In-Residence, Isobel Egan, creating a beautiful porcelain wall-mounted artwork inspired by Glasnevin and the surrounding area.

Fifth year art students participated in the Amnesty International, 'Voice Your Concern' project. Each student made a visual response to 'The Declaration of Human Rights'. The school community was invited to make a comment on the exhibited imaginative compositions which explored themes relating to the universal respect for human dignity and the rights of the individual. The project challenged students to develop subject matter relating to the Declaration and to communicate it visually. The response to this interesting series of work acknowledges the commitment and artistic talent evident within our school community.

In May our sixth year art students sat their Leaving Certificate practical exams. They were required to realise a still life composition, a series of life drawings and to create a finished piece of craftwork. The art history and appreciation exam will take place in June. We wish all students success in their exams and commend them on all their hard work and achievements.

The Art Department
**Ms. C. Kavanagh, Ms. N. Cunningham
 and Isobel Egan**

Fifth Year Amnesty



Megan McCann



Kelsey Murphy



Angela O'Hara



Brooklyn Gifford



Jessica Corcoran

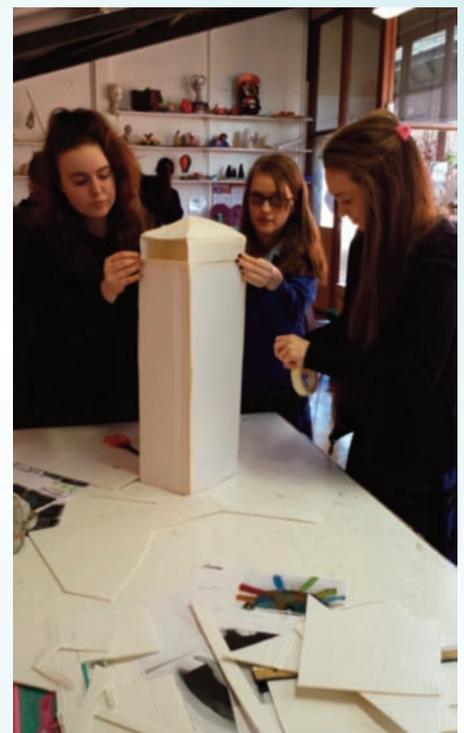


Eimear O'Connor



Shannon O'Brien

TY My Architecture Design Journal



PE AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Health Week

St. Mary's was a buzz of activity during our annual Health Week which took place from the 23rd to 28th of January – a great way to kick off the New Year. From early morning runs to basketball shoot outs the St. Mary's girls were as enthusiastic and energetic as ever. Activities like the Early Bird Run, Guessing Games and the Million Step Challenge got the girls up and going at lunchtime and after school. Health week promotes a healthy diet with free fruity snacks supplied at break time – a real treat for the girls. We hope that they continue to stay fit and eat healthily, (most of the time anyway).



TY Team Building



St. Mary's One Million Step Challenge

This year during Health Week St. Mary's took on a new challenge of one million steps in five days. We asked a group of twenty participants to volunteer. It was made up of eight teachers and twelve students. The challenge involved twenty participants who would walk for five days and achieve ten thousand steps a day which would equal one million steps! Their progress was monitored every day by Pedometers. (Twenty participants x five days x ten thousand steps a day = one million steps!)

We wanted the St. Mary's group of twenty to challenge themselves to hit the ten thousand step mark every day for five days in a row, and therefore the overall group would walk one million steps.

Research shows that walking ten thousand steps a day will significantly improve your health, but most of us only walk between three thousand and four thousand steps per day. Therefore ten thousand steps per day certainly was a challenge for all the volunteers!

We were delighted, not only to achieve our target but to beat it with a total number of one million, two hundred and thirty one thousand, four hundred and twenty three steps achieved. This is a fantastic achievement for our First Step Challenge in St. Mary's and a big thank you to all our student and teacher participants. Keep on stepping!

Ms. Boran and Ms. Maher

Daily Scoreboard

		Week					
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
Students		146,394	164,092	177,411	170,200	98,230	756,377
Teachers		101,153	106,731	85,734	83,958	97,479	475,055
Totals		247,547	270,823	273,145	254,158	195,709	1,231,423
Best Year Group							
1st	2nd Year						147,684
2nd	6th Year						136,068
3rd	TY						128,294
4th	1st Year						122,699
5th	5th Year						118,952
6th	3rd Year						84,713
Best Student – Most Steps in One Day							
1st	Rachel Hogan – 2nd Year						22,676
2nd	Ciara McDermott – 5th Year						22,625
Best Teacher Team							
1st	Ms. O'Donnell/Ms. Groszewski						81,842
2nd	Mr. Beirne/Ms. Walsh						59,166
3rd	Ms. Donohue/Ms. Warren						58,730
4th	Ms. Griffin/Ms. Rochford						58,335
Best Teacher – Most Steps in One Day							
1st	Mr. Beirne						23,835
2nd	Ms. O'Donnell						17,960
3rd	Ms. Rochford						17,014

PE AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT CONTD.

The Ups and Downs of PE Class



Mile Challenge

Everybody needs a challenge in her life and the PE department provided just that when we asked all our students to see how fast they could run a mile. Training took place during a number of PE classes with many of the students glowing at the end of each session. This was more difficult for some and we are particularly proud of those students who pushed themselves to the very end. Everybody did extremely well and all received an Aviva Mile Challenge Wrist band which ranged from purple to red. A very high proportion of students received a red band which required them to complete the mile in under 8 minutes but to receive any colour was an achievement. We hope that this will be an annual event in the school where students will aim to maintain or improve their personal best.

Badminton

I would like to wish all our 6th year players Mary Tipones, Maclara Aggassi, Danicah Monterola, Glennalyn Lantin and Ling Li Zeng every success in their upcoming exams and in the future. They have been enthusiastic, dedicated and successful members of all the school teams and have represented St. Mary's at U14, U16 and U19 level. We have enjoyed having them as part of our club and we will miss them and hope they continue to be active and play badminton.



Basketball

Shooting to success!

**A successful year for basketball in St. Mary's!
Our second years are Division 1, Junior champions!**

Our second year team lost its semi-final by just one point last year providing it with the determination to reach the final this year. The girls beat Our Lady's School Drogheda in their opening game. They then met Mount Sackville A and they proved to be a formidable force winning the match by over twenty points. We met St. Louis, Rathmines, in the semi-final. It was one of the toughest contests of the season but St. Mary's team triumphed in the last quarter. Having secured their place in the final the girls showed great commitment and team effort in every training. They played St. Paul's, Greenhills, in the final. The girls played a brilliant match and secured victory with a final score of 32-20. Congratulations to all the girls. Congratulations also to Julie McEvoy who received an award for player of the match. She is a very talented player and a great captain.

Both our first year teams advanced to the Semifinals!

Due to the huge interest showed by the first years, we entered both a first year premier and Division 2 team this year.

Our Division 2 team lost just one game in its league matches to St. Mary's School, Killester. It beat Maryfield B, Santa Sabina B and St. Mary's, Baldoyle to advance to the quarter final. The girls went on to play Maynooth in the Quarter Final, securing a place in the semi-final winning by ten points. They met Mount Sackville in the semi-finals. The girls put up a great challenge but Mount Sackville students were very strong competitors and we lost the match by six

points in the end. With twenty teams in the division 2 championship, making it into the top four is no mean feat. Well done girls!

The premier team was up against some very tough competition. Its opening game against Maynooth ended in a draw. The girls went on to beat Santa Sabina by a margin of six points and Manor House by one point. They met Santa Sabina again in the final. The match was a draw up to the last quarter but it was to be Santa Sabina's day and we were defeated by six points in the end. Well done to all the students who trained hard all season and I know both our first year teams are determined to go one step further next year!

Ms. E. Murphy





St. Mary's Hockey



Congratulations to all the hockey teams on their achievements this season. It is fantastic to be able to report that this year was successful for St. Mary's Hockey Teams as they reached two Finals and one Leinster League Play-off!

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. Thank you to our umpires Mr. Mc Gill and Ms. Nolan. 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 days. Thank you to all those who cheered us on along the way!

Senior Hockey

The Senior Team entered the Leinster League and played some very closely contested matches. It qualified for a play-off, but was beaten by Holy Child Killiney in a close contest. The team played in the Northside league and had excellent wins against teams such as Holy Faith Clontarf, The King's Hospital, Manor House and went on to win the Northside League. The team thoroughly enjoyed the early morning training showing great dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year. Well done to the team on a fantastic year! Best of luck to four of our sixth year students (Aoife Reilly, Vanessa Boland, Sinead McArdle and Megan Stamp) who will be leaving us and the St. Mary's hockey team. They certainly will be missed and we wish them luck in the future!



Senior Team



Senior Team

Second Year Hockey – Minor Team

The Minor played against teams such as Holy Faith Clontarf, Sutton Park and Skerries. They competed very well in the Northside League, but were unable to win their group. The Minor team missed out on reaching a final this year but is now even more determined for next year.



2nd Year Team

First Year Hockey

We are delighted to have two First year hockey teams this year, the Jets and the Saints! The teams are so enthusiastic at training and have shown a fantastic advancement in their skill and knowledge of hockey throughout this year. The First year teams entered the Northside League with great anticipation and excitement at playing their first matches representing St. Mary's. They won matches against Mt. Sackville and Cabra and reached the Northside League Final. Unfortunately they were narrowly beaten by St. Wolstan's in the Final after extra time and finally a nail-biting penalty shoot-out! This was a great experience for their first year. The girls played an excellent game, however, unfortunately it was not their day this year. Congratulations to them on getting to the Final and they are now even more determined for next year.

Well done to all our goalies this year, who made some outstanding saves, almost like Inspector Gadget!!

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 winning team enjoyed a well deserved celebration! 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 to next year!

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



1st Year Teams



PE AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT CONTD.

From the Archives

HOLY FAITH CONVENT, GLASNEVIN MINOR HOCKEY TEAM 1970-'71.



Back Row :— Mary Dillon, Jacinta Greene, Ann Glancy, Ann Walsh, Geraldine Byrne.
Front Row :— Shella Rooney, Emer Maguire, Valerie Cotter, Helen Dempsey, Iolanda Andreucetti, Sandra Williams.

St. Mary's P.P. School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin, is well-known for its academic achievements down the years, and also boasts a noteworthy tradition on the sporting front. Hockey, basketball and tennis are sports at which pupils have made their imprint, and there have also been important successes.

Another very interesting feature of the scene is that several past pupils have made a career of their favourite outside school pastime by becoming P.E. teachers. All the P.E. teachers at the school are past pupils.

The school colours are Royal Blue Skirt and White Blouse, and teams have been competing in the Holy Faith Games League since 1938.

TWELVE TEAMS

At present, 12 teams in all are fielded in hockey and basketball competitions. These are as follows :—

HOCKEY—Senior, Intermediate, Junior "A" and Junior "B", Minor "A" and Minor "B". These teams compete in the Holy Faith Hockey League and the Leinster Hockey League.

BASKETBALL—Senior "A", Senior "B", Cadette "A" and Cadette "B" and Junior "A" and Junior "B". The basketball teams compete in the basketball league.

Team captains are Mary Collins in hockey and Anne Phelan in basketball.

The school has two grounds, one an all weather pitch, and the other a grass pitch.

The junior and minor hockey teams finished runners-up in the Holy Faith League in 1970-71, and the minor hockey team reached the quarter finals of the Leinster League in 1971.

In tennis, the school has won the Senior Cup (Holy Faith Inter-Schools' Tennis) no fewer than 12 times since 1946. This is a splendid achievement by any measurement.

The school is also making a great contribution towards solving the problem of long summer holidays and occupation for the young.

A new Tennis Club, St. Mary's, was recently launched. The club has eight courts, beautiful changing facilities, and a club room and shop. The court's are well-marked out on the school's all-weather hockey pitch, already spotlighted above.

This tennis club is distinct from the school in that it operates only during the holidays, and that membership is confined to those who have or had some connection with the school.

As well as providing valuable recreational facilities in this direction during the summer, the school is setting an outstanding headline. Under this arrangement, recreational facilities are being fully exploited during the year, instead of remaining idle for some months — as is so often the case.

The school's aim is to enjoy sport and games at all times. And, it is succeeding admirably in this objective.

A school with a great past, and one with an exciting future . . . that, in short, is St. Mary's P.P. School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin.

Camogie

This year, for the first time, St. Mary's entered a team into the Dublin Senior post primary camogie championship. Each year in the school was represented on this team. It played its first competitive match in October. The team got off to a promising start before Christmas and had an unbeaten record in its group matches. St. Mary's recorded comprehensive victories over Confey College Leixlip, Holy Faith, Clontarf and Hartstown C.S.

After the Christmas break the girls faced a tough challenge in the semi-final which was played on the Farnham Drive pitch in Finglas. Loreto, St. Stephen's Green, proved to be a very strong opposition. The game was very close and St. Mary's had to work very hard to overcome this challenge. Through hard work and determination St. Mary's earned themselves a place in the final winning the semi-final by only one point in the final minutes.

The final was equally as nail-biting. Our opposition once again was Holy Faith Clontarf. On the day the St. Mary's team travelled to Clontarf. The team suffered a blow in that its goal keeper, Saoirse Devlin, was unable to play due to injury. This set back and the challenge which the girls faced required strong leadership and belief on the day. Although at times during the final St. Mary's were behind, they never gave up. Each player showed determination and pride in her team and the school. The spirit and team work that the girls showed during the game paid off when they were again, only one point ahead at the final whistle. Our captain, Aoife Reilly, made an acceptance speech in front of her team mates, parents, families and of course our supporters. They came along with Mr. Beirne and Ms. Coughlan and were very loud and supportive on the day. The girls will be presented with their medals later in the year.

This was a fantastic achievement for the girls and St. Marys. We wish the best of luck and further success to our sixth years both on and off the pitch. They include: Aoife Reilly, Amy Keogh, Lauren Hale, Rebecca Murphy, Rebecca Doherty, Alix O'Keefe and Vanessa Boland.

The standard of camogie and talent in this school has been evident this year. Hopefully the girls can build on this success again next year. Well done to all.

Ms. A. Walsh and Ms. Shelley



Dublin Senior Champions



Aoife Reilly, Proud Captain

PE AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT CONTD.

Gaelic

DCU Blitz Champions!

Our Gaelic team entered a Blitz in DCU on 9th April. It was composed of girls from First and Second year. Although facing very tough opposition, our girls exceeded the highest of expectations and won every game up to and including the final!! All games were of a very high standard, especially the final, and our girls' talent shone from start to finish. Every member of the panel performed brilliantly on the day effecting some great scores and showing real determination and team work. The team was presented with its trophy by Dublin Stars Johnny Cooper and James McCarthy. A big thanks to Ms Boran for her help on the day. It was a great honour for the school to leave as champions and hopefully the girls will continue their winning ways for years to come!

The team on the day: Katie Alcock, Ciara Kelly, Rachel Hogan, Sarah Conway, Aoife Fenton, Gillian Fitzgibbons, Fiona Daly, Kellie Gorman, Megan Cluskey and Stephanie Cluskey.

Mr. Beirne



Winning Selfie!

The team pictured with Johnny Cooper and James McCarthy



RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Faith Friends

Faith Friends took place this year over four weeks from the 30th of January to the 27th of February. Two fifth year classes, 5 Spring and 5 Summer, linked in with Ms. Phelan's and Ms. Ryan's sixth classes in St. Brigid's National School.

The girls met up once a week over three weeks and worked together on the programme. Our fifth year students approached their role as Faith Friends with great interest and enthusiasm. They enjoyed meeting the sixth class girls, getting to know them and passing on their faith, as well as their own experience of Confirmation.

During the fourth week, Ms. Phelan, Ms. Ryan and the sixth class girls were invited to come to the Prayer Room for a Prayer Service to conclude the Faith Friends Programme. Fr. Richard officiated at the Prayer Service, which was attended by Ms. Fallon, the Principal of St. Brigid's and our own Principal, Mrs. Lennon. Mr. Coll and members of the school choir greatly enhanced

the Prayer Service with their beautiful singing.

Our girls presented the sixth class girls with Certificates of Completion of the Programme and there was great excitement as cards and chocolate were exchanged at the end.

We would like to thank all those who helped to make the programme such a success this year and in particular the girls of 5 Spring and 5 Summer who were great examples of the living faith of the school and were a pleasure to work with.

Ms. Bohan and Ms. Byrne

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week 2014 began on Sunday 26th January and concluded on 1st February. The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year was, 'Catholic Schools – places of faith and learning'. This year's theme was chosen to highlight that all learning takes place in a values context. Catholic Schools Week is an occasion to celebrate the work and achievement of Catholic Schools in Ireland, north and south.

Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, launched Catholic Schools Week on 20th January in Saint Dominic's College, Cabra, Dublin. The launch comprised a liturgy and a discussion involving over two hundred students and staff from fourteen local schools as well as representation from across the country. St. Mary's had the opportunity to be part of this launch. Megan Looney, Sarah Kelly, April Lamai, Casey Harris, Ciara Scott, Lisa Fitzsimons and Saoirse Scott attended the launch and participated readily in both the liturgy and the discussion that followed. The girls were a credit to the school, representing St. Mary's very well. The discussion was facilitated by Ms. Maura Garrihy, Youth Officer for the Diocese of Galway. It also included input from special guest, Mr. Ger Brennan, teacher and Dublin GAA senior football player.

One of the initiatives for Catholic Schools Week, was the idea that St. Mary's would plan and take part in Sunday Mass in Our Lady of Dolours Church in Glasnevin.

Many of our senior and junior students volunteered to participate in the service. It was a unique opportunity to give the parish community a greater sense of how St. Mary's celebrates being a Catholic school. The ceremony was hugely uplifting and very well received by parishioners.

Ms. C. Murtagh

Feast of St. Blaise – Blessing of the Throats

Traditionally people get their throats blessed on the Feast of St. Blaise. This year the Religion Department were delighted to welcome Fr. Richard who led the blessing of the throats of students and staff.

Ash Wednesday – 5th March 2014

The Religion Department gave out blessed ashes to students and staff on Wednesday 5th March to mark the beginning of Lent. Blessed ashes are a sign that people are sorry for their sins and that they will make an extra effort to live good Christian lives.

Ms. M. Byrne

Graduation 2014

The Sixth Year Graduation took place on Monday the 19th of May in the gym. The sixth year classes are all called after Irish mountains: Errigal, Kippure, Nephin and Brandon. The theme, "Scale the heights and reach for your star", was chosen with this in mind.

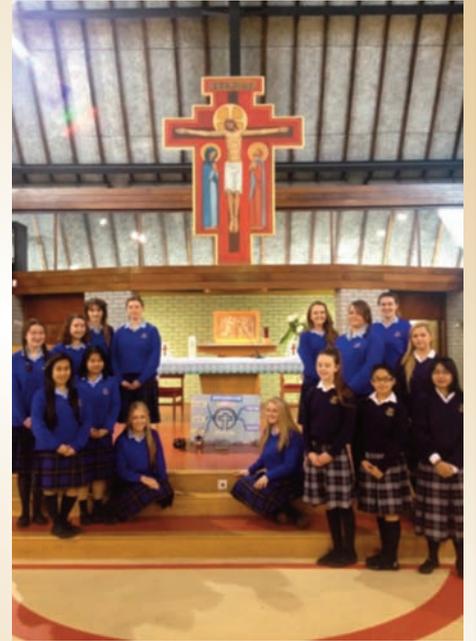
The walls of the gym were decorated with four mountains, representing each class. Photos of each of the girls with miniature bodies were placed on the mountains. They were surrounded by icons representing their gifts, talents and achievements during their time here in St. Mary's. The banner was decorated with the theme and hung on the back wall interspersed with balloons in the school colours. A presentation of images of the girls and all of their activities and trips was shown to their parents before the Mass began.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Richard and began with an opening candle procession. Each girl carried her Graduation Candle into the gym, symbolising the light of learning for each student, while a prayer of Margaret Aylward's was read out. The Head Girl, Megan Stamp and the two deputies, Eilís Phelan and Leah O'Donnell, and some of their fellow sixth years did the readings and Prayers of the Faithful. In keeping with the theme of mountains, gifts were brought up and placed on a mountain at the altar. These gifts represented all the help and support the girls received from parents, families and teachers as they climbed the mountain of learning to reach their star of a successful future. After Communion a reflection was read which gave meaning to this journey they

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 given a day retreat in Ruah Retreat Centre on St. Alphonsis Road, Drumcondra. Over the course of five weeks each class made its way down for some time out from its busy life. The retreat was a great opportunity for the classes to reflect and think about the greater things in life. They learned a lot about themselves and about the others 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.

Mr. C. Coll



have been on. The Mass ended on a high note with the beautiful singing of the choir.

The Mass was dedicated to our staff member, Mrs. Claire Bogan, who passed away this spring, and to our retiring teachers: Ms. Murphy, Ms. Aird, Ms. Moggan and Ms. Kavanagh.

After the Mass, Mrs. Lennon and Ms. Murphy addressed the parents, students and teachers. The main awards of the night were given out to the worthy recipients. Certificates and emblems were presented to all of the girls. Megan, Eilís and Leah then spoke to everyone in their valedictory address. Finally, the proceedings ended with an emotional rendition of the graduation song.

As always, we in the Religion Department, would like to thank everyone who helped to make Graduation such a special occasion. In particular we thank: Mrs. Lennon and Ms. Murphy without whose support we could not do it; Ms. Moggan and Ms. Maher for the balloons and letting us use the gym; Ms. Cunningham for the flowers; Liz for printing the Mass booklet; Ciaran and Gerry for setting up the gym; Ms. O'Rourke, Mr. Coll and the choir for their beautiful singing and all the parents and staff who come and celebrate the occasion in such numbers.

Ms. L. Bohan and the Religion Department

Roinn na Gaeilge

Bhí téarma thar a bheith deacair ag Roinn na Gaeilge i mbliana nuair a chailleadh mhúinteoir linn, Mrs. Claire Bogan. Ba mhúinteoir thar a bheith díograiseach, eagraithe, foighneach agus éirimiúil í Mrs. Claire Bogan. Bhí grá mór aici don Ghaeilge, don mhúinteoireacht agus do na daltaí ar fad a mhúin sí thar na blianta. Ba foinse eolais, comhairle agus tacaíochta í dá có-mhúinteoirí uile i Roinn na Gaeilge. Mothóimid uainn i gcónaí í. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

Roinn na Gaeilge had a very difficult term this year with the loss of our colleague, Mrs. Claire Bogan. Mrs. Claire Bogan was a very dedicated, organized, patient and talented teacher. She had a great love for Irish, for teaching and for all the students she taught over the years. She was a source of information, advice and support to her fellow teachers in Roinn na Gaeilge. She will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace.

Roinn na Gaeilge 2014

Awards



Our end of school year awards ceremony took place during the week of the 19th May 2014. Well done to all students who received awards. Students from all year groups were awarded in all subjects for their Academic Achievement and Dedication to each subject. Many students also received general awards in areas such as Leadership, Co-operation and Positivity and Extra-Curricular involvement.

Congratulations girls.

Mrs A. Hughes and Ms. E. Higgins

Simon Community

For our Action Project, class 2 Primrose chose the topic of homelessness. Our class organised a speaker to come in from the Simon Community. Our speaker's name was Glen Gannon and he told us his story of being homeless. It was very moving and it really opened our eyes. As a result our class made a short movie to raise awareness of homelessness. This movie showed a homeless person being ignored, but some people showed they cared by giving her money. This shows that homeless people are just like us but are not as fortunate. Our class showed the video to students' assemblies to raise awareness of this issue. If you would like to donate to the Simon Community for the amazing work they do log on to www.simon.ie



Leah Riordan and Lauren Lawlor

2Daisy's Action Project

For 2 Daisy's action project, we chose to visit the D.S.P.C.A. The D.S.P.C.A. stands for the Dublin Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and they do great work involving the rights of animals in Ireland. The D.S.P.C.A. rehabilitates animals that have been injured or are homeless. The government provides them with a grant to help the animals, but the grant is not enough, so they also fundraise, and people like us can make donations. The D.S.P.C.A. has one thousand, seven hundred unpaid volunteers to help take care of the thousands of animals they help.

On Thursday the 10th of April, 2 Daisy went out to their headquarters in Rathfarnham and saw first-hand the amazing work that they do. Hearing the devastating stories of animal cruelty cases that Olive, the volunteer who gave us the tour, had seen, tugged at the heartstrings even of those who didn't like animals. It really opened our eyes to the harm being done to them. The day was made so much better when we gave Olive our cheque for €175.35, which we'd made the previous day at our cake sale. We are now writing up the rest of our action project and look forward to making people more aware of the kind of work the D.S.P.C.A. does for animals.

Hannah Ryan Murphy and Naoise Finnegan



Textiles for Cash Fundraising

On the Friday 9th May we ran our annual textiles for cash collection. As always, a huge thank you to all who brought along bags on the day. Our chosen partner again this year was www.libertiesrecycling.com, a registered charity. The details of the amount raised have been sent via a text message to all households. This had proven to be a great success over the last three years, and we hope to continue running this fundraising event with your support. Many thanks.

Ms. A. Duffy



Bring in your bags of textiles
on
Friday 9th May.
Drop off zone –
STAFF CAR PARK.
Thank you.



Third Year English Trip – “Romeo and Juliet”

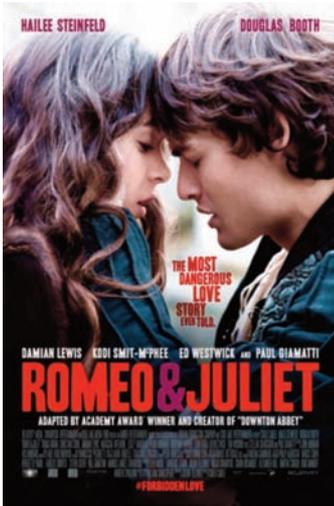
On Wednesday 9th April, all one hundred and thirty third year students attended a screening of the newly released version of “Romeo and Juliet” in the I.F.I cinema in Temple Bar.

Directed by Carlo Carlei, the film starred Douglas Booth as Romeo and Hailee Steinfeld as Juliet. It also featured

“Homeland’s” Damian Lewis as Lord Capulet, Paul Giamatti as Friar Lawrence and Ed Westwick of “Gossip Girl” fame as the fiery Tybalt. Many girls agreed that Douglas Booth gave a very convincing portrayal of Shakespeare’s lovestruck hero, but they were less convinced by Steinfeld’s performance as Juliet.

The film uses the traditional setting of Renaissance Verona with close attention given to the lavish background and costumes. However, while the film loosely follows the storyline of Shakespeare’s classic tale, a number of significant alterations were made to the script by screenwriter Julian Fellowes of “Downton Abbey” fame. These changes made for a lively discussion with students after the film on the merits of Shakespeare’s original text.

All students are studying “Romeo and Juliet” as part of their Junior Certificate Exam so the outing gave them a valuable opportunity to engage with and interpret their studied text on the silver screen. The English teachers would like to thank everyone who helped to make this trip a success



Creative Writing Workshops

This term, the school was fortunate to have a visit from writers Patrick Ryan and Alan Early as part of the “Writers in Schools” education programme. The writers delivered creative workshops to various groups of students throughout the day and offered valuable advice to all our budding novelists.



Patrick Ryan explained how his craft of storytelling has developed over years of teaching and travelling in America, England and Ireland. He described the origins of Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” and then regaled the fifth and T.Y. student group with a bloodthirsty tale of vampires in the West of Ireland.



Alan Early is a children’s writer and author of the widely acclaimed “Father of Lies” trilogy. His first book in the series “Arthur Quinn and the World Serpent” was released in 2011 and has been described by Eoin Colfer as “a brilliant creation” and it was also shortlisted in the 2011 Bord Gais Energy Irish Book Awards. He led two writing workshops with first year classes Kestrel and Wren which produced some very humorous, creative and imaginative results!



Ms. D. Callan

The Mary Carroll Library News

Author Visit

On Monday 7th April we were delighted to facilitate a visit to the school by two authors; Patrick Ryan and Alan Early. Patrick has published folk tales from Shakespearian times for children and teenagers. He is also an accomplished story teller. Alan is the Irish author of the popular Arthur Quinn series of books. Patrick began the day with a storytelling session with 4 Darwin and thirty fifth year students who volunteered to attend. Patrick then conducted an inspiring creative writing workshop with the fifth year group.

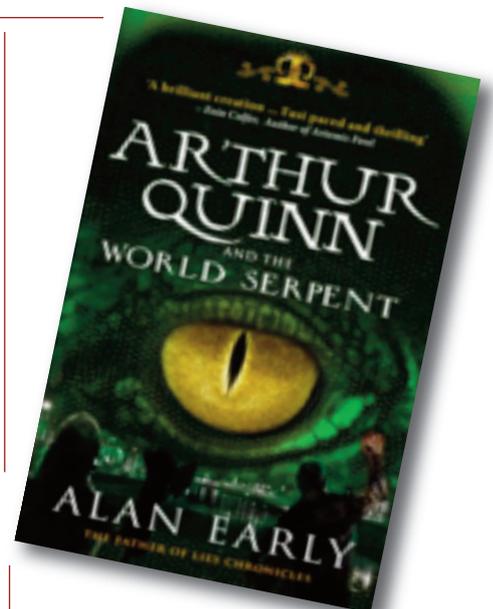
Alan held two workshops, one with class Kestrel and another with class Lark. These workshops included a game show

based on the Arthur Quinn books, a reading and a creative writing exercise. Thanks to their English teachers, both first year groups were very well prepared, knew the background to the series and had read part of the books. Some eager students had even read all three books! The authors were very impressed with St. Mary’s students. The day was a great success and all students really enjoyed it. Many thanks to all involved.

Book to Film Club

The Book club continued to meet on a Wednesday from three to four in the library. The final two films we viewed this year were “The Princess Diaries 2” and “Hunger Games 2”. There was a great turnout for each film.

Ms. L. Sullivan



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Two Pianos added to the Music Department



Piano from Mrs. Frances Blackburn

In March this year the music department was given an upright "Ring" Piano from Mrs. Frances Blackburn, a former secretary in the school. The piano had been in her family since she was a young girl and it was much loved by her family over the years. The piano was transported and installed in the music room and it will be a great asset for our

music students. A huge word of thanks to Frances for this very kind donation. It is much appreciated by all in the music department.

During the Junior and Leaving Certificate practicals hundreds of pieces are accompanied for music students, with the result that Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Coll play pieces in a variety of different keys for each student.

"Transpose" is a function on digital pianos which is an excellent asset when playing in different keys as it allows the key to be changed on the piano itself in the function menu on the inbuilt screen. Over the past few years we have fundraised at the annual music showcase in order to buy a new digital piano for the music room. So with some of these funds we invested in a new "Roland HP507 Digital Piano". This piano is also compatible to

USD link up to a computer and iPad users and it will be a great asset for students in the area of Music Technology. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the music showcase over the years. Without this support this would not have been possible.



New Roland Digital Piano

Trip to the National Concert Hall



Students outside the National Concert Hall

On the 25th of February the sixth year music students went to the National Concert Hall to hear Berlioz', "Symphonie Fantastique", which is on their Leaving Certificate course. It was an interactive presentation and performance of movements two and four. The students really enjoyed the experience and it was a real treat to hear the RTE Symphony Orchestra perform this work live. This made the whole work very real and helped galvanise the work done in class.

The Annual St. Mary's "Music Showcase"

Towards the end of every year the musical talent of St. Mary's is showcased in one night of great entertainment in

St. Mary's choir hall. Performances on the night this year consisted of students from the Junior and Leaving Certificate classes performing their practical pieces. Classes from first, second and fifth 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 next year.

Practicals

Thirty three Junior Certificate students, twenty seven Leaving Certificate and close to three hundred pieces of music – these make 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 year students every success in their written examinations in June.

Emmanuel 2014

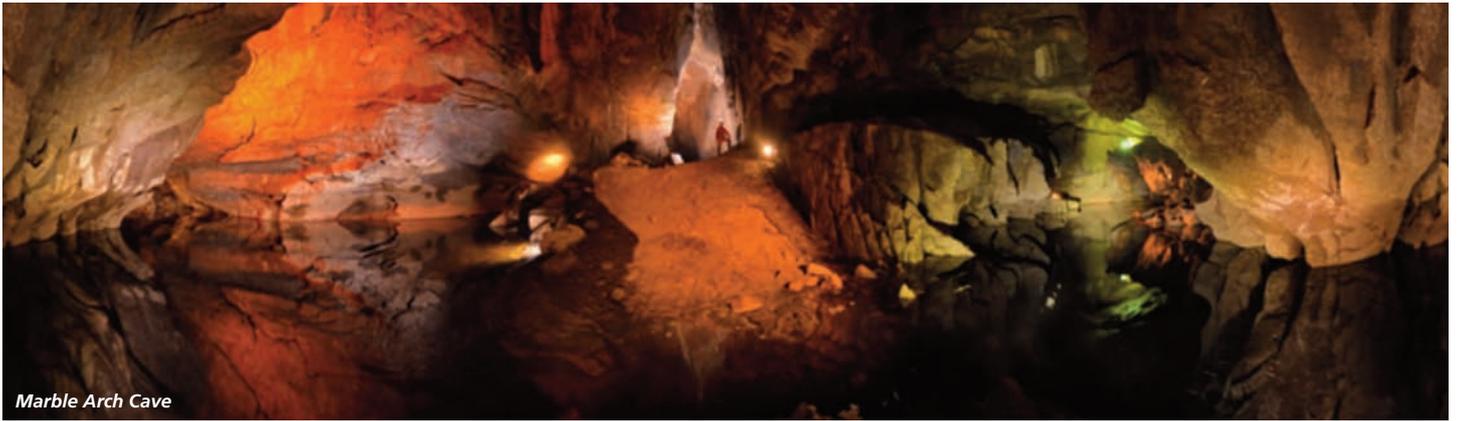
St. Mary's was well represented again this year at the Emmanuel Concert in the Helix on the 4th of March. Fifty members of the choir participated in the concert. The students had a great day in Our Lady of Victories Church when they joined the choirs of other schools for rehearsals and they attended workshops. On the night, three of our students sang solos. They were: April Lami (5th Year), Casey Harris (3rd Year) and Gemma Reilly (2nd Year).

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.

Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Coll
Music Department



The Helix



Marble Arch Cave

September Trip

The Geography department is delighted to announce an overnight trip in September 2014. This will cover vital parts of the senior cycle curriculum at two of Ireland's most amazing geological sites.

First stop will be The Marble Arch Cave system in Fermanagh. The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark is host to one of Europe's finest showcaves allowing visitors to explore a fascinating, natural underworld of rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers. Lively and informative guides conduct tours of a bewildering variety of cave formations – stalactites glisten above stream ways and chambers while fragile mineral veils and cascades of creamy calcite coat walls and spread as shimmering terraces across rock strewn floors. Spectacular walkways allow easy access while powerful lighting reveals the stunning beauty and grandeur of the caves. Electrically powered boats glide through huge caverns carrying visitors along a subterranean river.

That evening will include some economic geography, with a shopping trip to Victoria Square in Belfast.

The second day will be a detailed tour of the Giants Causeway and a trip across Carrick-a-Rede ropebridge for the brave! The Giant's Causeway provides a glimpse into the Earth's most ancient past. For this reason, it was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Made up of over 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the Giant's Causeway is the result of intense volcanic activity millions of years ago.



Giant's Causeway

Fieldwork

This year's annual trip to Howth to complete Leaving Certificate fieldwork was a great success. Our fifth year students were fantastic and completed all tasks with enthusiasm and efficiency. There were even some interesting fossil finds! Well done girls. This is such an important part of the course as it is worth 20% of the final grade.

Howth Fieldwork



First year Geography students make clay models of the work of the sea.

First year girls in 1 Wren and in 1 Robin got their hands dirty in April making clay models of the features of coastal erosion. After they made, painted and labelled their models they made notes about their feature for their classmates and then taught them about it. The results made waves!

Mr. P. Montague

Breaking News

Following on from the huge success of the Iceland trip, we are currently researching destinations for 2015. Possible options include the volcanoes of Sicily or the west coast of USA. Watch this space!



Mt. Etna, Sicily

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

Fifth/Sixth Year Parent Career Guidance Information Evening

A career evening for parents of fifth and sixth year parents was held on 20th January. The speakers on the evening included: Dr. John McGinnity, Admissions Officer /Assistant Registrar, NUI Maynooth who spoke about the HETAC System/CAO System; Carol Bruce, Deputy Principal, Whitehall College of Further Education who spoke about the FETAC System; Susan Hawkins, Pre-Entry Project Officer, DCU who spoke about the HEAR Scheme and Colm Downes, Co-ordinator 16+ Task Force, Finglas who spoke about Grants/Financial Assistance.

Incoming First Years



Entrance exams for First Year students took place on Saturday 1st February. To help facilitate the transition from primary school to secondary school we

visited the primary schools and talked with the sixth class teachers about the students' progress and interests.

There was a very positive information meeting with the parents of incoming first years on 26th February 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 are inviting incoming first year parents to make an appointment at the end of May for an informal interview with a member of the Care Team.

Third Years



The third year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS) in December. This was to help those going 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. Third year students planning to do fifth year had the opportunity to meet with the guidance counsellors to get feedback on the results of their DATS. The third year students with their parents attended a meeting on March 3rd to look at the options for next year in regard to Transition Year, Fifth Year and LCVP.

Second Year Subject Choice



There was a meeting with the parents of the present first year students on March 12th to look at subject

choices 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.

STEM Career Guidance: Benchmarks and Practice



Sir John Holman, Professor in the Chemistry Department, University of York, UK and adviser in Education at the Wellcome Trust and the Gatsby Foundation, Jennifer McKenzie, Director, National Centre for Guidance in Education and Tom Geary of the University of Limerick spent an afternoon in our school in early December to meet with the guidance department and four leaving certificate students about the experience of guidance in a voluntary secondary school.



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 14th 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 first or second 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 Dionne Gorman, Amy Rooney, Ciara Scott, Niamh Hyland, Katie Franzoni, Jamae Ardinez, Megan

Looney, Lara Eguia, Jairrah Gorgora and Lucy Carroll.

Discover DCU



Discover DCU is an initiative of DCU's Access Programme targeting Fifth Year students. It takes the form of a workshop for students intending to take at least two honours subjects for their Leaving Certificate examination. The aim of the workshop is to give information, allow students to explore their fears, anxieties and expectations about third level and to offer guidance and support about studying at DCU. The programme works with a cluster of three schools. The first workshop took place on 29th January and our school was asked to participate. The following fifth years represented the school on the day: April Lamai, Shannon Farrell, Clare Purvis, Sabat Ahmed, Bronagh Leen, Aine Ford, Raluca Ghinescu, Shannon O'Brien, Miliscent Reyes, Ghdir Abbas, Ciara Burke and Sarah Kelly.



Susan Hawkins, DCU Access Programme Coordinator and three DCU students



The OneWeek@Google programme was developed in order to provide pre-university students with an enriching, creative and challenging work experience within a new media technology company. As part of Google's commitment to diversity and to providing opportunities to students from all academic backgrounds, they offer a One Week @ Google programme to help influence the educational path a student takes to reach their desired career. Ali Horan and Aoife Murphy from TY participated on the programme for a week and also received free laptops for their contribution.

CoderDojo and DCU Access Programme

A CoderDojo workshop took place in the School of Computers at DCU on 8th March. The workshop was ideal for those who wanted an introduction to the exciting world and opportunities in tech, while also learning how to programme in an exciting environment. To get them started they learned how to create their very own web pages using HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Three second year students participated in the programme including Lauryn McCausland, Zara Quane and Lucy Proctor.

Biomedical Engineering Workshop

DCU provided an exciting opportunity for young and enthusiastic fifth year students who were interested in pursuing a career in Biomedical Engineering to attend a workshop on 10th May. The activities on the day included an overview of the Biomedical Engineering degree at DCU, a day in the life of a Biomedical Engineer, guest speakers and brain teasers as well as prizes for team work. The fifth year students who participated on the programme included Megan Donnelly, Hazel Doyle, Zuryab Ahmed, Sabat Ahmed, Katie Franzoni, Molly Franzoni and Sandra Joshy.

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 include DCU, UCD, Trinity College, NUI Maynooth and DIT. The successful student chosen for the programme is Emma Quinn from 5 Summer who will participate in taster college activities e.g. attending lectures and workshops, visiting laboratories, taking part in sports and visiting sites around campus.

DCU have 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



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 Ms. Devaney and Ms. Sullivan will be available in August to support the students when they receive their results and later on when offers are being made.

Ms. F. Devaney and Ms. L. Sullivan

YSI Workshop in DCU

Fifteen fifth year students took part in a Young Social Innovator's (YSI) workshop in DCU in February. Since then they have been working in two groups creating posters highlighting a social issue. They attended the YSI annual showcase on 7th May to display their posters. The students all received certificates for participating in the programme. Well done to all involved.
Ms. L. Sullivan



Leadership Course

On 1st May, Amy Murphy and Brooklyn Gifford, graduated from a leadership course run by St. John's Education Centre. The course ran over a period of several months and required a commitment to attend weekly. Both Amy and Brooklyn showed great enthusiasm and dedication in completing the course. They each made a speech during the graduation. Well done girls!



Le Chéile Conference

This February we were very happy to be given the opportunity to represent our school at the annual Le Chéile conference in Athlone. We really appreciated the chance to get to meet lots of other students from the Le Chéile Trust. During our time at the conference we took part in many different workshops with students from schools all over Ireland. We participated in a mindfulness workshop which taught us to value ourselves and to be "Brilliant, Super, Amazing and Fantastic". We also got involved in singing and making posters on what it is to be part of the Le Chéile Trust and learned that equality, friendship and loyalty were the most important qualities. The following morning we got to display all of the work that we had done during our stay to the other students, teachers and principals at the conference. Overall we had great fun taking part in all of the activities over the couple of days in Athlone and we really enjoyed our experience at the Le Chéile conference.

Eimear Martin and Eimear Tunstead (Fifth year students)



Eimear Martin, Sr. Antoinette Keelan, Chairperson, Board of Management, St. Mary's Secondary School and Eimear Tunstead

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Chemistry

On January 31st, The School of Chemical Sciences in DCU provided a workshop on Electrochemistry to our fifth year students. Students enjoyed participating in the event and the organisers in DCU were impressed by their enthusiasm and knowledge application.

Mr. E. Carr



GREEN SCHOOLS

On January 20th St. Mary's successfully raised its second Green flag. This one was for Energy. This was a wonderful achievement for a school of our size. St. Mary's students were delighted to have Cllr. Jane Horgan Jones raise our second Green Flag. Jane is a local Labour Councillor for the greater Clontarf area. It was an honour for the school to have such a public representative to help mark the occasion. The girls were able to relate to Ms. Horgan Jones on a personal level due to her wonderful nature and her fresh approach to politics along with her concern for the environment at local and national level.

Mr. Donnelly and the Green school committee would like to thank the Board of Management in St. Mary's, Mrs. Lennon (Principal) and Ms. Murphy (Deputy Principal) for their wonderful support. None of this would have been achieved without the whole school community's involvement. A special thank you to teachers, students, the administration staff, and Kieran our caretaker. Also thank you to our wonderful photographer, Ann Byrne, for her help on the day.

St. Mary's School is currently aiming to achieve its third green flag for water. This is a two year programme with a completion date due in April 2015. We are well on our way to successfully achieving our goal. On January 30th 2015, Mr. Donnelly and the Green School Committee will be attending a full day seminar on Water conservation in the Dublin City Council offices. This will be delivered by An Taisce.

Mr. W. Donnelly

BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

LCVP News

The Sixth Years have had a very busy year. On Monday, the 7th of October, Denise Wright came in for the interview training day. This helped the students prepare for the recorded interview and FETAC interviews. On Wednesday, the 2nd of October, Louise O'Hara, who runs a local crèche, came in to talk to sixth years. The students really enjoyed this visit and learned a lot about running one's own business.

The fifth years have been busy preparing their portfolios. They prepared CVs which helped them find work experience. On Monday, the 24th of March, David O'Driscoll from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions came in. Students found it very informative to learn about rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

Ms. A. Burrell

NFTE Ireland International Competition

On Wednesday, January 29th, two of St. Mary's N.F.T.E. Entrepreneur businesses had the privilege of reaching the last seven in Ireland and taking part in the N.F.T.E. International competition.

The companies which pitched to the dragons were, R&R Scrunchies and TY Hoodies.

- R&R Scrunchies are a hair accessories business set up by Rachel McMahon and Rebecca Wall.
- TY Hoodies are a transition year hoody business run by Sally Ahern and Olwyn Galbraith.

The girls pitched their business to a team of four dragons in Grant Thornton, City Quay. The prize on offer was a fully paid all expense trip to Washington DC, to attend the N.F.T.E. Global Gala Entrepreneur Awards. The winning business would be representing N.F.T.E. Ireland on the Global stage. The girls were hoping to follow in the footsteps of past winners in St. Mary's: Kelly Fitzgerald and Aoife McGrath, (Fingertips). The girls represented N.F.T.E. Ireland in 2012 at the global event in New York City.

R&R Scrunchies and TY Hoodies pitched to the following four dragons:

- Pat Burke (Partner, Grant Thornton)
- Tara O'Shea (Community Affairs Manager, Microsoft Ireland);

- Joe Redmond (Group Executive, Fexco)
- Kieron Guilfoyle (CEO 3V)

The girls performed wonderfully well on the day and presented their pitch with an extremely high level of professionalism. Unfortunately on the day they did not prevail. N.F.T.E. Ireland will be represented by Colaiste Dhulaigh. R&R Scrunchies were extremely unlucky and finished in second place and according to the judges it was extremely hard to separate the top two companies. The girls have been given wonderful feedback from the dragons. All of which was extremely positive.

On behalf of St. Mary's, the four girls represented the school admirably and it was a pleasure to work closely with them as they prepared their pitch. It was a wonderful day and the girls have a bright future ahead as entrepreneurs.

A special thanks to Keelin O'Donnell and Bronagh Connolly of N.F.T.E. Ireland for all of their support and help.

The whole N.F.T.E. class had the opportunity to enter into the National Competition which took place in DCU from March 24th to 26th. The students graduated from N.F.T.E. at the N.F.T.E. Youth Entrepreneurship Awards in The Helix, DCU on May 1st.



Mr. W. Donnelly
NFTE Business Teacher

BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT CONTD.

NFTE Trade Fair



Students graduating from NFTE 2014 in the Helix DCU

2013 NFTE Trade Fair



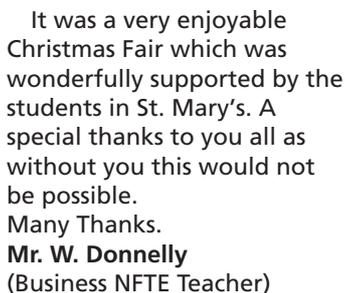
Jessica Moran and Jessica Penrose trading at the NFTE fair in DCU

This year's NFTE trade fair took place on December 18th in St. Mary's choir Hall. A special thanks to the board of management, Mrs. Lennon and Ms. Murphy for allowing the girls to trade and express themselves as young business women.

There was a wonderful array of talented entrepreneurs on show. The girls of St. Mary's are driven saleswomen with a hunger to trade and learn the ropes of entrepreneurship.

Many companies across a wide range of businesses were on display, such as ipod and I phone cases, android and I phone accessories, homemade cards, female vanity products, nail and beauty treatments, hair braiding, sweet shops, hand designed and decorated A4 hardbacks, TY Hoodies, hot chocolate and winter treats.

Each company has a unique selling point and the girls have all contributed in a practical manner in forming their businesses. The trade



fair was also attended by last years alumni, Nicole Weldon and Aine Ford, who are still carrying on with their poster and calendar business 'FAWN' as part of the Alumni competition. A special thanks to Aoife Maguire (NFTE '2011 International Winner) for all her help on the day.

It was a very enjoyable Christmas Fair which was wonderfully supported by the students in St. Mary's. A special thanks to you all as without you this would not be possible. Many Thanks. **Mr. W. Donnelly** (Business NFTE Teacher)

Transition Year Business

All transition year students went on a visit to the EU Parliament in Molesworth Street. The girls took part in a one hour talk about the European Union and Ireland's role within the EU. This was a great trip which was very informative in relation to their Business module in Transition Year. The Irish department was also represented, and our speaker on the day made reference to the Irish language being an official language of the European Union now.

The trip was organised by Mr. Donnelly and Ms. Gilhooley. A special thanks to Ms. Walsh for helping out on the day.

On completing our visit to the European Parliament, the girls visited the Christmas market in Grand Canal Dock, where they sampled the craft stands of the market. This was of particular interest to the NFTE students within the group.

It was a wonderful day which was enjoyed by the girls as they shared the Christmas Spirit with each other.

Mr. W. Donnelly



Global Gala 2014 Washington DC

On April 25th 2014, Mr Donnelly of St. Mary's, represented Ireland on the global stage as winner of the Irish NFTE Business teacher of the year award. The award is in its fourth year and it is a privilege to have a business teacher from St. Mary's representing NFTE Ireland.

The ceremony took place in the National Museum in Washington DC. The event was a celebration of the 20th Anniversary of NFTE worldwide.

The Global Enterprising Educator Awards, presented by MasterCard, honoured the top twenty four teachers from NFTE's programmes around the world.

It was a wonderful honour to represent the school on a global stage and one which I will remember for a very long time. A special thanks to the students, my fellow business teachers and Management in St. Mary's for allowing myself deliver the programme for the past number of years and to Ms. Keelin O'Donnell of NFTE Ireland for all her help and assistance.

Throughout my time in Washington DC I managed to meet and to share resources and experience with other teachers from around the globe. Hopefully I can bring some of these techniques back to the classroom in St. Mary's.

Mr. W. Donnelly



HISTORY DEPARTMENT

First Year History

This year, instead of the history teachers teaching their students about the ancient Romans the first year girls were given the task of teaching their teachers (along with their classmates) what they found out about the life of the ancient Romans.

Working in groups, the students were given a heading to research in detail. The girls conducted their research in the school library and online, made photocopied hand-outs of their findings for their classmates and then made presentations on their topics to their classes. Some interesting findings included: "Romans loved to go to public toilets to socialise and chat with their friends!" The final presentations were very impressive – watch out teachers of Saint Mary's!

Reformation Raps

Well done to all second years who took part in writing a 'Reformation Rap'. The raps were all brilliant and filled with facts! Below is a flavour of the standard written by Alannah, Yashwini and Martyna in 2 Jasmine, who focussed on Calvin's Geneva:

*"Yo my name is Calvin. I made my own religion.
It's got five simple guidelines that you gotta follow:
No Drinking
No Gambling
No Singing
No Dancing
No Blasphemy – whatever the hell that means.
Yo what the hell does blasphemy mean?
Nobody knows so I check it up on my phone and say oooooohhhh,
whatever.
We also got no bling, nothing, no chi-ching.
I guess we're kinda strict when you think about it
And technically that's seven rules, but don't count it."*

Transition Year Trip: 1916 Skyline Tour of Croke Park

Accompanied by an experienced tour guide, a group of TY students had the experience of climbing to a walkway forty four metres above the ground to take in panoramic views of Dublin and find out more about Dublin's key landmarks.

The Skyline included stops at five viewing platforms along Croke Park's 0.6 km rooftop walkway. Each stop gave students the opportunity to learn about the highlighted buildings and sites in their line of vision through multi-lingual audio guides. The amusing tour guide gave a detailed account of historical information, quirky anecdotes and outlined some interesting facts about Dublin's famous locations.

Students had the opportunity to walk from the stadium onto a specially designed walkway suspended above the Croke Park pitch. Not for the faint hearted, the view of Croke Park showed the famous field from a completely different angle. It was an experience everyone enjoyed!

"On the 26th of March the TY classes went on the Croke Park 1916 Skyline tour. When we first arrived we watched a quick history video and then put on our harnesses. The tour wasn't as nail biting as we all had thought! The spectacular views took our attention off the forty four metre drop below us. We were able to see the whole city. Unfortunately the weather wasn't on our side but on a sunny, clear day you're able to see as far as the Sugarloaf Mountain. During our tour, we also got a history lesson. Throughout our walk around there were set down areas where our tour guide would tell us more historic facts about Dublin city, which were very interesting. Overall, the tour was great fun. I'd highly recommend it to anyone". Sarah Loughlin, 4 Franklin

Leaving Certificate History Projects in the bag...

Our sixth year students recently sealed the envelopes containing their Research Study Reports, worth 20% of their final grade. Topics this year included Violet Jessops who survived three shipping disasters including the Titanic, the controversial Contraceptive Train from Dublin to Belfast of 1978 and the final days of the Romanovs, Russia's last royal family. We'd like to wish the girls the very best of luck in their exams in June and in their future careers.

The History Department

Interested in studying history in university?

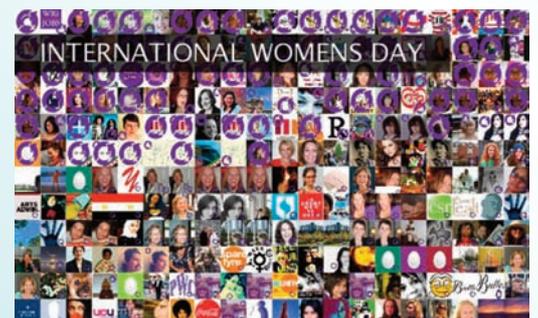
Past pupil Patricia O'Beirne describes studying history in Trinity College, Dublin:

"If you love history in school you will LOVE history in college. Not only do you have endless choices of topics to study from (modern American history, Irish history, Vikings), you spend your time in college unravelling and discovering past events that have had a substantial effect on society and your own life. What I love about studying history is looking at how things have changed and developed. How did the USA grow to become one of the greatest powers in the world in three hundred short years? Have the religious battles in the Middle Ages had any effect on religion in society? With an endless amount of books to choose from you have the independence to study how and when you want. No longer will you have to study the topics you don't like, you can choose whichever ones you wish. History may be in the past but its effect on society and life is still developing. If this appeals to you I couldn't recommend studying history in college anymore".

International Women's Day



On March 8th the History Department marked International Women's Day by putting up a display of photographs and short profiles of notable women on the noticeboard. These included Margaret Aylward, Countess Markievicz and Mary Robinson. Both staff and students enjoyed reading the board and we hope to see some of our own students up there someday!



Berlin Tour 2014

The German and History departments are delighted to announce this year's trip to the fascinating and vibrant capital city of Berlin, Germany, in December 2014. Some sixty three students and their six teachers will embark on a four day adventure of this historical and cultural city. Excursions will include a visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration camp, the

Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie and the Sanssouci Palace. Other activities will involve ice-skating and a shopping trip to the world renowned Christmas markets. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to immerse themselves in German culture, history and language.

Ms. G. Hayes and Ms. S. McManus



Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp



The Berlin Wall

TRANSITION YEAR

Transition year students have had another busy term. The students went on two weeks of work experience at the end of January. The feedback from their employers was great and our girls did St. Mary's proud with their excellent behaviour and work ethic. The students worked in a variety of different places including: John Rocha's studio; Kiss magazine; St. Michael's House; FM 104; a law firm; a homeless shelter; a dog grooming business; a veterinary clinic; the Mater Hospital; the Bons Secours hospital; primary schools and nursing homes. Most of the students had a great time and in their reports wrote: 'I just don't want Friday to come because I don't want to leave this place', 'I learned lots while I was there and I was really tired by the end', 'I didn't think I would like it as much as I did and maybe sometime in the future I might do something that relates to working with children', 'I got an insight into how grateful I should be for my house, family, food etc. I really enjoyed this week'. Well done to all the girls.

Leisure studies this term consisted of hairdressing, yoga and motivational workshops. Other highlights of the term were the trip to Rome during the mid-term break, the making of their own movies with *Create Schools*, the Oscar Night, the trip to a Galway adventure centre, the trip to the cookery school, the drumming workshop and lots of other activities, talks and trips.

Mrs. O. O'Keeffe

Cultural Studies

This year saw the introduction of a new Cultural Studies module into the Transition Year curriculum. The module was based on the theme of "I love Dublin" and students were offered new opportunities to learn about their city's rich culture and heritage. Over the course of twelve weeks, students went on trips to the National History Museum, Christchurch Cathedral, the Little Museum of Dublin and the Georgian townhouse museum, Croke Park and Glasnevin Cemetery. They also took part in an Ingenious Ireland walk to help them learn about the links between Irish geology and the city's architecture. In class students researched the history behind famous Dublin legends and myths, explored the music scene in Dublin and studied how Dublin was represented on screen in the film "Once".

Ms. D. Callan

African Workshop

Coming back to school after the Easter break, none of us knew what to expect. So, you can imagine our reaction when we found out that we would be spending the day learning the art of African drumming and dancing

We were split into two groups. One group went to the gym to learn African dance, the other group went to the prayer room to try out the African drums. In the dancing workshop, we were put through our paces as we tried



to keep up with the instructor and even had to make up moves of our own. At first everyone was a little shy but after a while everyone got into the mood and ended up enjoying the session.

The drumming workshop was another completely different experience. Most of us had never even played an African drum before, so it was a great opportunity to learn a new skill. We first chose a rhythm, break and solos to do as a group, and then we put it all together to make our own song. Once everyone had completed the workshops, both groups came together in the gym to perform our dances and songs to a group of first years. Everyone performed really well, and it was great to see what the other groups had been working on. Overall, it was an extremely enjoyable day and I think we all learned something new.

Chloe Ray and Ali Horan

TRANSITION YEAR CONTD.

TY Trip to Petersburg Outdoor Adventure Centre



On the 28th of April, thirty Transition year students and three teachers went to Galway. After finally arriving at Petersburg, we went to the dining room to meet the staff and be told the activities for the day.

We were split into two groups. One group went kayaking and the other went gorge walking. We were all given wetsuits, helmets and life jackets. It was a new and very enjoyable experience for



everyone. During the kayaking we kayaked over to an island. On the way some

fell out of the boat and struggled to get back on (Eimear Callery and Francesca Sacco) We also played games on the kayaks like standing up and turning around while trying not to fall off. Those who went gorge walking walked up through the river and jumped off the rocks and slid down the waterfall. Both activities were fantastic and were the main highlights of the trip for everyone.



After a delicious dinner we all got our wellies on and headed into the forest for some orienteering. After a day full of activities everyone was fit for bed.

The next day was packed full of fun activities. Everyone split into different groups. One group went rock climbing, hill walking and abseiling. We drove to a mountain where there was an incredible view, and then we walked up the mountain to the place where we would rock climb and abseil. There were three different difficulties of rock climbing and everyone reached the top of them all! The abseiling was harder because we were going backwards and had to put all our trust into the



person supporting us and have confidence in ourselves that we could do it.

Then after lunch we switched around and we went raft building and the other group did the rock climbing. The raft building was fun as we learned how to build a raft out of logs, water barrels and rope. We also learned the different way to tie the rope so it would be stronger. We then



had to sail over to the island without our raft falling apart. When we reached the island we did an army obstacle course where we were all put to the test to see if we could complete it. In the evening we make our own campfire

with sticks we had collected and got to sing songs and roast marshmallows. People got into the lake to have an evening swim which some regretted as it was freezing cold.



On our last day, we switched the activities that we had done on the first day. People who had done the kayaking went and did the gorge walking and vice versa.

At the end of the trip to Galway everyone was so tired but didn't want to leave because they had had such a unforgettable time. The weather was amazing and everyone bonded so well and made new friendships with people!! This trip was definitely a highlight of TY!



Lauren Killalee, Eimear Callery, Francesca Sacco and Jane Lynch

Goodbye from the Prefects!

We have had an amazing few years in this school but our time as prefects is finally coming to an end. We will be sad to leave but we feel ready to make our own paths in the world, thanks to all the support this school has given us. The school has seen us mature from crazy, wild-eyed first years into reasonably responsible (and stunning) sixth years. Being prefects has been a great privilege and a joy. It has been great to be able to give something back to the school that has given us so much. We are grateful for everything the school has taught us and the friendships we have been able to make.

Megan Stamp (Head Girl), Leah O'Donnell and Eilis Phelan (Deputy Head Girls)



TRANSITION YEAR CONTD.

TY Trip to Rome 2014

Forty eight transition year students and six teachers set off for Rome very early on the morning of Friday the 14th February. After a quick lunch we set off to see the sights of Rome: the Pantheon, Piazza Navona and the Trevi Fountain (accompanied by a gelato stop!). That evening after dinner we had lots of fun in the hotel playing games and doing quizzes, including a toga making competition! The fun lasted throughout the rest of the trip with a sing a long at the pizza making evening and a myths and legends night walking tour that scared some of us! We got to see all the main sights of Rome: the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Vatican and Sistine Chapel, the Spanish Steps and the Vittoriano. There was also time for some shopping and lots of typical Italian food: spaghetti carbonara and amatriciana and of course lots of pizza and ice cream! Everyone had a fantastic time and was sad coming home after an extremely successful and enjoyable trip.
Ms. N. O'Donnellan and Ms. O. A. Griffin.

Trip to Rome

On the 14th of February all of the transition year students met in Dublin airport bright and early to fly to Rome as part of their TY trip. When we arrived in Rome we went on a walk to the Trevi fountain in the lovely hot weather. We all took a few sneaky selfies by the fountain with roses we had bought for each other for Valentine's Day. We then went to the Pantheon which was a great experience. After a night of fun and games in the hotel we went to bed. Next day we got up early for a full day packed with activities. We went to the beach and then to the Colosseum. A tour guide brought us around to see this magnificent building, and of course we took more pictures. Later that evening we had a pizza making night in a restaurant. The next day we got up really early and drove to the Vatican. We were there most of the day on a tour. This was an amazing sight to see. The next day was our last day and we spent it shopping and packing. Overall we had an amazing time and would love to go back and take some more sneaky selfies.

Shannon Eustace and Lauren Doyle



Trevi Fountain



Trevi Fountain



Colosseum



Selfie-mania



MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Spanish Department

Spanish Trip to Valencia

The trip to Spain is fast approaching! On September 24th, thirty six students will head off to Valencia on a very exciting trip. The trip will include a visit to the theme park Terra Mitica, a guided tour of the city, a flamenco show, The City of Science and Arts, shopping and much more. ¡Vamos a pasarlo bomba!

Transition Year Cooking Demonstration

At the time the Transition Year students were covering the topic of Food in Spanish class, two Spanish ladies, Pilar and Nieves, visited our school and gave the students a demonstration on how to cook the perfect Tortilla Española. After the demonstration the girls got a chance to taste the tortilla. ¡Que deliciosa!

TY Languages

On Wednesday 2nd of April, all Transition year students of French, German and Spanish got together to enjoy a European breakfast. They sampled many different types of food from the three countries. It was a great success.

Ms. E. Higgins and Mrs. A. Hughes

French Department



Le Club Français

Bonjour tout le monde !

Le Club Français was held each Thursday at lunchtime. Since week one the

French Club has been a great success.

We immersed ourselves in French culture, tradition and language. We enjoyed French food, Crêpe making (and eating!), French films, French music, French games, quizzes, and plenty of conversations en français bien sûr! There was even some dancing!

Learning French requires us to immerse ourselves in the language. It is all about practice, or as they say in

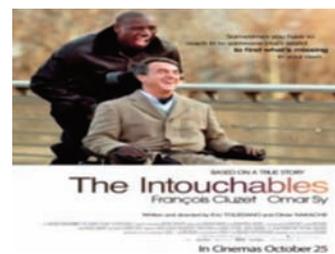
France: *C'est en forgeant qu'on devient forgeron.* Le Club Français enabled us to do just that.

The success of the French Club no doubt derived from the commitment of all those students who came along each Thursday afternoon. It was this interest and enthusiasm from the students that made the French Club so enjoyable.

Un **grand** merci à tous!

Bonne Vacances les filles !

Ms. G. Shanahan



On January the 14th 2014, TY French students attended a showing of the French film, "Intouchables". The students enjoyed this poignant film where two worlds collide: the world of the rich aristocrat who following a paragliding accident, becomes a paraplegic and the world of Driss, a young man from the projects who works on his career. Follow-on work was conducted in class.

Ms. N. Walker

German Department



German Movie in the IFI

On February 28th 2014, all TY students of German attended the German movie "Weil Ich Schöner Bin" in the Irish Film Institute in the city centre. This film by Frieder Schlaich, told the story of a 13-year-old immigrant girl struggling to remain in Germany in spite of her mother's deportation.

Watching a film through the medium of German gives one the opportunity to listen to real conversations by native speakers and hear the way they interact in real life situations. It also leaves one with a very rich feel for the German language and culture.

Ms. S. McManus and Ms. F. Hahnefeld

MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Maths Department and students in the school had an eventful second term with our students entering an array of exciting and challenging national competitions.

Quiz Mania

First Years

Our first year students took part in a maths quiz held on Wednesday 2nd April in DCU. The following students took part in the competition: Rebecca Roy, Shrine Shibhu, Aisling Boylan and Sarah Langan

Aoife Ure, Weroinika Malecka, Emma Brady and Lauren Wilson. Well done to the girls, who competed to a high standard in the competition.



Emma Brady (FL), Lauren Wilson (BL),
Aoife Ure, Weroinika Malecka.



Rebecca Roy (FL), Shrine Shibhu (BL),
Aisling Boylan (BR), Sarah Langan (FR)

MATHS DEPARTMENT CONTD.

Second Years

Our second year students competed in a maths quiz held in DCU on Wednesday 5th March from 10 until 1pm. Congratulations to Martyna Styba, Zara Quane, Diana Penamora and Rachel O'Neill who came first place in the completion. Well done also to Orla Kavanagh, Olive Kirby, Lorna Byrne and Alice Mirt who came fourth in the competition. Congratulations also to their teacher Ms. O' Donnell.



(From left to right) Olive Kirby, Lorna Byrne, Orla Kavanagh, Zara Quane, Martyna Styba, Rachel O'Neill, Diana Penamora and Alice Mirt



Second year DCU quiz winners (From left to right) Martyna Styba, Diana Penamora, Rachel O'Neill and Zara Quane

Transition Years

DCU Video competition

Our transition year students entered the first ever DCU maths video competition. Three groups were selected to make a professional video in DCU. The first prize went to Sarah Dooley, Lorna Earle, Amy Sheehan and Aisling Vourdanou for their video on the Probability Scale. Second prize went to Niamh Gavin, Megan Hayes and Victoria Kursite for their video on Outliers in statistics. Third prize went to Ana Collins, Holly Bell and Helen Martin for their video on Probability. The students were given the opportunity to make a three minute video supported by Stuart Kehoe from CTYI who helped with maths element of it and Darran Heaney who is the e-learning project officer in DCU. The finished products are now available for the school to use. This was a brilliant opportunity for the girls to showcase their many mathematical talents and their creative skills. The videos are both fun and engaging. Well done to all the students who took part.

Kangourou sans Frontieres International Mathematics competition

Congratulations to Avril Reddy of Transition Year who was invited to partake in the Kangourou sans Frontieres mathematics competition. The competition involves completing a series of problem solving questions. This is an international competition and the aim of the competition is to promote maths among young people around the world.

John Hooper Medal for Statistics 2014 Competition

Well done to all our TY students who entered the 2014 John Hooper competition. A range of interesting topics were covered in this year's entries. Some topics covered this year were the leading, and most unusual causes of death among the Irish population and the impact of the use of Facebook on teenagers' lives. The goal of the competition is 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. There will be an international element to the poster competition so not only does the student's poster get a chance to win the John Hooper Medal for Statistics, but also it could represent Ireland in the International Statistical Literacy Project poster competition too.

An Post puzzle competition

A number of classes took part in the An Post puzzle competition. The competition had a numeracy and literacy puzzle. The questions and activities encouraged students to read and interpret problems independently. The students really enjoying taking part in the competition and worked hard to complete all element of the puzzles.

Ms. E. Murphy

Tribute to Miss Anne Murphy Retiring Deputy Principal

Summer 2014 sees Miss Anne Murphy's departure from the corridors of St. Mary's. After so many years as a student, teacher and Deputy Principal Miss Murphy is not saying goodbye but is moving to a life without the daily challenge of school bells.

It would take all of the pages of this Newsletter and more to outline what this remarkable woman has meant to all who know and have worked with her either as students, staff, parents, Board of Management or the wider school community.

Her influence and legacy are an immeasurable treasure which will continue to shape the life of the school way into the future. Her lived spirit of Margaret Aylward which she so generously embodied will continue to challenge those of us who serve this school community.

Her understanding of, and care for, the students were always at the heart of her teaching vocation- no effort, no time, no barrier, was ever a deterrent in her pursuit of their best interests. Her lived care for them will ever be a memory and example for all those whose lives she so pastorally touched and changed.

As a school leader she exercised her understanding of and commitment to the Holy Faith tradition, the school Ethos and its Mission with a zeal and determination which often caused us to stop and question if we, too, were living this reality. Her journey was ever to make the school all it could be, as lives were touched and futures shaped.

Her guiding presence has significantly influenced how we now are as a school and we know this legacy reaches beyond our imaginings.

Thank you Miss Murphy for all you have done, but most of all for what you have given. So as you have blessed us, we now ask that you be blessed in the days ahead.

As you move on:

*"May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be at your back
And may God continue to hold you in the
palm of his hand ..."*

Sr. Antoinette Keelan
Chairperson
Board of Management
St. Mary's Secondary School.

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT



Breakfast Club

This year we were delighted to introduce "The Breakfast Club" to St. Mary's. This gives students an opportunity to start off their day with a healthy breakfast while allowing them to meet new friends and chat before the start of the school day. To date, it has been a huge success and we welcome new members each day (especially during the exams)....

Why bother to eat breakfast?

Eating Breakfast can help:

- Your energy levels
- Your concentration and memory
- Your mood
- Control your weight

Skipping Breakfast:

- Makes it harder to learn
- Decreases your intake of essential vitamins and minerals
- Encourages snacking on high fat, high sugar and salt foods
- Increases your risk of becoming over weight

Ms. Walsh and Ms. O. A. Griffin



Well done to Megan Kelly and Emma O'Reilly who both entered the "Fine Dine At Mine" competition run by St. Angela's College Sligo. Both girls created superb dishes that could have been served in a restaurant but they made them more nutritious. Good work girls!!!

Ms. C. Walsh



Cloughjordan Cookery School – Transition Year



On the 4th of March, twenty four transition year students departed Dublin for an exciting day in Cloughjordan cookery school, Tipperary. It was an excellent day with all students thoroughly enjoying themselves. The day began with chocolate cookies and hot chocolate to warm us up. The girls split into two groups and one group went into the cookery school to prepare and bake yeast bread, homemade soup and even homemade butter. The other group went to the farm and learned how homegrown produce comes about. They also learned the importance of farm to fork and supporting Irish farmers. They loved this as it involved harvesting the vegetables, tending to the animals and preparing vegetables for the afternoon cookery class. We sat down to lunch and then the groups swapped over. The cookery class in the afternoon involved free range roasted chicken with potato wedges and vegetables – all straight from the garden!! A fabulous day was had in the country!!

Ms. E. Doheny



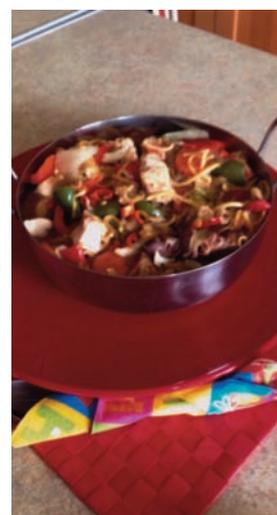
HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT CONTD.



Third Year Cookery Exams

Congratulations to all the third years who have completed their Junior Certificate cookery exams this April. A wide variety of dishes were on display during the exams as well as some embroidery work. The skills shown were immense and we are all very proud of them. Below is just some of the work created. Keep up the hard work!!!!

Ms. Walsh



ST. MARY'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Membership of the Parents' Association

St. Mary's Parents' Association continues to be a very active group within the school working behind the scenes in partnership with the school. We are involved in supporting many events in the school and providing feedback to the management team on the views and opinions of parents. We recently attended a training night hosted by Le Cheile and the NPCPP (National Parents Council Post Primary) which was very informative and helpful for our endeavours as parent representatives. We have yet again welcomed new members to the association this academic year. We have a great team of twenty six members and helpers spanning first to sixth years. All parents of St. Mary's girls are automatically members of the parents' association so why not join our team as we partner with the school in our various activities. It is a great way to meet and hear news from other parents and learn too from others who have older daughters and have almost done it all! It is also very rewarding to be included in school policy making as we review the numerous school policies with the other school partners. So get in contact with us at

parents.stmarys@gmail.com

and if you are not able to join the committee you can always join our "HELP" list. We have many parents who give us great help and support at school activities who are not available to become committee members.

Second Hand Book & Uniform Sale



Our now annual SECOND HAND BOOK AND UNIFORM SALE will take place in JUNE. We can sell your books on your behalf and we will also accept donated books. All uniforms (jumpers, skirts, jackets) are donated and the proceeds of all donated uniforms and donated books will go directly to the school. **FOR THIS EVENT TO BE A SUCCESS WE NEED YOUR BOOKS AND UNIFORMS.** There will be a night to DROP IN books that you wish us to sell on your behalf. It is on the 23RD JUNE FROM 6PM-7PM and the BOOK & UNIFORM SALE will take place on 25TH JUNE FROM 5P.M. – 6.30P.M. It has been hugely successful each year with both sellers and buyers availing of lots of bargains and making a bit of cash. The books are fairly priced and in really good condition. There will be reminder texts giving details of the "drop in" and "buy nights" nearer these dates.

**DROP IN BOOKS/UNIFORMS
MONDAY 23RD JUNE 6-7PM
SECOND HAND BOOK & UNIFORM SALE
WEDNESDAY 25TH JUNE 5-6.30PM**



www.stmaryshfcglasnevin.com

The Parents' Association has been working, with the school, to keep our school website up to date. There are lots of current news items and great information on a variety of topics. These include all subjects options available to study at St. Mary's, the school calendar, including exam timetables, CAO information, Transition Year news, school facilities, lots of lovely photos of the various activities our daughters participate in and much more. Have a browse and you will be amazed at how much is always going on at St. Mary's .



Parents' Association Christmas Raffle



A huge thanks to all our parents, students and staff of St. Mary's who supported our Christmas Raffle in aid of Typhoon Haiyan Disaster Appeal showing yet again the kindness living in our school community. The amount raised was €1,451.90 and was greatly appreciated by the Irish Red Cross. They thanked all involved and wrote "Thank you so much for all your generosity, compassion and support for the Filipinos during this life-shattering time." Well done to all.



GRADUATION NIGHT

We enjoyed helping out at the Graduation Night on May 19th with cups of tea and coffee, sandwiches and lovely cakes and sticky buns. This is a lovely night to be a part of and it is very hard not to shed a tear or two as the girls step out from under the umbrella of care at St. Mary's into a whole new world.

If you have any questions you would like to ask the Parents' Association Please contact us at parents.stmarys@gmail.com and we will do our best to answer them.

STUDENT COUNCIL

We are delighted to see that a new water dispenser has been installed over the Easter holidays following our campaign for access to drinking water for students. Many thanks to Ciaran for installing it. The Student Council has also been discussing the food available in the canteen and had asked all students for their views by way of questionnaires.

On March 28th senior Student Council members went to

St. Kevin's school to attend an Intercouncil meeting. All students exchanged ideas and made plans for an afternoon of activities for the three student councils which will take place in St. Vincent's School early in the next school year. Finally all Student Council members took part in our annual fundraising fun day on May 9th which was great success.

Mrs. A. Hughes



Student Council collage of inter-council meetings

CLAIRE BOGAN (RIP)

At the kind invitation of Michael and his daughters, Corine and Sinéad, I have been asked to say a few words on behalf of the school community of St. Mary's Holy Faith, Glasnevin, and to attempt to distil the essence of the unique role Claire played as a serving teacher in the school. No words of mine will suffice and thus, the testimony of the students in the past few days will weave the narrative of Claire's story which began in St. Mary's Glasnevin at the age of 5 and had an untimely and premature ending on Wednesday, 12 March, at 4.45 p.m. at the age of 54.

Claire was at heart a quintessential Holy Faith girl. Her early formative years were spent in the private primary school in Glasnevin. Her



contemporaries recall her, all these years later, as the ultimate 'model student' who radiated exemplary behaviour even as a very small child – they were put beside her in the vain hope that her goodness might permeate their very beings by osmosis! In the roll call of remembering in recent days, an image has been conjured up of a small girl silently and meticulously practising Irish dancing steps under the desk in junior classes. Upon completion of her second level schooling, Claire spent a very happy and fulfilling third level interlude in what was then St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, and thrived particularly on her study of Irish and Classics in her B.A.

She swiftly winged her way back to

CLAIRE BOGAN (RIP)

Holy Faith Glasnevin, having attained her H. Dip., to embark on a distinguished teaching career lasting thirty two years, during which she touched the lives of countless generations of students.

When the foundress of the Holy Faith Order, Margaret Aylward, established her first school in 1861, she stated clearly that she wished her schools to be *Schools of faith* – “a faith that is living and operative”, *Schools for all*, no matter what their background or academic ability, and *Schools* that educated students with an appreciation of *Irish culture*. Those very founding principles are the hallmarks of Claire’s pedagogical career in St. Mary’s.

Her whole life was premised upon her strong Catholic faith, nurtured in her home by her parents as a child, and built upon in school and honed all her adult life. Her deep faith underpinned all the relationships in her school life. It was indeed living and operative every minute of every day as testified by over seven hundred students and countless staff in the past week.

‘Do unto others as you would have them do to you’ was her life’s maxim. And thus, she reached out daily to students who were repeatedly touched by:

- *Her smile*: which students variously recall as ‘radiant, uplifting, massive, so heartwarmingly nice’.
- *Her Wise Words*: she asked how I was every day, she remembered my mam was sick, she told me everything would work out, she never forgot my name, she encouraged me with her words and made me believe that I could do it. If you were sick, had a little fight or even a bigger problem, her words always made me feel better. Once in 1st Year I was on my own and she came over and cheered me up with her words.
- *Her kind gestures*: (These are just a tiny sampling)
 - i) She asked me each day if I needed money for lunch or bus fare
 - ii) She encouraged me to put more nutella on my toast at Breakfast Club!
 - iii) She sat with me for lots of extra time after school because she believed I could do Higher Level
 - iv) She stayed with me at lunch time whenever I was sick
 - v) She slipped me bars of chocolate when I was stressed

- vi) She got me endless cups of tea when I was down
- vii) She helped me at the Céilí and said I was good when I kept falling
- viii) She said a prayer for everyone who needed it – I found that so comforting
- ix) She listened to stories about my puppies Lou and Gizmo
- x) When I got my needles and fainted in the hall she helped pick me up
- xi) She was the kindest person I ever met

And perhaps the ultimate accolade – “*She was like a nanny to me!*”.

In the roll call of memories of how Claire touched the students’ lives, the following are words of appreciation expressed by the girls.

- Thank you for welcoming me into St. Mary’s on my first day in the school
- Thank you for never failing to pass a friendly word on the corridor
- Thank you for leaving a legacy of goodness for all who were very lucky to have been taught by you
- Thank you for giving me hope and strengthening my faith when I needed it most
- Thank you for always praying for my country, the Philippines, particularly after the typhoon
- Thank you for your love of God and the Irish language
- Thank you for believing in me when I was doubting myself.

Claire’s teaching of the Irish language elicited from students a sustained and positive response and engendered a love of all things Irish. Several hundred students have alluded to the joy of her daily salutation of ‘maith an cailín’. They recalled her endless patience and her understanding of all efforts made despite their standard of Irish. Many students made reference to how much they respect the spoken language because of the sustained encouragement of Mrs. Bogan – she often quoted Barack Obama’s iconic exhortation – ‘Is féidir linn’ to the cailíní in her care. And starting the class with ‘Sé do bheatha Mhuire’ or Hail Mary. She was even known to pray for Dublin for Sam in 2013!

On a somewhat more serious note, Claire’s contribution to the development of St. Mary’s in the past decade was seminal in the field of

School Development Planning. She was meticulous by nature and highly organized administratively. Having completed a Diploma in Planning in NUIG she embarked with passion and competence on embedding S.D.P. in the culture of St. Mary’s and wrought deep and meaningful change in teaching and learning in the school – enabling it to enter the 21st century with professional ease. The detail of the school plan confounded and amazed the most seasoned of inspectors on their visits to St. Mary’s – never more so upon completion of the WSE in January 2012 when the Senior Inspector admitted she had never seen such copious or impressive sets of plans.

Claire’s colleagues and friends on the staff deeply respected her professional capabilities and were in awe of her mastery of planning. But, like the student body, it was her personal qualities that touched us all deeply. Her beloved friend, Aideen, bridesmaid at her wedding, compiled a litany of attributes that she ascribed to Claire. These include many cited by the students, but also those of loyalty, reliability, integrity, compassion and honesty. Claire’s kindness to young teachers bore no bounds and her ability to mark occasions with cards was legendary. Cards for births, bereavements, anniversaries, inspections and celebrations. Indeed, the very last task Claire completed the night before her illness struck was to make cards for the two young teachers who trained the victorious camogie teams upon winning the Dublin championship the previous day.

And so Claire, like your beloved poppy, a potent symbol of remembrance in World War One, we will remember you as you remembered all who died on Armistice Day each year. A student likened your heart to the red poppy ‘beautiful and precious, gentle as that flower that you so loved’. May you watch over us all and guide us with that gentle love.

We pray, as we part with you,

Go mbeannaí Dia agus Muire d’anam uasal Gaelach. Go dtuga Naomh Brid agus Naomh Pádraig solás agus síocháin duit sna fláithis. Tá tú ar do shuaimneas anois I gcuideachta Dé. Codladh sámh, a thaisce.

Mrs. M. Lennon
Principal