

Issue 17  
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# Presentation Secondary School Newsletter



## *To all Students and Staff*

The end of the year has come upon us yet again so fast, as we look back on a very busy year in the school and all that has happened since the beginning. I hope that all students and staff enjoy your summer holidays and hopefully the sun might shine down on us again this year.

So much good work has been done and I would like to thank all students and staff who contributed in all aspects of school life to have achieved so much in the year. I would like to wish all students sitting their State Exams the very best for the next few weeks. It can be a difficult and stressful time but remember that the rewards will reflect the effort made. There is still plenty of time to prepare - so keep it going until the last moment girls. Stay calm and focused, and all will be well! We say goodbye to our Leaving Cert and Leaving Cert Applied students and I would like to wish all you every happiness in life's journey ahead of you. You have so much to look forward to and look after yourselves on your way.



We say goodbye also to two wonderful teachers, Mrs. Gabrielle Casey and Mrs Marie Buckley who are retiring this year. We will miss them, but we will not begrudge them their well earned rest from Presentation Secondary School after their huge contributions to the school. They have worked tirelessly for our present and past pupils and I know that they are both highly regarded and respected by all who know them. We wish you both every health and happiness for many long years ahead, through the next phase of your lives.

My sincere thank you to both on behalf of the thousands of students whose lives you have made those differences to.

Marion Cummins



1st Years



6th Years

As our year as Head and Deputy Head Girl comes to an end, we've learned from our experiences and had the privilege of meeting some inspirational people this year. In previous weeks we met Fionnbar Walsh, the father of the late Donal Walsh, who spoke so highly of life and the importance of faith in young people's lives.

We were involved in meeting the Bishop. We took part in each school mass and occasions, and we represented our year and the school to the best of our abilities. Fulfilling these roles was difficult, but we feel that we have done our school proud.

We will miss working together and the school dearly. We would like to wish next year's Head and Deputy Head girls the best of luck in the future!



# Comhghairdeas

## Fionnbar Walsh talks on Donal Walsh's life.

On September the 11th 2008, the Walsh family embarked on a journey they didn't want to go on, Donal who was 12 was diagnosed with a cancerous tumour in the bone. He received chemotherapy immediately losing his hair and his taste buds. A family friend, John Kenny from D'Unbelievables shared his story with Donal. In January 2009 Donal had an operation on his leg, he was on crutches and he could not play contact sport. He loved Rugby and Football. He went to the training sessions and became a fitness coach; he always did whatever was asked of him in training.

Two years later Donal got a flu, it was not going away. He had a chest x-ray and a 13 centimetre tumour was discovered on his left lung. He had an operation where the lower half of his left lung was removed, shortly after this Donal took up cycling to build up the aerobics in his chest. Donal was a keen cyclist, cycling on average 35k with a prosthetic knee and one and a half lungs.

That September he cycled from Moll's Gap in Killarney to Tralee. One week later he had an accident, where he dislocated his shoulder. An x-ray and scan showed that he had cancer in the shoulder. It also revealed that he had 5 tumours and 2 lesions in his body. He was told to prepare for Christmas early! He was given 6 months to live.

On the 1st of May 2012, Donal tweeted his last tweet. 12 days later he died. The Donal Walsh #LiveLife Foundation offers people an opportunity to talk, it is connected with Pieta House and Console and a number of hostels nationwide. Finbar announced that the Teenage Room at Crumlin Hospital for teenage Cancer patients was now complete.

Donal has left an amazing legacy through the astonishing impact of his Suicide Letter, closely followed by his later interview on the Saturday Night Show with Brendan O Connor. He says "Never stop at the present, never stop at the past, help is out there, take time, there will be a door, take time and courage to search for that door..."



**Ms. O'Brien, Fionnbar Walsh and Sr. Colette Hourigan**



**Rachel O Regan - Head Girl with Fionnbar Walsh, Ciara Judge - Deputy Head Girl and Mrs. Marion Cummins (Principal)**

Presentation Secondary School fundraised €520 from A Bake Sale, Coffee Morning, Lá Glas and a Raffle. This cheque was presented to Fionnbar Walsh for the Donal Walsh Live #Life Foundation.

A Munster Jersey was raffled this was sponsored by Laura Moloney in TY.

## Narrative 4 Moving Stories

We are so honoured that you have engaged with Narrative 4 and participated in story exchanges! Everyone here at Narrative 4 is impressed by your thoughtfulness, passion, and enthusiasm for practicing empathy with other teenagers around the world.

This is why we are so excited to invite you to participate in our 2014 Summit that is happening on June 27, 2014 - July 1, 2014 at Yale University in New Haven, C.T., We are inviting students, like yourself, from all around the world to participate in this experience.

Narrative 4 will cover your travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses thanks to a generous contribution from our donors. During the Summit, you will meet students from Chicago, IL, Newtown, CT, Tampico, Mexico, Limerick, Ireland and Port Elizabeth, South Africa. During your time here you will participate in engaging workshops, go on fun excursions, tour the campus of Yale, and learn more about Narrative 4. Most importantly, you will get a chance to meet with Narrative 4's board, which is made up of world renowned authors and artists, and share your ideas for how we can make Narrative 4 better and reach more teenagers through story exchanges. You have been chosen because your teachers and tutors know that you are a leader and an ambassador. We are counting on you to bring your energy, creativity, and ideas to the summit so that we can continue to share the mission of Narrative 4 all around the world.

We congratulate Ms. D. Hennigar who co-ordinated the project and Bon Voyage to Sarah and Ivan



*Sarah Little, Transition year Presentation  
Ivan Hyde Transition year, CBS (grandson of Mr. Ivan Hyde)*

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## *Junk Kouture News*

This year our Transition year students and last year's Junk Kouture finalist group created, yet again amazing Kouture outfits from recycled materials. Outfits were created using a variety of materials such as coal bags, insulation tubing, tyre tubes, balloons and coffee cups etc. We held our annual fashion show in January for not only our students but local primary school students as well. Three groups were successful in making it to the Regional Finals on 13th March at the University Concert Hall Limerick. They performed brilliantly and did their school proud.



### Young Environmental Awards News

The transition year students have been very busy this year as not only did they make Kouture recycled outfits, they conducted year long research in both their environment and science class into the over production of cotton. We have entered this project entitled 'Cotton Crazy' in the Young Environmental Awards and have qualified for the Finals on May 20th in the Mansion House in Dublin. They had a 'Dragons Den' style interview in Cork last February. They made it into the last sixty. Also, last year's Junk Kouture finalists, Naima Gabyow, Nuschka Babela and Sandra Ikeh, who made a beautiful, Celtic inspired outfit from Nettle Fibres and ivy leaves have also qualified for the Young Environmental Awards. We wish both groups the best of luck at the Finals. Teachers involved Dolores Hennigar, Ceire O'Reilly and Helen Ahern. Following the students research, they are giving environmental advice in relation to being more environmentally friendly with our fabrics.

The following are tips for reducing your carbon footprint in relation to your clothes:

1. Buy less
2. Think of buying second hand or vintage
3. Recycle your unwanted clothes
4. Wash at 30 degrees
5. Choose organic cotton
6. Take a sewing class and repair items rather than buying new ones.
7. Hang up clothes to minimise ironing and dry outside rather than in the drier. This saves energy!



May 6th 2014 - Fr. Donal, Bishop Brendan Leahy, Gabriel, Maura, Sr. Joan and girls from the Presentation Secondary School, Choir who visited St. Camillus Hospital.



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## Junior Certificate Movie Competition

This year, the students in the 'Una' second year class, entered the 'JCSP Make a Movie' Competition. The girls were asked to make a movie and take photos from their local communities. They had to storyboard their movie, collect and edit the photos using a graphic design package and then they had to do their own voice over for their film. All the students worked very hard and did a great job. Sarah Lee Clancy did a fantastic film on her local community of Weston. Her film presented both the challenges and the hopes of her community. The judges were very impressed and Sarah Lee came ninth in the country and she won a Certificate and an mp3 player. Well done to Sarah Lee and all the Una Class.



Teachers involved Ms. Kiely, Ms. McMahon and Ms. Ahern



**First Years presenting their Household Craft which they completed as part of their Home Economics class this year.**

## German - Deutsch Mobil

On Friday 9th May the Deutsch Mobil came to Presentation Secondary School. This is an initiative by the Goethe Institute in Dublin to promote the German language in Irish Secondary Schools (German connects.ie) Our 2nd years were treated to a morning of Deutsch and they thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to show off all that they knew.

Presentation Secondary School is one of the few girls Secondary Schools in Limerick to offer German from 1st year to LC. German is an extremely important language in Europe and the opportunities for those with German cannot be underestimated. German students in Presentation perform very well in the state exams and many have continued with it at 3rd level.

*Congratulations Mrs. Kavanagh on your outstanding work. Well Done ☺*

## LET'S LEARN ABOUT DRUGS TOGETHER

The Mid-West Regional Drugs Task Force (MWRDTF) in partnership with the Health Services Executive (HSE) are offered a workshop for 2nd year parents and pupils on substance use (drugs and alcohol) to support the work being done through the junior cycle SPHE programme.

"Parental values, attitudes, behaviours and responses to substance use have been shown to be key protective factors in preventing problematic substance use."

The programme consists of two workshops that are specifically developed for pupils and parents of 2nd year only. They are interactive in design and engage the parent and pupils in a shared learning environment. The content of the project is aligned to the relevant NCCA SPHE curriculum guidelines, thus ensuring age appropriate content.

The first of these workshops took place on the 30th April and the parents who attended were very impressed with the presentation given by Dr. Sancha Power. The topics covered included: Substance Information; Age-related development; Parental Influence; Prevention Messages; How to talk in the home and the National and Local Services. Unfortunately, enough parents did not attend to run the second workshop but those that were present felt strongly that it is essential that all parents of second year should attend these workshops next year.

## Upcoming Workshop Parenting

**Workshops on how to Support Your Teenagers Mental Health will run on the 20th and 27th of May 10.30am - 12.30pm in the parents room of CBS Secondary School.**

**Contact  
Ms. Murray (HSCL)  
for more details.**

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## Science for Fun

Science for Fun took place on Friday 9th May in our school laboratories. First year students along with their families were invited to this event which was hosted by science teacher Ms. O'Reilly and the students of Transition Year with the help of our laboratory technician, Mrs. O Callaghan. The Transition Year students had prepared fifteen fun experiments for the guests to experience. These experiments included a heart dissection, fingerprinting, density, magnetism, looking at our cheek cells, acids and bases, making your own lava lamp and there were some explosions. Everyone had a lot of fun and learned heaps of scientific facts. Thank you to all involved.



## School Retreats 2014

There is a growing awareness today that prayer is good for us. We sometimes think that prayer is long and boring. We can find God present in every moment of our lives and that is prayer.

Today many people meditate or practice mindfulness and this is prayer. Mindfulness puts the focus on the present moment. It's being aware of what I am doing while I am doing it. Then I can find God in the present moment and that makes praying so much easier.

School Retreat is part of our school programme and Leaving Certs, TY's and Junior Certs all had their special time before Christmas. During the month of January 2014 our First Years and Second Years had their special days of reflection. First years developed the theme of GIFTS and TALENTS, searched for their own gifts and talents and God's love as the greatest gift. In the afternoon they watched "The Lion King" and Fr. Chris celebrated Eucharist for all that afternoon.

Second years developed the theme Heroes/Heroines. All had researched who their heroes were in. R.E. class and we had sharing and remembering our heroes and why? Then to activities, later quiet time for Meditation leading us to our greatest hero "Jesus" During the afternoon we watched Patch Adams a medical hero and Fr. Frank celebrated a lovely liturgy to end our day. Our Fifth year retreat with the theme of 'Creation" was in February. Our day of Reflection followed hurricane Darwin so our theme was apt. Our day included prayer of thanks and wonder at the four elements of fire, air, water and earth.

Our activities involved planting and working with Lavender. We watched an excellent Film "Paying it Forward" Early afternoon we walked the Cosmic Walk going back almost thirteen billion years ago up to the present day in a very reflective way. Fr. Frank celebrated Liturgy on Creation as we finished our reflection day. These were our Spiritual experiences with days of reflection in 2014.

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## MATHS EYES

Our Lady of Lourdes Local Education Committee launched their latest project, 'Have You Got Maths Eyes?' by Cllr. Joe Leddin on the 7th of March in Our Lady of Lourdes National School. The Rosbrien Local Education Committee promoted mathematical thinking by putting up a number of thought provoking posters around the community of Our Lady of Lourdes. A ' Maths Magic Games Day' took place in Our Lady of Lourdes School on the 12th of March, where parents, students from third class and visitors explored how they use maths in board games, card games, darts etc. Students from Presentation Secondary school that are from this parish helped out at this event. The final event was a Monster Maths Table quiz which took place on Wednesday 19th of March. Students from Presentation Secondary School and Our Lady of Lourdes came together to take photos around the community for the curiosity posters that was used in this event. All first year students from Presentation took part in the quiz and our students were part of the teams who won first and second prize. Maths Eyes succeeded in empowering the people of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and built their confidence in their own maths knowledge and skills. The team wanted to remove the myth that maths is elitist and to build a positive image of the subject.



Launch of Maths Eyes LEC Team with Cllr Joe Leddin



Lorna Hyland, Lauren Hamilton, Rebecca Blake ,  
Shania Moran



Magdalena Postawa, Shannon Hickey, Caitlin McCarthy,  
Rebecca Kiely



Orla Madden at the Magic Maths Games Day

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## *Grandparents Day*

*At 2pm on Wednesday January 29th very special visitors arrived at our school. These were invited guests who are the Grandparents of our 1st and 2nd years.*

*It was a delightful afternoon having these wonderful people back in school again and this time accompanied and taken care of by their grandchildren.*

*The afternoon began with a special prayer service of welcome.*

*Mrs. Helen Coady our special guest Grandmother gave us deep insights of being a mother and grandmother.*

*Then to our celebration, Ms. Murray, Home School Community Liaison provided us with delicious sandwiches and of course a special cake for Grandparents.*

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## Sports Day

Spectacular sunshine greeted Presentation Secondary School Students in the UL on Friday 16th May. The event organised by Ms. Caroline Murphy and the PE department was an outstanding success. Well done to ye all.



O Sullivan steals the show



A smiling Vanessa Blake



Winning Relay team... I told you we were fast .....Ms. O'Reilly



Our Masoet Pres-Lee enjoying the activities.



**Healthy Eating Week** focused on good eating habits, exercise, and understanding the nutritional value of food. Thanks to Mr. C O Sullivan and Mrs. C. Murphy for organising a week long programme of events.



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## Easter Liturgy



Chloe Ahern and  
Roisin Hogan

Head girl: Rachel O Regan and  
Deputy Head girl: Ciara Judge



## SEACHTAIN NA SAEITGE 10-14 MĀRTA



Fanie and Samda playing the flute



Yasin and her friend enjoying the Ceili Mor



Winners Shanice McNally, Ms. Sheehan  
and Chloe Fogarty



Shanice Nolan and Shauna Gavin  
at the Ceili



Jake and Katelyn McMahon at Rince  
na Deilbhe



Irish Dancing Champions, Chloe Ahern and  
Ailish Rowan who honoured us with some fine  
performances

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Lá Le Padraig - Parade - 17th March 2014



Sincere thanks to Ms. Sinead Moloney and all who took part in this memorable day for Presentation

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## Historic Visit of Liam McCarthy Cup to Presentation School



Sasha Johnson Doyle and Sarah Quinlan



Mrs. Margaret Mellett and  
Mr. Patrick Donnellan



*All Ireland winning Clare Captain Mr. Patrick Donnellan opened Seachtain na Gaeilge on March 10th.*

*It was a historic morning in Presentation, Sexton Street. Mr. Donnellan was acknowledged as been a great sporting hero and a great leader. His humility was much admired and Mr. Donnellan thanked the girls for the warm welcome.*

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## Prize Giving

### Best Examinations results of 2013

Tracey Shanahan LCA  
Sarah Nash Junior Cert  
Laura Iorgelescu



### Senior and Junior Student Representative Council



### Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl Rachel O'Regan & Ciara Judge



### Junior Sports Awards

Alina Rushika  
Nattwiphe Promloi,



### Transition Year Award

Laura Moloney



### Green School's Award

Emma O'Reilly



### School Debating Awards

Alannah, Liana, Anastasia



### Senior Art Award

Chloe Phelan



**Mr. Monaghan thanked Fiona Hynes- for her support**

### Career Guidance, Retiring Teacher

Maura Buckley



### Retiring Music Teacher

Mrs. Gabrielle Lee Casey



### Presentation Bake Off Winners

Ms. Meta Fitzsimons,  
Alicia, Emma, Megan O'Regan



### Gold Star Attendance Awards



### German Debating

Mrs. M. Kavanagh, Shauna Kiely,  
Rachel Doyle, Chloe Ahern,  
Alannah O'Neill, Ailish Rowan



### All-Ireland Linguistic Olympiad



### Regional Finalists of Junk Kouture

Thanks to Ms. Fogarty,  
Ms. Henniger, Ms. Ahern



### Junior Cycle Student of the Year Chancelvie Mombwana



### LCA Student of the Year

Yvonne Keogh



### 5th year Student of the Year

Megan Potter



### Student of the Year

Aisling Quinn



*Lelia Fitzgerald - Chairperson of Board of Management, congratulated staff and students on a great years work.  
Ms. Cummins thanked Ms. Monaghan and the teaching staff. Mrs. Casey and Mrs. Buckley were thanked for their outstanding work by Mrs. Lelia Fitzgerald and Ms. Cummins.  
Go maire siad is go gcath siad.*