

Issue 9
Term 1
October 2011

Presentation Secondary School Newsletter



Principal's Welcome

At this stage, the first term is well underway and all here have settled well back into school routine. We welcome our new first year students who have adjusted quickly into life in secondary school.

I would like to wish all students and staff the very best for the year ahead. I hope that it will be a very good and rewarding year for all, particularly our exam classes. Leaving certs and Junior certs will no doubt have a very busy year ahead in preparation for June 2012. Time will pass quickly so do not delay in getting all the work done.

My thanks to all students and staff who participated in our new school promotional DVD. No doubt there are many media stars amongst you just waiting for the chance to be recognised.

Wishing you all a great year ahead,

kindest regards – Mrs Marion Cummins.

Music Department

Congratulations to students who took Music to leaving cert level in June. All of whom achieved such high grades and have progressed to further education. I wish them well and hope that they will always have a "Song in their heart". To the students who studied guitar for leaving cert and made huge progress with Ms. Kitching, we hope they will continue to play.

September has been a very busy month. Choir is up and running and we welcome our new first years who are enthusiastic and have dedication to the hard work already. The choir has produced a C.D. for the "All Island Choral Competition", but unfortunately have not progressed to the television round. Maybe next year! Only 20 choirs were chosen out of fifty, the standard must have been very high. However we still are working hard and are looking forward to singing at our open night on the 6th Oct, at a concert on the 14th of October for national choir day and have been invited to take part in a Christmas event on the 16th December. So, lots of hard work ahead!

Class 101 have had their "taster" of music and now 102 will be attending the class for their turn with the music class being set up in November.

3rd years are facing exams and I encourage parents to help students by reminding them to practice. Transition year students are learning the guitar and keyboard for the upcoming Gaisce awards. Second years are settling into a wonderful 2 years of music as are the fifth years. We wish the sixth years a good year of study for their exams in June.



Transition Year Times

We have a very enthusiastic, dedicated and motivated group of Transition Year students. In the short number of weeks that we have been back at school, they have become involved in so many projects both in and outside school. This gives a brief insight into what has been going on for these 22 students since our return.

Firstly, the students visited the Nano Nagle centre in Mallow on an overnight retreat with Ms. O'Brien and Sister Colette. On their return the girls said it was a wonderful experience and a great start to a new academic year.

Every Monday the girls are doing paired reading with the first class students in Presentation Primary. Both students are enjoying this new, fun class and both groups of students are developing and learning new skills. In English with Ms. O'Brien the girls are producing a short film based on a poem that they composed as a group on 9/11 and word has it that there are some up and coming Oscar Nominees in the class!

Ms. Ahern and Ms. Fogarty are doing the Junk Couture Project with the students; the theme this year is 'electrical'. So should you enter the TY room during their environmental class, you will see the girls surrounded by recyclable electrical equipment as well as old material and costumes and they are busy sewing, spraying, glueing and the likes! They are really getting to show off their creative sides with this project. As part of their Eco- Unesco environmental project, the students will be completing a day of action in their own community on October 21st. Toyota have sponsored our school, so that the girls and their teachers can take on an environmental challenge. The action will include cleaning up and painting a Community Centre on Carey's Road as well as planting flowers and shrubs outside.

The students will be going on an extra curricular trip to Doolin, Co Clare with Ms. Donnellan and Ms. Hutchinson next week and we look forward to hearing how the girls get on and seeing all the photos as the girls will cycle to the Cliffs of Moher and surf in Lahinch and more! The students are also involved in the completion of Gaisce this year and are involved in volunteering for one hour a week in many different areas including the school gym, learning a musical instrument and classes outside of school. In 'Tuned In' some of the students are learning Guitar and others are doing keyboard.

The students will be going on two weeks vocational work placement on the 14th of November. The girls are preparing for this at the moment and looking for organisations that they would love first-hand experience in to aid future college and career decisions.

In groups the girls have come up with different mini company ideas that they are running this year in school. We really look forward to seeing these great ideas in action.

Declan Holmes from Analog Devices visited the class and did a physics show with the girls where they learnt lots in an interactive fun way including how to make and launch a rocket! In classes they are involved in a variety of projects including the History of Maths, a photography project in World View, a mental health awareness competition in Creative studies, creating and taping Spanish topics and much much more.

Well done and best of luck for the rest of the year to all the great students and their fantastic teachers.



Comhghairdeas



My Retreat

By Megan Waters

At 12 o'clock on 21st September we left to go on our Retreat with Ms. O'Brien and Sister Colette. When we got there it was about 1.30 p.m. We unpacked the bus and met Sister Marilyn and she showed us to our houses.

After we settled in we went to the Conference Room and said some prayers and learned about how Nano Nagle grew up on the farm, how she lived every day, what school was like back then, when she moved to France, what she did when she was in France, about her moving back to Ireland and how she set up seven schools in Cork.

Then we met Sister Marilyn and she took us for a cosmic walk. The walk was the best part of our Retreat. It showed us how the earth was created. The difference between Station 1, 2 and 3 were just under a mile apart. The walk had to be done in silence – I think it was better done in silence because if we were allowed to talk we wouldn't have paid that much attention and we wouldn't have taken notice of the serenity. At the second last Station it started to rain so we finished off the walk and went back to the houses to get changed.

After fifteen minutes we walked back up to the Conference Room and talked about the walk and said a prayer. While Ms. O'Brien went and cooked the dinner we went with Sister Colette and she took us around the farm to see the animals and to see the crops that grew there. After that we went back to our houses and waited for dinner.

The next morning we had breakfast and at 9 o'clock we went up to the Conference Room, had morning prayer and met Sister Alba who told us more about Nano's life. We spent the morning praying and meditating, doing a role play with Ms. O'Brien.

At 12 o'clock we had a Mass in the Conference Room with Fr. Eamonn. When the Mass was over we went back to the house and cleaned up around and said thank you to the nuns. By the time we had everything done it was 2 o'clock and time to pack the bus. We were on the road by 2.15 p.m. and back in school at 3.30 p.m.

On behalf of the TY students and myself, we would like to give a big thank you to Ms. O'Brien and Sister Colette.



FRIENDSHIP WEEK

On Monday, 6th September we began a Friendship Week in our school. We decided to get the year off to a good start by highlighting the importance of friendship among our students.

For forty minutes each day we learnt how to identify bullying behaviour, how to act if we are bystanders and also 'who' and 'how' to tell if we witness any bullying behaviour. We also focussed on the current problem of cyber bullying.

We take the issue of bullying very seriously and students know that we have a huge range of support available for anyone who experiences or witnesses bullying.

This week proved to be a great success and students now feel confident enough to approach any of their teachers if they have any concerns.

We would like to congratulate Ms. Kathleen Sheehan on her outstanding work preparing for this week.

Religious Education Department

On the 15th of September we celebrated the opening of the school with the school mass. The theme for which was "United in Friendship" and will be carried through the school year. Fr. Chris O' Donnell gave the students a wonderful understanding of the meaning of being "united". The choir under Ms. Casey sang beautifully at their first outing with wonderful accompaniment from Ms. Kitching on guitar. Ms. Henniger with her art classes expressed the theme beautifully through their artwork.

The 6th year retreat took place on the 4th of October in the school. The sixth years went on a "Journey" with Sr. Colette, Sr. O' Downey and Ms. O' Brien. Father Frank O' Conner ended the day with a beautiful liturgy which carried the theme of "Journey".

The third and fifth year retreat will take place on the 12th of October.

The Christmas shoe-box appeal is taking place from the 10th to the 28th of October in School. It will be co-ordinated by the transition years with the help of Ms. O' Brien. Geraldine O' Sullivan from "Hope" will speak to the transition years on Mon 10th of October to help with the process.

The MS Readathon

"Calling all bookworms" All first second and third years are asked to become bookworms between the 14th of October to November. This will raise money for Multiple sclerosis Society of Ireland. Regina and Tricia, who both have personally experienced MS and gave an in depth account of how it affected its life.

T.V. Stars

Mrs. Marion Cummins, Mrs. C. Cantillon and Ms. H. Aherne along with our students of environmental studies presented "Energiser" our recycled greyhound at the Ledger night July 9th, 2011 in the limerick greyhound stadium. This event was broadcast live by R.T.E. on the night. We wish to thank the management and staff of the stadium for a brilliant night.

Welcome:

Baby Milo to Ms Sinéad Moloney and her husband Thomas in July.
Baby Thomas to Ms. Fiona Hynes and husband Kevin in June.
Ber O Curry who has joined Margaret in the school office.
Back to Ms Madigan, Ms Moroney and Mrs. Ryan from maternity leave.

Congratulations:

Mrs. Marion Cummins who won The Lady Captain prize in Castletroy golf course during the summer. Have a wonderful year in your new role!

Best of luck: To Conor Murray in the Rugby World Cup Finals in New Zealand.

Comhghairdeas

Presentation Horse Riding Club

Last year was a great success for our first year in existence, with around 25 students attending classes at Clonshire Equestrian Centre. This year 17 students have already been to Clonshire, many of them are new students to the school as well as some of our older students with two 5th year students attending as part of their Leaving certificate. The big news for the club is that 3 members will be competing as part of a team on the 30th of October (Olivia Shanahan, Aisling Enright and Alison Ledger) at Clonshire in a round of the Interschool's competition, which is run by Showjumping Ireland. This is a highly competitive event where riders will often already have many years of experience, often owning their own specialist horses. We have an excellent team, with one member amazingly having only taken up horse riding last year through the club. We are always happy for any students to join and look forward to the club growing over the coming year. *Jake Daly*



6th years Mary Quinn, Leighann Hackett, Aisling Enright, Rebecca Buckley who plan to run the Ladies MiniMarathon in Limerick next week.



First Year Junior Achievement Programme



Bernie Flynn's exceptional artwork: Anyone for tennis!

The subject is still life and Bernie choose this arrangement of objects to study. The medium is pastels and sugarpaper.

Pastels as those of you who study art know is a very difficult medium to use effectively but Bernie, as you will appreciate even from this reproduction did a fantastic job.

News from the Art Department is that Fifth and Sixth years are looking forward to a trip to the National Gallery in Dublin. We are trying not to think about the 7.00am start! The early start over I'm sure everyone will enjoy the day's outing!

Claire O Flynn, 22 Elm Place, Rathbane.

Youngest of 4 children of Angela and Ger O Flynn. She secured 460 points in her Leaving Certificate and is studying Sports and Exercise Science in University of Limerick and hopes to work in a coaching capacity or in health and fitness.

There are 60 in her class (70% male / 30% female)

She praised the teachers especially the level of attention by teachers to students, excellent in all subjects especially Biology, Music, Maths and singled out Mrs. A. O Donovan, Ms. Gabrielle Casey & Miss Marie Hayes.

When asked what was the biggest change she said "I am a number here where as I enjoyed my name and an identity in Presentation"

What advice would you have for present Leaving Certificate students? "Keep your head down, if you work it will pay off - if you want Business as a career pick Business subjects - choose wisely" She also outlined that the highlights of her time in Presentation were the school trips and the friends she had made.



Transition years on their recent visit to Thomand Park

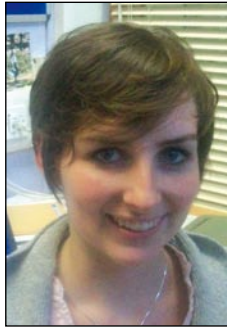


'Stunning couple Ms. Lorna Noone in her marriage to Fergal Lyons on 29th July

Education

Student Staff Miss Tara Doolin

For the last number of years Presentation Secondary School has had a relationship with the Mary Immaculate College placement office, taking on one student for work experience. This year Tara Doolan has joined us. Tara is a third year student and is doing a B.A. liberal arts degree in English and History. Tara is involved in a number clubs and societies in the college ranging from live music to dramatic arts. Last year co-directing the annual musical and aiming to put on a play in November. Tara is "thoroughly enjoying" her time in Presentation and is now looking forward to a career in teaching.



Alison Mc Namara, Glasgow Park, Limerick.

Secured 450 points in her Leaving Certificate in 2011. She is now studying a B.A. Degree in English and Geography along with Media & Communications and Religion.

She is very happy in Mary Immaculate College in South Circular Road, Limerick. She says there is a great atmosphere there, while she acknowledges that she is now in a class of 300! She misses the luxury of the Leaving Certificate classes in Presentation Secondary School, where she heaped praise on its teaching staff. She said that all her teachers in Presentation were very helpful and supported her in all her subjects. They were all willing to give extra help which meant a lot to her.

How did Presentation Sec. School help you over the years?

'Firstly there was a very good range of subjects available to me.'

'Secondly, supervised study which was so efficiently run supported my homework and study.'

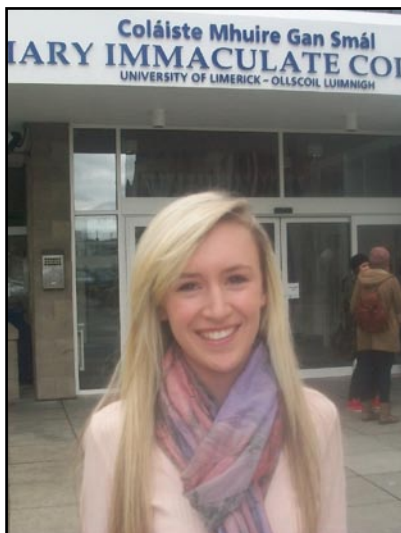
'Thirdly, the excellent teaching staff helped me aim for the best grades in my subjects.'

What advice have you for students?

Make sure you know exactly what you want to do.

Research your area of interest really well. Don't listen to the friends!

Alison is the oldest daughter of Jacqueline and Michael Mc Namara. Alison shares with us today the sad news that her Nana, Patsy Collopy, passed away. Guímís leaba i measc na Naomh di.



Mid West Careers Exhibition 2011 - 10th Anniversary

This year the Midwest Branch of the IGC (Institute of Guidance Counsellors) hosted its annual Careers Exhibition on the 27th September at Limerick Racecourse. The aim of the Exhibition is to provide a common platform for interested colleges, training bodies, local businesses etc. to meet with interested candidates. The exhibition hosted approximately 100 exhibitors from a selection of Colleges, Employers, Professional and Training Bodies in both Ireland and the UK and catered for approximately 4000 students from the Mid West region.

This is the second largest careers exhibition in the country outside of the Higher Options in Dublin, which evolved 10 years ago due to the initiative of local Guidance Counsellors such as Maire Buckley foreseeing the importance of catering for the needs of students. The IGC organising committee of which Maire Buckley (Industry Co-ordinator) and Niamh Daly (Exhibitor/Event Co-ordinator) play central roles, were very happy with the smooth running of the event. It must also be noted that Presentation senior cycle students were also a credit to the school on the day.



Best of luck: To Fiona O'Reilly, Lab Technician heading to Australia in the next few weeks