

# Coláiste Mhuire Newsletter

Autumn 1999

Volume 5 Issue 1

Welcome to this, our First Newsletter of the 1999/2000 school year. As we approach the end of the 20th Century it is worth while looking back and reflecting on the changes that have taken place in the school since it was founded almost fifty years ago.

From a three classroom school preparing students for Group Certificate Examinations we now have a twenty classroom school complete with Gymnasium, Specialist Rooms, and all the other modern ancillary facilities, and with a teaching staff of twenty five.

Students follow Junior Certificate, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programmes, and there are three Post Leaving Certificate Courses in Child Care, Pre-Nursing, and Secretarial Studies. There is also a continuing programme of Adult Education Night Classes.

A wide range of sporting, cultural and educational extra-curricular activities are available for the students and Coláiste Mhuire is in a strong position to deliver a high quality education service well into the next millennium.

Three members of the school's senior hurling team from last year distinguished themselves and brought honour to the school by winning Leinster

## Kilkenny Kittens

Medals with Kilkenny Minors and Under 21. Kevin Power (Fenians) was playing with Kilkenny on the Under 21 team which won the All Ireland Final. J. J. Delaney and Ger Henderson won Leinster Medals and were unlucky to be defeated by Galway in the All Ireland Semi-Final. All three were key players for Coláiste Mhuire last year.



## New Staff

We would like to welcome a new member to our teaching staff, Mr. Eamon Phelan. Eamon who is from Crosspatrick had taught previously in Graignamanagh and Ballyhale and transferred this year to Coláiste Mhuire as teacher of English and History.

## Top Award

Past pupil Philip Bowe has come first in his in his BSc. Applied Physics Degree Examination. In recognition of this achievement Philip is being presented with a special medal at conferring in DCU on Friday 29th October. His Physics teacher Mr. Michael Killeen has been invited to attend.

# School Awards Night

Coláiste Mhuire held its Annual Awards Presentation Evening in the school on Friday 15th Oct. last. Mr. Michael Killeen, Transition Year Co-ordinator was M.C. for the evening, and invited guests included Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Chairperson of the Board of Management of the school, Mr. Ned Quinn, Chairman Kilkenny GAA County Board, Mr. Denis Byrne Captain Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team, Ms. Kelly Long, Past Pupil and Kilkenny Senior Camogie Player and Dr. Kieran O'Carroll Consultant Radiologist at St. Luke's Hospital and Mr. Séan Warren Chairperson of the Parents Association.

## TRANSITION YEAR CERTIFICATES

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh presented Transition Year Certificates to the successful students and also presented the award of Transition Year Student of the Year jointly to Catherine Maher and Linda Fitzpatrick.

## SPORTS AWARDS

The awards for Boys Under 16 Football and Under 14 Hurling were presented by Mr. Denis Byrne. These teams were trained by Mr. A. Costello and Mr. J. Ryan respectively. Mr. Byrne also presented the awards of Footballer of the Year to James Whelan and Hurler of the Year to Kevin Power.

The camogie and ladies football awards were presented by Ms. Kelly Long. The camogie girls were trained by Mr. P. Broderick and the footballers by Mr. D. Maher.

Mr. Ned Quinn presented the medals to the Senior Hurlers who were trained by Mr. M. Gleeson and were only narrowly beaten in this years All Ireland Final.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The award for best Junior Cert. and best Leaving Cert. student were presented by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh to Brendan Gleeson and Louise Fitzpatrick respectively. Both achieved highly in their exams.

## BEST ATTENDER

The award for best attendance was shared this year by Brendan Gleeson and Brian Kavanagh. This award was presented by Mr. Donal McCloskey.

## STUDENT OF THE YEAR

This year a new award, sponsored by the Parents Association, was introduced in recognition of the contribution to the development of the school by the late Joe Delaney, who had worked tirelessly in promoting the school through his involvement in the Parents Association. The "Joe Delaney Award" for the Student of the Year was presented by Mr. Séan Warren to Lorraine McCarthy a sixth year student at the school.

**CATSCAN APPEAL**

The Transition Year Students 98/99 raised money which they presented to Dr. Kieran O'Carroll towards the CatScan Appeal. A cheque for £500 was presented by Anthony O'Hara, Catherine Maher and Linda Fitzpatrick.

Finally students involved in sports at the school made a presentation to School Caretaker Mr. Séan Hanrahan in recognition of his help and co-operation

Mr. Michael Killeen concluded the evening by thanking everyone who had been involved in the planning, preparation, and presentation of the awards evening and inviting all present to join him for some light refreshments in the school cafeteria.

**99%**

**T**he first

LCVP Class completed their exams this year. This is an

added extra requiring students to do an exam and produce a portfolio. The results were highly successful with 99% of the class getting a Distinction Grade. This is the equivalent of a C1 on an honours paper and stands for 70 points with the Institutes of Technology and 50 points with the Universities. The Distinction was vitally important to many students as it allowed them to follow their first choice course. On this basis LCVP has been included on the curriculum for all 5th Year Students this year.



**A**t the request

of parents, supervised study is again being provided for Examination Students this year.

**Supervised**



Those who are availing of this facility should find it very beneficial to their exam preparation. At the moment demand exceeds places available, but a waiting list is in place. Members of the Parent's Association are helping in the supervision of study and would welcome the help of any parents who might like to get involved. Any parent interested should contact the Chairman Séan Warren, Secretary Elizabeth Looby or any member of the Parent's Association.

**Transition Year News**

**T**ransition Year a year with a difference. The Transition Year Programme is designed to allow the students mature and develop without the boundaries and pressures of state exams.

Our programme offers a wide variety of useful and interesting subjects, complete with a solid basis of core subjects such as English, Irish, Maths, French, Business, Science etc.

This years group has got off to a flying start, they have already taken up their work experience placements and are gaining valuable experience in various fields from electrical work to hairdressing, from nursing to farming.

The students have already had a number of visiting speakers and out of school learning experiences. They have had talks on, customer relations and interview techniques given by Ms. Colleen Holmes (Personnel Expert), on enterprise skills by Ms. Mary Mescal (Young Entrepreneur Scheme). They have been on a history and religion trip to Clonmacnoise and to the ploughing championship.

**First**

**T**he students have started a first aid course which is being provided by the Civil



Defence, at the end of which the students will receive First Aid Certificates.



**T**he students have been busy planning their special event for this year which will be along the line of a play, show or panto - although the plans are very much hush hush at the moment. I am sure that it will be organised and run off extremely well. The talent seems better than ever this year.

**Ploughing**

**M**embers of Transition Year travelled to Castletownroche

in Cork to the All Ireland Ploughing Championships by Luxury Coach and were accompanied by Mrs. Manton and Mr. Ryan. The day turned out to be a very pleasant one weather wise - confounding all the weather predictions and was a vast improvement on the two previous days of the event. However, conditions underfoot were not good and "wellies" were the order of the day.

However, the many stalls, stands and shopping arcades held a great fascination for both young and not-so-young alike. According to Mrs. Manton, good bargains were to be had if one were prepared to walk.....about 6 miles! Feeling lucky, some entered the many competitions for lucrative prizes - so if you happen to spot a new 4 wheel drive in the car park some morning, driven by one of the transition year students or even Mrs. Manton - Don't be surprised! Ah well we can all look forward to next year and the Glanbia stand in particular - coffee will never be the same again!

**O**

**n** Wednesday the 22nd September the Transition Year students

**Clonmacnois**

went on an educational tour. They left the school at 9.20 a.m. First they stopped at Roscrea Castle and had a guided tour of the castle. The tour lasted for about 45 minutes. Then they proceeded to the Mount St. Joseph Cisteran Monastery where they joined the monks for midday prayer. They prayed especially for injured hurler P. J. Delaney.

The students went from Roscrea to Clonmacnoise where there was a slide show about the history of the area and all about the founder of Clonmacnoise. The students were now given a guided tour of the whole place. They were amazed by the Whispering Arch, which has been there for thousands of years.

They left Clonmacnoise and proceeded on to Clonfert Cathedral, where they saw the famous doorway and the old style interior of the church. They also visited the nearby Emmanuel House of Prayer and prayed in the beautiful oratory. A good time was had by all.

## Past Pupil Profiles

**O**ur new section has proved very popular with both parents and pupils and in this issue we have chosen three more past pupils to profile.

### ANITA TALLIS CLONTUBRID.

Anita completed her Leaving Cert in 1993. She then went on to UCG to complete a B.A. in English and Legal Science where she graduated with an Honours degree in 1996. From this she developed an interest in Law and went on to do a Bachelor of Law from which she graduated with honours in 1998. She is currently doing a Professional Course in Blackhall Place Dublin part of the training to be a Solicitor and is apprenticed with O'Dea & Co. Solicitors, Eyre Square Galway. She hopes to qualify in the summer 2001



### VERONA SPELLACY GORTNAHOE

Mary completed her Leaving Cert in 1992. She then went on to UCD to complete a B.A. in English and History in 1995. From there she developed an interest in Library work and spent a year as a graduate trainee in the Library in UCD. In 1996/1997 she did a Masters Degree in Library and Information Studies. At present Mary is working as Librarian and Administrator with the NUI Maynooth Kilkenny Campus.

### JERRY FOGARTY GALMOY

Jerry completed his education in 1978. He went as an apprentice electrician to Lee Bros. Rathdowney. He stayed with Lee Bros. until 1980. He then worked with Woodfab and G. H. Electrical Services in Kilkenny. He qualified in 1982. He then worked with Jim Loughlin electrical, with whom he travelled to Russia and spent four months working there for Aer

Rianta

**T**he AGM of The Parents Association

Coláiste Mhuire was held on 18th October in the School. Chairman, Mr. Séan Warren opened the meeting and reviewed the years events. Mrs. Rosemary Carroll, who is liaising between the Parents Association and the school, spoke on the importance of parental involvement in the school and on working together in an educating partnership. She stressed the importance of parents being represented, and having their opinions and ideas reach the right channels.

This was followed by the election of the new officers of the association. Séan Warren was re-elected as Chairman, Catherine Garrett as Vice-Chairperson, Elizabeth Looby as Secretary, Christine Murphy as Treasurer, Annette Purcell as PRO, assisted by Margaret Norton. The following parents were elected onto the committee: Margaret Tobin, Catherine Dunne, Anne Marum, Richard Marum, Joan Hayde and Mary Orr.

The association is the voice of parents in Coláiste Mhuire, and is working with the teachers for the overall well being of your children. Séan Warren (056) 31507. Elizabeth Looby (056) 31404. Rosemary Carroll (056) 31135.

## Parents Association

## Leaving Cert '99 Where are they

with most students getting their first or second choices.

David Bergin - Ormond College Art and Design.  
Deirdre Bergin - Bachelor of Arts in UCC

Pádraig Bergin - Business and Computers in LIT,

Marie Burke - Teleservices Diploma Course in Ormond College,  
Louise Burke - Medical Lab. Science in WIT

Vanessa Burke - Employed,  
Brian Carroll - Electrician Apprentice at Cantwell Engineering.

Gina Delaney - Theology and Philosophy/Degree in Carlow College.

Kevin Fitzpatrick - Computer Science in NUI Maynooth,

Louise Fitzpatrick - Communications in DCU,

Anna Fox - Social Studies Carlow College  
Patrick Gleeson - Bachelor of Arts with French in NUI Maynooth

Alan Holohan - Bachelor of Arts with Economics in NUI Maynooth,

Sinéad Mackey- Legal Studies WIT,  
Louise Morrissey - Social Studies in Carlow College.

James Muldowney - Rockwell College  
Ciara O'Hara - Teleservices Course in Ormond College

Lucy Tobin - Legal Studies WIT

Kevin Power - Business and Information Systems in WIT

John O'Loughlin - BSc Construction Studies in DIT

Eamon Tobin - Multimedia Applications and Development in WIT

Caroline Hayde - Employed in Dell Computers.

Ger Power - Rockwell College

Francis Cleere - Electrical Apprenticeship  
David Rothwell - Mechanical Engineering in CIT

Ramie Moriarty- Business Studies in WIT

We wish them every success in their future careers and ensure them that they will always be welcome to drop in for a chat and a cup of tea in Johnstown.

**T**he Leaving Cert Class of 1999 are spread far and wide,



*May they sail on the sea of  
friendship and land on the shore  
of success*

# Guidance and Counselling

This service is provided to help students integrate all that they learn so as to be better able to understand and plan their lives. This means helping our young people to develop as persons, as students and as future working members of our society.

Students as part of furthering their career exploration have visited the Higher Options Exhibition in the RDS and have also visited Waterford Institute of Technology Open Day. Dates for the future are CERT Open Day for careers in the Hotel and Tourist Industry - Tuesday 11th Nov. at Newpark Hotel.

The school is furthering its links with the Thurles Rural Development Institute in the post leaving cert area. Congrats to all our Post Leaving Certs last year. Many have gained employment in their chosen area. ChildCare students have availed of the many new areas of employment e.g. Child Care Assistants in Primary Schools.

Leaving Certs are now deciding on their options for Third Level and believe it or not it is nearly CAO time again

First Year Allow 1-1.5 hours per

## Suggested Study Times

- night over five nights.
- Second Year Allow for 2 hours per night over five nights.
- Third Year Allow for 2-2.5 hours per night over five nights.
- Fourth Year Allow for 2 hours per night over five nights.
- Fifth Year Allow for 3 hours per night over five nights.
- Sixth Year Allow for 3.5 hours per night.

A large gathering of parents was in attendance for this special night held for them in the school on the 12th October. Home/School Liaison teacher, Mrs. Rosemary Carroll, addressed the parents on the importance of the liaison between the home and school, and how the school was there to offer support to parents in their role as the primary educators of their children.

## New Parents

Year Head Mr. Paddy Broderick, spoke of the importance of parents checking the school diaries. Social Personal and Health Education co-ordinator, Mrs, Pearl Codd gave an overview of the social and personal and health education program and the reasons behind it. A questionnaire was distributed to parents for their feedback. Guidance Counsellor, Mr. Martin Fahey, spoke on this role as career guidance teacher in the school. First year form teachers, Ms. Mary Hyland and Mr. Jim O'Grady were present to meet the parents, and give them a tour of the school and its facilities. Refreshment were them served in the canteen.

The environmentally aware club "Be there Be Aware" is going into its second year,

## Be There Be Aware

running as a well established club. While everyone else was out enjoying themselves during the summer, last years paper rounds were still running well. This year the club elected its new members. The committee is as follows:

Chairperson Patricia Orr, Vice Chairperson Mary Margaret Marum, Secretary Julie Mackey, PRO's Michelle Nolan, Tracy Tobin, Newspaper Recycling Amanda O'Shea, Selina Power. Fund Raisers Lisa Dowling, Joanne Holohan.



All new members welcome. As a result of last year's successful clean-up, the club plans to continue its progressive work. Towards the end of last term, the club presented Mr.

Hanrahan with a picker-upper to aid him in his hard but helpful work. Four members of the new committee are involved in an enterprise competition which involves setting up their own business to aid the clubs future finances. They propose to produce compost barrels to sell to the local community. The new club meeting time has been set for the 1st Monday of every month at 1.20p.m. in the Library. Thanks to all who got involved and have been part of the solution and not part of the problem.

There will be a draw every 2 weeks for the people who brought in any

## Free Draw Prizes to be Won

amount of papers on a regular basis and prizes will be supplied.

**We are sorry to say that if the students continue to bring in such a low amount of papers we will have to put a stop to paper recycling in our school. Last years amounts were much much higher.**

Last Months Prize winner was Orla Hughes

This years 5th Year LCVP are at present completing their enterprise section.

They have divided into groups

and have set up mini-companies ranging from organising a school lotto to class photos, a millennium calendar to premiership pool, organising a mock interview night for 6th years to metal plant supports.

One of the larger projects is a Year Book that will cover the last ten years 1989-1999. They are contacting all past pupils from these years for details of what they are doing and if they would like to contribute an article. The book will be ready for Easter 2000.

## Millennium Year Book



## Under 16 Hurling

Coláiste Mhuire had an easy win over the Presentation De La Salle, Bagenalstown in the Leinster schools junior hurling recently. The team proved far too strong for their Carlow counterparts.

P. J. Delaney at centre-back was a commanding player while Martin Henderson, Donnacha Gary and Colin Grant all excelled. The forwards were very impressive, all scoring on the day. Scorers - Robert Dowling (3-3), David Brennan (2-1), Tom Neary (1-3), Philip O'Loughlin (2-1), James Dunne (0-2).

Coláiste Mhuire collected their second brace of points in this Leinster Under 16 Hurling game. They played against Ballyhale Vocational School in Johnstown. Both sides were evenly balanced and two lucky goals in the closing minutes gave Johnstown victory.



Again on this occasion good defence work by Donnacha Gray and Kevin Dalton, Séamus Nolan and P. J. Delaney laid the foundation for this victory. James Dunne is a player with lots of talent while Robert Dowling, Eoin Delahunty, Jamie Dollard and Frank Murphy all took their scores with style.

Coláiste Mhuire disposed of Mooncoin Vocational School in the third game. Both sides were evenly matched

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### Robbie strikes again

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for the first 20 minutes but then two goal hero Robbie Dowling killed off any hopes of a southern win. In the second half goals by P. J. Delaney and James Dunne finished this game as a contest. Pat Tobin, Kevin Dalton and Martin Henderson starred in the winners defence while Tommie Neary, Philip O'Loughlin and Mark Kavanagh kept up continuous pressure on Mooncoin.

Johnstown now meet one of the Wexford schools in the Leinster Semi-final.

Scorers- P. J. Delaney (1-2), Tommie Neary (0-2), Philip O'Loughlin (0-2), Eoin Delahunty (0-1), James Dunne (1-

1), Mark Kavanagh (0-1), Robert Dowling (2-7), David Brennan (0-1), Jamie Dollard (0-1).

Team:- Colin Grant, Joe Joe Phelan, Donnacha Gray, Niall O'Hara, Martin Henderson, P. J. Delaney, Séamus Nolan, Tom Neary, Philip O'Loughlin, Mark Kavanagh, Frank Murphy, James Dunne, David Brennan, Robbie Dowling, Eoin Delahunty, Kevin Dalton, Sam Gibbons, Pat Walsh, Pat Tobin,

