



Coláiste Mhuire Newsletter



Summer 2009

Volume 14 Issue 3

Welcome to our final newsletter of this school year 08/09. Time has slipped by rather fast since last September. In that time many new friends were established, new skills learned and we all end up the year much wiser.

We wish both our Junior and Leaving Certificate classes good luck with their examinations. Students worked very well over the year and we look forward to excellent results in August and September.

Two extra computer rooms were fitted out with new computers during the year. As a result we now have five computer rooms, enabling a diverse range of subjects to be taught in a modern way. In addition many students use their own laptops in class.

Congratulations to all students who represented our school in sport. The Senior Team were unlucky in the All Ireland Semi Final. Well done to our juvenile football, hurling, camogie and badminton teams in bringing great honour to our school. I am delighted with the progress made by our basketball and hockey teams during the year.

We thank all parents and friends for their loyal support over the year. A special word of thanks to all staff in Coláiste Mhuire for the huge effort in promoting excellence during the year. A sincere word of appreciation also to Pat Long and Staff for supplying fresh healthy food which is always so appetising. Thanks once more to our hard working caretakers Joe Bergin, Pat Stokes and to Catherine, Pauline and Trish. Many thanks to our hard working secretary Ruth for being so helpful and courteous during the year. We wish all staff and students a pleasant well deserved summer holiday.

Time Travel!

History students in Coláiste Mhuire were amazed to see the coming alive of Stone Age people, Celts, Medieval knights and soldiers from the 1916 rising recently. Michael Moylan of History Live was a guest in our school this term and supplied the imaginations of our history students with real life weapons, tools and clothing as he re-enacted scenes from history before their very eyes. Students had the opportunity to dress up and closely examine all props on the day.

Sports Awards

Coláiste Mhuire held a sports awards ceremony on Wednesday 20th May in the Gym. These awards are designed to recognise and reward outstanding achievement on the field of play. Mr. Maher was master of ceremonies while Mr. Cahill presented the rewards.

The juvenile hurlers received their south Leinster medals while the badminton team received their Leinster title medals. The girls basketball team received their Kilkenny County VEC medals. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of Leinster medals to the senior hurling team. Also as part of the ceremony a number of rewards were presented to students for outstanding achievement in their sport. Basketball - Sarah Whelan, Hockey - Siobhán Corcoran, Football - John Muldowney, Camogie Junior - Sarah Dermody, Minor - Jessie Ryan, Senior - Orlaith Curran, Hurling Juvenile - Kevin Sweeney, Junior - Conor Martin, Senior Brendan Phelan.



Go Bananas!!!

Fairtrade Fortnight takes place each year during the first two weeks in March. This year's slogan was "Go Bananas". Coláiste Mhuire celebrated this year by organising a display of Fairtrade posters and products in the School. The 3G SPHE class gave €3 each to buy Fairtrade products to make a hamper, which they then raffled. The hamper was worth over €100. They researched Fairtrade Mark Ireland and the work that they do and so were able to tell other students about it when they passed the display. They also gave out information leaflets and stickers to those who purchased tickets. Raffle tickets raised another €120. Katie Power of 3G was the winner of the hamper. It was a very successful campaign for Fairtrade Fortnight and 3G are delighted to have raised over €200 for such a worthy cause.

Graduation 2009

Our sixth year group graduated on Wednesday 20th May in St. Kierans Church, Johnstown. The service was attended by members of the BOM, staff and parents. It was celebrated by Fr. F. Maher and Rev. Ian Cruickshank. Students were presented with a certificate and a bracelet inscribed with their name and year of graduation. Refreshments were provided for all, in the CYMS hall by Pat Long. Ms Kilkenny and Ms. Doyle would like to thank everyone who helped make this night a very special occasion.

Calling time on a successful TY 08/09

A short graduation ceremony was held in the library of Coláiste Mhuire to celebrate the many achievements of the Transition Year class 2008/09 on Thursday May 21st.

As the students reviewed their years experiences it was obvious to those in attendance that they had participated in an action-packed and educational programme that promoted maturity, independent learning and above all personal development.

The TY students recounted how their core subjects had been brought to life by their teachers using a diverse range of new approaches and methodologies . . . Maths games, Irish Céilí and English cinematography!!

The programme incorporates a number of relevant programme for teenagers including Road Safety, Tourism Awareness, Self Defence, Mental Health Matters, Forensic Science and Microsoft Academy ICT3

Without doubt the most enjoyable part of the TY programme is the expansive extra-curricular programme on offer . . . musicals, theatre trips, overseas travel, careers exhibitions and outdoor pursuits . . . to name a small sample!!

Students reflected during the ceremony on how TY had created a new sense of unity within their year as new friendships had been formed. The TY programme had broadened their expectations in areas such as careers and work, and expanded their knowledge on health issues and spirituality.

As a result of TY students felt they now had a clearer vision of what they hoped to achieve in senior cycle and beyond.

Counsellor Mary Hilda Kavanagh presented successful TY graduates with a portfolio of certificates they had earned throughout the year. Principal John Cahill presented a numbers of special awards to:

- Joseph Campion in recognition of the huge contribution he had made in organising a number of events including the recent variety show.
- Jamie Ryan who was voted by his teachers as “The Most Improved TY Student 08/09”.
- Donal Wilson who achieved the prestigious award of “Transition

Year Student of the Year 08/09”. Donal and Jamie were presented with engraved silver cross pens to recognise their success . . . Well done boys.

The staff of Coláiste Mhuire wish to thank the TY class for their huge contribution to the school over the year and wish them well for their summer holidays.

VARIETY SHOW 2009

After the great success of last years Variety Show this year’s show had a lot to live up to, but Variety Show 2009 proved to be just as good if not better and people were not disappointed. The show opened with the school traditional band playing a medley of reels and jigs and were then accompanied by our fantastic solo singer



Patricia Quinlan (3rd Year) singing “Down by the Sally Gardens”. Patricia stayed on stage to entertain the crowd with the Duffy song “Mercy”.

Up next was Darren Grace (1st year) singing a lively rendition of McFlys “Its All About You”. Our dancers Lisa Webster (5th Year), Mandy Lawlor (4th Year) and Cheltzie Ryan (3rd Year) showed off some great dance moves to the song “Footloose” and then there was a chance to relax with a piano solo by the very talented Sean Brennan (4th Year).

Aisling Burke (5th Year) sang her version of “When you say nothing at all” and there wasn’t a dry eye in the house!! Our up and coming band which is made up of Christopher Leahy (5th Year) and Philip Stranger (6th Year) on vocals, Gerald McCormack (4th Year) on guitar, Sean Brennan on piano and Donal Wilson (4th Year) on bongos performed “I’m Yours” and received tremendous applause.

Kieran Skehan (2nd Year) who is well known for his singing talent



showed us that he can do so much more by performing some very risky Michael Jackson moves while singing “Back for Good”. To end the first half there was a blast from the past with the cast from the transition year musical “Oh My Oh Mia” performing some of the chorus dances. This brought the show to the interval and had the crowd eagerly waiting for more.

The second part of the show began with the talented Ms Rothwell performing the Beyonce Song “If I were a boy” followed by Bronagh Lyons (5th Year) singing “Bubbly” alongside Eddie Curran on guitar.

Another dance act made up of Siobhain Corcoran, Mary Corcoran, Sarah Whelan (1st Year) and Cheltzie Ryan performed the popular dance “Hoedown Throwdown” and had the audience dying to get up and join in the dancing. Our double act Philip Stranger and Eddie Curran beautifully sang “Heroes and Ghosts” while the audience were transported back to the 1950’s with Christine Tully’s excellent version of the Peggy Lee song “Fever”. Rebecca Kenny and Maire Walsh (4th Year) sang a wonderful harmonic version of “Love Story”

Some dancing of a different kind was up next with Stephanie Ivory (5th Year) and Cheltzie Ryan (3rd Year) performing some very tricky Irish dance moves accompanied by the talented Harry



Vaughan on violin.

Then we had the gifted Kevin Quarell who performed some of his own original pieces on guitar. Last but not least was the school choir who per-

formed an arrangement of “Hallelujah” accompanied by Kevin on guitar and Sean Brennan on piano. Our fabulous MC’s for the night were Mary Hughes and Ciarán Beehan (6th Year) who did a brilliant job at introducing the acts and kept the show running smoothly. And that was the end for another year – it was a wonderful night and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show. A huge thank-you to everyone who came on the night and a very special thank you to all the teachers and students who made the night such a great success.

Retreat

LCA 2 visited the De La Salle Retreat Centre, Castletown, Co. Laois this term. The group enjoyed an active yet spiritual day and it was enjoyed by all who took part.

Third Year Trip to Dáil

Twenty students from third year went on a trip to observe at first hand the workings of the Dáil, as they had studied this in CSPE. A visit to the National Gallery was also included.

The group departed Coláiste Mhuire on Thursday 23rd April and arrived at the National Gallery. The students were very impressed with the paintings and sculptures, especially the paintings by Jack Yeats.

They then proceeded to Dáil Eireann and were greeted by a guide, organised by Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D., whom Mrs. Birch had contacted beforehand. He brought the group to the Dáil Chamber where the Dáil was in session. Mr. Brian Lenihan and Ms Mary Hanafin were debating with members of other parties with regard to "Social Welfare bonus payment at Christmas." All found this very interesting.

The guide then gave a detailed tour of of Leinster House, the highlight being a visit to the Seanad, which was also in session on that day.

Next stop on leaving the Mansion House was Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, where everyone "shopped till they dropped." On arriving back to Coláiste Mhuire, all were tired but very pleased with the trip to Dublin.

Leaving Certificate Applied

With all assignments and tasks complete the present 6th year LCA group are focusing on their state exams which they will sit in early June.

We wish the students the best of luck in capturing the remaining credits which go towards their final results which will be available in August.

Work Experience.

Coláiste Mhuire would like to thank all businesses which gave LCA students work experience over the year. This continues to be a very successful part of the course which ensures that students are prepared for the world of work. This would not be possible without your continued support.

Oakwood

On Friday the 15th of May the 6th year LCA class along with Mr Gleeson and

Miss Harrahill went on their end of school year trip to Oakwood Theme Park in Wales. Despite the very early start the day proved to be a very enjoyable starting off with a calm crossing from Rosslare to Fishguard and a short bus journey to the park.

The students and teachers were quick to get stuck into the hair raising, heart stopping speed and roller coaster rides that were on offer at the very popular tourist park.

Class teacher Miss Harrahill really enjoyed the outing but was the near cause of missing the return bus, due to her reluctance to get off the teacups and merry go round.

Special thanks to caretaker Joe who made the double trip to Rosslare to drop off and collect.

Author in Residence Programme

The 1L class took part in an 'Author in Residence'

Programme with poet Terry McDonagh. Terry visited the school for six weeks and conducted eight sessions of creative writing and drama with the class. Following the programme students visited the Source library in Thurles and were presented with certificates. Each student produced a booklet of their work.

JCSP Graduation

The JCSP Graduation cere-

mony took part on the 12 May. Students received profiles of the work they had completed over the past three years and a reference from the school. Mary Claire Higgins from the JCSP head office attended to present the profiles and Mary Hilda Cavanagh presented prizes to students for attendance and overall students.

Farm Visit

A big "Thank You" to Mark Stanley for the time and interest he took in hosting a farm visit for the Fifth Year Agricultural Science students. All those who participated in the visit found it most informative, relevant and interesting. We are looking forward to working with Mark again in the future.

Coláiste Mhuire Hockey Win

The hockey girls at Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown

played a friendly against Loreto Secondary School, winning by 4-1. This was their first away match against Loreto's Junior C team, and it was an excellent result, as it is the first year for hockey in a well-established hurling and camogie school. The ladies in Coláiste Mhuire have shown dedication and determination both on and off the field. It is hoped to develop and progress their talent and skills in the coming school year. Congratulations and well done to all the hockey girls and staff in Coláiste Mhuire for their hard work and support.



Post Leaving Cert Courses

The school is running the following F.E.T.A.C Courses:

- Care of the Older Person Level 5
- Childcare Level 5
- Childcare Level 6
- Business Studies/Secretarial Level 5
- Engineering Technology Level 5

Grants are available to eligible applicants for all the above courses. Most of them are running over a five day week. Places are limited to 15 per class.

People with an interest can contact the school office for further information on 056 8831135

Under 14 Hurling

The under 14 hurling team began their league campaign with a good win in Rathdowney. This was followed up by a good win in Johnstown against Heywood. This resulted in Coláiste Mhuire playing Wicklow schools in the south Leinster semi final. Played on a poor pitch with some dubious refereeing decisions, the Johnstown lads rose to the challenge and made it through to the south Leinster final. In the south Leinster final Coláiste Mhuire's opponents once again were near neighbours St. Fergal's from Rathdowney. Played in Nowlan Park, Coláiste Mhuire got off to a good start and took control of the game from an early stage.

The Johnstown team was too strong for the Rathdowney hurlers and ran out comfortable winners, retaining the title which they won in 2008.

During the year the under -14 hurlers took part in a blitz in Kilkenny, playing teams from C.B.S. Kilkenny and St Kieran's College. After two easy victories Coláiste Mhuire played St Kieran's in the final. This was a very fine match and was only settled in the final minutes with a goal from Frank Phelan, with Coláiste Mhuire winning by the narrowest of margins. Throughout the year this group of hurlers were very dedicated and committed, which played a big part in their successful defence of the south Leinster title and also winning the Under -14 blitz.

Thomas Moriarty was a great leader of this team and was assisted in defence in no small way by Eoin Ryan in goal and by backs Richard Saunders, Rory Doyle, Martin Phelan, Jason Stanley and Michael Drennan, who had an outstanding year. In midfield Kevin Sweeney and Kieran Skehan performed very well, getting some very important scores. In the forwards we had great players in Frank Phelan, Shane Donnelly, Eoghan Vaughan, Brian Webster, Darragh Morrissey and Shane Moriarty. The subs and extended panel of players were a vital part of the team during the year. Two players who picked up injuries towards the end of the year, Eoin Wilson and John Muldowney were very important players in the under-14 panel, and we wish them a speedy recovery.

MY TRANSITION YEAR

Coláiste Mhuire, oh what a school,
Take a year off, it could be cool.
Transition year is the way to go,
A plane or plough, off we go.

The ploughing match to Kilkenny, came
back.
We got our wellies and packed a mack.
When we got to the site the Summer was
here,
Forget the wellies and give us a cheer.

The next big thing was the one man show,
We got an insight to what we should know.
From when we were born to where we are
now.
A long road to travel we have to learn
how.

Our Religious trip was a different one,
We went to the mosque with no shoes on,
We dressed up we looked a joke,
This is one place you do not smoke.

The mountains were steep but we had good
crack,
As we struggled up the mountain back.
We laughed and fell and bruised as well,
We had pains in places we cannot tell.

Oh Mama Mia the school did toast,
Even Mr. Marnell began to boast.
The audience laughed and cried on the
night,
The lads on stage were an awesome sight.

To paintball we go, team build if you can,
To get the teachers that was our plan.
The teachers were targets and a wonderful
crack,
The trouble started when they shot back.

The Summer here was full of rain,
Miss Conroy said lets go to Spain.
In Madrid we would enjoy the sun,
The theme park was the greatest fun.

As the plane landed we are glad to be
here,
The whole plane clapped and gave a
cheer.
We were sore from the sun, exhausted
with pain,
We looked out the window "thank god
for the rain".

My transition year was full of fun,
We climbed some mountains but now
we are done.

Caitriona Rochford – Transition Year

ACTIVE RETIRED COMPUTER CLASSES @ COLAISTE MHUIRE

The
Active
Retired
Com-
puter
classes

continue to grow popularity with a second class now taking place on a Thursday in addition to the traditional Tuesday group. The Johnstown Active Retired Association enjoyed the Tuesday class immensely under the tuition of Miss Aine Monahan. The Thursday group stem from a wider region with members coming from Active Retired Associations in Killenaule, Gortnahoe and Cashel. This class was piloted in Coláiste Mhuire by Active Retirement Ireland to cater groups who do not currently have Computer Classes in their respective communities.

Miss Maureen Kavanagh (CEO of Active Retirement Ireland) and Mr. Kevin Molloy (President of Active Retirement Ireland) attended the official opening of the class on Thursday 26th February. The pair then returned to present certificates to the participants on the course conclusion on Thursday 7th May. They praised the efforts of Mr John Dunne in tutoring the class, along with Miss Anne Carroll & Miss Patricia Talis. They also highly commended Mr John Cahill on the state of the art facilities in Coláiste Mhuire and his vision for facilitating such a class. The classes were such a success that both are due to re-commence in September

Camogie Blitz

Coláiste
Mhuire
hosted an

Under-12 camogie blitz on Wednesday May 27th. Six teams, from St. Anne's, The Harps, Urlingford and Gortnahoe took part in this sporting occasion. St. Anne's B team had a convincing win over Gortnahoe, crowning themselves shield winners. With top points on the scoreboard, Urlingford and St. Anne's A reached the final. A tense second half resulted in a narrow one point victory for the St. Anne's side. Thanks to all for participating and helping out on the evening.

*Guímid gach rath ar na daoine go léir
atá ag déanamh scrúdaithe i mbliana.
An Teastas Sóisearach agus an Árdteist.
Go néiri libh go léir. Tá súil againn go
mbainfid gach daoine sult agus
taitneamh as an samhradh.*