



School Newsletter

October, 2011

75th Celebrations

St. Mary's College is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Special celebrations began in September. On the evening of Wednesday, 21st, a special commemorative book, compiled by Arthur Burke, was launched. The book, a history of the college in Naas, is not only of interest to anyone associated with the school but also appeals to anyone interested in the social history of Naas. Present at the launch were the Board of Management, members of the Parents' Council, members of the Past Pupils' Association, teachers and pupils - both past and present and other invited guests. The school was particularly delighted that two of the original class of '36, Frances Casey and Mabel Lyons attended the launch and celebrations.

It was a night of history and song. The president of the past pupils association presented the school with an exhibition of the uniforms of St. Mary's down through the years. The School launched two of its own initiatives, an emblematic rug created by the whole school community and 'The Road I'm Travelling' a collection of stories and anecdotes, compiled by Ms. Mannion, from 75 past pupils, recounting the various road each has taken since leaving St. Mary's.

Also present were some teachers and pupils from a Mercy school in Little Rock, Arkansas, founded by four Mercy sisters who left Naas 160 years ago. One of the visiting nuns, Sr. Deborah Troillept spoke of the vocation and commitment of the founders and said their spirit of service lives on today in Mercy schools. The students stayed with the families of Shauna Clancy, Ellen Downey, Deirdre Mullaney and Kathleen O'Reilly for a week. As well as sampling Irish school life they visited Dublin, sights around Kildare and the Ploughing Championships with our students. St. Mary's College would like to thank the host families for their hospitality to the Little Rock students.

The following day, Thursday 22nd, each year group of students attended celebratory assemblies which included a prayer service, an introduction to the various displays and a tree planting ceremony - one tree for each year. On Friday 23rd, mass was celebrated, by Fr. Paul Dempsey, for the entire school community and invited guests. Sr. Peggy Collins, Provincial Mercy Sisters, gave an address after the Mass. This was followed by the unveiling of two commemorative art works commissioned for the 75th and crafted by two past pupils, Bríd Óg Norby and Susan Connolly.

Fun Day.

It was all fun and games for students at St. Mary's College on Tuesday, September 27th when they swapped pens and paper for eggs and spoons. A 'Fun Day' was arranged as part of the commemorative celebration for the school's 75th anniversary.

Various sports were organised for students, including novelty sack races and an army obstacle course. A soccer match was held at lunchtime between teachers and Sixth Year's in fancy dress! The highlight of the afternoon came when all the students and staff of St. Mary's gathered in the sports hall. Students were counted upon entering the hall by members of the Gardaí and the attempt was observed by independent adjudicators, including band members from 'Miracle Bell' and Kildare footballer, Johnny Doyle. 898 participants simultaneously performed 'Rock the Boat', breaking the current world record of 820 people. Thanks to Mr. Dillon for his help in organizing the event.

75th Celebration Christmas Concert

A rare and very special concert in honour of the college's 75th birthday celebrations will take place in the Parish Church, adjacent to the school, on Sun. Dec. 18th, at 8pm, featuring not

only the College Choir and instrumentalists but four special past pupils who have made their careers in music on both the national and international stage. We are delighted to welcome CELINE BYRNE, NORAH KING, LAOISE O'BRIEN and SHARON SEXTON as our guest stars for the night. This is an exceptional concert and will really make Christmas for so many of us. Tickets (€15/conc. €12) will go on sale in the school in November. Please pass the word around, especially to past pupils of both the school and the College Choir and book as soon as possible. The concert will feature much loved carols such as O Holy Night, The Holy City and many more.

Transition Year

Transition Year got off to a great start with a gelling trip to Manchester/Liverpool in early September. In Manchester, T.Y. students visited Old Trafford, the science museum and the Trafford Centre. They spent a day in Alton Towers and had a very enjoyable time.

The girls are undertaking their Gaisce activities, which involve the development of a personal skill, community work, and personal development. They are hoping to achieve the bronze Gaisce award this year.

Some are getting involved in the Best Buddies programme which helps fight the loneliness and isolation often experienced by a person with an intellectual disability. The objective is to match students and people with an intellectual disability in one to one friendships.

Some more of our T.Y. activities include: fundraising for the homeless and Zambia International; yoga, step aerobics and fitness, rock climbing and abseiling; film studies in Kairos, Maynooth; visit to the national ploughing championships; modules in environmental studies and road safety; enterprise workshop and mini company; goal-setting workshop; Harvest

Festival October 27th; work shadowing; community service; law course.

Transition Year Musical

Welcome back to Noel McDonough and Deirdre Browne who will be working with the school musical team in the T.Y. production of the much loved 'Finian's Rainbow', from March 7th – 10th. All have been hard at work since the return to school. Auditions and recalls have taken place and the cast has been decided. This heartwarming tale, with its underlying message of tolerance, is very apt for today's society. In times of recession we all look forward to finding that crock of gold at the end of the rainbow!

5th Year Music Outing

On Fri., Oct. 14th, the 5th year music class, in the company of Ms. Mannion and several parents, had a most enjoyable night out at the National Concert Hall, Dublin to hear, amongst other things, a thrilling and very loud performance of 'Carmina Burana' (some of its music will be known to those who remember the *Old Spice* adverts). Compliments to the girls on their faultless behaviour and many thanks to the parents who gave of their time on the night.

Drumming Workshop

The Music Dept.'s annual drumming workshop for 1st and 2nd year music classes will take place in November, so we can look forward to the school's relative peace and quiet being shattered for a day!

School Choir

Since the beginning of Sept., the College Choir has started back in earnest every Thurs. (4.15-5.30pm). The demands of the 75th celebrations saw the girls achieve a high standard of performance and commitment. Special congratulations to Aisling McCarthy 6th year and Clodagh Donnelly 5th year on their solo duet. The choir is now deep in preparation for the special concert on Sunday, Dec. 18th, in the Parish Church. Commitment to rehearsals and support from parents in this is much needed. The choir is always looking for new members. You don't need a solo voice, just be able to sing in tune. Please see either Ms. Mannion or Ms. Irwin at any time for a pain free, easy voice check.

Gaelic Football

The senior team had a fantastic win against Kilcullen in the first round of the Leinster championship in Naas GAA grounds. The final score was 3-16 to 4-11 in a pulsating, high quality game of football. Scorers for St. Mary's were Sinead O'Brien, Laurie McCarthy, Niamh Bergin, Áine Cummins, Shannon Doheny, Bríona Hoban, Leah Whyte, Grace Clifford, and Bríd Doolan. Special mention to Caoimhe Jameson for her excellent corner back play in her first match for the school.

In their second win against Athy, the final score was 4-20 to 2-05. Scorers for St. Mary's were; Áine Cummins, Shannon Doheny, Bríona Hoban, Leah Whyte, Grace Clifford, Chelsea Crowe, and Amy Hyland.

Player of the match was Shannon Doheny.

The girls are now through to the quarter final which will be a home fixture.

The U16 gaelic football team's opening game was played on Monday, October 3rd against Árdcoil na Tríonóide, Athy. Despite a sterling performance by the whole team, the girls narrowly lost by 2 points. Having recovered well from this defeat, the team had a great home victory against Coláiste Chiaráin, Leixlip, on October 18th. The final score was 8-6 to 1-5. We can be proud of the team work displayed and with more games ahead, it is hoped the girls' practice and hard work will pay off.

Hockey

St. Mary's College has three teams in the Leinster league this year.

The senior team had its first outing against Newbridge College last week. After some excellent hockey, the game ended with a 1-1 draw.

The minor team will play against Sacred Heart, Tullamore, on October 20th and St. Wolstan's Celbridge, after midterm.

The junior team has fixtures against St. Wolstan's Celbridge, Mount Sackville, Mount Anville, Newbridge College and Tullamore. Support from parents and family members at home games is welcome.

A special thank you to Medbh Dillon 6th year, who is giving up her lunchtime every Tuesday to coach and promote hockey with the First Years.

Careers Events for 6th Year Students in school.

October

26th Information Evening on Third Level Education in Ireland for 6th Year parents & students in the school assembly hall at 7.30pm

November

8th NUI Galway

9th Carlow Institute of Technology
7th Mater Dei Institute of Education

10th Information Evening on NUI Galway in the Osprey Hotel, Naas from 7pm-9pm for parents and students.

There will be a variety of other career related talks organised between now and Christmas.

Career Events/Open Days in Third Level Colleges

November

1st UCD Science Careers & Open Evening

3rd CAO online facility opens

5th Music NUI Cork

9th Senior College Dun Laoghaire

11th Carlow IT

12th UCD

14th Senior College Dun Laoghaire

15th I.T. Blanchardstown

16th Galway/Mayo

17th Carlow College

18th & 19th Dublin City University

19th Coláiste Mhuire, Marino

Institute of Education

19th Froebel College

19th Mater Dei Institute of Education

St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra

24th Sligo IT & St. Angela's

College, Sligo

25th & 26th Dun Laoghaire

Institute of Art, Design &

Technology

25th & 26th NUI Maynooth &

Pontifical University, St. Patrick's

College, Maynooth

26th All Hallows

Congratulations

Congratulations to Edel Pyke and Gráinne Temple two of our past-pupils who will receive an Entrance Scholarship award to NUI Maynooth on 7th November.

Happy  Halloween