



# St. Mary's High School, Brollagh

Mid-term Newsletter -issue2



## Prize giving Evening

Congratulations to all those awarded on Prize giving night. Special Congratulations to Brendan Keown, top A. Level achiever, Deirdre Mc Manus, top G.C.S.E. achiever, Shauna Hamilton for contribution to sport and music, Michael Mc Gauran, for contribution to skills programme and to Amanda Feely top Art and Design, Shane Fee, Charitable Ethos award. Thanks to the generosity of our local businesses, we were able to maintain the quality, range and number of awards presented this year. Thanks to all those who sponsored awards Gilroy's, Garrison: Feely's, Garrison: Keown's Waterside Bar, Garrison, Mc Grath's, Belleek, Correlea Activity Centre, Belcoo, Leonard oil, Pettigo and Mrs Valentia Mc Gahern. The night was a great success and enjoyed by all.



## Open Night

Despite treacherous driving conditions on Monday evening the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, many P7 parents made the journey with their children to St. Mary's, travelling from Derrygonnelly and Belcoo as well as the Garrison and Belleek areas.

After thanking parents for making the great effort to attend in adverse conditions, Mr Regan pointed out the many benefits of attending a small co-educational rural school; the lack of distraction, small classes, lots of individual attention. Quoting the inspectorate Mr Regan was delighted to report that all teaching in St. Mary's was found to be very good and in many cases excellent. Results at grade A-C in almost all subjects are significantly higher than the N. Ireland average for non-selective schools with some subjects achieving 100% A-C passes at both G.C.S.E. and A. Level. Parents were then invited to view the school under the guidance of our sixth form students. The evening ended with parents invited to join teaching staff in the canteen for refreshments, an invitation that despite weather conditions was taken up by many.

The snow was continuing to fall heavily as parents braved the journey home after an evening, which was greatly enjoyed by all.



## Paris Trip

One sunny October afternoon 28 pupils from St Mary's High School and three of their teachers arrived in Paris. After a long journey by bus and plane, it was great to be able to stretch our legs going up the Eiffel Tower. In just one week we have done so many things! We went on a boat trip on the River Seine, we saw Notre Dame, the Mona Lisa, a real Egyptian mummy and the Rodin museum. Every evening we were doing something, we went bowling and to Aqua Boulevard, a brilliant water park with lots of great slides. We spent a whole day in Eurodisney from 10 in the morning until 10 at night. We ate at the Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show where we had a great time watching the Cowboys and Indians; we had a good laugh too! On the last day just before going home we stopped at a



shopping centre for a last chance to spend our money but our bags were already full of all the things we had bought in Eurodisney!

Everybody enjoyed their week away and we are looking forward to the next French Trip in 2006. Thank you to all the pupils who took part in this trip for their attitude and their gratitude, it has been a real pleasure taking them away.

Madame Gribbin

We wish Mr Bradley and his pupils a safe and enjoyable holiday on their current skiing trip in Passo Del Tonale.

## The reading race is on!

Students in Year 8,9, and 10 are in keen competition with each other to complete the bronze, silver and gold awards. We

Have a large variety of books available in our recently refurbished library, which are being borrowed with great enthusiasm. Year 10 are planning a display of all their reading achievements in June.



## Learning can be fun!

Year 8 have discovered that learning can be fun when they teamed up with Peer tutors to improve their reading. Members of year 11 volunteered to read with our new students so that their reading aloud would improve. Both year groups are enjoying reading the new books and are looking forward to collecting certificates for their efforts

## Charitable Deeds

Pupils made up 65 shoe boxes of gifts for children in war torn and poor countries. This was an outstanding contribution to the Samaritans Christmas operation appeal. These were displayed in St Patrick's church in Belleek. Pupils also made up hampers for St Vincent de Paul.

Three large hampers of food stuffs were sent to the St Vincent de Paul society plus a cheque for £220 stg. This was collected through a small school raffle.

More recently we have been involved in raising monies for the less fortunate in Asia due to the Tsunami there. The pupils raised a generous £409 stg. Well done to all pupils.



## "Step in Time" success for Brollagh students

In June last the Environment and Heritage service, in conjunction with Carrickfergus Castle, ran a competition aimed at enhancing the understanding of History through other academic subjects.

Together with Miss Brenda McHugh their history teacher and Mrs Patricia Kelly their art teacher, the year eight pupils of St. Mary's High School visited the Castle. On returning to school they eagerly began formulating their entries. The subject of each category was "An interpretation of our visit to Carrickfergus Castle" and entries were submitted for each of the following three categories: Art, Poetry and short story.

With the beginning of a new school year also came success for the pupils. Ciara Lawne reaped second prize in the poetry category and Oonagh Kelly was highly commended for short story.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of October, Ciara and Oonagh travelled with their families to receive their prizes at the castle. Both girls were presented with beautiful engraved plaques and Ciara with £50.00 by the Lord Mayor of Carrickfergus Castle. A wonderful evening was had by all. All their entries are now featured in a booklet compiled by the castle.

## Peacing it together

### Meeting Bill

The jigsaw created by year 10 pupils last year was displayed in the Clinton Centre last August in preparation for the Clinton visit. Jenny Keenan and fellow pupil Ursula Mc Cafferty attended along with their teacher Patricia Kelly. The girls were given the opportunity to explain the ideas behind their piece to the president. The girls were delighted to be present at this exciting event. Speaking to the Herald later Jenny said that Hillary was very impressed by the jigsaw. Bill told the students that he would like to take the jigsaw with him to show people the positive messages illustrated.

The jigsaw is in fact travelling globally before final exhibition at the Clinton Centre



Ursula Mc Cafferty and Jenny Keenan meet the Clintons in Enniskillen.

### Young cook of the year

We are delighted to report that Sinead Keown has been selected, from the numerous entries submitted for the "Young Cook of the Year" competition, to represent the WELB in the junior section at the finals which are to be held in Wallace High School Lisburn on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. We wish Sinead every success on the day.



### True Colours Exhibition

Art and Design students recently visited the "True Colours" exhibition in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. This provided our students with the opportunity to examine closely some of the best work produced at examination level last year. The work of Caroline Keown was selected for this exhibition this year

### Recycled Form Awards

Junior pupils are currently competing for prizes in this, the third year of the recycled form awards. Discarded Hoover pipes, plastic bottles are some of the materials being transformed into exciting and imaginative pieces of art and design. We wish year 13 all the best with their Form and Fusion designs. They take part in the final in Belfast on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Bone Fun Day

Ten Year 10 girls enjoyed their participation in the "Bone Fun Day" on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. This is an annual event organised at the Lakeland Forum by the Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust in which ten year 10 pupils are invited to partake in games, quizzes etc to highlight the need for good bone health.

## Football Success

### Brollagh Under 14 Champs

On Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December our Brollagh u14 team went to Derrylin to take on a very flamboyant Skea side. We went into this match as the under dogs of the championship. After beating St.Joes in the semis we began to think there was a bit of hope for our team.

For the first fifteen minutes of the match I was absolutely wrecked. Then I got my second breath and I started to play football while McKeaney was boxing!!!! Cailean Wood(sy) scored some class points and Joe Gilbride missed one of the easiest goals.

At the half way point we were leading by two points and Mr. Bradley asked us all if we ever thought after playing our first match that we would be leading in the county final by two points.

Our supporters were in full flight. When we came out from the break Skea were a changed side, they pumped the ball up the field and the scored the first goal of the match but that was to change. We started to work the ball about the field and got four points in a row. Then the second goal of the match was a goal that was superbly taken by me!! Then after that we scored a few more points and another goal scored by Martin Doherty.

After the match the whole team was ecstatic and we were all dying for our breath.

I was the captain of the team and that meant I had to go up for the cup. No speech in the whole world could match my amazing speech!!!!

When we got on the bus our lucky mascot Ernie the bus driver said, "well done", he's our lucky mascot because we have won every match he had taken us to.

That night we went to the mighty disco in Brollagh and the first song the DJ played was "we are the champions" and it was brilliant because the "mighty" st.micks won nothing and we were teasing them. We will go on to win the Ulsters (hopefully)!!

**Sean Sands**



Credit Union  
Winners-Poster  
Design

**Local Level-11-13**  
1st Emmer Gormley  
2nd Sarah Gallagher  
3rd Roisin Keown

**Age 14-17 years**  
1st Emma Doogan  
2nd Emma Coyle  
3rd Aisling Graham

**Highly Recommended**  
Mark Denning  
Helena Mc Manus  
**Special Category**  
Paul Mc Glone

**Chapter Level**  
We are still awaiting the  
results of this section

## Musically Minded

The highlight of the year for our choir was the production of the 'Merry Christmas' CD. The pupils worked very hard on it's production and if you have heard the results you will agree that it is really wonderful. The CD was a sell-out in local shops at Christmas.

The Choir performed very well at the Foyleside Shopping Centre in Derry before Christmas and gave their usual excellent performance in Enniskillen.

Drumming lessons are continuing and are still proving to be a great success. Many pupils have now achieved certificates for their work.

We will have the first round of 'Stars In Yer Eyes' on March 8<sup>th</sup> and are looking forward to as many pupils participating in it as possible, as it is a great experience for the children. Congratulations to the undertones on their performance in the Ulster final last year.



## Liturgical Events

### FAITH ALIVE

This has been a really busy time for the Religious Studies department. Pupils have taken part in school and Parish based liturgies.

SEPTEMBER - The school mass was a very important way of opening the academic year. A level and first year pupils were involved in this mass. The mass was celebrated by the school chaplain Fr Hughes.

A very important liturgy was held in Belleek celebrating the harvest thanksgiving. The pupils from St Mary's led the liturgy and this notable ceremony was attended by both the Catholic and protestant members of the local community. The congregation filled a specially commissioned cornucopia (horn of plenty) with flowers and harvest crops and then presented it as a gift to the local Protestant church. This liturgy was led by Fr Hughes.

OCTOBER - A special assembly was held to celebrate the month of the Rosary led by Year 11 pupils. The pupils learnt the importance of this traditional family prayer. Pupils were encouraged to say the Rosary at home with their family.

NOVEMBER- This is the month when we remember our deceased relatives and friends. Pupils compiled lists of the names of their deceased loved ones. A special assembly was held in school and a special time of prayer took place. A mass was celebrated in St Patrick's Belleek by Fr Hughes.

DECEMBER -A very busy month!! The Advent liturgy in Belleek and Mulleek was led by our pupils. This was widely appreciated by all parishioners. The pupils lit the first candle and explained to the congregation the origins and meaning of Advent.

A special assembly was held in school with the setting up of the school Christmas Crib and Advent wreath.

During Christmas week the pupils led the Parish Reconciliation service in Belleek. Many parishioners found the liturgy rewarding and contemplative and offered their thanks to the pupils.

Just before Christmas we held a special Carol Service in St Mary's. The A level pupils led a reflective narrative of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Year 8 pupils explained the true meaning of Christmas. The choir provided Christmas carols. Year 9 pupils produced a unique Christmas Nativity story. This was attended by local priests Canon Lonergan and Fr Hughes.