



St. Mary's High School, Brollagh

Newsletter -issue 3



New Principal

We the staff and pupils would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome Mr. Kelly, our new principal to the school. We hope that he will be very happy here at St. Mary's. We welcome too other new members of the teaching staff, Ms Rhona Duffy and Ms Maeve Jackson who is temporarily covering for Mrs Cleary. We wish Mrs Cleary all the very best on the imminent birth of her baby.

Open evening this year will take place on the 30th of January between 7.00 and 9.00pm. All P7 pupils with their parents will be very welcome.



Prizegiving Evening

Congratulations to all those awarded at prizegiving evening. Special congratulations go to Deirdre Mc Manus who received her A.S. Level cup. Deirdre achieved four A's in her A.S. Level exams. Top G.C.S.E. Cup was awarded to Clare Graham. Vincent O Neill received the skills programme cup, Gillian Coyle- sports, Conor Mc Hugh- Art and Design, Christopher Maguire- Music, Antoinette Keaney- Christian Ethos. The night was a great success. Guest speaker and past pupil John Kennedy spoke of the family like atmosphere he enjoyed at St. Mary's. John, now a lecturer in law at the University of Ulster was a great inspiration to all those present. Recently retired Principal, Gerard Regan presented the Year 12 awards after which he received a tremendous standing ovation in appreciation for all he has done at St. Mary's. As usual huge thanks go to the many local businesses who sponsored this years event.

NEW BREAKFAST CLUB

Pupils in St. Mary's, Brollagh take full opportunity to enjoy a healthy breakfast in the new morning Breakfast Club introduced on the 1st Dec. 2005. The new breakfast club has been established as part of the school's new Healthy Eating Policy started in September 2005 in which crisps, fizzy drinks and unhealthy options have been consigned to the past. The pupils now bring healthy optional alternatives for their break and lunch snacks, in light of new nutritional guidelines promoted by the Food Agency, WELB and T.V Chef Jamie Oliver.

FOOTBALL BLITZ

Congratulations to the under 16 girls who were runners up in the secondary schools football final competition.



Paris Trip

Our fourth Paris trip will take place during the first week of October 2006. Pupils will spend 5 days and 4 nights there. They will stay in a hotel in the outskirts of Paris. Whilst there a number of visits will be organized, among them are ; a trip to Euro Disney, a trip on the "Bateaux mouches" on the river Seine, a visit to the Eiffel tower, a visit to some art galleries for the art and design students and a guided tour of Paris. This trip has always proved to be a great experience for all the pupils involved.



Public Speaking Victories

Three year twelve pupils were recently victorious at the local heat of the Soroptomist Organisation's annual public speaking competition. Jenny Keenan, Bernie Maguire and Kate Graham attained second, third and fourth places respectively in the famous event, held at the Intec Centre, Enniskillen on 15th November. Each of the girls received certificates and book tokens as recognition of their achievements. Eight pupils in total from year twelve took part in the event, all of whom were praised by the adjudicators for the quality of the content and delivery of their respective speeches. All girls received a certificate for their participation and everyone involved found the experience invaluable especially since these same girls are currently studying English Language and Literature, part of which assesses pupils' oral communication skills. Well done also to Helen Graham in year 10 who achieved 3rd place in the recent Road Safety Public Speaking competition in the Model school, Enniskillen.

Ski Trip

This year's ski trip is again to the Italian Dolomite Mountains. On the 14th of January our pupils will be joining pupils from 5 other schools in the Western Board for a week long trip of their lives. They will be based in the beautiful village of Molveno/Andalo. Hopefully everything will go as well as the eight previous ski trips Mr Bradley has organized and everyone comes home safe and sound with the schools excellent reputation enhanced. We wish the boys and girls all the best.

Poetry Competition

Pupils from years eight and ten recently entered the annual POP poetry competition. The students submitted a range of intriguing and creative poetry on a range of topics including family, friendship, Halloween and Christmas. Our pupils will compete with school pupils from all over Scotland, England and Wales and the winners shall be announced within the coming weeks.



Another Victory for students of St. Mary's Belleek in Regional History Competition

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

Together with Mrs Brenda Cleary their History teacher and Mrs Patricia Kelly their Art and Design 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 "A day in the life of those who resided in Carrickfergus Castle in Norman Times." Entries were submitted for each of the following three categories: Art, Poetry and short story.

With the beginning of a new school year came success for the pupils as Anna Graham, Laura Gilfedder, Jessica Dervan, Karl Kirkpatrick and Sean Mc Aloon were awarded prizes for their Art entries.

On the 12th of October, Anna and Jessica travelled again to the castle with their teachers Mrs Brenda Cleary and Mrs Patricia Kelly to receive their prizes. Richard Rodgers, chief executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Heritage, presented both girls with beautifully engraved plaques, history encyclopaedias and certificates. The pupils had the opportunity to see their work both written and visual beautifully displayed in the Keep of the castle where it will remain until the end of November. All had a wonderful evening. All of the school entries have been printed in an excellent publication compiled by the castle. The pupils were thrilled to note that their images have been used to enhance both the cover of this publication and also on the certificates issued to all other winners on the evening.



Translink Ulster in Bloom

Congratulations to Sinead Keown who was successful in the Ulster in Bloom competition. Renowned N.I. artist Rita Duffy presented her with her award in Belfast. Sinead's artwork now adorns the train station there. Good luck to Year 10 pupils who are currently completing this year's entries.

Amnesty International Posters

For poster designs highlighting the need for children's rights across the world and at home, Pupils from St. Mary's took all the prizes in a recent competition organized by Amnesty International. Judging the competition artist Jeremy Henderson spoke very highly of the standard of the entries. Jeremy presented these awards in the Clinton Centre, Enniskillen. Roisin Keown took 1st place, 2nd Roisin Wall, 3rd Simon Mullen.

True Colours Exhibition

As always we have had work selected for this showcase of best work produced at examination level. This year Aideen Mc Garrigle's handbag design has been chosen for this prestigious exhibition.

Form and Fusion



The **Form and Fusion fashion** design competition, which encourages pupils to make creative use of recycled materials, was again a big part of our A. Level programme. This year work produced jointly by Antoinette Dolan and Roisin O Connor was highly commended for concept, a very significant achievement considering that there were thousands of entries nationwide.

Degree Shows

Past pupils graduating with degrees in Art and Design this year were Bronagh Mc Cauley and Edward Mc Gonigle. Their exhibitions held in the Art College in June were very impressive. Bronagh's designs were featured in House and Home magazine in August. We wish them both all the very best.

Holocaust

Year 10 pupils are currently working in conjunction with W.E.L.B. and Enniskillen Museum on a project to commemorate the holocaust.

Two pupils from year 10, Katie O Shea and Oonagh Kelly have already had their images selected to feature on posters to advertise the event. Artist Patricia Martinelli and poet Seamus Mc Ceannaigh are visiting the students weekly in their English and Art classes to assist them with their ideas. The students will present their work on the 17th of January to a number of dignitaries including the Minister for Children. Enniskillen is hosting the N.I. commemoration of the Holocaust and St. Mary's are very proud to be part of this event..

The Literacy Club -Who said " Learning cannot be fun?"

There has been a tremendous response to the formation of a literacy club by the special Educational Needs Department. Two members of staff are available to help students for an hour after school from Monday to Thursday. Students can obtain help with their homework, their reading or individual problems. The computer suite has been made available for the research and completion of coursework.



FUNDRAISING

Congratulations to all pupils for their generous contribution to charity last year a whopping £1800.00 was raised. This money was raised through a number of activities throughout the school and was forwarded to Trocaire.

November and December saw the preparation of shoeboxes for the Christmas appeal. The huge number of boxes that were made shows the generosity of the pupils. Food hampers were made up by all year groups and these were forwarded to St Vincent de Paul in Enniskillen. This is a very kind way of helping those in need locally.



FAITH ALIVE

This has been a busy term for the Religious Studies department in their extra curricular endeavours. All pupils in the school have taken part in school based or Parish based liturgies. They have also developed and encouraged their Christian faith by doing charitable deeds. September was a really busy month with the opening of the year assembly led by year eight pupils. The theme was new beginnings and we hope all year 8 pupils will have a happy new start in St Mary's. The opening of the year mass was celebrated by Canon Lonergan and pupils from all year groups took place in the liturgy. October is the month of the rosary and all pupils were encouraged to say this family prayer at home during this month. November is the month in which we remember our deceased relatives and friends. All classes compiled their own dead lists of relatives and then a special assembly was led by year ten pupils. All past pupils of the school who have died were remembered. The lists of names were passed on to Canon Lonergan who will remember them especially in a mass. This was followed up by the participation of pupils from the school in a special prayer service in St Michael's church, Enniskillen on the 25th of November for all young people who have died.

December is the time of preparation for advent. This began with the dressing of the Advent Wreath at a whole school assembly. This was led by the year 10 pupils. We prayed especially for all who would be lonely this Christmas. The true message of Christmas was highlighted also, that is the birth of our saviour and not the hustle and bustle of shopping. We then had a very special Christmas carol service and nativity play. A big thanks to all our readers

Well done to all pupils who have read at masses in Garrison recently - Lorna Feely, Jenny Keenan, Brian Maguire, Amanda Doherty, Conor Mulrone. This is a very special way of getting involved in your local church. Any pupil who would like to get involved let your RE teacher know!

Credit Union Winners-Poster

Local Level-11-13
1st Sean McAloon
2nd Padraig Rafferty
3rd Colin Cinnamond

Age 14-17 years
1st Michelle Somers
2nd Christopher Burns
3rd Helen Graham
Highly Commended
Paul Mc Glone

Chapter Level
We are still awaiting the
results of this section

Musically Minded

St. Mary's High School Choir- Belleek

St. Mary's highly acclaimed school Choir are making a number of appearances at a variety of venues this Christmas. They are very honoured to have been invited to sing at the switching on of the lights in Donegal town on the 25th of November. They can be heard singing close to home on the 9th of December in Belleek. They are also appearing in the Diamond in Enniskillen on the 16th of December and at Erneside shopping centre. They will be a major attraction at the Borderline players production of "Santa in Space" a pantomime which is being performed in the Community Centre, Pettigo on the 16th, 17th and 18th of December. They appear at the Foyleside in Derry on the 19th of December.

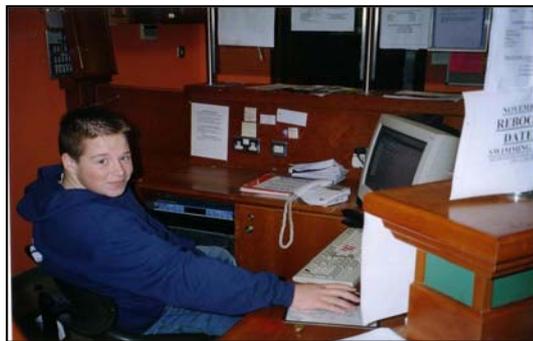
Their Christmas cd recorded last year is again available in the shops this year. Songs featured include Fairytale of New York, Winter Wonderland and White Christmas. St. Mary's music Dept. are hoping to record a new cd in the new year to celebrate the anniversary of 40 years at Brollagh. Past pupils are invited to become involved in this production.



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FIELD TRIP

On Wednesday 5th October 2005 year 12 students studying Double Award Science visited the Tir Navar Field Studies Centre in Derrygonnelly for a curriculum based Investigation. Students were asked to examine the effect of Light, Humidity, Temperature and Wind Speed on the growth of forest flora (plants) and to study also the abundance and variety of fauna (animals) along a line transect.

A very enjoyable and informative day was had by all thanks to the very professional and helpful staff at the centre. We look forward to a return visit very soon.



House System

Pupils are now being awarded on a monthly basis for their good behaviour and for their excellent attitude to their work. These pupils receive certificates and prizes. Their behaviour is also rewarded by the end of year house trip. This year pupils from Kilcoo house will travel to Dundonald ice rink.

Work Experience

During the course of this weeks work experience, 29 pupils spent a week, 4/5 days, at a place of work chosen and arranged by themselves. Only one difficulty was encountered in the booking of these placements. In that instance, two pupils had been double booked into the local vets clinic in Belleek, in this case a placement was arranged with another vet in Derrygonnelly.

All of the placements had W.E.L.B. approval prior to start of scheme, some pupils did express disappointment at not being allowed to experience farming and stable work. This was on the grounds of health and safety because they were below the age of 16. Pupils were involved in a great variety of work activities spread over a large geographical area, stretching from Strandhill to Limavady. During the four days Mr. Mc Closkey visited 26 pupils at their placement site, the remaining 3 pupils were visited at the Skills Centre in Enniskillen where they attended their normal skills training day on the Thursday. All employers were spoken to and all pupils were seen at least once.

Feedback from pupils since their return to school has been very positive, even if they have decided not to follow up the career chosen for their placement. The employers were very impressed with the behaviour of the students, particularly regarding their good manners, good work and the suitability of their dress.

Vocational Programme

This Vocational Programme has been running in partnership with our school and Fermagh college for the past two years. Students undertaking this programme have been actively engaged in modules such as bricklaying, plastering, joinery, plumbing, electrical, painting and decorating, hair-dressing and beauty, catering and childcare. The students have undertaken exams in Health and Safety and if successful each student will attain accreditation towards N. V.Q.1 and profiles of achievement. The students and the school have embraced this programme with great enthusiasm and the excellent attendance and attitude of the students is testimony to this enthusiasm.