



# St. Mary's High School, Brollagh Newsletter 08-09



## Reprieve for St. Mary's High School

Following a difficult and uncertain four months since September, it was fantastic to read that CCMS has listened to a concerned community and are going to give more time and analysis to the future of Brollagh. This allows staff to focus now on teaching and planning for next year. I hope that parents will continue to support the school as they have done in the past. All staff are looking forward to welcoming another year eight group in September 2009. I will also take this opportunity to thank all the staff at the school for their continued hard work and professionalism during my time as Acting Principal. Mr Bradley



## **Induction of New Year 8 Pupils**

This year the school again organized a series of activities to welcome the new year 8 pupils. The aim was to help them to get to know each other and to settle in. On their first day, they were involved in a number of icebreaking exercises. They competed in a treasure hunt that took them all around the school. At the end of the day they went home with a framed class photograph. On the following day the pupils enjoyed a great day bowling in Bundoran. The process greatly aided the pupils' self esteem and helped them to settle in much more quickly.

## **Brollagh Primary School Challenge**

Don't miss the "Brollagh Primary School Challenge." This is a unique competition for P7. It will take place this year on the 28th January. The day will be both fun and challenging and you will get a chance to win great prizes both for yourself and for your school. Open night takes place on the 2nd February. Come along with your parents and have a look around.



## **Prize giving Evening**

Congratulations to all those awarded on Prize giving evening. Special congratulations go to Jenny Keenan who received the A. Level cup. Top G.C.S.E. Cup was awarded to Helen Graham. Other awards were received by, Edward Sealy- Music, Rosemary Mc Gowan- Drama, Michelle Somers, Oonagh Kelly and Katie O Shea- Art and Design, Ryan Mc Gullion- Sports, Jenny Keenan- Parish Liturgy. The night was a great success. Guest speaker and past pupil Dr. Breige Mc Nulty spoke of the many memorable moments she enjoyed at St. Mary's. Breige, now employed as a Dr. of Nutrition at Trinity College Dublin was a great inspiration to all those present. As usual huge thanks go to the many local businesses who sponsored this year's event.

31 pupils from St Mary's High School and four staff took part the French trip to Paris at the beginning of October this year. 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 visited the Invalides museum. We saw the Mona Lisa, a real Egyptian mummy and the Orangerie Museum where a lot of great paintings are exhibited. 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 8 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!

The pupils experienced the busy life of a big European Capital, had fun with their friends and learned some facts about French history and culture. Everybody enjoyed their week.

## Paris Trip



## Ski Trip to Italy

15 of our pupils are currently off enjoying the annual ski trip. This year they are on the slopes of Montecampione in Italy under the supervision of Mr Bradley. Here's hoping they all have a great holiday and return safe and sound.

## Feis Success for St. Mary's

Pupils from St. Mary's were celebrating recently after a string of successes in the Fermanagh Feis. A range of pupils from all year groups participated in an array of activities and categories. Whilst all participating pupils thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the experience some were overjoyed when their dedication paid off in the form of prizes.

Elaine Thompson Year 12 – Joint 1<sup>st</sup> place in Public Speaking Section, Edward Sealy- Year 12- Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Public Speaking Section, Lorna Mc Cafferty- Year 9 Roisin Flanagan and Rosemary Mc Gowan Year 8 were all Highly Commended for verse speaking.

## Readathon for Children's Cancer

Roald Dahl the famous author advised children to "abandon the television and read! read! read your lovely books." Key Stage 3 students in Saint Mary's H.S. Brolagh, Belleek took his advice and raised £950 to support the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children. The event was organised by Mrs Mercedes Feely and Ms Rhona Duffy who presented the cheque to Ms Rachael Burgoyne, a representative of the organisation. Two children a week are diagnosed with cancer.



## Stepping in time breeds success for St. Mary's

### Brolagh tops artistic and literary flair

St. Mary's came out on top in the school section of the Step In Time competition in 2008. The school secured a commended award in key stage three Art and a highly commended in the key stage three short story. The awards were presented by the N.I. Environment agency at Carrickfergus castle. 100 guests celebrated pupils' artistic and literary endeavours in the historic solar room of the 12th century keep. Accompanied by the sound of medieval music the pupils and guests enjoyed demonstrations of medieval weaponry before the all important awards were presented. The "Step in Time Competition" aims to enhance pupils' understanding of History through other academic subjects. Anne Hayes explains, "We want children to gain more from their visit to Carrickfergus Castle than simply a guided tour and this is the fifth year we have run this exciting competition."





## True Colours Exhibition

Examination pupils in Art and Design travelled again to view this exhibition in Omagh. This is an exhibition of best work at examination level. We were delighted this year to have Louise Mc Cafferty's A Level work chosen for display at this exhibition.



**100% in their G.C.S.E. exam!**

## Kinetic Art

Year 10 pupils took part in a Kinetic Art project. They visited an exhibition of the work by artists Barry Orr and Paddy Bloomer in Queen's University, Belfast. They also visited the school of engineering. They were then asked to create their own piece of Kinetic art back in the classroom. The most effective piece made was taken to a special presentation ceremony in Queen's University where year 10 pupil Michael Kelm explained how their piece was developed. He also explained how the work of Paddy Orr had influenced them. The judges were very impressed with the pupils work and they were highly commended for their work.



## Fully Alive

**September** heralded the arrival of the Parish Mission. Three members of the *ceili* Mission Team visited the school for the week of 15th to 21st of Sept. Each day began with staff prayer and extended to the whole school assembly. Workshops continued through the day. The Mission revitalized and strengthened all at St Mary's. Pius, Claudia and Catherine entertained and encouraged spirituality and prayer in the lives of the young people through drama and song. This Mission brought together all aspects of life –School, home and parish, working together to spread and enhance the faith of the parishioners. At the end of the school Mission, staff and pupils were presented with a beautiful plaque by the team which holds pride of place in the entrance of the school. The Team commented on the polite and well mannered pupils we have in our school.. **October**, the month of Rosary. Pupils were encouraged to say the rosary at home. A wall display on the corridor depicted a meditation on the Rosary. **November** is the month we poignantly remember our Dead. We particularly remember all the past pupils of our school who have died. All pupils had the opportunity to write up lists of people they wished to remember. A whole school assembly was led by Year 9 pupils where all names on the lists were prayed for. Regular classroom visits were made by Fr McVeigh and Fr Beggan. They spoke to the pupils about the relevance of the Ten Commandments to their lives today.

On 26th November, a Mass of Vocation was celebrated in St Mary's High School by Fr Mc Veigh. The whole school community was prayed for but particularly for vocations to the priesthood. Fr McVeigh spoke very sincerely about his own calling to the priesthood. A special word of thanks to Fr Mc Veigh for sharing this experience with the pupils. **December** heralds the preparation for the Christmas season.. The Advent Wreath and Crib are displayed in the school foyer, decorated by Year 9 pupils. A Reconciliation Service was held on the 3rd Dec.led by the three priests of the parish accompanied by Fr. Phair, Rossinver and Fr. Bunce, Bally Shannon. The Christmas Nativity scene was re-enacted in the week before Christmas by Year 8 pupils. During the month of November a collection was taken up during school and proceeds of £112.00 and 7 euros were equally distributed between Belleek Child care Centre and Children in Need.

Pupils also made up shoeboxes for the Samaritans Purse Appeal. Fifty boxes were forward to children in war torn countries. Food Hampers were made up by all Year groups and forwarded to the Local Branch of St Vincent De Paul. Well done to all pupils.



## Musically Minded

### St. Mary's High School Choir

St. Mary's High School choir had a busy Christmas. They appeared at the switching on of Christmas lights in Belleek as part of the John Joe Gordon Festival and again on the 17th December at the Foyleside Shopping Centre in Derry.

Stars in yer Eyes was a usual huge success as always with a large number of pupils keen to take to the stage. March 08 saw Sean Mc Aloon take the prize for his interpretation of Kenny Rodgers "The Gambler".



### Credit Union Winners 2009

Local Level-11-13

1st Dineka Maguire

14-17- 1st – Aimee Mc Gullion

2nd- Declan Meehan

### Chapter Level

1st Dineka Maguire

2nd Aimee Mc Gullion



Emma Leonard achieved Highly commended in the Ulster Translink in Bloom Art competition, Dineka Maguire was highly commended for her Art entry in the 150th years of Belleek Pottery competition.

Belleek Erne Partnership received 21 Balloon labels back from its 'Balloons Across Borders' Balloon race, coming from Wales, Exmoor, Somerset, Devon and Dorset. The winning balloon reached Lyme Regis on the Dorset Coast, was found one day after its release from the Belleek/Ballyshannon border. The winning label belonged to John Feely, St Mary's High School, Brollagh. John wins a gift voucher from Mojo's Music Shop, Ballyshannon

### Project America

As you will all be aware plans are well underway for the big trip across the Atlantic in April for the performance of the Pantomime "Greenside up, Lilts and Leprechauns." There will be a number of performances locally before that date so please do come along to see the results of the hard work put in by the pupils of St. Mary's and the Borderline Players of Pettigo. Fundraising tickets are still available. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

### French Pen pal visits Brollagh

Robin Uzan, a student from France was visiting his pen pal Anna Graham during the Halloween week. After exchanging letters for the last year, Anna finally got to meet her pen pal. While here he was invited to a Halloween party, he got to take part in an orienteering competition and he spent 3 days in St Mary's Brollagh going to classes with Anna. It was a tremendous experience for both of them. Each learned a lot about the other's culture and way of life. Although it was sometimes a bit difficult for Robin, his linguistic skills improved greatly in just one week! He thought that the atmosphere in Brollagh was brilliant. It was a big change for him coming from a big suburban school of over 1000 pupils outside Paris.

### Active @ School Fun Fitness Day

St.Marys H.S Brollagh held a health and fitness fun day on the 12/12/07. Over 70 pupils, under the direction of Freddy Kinnersley of "Energy Fitness", took part in activities that focused on promoting health and fitness through music. The event also provided a unique opportunity to fundraise, allowing the school to raise around 330 pounds for concern. Energy Fitness provided great fun and entertainment for all the pupils and teachers involved.

