

**MERCY MOUNTHAWK**  
MEÁNSCOIL NA TRÓCAIRE  
CNOC AN TSEABHAIC



**SUMMER BULLETIN**

**2009**

**Volume 8 Issue 2**



## A YEAR OF MANY SUCCESSES.

The photo on the cover of this year's Newsletter is of a display of the trophies won by students in the school this year alone. The image gives an indication of the impressive range of involvement of Mounthawk students in events during the year and the level of success they enjoyed.

These achievements are all the more significant because, in a year when we were challenged by the changes to the supervision and substitution scheme, we managed to maintain this level of activity. It is a testament to the commitment of the staff in the school to sustaining our extra-curricular programme, the willingness of parents to help out, the flexibility of the organisers of events and competitions and as always the enthusiasm of the students to test their skills against the best in the country.

At the heart of our education in Mounthawk is the encouragement of our students to involve themselves in a variety of activities from sport, to music, to drama, to debating and art work. We believe in the value of that participation, in itself, and also in the value of the character development that ensues from the dedication, discipline and team spirit that extra-curricular activity requires, and the building of self-confidence that comes from students discovering their abilities and exploring their potential.

Our Summer Newsletter aims to give you a glimpse of the activities of this term - hopefully a sense of the vitality of the school community. Our thanks to Mr Ronan Redican for so many of the images, and to Ms Nora Brosnan and Ms Marie O'Connor for collating the information and editing the newsletter. As you are aware by now, this will be Marie's last Newsletter and I take this opportunity to wish her well in her retirement.

Wishing you all a happy and sun-filled Summer! *John O'Roarke.*

## OUTLINE CALENDAR 2009/2010

### SCHOOL UNIFORMS:

Gemma's, the official suppliers of the school uniform, will be in the school from 9.30a.m. to 5.00p.m. on Wednesday 19th August for 1st year students and on Thursday 20th August for all other students

### SCHOOL RE-OPENING DATES:

Thursday 27th August	Staff meeting and Inservice Day: Team-building day for Transition Year students
Friday 28th August	1st year students return: Induction Day for Transition Year students
Monday 31st August	6th year, LCA2, 3rd year, 5th year, LCA1 students return
Tuesday 1st September	2nd year students return

### PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

6th years and LCA2	Friday 20th November
3rd years	Monday 30th November
Break	7th and 8th December
5th years and LCA1	Wednesday 27th January
1st years and Transition Years	Tuesday 2nd March
2nd years	Tuesday 30th March

### HOLIDAYS

October mid-term	Closing on Friday 23rd October & re-opening Monday 2nd November
Break	7th and 8th December
Christmas holidays	Closing on Tuesday 22nd December & re-opening Thursday 7th January
Spring mid-term	Closing on Friday 12th February & re-opening Monday 22nd February
St Patrick's Day	Wednesday 17th March
Easter Holidays	Closing on Friday 26th March & re-opening Monday 12th April
Summer holidays	Closing on Friday 4th June

### IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 7th September	Talk for parents of students in LCA1 & LCA2
Tuesday 15th September	Talk for parents of Transition Year students at 8p.m. in GPA
Tuesday 29th September	Talk for 1st year students & their parents at 8p.m. in GPA
Wednesday 14th October	AGM of the Parents' Council at 8p.m.
Monday 19th October	Week of mid-term exams for Junior & Leaving Cert students
Monday 19th October	
to Friday 23rd October	1st year days in Cappanalea
Saturday 7th November	Open Day
Thursday 10th December	Carol Service in the church of Our Lady & St Brendan
January 2010	School Musical in Siamsa Tíre
Tuesday 2nd February	Meeting in Gym at 7.30p.m. for parents of 3rd year and Transition Year students re: Senior Cycle options & subject Choices
Thursday 4th to Thursday 11th February	Mock Exams
Thursday 4th February	Transition Year school tour
Thursday 12th February	Meeting in Gym at 8p.m. for parents of 1st year students re: 2nd year subject choices
Saturday 6th March	Admissions Day
Tuesday 11th May	Awards Night
Friday 28th May	Leaving Cert Graduation Mass in church of Our Lady & St Brendan
Friday 28th May	Transition Year end of year show in Siamsa



## COMÓRTAS DÍOSPÓIREACHTA GAEL LINN

D'éirigh le foireann shóisearach na scoile dul chomh fada leis an gcraobh réigiúnach i gcomórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh don dara bliain as a chéile. 'Siad Christine Ní Mhaoláin (Captaen), Eve Ní Chonchubhair agus Cassie Nic Eileagóid na tríú bliana, baill na fóirne.

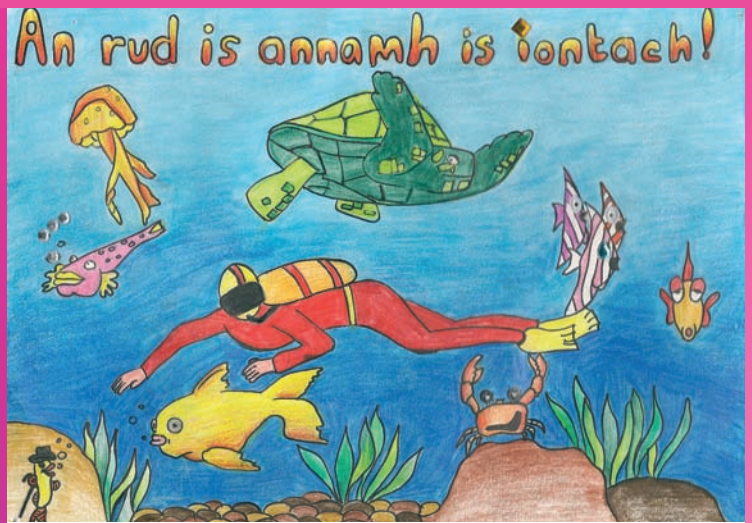
Sa chéad bhabhta den gcomórtas thugadar aghaidh ar Scoil Villiers i Luimneach, áit a rabhadar ag plé an ábhair go dtuilleann réalta RTE a gcuid airgid. Chasadar ar Scoil Villiers as Luimneach, Coláiste Fhlannáin as Inis agus an Scoil Phobail as Gort Inse Guaire, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Is ar Mhaigh Chromtha a thugadar aghaidh i mbabhta a dó den chomórtas ar an naoú lá de mhí na Nollag. "Tá cúis gearáin ag seanóirí na tíre seo" an rún a bhí ós a gcomhair. Bhuaileadar le Coláiste na Toirbhirte, An Mhairdíog as Corcaigh, Scoil Phobail Chionn tSáile agus Scoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Mainistir na Corann.

Ghlacadar páirt sa Chraobh Réigiúnach den gcomórtas ar an seú lá is fiche de mhí Feabhra in Ostán an Fírgrove i mBaile Mhistéala. Dheineadar tréan argóint i gcoinne an rúin go gcaitear go maith le hainmhithe in Eirinn. Faraor níor leo a bhí an lá ach le foireann Mheánscoil na Toirbhirte as Dúrlas a chuaigh ar aghaidh go dtí craobh na hEireann.

Mar a deir an seanfhocal beidh lá eile ag an bPaorach!

Foireann díospóireachta na scoile ag an Craobh Réigiúnach de Chomórtas an Phiarsaigh, Eve Ní Chonchubhair, Cassie Nic Eileagóid agus Cristine Ní Mhaoláin



## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2009

Chuir Caitlín Ní Dhubhda tús le Seachtain na Gaeilge ar an 9ú Márta nuair a labhair sí ar an Idirchum le daltaí uile na scoile, á spreagadh chun Gaeilge a labhairt i rith na seachtaine.

Eagraíodh a lán imeachtaí sa scoil chun ár dteanga dúchais agus gnéithe eile d'ár gcultúr a cheiliúradh, imeachtaí ar nós Tráth na gCeist, Tóraíocht Taisce, Comórtas Ealaíne, Céilí, Amhránaíocht is Ceol, chomh maith le Ceardlann Scríbhneoireachta ón Úrscéalai, Ré Ó Laighléis.

Thug lucht na hidirbhliana turas ar Ghaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne agus bhain siad taitneamh agus tairbhe as cuairt ar Ionad an Bhlascaoid, Séipéilín Ghallaraís, Cill Mhaolcéadair agus ar shéadchomharthaí eile an cheantair.

Bhain daltaí 4ú agus 5ú bliana an-sásamh as dreas cainte leis an bpeileadóir agus múinteoir Gaeilge, Pól Ó Gealbháin. Cúrsaí spóirt is Gaeilge a bhí faoi chaibidil.

Ghlac lucht na hArdeiste páirt sa Chomórtas Aiste bliantúil, cuimhneachán ar Mháire Ní Ghéiní. Bronnadh Gradam Gaeilge 2009 ar an mbuaiteoir, Críostóir Ó Loingsigh, a léirigh ard chaighdeán Gaeilge agus spéis mhór sa teanga.

'Beatha teanga í a labhairt', a deir an Seanfhocal.

## SUPERVISED EVENING STUDY

SUPERVISED STUDY IS AN OPTION AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS. WE RUN TWO SESSIONS:

4P.M. TO 6P.M. FOR NON-EXAM CLASSES  
4P.M. TO 7P.M. FOR LEAVING CERT CLASSES  
IF INTERESTED, CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE





## CONCERN DEBATING TEAM

In my long odyssey through the shifting sea-banks of the Concern Debating Competition, I had the good fortune to be accompanied by the finest of fine debaters. Masters of their art, bulwarks against the tides of the illogic and characters of mythical proportions, my teammates Rosie, John, Patrick and Sarah were captain, first-mate, quartermaster and boatswain of our ship respectively. I was the bare-chested figurehead.

Our Captain was the shrewd-minded but gentle-hearted Rosie O'Dowd, whose eloquence and graceful sentiment could make calm the wildest storm of an argument, Never afraid to drive a cutlass through the enemy's heart, she would always do so with elegance and charm. Her eye patch (received in a debate with Hazelwood) was admired by all. Our charismatic second speaker, the larger than life John O'Donnell, was the gunpowder to our cannons. Storming with shot and shell, his ballistics sank more than one hostile team's argument to the bottom of the ocean. His humour was the perfect ammunition for a gun that shot with lightning-wit and always struck true.

Patrick Fitzgerald was the man with the telescope to his eye. His clear vision and flawless clarity helped us time and time again to see into the depths of the most complicated argument. His calculating mind measured each rationed morsel of content, while a fiery passion powered the engines of his magnificent speeches.

Our youngest crew-member, the indomitable Sarah Guerin, kept in order the various ropes, pulleys, rigging, lines, cables, sails and anchors. Though not always with us at the forefront of battle, her constant dedication and enthusiasm does her enormous credit but, of course, our greatest thanks go to Mr. Redican, without whom we would have been a ship without stars to steer by. To take five wilful and completely contrasting teenagers and somehow mould them into something that passes off as a debating team is a Herculean task in itself: His good-natured leadership made him the best coach a team could ask for.

Conor Cleary

## MENTORING

Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk prides itself on a long-standing tradition of organising a mentoring programme with 5th years and 1st years.

The mentoring programme aims to ease the transition for students from primary to secondary school. It also aims to provide new students with older contacts in the school in whom they can confide or from whom they can seek advice on issues that may be of concern to them.

The Programme Co-ordinator, Miss Cronin, recruits approximately 50 incoming 5th year students. The first duty of the mentors is to attend the 1st year induction day at the end of August. Accompanied by their mentors, the 1st years are taken on a tour of the school and have the chance to familiarise themselves with the building.

In September, the mentors participate in training sessions with Miss Cronin. The role of the mentors is to meet with their group of ten 1st year students at lunch time, once a week, to discuss common issues such as the transition from primary to secondary school, friendships, peer pressure, school rules etc. and to participate in fun activities and games.

The programme benefits both the mentors and the mentees.

Kaylee O'Connor & Joanne O'Connor







## CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

The creative writing group was founded by seven inexperienced, yet willing, students who yearned to write, to express themselves and to have some fun. Two years ago we banded together, congregating in any unused empty classroom. Once a week we met up to swap stories, poems and to learn something new from one another. Under the tutelage of the very brave and endlessly patient Ms Burke, our very own "Dead Poet's Society" blossomed into the Creative Writing Club. Over the past two years we have grown in both experience and number. Many of our members have become prize winning writers, noted among our generation for our literary prowess. We have frequently been visited by well known Irish poets including Eileen Sheehan and Tommy Frank O' Connor and have even had the pleasure of meeting Noel King, a representative of Doghouse publishers.

We enjoy a diverse range of writing styles and media, incorporating short stories, poems and even screenplays. We discuss literature and media and oftentimes break into conversation about films or famous books. We encourage one another and advise one another, but limit ourselves to constructive criticism and never fault or reprimand one another.

On behalf of the whole group I would like to avail of this opportunity to thank Ms Burke for her time and patience. I would also like to thank my comrades in arms who made each session enjoyable and entertaining. Although we leave the school now, I am sure we will not forget the great times we had together and I wish all my fellow pupils the very best in what is to come.

James Sheehan

## OUR TRIP TO THE DÁIL

On the 9th of December 2008, our CSPE class decided to go to the Dáil as part of our C.S.P.E. project for our Junior Cert.

We planned to go to the Dáil first but it was not possible because it was the 90th anniversary of the first women T.D's in the Dáil and it was off limits at the time. We were surprised to learn that Kathleen O'Connor was one of the first Kerry female T.D's in Leinster House.

We opted to go to Dundrum Shopping Centre for two hours, where it was really enjoyable.

At 2pm, we went straight to the Dáil. Standing outside appreciated the fabulous architecture. It is claimed this building formed a model for the design of the White House. James Hoban, who was born in Co. Kilkenny and studied architecture in Dublin, won the competition for the design of the White House.

We were escorted to a viewing gallery above the chamber and could see the entire debate taking place. We heard the Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, speak about the "Pork Crisis" that was happening at the time. We also heard Enda Kenny, the leader of Fine Gael, speak and a few other notable TDs.

After that, we went on a guided tour of the Dáil where we saw the architecture and layout of the Dáil itself more closely. On our way around the Dáil, we met Tom McEllistrim and Jimmy Deenihan and Sean Power who was a Junior Minister. When the tour was over, Tom McEllistrim bought us a coke in the Dáil bar. When we were finished, we had our picture taken outside the Dáil.

It was an excellent day and it was a great experience! I hope we all do really well with our Action Project in our CSPE exam.

Laura Hoffman, Shauna Horan, Deirdre Kearney and Shona Heaslip (2.7 & 2.8)

## ATTENTION 1ST YEAR PARENTS

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING ALL OF YOU AT THE TALK FOR 1ST YEAR STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ON TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER AT 8P.M.



## **GARDA YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2008**

The Annual Garda Youth Achievement Awards took place in the Brandon Hotel in early January 2009.

Once again this year the school had great success winning several awards on the night including awards for Megan Tarrant, Patrick Fitzgerald, Dora Bogdanovitch, Niamh Fitzgerald, Rory Sheridan and Sinead Reidy. The overall winner on the night was one of our 6th Years Louise Murphy who was both astonished and delighted to receive such an accolade.

These awards recognise young people in the community who strive, through their voluntary work and activities, to make life better for those in the own community and further afield.

We are extremely proud of all our nominees and recipients and we wish to acknowledge all the hard work and effort these young people do to make a positive contribution to the communities that they live in and those communities that they are linked with.

Well done to all and keep up the good work.

**GEMMA'S UNIFORMS**  
(061-410344/0879441949)

**WILL ATTEND MERCY SECONDARY  
SCHOOL MOUNTHAWK WITH A FULL  
SELECTION OF UNIFORMS FOR THE  
YEAR 2009/2010**

**ON WEDNESDAY 19TH FOR 1ST  
YEARS AND THURSDAY 20TH  
AUGUST FOR ALL OTHER YEARS  
2009 FROM 10.00A.M. EACH DAY**

## **ISTA SCIENCE QUIZ.**

30 teams took part in the ISTA junior science quiz in ITT on the 25th March from all over the county. This quiz was generously sponsored by the Kerry Group.

Four teams entered from Mounthawk. From the beginning Mounthawk led. Round 5 saw a change in the leaderboard between the Mounthawk teams.

The results were : 1st place - Catherine Mannix, Donnacha McGarry, Eve O'Connor and Brian Sheehy. 2nd place -Kynan Delaney, Cara Enright, Laura Fitzgerald and Conor Higgins. 4th place - Strahinya Grubjesic, Ling Lan Xue, Doroteja Bogdarovic and Ryan Higgins. 5th place - Ciara Finnerty, Mairead Leen, Risalat and Ashling Shalvey.

## **PRESENTATION LEE STRAND SCIENCE QUIZ.**

37 teams from all over Kerry took part in the quiz on the 2nd April in the Presentation Secondary School . This quiz was in aid of the Kerry Rape Crisis Centre and was generously sponsored by Lee Strand. Third, fourth and fifth year teams battled for the prestigious award. Teams were neck and neck from the beginning. At half time Mounthawk were leading and were unstoppable to the end.

The results were : 1st place - Cara Enright, Conor Higgins and Catherine Mannix. 4th place - Donnacha McGarry, Eve O'Connor and Brian Sheehy.

## **SCIFEST 2009**

The National Scifest competition was held in ITT on the 6th of May. The event was sponsored by DairyMaster. 24 teams entered from all over Kerry. Tim Farrell and Richard Raftery entered a project on " Handy Hygiene" . Using their student-friendly DVD they improved the effectiveness of hand washing by over 50%. Poor washing techniques leads to the transmission of transient flora such as MRSA, flu and the Swine Flu. Their investigation highlighted the poor washing practices by many. They wanted to spread the word not the germ! They certainly will not be washing their hands of the problem for a while.

They came 2nd in the overall winners, receiving crystal and a substantial cash prize!

Sarah Guerin and Damien Sharpe won the technology award with their innovative " Ding Dong Bell".



## THE YELLOW FLAG PROGRAMME

Mercy Mounthawk recently became involved in a new pilot project known as the Yellow Flag Programme. The programme is designed to promote and foster interculturalism among all students in Irish schools. The main aim of this pilot programme is to develop a practical series of steps to bring issues of interculturalism, equality and diversity into the whole-school programme and apply them to the day to day running of the school. It aims to work with students, staff, management, parents and wider community groups so that issues of diversity and equality are not merely seen as "school subjects" but can be understood and taken outside the school setting into everyday life.

Similarly to the Green Schools, the Diversity in Schools scheme is a practical programme and an award scheme. Completion of the nine practical steps results in the school receiving the "Yellow Flag" for diversity. The nine stages are:

1. **Intercultural and Anti-Racism Training for Staff and Management;**
2. **Involving local Community groups in the project;**
3. **Organising a Diversity Committee;**
4. **Conducting an Intercultural Review;**
5. **Designing an Action Plan for a Diverse School;**
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Programme;**
7. **Establishing Curriculum work;**
8. **Going beyond the School's Walls: Engaging with the Community;**
9. **Creating a Diversity Code in Schools.**

In November 2008, our school submitted entries for an art competition to create a logo for the Yellow Flag programme. Entries were judged on the basis of originality, audience appeal and technical suitability for reproduction. Mounthawk is proud to say that two of the three designs which were shortlisted were created by our students, Aíne Daly and Michael O'Riordan. Aíne's design wanted to show "different cultures coming together as one unit and working together as one". Michael's entry represents "people from different races and cultures helping to carry the flag". The road represents the shared journey and experience.

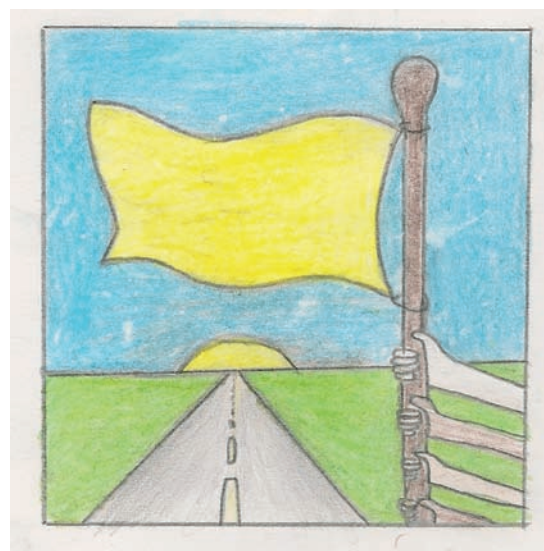
## YELLOW FLAG DEBATE

The Yellow Flag programme concluded for this school year with Mercy Mounthawk entering a debating team for an exhibition debate in Trinity College. The debate, hosted by the exuberant Senator David Norris, saw Mercy Mounthawk proposing the motion that "Travellers would be recognised as an ethnic minority" against St Dominic's Secondary School in Ballyfermot. The team comprising of Katelyn Galvin, Ashton Mugabe, Patrick Fitzgerald and Conor Cleary successfully carried the motion, each giving an outstanding performance. Thanks must go to their coach Mr Ronan Redican and to Ms Breda Cronin.

Also on the day, Aíne Daly was recognised for her artwork and Sarah Guerin came second in the Yellow Flag poetry competition. Well done to all involved including their supporters who travelled with the team to cheer them on.



Above: Aíne Daly  
Below: Michael O'Rourke







## YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS 09

YSI is education AND action... it's about issues of concern to young people, such as the environment, human rights, integration, poverty, global justice, community concerns, older people, ability and disability, mental and physical health, equality, climate justice, the developing world. Young people direct their project, take the initiative and produce their own results.

This year the YSI class students of Mounthawk had to come up with and develop an idea to change the world for good. The aim was to work in a team; decide what the team wanted to do and how they could respond in new ways to the problem of importance to them. The students split into two groups and came up with two very different socially innovative projects. Both teams showed inspirational conviction, passion and commitment in researching their preferred subject. The teams achieved significant amount of news coverage and both projects are a credit to all those involved. I am absolutely delighted to say that both teams were awarded such high recognition and praise at the Annual Showcase 2009 in the RDS. The students won "Making our World Fair" and "Just and Making our World a Safer place". One of the teams also won money in the 'Dragons Den' to help further their project on Road Safety. Thanks to Mrs. Veronica Hunt for all her hard work and support.



### SUMMARY OF BOTH TEAMS PROJECTS

**'Fur or Against'** The focus of this project is to raise awareness about the dangers of animal cruelty, in particular fur farming. Inspired by the presentation in English class, the team began conducting research on the internet. They also carried out research by inviting a past student who had been involved in the Irish fur trade, to speak to students. Contact was made with the Irish Fur Breeders' Association to gain information from another perspective. Students also consulted the Animal Health and Welfare Bill as part of their research. The group established strong links with the school body by conducting a survey with students in the school. Students set up an information stall at an open day for first year students as well as giving a presentation to students in the school on the topic.

Externally, the team raised awareness in the local community by setting up a stall in the town centre as well as setting up a Bebo page. They also established links with the local SPCA branch, Compassion World Farming and the Minister for Agriculture. Students hope to raise further awareness by forming links with the Green Party on issues surrounding fur farming and animal cruelty.

**'CSI- Car Safety Investigators'** The focus of this project is the wearing of seatbelts. In order to gather information within the school, the team interviewed first year students, family, friends and anyone who had been affected by the issue. Research was also gathered from [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie), [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie), [www.rte.ie](http://www.rte.ie) and many more websites. A questionnaire was created to elicit information from children in the local community. The campaign for wearing seatbelts was highlighted in the annual fashion show and numerous fundraisers were carried out. Mary O'Connor, a guest speaker from the National Rehabilitation Centre, visited the school and spoke about the consequences of not wearing a seatbelt. The group are currently organising to continue the campaign to endorse bumper stickers and t-shirts on wearing seat belts and have liaised with the National Rehabilitation Centre in Dublin.







# CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTS 2008/9

## INTRODUCTION

The ongoing commitment to professional development amongst the staff continued apace in this academic year. The initiatives outlined below are programmes recognised by members of staff as worthwhile for both our students and ourselves as teachers. The Learning Schools Project, now in its third year continues to offer both a stimulus to and a methodology for, the development of school-based initiatives in curriculum. The number and variety of the developments, targeted at developing all as members of a learning community, serves to remind us once more of the capacity for growth which continues to be a hallmark of our school

## GIFTED AND TALENTED.

Now completing its second full year, this programme, which began as a staff initiative, built upon by a management accessed in-service focuses on differentiating the learning experience allowing students in the same classroom to experience their learning at their own pace. This year the staff working group, supported by the S.E.S.S. developed and shared materials to support this procedure. These materials were then shared and developed by staff for use in First and Second Year classes.

In 2009/10 a number of staff intend to pilot a system where a selection of students will have individual teacher guidance to support the fulfilment of latent academic ability.

## ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING.

This year, following a whole-staff in-service delivered by S.L.S.S., a working group of fifteen teachers began to explore piloting this internationally recognised pedagogical approach. Centred on the democratisation of learning, the AFL principles include student feedback systems, higher order questioning, peer and self assessment, comment-only marking, and shared learning intentions. Operating from monthly shared experience meeting, a cross section of classes, levels and year groups were introduced to the approach. Reported feedback has been extremely positive and grade increases, greater student engagement and clear feedback on pace and methodologies were identified through evaluation. In 2009/10 we plan to continue this process and endeavour to mainstream its use through the subject departments.

## COMPACTING THE CURRICULUM

Several members of the History and Geography Department of the school, under the leadership of Ms. Martha Brassil have worked on producing a compacted workbook to assist Junior Certificate students in learning the key elements of their exam programme. In 2009/10 this workbook approach is to be further streamlined with the support of the S.L.S.S.

## LEARNING STYLES PROJECT 2009/10

In conjunction with I.T.T. and L.I.T. the Shannon Consortium has linked with Mercy Mounthawk and Castletroy College to assist the learning process in our senior classes.

Targetting fifth year students, this pilot project will, through an online questionnaire, identify how best each individual student learns. This information will be shared with the students and with each of their teachers. Staff in-service on how best to structure lessons, in the light of particular information, will also be made available.

## NEWLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS PILOT PROJECT

Two newly qualified teachers were offered the opportunity to become involved in a programme being piloted by University College Dublin. The project involved mentor support for these new teachers by experienced members of the Science and Maths Department in Mercy Mounthawk. Their experience was probed and assimilated and used to allay the concerns of the new teachers. The mentor role also involved training for the mentor teachers and allowed these teachers gain insight into more recently developed methodologies through the focused interaction with the NQT's.

*Sean Coffey*



## HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON

A big thank you to Students and Parents who took part in our programmes again this year. The Paired reading and Maths for fun involved a collaboration of Pupils and Parents and Teachers and we hope everyone benefited from these courses. We ran two Parenting programmes this year, one in November/December and another in February/March. Both courses took place in the morning time at the school. In addition a number of Parents took place in a night time Parenting Course 'Parents Plus, which was provided by Kerry Education Service. Thanks to Joan Barrett, Aileen Kelleher and Jackie Moloney for presenting these courses and for catering for such large numbers. Special thanks too to K.E.S and Partnership Tralee who provided funding for these courses.

9 We tried to run a personal development courses this year in the last term. We had difficulty getting the group together due to confirmations etc. so it was decided to postpone this to the Autumn and hope others may join the group in the meantime. Thanks here to Debra Regan for designing a programme for this group and to the participants for their interest.

The Volunteer Community Mentoring continued this year with 13 pupils having the benefit of a mentor from the community visits them in school once a week. This project has expanded over the last 12 months with a second school in Tralee joining the project. On May 20th we celebrated the work of the mentors and had a look at how the programme is going. We hope to be in a position to offer this programme to new pupils in the year ahead. The breakfast club had the largest participation so far this year and we will run this programme again from next September. If you think your child would benefit from this or from any of the programmes above then please contact us at the school and we will be happy to discuss the details with you.

On April 27th we had training for teachers, parents, pupils and community organisations in diversity and interculturalism. This was part of the 'Yellow Flag Project'. On May 11th a debating team travelled to Trinity College Dublin to partake in an intercultural debate which was chaired by Senator David Norris. This was a great experience for all involved.



On May 13th we ran our table quiz for incoming first years to assist the transfer from primary to secondary school. There was a fantastic turn out with 42 tables participating. The standard of both questions and answers was very high with Listellick coming out winners for the second year in a row. (Photo of winning team with Mr O'Roarke). Ardfert National School were second, while a combination of Fenit and Ardfert came third after a tie break.

Finally, as we are losing the Home,School,Community Liaison role at Mounthawk, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parents, Students and Teachers who participated in the various programmes over the years. On a personal note I would like to thank my colleagues for their support while I was in the role and to you the Parents for your hospitality and welcome extended to me in my home visits. If you would like to participate or help out with and of the programmes we hope to run next year, then please make contact with us at the school.

### IMPORTANT DATE

**ADMISSIONS DAY**  
FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN  
ALLOCATED A PLACE IN THE  
SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2010  
SATURDAY 6TH MARCH 2010 AT  
9.30A.M.



# AWARE DRAMA

## "A SEA OF SORROW, BUT A RAY OF HOPE"

The Aware Drama has been called many things: "Behind the Mask", "Our Story" and even "Suicide: The Musical". But, one thing it can't be called is boring. With unique characters and deep storylines, the show opens the eyes of both adults and teenagers to the serious topic of depression.

Several months ago, we met two lovable souls, Karl and Bec. Their goal, their mission, was to create a drama to raise teenage awareness of the "d" word; depression. Armed with at least twenty teenagers and no plot, the fun began. We had three months to create a showstopper worthy of being put on in another school and dare I say ... Siamsa Tíre?

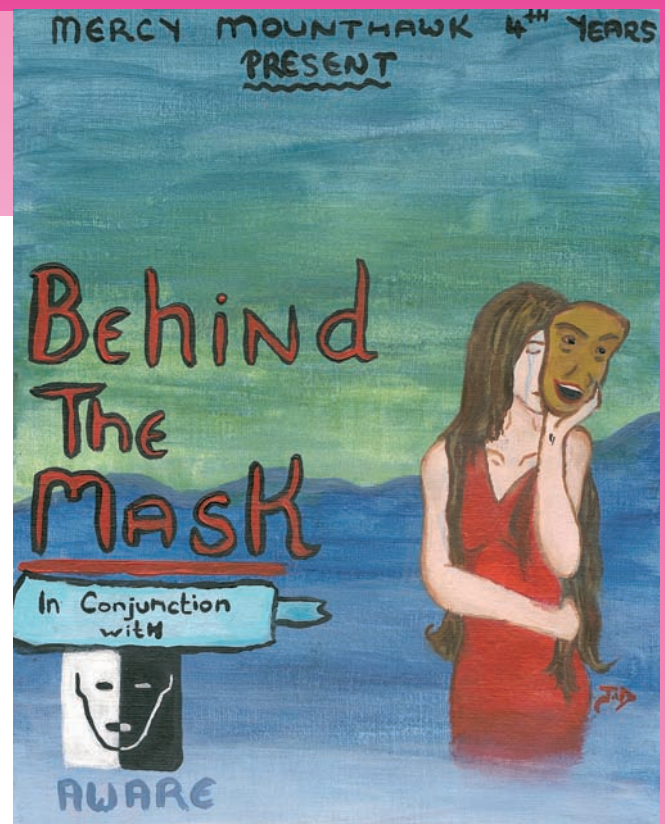
After weeks of hard work, the show was coming along. With the plot thickening and the show date approaching, our diva-like director Karl began casting - the school bitches, the neglected son, the alcoholic mother, the so-called 'best' mates and the bullied young girl to name a few. As the date of the performance approached, we kicked into gear and the long hours of rehearsing began. It had to be done. The day-long practices and running from here to there never seemed to end. But, it was well worth it. The day of the first show, the adrenalin was pumping and the hands were shaking with nerves. The clock ticked as the deadline approached. Then it happened... the first two classes entered the stage-converted room and the show began, "Behind the Mask's" opening show. The audience cheered, the lights shone, the curtain rose and there we were; at this point in the Aware journey. But, that was only the beginning of the show's journey to highlight depression and suicide.

That very afternoon, after the two planned shows, Mr Kissane, our Transition Year co-ordinator, came to us and congratulated us and ... said the show was worthy of Siamsa Tíre, and that the show was good enough to tour.

So here we are, several weeks after the first showing. We're starting to get noticed by other schools and being asked to perform for them.

Now I sit here, typing away as if I'm Vincent Brown or even a Lois Lane impersonator, detailing the path the Aware Drama is taking. Fingers crossed that it all works out. The Aware drama was also performed during the Transition Year show in Siamsa Tíre on 22nd May and was very well received.

John Donovan



## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International in Mounthawk has been working for many years to raise awareness of human rights issues worldwide. This year's group headed by Eimear O Connor and Stacey Stack highlighted the issue of child soldiers worldwide. Around the world children are singled out for recruitment by both armed forces and armed opposition groups and exploited as combatants. Approximately 250,000 children under eighteen are thought to be fighting in conflicts around the world. Recruitment often starts at ten. Amnesty Mounthawk prepared a display of their stories in the general purpose area of the school along with information on the holocaust for holocaust remembrance day. By involving first years it is hoped the issue was highlighted and all students were made aware.







## SENIOR GIRL'S BASKETBALL

The senior girls' basketball team exceeded all expectations this year by reaching the South-West Regional A Final and progressing to the All Ireland League play offs. In the South West region, the girls overcame tough challenges against excellent teams such as Presentation Killarney, Presentation Tralee and Pobailscoil Chorca Dhuibhne. These victories led the way to the semi-final against the very experienced Abbeyfeale side. This team was the favourite to reach the final but we showed our hunger for success and pulled through with a three point win in a very exciting and close encounter. Aisling O'Mahony, Lisa Brennan and Sabina Sayers contributed greatly to this important win which paved the way to the South West final. In the final, we were once more the underdogs as we were against the strong opposition of Castleisland. They had the clear advantage of a large panel and notable subs able to come off the bench. Due to the impact of fresh legs coming off the bench for Castleisland, they pulled away despite the tremendous effort of our girls. The game ended with a scoreline of 56-47. Great displays were shown on the day by Laura O'Sullivan, Laura Griffin and Katie Dinan.

On January 17th, we travelled to Oranmore, Co. Galway. Despite the long bus journey, the determination and team spirit of the girls helped overcome the strong, defensive side of Scoil Dara, Kildare.

With very little rest time between matches, we took on the challenge of playing the reigning champions Calasanctius College, Oranmore in their home gym. Although we tried our best and played some of our most impressive basketball of the season, we struggled in the last moments of the game. We eventually had to concede defeat. We were unfortunate not to qualify but, it must be said, we were extremely pleased with our efforts throughout the season.

On a personal note, we really enjoyed our six years of basketball in Mounthawk. We have made memories and friends for life through the sport. It would not have been possible without the coaching of Mr. O'Hanlon and Mr. Diggins as well as the support from the entire school. Thanks for everything and best of luck in the future.

Lisa Brennan and Aisling O'Mahony

## SENIOR GIRL'S FOOTBALL

The Mounthawk Senior Girls' football team recaptured their title as County Champions for the second year in a row by defeating Presentation Tralee in a thrilling final played in the weather-proof pitches here in Mercy Mounthawk. The team played superbly, very ably captained by Lisa Brennan.

Coaches: Ms Daly and Mr Lyne



## CADET BASKETBALL TEAM

Training took place every Monday after school from 4 to 5.30pm.

Our season got off to a great start with a win over Castleisland 56 - 21. More great wins followed over Dingle (38-32), Presentation Tralee (26-18) and Castletroy (47 - 26) but with losses to Abbeyfeale and Killarney. We were knocked out of the cup by Skibbereen in a tough match only losing by 7 points (36-29).

After losing to Killarney in the Kerry semi-finals, we were in the playoffs for third and fourth place. After a tough match against Presentation Tralee, we were victorious and came third in Kerry.

This win gave us the chance to play in the All Ireland playoffs. After a great victory over Cork (33-18), we were through to the next series of matches in Waterford. We lost to Skibbereen and Waterford but managed to clinch a victory over Clontarf.

We would like to thank Mr. O'Hanlon and Mr. Diggins for all the time and effort they put in to the sport.

Trainers: Mr. O'Hanlon and Mr. Diggins  
Players: Laura Hoffman, Deirdre Carney, Molly McGilton, Amy, Dinan, Jillian Carroll, Deirdre Lawlor, Naomi Reidy, Amy Phelan, Avril Peevers, Nicola Horan.

Amy Dinan and Molly McGilton







## JUNIOR GIRLS' BASKETBALL

We train twice a week, every Monday and Thursday. We begin every training session with a full court warm up and we then move on to lay ups, free throws and drills. Later on, our coaches work on teaching us new offences and defences.

We have various names for the different types of plays, for example 21, dribble and deep. In basketball, we have different positions - point guard, guard and post. I play guard on offence and point guard on defence. Deirdre Kearney is our Captain. Laura Hoffman is the best shooter and Aine Daly is one of the best rebounders on the team.

We have been very successful in the majority of our matches this year. We played schools from all over the country and we have beaten them with a 40 points average. As a result, we reached the All Ireland playoffs which were held in the Mounthawk gym. We won our first match against Monaghan by 30 points. We ran our offences very well and we were tight on defence. We played a zone defence and a man to man offence. In our second game, we defeated Waterford.

We now faced the stiff opposition of Galway. We got off to a great start with scores from Laura Hoffman. It was a cracker of a game and very evenly matched. In the end, we came up short by one point. All the team tried their best and we ran very good offences but Galway were very successful with their free throws.

Our basketball season is now finished until September. I would like to congratulate all the team on their great effort throughout the year and thank our coaches for all their hard work and commitment to the sport.

Coaches: Mr. O'Hanlon and Mr. Diggins

Laura Rogers 1.5

## FIRST YEAR GIRLS' BASKETBALL

I play basketball for the First Year League in Mounthawk. There are fifteen team members at the moment. Our team includes: Claire Brennan, Sharon Reidy, Deidre O'Shea, Aisling Bulman, Mary Lyne, Taylor Maher, Michaela Sheehan, Edan Benner, Kaleigh O'Carroll, Tara Higgins, Aishling O'Connor, Lauren Walsh and Karina Quilter. Laura Rogers is our captain. Claire, Laura and Deirdre are some of our best players.

Our primary coach is Mr. O'Hanlon. Our secondary coach is Mr. Diggins. We train every Tuesday from four to six. Every training session is different. We learn different techniques for shooting, passing and dribbling. We also learn different plays.

Our very first match was at a blitz in Castleisland. We defeated Presentation, Tralee. In the final, we were unlucky to lose to Castleisland by only a few baskets. We now moved on to a series of friendly matches. We played against the First Year Boys' basketball team and beat them! We were then involved in a blitz which decided the entrants for the All Ireland play offs in Limerick. We won against Presentation, Tralee and Killarney. Once more, we lost out to our arch rivals Castleisland in the final. The team received silver medals and qualified for the play offs.

Aoife McDonnell 1.5







## SENIOR BOYS' FOOTBALL

Since our last news letter and update on our progress at senior level, our under 18.5 boys football team have provided the school with great excitement and enthusiasm. After a spirited performance in atrocious weather conditions, we managed to book our place in the Corn an Runai senior football final with a win over a very strong Rosscarbery team. It was a hard-fought game throughout, with very little between both schools with the decisive score in the game coming in the dying moments, in the form of a Séamus Bastible goal.

The reward for our win against Rosscarbery was an all Kerry final against St Michael's Listowel. The game was played in Austin Stack Park in front of a large enthusiastic crowd. Listowel started the stronger and went into an early lead, but after the first ten minutes we settled down and started to get on top around the midfield and half backline. As a result, we went in at half time leading 7 points to 3. In the second have Mounthawk came out and picked up straight away from where they left off and ten minutes into the second half they had added 1-1 to their tally. St Micheals' Listowel, to their credit, fought back hard and in the closing stages only trailed by two points. In the end however, Mounthawk weathered the storm well and won out on a score line of 1-9 to 0-9. It was historic for the school to win our first senior Munster title on a day when the entire team along with our subs performed superbly.

After our Munster win, the whole team were on a high, but we had to quickly focus on our new challenge of an Ireland Semi Final against the Ulster champions, Aquinas Grammar from Co. Down. The game itself was played in Monasterevin Co. Kildare at the early time of 12 o'clock. From the off, Aquinas Grammar played with great passion and they proved to be a hard team to break down. At the half time stage of the game Mounthawk went in trailing by five points but ,with the wind to our backs, we felt we were in a decent position. Again in the second half Aquinas were very resilient. To Mounthawk's credit, we threw everything at them and with five minutes on the clock we trailed by a point. Mounthawk continued to pile on the pressure but were unable to get that all important point and in the end ran out losers on a score line of 1-6 to 0-7.

Although the year finished on a disappointing note, this particular group of players has achieved an historic feat in being the first Mounthawk team to win a Munster title at senior level. It was a tremendous achievement for the school and the management team of Mr. Stack and Mr. O'Shea would like to thank the full panel of players for the commitment and the enjoyment that they provided us throughout this campaign.

We would like to thank the following who helped us financially

**John Collins** Ballyroe Heights Hotel  
**Rory Kerins** Kerins Laundrette  
**John O'Shea** O'Shea's Travel  
**Brendan and Narrie Horgan** Atlantic Oils



## 1ST YEAR BOYS' FOOTBALL 2009

The first year boys footballers had a very successful year, culminating in their victory over St. Pat's of Castleisland in the County League Division 2 final played in Pat Healy Park, Ballyrickard on May 22nd.

From the beginning of the year, we had massive numbers at training. The indoor league was run successfully by Buddy O'Grady and provided valuable match practice during the winter.

The arrival of Spring saw the league start in earnest and we won all our group games to top the group.

A semi-final against the Vocational School, Abbeyfeale was played on May 20th in dreadful conditions. Despite this, the team gave a wonderful display of football, to emerge victorious by 14 points.

The day of the final proved to be the proverbial game of two halves. Down by 19 points after 20 minutes, two scores just before half time saw Mercy Mounthawk gradually come back into the game and just about stay in touch at half time.

The camaraderie and leadership of the entire panel came into play in the second half and with support and encouragement throughout the team, we finally began to play the football that we knew this team could play. Open play, great passing movements and sharp scoring eventually saw us emerge victorious on a scoreline of 10-12 to 4-10.

Our sincere thanks to the management and staff of the school who facilitated our participation in the competition this year. It is much appreciated.

This squad of players showed willingness to train hard and play fairly throughout the entire competition and we would like to thank them for their contribution this year. There are many excellent footballers in this squad and we would encourage everyone to stay involved in football during their time in the school.

Buddy O'Grady and Cora Mc Elligott.



## ATHLETICS

2009 has been another record-breaking year for the Mounthawk Athletics team. Not alone did they win the Kerry Colleges Overall Girls Cross Country Shield back in December but for only the second year ever, they have won the Best Boys and Best Girls Shields at the Kerry Colleges Track and Field competition. In the North Munster Colleges, the school won two trophies for the Best Intermediate and Junior Boys categories. Added to that, four members of the team brought medals home from the All-Ireland Track and Field competitions held in Tullamore just weeks ago. Congratulations must also go to our senior athlete Lisa Brennan who won the Best Sportswoman of the year at the recent Mounthawk awards night. Here's hoping that 2010 is just as successful.

### ATHLETICS TEAM 2009

with their coaches Ms Elaine Costelloe & Mr. Kieran Costello







# ECO-UNESCO

## “GET ON YER BIKE”

This project aspired to promote cycling as a mode of transport for Mercy Mounthawk pupils. The cycling message was spread in numerous ways including Primary and Secondary School workshops, art competitions, debates, a sponsored cycle and and a world record day, during which Avril Peevers broke the world record for the longest “Curly Wurly” stretch at the end of which the Wurly was 5.3 metres feet long and not very curly at all.

The group, with Mr. Stephen Colgan, took their project to the Mansion House in Dublin for the Eco-Unesco Young Environmentalist awards on the 20th of May and performed very well, winning the most creative project award as well as being highly commended for their excellent efforts. The group consisted of Sarah Guerin, Amy Culloty, Ross Culloty, Orlaith Horan, Barry Galvin, Ciara Browne, David Smith, Darragh Creagh, Emma Nolan, Sinead Boyle and Avril Peevers.

According to one of the pupils they “enjoyed the project and experience, it has impacted upon our lives tremendously. It’s been great”. A short promotional video clip of the group’s message may be viewed on You Tube. The “On Yer Bike” group accepted their awards at the Mansion House.

Amy Culloty



## “LET’S GO ENVIRONMENTAL”

This particular group of Transition Year pupils organised a youth forum for the first years during which they were educated on many environmental issues such as climate change, global warming, waste, transport and water conservation. The “Eco Message” was passed on from the Transition Year pupils by different means including role play, a poster competition, group discussions, an environment chair game and a quiz. Adam Walsh from the group said “we felt it was important to educate the youth as they will be the ones left to deal with the effects of global warming”.

The project won the Senior Climate Change Award at the Eco-Unesco Young Environmentalist awards and they also took home a cheque for €300 to further their project next year. The group consisted of Adam Walsh, James Christie, Stacey Stack, Emer O Connor, Daire Rush, John Donovan, Vicki Nolan, Niamh Kearney, Grainne Murphy, Marie Kelliher, Maureen Howe, Celine Kissane, Grace Costello, Katie Moynihan, Meadhbh Crowley and Orla Hurley.

As a parting gesture to future T.Y.’s in Mounthawk, two apple trees were planted at the school the fruits of which will be reaped in a few years time.







## THE MERCY GIRL - A PLAY IN SEVERAL ACTS!

Ms O'Connor retires after 40 years of dedicated service to Mercy education in Tralee.

I have been lucky to work with Marie O'Connor for almost 20 years now and yet that is only half the time that she has dedicated to the education of students in this town and an even smaller fraction of the time she has been associated with Mercy Education in Tralee.

Marie is a Mercy girl through and through and the first act of her Mercy career was played out in Moyderwell Primary school playground at the age of four. Since then, apart from a sojourn at U.C.C. where she studied English and Irish, one year contract with the VEC and a year in Mount Mercy in Cork, she has been part of the Mercy story in Tralee. She returned in 1971 to her alma mater (Moyderwell) to play many roles. Foremost was the role of teacher of English and Irish and in that part she has imbued so many in her charge through the years with a love of both languages and of course a thorough appreciation of the niceties of grammar. (Errors were something up with which she would not put!). Her enthusiasm for public speaking and debating was infectious and her teams won countless Munster and Regional titles over the years. She gave many students a confidence to speak in public that has stood to them in life.

During that time in Moyderwell she also played the roles of mistress of discipline (a formidable title indeed) and, as it happened, it was a role she was happy to reprise in Mounthawk for the last four years as Deputy Principal. It was a part she played with great sympathy and understanding for the students she worked with. Discipline for Marie was not about punishment and consequences but about encouraging responsibility and personal growth. We will remember phrases like 'it is always dangerous to presume' and 'you can't put an old head on young shoulders'. Her calm and measured response to situations ensured that there were no knee jerk reactions and the student was able to learn from the events and make better choices in the future.

In between she tried her hand as Transition Year coordinator - a new role in Moyderwell in 1994 when Sr. Bernadette decided to introduce the programme. Here Marie had the scope to celebrate the essence of Mercy education, giving students the opportunity to explore their own potential in a holistic fashion - from driving cars around Lee Strand car park to making Christmas wreaths, from winning trips to Brussels and Strasbourg to "Art on the Dart", from work experience to First Aid and a whole gamut of possibilities in between. Her creativity in developing the breadth of educational experience for her students knew no bounds! It is no accident that Transition Year has thrived in Mercy Mounthawk. The foundations were laid by an expert, whose guiding hand and founding principles still serve to underpin the programme and its popularity stands as a testament to Marie's educational vision.

And yet, it is as a caring, loyal and trusted colleague that we will remember Marie most. Those of us who arrived on staff as naïve young teachers were always certain of her good counsel for she is a font of wise saws and she mentored us in best practice long before the word or role became fashionable. More than that, she is a good friend - a willing listener and solid advisor. Marie has a big heart - she would walk the extra mile to give a helping hand and did so with great generosity of spirit for many of us. Her life has been permeated by the expression of that generous and hospitable Christian ethos - an example that that has no doubt challenged and guided those around her. For her it was the small things that said most - it was she who remembered Birthdays and Christenings and Anniversaries. Who will now be the one to organise the buns and tarts for break-time to acknowledge this achievement or that event?

So while the curtain sadly closes on this act of the drama, it opens on another. We wait to see the dénouement. No doubt retirement will allow Marie greater opportunity to spend time with her three children Johnnie, Barry and Grace who have always been her primary concern through the thick and thin of her working life.

We trust also that this will not be the last act in the drama of the Mercy girl - for I am sure Marie will continue her connection with the school. For the moment, for those of us left behind, we reassure ourselves in the words of one of Marie's favourite playwrights Brian Friel. As the hero departs to Philadelphia, his father S.B. remarks to Madge (the housekeeper) with a taint of anticipation 'we'll manage rightly, won't we Madge?'. With your example to guide us, Marie, we will strive to continue in your benign and compassionate shadow.

John O'Roarke



## THE UCC PLUS+ PROGRAMME

We have, at this point, completed seven successful years as one of the initial 22 schools. The programme has now expanded to include 39 schools and 3 colleges of further education linked to the UCC PLUS+ Programme. The programme seeks to target students who for a variety of social or economic reasons are under-represented at third level and to provide motivational, educational and financial assistance to them through secondary schooling to enhance their ability to compete for third level places.

A number of sixth year students again this year used the programme's, Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) 2009, as well as the CAO form, to apply to UCC and the other participating Universities. We wish them the best of luck in their application.

Three transition year students attended the UCC+ Programme Easter School, which allows students to explore areas of personal interest within the different faculties at UCC and life as a third level student in general.

UCC, in conjunction with the Parents' Council, awarded scholarships to two fifth year students to attend the Gaeltacht during the summer months. The recipients of these Gaeltacht scholarships were: Amy Quirke and Ciara Healy. We hope that the experience will be of great value to them as they continue to pursue their study of Irish for the Leaving Certificate.

The programme also sponsored project competitions within the linked schools. Each school received prizes to the value of €400. Prizes and certificates were presented to 4 first year students on behalf of class 1.8 and 4 second year students on behalf of class 2.2 at the awards ceremony at UCC on May 7th. It was a very enjoyable experience for all the students involved. Many thanks to Sr. Nora and Ms. Crowley for assisting the students with their projects.

For the first time a number of our Transition Year students participated in the TRIZ programme. The purpose of this programme is to stimulate interest in innovation,

engineering and entrepreneurship amongst students. The programme culminated in an awards ceremony at UCC where participating school groups presented their invention and competed for the prize of AIB TRIZ Cup for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. This year the ceremony took place on the 15th of May and our students were the overall winners, with their invention of an eco fridge.

During June, three second year students who are studying science are invited to the UCC PLUS+ Programme Chemistry two day summer camp. The camp is organised by UCC to provide students with an interactive experience of chemistry.

At our Awards Ceremony in May, Zoe Grattage was the recipient of the UCC Cup (a perpetual trophy), an award for academic diligence.

## TRANSITION YEAR END OF YEAR NIGHT

On May 22nd 105 transition year pupils gathered to celebrate the completion of what proved to be a busy and exhaustive year of learning, entrepreneurship, social justice and innovation, environmental awareness as well as personal development through music and drama in front of a full house of School Management, staff, parents and family at Siamsa Tire Tralee. A majority of the show was written by the pupils themselves including two musical pieces by Johnny O Riordan, Ben Hussey, Gavin Carmody, David Smith and Lukas Walker, as well as comedy sketches "C.S.I. Abbeydorney" written by Shane Lehane and "The Dail (but not as you know it)" written by Sarah Guerin. With peals of laughter being heard throughout the performances and witnessing the audience and pupil reactions on the night the entertainment and awards ceremony was deemed to be a huge success in showcasing the talents of the 2009-2010 Transition Year group.

The T.Y. Student of the Year Awards, when announced, caused the entire Transition year cohort to leap spontaneously to their feet, cheering and clapping in recognition of the year long efforts of their two young classmates, Caoimhe Marley and John Prendergast .

Students of the year John Prendergast and Caoimhe Marley





## EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

Hill walking, scuba diving, rock climbing, manual handling, a celebration of mercy foundation day with mass in Balloonagh church, business boot camps, coastal awareness with Coastcare including a beach clean up, visits to the dump, the water treatment facility in Listowel, a local wind farm and Dingle ocean world.

The students also attended a number of plays including *The Cripple of Innismean*, *Married to the sea*, *The Importance of being Earnest*, *Animal Farm* and *Waiting for Godot*. The students had singing, drumming and dancing lessons as well as practical instructions in fashion design and successfully re-energised old outfits from home.

The students also endeavoured to raise the profile of the Fair Trade organisation and organised the "best attended gig ever" in the KDYS in Tralee. The associated Banana Party for the first years went down a storm with hundreds of bananas being donated by Fyffes.

Each student learned CPR and used their "Annie the Mannequin" to help train their parents and families at home. The Irish Heart Foundation donated 105 mannequin packs including booklet and DVD to the school for which we will raise funds by going on a sponsored trek around the lakes and mountains of Killarney. Twenty students received GAA coaching and refereeing certificates after attending an in-school programme over a number of months and these pupils will go on to issue instruction to schools and clubs in the coming year.

## TRIZ

The Mounthawk Transition Year students who involved themselves in projects with an enterprising bent were delighted to win Munster's premier award for entrepreneurship namely the "A.I.B. and UCC+ TRIZ cup for innovation and entrepreneurship" for their idea to provide refrigeration to poorer countries without the need for electricity by using common gases, old radiators a few pipes and sunshine. Twelve schools from Munster took part with Mercy Mounthawk being chosen as overall winners.

Two students (Sarah Guerin and Damian Sharpe) won best idea at the Kerry County Enterprise awards in the Meadowlands Hotel in Tralee in April for their "Ding Dong Doorbell" idea which aims to have callers to an empty house photographed and said photograph sent to the house owners mobile phone. This innovation also won the "best use of technology" award at the Scifest at the ITT this year.

One student as part of her mini company, designed and published a Spanish workbook for primary schools which she sold in three schools in the Tralee area with more schools expressing interest for the coming academic area.

## YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME

The Young Entrepreneur Programme is a joint venture between Jerry Kennelly, the Institute of Technology Tralee and Shannon Development with a vision of empowering young people to consider life as an entrepreneur at an early stage. The students learn the skills of entrepreneurship, creating their own business plans, financial reports and the completing of a formal exam.

The year kicked off with Blue Sky Day, which gave the students the opportunity to meet some of Ireland's most successful entrepreneurs, Denis O'Brien, Brody Sweeney and Michael Carey, to name just a few. Later in the year students attended The Business Boot Camp Day and a Business Plan Work Shop Day. Professional help and advice was available to the students every step of the way.

Two of our students, Ethan Cronin and Karen Moynihan, were short-listed among the final 15 Business Plans in Kerry. Ethan went on to get a 'grilling' from a panel of judges that included real life 'dragon' Seán Gallagher - A fantastic experience! Ethan represented himself and the school superbly.

Una Carey





## ENROLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

Enrolment for September 2011 will open at 9.15a.m. on the 1st Monday of September 2010 and will close at 2.00p.m. on Saturday 6th November 2010

Registration forms can be obtained from the School's Administration Office and must be returned there, in person, by parents/guardians.

MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL MOUNTHAWK • MOUNTHAWK • TRALEE • CO KERRY  
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