

MERCY MOUNTHAWK

MEÁNSCOIL NA TRÓCAIRE CNOC AN TSEABHAIC



SUMMER BULLETIN

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The A to Z of Life

F... for FUN...

(A poem by Fiona Moore, R.I.P May 2013)

On the 20th April this year we all gathered in the gym for an unusual event. It was the brainchild of the teachers and students involved in the organisation of Health Promotion week. They wanted to arrange an event that would capture the importance of holding a positive attitude in life, a novel way to spark us all into an awareness of the vital importance of holding onto hope in life... and they hit on the idea of bringing all the students and teachers in the school together to form a human rainbow as a symbol of that hope.

For those of us in the gym that morning, as you can see from the image on the cover, it was a fun event, and all the more striking for that reason. The importance of the day has stayed with me over the month of May as we marked the deaths of two Tralee teenagers. Like Donal Walsh, Fiona Moore, a third year student in our school had also fought to hold onto her life for four years as she waited for a transplant and yet in the midst of that struggle she distilled a simple truth of life in her one line poem: 'The A to Z of Life'. As her mother, Deirdre, explained at the funeral, Fiona felt that in the A to Z of life, only one letter 'F' mattered; 'F' for FUN, and it is that sense of optimism, positivity and HOPE that has the potential to keep us all going in life, most especially when things are a struggle.

And so I ask myself, where does hope reside in our school at this point in time? In answer, I think of the theme for this school year 2012/13 'Learning to Learn'. I see great hope for the further development of the quality of education for our students in the new initiatives underway in the school. To begin, one significant component of the work this year was the pilot of the 'Friends' programme in 2nd year which was designed to support the engagement of 2nd year students in education. Feedback from the programme by the students indicates that they found the emphasis on the development of emotional resilience to be beneficial. Along with our initiative in positive psychology at senior cycle, we will be developing this component as part of the Junior Cycle SPHE programme in the school in future years to focus on the development of the core emotional intelligence of our students.

A second initiative in relation to Literacy and Numeracy took place under the Learning School Project and involved a group of teachers developing approaches for teaching literacy in the project maths classes. It is a sign of hope to witness the enthusiasm of teachers in developing methodology and courses and this was again evident in the development of the short courses for the new junior cycle in Chinese, PE, Programming, Drama, Development Education - work which will continue next year in testing and developing materials and teaching strategies for these courses that connect with the new learning outcomes. I hope that the new Junior Cycle will improve the quality of education and learning for our young people when it changes the focus from a narrow focus on examinations to the centrality of developing the core learning skills that are essential to all learning.

Our effort to realise the extension to the school is surely an expression of hope by our school community. Despite the recession and the obvious challenges to fundraising, we have embarked on the 250K fundraising effort with gusto. We had a fashion show, a night at the dogs and a golf classic all of which realised the funding target for this year. And we launch, with hope, into next year with a 'bring and buy' fashion sale in October. If you are changing your wardrobe, please put aside any items for that sale next term. I like the quote from J.L. Suenens; 'Hope is not a dream but a way of making dreams become reality.' We hope that our dream of better facilities for the students becomes a reality sooner than later!

But, surely, the greatest sign of hope in the school remains the enthusiasm and energy of our students. Whether it is expressed in social innovation such as the Fluoride Campaign, in the innovative science projects which won Sci-fest, in care of the environment in the Ecc-Unesco competitions, in developing new products in the Young Entrepreneur competition, I am always enlivened by the dynamism and enthusiasm and sheer optimism of the hundreds of young people whose vibrancy fills this school building. These are the signs of hope that pepper the pages of this newsletter and that, in my view, make it a heartening read each year... please enjoy the 2013 Newsletter...

All the best for the holidays and, I HOPE it will be a pleasant summer....

John O'Roarke
(Principal)



Fiona Moore RIP

It was with great sadness that our school community learned of the death of Fiona, one of our 3rd year students last month. Fiona, who was due to sit her Junior Cert at the beginning of June was a valued member of our school community, who bore her illness well and with dignity. She had a large circle of friends in school who are saddened at her loss and will miss her greatly. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to her parents Martin and Deirdre and her brother Killian and we remember them in our prayers.

ENROLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

Enrolment for September 2014 will open at 9.15 a.m. on Monday 2nd of September 2013 and will close at 2.00p.m. on Saturday 9th November 2013.

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

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Developments in Curriculum Provision

(John O’Roarke)

The Department of Education is promoting three major initiatives in schools, that combined, will have a significant impact on the style and structure of education provision in our school especially at Junior Cycle. They are the introduction of the new Junior Cycle (JC2), the development of School Self-Evaluation (SSE) and the development of strategies around Literacy and Numeracy (Lit+Num). In each of these areas there has significant progress and work in Mounthawk during 2012/13.

New Junior Cycle

We have been engaged as a pilot school with the new Junior Cycle and have been focused the key area of developing short courses which may be introduced into the new Junior Cycle curriculum. The six short courses that are currently being developed include: Programming, Introduction to Chinese, Sports Studies in Physical Activity, Development Education, Drama and Theatre Studies and Learning to Learn. Acknowledgment must be given to the team of teachers who have been developing these courses throughout the year and their work will continue next year in preparing materials and resources for these courses.

We are focused on the introduction of the new Junior Cycle in 2014 with changes in English. Next year teachers will receive in-service on this new course.

Linking JC2, SSE AND the Lit + Num Initiatives

It has been important to find a way of linking these initiatives and the focus of that link has been on Literacy and Numeracy. The first two aspect of school life that we will evaluate as part of school self-evaluation will be the learning in literacy and numeracy and of course literacy and numeracy are two of the key skills that are identified as part of the new junior cycle. Therefore it makes great sense to focus attention on this very central aspect of curriculum in the school.

Literacy and Numeracy and Learning School Project 4

As part of this work we have run a Learning School project this year with a focus on literacy and numeracy. This project was conceptualised as an action research project that would identify a possible problem, in this case mathematical literacy, and find solutions that will improve the learning outcomes of our students in literacy and numeracy. It was identified that mathematical that the language of maths often causes difficulty for students who perhaps struggle with the mathematical problem because they do not properly understand what exactly was being required of them in the language of the question. As part of the research we collected data and researched the methods of tackling Maths vocabulary (essential since the introduction of Project Maths).

We provided a teacher to teacher in-service on methodologies that tackled Mathematical literacy in the classroom. We piloted the methodologies in 10 classrooms with significant results. Students’ attitudes to Mathematics showed improvement, as did their ability to identify and use, correctly, the necessary vocabulary to succeed. We look forward to widening our scope next year for the provision of in-service for all teachers of first year Maths. Also, we hope to adapt these methodologies to provide literacy scaffolding in other subjects also.

School Self-evaluation and the ‘FRIENDS for Youth’ Programme

Each school has been asked to identify three strands for self-evaluation over a three year period. We have chosen, as indicated above, literacy and numeracy and, as a third area, engagement in education (especially in 2nd year). In this third area we are responding to the research nationally and indeed, in our own school, that students in 2nd year can tend to disengage from education to a significant degree.

As part of our initiative in this regard, we piloted a new programme in second year classes called ‘FRIENDS for Youth’. This was a joint project between Mercy Mounthawk and the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) which also involved a research evaluation study. Orla Hayes, a trainee Educational Psychologist was conducting a research study which sought to establish if the early years of Secondary School would be an effective time to develop coping skills, well-being and student engagement.

“FRIENDS for Youth” is an evidence-based anxiety prevention programme and resiliency programme designed for use in schools. Developed by Dr Paula Barrett in Australia, the programme is designed to teach pupils, aged 12-16 years the skills required to manage their thoughts, emotions and body responses. The programme also seeks to develop self-esteem and teach coping skills in a simple and structured way.

The word ‘FRIENDS’ is an acronym and each letter is presented individually to progressively build up the word over the course of programme. This helps pupils to remember the coping steps to follow; F-Feelings. R- Remember to Relax. Have quiet time. I – Inner Helpful Thoughts. E- Explore solutions and coping step plans. N- Now reward yourself, You’ve done your best! D – Don’t forget to practice the skills you have learned. S- Stay strong inside in second year classes and share your skills with your support networks!

This project could not have come to fruition without some key staff members; namely Ms. Suzanne O’Halloran, Ms. Veronica Hunt, Ms. Denise Buckley and Ms. Brid Buckley whose input and enthusiasm played a large part of the success of the programme. Furthermore, tribute must also be paid to Ms. Eileen Devitt (NEPS Psychologist) for her on-going support and guidance to the facilitators throughout this project.

The evaluation of the project by the students who participated proved very positive indeed and we will be adopting the programme in second year next year as part of the SPHE class programme.

Retirements

Three members of our staff are retiring this year, Nora Brosnan from the French and Irish departments, Sr. Nora from Business and R.E. departments and Mary Mc Gillycuddy from the French and English departments. All three have contributed greatly to the academic success and the ethos of our school. Their commitment and dedication to their students was commendable and their support and friendship to their colleagues will be greatly missed.

We would like to wish them well in their retirement and congratulate them on work well done as they enter a new chapter of their lives.



Senior Science Quiz

Two teams represented Mounthawk in the regionals of the Irish Science Teachers' Senior Science Quiz. The quiz took place in the IT Tralee on the 15th November.

Richard Raftery, Rebecca Maunsell, Louise O'Connor, Cathal O'Donnell, Sinead Hill and Sally O'Regan were the students that took part.



ISTA Junior Science Quiz

Three science teams took part in the ISTA junior science quiz in the IT Tralee on the 21st March. They were narrowly beaten for a qualifying place.

Teams were:

Gavin Connolly, Aoife Grimes, Ciara Holmes, Ciaran Ryan, Katie Cronin, Sean Dowling, Jesse Brosnan, Leandra Nana, Rebecca Kelly, Alex White, Tasmin Stack and Alana McElligott.

Scifest

Held in IT Tralee on 12th March, funded by Intel Ireland and Discover Science and Engineering. It exhibited a range of science and technology projects demonstrating some excellent innovative ideas that captured the imagination of those in attendance.



Winners:
Daragh Clarke,
Colin McDaid and
Diarmuid O'Connor

Intel Space Award:
Thomas Curran

Maths in Science
Award: Killian O'Regan

Science

By Ms. Enright

First Year Science

24 teams took part in this year's First Year Science Quiz in aid of Alzheimers. The quiz was sponsored by Cotters Caterers. It was held in the school Gym on the 15th November. This year's quiz masters were Vanessa Dineen and Liam Gannon.

First place: Daragh Clarke, Colin McDaid and Piersie O'Brien.

Second place: Thomas O'Sullivan, Thomas Curran and Thomas Healy.

Third place: Gerard Tansley, Patrick O'Donnell and Hugh Wells.



Diarmuid Moriarty qualified for the finals of "The Irish Junior Science Olympiad" in Dublin City University. Diarmuid qualified through his achievements in the Junior Certificate Science Examination and were identified by the State Examinations Commission. Diarmuid was selected in the Physics category. Diarmuid has also represented the school in ISTA science quiz.



5th Year Fieldtrip: Killarney National Park (7th May)

Summer Clear Out – Jumble Sale

As part of Mercy Mounthawks extension fundraising we are organising a jumble sale to take place in November.

Over the summer we would greatly appreciate if every family could have a look through their homes for any items (clothes, toys, books, ornaments, furniture etc.) that you no longer need and are of good quality. We will be collecting these items in September.

Your support will be greatly appreciated!

SUPERVISED EVENING STUDY

Supervised study is an option available to students.

We run two sessions:

4pm to 6pm for Junior Cert. and non-exam classes
4pm to 7pm for Leaving Cert classes

If interested, please contact the Administration office



Art Exhibition

Ann O' Shea Daly

"Visual Innovation" was suggested as both a title and theme for a visual arts exhibition which ran for about 3 weeks around the Easter period in the library of the Institute of Technology, Tralee.



The exhibition had an open submission policy and all Kerry schools were invited to participate. The Education Centre and the Minister acknowledged the already heavy workload of teachers and the project was envisioned as something that would be integrated into what is already happening in the classroom. It was felt that it was also an opportunity for students to look beyond the curriculum and question the notion of what art is and explore its possibilities. All forms of art practice and thinking were welcomed; from traditional art and craft practices to photography, digital media, performance and happenings.

The theme "Visual Innovation" was intentionally broad and open to interpretation. It was not necessary to have a finished product or conclusion to work undertaken by the students and in this case documentation was key to presentation. The process of interpretation is as important as any product type conclusion.

All Kerry schools were accepted. Mounthawk School had over 40 pieces accepted for the show, which included construction pieces where art was an important element of the final pieces. Mr. Sugrue's own cottage made from Valentia slate was included as well as art pieces and woodwork. This approach added to the show where works from primary schools, secondary schools and teacher's work were all on display together.

Minister Jimmy Deenihan opened the exhibition. It is envisaged, following the projected success of this Kerry Exhibition/Venture/Model that this concept "Visual Innovation could be disseminated nationally. This will highlight at a National level, traditional as well as new visual creative processes that are engaging the students of Art in our Secondary and Primary schools. It will also provide an international stage for the depth of visual creative talent that is in all parts of our country."

Ice Cream Fundays!

Special thanks must be given to Daniel Pierse, in Leaving Cert, and all the Transition Year Students involved in the annual Ice-Cream Funday, proceeds of which go to Down Syndrome Ireland Association. DS Kerry are a voluntary organisation that receive no state funding, so every ice-cream consumed by our students was helping to raise vital funds for this worthy organisation. Daniel has spearheaded this annual event and we hope that where he left off the TY students will continue to make this an annual event in the years ahead.



Film Club

The year saw the formation of a Film Club for first year students. We met twice a week and watched a number of films from a variety of genres – everything from 'Transformers' to 'Dumb and Dumber'. We wrapped up our year with a trip to the cinema to see 'Iron Man 3' which received great reviews from all Film Club members. We look forward to welcoming new students to the Film Club next year.

Bake for Brains

On the 12th of March, 1st year students got together for a coffee morning in aid of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland. Many students baked a variety of tasty treats, while others donated money to attend the event and sample the culinary delights of their fellow students. A similar fundraiser took place in the staff room and together staff and students raised a mammoth €45 for the charity. Well done to all involved!

Green Flag

This year saw the creation of the Green Flag Committee as Mercy Mounthawk endeavours to achieve a Green Flag for litter and waste. The committee has been working with Ms. Healy to establish the environmental impact of our school community at present and next year we will be putting our plan into action to raise awareness on the issue and to help reduce the litter and waste in the school. We will also be inviting new members to the committee in September to aid us in our undertaking.

Mounthawk Credit Union

By Emma McCarthy

This is the fourth year that the Mounthawk Credit Union has been open and it's another successful year. The Credit Union is a great facility for students to save money or open new accounts. We open every Friday, during lunchtime, in Room 10.

This year, we ran various competitions and the prizes included a number of €20 Credit Union vouchers and a 22inch TV. This year's committee included: Kelly Brosnan, Emma McCarthy, Aoife Garvey, Iseult Daly, Leonie O'Connor, Laura Maunsell, Maeve Lyons and Danielle Galvin. We would like to thank Ms. Orla O'Shea of Tralee Credit Union for her time and dedication. We hope that the Mounthawk Credit Union is successful for many years to come.



A Reflection on Being a Cast Member of Mercy Mounthawk's Production of Dancing at Lughnasa

Megan Carney



This year Mercy Mounthawk produced Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* under the watchful eye of former principal, Tony Behan and talented co-director Noirin Sheldon. The opportunity to take part in such a beautifully emotive play was simply too good to pass up, and so almost a year ago I found myself in the school's music room with a group of fellow students, each of us eager to impress the panel of teachers. Several weeks of intensive auditioning followed and the group of hopefuls was narrowed down bit by bit. Finally eight lucky pupils were selected for the eight parts in the play, myself included. Naturally we were all delighted! I was awarded the role of Chrissie Mundy, the youngest of the five sisters on whom this play is centred, and mother to narrator Michael Evans. The play is set in the summer of 1936 in rural Donegal. The five sisters, Kate (Aoife McDonnell), Maggie (Ellie Horgan), Aggie (Maeve Lyons), Rosie (Seija Nevalainen) and Chrissie, all live together with their eccentric brother, Father Jack (Thomas Appleby). The story is told by an adult Michael Evan (Seán O'Mahony), who fondly recalls his childhood with his mother and aunts, focusing on the summer of 1936, when he was visited by his father Gerry Evans (Aaron O'Shea).

Once we had received our roles, we dived head first into rehearsing three times a week from four until six after school. Accent barriers had to be overcome, dances to be learnt, melodies mastered and our supply of chocolate had to be constantly replenished! As time went on there were fewer left-footed-dancing accidents and we really bonded as a group. We all really looked forward to the rapidly approaching opening night!

A massive effort was made by all involved, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Behan, Ms. Sheldon and Ms. Buckley for their support and careful direction, Ms. Costelloe for her choreography skills and Ms. McKenna as head of the costume and props department.

Dancing at Lughnasa was staged from January 24th to January 26th in Siamsa Tíre at 8 pm.

Parents' Council Report – 2012/13 school year

The past year has been a busy one in the school. The Parents' Council, which meets monthly, has continued to review issues of interest and to support various activities in a variety of ways. Support this year was offered to:

- Maths for Fun and Reading for Fun programmes
- Health Promotion Week
- Second Chance School Uniform Scheme
- Book Scheme
- Athletics Club
- Sixth Year Debs event
- School Yearbook
- School fundraising events
- Reading Week
- Leaving Certificate class of 2013

We have also addressed with the school issues which have been raised by the general parent body such as a pedestrian gate at the upper car park area (where traffic exits the school), an 'online/digital' attendance system, the importance of physical education classes for all students, the importance (and cost) of the mock examinations for third years, Transition Year issues.

The Parents' Council engaged in fundraising by means of a table quiz and bag-packing to enable us to meet some of our objectives. During the year we had Dr. Fergus Heffernan speak on the topic of "Understanding the Emotional Well-Being of our Teenagers". We also adopted a Parents' Council Plan which covers the period 2013-2015 and revised our Constitution which will be presented for adoption at our Annual General Meeting early in the new school year.

We welcome parents to join the Council at the Annual General Meeting or throughout the year. The Parents' Council page on the school website will be used to generally advertise our meetings and provide further information regarding the Council and its activities. We can be contacted at our email address mmparentscouncil@gmail.com. We welcome input from all parents and hope to see you at the AGM or, indeed, during the year.

(Ray O'Connor-Desmond, Secretary)

Parents' Council Second-hand Books

The Parents' Council are asking parents and student to donate any school books that are in good condition and that they no longer need to this worthy scheme. The list of books that are required is on the school website www.mercymounthawk.ie on Parents' Council page.

**Unwanted books can be dropped in at the office.
Books will be on sale for a nominal fee
on Wednesday 7th August from 12-2p.m.**

Your support will be greatly appreciated!

Concern Debating

As the curtain falls on another year at Mercy Mounthawk, the Concern Debating team must rue the lost opportunities of a hard fought campaign. The team, led by Kelly Brosnan as captain, and ably supported by the team of Meadhbh Lyons, Danielle Galvin, Niall Buckley, Ellie Horgan and Thomas Appleby debated three rounds of the Competition. Losing narrowly (by 2 points!!!) to the All-Ireland Semi-Finalists, Kenmare, the team dusted themselves down to defeat presentation Listowel and draw with Hazlewood College, Dromcollogher. A great learning experience and great skills picked up along the way, the team will regroup and have another go in September, with their eye firmly on the final in 2014!



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2013

Reachtaladh Seachtain na Gaeilge sa scoil arís i mbliana, a lean ó Dé Luain an t-aonú lá déag de Mhárta go deireadh na seachtaine sin. Bhí go leor spraoi agus craic ar siúl sa scoil againn don tseachtain agus seo blaiseadh beag do na himeachtaí a bhí ar siúl.

Cuireadh tús le clár na seachtaine le turas ceathrú bliana go Corca Dhuibhne. Thugamar aghaidh ar radharcanna áille an iarthair le turas treoraithe trí Ghaeilge le TP Ó Conchúir agus ar aghaidh linn as san go Séipéilín Ghallaraís.

I measc na himeachtaí a bhí eagraithe anseo sa scoil, do ghlac daltaí na céad bliana páirt i roinnt imeachtaí éagsúla ina measc céilí, agus comórtas t-léine. Bhí iomaíocht ghéar idir dhaltaí na dara bliana i dtráth na gCeist a bhí eagraithe dóibh. Chuir daltaí na cúigiú bliana fáilte roimh Cathy Uí Chorduibh 'Bean an Bhiongó', a tháinig chun seisiún Biongó a dhéanamh anseo sa scoil. Bhain siad idir thaitneamh agus thairbhe as an mbiongó agus go leor duaiseanna á bhuachaint acu.



Lucht na Ceathrú bliana lasmuigh do Shéipéilín Ghallaraís; Seachtain na Gaeilge 2013.

Bhí seans le daltaí na ceathrú bliana nuair a tháinig cuireadh chugainn chun freastal ar lá oscailte do dhaltaí ceathrú bliana a reachtáladh i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh. Bhí go leor scoileanna eile ó cheantar na mumhan i láthair ag an lá freisin agus b'iontach an deis dúinn páirt a ghlacadh. B'é John Prendergast, iar-scoláire na scoile seo agus atá mar scoláire dlí anois i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh a bhí i mbun an lae. Fuair na daltaí blaiseadh do shaol gaelach na hollscoile agus ghlac siad páirt in imeachtaí a bhí eagraithe dóibh ina measc, tráth na gceist, turas ollscoile agus ceolchoirm le Peadar Ó Riada.

B'iontach an tseachtain a bhí againn anseo i Meánscoil na Trócaire do sheachtain na Gaeilge agus táimid ag súil leis an mbliain seo chugainn cheana féin.



Guidance Counselling

With the inevitable lengthening of the evenings comes the end of another school year. It has been a busy six months since Christmas in the Guidance Department. All applications to the C.A.O. were submitted by the end of January deadline while references for both D.A.R.E. and H.E.A.R. applicants were supplied by the April 1st deadline. Information on Post Leaving Certificate courses, maintenance grants and preparing for life after school was disseminated to students in guidance class.

There were a number of information evenings facilitated by the guidance counsellors for students, and their parents, including the Subject Choice talk for 1st years going into 2nd year and the Senior Cycle Subject Options talk for 3rd and 4th years going into 5th year. A number of guest speakers, including representatives from Cork Institute of Technology, Dublin Institute of Technology and University College Cork spoke to Senior Cycle students while all 6th year students benefited from a workshop on Mock Interviews which took place in the school in April.

To begin the process of getting students to think about their future career paths, the Rothwell Miller Interest Blank was administered to all 5th years, including L.C.A. 1, while the Differential Aptitude Test was administered to all 4th years. 3rd years took the Career Decision Making test.

Finally, we would like to thank parents and management for their continuing support. We wish the Junior Certificate students well in their upcoming exams and we bid farewell to another group of Leaving Certificate students. We hope that they will be happy and fulfilled on the individual paths they have chosen and, as they begin both their exams, and their journey on from here, we leave them with the thought that "the pen is in your hands, the rest is still unwritten"

Ms. Farrell, Ms. O' Mahony, Sr. Nora

Second Chance School Uniforms

The school, with the assistance of the Parents' Council, has decided to continue the uniform donation scheme again this year. The scheme is intended to ease the financial burden on parents by providing items of pre-loved uniforms at reduced cost as well as doing our bit for the environment by recycling. We are looking for your support by donating any items of uniform that you no longer need. We ask that all donations are clean and ready to wear.

We would greatly appreciate the following items:
**School Trousers • School Skirts • P.E. Tops
School Jumpers • School Ties**

We hope to pass on these items for a nominal fee and recycle the funds back into the scheme.

COLLECTION

Items of uniform may be left at the school office up until
21st June

The Second Chance **Uniform Sale** will take place
in the school on 7th August.



Spanish *Ms B.O'Shea*



TY - SPANISH OMELETTE

The Transition Years enjoyed a fun-filled morning when they practiced their cross-curricular culinary skills in the Home Economics room, making some very tasty Spanish Omelettes – 'Tortilla Espanola'. Some very talented potential 'Masterchefs' came to the fore and

everybody agreed that language learning through an authentic Spanish activity was a very positive experience. Many thanks to Ms O' Halloran for accommodating and supporting us! ¡Qué Aproveche!

SPANISH MUSIC PROJECT

Students from 3rd, 4th and 5th Year were invited to join in 'El Proyecto de Musica' which gave them a deeper understanding of different genres of Spanish music while increasing and expanding their vocabulary in the target language. Twenty songs in Spanish were given to students on their memory sticks along with the lyrics where some words had been blanked out. All participants in the project were encouraged to listen to the songs in their free time and fill the missing words in. Repeated exposure to the songs has proved invaluable for students' confidence in speaking and also for increasing their listening skills and written expression. Before the end of the year a 'FIESTA' was held where the songs were played, discussed, enjoyed and the full lyrics were given to the students. The project has proven extremely successful and will be rolled out again next year.

6TH YEARS – TAPAS EVENING

Once again, on completion of their mock exams all Leaving Cert Spanish students at Mercy Mounthawk were rewarded with a very enjoyable evening of Spanish language, food and music in the tapas bar 'Sol y Sombra' in Killorglin; the most authentic Spanish experience available in Kerry!!! A very tasty variety of tapas were served to a very enthusiastic audience and all business was conducted through Spanish!!! All the Spanish teachers' in the school also attended and the purpose of the evening, which was to give the students an authentic opportunity to speak Spanish to native speakers both as a treat and in preparation for the oral exams, was definitely achieved!!! Big congratulations to Ciarán O'Rourke, Tríona Clerkin and Neil Finnegan who were personally chosen by the waiters as the students who made the greatest effort to order food and converse in Spanish! There were many other contenders for the prize also!!!!

A huge ¡Gracias! to Alberto, Clóna and fellow waiters who made us feel very welcome and as always served us some fabulous food! Current 5th Year students are looking forward to next year's trip already!!!!



Eco-Unesco

Eco-Unesco is Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation. It's main aim is to raise environmental awareness.

Eco-Unesco's Young Environmentalist Awards are an all-Ireland environmental

awards programme that recognises and rewards young people who raise environmental awareness and improve the environment.



Mounthawk had seven groups participating in the Young Environmentalist Awards:

- Adopt a Tree-promotes the importance of trees in the local area
- Flutterby Butterfly-preserves, promotes and protects endangered butterflies around Ireland
- Naturehood Watch-improves biodiversity in the school grounds and local area.
- Creepy Crawlees Hotel- spreads the word about insect habitats and increases the number of insect hotels in the world.
- All Waves Better Value-raises awareness about wave energy in Ireland
- Rooting for our Future-promotes the people of Ireland to grow more food crops themselves, creating more food and jobs
- Teenage Greenage-encourages people to recycle and earn a green flag in the school

On March 8th, all groups went to the Eco-Dens in the Lifetime Lab in Cork. Each group made a short pitch to the judges to provide them with information on our projects but to also make our ideas stand out. From songs to costumes to posters, every group put a lot of effort in to the day and the feedback from the judges was very positive and 6 of the 7 Eco-Unesco groups got through to the Young Environmentalist Awards Final in Dublin last May. This is a

CHINESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME 2013

September 2012 saw the new Chinese Language and Culture Programme designed by The Confucius Institute, UCD, being rolled out to Transition Years at Mercy Mounthawk.

This excellent course combines a mixture of language learning, cultural studies, student based projects and is rounded off with a Chinese Oral Exam and a very tasty meal in a local Chinese restaurant. It has certainly proven to be a thoroughly educational, diverse, enjoyable and popular course for TY students as it was eagerly chosen by many! The excellent opportunity of an introduction to the most spoken language in the world did not go unnoticed as students expressed their keen interest in continuing Chinese studies in the future, mentioning the business and economic possibilities involved!





First year trip to The Burren

The geography department organised a trip to the Burren in May for some first year classes. They visited the Burren interpretative centre in Kilfenora where they viewed a presentation on the unique flora, fauna and rock formations of the region. They also visited the state of the art interpretative centre at the cliffs of Moher where students looked at photographs, videos and interactive programmes that informed them on the cliff formation and ancient megalithic and celtic settlements of the region.



Comórtas Díospóireachta Ghael Linn

Ghlac Foireann Díospóireachtana scoile páirt I gcomórtas Díospóireachta anPhiarsaigh arís i mbliana. Is féidir le baill na foirne bheith an bhródúil astu féin mar gur éirigh leo dul chomh fada leis an gcrabh réigiúnach in ainneoin gurb é seo an chéad bhliain ar an mbóthar acu. Triúr daltaí ón dara bliain a bhí ar an bhfoireann; Eoghan Ó Coistealbha (Captaen), Carla Ní hAiniféin agus Ciara NicCárthaigh. Ina theannta san bhí beirt ionadaí an dlís againn ar eagla na heagla. B'iad san Zara Harnett agus Marie Ní Chuarnáin.

Ba ar Bhaile Bhuirne a bhí ár dtríail don chéad bhabhta i mí na Samhna. "Ba cheart bata agus bóthar a thabhairt do Trappatoni" an rún a bhí faoin ár mbráid agus rinne ár bhfoireann sár argóint i bhfabhar an rúin. Ba iad An Scoil Idirmhéanach, Cill Orglan, Coláiste Rossa, An Sciobairín agus Coláiste Pobail ChillAirne na foirne eile a bhí ag díospóireacht an oíche sin agus d'éirigh linn féin agus le Muintir Chill Orglan bualadh ar aghaidh go dtí an chéad bhabhta eile.

Is in ár scoil féin a reáchtáladh an dara babhta den chomórtas, an chéad uair riamh ar tharla a leithéid agus ní bréag a rá go raibh an halla lán go doras. Bhí dian iomaíocht idir na foirne ar ábhar an rúin "Tá an spórt imithe as cúrsaí spóirt". D'áitíomar féin agus Coláiste Íde agus Iosaf, Mainistir na Féile in aghaidh an rúin, agus chuir An Scoil Idirmhéanach, Cill Orglan agus Pobalscoil Eoin Baiste, Ospidéal, Co. Luimní argóintí láidre faoin ár mbráid ar son an rúin. I ndeireadh na dála d'éirigh linn féin agus muintir Mhainistir na Féile an bhó a chur thar abhainn.

I mí Márta thugamar aghaidh ar Óstán Ghalánta anDromhall I gCill Airne don Chraobh Réigiúnach agus sinn réidh chun díospóireachta. "Tá an stát seo ró fhlaithiúil lena chúnamh don tríú domhan" an rún a bhí ós ár gcomhair agus bhíomar I gcoinne an rúin. Bhí dian iomaíocht sa bhabhta seo mar go raibh an cheithre fhoireann ar thóir áite I gcrabh na hÉireann an tseachtain d'ár gcionn. 'Siad

Clochár Mhuire na Trócaire, Sciobairín, sinn féin, Coláiste Íde agus Iosaf, Mainistir na Féile, agus Coláiste na Toirbhirte, An Mhairdóg, Corcaigh a bhí san iomaíocht agus cuireadh argóintí snasta ós comhair na moltóirí. I ndeireadh na dála bhí an lá le muintir Mhainistir na Féile, bhí díomá ar ár bhfoireann, ach, mar a deir an seanfhocal beidh lá eile ag an bpaorach!



Foireann díospóireachta Chnoc an tSeabhaic; Eoghan Ó Coistealbha, Carla Ní hAiniféin agus Ciara NicCárthaigh ag Craobh Réigiúnach de Chomórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh a reáchtáil Gael Linn in Óstán an Dromhall I gCill Airne, Márta 2013.

ATTENTION 1ST YEAR PARENTS 2013

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING ALL OF YOU
AT THE TALK FOR 1st YEAR STUDENTS
AND THEIR PARENTS
ON **WEDNESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER**
at 8p.m. in the gym



HEALTH PROMOTION WEEK - APRIL 2013

Ms B. O'Shea



Students at Mercy Secondary School came back after Easter on an up-beat note to participate in a week of events designed to promote the importance of a positive mental attitude. Health Promotion Week ran from the 8th to the 12th of April in the school. The theme of the week this year was **'Steps to Happiness'** which focused on having an awareness of what things in our lives bring us happiness.

As part of their annual Mental Health Promotion week, the school's Health Promotion committee organised for every student to take part in a "Human Rainbow" in the school gym on Tuesday April 9th. Creating the rainbow with all 1,180 students holding coloured card was a novel way of representing happiness and positivity in the school.

Ms T O' Shea and Ms Hunt wanted to ensure that all members of the school community were aware of the message of the week – so what better way than to involve everyone together in creating the rainbow. **"We want to promote the importance of coming together as a school community to create an awareness of positive mental health."** The whole school community was also involved in creating the 'Steps to Happiness' mural which is hanging in the general purpose area of the school. The mural consists of colourful paper shoes where the students illustrated and depicted what makes them happy. Because it is so easy to focus on the negative, on the problems, on the challenges, we need to work to remind ourselves of all the things in our lives that give us an uplift and that help us to remain positive and optimistic.

Another event planned as part of health promotion week was **'Put your best foot forward'** odd shoes day. All students, staff and management got the chance to show off their own individuality by wearing colourful funky shoes. It was intended to show the lighter side of life. Students certainly got a laugh out of their teachers and teachers likewise.

Health Promotion week was launched on Tuesday 9th of April by Niall Hobbart of BTS Gym in Manor West. Niall, a past pupil spoke to the students about the importance of **'Healthy body, Healthy mind'**. He spoke to the students about taking responsibility and having an obligation to themselves and others. Niall engaged the students by asking them questions about their interests in physical activities and by challenging the stereotypes that are set in place nowadays. Niall was joined by management, health promotion committee, class reps and representatives of the parent's council at the launch.

Other activities during the week included talks, **'Recipe for happiness'** poetry competition, workshops, meditation, presentations and interactive dramas. This kaleidoscope of colourful events demonstrates the upbeat engagement of the whole school community: "It is time we all stop thinking cloudy thoughts and start thinking colourful rainbow thoughts."

The week would not be taking place without the help of the Parents' Council, staff, students and the Health Promotion Committee: Nora Quane (Deputy Principal), Tara O' Shea, Bernie O'Shea, Veronica Hunt, Aoibheann Molloy, Brid-Marie Buckley and Denise Buckley.

Junior Dragons Den and Y.E.P

Transition year students are exposed to the idea of entrepreneurship each year when they attend Blue Sky Day in the Brandon Hotel, as part of the Young Entrepreneur Programme. Here they meet people from the business world who offer advice and inspiration on starting your own business.

Several T.Y. students took up the challenge of coming up with novel business ideas for this year's Young Entrepreneur Programme. Rachel Murphy developed the 'Pockibra', a pocket in a bra to save carrying a purse. Rachel made it to the Regional Finals with her product.

Colin Doody took advantage of the fact that new rules are coming in to the GAA requiring players to wear gumshields, and made 'Ace Sports', flavoured gumshields, e.g. mint

and strawberry. He has sold many shipments, broadening his horizons to rugby as well. He qualified for the finals of Y.E.P. and made it to National Finals of the Student Enterprise Awards.

Ciara Kelliher came up with an idea to make a fun chart 'The Food Wheel' in order to encourage children to eat more healthily. This project made it to the last 15 of Y.E.P., the finals of Junior Dragons Den, which was televised on RTE and narrowly missed out on the finals of Student Enterprise Awards.





Awards Night

Mercy Secondary School Mounthawk held its annual Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 15th May. With over 250 award winners and their parents and friends in attendance, the school hall was thronged for the event. The evening which was organised by a team of 16 teachers was hosted by Ms Linda Kane and began with an input from school principal, Mr John O’Roarke. On the day on which young Donal Walsh was buried, he emphasised the importance of living life to the fullest, which was Donal’s message. He asked the students to reflect on the gifts that they enjoy, the potential for development and growth that they possess and to promise to themselves that they will continue to grow and fulfill that potential.

Awards were presented to students across a wide number of categories from Academic awards, to School Spirit, to Christian Leadership and covering a spread of extra-curricular achievements. They are awarded to acknowledge the holistic range of skills and attitudes of the students. For instance, the ‘Comhar Awards’ and ‘School Spirit Awards’ recognise the value of attitudes such as generosity, empathy and teamwork which are essential to learning in a co-operative way and to success in life.

The Tadhg O’Connell memorial shield for Physics was presented by his wife Mary to Alan Boyle, the UCC cup to Shannon Carey for her dedication to academic work and An Gradam Gaeilge cuimhneachán ar Mháire Ní Ghéiní to Hazel Carmody. The winners of Sci-Fest: Carragh Clarke, Colin McDaid and Diarmuid O’Connor were honoured for their achievement. The evening also honoured several other sporting achievements particularly in the area of athletics with the school having won both the best senior boys and minor girls school shields at the recent Munster competitions with Jack Barry winning the Sports Person of the Year award.

Entertainment during the evening included a stunning rendition of ‘Bring Him Home’ by Roisin Hussey, Sarah Dillane, Megan Carney and Iseult Daly and an excerpt from the very successful school production of ‘Dancing at Lughnasa’ which was staged in Siamsa in January. Awards were presented to Aaron O’Shea, Aoife McDonnell, Megan Carney, Sean O’Mahony and Thomas Appleby for their quality performances.

The evening was a celebration of the partnership between students, parents, teachers and the local community. The achievements of the students are a product of the commitment of all the school community; teachers, students and parents and a testimony to the quality of co-operation, dedication and enthusiasm that has become the hall mark of the school. In particular, the Board of Management award for Citizenship to Richard Raftery, the Student Council award to Jacy Ybanez and the Community Service award to Aodan Farrelly focused attention on the generosity of spirit of these young people in serving their communities. Cathal O’Donnell won the Arts and Humanities award and Mark O’Donoghue got an award for excellent attendance.

The evening concluded with the presentation of the main awards which focus on leadership in the school and acknowledge a group of students who have been role models for their peers and set a standard of achievement and endeavour. The main award winners were:

- Sports Person of the Year: **Jack Barry**
- The Board of Management Award for Citizenship: **Richard Raftery**
- The Principal’s Award for contribution to the life of the school: **Triona Clerkin**
- The Catherine McAuley Award for leadership in the Christian tradition: **Daniel Piersie**



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YSI

Ten creative and innovative young students from Transition Year became The Little Miss Fluoride Fighters as part of their Youth Social Innovator programme for 2012-2013. The girls willingly took the baton from last year's group, Would You Pay For Poison, to continue to raise awareness about the fluoridation chemicals used in Irish water.

This group decided to adopt a more novel and innovative approach as they sought to educate the public about an issue that affects everyone. Having received funds from the YSI den of over a thousand euro the students went to schools in Kerry, Cork, Limerick and Dublin to educate students about the health impact of fluoride. They used a puppet show that incorporated humour, along with scientific facts, to engage and to inform the students.

Local newspapers such as the Kerryman and Kerry's Eye covered their exploits throughout the year. On a national level their project was mentioned in Hot Press magazine which ran a series of articles on water fluoridation in Ireland. The girls received support from Senator Mark Daly and Senator David Norris. Their campaign was endorsed by celebrity cook Rachael Allen and singers Paddy Casey and Christy Moore. Elisha Buckley met with Christy Moore in Vicker Street where she showed him some short clips from the videos she had created for the project.

At the showcase of the YSI, The Little Miss Fluoride Fighters won first prize for their step up project. Their work was highly commended for its originality and creativity. Their Trojan work has made an impact on a political level. On the day of the YSI competition the girls received news that a bill was to be put forward in the Dail to cease water fluoridation. Although this bill has yet to be voted upon, the students were pleased to know that their democratic voice was at least being heard.

On an international level the students' work has been applauded by other fluoride free groups in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. There is now a group of Little Miss Fluoride Fighters in America who have emulated their ideas. The students have had a busy year during which they learned the importance of teamwork, the power of diligence and the necessity of perseverance. Their dream is for Ireland to step in line with the 98% of Europe who have either banned or rejected water fluoridation.

Five students from Mercy Mounthawk were invited to the home of singer and songwriter Paddy Casey to record a song for their YSI project. Students Nicole Leahy, Nicole Maloney, Tadhg Connelly, Michelle Quinlan and Richard Horgan recorded a song with Paddy Casey. Paddy was also very impressed with Tadhg Connelly and Richard Horgan. Richard was given the opportunity to perform one of his rap songs with Paddy who said he was a talented young man. The CD will be ready for September.



2012 Scholarship Winners



James O'Connell
N.U.I. Galway, Excellent Scholarship studying Engineering



Donncha Macgarry
N.U.I. Galway, Excellent Scholarship, studying Mathematical Science



Amy Dinan
St Patrick's, Thurles, Entrance Scholarship studying Arts / Concurrent teaching



Aisling Shalvey
N.U.I. Maynooth, Entrance Scholarship studying Arts



Christene Mullins
Trinity College, Reid Scholarship studying French and Computer Science



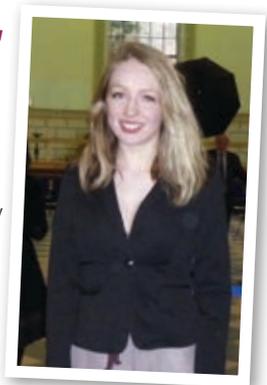
Ben Dennison
U.C.C. Entrance Scholarship, studying Mathematical Science



P.J. Galvin
U.L. Exhibition Scholarship, studying Physiotherapy.

Foundation Scholar of Trinity

Eve O'Connor, Ballyroe, Tralee and former pupil of Mercy Mounthawk was named a Foundation Scholar of Trinity College Dublin on Trinity Monday at the college. The prestigious award goes to students who are selected on merit and they are given certain benefits during their time at college. At present "Schols" are awarded in all courses to students who show outstanding achievement in a set of non-compulsory exams that are taken in their Senior Freshman year. Currently there are 350 Scholars named each year, 70 of whom receive the title Foundation Scholar. This title is awarded to those who receive the highest academic results. During the award ceremony recently, Eve and her fellow Scholars attended a Garden Party at the Provost's house. A dinner was later held in the Dining Hall and the formal "swearing in" took place the following morning. Eve completed her Leaving Cert in 2012 when she received maximum points in the exam, an outstanding 7 A1 grades. We would like to congratulate Eve on her recent tremendous achievement and we wish her the very best in her future academic and working career.





Second Year School Tour to Madrid

The annual second year school tour left Tralee in the early hours of March 21st to travel via Dublin to Madrid, one of Spain's most popular destinations, renowned for its many cultural attractions.

As always, the tour, organised by Sr Bernadette, was a mix of education, culture and fun. Sr Bernadette's knowledge of the capital and surrounding areas meant that every day was packed full, not a minute was wasted as she timed every aspect of the trip with regimental precision. The Hotel Mediodia was very central to Museums, Parks and that very essential convenience store just around the corner (visited last thing each evening) to stock up with essential supplies! Students had the opportunity to visit the Reina Sophia Museum to view Picasso's masterpieces and the Prado Museum which features one of the world's finest collections of European art.

One of the main attractions for the students was the Real Madrid Stadium – Santiago Bernabeu where they had an opportunity to view their extensive collection of silverware and get their photos taken with their favourite (virtual) players!

The students had the privilege of visiting the Palacio Real – the official residence of Juan Carlos 1 of Spain. Now used for official ceremonies only, it is a beautiful baroque palace full of artworks and one of the largest European Palaces.

Outside Madrid, students visited Toledo, a very beautiful medieval town that was once the capital. It has the second largest cathedral in the world. Toledo is a UNESCO city and students enjoyed walking through its narrow cobbled streets. They visited Segovia where they saw the extraordinary Roman Aquaduct – a masterpiece of architecture, built in 1AD of unmortared granite and is still in working order today.

The huge Basilica at La Valle des los Caidos, built into the mountain and is the size of Croke Park was an impressive site. It is the burial place of General Franco and has a huge Cross overhead, dedicated to all who died during the Spanish Civil War. Students also paid a visit to El Escorial, another UNESCO site, situated 45km outside Madrid. This magnificent palace built by Philip II, is also a monastery and the burial place of Spain's royal family.

One day of the trip was devoted to Warner Brothers theme park. As it was the start of the season, the students had the park almost to themselves, ensuring direct access to all the rides.

No school tour would be complete without the 'shopping', and, presents, souvenirs and bargains were gathered at every opportunity. On the final day, students visited Retiro Park, an oasis of calm in the middle of the city, filled with beautiful sculpture and monuments. Here they basked in the spring sunshine while sampling some Chocolate con Churros before getting in some last minute shopping in Puerta del Sol as they headed for the airport and home.

All teachers who travelled would agree that the students were a credit to their parents and the school. Of course the trip to Madrid did not start on 21st March. Sr Bernadette began planning every detail several months before that date. A special thanks to Sr Bernadette and to all the teachers who travelled.



Student Grant Application 2012/2013

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) is the new single awarding authority for all new grant applications for the 2012/2013 academic year. If you are a new student or changing course you should apply to SUSI through the following website: www.studentfinance.ie

The student grant application system is an 'online application system' and is now open. If you think you are eligible for a student grant, you should apply for it as soon as possible. You do not have to wait until you receive an offer of a place through the CAO or a college in the case of PLC's. Only when your application has been completed in full and submitted to the grant-awarding authority can your eligibility be determined.

To assist all applicants there is a SUSI Support Desk which will provide extended opening hours for email queries at support@susi.cdvec.ie and telephone queries at 0761 08 7874.



TY 2012 2013



Transition Year end-of-year Awards and Showcase at Mercy Secondary School Mounthawk

On Thursday 23rd May, the Transition Years celebrated the end of their school year with their annual awards ceremony and showcase of work in the Ballyroe Heights Hotel. On the night the 112 T.Y.'s received awards in recognition of their outstanding work throughout the year. The pupils also presented a number of drama and musical pieces which they had been working on since the previous September. As well as entertainment provided by the students, each class exhibited stands of their academic and extracurricular achievements which were viewed by staff and parents and families of the pupils.

Some of the awards presented included Chinese (Nicole Leahy), Environment (Mark O'Connor, Lucas Cronin and Marcus O'Brien), Art (Aisling O'Sullivan), Drama (Seija Nevalainen), Christian leadership (Ciara O Sullivan, Sarah Cooper, Siobhan Breen), Peer tutoring (Stuart Dodd), Entrepreneurship (Colin Doody, Ciara Kelliher)

Twenty eight students received their bronze Gaisce awards on the night and it is hoped that these President's award winners will progress to the Silver Award next year. During the ceremony four students received Leadership and Student of the Year awards, for their outstanding effort and engagement with the programme as a whole. Elisha Buckley, Andrew McEllistrim, Niall Buckley and Maeve Lyons were presented with specially commissioned trophies in recognition of their leadership and their enormous contribution to what was a very busy and successful Transition Year.

At the start of the year, new programmes in Chinese, Environmental Studies and Learning to Learn were introduced. Computer graphics in the form of IT solid works, Engineering, Construction, Home Economics, Accounting, Economics, Drama, Computer programming and Art were offered to all students on a modular basis. Displays of the work in these subjects formed the backbone of the class stands on the night, the standard of which was second to none.

The year brought national recognition in the form of

- Category winners at the Young Social Innovators in City West for "Little Miss Fluoride Fighters".
- Overall biodiversity award winners at the Eco-Unesco Young Environmentalist Awards in the Mansion House for the group titled "Flutterby Butterfly"
- Two finalists, Ciara Kelliher and Colin Doody, in the Young Entrepreneur Programme.
- Three students, Sean Hurley, Maeve Lyons and Niall Buckley will represent Ireland at the International European Youth Parliament during the summer. This is a major achievement as only 10 are chosen from over a thousand entrants nationally.
- Ciara Kelliher was one of 20 finalists featured on Junior Dragons Den

The night in Ballyroe proved hugely entertaining with drama pieces by Henry Miller and Roald Dahl among others and musical interludes including rock, traditional and solo performances. A surprise hit on the night was Mounthawk's own version of One Direction which brought the house down at the start of the show.

Guest speaker on the night was local business woman Maeve Townsend who impressed with her speech about finding someone, in life, to be inspired by and to use that inspiration to drive forward to achieve success in school, college or the working world.

Parents and families on the night were treated to stories on the many aspects of Transition Year in Mounthawk including the many trips undertaken throughout the year. Some of these included, team building trips to Killarney and Cappanalea, the two day overnight adventure challenge on the Dingle Way, trips to Cork and Dublin as part of Eco-Unesco and Young Social Innovators, a day outing to Co. Clare as part of Ms. Stella O Shea's Tourism studies, a trip at Christmas time to go ice skating in Cork, Irish themed trips to Dingle and Sleah Head for Seachtain na Gaeilge, where the students also visited the aquarium and the indoor climbing wall.

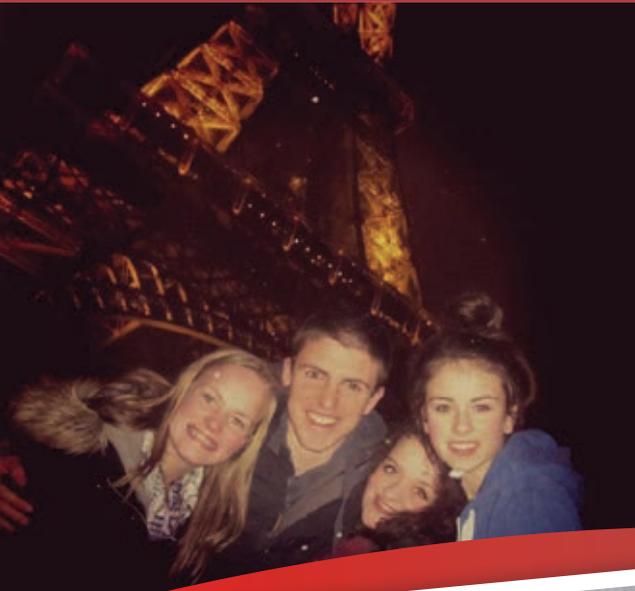
Of course none of the 98 who travelled to northern Italy will forget that journey of a lifetime where they visited Florence and saw Michaelangelo's David in the Academia. The day in Venice where they witnessed the sights and sounds of the Carnivale was truly wonderful and the scenery in and around lake Garda and especially Mount Baldo, where many went tobogganing, was utterly spellbinding.

Congratulations to all 112 students who contributed to this year's programme.

H.S.E. Notice

The Health Service Executive will be in Mercy Mounthawk to distribute the HPV vaccination to all girls in 1st year and 6th year on the following dates:

- 1st dose: Wednesday 25th September 2013
- 2nd dose: Wednesday 27th November 2013
- 3rd dose: Wednesday 26th March 2014





1st Year Ladies Football

This year saw a huge interest in ladies football in Mercy Mounthawk with over 20 first years involved in the first year team. The team had many challenge matches this year and these games gave the girls the opportunity to display the huge amount of skill and talent that they possess. The girls took part in the Kerry County Fun Blitz in Castleisland in March and although the weather proved abysmal the girls played on with great determination. They also took part in the Munster Council Blitz in Mallow in May. Although not bringing home any silverware on the day the girls further proved that there will be a very strong Junior ladies football team in Mounthawk in the coming years. The team is coached by Ms. Flanagan. This year Transition Year students Sarah Cooper, Siobhan Breen, Blaithin Griffin and 5th year student Vicky Stone helped train the 1st year girls and they proved to be great role models for them.



1st Year Ladies at the Munster Ladies Football Blitz in Mallow.

Kerry Colleges 2nd Year Soccer Tournament

Mounthawk again brought home silverware in a closely fought tournament of Kerry teams. With 12 teams vying for the prizes, Mounthawk proved victorious in both the Cup and the Shield competitions.



Captain of the Cup winning team, Emmanuel Abubakar, was assisted greatly by Ferdia O'Brien who was named MVP of the tournament and finished top goal-scorer with an amazing 16 goals in 6 games.

The Shield winning team also had some stellar displays, including winger Eamon Sheehy and their top goal-scorer Bobby O'Regan who finished on 12 goals. An enjoyable day was had by all and the future of Mounthawk soccer looks bright for years to come.

Athletics TRACK & FIELD

Mounthawk's athletics team enjoyed tremendous success at the Aviva Munster Schools Track and Field competition which took place on Saturday the 18th May at Cork Institute of Technology. At the event the athletes took home 3 gold medals, 21 silver medals and 2 bronze medals and won two overall group titles with Mounthawk Minor Girls and Senior Boys teams being named as the best in Munster.



The students excelled in several disciplines winning gold in the sprint, triple jump and long jump events. Rachael Bowler won gold for the long jump with a jump of 5.08m, Eoin O Carroll won gold in the 100m sprint with a time of 11.18 and Michael Grimes won gold in the triple jump with a jump of 12.37m.

Seventeen of the athletes went on to represent the school in the All-Ireland schools athletics championships which took place on Saturday the 1st June in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Competition was immeasurably tough on the day with fourteen new records achieved across numerous events. All students performed very well on the day, in particular Eoghan Courtney who won silver in the 400m Hurdles.





U-15 Boys Football *Mr. Fell*



Success is never easy, especially when it comes to colleges Gaelic Football, so when the u15 footballers of Mounthawk started their campaign in the Corn na Banndan Munster B, little did they realise the success they were going to achieve. The fast-flowing-attacking-style football Mounthawk played has enhanced the school's reputation as one of the premier schools in Gaelic Football within Munster, and the tradition is starting to build.

The game that much defined the season was played in Templenoe where Mounthawk beat a Skibereen side by two points, after a hard fought battle. Next they travelled to Rathkeale to play Abbey CBS from Tipperary. This game was in the melting pot up to the last kick. The game went to extra time and after that Mounthawk kicked on and won by four points. This was where Mounthawk found their feet and established their position as contenders for the CNB as was proven in the Munster Semi Final when they easily overcame Castletroy by 12 points.

On November 29 Mounthawk travelled to Rathmore to play Glanmire in a Munster Final. The day was bad but the football was good. Even in these conditions Mounthawk started well and got off to a flyer leaving Glanmire 6 points down after 20 minutes but like the weather it started to change and Glanmire brought it back to a two point game before half time and then after the half surged to a 3 point lead. But Mounthawk recovered scoring a couple of goals and a brace of points. Glanmire continued to push forward and trimmed the deficit to two but to no avail. Mounthawk created history to be the first team within the school to win a Munster B Gaelic Football Competition on a scoreline of Mounthawk 4 - 7 to Glanmire 3 - 8. This was achieved through hard work, passion, talent and team spirit.

The u15's did not rest on their laurels as they were also involved in a Russell Cup Kerry A competition in which they reached the final but this shows how far Mounthawk have come throughout the footballing year as they started off in September and were still playing football in May. In the final Mounthawk were playing a St. Brendans side who had won the Munster A under 15 Moran Cup, but with 10 minutes to go the difference was a point and Mounthawk were playing with 14 players. The dream did not materialise and Mounthawk were beaten, success is never easy. In this competition Mounthawk have proven that they are every bit as good as the top teams in the province and sooner rather than later A titles will be won by the tradition makers.

A special mention to all the panel members who kept the players focused through training and matches knowing that if injuries occurred somebody else would take up the challenge. 38 panel members played a major role in Mounthawk achieving its goal. The school would like to say thank you to each and every one who wore the colours with pride.

The players would like to thank the principal Mr. O Roarke, the management and teaching staff for their patience and support through the school year. To Buddy O'Grady-a true driving force of GAA in Mounthawk and finally to Mr. Fell and Mr. Lally who coached and inspired the whole panel to a Corn na Banndan title and a Russell Cup Final. Without their drive none of this would have been possible.

Lastly, no players names were mentioned as the whole panel contributed throughout the year and everyone involved played his part.

The Rugby Year

By Mr. Fitzpatrick (coach)

It was a great year for rugby in the school, despite a slow start with the u-19s losing their first match in the Munster Cup when they should have won handsomely. They were then narrowly beaten in the plate away to a strong St. Clements side on an extremely boggy pitch which took away the team's greatest strength – their pace.

However, the u-16s enjoyed a better start, playing a strong Crosshaven team twice after a walkover from Killarney. Having drawn the first game by conceding a try under the posts in the last seconds of the first game, they went on to win convincingly in Cork. However, a disastrous first twenty minutes, in their next round, saw them quickly 33-0 down. The team showed astonishing character to come back and, with five minutes left, were only two points down with Donagh O'Buachalla scoring four tries, but just couldn't get another score.

Both teams had better luck in the West Munster's, the u-19s winning the cup with a convincing victory over Castleisland. Eoin O'Carroll was the difference with four tries showing his scintillating pace. However, the u-16s came up against a similar player, and couldn't win their final against a strong Newcastle West side. Despite losing seven first choice players for the final, they performed very well, only losing 24-10.

It was a very successful year with the first and second years doing well in their blitzes, and a school trip to the Ireland Fiji match was another highlight.



On a personal note, I'd like to thank Mr. Purtil and Ms. Ward for all the help and support with organising matches, training, and taking teams away. I'd especially like to thank Mr. Ed Barnes from Tralee Rugby Club. He is an excellent coach whom the students both like and respect, and he always makes himself available for coaching, trips and refereeing. Even though he's a Kiwi (!), he has a great sense of humour, and was a tremendous source of information, support and guidance this year and for the past few years too and I know the students appreciate his contribution to rugby in the school.





FIRST YEAR GIRLS

After a slow start the first year girls showed great potential in the closing stages of the league. They narrowly lost out to the county champions and all Ireland final runners up Castleisland community college by 1 point and to Abbeyfeale by 2 points. These narrow defeats did not dishearten the spirit of the first year ladies. They trained hard throughout the year and their work ethic payed off in the final game of the season in South Kerry. They emerged victorious against Coláiste na Sceilige after a fine team effort. Some of the players that worked hard throughout the league are Lauren Barrett, Nessa McGarty, Lauryn Griffin, Rebecca Ryan, Deborah Mangan, Rachel McEniry and Hannah Lenihan.

As the season progressed the first year girls travelled to the University of Limerick to join 31 other teams from around the country in the All Ireland Finals. Here Mounthawk defeated the Dublin runners up which gave them a great boost going into the final 2 group games against Cork's Christ the King and local rivals Abbeyfeale. The girls narrowly lost to the cork side by 3 points and unfortunately ran out of steam against Abbeyfeale in their last match where they were well beaten. The results of the first day meant that the Mounthawk first year girls basketball team would now enter the plate competition the following day in UL. Luckily, we received a "by" in the quarter finals and were fresh for the All Ireland plate semi final. The girls played excellently here and progressed to the plate final against our near neighbours Presentation Castleisland. Here we battled through a hard fought game but at the final buzzer we were down 2 points on a score line of 34-32.

Congratulations to all players that took part, they displayed great potential for the future which was clearly reflected in the narrow defeats we encountered. The first year team included Meabh Buckley, Rachel McEniry, Lauryn Griffin, Lauren Barrett, Rebecca Ryan, Lauren Murphy, Katie Daly, Nessa McGarty, Deborah Mangan, Fadzai Mujororo, Shannon Hanbridge, Charlotte Murphy, Hannah Lenihan and Megan O'Donnell.

Girls Basketball

Ms A. Brosnan

SECOND YEAR GIRLS

Second year girls competed in the South west Kerry region league and unfortunately did not qualify for the playoffs. They will be hoping to make a come back in September with the addition of Catriona Collins and Coaimhe Barry Walsh to their team who are still underage.

CADETTES

The cadette girls had a fantastic year with some very talented basketballers amongst them. They were led by Aoife Crowley and Irish international Courtney Ryan. The cadettes made it to the all Ireland cup final which was played in the national basketball arena in Tallaght. Unfortunately our hearts were broken when Christ the King from Cork emerged victorious. Hard luck to all involved and best of luck for next year.



SENIOR GIRLS

The senior girls also had a fantastic year and fought hard in the league and cup competitions. They had a great run in the Kerry league and progressed to the all Ireland play offs but were eventually beaten in the all Ireland league quarter final and the cup competition by local rivals Abbeyfeale. The senior girls were lead by Deirdre o'Shea, Clare Brennan, Karina Quilter, Oonagh O'Mahoney and Irish international Laura Rodgers.

Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards

Daniel Piers, 6th year, was one of 20 finalists in the Pramerica Awards Programme, selected from post primary schools in Ireland and Northern Ireland who were judged on their motivation, service, impact, sustainability, commitment and personal challenge. Daniel raises money for various charities, volunteers with Special Olympics and Down Syndrome Ireland, visits the elderly in a local nursing home, organises ice-cream fun-day at school and cycles the Ring of Kerry Cycle for charity. These students who have contributed greatly to their communities were honoured at a Gala Dinner at Lyrath Estate Hotel last March, and each received €500 and an engraved silver medallion.

One of the judges was Nobel Laureate John Hume who said the finalists 'were a credit to their communities. Their sheer determination and selflessness help make the world a better place. They are the future leaders in our society and are a bench mark for other young people. They are simply an inspiration.' Mercy Mounthawk is very grateful for Daniel's contribution to our community and to the wider community.



Basketball Report

USA

This year for the first time a boys team travelled to Boston to play 4 games in a tournament in Boston. The boys did very well winning two out of four games. Some of the players were lucky enough to be interviewed for local radio stations during the trip.

The boys also made history becoming the first Irish team to play and win on the basketball hall of fame court. The boys also got to see the Boston Celtics play and got to get into their shoot around. It was a magical trip for all the boys and they gained greatly from the experience.

Boys under 19

The U-19 team created history this year winning the South West A senior trophy for the first time in school history beating old rivals Castleisland emphatically by 30 points in Mounthawk school gym. This team was all about setting standards this year also being the first team in school history along with the u-16 team to reach the All Ireland schools Cup semi-final where they were narrowly defeated by school powerhouse St Malachy's, Belfast who went on to win the competition.

Under 16

The U-16 Boys had a great season also reaching the All Ireland semi-final to St Malachy's, Belfast. In the southwest tournament the boys got to the final and were narrowly defeated by St Pat's in the final in Castleisland. This all holds well for the future with the boys moving up to seniority next year and joining forces with the already established senior team.

2nd year

The 2nd year team had a tremendous year reaching the final round of the all-Ireland playoffs which were played in Cork. They lost by two points in the All-Ireland quarter final. Big things will be seen in the near future by such a young team.

1st years

The 1st years had another good year with some great talent joining the basketball elite of the school. They finished 4th overall after some terrible injuries but the boys battled on and were narrowly defeated by Killarney in a bid to get to the All-Ireland playoffs. However the team knows continued work over the summer will reap rewards.

Mounthawk on the move!

Mercy Mounthawk was delighted to host its inaugural 5k challenge Tuesday 8th May. Almost 700 pupils, staff and parents completed the 5k. Participants could run, jog or walk the distance and the glorious weather on the day ensured that numbers were high. Members of an Garda Síochána cordoned off some of the route to ensure safe passage and the help of parents and staff alike ensured everybody remained safe on our roads.

Emphasis on the event was on participation and organisers were keen to express that this was not a race. This event was aimed more at the sedentary pupils who may not have enough exercise in their daily lives. It is hoped that by completing 5k and experiencing the pleasures of walking or jogging, many of these pupils may make lifestyle changes to become more fit. Training took place in the school twice a week in the buildup to the event to help pupils ready themselves. It is envisaged that "Mounthawk on the Move" will become an annual event and the aim for next year is to increase the numbers taking part to 1000. We thank the P.E. department, Mr. Costello, Mr. O'Shea, Ms. Stokes and Ms. Brosnan for organising the route and Mr. Dowling, Sr. Bernadette and Mary Savage for leading the walk.

School Extension Fundraising



Our fund raising efforts got off to a great start this year with two major events greatly supported by the school community. The Night at the Dogs was a great success. This was due in no small part to the students, parents and teachers who gave of their free time in the evenings to go out selling tickets for the event. The night provided entertainment for both young and old with bouncy castles, face painting and novelty races. Congratulations to Avril Fitzgerald, Ballyroe who was the winner of the Buster ticket draw (€500). The winners of the door prizes were Ben Smith, Mounthawk (€100), Tommy Curtin, St. Brendan's Park and Teresa Keating, Oakpark (€50 each)

The Golf Classic in Castleisland was also well supported in May. Despite the bad weather prior to the event, it was a most enjoyable day. They say 'the devil is in the detail' and in this case the trio of Mary Savage, John Dowling and Antoinette Sayers attended to every detail to make the day a success from the fantastic prizes to the gourmet hospitality tent to the goody bags they all took home.

The results of Golf Classic were as follows:

Overall Winners: John Dowling (18), Michael Meehan, Cian Hussey, Steve Neillings – 96 pts

Best Men: Ed O'Brien (15), Pat King (8), Paddy O'Driscoll (16) Tommy King (18) -91 pts

Best Ladies: Marie Mackie (10), Rose Mackey (21), Donna Roche (28), Kathleen Finnegan (14)- 83 pts

Best Mixed: John Rowan (9), Alana Rowan (26) Tom Moriarty (11), Joe Mulcahy (9)

Heartfelt thanks to the generous sponsors for both occasions and also to the organising committee consisting of Rose Daly, Richard O'Halloran, Helen Cronin, Tadhg Cronin, Marie Ward Harnett, Richard Hurley, George Philips, John O'Shea, Paddy Garvey, Tony Behan, Lyndsey Moriarty, Siobhan Stokes, John Dowling, Mary Savage and John O'Roarke.

Soroptimist Public Speaking

Soroptimist International is a worldwide service organisation for women. They are committed to a world where women and girls work together to achieve their individual and collective potential, realize aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide. Each year they hold a public speaking competition for girls in secondary school. This year, Elisha Buckley, Ciara Kelliher and Maeve Lyons represented Mounthawk in the local heats of the competition.

Maeve Lyons progressed to the regional heats in which she had to prepare and deliver a six minute speech. She was also given two minutes to prepare and deliver a two minute impromptu speech on a particular topic that she would not have seen before. Fortunately for Maeve and Mounthawk, Maeve won and progressed to the national finals in Cork. This time, Maeve had to speak for six minutes on the topic 'I know what I like'. Unfortunately, Maeve was narrowly beaten but did herself and the school proud. Maeve described the competition as a 'fantastic and positive learning experience'

OUTLINE CALENDAR 2013/2014



THESE ARE LAST YEARS DATES???

SCHOOL RE-OPENING DATES:

Monday 27th August
Tuesday 28th August

Wednesday 29th August
Thursday 30th August
Friday 31st August
Monday 3rd September

Staff Meeting
1st year students begin school
Teacher/Subject department meetings
3rd and 6th year, LCA2 students return
2nd year students return (school for 1st 3rd and 6th year)
5th year students return (school for 1st,2nd ,3rd ,6th year)
Transition year students return

HOLIDAYS

October Mid-Term
Christmas Holidays
Spring Mid-Term
St. Patrick's Day
Easter Holidays
Summer Holidays

Closing Friday 26th October. Reopen Monday 5th November
Closing Friday 21st December. Reopen Monday 7th January
Closing Friday 8th February. Reopen Monday 18th February
Closed Monday 18th March
Closing Friday 22nd March. Reopen Monday 8th April
Closing Friday 31st May

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 20th /Tuesday 21st August
Wednesday 12th September
Wednesday 19th September
Monday 24th September
Monday 8th October
Wednesday 10th October
Thursday 25th October
Friday 9th November
Saturday 10th November
19th -23 November
Wednesday 21st November
Tuesday 27th November
Thursday 6th December
Wednesday 12th December
Thursday 17th January
Thursday 24th January
Tuesday 29th January
Wed 30th Jan-Friday 11th February
January (dates to be decided)
Friday 1st February
Tuesday 5th February
Friday 22nd February
Saturday 23rd February
Wednesday 6th March
March 11th - 15th
Wednesday 20th March
April 8th-12th
Wednesday 8th May
3.45-6.15
Wednesday 15th May
Thursday 16th May
Thursday 23 May
Friday 24th May
Church of Our Lady and St Brendan 2p.m.
Week of May 27th
years. Summer exams for 1st /2nd and 5th years

Gemma's Uniforms in school. 9.30-5 p.m.
Talk for parent of students in Transition year
Talk for parents of 1st years
Mercy Day
Subject Department meetings 3.45-6.15
AGM of Parents Council, 8 p.m.
Transition Year Parent-Teacher Meeting 4.15-6.45
Staff/Subject Department meetings 3.45-6.15
Open Day
Health Promotion Week
6th year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15-6.45
3rd year Parent-teacher meeting 4.15-6.45
Staff meeting 3.45-6.15
Evening Carol service in the church of Our Lady and St. Brendan
Senior Cycle Options talk for parents of 3rd year / T.Y students.,
5th year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15-3.45
2nd year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15-6.45
Mock exams for 3rd and 6th years
Play in Siamsa Tire (school production)
Transition year tour
1st year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15.6.45
Meeting for parents of 1st year students re 2nd year subject choices.
Admissions Day
Staff meeting 3.45-6.15
Seachtain na Gaeilge
Staff / Subject Department meetings 3.45-6.15
Health Promotion Week
Staff / Subject department Meetings

Awards Night
Staff Meeting 3.45-6.15
Transition Year Night
6th Year Graduation Mass in

Block study for 3rd /6th

DATES FOR PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

 All meeting are from

4.15p.m. - 6.45p.m.
Thursday 25th October
Teacher Meeting
Wednesday 21st November
meeting

Transition Year Parent-
Teacher Meeting
6th year Parent-Teacher

Gemma's Uniforms

061 410344 / 087 9441949

Gemma's, the official suppliers of the school uniform, will be in the school from 9.30a.m. to 5.00p.m. on

Thursday 8th August for 1st year students
Friday 9th August for all other students
Wednesday 21st August for ALL students

There will be a large supply of stock available on both days. Uniforms may also be purchased at any time, at Gemma's, 111 Lower Henry Street, Limerick