



MERCY MOUNTHAWK

MEÁNSCOIL NA TRÓCAIRE CNOC AN TSEABHAIC

Mounthawk Athletics Team



Winners of the President's Shield
All Ireland Runner up



Minor A All Ireland Basketball Champions 2011

SUMMER BULLETIN

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2011



Appreciation and thankfulness...

We end our year centring on the 'Caring Community'. As you are aware, we have engaged with the Kerry Jigsaw project through which the students and staff were surveyed in relation to their experience in the school. Preliminary results have been returned and they are giving us a basis on which to evaluate the 'caring' aspect of our community in the school.

Based on this feedback, we are planning to introduce a number of initiatives next year. In the area of discipline, we will be introducing 'restorative practices' as an intervention. This approach is very much tied into the Catholic ethos of the school in that the core belief of this process is that a disciplinary intervention is primarily to help students grow in their own sense of responsibility and to heal broken relationships in the school community, rather than just to enforce a consequence for an action. There is care here for the person who has done wrong, and most certainly for the person who has been wronged.

A second initiative will be in relation to the pastoral care of students. As we emphasised this year, a sense of community where we look out for each other is a central feature of the school. To strengthen this experience of community for students, we will be establishing base groups of four students in each class group. We intend to begin in 1st and 2nd year. The intention here is to support the connection between students so that the members of the base group look out for each other. We want to ensure that every student in the school has a person to turn to if in need. In biblical terms, I am my brother's keeper, or in the words of the Irish saying 'Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine'.

And indeed on this point of relying on each other in our school community, I want to thank all the parents who have given generously of their time to the Parents' council and who have volunteered to accompany teams, to run paired reading, maths for fun, book and uniform schemes, parenting courses, debating workshops, community mentoring and the homework club. This is the vitality and generosity of spirit that marks the community in Mounthawk and has a huge impact on the quality of formation of students in the school. To parents new to the school, I invite you get involved actively with us in the school community.

Next year we celebrate 10 years in Mercy Mounthawk. The Board of Management, with the Parents' Council, are planning events for the year starting with a Family Garden Fête on September 25th. I look forward to seeing a great turn out on the day.

This 10 year anniversary is a milestone and provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the fundamental aims of the school. We, the staff, are in partnership with you, the parents, in forming the young people of tomorrow in the Catholic tradition in this school. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on what that might mean. Are we clear on the type of formation that we are undertaking with our young people? I invite you to join with us, next year in revisiting and redefining the formation process we are undertaking in this school. This will be our theme for the coming anniversary year. Till September, I wish you and your families a relaxing and refreshing summer...

John O'Roarke
(Principal)



ENROLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

Enrolment for September 2012 will open at 9.15a.m. on the 1st Monday of September 2011 (Monday 5th) and will close at 2.00p.m. on Saturday 12th November 2011.

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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Irish Science Olympiad

Donnadha McGarry represented the school in the Irish Science Olympiad in Dublin City University in November. Donnadha, a fifth year student beat off intense pressure and won a bronze All-Ireland medal at the event. Donnadha is a member of the winning I.S.T.A quiz team who represented the school.

I.S.T.A. Junior Science Quiz

39 teams from 11 schools all over the county took part in the ISTA quiz this year. Head of Life Sciences IT Tralee, Dr. Noel Mulligan, who was acting Quizmaster on the night said the scoring was exceptionally high with very little separating a number of teams on the score sheet up to the final round. This year's winning team from Mounthawk for the third year in a row was Kate Boyd, Michael Grimes, Conor O'Mahony and Cormac Leen scoring 61 out of 64 questions correctly.

Scifest

SCIENCE students from all over Kerry displayed their prowess at the annual SciFest Science and Technology Fair in IT Tralee on Tuesday 10th May. 1st year students Billy Donovan and Gavin Connolly received Highly Commended awards for their project "Poo's the best?" a project which analysed whether the concentration of fertiliser, the type of fertiliser and type of plant being investigated, influenced the result.

Science Teams



Three teams represented Mounthawk in the regionals of the Irish science teachers' senior science quiz. Eve O'Connor, Brian Sheehy and John Prendergast qualified to represent the region in the All-Irelands in Trinity College. Diarmuid McGarry, Strahinje Grubjesic, Ryan Higgins, Doroteja Bogdanovic, Sarah Walsh and Katie Healy also participated. The quiz was held in the IT Tralee on the 11th of November 2010.

I.M.T.A. First year maths Quiz 2011

A total of 40 first year students from the school took part in the Irish Maths Teachers' Association (IMTA) quiz held in the school. Mr Lyne coordinated the event with the help of the first year teachers. It was the third year of the event and there were lots of very high scores. Seán Dowling 1.4 achieved the highest score from the school and was called to represent the school and participate in the National round. He did fantastically well and from over 4000 students, from 128 schools that took part in the preliminary round, his score was well above the National average. Well done to him and his teacher Ms Reidy. Séan was presented with the first year maths award in recognition of his achievement.



The Mounthawk Choir

On the 31st March, the Mounthawk choir performed at a mass for all the Kerry AMCSS/JMB conference in Fossa Church, Killarney. We were delighted to be asked to sing at this mass. The Bishop celebrated the mass. The choir performed very well and we received many compliments. After the mass, we went to the Hotel Europe and we were treated to five star burgers and chips!

When we initially discovered that we would be singing at the mass, we began rehearsing very hard. Our choir teacher's Ms. Glancy, Ms. Martina Egan and our principal, Mr. O'Roarke, worked very hard with us. Our rehearsing increased from three forty-five minute sessions a week to at least one hour a day. We had a lot of songs to prepare for the mass but we were also preparing for the Cork Choral Festival. This competition took place the day after the mass.

On the 1st April, the choir left for our competition in Cork at 6am. The competition was held in Collins Barracks. We were the third choir to perform and we gave our best performance. The Mounthawk school choir came third in the region and our conductor, Ms. Glancy, received a certificate.

While we were at the barracks, we were shown some of the military bomb disposal technology. The "HOB0" is a bomb disposal robot that is operated by remote control. It has an extendable robotic arm and four cameras. It has a shotgun with a laser aim in case a locked door needs to be opened.

We returned to school at 4pm and we vowed to win the competition next year. The day was a great success. Teachers and students all had a terrific time and we cannot wait until next year.

The choir performed at the sixth year Graduation Mass at the end of the year, it was an inspiring and uplifting performance. We invite incoming students in September 2011 to join the choir.

Enda Sugrue



All Ireland Finalists

Díospóireacht Ghael Linn

Thugamar faoi chomórtas díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh le fonn sa scoil arís i mbliana. Cuireadh tús leis an obair ar an gcúigiú lá déag de Mheán Fómhair nuair a ritheadh réam bhabhtaí sa scoil chun foireann a phiocadh. Bhí caighdeán na n-iomaitheoirí thar na bearta agus bhí sé ag dul dian ar an bhfoireann traenála Sr. Joan agus Caitlín Ní Dhubhda na hiomaitheoirí a dheighilt. I ndeireadh na dála roghnaíodh Kelly Ní Bhrosnacháin mar chaptaein, Laura Ní Chearúil agus Cáit Ní Bhaoidé.

Ceithre foireann a bhíonn ag díospóireacht i ngach babhta, agus tagann dhá foireann as gach babhta roimh an Chraobh Réigiúnach. Ba ar Óstan Ghobnatan I mBaile Bhúirne a bhí ár dtrial don chéad babhta ar an gcúigiú lá déag de Shamhain. "Tá déagóirí na linne seo ina sclábhaithe ag an idirlíon" an rún a bhí á phlé. Bhí trí scoil eile ag díospóireacht in ár dteannta. Ba iad sin; Coláiste Rossa as An Sciobairín, Ardscoil Uí Urmholtaigh, Droichead na mBandan agus An Scoil Idirmhéanach, Cill Orglan. Rinne ár bhfoireann éacht ag moladh an rúin agus sheolamar féin mar aon leis an Scoil Idirmhéanach tríd an gcéad babhta.

Ar aghaidh linn go dtí an dara babhta a bhí ar siúl i dTigh Ósta an Chaisleáin, i Maigh Chromtha ar an 19ú Eanáir. "Tuileann imreoirí sacair a gcuid airgid" an rún a bhí faoin ár mbráid an babhta seo. Bhíomar i bhfabhar an rúin. Ba iad An Scoil Idirmhéanach, Cill Orglan, Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear, agus Coláiste na Toirbhirte, An Mhairdióg na foirne eile a bhí in adharca a chéile ar an lá. I ndeireadh na dála ba againn féin agus ag muintir na Mairdioga a bhí an bua.

Faoin dtráth seo bhíomar tagtha chomh fada leis an gCraobh Réigiúnach a reáchtáladh ar an 28ú Feabhra in Óstan an South Court i Luimneach. Bhí díospóireacht bhríomhar idir na foirne ar an ábhar "Is miotas é cairdiúlacht mhuintir na hÉireann". Bhíomar féin i gcoinne an rúin agus an focal deireanach againn ar an ábhar.

You are invited to attend the
**Mercy Mounthawk
Garden Fête
on Sunday
September 25th**
to celebrate our
10th Anniversary

'Siad Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear, Coláiste Pobail Naomh Eoin Bosco, Cill an Dísirt, Co. an Chláir, agus Coláiste Fhlanáin Naofa, Inis, Co. an Chláir a bhí ag argóint linn. Ní bhíonn ach foireann buacach amháin ar an gCraobh Réigiúnach agus is ábhar mórtais dúinne anseo sa scoil, gur sinne an foireann buacach i mbliana. An duais? Plaiceanna do bhaill na foirne, agus don scoil, mar aon le leath scoláireacht chuig coláiste samhraidh de chuid Ghael Linn, do gach ball ar an bhfoireann, agus áit i gcomórtas Chraobh na hÉireann. D'ardaigh sé ár gcroithe go hard na bhflaitheas, mar gurb é seo an chéad babhta ag an scoil dul chomh fada le Craobh na hÉireann.

Reáchtáladh Craobh na hÉireann in Óstan an Heritage i bPort Laoise ar an 31ú lá de Mhárta. Tráthúil go leor ba é an rún "Tá déagóirí na tíre seo beag bean ar na gcúlú eacnamaíochta" a bhí curtha ós comhair na n-iomaitheoirí agus ní bréag a rá go raibh dian iomaíocht idir na foirne go léir ar an ócáid speisialta seo; buaic phointe fhéilire Ghael Linn. Mar aon linn féin bhí Coláiste Iosaif Naofa, Leamhcán, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath, Coláiste Pobail Áth Luain, agus Meánscoil na Toirbhirte, Dúrlas, ag cur argóintí láidre ós comhair na moltóirí chun an ceann is fear a bheith acu féin. Faraor ní bhíonn ach buaiteoir amháin ar chraobh na hÉireann agus chuaigh an onóir sin go Dúrlas i mbliana. An méid sin ráite is údar mórtais dúinn anseo i gCnoc na tSeabhaic go rabhamar ar an gceithre foireann is fear sa tír as an gcéad ochtó foireann a chuir isteach ar an gcomórtas i dtús na bliana.

Muna gcuirfidh tú san earrach ní bhainfidh tú sa bhfómhar a deir an seanfhocal. Cuireadh tús



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2010

'Beatha-teanga í a labhairt', an Seanfhocalspreagúil a luaigh Ms.Caitlín Ní Dhubhda agus í ag seoladh Seachtain na Gaeilge ar an 11ú Márta. Ba liosta le h-áireamh h-imeachtaí uile a eagraíodh don tseachtain chun an Ghaeilge agus gnéithe eile d'ár gcultúr a chur chun cinn ar scoil, imeachtaí ar nó sCéilí, Comórtas t-léinte, Tráth na gCeist, Tóraíocht Taisce, Amhránaíocht is Ceol, chomh maith le ann pháirtíocht sa Chomórtas Náisiúnta Ealaíne. Thug an scríbhneoir Ré Ó Laighléis, Ceardlann Scríbhneoireachta don tríú bliain agus labhair Ristead Ó Fuaráin ó Ógras, Conradhna Gaeilge, leis an gcúigiú bliain.

Chuaigh gach rang Idirbhliana ar thuras lae go Gaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne. Faoi stiúir a múinteoirí is a dtreoraí, Seán Pól Ó Concubhair, bhain siad sásamh as cuairt ar an Dísarta Daingean, Ionad an Bhlascaoid, séipéil in Ghallaraí, agus Ceann Sléibhe, chomh maith le tréimhse beag spaisteoireachta i mbaile an Daingin. Reáchtáladh Comórtas Aiste bliantúil do dhaltá Ardteiste i gcuimhne ar Mháire Ní Ghéiní. Bronnadh Gradam Gaeilge 2011 ar an mbuaiteoir, Seán De Priondragás, dalta atá an-diograiseach i leith na teanga. Gan aon agó, tugadh tús áite don Ghaeilge sa scoil seo againne i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge. Gura fada buan í ár dteanga dúchais.



Ciara Finnerty Winner national 'Spirit of the Community' award



Creative Writing Club 2010-2011

"You can't wait for inspiration; you have to go after it with a club." - Jack London

In the school, we writers have taken our own interpretation of London's saying; we haven't bothered gathering blunt instruments but instead have gathered together to form the 2010/2011 Mounthawk Creative Writing Group. It is true what they say, there is strength in numbers. Under the watchful eye of Ms. Burke, the Creative Writing club started once again in September and since then, several students from all the six years stumbled in through the doors, notebooks in hand. This year, in conjunction with the Arts Office of Kerry County Council, we were lucky enough to gain some insight in the writing process from Anne Barrett who attended two of the Creative Writing sessions.

Practise, practise, practise - these are the only rules you must follow in the club, for you see we are only writers when we write. Over the years, the Creative Writing club has discovered that writing is a craft that requires both talent and acquired skills. Consequently, the club aims to learn by doing, by making mistakes and then seeing where we went wrong. You see, we are all in the same boat, so we help each other by reading, discussing, commenting and eventually enhancing each others' work. So, if you write anything yourself, whether it be short stories or poems or plays or even speeches, come along to the Creative Writing club and reap the rewards that await.

Health Promotion Week - March 7th-11th

Health Promotion Week for the Spring term was launched in Mercy Mounthawk on Thursday 10th March by Seamus Whitty, a facilitator with Kerry Life Education. The school's theme for the year is 'A Caring Community' and linking in with this, the theme chosen for the week was 'Minding self, Minding Others'. The Health Promotion Committee in the school comprising of teachers, students and parents and headed by Deputy Principal, Eileen Kennelly, organised a range of activities for the week as part of an on-going Health Promotion Strategy in Mounthawk. The week began with Seamus Whitty delivering his mental health programme to first year students. The programme, which has already proved a huge success with second year students, was supplemented by a parents' talk on Thursday night.

Ann O Riordan and Jim MacNeice from the Irish Heart Foundation also had a stand in the school on Wednesday and spoke to second year students on the importance of a balanced diet and exercise. They were then presented with a cheque from 'Jump Around', one of the school's Young Social Innovators groups.

Health Promotion Week was supported, as always, by the school canteen which offered healthy options for students at a reduced price. SPHE classes focused on positive psychology lessons and themes of social justice for the week.

One of the highlights of the week was the presentation of a national 'Spirit of the Community' award to fifth year student Ciara Finnerty for her outstanding work in the local community. The school is extremely proud of Ciara and her embodiment of the values that are at the very core of Ceist education.

It has always been our aim in Mercy Mounthawk to nurture in our students the importance of 'Minding Self, Minding Others'.



GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

Athletics

The All-Ireland athletics finals took place in Tullamore on a June bank-holiday weekend in glorious sunshine. Indeed, the day also proved an incredibly sunny one for the fortunes of Mercy Mounthawk's athletics team. They won the President's Shield, awarded to the second placed school in the country, losing out to the eventual winners Belvedere College, by a mere point.

Eoin O' Carroll emulated his performances of last year by winning both the Long Jump and the Triple Jump once again. P.J. Galvin won the senior boys' High Jump by jumping an impressive 1.95m on the day. Una Marley also went on to win the Intermediate girls' Pole Vault. A middle distance athlete with a bright future ahead of him is David Kavanagh who won silver in the U16 mile. Michael Godley won a bronze medal in the Senior boys' Long Jump as did Amy Phelan in the Senior Girls' Pole Vault. Matt Clancy narrowly missed out on a place on the winner's rostrum by coming in an impressive 4th place in the Intermediate boys Pole Vault. Kate Boyd competed in both the Intermediate girls Shot Putt and the Javelin coming in 5th and 7th place respectively. One newcomer to the discipline of the triple jump is Denis Cosgrove who achieved 8th place in the Junior Boys competition. The Intermediate Boys' relay team comprising of Eoghan Courtney, Michael Grimes, Fearghail O' Nuallain and Eoin O' Carroll came in a credible 6th place in the final. Well done to all those who competed at the All-Irelands and, indeed, to all members of the athletics team who participated in the various competitions throughout the year.

Judo



Munster Success for Mercy Mounthawk

Blustery winds and torrential rain greeted athletes at the 2011 Munster Colleges Track and Field competition held at the C.I.T. track in May. However, the wintry conditions did not deter eleven Mercy Mounthawk competitors who won medals on the day.

Having represented Ireland in the triple and long jump last year, Eoin O' Carroll once again achieved success by coming second in the long jump and winning the triple jump. David Kavanagh achieved the proverbial double by winning firstly the mile and then incredibly, the 800m in a time of 2.05. Eoghan Courtney won gold in both the 400m hurdles and the 110m hurdles at Intermediate level. A jump of 1.90m secured first place in the senior high jump for P.J. Galvin who went on to also win his 110m hurdle race later that day. Michael Godley not only achieved a personal best of 6.36 metres during his senior boys long jump competition, but won the event in the process. Later in the day Michael also achieved silver in the triple jump. Other gold medal performances by Mercy Mounthawk athletes on the day included: Amy Phelan in the pole vault (2.70m) and Una Marley in the pole vault (2.60m). Kate Boyd won two silver medals in the shot and javelin. Denis Cosgrove won silver in the junior boys' triple jump. Louise O' Connor ran a brave race to win bronze in the 300m hurdles as did Hannah Ryan in the 110m hurdles.

Madrid 2011 Tour

During the Easter holidays the second year school tour set off for Madrid and was relieved to find glorious sunshine for their trip to the Iberian Peninsula. As always the tour was mix of culture, fun and friendships. The forty three students and teachers visited the Prada Museum, the Royal Palace and sights outside Madrid at Escorial, De Los Caidos, and the high point of the tour for some was the trip to the Bernabeu Stadium. The trip ended with a very enjoyable visit to the Warner Brothers Theme Park.



Minor A All Ireland Basketball Champions 2011

On Saturday May 7th, the first year girls' and boys' teams left Mounthawk for the University of Limerick. The first game was against St. Joseph's Cluny. It started off well and Mounthawk won by over 20 points. The second game was against Taylor's Hill from Galway. This was a much tougher game. The team played aggressively and won.

Next team up was Presentation Tralee. Mounthawk dominated for most of this game. The match ended with a score of 28-19. After this win, Mounthawk advanced to the quarter finals against Castleisland Community College. Castleisland were very strong and played great defence, which forced the team to take outside shots. This was the toughest game yet but the team marched on to the semi-finals with a great win.

It was late afternoon when it was announced that Foxrock had qualified for the other quarter final and that they would be the next opponents. Foxrock were extremely fast and came within a basket of Mounthawk after scoring six points consecutively from fast breaks, but a fifth win for Mounthawk ensued an All Ireland Final lay ahead.

The opposition was Calasactius, Oranmore. Mounthawk had met this team in the final numerous times so the team knew it wouldn't be easy. The match got off to a great start but Oranmore crept back until the teams were level on 16-16 at half time. Going into the second half, it was neck and neck and three minutes into the last quarter, Mounthawk were down four points. The captain, Courtney Ryan, knew what her team had to do and, with two minutes on the clock, the teams were level again. The clock was ticking now and it was anyone's game. In the last minute, Mounthawk had a brilliant comeback and won the All Ireland Final 2011 by four points, leaving the final score at 26-22.



The team had wonderful support from parents, friends and especially the boys' team, who supported them through all the matches. It was a pity the boys lost that morning, by only a few points, to one of the strongest boys' teams in the tournament. A special thanks, from all the team, to the coaches Jimmy Diggins, John Dowling, Tomás O'Hanlon and Carmelita Ryan without whose support, commitment, time and energy, the team would not have made it so far.

All Ireland Girls' Cadet Basketball Final 2011 Silver Medal Winners

Training took place every Tuesday and Thursday from 4-6pm. It consisted of shooting, lay-ups, defences, offences and ball work.

We got off to a flying start in the cup but, unfortunately, our hopes of reaching the All-Ireland Final in this competition were dashed by the All Ireland champions, Brunnell. This match was our biggest test in the season. Our heads never dropped and we fought back hard in the league. We had to go through two playoffs to get to the All-Ireland. On Mounthawk grounds, we beat Abbeyfeale, Oughterard and St. Angela's. Our second playoff was in Tipperary T-own and we played Castleisland, Dingle and Oranmore. We won all three matches and went through to the All Ireland final which was held in Tallaght on the 23rd March against St. Vincent's Brunnell.

We got off to a slow start putting only three points on the scoreboard in the first quarter. At half time, we were trailing 24-14 but, in the second half, efforts from Deirdre O'Shea and Aoife Crowley brought the score to 38-22 going into the last quarter. Great play from Oonagh O'Sullivan and our press on Brunnell brought us back within reach with Clare Brennan and Laura Rogers driving the team on. A brilliant game ended in a devastating defeat, losing by one point: St. Vincent's 42, Mounthawk 41.

We would like to thank all the supporters who travelled with us to Tallaght and our coaches for a great year.

1st Year Boys Basketball Regional Champions

The 1st year boys won all their league games in the South West Region. They won the Regional final for the first time in five years. They beat Kenmare in the final in Mounthawk by 4 point in a nailbiting encounter. Sean Herrick accepted the trophy on behalf of the team. In the All - Ireland series they defeated Newbridge and Colaiste Énna from Dublin and then qualified for the All Ireland quarter final. Dublin team St. Fintans played really well to beat us by 8 points, Keelan Crowe and Gary Fernane were impressive in this game. We look forward to improving on our All Ireland performance next year.

John Dowling



ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS 2011

First Year Girls' Basketball

Team: Orla Sheehy, Caoimhe Barry Walsh, Sadhbh Walsh, Christine O'Sullivan, Caitriona Collins, Courtney Ryan (Captain), Orlaith Casey, Jenny Fitzgerald, Fiona Kavanagh, Alisha Finnerty, Edel Slattery, Sophie Browne, Ellen O'Brien.
Coaches: Mr. O'Hanlon, Mr. Diggins & Mrs Ryan.

Mounthawk's Soccer Season U-14 Soccer

This year saw Mounthawk compete at U-14 soccer for the first time. Training took place twice a week and a panel of 30 was chosen from a vast number of trialists. An early season friendly game was played against Killarney Community College where Mounthawk were victorious 3-1 with Seán Ryan and Seán Dukes dominating. A further challenge match against a 3rd year XI resulted in a 2-2 draw, which was an excellent result considering the age difference.

We then competed in the Munster Division of an All-Ireland tournament where we faced a very strong Tarbert side. Despite going down 3-0, Mounthawk has set a solid foundation for future endeavours and with player development continuing with the first years, we hope to lay a solid foundation for the future.

A recent U-14 6-a-side competition took place in The Complex in Tralee where 6 schools competed. Mounthawk had a very successful day, winning the Shield with a team captained by Des McCarthy and getting to the Semi Final of the Cup competition with a team captained by top scorer Seán Ryan. Some of those players who stood out all year were Rian O Connor, Seán Ryan, Seán Dukes, Thomas Phelan and Aidan Healy.

Ciaran Costello

Girls' Basketball

Senior Girls' All Ireland Bronze Medal Winners

Our girls were beaten in the southwest semi final by a single point to St Josephs Abbeyfeal but still qualified for the All-Ireland playoffs. In the first round victories over Skibereen and Mercy Waterford saw our girls progress to the next phase. A great win over Ornamore gave the girls a great chance of qualifying but a defeat to St Joseph's Abbeyfeale saw us narrowly lose out on score difference. However, the bronze medal was secured.

2nd year girls

Our 2nd year girls showed a huge improvement on last year to capture the Southwest title and reach the All Ireland semi final. In the Southwest league our girls defeated Pres Castleisland in the semi final and then defeated Pres Tralee by the narrowest of margins in a high quality final. In the first phase of the All-Ireland series the girls defeated Ballincollig and Sligo. They then qualified for the semi finals of the all Ireland's and play Loreto Beaufort of Dublin. Our girls struggled to find form in this match but a free throw in the last second saw the girls bring the game to over time. Unfortunately team fouls saw the girls lose some crucial players and the girls lost out 30 to 24.

Under 16 Boy's Football

The under 16 boys this year got to the Southwest regional final where they lost at Castleisland Community College by 2 points. They then went to the All-Ireland playoff where they finished 2nd but failed to qualify for the next stage.

First Year Futsal Kerry League & Munster League

Before Christmas, league competitions were held every Monday. The league consisted of eight teams and each team chose its own name. The best players to emerge from the class league were then selected by Ms. Quinlan to form a team and represent the school in the Kerry League. Twelve teams competed in four pools with the winners from each pool going on to the knock out semi-finals. The team competed in pool 1 against Intermediate School Killorglin and Killorglin Community College. In the first match, we had a great 3-1 victory over I.S.K. with Rory Hill and Cian McGarry scoring. In the second match, we beat K.C.C. with a goal from Rory Hill in extra time. We went on to beat Tarbet in a closely contested final.

After this win, we went on to the Munster finals in Nenagh. This competition was run as a round robin blitz and every county in Munster was represented. We played each team and won two matches, leaving us in third place. In the end, Limerick were victorious team.

School Rugby

First, second and third year training takes place after school on a Monday. We were trained by Mr.Lynch and Mr.Fitzpatrick. They were both accompanied by Mr. Ed Barnes, a Tralee coach, who also works with the I.T. and many other clubs. He is a great addition to the training session.The session consists of drills to improve skills and ends with a game. There has been one first and second year friendly blitz at O'Dowd Park Tralee where we were undefeated. The U16 rugby team train at lunch time where skills are worked on. The team were trained by Mr.Fitzpatrick and Mr.Horan. Preparation for the West Munster league was very important.

The team played three games. The first game was against Dingle where the team unfortunately lost but played a great game of rugby. The team's second game was against C.B.S. The Green where the team won 66 - 0. Lastly, the team played in the West Munster League Final against Abbeyfeale in Castleisland. The team was captained by Mark Walsh and won a 27-17 victory and became the U16 West Munster Plate Champions 2011.

Andrew McEllistrim



SUPERVISED EVENING STUDY

Supervised study is an option available to students.

We run two sessions:
4pm to 6pm for non-exam classes
4pm to 7pm for Leaving Cert classes

If interested, please contact the Administration office



1st year football

A huge interest was shown in the 1st year class league night up to Christmas 2010 with huge participation rates in all classes. The coaches were Buddy O Grady and Mr. Frank Fell. Two teams went to compete in the Kerry Colleges Blitz in Abbeyfeale last October- both teams receiving runners up medals, just piped in both finals.

The Kerry Colleges campaign began on February 20th when Mounthawk comprehensively defeated Kenmare in their opening game at home. This was followed up by a semi-final victory over Mallow in Farranfore where the team showed great skill and determination by claiming a resounding victory over an old enemy.

The final was played in Finuge on Friday 20th of May against Tarbert. Mounthawk were defeated by two points but put up a great display and can be very proud of their performance. A few players deserve special mention these include Pádraig Griffin (midfield), Jesse Lacey (wing forward) and Cian McGarry (centre forward). This was a very good first year team and I am sure that once they remain together at a group and committed to the sport, will have great success in the years to come.

Frank Fell





MOYNIHAN CUP WINNERS 2011

Senior Boys' Football 2010/2011

This year in Mounthawk was, once again, a successful year for the senior boys' football team with Mr. Bryan Costello and Mr. Diarmuid Murphy. We had a good season in the Munster competition with many wins all over Munster. We reached the semi-final of the competition only to come out second best to another Kerry school, St. Michael's College, Listowel. The game was played at the fantastic Finuge pitch but, without the services of one of our star forwards, Darragh O' Brien, the Listowel boys were just that bit too strong for us on the day. They later went on to win the competition.

However, our biggest success of the season came in the victory over our Tralee rivals Gael Choláiste Chiarraí in the final of the Kerry competition, the Moynihan Cup. We won the game on a pristine Kerins O' Rahilly's pitch after a brilliant performance from man of the match, Darragh Carmody, who ended up with 0-9 to his name. The first half was a tight affair. The pacy Eoghain Sheehy opened up the scoring for us with a point against a very strong breeze. The Gael Choláiste were dominating mid-field in the first half but our defence, particularly Donnchadh McGarry in the corner and Jack Barry at centre-back, resisted the attacks strongly. Our teamwork and lively forwards were carving out chances at the other end. The Gael Cholalste went in at half time with a slender 0-6 to 0-5 lead. The second half was the Darragh Carmody show as he began to reel off points at will. He had three rapid white flags, with Darragh O' Brien and Michael O' Sullivan adding others to make it 0-9 to 0-6 in favour of Mounthawk. We were in control and just needed to keep our concentration. Darragh Carmody hit two more points before Darragh O' Brien gathered from Cillian Fitzgerald and hit a rocket into the top corner of the net.

A superb score from Darragh Carmody fittingly rounded off the scoring in what was a fantastic victory for the school and a brilliant season all around.

Panel: Barry Galvin, Patrick O' Shea, Kieran O' Sullivan (captain), Donnchadh McGarry, David Smith, Jack Barry, Jason O' Leary, Claran O' Connell, Michael O' Sullivan, Michael Godley, Gavin Carmody, Eoghain Sheehy, Darragh Carmody, Kevin Skinner, Ger McCarthy, Darragh O' Brien, Cillian Fitzgerald, Kieran O' Connor, Micheal Maher, Paul Griffin, Conor Nolan, Eoin O' Herlihy, John Courtney, Micheal O' Leary and Denis County.

David Smith

Ladies' Football

A group of committed and dedicated girls are the make-up of this year's ladies football squad. We are lucky enough to have both a junior and senior team catering for first years right up to a few sixth years who, through much persuasion, managed to put down the books and get out onto the pitch.

Our season began in late September when we overcame our counterparts from Milltown here in Mounthawk. Impressive victories against Castlegregory and Ballybunion saw us in the semi-final of the Kerry County League against our familiar rivals from Milltown. A demanding game was fought for on this occasion, with both teams resolute to come out on top.

After a relatively sluggish first-half, Mounthawk came back fighting to clinch a remarkable victory. Notable scores from Nicola Horan, Jen Locke, Shauna Moriarty and Rachael Browne pushed the Tralee girls ahead with last minute goals from Marianna Costello and Molly McGilton securing our victory. Our back-line acted as a rock of defence with huge performances from Naomi Reidy, Sarah O' Carroll and Grace Moynihan. Fantastic talent is visible amongst the younger girls ensuring that the future of ladies football in Mounthawk is safe for years to come.

On behalf of the departing sixth years, I would like to thank all those teachers who give of their free time to facilitate sporting activity in Mounthawk, be it through deafening renditions of "The Rattlin' Bog" on John O Shea's bus, or reckless water fights after a hard day's training under the blistering Kerry sun, we have tested the patience of our trainers to the max. Thankfully, nothing but support and encouragement has been returned on their behalf. Special thanks to Mr Lyne for his commitment to the team and we wish all involved in Mounthawk ladies football the best of luck in the future.



First year girls football team

Curriculum Initiatives

Equality of Opportunity

Mercy Mounthawk continued its work with the SESS on the Equality of Challenge Initiative again this year. We have been working on this project with the SESS since its establishment in 2008. In the initial stages we were one of two schools nationwide to be a part of this project. This year the project expanded to include eight more schools. Mounthawk is now a lead school in the project, sharing good practices developed in Mounthawk with the other schools.

'Equality of Challenge' is a small-scale project which aims to pilot models of educational provision for exceptionally able students in post-primary schools and with an emphasis on inclusive principles. It is exploring how generally recognised principles can be applied in the Irish context and aims to provide a framework and examples of practice which can be generalised and used by schools and teachers in developing learning and teaching in relation to students with exceptional ability/dual exceptionality. As part of the project this year, eight Junior Cert students have received mentoring from teachers. Teachers were given some training in the area of differentiation. Enrichment programmes were available to students with strengths in particular areas. A 'thinking and learning' notice board has been placed in one of the school corridors to get students to think about how they learn and how they could improve their learning experience. Also National Gifted Education Awareness Day was celebrated in the school on 8th April.

Further information about the Equality of Challenge Initiative and Mounthawk's contribution to the project can be found on: www.sess.ie.

Pauline Burke

Parents' Council Report 2010/11 school year

The Parents' Council meets once a month during the school year and parents are encouraged to join at the start of each year. During the past year we have engaged in fundraising activities in the form of bag-packing and a table quiz. Our work in the book scheme and the second chance school uniform scheme continues. A number of parents volunteer their time in assisting with outings and matches. The Home School Liaison Committee allows parents to contribute to its activities and we continue to support Health Promotion Week. A positive psychology course was organised for parents in January. We also assisted a committee established to improve the girls' uniform trousers. We are looking forward to a busy year ahead. Our AGM is on Wednesday 5th. October 2011 at 8pm and we hope to see you there.

Ray O'Connor-Desmond, Secretary



Learning school project 2

Having had great success with our first Learning Schools project on differential learning, it was decided to participate in another learning schools project. Led by John O'Roarke, Ronan Redican and John Dowling, the focus on the project was how to encourage the use of ICT in classroom teaching. Having drawn 24 volunteers from all disciplines within the staff, the team worked vigorously every week during the school year, training the volunteers in all aspects of ICT. The project has been a great success and has encouraged the staff to use ICT within the classroom to complement their teaching.

ICT Training Day

Having found great encouragement and enthusiasm for the ICT learning school project, it was decided to have a one day in-service training for all staff on using information technology. The in-service was delivered by Ronan Redican, Ena Harty and John Dowling and the training covered all aspects of ICT: from using Microsoft Office, YouTube, Creating and downloading PDF etc. The day was well received by the staff, who are now putting the major ICT investment in the school to great use.

Subject Sharing

This year we set up an exciting partnership with St. Joseph's Secondary School Ballybunion to share subject teaching via the internet. As in most schools, it is sometimes not possible to provide subject options to students if there are not enough students to justify a full class.

By sharing the teaching of a subject over the internet, we were able, this year, to provide Agricultural Science to 5th year students, while we provided Chemistry to the students in Ballybunion. This sharing was made possible as a result of the high-speed Broadband 100 initiative by the Department. We hope to develop provision for the coming year and build on the success of the project.

SPHE Inspection

In term three this year our SPHE team was the focus of a DES subject inspection for four days in May. Ms. Siobhán McSweeney from the Inspectorate visited eight classes, met with the management team, the SPHE team, students and surveyed all 230 third year in relation to their experiences of SPHE in the school. She also met with a number of senior students and was impressed by our positive psychology pilot course in fifth year. (see Ms. Sherma Carey's article)

While we await the report, the initial feedback was extremely positive, affirming the classroom practices and the work of the team. Ms. McSweeney also praised the broader pastoral and community activities in the school as being student centred and progressive. We look forward to the publication of the report in September.

Eileen Kennelly



Upcoming initiatives for next year

Evaluation of Senior RE programme

Senior RE teachers are in the process of reviewing the senior cycle RE programme in light of the ongoing challenges inherent in informing young people in the christian tradition to be resilient individuals in a complex world. Toward that end, our senior RE programme in Mercy Mounthawk is being reviewed as we strive to be proactive to helping prepare our students for life.

Development of the Fitness Suite

Following on from our fundraising draw the work has now commenced on the provision of a Weights and Aerobics area for PE classes, lunch activities and preparation of our athletic and sports teams. The Fitness Suite will greatly enhance the provision of PE in the school, offering students further opportunities to adopt healthy activities and make healthy lifestyle choices.

Introduction of a Base Group System in first and second year

The school has decided to establish base groups in 1st and 2nd years in September. The intention is to strengthen the connection between students so that the members of the base group look out for each other. Students will provide each other with support, encouragement and assistance needed to complete class assignments and make good academic progress. All base group members are given roles and are expected to contribute actively to the work of the group. The initiative will be coordinated by the SPHE teachers and year heads in both year groups

Eileen Kennelly

Restorative Justice 2011/12

In 2011 we began to introduce restorative justice practise to our behaviour management programme at Mercy Mounthawk. Restorative justice is based on the principle that harm and crime are violations of people and relationships rather than rules and regulations. It is a process that brings the victim and offender together in a reflective, managed meeting which serves to develop an understanding of the impact of negative behaviour on others. Furthermore it allows the victim to express the level of hurt felt and finally allows the offender the opportunity to make valid restitution.

In the context of our Behaviour Code, which is built on promoting positive behaviour, this democratic procedure engages students in problem solving around conflict. Already in use internationally, the process has proved to reduce bullying behaviour, reduce levels of behaviour which lead to suspension and exclusion and enhance the atmosphere and the teaching and learning environment in a school. Staff and student in-service is planned for Autumn 2011.

Seán Coffey

Volunteer Home School Parent Team

This academic year saw the volunteer parent group renew their collective engagement in the provision of education support to students in first, third and sixth year in particular. Now in its third year of operations, the committed group continue to extend the programme of supports on offer. The Breakfast club continued this year. As always it was offered to incoming first years, while more senior students return and continue to avail of the service as the need arises. Looking forward to 2011/12 we plan to introduce a voucher system to advance the smooth running of the programme. Also to continue current provision, some fundraising event must be introduced in the new year. The Second chance Uniform system continued this year under the supervision of Aileen Griffin, who assiduously catalogued and assisted in the distribution of items of uniform to students.

The Maths for Fun team continued their excellent work in promoting positive attitudes to Maths amongst first years who have displayed difficulties with mathematics. Indeed this practically oriented approach dovetails with the newly developed Project Maths programme. The programme catered for 19 students this year for one period per week. Such was the level of parent engagement in this lesson that students were able to avail of a 1:2 ratio in activities. Evaluation of the programme has caused the Team to begin to plan an English for Fun programme in 2011/12. The Paired reading also continued to operate this year for first years. The library has been extended because of the generous book donations by a number of parents involved in the delivery of the project.

After school support was also offered to a number of students preparing for Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations. This intensive preparation is of great assistance to the students. As a school we are extremely grateful for this exceptional generosity of time, expertise and spirit.

This group of twenty parents are a living embodiment of community here at Mercy Mounthawk. In our "time poor" world they choose to give of themselves each Tuesday in a voluntary capacity. Our sincere thanks go to you. I also extend an open invitation to any other member of our community who may wish to help out in the coming year.

Seán Coffey

ICT in the School

As a result of DES investment supplemented by the Board of Management, the classrooms in the main building have been fitted with digital projectors. A number of interactive whiteboards have also been placed in classrooms to enhance the educational experience. In tandem with this, the staff has engaged in up-skilling in relation to the use of technology in the classroom This has begun a new chapter in pedagogy in the school as we move ever closer to a paperless school.

School Fundraising Initiative 2011

Following on from the successful Race Night in 2010, the fundraising team of Ms. Mary Savage, Mr. Richard O'Halloran and Ms. Aileen Griffin set about raising some funds to assist in the continued development of the school's physical structure. In 2010 the computers were replaced in I.T.2 In 2011/12 the target is to extend the already excellent physical education and sports facility by developing a weights and fitness suite.

In these financially difficult times, fundraising is a fraught activity. Undaunted, the committee enlisted the help of teachers and students throughout the school to sell 2 euro raffle tickets. Over a two week period our students sold six thousand euro worth of tickets. In combination with a commitment from the Board of Management to aid the project, advanced design and planning means that our PE classes will avail of this new facility in September 2011. A sincere thank you to the hard working team who led the funding drive.

Seán Coffey

Student Council 2010/2011

This year the student council was chaired by Daragh Creagh and Ciara Browne. P.J.Galvin and Ashling Shalvey were the vice chairpersons. Cathal O'Donnell was treasurer. P.R. were Gavin Connolly, Billy Donovan, Ciara O'Mahony, Richard Rafferty and Amy O'Donnell. Entertainment officers were John Prendergast and Alisha Buckley. It was a very successful year with many goals achieved. The games tournament, the science quiz, the book drive, runners day, no-uniform day, a mobile phone collection, an ink cartridge collection and "pennies from heaven" were just some of the projects undertaken.

A substantial amount of money was raised for charity. Collections were made for Gorta, jigsaw and the Recovery Haven. The student council also played an active role in the anti-bullying policy. They also worked with the Green Schools Committee and the Health Promotion Committee. The student council is a voice for students and together with the parents council, the board of management, staff and management help to build a better school for all.

Mary Enright



Student Council Members



Positive Psychology

The area of mental health and positive behaviour reinforcement has become an increasingly important aspect of life in Mercy Mounthawk. As the school is working towards creating a senior cycle SPHE course, this year saw the introduction of a pilot positive psychology class. The course was created with funding from Young Social Innovators and help from the I.T. Tralee. The school ran three eleven week elective programmes this year for fifth year students. The programme, was based on the work of Professor Martin Seligman from the United States and adapted to suit the needs of our students. It urges students to discover their strengths in order to help them reach their full potential.

The course also encourages students to look beyond fleeting feelings of pleasure and participate more often in activities that really make them satisfied and happy. It aims to teach students the importance of mindfulness, hope, good relationships, optimism and flexible thinking. Seligman supports all of his theories with very well researched evidence. He asserts that happiness is really about the quality of our relationships and finding meaning and engagement in our lives and less about money and consumer goods. All of his research points to the fact that happy students learn more effectively and it is our hope that the students who took part in the course this year learned some skills that will be useful for them both in their leaving cert year and in life.

Sherma Carey

Exhibition Scholarship Winners Leaving Cert 2010

Crionna Gannon	Law NUI Maynooth
Maeve Counihan	Architecture U.C.D
Rosie O'Dowd	English Studies T.C.D
John O'Donnel	Engineering U.C.D
Michael Collins	Maths NUI Maynooth



WINNERS OF THE FITNESS SUITE FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

1st	Jon Magnier, Tralee €300
2nd	Moira Murphy, Tralee €200
3rd	Darren Tighé, Tralee €100



SECOND CHANCE SCHOOL UNIFORMS

The school, with the assistance of the Parents' Council, has decided to continue the uniform donation scheme started last year. It is an effort to marshal and share the resources of the school community with the intention of easing the pressure on parents in providing school uniforms. We are seeking the donation of items of uniform that have got that little bit too small but that are still in good condition. We ask that before you hand in the uniform it would be washed or dry cleaned as required.

We will only take the following items of uniform:

- (a) school pants
- (b) school skirt
- (c) P.E. tops
- (d) school jumper
- (e) school tie

We would hope to pass on these items for a small nominal fee and recycle the funds back into the scheme, giving us some possibility of compensating for the loss of grants to the school.

COLLECTION

We propose that items of uniform can be left at the school office or when you come to the school to get new uniforms from Gemmas on the 18th and 19th of August.

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of any uniforms items received will be handled through the school Pastoral Care team in September.



Garda Youth Achievement Awards 2010

Niamh Godley who was honoured by the Garda Youth Achievement Awards Committee with a Distinction Award for her extensive community work.

Awards Night 2011

At the school awards night in May, 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. The Tadhg O'Connel memorial shield for Physics was presented by his wife Mary to Ross Culloty, the UCC cup to Kenneth Breen for his dedication to academic work and an Gradam Gaeilge cuimhneachán ar Mháire Ní Ghéiní to Seán De Priondragás. The All Ireland finalists in the Gael Linn Debates were given special mention and the All Ireland 'A' Champion 1st year Girls' basketball team was honoured during the evening. The evening also honoured several other sporting achievements particularly in the area of athletics with the school having won both the best Girls' and best Boys' School Shields at the Kerry competition.

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 and a testimony of the quality of co-operation, dedication and enthusiasm that has become the hall mark of the school. In particular, the awards for community spirit to Ciara Finnerty and Sadhbh Baker and the student council award to Billy Donovan focused attention on the generosity of spirit of these young people in serving their communities. Chief Superintendent Pat Sullivan was present on the evening to honour the Garda Youth Achievement Award winners.

The main award winners were:

Sports Persons of the Year:

Barry Galvin (The Grove, Mounthawk)

The Board of Management Awards for Citizenship:

Ciara Browne (The Spa) and Sarah Guerin (Cahermoneen)

The Principal's Award for contribution to the life of the school:

Dara Creagh (Highfield Grove)

The Catherine McAuley Award for the student of the year:

John Prendergast (Mounthawk Manor)

Arts and Humanities Award:

Darragh Kneeshaw (Racecourse Road)



Jigsaw and The Teachers in Uniform Day

On March 16th 2011, we held our 'Teachers in Uniform Day'. Thirty teachers dressed up in the school uniform in order to raise money for the Jigsaw organisation. As an added bonus, the students were allowed to wear their own clothes for a small contribution of two euro. The event was a roaring success as we raised almost 2000 euro. Everyone had a great time and the teachers were able to return to the days of their youth.

Jigsaw is a Headstrong initiative developed for Kerry in partnership with the local community. Jigsaw Kerry brings together community supports to meet the mental health and wellbeing needs of young people aged between 12-25 yrs. Jigsaw involves existing agencies in Co. Kerry working in partnership to provide supports, which can help young people get through difficult times.



Kerry Life Education

To all the 1st and 2nd year students, Just wanted to say hello and thank you for the great welcome I got when I visited the school to do the Minding Self, Minding Others workshops this year. You all brought great energy and enthusiasm to the whole process. Whether we were talking about creativity, being different, getting the most out of the brain, working well together as a group or even bungie jumping over crocodiles! - your ideas were really inspiring. Have a great Summer and see you soon hopefully. Have fun,

Séamus Whitty (Kerry Life Education)

Texaco Art Competition

Special Merit Award
Allen O'Brien

Certificates of Commendation

Áine Daly
Elisha Buckley
Eabha McCarthy
Megan Frost
Aoife Grimes
Beatrice Mekaускаite



Little Girl
Beatrice Mekaускаite

CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

It's that time of year again when the Summer Newsletter is ready for print and what a busy six months it has been. A number of visiting speakers addressed the senior cycle students. All applications to the CAO were submitted by the end of January. This is a time when there is immense pressure on the students due to the academic demands of the impending Leaving Certificate. References for both DARE & HEAR applicants were supplied by the April 1st deadline. Information on maintenance Grants is available on the following website: www.studentfinance.ie

More and more students have shown interest in Post Leaving Cert courses and there is an ever increasing number of PLC's at Level 5 FETAC on offer and provide an alternative route to higher education and is a very attractive route for students. 4th and 5th Year students who sat the Differential Aptitude Tests in February received their results and individual feed-back.

All 5th year students, including LCA1, were afforded the opportunity to take the Rothwell Miller Interest Blank. Third Year students took the Career Decision Making which is a useful tool in matching career interest. Information evenings for parents and students of 1st, 3rd and 4th Years were, as usual, very successful.

Mock Interviews for Leaving Cert students were arranged on request. Those who expressed interest in participating in the programme submitted a C.V. and covering letter prior to the interview.

Hopefully, all students will reach their expectations in the end of term examinations. Guidance Counsellors map the progression route of each student from post-primary school to third level or further education. Your co-operation is appreciated to facilitate this process. The Guidance Department wishes every success to all students sitting state examinations and, in particular, the Leaving Cert students as they embark on their future careers.

Sr. Bernadette Costello & Ms Betty Farrell

ATTENTION

1ST YEAR PARENTS 2011

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING
ALL OF YOU AT THE TALK FOR 1st
YEAR STUDENTS AND THEIR
PARENTS ON THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER
at 8p.m. in the gym





TY

2010
2011



This year's 116 Transition Years began their year with a team building day in Killarney on the 2nd of September. Their mettle, stamina and ability to work together were tested while participating in activities as diverse as rope climbing, orienteering, archery and cycling. On the Friday of their first week, the pupils were involved in a day long induction process delivered by the core team where the ethos of our Transition Year was outlined to them. Due to the self directed nature of the year, the pupils were encouraged to enter into a contract of learning and to take on, for the year, a learning project of their choosing.

During the induction day the pupils chose whether to participate in the Young Social Innovators (Y.S.I) programme, Interact (junior Rotary Club), the European Studies Programme (E.S.P) or the Young Entrepreneur Programme (Y.E.P.) which has been timetabled for the first time this year. We had five separate projects entered for YSI, two large groups participating in Interact, a small but busy group examining European affairs and a class working on entrepreneurial projects for the Y.E.P.

The E.S.P. class made a short movie of their vision of Europe in 2050 and attended the European Youth Parliament in Cork and the Model European Parliament at St. Andrews in Dublin. Interact have been busy involving themselves with the local town community by visiting St. Louis and Fatima nursing homes. They involved themselves in other community based tasks such as bulb and shrub planting in the town park and in Day Place at the Dominican church, litter picking along the Bracker O Regan Road and in town. The group also spent a breezy day bench painting and tidying up by the canal walk way.

Those involved in YEP attended the BluSky day of entrepreneurship and got busy working on ideas for the young entrepreneur awards which were held in Killarney on May the 5th. All of the class attended on the night with Katie Foley being short listed for her work on developing an interactive childrens e-book. Prior to that, the Y.E.P. group attended the annual Young Entrepreneur Programme Business Boot Camp on February 4th at The Brandon Hotel. Well known business names such as Colum O'Sullivan of Cully & Sully, Rachel Kavanagh of Rockstar Tan, and familiar Dragons' Den participants Elaine-Sarah Comerford of Button & Co. and Tralee native Daithí O'Regan of Handcraft Hurleys, took to the stage at the Business Boot Camp day to discuss their journeys to success and the difficulties they faced to the 600 students and business mentors attending the half day event. The Y.S.I. group sent three projects to the 10th National showcase in Dublin, the groups being: Under Pressure (UP), Just The Way You Are and the Car Safety Investigators. All of the students who took part in Y.S.I. went to Dublin as support and enjoyed their overnight trip immensely. Catch a glimpse of our students on the city channel in June (see www.youngsocialinnovators.ie for details).

During the year the students participated in quite a few outdoor activities including surfing, diving, climbing Torc and Mount Brandon, a walk around the lakes in Killarney, a hike from Muckcross house all the way to Kenmare along the old Kenmare Road and a hike from Lord Brandon's Cottage up through the Black Valley and down through the Gap of Dunloe to Kate Kearney's Cottage. Students also took part in the F.A.I. Kickstart programme which allows them to become involved with local clubs as soccer coaches to underage teams.

Our involvement with the Institute of Technology Tralee continued with 57 students taking part in the three programmes on offer, namely: Music Production, Flash animation and T.V. broadcasting. We also had thirty pupils take part in a pilot computer programming course which was very successful with nearly all students enjoying the experience. The group was chosen at random and their attitudes to computer programming were surveyed before and after the six week course. The results will be available later in the year and we hope to make programming a regular part of the T.Y. curriculum. Community work continued with weekly visits to two nursing homes, the General Hospital, Baile Mhuire respite centre and St. John of Gods as well as a regular group helping out around the school in what became known as the "Triple Buddy" afternoon.

"Doing it for the Ducks" Eco Unesco National Award Winners

Thirty seven pupils engaged themselves in environmental activism under the auspices of Eco-Unesco with three groups making it to the national Young Environmentalist Awards in the Mansion house on May 24th where they were addressed by former President Mary Robinson. She referred to the students present as "My Heroes" for their work in looking after our natural surroundings. This year we had a group reclaim, redesign and replant the school garden. Another group delivered an environmental quiz to over 400 primary school students in 7 primary schools around Tralee. This group also designed and built a fresh water pond which will mature over the coming years. The third group "Doing it for the Ducks" won a national award for water based projects by cleaning up part of the river near Casement's Avenue and holding a promotional family day and duck race. This award was well deserved by what was a hard working and diligent group of young people.



"Doing it for the Ducks" Eco Unesco National Award Winners



YSI YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS

Young social Innovators is a programme which inspires young people to change the world for the better. Seeing the influential projects over the past few years shed light on the difference that can be made and encouraged me to choose YSI.

I joined up with 11 of my classmates to form the group "Under Pressure" (U.P), where we promoted positive mental health in our local area. On several occasions throughout the year our name proved to be hugely appropriate as we were the definition of people UNDER PRESSURE! But our sheer determination paid off and we successfully organised events such as a balloon launch, a random acts of kindness week, a teacher in uniform day which the teachers will never live down and we created a comic styled e-book. Other Y.S.I groups include Just The Way You Are, Car safety investigators, Jump around and Share to Solve, holding events such as flash freezes, skipathons, fashion shows, selling wristbands, car safety workshops and much much more. Our group, along with 2 others, reached the National Showcase in Dublin which was a spectacular event, meeting people such as Enda Kenny, Mary Kennedy, Seán Gallaher and the infamous guy from the Spar ad. We all had an absolutely fantastic day and enjoyed every minute up there.

Being part of YSI has been such a learning curve for me. It has pushed me beyond my limits which gave me a great sense of accomplishment. We have worked with various different people and organisations throughout the year such as Jigsaw Kerry, Headstrong and The National Rehabilitation Centre all who have guided us and steered us in the right direction. On behalf of the YSI I would like to thank our mentor Ms. Hunt for all the time she put in this year. I have really enjoyed it and am glad I had the opportunity to get involved.



Guest speaker, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Mr. Jimmy Deenihan speaking at the Transition Year end of year awards ceremony.

Academic Achievements

The academic side of the programme is well taken care of by their teachers and a mid year report was sent home in February followed by a Parent Teacher meeting in March. This was to allow students to focus on their Maths, English, Irish, French, German, Spanish, History, Geography and the science and business based subjects of year. A portfolio review took place on the last week of the school year where eleven teachers assessed the participation of each pupil in all aspects of Transition Year. We had four pupils attending week long physics experiences in Trinity and U.C.D. This was a remarkable achievement as each course takes less than 25 applicants from the entire country.

On Thursday 19th May 380 parents, students, teachers and school management gathered in the Ballyroe Heights Hotel for our Transition Year end of year awards ceremony. The opening half showcased the work completed by each of the five classes throughout the year, together with our annual TY awards ceremony. The second part of the night's programme included a speech from our guest speaker, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, followed by three performances from Martin McDonagh's plays: The Beauty Queen of Leenane, The Lonesome West and The Cripple of Inismaan. Guests on the night were also treated to performance poetry and music all of which were performed by the Transition Year Pupils themselves.

A new aspect of the night was the showcase of work completed throughout the year with each of the five classes producing a display of all academic and extra curricular activities. On the night, parents, teachers and incoming Transition Years and their parents were encouraged to visit this "mini expo" and view examples of the work produced by the TY class of 2011. Together with the five class exhibits there were displays from some of the programmes with which our classes were involved throughout the year, including: Young Social Innovators, Interact, European Studies Programme, Eco-Unesco and the Institute of Technology Tralee.

During the ceremony pupils were awarded certificates of completion together with prizes being given by teachers for, among others, Entrepreneurship, Art, Drama, Endeavour, Class Spirit and Christian Leadership. The two students chosen for the student of the year were Triona Clerkin and Daniel Piersé, two highly deserving pupils who fully embodied the spirit of our TY programme by getting involved as much as possible in both the academic and non academic aspects of the year. They impressed in the quality of their endeavours and by the mature and helpful way they interacted with staff members and their fellow pupils.



Public Speaking

This year, students from first and second year classes attended a five week public speaking course. We met every Wednesday night for one hour from 7-8pm. The facilitator of the course was Mr. Séan Lyons from the Parents' Council.

The first week, we identified the features of a good speaker and a good speech. We suggested qualities such as a strong voice, humour and interesting content. In the second week, we were shown how to structure a speech. Methods such as mind mapping were illustrated.

Every week we delivered a speech on a certain topic. The other students would give us feedback. On week three, each person was handed a card with a subject. We had five minutes to prepare a short speech on that subject. On the fourth week, each student delivered a prepared speech and these speeches were examined under the headings we had selected in week one.

On the final night, parents, teachers and friends were invited to hear us deliver a speech on a subject that we felt strongly about. Issues included animal cruelty, child labour and bullying. Celine Slattery of Tralee Toastmasters evaluated each speech and gave very positive feedback. At the end of the evening, Mr. O'Roarke presented each student with a merit card and a trophy.

It was a most enjoyable few weeks. The atmosphere was very relaxed and we laughed a lot. We would like to thank the Parents' Council for organising the course and Mr. Lyons for giving his time.



Pathfinders Programme

This programme is offered by the Institute of Technology Tralee. We are one of nine participating schools in Kerry. It initially targets fifth year students who have the potential to achieve at third - level and who would benefit from participation in an access programme. It is a pre-entry programme which, when completed, allows students to apply under Direct Access to the college.

Participants are nominated by their schools. The ITT organises the programme structure, provides the facilities and staff for the programme.

All 5th year students' parents were notified of the programme by letter in September, and invited to apply for one of the 15 places available. The 15 students participated in a three day programme at the ITT where they were exposed to college life and given taster courses in the areas of science, business and engineering.

Sixth year students (students who had completed the 5th year programme) had a study workshop on the 18th of November, where effective study skills were outlined to them and the CAO system explained. It was also identified to them how to apply to the CAO as a pathfinder student and the possibility of becoming eligible for one of the reserved places at the ITT. Students who identified themselves as pathfinder students on their CAO application were called for interview in March. Pending how well they do in their LC and at their interview, they may become eligible for one of the reserved places at ITT.

It is hoped that this programme will continue to run next year and 5th year students' parents will be notified early in the school year.

Gemma's Uniforms

061 410344 / 087 9441949

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

Monday 22nd August for 1st year students

Tuesday 23rd August for all other students



Sive

Whispered rumours of the school play began in early September. What would it be this year? Mercy Mounthawk had already successfully completed amazing musicals, and plays including *The Field* and *The Last Apache Reunion*. There was speculation that the play would be by the great John B Keane, or maybe by Brian Friel.

Auditions were held in October and already tensions were running high. The show was taking place in January and the cast hadn't even been chosen! In the first audition the sizable group of hopefuls was told with certainty this year's play: *Sive*, by John B Keane. I'll admit that I hadn't heard of the play before but it became clear, even at the audition stage, that it was a true masterpiece. We were acting out a harrowing scene between two of the play's central characters, Mena Glavin, and Nanna. The boys auditioned in scenes between Mike Glavin, Tomasheen Seán Rua, Sean Dota, Carthalawn and Pats. The play's namesake, *Sive*, was chosen almost immediately after the reading.

Parts were slowly trickling out and being posted on the school's notice board. One day, we found out that Jamie Sugrue was playing Mike Glavin and another day, we found that Máiread Leen was given the difficult part of Nanna. The tension was mounting as slowly, parts were being given out. And finally, after almost giving up hope, I discovered I had been given to part of the formidable Mena Glavin!

But soon it returned. The show was in January. January! We received our scripts and began studying them diligently, all 8 of us. Lunchtime rehearsals began pretty quickly after the full cast had been chosen and I enjoyed them immensely. We discovered traits in our fellow cast mates that I had never seen in them before. Perseverance and diligence were clearly seen in both the teachers and the cast.

With rehearsals added after school, we spent an immeasurable amount of time with the teachers patiently directing our moves around the stage and dictating exactly how our lines should be delivered. The play was full of proper Irish dialogue with which a few of us townies had trouble with! But with the excellent guides we had directing us, the small difficulties we had were soon overcome.

The sense of nervousness and excitement was phenomenal as the big date loomed ever closer. The teachers who poured in endless time and patience are not to be forgotten either, and I know that I could not have asked for a nicer group of cáilíní agus búchaillí to have experienced this play with.

Cassie McElligott



European Studies

It was a successful year for European Studies in Mounthawk. Although European Studies has been running in Mounthawk for several years, 2010 saw it introduced as a community assignment for transition years. The aim of the course is to enable students to understand the importance of being an active part of the community that is Europe. The group worked on 3 collaborative assignments via the internet with schools in Belfast, Cork, Denmark and Greece. The first trip of the year was to the European Youth Parliament in Cork where they spent the weekend debating European Issues with 100 other students from Munster. For many of them this was the highlight of the year, they made many friends and produced resolution booklets with their committees. All of the students did well but one student, Triona Clerkin particularly impressed the organisers and was subsequently invited to the National Session of EYP in Dublin in March.

Students also attended a Mock European Parliament in St. Andrews in Dublin and represented us well as the only non Dublin school in attendance. The group displayed their artistic side in January when they entered a short film into the 'Vision for Europe' competition run by the European Commission. Their film entitled 'Europe 2050' really encapsulated their vision of Ireland's place in the future of Europe and can be seen on Youtube. To finish the year Eimear Leahy, Sean Fitzgibbon and Donal Fitzgibbon debated at a Mock European Council in Dublin in March. They represented Greece as they argued for an increased common maternity leave for all members of the E.U. They debated live from Dublin Castle with 27 other schools as their classmates watched it live on the internet back in their classroom.

The students and Ms.Carey are photographed here at the event with: Eileen Dunne, RTÉ Broadcaster & International President of Association of European Journalists, who formally opened the debate. Former European Commissioner, David Byrne Debate Chairperson and Barbara Nolan, Director of the European Commission Representation in Ireland.

Sherma Carey



Athletics Heroes

OUTLINE CALENDAR 2011/2012

SCHOOL RE-OPENING DATES:

Friday 26th August
Monday 29th August

Tuesday 30th August
Wednesday 31st August
Thursday 1st September

Staff Meeting and Inservice Day
1st year students return.
Teacher/Department meetings 3.45pm - 6.15
6th year, LCA2 and 3rd and 2nd year return
5th year students/LCA 1 return (school for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 6th year)
4th year -Transition year students return to school

HOLIDAYS

October mid-term
Christmas holidays
Spring mid-term
St Patrick's Day
Easter Holidays
Summer holidays

Closing on Friday 28th October. Reopen on Monday 7th November
Closing on Thursday 22nd December. Reopen on Monday 9th Jan
Closing on Friday 10th February. Reopen on Monday 20th February
Closing on Friday 16th March. Reopen on Tuesday 20th March
Closing on Friday 30th March. Reopen on Monday 16th April
Closing on Friday 1st June

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 29th August
Monday 5th September
Tuesday 6th September
Tuesday 13th September

Thursday 15th September
Wednesday 21st September
Friday 23rd September
Sunday 25th September
Wednesday 5th October
Tuesday 11th October
Saturday 12th November
Thursday 8th December
Wednesday 14th December

January 2012 (Dates to be decided)
Thursday 9th February

Wednesday 1st to Friday 10th February
Thursday 2nd February
Friday 2nd March
Saturday 3rd March
Wednesday 7th March
Wednesday 28th March
Wednesday 16th May
Wednesday 23rd May
Friday 25th May
Tuesday 29th May-Friday 1st June

Staff/ Subject Department meetings 3.45pm - 6.15
Talk for parents of students in 3rd year at 8pm
Talk for parents of 6th year students at 8pm
5th Year Learning Styles Day
Talk for parents of Transition year students 8pm
Talk for LCA students and their parents. LCA 1 at 7.30 and LCA 2 at 8.30
Talk for 1st year parents
Mercy Day mass for new 1st year students, Parents welcome
Mercy Day Garden Fête
AGM of the Parents' Council at 8p.m.
Staff/ Subject Department meetings 3.45pm - 6.15
Open Day and final day for enrolment for September 2012
Staff meeting 3.45pm - 6.15pm
Carol Service in the church of Our Lady & St Brendan's

School Musical in Siamsa Tíre
Meeting in Gym at 7.30p.m. for parents of 3rd Year and Transition Year students re: Senior Cycle options & subject Choices
Mock Exams for 3rd and 6th years
Transition Year school tour
Meeting in Gym at 8p.m. for parents of 1st year students re 2nd year subject choices
Admissions Day
Staff meeting 3.45pm - 6.15pm
Staff/ Subject Department Meetings 3.45pm - 6.15
Awards Night
Transition Year end of year show in Siamsa
Leaving Cert Graduation Mass in church of Our Lady & St Brendan's
Blocked study for 3rd and 6th years House Exams for Years 1, 2 and 5

Dates for Parent Teacher Meetings. All meetings are from 4.15pm to 6.45pm

Thursday 27th October	Transition Year
Tuesday 22nd November	6th Year
Wednesday 30th November	3rd Year
Wednesday 25th January	5th Year
Tuesday 7th February	1st Year
Thursday 23rd February	2nd Year