

MERCY MOUNTHAWK
MEÁNSCOIL NA TRÓCAIRE CNOC AN TSEABHAIC



SUMMER BULLETIN

Volume 9 • Issue 2

2012



School Self-evaluation and the W.S.E.



It is important in every institution to have the opportunity of an external view on the procedures and processes of the organisation and this academic year we had that chance through the Whole School Evaluation in December. We have received the report which will be published on the web in the coming months, and I think that it is important to include some of the response from the Board of Management to the report in this summer newsletter.

The Board of Management of Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk was pleased to receive this report on the WSE of the school. We are particularly happy that the inspectors acknowledged that the core values of the school's Mission Statement are a lived reality and commented on the following:

- the very broad range of subjects and a wide range of programmes
- the very good quality of teaching and learning
- the very extensive extracurricular programme and the selflessness and commitment of all involved
- the importance given to personal well-being
- the concern for standards
- an excellent pastoral care structure
- the striking level of parental involvement
- very thorough formal communications
- excellent structures, systems, processes and procedures

This profile is, as we understand it, an expression of the Catholic ethos which shapes education in the school. As a Catholic school we have worked to establish a 'community' which has been recognised by the inspectors in the committed engagement of staff, retired staff, students, parents and many local organisations in the life of the school. Such a community with shared values such as 'tuiscint', 'treoir' and 'trócaire' is the ground out of which a Catholic school grows. The Board agrees with the recommendation that the development of the potential of students could be a guiding principle in school planning as, central to our school's ethos is the belief that, in supporting the development of their God given potential, we lead students on the path to wholeness, happiness and fulfillment. In this regard the Board is pleased that the inspectors acknowledged that 'self-evaluation is inherent to the work of development planning in the school'.

As part of this process of self-evaluation, the school will engage in the coming academic year in a number of initiatives as a mechanism through which the recommendations of the report are implemented. We are among the 40 schools nationally involved in an initiative with

the NCCA to review the Junior Cycle programme. As part of this programme we will have the opportunity to evaluate our current Junior Cycle programme in the light of the new learning outcomes and skills sets identified for the new Junior Cycle. This review will inform the development of a new Junior Cycle Programme for the school which will begin for 1st years incoming in September 2014. As part of this process we are evaluating the TY programme in the school and will be working to develop a number of courses in TY next year, namely Chinese, Computer Programming and a course on Sustainable Living which will form the basis of possible new short courses for Junior Cycle.

The emphasis on the quality and purpose of teaching and learning in the school will be further enhanced through a series of other initiatives: our involvement with the Learning School Project through which we are developing a Maths profiling test for 1st year students, the introduction of team teaching in the delivery of Special Needs support, the development of initiatives in literacy and numeracy, and our involvement with the NAPD project on Leading for Learning (more about this inside).

I believe that we progress as a school by making small changes and developments which build incrementally and in the coming years I intend that we will continue to focus on strengthening the quality of teaching and learning in the school community in ways that will support students in addressing the realities of the new millennium and in developing the skills in learning that they will require to manage information in the often times overwhelming manner it surrounds us today. This is the big challenge for all educators in the coming years.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Sr. Bernadette Costelloe, Ms. Lola Scollard and Ms. Nora Quinlan who have retired this year. They have given wonderful service to education in Mercy Mounthawk. On behalf of the school community, we wish them well in their retirement. I would like to take this opportunity also to thank Ms. Eileen Kennelly, our outgoing Deputy Principal, for her commitment to the school over the past seven years and to congratulate her on her new appointment as Principal in Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland. Mr. Pat Fleming is taking over as Deputy Principal and to him we extend a warm welcome to the team in Mounthawk.

John O'Roarke (Principal)



ENROLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

Enrolment for September 2013 will open at 9.15a.m. on the 1st Monday of September 2012 (Monday 3rd) and will close at 2.00p.m. on Saturday 10th November 2012.

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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 MEÁNSCOIL NA TROCAIRE • CNOC AN TSEABHAIC • TRA LI CO CHIARRAI
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Seismology in Schools Project

The Seismology in Schools Programme is part of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies Outreach Programme for Seismology. In association with this programme the Geography Department received a Seismometer on loan from the Education Centre in Tralee in November 2011.

The seismometer is used to measure the strength and severity of earthquakes. The seismometer is connected to a computer which is recording vibrations in the crust of the earth. Our seismometer can record earthquakes in Europe, Asia and further afield. When our seismometer records an earthquake we are sent a text alert by DIAS and we upload the earthquake to the IRIS (Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology) website for viewing by other schools around the world. To date we have uploaded earthquakes from Sumatra, Chile, Mexico, Siberia, the Philippines and Italy to the IRIS website.

On June 6th our Seismometer recorded a Magnitude 4.0 earthquake which occurred approximately 100 km off the west coast of Ireland. This will give our students real time, hands-on experience of recording earthquakes. We are one of only two schools in Kerry to have this piece of equipment on site. This coincides with plans by Minister for Education and Skills Ruairi Quinn to introduce project based learning for the Junior Certificate.



Mounthawk on the move!

Mercy Mounthawk was delighted to promote 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.



All-Ireland CIMA Business Quiz Winners

On Wednesday March 28th the team of Diarmuid Moriarty, Kelly Brosnan, Grace Egan and Enda Sugrue became All Ireland winners of the CIMA Ireland Business Quiz at LIT in Thurles. Each team member received ?100 worth of iTunes vouchers after winning the Regional Finals. Following long hours of practice during lunch time every day running up to the finals, the team were awarded the coveted iPad 2 as a prize for coming first place in Ireland. The MC at the finals was fellow Kerryman Brian Purcell (RTE's The Apprentice) who was delighted to see a team from the Kingdom winning the competition. The team acknowledged the expert tuition and commitment of their teacher Ms. Martina Mc Auliffe.



Oliver the Musical

This year we had the great pleasure of presenting to you, **Oliver the Musical!**

Our Oliver journey began in September 2011 with the auditions. The talent of my fellow students was fantastic with previously undiscovered gifts on show. Mr. Behan and the teachers' musical committee had the difficult task of casting the parts. The auditionees were ecstatic at receiving their parts and the cast quickly bonded. We rehearsed every day after school for 2 hours. As daunting as it sounds, rehearsals were great fun with plenty of craic to be had. The teachers generously gave up their weekends and evenings to assist us with choreography, vocals and acting which we all greatly appreciate.

Students from the school along with professional musicians joined together to create a fantastic live band for the event. Also, an art committee was set up to design and create the entire set for the musical and their hard work and artistic talents were on display for all to see. Catherine Raftery, once again, with endless patience did a phenomenal job on the costumes for the production.

Oliver tells the tale of a young orphan boy in 18th century London who is sold by Mr. Bumble (Daniel Horgan) and his accomplice Widow Corney (Roisin Hussey / Katie O'Riordan) to the undertaker Mr. Sowerberry (Donall Fitzgibbon) and his wife (Aoife McDonnell). Oliver (Ryan O'Sullivan) escapes to the streets where he befriends the artful Dodger (Louie Ryle) while wandering homeless through the streets. Dodger introduces Oliver to Fagin (Cathal O'Donnell) and his gang. Nancy (Annmarie Knipper/Una Nolan) takes Oliver under her wing and protects him from her abusive and fierce boyfriend Bill Sykes (Colin Kirby).

The show was a fantastic experience and a phenomenal success, playing to a full house each night.

by Róisín Hussey and Rachel Byrne.

Young Scientist Exhibition

Aisling Shalvey, Daniel Carmody and Luke Stafford-Lacey were selected to take part in the BT Young Scientist & Technology Competition this year. They competed in the Social and Behavioural Sciences section. The project aimed to explore the effects of positive psychology on students both on their mental health and on their academic performance. They were highly commended for their work. They were also selected to take part in SciFest where they were honored as silver medalists.



Senior Science Teams

Two teams represented Mounthawk in the regional final of the Irish Science Teachers' Senior Science Quiz. Silver medalists Christine Mullins, Donnacha MacGarry and Conor Higgins qualified to represent the region in the All-Irelands in Trinity College on Saturday the 26th of November. Cara Enright, James O'Connell and Tim Farrell also took part. The quiz took place on the 17th of November in the IT.

First Year Science Quiz

23 teams took part in this year's First Year Science Quiz in aid of charity. It was held in the school Gym on the 18th of Nov. This year's quiz master was Sean Fitzgerald. The winners were Grainne Clerkin, Aisling Williams and Ciara McCarthy. 2nd place: Mary Ann O'Sullivan, Amy Shalvey and Abigail Mahoney. 3rd place: Philip Quilter, David Oyewande and Colm Carmody.



Science Olympiad

Conor O'Mahony, Kevin Shanahan and Michael Grimes qualified for the finals of "The Irish Junior Science Olympiad" in Dublin City University. The three talented students qualified through their achievements in the Junior Certificate Science Examination and were identified by the State Examinations Commission. Conor was selected in the Biology category while Kevin and Michael represented the school in the Physics category. The three students who are currently in Transition Year, acquitted themselves admirably with Michael claiming the Silver Medal. The students are maintaining the school's strong science tradition and are following in the footsteps of fellow Mounthawk student Donnchadh MacGarry who has previously represented not just his school but the country when the event was held in Azerbaijan last year.

Mentoring Programme

Mercy Mounthawk Secondary School has a long standing tradition of organizing a mentoring programme between 1st year students and 5th year students. The aim of this mentoring programme is to endeavour to show incoming 1st years the ropes for secondary school and help them in their transition from primary school to secondary school. Each 1st year class was divided into two groups of 10-12 students and assigned two fifth year students. On the 1st year's inaugural visit to the school in August, they were given a guided tour of the school by the 5th year mentors, and a few basic rules and guidelines were also outlined.

After a training session with Ms Cronin, the fifth years began to mentor their assigned groups. The fifth years met with their 1st year groups once a week at lunchtime for the 1st term. The groups discussed various topics of relevance such as bullying, peer pressure and friendship. There was also an element of fun involved including quizzes and games, with the emphasis on interaction and teamwork. At the end of the first term a quiz was held between all the first year groups, to encourage interaction and teamwork between the groups.

Written by Daniel Pierce, Cathy Stack, Shannon Carey (5th year students)

Making a Difference

On March 22nd 2012, class 5.5 participated in a fundraising initiative as part of the 'Making a Difference' initiative for 5th year. We chose the Irish Cancer Society as our charity and we decided as a class to fundraise for this worthy cause because, it is true that there is someone in all our lives that is or was affected by cancer. We chose to fundraise on the 22nd March as Daffodil Day was on Friday 23rd March. We sold delicious cupcakes, which were in a variety of flavours, supplied by local businesses – Brudair's and Barry's Bakeries. It was a huge success, in that, all the cupcakes were sold during break time and lunch in the school on the Thursday. Also, we took orders from teachers and students for boxes of six cupcakes, which were supplied by Cupcakery, a local business in Tralee. Of the 800 or so cupcakes sold, along with the boxes of cupcakes, we raised more than €1000 for the Irish Cancer Society.

By Daniel Pierce

Group Talk (Ms. Bernie O'Shea)

Throughout the year, Group Talk was rolled out in some of the modern language classes, particularly at second and Transition Year level. Group talk (as the name suggests) involves students forming groups and discussing topics that are of interest to them, through the target language, at varying levels. These discussions/conversations are recorded and are further used at a later stage as a very effective learning tool. This technique was learned through the Digital Media Workshops run by Dr. Kevin McDermott. It is an incredibly useful tool not only for oral practice in the target language but also to learn, practice and revise a specific grammar or vocabulary area, therefore greatly facilitating the development of confidence and competence in speaking the target language. Students were very enthusiastic about being involved, commented very positively afterwards on their progress in the target language and are looking forward to further sessions of Group Talk next year.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Ms Marguerite Long launched Seachtain na Gaeilge which ran from 12th – 16th March. There was a collective effort by everybody in school to speak the 'cupla focal' and join in the spirit of the week. The Irish Department ensured that all students were involved in some aspect of the programme. There was a ceili for first year students, conducted by Liam Goggin, who ensured that they all had lots of fun as they became acquainted with the various dances. There were also prizes for students who designed the best t-shirts with an Irish theme.

There was a poster competition expressing various 'sean-fhocail' that they had learned and a 'trath na gceist' was organised for 2nd years. Sean Mac a'tSithigh, reporter and journalist from RTE and TG4 spoke to some 6th year students, while Ms. Long organised Aodhán O'Dea' from Conradh na Gaeilge to speak to 5th year students.





European Studies 2011-2012

Mercy Mounthawk took part in the European Studies Programme for the 3rd year running this year. The programme is a post-primary curriculum based programme linking schools in Ireland with schools across Europe through sustained collaborative projects furthering tolerance, mutual understanding and appreciation of the cultures of others. Currently more than 300 schools in 25 European Countries are engaged in the programme. The 26 TY students who chose this community assignment worked through a communication platform to share work with partner schools in Denmark, Greece, Poland, Northern Ireland and Cork. In November six students travelled to the Munster session of the European Youth Parliament in Cork. From this, student Liam Gannon was invited to the National Session in Dublin in March.

In March Rachel Byrne, Laura Sicut and Fiachra O Connor represented Finland in a Mock European Council Meeting in Dublin Castle. The debate with 27 other schools was broadcast live on the internet.

March continued to be a good month for E.S.P. as they won a national competition entitled 'My Vision for Europe' for a short film they made. The film was entitled 'Once upon a Time in Euroland' and highlighted the benefits of Ireland being part of the E.U. The final six schools had their films shown in the Irish Film Centre before the winning school was chosen. The E.S.P. group won a 4 day trip for the entire class and teacher Ms. Carey to Strasbourg in May where they took part in the Euroscola programme and become MEP's for a day.



Parents' Council Report – 2011/12 school year

The Parents' Council has had a very fruitful year. At the start of this school year we assisted with the Garden Fete which was held in September. The book scheme and second chance school uniform schemes have been continued. Some parents are involved with the Home School Liaison Committee and we support their work on same as well as continuing our support of Health Promotion Week in the school.

This year a Whole School Evaluation took place and we met with the inspectors to inform them of our work and engagement with the school community. We also hosted a training evening for Parents' Councils which was presented by representatives from the National Parents' Council Post Primary. A number of parents on the council formed a sports sub-committee which resulted, in conjunction with the school, with events such as the 5km fun run, zumba classes, core training etc. Our fundraising during the year involved a table quiz and a bag pack.

We ended our year with a celebration marking 10 years of the Parents' Council in the school. The Parents' Council AGM will take place in October and further details will be provided nearer to the meeting. All parents are welcome to join the council at the AGM and we look forward to seeing you there.

(Ray O'Connor-Desmond, Secretary)

Maths

Michael Grimes and Kevin Shanahan 4th year

On the basis of their Junior certificate Higher level maths exam both students were called to attend Maths enrichment classes in NUI Limerick and NUI Cork. The enrichment classes lead to Olympiad training classes for the National team. The International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) is a prestigious annual team competition for mathematically talented second level students. Well done to Michael and Kevin on being called and representing the school in this event.

Donnchadh MacGarry 6th year

A number of students in 3rd year and 6th year took part in the PRISM maths competition which was held in school on the Thursday of Maths Week. PRISM runs two contests that are open to all Irish post-primary students - one for junior cycle students and one for senior cycle students. These are multiple choice format problems designed to test your basic mathematical problem solving ability. Donnchadh MacGarry 6th year achieved not only the highest score in the school but was joint top scorer in the country.



Craobh na hÉireann I gComórtas Díospóireachta Ghael Linn

Is údar mórtais dúinn anseo i Meánscoil na Trócaire, go bhfuil Corn an Phiarsaigh mar aon le seaimpíní Chomórtais Díospóireachta Ghael Linn againn sa scoil don chéad uair riamh. Bhí cúis mhór ceiliúrtha againn i mbliana maidir le cúrsaí díospóireachta, mar gur thug foireann na scoile Craobh na hÉireann leo, de Chomórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh, i roinn na sóisear. Ba é seo an dara bliain as a chéile ag an bhfoireann ag dul chomh fada leis an gcrabhadh ach an chéad uair don scoil aitheantas náisiúnta a bhaint amach ag an leibhéal seo. Ba iad Kelly Ní Bhrosnacháin, Laura Ní Chearúil, Emma Nic Cárthaigh, Elisha Ní Bhuachalla agus Ellie Ní Argáin, baill na foirne, malartaíodh na cainteoirí timpeall i gcaitheamh an chomórtais, d'fhonn na deiseanna céanna a thabhairt do gach cainteoir.

Is ar Mhainistir na Féile a bhí ár dtríal don chéad bhabhta. Bhí Coláiste Bhréanainn, Cill Airne, An Scoil Idirmheánach, Cill Organ, agus Scoil Villiers as Luimneach ag díospóireacht sa bhabhta seo chomh maith. Bíonn ceithre fhoireann páirteach sa díospóireacht i ngach babhta, agus téann dhá fhoireann ar aghaidh go dtí an chéad bhabhta eile. 'Sé an rún a bhí faoin ár mbráid ná "Is fear a bheith i do fhear". Bhíomar go mór i gcoinne an rúin agus bhí an lá linn féin agus leis an Scoil Idirmheánach as Cill Orglan an tráthnóna áirithe sin.

Ar Bhaile Bhúirne a thugamar ár n-aghaidh don dara babhta. Chuir ár bhfoireann argóint láidir, shnasta ós comhair na moltóirí i bhfabhar an rúin, go bhfuil an tír seo loite le hábharachas agus bhí an bua againn agus ag Cill Orglan in athuair. Bhíomar dulta chomh fada leis an gcrabhadh réigiúnach faoin dtráth seo. Bhí baill na foirne i lár na réamhscrúdaithe nuair a tháinig an rún, mar sin ní raibh ar ár gcumas tabhairt faoin obair go dtí an briseadh lár téarma. Bhí cúrsaí éirithe níos dúshlánaí faoin dtráth seo mar nach mbeadh ach foireann amháin ag dul ar aghaidh go dtí an chéad bhabhta eile.

A luaithe is a bhí na réamh scrúdaithe thart luíomar isteach ar an obair agus thugamar aghaidh ar Óstán an Randles Court i gCill Airne, agus sinn réidh chun catha. "Cuireann na Meáin chumarsáide an iomarca béime ar chúrsaí spóirt" ábhar na díospóireachta. Bhíomar i bhfabhar an rúin. Bhí dian iomaíocht sa bhabhta seo mar go raibh na foirne go léir ag lorg áite i gcrabhadh na hÉireann. 'Siad An Scoil Idirmheánach Cill Orglan, Meánscoil na Toirbhirte, An Mhairdióg Corcaigh, agus Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear, a bhí sa chomhrac agus ar ámharáí an tsaol is againn a bhí an lámh in uachtar an tráthnóna cinniúnach sin. Bhí againn, bhí ár sprioc bainte amach againn, bhíomar i gcrabhadh na hÉireann don dara bliain as a chéile!

Cúpla seachtain ina dhiaidh sin tháinig an rún a bheadh le plé againn i gcrabhadh na hÉireann "Droch chultúr is ea an pop chultúr", bhíomar i gcoinne an rúin. Cuireadh an t-uafás oibre isteach san ullmhúchán agus is mó dúshlán a bhí le sárú don bhabhta seo ina measc ardáin agus micreafóin. Lena cheart a thabhairt dó, tháinig Buddy O Grady i gcabhair orainn agus luath go leor chuamar i dtaithí ar an micreafón. Faoin am gur tháinig an naoú lá is fiche de mhí Márta bhíomar ullamh chun comhraic, agus thugamar agus slua mór de lucht tacaíochta, aghaidh ar Chraobh na hÉireann a réachtáladh in Óstán an Heritage i bPort Laoise. Bhí an chomórtas idir na foirne go léir; Coláiste Pobail Áth Luain, Coláiste Iosaif Naofa as Leamhcán, Meánscoil na Trócaire, Cnoc an tSeabhaic, agus buaiteoirí na bliana anuraidh Meánscoil na Toirbhirte as Dúrlas. B'fhiú go mór an t-ullmhúchán a bhí déanta againn agus bhí ár luach saothair againn nuair a d'ardaíomar Corn an Phiarsaigh an tráthnóna sin. I dteannta an choirn, bronnadh seic de mhíle euro orainn, mar aon le leath scoláireacht chuig coláiste samhraidh an duine agus an sméar mullaigh; cuireadh chuig féile Rí Chéile in Albain sa bhfómhar.

Bliain an rathúil a bhí ann cinnte don bhfoireann féin agus dá múinteoirí go léir; Sr. Siobhán Ní Churtáin, Ms. Caitlín Ní Dhubhda, Ms. Máiréad Nic Amhlaoihb agus Ms. Marguerite Ní Lúing.

Art Club

The art club was founded when Miss O' Shea Daly decided to have a place that students could have fun and do art at lunchtime. Miss O Shea Daly and I decided to have the art club on a Thursday at lunchtime. Since then students have been going to art club every week. The art we have done includes painting, pottery, drawing and more.



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
22nd June or 20th or 21st August
(when Gemma's are in the school)



Garda Youth Achievement Awards

Five students from Mercy Mounthawk received Garda Youth Achievement Awards this year. These students have been involved in various projects over the past year and have had a significantly positive impact on the communities in which they live. The following students were honoured at a reception in the Brandon Hotel last February.

Daniel Piers does wonderful work on a voluntary basis in his local community. He regularly fundraises for Down Syndrome Ireland and has done the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle as well as teaching young people with Down Syndrome to cycle.

Shannon Carey and a group of her friends initiated an Eco Unesco project called 'Doing it for the Ducks' whereby they cleaned up the river bank area behind Casement's Avenue and made it accessible and a welcoming amenity for the wider community as well as making it cleaner and safer for the ducks who live in the area.

Luke Stafford Lacey and **Daniel Carmody** won awards for their YSI project on Positive Psychology whereby they promoted the importance of positive psychology in young people as well as undertaking significant research in that area which will be of immense benefit for future projects.

Richard Raftery received an award for his involvement with the Youth Advisory Panel of Jigsaw Kerry, that supports the mental health needs of young people aged between 12 and 25.

ATTENTION 1ST YEAR PARENTS 2012

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

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, however it does not guarantee access to any course as applicants still have to meet minimum entry requirements from their Leaving Cert as identified by the college.

Participants are nominated by their schools, based on the criteria outlined by the ITT. The criteria relate to socio-economic issues that may prevent students from accessing further education. The ITT organises the programme structure and 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. The students who participated this year found it to be very informative and enjoyable.

Sixth year students (students who had completed the 5th year programme) had a study workshop on the 22nd 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 expected that this programme will continue to run next year and 5th year students' parents will be notified early in the school year about the application process.

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

Euroscola in Strasbourg

After winning a prize for a short film made about 'Our Vision of Europe' this year, 25 excited Mercy Mounthawk European Studies Students embarked on the trip of a life time to the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 24th May. We went by bus to Dublin airport for our flight that was at 7am. On arrival in Frankfurt we met our bus driver Gudrun, a fantastic German lady who had a passion for strict timekeeping. Our first stop was the wonderful town of Heidelberg in Germany. Here we had lunch in the sunshine compliments of MEPs Pat 'the Cope' Gallagher and Brian Crowley. Afterwards we had a quick tour of this magical town. Reluctantly, we boarded the bus to leave and onwards to Strasbourg we went. A fluvial cruise around the canals in Strasbourg provided us with many wonderful sights and the beautiful weather made everything that bit more spectacular. We were surrounded by Gothic buildings and each one had a story and an interesting history attached to it. We were awestruck as the friendly locals waved and smiled as we passed.



The next morning we went to the European Parliament. Firstly we were seated in the Louise Weiss Chamber where the MEPS meet and debate. We then had the opening speeches by the representatives from each school. Joseph Daul and Rainer Wieland then gave introduction speeches followed by a question and answer session where 500 students grilled them on topics such as The Fiscal Treaty and the situation in Greece. We were then divided into discussion groups with students from all over Europe. We debated issues such as Migration and Integration, Environment, Internet Safety and formed resolutions on them. Then we went back into the chamber and relayed our resolutions to the other groups who voted and either passed or rejected them through an electronic voting system. Luckily they were all passed. The closing ceremony then took place, it was then time to say goodbye to all our new friends.

On Saturday we visited Europa Park. It is the largest theme park in Germany and the third most popular theme park resort in Europe. The park is home to eleven roller coasters and nine water rides and whilst some of us went for the adrenaline rush of the famous Silver Star rollercoaster Mr. Behan and Ms. Carey remained closer to ground level. There was something to meet everyone's fancy. After an exhausting morning it was time to leave Europa Park to head for the airport.

When we say this we feel we are speaking for the whole class, that it was an absolutely amazing trip. On behalf of the class we would like to sincerely thank Ms. Sherma Carey for all her hard work and dedication. We felt very proud to have represented Ireland in Euroscola. We left feeling very proud to be Irish. Despite Ireland's financial difficulties it became clear that Ireland is very well regarded in Europe and by other Europeans. We really got a sense of the tremendous work that is done in the European parliament. When one of the keynote speakers reminded us of how lucky we are to be living in Europe in a time of unprecedented peace we really started to realise how important it is for Europeans to work together. We got a real sense of being European whilst not feeling any less Irish. Sean Kelly MEP, Brian Crowley MEP, Pat 'the Cope' Gallagher MEP and ex MEP Mark Killilea gave us a huge amount of encouragement and support and we really appreciated that. We would also like to thank Ms. Carey and Mr. Behan for travelling with our class to Strasbourg, it's a trip that will never be forgotten.

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By Mairin Maher and Rachel Byrne.



Eco-Unesco

Eco-Unesco promotes personal development and environmental awareness through practical projects. There were 6 groups involved this year in TY. One group 'Passion for Trashion' focused on recycling materials in a fun and creative way. They visited primary schools where they spoke about waste and the environment. They displayed their artistic talents by creating masks from recycled material with the children.



Volunteer Home School Parent Team

Many parents in our school community volunteer their services each year to provide educational support to our students. Mrs. Roberta Kneeshaw and her team gave of their time each Tuesday to run the 'Maths for Fun' and 'Paired Reading' (with involvement of some Transition Year students) programmes for first year students who may benefit from extra support and encouragement in these areas.

Mrs. Elva Dempsey organised homework support for third year and Leaving Cert students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5p.m. Tuition was available in most subjects and many students availed of the extra one to one tutoring.

Pastoral support in the school was enriched by Elva and her team of mentors (some from KDYS) who provided a listening ear every week to students who were in need of advice and guidance. The students who availed of their services looked forward to the interaction each week.

The Breakfast Club continued this year. As always, it is offered to incoming first years and more senior students as the need arises. We hope to continue the service again next year.

We wish to thank Mrs. Aileen Griffin for establishing and running the Second Chance Uniform shop in the school. It has been a great success, so much so that it will be continued again next year. Aileen is now handing over the running of the scheme to Mrs. Joan Moriarty and Mrs. Catherine Casey. The scheme can only work with the support of parents and uniforms may be handed in to the school until 22nd June and also during the month of August.

Would you pay for poison?



The YSI Project 'WOULD YOU PAY FOR POISON?' came second place nationally in the YSI competitions in Dublin recently. The students involved in the project have done Trojan work during the year to raise awareness about the hazards of fluoride in our water supply. The YSI group have spoken at a Tralee Town Water Quality Meeting where councillors and the Mayor of Tralee were in attendance and where the students premiered their song 'Wake up Zombie Nation'. As a result of their efforts, Kerry County Council held a vote on the issue last December and they unanimously voted to remove the chemical. However, this is not within their power at present as water quality is a national question. YSI voiced their concerns on Kerry Radio and Youghal Community Radio. They have set up a Facebook page and a Twitter page to educate the public on the quality of our drinking water. The group plan to continue this project again next year.

Second Year School Tour

The early hours of the morning of April 8th saw the second year group leave the school to travel to Dublin Airport en route to Madrid which is one of Spain's most popular destinations and is renowned for its many cultural attractions. As always, the tour was a mix of education, culture and fun. Students and teachers visited the Reina Sophia Museum and were amazed by Picasso's masterpiece 'La Guernica'. The Prado Museum features one of the world's finest collections of European art and the students were well prepared with a hand-out of the 'must see' pieces by Goya, Velazquez, El Greco and Rubens to name but a few.

One of the main attractions for the students was the Real Madrid Stadium – Santiago Bernabeu where they had a two hour guided tour. In football terms, it was not a great year for the local football team.



Madrid has been one of the great centres of Spanish literature and the students saw the homes of Lope de Vega, Molina who created the famous character of Don Juan and of course Cervantes. 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.

The glorious sunshine beckoned us to spend a few hours in the magnificent Retiro Park, filled with beautiful sculpture and monuments, a peaceful lake and host to a variety of events. We visited some very historic sites outside of Madrid. Toledo is a very beautiful town and was the former capital of Madrid. It has the second largest cathedral in the world. Toledo is a UNESCO city as is Segovia where we saw the extraordinary Aqueducts – what a masterpiece of architecture.

The burial place of General Franco had to be seen to be believed. It is a huge Basilica, built underground and is the size of Croke Park. It has a huge Cross overhead, dedicated to all who died during the Spanish Civil War. If ever you visit Madrid, put a visit to El Escorial and La Valle des Los Caidos on your list of day trips.

For all the students and indeed the teachers, the highlight of the trip was the day spent in the Warner Brothers theme park. Great fun was had by all on the amazing rides and the exotic shows that they will dream about for years to come. Shopping and long evening walks were also part of this memorable trip. A special thanks goes to all the teachers who gave up their Easter holidays to ensure that the trip could take place.

Awards Night

The highlight of the school year has to be the annual Awards Night. It is a celebration of a year's work and a celebration of the students' fantastic efforts and achievements in Mercy Mounthawk.

The awards committee start the nomination process before Easter, distributing nomination forms, tallying and compiling lists of award recipients, ensuring that each category is fairly processed. Each year there are hundreds of nominations, indicative of the high calibre of student that is in our school.

First, third and sixth year students are nominated for awards in the Academic and Diligence categories. All students are included for the School Spirit, Christian Leadership and Comhar, Sport and Art categories.

Each year, special recognition is given to students in Leaving Cert. who excelled in or made an outstanding contribution to particular subject areas and to the characteristic spirit of Mercy Mounthawk. This year Micheal Maher was awarded for excellence in Construction Studies and Laura Fitzgerald and Micheál O'Leary in the field of Engineering. Niamh Godley got the Community Service Award and was also acknowledged for her contribution to First Aid in school. Special Achievements Awards went to Head Boy – P.J.Galvin and Head Girl - Aisling Shalvey. Siobhan Ryle was awarded the U.C.C. Cup, Mairead Leen got the Gradam Gaeilge Award and Cassie McElligott received the Arts and Humanities Award for her participation in drama and music during her years in Mounthawk. Ben Dennisson got the Tadhg O'Connell Memorial Shield for excellence in physics.

Bank of Ireland sponsor an award each year, and this year James O'Connell, Conor Nolan and Grace Egan were chosen as the winners. The musical 'Oliver' was a tremendous success this year and Una Nolan, Ryan O'Sullivan, Cathall O'Donnell and Ann Marie Knipper were presented with Drama awards for their outstanding performances in the roles that they played.

Sport is a big part of the extra-curricular programme in Mounthawk and two very deserving students – Donnchadh MacGarry and Deirdre Kearney were celebrated for their involvement in sport. Aisling Shalvey and Ciara Finnerty were presented with Board of Management Awards.

The Principal, Mr. O'Roarke, in consultation with members of staff, chooses the recipients for the Principal's Award and the Catherine McAuley Award. This year, Cara Enright was a very deserving recipient of the Principal's Award for her participation in the academic and extra-curricular life of the school. The Catherine McAuley Award was presented to P.J. Galvin, again a very popular choice, for his outstanding achievements in every facet of school life over a period of six years.





Leading Learning in Mercy Mounthawk

Mr. John O'Roarke

As was acknowledged in the recent WSE report, we have been engaged in Mercy Mounthawk for a number of years in the development of a learning community in the school not only among students but among staff and parents.

PROJECT MATHS

This year we began an evening course for parents of 1st and 5th year students on Project Maths with the purpose of supporting parents in their effort to help their sons and daughters with the new approach to teaching maths. The course proved successful and we intend to continue provision next year. In relation to the national numeracy strategy, we participated in the Learning Schools Project 3 this year with a teacher led project which developed a maths profiling test for 1st year students. *(More on page 13)*

LITERACY STRATEGY

As you will be aware, all schools have been asked by the Department to develop strategies to address literacy needs in schools. This year we have continued our Paired Reading programme with 1st year and TY students and there are plans in place to develop the training of TY students in supporting literacy as part of this initiative next year. Further to this, over the past year, we have been involved with the PDST (Professional Development Service for Teachers) to develop a reading strategy in 1st year classes. Members of the English Department have been working on encouraging 1st year students to engage in reading for pleasure. To further support this initiative, we will be refurbishing the school library this summer to make it more conducive as a space for reading for students.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW JUNIOR CYCLE PROGRAMME

The school has been chosen as one of the 40 schools nationally to work with the NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) in a pilot project to develop the new Junior Cycle programme.

You may be aware that there are plans to restructure the Junior Cycle which will begin to be introduced nationally for the 1st year class of 2014. The new Junior Cycle will involve a very significant change from the current model. It will involve a change in the educational process with more emphasis on students acquiring the skill sets that are necessary for independent learning. It is intended that students will sit only 8 subjects for national certification instead of the current 11 subjects. In place of the other subjects, schools are being asked to develop short courses in a range of options such as Leadership, Personal Finance, Drama, Chinese. If you would like to read more on these see <http://ncca.ie/framework>

Between now and then, schools are being requested to review their current Junior Cycle programme in the light of the learning outcomes and skills sets that have been developed by the NCCA. In Mounthawk, we have already set up a review group of teachers to evaluate our current Junior Cycle.

In preparation for the introduction of new modules (short courses) in Junior Cycle, we are evaluating the provision of modules in TY and the TY team have begun a rewrite of the courses in the structure and language of the new Junior Cycle programme so that TY will be a natural progression and transition from the new course to Senior Cycle. Next year we will also be engaged in developing 3 short courses in TY in Chinese, Computer Programming and Environment, which will provide the basis for the development of 3 short courses for the New Junior Cycle with the possibility of running a pilot of such courses in the 1213/14 school year. We will provide information sessions for parents of incoming 1st year students on this development during the coming year.

LEADING FOR LEARNING - INITIATIVE FROM NAPD

LEARNING TO LEARN

is the theme for the 2012/13 school year.

In a world where we have experienced such an explosion of information and in which our access to all manner of information has increased so much through the internet and mobile phones, it is necessary for educationalists to evaluate how we teach and to discuss how best to equip young people for this new information age. Gone is the time when we needed to learn information off by heart, because if we did not personally have the knowledge, then the only option was to go to the library. Today we can access all manner of information readily, so we must question the need to learn by rote. At the same time we must consider new skills, how to sift through a myriad of facts and choose the relevant piece, how to evaluate information sources because not all can be trusted to be correct, how to synthesise information and present it in a coherent way. These are the new skills required and we need to change our approach to teaching and learning and assessment to develop this skill set.

This project 'Leading 4 Learning' in which we are engaged is an initiative by the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) to develop leadership in schools focused on the core business of learning. It involves teams of teachers looking at appropriate teaching methodologies to develop in students the new skills set needed. Next year we will be working on developing a course in the school on teaching learning skills. This course will be focused initially in senior cycle, in TY and the newly introduced SPHE classes in 5th year.



Second Year Tour to Madrid



GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

As you will be aware, there have been changes nationally to the provision for guidance and counselling in our schools. The Department has cut ex-quota provision for guidance counsellors – which essentially means a cut in teacher allocation to schools, in our case, by 2.14 teachers. This has meant that we have to review the provision of guidance and counselling in the school for the coming academic year. It is our intention to maintain the highest level of provision possible and with the incoming guidance team of Ms. Betty Farrell, Sr. Nora Flynn and Ms. Mairead O'Mahony we have worked out a number of changes to the delivery of guidance and counselling to take account of new realities. The guidance team will meet with parents in September at the parent meetings.

In order to maximise efficiency in relation to the delivery of information regarding courses and subject choices, emphasis will be placed on Parent Information Sessions (dates in the calendar in this issue). At the end of these sessions, the guidance team will be available for consultation. Therefore, individual appointments with parents will only be required in exceptional circumstances and this will help reduce the allocation required. Allied to this, guidance will continue to be timetabled for 6th years and in TY and we will introduce a class into 5th year. TY and 5th year classes will run in conjunction with SPHE teachers who will assist the guidance counsellors in the provision of classes learning and study skills. Again this will hopefully cut down the demand for individual student appointments. Individual appointments will of course continue for Leaving Certificate students. These changes to provision will be evaluated at the end of 2012/13.

Young Entrepreneurs

The Young Entrepreneur Programme encourages young people to think creatively and provides guidance on setting up their own business. This is a unique programme which is the result of educators, state bodies, entrepreneurs, private sector companies and individuals pooling their resources for the common good and to provide an enriching experience for all. This year, 27 students opted for this programme in TY. Peter Karim (developed a prototype high visibility vest with LED lighting) and Conor O'Mahony (created a water meter to monitor water usage in showers) were shortlisted for the semi-final. Peter got through to the final which was held in the Malton Hotel, Killarney. All 15 finalists in the competition were invited to Dublin where they met with successful entrepreneurs and also had a meeting with the President – Michael D. Higgins.



The Learning Schools Project

The Learning Schools Project is an action research project, the aims of which are to promote the on-going development of schools and enhance the capacity of individual teachers. Mercy Mounthawk has been involved in two previous Learning Schools Projects, one involving support for gifted and talented students and the other supporting ICT development within the school.

Encouraged by the national numeracy initiative, this year's project was numeracy based and involved creating a profiling test to identify strengths and areas of concern in our first year students' numeracy abilities. The project's core team were Siobhan Stokes, Eileen Flanagan and Liam Culloty supported by the rest of the Maths Department. We began by cross referencing the Junior Cycle maths syllabus with the common 1st year Maths course. From this process we identified the basic learning outcomes in each maths strand. We then developed two questions on each learning outcome - concepts and skills questions and context and application style questions.

We redrafted the test several times after valuable discussions with personnel from the Tralee Education Centre, The Professional Development Support Team, The National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching and Learning of Mathematics and Science in University of Limerick and the Project Maths Development Team. We piloted the test at another Kerry Post Primary School and as a result made relevant changes.

The test was administered at the end of May and we plan to have compiled a numeracy profile for each student who sat the test by September. This profile will outline each student's strengths, areas that can be improved on and areas of concern and will be given to all the 2nd Year Maths teachers.

In phase 2 of the project we plan to create a bank of resources to aid the Maths teachers, SEN team and the Peer Tutoring group to improve the teaching and learning of these basic skills. The long term aim for the project is to have more students taking Ordinary and Higher level in the Senior Cycle.

Siobhán Stokes, Eileen Flanagan and Liam Culloty

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 2011 2012



The Transition Year class of 2012 finished what was a varied and productive year by staging “one of the best night’s entertainment” ever put on by a Transition Year group. The Ballyroe Hotel was the venue for the annual end of year awards ceremony at which pupils received plaques for Endeavour, Christian Leadership, Comhar, Attendance, Drama, Music, Food Safety, Sport and Class Spirit. On the night, two pupils- Joe O’Kelly and Sadhbh Brosnan received Student of the Year awards for the huge amount of hard work and dedication to Transition Year. On the night twenty two pupils received their bronze Gaisce Award and it is hoped that they will now endeavour to gain the silver award while in fifth year. The Gaisce programme was coordinated by Ms. Mary McGillicuddy without whom it would not have worked so well.

The T.Y. Night also showcased some of the many talents of our pupils, not only their academic abilities as witnessed by the comprehensive exhibits of the four class groups’ work but also their artistic talents. We saw performances of ‘The Crucible’ and ‘Romeo and Juliet’ as well as a wonderful rendition of one of the famous Monty Python sketches. I wish to acknowledge some of the performers who shone on the night, namely Aisling Bulman for showing us a side of Juliet that many didn’t know existed...her bold side! Niall O Brien and Matt Finnerty must be commended for their comic efforts in the Monty Python sketch and Laura Sicat was magnificent in ‘The Crucible’. It must be said that all actors outshone themselves on the night. Thank you to the drama teachers - Ms. Cora McElligott, Ms. Veronica Hunt, Ms. Elaine Costello and Ms. Mairead O’ Mahony for their thespian guidance.

One of the other highlights of the night was the puppet show. If you didn’t see it, well, you missed out. It will be remembered forever by those who were there and if you were absent, you might be lucky to get your hands on a clip of it.

Musical interludes were provided by Megan Carney, Sarah Dillane, Roisin Hussey, Aoife Mc Donnell, Amy Lynch and Matt Finnerty. The singers were brilliantly backed by Jamie O’Sullivan and Emma Linnane on piano, Chris Armstrong on guitar and bass and Fiachre O’Connor on drums. Ms. Naomi Nevin was the person who brought all the different musical talents

together into a seamless whole, and the night was enriched as a result of her efforts. The entire group of 107 singing the four chord song in unison was, to say the least, inspirational.

During the year our pupils took part in many events: surfing in Banna, diving in Castlegregory, rock climbing and kayaking in Cappanalea, hill walking, orienteering and mountain climbing in Killarney and Dingle. There were trips to the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Cork, the National Ploughing Championships and Killarney. They walked the old Kenmare Road from Muckcross House and on to Kenmare, they climbed Mount Brandon in aid of The Irish Cancer Society and they ran a 10k for the Carers’ Association. They bag packed for the Autistic Unit in Balloonagh and gave assistance to several local charities who needed extra manpower during the year. In all the T.Y. class of 2012 helped raise almost €20,000 for charity.

Other highlights during the year were the European Studies Group that won “My Vision for Europe” in the Euroscola Competition and received a prize of a trip to Strasbourg for the group of 26 and their very deserving teacher Ms. Sherma Carey. The two Y.S.I. groups also did very well nationally, with the “Picture Perfect” group winning their category and the “Would you pay for poison” group coming second overall. We cannot forget the fashion show in November which was coordinated by Ms. Hunt. We had a very successful Young Entrepreneur class this year with excellent ideas and prototypes from Conor O’Mahony, Cillian Cusack and Peter Karim. Peter reached the final fifteen and had a wonderful showcase of his “Safelite” high visibility jacket at the Young Entrepreneur Awards in Killarney in May.

There was also the trip to northern Italy which proved to be very worthwhile even though we endured Arctic temperatures for four of the five days. The trip was a feast of cuisine, culture and fun. We visited and had walking tours of Milan, Florence, and Verona. We experienced the Venice Carnevale with exotic masks and costumes. We managed to tour the Lake Garda region and the beautiful town of Sirmione. It was such a success that the class of 2012-2013 will be offered a similar experience.



Paul and Deirdre chillin' at the ploughing



TY Students at Ploughing Championships

The T.Y. class of 2012 were a wonderful group to work with. Their willingness to engage with whatever they were offered helped set a positive tone in and around the school and wherever they went. They were excellent ambassadors for themselves and for their school and they impressed all teachers with whom they had contact. It was a pleasure to hear from teacher after teacher, time and time again "The T.Y.'s are a lovely group". To which I could only reply "Yes they are"!

Shane Kissane



T.Y. Pupils after climbing Mt. Brandon

2011 Scholarship Winners



John Prendergast

Studying Law and Irish. Winner of U.C.C. Entrance Scholarship.

Eve O'Connor

Studying Mechanical Engineering T.C.D. Winner of Reid Scholarship.

Darragh Kneeshaw

Studying Maths and Music.T.C.D. Winner of Reid Scholarship.

Aaron Houlihan

Studying Sports & Leisure (B.Sc.). Winner of Soccer Scholarship.

Sarah Guerin

Studying Applied Physics, U.L. Winner of J.P. McManus Scholarship.



Katie Bowler

Studying Accountancy. Winner of U.C.C. Entrance Scholarship

Karen Moynihan

Studying Nursing I.T.T. Winner of Tommy McEllistrim Scholarship.

Marianna Costello

Studying French. Winner of the Reid Scholarship.

Amy Culloty

Studying Speech Therapy. Winner of Entrance Scholarship to the College of Medical and Health U.C.C.

Barry Galvin

Studying Sports and Recreation C.I.T. Winner of Sport Scholarship C.I.T.



Spanish Tapas

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 was 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 Ciara Finnerty and Sinead Farrelly 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, Clíona and fellow waiters who made us feel very welcome and served us some fabulous food! Current 5th Year students are looking forward to next year's trip already!!!



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

Monday 20th August for 1st year students
Tuesday 21st August for all other 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

Athletics



ATHLETICS TEAM: Front (l-r): Kate Boyd, Una Marley, Laura Lynch, Back (l-r): Michael Grimes, Eoin O' Carroll, Michael Godley, P.J. Galvin, Eoghan Courtney, David Kavanagh.

MERCY MOUNTHAWK ATHLETES WIN ALL-IRELAND GOLD

The All-Ireland athletics finals took place in Tullamore on a glorious June bank-holiday weekend. Indeed, it was to prove an incredibly sunny day for the fortunes of the Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk's athletics team. With the prize for Best Athletics School in the country up for grabs, the placing of every single team member was added to the scoreboard and contributed valuable team points for the school. For the second year in a row the Mounthawk Senior Boys' Team was presented with the President's Shield, awarded to the second placed school in the country, narrowly losing out to eventual winners Belvedere College. Here is a list of the individual performances that contributed to this achievement:

The Senior Boys Relay Team won gold and was presented with a commemorative silver plated relay baton. See video online at <http://ireland.flotrack.org/coverage/249388-AVIVA-Irish-Schools-Athletics-2012/video/639222-4x100m-Senior-B>

The team comprised Michael Godley, Eoin O Carroll, Eoghan Courtney and P.J. Galvin. Eoghan Courtney had a wonderful championship winning gold in the 400m hurdles in a time of 56.52secs and silver in the 100m hurdles in 14.20secs. Eoin O Carroll won silver in the Long Jump with a jump of 6.68m and came in fourth in the Triple Jump with 12.88m. Una Marley also impressed in the Senior Girls Pole Vault winning bronze with a jump of 2.70m. P.J. Galvin came third in the Senior Boys' High Jump with an impressive jump of 1.85m. David Kavanagh came fifth in the 1500m in a time of 4.09m. With another year at Senior Level Laura Lynch came fourth and eighth in the Triple Jump and Long Jump respectively. Another student with a second year at Senior Level, Kate Boyd came sixth in both the Shot Putt and discus events. Transition Year student Michael Grimes came in a respectable 7th in the Triple Jump.

A number of students who competed on the day will surely be receiving invitations to compete for Munster in the Tailteann Provincial School Games in addition to being invited to represent Ireland at the International Schools Competition. 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.

Soccer

Another year for Mounthawk soccer and progression is the key word as Mounthawk entered 4 teams in competitions this year; U18, U17, U15 and 1st years.

The Senior team qualified to the quarter final of their competition and were narrowly beaten 3-2 in extra time by Borrisokane.

The U17 team were given a very tough draw and lost in the 2nd round against Limerick CBS who went on to contest the final. The U 15s also had a tough draw and were beaten by Limerick Crescent in extra time. However they went on to win the TCC annual trophy with Ferdia O'Brien winning MVP.



Tralee Community Cup Winners

But the story of the year involved the 1st years. They started the year with 2 wins against Newcastle west 4-1 and a 6-3 victory against Tralee Community College.

Mounthawk battled through the knockout stages with victories over St. Ita's Limerick, Douglas Cork and Presentation Cork. Powerful displays in midfield by Emmanuel Abubakar and Ferdia O'Brien had got them to the Munster A final. 2 victories on penalties showed the class of goalkeeper Robbie Murphy.

In the final Mounthawk were defeated in a very tight game 3-1 by Crescent College. To reach the final was an amazing achievement as nobody expected this team to reach the final at the start of the year.

We would like to thank the Principal and vice principal for all their encouragement throughout the year. Also thanks to Tralee Dynamo's for use of their pitch and a special mention to Buddy O Grady for his help and patience. Credit must also go to the trainers, Mr. Lally, Mr Raymond and Mr Costello for spending the hours it takes to achieve such results.

Soccer in Mounthawk says thank you and "progression" is the word!

First Year Football

Mercy Mounthawk – 1st Year Kerry Colleges Winners Div. 2 2011-12

Mercy Mounthawk had a very successful Junior Boys' Football campaign in 2011-12 winning the Kerry Colleges competitions at 1st year and under 15 levels.

The Kerry Colleges 1st year league campaign began last March when Mercy Mounthawk suffered a defeat at the hands of Intermediate School, Killorglin – who eventually went on to win the Division 1 final.

In division 2 our 1st year footballers had to overcome a strong team before meeting St. Brendan's B from Killarney in the semi-final. This game was a close affair but Mounthawk were not to be denied and proceeded to the final.

A fancied St. Brendan's (A) team now stood between our boys and the first year title. This game was played in Dr. Croke's pitch, Killarney on a sunny afternoon on May 15th and was refereed by Paul Hayes. Mounthawk had a full strength side and nothing separated the teams in the first half. Our mid-field pairing of Philip Quilter and Joe Hoare performed gallantly and took the game to the Killarney outfit. Fantastic scoring by Bobby O'Regan, Michael Walsh, Evan Doody and Ferdia O'Brien meant that Mercy Mounthawk were not to be denied and were 10 point winners at the final whistle.

Other excellent performances were from Mike Linnane and Ciaran Hatter with Aaron Thompson putting in a 'man of the match' display at wing back. A great win for this bunch of players who represented the school community in an exemplary fashion. The 1st year Shield was presented by Weeshy Lynch, (G.A.A. Development Officer of Kerry Colleges) to the winning captain Philip Quilter.

The 1st year football team was coached by Buddy O'Grady and Frank Fell. Next year this team will be competing not only in Kerry but also in the Munster Colleges Competition and we wish them the best.

First Year Football Panel 2011-2012

David Williams, Ciaran Hatter, Mike Linnane, Eoghan Kearney, Kieran Mangan, Padraig O'Mahony, Adam Bohan, Rory O'Connor, Michael O'Sullivan, Sean Collins, Pat Kearney, Aaron Thompson, Colm Carmody, Quin O'Halloran, Keelan Pierse, Joe Hoare, Philip Quilter, Eoghan Mc Elligott, Evan Doody, Ferdia O'Brien, Bobby O'Regan, Eamonn Sheehy, Donagh O'Brien, Cian Liston, Michael Walsh, Dara Devine, Cormac Hurley, Robbie Murphy.





Junior Ladies' Football

Great credit is due this year to the junior lady footballers of Mercy Mounthawk. Mounthawk are the proud winners of the Group A Kerry Division 2011-2012. In the group stages, Mounthawk defeated Milltown 6-13 to 2-2, Causeway Comprehensive 8-10 to 1-3, and Castlegregory 7-11 to 3-6. The Final was played in Scartlaglen on March 12th. Here they defeated a good Rathmore side by 6-5 to 3-8. Despite the score line in the Final, the game was evenly contested until near the end, with a level score at half-time. A wholehearted second-half display by the entire team, inspired by captain Laura Rodgers, saw victory going to Mercy Mounthawk at the final whistle. All the Mounthawk players came up trumps on the day, with excellent displays from Oonagh O'Sullivan, Karina Quilter, Sarah Cooper, Aoife Fitzgerald and woman of the match Laura Rodgers. Well done to all of the girls on a fantastic display of football throughout the year. Congratulations to all involved, including coaches Ms Lyndsey Moriarty and Ms Siobhán Stokes.



First Year Ladies Football team who were semi-finalists in this year's Munster Ladies Football Blitz in Mallow. May 2012



Girls Basketball

Tomás O'Hanlon

SENIORS

Our seniors had a very successful year winning the South-West Senior title for the first time. In the semi-final the girls had a very hard fought win over Dingle and met local rivals Presentation Tralee in the final. In a very close encounter our girls came out on top with a very strong last quarter. Captain Deirdre Kearney received the trophy on behalf of the team.

This win saw the girls qualify for the All-Ireland play-offs, the first round of which took place in Mounthawk. Our girls won both of their games to qualify for the second round in the University of Limerick. Wins over St. Angela's, Cork and Presentation, Tralee saw the girls face rivals Coláiste Iosagain from Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final. Playing their best game of the year, the girls led by 8 points with 2 minutes left. But unfortunately Coláiste Iosagain hit 10 unanswered points to win by 2 points, in what was a heart breaking defeat for the girls.

In the Cup, our girls had a great win over favourites St. Vincent's, Cork but again Iosagain proved our downfall in the quarter final in Dublin.

CADET GIRLS

Our Cadets had a very successful run in the South-West League, reaching the play-offs. In the semi-final the girls produced a great performance to just pip Presentation Tralee by 2 points. Awaiting in the final were Castleisland Community College and though our girls gave it everything, they just came up short. In the All-Ireland play-offs the girls came up against the two favourites - St. Vincent's, Cork and Loreto Beaufort from Dublin and though the girls played some great basketball they just came up short in both games. In the under-16 Cup, the girls got a good run to the All-Ireland Semi-final which was held in the University of Limerick, but unfortunately the girls came up short against Malahide from Dublin.

FIRST YEAR GIRLS

Our first year team improved with every game through the South-West League to reach the semi-final. Here they came up against favourites Coláiste Ide, Abbeyfeale and almost pulled off a shock when just going down by 5 points.

The team qualified for the All-Ireland play-offs held in the University of Limerick. They had two great wins against Malahide, Dublin and Rathangan, Kildare to qualify for the All-Ireland quarter final. Here they came up against Eureka, Co. Meath and although giving it everything they were defeated. However, this team has great potential and the experience gained this year should stand them in good stead next year.

SECOND YEAR GIRLS – All Ireland Champions

Our second year girls produced some great basketball to win both the All Ireland and the South-West titles. In the South-West semi-final, they defeated Coláiste Ide from Abbeyfeale and then defeated Pres. Tralee in the final in what was a very close encounter.

In the All Ireland play-offs the girls defeated teams from Cork and Dublin to reach the All Ireland semi-final, which was held in the University of Limerick.

Here the girls faced their rivals Oranmore from Galway in a repeat of last year's first year All Ireland final. In another nail-biting encounter, the girls just prevailed to win by two points in overtime.

The final against Loreto, Foxrock was another tense and hard-fought game but the will to win by our girls saw them finish very strongly to win by 4 points and claim the All-Ireland title for the second year in a row. Captains Courtney Ryan and Orla Sheehy received the trophy on behalf of the team.



SECOND YEAR GIRLS – All Ireland Champions

Under 15 Boys' Football Coaches: Mr. Costello and Mr. Sugrue

The Under 15 Boys played in both the Kerry and Munster Competitions in 2011 and 2012. In the Munster campaign the team had comprehensive victories over Kilaloe and Kilkee scoring 7-17 and 5-15 respectively. Following these victories Hospital of Limerick were the next opponents. In a match played in Adare, momentum swayed several times. At half time the score remained very close, Mounthawk 1-6, Hospital 3-1. In an enthralling second half Hospital got 3 fortuitous goals. Mounthawk showed incredible determination and could have levelled the game only for a brave block on a goal bound Iarla Courtney shot with time up. In the end Hospital came out victorious on a score line of 6-6 to 3-12. This loss ended the Munster campaign.

The Kerry campaign started in mid-January. The first match was against Listowel played in Mounthawk. The Under 15's recorded a comprehensive victory on a score line of 9-13 to 1-1. The next match was against Gaelcholaiste Chiarrai played in the Sports Complex. In another one sided match Mounthawk won on a scorline of 5-12 to 0-0. This victory propelled Mounthawk into a semi-final versus Rathmore which was played in Castleisland on the 9th of May. Rathmore started the better team, going ahead early on 1-2 to 0-2. Gradually Mounthawk got more and more into the match with the aid of the wind. Karl Mullins got an important goal mid way through the first half to leave Mounthawk ahead at half time score 1-8 – 1-4. Rathmore started the second half brilliantly and cancelled out the Mounthawk lead within the first ten minutes. The lead changed several times during the second half, with points of an exceptionally high standard being scored by both teams. A goal from Louis Ryle and an excellent one on one finish from Cian MacGarry proved to be vital in the end result of the match. With moments left in the match and the team's level, Mounthawk got a free kick in front of the posts. Pdraig Griffin, the leading scorer for the season duly slotted the free over to give us a 1 point margin. This proved to be the last score of the match. In a compelling second half, Mounthawk prevailed 3-12 – 2-14.

This victory sent Mounthawk into the Final of the Russell Shield against Kenmare on the 15th of May. The match was played in Dr. Crokes pitch in Killarney as a double header with the Mounthawk 1st Year Boys football final verses St. Brendan's, Killarney. An exhibition of football was given by Mounthawk U-15s. Mounthawk went into an early lead by 6-1, with the wind assisting the side. With 5 minutes to go before half time interval, Mounthawk struck for two vital goals, one from birthday boy and Captain Pdraig Griffin, a second expertly dispatched by Colin Doody. This gave Mounthawk a 2-11 – 0-4 lead at half time. Mounthawk started the second half as they ended the first, with some terrific football to behold. Kenmare did fight back mid way through the second half and closed the Mounthawk lead down to 8 points at one stage. Two goals from Karl Mullins, one with 10 minutes remaining finally killed off the Kenmare fight back. A Cian MacGarry goal with just minutes remaining sealed the Mounthawk victory. Terrific performances throughout the pitch were seen. For the coaches Mr. Costello and Mr. Sugrue this group of players were a pleasure to train and are destined for future success and we will no doubt see many in the Kerry green and gold in years to come.

Russell Shield Final. 9th May 2012

Mounthawk Starting Team and Scorers:

- (1) Shane Benner
- (2) Darren Bastible (0-1)
- (3) Aaron Dunne
- (4) Iarla Courtney
- (5) Cathal O'Reilly
- (6) Donagh O'Buachalla
- (7) Louis Ryle (0-3)
- (8) Andrew Barry (0-1)
- (9) Pdraig Griffin (c) 1-6
- (10) Karl Mullins (2-0)
- (11) Sean Dukes
- (12) Ryan Dolan (0-1)
- (13) Rian O'Connor (0-1)
- (14) Cian MacGarry (1-0)
- (15) Colin Doody (1-1)



OUTLINE CALENDAR 2012/2013



SCHOOL RE-OPENING DATES:

Monday 27th August
Tuesday 28th August

Wednesday 29th August
Thursday 30th August
and 6th year)
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

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
Wednesday 15th May
Thursday 16th May
Thursday 23 May
Friday 24th May
Week of May 27th

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 3.45-6.15
Awards Night
Staff Meeting 3.45-6.15
Transition Year Night
6th Year Graduation Mass in Church of Our Lady and St Brendan 2p.m.
Block study for 3rd /6th years. Summer exams for 1st /2nd and 5th years

DATES FOR PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS All meeting are from 4.15p.m. - 6.45p.m.

Thursday 25th October
Wednesday 21st November
Tuesday 27th November
Thursday 24th January
Tuesday 29th January
Tuesday 5th February

Transition Year Parent-Teacher Meeting
6th year Parent-Teacher meeting
3rd year Parent-teacher meeting
5th year Parent-Teacher meeting
2nd year Parent-Teacher meeting
1st year Parent-Teacher meeting

H.S.E. Notice

The Health Service Executive will be in Mercy Mounthawk to distribute the HPV vaccination to 1st and 6th year girls on the following dates:
1st dose: Wednesday 26th September 2012
2nd dose: Wednesday 28th November 2012
3rd dose: Wednesday 20th March 2012