



Eureka Secondary School Christmas Newsletter 2007



French

Students of French in Transition Yr. & 5th Yr. recently attended a performance in the school gym of the play "**Le Texte Perdu**" by the French Theatre Company. This company specialises in writing and performing French plays in schools. Pupils who took part in the performance were: Melinda Nugent, Hannah Burmanje, Nuala Davis, Michelle O'Connell, Simone Simlityte, Fanchea Daly, Teagan O'Toole



Social, Personal and Health Education

The S.P.H.E department has had a busy term. Among the activities and events taking place since September are the following:

"**Aware**" presented a "**Beat the Blues**" programme to all Leaving Cert students.



The conclusion of the "**Mind Yourself**" programme has taken place with Leaving Certs.

Garda Peter Kenny has presented "**Drugs Use and Misuse**" to all Junior G Cycle pupils.

The Healthy Eating Policy is currently under review.

At the AGM of Eureka Parents' Council, the pupils on the Healthy Eating Committee presided over stands containing various food items. The pupils, prior to this, had calculated the fat & sugar content of each item and pre-



Gaeilge

Congratulations to 2nd & 3rd yr pupils who came first out of thirteen teams in the **Féile na Mí Table Quiz** in Irish, in the Junior section. The quiz took place in Athboy. The winning team consisted of: Zoe Van Geerke(2nd yr), Laura Doyle, Emma Flemming, Fiona O'Reilly & Aoibheann Tully(all 3rd yr). Also, well done to Fiona Daly (T.Y.)Katie Ní Churráin (3rd yr) & Kayleigh O'Reilly(T.Y.) who came 3rd in the Senior section of the same quiz.



Gael Linn debates took place in November. Well done to the following pupils who took part: 3rd yr - Alice Fallon, Yvonne Gilsean & Deirdre O'Reilly. Transition yr- Shauna Byrne, Aoife Lenihan & Katie Weldon. Transition yr pupils recently undertook a trip to Cooley, Co. Louth, where they attended the Irish play "**An Gruagaire**". En route, the group visited the Cooley mountains and retraced the 'Táin', taking photos at "Long Woman's Grave"

Dissolving Boundaries

Following a very successful year last year, the "Dissolving Boundaries" programme has restarted. 20 students from 1st and 2nd yr, with their teachers Mr. Farrell & Ms. Brady have linked up with St. Mary's School, Downpatrick, Co. Down. Students and teachers communicate via the use of I.T. every Tuesday. The group spent a very enjoyable day in Downpatrick in November & look forward the Downpatrick pupils' trip to Kells in April and another successful year ahead!



History

Junior Cert history class-Room 24 recently wrote and staged a play entitled "When the Music Stopped" depicting the Treaty debates of Dec.1921 - Jan. 1922. This involved cross-curricular co-operation with the artistic, dramatic and musical talents of the students reflected in the wonderful set and beautiful violin & harp music which formed part of the production. Well done to the girls and many thanks to all who helped. A special thanks to Ms. Mc Kenna (class teacher), Ms. Carthy, Ms. Dooley & Mr. Farrell without whom this play would not have been possible.



Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club continues to be a great success. Running each morning from 8 o'clock 'til 9.00,



pupils can avail of a wide range of breakfast cereals, toast, tea & coffee at very competitive prices. The importance to pupils of eating a healthy breakfast every morning cannot be over emphasised. School-work, concentration levels in class, work rate and general health are enhanced when pupils take the time to eat in the morning The service is available to all students.Thanks to Ms. Regina Convey for facilitating this service

Prefects & Mentors

The Leaders With Attitude group extend a sincere thanks to Donoghue Coaches for their very generous sponsorship of €300 toward their professional training.

L.C.A. Community Care



Leaving Cert Applied Year 2 have had a busy first term. Among the group's activities were the following: The group visited both a nursing home and a day care centre for older people; On Dec. 14th, the group made a return visit to the day care centre and performed a short concert of Christmas carols for the people at the centre. They also presented the centre manager with a cheque for €170 (which was raised through a cake sale) to purchase some items needed for the centre. The group also had a number of guest speakers to the school, including Garda Peter Kenny (security for older people), Kitty Monaghan (Meals on Wheels) & Patricia Keegan (St. Vincent de Paul) The class invited Kells Active Retirement Group to the school, providing a guided tour of the school, a song and poetry recitals followed by light refreshments!

Debating

Well done to the Eureka debating team of Karla Tubridy, Zita Fox, Hannah Dardis, Maureen Farrell & Helen Iliff who scored full points against Wilson's Hospital School, Multifarnham in a recent debate. They now go on to debate against St. Oliver's School, Oldcastle. We wish the girls and their teacher Ms. Shelley the best of luck!



Music

In October, all Junior Cert music students attended a "Music in the Classroom" concert in Dublin's National Concert Hall. This concert consisted of a performance by the RTE National Symphony Orchestra of the songs and orchestral works on the Junior Cert music course. The concert featured performances by the orchestra and soloists, including one of Ireland's best uilleann pipers Liam Ó Floinn.

On December 11th, 1st yr music classes enjoyed a concert of Christmas music performed at the National Concert Hall by the RTE Concert Orchestra. Before the concert, the girls engaged in a spot of retail therapy, fitting in some Christmas shopping and a bite to eat in Grafton St.!! Following last year's Transition year musical "A Touch of Grease", rehearsals are currently under way for this year's show "Sister Act" which will take place in early March.



Library News Contd.



On Nov. 13th, the library hosted a visit by author Aubrey Flegg who currently has five books in print, all for young people and published by O'Brien Press. This involved four different workshops with four different groups throughout the day: Mrs. Shields' 2nd yr. English class, Ms. Duffy's Learning Support group, a creative writing workshop for any interested members and the Book Club members. It was a very busy but highly successful day. Aubrey gave a reading of his work and fielded questions from a very receptive but critical audience.

On Nov. 20th, Ms. Amanda Mathers, accompanied by her four-legged friend Toby, gave a lunchtime presentation on the work of "The Last Hope Animal Charity". This event was organised by Aoife Maguire (LCA). A donation and presentation was made to the charity on behalf of all who attended.

In celebration of "Science Week", a fun science quiz was organised by Ms. Mullaghy & Ms. Byrne, as well as a display of science-based poetry by Mr. Murphy's class. Congrats to Sharon Mullen, Caoimhe Byrne, Abigail Reynolds & Shauna Gilsenan who were the winners on the day. Finally, on 12th Dec., a presentation of Christmas book ideas by library staff, (aided by Hannah Burmanje) took place. The library staff would like to thank the staff of The Bookshop, Navan for their co-operation and help in co-ordinating this event.



Guidance & Counselling

September was a busy month for Leaving Cert pupils. They attended the Higher Options conference in Dublin where they gathered the prospectus of each college represented. The students met with representatives of Irish and British colleges and with students currently attending these colleges.

Some students have applied to British colleges via the UCAS system of application and are presently attending interviews to secure places in these colleges.

Leaving Certs have also attended Open Days in NUI Maynooth, D.C.U., U.C.D., Dundalk I.T., St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, among others.

The D.I.T. Business Dept. gave a presentation to the class on courses available in their college.

5th yr pupils recently had a very successful 'Study Skills' seminar, where they gained an insight into goal setting, time management and study skills.

Transition yr pupils had a two week work placement in November where they received experience and insight into some of their chosen careers.

L.C.A.2 class recently hosted two guest speakers to their class. Representatives from the O'Fiach College of Further Education in Dundalk and Cavan College of Further Education gave presentations on their courses and on college life. As part of her Personal Task, Melissa Moriarty, LCA 2, gave a talk on the LCA programme to 3rd yr pupils.

3rd yrs, in mid December, sat their D.A.T.S aptitude tests as part of their programme, to help them with their subject choices next year. Next term, students will have class presentations and individual sessions dealing



L.C.V.P.

In October, as part of the course requiring pupils to visit a local enterprise, the Leaving Cert Vocational Programme students visited the food manufacturing company Rye Valley Foods in Carrickmacross. The pupils were initially brought to the board room where they were given a presentation on the workings of the company and the opportunity to engage in a question and answer session. They were then given protective clothing to wear for the tour of the factory floor. Rye Valley Foods is part of the Kerry Group, manufacturing ready-made meals for large companies including Tesco, Bird's Eye, Asda and Sainsbury's. The class saw at first hand how the food products are prepared, cooked, frozen and packaged. A very informative visit was enjoyed by all.



L. Cert. Applied

As part of their Social & Contemporary Issues module, the class visited Kells Recycling Centre. They were given a very informative tour & DVD presentation.

It helped to further their awareness of waste of management issues. In December, the LCA class organised a talk from the Monaghan branch of CURA. Three volunteers from CURA gave a most interesting and enlightening presentation.

Currently, as part of a Contemporary Issues task, the class is involved in organising a talk from a representative who works with the Navan Refuge.



Library News

In early September, 1st yr pupils received an introductory tour of the library, covering enrolment, membership and how to make the best use of the facilities and services provided. Membership costs € 6 and covers 5 years in the school.

A fun quiz was held in late September for all 1st yrs. Winners were: Sarah Halpin, Laura Kelly & Hannah Maher. Eureka library has recently formed a book club comprising of 25 members under the chairmanship of Hannah Burmanje (T.Y.) The club meets roughly every three weeks at lunchtime. Members bring their lunch to the library where drinks and biscuits are provided by the library. Members chat about current reading material. It's always a lively event and is much enjoyed by both students & library staff!





Sport

“Girls in Action”

“Girls in Action” is an extra-curricular physical activity programme for girls. The programme was devised by the HSE Dublin North East and Meath Local Sports Partnership, the main aim being to provide more opportunities for girls to participate in non-competitive physical activities / sports. Instructors from the community visit the school and deliver the activity sessions to the girls. A teacher from the school is present throughout each activity session. Girls in Action offers alternative activities to competitive sports in areas such as martial arts, kick-boxing, yoga, pilates, belly dancing, aerobics, self defence etc. The classes take place outside of school time. The first activity to be held in Eureka is Step- Aerobics. This takes place on Wednesdays in the school gym from 1.00pm - 1.30pm, with 30 students participating!! All welcome!



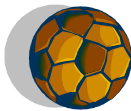
Gaelic

The Senior team was trained by Ms. Shalvey. The girls came runners-up in their division, beating Bush School and St. Louis Secondary school Dundalk. The team was unfortunately beaten by Moyne Community School, Longford. Well done to all the girls and thanks to the two co-captains Ciara Reilly & Claragh O'Reilly. A special mention to Claire Foley, goalie, complimented by trainers of the opposing team!



Soccer

Congratulations to Kellie Allen & Joanna Byrne who were chosen to play for the Leinster U 15 team in the recent inter-provincials. The U 16 team have reached the Leinster Junior Cup final, to be played after Christmas. The U 14 team have reached the Leinster Minor Cup Semi-finals, also to be played after Christmas. Well done and good luck to the teams and their trainer Mr. Noone



Showjumping

Congratulations to the Eureka team 'Blue' who won the Inter-Schools competition at Killossery and were 4th in Mullingar. The team: Niamh O'Connell, Nola Taaffe, Jane Millington & Sophie Dillon. In individual competitions, Niamh O'Connell won at Mullingar, Katie Weldon at Coilóg and Sophie Dillon at Killossery. done!



Badminton

The badminton club meets every Tuesday, 3.40 pm to 5.00pm .All students are welcome to participate!



Swimming

Swimming, life-saving and survival classes are held at Kells swimming pool on Fridays 3.50pm - 4.50pm. The minimum requirement is for students to be able to swim one length of the 'front crawl'. Cost is € 5 per session.



Basketball

Congratulations to Fiona Drew & Aoife Hamilton (2nd yr) and Ruth O'Reilly & Niamh Flattery (1st yr) who were selected to play on the North East Regional basketball team. They competed in the All-Ireland Regional Tournament in Waterford in October. Well done girls!

Basketball practice takes place as follows:
1st yrs - Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
2nd yrs - Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays.
The league commences in January.



Science

Well done to the Leaving Cert students who participated in the **Regional Finals of the ISTA Science Quiz** held in Dundalk Institute of Technology during National Science Week. They were Nicole Brady, Elaine Fallon, Naomi Noonan, Lucy Chapman, Aisling Halpin and Denise Powell. And a special word of congratulations to Aisling, Denise and Lucy who received Certificates and €25 each and also qualified for the All-Ireland Final which was held in Trinity College.



Congratulations to Rebecca Anderson whose Chemistry essay was short listed in the top 10 of **REMEDI National Science Essay competition**. She received a Certificate of commendation.

A group of Transition Year students will be participating in **Eco Radio** on LFM in April. The chosen topic is Radon. They will be attending workshops on programme production after Christmas. TY will be making their annual trip to the **Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition** at RDS in January and this year they will be supporting their classmate Helen Iliff whose project on “The Mathematics of The Simple Cable” has been accepted as an entry. We wish her lots of luck!

Well done to the students who were selected for the **Science Olympiad** based on the results being in the top 200 in the country. They are Megan Canavan and Helen Iliff.

Transition Yr. Ball

T.Y. students held the first Transition Year Ball in the Headfort Hotel in November. The ball raised €1,800 which will be used to purchase a defibrillator for the school.



T.Y. trip to Abbey Theatre

The class attended the play “The Recruitment Officer” in the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Dec. 17th.



Religious Education

On 13th December, a liturgy and Christmas carol service was held in Kells church to launch the CEIST Charter. This marks a new era as the schools of the Sisters of Mercy, Presentation Sisters, Daughters of Charity, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart & Sisters of Christian Retreat have now amalgamated their trusteeship under CEIST (Catholic Education Irish Schools' Trust). Through our shared trust, we are now linked to 111 other Catholic schools all over Ireland. The five core values of Ceist are:

1. Promoting spiritual & human development
2. Achieving quality in teaching & learning
3. Showing respect for every person
4. Creating community
5. Being just and responsible.



The liturgy included a presentation to the local St. Vincent de Paul and a remembrance of Sr. Gertrude who died recently.
May she rest in peace.

Sr. Gertrude Monahan - a tribute

On December 7th last, following a long illness, Sr. Gertrude Monahan passed away in Kells Convent of Mercy. Many current pupils will not have heard of Sr. Gertrude, but she taught a great number of their mothers, aunts and grandmothers during her time in Kells. Born Mary Josephine Monaghan in 1917, near the village of Cappaghtaggle, outside Loughrea, Co. Galway, Sr. Gertrude entered the religious life in 1936, arriving in Kells to spend 71 years with the Mercy order. Although educated by the Loreto nuns, when asked why she didn't join this order, she replied that in those days, the Loreto nuns didn't leave the convent, whereas she wished to live among the community and visit the poor. The Mercy order appealed to her for this reason.

A talented musician and linguist, Sr. Gertrude began teaching in the secondary school now located in the Catherine McAuley buildings beside the Convent of Mercy. Then, when the school moved to its present location in Eureka House, Sr. Gertrude moved too and continued to teach until her retirement in 1982. Among the subjects taught by Sr. Gertrude were Music, French, Religion & English. She also taught piano, played the violin and conducted (and accompanied on the organ) Kells church choir. When it comes to describing Sr. Gertrude - pupils, colleagues, acquaintances and friends of Sr. Gertrude are all in agreement. Pupils note that she never raised her voice, was patient, kind, gentle, always on the pupil's side. Others concur and refer to her intelligence, innate wisdom and her broad outlook on life and education.

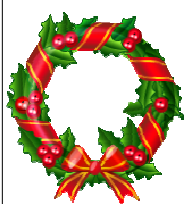
Even in recent months, Sr. Gertrude, at the age of 90, regularly sent text messages! Until a year or two ago, she would drive to Dublin! On the day of her 90th birthday on 9th June of this year, she received several phone calls from France to which she responded in fluent French! During her teaching career, Sr. Gertrude was instrumental in organising pupil exchanges between Kells and France, providing remarkable opportunities otherwise unavailable to students in Kells. Her relationship with France was ongoing and she visited it many times.

Music was another love and following her retirement from teaching in Eureka, she continued to teach piano and took a keen interest in the school's musical activities. She often visited the school staffroom, and regularly accompanied music teachers and pupils on trips to the National Concert Hall, Gaiety Theatre and Point Theatre. Her last outing with the school, at the age of 88, was to see the ABBA musical Mamma Mia at the Point Theatre. Her kindness and love of young people were always to the fore. On music trips, she regularly brought supplies of sweets for every passenger on the bus!!

In latter months, while her health was failing, she maintained a keen interest in others and rarely complained when she was in obvious discomfort.

To her immediate family and to her religious sisters in Kells Convent of Mercy, we extend our heartfelt sympathy. May Sr. Gertrude rest in peace. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

School Calendar 2008



- School will re-open Monday 7th January
- **Mid-term** - Closed from Mon 11th Feb. to Fri 15th Feb.
- **Easter** - Closing Fri. 14th March. Re-opening Mon. 31st March.
- **Summer** - Closing Fri. 30th May.

Eureka Open Day - Sun. 3rd Feb. - 3pm - 5pm.

Mock Exams - Leaving Certs will begin approx. 30th / 31st Jan.
Junior Certs - will begin on approx. 7th / 8th Feb.

State Exams -

April 2008 - 7th to 18th April- L.Cert. Oral exams in Irish, French, German & Russian

7th to 18th April—Jun. Cert. & Leaving. Cert. Practical exams in Music and Home Economics.

May 2008 - 6th - 16th May - L. Cert. & J. Cert. Art Practical exams.

7th May - L.C.V.P. written exam.

June 2008 - Written exams begin Wed. 4th June.

LCAP 1 & 2 Exams - Task Work assessment - Jan 28th - 1st Feb. **and** 28th April - 2nd May

Practical Performance exams - 12th - 16th May
Oral exams - 19th - 23rd May.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!!

