



# Christmas Newsletter 2008



Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath

## C.S.P.E

Eureka is the first school in the Meath / Cavan area to participate in the "Oireachtas and U" education programme. In early November, the Oireachtas Education officer, Sharon Murphy conducted a workshop with Ms. McGuinness' CSPE class Rm.24. As part of this workshop, two local T.D.s Thomas Byrne & Damien English attended a question & answer session from which the girls gained first hand knowledge about the life of a T.D. and the workings of the Oireachtas. The class showed great enthusiasm in their questions, some displaying true political aptitude! It was a most enjoyable change from normal class routine!

## Debating

Congrats to the Eureka Debating team and their teacher Ms. Shelley. They won their last debate against Ratoath College. They were a formidable force on the night! The team - Helen Iliff (captain), Hannah Burmanje, Katie Weldon & Alice Fallon. Also to their invaluable researcher Sophie Tevlin (2nd yr)



## History

For the first time, Eureka hosted a "History Week" from 9th—12th December. Among the various activities organised to celebrate history was a history quiz for all Junior Cert classes. Rm.12 Junior Certs came up with a novel idea for learning social history. Instead of listening to Ms. McGuinness (!), they invited their grandparents to the school on Thurs. 11 Dec. for a question & answer session. The grannies and granddads were only too eager to share their experiences and even managed to shock the girls with stories of walking to school with the turf!! Mrs. Yore was her usual dramatic self (!) when her J.Cert history classes Rm.30 & 31 presented a drama based on the War of Independence in the school gym for 2nd & 3rd yr history classes.

A fashion show time line from Stone Age to present day was presented by Ms. McGuinness and Rm.23.

Ms. Brady and Rm 15 kept us up to date with a historical Powerpoint presentation and her classes gave us snippets of funny and unusual stories.

Mr. Mallen's class Rm.24 compiled a written project on Christopher Columbus. An eventful & successful week! Well done to all!!



## Gaeilge

*Gael Linn Debates* - Three Junior Cert pupils took part in the first round of these debates in November. They were: Aine Ni Chroinin, Emma Ni Churraín and Louise Rickard. Three Transition yr pupils also took part in the Senior section of the debates—Katie Ni Churraín, Yvonne Gilsenan & Deirdre O'Reilly.

Well done to the girls, all of whom proceed to the 2nd round of the competition.

## Feachtas Irish

### Table Quiz

Seven Eureka teams participated in this competition in Navan in November. Out of a total of 34

teams taking part, Eureka turned in highly impressive performances and emerged to take 2nd and 3rd place!!

Members of the team placed 2nd were: Yvonne Gilsenan & Natalie Alken both Trans.Yr and Aine Bennett & Cariosa Sheridan both 2nd yr.

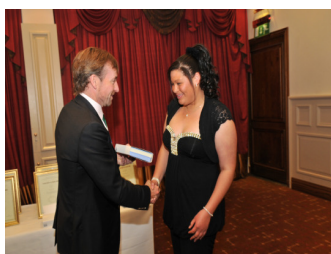
The team taking 3rd place - Katie Weldon & Claire Dronney, both Trans. Tr. And Ciara Donnellan & Aoife Cosgrove, 2nd yr.

Well done to all of the girls and their teacher Mrs. McNiffe. The final will take place in March and will involve the teams placed 1st and 2nd. Best of luck to all!!



## LCA News

Practical Achievement task - As part of this task, Cheryl Scully took part in night classes in art. She then produced two beautiful paintings and presented them to Mrs. Patti Wilcox to hang on display in her local playschool. Caoimhe Smith attended night classes in flower arranging and subsequently designed and made a Christmas wreath. Jodie Ruth Stanley participated in First Aid night classes and then gave a First Aid demonstration to the class.



Congratulations to Yvonne Muldoon who was one of five students nationally, to be presented with a special award for outstanding results in the Leaving Cert. Applied exam 2008. The presentation ceremony was held at Moran's Red Cow Hotel in November and was also attended by Ms. O'Reilly (principal) and Mrs. Harte (LCA co-ordinator). Staff & students are very proud of Yvonne and wish her well in the future. Yvonne is currently studying at Cavan College.

Well done to LCA2 pupils who took part in a Contemporary Issues Fair at the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth on December 15th.



LCA Trips - LCA classes have enjoyed several excursions both educational and social since September. Trips include a visit to the Causey Farm where students witnessed housekeeping and farming chores being performed using traditional methods! Students were engaged in bread making, catching pigs, milking cows etc.! Other trips included a visit to the Diamond Cinema, Navan to a screening of the recent film "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" and a trip to the Four Courts and Mountjoy Prison.

## Eureka Website!!

The school website has been undergoing a major overhaul with many exciting new updates thanks to our webmistress Ms. Mullaghy!! For general information on school activities, projects, photos, details of past and future events, the school calendar and previous editions of the school newsletter, log on to: [www.eurekasecondaryschool.ie](http://www.eurekasecondaryschool.ie)





## Religion Department



### Advent Service

The annual Advent Service was held in Kells church on Friday 12th Dec. Pupils and staff took time out from their busy schedules to participate in some spiritual preparation for Christmas.



Each pupil brought their own seasonal prayer to the ceremony, each beautifully designed on paper. At the end of the ceremony, each took away somebody else's prayer and promised to pray for that intention over Christmas.

### Concern Fast

The annual Concern Fast took place on Thursday 4th December. Pupils fasted, showing their solidarity with the starving peoples of the world and helped to raise money for Concern. The final count has not yet been completed but we will soon let you know the total amount raised. Thanks to all who participated and sponsored those who fasted.

### Class Masses

Our School Chaplain, Fr. David organised class masses for several class groups during the term. We wish to thank him for taking time to work with the girls.

### St. Vincent de Paul Hampers

This year over 30 food hampers were given to the local St. Vincent de Paul society during the Advent Service in Kells Church. Each Religion class in the school made up one or two class hampers and presented them in wonderfully decorated boxes and baskets. Ms. Patricia Keegan accepted the hampers on behalf of the Kells branch.



### Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

In November, 2nd yrs Rm.22 organised a collection of Christmas shoe boxes for the Samaritans' Purse charity. Over 140 boxes were gathered in the school and the girls brought them to the depot in Kells where they were checked and sent on to children in various Eastern European and Third World countries. Mrs. Ruth Clarke, a volunteer with the Samaritans' Purse, came to talk to the girls about the charity and to share her experiences of bringing the boxes to Kosovo last December. Many thanks to Rm.22 for all their work and to all who took the time to fill and wrap a box.



### Transition Year News

T.Y. Ball - This is currently being organised and will take place in the Headfort Hotel on Feb. 6th.

Enterprise Awards Scheme - The girls have been involved in setting up various businesses as part of this scheme, working with Ms. Bird & Mrs. Dillon.

"Fame" - Plans are already afoot for a production of the musical "Fame" which will hopefully be staged in March by the T.Y. class with their teachers Mrs. Harte & Ms. Naughton.

Peer Training Programme - Four T.Y. pupils have completed training in preparation for the presentation of classes to 1st yrs after Christmas on the dangers of drugs, smoking & alcohol. The girls are: Maeve Forry, Katie Curran, Aisling McKenna & Sarah McKenna.

Public Speaking - Congratulations to Clare Droney, Caitriona Smith & Caoimhe Peyton who won their preliminary round in the Mental Health Public Speaking competition against four other schools. They now go forward to the Leinster Finals. Thanks to their teacher Ms. Shelley.

### French



A French theatre group visited the school on Friday December 5th. They performed the French play "Le Cabaret" for an eager and receptive audience of 5th yr and Transition Year students.

The following students participated in the play:

Aine Fagan, Lauren Rogers, Michelle Yore, Sarah Whelehan and Nicola Scholl.

This theatre group visit has become an annual feature in the French Department's calendar!



**M.S. Readathon** - Over €1,600 was raised this year for Multiple Sclerosis Ireland.

### Art & Design



Congratulations to Meabh McKenna, Aoife Cosgrove, Claire McGinty & Deirdre Lynch, 2nd yr and Claire Dunne & Helen McGinty, 5th yr who were school winners in the

"Doodle 4 Google" Art Competition 2008. Their design will now represent the school at the national level of the competition.



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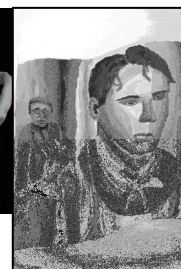
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1. 1st yrs- Clay Santa—festive approach to learning basics of form & clay manipulation
2. 2nd yrs - Sample of self portrait project
3. 3rd yrs - Sample of Junior Cert. project.
4. T.Y. - Sample of mask making project under the theme "grotesque"!
5. 5th yrs. - Sample of one of the entries for Folens "Design a Book Cover" competition. The cover is for the Leaving Cert poetry book.



## Music

### *Blues Brothers Revival*—In

October, a number of 5th yr and L.Cert music students attended the musical “The Blues Brothers Revival” in the Tivoli Theatre, Dublin. Featuring a mix of comedy and rock / soul / gospel music from the ‘60s, ‘70’s & 80’s, loosely based on the film, the girls were dancing & singing in the aisles of their front row seats! All agreed that it was a magnificent show and some eagerly obliged when audience participation was required!

*Music in the Classroom* - In November, all Junior Cert music students attended the annual Irish Times “Music in the Classroom Junior Cert Live” concert. Performed by the National Symphony Orchestra at the National Concert Hall, the concert featured songs and orchestral pieces currently on the Junior Cert music syllabus.

*Joy to the World* - On 9th December, at 3.30pm, a convoy of two coaches of 1st Yr music students set off for the annual Christmas orchestral concert in Dublin. From 5.15pm to 7.15pm, the girls shopped and dined in Grafton St. & the Stephen’s Green Shopping Centre! Excellent time keeping prevailed, nobody got lost and armed with an enviable array of shopping bags, we marched around St. Stephen’s Green, the short journey to the National Concert Hall! From 8pm ’til 10.15pm, the RTE Concert Orchestra, U.C.D. Choral Scholars and soprano Cara O’Sullivan performed a selection of Christmas music and carols. A very enjoyable but late night for all!

*1st Yr Christmas Concerts*—December 2nd & 3rd saw 1st Yr pupils perform two nights of Christmas recitals. The concerts featured pupils performing solos, duets and in groups, vocal, choral and instrumental music. Designed to give pupils experience and confidence when performing in public and to showcase existing and emerging talents, these concerts were the cause of much nervous excitement and subsequent pride for those who participated.

Much appreciation and thanks to parents and friends who attended and donated so generously on the night to our fundraising endeavours! We are most grateful.



## Library Activities

*1st yr Induction Classes*— In September, each class was given a guided tour of the library, where they were shown the facilities available to them, encouraged to join and make the best use of the school library. This culminated in a fun quiz for 1st yrs at the end of the month. Congratulations to this year’s winners: 1st -Aoife Smith, 2nd - Megan Barry & 3rd - Amy Stott. Thanks to Sarah McKenna & Melissa Herward (T.Y) who helped to organise this quiz.

*Book Club Meeting* - The first meeting of the year was held on Sept. 8th. These have been followed by regular three -weekly meetings since then. The Book Club has about 30 regular members who meet over lunch in the library and discuss various books being read by students. The highlight of this term was the visit by the Book Club to a special screening of the film “The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas” in the Diamond Cinema, Navan on October 20th. The club was accompanied on this trip by LCA1 and LCA2 classes and Mrs. Mallen’s 3rd yr English class. A very enjoyable afternoon was had, followed by a lively debate at the next meeting on the merits of the book over the film!

*Quizzes* - The library hosted history and science quizzes as part of “History Week” and “Science Week” when various displays were put on in the library in association with subject departments.

*Book Swap Shop* - On 26th November, the library held a Book Swap Shop where students were encouraged to bring in books they have read and swap them for other books regardless of size or format. This is a fun way of recycling books and all students went home with something new to read! A big thank you to all students and staff who participated!!

*New Fiction* - A lot of new fiction has recently been purchased for the library. These books will be on display on a “New Book” shelf in the first few weeks of next term. Mrs. Carolan, the Library Co-ordinator would like to thank all library monitors who have been of tremendous help in the library due to the unforeseen absence of the librarian Mrs. Allen. These students voluntarily gave up their lunchtime every day for the past month to open and run the library at lunchtime. A big thank you to Laura Brogan, Abigail Reynolds, Naomh Keogh, Emma Farrelly, Charlotte Farrelly and Rhianna Ryan Ives. As a token of appreciation, the girls were brought out to lunch on Mon 15th December.

## Science

The Regional Finals of the ISTA Pharmacological Ireland Senior Science Quiz took place at the Dundalk Institute of Technology. There were 16 teams and 48 L.Cert science students participating from all over the North East region. Congratulations to Megan Canavan, Ailbhe Gavin & Melinda Nugent who came 1st and qualified for the National Final held in Trinity College. They received a perpetual trophy for the school and each also received a cheque for €100 from Randal Henly. Also well done to Sophie Dillon, Sinead Farrelly & Sinead Lindsay who came a very respectable 4th, losing out on 3rd place by a tie breaker question!! Well done to all the girls and to their teachers Ms. Byrne & Ms. Mullaghy.

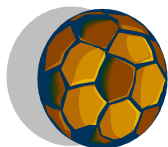


Attending a meeting of the Institute of Maths & its Applications and the Irish Maths Teachers’ Association in St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, were Helen Iliff, her parents, Ms.O’Reilly (principal) and Ms.Mullaghy. Helen was one of three students selected nationally to make a presentation on her Young Scientist project “The Mathematics of Simple Cables” to a room of mathematicians and invited dignitaries. She was commended on her informative and entertaining presentation!

*BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2009*— Two pupils have qualified— Helen Iliff with her project “Is the Future Nuclear?” and Niamh Jiminez with “Carnations - Death & Decay”. Congrats girls and every success in the competition which takes place in the R.D.S., Dublin from 6th to 10th January 2009..



## Sporting Activities and Achievements



### Gaelic Football

The Junior / Under 16 football team had a good season this year. They played Sacred Heart, Drogheda and St. Oliver's, Oldcastle at home in the Kells Gaelic Centre. They easily beat both teams and were looking forward to perhaps a repeat of last year's Leinster win! The team showed great strength and determination in their matches. Unfortunately, in an away match against Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda, they lost to a very strong and skilful side. Our Lady's went on to win the group and only one team qualified through to the quarter-finals. Well done to the players and their teacher Ms. Mimmagh. The players are as follows: Carrie Browne, Sarah Tobin, Leanne Lynch, Nicole Fagan, Shauna Kenny, Fiona Drew, Dearbhla Reilly, Jennifer Arkins, Aoife Davis, Sinead Walsh, Grainne Mackin, Lauren Henry, Megan O'Brien, Ciara Roche, Orlaith Duff, Chloe Nelson, Aine Bennett, Ruth Carry, Kelly Allen, Anne Marie Keyes, Sinead Reilly & Jennifer Newman, captain. The Senior team, captained by Claire Foley-participated in the Senior League this year. Well done to all!

### Girls in Action

Girls in Action continues in the new year, commencing again on Friday, 9th January. The new activity is kick boxing. Please ensure you have completed the Girls in Action forms!



### Swimming

Lifesaving and survival swimming will continue on Mondays after school for over 16s, and on Wednesdays after school for under 16s. Newcomers welcome!



### Gymnastics

The Gymnastics Club has been running since September every Thursday at lunchtime. Session 1 and Session 2 groups will amalgamate after Christmas. It is also planned to run an 'after school' club after Christmas for those who currently attend the lunchtime club.

### Basketball

*Under 16 team* gained strong victories over Loreto Navan, Carrickmacross, Drogheda, Naas, Ballymahon & Longford to become Regional Champions! Congratulations to team members: Laura Smith, captain, Megan O'Brien, Aine Beggy, Fiona Drew, Kristine Hand, Leanne Lynch, Aoife Smyth, Emma Somerville, Orlaith Duff, Kellie Allen, Emma Fleming, Zoe Van Geerke, Laura Cassidy & Sam O'Brien-O'Reilly. The girls will play in the semi-finals of the All Ireland Cup in Athlone on January 9th and in the All Ireland League play-offs 12th - 14th January. Good luck girls!

*Under 19 team* claimed impressive victories over Carrickmacross and Loreto Navan to become Regional semi-finalists. Congratulations to the squad: Clare Foley (capt.), Leigh Monaghan, Patricia Marley, Aisling Marley, Alice Fallon, Aoife Lenihan, Nicola McConnell, Emma Fleming, Kellie Allen & Lucy Dillon.



### Golf

Breaking News!!!! - Junior Golf Ireland in partnership with Headfort Golf Club & Eureka are promoting a major golf development scheme commencing in January '09. Criteria for inclusion - Students must be under 16 Students must have no golf handicap Students preferably not members of Headfort Golf Club. The programme includes 10 golf lessons. On successful completion of the lessons, students will be accepted as members of Headfort Club members & Junior Golf Ireland will pay half of their membership fee! For more details, contact Mrs. Foley.



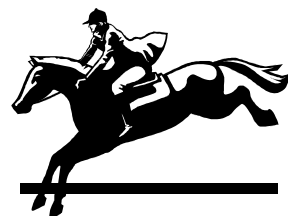
### Soccer

U 16s have reached the semi-finals of the Leinster Junior Cup. U 18s have reached the quarter finals of the Leinster Senior Cup and U 14s have reached the quarter finals of the Leinster Minor Cup. Joanna Byrne played for Ireland's U 17 team in the European Championships in Turkey. Aine Bennett played for Leinster in the U 15 Inter-provincials. She has also made the final trial for the U 15 International team. Great achievements by all the girls and their coach Mr. Noone!



### Equestrian

Well done to the Eureka show jumping team of Niamh O'Connell, Nola Taaffe, Ciara O'Connell & Dearbhla Morris who won the Inter Schools competition in Mullingar Equestrian Centre on November 8th. Seventy teams took part on the day. Niamh O'Connell clinched victory in the jump off with a lightening fast time of 27.53 seconds.



## Social, Political & Health Education



As part of the Garda Schools' Programme, members of the force delivered a presentation on substance abuse to all junior classes. They also organised a trip for senior classes to visit Dublin City Courts and a guided tour of Mountjoy Prison.

### Oxfam Unwrapped

2nd yr Rang Cara, decided to buy a goat from Oxfam to help support a family in a developing country. We all donated a Euro or two each towards the fund. We chose a goat as it gives a family milk to drink, fertiliser for their crops and kids to add to their herd. We hope this goat will strengthen people's livelihoods. Oxfam Ireland have a range of special gifts available on their website: [www.oxfamirelandunwrapped.com](http://www.oxfamirelandunwrapped.com)

