



# Eureka Secondary School Christmas Newsletter 2009



## Green Schools

Congratulations to Dearbhla Finn, 1st Year & Aoife Cosgrove, 3rd Year (both pictured below) who won prizes of €100 and €200 respectively for their art work for the Meath Co. Co. Anti-Litter



Calendar 2010 competition. The calendar will be launched before Christmas.

In addition, Aoife Cosgrove & Lisa Conroy, 3rd Year were chosen by the Environmental Awareness Officer to record an anti-litter voiceover. This advertisement campaign has been running in cinemas nationwide since mid-November. The girls recorded their voiceovers in a Dublin

## Young Social Innovators

Ms. Briody's Rang Diarmuid are participating in a "Log on & Learn" initiative with retirement groups in Kells and Bohenmeen. Every Tuesday, from 4pm to 5pm the students teach computers to members of the retirement groups. After the computer class, everybody has tea and a chat in the AV room. We'd like to wish all participants a Happy Christmas & a peaceful new year!



**Debating** - TY girls were in full flight this year as they went head to head with each other, debating in front of all TY pupils. A tense, closely watched affair, both sides battled for supremacy! In the end, the winning team was: Claire Condon, Rhianna Ives & Naoise Reilly. The worthy opponents were: Emma-gene Cooke, Jenny Hopkins & Amy Brogan. Well done to the girls, their teacher Ms. Shelley & guest adjudicator Mr. Farrell.

## Transition Year

Emma Ni Churraoin, TY recently wrote two articles which were published by the Meath Post, during her work experience there. One article was on fashion, the other was on Transition Year. Well done Emma!

## SPHE

A presentation by the mental health organisation "Aware" was given to all Leaving Cert. pupils earlier this term. The talk was entitled "Beat the Blues"



Meanwhile, the Samaritans presented a programme on mental health to all 5th years.

The Gardai presented a "Drugs Programme" to all

## Maths

Mary Corbally and Aoibheann Clarke, both TY, took part in the International Maths Olympiad in December. This is based on the very high maths grades they received in Junior Cert. Well done!



## History

**Week** - was held in the school from November 30th to December 4th.



A great success, it involved every pupil from 1st Yr to Transition Yr. Activities included: door displays illustrating different periods in history (3rd yr winning door Rm.22 below) a presentation on Martin Luther, poster competitions to advertise "History Week", role plays on explorations, class presentations on social changes and the fashion and musical styles of 1960s, '70s, and '80s, during which students dressed according to the decade which they were studying. Announcements entitled "On This Day" were made over the intercom by 1st yr pupils, informing the school of particular events in history which occurred "on this day"



**MS Readathon**—Raised €2,000 for Multiple Sclerosis Ireland and over 500 books were read!! Well done and thanks to all involved!

## Anti-Drug Driving

TYs have been making anti-drug driving films as part of their film studies module with Ms. Goode. A great success, pupils have shown a great commitment to the films!



## Dissolving Boundaries

Eureka is once again involved in this initiative. This is a North-South based project which brings students together via the medium of technology. This project has been running since 1999 and is funded by the two Departments of Education and managed by the University of Ulster and NUI Maynooth. This year we are linked with St. Mary's Secondary School, Newry. Students from both schools will work collaboratively on a history project, in Eureka's case, Ms. Brady's 2nd yr history class. It was decided that the students would study the 1916 Rising, designing a model of Dublin in 1916 and later design a web page based on this era of history. Correspondance between the two schools will take place via a protected website and through video conferencing in the classroom. It is hoped that a face to face meeting will be organised later this year. Ms. Brady wishes to thank all 2nd yr students involved in the project for their hard work to date and the girls look forward to the video conference in the new year!

**French** - TY pupils recently attended a French language film entitled "La Classe" at the Film Society in the Ramor Theatre, Virginia. Accompanied by Ms. Smith & Ms. Barry, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the film which is set in a modern day French classroom. The film was recommended viewing for schools by the Irish Film Institute and had featured advance research by TY students.





## Music

### "Eureka's Got Talent"

In October, 57 talented acts entered the school talent show. The acts included solo singers, group singers, solo & group instrumental playing, solo & group dancers, comedy / drama acts. Styles ranged from pop to rap to Chinese, to hip hop dancing! Over the next 8 weeks, each act performed for a school audience in one of the weekly lunchtime heats in the school gym, presided over by 3 teacher judges each day. 33 acts qualified for the two semi-finals which were held on 30th November & 1st December. Then on Fri. 11th December at 8pm in the school gym, accompanied by a live rock band, 16 acts battled it out in front of 3 external judges. The finalists -

Lauren Halpin & Shannon Cummins, L.Cert; Megan Furlong, 5th yr; Zoe Van Geerke, 5th yr; Tong Sun, 5th yr; Louise Rickard TY; Emmagene Cooke, TY; Chloe Smith 3rd yr; Aoife Cosgrove, 3rd yr; Niamh Flanagan, 2nd yr; Juliana Martyn, 2nd yr; Rebecca Byrne & Niamh O'Kelly Lynch, 2nd yr; Danielle Lynch & Fern Thongthip, 2nd yr; Niamh Linnane, 1st yr; The Room 8 Band - Eva Kane, Ciara O'Connor, Kayla Gillic & Eimear McKenna, 1st yr; and the Just Dance group - Andrea Geraghty, Katie Carry, Emily Anderson, Sarah Walsh & Rachel Smith, 2nd & 3rd yr. Gabriela & Mariana Fuente, TY & 2nd yr. Congrats to the winners (pictured below):

1st - Lauren Halpin & Shannon Cummins, L.Cert. Singing a rap;

2nd - Zoe Van Geerke, 5th yr, singing;

3rd - Juliana Martyn, 2nd yr, comedy act.



The second half of the show involved more talented vocal, instrumental and dance acts along with a 1st year choir singing Christmas carols.



Thanks and congratulations to everybody who took part in the heats and / or qualified for the semi-finals.

Without the 57 entrants, there would have been no talent show and lunchtimes on Thursdays would have been less fun! Thanks also to all who came along on the night to support the show

The proceeds of "Eureka's Got Talent" have gone towards Eureka school funds and to Our Lady's Hospital Crumlin.

### Solstice Choir

A choir of over 50 pupils from the school under the direction of Mrs. Harte, were recently invited to perform a selection of Christmas songs at a concert for local schools and talent in the Solstice Theatre, Navan. The concert entitled "Christmas at Solstice" took place on 5th December. Congrats to all involved, and to the soloists who excelled on the night: Danielle Lynch, 2nd yr, Sarah Louise Flynn, 5th yr, Emma Curran, TY & Zoe Van Geerke, 5th yr.



### St. Trinian's

The annual Transition Year school musical is currently in rehearsal. This year's show is St. Trinian's, based on the recent film, which in turn is based on the old St. Trinian's black & white films of the 1950s. It charts the adventures and misdemeanours of a gang of unruly secondary school pupils and their even wilder teachers! Accompanied by a live rock band, it is hoped to be ready for production next term.

Further information and tickets will be available at the school (046 - 9240132).



## Library News

In September, each 1st yr. Class was given a guided tour of the library,

where they were shown the facilities available to them, how to make the best use of the library and encouraged to join. This culminated in a fun quiz at the end of the month. Congrats to this year's winners: Lauren Doyle, Rm.9; Chloe McKenna Rm. 7 and Riona Fox Rm.9.

**Book Club** - The first meeting of the year was held in a September and a new chairperson, Abigail Reynolds 5th yr was elected. This was followed by regular fortnightly meetings, where about 20 regular members meet over lunch in the library to discuss the various books that they're reading. This year they have prepared a "Book Club Recommends" Christmas Reading List highlighting their favourite reads.

**Author visit** - The highlight of the term was a visit by the author Re O'Laighleis. Re facilitated a number of workshops with various groups and gave a very lively & motivational lunchtime presentation to a packed library. A former teacher, Re has been a full time writer of novels & short stories since 1992. Living in the Burren, Co. Clare, he is the biggest selling contemporary writer in the Irish language. He is twice winner of the Bisto Book of the Year Merit Award.



### Volunteering in the Community

Three students, Kelly Ennis, Siobhan Kearney & Natalie Alken recently gave a lunchtime presentation in the library to a very receptive audience on their work & training with the Order of Malta and the Civil Defence respectively. The girls are very involved voluntarily with these organisations and are gaining valuable

skills in administering First Aid.



**New Fiction** - The library has recently purchased a lot of new fiction. These books will be on display on the New Book shelf early next term. Mrs. Carolan, Library Co-ordinator, would like to thank all library mentors who gave up one lunchtime a week to help in the library. This year's mentors are:

Caoimhe Byrne, 3rd yr; Abigail Reynolds, 5th yr; Charlotte Farrelly, 3rd yr; Sophie Tevlin, 3rd yr. Any student who wishes to train as a library mentor please contact the library desk.

**Civil Defence** - It's always a pleasure to see pupils voluntarily taking part in events outside the school. Natalie Alken & Kelly Ennis, both 5th yrs, volunteer with the Civil Defence. They train weekly in Kells and help out at events at weekends during the year. Siobhan Kearney, L.Cert. Joined the Order of Malta, trains on Mondays in Navan and hopes to become a paramedic in the future. The girls recently spoke of their experiences to a rapt audience of pupils & teachers in the library. These experiences have made them stronger, more confident & more capable in the event of their being an accident in the home.

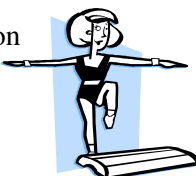
Following the library talk, a "Mufty Day" in which pupils paid to wear Santa hats and stripy socks, raised approx. €500 for the civil Defence & Order of Malta. Siobhan explained that the Order of Malta operates on a voluntary basis, receiving no money from the government.





**Girls in Action** - Well done to all who took part on Friday lunchtimes. Kung Fu, Tai Chi & dance proved very popular! After Christmas, Girls in Action will move to Wednesdays after school with Pilates! Open to all pupils! Contact Ms. Foley!

**Gymnastics Club**—This will begin in January on Thursdays after school for all those interested in improving their skills or simply having fun!



**Basketball** - The annual *Eureka Basketball Marathon* took place on November 10th last, the purpose of which was to raise money for the purchase of sports equipment for the school. Following a fantastic effort by all students & teachers who participated, a grand total of €3, 925 was raised. 1st Year Room 8 was the class group which featured the highest participation rate and which collected the most money at



€384. Congrats to Ms. Foley & Mr. Tierney for organising the marathon and to the teachers' team on their impressive victory over the Leaving Certs! The atmosphere in the gym during this match was electric! Well done to the following individual pupils who collected the most money: 1st - Rebecca Goodwin, Rm.24, €71; 2nd - Saoirse McNulty, Rm.24, €64; 3rd - Aine Beggy - TY, €55.

The U.19 team reached the regional playoffs but were narrowly repeated by Our Lady's, Castleblaney who went on to win the region! The U.16 team displayed great team spirit this term!



**Gaelic Football** - Congrats to the Senior panel who finished 2nd in their group, qualifying for the Leinster Quarter Final, where they were unfortunately defeated by a very strong Moate team. The U.16 panel have topped their group to qualify for the Leinster Quarter Final which will be played shortly after the Christmas holidays.

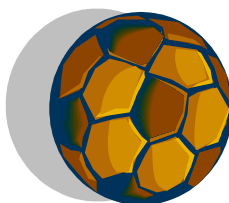
U.14 - Competitions for the team will begin after Christmas. Good luck to all pupils and their teacher

Mr. Wright.

1st yr - a selection of Eureka 1st yrs travelled to Dunganny, near Trim just after mid-term to play a Gaelic football blitz. There were some notable performances from Rebecca Carolan, Dara Slater & Edwina Olwill. The day ended with a match between two Eureka teams which ended in a "controversial" draw!!

Thanks and well done to all the girls and Mr. Tierney!

A special thanks to David Gormley of Gormley's Pharmacy for his generous sponsorship of a new set of football jerseys for the school!!



**Soccer**—The U.18s have reached the Semi-Finals of the Leinster Senior Cup, U.16s have reached the Quarter Finals of the Leinster Junior Cup and the U.14s have reached the Quarter Finals of the Leinster Minor cup! All 3 age groups have won all league games! Great work by teams & Mr. Noone!



### Showjumping

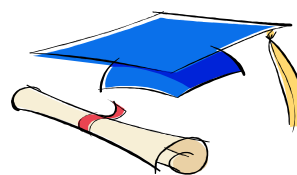
The Eureka showjumping team of Niamh O'Connell, Ciara O'Connell, Nola Taaffe & Shauna Smith won the Inter-Schools competition in Claregalway on November 7th last.

## Guidance / Counselling

The year began with the L.Cert annual visit the *Higher Options* presentations. Here, students gathered information, attended talks and spoke to staff & students of the various third level colleges. The school also had visits from NUI Maynooth, NUI Galway, D.I.T, Cavan College & Dundalk I.T.

Just before mid-term, 88 TY pupils under took a fortnight of work experience. The work included primary teaching, retail management, work in a recording studio and in TV & radio, to name but a few. Following this, some pupils have secured weekend work & even jobs for the summer! One student even has her own radio slot, writing & presenting her own programme!

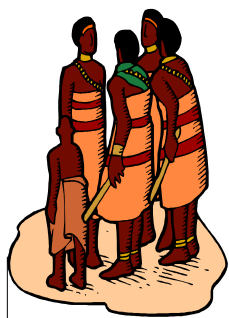
3rd Years have started on their subject choice option programmes for Senior Cycle. Aptitude tests have also been administered. Presentations have been given to 3rd years on the L.C.Applied option, L.C.Vocational Preparation & Transition Year. There will be an "Options Night" for pupils & parents on January 12th, where staff will give information on the various Senior Cycle programmes available!



Congrats to two former students who won scholarships to colleges this year: Sophie Dillon to UCD, and Ailbhe Gavin to Trinity!

**Gaeilge** - Eureka had 3 teams competing in the Féile na Mí Table Quiz in Athboy in November. Congrats to Méabh O'Reilly, Emily O'Halloran, Louise Rickard, Clare Condon & Katie Ní Churraoin who won 1st prize (pictured below). We also participated in the Feachtas Table Quiz in Navan at the end of November and out of 34 teams, we came in 4th & 5th places. Our teams were: Niamh Flatery, Ruth O'Reilly, Ciara Donnellan & Áine Bennett who came 4th and Emma Ní Churraoin, Caroline Hayes, Samantha O'Brien-O'Reilly & Aine Ní Churraoin who came 5th.





**Love Shack** - Eureka has linked up with Love Shack, Kenya, to try to improve the lives of people living in the slums of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. Love Shack was founded by an Irish woman, Karen Ward, in 2004. Her primary focus is to provide education & medical care for destitute & orphaned children. Our aim for 2009 / 2010 is to help fund a project which will provide a

new building, equipment and personnel for a "Little Citizens Day Care" unit and sleeping quarters for orphaned students. These students are presently sleeping on the classroom floor at night. So far, Eureka has held a 24 hr fast and raised €5,000. A big thanks to all who took part. Members of Love Shack will be in the school in January to update us on the progress of work in the slums.

### Art



1



Left;

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> yrs. A sample of self portrait project, where the students learn tonal work, painting and form while focusing on the proportions of the face.

2.TY. A sample of self portrait graffiti for the TY wall of fame.

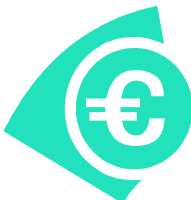
Below; MS Weir's YSI TY students have been learning about film appreciation since Sept. With this new knowledge the students are now filming various short films highlighting the problems of bullying. In the New Year the students will learn about the technical side of film editing. The objective of this project is to make a positive change by reaching as many people as possible with a variety of messages concerning the issue of bullying, by communicating through the medium of film.



### TY Mini Company

As part of the TY Business Programme, each of the four TY class groups have formed mini-companies which sell various products to Eureka customers. Profits, in varying amounts, are made by each company. The companies and the products which they sell are as follows:

No Pass no Probs - Provide shopping service for students without a lunch pass; Baby Brownies - homemade brownies with optional ice cream; Wicked Bikkis - homemade biscuit cake; E-Flurries - Ice cream with chocolate bar toppings; Angel Cakes - homemade cupcakes, brownies, cookies & muffins; Kokoa Kebabs - fruit skewers topped with chocolate; Cookie Club - homemade cookies; Toasties - toasted sandwiches; Knockout Notebooks - personalised notebooks; Mili's Chocolates - homemade chocolates; Moonlight Promotions - organising junior disco; Ministry of Muffins - muffins & hot chocolate; Memory Madness - compiling the TY Yearbook. Congrats to all the hardworking entrepreneurs and their teach-



### Samaritan's Purse

A large number of beautifully decorated and wrapped shoeboxes containing gifts for children of varying ages were put together by pupils in November. These boxes were then sent to the Samaritan's Purse Organisation for distribution to children in poor areas of Eastern Europe and other parts of the world. Thanks to all who were involved.



### St. Vincent de Paul Hampers

During December, all classes were busy creating food hampers to be distributed by the local St. Vincent de Paul to needy members of the local community. On Monday 14th December, the hampers were presented to members of the St. Vincent de Paul at the school Advent Service in Kells Parish church. Thanks to all for their generosity.

### Fair Trade in Eureka

As part of the Young Social Innovators project, TY Rang Oisín launched Fairtrade in Eureka on Dec. 10th. Damien English, T.D. kindly agreed to attend and speak at the launch. Fairtrade is a people's movement for change. It aims to give producers a better deal by ensuring better prices, improved working conditions, local sustainability & fair terms of trade. It's hoped that by highlighting the objectives of the Fairtrade movement, we, as pupils and teachers in Eureka can provide a social awareness education, resulting in an enhancement of the personal sense of justice & responsibility innate to all!

Following the launch, Fairtrade products were on sale in the canteen and refreshments were served.

Well done to the pupils involved and to their teacher Ms. Glynn.





## Retirements

Two members of Eureka's staff have recently retired, Mr. John Broderick, Deputy Principal and Mr. Leonard Noone, soccer coach and teacher of English & history. Both have worked in Eureka for over 30 years and are remembered with fondness, admiration & appreciation by pupils and staff alike.

We wish them both long, happy, healthy retirements



## Science Week 2009

The week was a great success with several events & activities held in the school. Ms. Shalvey brought her L.Cert class to Teagasc Centre in Grange, near Trim, where the girls learned about the best feed for beef cattle and about DNA testing to strengthen breeding.

Well done to all pupils who participated in lunchtime activities during Science Week. Thanks to Mr. Yore for his lunchtime lecture entitled "How Big is the Universe" Congratulations to Sarah Casey, Claire O'Reilly, Jasmine Fairbrother Adams, Katie Weldon, Hannah Burmanje & Helen Iliff who recently took part in the Regional Finals of the ISTA (Irish Science Teachers' Association) Senior Science Quiz. The girls, pictured below, came joint 2nd and received a cash prize. Well done also to their teacher Ms. Mullaghy



## Welcome to new

### Deputy Principal

We welcome our new Deputy Principal, Ms. Gabrielle Moran who arrived in Eureka after the Hallowe'en break.

Ms. Moran previously worked as acting Deputy Principal in St. Paul's Secondary School, Greenhills, Dublin and had been seconded for a number of years by the Dept. of Education to work with the Second Level Support Services (SLSS).

We wish Ms. Moran the very best of luck in her new

## Transition Year Law Module

Transition Year pupils of Law recently took part in a mock trial at Kells Courthouse. Under the direction of Ms. Dolan, the girls fought off the stiff competition of the 5th yr Kells Community School team which had been trained by Sgt. Graham Tolan. The 'trial' featured a case brought by the D.P.P v Mr. Pat Parker, the latter being accused of Assault Causing Harm. Michelle Mullen played the accused, Laura Smith: a witness for the defence, Sinead Walsh: a solicitor, the two barristers for the accused were Jennifer Newman & Clodagh Kenny. The court clerk was Caitlin Ní Mhealoid! There were also six jurors. This was the first Eureka mock trial held, and it's hoped to possibly have another before the end of the year! Well done to the Eureka winning team and to Ms. Dolan!



## School Calendar 2010

- **School will re-open** - Thursday 7th January
- **Mid-term** - Closed from Mon 15th Feb. to Fri 19th Feb.
- **Easter** - Closed Mon. 29th March to Fri 9th April inc.
- **May** - Closed Mon 3rd (Bank hol.) & Tues 4th
- **Summer** - Closing Fri. 4th June.

**Parent Teacher Meetings:** - J.Cert & 2nd Yr—Thurs 14th Jan, 1st Yr & TY - Thurs. 25th Feb.

**Mock Exams** - Leaving Cert & Jun. Certs will begin on 1st February  
L.Cert Craftwork mock exam—Thurs. 25th Feb.

**April 2008** - 12th - 23rd April- L.Cert. Oral exams in Irish, French & German.

12th to 23rd April—Jun. Cert. & Leaving. Cert. Practical exams in Music and Home Economics.

**May 2008** - 4th - 14th May - L. Cert. & J. Cert. Art Practical exams (dates to be confirmed)

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

**June 2008** - Written exams begin Wed. 9th June.

### School Activities—

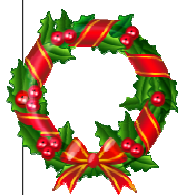
**Jan**—12th—Senior Cycle Info. Evening for J.C. pupils & parents; Week beginning 25 Jan - Multicultural week

**Feb** - 5th - Staff meeting (Class finishes at 1pm), 7th - Open Day; 27th - 1st yr Entrance Assessment

**March**—Week beginning 8th - Healthy Eating Week; School Musical—date to be confirmed; 25th - Penitential Service

**April** - 13th - Information Night for incoming 1st yrs.

**May** - Awards Night - date to be confirmed; TY Graduation—Mon 24th; L.Cert Graduation - Tues 25th



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!**