



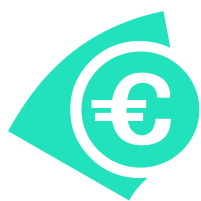
# Christmas Newsletter 2010

Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath



## Parents' Association Fund-raising Bingo

Eureka Parents' Council recently undertook a fundraising Bingo and raffle. The net profit, after costs was €1,802. Considering that €1,500 was distributed in prizes, this was an overwhelming success, in which parents played a pivotal role. During the school year, this money will be transferred to school



funds and ultimately, the students will benefit from the extra resources which this money can provide. A huge

thanks to all parents who supported this venture. A special word of thanks to Ms. Bernie Geraghty, Secretary of the Parents' Association and Ms. Agnes Dillon, teacher representative of the Association.

## School Musical

Plans are well underway for the annual Transition Year school musical. The show entitled "Little Miss T" is a modern adaptation of a well known fairytale. Featuring a cast of over 80, the musical which runs from Tuesday 3rd May, to Friday 6th May, 2011, promises eye catching costumes and stage sets, lots of comedy, energetic dancing, and pop and rock songs accompanied by a live rock band. Tickets will be on sale in April at lunch time in the school canteen and are available from the school on: 046 - 9240132.



## M.S. Readathon

Eureka's avid readers recently took part in the M.S. Readathon, raising €1,436 for the multiple sclerosis charity. Well done girls!

## Breast Cancer Awareness

We now have a "Used Clothes Bank" in our school, where staff and pupils can recycle unwanted clothes and other textiles. We hope to launch it in January but pupils are free to use it at any time throughout the school year. We hope to send a text from time to time to remind pupils and their families to put a bag or two aside for us! Textile Recycling Ltd. is the official supplier of the clothes bank and collects its contents, in conjunction with Meath County Council, and is the official sponsor of Breast Cancer Ireland. Sending in your recyclable textiles will help support Breast Cancer Ireland, Love Shack V.L.M. and our school. The following items are acceptable: shoes, Wellington boots, leather items e.g. belts, handbags; shirts, ties, blankets, duvets (wrap duvets tightly so they don't block up the front of the bin), and of course clothes of all kinds.



## Young Social Innovators

Transition Yr Rm. 11 organised "Cancer Awareness Week" for Dec. 13th - 17th. The week was planned to raise awareness of the different types of cancer which affect young girls. Various guest speakers were invited to the school and the TY students organised a fundraising event for "Canteen Ireland". Unfortunately, due to recent bad weather, most of the items planned for the week had to be cancelled. Subsequently, "Cancer Awareness Week" will be rescheduled in the new year.

## Eureka Film Club

Eureka's film club "Technical Difficulties" has been busy making a variety of films since September, including a film about elder abuse which they have entered into a HSE competition. They will receive the results in the new year!



## Re-scheduled 1st Yr Concert



The 1st yr Christmas concert, originally planned for Monday 13th December, was a casualty of the recent Arctic weather and was re-scheduled to the following week on Monday 20th Dec, but dangerous road conditions forced a second cancellation. We hope to re-schedule it in February or March.

## Art

### Credit Union Poster Competition 2010

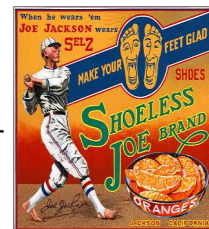
Congrats to the following students who won at local level:

11-13 yr old Category:  
1<sup>st</sup> - Lydia McCabe; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Michelle Ball  
Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> - Aoife Flattery & Clodagh Manning

14-17 yr old Category  
1<sup>st</sup> - Rhianna Ives; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Niamh O'Reilly  
Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> - Cáit O'Reilly & Heather Cadden  
At **regional level** of the competition, Lydia McCabe and Rhianna Ives won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in their respective categories.

### Doodle-4-Google 2010

Congrats to the following students whose designs were chosen to represent Eureka in this year's competition:  
Niamh O'Sullivan - 5<sup>th</sup> Yr., Cáit O'Reilly - 5<sup>th</sup> Yr., Rhianna Ives - 5<sup>th</sup> Yr., Ciara Roche - 5<sup>th</sup> Yr., Edwina Olwill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr. & Tshepang Mahasha, 1<sup>st</sup> Yr.  
Good luck girls in the next Stage of the competition



## LCA Community Care -

LCA pupils recently visited the new Community Childcare Facility in Kells, where they were given a full guided tour of the centre. The group also attended the local Day Care Centre Open Day.





### Eureka Library Activities

In September, all 1st yr students were given an introductory tour of the library, shown the facilities available to them, how to make maximum use of the library and encouraged to join. A 1st yr fun quiz was held on September 30th. Congratulations to the winners: 1st Place - Antonina Ryan, Rm.34, 2nd Place - Katie Oliver, Rm.8, and the Participation Prize went to Ciara Walsh, Rm.6.

On September 24th, Ms. Mary Murphy, Executive Librarian, Ashbourne Library provided a library training session for Eureka's library monitors - head monitor Naoimh Keogh 5th yr, Caoimhe Byrne, Hannah Maher & Sophie Tevlin, TY and Sinead Garry, 3rd yr. This was informative, encouraging and enjoyed by the monitors. A visit to the Meath county Library was organised for 14th December but had to be cancelled due to weather conditions. It will be re-scheduled for the new year.

Also in September, Eureka School Library Book Club held its first meeting and elected new Chairperson - Sophie Tevlin, Secretary - Lucy Tevlin and Assistant Secretary - Caoimhe Byrne. Meetings are held every second Thursday. There are currently about 30 members.

On October 13th, to celebrate **Maths Week**, Mr. Hurley organised a maths quiz in the library. Congratulations to the winners: 1st Place: Eadaoin Yore & Mary Carpenter Rm.7; 2nd Place: Bronagh Carolan & Lauren Carpenter Rm.8; 3rd Place: Emma Meegan Rm 8 & Megan O'Kelly Rm.34;

To celebrate Autumn in all its glory, Ms. Mc Kenna and 2nd yrs Rm.35 displayed their reflections on the season in the library during October. Thanks to Rm.35 and their teacher for a very colourful and knowledgeable display!

To celebrate **Hallowe'en**, the library was decorated, had a "Spooky Book" display and held a "Witches & Wizards quiz. Congratulations to the winners: 1st Place: Sarah McKenna L.Cert; 2nd place: Sarah Lawless, Laura Conaty, Amy Smith & Olympia Szczepanska, all 1st yr Rm.9.

**Science Week:** In celebration of Science Week, on November 8th, the library hosted a talk entitled "Pathways to Science" by guest speaker Ms. Mary Colclough, a scientist from Trinity College, Dublin. Pupils found this talk very interesting and enjoyed the question & answer session afterwards! During Science Week, there was also a display of science books and information on famous Irish and local scientists. In addition, Ms. Byrne held a group science quiz. Congratulations to the winners: 1st yr - Lisa Cooke, Laura O'Brien; 2nd yr - Ciara O'Connor & Isabelle O'Keeffe; 3rd yr - Claire Vaughan & Elaine McPhilips.

**History Week:** Mr. Whitty and LCVP students Ciara O'Brien, Gwen Quinlan, Carrie Browne & Sorchá Farrell were to host a history quiz, but due to weather conditions, the school was closed. The history quiz will now take place in the new year.

**Christmas:** Students decorated the library for Christmas. They always look forward to this, particularly decorating the Christmas tree which is displayed on the main table. Refreshments & goodies were served.



### Used Stamp Bank

Please send in your used stamps!

We need them for the Mission Office in Dublin's Sherrard St.

The collection of used stamps will help to support the work that they do. All classes, by Christmas

will have an empty Pringles container in which they can collect stamps on an ongoing basis. There will be a small prize at the end of each month for the class which collects the most used stamps in their year group. Well done and thanks to Rang Eoin and Rang Orlaith for their work in getting this up and running.



### Advent Service

The annual Advent Service was held in Kells church on Thursday 23rd Dec. Pupils and staff took time out from their busy schedules to participate in some spiritual preparation for Christmas.



### St. Vincent de Paul Hampers

This year several food hampers were given to the local St. Vincent de Paul society, on behalf of class groups. Each Religion class in the school made up one or two class hampers and presented them in wonderfully decorated boxes and baskets. Local St. Vincent de Paul representatives accepted the hampers on behalf of the Kells branch.

Pictured below are some of the pupils handing over their classes' hampers.

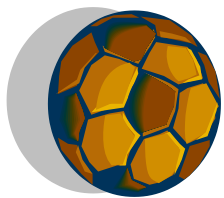


**Debating -** The Eureka Debating Team are at it again! Following on from a triumphant win against Ratoath College, the girls: Sophie Tevlin, Aoife Cosgrove, Niamh Flattery, Katie Meegan & Claire McGinty, are readying themselves for battle once more! They are so powerful in their arguments that they have been likened to 'barristers in waiting'! Well done to the girls and their teachers Ms. Shelley and Ms. Goode.

**Spanish Debating -** The 5th yr Spanish debating team competed against Kings' Hospital & qualified for the Plate. The team: Saoirse McNulty (captain), Jane Caffrey, Emily Lynch & Julia Walsh. They look forward to competing again in 2011!







### **Soccer**

Congratulations to the girls on the 1st Year soccer team who are Leinster champions! The

team is as follows:

Sarah Gilsenan, Laura Keegan, Kara O' Rourke, Niamh O' Keeffe, Aoife Mc Keever, Edith Lynch, Megan Foley, Amy Smyth, Hannah Quinn and Shianne Swarres.

Congratulations also to the U 18 team, on reaching the quarter final of the Leinster Senior Cup. The U 16s reached the quarter final of the Leinster Junior Cup and the U 14s reached the quarter finals of the Leinster Minor cup. Congrats to all of the above teams and to their hardworking trainers Mr. Leonard Noone and Fr. David Brennan.

In addition, 1st year student Shianne Swarres played for Leinster at U 15 level in the recent Interprovincials.

### **Dodgeball Marathon**



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This annual fund-raising event took place in November, in the gym, to raise funds for the P.E. Dept. This

year's activity was dodgeball and it was hugely successful, raising €3,450. The money raised will help to replace and repair old equipment and also towards the purchase of new equipment. The annual match featuring teachers versus Leaving Cert pupils took place at lunchtime, and true to form, the teachers continued their winning streak by beating the Leaving Certs again!! It was a highly entertaining match, enjoyed by players and supporters alike! A special mention must go to Mr. Whitty who took the "Most Valuable Player" award for his very entertaining basketball skills!! A big thank you to all students and teachers who took part. Congratulations and thanks go to 1st Yr. Room 6 for raising €458 and for having the most pupils participating in one class! Thanks also to the following pupils, from various classes, who each raised over €50: Shianne Swarres, Aoife Cosgrove, Lindsay Carolan, Sarah Grillet, Caoimhe Lynch & Shanti Petticrew.

### **Girls in Action**

Girls in Action has been taking place every Tuesday after school in the gym. Pupils from 1st yr to 5th yr have been taking part in kickboxing and self defence. After Christmas, the activity will change to hip hop dance. The aim of Girls in Action is to encourage teenage girls to partake in a variety of physical activities, in order to improve fitness levels and to promote a healthy lifestyle. In conjunction with the school's P.E. teachers, it has been established by Meath Sports Partnership and the North Eastern Health Board. New members welcome. For details, please contact Ms. Foley.



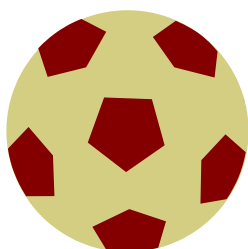
### **Gaelic Football**

The U'16 team has had just one game this year so far. Representing the school at 'A' Level has been a big step up for the girls, but one that they've proven well able for! They put in a great performance against the reigning All Ireland 'A' champions, St. Leo's of Carlow. Eureka started out strong and led at half-time. But unfortunately, the Carlow team were narrow winners on the day. The girls were due to play Loreto, Wexford in the second round of the competition, but the game has been postponed 'til the new year, due to bad weather.

The Senior Team has played both group games of this year's competition and have finished top of their group, with fine victories over Loreto Navan & Loreto Balbriggan. The girls had a home advantage in the first round against Loreto, Navan, where they put in a fantastic performance and were worthy winners on the day. The game in Balbriggan turned out to be a much tougher test and Eureka finished on top with a scoreline of 4-6 to 1-9.

The girls now proceed to the Leinster Quarter Final where they'll face St.

Colmcille's, Knocklyon early in the new year. Best of luck to all the girls and their trainer Mr. Wright.



### **Camogie**

Eureka participated in the Under 16 camogie Leinster Competition this year. The girls had one victory, one draw and one defeat. The competition is still ongoing. Well done to all the girls and to their teacher Ms. Shalvey.

### **Basketball**

The Cadette & Senior basketball teams both had a good season this year. After a slow start to training, the girls went into their first match of the season against Scoil Mhuire, Trim. Both teams gelled together from the throw in, gave 100%. The Cadettes came out with a tight 3 point win, the Seniors with an even tighter 1 point win. Unfortunately, Dunshaughlin proved tough opponents and came out ahead of both eureka teams. The Senior team would have had the edge over Dunshaughlin, but were unlucky to be missing half the squad that day!

Our final matches against Our Lady's, Castleblaney were very difficult. The Cadettes played their hearts out but unfortunately lost. The Senior team were very unlucky to lose to Castleblaney and were highly praised by the opposition and by the referee for their skills and abilities. Neither team qualified for the group, but hopefully both teams will take the positives from this year and train hard in the new year to improve for next year's season. Well done and good luck next year to the girls and their coach Ms. Mimmagh. The teams are as follows:

**Cadettes:** Emma Allen, Ruth Anderson, Megan Barry, Aine Bennett, Natasha Carry, Andrea Farrelly, Grainne Gilsenan, Alex Noonan Moriarty, Rebecca O'Brien, Laura Oliver, Rachel Smyth. Sarah Walsh, Rebecca O'Driscoll & Orna Morris.

**Seniors:** Kelly Allen, Aine Beggy, Katie Carry, Laura Cassidy, Fiona Drew, Niamh Flattery, Andrea Geraghty, Sylwia Nowak, Megan O'Brien, Samantha O'Brien-O'Reilly, Ruth O'Reilly, Jennifer Rodrigues, Laura Smith, Sarah Tobin & Sinead O'Brien.



## Retirement

NEXT EXIT ➔

### Retirement—Ms. Margaret Shields

Following over 20 years of teaching service in Eureka, Ms. Margaret Shields retired at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. A native of

Co. Galway, Ms. Shields is widely

remembered as a dedicated teacher of English and Geography. In the teaching of English, Ms. Shields frequently supported her class work by organising trips to the theatre and cinema. Several Shakespearean plays and a variety of English novels were dramatised for pupils, committing them hopefully, to long term memory!

Ms. Shields' geography lessons were often supplemented by field trips, some local, some further afield.

In recent years, Ms. Shields took on the role of Healthy Eating Co-ordinator and the department co-ordinator of SPHE (Social, & Personal Health Education). During this time, she set up a Healthy Eating Committee, comprised of pupil members from all years. These pupils worked very closely with Ms. Shields and were loyal and devoted in their projects. The committee engaged in a tireless campaign to spread awareness among pupils of the importance of healthy dietary choices. The campaign led to the introduction of fruit, smoothies, yoghurts, soups and other healthy but tasty treats to the school canteen menu! Under Ms. Shields, certain less than healthy items were subsequently removed from the menu, hopefully leading to a healthier school population!

In her role as SPHE co-ordinator, Ms. Shields regularly organised, for each year group, visiting speakers to the school, on topics such as mental health awareness, depression, teenage sexuality and general public safety / protection.

We thank Ms. Shields for her dedicated teaching and invaluable contribution to school life. We wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement!

### Obituary—Sr. Benignus Kelly

Staff and past pupils of Eureka learned with sadness of the death, at the age of 96, of Sr. Benignus Kelly. A native of Ballinabrackey, Co. Meath, Sr. Benignus entered the convent in Kells in 1934. Her life's work was in education. Her teaching career began in the 1940s when she joined the staff of Kells secondary school for girls, which in 1956 became Eureka Secondary School.

Sr. Benignus was principal of the school from 1966 to 1980, and at a time when resources were scarce, she made sure that help was given to pupils, when needed, for books and uniforms. Under her leadership, the school developed and expanded and she introduced subjects like chemistry, physics, German and higher level maths, when they were not generally available in girls' schools at the time.

Although she taught Irish & geography, her life long passion was the teaching of maths, which she continued long after she officially retired. For several years, following her retirement, she gave extra maths tuition to pupils who were repeating the Leaving Cert, at both higher and ordinary level.

She liked to keep in touch with her past pupils, and loved to hear that they were successful and happy. Many remained in contact with her.

Eureka students and staff provided a guard of honour, both at her removal to St. Colmcille's Church and for the funeral.

This guard of honour stretched from the doors of the church, down the route of the funeral cortege past Eureka school.

The large numbers of people who attended her wake and funeral, were a testament to the loyalty, affection & respect she inspired in all who knew her.



**Cross Country** - This year's team attended two Cross Country events. The U'14s were successful in two team events, the first in Loughcrew in October and the second in Meath's Schools' Cross Country Championships in Gormanstown in November. The winning team in Gormanstown consisted of: Sarah Armstrong, Megan O'Kelly & Catherine Brady. Congratulations also to Grainne Sheridan who came 2nd in the U 19 event in Gormanstown.



## School Calendar 2011



- School will re-open Monday 10th January
- **Mid-term** - Closed from Mon 21st Feb. to Fri 25th Feb.
- **St. Patrick's Day**—Closed Thurs 17th (bank hol.) & Fri 18th March
- **Easter** - Closing Fri. 15th April. Re-opening Tues. 3rd May.
- **Summer** - Closing Fri. 3rd June.

Eureka Open Day - Thur. 3rd Feb. - 5pm - 7pm.

Parent Teacher Meetings: - **1st yr** - Tues 18th Jan (4.15pm—6.45pm)

**2nd yr** - to be re-scheduled.

Senior Cycle Information night - Wed. 25th Jan

Multicultural Week - 24th - 28th Jan. .

Entrance Assessment—Sat. 5th March

Cervical Cancer Vaccination - Fri 25th March.

School Musical—"Little Miss T" - Tues 3rd - Fri 6th May.

**Mock Exams** - L. Cert & J. Cert will begin approx. 4th February

**State Exams** -

LCA exams - End Jan / beginning Feb (date to be confirmed)

April 2008 - 4th-15th April - L.Cert. Oral exams in Irish, French, German

4th-15th April - Jun. Cert. & Leaving. Cert. Practical exams- Music & Home Ec.

May 2008 - 3rd - 13th May - L. Cert. & J. Cert. Art Practical exams.

3rd - 6th May (final date to be confirmed) - L.C.V.P. link module written exam.

Awards Night - Tues 17th May

TY Graduation - Fri 20th May

L.Cert. Graduation - Tues 24th May



*Merry Christmas and Happy 2011!!!*