



Eureka Secondary School Summer Newsletter 2008



Library News

In Feb.'08, Eureka library hosted a visit by poet Mr. Frank Galligan, whose books "A Strong Weakness" & "A Cold Forbidding Irish Green" have received excellent reviews. Mr. Galligan, who is a regular contributor to "The Last word" with Matt Cooper on Today FM radio, read poems from his book & entertained all with some hilarious anecdotes from his childhood. To quote a Transition yr. student "after 10 minutes, he had won over even the most rebellious of students & poetry haters alike"!

March saw the library celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge with a tráth na gceist & seisiun ceoil agus damhsa organised by Mrs. Carolan's 2nd yr. Irish class. Thanks to all concerned!

The Career Talks series continued with a visit by photographer Mr. Seamus Farrelly and two social care workers-Ms. Jenny Nulty & Ms. Edel O'Reilly. Both events were very well attended and all students went away a little bit more informed about these different career paths.

The Book Club continued to meet every second Wednesday in the library for lunch. Lively & enjoyable events, students discussed books they were reading. All were enthusiastic & have developed critical analysis skills over the course of the year. It's hoped to develop this very enjoyable lunchtime event next year.

The annual end of year party for library monitors has taken place. These pupils voluntarily give up their lunchtime once weekly to help out in the library. A big thanks to Laura Brogan (Head Monitor), Alannah Tennanty, Shauna Flynn, Tong Sun, Samantha O'Brien-O'Reilly, Abigail Reynolds, Niamh Keogh for their invaluable help during the year. Enjoy the summer!!



Dissolving Boundaries

This is a cross border programme linking Eureka with St. Mary's High School, Downpatrick, Co. Down. 1st & 2nd yr pupils met every Tuesday after school to create a web page for a virtual retail store. Students and teachers from both schools met twice during the year and once again the co-operation of the girls was excellent. Thank and well done to those involved—Samantha O'Brien, Naoise O'Reilly, Laura Murphy, Kimberly Quinn, Sadhbh Nic Giolla Chomhaill, Niamh O'Connor, Mairéad McCabe, Aideen Delaney, Rose Whitley & Amy O'Keeffe and to their teachers Mr. Farrell & Ms. Brady.



Eureka Fashion Show

Eureka Fashion Show took place on 14th May in Headfort Hotel, Kells, the purpose of which was to raise

funds towards the purchase of school equipment. A terrific night was had by audience and participants, with pupils and teachers taking to the catwalk to model the latest fashions. Special thanks to local boutique owners who loaned clothes for the occasion and to the generous sponsorship of local businesses.

Congratulations & thanks to all pupils and staff involved, especially Ms. Jackie Glynn, the organiser of the event for her tireless work in the weeks preceding the show, to Mr. Yore who was compere for the evening and to Ms. O'Reilly.



L.C.A Drama

L.C.A1 students presented a wonderful performance of their version of "X-Factor" entitled "Actor Factor", attended by all 1st & 2nd yr students, on 23rd May.



Media Studies

Media Studies students produced a school magazine called "Eureda" which is on sale to all students at €12.

Student Enterprise Awards

Transition Yr. pupils recently took part in the above awards scheme which was sponsored by Meath County Enterprise Board. All students attended workshops and seminars on the various aspects of running a business & subsequently set up their own mini-enterprises. The school awarded prizes to the three best businesses. In 1st place was Helen Iliff with her business "Cured Accounts". Helen went on to represent Eureka in the County Finals. 2nd place went to "Jellyfish Productions" which produced beautiful handmade cards for all occasions. This group comprised of Sarah Burmanje, Sonia Butler, Caitríona Farrelly, Laura Kelly, Helen McGinty, Doireann O'Reilly, Ciara Tiernan & Aishling Turner. 3rd place went to PJOE Productions who produced a CD showcasing the singing talents of Shauna McDonnell. This group's members were: Phoebe Igoe, Jenny Dollard, Orlaith Clarke & Emma O'Reilly



Guidance & Counselling

Due to the outbreak of mumps in Maynooth College, the Transition yr trip to the college open day had to be cancelled. However, the T.Y. and LCA classes managed to sample various jobs during their work experience stints during the year and hopefully learned to appreciate the world of work!

An information evening was held in the school for incoming 1st yrs, during which Ms. Diver gave a presentation on the work of the guidance counsellor.

Social Innovators Programme

Transition Yrs participated in two projects one of which involved visiting the elderly in local nursing homes and a second which focused on making Eureka "greener"! The students attended a "Speakout" in Dundalk where they presented their projects through drama and music. Both groups were selected to attend the Final held in the RDS on 7th & 8th May.



Music

"Sister Act"

Following last year's musical "A Touch of Grease" this year's offering was the hugely popular "Sister Act". The show featured the 46-strong cast of the 2008 Transition Year class. Directed & produced by Mrs. Harte & Ms. Naughton and supported by a very able and energetic backstage crew, a backing choir & a rock band. The show proved the perfect platform for displaying the extremely versatile comedic and musical talents of the Transition Yr. Class. The show packed the hall each of the four nights & received rave reviews! The main roles were played by Patrice Murtagh, Aoife Lenihan, Hannah Burmanje, Ciara Smith & Jenny Dollard. Congrats and well done to all concerned!

Thanks to all Eureka staff and Principal Ms. O'Reilly for their support before and during the musical. Thanks also to those who supported it by attending the show and to our very generous local businesses who provided us with very attractive raffle prizes each night.



Seachtain na Gaeilge—Thanks to a group of Irish traditional players who, before Easter, gave two concerts of Irish music to students in Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, Kells. Those involved were: Rebecca Bartley, Áine McQuaid, Hannah Quirke, Caitlín Ní Mhealóid, Áedín Poole, Gráinne O'Reilly & Áine Ní Chróinín

Leaving Cert Recital

L.Cert. music students recently held an evening recital for parents & friends. This is an annual event, held just before the L.Cert music practical exams, where the girls perform vocal & instrumental pieces, solos & groups. It provides a platform to demonstrate their musical talents while simultaneously giving the students a 'dry run' to build up their confidence before the practical exams, which are worth 50% of the overall marks. Thanks to all who attended and who donated so generously on the night to the "Camara" charity which funds the delivery of refurbished computers to Africa and with which Ms. Bird will undertake volunteer teaching of I.T. skills in Uganda this summer!



Transition Year Trip to Barcelona

Transition years took their annual foreign trip to Barcelona. They were accompanied by Ms O'Reilly (Principal), Ms Jordan, Ms Harte and Ms Mullaghy (tour organiser). They visited the major sites in Barcelona such as Sagrada Familia, Casa Mila, Montjuic and Cosmo Caixa Science Museum, Picasso Museum, Las Ramblas just to mention a few places. They also had a half day in Aquapolis Water Theme Park and a full day at Port Aventura Theme Park. They showed exemplary behaviour and are a credit to their parents and the school.



Athletics

Meath Athletics Championships;
1st yr: Emily Sheridan— 500m —Bronze
Ruth O'Reilly - High Jump - Silver
2nd yr: Hannah Farrelly - High Jump—Bronze.

J.Cert: Nicola Fox - Relay - Bronze
5th yr: All girls took home medals! -
Aisling Marley - Shot Put - Silver
Lorraine O'Connor: Long jump-bronze
Shauna Moran—800m-2nd; 1500m- 1st
Leah Rennicks - 800m - Bronze
Shauna, Lorraine & Leah also won Bronze in the Relay!

In May, in the North Leinster championships in Santry, S. Moran won Bronze in 1500m & L.Rennicks won Silver in 800m. Well done & good luck in Finals later this month!

1st Yr. trip to the zoo

First years made their annual trip to Dublin Zoo on May 21st. A sunny dry day, the girls enjoyed their visit and



by all accounts behaved impeccably for the duration of the trip!!

Science

Congrats to Transition Yr. Student Helen Iliff who won a prize at the BT young Scientist & Technology Competition. Her project entitled "The Mathematics of Simple Cables" came 2nd in the Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences category! Helen also came won a prize at the Scifest held in the Institute of Technology, Tallaght, winning 2nd prize for her project on "Newton's Second Law". Congratulations to T.Y. students who won "Best Communication of a Scientific Topic" at the Scifest in Tallaght. The team consisted of Lisa McKenna, Caitríona Farrelly, Melissa Shannon & Phoebe Igoe. The girls also participated in Eco Radio on LMFM where their show "Radon Gas" was presented on April 26th. They were short listed for the final, held on 29th May where they were overall winners, taking an MP3 player each and €7,000 worth of media equipment. Congratulations to the girls and their teachers Ms. Mullaghy & Ms. Byrne.



W5 Science Exhibition

All 2nd yr pupils attended the W5 Science exhibition- (named after the 5 'W' questions—Why, Where, When, Who, What!) in the Odyssey Arena in Belfast. Organised by Ms. Corcoran, pupils had a chance to try out various scientific experiments & technological equipment. Each student attended a workshop where they gained hands on experience in experimentation. The trip included a short stop in Newry on the way back. The students are to be commended on their exemplary behaviour for the duration of the trip!



Basketball—



Eureka's *U-16 team* won the North East Regional Final beating Larcy College, Clones in December at the Phoenix Centre, Carrickmacross. The team were top of their pool with decisive wins over Virginia, Bailieborough, Dunshaughlin, Loreto Cavan & Inver College, Carrickmacross. A well deserved win for the dedicated, hard-working team: Aisling Marley (captain), Nicola McConnell, Mary Logan, Michelle Yore, Kellie Allen, Claire O'Reilly, Laura Cassidy, Áine Finlay, Emma Fleming, Alice Fallon, Michelle O'Connell, Eanair Reilly. In January, the girls travelled to Belfast for the All-Ireland qualifiers where they met teams from Rathcoole & Multyfarnham. After two tough games, they came 2nd in their pool. Well done to the entire squad for their time, effort and enthusiasm!

U-19 team - The senior team had a great season progressing to the Regional Finals. Unfortunately they were beaten by a strong Monaghan Collegiate side. The seniors played with great team spirit beating Carrickmacross, Dunshaughlin, Bailieborough, Loreto Cavan & Virginia. The team is as follows: Mairéad Costello (captain), Jordan Grey, Rachel McLoughlin, Cliona Rennicks, Patricia Marley, Caitríona Farrelly, Eileen McConnell, Katie Weldon, Eanair Reilly, Lucy Dillon, Leigh Monaghan, Clare Foley, Aoife Lenihan & Aisling Marley.

1st yrs -had a great start in the league, beating Breffni College & Virginia but lost to Loreto Cavan by only 3 points in extra time. The team: Niamh Flattery, captain, Ruth O'Reilly, deputy-captain, Hayley Clarke, Julia Walsh, Emily Sheridan, Caoimhe McKenna, Áine Bennett, Emma Gilsenan, Rebecca Goodwin, Jennifer Roderiguez, Sarah Tobin, Emma Gilsenan, Mairéad de Grás, Maggie McGoona, Aileen Flood, Katie Carry, Ciara Donnellan, Aoife Cosgrove, Caoimhe Moriarty, Laura Callaghan, Chloe Smith, & Sarah Halpin.

2nd yr team started the league by beating Virginia, Breffni College, Bailieborough & Loreto Cavan! They progressed to the Regional Finals having beaten Oldcastle in the Semi-Finals. They beat Dundalk to become North East Regional champions! Well done girls! The team competed in the All-Ireland play-offs in April, playing Newbridge in a gripping and closely contested match. Going to extra time with 3 seconds on the clock, the score was Eureka 47, Newbridge 46. Newbridge scored the winning basket on the buzzer, final score 48-47. The team won and lost their next games, the loss of the 1st game costing them a place in the Semi-Final! Congrats to all the players and their teacher Mrs. Foley! The team are: Samantha O'Brien, Fiona Drew, Orlaith Duff, Rebecca Clarke, Eimear Jackson, Shauna Gilsenan, Aoife Carty, Laura Murphy, Christine Hand, Áine Beggy, Megan O'Brien, Sinéad Reilly, Emma Somerville, Naoise Reilly, Aoife Smyth (captain), Laura Smith, Lorraine Coyle, Dearbhla Reilly, Jennifer Newman, Sarah McMahon, Julie Reilly, Michelle Mullen, Nicole Alken, Rhianna Ives, Amy O'Keeffe.



Congrats to Fiona Drew, Ruth O'Reilly & Niamh Flattery who were selected to play on the North East Regional basketball team in

Gaelic Football

The U-14 squad had a tremendous season beating Athboy, Ratoath, Nobber & Dundalk. They beat Clondalkin, then played Clontarf in the Leinster Semi-Finals. Then in a nail biting game, they beat Loreto Kilkenny in Mountmellick in the Final to become U-14 Leinster Champions!! Congrats & well done to the players & their coach Ms. Mimnagh: *1st Yr:* Chloe Nelson; Lauren Henry; Nicole Fagan; Catherine Smith; Rachel Hoey; Sarah Tobin; Áine Bennett; Jacqueline Kavanagh; Niamh Murray; Sorchá Farrell and Caoimhe McKenna & Leah Newman who stepped in for injured players in later matches. *2nd yr:* Jennifer Newman; Fiona Drew; Megan O'Brien; Sinéad O'Reilly; Ruth Carry; Shauna Kenny; Dearbhla O'Reilly; Carrie Browne; Sinéad Walsh; Julie Reilly; Gráinne Mackin; Fiona Curran & Leanne Lynch (captain, who also plays on the U-14 Meath team!)

Megan O'Brien & Orlaith Duff play on the U-16 Meath team this year.

The following 2nd yr pupils were chosen to represent Eureka in the Meath Super Sevens finals in Navan: Leah Newman, Sarah Tobin, Caoimhe McKenna, Rebecca Goodwin, Áine Bennett, Jackie Kavanagh, Chloe Nelson, Ruth O'Reilly, Erica O'Reilly, Emily Sheridan. Well done girls!



Swimming

Lifesaving & survival swimming was introduced in Eureka on Thursday evenings. The students who partake in these lessons are on their way to becoming lifeguards & swimming teachers. Well done to:

1st yrs: Charlotte Farrelly, Felicity Duggan, Maeve McKenna, Dearbhla Morris.

2nd yrs: Clodagh Kenny, Rose Whitley, Alanagh Tennanty, Emma Farrelly & Shauna Kenny.

3rd yr: Claire Droney, Claire O'Reilly.



Girls in Action

Well done to all pupils who took part in Wednesday lunch time activities - aerobics & kick boxing. The group also attended a Dance Fest in Navan. Next year will see a new programme with different Activities. Make sure to sign up in September!!



Showjumping

Congratulations the Eureka team, the 2008 overall National winners in the Hoofprints Inter-Schools Showjumping League which involves approx. 40 teams from all around the country. Two teams represented Eureka this year - the Blue Team - Niamh O'Connell, Jane Millington, Nola Taaffe & Sophie Dillon—and the Gold Team - Emma Fleming, Katie Weldon, Niamh Hoey & Dearbhla Morris. Eureka competed in all fifteen legs of the league with great success, winning in Killossery, Creagh, Wallslough and in the Final in Gorey. They also came 2nd in Killossery, Broadmeadows & Mullingar and third in Athenry.

This year saw the introduction of an individual competition run on the same basis as the team competitions. Niamh O'Connell was the overall winner, Sophie Dillon came 3rd & Katie Weldon, 6th. Well done to the girls and their teachers Mrs. Dillon & Ms. Gilsenan!





Soccer

The U-14 team reached the Finals of the League this year but unfortunately were beaten during extra time. They also progressed to the Leinster Cup Final only to be cruelly beaten in a penalty shoot out! The team members were:

1st Yr.: Áine Bennett (who also won 1st year Player of the Year) Leah Newman, Jackie Kavanagh, Rebecca Goodwin, Nicole Fagan.

2nd Yr: Jennifer Newman, Kirsty Moloney, Orlaith Duff, Sinéad Walsh, Leanne Lynch, Áedín Poole, Ruth Carry & Kirsty Moloney

The U-16 team won the Leinster Schools' Junior League. The girls had an excellent season and were Leinster Cup runners up. The team members are:

1st yr: Áine Bennett, Rebecca Goodwin & Jackie Kavanagh

2nd Yr: Jennifer Newman, Orlaith Duff, Áedín Poole, Ruth Carry, Megan O'Brien, Leanne Lynch & Sinéad Walsh

3rd Yr: Áine Fagan, Kellie Allen, Joanna Byrne & Cara Mullen

U-17 team won the N.E.C.L. League and Cup!

U-19 team- Congrats on winning the Leinster Schools Senior League. Team :

1st yr: Áine Bennett, Leah Newman

2nd yr: Jennifer Newman, Orlaith Duff, Áedín Poole, Ruth Carry, Megan O'Brien, Kirsty Moloney & Sinéad Walsh.

3rd yr: Joanna Byrne, Kellie Allen, Natalie Alken, Áine Fagan.

Kellie Allen & Joanna Byrne (J.Cert) played for Ireland at U-15 level against N.Ireland, Scotland & Wales. Joanna also played U-16 in Amsterdam against Holland and was voted the outstanding Irish player. An amazing achievement for both girls!! Well done to all teams and their manager Mr. Noone!

Cross Country

In January, the following girls represented Eureka in the North Leinster event in D.C.U.-U-15: Jennifer Newman, Sinéad Walsh, Dearbhla O'Reilly, Hannah Farrelly, Amy O'Keeffe (who came 13th in her race qualifying for the All-Irelands) Sinead O'Reilly, Zoe Van Geerke, Emma Somerville & Aoife Smith.

U-14: Jackie Kavanagh, Emily Sheridan, Caoimhe McKenna, Ruth O'Reilly, Louise McDonnell, Áine Bennett, Charlotte Farrelly & Niamh Flattery. Best wishes to Emily who qualified in the 500m for the Leinster Finals later this month.

5th yrs Shauna Moran & Leah Rennicks came 1st & 12th respectively, both qualifying for the Leinster Finals. Shauna progressed to the All-Ireland Finals in Galway last March, finishing 9th, just missing out on an Irish squad place by one place! Well done Shauna!



A.I.B Build a Bank Challenge

Five T.Y. students entered the A.I.B. Build a Bank Schools challenge. The purpose of the competition was to give students experience in running an in-school bank, preparing the business plan and the experience of marketing their service. With this in mind, students set up the "Piggy Bank" in the school. The students involved are: Jessica Hall, Sarah Hayes, Julie Vaughan, Edel Gaffney & Sandra Farrelly. The girls participated in the Regional Final in March at the Carlton Hotel, Dublin Airport where they mounted a display of their work. They each received a certificate and the A.I.B. presented a DVD player to the school.



Art

2nd yr -Niamh O'Sullivan and Eimear Quigley received certificates of Commendation in the Texaco Art Competition. Well done girls!

5th yr. : Aoife Browne was the overall winner of the "Design a Cover" competition for Mental Health Ireland at Trinity College in April. There were 10 finalists. Well done Aoife!

Green School!!

Going green is as easy as it sounds! Over the past year, the whole school has been recycling and conserving energy inside and outside of Eureka. A big contributor to the push is the newly established "Green Schools Committee" with its co-ordinator Mr. Murphy. The committee has organised and introduced new ways to recycle more around the school, from the new compost bins in the home economics and staff rooms, to the bottle and can crushing machine in the canteen, or the numerous new recycling bins throughout the school. The "Race Against Waste" art competition was won by Áine Fagan (J.Cert) who received a delicious Easter hamper donated by SuperValu, Kells. The runners up also received Easter eggs.

As part of their CSPE project, 1st yr. Rm.9 introduced recycling bins to all of the 1st yr. classrooms. In a further survey. Rm.9 also took turns counting the number of times that the 1st yr and L.Cert. toilets were flushed up to and during lunch time, in an average day to try to estimate levels of water usage in the school.

As long as each person remains aware and works hard to keep the school clean and tidy, we will all be rewarded with a prettier, cleaner and more pleasant world !!
(Aoife Cosgrove 1st yr)



Prefects & Mentors

The Prefects & Mentoring system was introduced into the school in August '07 and is a great success thanks to all concerned. A special word of thanks to Head girl Lucy Chapman and Deputy Head Girl Ciara O'Reilly who were always eager and willing to co-ordinate the tasks involved and to liaise with the students. Thanks to all prefects and mentors and good luck in the future. The system will continue and we are currently holding interviews to select prefects and mentors for the coming school year '08/'09.

