



# Eureka Secondary School Summer Newsletter 2009



## Library News

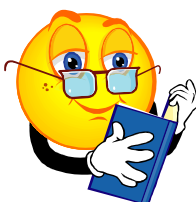
January saw the first meeting of 2009 for our successful Book Club, which meets about every three weeks over lunch to discuss favourite reads!

February saw the continuation of the Career Talks series which included presentations on law (Mr. Eamonn Carolan), hair & beauty (Ms. Yvonne Daly), restaurant management (Mr. P. Stapleton) and social work (Ms. Mairead Morris). These events proved very popular and a big thanks to all our speakers!

In March, World Book Day was celebrated by holding a "Guess the Character" competition. Sophie Tevlin, Niamh O'Sullivan, Rhianna Ives, Julieanne Martyn & Andrea Farrelly dressed up as characters from their favourite novels and the audience had to guess their identity. This was a real fun event for all involved!

The library hosted "Lunchtime through Irish" for L.Cert pupils in preparation for their Irish oral exams. Irish teachers met L.Cert pupils over tea at lunchtime during the week prior to the orals and conversed through Irish. This proved a useful preparation & confidence building exercise for students who took part.

The annual end of year lunch was recently held for all library monitors, who voluntarily gave up their lunchtime to help out with daily library routines. Sincere thanks to Naomh Keogh, Abigail Reynolds, Charlotte Farrelly, Caoimhe Byrne. And special thanks to Laura Brogan, 6th yr, who has been an invaluable help to the library over the past 6 years. A special presentation was made to Laura over lunch. We wish her every success in the L.Cert & good luck, health & happiness in the years ahead!



**Public Speaking** - Caitriona Smith, Caoimhe Peyton & Clare Droney gave outstanding performances to become Regional Finalists in the recent Mental Health Ireland Public Speaking Competitions. Well done girls & to teacher Ms. Shelley!

**Debating** - Congrats to Katie Weldon, Alice Fallon, Hannah Burmanje & Helen Iliff who recently debated with 30 other schools in Dublin Castle on an EU motion on the environment. Their project took 1st place.

**English** - Congratulations to Hannah Burmanje & Clare Droney whose poems have been accepted for publication by Web Publications! The school is very proud of the girls' achievement!

*Jane Eyre* - As part of their study of the novel "Jane Eyre", on May 7th, TY Room 11 pupils attended a musical adaptation of the work at the Solstice Theatre, Navan, accompanied by teachers Ms. McGuinness & Ms. Naughton. The girls then wrote reviews of the production and all agreed that it was a most worthwhile and enjoyable staging of this great literary work!

Ms. McKenna's 1st yr Room 10 class recently dramatised some poetry linked to their novel "Private Peaceful" and also a performed a version of "Fawlty Towers"! Ms. Byrne's J.C. English classes entered a poetry competition entitled "Calling all Poets" in the Teaching English magazine. Each pupil entered one poem & found it a rewarding & interesting experience.



**Religion** - 2nd yrs, Room 35, as part of their Religion course divided into groups of three and prepared a lesson to teach the Rosary to 1st yr Rm.7. This project took three months to complete and involved each group writing up a lesson plan for their project. The pupils then engaged in teaching practice within their own class to prepare them for the big day!



The girls loved the experience of teaching 1st yrs and said that they grew in confidence as the class progressed!

## Student Enterprise Awards

Part of the TY Business Programme is the Student Enterprise Awards Scheme run by the County Enterprise Boards. Students are required to set up and run a mini-business from September to February. This year 8 teams from TY completed their programme which included compiling a report on their project, setting up a display stand and being interviewed by the County Enterprise Board personnel. Each pupil received a certificate from Meath County Enterprise Board. At school level, the winning teams are: 1st - "A Slice of Life" - pictured below - Aisling McKenna, Mary Logan, Caitriona Smith & Caoimhe Peyton.



This team then represented the school at the Meath County Finals where they were awarded 3rd prize in the Senior section. The team also donated all their profits of over €900 to Gorta, which helps to fight world hunger. Very socially conscious entrepreneurs! 2nd - "Fhab Hoodies" - Emma Fleming, Joanna Byrne, Kellie Allen, Niamh Hoey. 3rd - "Milkshake Madness" - Majella Reilly, Laura Doyle, Megan Furlong, Chelsea Stott. Congrats to all involved and their teachers Ms. Mary Bird & Ms. Agnes Dillon

**Leaving Cert Graduation**—The mass and graduation ceremony took place in St. Colmcille's Church, Kells on May 20th. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Michael Smith, followed by the graduation ceremony during which L.Cert pupils were awarded certificates, blessed with oils and received friendship bracelets. Mentors & prefects were each presented with an engraved pen. Parents, students & staff then retreated to the school canteen for light refreshments.



## Music

### Fame

Following last year's musical "Sister Act", this year's Transition Year class stepped back in time to the brightly coloured 1980s and staged the hit musical "Fame". The story centres around the students of the "Academy of Performing Arts". The wealth of talent in the Transition Year class was evident during the auditioning stages. Directed & produced by Mrs. Harte & Ms. Naughton and supported by a very able and energetic backstage crew, the show proved the perfect platform for displaying the extremely versatile comedic and musical talents of the Transition Yr. Class. Some of the lead roles were played by: Emma Fleming, Megan Furlong, Gemma O'Reilly, Aisling Mooney & Meabh Forry. Fame is 'famed' for its dance routines. These routines were expertly delivered thanks to the hard work of two budding choreographers Katie Murray, 6th yr and Katie Duffy, 2nd yr. Well done to both girls. Katie Murray has helped to choreograph many shows in Eureka. We would like to thank her for giving so generously of her time down through the years and wish her well in her L.Cert exams and in future staged events! "Fame" packed the hall each of the four nights & received rave reviews! 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.



**Junior Cert Recital** - Junior Cert. music students recently held an evening recital for parents & friends. This is an annual event, held just before the 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 25% of the overall marks. Thanks to parents who attended the recital and who donated so very generously on the night towards school funds.

**Traditional Music Concert** - As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, a group of 1st & 2nd year pupils presented a recital of traditional Irish music for pupils in Kells Girls' Primary School. The girls received a warm welcome from the school and came back armed with Easter eggs!

**Percussion Workshops** - In January, all music classes in 1st, 2nd & 5th yr took part in an African & Samba drum workshop given by German percussionist Klaus Vormehr. Over a two day period, pupils were given the opportunity of playing a variety of percussion instruments before presenting a final workshop performance at the end of each session. Thanks to the P.E. Department for very kindly vacating the gym and relocating their P.E. classes to the cold outdoors for the duration of these workshops!



## Science

Congrats to Claire Droney, Eimear O'Reilly, Shauna Byrne & Sarah Casey who are Runners Up in the National Chemistry Newsletter Competition and have won €500. The presentations took place in Dublin on 22nd May. Sarah & Hannah Burmanje were highly commended for their entry. The competition was run by the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland and sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry and SCI - Where Science Meets Business. Teacher: Ms Mullaghy.



Helen Iliff pictured (right) with her project on Nuclear Energy, for which she was highly commended



Well done to Aine Bennett, Rachel Tobin & Sarah Tobin pictured (left) who took 2nd place in the Biological Life Sciences Junior Section of SciFest held in Blanchardstown Institute of Technology Dublin.



**BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition**—pictured (left) with her teacher Ms. Mary Byrne, is Niamh Jimenez with her project on prolonging the life of carnations.

## Transition Year Fundraising

TY classes have been actively raising funds for a variety of charities this year. The TY Ball took place in the Headfort Hotel in February, of which funds raised went towards the Chernobyl Children's Project, The Lourdes Fund & Crumlin Hospital. The TY sponsored sleepover took place in late May in the school. €1,100 was raised for the charity Loveshack, a charity which looks after the needs of homeless & abandoned children in Africa



**Cookery Club** - Every week since Easter, a group of 19 pupils from 1st, 2nd & 3rd yr has gathered after school in the cookery room with teacher Ms. Boyle to further their culinary skills in Eureka's first Cookery club! Eye catching and mouth watering creations are produced and pupils are judged on their (celebrity?) chef potential in the weekly "Chef of the Week" award! Winners to date are: Week 1: Katie Meegan & Laura Callaghan  
Week 2: Claire Vaughan & Elaine McPhillipps.  
Week 3: Megan Barry & Rachel O'Keeffe.  
Week 4: Megan Byrne, Caoimhe Harte & Anna Byrne. Overall chef of the club - Siobhan Clarke! Pupils also fill scrap books with recipes & tips learned during the 90 minute period.







## Basketball

In May, a charity basketball match took place between Eureka and Kells Community School, the purpose of

which was to raise funds for urgent medical treatment currently needed by a 2nd year student in the Community School. The game was very well supported by pupils from both schools who paid €2 or whatever they wished to contribute to see the game. A special mention for the Eureka Minor team who celebrated a great victory over the Community School boys!

The Minor basketball team Regional Play-offs and were unfortunately beaten by Longford in a very exciting Semi-Final match.

**Girls in Action** -Kick-boxing was enjoyed by our Girls in Action pupils from January to Easter. Derek Dawson delivered the sessions. The activity test which was scheduled for May 13th in Claremont Stadium, Navan will now take place in September '09, the activity that day being cheerleading!.



## Gymnastics

The Thursday lunchtime gymnastics club was a great success with significant improvement noticeable in all gymnasts by the end of the year! A special thank you to the 3rd yr assistants who came to give their help every week - Majella Doyle, Nicola Byrne, Hannah Farrelly &

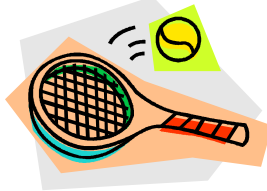
Zoe Van Geerke.



## Tennis

Eureka v Nobber— ended 65— 65 after 3 hours of fantastic tennis!

A friendly event which we hope will continue in the future. It was held in preparation for September's North Eastern Schools' Championship in which Eureka is set to take the title after a one – game defeat last year. Congratulations to: Aoibheann Tully, Megan O'Reilly, Claire O'Reilly, Ruth O'Reilly, Caroline Hayes, Niamh Flattery, Ann Marie Keyes, Megan Barry, Joan Owens, Emma Mackin & Emily O'Halloran.



**Girls in Golf** - Junior Golf Ireland (JGI), Headfort Golf Club & Eureka are working together to promote golf for our students. 20 pupils have had nine coaching sessions since March, during which the girls learned the basics of the game - putting, chipping & longer shots. A competition was held on May 5th and a gala day with pupils from St. Louis Monaghan. All 20 girls are now members of Headfort Golf Club. Junior Golf Ireland has covered all the costs of the programme and have paid 50% of the girls' membership fees to the club. Thanks to JGI & Headfort G.C. for promoting the programme, to Kealain O'Reilly who coached the girls and implemented the programme with Mrs. Foley & Ms. Bird.



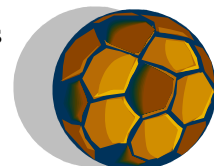
**Athletics** -Well done to all the athletes who competed in the Meath Athletics Championships in Claremont Stadium, Navan in April. Congrats to the following medal winners: Leah Fitzsimons, Niamh O'Kelly - Lynch, Una McCabe, Lydia O'Halloran, Louise Rickard & Hannah Farrelly.

Well done also to all students who qualified to take part in the North Leinster Athletics in Santry in May. A special 'well done' to those who qualified for the Finals - Zoe Van Geerke & Emma Fleming.

## Soccer

Soccer season highlights include the following - 2nd yr Aine Bennett pictured right, has played for Ireland four times at under level.

1st yrs reached the Leinster Final but unfortunately were beaten on penalties. The U-14s have reached the Leinster U-14 Div.1 League Final which will be played in September. The U-16 team won the U-16 Div.1 League but were beaten on penalties in the Leinster Cup Final. Great credit is due to the school's soccer manager Mr. Noone for fostering such an interest in the game and for helping the teams to achieve so highly. Well done to all involved!



**Digital Creator Course** - TY students have taken part in a Digital creator course which is affiliated with Dun Laoghaire College of Art & Design. Pupils had the option of completing a Certificate in Digital Creation. The course given by Ms.

Cronin, involved the pupils collecting photos & video clips of TY events taking place throughout the year. Using these, a photo video was produced and enhanced by using special effects, headings / text and suitable music to accompany the video. This was subsequently given its first public presentation at the TY graduation on May 21st. Ms. Cronin is busy making copies of the DVD and each TY pupil will receive one as a souvenir their year in TY!



**Gaeilge - Gael Linn Debates** - Congrats to the following 3rd yr pupils who took part in the Junior Section: Aine Ni Chroinin, Emma Ni Churraoin & Louise Rickard. TY pupils took part in the Senior section - Yvonne Gilsenan, Deirdre O'Reilly & Katie Ni Churraoin. The girls progressed to the second round but unfortunately were narrowly beaten.

**Feachtas - Og Ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge** Congratulations to the Irish Table Quiz team who came 2nd in the above competition in December '08. Over 30 teams took part. Eureka came in on joint 1st place and had to go to a tie breaker on the 10th question. The team consisted of: Yvonne Gilsenan & Natalie Alken (both TY) and Aine Bennett & Carisa Sheridan (both 2nd yr). The girls went on to compete in the All-Ireland Final in March '09. Well done also to the six other Eureka teams taking part and in particular to the following team which came in on 3rd place in the Pre- Rounds: Clare Droney, Katie Weldon (both TY) and Ciara Donnellan & Aoife Cosgrove (both 2nd yr)



**S.P.H.E** Healthy Living Week took place on March 2nd - 6th and was sponsored by Glanbia and the National Dairy Council who provided a selection of milk, juices, Yops and cheeses. Each day, the Healthy Eating Committee addressed special issues.

Monday - nutrition and the food pyramid; Tuesday - the harmful effects of smoking on all of us; Wednesday - Alcohol and its effects on the body; Thursday - Exercise and simple ways in which we can lead a healthier lifestyle; Friday - Poor dieting and how this can lead to major health problems e.g. diabetes.

Great credit is due to Amy Brogan, Emmagene Cooke, Shelley Stafford, Sinead Lindsay, Fanchea Daly, Megan Cavanagh, Laura Daly, Amy O'Reilly & Katie Murray.

The Gardai have continued their involvement with the S.P.H.E. programme. All Junior Cert students had a presentation on Personal Safety.

Pupils in Transition Year delivered a programme on Oral Health to 1st yr students.



## Young Social Innovators

TY class Room 34 chose as their topic for their YSI project "How the Media Influences Young People". This involved the creation & design of an online magazine entitled "Thee Influence" in which the promotion of individuality was highlighted. With the help of editor, Clare Droney, the class gathered all articles written by the pupils in the class to put the online magazine together. The class entered the YSI competition, did very well and progressed to the RDS in May to the Annual Showcase. They also entered the Irish Times School Magazine competition. In February, the girls attended the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim for a "speakout".

The magazine was launched on 13th March in the school gym aided by the appearance of 2FM DJ Damien Farrelly and newspapers The Star, Meath Chronicle & Meath Post. Highlight of the launch was the performance on stage in the gym by Naas band Miracle Bell. Following the launch of the magazine, Clare Droney & Emer Butler were interviewed by LMFM.

Great credit is due to 2nd yr Room 23 who organised all of the PR for this launch and decorated the gym for the occasion.

The magazine can be viewed on the school website:

[www.eurekasecondaryschool.ie](http://www.eurekasecondaryschool.ie)  
Well done to all involved and to teacher Ms. Briody.



## Art

Congrats to Rhianna Ryan-Ives (pictured right) who was the All-Ireland Winner in the Junior Level Art category of the Bank of Ireland Student Awards 2009. At a gala dinner in the Osprey Hotel, Naas. Hosted by RTE's Hector O'hEochagain, Rhianna was presented with a prize of €1,500 and the school received €3,000. Rhianna was also awarded a scholarship by Dun Laoghaire College of Art & Design to complete one of their prestigious summer art courses. Her winning painting and a selection of photos from the event are currently on display in the school.

Shauna Daly, L.Cert '08-'09 was recently awarded a Certificate of Commendation for her pastel portrait in the national Texaco Art Competition 2009.

Sixth year Art students recently enjoyed a trip to the National Art Gallery and History Museum, Dublin.



Picture 1 (left) - 1st yr front cover design, pupils have been learning the art of bookbinding and book cover design

Picture 2 - (right) 5th yrs have concentrated on life drawing skills through self portraits. 3rd yrs have just handed up their projects on which they have worked very hard all year. 2nd yrs - have focussed on drawing & painting skills in a self portrait poster, promoting various events.



Picture 1

Picture 2.

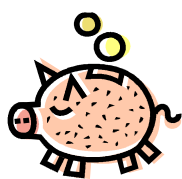


## Cheryl Scully Painting

Cheryl Scully an LCA2 student recently painted a beautiful picture of Eureka School and front grounds and very kindly donated it to the staff of Eureka. It currently hangs in Eureka teachers' staffroom while we await a more permanent home for the painting. Cheryl has long demonstrated a talent for art, having produced an impressive body of excellent work during her time in Eureka. Upon leaving school this year, Cheryl hopes to study graphic design. The staff wishes to thank Cheryl for her beautiful and most generous gift and wishes her well in her exams and in her future!



**C.S.P.E.** - Room 8, as part of their Action Project raised awareness and funds for Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin. They organised a cake sale, a "Name the Teddy" and a "Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar" competition and a raffle in the school



canteen at lunchtime on 21st May. Well done to the girls who raised €350 for the hospital!

## 1st yr Zoo Trip-

1st yrs made their annual trip to Dublin Zoo. The girls enjoyed their visit and by all accounts behaved impeccably for the duration of the trip! They were accompanied by Principal Ms. O'Reilly, their respective tutors and year head Ms. Grenham. Words from the grapevine - "Good bonding was evident!!"



## History -

Ms. McKenna's 1st yr history classes Rooms 6, 9 & 10 have completed projects based on Roman Civilization. The projects were displayed in the library and a video was made in which the students explained what work they had done. For "History Week" Ms. McKenna's TY students worked on and displayed projects on a variety of topics. They also organised a quiz based on the displayed projects, the quiz later being won by Anna Baron

## Best Buddies Black Tie Ball

The girls, having spent months in preparation for the big event of the year, were lauded by all present at this very successful ball held at the Headfort Hotel, Kells on May 15th. Pupils from Scoil Mhuire, Trim, Athboy Community School and Eureka which hosted this year's ball enjoyed a wonderful night. Among the musical acts providing entertainment on the night was one of the Celtic Tenors, Matthew Gilsenan. Guests were treated to a spectacular red carpet event which included a sit-down meal, music and dancing. Awards were presented to students, buddies and friends. Laura Kelly, Julie Vaughan & Laura Quinn



worked very hard all year to organise the event and represented their school with style! Well done to the girls and to Ms. McKenna!

**Transition Year tour to Italy** - TY pupils have just returned from a five-day trip to the North of Italy. Led by Ms. Mullaghy who was assisted by Ms. Harte & Ms. O'Reilly, the girls visited the cities of Milan, where they viewed Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" in the Santa Maria Della Grazie gallery & the gothic duomo. Venice, included a guided tour of the city where some travelled aboard gondolas and in Verona, the group viewed the famed "Juliet's balcony" & the Roman amphitheatre. Based in the scenic Lake Garda region, the group spent a leisurely afternoon in the pretty town of Sirmione & took a cable car to the top of Monte Baldo for a panoramic view. A fun day was spent in Garda's answer to Disneyland, the Lake Garda theme park. An exhausted group returned at 1 a.m. on Thursday 28th May!



## Green Schools

On Friday, May 22nd, representatives of the Green Schools Committee (pictured below) Aoife Cosgrove, Chloe Nelson & Grace McGovern



along with Mr. Murphy, attended Croke Park, Dublin, to collect a Green Flag for litter and waste management. The group was treated to dinner which was followed by the flag ceremony, at which the guest speaker was RTE's Duncan Stewart. The flag award is the culmination of the tireless work of the committee, led by Mr. Murphy, and of students and staff. The benefits to the school are: 1. Everyone is working in a cleaner environment. 2. There is a significant reduction in the generation of waste and in the cost of waste disposal. 3. There is an increased awareness of the environment among pupils & staff. 4. The school has gained a prestigious award which has international recognition.

Well done to all involved. Next year we will work towards our 2nd flag for energy reduction. New members of the Green Schools' Committee welcome!



## Multicultural Week

This took place from 27 April to 1 May and is the first of what we hope will become an annual event in the school!

Organised by Ms. Goode, many events with an international theme were presented throughout the week. Flags of each nationality in the school were hanging in various places around the school, pupils had a chance to sample the food of various countries at



food tasting sessions in the canteen every day at lunchtime and a door decorating competition was held for all 1st & 2nd yr classrooms! The doors were very colourfully and impressively decorated, each class presenting visual displays to represent a particular country. A very competitive atmosphere prevailed throughout the week, each room vying for the prize of a weekend off homework! The 1st yr winners were Room 6, their country being China, and the 2nd yr winners were Room 24 with their Spanish theme. Well done to all involved!

## Eureka Staff Retirements

### Ms. Maria Burke

A native of Portumna, Co. Galway, Maria Burke has inspired generations of pupils through her commitment and her humorous, sensitive & energetic approach to teaching. Maria began in Eureka as head of the geography dept., also teaching history. Pupils past and present have noted her sheer passion and enthusiasm for her subjects. Following the completion of a diploma in catechetics, Maria also became involved in the teaching of religion & SPHE.

Early in her teaching career, she took a two year career break to teach in Papua New Guinea.

Maria has been a popular and respected year head in Eureka for many years, and is currently the Leaving Cert year head.

Always in possession of a strong social conscience, Maria's interest in environmental issues, charitable fundraising and social justice have always permeated through her teaching.



In 1984, Maria, was instrumental in introducing the Concern debates to Eureka. Maria along with Ms. Mary Bird, led the school team to victory in the All-Ireland Concern debating competition, the prize being a working trip to Bangladesh for pupils and teachers involved. Maria also initiated the annual Concern Christmas Fast in the school, to fundraise for developing countries. In addition, her involvement in the charity Amnesty International and subsequent setting



up of a branch of the organisation within the school is further testament to her dedication to and concern for issues of a global and humane nature. Maria has fostered within students a keen awareness of social inequality, coupled with the desire & courage to fight it.

A keen interest in drama, music & dance are supported by frequent and regular indulgences in the arts! Maria, in recent years has offered yoga classes after school to interested staff members, providing a calm respite from the busy and often noisy classroom! As a staff, we will miss Maria's spirit, sense of fun, helpful, caring nature & strong work ethic. We hope she will make regular visits to the staffroom and we wish that this new chapter in her life will be happy, healthy, peaceful and fulfilled!

*"Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re"*

### Mrs. Christine Foley

Kells native & former Eureka pupil, Mrs. Foley was Eureka's first P.E. teacher, then known as Ms. Usher. Following graduation from Sion Hill College, Blackrock, Dublin, Christine returned to teach in her alma mater for 3 years and subsequently retired to raise a family. From 1990, Christine did substitution work in the school until 1992 when she took up a full time position.



Throughout this time, Christine has looked after the physical education needs of Eureka students, not only in the classroom, but also in developing a wide range of extra-curricular sporting & leisure interests for the students. Highly involved in sport in the community, Christine has always used these important links for the benefit of the school thereby connecting the school with clubs such as the golf club, tennis club, swimming club and local equestrian centres. This interest in the physical well being of students has always been a priority for Christine and the girls have always felt supported and cared for, whether in a competitive sporting arena or in the day to day P.E. lesson.



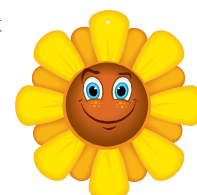
Christine recently implemented the Girls in Action programme within the school, whereby pupils, at lunch time, could engage in enjoyable but not always sporting exercise routines.

Christine's extra-curricular after-school sports training has long been in place, providing pupils with extra practice ahead of matches or simply as an outlet for social enjoyment or to maintain physical fitness.

Christine has in recent years become very active in fundraising for various African charities. Initially involved with raising money for a hospital in Tanzania for the Medical Missionaries of Mary, Christine has since then helped to fundraise for street children in Nairobi, Kenya, with the charity Moving Mountains. Hosting barbeques / garden parties and sponsored mountain climbing (Kilimanjaro, no less!) are just some of the fundraising methods employed by Christine! Her success in these ventures is testament to her friendly and sociable personality, and to her powers of persuasion, organisation and delegation!

*A born strategist!*

We will miss Christine's energy and supportive nature in the staffroom and send our best wishes for a long, healthy, active and fruitful life after Eureka!



**Wishing everyone a great summer!  
Good luck to Leaving & Junior Certs in their exams!**