



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE  
LOUISBURGH, CO. MAYO

Welcome to the Summer Edition of our Newsletter. We have had a very busy year full of activities and achievements. It has also been an extremely sad year for some and to those I extend my sympathy and support. I wish to pay tribute to the entire school community on so many levels. The Board of Management, the Parents, the Staff and the Students for their commitment to the school. The school has participated in a variety of activities, academic, sport, extra curricular and charitable events. None of which would have been possible without the dedication and energy of the entire school community.

A special welcome to our incoming first years from 11 Primary Schools; Louisburgh, Killeen, Lecanvey, Clare Island, Inisturk, Murrisk, Holy Trinity Westport, St. Colmcille The Quay, Scoil Phadraig, Westport, Gaelscoil na Cruaiche Westport and Myna

N.S Kilmeena. I hope your time with us will be happy and rewarding. 'Tús maith leath na hoibre'  
We extend our sympathy to all members of our school community who have being bereaved this year. We remember especially Daniel O'Connell one of our third year students who died in April. He will be sadly missed by all of us. We extend our deepest sympathy to Daniel's parents, family and friends. May his gentle soul and those of all our loved ones rest in peace. A special thank you to the Transition Year team and their co-ordinator Ms Donnelly who compiled this newsletter.

Best wishes

**Pauline Moran**  
Principal

## GOLD GAISCE AWARD

Congratulations to Laura Gallagher, a past pupil of the school who achieved a Gold Gaisce Award from the President of Ireland. Laura is pictured with the President Mary Mc Aleese and her Award Leader, Mr. Michael Davitt. Mr. Davitt was a previous recipient of the Gold Gaisce Award. The Presidents' Award is the highest accolade for young people between the ages of 15 and 25 in Ireland today. It contributes to the development of all young people through the achievement of personal challenges. Having achieved a Silver Gaisce award while a student in Sancta Maria College, Laura decided to go for gold and applied for the very challenging award while a Leaving Cert student. Laura set herself four very arduous and challenging tasks and successfully competed in four different sections of the award. She received her Gold Award at a ceremony in Dublin Castle in April. Students continue to participate in the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards in our school.



## RETIREMENT

We congratulate Mr. P.J McGrath on his retirement from the teaching staff of Sancta Maria. Mr. McGrath taught Maths and Science for the past 37 years in this school. A presentation was made to Mr. McGrath by the Student Body, the Staff and the Board of Management to mark the occasion. We hope he will make regular visits to Louisburgh and we wish that this new chapter in his life will be happy, healthy, peaceful and fulfilled. 'Dulce est desipere in loco'

## SPORT

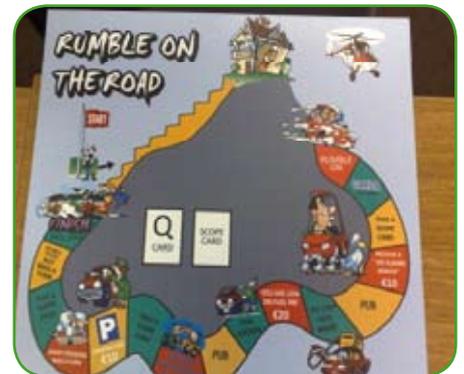
### VOLLEYBALL

Sancta Maria College Volleyball team have had a very successful year in this, their first tournament. The Qualifier was played against Elphin for the Cup and Plate Tournament. Our team qualified for the Junior Girls Plate Competitions. They advanced to a Blitz, played in Athenry. There they were undefeated winning comfortably by 2-0 in each match, against teams from Athenry, Ballina and Galway. From there they advanced to the quarter-finals where they defeated Mountrath from Laois and booked their place in the All-Ireland Finals. The team competed against Loughrea in the Final which was held in University College Dublin in May. We would like to congratulate the team and their coach Ms. McDermott, on winning the All-Ireland Volleyball Plate Championships.



### RSG ENTERPRISE WIN

Sancta Maria College entered three Transition Year enterprise groups into the Mayo regional competitions. This Year one of our business groups, R.S.G. (Road Safety Girls) set up by four Transition Year girls won 1st prize and claimed a place at the All-Ireland Enterprise final in Tullamore this May. The group designed an Educational Board Game based on road safety. Their intention is to promote the importance of Road Safety through their product, in a fun and educational manner. The Board Game was the main product intended to create a fun way of educating children on the importance of road safety. They also developed a promotional D.V.D. which will be used to inform and highlight important issues regarding road safety to students.



### JOHN LONERGAN TALK – LIFE ON THE INSIDE

The Governor of Mountjoy, John Lonergan, told Sancta Maria students about prison life. His talk was a fascinating insight into the life of a prisoner in Ireland's most talked-about jail – throughout which several very worthy social messages permeated. Mr. Lonergan also spoke to staff and parents when he visited the school.



## BARCELONA

The Transition Year Tour was to Barcelona in Spain. They departed from Shannon airport early on Monday 27th April and travelled to Girona airport, Barcelona. From there they travelled onwards to check into the Oasis Park Hotel in Salou where they stayed the week. Whilst in Barcelona students visited Montserrat where they viewed the beautiful mountain landscape and got the chance to see the world famous, Black Madonna. The students also visited, L'aquarium De Barcelona, Las Ramblas and the stunning Parc Guell. An evening bowling also proved very enjoyable. The Nou Camp Stadium was another wonderful experience the students got to embrace. It has a huge capacity of 98,772 and is the home stadium of F.C. Barcelona. On the day before departure back to Ireland, the students spent the day in the Port Aventura Theme Park.

## DRIVING

We take road safety very seriously and wish to ensure that our students are provided with the best possible education so that they will become conscientious drivers and road users in the future. This year Transition Year students participated in a road safety module which included preparation for the Theory Test. As part of the course, Larry Sage, driving instructor, visited Sancta Maria College and gave students driving lessons.

## CASTLEREA

The Transition Year students went on a tour of Castlerea Prison in January. They were given an insight into what life is like behind bars. They also got the opportunity to talk to a prisoner who is serving a life sentence. They toured the prison grounds and had a question and answer time with the prison officers. This trip certainly discourages getting on the wrong side of the law! Four Courts and Dáil.

## TY SURFING

Transition Year students participated in surfing at Carrowniskey beach during the last term. They received professional advice from an instructor before taking to the sea. Carrowniskey is a renowned Surfing beach and the waves or the weather did not disappoint on the day.



## FOUR COURTS AND DÁIL

Earlier this year Transition Year students visited the Four Courts and the Dáil in Dublin. After a tour of the Dail they watched a lively debate between the Political Parties. In the Four Courts a Barrister took the students on a guided tour and they were allowed to observe a court case.

## SIGN LANGUAGE

Mairead Hegarty visited Transition Year students in February to give an introductory course in sign language.

## SELF DEFENCE

Transition Years took part in Self Defence and Aerobic classes this year. The girls also participated in a Beauty and Make-up module. These activities promote self-esteem and self awareness in young people.



## GREEN SCHOOLS

In April 2008, Sancta Maria College registered with An Taisce, to become a member of Green Schools. We continue to promote environmental awareness and responsible behaviour among students and the wider community towards the environment. As part of the Green School initiative, the Parents Association purchased Dyson Airblade Hand Dryers for the school. The Dyson Hand Dryers removes all bacteria from the hands and saves on paper hand towels. The Green Flag was recently awarded to the school. A ceremony to raise the flag will take place in the new school year. Congratulations to Ms. Maureen Kehoe Smith and the Green School Committee on this achievement.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

The school has always participated in a wide variety of activities. Achievements Day marks the most outstanding successes and achievements by way of an Awards Ceremony.

We have participated in four All-Ireland Finals this year. Our Irish debating team and our Junior Volleyball teams won all-Ireland titles respectively. Our TY Enterprise team and our Gael Linn Irish Debating team were runners-up in their respective All-Ireland Finals. The Junior Boys Gaelic Team won a Connacht title recently. Our Public Speaking team were Mayo Champions in the Forum on Europe Public Speaking Competition. Individually our students have had great success both academically and through extra-curricular activities.

Well done to all involved.

The Leaving Cert Students of the Year award was won by Michael Gibbons and Charlotte Knee.

This was sponsored by Bank of Ireland.

The Transition Year students of the Year was awarded to Jack Gillivan and Molly O'Toole and this was sponsored by Durkans Gala Louisburgh.

The Highest Junior Cert Award was claimed by Bria Connelly and this was sponsored by Louisburgh Credit Union. The Sports Person of the Year was won by Danny Fallon Senior and Aoife Gibbons Junior Category, and Arts awards were won by Eve O'Reilly and Tomas Kelly also sponsored by Bank of Ireland.

A Junior Art Award was presented to Cathal Gunning, and the Music award was presented to Maura Geraghty.

The Junior Cert Student of the Year was presented to Lisa Needham. Laura Kerrigan (pictured with Ms. Rennick) was the recipient of a Craft Award. Various other awards were presented on the day including five students (pictured above) who received an award for full attendance and a presentation was also made to the Green School Committee.



Congratulations to Charles Prendergast who won the All-Ireland Junior Cycling Championships which was held in Dunboyne, Co. Meath recently.



**We would sincerely like to express our gratitude for the sponsorship of these awards and other sponsorship received during the school year. It is very much appreciated by all.**

## INTERNATIONAL VISITS

The Kenyan Ambassador, Her Excellency Catherine Muigai Mwangi and the Slovakian Minister for Education visited the school in the second term. Both were greeted with some Sean Nós dancing and music by our students. The Kenyan visit was arranged as part of the Aror/Kitale partnership. Ms. Triona Geraghty, a member of the Teaching Staff visited Kenya with the Aror partnership group recently. The Slovakian Education Minister was delighted to meet with the Slovakian students who were attending Sancta Maria College. The Minister thanked both the school and the host families for their warm welcome and for assisting in their integration into Irish family and school life.



## IRISH KIDNEY ASSOCIATION

Darren Cawley, Westport, a member of the Irish transplant team, visited Sancta Maria College to speak to the students about the importance of organ donation and how it changed his life. Darren is awaiting a kidney transplant and receives dialyses three times a week. He successfully participated in the World Transplant Games in Wurzburg, Germany. We admire his dedication to sport and his positive outlook and wish him the best of luck in the future.



## MANCHESTER UNITED TRIP



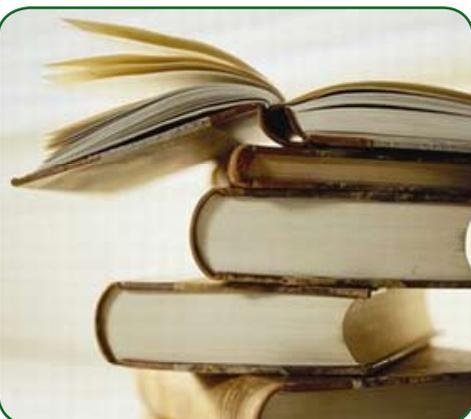
On February 21st, last a school trip departed from Sancta Maria bound for Manchester. The students accompanied by members of staff, travelled by bus as far as Dublin Port and then took the ferry to Holy Head. The group travelled through the Welsh countryside and stopped at Cheshire Oaks for lunch and shopping before making the long awaited journey to Old Trafford. On arrival at the stadium, the students were captivated by the exciting atmosphere. Manchester United were victorious against Blackburn Rovers on the day. After the game the students got the rare opportunity to meet some of the players and got some autographs. The group stayed the night in The Premier Inn Hotel before travelling home to Louisburgh the following day. It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip.

## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Fundraising continues to be an integral part of our school life. Various different fundraising efforts took place throughout the school year most notably the money raised for Trocaire, Bothair and the Order of Malta through various student initiatives. Thank you to all involved.



## CAREERS WEEK



Subject choice is very important for all students. Here in Sancta Maria College students are given every opportunity to make the right decision. Each year a careers week is held in order to aid the students in their subject choices. Presentations are made to the students by the teacher of a particular subject explaining and outlining the Leaving

Certificate course. The students are also given a chance to discuss subjects with current fifth year students in order to get feedback and understand the subject from the students perspective. This gives the students a flavour of each subject, assisting them in their choices for the Leaving Certificate.

## SAM MCGUIRE

Sancta Maria College had the privilege of hosting the Sam McGuire and Tommy Markham Cups in the school, kindly organised by Mr. Johnny Tiernan.



## FAITH FORMATION AT SANCTA MARIA

Retreats are provided to students as well as regular liturgical ceremonies. We would like to thank the Priests who visited the school to provide these services. At the end of March, Transition Year students from Sancta Maria College took part in an overnight retreat to Esker, Co. Galway. It offered students the opportunity to reflect on life's meaning and issues of concern to them. It was a spiritual and enriching experience for all in the natural beauty of the Esker grounds. Four 5th year students from Sancta Maria College participated in a workshop entitled; 'Our Church – Our Turn' on the future of our Church. Students from all over the Diocese attended the one day event in Knock. The day was conducted by Fr. Tod Nolan who was accompanied by members of the Diocesan Youth Council.



## PARENTS ASSOCIATION RACE NIGHT

A Race Night, organised by the Parents Association, was held in January as a fundraising event. It was a very enjoyable night and thank you to all who attended. A Church Gate Collection was held in March and much needed funds was raised for the school. The Parents Association continue to play a vital role in Sancta Maria College

## MUSICAL

Sancta Maria College staged the musical; 'Hello Dolly' in early February. It was the schools 14th consecutive musical production. 'Hello Dolly' was enjoyed by all, especially Transition Year students who play a vital role in its organisation. They gained valuable skills and experience through their involvement in the Musical. It was an entertaining and lively show and we look forward to next year's production.



### Sancta Maria College Louisburgh

Places are now available on our  
**Office Administration/Information Technology Skills  
Post Leaving Cert. Course**  
Starting Mid-September 2009

#### Course Content

Participants will select a range of subjects from the following:

- Computer Applications
- Information Technology Skills
- Text Production
- Customer Service
- Word Processing
- Manual and Computerised Accounts (TAS Books)
- Presentation Software
- Data Entry
- Desktop Publishing
- Business Calculations
- Legal Studies
- Communications
- Work Preparation/Work Experience
- Occupational First Aid

All modules are certified by FETAC  
(Further Education and Training Awards Council)  
Maintenance grants are available to eligible students.  
Applications from mature students welcome.

All courses cater for beginners.

Sancta Maria College has agreed its quality assurance procedures with FETAC, and is registered to offer programmes leading to FETAC awards in the National Framework of Qualifications.

Further information available from the college at 098 66342

Funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2007 - 2013



### Sancta Maria College Louisburgh

Places are now available on our  
**CHILDCARE  
Post Leaving Cert. Course**  
Starting Mid-September 2009

#### Course Content

Participants will select a range of subjects from the following:

- Caring for Children (0-6)
- Child Development
- Early Childhood Education
- Working in Childcare
- Art & Craft for Children
- Understanding Special needs
- Special Needs Assisting
- Care Provision and Practice
- Occupational First Aid
- Legal Studies
- Information Technology Skills
- Desk Top publishing
- Communications
- Work Preparation/ Work Experience

All modules are certified by FETAC (Further Education and Training Awards Council)

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