



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE
LOUISBURGH, CO. MAYO

A dhaoine uaisle,

Season's greetings to all of you. At present the school is buzzing with activity. Staff and students are busily engaged in end of term activities-Carol Service, preparation for exams and of course the annual school musical. These are in addition to the vast array of extra-curricular activities provided voluntarily by a large number of teachers. The Board of Management and I together with the entire school community wish to thank those who give of their time and effort.

The term has been a happy and successful one for all. Supervised study has been a resounding success and will continue next term. Students who find it difficult to establish a study routine at home are strongly encouraged to participate in supervised study. During the February mid-term break two workshops are taking place for preparation for the Oral exams in Irish and French. We wish all our

students well as they prepare for the state exams.

Finally I would like to thank all who have been involved in the preparation of this newsletter, Ms Donnelly, Mr. Davitt, Mr. Berkeley, Deborah Bennett and Maureen Corrigan and the Transition Years and of course our photographers Mr O'Flynn and Mr Jimmy Corrigan.

Congratulations to the new Parents Association members especially the new chairperson Ms Sheila Ryan. A special word of thanks to Dhara Kelly who has acted as chairperson of the Parents Association for the past two years.

I wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pauline Moran
Principal

Merry Christmas

祝圣诞节快乐!

Wesołych Świąt Polish

Maligayang Pasko Phillipines

Frohe Weihnachten German

Vesele' Vianoce Slovakian

Nollaig Shona Duit

ENROLMENT NIGHT

An Enrolment night for all students wishing to enroll in Sancta Maria College in September 2010 will be held in the school on Wednesday 10th February 2010. Parents and students are invited to attend.



Pictured above are our present First Year students who are actively involved in all facets of school life.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON

The first term of H.S.C.L was an exciting busy one. In September Sr. Marie met all first year students to assure them and check with them if they were having any difficulties or problems. Home visitation then began, Sr. Marie has met many parents this term, particularly parents of students who have joined us and have not had an older brother or sister in school. She is very grateful for the welcome extended to her and we value and appreciate the exchange of information that is in the best interest of the students. Next term she looks forward to meeting many more parents. Workshops were also organised by H.S.C.L for different year groups. During second term we hope to organise an evening for parents and encourage as many as possible of you to attend.

FIRST YEAR WORKSHOP: RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

A month after the first years joined us in Sancta Maria College on the 29th of September they attended a workshop on respectful relationships. This workshop aimed at helping students to prevent themselves ever engaging in bullying behaviour and also provided skills to deal with such behaviour, should they be at the receiving end. They were reminded of the various safeguards in school eg. Mentors, class tutor, year head, chaplain etc. The strong message is never keep it to yourself, the relevant people are only too willing to help both victim and perpetrator.

SECOND YEAR WORKSHOP: FRIENDSHIPS AND SELF ESTEEM

A very worth while workshop on friendship and self-esteem, was held on October 8th for second years. This workshop encouraged and promoted our young people to think positively about themselves and to build a good self image and have a belief in their own worth and value. It also highlighted the many ingredients of true friendship.

THIRD YEAR WORKSHOP

It is hoped that during second term a workshop on accepting diversity will be held for third year students. This looks at diversity in its broadest sense and helps students to appreciate diversity in sexuality such as homosexuality/heterosexuality.

SPIRITUAL SIDE OF CHRISTMAS

Sancta Maria College Carol Service took place on 11th December at 10:20am in our parish church. A Reconciliation Service took place at 12:00 on Wednesday 16th of December for all students of Sancta Maria College. We see it as a very valuable time of prayer in helping our young people prepare spiritually for Christmas.



T.Y. BUSINESS STUDENT WINS TRIP TO STRASBOURG



Congratulations to Hannah O'Keefe, a Transition Year Student at Sancta Maria College in Louisburgh who has won a four day trip to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Hannah had participated in the Graduate online civic awareness competition as part of her TY business class with her teacher Ms. Bridget Donnelly. She will spend one full day at the European Parliament where she will have the opportunity to participate in Euroscola

which is a youth parliament and which involves students taking part in discussions on various topics about the EU with students from other member states. The award programme is now in its 6th year and is kindly sponsored by Mayo County Council.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The following are the members of the Parents Association :

1st year

Carmel Fetherson
Yvonne McEvilly
Tegwyn Walsh
Bernadette Burke

2nd Year

Cathal Prendergast
Joe Cannon
Micheal O'Reilly
Monica McDonnell

3rd Year

Maura Kerrigan
Mary T. Gibbons
Maude O'Malley
Maureen Scott
Carol Ferson

T.Y.

Padraig Geraghty
Beatrice Prendergast
Carmel Groden
Maria Hastings (Westport)

5th Year

Deirdre Kenny
Eillen Mitchell Walsh
Gerry Morahan
Anne Billington

6th Year

John F. O'Malley
Sheila Mulloy- Ryan
Jimmy Corrigan
Sue O'Toole



The Chairperson is Ms Sheila Ryan, Secretary is Ms Anne Billington and the Treasurer is Ms Maureen Scott. Ms. Marina Rice is the Staff Representative and they meet regularly. 'This year the Association hopes to fundraise again and are grateful for the support from all families.

The aims of the Parents' Association are:

- To promote communication between parents, college management, teaching staff and students.
- To facilitate the involvement of parents in the development of college policies, plans and activities.
- To encourage parent participation in extra-curricular activities.
- To help, where possible in the improvement of the overall college environment.
- To support management and teachers when requested.

Thank you to the outgoing parent representatives for the past two years: Dhara Kelly (who served as Chairperson) Ann O'Toole, Mary Gibbons, Anita Cosgrave, Louise McDonagh, Mona Staunton (who served as Treasurer), Sandra Frazer, Anne O'Reilly, Maria Hastings (Deereen).

Sancta Maria College and the Parents Association wish to thank the Accony School Reunion Committee for their generous donation of €1400.

Please do not hesitate to contact your class rep if you have any suggestions/queries.

FIRST GREEN FLAG AWARD FOR SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE

Sancta Maria College was awarded its first green flag at a ceremony held in the school in September. The ceremony was attended by Cllr. Austin Francis O'Malley, Ms. Sharon Cameron, Environmental Awareness Officer with Mayo County Council and Ms. Mary Forde also from Mayo County Council. Representatives from the Board of Management, The Parents Association, Staff and Students of the school were all present at the ceremony. For the past year Ms. Maureen Kehoe-Smith the Green Schools Co-ordinator together with the green project committee comprising of 30 students and members of staff had focussed on improving litter and waste management in and around the school. As a result of their dedication and hard work, along with the support of the local community and Mayo County Council, Sancta Maria College has become a green school, proud to be taking care of the environment.



ONE GOOD IDEA

A group of Transition Year students has embarked on an ambitious energy saving campaign by entering the 'One Good Idea' project. The group consists of Jack Bowler, John Hastings, Stephen Henry, Cathal Gunning and Jake Stanton.

The 'One Good Idea' project is for students who want to run a campaign to raise awareness to combat climate change. For the project students have to choose a topic associated with the environment. The six topics are: everyday energy saving, climate change, clean green energy, climate change, the way to go (energy and travel) and buying power. Then the campaign has to be aimed at one of the following audiences: adults and the wider community, your peers or primary school children. They will carry out research and implement the campaign in the best way possible with unique and creative ideas, and reach as many people as possible with the campaign.

A 'One Good Idea' representative recently visited the school to speak to the group and to the green school reps.

She spoke about the need to save energy and educated students further about the environment. She showed a video about the 'One Good Idea' project, which helped the group greatly with the campaign and showed other students what the project is all about. The visit was very beneficial to all the students who attended and provided more inspiration and information to students to lead a greener life in school and at home.

The group has decided to base the project on everyday energy saving and will aim it at primary school children.

They are currently at the research stage of the project and have undertaken a survey concerning the environment for primary school children to fill out. The group have some brilliant ideas and we wish them the best of luck with their campaign.



RECYCLED CHRISTMAS TREE



Continuing with the theme of recycling each student created their own unique Christmas decoration from recycled clay and old jam jars to form a Christmas tree. The objective is to personalize the Christmas tree so that each student can take ownership of their own work.

WILLIAM MCNAMARA AWARD

Eve O'Reilly won the William McNamara Memorial Award for receiving top marks at Sancta Maria College in the 2009 Leaving Certificate examination. Eve is daughter of Mary and Frank O'Reilly from Westport. She was presented with the award by Ann McNamara, wife of the late Mr. William McNamara. Mrs. Pauline Moran, Principal, congratulated Eve and all the Leaving and Junior Cert students on their outstanding achievements.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Congratulations to Louise Scott who won a J.P. McManus scholarship award based on her very high Leaving Certificate results. Louise was a pupil at Sancta Maria College and completed her exams last June. She was presented with her award at a ceremony held in the University of Limerick recently. She was one of a group of recipients from around the country who received the award. President Mary McAleese officially opened the ceremony and congratulated all the recipients on their remarkable achievement. She also paid tribute to the families, teachers and schools for their input and support. The awards recognise the potential and ability of the students who work so hard to achieve outstanding results.

Congratulations also to Eve O'Reilly who won an entrance scholarship to Trinity College in Dublin, Daniel Fallon who won a sports scholarship to U.C.D., Charles Prendergast who won a sports scholarship to N.U.I.G., and Larry Joly who won an academic scholarship to G.M.I.T.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARDS

Congratulations to Christie O'Toole (Leaving Cert), Emma O'Malley (3rd Year), and Aaron Harper (Transition Year) who were nominated as Student of the Month for September, October and November respectively.

SWIMMING SUCCESS

Padraic Rocliffe a Leaving Certificate student at Sancta Maria College represented his country in the European Junior Lifesaving Championship in Eindhoven, Holland in September where he won a Bronze medal. He also represented Ireland in the German Cup – a Senior Lifesaving World Championship event. He was selected on the Senior Irish Team that competed in the event on November 20th last in Cologne, Germany. Padraic won a gold medal finishing first in the competition. Comhghairdeas Padraic maith thú ó Choláiste Sancta Maria.



SANCTA MARIA GIRLS G.A.A

This year both junior and senior Girls Gaelic teams got off to a flying start. They played their first game at home against St. Josephs of Foxford.

The seniors played outstanding football and managed to score in the last few minutes to level the match at 8 points a piece. The juniors also played extremely well leaving St. Josephs trailing at half time. In the second half both teams never gave up but Sancta Maria finished the stronger on a final score of 4-10 to 2-5.

Both senior and junior teams would like to thank Ms Quinn for all her dedication and hard work she has put in this year, and hopefully next year will be just as good!



G.A.A AWARDS



Deborah Bennett and Aine O'Reilly received awards from the Mayo County G.A.A Board for displaying commitment and talent with the Louisburgh Ladies G.A.A Club. Aine also won an All-Ireland medal with the Mayo Ladies U 14 Team earlier in the year when they defeated Kerry in the Final.

SENIOR BOYS SOCCER

Well done to the U18 Boys Soccer Team who defeated Belmullet 3-2 and qualified for the Connacht Quarter final. Back row L-R: Marcus Ryan, Morgan O'Flaherty, Stephen Corrigan, Michael Gallagher, John McDonnell, and Andrea Dittrich. Front row L-R: Ciaran McFadden, Rowan Stacey, Kevin Gibbons, Jack Cox and Brian McGinn.



S.M.C GOLF TEAM

This was the second year that Sancta Maria entered the Connacht School Strokeplay Championship. This year the event was held in Ballina Golf Club on October 1st. The team members were Micheal Gallagher, Austin O'Malley, Chris Lavelle, Andre Dittrich, Ian Walsh. The Team Manager was Mr. Freeman. Playing through some terrible weather conditions and on an unknown course, the team played remarkably well, only narrowly missing out on qualification.



CHESS CLUB

The Sancta Maria Chess Club continues every Friday in Room 11 at 12:40pm until 1:10pm. Beginners always welcome!



BRANAR

Galway based company 'BRANAR' held Irish drama workshops in Sancta Maria College from 11th-12th November for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th year students.

'BRANAR'- ceardlanna drámaíochta sna meánscoileanna- aims to promote the spoken Irish, making an active link with the Irish curriculum through the medium of drama.

C.S.P.E PROJECT

The 3rd year C.S.P.E class undertook a project on Northern Ireland and North-South relations. As part of the project they were visited by a guest speaker Mr. John Doherty who spoke to them about growing up in Northern Ireland and the various challenges it presented. Mr. Doherty has worked with co-operation Ireland to foster relations between North and South. He is at present a Community worker with the Family Resource Centre in Westport.



RADIO NA GAELTACHTA



In November 2008, a group of Transition Year and Fifth Year Students from Sancta Maria College in Louisburgh visited the studios of Radio na Gaeltachta. As part of the visit the school's music group; 'Binneas' played a number of tunes and songs on air and four students, Molly O'Toole, Marcus Ryan, Bria Connolly and Eilis McDonagh were interviewed by the presenter.

This podcast which is one of the many Radio na Gaeltachta podcasts now available in the accompanying 'Podchraoltaí' CD collection was selected to be distributed to all second level schools nationwide. 'Podchraoltaí' is a new workbook for Irish schools in which podcasts are used as a teaching resource.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Members of the public speaking team; Molly O'Toole, Clodagh Walsh and Sarah Carroll who competed in the Mayo Mental Health competition.





FRENCH THEATRE

Sancta Maria hopes to welcome F.T.F.S (French Theatre for Schools) again this year. This popular group of actors promote language learning through drama. They were extremely popular last year and this year will perform two shows- one for Junior Cycle students and one for Senior Cycle students. Amusez-vous bien!!

CHICAGO

Cast:

Velma Kelly.....	Hannah Cosgrave
Roxie Hart.....	Heather Billington
Amos Hart.....	George Hynes
Billy Flynn.....	Steven O Malley
Matron Mama Morton.....	Alison Cotteril
Master of Ceremonies.....	Aaron Harper
Mary Sunshine.....	Oisin McDonagh
Go-to hell Kitty.....	Patricia O Grady
Sergeant Fogarty.....	Cathal Gunning
Liz.....	Rachel Fetherston
Annie.....	Laura McHugh
June.....	Seana Fitzgerald
Hunyak.....	Adrianna Perichtoba
Mona.....	Rebecca Reidy
Fred Casely.....	Paul McDonnell
Judge.....	Oscar Joly
Foreman.....	Josh Noone
Harrison.....	Shane Gallagher
Aaron.....	Conor O'Donnell
1st Reporter.....	Robert Duffy
2nd Reporter.....	Jack McEvoy
3rd Reporter.....	Ronan O'Toole
Clerk.....	Samuel Gavin
Bailiff.....	Eamon O'Malley

Stage Manager:

Rachael Prendergast.

Assistant. Manager:

Niamh Hastings.

VISIT TO ALLERGAN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY

As part of their focus on careers the Leaving Cert Students were invited to a talk and got a tour of Allergan Pharmaceutical Company in Westport.



5TH YEAR LCVP TRAFFIC SURVEY:

The 5th year LCVP students organised a survey which involved them counting the number of cars that came into the town by it passing the primary school, the main Westport/Louisburgh road or via Bunowen in a time period of 1 hour. The results were as follows:

403 cars in total, 326 were private vehicles, 77 were commercial vehicles, 7 cars were '09' registrations, 61 cars were '07-08' registrations, 317 cars were '06' registration or older.



LEAVING CERT GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Leaving Cert Students went on their geography field trip to Carrowmore, Old Head and Bertra beaches.

GALWAY BAY ON ICE

Transition Year students on their annual trip to Galway Bay on Ice to take part in ice-skating.



T.Y SCIENCE MAGIC SHOW

Recently the Transition Years held a Science magic show for the first years. This turned out to be a success and the first years really enjoyed themselves. They performed several science tricks under the supervision of their Science teacher Ms Finucane.



TRIP TO LITTLE KILLARY ADVENTURE CENTRE

Pictured are the Transition Year Students on their annual trip to Little Killary Adventure Centre to promote team spirit for their year group.



STUDENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Student Council meet on a regular basis with staff representative Ms. Rennick to discuss matters that are brought to the attention of the class reps. by members of the student body. Their aim is to promote good communication with the entire school community. At the end of the year two representatives meet with the Board of Management to discuss the year's activities.

Back row L-R: Maura Gibbons, Maureen Corrigan, Eimear O'Reilly, Oisín McDonagh, Helen Burke, Annette Gibbons, Kate Geraghty. Front row L-R: Colin O'Malley, Kirsty Walsh, Micheala Walsh and James Gibbons.



ADULT EDUCATION

The graduation evening for participants on Adult Education programmes was held on December 9th in the West View Hotel. Over forty students were presented with their awards and certificates for courses attended last year. Presenting the Certificates, Mr. Kevin Mc Brien (FETAC) encouraged students to continue with further studies, emphasizing that "in these uncertain times of unemployment and recession an investment in education is an investment in people and in the future". Ms. Pauline Moran, School Principal congratulated all the recipients of awards on the night. She also paid tribute to the dedication and hard work of the tutors involved in the Adult Education programme especially the Co-ordinator Ms. Finola Foy. Demand continues to grow for adult education with FETAC presenting its one millionth certificate this year. Adult Education classes in Childcare and Information Technology are currently offered at Sancta Maria. Classes are available as Post Leaving Cert day courses or evening courses under the Back to Education Initiative. All courses cater for beginners. For further information contact 098 66342



Graduates on Information Technology/Business courses pictured with their tutors Ms Elaine O'Malley, Adult Education Co-ordinator Ms. Finola Foy and Mr. Kevin Mc Brien (FETAC)



Graduates on childcare courses pictured with their tutor Ms Maureen Kehoe Smith, School Principal Ms. Pauline Moran and Mr. Kevin McBrien (FETAC)

SYMPATHY

We extend our condolences to families in our school community who have been bereaved this year and are experiencing sadness at this time. "Go raibh síocháin na Nollag ina gcoithe."

SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE

Principal: Mrs. Pauline Moran **Deputy Principal:** Mr. Michael Davitt

Tel: 098-66342 **Fax:** 098-66570

Email: Sanctamc@iol.ie **Website:** www.sanctamaria.ie

