



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE
LOUISBURGH, CO. MAYO

Welcome to our summer newsletter. It is a time to reflect on the year and to wish all our Junior and Leaving Cert students well. We will continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers. We ran a very successful supervised study programme for our exam students over the past two weeks which was really appreciated by all. During this time many of the staff gave workshops to groups of students in a wide variety of subject areas. I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff for this and for all their work during the year both in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities. Sincere thanks to the Student Council and the Parents' Association for their dedication and commitment throughout the school year. The end of one year is the beginning of another and with this in mind I welcome the incoming first years from the 13 primary schools; Louisburgh, Killeen, Lecanvey, Clare Island, Inisturk, Murrisk, St. Colmcille The Quay, Gaelscoil na Cruaiche,

Knockrooskey, Carraholly, Cogaula Westport, Newport and Derrywash N.S, Castlebar. May your time with us be happy and rewarding.

The current Board of Management will end in October. I wish to thank them for all their work and support over the past three years. A new Board will be formed at the beginning of next year and parents representatives will be nominated by you the parents. A special thank you to all who were involved in the preparation of this newsletter; Mr. Davitt, Ms. Donnelly, Deborah Bennett, Maureen Corrigan and thanks to our photographers Mr. O' Flynn and Michael McLoughlin. Finally I wish you all a happy summer holiday. Thank you all for your support during the year.

Regards
Pauline Moran
Principal

RETIREMENT

We congratulate Mr. Vincent Farrell on his retirement from the teaching Staff of Sancta Maria. Mr. Farrell taught Maths and Science for the past 35 years in the school. He was involved in extra-curricular activities where he coached Soccer and Gaelic Teams for many years. He worked as the school's ICT Co-ordinator and was responsible for designing and updating our award winning website. Mr. Farrell was also actively involved in the school exchange programme with Charles de Foucauld in France. A presentation was made to Mr. Farrell on behalf of the Board of Management, Staff and students of the school to mark the occasion. We wish that this new chapter in his life will be happy, healthy, peaceful and fulfilled. Pictured below is Mr. Jimmy Egan, Mr. Vincent Farrell and Mr. Bob Reaney.



DUATHLON

Sancta Maria promotes fitness and health by becoming involved in a wide and challenging variety of sporting events and activities. The school recognises the need for all to lead an active and healthy life. The physical activities being organised have a number of benefits for people including improving mental health and reducing stress and anxiety. In the process much needed funds are raised for chosen charities. One such event to be held in the school was a Duathlon. A staff member Ms Clare McDermott together with a number of her teaching colleagues organised the event which took place on Friday 26th March last. Training had been taking place among staff and students in previous weeks in preparation for the event.



The Duathlon consisted of a 5 km run from Old Head beach to Sancta Maria College followed by a 10 km cycle from the school via Kilgeever, Kilsallagh, Falduff and finished back in Sancta Maria College. Proceeds from this event go to St Jude's orphanage in Gulu in Northern Uganda. Ms Clare McDermott has spent time working in the orphanage on a voluntary basis recently. The orphanage is located in Gulu, a region in Northern Uganda. For the past 20 years Northern Uganda has been affected by a prolonged civil conflict. Now that the fighting has ceased, funds are needed to help people resettle in their villages following the conflict. St. Jude's is home to over 80 children orphaned for various reasons.



Pictured are Teachers and Students who participated in the Duathlon which took place in Sancta Maria College on Friday March 26th. Pictured left to right: Padraic Rocliffe, Ms. Ailish Walshe, Eimear O'Reilly, Mr. Richard Berkeley, Cathal Moran and Catherine Heanue.

FUNDRAISING IN SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE

The school also held a cake sale in aid of the Haiti Disaster raising €1000.



SKIPATHON

Pic left to right: Padraic Rocliffe, Sinead Moran, Lorraine O'Malley, Ciaran Rocliffe, Dervla Kelly, Grace Hynes and Morgan O'Flaherty

Sinead Moran a Leaving Certificate student together with her classmates organised a Skipathon in support of the Chilean Earthquake disaster. She decided on this activity to support her aunt Sr. Mary T. McDonagh who has been working in Curico, Chile for the past 19 years. The area she lives in has been badly damaged by the earthquake and funds are badly needed. Over one hundred students took part and raised almost €1000. Staff and students skipped for 15 minute periods for the entire school day.



CROAGH PATRICK CLIMB



Recently a group of Transition Year students took part in a sponsored climb of Croagh Patrick raising much needed funds for Autism Ireland. They raised a total of €325.



Pictured above are staff and students displaying the four cheques from the four separate fundraising activities that were held in the school recently.

SECOND HAND BOOK SALE

Buy or sell your second hand books in the school gym from 4pm to 6p.m on August 20th 2010

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association activities this year included discussing various policies that were up for review and supervision during the Musical and the Duathlon. The Association also organised two fundraisers during the year – a card game and a church gate collection. A sum of €1,215 was raised on the card game and €1,323 was collected on the church gates. Proceeds from the fundraising contributed towards the purchase of a new sound system for the school and the purchase of a new kiln for the Art room. A sincere thank you to all who contributed in any way throughout the year.

PRAMERICA SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

Congratulations to Deborah Bennett and Maureen Corrigan both Transition Year students at Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh who were nominated as local honourees in this year's Pramerica spirit of Community Awards. The awards recognise and celebrate the volunteer work undertaken by young people nationally each year.



Sancta Maria College Girls Gaelic team pictured with Mr. Eoin Sweeney (Coaching Officer with the Connacht Colleges), after a recent training session in the school.

ROAD SAFETY

Recently Transition Year students had a presentation on Road Safety and the effects of dangerous driving on the roads. The presentation proved to be very interesting and worthwhile.

'GAFA'

The acclaimed Irish author Ré Ó Laighleis paid a visit to the Leaving Cert students. He gave a lecture on one of his best selling novels for teenagers 'Gafa' which is being studied by the Leaving Cert Irish Class. Ré provided a lively and energetic insight to the story which identifies the horrors of a young man addicted to heroin and the trauma his parents live through.



TRIP TO FOUR COURTS AND THE DÁIL

The TY class travelled to the Four Courts in Dublin where they got to sit in on a murder trial and the Dáil in Dublin where they met Michael Ring T.D. Pictured below is the TY class with their Teachers Ms. Hannon and Ms. Gavin and Michael Ring T.D.



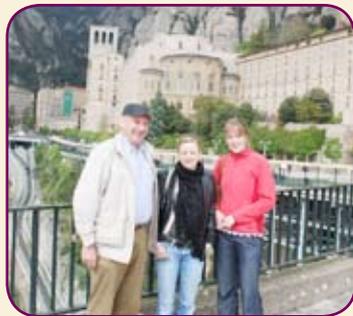
TY SURFING

Transition Year students participated in surfing lessons which were organised by the Mayo Surf School.



TY TRIP TO BARCELONA

The TY students enjoyed a week-long trip to Barcelona in Spain on May 10th last. Among the many cultural attractions they visited were the Nou Camp Stadium, Montserrat Monastery, Parc Guell and Antonio Gaudi's famous Cathedral. The tour would not have been complete without a trip to the famous Barcelona aquarium and a day out at Port Ventura theme park. A special word of thanks goes to the supervisors who accompanied the students on the trip; Mr. Egan, Ms. Donnelly, Ms. Quinn and Mr. O' Loughlin.



IRISH ONLINE

Sancta Maria has decided to explore new developments in ICT and combine it with the Irish language in the classroom. Abair Leat! is being used in conjunction with the Department of Education and Science in a pilot scheme across a number of second level schools of which Sancta Maria College, is proud to be part of. AbairLeat is an online interactive programme which enables students to develop their Irish language and IT skills at school and on their home PC's. With the use of an interactive series of games/activities and theme books this format has proven to be a fun and effective way of learning Irish in the classroom. Each task for the individual student is organised into chapters and has an assessment page which reviews each learner. The teacher assigns and allocates homework to each student online. Students complete homework via the homework link. Parents are also part of the interactive learning and have their own login facility to view the homework assignments.



'CHICAGO' THE MUSICAL

This year the Transition Year students performed the hit Musical 'Chicago' which proved to be a huge success.



SCIENCE IN SANCTA MARIA

Science is offered as a core subject to all Junior Cycle students. Biology, Chemistry, Agricultural Science and Physics /Chemistry are offered at Senior Cycle level. One of the many advantages of our close proximity to the sea is that it allows for practical course work to be completed. Pictured below is a group of 1st year students undertaking a practical field work experiment at the local beach.



GREEN SCHOOLS



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The Green School Project is working to get their second green flag on the theme of energy. Students recently completed a project for WEEE (Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment) Ireland, raising awareness of battery recycling in local national schools. They also had their annual Green Day this year promoting recycling in a project that raised money for the ISPCC and the Green School Project. Thank you to everyone for supporting environmental awareness in our community.

Committee members received certificates in recognition of their role in making a difference to our environment through their hard work and dedication.

In September

- raised our first Green Flag
- elected our new committee
- set up the rota for litter picking and emptying compost bins
- embarked on our programme to save energy in the school

In October

- undertook an Energy Review of the school
- sold green wristbands as a fundraising project
- ordered 300 bulbs for our window boxes

In November

- devised our Energy Action Plan, outlining how we intend to reduce heat and light use in the school
- put up 'Switch It Off' signs in every room in the school
- had a speaker in from Sustainable Energy Ireland as part of Transition Year project
- The Principal applied for a grant for insulation for the school

In December

- Green Energy Concert raised €400 for the Green School Project

In January

- Transition Year students finished making our four new timber compost bins

In February

- Green reps were on duty at the musical monitoring recycling of plastic bottles and cans

In March

- began planning our Green Action Day, and Ms Ainsworth contacted a recycling company that supports schools and the ISPCC through buying our old clothing and mobile phones.
- window boxes blossomed

In April

- Fifth year girls planted pansies outside Ms. Moran's office
- new insulation was installed
- speaker from Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Ireland visited and spoke about recycling batteries and electrical equipment
- Transition Year and second year Reps went to local schools and business to promote battery recycling
- Green Action Day, raising money for our Green Project and the ISPCC

In May

- Transition Year students had a successful day out at Dublin Castle with their One Good Idea project
- replanted the window boxes for summer
- Science students sorted the spring bulbs so they are ready for planting again in the autumn

WOODWORK PROJECTS IN SANCTA MARIA



ART PROJECTS IN SANCTA MARIA



POWER OF ONE

Amidst a declining environment four Transition Year students have orchestrated a groundbreaking campaign for the "One Good Idea" environment competition and recently emerged as one of twenty groups in the National Final on the 6th May in Dublin Castle. The group, which consists of Jack Bowler, Cathal Gunning, Stephen Henry and Jake Stanton, represent the only school in Mayo to reach the final.

"One Good Idea" is a Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) initiative environmental competition. It is for secondary school students whose aim is to run a campaign raising awareness about climate change and the ways it can be tackled by using energy more efficiently and making changes in the way we live, work and travel.

The group aimed their campaign at primary school children and focused their efforts on everyday energy saving. The project went through many intricate stages from the groundwork, which included researching and planning, all the way through to implementing the campaign at Murrisk National School, Lecanvey National School and Louisburgh National School. The group made an energy saving superhero stand up prop, aptly named Enviroman, which the campaign revolved around. They also designed an original environmental board game, quizzes, a website, social network sites, bookmarks and handmade t-shirts, all of which promote energy awareness in a fun and interactive way.

The whole campaign was driven by the group's deep rooted determination to improve the present state of our environment and combat climate change. Numerous problems arise from excessive energy use: it causes air pollution, acid rain, contributes to climate change, destroys the rainforests and other wild habitats and is a pivotal factor in the decline and extinction of thousands of species of animals and plants. These problems coupled with the fact that we, as humans, play a huge role in climate change galvanized the group's determination. To help the environment we can all realize greener alternatives in our everyday activities, such as:

1. Reducing the brightness on your TV and computer

monitor so it uses less energy.

2. Turn off lights when you leave a room.

3. Cut vegetables into smaller pieces so they cook quicker.

4. When cooking put the lid on the pot so food cooks quicker.

5. Make sure the pan covers the ring completely to avoid energy being wasted.

6. Turn off all appliances if going on holiday.

7. Only boil the amount of water needed in the kettle.

8. Use energy efficient light bulbs.

9. When buying new appliances such as a new fridge or dishwasher look for the energy rating label and buy the most energy efficient appliance you can.

10. Convince someone else to save energy.

The group would like to thank Berry's Printers, Signcraft, the Walk on Wednesday's Committee and all the staff and students at Sancta Maria College, especially Ms. Hannon, who were all a big help to the group with their project. You can visit the group's website at www.enviromen.tk or you can contact them by email on enviromen5@gmail.com



NATIONAL POETRY AWARD



Congratulations to Seamus Needham who was awarded a highly recommended certificate for his entry into the Windows Publication/ Cavan Crystal 2010 Poetry Competition. The competition organisers received over 400 entries for the competition. Pictured below is Seamus Needham with Ms. Deborah Maxwell.

1ST YEAR/2ND YEAR BOYS ACHIEVE CONNACHT SUCCESS

The 1st year/2nd year boys from Sancta Maria had a fantastic year on the playing fields by maintaining a 100% unbeaten record throughout the year. They won the 2009/2010 Connacht League and Championship titles respectively. In the League final played in March they defeated Ballygar from Galway by 5 points to claim the title. The Connacht Championship Schools Final was played in McHale Park in Castlebar in May where Charlestown provided the opposition in an all Mayo Final. Some very disciplined defending combined with some very well taken scores proved to be the decisive factor in favour of the Louisburgh boys. Scoring 2-19 on the day was more than enough to seal a famous win and end a very memorable and successful year for the 1st/2nd year Boys Gaelic Team.

The Senior Boys Gaelic Team had also a very successful year qualifying for 2 Connacht Finals but were very unfortunate not to win either the League or Championship Final having played exceptionally well in both games.

The Boys Senior Soccer Team qualified for the Connacht Cup Semi-Final this year while the U16 Boys Soccer Team finished as Connacht Finalists losing out to Belmullet in the

Final. Undoubtedly, the highlight for the U16's was the Semi-final triumph over the Galway winners Glenamaddy in an epic encounter which ended with a penalty shoot-out win for Sancta Maria. The U14's also competed this year in the Connacht Cup competing against Belmullet and Charlestown in the group stages.



Pictured above is the 1st/2nd year Boys Gaelic Team with their coach Mr. Michael Davitt.

SPIRITUAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Our Leaving Cert students enjoyed and greatly appreciated a Retreat which took place on April 24th 2010 presented by Fr. Benny McHale. They considered it an extremely worthwhile experience and very beneficial on life's journey.

Our 5th year students also enjoyed their retreat which was held here in the school on 11th May. Fr. John Kenny and Fr. Fergal Cunnane were their directors. They found it a very valuable day and were glad to have participated in it.

Third year students had a diversity workshop presented by Catherine McCloskey and Mary Jo McHugh. It gave them an appreciation of difference and the importance of accepting minority groups in our society.

5th years once again looked forward to a coping skills workshop which was given by Siobhan O'Brien, Linda Lohan, Catherine McCloskey and Mary Jo McHugh. This workshop provided students with skills to deal in a healthy way with the various stresses of life.

MULTI-CULTURALISM IN SANCTA MARIA

VISITING FRENCH TEACHER

Sancta Maria College was delighted to welcome Ms. Solange Leonard, a visiting French Teacher as part of a piloted Department of Education and Science scholarship programme. Sancta Maria was the only chosen Mayo school to host a native French Teacher this year. As a result of her visit, an e-twinning project has been set up between Sancta Maria College and Ms. Leonard's own school, College des Chatenades in Mussidon, France. A class of second year students are currently involved in the etwinning project. The aim of the project is primarily to improve language skills but also to better understand each others daily life and cultures. It is hoped that similar projects can be undertaken next year with other French classes. Sancta Maria College was nominated as the etwinning school of the month.



SLOVAKIAN STUDENTS

Sancta Maria welcomed four Slovakian students to the school this year and also the visiting Slovakian Ambassador to Ireland Mr. Roman Buzek. Pictured below are the Slovakian students with the Slovakian Ambassador to Ireland.



COUNTY U14 TEAM



Well done to Lorraine Gibbons and Lisa Needham who have been selected to play for the Mayo Ladies U14 Team.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Sancta Maria College annual achievements day took place in the school recently.

Sancta Maria College acknowledges success stories throughout the year. It acknowledges the academic success of the Leaving Certificate class of 2008/2009. These include our highest Leaving Certificate result of 7 A's in all Higher Level Subjects and numerous scholarships to 3rd Level Colleges. The present Junior and Leaving Cert students were wished every success in the upcoming exams.

The School Principal Ms. Pauline Moran congratulated all the students who represented the school on so many occasions this year. They brought great credit to the school with their behaviour, sportsmanship, courtesy and good manners. Individual successes were also highlighted by the Principal. Those students who have overcome personal challenges through bereavement and illness were also commended. The personal and academic successes achieved are through the students own hard work and resilience and the ongoing dedication of all the staff. Parental support was also recognised as an important factor in each student's growth and development. Ms. Moran also thanked the sponsors for their continued support and presence at the award ceremony.

In an effort to acknowledge students efforts and achievements, various categories are selected which include art, academics, community spirit, music, craft, sport, enterprise, students of the year – Junior, Senior and Transition Year.

The winner in the art category was Robyn Walsh. Austin Gibbons was presented with the academic award while George Hynes

won the Community Spirit award. Lisa Needham was the winner in the sports category while the TY 'Enviroman' team of Stephen Henry, Cathal Gunning, Jake Stanton and Jack Bowler won the enterprise award. Sean Rocliffe won the Music category award while Emma O'Malley was chosen for the crafts award. These awards were kindly sponsored by the Bank of Ireland. The Junior Student for 2009/2010 is Aisling Hoban while Martina Mannion achieved the best Junior Cert results for 2008/2009 with the award sponsored by the Louisburgh Credit Union. The TY student of the year award went to Aaron Harper and Kate Geraghty. The TY award was sponsored by Durkan's Gala, Louisburgh. The Leaving Cert student of the year award was presented to Stephen Corrigan and Lorraine O'Malley. The school recognises that the greatest achievement of all is the atmosphere of togetherness, hope and team spirit which permeates throughout the school community.

Pictured below are the TY Students of the Year award winners Aaron Harper and Kate Geraghty with their Co-ordinators Ms. Hannon, Mr. Davitt and Ms. Donnelly. Also the Leaving Cert Students of the Year Lorraine O'Malley and Stephen Corrigan with Mr. Davitt, Deputy Principal and Ms. Moran, Principal.



PROJECT MATHS

Teachers from the school have participated in in-service training for the new revised Mathematics syllabus. Project Maths involves the introduction of revised syllabuses for both Junior and Leaving Certificate Mathematics. It involves changes to what students learn in mathematics, how they learn it and how they will be assessed.

Project Maths aims to provide for an enhanced student learning experience and greater levels of achievement for all. Much greater emphasis will be placed on student understanding of mathematical concepts, with increased use of contexts and applications that will enable students to relate mathematics to everyday experience.

The initiative will also focus on developing students' problem-solving skills. Assessment will reflect the different emphasis on understanding and skills in the teaching and learning of mathematics.

The Mathematics syllabuses will be introduced in strands as follows:

1. Statistics and Probability
2. Geometry and Trigonometry
3. Number
4. Algebra
5. Functions

According as the revised strands are introduced, students will experience mathematics in a new way, using examples and applications that are meaningful for them. These will also allow students to appreciate how mathematics relates to daily life and to the world of work. Students will develop skills in analysing, interpreting and presenting mathematical information; in logical reasoning and argument, and in applying their mathematical knowledge and skills to solve familiar and unfamiliar problems. In the junior cycle, a more investigative approach will be used which will build on and extend students' experience of mathematics in the primary school. To provide better continuity with primary school mathematics, a bridging framework is being developed that links the various strands of mathematics in the primary school to topics in the Junior Certificate mathematics syllabuses.

In the senior cycle, students' experience of mathematics will enable them to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for their future lives as well as for further study in areas that rely on mathematics. Leaving Certificate Mathematics will be provided at three syllabus levels, Foundation, Ordinary and Higher, with corresponding levels of examination papers.

SYMPATHY

We extend our condolences to members of our school community who have been bereaved this year.

SPONSORSHIP

The school wishes to thank all who have so generously contributed to all the activities throughout this school year. Your contribution is much appreciated.

Sancta Maria College Louisburgh

Places are now available on our
CHILDCARE

Special Needs Assisting

Post Leaving Cert. Course - Starting Mid-September 2010

This course is designed primarily for adults who wish to work in the area of childcare/special needs assisting.

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)
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
Office Administration/Information Technology Skills

Office Administration/Information Technology Skills

Post Leaving Cert. Course

Starting Mid-September 2010

This course is designed primarily for adults who wish to acquire/update computer skills or retrain in modern office technology.

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)
- Communications
- Work Preparation/Work Experience
- Presentation Software
- Data Entry
- Desktop Publishing
- Business Calculations
- Legal Studies
- Occupational First Aid

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