

SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE

Louisburgh, Co. Mayo



Newsletter Summer 2011

Welcome to our Newsletter Summer 2011 which gives an account of school events and activities since Christmas 2010. It is obvious that Santa Maria has been a hive of activity for both students and staff. This newsletter celebrates effort, participation and contribution and in the words of the Seanfhocal "Ní neart go cur le chéile". On May 30th activities were organised for all year groups to promote and foster friendship and class spirit. A Duathlon, Green Concert and achievements ceremony were held in the school. This highlights the very diverse range of activities undertaken by the entire school community.

Many thanks to all for their effort, energy and enthusiasm throughout the year. Thanks to the Student Council, Parents' Association and the Board of Management for their support, involvement and commitment during the school year. Sincere thanks to the staff and students who compiled and edited this newsletter. Best wishes and every success to our Junior and Leaving Certificate students of 2011 in their future endeavours. I wish all of our students and their families an enjoyable summer.

Regards,
Pauline Moran,
Principal.

IPADS IN SANCTA MARIA

Santa Maria College has become involved in a pilot project to promote modern technology in the classroom. The school is now using Ipads as a new and innovative learning tool in the classroom. This is viewed nationally as a very progressive step in education. We need to encourage our children to read more and to improve our Maths results internationally. However, Santa Maria College results have consistently remained well above the national average annually. The introduction of Ipads is viewed as a means of improving reading and numeracy skills. Thousands of books can be downloaded and read on screen. Applications can also be downloaded to improve both literacy and numeracy in an enjoyable way.

Pictured is the new apple ipad now in use in Santa Maria.



Two 1st year students Caera Grady and Oisín Lally are pictured demonstrating the new visualiser which the school has recently purchased. The visualiser is another excellent teaching and learning tool. We are now in the process of installing further modern up to date IT facilities in all classrooms including data projectors, laptops, interactive boards, visualisers and multi-media equipment. These facilities will compliment our 2 modern computer suites and ipads.



RETIREMENT

We congratulate Mr. Jimmy Egan on his retirement from the teaching Staff of Santa Maria. Mr. Egan taught English, History, Geography and Religion in the school. As expressed by Ms. Pauline Moran, Principal and Paul McDonnell, student representative, his contribution has been invaluable over his 37 years on the teaching staff. He has played an active role in various Boards of Management. All of us have benefitted from his wisdom, compassion and expertise. We wish him health and happiness in this new chapter in his life. Pictured with Mr. Egan are Maureen Corrigan and Paul McDonnell making a presentation to him on behalf of the Student Council.



INCOMING 1ST YEAR'S SUMMER VISIT

The principal Pauline Moran, Sr. Marie King and Elaine O'Malley welcomed the incoming first years from 14 primary

schools; Killeen, Louisburgh, Lecanvey, Clare Island, Inisturk, Brackloon, Drummin, Fahy, Carraholly, Cogaula, Scoil Phadraig, Holy Trinity, Gaelscoil na Cruache and the Quay National Schools. Information was passed on to them regarding our website www.sanctamaria.ie. Mr. O'Malley informed the students on the booklist for 2011/2012. Sr. Marie briefed the students on our mentoring system. They were then divided into two groups for the rest of the day when they received a taste of the following subjects: Art, Music, Science, Business studies, Home economics, Woodwork, French and Technical graphics.





Pictured are some of our incoming first years enjoying their induction day on June 3rd last.

IRISH IN SANCTA MARIA

Urlabhra as Phádraig Mac Suibhne

Is file agus gearscéalaí é Pádraig Mac Suibhne. Rugadh é i Dhún na nGall. Bhain sé céim amach sa Ghaeilge agus Stair. Le déanaí thug sé cuairt ar ár scoil. Labhair sé leis an chúigiú bliain. Thug sé alán eolas faoi stair na Gaeilge, a dhán “Colscaradh”, an dán “An t-Earrach Thiar” le Máirtín Ó Direáin agus na difríochtaí idir Gaeilge deisceart agus Gaeilge tuaisceart. Bhain gach éinne i láthair taitneamh as an tráthnóna. Ceapaim go bhfuil an lá an chabhreach do na daltaí. Is duine greannmhar agus cainteach é Pádraig Mac Suibhne. Go raibh míle maith agat do Ms. Walsh a eagraigh an urlabhra do dhaltaí an cúigiú bliain. Mar fhocal scóir cuimhnigh an seanfhocal sin. “Tír gan teanga tír gan anam!”.

Kate Geraghty (An Cúigiú Bliain, 2011)

Pictured with Ré Ó Laighléis are some members of the Leaving Certificate Irish class on his recent visit to the school.

Cuairt Ré Ó Laighléis go Coláiste Sancta Maria

Ar an 12ú Bealtaine, tháinig Ré Ó Laighléis chuig ár scoil. Is mar scríbhneoir iontach úrscéalta agus gearscéalta, idir Ghaeilge agus Bhéarla, is mó atá aithne air. Tá a leabhair ‘gafa’ ar chúrsa na hArdteiste faoi láthair agus tá sé leite againn. Bhí an rang go léir ag tnúth leis a chuairt, díreach ó bhéal an chapail a deirtear! Tháinig Ré isteach sa seomra agus tar éis cúpla nóiméad bhí ár ainmneacha ar eolas aige! Ar dtús chuir sé in úil dúinn faoin am a chaith sé ag bunmhúinteoireacht agus cén fáth a chuaigh sé leis an scríbhneoireacht go lánaimseartha. Chaith sé am ag obair le handúiligh drugaí freisin agus bhí a scéalta an shuimiúil ar fad.

Chabhraigh a thaitní le handúiligh a chuid leabhair faoin drugaí a scríobh.

O thaobh ‘Gafa’ de, mínigh sé na caibidlí níos luaithe go mion agus chuir se in iúl dúinn ar siombailí éagsúla agus a dtábhacht. Léigh sé as an dhá leabhair, an leagan Gaeilge (Gafa) agus leagan Béarla (Hooked). Bhí sé an difriúil agus cabhrach i mo thuairim. Gan aon agó, is fear briomhar, intleachtach agus spéisíúil é agus cainteoir den scoth é freisin. Tá se an soiléir agus éasca a thuiscint. Bhain an rang iomlán taitneamh as an léacht mar thug sé léiriú níos fearr, stór focal fíor-riachtanach agus éagsúlacht níos mó le hoibriú leis dúinn. Anois táimid ag súil go mór leis an leabhar is déanaí aige ‘Osama, Obama, O, a Mháma!’ a léamh tar éis na hArdteiste! Jillian Ní Mháille (Rang na hArdteiste, 2011)



TY TRIP TO THE DAIL

In early April our Transition Year students travelled to the Dail where they were met by Mr. Michael Ring, Minister for Sport and Tourism. The students also met Mr. Pat Rabbitte and were given a guided tour of Leinster House while the Dail was in session. The students were accompanied on the trip by Ms. Pauline Moran and Sr. Marie King.



TRANSITION YEAR WEB DESIGN

Transition Year students were awarded the opportunity through their computer classes to train on the new Web X5 design course. They were taught the skills of designing and producing their own website. All participants were presented with a Web X5 design certificate on completion of the course.

CROI FIRST AID COURSE

As part of our commitment to becoming a Croi school a number of teachers and Transition Year students were trained in First Aid CPR and Defibrillator training this year



BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

This year two teams of students represented the school at the Business Enterprise competition, which was held in Knockranny House Hotel. The competition was tough despite their ideas being well planned. The two teams were Dilute-Shoot (Cathal Moran, Darragh Connolly, Tomas Kelly, Conor Tiernan, Patrick O'Toole and Megan Flynn) and Tec-Swap shop (Matthew Ferson, Jack Lewis, Orla McHugh, Kate Duffy and Emma O'Malley).



TY BARCELONA TRIP

The TY students enjoyed a week-long trip to Barcelona in Spain on May 9th last. Among the many cultural attractions they visited were the Nou Camp Stadium and Montserrat Monastery. The tour would not have been complete without a trip to the famous Barcelona aquarium and a day out at the adrenalin fuelled Port Aventura theme park. A special word of thanks goes to the Supervisors who accompanied the students on the trip; Mr. Tiernan, Ms. Hannon, Ms. O'Malley and Mr. Davitt.



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.

SELF-DEFENCE COURSE / AEROBICS

A three-week beginner's course was set up in self defense and aerobics for the TY students. In the first three weeks the boys participated in Self-defence while the girls did aerobics. For the second slot of three weeks the boys did aerobics while the girls participated in self defense. Both groups helped the TYs learn valuable fitness tips.

MUSICAL

The annual school Musical was staged over three nights in February. This year's production was 'Little Shop of Horrors'. Once again it proved to be a great show. The students performed to a full house each night.



DRIVING LESSONS

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. Pictured are Cathal Moran, Finian Kelly, Michael Scott, Tomas Kelly and Matthew Ferson who completed the course.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Each year Sancta Maria College acknowledges all of the hard work done throughout the year by the students. This year the awards day took place on Monday 30th May 2011. 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. 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 Eabha Feeley. Jason Prendergast was the winner in the sports category while the enterprise award went to Emma O'Malley. Jillian O'Malley won the Music category. These awards were kindly sponsored by the Bank of Ireland. Best Attendance awards went to Charlene Gibbons, Paul Henry, Donal Moran and Kate Geraghty.

Austin Gibbons won the Numeracy award for his endeavours in Maths and the Literacy award went to Heather Billington. The Junior Student for 2010/2011 is Lisa Needham while Patrick O'Toole achieved the best Junior Cert results for 2009/2010. The TY student of the year award went to Tomas Kelly and Louise O'Toole. The Leaving Cert student of the year award was presented to Emmet Morahan and Aisling Walsh. 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 are the TY Students of the Year award winners Tomas Kelly and Louise O'Toole with their Co-ordinators Ms. Hannon, Mr. Davitt and Ms. Donnelly.



Also the Leaving Cert Students of the Year Emmet Morahan and Aisling Walsh with Ms. Moran Principal, Mr. Davitt, Deputy Principal, Maura Harrison and Noreen Hoban, Bank of Ireland, Westport who sponsored the award.

MATHS COMPETITION

Esther Gavin was selected for the final of a maths competition organised by the University of Limerick. Esther was one of only twenty four students from the Connacht/ Munster region. Her project was on careers in accounting. Esther is pictured below with her Maths Teacher Ms. Hannon.



GREEN CONCERT

An end of year concert to celebrate the awarding of the 2nd Green Flag took place on Monday 30th May 2011.

GAISCE

The Presidents' Award is the highest accolade for young people between the ages of 15 and 25 in Ireland today. It certainly contributes to the development of all young people through the achievement of personal challenges. All students participating in the Presidents' Award acquire many skills along the way from planning and organisation to teamwork and the importance of persevering with a set goal in order to achieve it. Overall participants become more self-confident and mature young people. It helps them in terms of leadership and building relationships through teamwork.

By participating in the awards programme students become more socially self-confident young people. Education is overall an integral part of Gaisce and within certain guidelines the students can dictate the learning that takes place through their choice of activities. Community activities, physical recreation, personal skills and the completion of an adventure project are the main requirements for achieving an award. This year 11 5th year students participated in and completed the Gaisce President's Award challenge. The successful participants were presented with their awards at a ceremony in McWilliams Park Hotel in Claremorris on May 18th last.



HOME ECONOMICS ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to 2nd year student Sean Doherty who was selected to represent Sancta Maria at the finals of the Food Fest held in St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo. Sean was selected from a number of entries across the region. He is pictured being congratulated by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny on his recent visit to the school.



GREEN FLAG AWARD



Sancta Maria has received its second Green Flag award at a ceremony held at the McWilliams Park Hotel in Claremorris in May. Congratulations to the Green Schools Team who work very hard in maintaining the very high standards we have now set. We are now working on achieving our third Green Flag which looks at water conservation in school.

Pictured are Ms. Maureen Smith, Teacher, Sharon Cameron, Environmental Awareness Officer, Mayo County Council, Donal Moran and Alex Wynne (students), Mary Forde, Mayo County Council, John McCarthy, Wrigley's, (Sponsor) and Eva Gannon, An Taisce.

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. 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 Monday the 30th May, 2011. Training had been taking place among staff and students in previous weeks in preparation for the event. The Duathlon consisted of a 2km run, 10km cycle and finished with a 3KM run.



Pictured is Jason Prendergast on his way to victory in the recent Sancta Maria College Duathlon. Congratulations to Jason who has been selected to take part on the Irish Youth Olympics Team.



Also competitors at the start line before the 2011 Duathlon commenced.

ALL-IRELAND VOLLEYBALL SUCCESS

Congratulations to the Junior Cadet Girls Volleyball Team who captured their second All-Ireland title in Dublin earlier this year. This was another epic achievement from the girls in Sancta Maria. Well done to their coach Ms. Claire McDermott who worked very hard all year with the team.

Pictured is the victorious team in jubilant mood after the final whistle was blown in Dublin.



CONNACHT JUVENILE WIN

The Sancta Maria College Boys Juvenile Footballers captured the Connacht Schools League Title at Foxford on May 3rd when they defeated Grange Vocational School, Sligo running up a very impressive scoreline of 3-11 to 0-02. For many of the team, this was a second consecutive Connacht title which is a rare achievement in any school.

Pictured is the Juvenile Team with their coach Mr. Michael Davitt



THE VISIT OF AN TAOISEACH

The value of a schools website was stressed by an Taoiseach Enda Kenny when he launched the award winning website of Sancta Maria College in Louisburgh. which, he said, made Louisburgh the centre of the universe. The Taoiseach was greeted on his arrival by his nephew John Hastings, a student at the school, who introduced him to Principal Pauline Moran. He was taken to meet an audience comprising students, staff, members of the Board of Management and Parents Association. In attendance also was Councillor Austin Francis O'Malley.

Welcoming the Taoiseach, Ms Moran said it was a privilege to have him launch the website and reminded him that 25 years previously he had officially opened an extension to the school. It was her hope, she said, that he might be in a position to do so again in the future. She also expressed her wish that education would remain a priority for the government even in these difficult times. Ms Moran told the Taoiseach that the new website, designed by Ms. Elaine O'Malley, had already been awarded the Star School status by Scoilnet as well as being named School of the Month by the trustees, CEIST. Leaving Cert students David O'Malley and Bria Connolly spoke of what Sancta

Maria College has meant to them over the past six years, and Ms O'Malley took the Taoiseach through a tour of the website, showing its main features. Mr. Kenny congratulated the school on its new website and commented on the great atmosphere in the school. He spoke of how the website made it possible to link with schools in Canberra or Anchorage or San Francisco, and mentioned how Louisburgh in its own way was the centre of the universe, as was any small parish when launched on the worldwide web. He spoke of his own recent visit to Washington, where the Speaker of the House of Representatives asked him how to pronounce a certain word. The word turned out to be the name of his own parish of Islandeady, and the context was a poem which he had found on the

internet, written by Pauline Rice. The Taoiseach said it was the first time in 250 years that the name of Islandeady rang out on Capitol Hill, proving how local can become global with the help of the web. Speaking of the future for students he said: "My job is to put in place a platform where you can have a job here, a career here and a life here if that is what you want to do." He continued that "I'd like to think that no matter how far away you travel you'll always have a sense of place. Ms. Marina Rice, member of staff and Parents Association representative, presented the Taoiseach with a copy of her mother's poem Islandeady Hills, while student Jack Bowler and art teacher Mr. Tom O'Flynn presented him with a sketch of himself.



An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny pictured with Ms. Pauline Moran School Principal, Ms. Elaine O'Malley, web designer, and Ms. Marina Rice.



An Taoiseach Enda Kenny officially launches the newly designed Sancta Maria College award winning website.



Ms. Marina Rice presented An Taoiseach Enda Kenny with a copy of her mother's poem Islandeady Hills.



Student Jack Bowler and art teacher Mr. Tom O'Flynn presented him with a sketch of himself.



Pictured is the Taoiseach Enda Kenny being greeted with a standing ovation by members of the students body of Sancta Maria College. Also included in the photograph is Councillor Austin Francis O'Malley and Ms. Ann McCabe.



Pictured is Enda Kenny being welcomed to the school by Sr. Marie King and Enda's nephew John Hastings.

SANCTA MARIA'S 2ND STAR SITE AWARD



Every fortnight Scoilnet selects a new school website to be its Star Site. Among the things that Scoilnet look for when assessing websites are: up-to-date content; well presented information about the school and the curriculum within the school; some evidence of student work; and the look and feel of the website. Sancta Maria received its' 2nd award in May this year. Scoilnet said 'the content is really strong, up-to-date and gives a great feel for the school'.



Also, Sancta Maria was Ceist's Monthly Featured School in May.

SMC is this month's school featured on ceist website

THE VISIT OF THE ARCHBISHOP



Archbishop Michael Neary visited the school and met with the leaving Certificate students. He is pictured with Sr. Marie King H.S.C.L and some of the Leaving Cert class.

H.S.C.L

Sr. Marie King would once again like to thank the many homes that made her welcome since the last newsletter. The home school link is very valuable in promoting the best interest of students. She also wishes to thank the Principals and teachers of the Primary Schools of students who have enrolled here in Sancta Maria for September. As part of the transition from Primary to Secondary school Sr. Marie visited all the 6th class pupils who are joining us next year to allay their fears and concerns and answer their questions.

LEAVING CERT GRADUATION CEREMONY

Monday 22nd May was a very significant day in the lives of our Leaving Cert students as they celebrated their Graduation. The ceremony began with Mass which was a most beautiful celebration of their lives and times here in Sancta Maria. The students were joined by their parents and teachers. The Gym was nicely decorated with balloons and photographs of our Leaving Certs when they were 'beautiful babies' many years ago. All enjoyed tea and refreshments as they reflected on their 5/6 years here.

RETREATS

ESKER RETREAT

The Transition Year students participated in an over-night retreat to Esker. The students found it a fun and beneficial experience. The monastery near Athenry, Co. Galway has been the venue for all Transition Year retreats over the past few years. They thoroughly enjoyed their time there.



5th YEAR RETREAT

On 19th May our fifth year students were once again privileged in having Fr. John Kenny and Fr. Fergal Cunnane join them for a day's retreat. They helped 5th year students to reflect on their relationship with themselves, others and God.

LEAVING CERT RETREAT

One of the highlights of Leaving Cert is their annual retreat given by Fr. Benny McHale. He faithfully made his way to Sancta Maria College on 8th March. In his usual humorous manner, he challenged the Leaving Certs on the important aspects of life. They appreciated the day very much and would have wished for a second day of retreat.

LEAVING CERT ART PROJECTS

Pictured are Heather Billington, Josh Noone and Oscar Joly proudly displaying their Leaving Cert Art projects.



PURCHASE OF KILN

A Chamber KE-B Series kiln was purchased for the Art room this year thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Parents' Association. This is a solid kiln series for applications in professional workshops, schools and hobby pottery. A special feature of the kiln series is the complete back ventilation of the kiln body. As a result the outside temperature of the kiln is extremely low. A further feature is the mortar-free construction of the kiln ceiling. This prevents the goods from being damaged by material dropping from above. The purchase of the kiln greatly enhances the quality of work produced by art students.

ADULT EDUCATION

The benefits of lifelong learning go beyond the traditional view of keeping the mind sharp or improving memory. In today's global work force, continual learning is an important component of improving job skills. You may wish to learn a skill to enhance your possibilities in the job market, take professional training in a

particular area, re-train in a new area for future employment or take a stepping stone to further education. At Sancta Maria we offer a wide range of courses from the traditional and popular Business and Information Technology, to Childcare, Special Needs assisting and School Age Childcare.

OPTION 01

Post Leaving Cert Course

Many school-leavers use PLCs to give themselves some breathing space before committing to third-level and to help decide whether to pursue a particular course of study in the longer term. A big advantage of the PLCs is that they can provide a direct route to third level, through a number of schemes and, all told, 36 higher education institutions now reserve places for PLC graduates. These links schemes are a huge bonus to students who, perhaps, were short CAO points for the course of their choice, but who can progress on the basis of their level 5 or 6 award. The success of these programmes can be judged from the rise in the number of PLC students applying to the CAO - up to 5,000 last year. Students who plan to use a links scheme as a route to college are advised to work back from the entry requirements for the course they are interested in and select an appropriate PLC.

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

Applications from mature students welcome.

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



OPTION 02

Back to Education Initiative

The Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) provides part-time further education programmes for young people and adults (Evening classes). The aim is to give people an opportunity to combine a return to learning with family, work and other responsibilities.

Who can take part?

BTEI programmes are open to everyone but preference is given to those who have left school early with less than upper second level education.

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



All our courses lead to FETAC certification. FETAC is the national awarding body for further education and training in Ireland, the Further

Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) gives people the opportunity to gain recognition for learning in education or training centres, in the work place and in the community.

FETAC's mission is to make quality assured awards in accordance with national standards within the national framework, creating opportunities for all learners in further education and training to

have their achievements recognised and providing access to systematic progression pathways. The advantages of FETAC courses means that wherever your life takes you, you take a recognised standard of learning with you. You can build up skills beyond Junior & Leaving Certificate levels within courses that appeal to you & your skills. By gaining the certificates in the subjects you're interested in, you gain the confidence to realise your goals. FETAC courses are recognisable standards of learning or training achieved through a recognised centre in the workplace or the community.

SECOND HAND BOOK SALE

A second hand book sale will take place in the school on the morning of the Leaving Cert results, August 17th 2011. Students can buy or sell their second hand books on this morning from 10-11am.

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 the school year. Your contribution is much appreciated.

