



# Christmas Newsletter 2009



## News from the Religion Department

Our annual school Mass took place on 30<sup>th</sup> September in Bride St. Church. Fr. Tom Dalton was our celebrant and the ceremony was added to most beautifully by our school choir. This annual liturgical celebration is an opportunity for our whole school community to gather and pray for God's blessing in the coming academic year.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Year students attended retreat on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> October. The students and their teachers travelled to Grace Dieu Retreat Centre on the outskirts of Waterford. It was a relaxing and enjoyable day out.

The season of Advent has begun and the Advent wreath is displayed in the school's 'Sacred Space'

*The Sacred Space is a place where we can note our way of life as Christians. It is a way of celebrating and making visible our liturgical calendar*

During Advent, the sacrament of Reconciliation will be available to all during one lunch time.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Food Hamper Appeal is under way - Please support this worthy cause.

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## Parents' Council Monster Christmas Raffle

Parents' Council are fundraising to purchase outdoor seating for students' use.

Prizes of €100 shopping vouchers were suggested by Student Council and should make for a great Christmas for the lucky winners.

Tickets are €2 each or three for €5.

The draw takes place on Friday, 19th Dec.

**BE IN TO WIN!**

## Student safety

In the interest of safety parents are asked not to drive into the school grounds when collecting their daughters. Students are reminded to use the staff entrance at any time.

Thank you for your co-operation.



# Sports News!

## Basketball

The school's Senior and under 16 basketball teams can report a fantastic term of competition again this year, with both teams topping the Wexford League groups with an unbeaten streak. The girls' commitment to training has paid dividends as they trained twice weekly sharpening their skills and tactics.

**Under 16:** The key to any team's success is commitment and teamwork. This was epitomised by the under 16 team in their march to the South East Final to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> December in Mercy Waterford. The girls got their season underway with comprehensive home victories over Colaiste Bride and Bridgetown while winning away to Loreto Wexford in very blustery outdoor conditions. These fine wins saw the girls finish top of the league section. In the quarter finals the girls had home advantage to Borris Vocational School, and overcame the visitors on a scoreline of 37 to 17. Next up was FCJ Bunclody in the semi-final played at home. Presentation stamped their authority on the game and turned out a truly magnificent team performance to power their way to an impressive 48 points to 16 points victory, advancing to the South East Final on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, where they meet Presentation Waterford.



**The team are:** Ciara Grey, Beth Kavanagh, Aisling Nolan, Caoimhe O'Sullivan, Cara McDonald, Susan O'Doherty, Eadaoin Miskella, Emma Walsh, Jessica Reville, Eleanor Nolan, Lauren Lawlor. Best of luck girls!

**Senior:** The senior girls had a somewhat smaller panel of players, never the less, they recorded a home victory over Colaiste Bride while grinding out a result away to Loreto Wexford, where the wind dominated proceedings. Such results saw the girls progress to the quarter finals of the South East league. Again, Presentation were awarded home advantage as winners of their group and took on Presentation Bagnalstown. The visitors were an older side with more playing experience and ended our girls unbeaten run in the competition. I'm sure the future of this team in next year's competition is very bright. They are a young team with all but one player still eligible for this grade next year. Well done girls!

**The team are:** Gemma Kelly, Stella McKay, Amy Meehan, Dearbhla Daly, Kellie Kearney, Deirdre Kenny, Ciara Thomas also Lauren Lawlor, Aisling Nolan and Emma Walsh.

The **First Year** basketball players have been honing their skills in weekly training sessions since Halloween. An in school first year league is being organised to run at lunchtimes in the week following the first term tests. It is great to see so many of the Senior and Under 16 players helping out at both the league games and training sessions.

The **Second Years** have been training regularly in preparation for their competition in the New Year. After Christmas their training will increase to include an after-school session as their competition will commence at the end of January. Many thanks must go to Ms Mahon who has been helping out with the training of the second year players.

## Camogie

The girls of the Presentation began the defence of their leinster title against Kilkenny's Ballyhale, before they could shake off the cobwebs they found themselves two goals down in as many minutes however they battled back to lead at half time. It was a lead which they held until the dying minutes when a goal saw the girls beaten by the narrowest of margins. Next up for the juniors was Castlecomer who proved tough competition, nothing separated the teams for most of the game until two late goals sealed the victory which now puts them right back on track to retain their Leinster title.

The senior camogie have played two games and unfortunately have come out on the losing side in both counters. Their first match was against Johnstown and the girls put up a spirited display which saw Johnstown pull away in the second half. Their next match was against Gorey on a bitterly cold day, Gorey proved too strong for the girls on the day however credit is due to their second half performance in particular which saw them battle against the elements and record some very fine scores.

## U-16 Gaelic Football

The U-16 Gaelic Football team have trained extremely hard this year and this was evident in their matches. The first match that was played was an exciting game against St. Mary's, New Ross. Although our girls got off to a slow start, they played a fantastic second half. Unfortunately, we lost this game by a mere two points. The next match was against a young FCJ team. We came out as comfortable winners in this match, with an 11 point margin. The opposition for the last match was Gorey C.S. This was another exciting and closely fought match. However, our girls managed to snatch two vital points in the last few minutes of the game to come out as winners. As a result of losing the first match we were unable to qualify for the Leinster play-offs.

Well done girls of all your hard work!



## U-14 Gaelic Football

Training has started for the U-14 matches which are scheduled for after Christmas. Training takes place every Thursday in the Sports Hall from 4pm-5pm. Any first or second year students who wish to join should come along to these training sessions.



## Hockey

The hockey club currently have two teams involved in South East Leagues: Minor B (Second Year) & Intermediate A (Transition Year & 5th Year). Both teams have maintained an unbeaten record to date.

**Minor B's** played a great game against Loreto Wexford on 15th October, winning 1-0 with a great goal scored by Eadaoin Fitzgerald. The following week the girls did even better against St Leo's Carlow winning 3-0 with a goal scored again by Eadaoin Fitzgerald and the other two goals by Roisin Tobin and Sarah Berry. They maintained their unbeaten record by drawing 0-0 with F.C.J., Bunclody.

**Inter A's** also have an unbeaten record. They, too, beat Loreto, Wexford 1-0 with a great goal scored by Ciara McIntosh. A superb match on the 21st October against St Leo's Carlow meant the girls won again and this time by 2-0. Goal scorers were Ciara McIntosh and Niamh White.

On the 20th November, despite the floods, both teams travelled to the Astroturf Pitch in Enniscorthy for a training session with Kai Gahan. It was a great session and the girls would like to thank Kai who her expertise and advice

Both teams are to play Kilkenny College on Thursday 17th December in Enniscorthy. They are due to meet Ursulines, Waterford and Loreto Kilkenny in the New Year. We wish both teams all the best in the rest of their matches. Keep up the training girls!

## Senior Camogie

The Senior Camogie girls put up a fine display in the Senior C Camogie championship. In their first match the team which was lead by Captain Kara Delaney put up a brave display against last years All-Ireland champions St Mary's New Ross. Under difficult playing condition the team fell shy of victory; however the girls showed great team spirit. The second match was against Gorey proved difficult as we were short a number of first team regulars. Great effort was shown by all senior girls both at training and on the field, for some their school Camogie careers are over however county level beckons!



## Junior Camogie

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## CAREER GUIDANCE 2009/10

A very busy calendar of events has taken place this term.

### Important Career Events Next Term.

A 'Careers Night' will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010. The Parents Council and the Guidance Department are organising this event. **We hope all 3<sup>rd</sup>, TY, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> year students and their parents will attend.** It is an opportunity to hear and meet with individuals working in a variety of career areas. More information will be given to students after Christmas.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Years

CAO closing date 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2010. Restricted course must be included by this date. Students will have an opportunity to apply on line in school.

The PLC application process will begin after Christmas. Local PLC colleges will be invited into the school to talk with students. PLC College closing dates vary. There is a separate application to each college. Students may be called for interview for a PLC course in this term.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Years

A study skills day on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010-Cost € 18. Students need to book places as soon as possible as places are limited to approx 30 students. This day will focus on note taking and study skills needed for Leaving Cert.

An extensive Interview Training Programme run by a recruitment & training consultant which will run in March 2010. This will include the option of an Individual Mock Interview with both verbal & written feedback.-Cost € 16

UCD College visit- date to be arranged

5<sup>th</sup> yrs need to book early to secure their places on each of these programmes.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Years

After their Mock exams students will be asked to focus on Options for Senior Cycle and make decisions about Transition Year and 5<sup>th</sup> year Options.

A parents Night 'Options for Senior cycle' will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

The closing date for 5<sup>th</sup> year & TY applications is Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Years

Students can look forward to a module 'Exploring Career Choices' after Christmas with their Guidance counsellor

### 1<sup>st</sup> Years

To encourage high academic standards all 1<sup>st</sup> yrs will take part in a half day workshop on 'Effective Homework Skills' on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010 -Cost €10. The school believes that effective learning requires good organization for learning and for homework completion. This workshop will be provided by experienced tutors from SES, who specialise in teaching study techniques to students. These skills acquired in first year will enhance the learning experience of students and facilitate their academic success over their secondary school years.

## Trath na gCeist

Students from 2nd Year & 5th Year took part in 'Trath na gCeist' Irish quiz in CBS school in the last week of November. Students from also from CBS, St Peter's College, Loreto took part in this competition organised by FEACHTAS. Nicola Cogley, Orla Cunningham and Niamh Moore came 2nd and are through to the regional final in March. Well done girls. Good Luck!

# Student Success

## **Science Olympiad**

Congratulations to Yun Woo Lee who won the silver medal for Physics in the Science Olympiad held in DCU on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Yun Woo is a fifth year student and is currently studying all three Science subjects at Senior level. She was invited to take part in the Olympiad based on her excellent Junior Cert results. As a result of this achievement Yun Woo will form part of a team of six from Ireland that will compete in the 8<sup>th</sup> European Union Science Olympiad, which is to be held in Göteborg, Sweden, 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April next year. We wish her all the best.

Congratulations to

## Transition Year News - September to December '09

The Transition Year students have had an extremely busy time since the return to school last September. They began their year with a "group-bonding" session in Sheilbaggan Outdoor Adventure Centre in Ramsgrange, where they enjoyed team challenges. Despite the appalling weather conditions, the girls enjoyed the chance to get to know each other.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, all the students participated in a "Personal Development Day." Added to this, last month, the students let their imaginations do the talking, when they participated in the "Matrix Day." They also developed their artistic side, when they took part in a "Flower Arranging" workshop, where the girls got to individually design their own flower-basket.

As part of Transition Year, all students are offered the opportunity to participate in the *Gaisce Awards* - the President's Awards. This allows students to participate in community work, learn a new skill and participate in a physical activity for a set number of weeks. An adventure trip is also a requirement of the awards. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the girls set out with Ms Larkin, Mr Rolston and Mr McCormack to Glendalough, Co. Wicklow, on a 25km walk over two days, with an overnight stay in An Óige Hostel in Glendalough. A great time was had by all students! Many thanks are given to Mr McCormack for offering his time and effort in working out the walk-route for the students.

Since mid-September, T. Y. 1 students have been doing their work-experience placement every Wednesday. All the girls are extremely grateful to their employers for offering them this wonderful opportunity to experience life in the working-world. T. Y. 2 students begin their work-experience placement at the end of January.

The girls are also extremely busy with their "Mini-Company" course. In groups of 3-5, students set up their own enterprises. The school is the base market, with some companies working outside of school as well. A diverse range of products/services are now being made available to students, in the school, by the companies. More information on this in the New Year . . .

New to the Transition Year programme this year is the "Young Social Innovators" course. We are delighted to be the first and only school in Wexford town to offer this course to its students. Y. S. I. is a social awareness and education in action course for 15-18 year olds which heightens students' knowledge of pressing social issues. All the students are very busy in the development of their respective group projects. T. Y. 1 students are working on their project: "Quid Pro Quo - Teenage Consumer Respect" and T. Y. 2 students are busy with their own project: "G. A. A. - Girls Also Aloud." The New Year promises to be a busy time for the girls so watch this space!

Another major part of T. Y. is the annual drama production. This year's play is John Millington Synge's "The Playboy of the Western World." Set in the west of Ireland, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it tells the story of the rogue stranger Christy Mahon trying to impress the locals with his wild ways. The performances take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December, with three in-school productions and one evening (public) production on the 16<sup>th</sup>. A raffle will be held at each performance. All the funds generated from these performances goes to help the T. Y. year and events. Work on the play has been ongoing since September and the girls have worked extremely hard, so well done to all involved.

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, the girls participated in the "Road Safety Workshop" at the Wexford Youths Football Grounds - an eye-opening educational experience for all involved.

Other events that have taken place this term were:

- Mental Health Ireland talk and Public Speaking Project (well done to Laurina Kehoe, OShana-Rae Keogh and Donna Richardson who took part in this project).
- Irish Wheelchair Association talk
- A. I. B. "Build a Bank" talk and interviews
- Environmental Health talk
- Trip to the N. U. I., Maynooth Open Day on November 27<sup>th</sup>



Tommy Redmond from the F. D. Y. S. has been busy working with T. Y. 1 students since September on the "Drugs Awareness" programme, which the girls have thoroughly enjoyed so far. T. Y. 2 students can look forward to this programme after the Christmas break.

All the T. Y. students have been given the opportunity to give something back to the local community, as they participated in some fundraising events. On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of November, the girls were downtown selling "Angel Faces" for the Irish Wheelchair Association - Wexford branch. Congratulations to all the girls involved as they collectively raised €4, 882! Also, on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, the girls took part in the annual fundraising for the Central Remedial Clinic, by selling "Santa Bear's" downtown. Well done girls!

All the students would like to wish Ms Cranny all the best over the next few months and welcome Ms Sunderland into the role of T. Y. co-ordinator, working alongside Mr Rolston.

### **Student Council**

The new Student Council was elected in May and attended their initial training day in September. Since then, the Council has met frequently and the members have discussed their concerns about student facilities at these meetings. This year Student Council will be consulted about the audit and review of the Code of Behaviour. They are currently working on supporting the Parents' Council Christmas Raffle and investigating the possibility of a Student Discount Card for students.

#### **Members of the Student Council 2009-10:**

Chairperson: Aoife Thomas

Deputy Chairperson: Nicola Cogley

Secretary: Kathy Diskin

Assistant Secretary: Seana O'Brien

Treasurers: Connie Takacs and Patricia Doran

Public Relations Officers: Eadaoin Miskella, Katie Dempsey, Samantha Carr and Aisling Boyhan

### **Meitheal**

6th Yr Students give their time and skills to help 1st Yrs settle in to their new school.

Preparations are under way now for 1st Yr Christmas Party. This year's leaders are:

1A1: Eimear Corcoran, Nicole Guerrine, Stacey Scallan;

1A2: Sarah Barry, Lizzie Gilhooly, Tessa La Roche;

1A3: Aishlin Brown, Megan Fawsitt, Emma Callaghan;

1A4: Starra Clarke, Grace Cowman, Sarah Robinson;

1A5: Sinead Busher Carley, Saskia Stafford, Skaiste Vitkute.

This programme is vital to the well-being of all 1st Years and is of immense benefit to the 6th Years participating as well.