

# PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL



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## Christmas Newsletter 2008



### Presentation Day

Presentation Day, the 21st November, this year was a very significant day in our school: our new Presentation Cross was blessed. Seven Presentation sisters, students and staff came together to celebrate 190 years of the Presentation Congregation in Wexford. The story of Presentation Wexford began in October 1818 when two sisters came from Kilkenny to open a primary school - and the invaluable work with young people has continued since. Fr. Tom Dalton blessed our new Presentation Cross which has been given pride of place in the school foyer.



### News from the Religion Department

The Opening of Year Mass was held on October 9<sup>th</sup> this year and with the theme, New Beginnings we came together to ask God's blessing for the year ahead. On November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the sixth year students had an energising and uplifting experience on their Retreat days in Grace Dieu Retreat Centre in Waterford. Also during the month of November, students had the opportunity to come to the Prayer Room at lunchtime on Wednesdays to light a candle and say a prayer for their deceased relatives and friends.

As we are now in the season of Advent Fr. Dalton visited the school on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 12.30pm-1.30pm to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Finally the annual St. Vincent de Paul collection boxes will be assembled during December. We appeal for your generosity. May we wish you and your family a peaceful and joyous Christmas as we pray:

*"Come, Lord Jesus, come in faith, this Christmas.*



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### Concern Fast

Thanks to all the students who took part in the Concern Christmas Fast on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>

The money raised will go directly to those in most need in the Third World.

### Mobile Phone Appeal!

(Jack & Jill Foundation)

Help others by recycling your old mobile phones.

Just drop your phone into the drop-in box outside reception anytime before the end of January. **Don't forget!**

# Sports News!

## Basketball

The Basketball club has had an extremely successful term with teams winning 14 out of 17 games in total, getting 3 out of 3 teams to qualifying stages and 2 of these playing in South East finals wk beg. Dec 8th.

**U - 16 C** began the season with an Irish Cup game v Holy Family, Newbridge (All Ireland Finalists last year). Despite losing this game 25 - 37 the girls learned a huge amount from the intensity of the play and gained much respect from their opposition. Captain, Lauren Lawlor received the MVP award (most valuable player) as top scorer on 13pts.

This team went on to hold an unbeaten record in the pool games of the SE league, won Quarter final v Bagenalstown 45 - 8 and Semi final v Loreto 33 - 16.

Top 3 scorers so far this season : Lauren Lawlor 78 pts, Stella McKay-Firth 36 pts and Deirdre Kenny 30 pts.



The Final against Stella Maris, Tramore will be held on Wed 10th Dec at 11.00am

Team : Kellie Kearney, Lauren Lawlor (joint captains), Emma Walsh, Dearbhla Daly, Aisling Nolan, Stella McKay-Firth, Jessica Reville, Eleanor Franquiera-Nolan, Deirdre Kenny. **Best of luck Girls!**

**U - 16 D** showed great determination and endurance to win 3 very close battles in the league. They lost to CBS New Ross but still went through as winners of the group to the semi final stage. The girls won a thrilling game in the semis against Presentation Waterford 28 - 23 in a heart stopping finish. With 2 mins to go at 23 - 21 ahead, Billie Jean popped in her 1st free throw and Gemma nicely picked up the 2 pts from the missed 2nd. The 5 pt lead was enough to clinch the winning finish.

Top 3 scorers so far : Gemma Kelly 32 pts, Sarah Walsh 22 pts, Laura Donnelly 13 pts.

This Final will be held on Thurs 11th Dec at 11.00am

Team : Gemma Kelly, Sarah Walsh (joint captains), Kellie Chan, Niamh White, Shauna Busher-Carly, Lauren Vaughan, Laura Donnelly, Aoife Walsh, Billie Jean Doheny, Aoife O'Brien, Sian Hayes. **Best of luck Girls!**

**Senior C** team narrowly qualified, on points difference, for South East Quarter finals following a very tough league campaign. This was a terrific result for this panel, which included some players returning to Basketball after a break of some years. Unfortunately St. Mary's Arklow were far too strong an opposition for the girls.

Top Scorers in Senior games : Ciara Kelly 38 pts, Lauren Lawlor 37 pts and Kellie Kearney 24 pts.

Team : Ciara Byrne, Andrea O'Doherty (joint captains), Emma O'Leary, Ciara Kelly, Grainne Keeling, Rachel Scully, Lauren Lawlor, Kelli Kearney, Michelle Kearney, Niamh Potter and Orlaith Brennan.

**2nd yrs** have been training once a week since Oct in preparation for South East Leagues due to start in January.

**1st yrs** have just begun and will play an in-house 3 v 3 league in preparation for South East Leagues in the New Year.

## Mile Challenge

Well done to those who undertook the challenge to complete a mile on Wednesday 12th November during lunchtime. This involved running three laps of the school grounds and a section of the basketball court. Lots of juniors completed the mile alongside many teachers who turned up in some unusual attire!! All participants received a colour coded wristband for their efforts. Check them out... Red means mile was completed in 5 to 6 minutes; Yellow in 6 to 7 minutes; Green in 7 to 8 minutes; Blue in 8 to 9 minutes and a Pink wristband for anyone over 9 minutes. Congratulations to Eadaoin Kinsella, 3rd Year, who was the only one to achieve a red wristband. A special congratulations should also be given to some of the teachers who did a super job in completing the mile in 7 to 8 minutes -Mr Walsh, Mr Gilshinan and Mrs Mahon.



A similar event will be held sometime in the New Year for any Seniors who would like to take on the challenge. Watch out for the posters!

## 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 has two teams involved in South East Leagues: Minor B (Second Years) & Intermediate A (3rd & Transition Years)

**Minor B's** drew 0-0 with F.C.J., Bunclody but unfortunately lost to Kilkenny College despite putting up a good fight. They still have 3 matches left to play: St Leos Carlow on Friday 12th December, Ursulines, Waterford on Tuesday 16th December and Loreto Kilkenny in the New Year.

**Inter A's** have only played one official match so far against Loreto, Wexford. Despite losing 0-1 to Loreto, the girls played a great game. Their next match is against Ursulines, Waterford on Tuesday 16th December.

We wish both teams all the best in the rest of their matches. Keep up the training girls!

### First Years

Over 40 first year students were involved in a lunchtime hockey league. The final was held on Thursday 4th December. The winning team from class 1A4 received a hockey stick pen and the runners-up from class 1A2 received a hockey stick key-ring. Well done to all those who participated!

There will be more first year hockey in the New Year in preparation for South East Leagues in second year.

## 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

A huge interest has been shown by the Junior girls and to date they have enjoyed a lot of success in the competition. The first match was a 5-3 to 0-1 success over Ramsgrange on a bitterly cold November day. The girls showed great skill and determination throughout the match. Having received a walk-over from Castledermot the girls have one remaining match, which if they win will mean they top the group and head for the finals.

## CAREER GUIDANCE

### Senior Cycle

Students have had numerous talks and speakers in school from a wide variety of colleges and career areas. 6<sup>th</sup> yrs have had an opportunity to attend Open days at many of the 3<sup>rd</sup> level colleges. An information night for 6<sup>th</sup> year parents was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> of Dec. This offered parents an opportunity to avail of guidance in the various application processes this year. By mid January 6<sup>th</sup> years will have completed their CAO applications on-line in school. The PLC application process will begin after Christmas. All local colleges will be invited into the school to talk with students.

5<sup>th</sup> year students can look forward to a number of additional career events after Christmas. A study skills day with a focus on note taking which will run on the 21<sup>st</sup> Jan and an extensive Interview Training Programme run by a recruitment & training consultant which will run in March/April. 5<sup>th</sup> Years need to book early to secure their places on each of these programmes.

T Y students are participating in the 'Be Real Game' which is a new approach to developing career decision making skills.

A very busy calendar of events has taken place this term. A full list of all activities is available on the school web-site ([www.preswex.ie](http://www.preswex.ie))

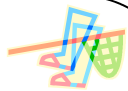
### Junior Cycle

3<sup>rd</sup> yrs completed their DATs aptitude tests before Christmas and the results will be available in the next term. Many also took part in a half day seminar on study skills. It is hoped that they are continuing to put what they learned into practice.

2<sup>nd</sup> years can look forward to a module 'exploring career choices' after Christmas with their Guidance counsellor

First years have completed their first set of term tests. To encourage high academic standards all 1<sup>st</sup> yrs will take part in a half day workshop on effective homework skills on Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Jan.

### News from Biology



On the last two days of September the four 5<sup>th</sup> Year Biology classes headed out to the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve to carry out a wetland field trip study. Designer wellies were the order of the day and featured in a myriad of colours and patterns. Decked out in woolly hats and raingear the students descended on the selected habitat. With deft use of the dipping nets the girls fished out water boatmen, pond snails and water scorpions along with a variety of other bug-life. Quadrats were flung and ponds waded into all in the interest of science. Frogs were seen escaping with students in hot pursuit.

The day gave the students a great insight to the interactions of the organisms of the wetland and good knowledge and experience of a local conservation area. It was excellent preparation for the Leaving Cert Ecology section and the days were deemed a great success.

### 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. Subsequently, various issues have been brought to the attention of management. The Council is currently working on organising a school-wide survey about the possibility of having a school scarf.

Members of the Student Council:

Chairperson: Enya Barron

Deputy Chairperson & Assistant Secretary: Sarah Coughlan

Secretary: Kelly Hore

Treasurers: Chloe May, Rachel Tobin and Jasmine Busher

Public Relations Officers: Andrea O'Doherty, Aisling Nolan

# Student Success

## Students make the Grade!

Presentation Students attended an Awards night at Waterford Institute of Technology for achieving Grade A Higher Level Business Studies in their Junior Certificate 2008.



Students: Elizabeth Gilhooly, Rasha Ibrahim, Grace Andrews, Lauren Campion, Aoife McNamara, Niamh Moore, Rebecca Whitmore, Kate O'Mahoney

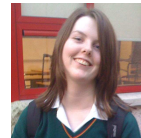
Teachers: Mr K. Gilshinan & Mr B. Brophy

## Rotary Youth Leadership Competition



Rasha Ibrahim, a fifth year student, has won a trip to Paris and Strasbourg as a winner in the south east region of the Rotary Youth Leadership Competition. Having won at school level, Rasha was selected from among all the second level schools in Co. Wexford to represent the county at the south-east regional final held recently. Rasha will travel next March with twenty four other students from around the country to Strasbourg to participate in the Euroscola Programme. The aim of the programme is to bring together secondary school students from the 25 European Union countries and enable them to gain an insight into the workings of the European Parliament while learning about the lives, views and expectations of young people from other EU countries.

Lisa Sills, 6th Year, was highly commended for her short story in the RDS McWilliams Young Science Writer's competition 2008. She received €100 for her hard work—well done Lisa!



Congratulations to Connie Takacs in 2A4 who won a Book Voucher for World Literacy Day. She had best list of why it is important to be able to read & write.

Congratulations to Anita Gaughan, 5th Year, who reached the final of the Mental Health Ireland Design a Cover Project last year. Anita's entry has now been featured in Mental Health Ireland's 2009 Calendar.

## High School Musical!

Oyster Lane Theatre group in conjunction with Presentation and CBS are currently rehearsing for 'High School Musical' which will open here in the Presentation Hall on 31st January.

There is great excitement and buzz throughout the school!

## Transition Year News

TY's started the year with a bonding session in Sheilbaggan, enjoying team challenges, archery and orienteering. On the 15th September students had a full workshop on personal development with Darlene Garr. They also enjoyed challenging their imaginations in early November with their Matrix Days. All students took home a lovely floral basket arrangement after a morning of flower arranging, expertly given by Ingrid from Slaney Flowers.

Since mid September the girls have been doing their work experience placement every Wednesday. All the girls are very grateful for this invaluable insight they are getting to the working world and future careers. Their second placement will start in mid January.

A major part of TY in Presentation are the mini companies. In groups of 3 - 5 girls they set up their own enterprises. The school is the base market with some companies operating outside as well. There is a wide range of services and products now made available in the school by the companies.

Another major part of TY is the play, which helps fund the TY year and its events. This years play is "Dancing at Lughnasa" by Brian Friel. It is set in Donegal during 1936 and tells the lives of the five Mundy sisters. Practice for the play began in September and all the girls have put large amounts of effort in getting it together. The show will be on during school hours on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December and there will also be an evening show for the public on the 18<sup>th</sup> with a raffle during each show.

Throughout the year the girls are taking part in the Gaisce Awards. This means they do community work, learn a new skill and do physical activity for a set number of weeks. An adventure trip is also a requirement for this award. In early October the girls set out with Mr. McCormack, Ms. Cranny and Ms. Carr for a 25km hike over two days in the Kilkenny countryside and an overnight stay Foulksrath Castle. A great time was had by all!

They also took part in Wexford County Council's Road Safety Programme 'Just One Life' on October 16th- an eye opening educational experience.

In Transition year, the girls have the chance to take part in many extra activities. One of these is fundraising, they were very grateful to be asked by the Irish Wheelchair Association to take part in their Angel Campaign. The girls saturated Wexford town in Angel pins raising over €5,000. On the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> December the girls sold Santa Bears for the Central Remedial Clinic.

TY1 have just completed their 8 week Drugs Awareness Programme, given by Tommy Redmond from F.D. Y.S. On Tuesday 9th December the students gave lunchtime demonstrations of their learning at points around the school. A striking and effective message!

Students have also enjoyed talks from I.B.T.S, Mental Health Ireland, the Wheelchair Association and Bóthar.

Some students have also been involved in public speaking and debating competitions. Along with poster competitions for Leargás and Mental Health Ireland. The girls also visited the new Opera House. Presently they are practicing their Christmas Carols for their planned visit to Kerlogue Nursing home on 22nd December.



**Happy, holy, peaceful Christmas to all our students & families**