

HISTORY TOUR

The 1st year History Classes recently enjoyed a visit to Cahir Castle. The trip brought to life features of a Medieval Castle which they had previously studied in class. They thoroughly enjoyed the guided tour of the castle.

CSPE NEWS

The 2.3 CSPE class are busy getting their projects completed. One group recently invited two members of the Garda Síochána into their class to talk about their role in the community. Another group invited a guest speaker from Bóthar to address the class. Students were very impressed with the speakers power point presentation on the work carried out by Bóthar. They hope to have a fund-raising Soccer tournament over the coming weeks to raise much needed funds for the Charity.

On Thursday, 14th April, the students will attend the Bóthar Open Day in Roscrea Mart. Here the students will be given the opportunity to participate in workshops and will also be able to see the animals before they start their long journey from Shannon to Africa.

RE NEWS

Last month our school celebrated Catholic Schools Week. This gave us the opportunity to ask and reflect on what it means to be part of a Catholic school and how we can contribute to our local community. To mark St Brigid's Day Fr Tony celebrated Mass with all First Year students.

February 3rd was the feast of St Blaise, the patron saint for sore throats. Students and staff had the opportunity to receive the Blessing of the Throats. Each R.E class took part in a Prayer Service.

We also held a prayer service for all classes on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. During Lent each class group will participate in the Stations of the Cross and will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance. Congratulations to Jack Hayes and Brian McCarthy who will represent the school in Lourdes this year.

DELPHI TOUR

On May 23rd, our 1st years together with Mr Diarmuid Carr and Mr Jason Carrig, will travel to Delphi Adventure Centre in Leenane, Co. Galway for our annual 4-day tour. The much anticipated trip will involve students taking part in a wide range of activities from kayaking and abseiling to archery and soccer. Students can see pictures from previous years by visiting the school website at www.dooncbs.ie and following the links for the 'Photo Gallery'.

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl in ár scoil idir 5iú -17ú de mhí Márta. Bhí a lán eachtraí eagraithe i rith na seachtaine agus thaitin an tseachtain go mór le gach duine. Bhí Tráth na gCeist againn le haghaidh an cúigiú agus séú bliain. Bhí a lán ceisteanna faoi scannán, ceol, stair, tíreolaíocht agus spórt le freagairt. Thug na daltaí as rang an Ardeistiméireacht Fheidhmeach cabhair do na múinteoirí Gaeilge na ceisteanna a cheartú.

Bhí comórtas póstaer ar siúl freisin. Bhí ar na daltaí pictiúr a tharraingt faoi sheanfhocail a d'fhoghlaim said sa rang Gaeilge. Tá roinnt de na póstaer sin le feiceáil againn taobh istigh de príomhdhoras na scoile. Bhain an chéad bhliain taitneamh as amhrán a fhoghlaim trí Gaeilge sna ranganna Ceol agus Gaeilge. Bhí 'Cailín na Gaillimhe' le cloisteáil ar fud na scoile. Bhí daltaí as an 3ú agus an 5ú bliain ag seinm ceol sna ranganna ceol.

MATHEMATICAL MODELLING SUMMER SCHOOL

The Mathematical Modelling Summer School at the University of Limerick aims to introduce the ideas of mathematical modelling through lectures, individual and group mathematical modelling activities and industrial visits. During the week there will be visits to local industries to see at first hand how mathematics is used in real industrial problems. This is an excellent opportunity for students to develop their skills in real world mathematics. A limited number of places are available. Any students who are interested should contact Mr Liam Ryan at the school.

TRANSITION YEAR NEWS

It has been an extremely busy term for the TY class. Since our last newsletter they have been involved in the following activities: social awareness placement trip to Psycho Spaghetti play in Limerick, an African drumming workshop and use of an advanced driving simulator. Upcoming events include a trip to Limerick prison and a visit to Pure Skill sports facility in Galway.

Congratulations to our TY's who, under the guidance of Ms Louise Ryan won the **THE MARKETING ENTERPRISE AWARD** on Thursday 10th March in The Woodlands Hotel Adare. Students have been working on their companies over the past few months and it is great that they were rewarded for all their hard work and dedication. This is a prestigious award to win as it represents both the county and city of Limerick. Well done boys.

TY FILM STUDIES

It's that time of the year again: Fresh Film Festival Time and the TY Film Studies class under the guidance of Ms. O'Shea participated in the Regional Finals of the Festival in the Bell table Arts Centre on 21st March. Their entry, "In Da Back Door" received a lot of attention and positive feedback on Youtube, Standards on the day were very high and unfortunately the boys did not make it through to the final. In Da Back Door is a magazine type radio show informed by The Republic of Telly but much, much better, of course!

The Film Studies class have also been selected to avail of a Film Workshop run by Eugene O'Connor, famed director of Killinaskully on Thurs 31st March. Overwhelmed by the boys' enthusiasm and interest at the screenings in November of last years Fresh Film winners, Gillian O'Grady, Events Manager, Fresh Film Festival, pushed for the boys to be given this unique opportunity. Well done lads.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council, which is formed every year by a representative of each class, has been busy at work lately. They helped run the 'OPEN NIGHT' for incoming first years. The Council has been consistently involved in helping the students with any problems they have in the school. They have regular meetings to try and identify and solve any problems that may be occurring. They hope to do a lot more work in the coming months, to continue helping students with any difficulties they are having. They will also be involved in organising and running the Easter Talent Show.

SHAVE OR DYE CAMPAIGN

As part of Today FM's 2011 Shave or Dye Campaign students and teachers of St Fintan's were recruited in to sacrifice their traditional hairstyles for a more trendy appearance. There was a variety of hair colours on display from luminous pink to cool blue. Many thanks to all those who participated especially the local hairdresser Lisa Ryan for all her time. All money raised through Shave or Dye goes directly to The Irish Cancer Society. We are delighted to have collected €900 for this worthy cause.

JUST A THOUGHT

'Do what you can, with what you have, where you are'. Theodore Roosevelt.



St Fintan's CBS Newsletter



Welcome to the March edition of our Newsletter. With the return of Spring life is alive in everything and our school is no exception. The spirit of youth shines brightly through the corridors.

PRE-EXAMS

Thanks to all 3rd and 6th year students, secretarial staff, Mr O'Keefe as exam secretary and all the teachers for the efficient running of the exams. Well done and thanks to everyone for their co-operation.

OPEN NIGHT

On Monday evening, January 24th the doors of St Fintan's opened wide to receive prospective new First Year students and their parents. They were welcomed by Student Council members and shown around the school. They were given the opportunity to see each classroom, meet the teachers, see work samples on display and watch students at work on their projects.

Later a presentation on life in St Fintan's was given to the students and their parents, introduced with a slideshow compiled by Mr Jason Carrig. Mr Frank Hynes, who will be year head for the incoming First Years, addressed the students and gave them an insight into how the school operates, particularly emphasising the structures in place to ease the transition period from Primary school to Secondary school. PE teacher Mr Carr outlined the school PE programme, while Mr Hassett spoke on school games. The Principal and Deputy Principal also addressed the parents. School from the students' perspective was described by Transition Year student, Darren Cosgrave and Fifth year students Fearghal Ryan and Andrew O'Brien. The evening finished with tea, coffee and refreshments and the opportunity for parents and teachers to chat.

SUPERVISED STUDY

A reminder to all that supervised study takes place in the school every Saturday from 10-12 and 12.45-2.45. Cost is 1 euro per hour. For further details please contact Mr Liam Ryan at the school.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Our 5th year Agricultural Science and Leaving Cert Applied classes attended a farm walk and talk day at Pallaskenry Agricultural College on March 9th, accompanied by Mrs Treacy and Mr Lynch. Students were given an excellent insight into the day to day workings of a modern farm. There were eight stations on the farm and experts were on hand to give a brief presentation and to answer the many questions being asked. They visited the sheep farm, where the lambing season was in full swing. Many of the students were very impressed with the pedigree Holstein dairy herd. They got to visit the milking parlour, where 230 cows are milked each day. The speakers gave an excellent account of all aspects of animal care and demonstrated a variety of these techniques to our group. The day was organised by both The Farmers Journal and Teagasc and proved to be very relevant to the students' course work.

On March 10th, Seán Hayes, a farm advisor from Progressive Genetics visited St Fintan's to speak to our 6th year Ag Science class and Leaving cert applied group. He spoke about the latest science and technology being used in agriculture at present in such areas as disease control, breeding strategies and heat detection. Our students asked many questions and were very interested in the topics discussed.

5TH YEAR MOTIVATIONAL PROGRAMME

We are currently piloting a programme looking at ways at how best to motivate and encourage students to work to the best of their ability so that they can reach their potential in the Leaving Cert exam. This programme includes continuous assessment, tracking of results, mentoring by teachers and a reward at the end of May for the best achievers and the most improved.

At a meeting in the school with students and their parents describing the proposed programme. We had a guest speaker, Mr Martin Quirke former Principal of Thurles CBS. He spoke firstly to staff mentors; he also addressed the students and parents on such areas as the importance of goal setting and personal development. It was well received by both students and parents.

SENIOR CYCLE OPTIONS NIGHT

On Monday March 14th a presentation was given to parents at the Senior Cycle information evening. Information was given on TY, LCA, Leaving Cert Est., and Leaving Cert Vocational Programme. Further information can be obtained from Jason Carrig (TY & LCVP Coordinator), Louise Ryan (LCA Coordinator), and Ann Lynch (Career Guidance Counsellor).

HURLING

In the first round of the Munster Corn Solo competition the Under 15 hurlers beat Salesian College Pallaskenry on a score line of 1-9 to 1-6. It was a hard fought victory under poor conditions. Barry Murphy top scorer with 1-5, Adam Coleman scored 2 pts with Darren Roche and Shane O'Connell scoring a point each.

On Friday 11th we travelled to Johnstown Co. Kilkenny to play their U-16 team in a challenge. The team played well but the stronger Johnstown team won out in the end. We will now play Tulla in the next round of the Corn Solo.

The U-14 hurlers played three challenges recently against Castletroy College, Abbey C.B.S. and Thurles C.B.S. On March 22nd we travel to Nenagh to play the first round of the Rice Cup. The first round games are played in a blitz format. We will have 4 games on that day. In our group are Clonmel, Middleton, Nenagh and Callan. Best of luck to the boys.

SOCCER NEWS

The under 14's have had an excellent season beating Crescent Comp, Shannon Comp and Croom to go through to the final. This is the first time a Doon CBS soccer team has competed in a final. The final will be played in the coming week against St Clements. Best of luck lads!

The under 16 season is kicking off next week. They will play Crescent Comp on Friday. They drew 2-2 with Rockwell College in a pre season friendly.