

**St. Fintan's CBS, Doon**

# **Newsletter**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008**

## **WELCOME**

Dear Parents

As mid term draws near I welcome you to our first newsletter of the 2008/09 school year. This year we have increased enrolment with over 20 extra students in the school. I am very pleased to welcome our 4 Slovakian students and 3 Spanish students who have joined our school community for the year. I want to thank their host families whose generosity has made this project possible. To cope with the extra numbers we have purchased a new block in which we have an Art room, a Learning Support room and a general classroom.

Our Leaving Cert and Junior Cert students should waste no time in getting down to serious study in preparation for their up coming examinations. A good turn out of Leaving Cert students and parents attended a meeting in the school earlier this week where study skills, career options and supports for students during this most important time were emphasised.

The Parents Council AGM will be held this Thursday Evening in the school at 8pm. Last year we had a very active committee, spearheaded by Chairperson, John Moloney and Secretary, Maria Campbell. I want to thank them for their contribution to the school and encourage more parents to come along to the meetings. A Talk for Parents of Teenagers has been organised and will take place on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

Our beginning of the year school mass was held recently in the parish church and a sincere thanks to Fr Tony Ryan, our school Chaplin who gives so much of his time to our school. His Grace, Archbishop Clifford also visited the school and conducted a prayer service with our students.

## **TRANSITION YEAR NEWS**

Our Transition Year Programme is going very well this year. Some weeks ago, the class went on their beginning of year trip for 3 days to Petersburg Outdoor Education centre near Clonbur in Co. Galway. Kayaking and raft building were some of the activities and the highlight (!) was the overnight camping trip on an island in the middle of Lough Corrib. Somehow damp doesn't quite sum up the hardship that was endured by all, not least the brave Mr Carrig who's tonsils, it is rumoured, flared up at the very sight of the tent.

Work Experience continues every Friday and reports from both students and employers are very good. This placement continues right up until Christmas. The school magazine committee for this year has been chosen following an application process. Congratulations to all concerned and especially to Brian Leonard who was chosen as Editor.

Congratulations to Owen Roche who has been elected to the prestigious and responsible position as the Transition Year Student Council representative for this year.

The Transition Year class, accompanied by Mr C Ryan and Mr M Hassett, travelled on the train to Dublin last week. They firstly visited Kilmainham Jail where they were taken on a very informative tour. Next (after a brief respite on O'Connell Street) they proceeded to the Four Courts where they were given a presentation by a Barrister on the working of the legal system in Ireland. He then brought them to the public gallery where in the courtroom where a murder trial was in progress.

The class are studying the "Steer Clear" driver education programme under the guidance of Mr T Lynch. This is a new addition to TY in the school and we are sure that it will provide the class with invaluable skills, knowledge and information so that they will be safer when they begin to drive on our roads in the future.

Most of the class participated in St Joseph's Fashion Show on Thursday last - their roles ranged from backstage, supporting roles to modelling and even a spot of cross-dressing was rumoured to have taken place, with some butch looking Spice Girls performing. Anyone want to buy a Size 13 pair of stilettos? Enquiries to Bobby Ryan, TY.

When we return after mid-term, a presentation will be made to the class by a group known as Animal Magic. Full details will be revealed later but suffice to say those suffering from arachnophobia need not apply!

### **LCVP TOUR**

As part of the LCVP Programme, 39 students along with Mr Carrig and Mr Hassett travelled to the Rusal Aughinish factory in Askeaton, Co. Limerick. This factory is the largest Alumina refining plant in Europe and employs over 650 people. During the tour of the 1000-acre site, which was given by Mrs Margaret McCarthy, we saw many impressive sites, not least the 1km jetty which extends half way out into the River Shannon. We also saw the huge storage sheds in which the raw material known (Bauxite) is stored. One of these sheds has the same volume as Croke Park! The students will now use the information they gathered to help them complete a Summary Report for their Link Modules portfolio of work.

### **5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR WORK EXPERIENCE**

All of our 5<sup>th</sup> year students will be on a 3-day work experience placement next March (18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>). For LCVP students, this placement is vital so that

they can complete a Diary of Placement for their Link Modules portfolio. For non-LCVP students this placement allows them to experience an adult working environment as well as exploring possible career options. The school has insurance cover in place for the placement, details of which will be sent home in the new year. Both students and teachers are encouraged to bear the placement in mind as any work that can be arranged before March will save on phone calls and research later. Contact Mr Jason Carrig, LCVP Coordinator, at the school if you require further details.

### **CSPE NEWS**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> year students recently visited Limerick Prison and Templemore Garda College as part of their action project for CSPE. The committees worked well together and are in the process of writing up their project, which is worth 60% in Junior Certificate examination.

### **HURLING**

It has been a busy start to the year and many of the competitions are well under way. The Kinnane Cup team have successfully started the defense of their title with a 4-15 to 0-8 win over Rice College Ennis. They eagerly await the winners of Killaloe and Mallow in the next round.

The U18½ footballers were defeated by Hospital in the Munster B competition while the U18½ hurlers were defeated by Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher in the Limerick Colleges. The Harty Cup team (U18½) played a challenge against Cashel and were narrowly defeated by Templemore (1-8 to 0-14) in the first round. They also have Del La Salle, Waterford and Carrigaline in their group. On Wednesday, St Fintan's were defeated by Carrigaline.

### **1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR HURLING**

The 1<sup>st</sup> years have already seen plenty of action on the hurling field. We started training early in September with good numbers attending. We played two challenges against Castletroy and Abbey CBS, both of which we won well. We followed this by playing in the 1<sup>st</sup> year hurling league. In the first game we defeated St Munchins 1-10 to 2-0. Last week we beat Hospital on a scoreline of 3-9 to 4-2. On Tuesday this week we beat Castletroy 4-10 to 1-7. We topped our group and so have qualified for the final. The final will be played after the mid-term. Best of luck to the lads in the final.

First year football will commence after the mid-term.

### **5 NATIONS INTERNATIONAL WALKING**

Congratulations to Gearóid Sheehy who came first in the 5 Nations International Walking competition in Switzerland on Sunday , 5th October last.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Back to school after mid term break

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November – Parent Teacher Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> Years and Transition  
Year Students (4.15pm to 6.45pm)

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> November – School Closes at 12.30pm for Staff Meeting

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December – School Closed

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> December – Parent Teacher Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Years Students  
(4.15pm to 6.45pm)

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Christmas holidays – School closes at 12.30pm