





# Message from our Principal

## "Who's the Boss?"

After four years as Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School, Mr. Pat McHugh reflects openly on the lighter side of life.

*Growing up what was your favourite song?*

"Bridge over troubled water, a classic, listen to it on 'You Tube' sometime."

*What's your motto for life?*  
"Always look on the bright side of life."

*If hell is other people, what's Heaven?*  
"Friday night, good company, good fire, nice meal and a good bottle of wine."

*What's the greatest achievement of the Modern World?*

"The fact that travel has become so easy and is within the reach of everyone."

*What's your worst fear?*  
"Enclosed spaces, more than a bit claustrophobic."

*What do you consider to be a defining moment in world history?*

"The tearing down of the Berlin Wall must be up there, also the fall of the Roman Empire."

*What's the craziest thing you've ever done?*  
"Para sailing over Lake Garda in Italy a few years ago."

*What's your biggest regret?*  
"That I can't play a musical instrument."

You can always tell the end of the school year is in sight when you are asked to put a few thoughts together for the Year Book. This year we have a new editorial team consisting of Ms. Mooney, Ms. Lennon, Ms. Osgood and Mr. Quinn. Ms Colleen Hayes has taken on the role of consulting editor and is there to offer advice based on her years, a role she undertook with enthusiasm and her usual calm. I would like to thank her for the work she did on the magazine over the past number of years. I would also like to thank all members of staff for their contribution to this yearbook.

Spring yielding to summer is the loveliest time of the year I feel, longer evenings, brighter mornings and nature beginning to burst into life again. A time to be savoured and enjoyed by all. It is not that easy to enjoy however if you are sitting the State Examinations in June. I urge all students to concentrate for the next few weeks, especially those sitting for the Certificate Examinations. It is only for a short time and then you will have three glorious months of sunshine to recover, we hope!

This year's Leaving Certificate class have been an exemplary group of young people. They have been co operative and have shown fine example to their younger peers throughout the school. We very much appreciate your co operation through out your time here. We hope you bring pleasant and positive memories of your time in school with you as you embark on life's long road.

A School such as this is much more than curriculum and academic toil, its extra-curricular activities are central to the holistic development of the child. We have a wide and varied suite of extra-curricular activities which range from the school musical to quizzes as gaeilge to football and choir practice. We had a series of extra-curricular highlights this year. The school show set a very high standard in November but it was followed through out the year with other events which were equally notable. The Irish quiz team won the All-Ireland in Dublin for the second year in a row. Various sports were coached by teachers and enjoyed by large numbers of students.

One of the years highlights was the production and launch of the 30th anniversary CD, "One More Song" of new Liturgical Music which was recorded in the Friary Chapel by the School Choir under the watchful eye of Ms Siobhan Devine, Ms Eadaoin Flynn and Ms Siobhan McHugh. The CD was produced by Kenneth McHugh, a past pupil of the school who has a thriving music production business in Wicklow. The idea of marking the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the school with a CD was a novel idea but one we felt would endure for decades to come. We are very grateful to all concerned for their dedication and I know that the many students involved will remember recording the CD with fondness for many a year to come. Copies are on sales for €10.00 in all good music stores. All proceeds from the sale of the CD go to the Suicideology Society of Ireland and the Mayo Roscommon Hospice.

Again this year we bid adieu to three good colleagues. Ms Aine Whelan, our PE teacher for many years has retired, as has Mr Terry Coleman from the Science Department and Mr Aiden Kelly, teacher of Woodwork and Technical Drawing. Each of these people has made a unique contribution to the life of the school and we wish them all many years of happy and healthy retirement. We bid adieu from our midst to good friends who were valued members of staff here in the school for a number of years. Mrs Mary Reaney has been appointed Principal of Balla Secondary School, Ms Suzanne Lally has secured a teaching post in Strokestown while Ms Eleanor Troy has moved to teach in Cork. Both these ladies got married during the year and we congratulate them on the double. I also wish Ms Orla Phillips a full and speedy recovery, we look forward to have having Orla's wise counsel and happy disposition back amongst us soon. I also congratulate Ms Antoinette Lennon and Ms Siobhan McHugh on their recent marriages. Congratulations are also extended to Ms Orla Macken and Ms Genevieve Murray on the recent birth of their babies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their co-operation and for the work they do on behalf of the school community.

I hope you enjoy reading this magazine.

**Pat McHugh**

*Pictured right: Mr. David McConn (Manager Bank of Ireland) presenting Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal) with sponsorship cheque towards School Yearbook.*





# Teaching Staff



Back L – R;  
Mr. Michael Murren,  
Mr. Colin Quinn,  
Ms. Lelia Malone,  
Ms. Olive Lyons,  
Ms. Antoinette Lennan,  
Ms. Aine Meehan,  
Ms. Eimear Grimes,  
Ms. Anne Keane

Middle L – R;  
Mrs. Eileen Byrne,  
Mr. Michael Murray,  
Ms. Siobhan Mannix,  
Ms. Genevieve Murra,  
Ms. Geraldine Finn,  
Mrs. Eva Brogan,  
Ms. Mary Mooney,  
Mr. David McDonagh

Front L – R;  
Ms. Eadaoin Flynn,  
Ms. Deirdre Keehan,  
Mr. Pat McHugh,  
Ms. Catherine Monaghan,  
Mr. Patrick McGarry,  
Ms. Mairead Conway



Back row:  
Ms Sharon Mulroy,  
Mrs. Brid Whyte,  
Ms Colleen Hayes,  
Mrs. Bernadine Ward,  
Mr. Chris Pratt

Middle row:  
Ms Ann Marie Byrne,  
Ms Aisling Comer,  
Mrs. Aoife Keane,  
Mrs. Ann Joyce,  
Ms Claire Kenny

Front row:  
Mrs. Anna Henry,  
Ms Aisling Warde,  
Mrs. Peggy Egan,  
Ms Bernie Osgood,  
Ms Patricia Hargaden-Whyte,  
Ms Caitriona Rafferty

# School Staff



Administrative staff: Ms Justina Lyons, Ms Mary Frances Cleary.  
(Missing from photo , Ms Patricia Gaughan)



Supervision Staff: Ms Eileen Nestor and Ms Cait Webb.



Special Needs Assistants:  
Ms Kathleen McDonald,  
Ms Rogan and Ms Bernie Lyons



Caretaker: Mr. Con Boyle



Caretaking Staff: Ms Eileen Jennings and Mr. Paddy Kelly.



# Staff News

The 2007-2008 academic year marked the milestone of the 30th anniversary of Ballyhaunis Community School. The year also has proved to be an eventful one for the school staff. The Summer of 2007 brought the retirements of two original members of the teaching staff, Ms. Whelan & Mr. Coleman, who took leave after 30 years service to the school. Cupid's arrow also struck with the marriages of Ms. Troy and Ms. Lally, after which, both ladies bade farewell to the school, alongside other staff members Mrs. Reaney, Mrs. Phelan and Mr. Laffey. We wish them all well and hope they hold happy memories of their time here. As we returned in September, an abundance of new faces appeared on the staff at B.C.S. We warmly welcomed Ms. Conway, Ms. Wardle, Kenny, Ms. Gibbons, Ms. Malone, Ms. Grimes, Ms. McCann, Ms. McHugh, Mr. Murray and Mr. Quinn. The best wishes of staff and students were extended to Ms. Phillips for a quick and speedy recovery. We look forward to seeing her again soon.

Love was in the air at Halloween. Congratulations to Ms. McHugh on her marriage during the break. On our return, we welcomed Ms. Roach to the staff.

At the start of the new year, we welcomed back Ms. Murray after the birth of her daughter, Saoirse. After the Easter holidays, we returned to find that love was still alive and well in B.C.S, as we congratulated Ms. Lennon on her marriage. Ms. Macken also made a return in the Spring. Congratulations to her on the birth of her son, Matthew.

"Get me to the Church on time" is also very relevant to Ms. Meehan. Best Wishes to her as she prepares for her wedding this Summer.

Finally, another original member of staff will be departing this Summer. We extend our very best wishes to Mr. Kelly for a long and happy retirement.



Matthew (Macken)



Aishling (Noone)



Saoirse (Murray)

## Terry Coleman's Retirement

It is my pleasure to have known Terry Coleman since he joined the staff of St Patrick's College as a teacher of the Science in 1970 and must say that, since making his acquaintance my life and has been greatly enriched. Terry's interests are wide and varied. Though a very private person, conversation with Terry over the cuppa at 11 a.m. break opened up worlds of anything from photography, gardening, bee keeping, music, hill walking, travel, art or motorbike riding, all of which are hobbies of his.

Terry taught Physics and Science and had a great love of his subjects.

He was a very organised teacher and was very well ahead of his time in allowing students do their own experiments and he was also quick to see the value of making use of I.T, video and computers. Terry's help to his colleagues in the Science faculty was tremendous. Apart from having everything in the lab organised and in its proper place, he was very good at repairing broken equipment and from what I can gather, this attribute of Terry's was often called upon!



Terry's contributions to extra-curricular activities in the school were many and varied. For many years he was in charge of lighting for the school musicals and, like his approach to teaching he instructed and encouraged the students in his charge, so that on the nights of the show they were given the responsibility while he took a step back. Terry organized annual tours to the Burren, the Young Scientists Exhibition and the "physics day" in U.C.G. He also assisted in taking students on school tours to the continent and he was the official photographer for the school magazine each year.

To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Geraldine and himself many years of health to pursue the hobbies that he now has the time to devote to in his retirement.

John Cleary



# Vincent Healy's Retirement

My first memory of Vinnie was from childhood when he would arrive at our house delivering the milk. His family were hard working farmers from Ballindrehid (Doctor's Road). Vinnie still grows his own vegetables. He qualified in Agricultural Science at U.C.G. and took up a job in Loughrea as an adviser. In those days small farmers had little time for 'expertise' so Vinnie switched to teaching. He taught in the Vocational school (Manor) and then, luckily for us joined B.C.S. IN 1977.

Vinnie brought all his qualities of common sense, hard work and love of agriculture to his teaching. He also taught Biology and Junior

Science. I feel he had no equal as an Agricultural Science teacher. He identified with the students background and could explain everything in easily understood language. He also expected pupils to be hard-working like himself but to tell the truth many would regret not following his example. I often feel Paddy Kelly was his best pupil absorbing 'grinds' at the 'A' wall while Vinnie brushed up on the happenings in the neighbourhood!

Vinnie was a very good friend and colleague and often helped out with advice in difficult situations. I will miss our chats (Scientific of course) 'out the back'. On behalf of pupils, staff and parents I wish Vinnie a long and happy retirement with his wife Irene and family.

**Matt O'Dwyer**



# Áine Whelan's Retirement

In August of last year, Áine Whelan surprised both teachers and students alike with the news that she decided to retire. Áine gave selflessly beyond the call of duty to various activities in B.C.S – but particularly to the school show. Her creativity, artistry and endless patience as both Choreographer and Producer will remain constantly with me. She could create a "tour de force" with an inexperienced group of enthusiastic students and her constant drive towards perfection resulted in a visual extravaganza fit for the West End. Áine's personal favourite was the "25 Years Musical Celebration" during which former leading stars returned to "tread the boards" once again in the Music Room.

On behalf of your teaching colleagues, all past students and myself with whom you worked tirelessly over the years, may we thank you most sincerely for sharing your unique talents with us. Enjoy a long, happy retirement and may all your dreams be fulfilled!

**Your friend,  
Siobhán Devine**

On behalf of the Irish Teachers, I would like to thank Áine for her help and support over the years. Being from Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Áine always had a great "grá" for the Irish Language and culture. She gave willingly of her time to help organise activities eg. during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

On a personal note, Áine has been a great friend to me since I came to B.C.S. Her generosity and hospitality has been second to none. Thanks Áine for your kindness and friendship over the years. You will be greatly missed.

Guinn rath Dé ort sa saol atá amach romhat agus tá súil agam go mbainfidh tú sult agus taitneamh as an sos atá tuillte agat.

**Fad saoil duit.  
Ann Joyce**





# Mary Neenan's Retirement

It has been an honour and a privilege to have known and worked with Mary Neenan. Mary is a very considerate, caring and compassionate person with a Trojan work ethic. She was an inspiration to all in the French Department. She was always eager and willing to help when we needed support and guidance irrespective of her own busy schedule. Mary always put her career and her students first.

Mary was an excellent teacher, much admired and praised by all her students, who would like to take the opportunity to thank her most sincerely for all her time and dedication during her teaching career.

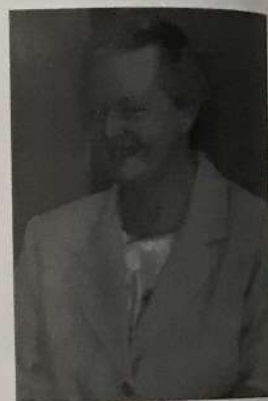
*Merci mille fois pour les bon souvenirs et on te souhaite ainsi que ta famille bonne sante, bonne chance et beaucoup de bonheur, maintenant, et dans les années à venir.*

**Catherine Monaghan & Patricia Hardagen-Whyte**  
(French Department)

Mary served this school since its inception in 1977. She was a very loyal dedicated member of the staff. She was a very caring, committed teacher who took an individual interest in all her students. She was very fair and gave unstintingly of her own time to prepare students for orals and aural exams in French and Irish.

She was always willing to help out with extra curricular activities in the school or to help other teachers, sometimes at great cost to herself. Mary never took her personal troubles with her to class. She was a great friend and colleague and we wish her many happy, healthy years in retirement.

**Brid White**



*Faithful God, we praise and thank you as we recall the anniversary of this school to your service.*

*With thanksgiving we pray that all who have generously contributed to this school over the years be rewarded.*

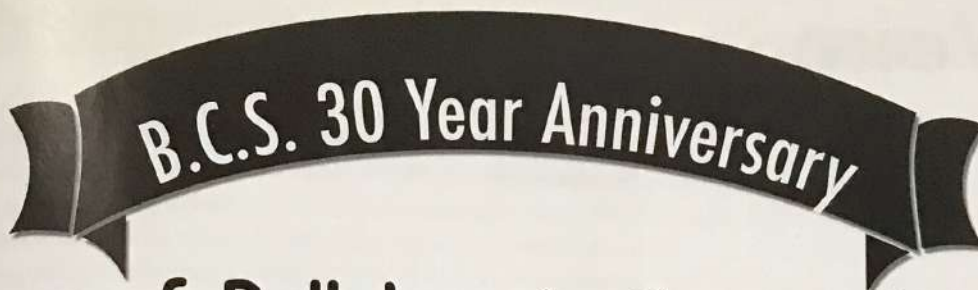
*We remember and pray for all the deceased members of our school community, that they may have eternal life.*

*We pray that parents, students and teachers will always work together for the good of this school and that we may always be proud of our school.*

*We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,*

*Amen.*





# 30 Years of Ballyhaunis Community School

by Hugh Rudden

My thoughts on 30 years of Ballyhaunis Community School would fill a book. It could be a brilliant idea for a bestseller! From my own point of view the 30 years went all too quickly and were a happy and enjoyable experience for me. The setting-up of the Community School 30 years ago was a new experience for the West of Ireland with only about a half dozen community schools in the country altogether. Our school was quick into its stride under the stewardship of Eddie Thornton and a dedicated team of teachers prepared to make things work! That dedication did not finish in the classroom. With the large staff and a wide variety of interests, it was only a matter of time before the demand for extra-curricular activities would take up the time of our willing staff members. Sport was my main excuse for escaping from class an odd time. Involvement in the school musical was another. Active involvement in our teachers union, playing inter-schools teachers basketball, sports day in the school, debating competitions, talent competitions and bun sales were all designed to occupy the minds and spare time of both teachers and students. The important thing was that there was something for everyone. Gaelic sport was my number one and I am certain sure that all the participants gained valuable experience in taking part. I have met many past pupils over the years and all would agree that sport provided an outlet for them. It made what otherwise might be a difficult school life more tolerable. It's a pity the Department of Education doesn't recognise

the value of sporting activities and provide them on timetabled basis. This would take the pressure off management, staff and students. The value of taking an active part in sport would then be more meaningful. Our successes on the field of play over the years would compare favourably with most schools of our size. Senior 'B' Connacht wins in 1980, '93 and '02 bring back happy memories with a whole host of other wins at various other levels over the years. Of course there were disappointments, but when it is the taking part that matters everything is positive. The musicals gave an opportunity for the stage-minded to perform before an audience and I can recall many top class professional performances by our students who were guided by dedicated and enthusiastic teachers.

It is always a pleasure for me to meet with and have a chat with past pupils of Ballyhaunis Community School, all living successful lives in whatever they choose to do. Remember, past pupils are now parents and teachers. There were sad times too with the passing of students and teachers. May their souls rest in peace. Nowadays some of us retired folks meet and recall how things were, how things are and wonder. I tell them school is about today preparing for tomorrow, making use of yesterday in the process. School days are the best days of our lives, our parents used to say. Thankfully some of us had a good upbringing.



**Teachers of 1978:** Back L-R; Pat Higgins, Michael Smith, Chris Pratt, John Cleary, Fr. Lyons, Michael Murren, Aiden Kelly, Vincent Healy, Fr. Des Walsh, Morgan Jennings, Anto O'Malley (RIP), Matt O'Dwyer, Michael Glynn (RIP), Hugh Rudden  
Mid L-R; Jarlath Fahy, Terry Coleman, Sr. Teresina, Renee Buke, Imelda McGreal, Sr. Dolores, Patricia Waldron, Sr. Joan, Helen Hurley, Aine Whelan, Sr. Assumpta, Tom Grogan, Ray Charles, Patsy Noone,  
Front L - R; Sally Higgins, Mary Neenan, Maura Griffin, Jim Higgins, Teresa Lynskey, Eddie Thornton, Fr. McMyler, Brid White, Mary Freeley, Christy Ruane, Sr. Margeurite.





## Vision by Christy Ruane

On a small table in the centre of the room stood three lighted candles. On a separate table stood one large candle. The spacious staff room had a scent of fresh paint and the spotless carpet matched the brown leather covered padded seats which were arranged in an elliptical formation around the room. The teachers from the three former schools, in anticipation, drifted in ones and twos towards the staff room, some making a conscience effort to sit beside a former colleague from a different school-goodwill was the new axil grease needed to propel us on a smooth journey ahead. This was September 1977, and it was the momentous occasion of the first staff meeting of the new Community School in Ballyhaunis.

The meeting commenced by Fr. Des Walsh reading a special prayer invoking the help of the Holy Spirit for the success of the school. Then the three former principals, Sr. Joan Fahy, Fr. MacMyler and Mr. Eddie Thornton from the Convent of Mercy, Patrick's College and the Vocational School respectively, took a rush each and lit it from one of the lighted candles. In turn they extinguished the candles and together they lit the large candle. There was an atmosphere of palpable silence, indeed there was a sense of emotion-the three old schools had just passed onto history. There were a few glazed eyes, especially among the older staff members. A wag sitting beside me leaned over and whispered, "Look a rogue's gallery!"

We were now on virgin ground. The Community School was a new concept in education and unique to the West of Ireland. There were less than a dozen in the whole country at the time. The merging of three separate schools, each with its own ethos and identity would barely be contemplated in most towns. It took vision, foresight and courage to embrace this innovation. We had now "put the hands to the plough" and there was no looking back. Personal interests and comfort zones were set aside in the interest of the common good.

There was a steely vision for a bright new future for secondary education in Ballyhaunis. The little ceremony was a powerful symbol of unity and harmony-something that has endured in the school to this day. We were embarking not only on a new educational journey, but what seemed like a spiritual mission.

The staff of nearly forty, which included four nuns and three priests and of which almost two thirds were male and with the exception of six or seven were all in their twenties and thirties including the Principal, Eddie Thornton. We had a singular intent on making Ballyhaunis a centre of educational excellence. "Young men see visions, old men dream dreams"

There was great confidence going forward. We knew that we had the professionals, the expertise and the reservoir of knowledge to complete with the best and now with everything under the one roof and with the most up-to-date facilities and equipment, it was a matter of implementing the curriculum.

Students were no longer labelled honours or pass. They could now enjoy a system of time-tabling and "settling". This system allowed students to slot into classes in individual subjects appropriate to their abilities and they could select subjects from which they had aptitude. Apart from the usual subjects, sport, recreation and culture were central to the educational philosophy of the school. Teachers brought all kinds of ideas on extra curricular activities to staff meeting. Anything worthwhile was implemented and this was possible because virtually every teacher got involved in some sort of leisure outside of class. The production of the bi-annual musical was an cultural highlight of the school. The co-operation of teachers was almost unreal. Large numbers of teachers traveled around the country supporting teams that reached All-Ireland semi-finals and finals in a variety of sports.

While extra-curricular activities were a central part of school policy, however, academic excellence had to take priority. All parents want their children to do well in their exams. It can be very satisfying and rewarding to see a pupil who on enrolling needs special education and then after five years, leaving the school as a happy and well rounded young adult with a successful leaving cert. There were many proud moments in the school when students took first place in Ireland in a range of subjects across the curriculum. There were several winners of the 1916 commemorative scholarships. There are seven of these awarded annually based on the results of different groupings of subjects in the Leaving Cert. When the school took two out of seven in the same year, it prompted an educational correspondent for The Irish Times (the late Christina Murphy) to visit the school and write a major feature article on how a community school in a town in the West of Ireland could win two out of the seven scholarships, considering that 60,000 students sat the Leaving Cert. On a personal level, one of the best achievements I experienced was a class result. This happened to my Leaving Cert maths class of 1994. Twenty-five A's were recorded and seventeen of these were A1's.

Overall, Ballyhaunis Community School has been a very positive and happy place in which to work. We had the sad experience of losing two wonderful colleagues, in their prime, Michael Glynn, a brilliant mathematician, and, Anton O' Malley, a tree of knowledge in English literature. Only four of the original staff remain after thirty years but the replacement crop of young vibrant, dedicated professionals are eager and willing to keep up the great tradition of the school. Although the gender is now reversed the application is even better and the staff room is much easier on the eye! It's heartening to see so many past students coming back to help on course.

Having retired over a year ago and looking back over the last thirty years and taking nostalgia into account, Ballyhaunis Community School, since its foundation has been a place of generous spirit, a place of small problems and large hearts. I think the mark of a good school can be judged on how the staff treats each other and the way the school takes care of the weakest and the most. The school comes out with top marks. Under the steady eye of the present captain, Pat Mc Hugh everything augers well. The special education department in the school is second to none and the convivial atmosphere in the staff room has been marked upon even by Department Inspectors. When all is stripped bare my abiding happy memories are of the breaks and fun in the staff room having a chat with a friendly colleague.

"If I can help somebody as I pass along then my living shall not be in vain"



# In Retrospect by Jarlath Fahy

These four thoughts are in retrospect to an invitation from the editor to write something for the yearbook. They are simply random musings about the school from a somewhat different perspective.

I had always believed that the school was a vibrant community that had earned itself a high reputation. I was somewhat apprehensive on one of my first visits back to the school to see the school musical. Was I to be disillusioned in that my positive view was a myth, seen through rose tinted spectacles? I was most reassured and I have had the same positive experience every time since, most recent being the launch of the CD to commemorate 30 years. I am proud to have been part of that experience.



I estimate that more than 4000 students have passed through in the 30 years. The class photographs on the wall are a most valuable record. Past students continue to make their mark, at home and abroad, even in the most distant parts of the earth. The myriad of talents and skills they have developed in every spear of life is remarkable. They should be proud of their achievements. It is not for me to evaluate or judge the contribution the school has made. Ultimately, each person has had to take the responsibility for their own lives and plough their own furrow. As teachers, we were part of that journey during a very formative period of their lives. We rejoice in their success and are also proud of their achievements, let them be big or small.

Finally, I like to thank all the staff for their continued invitation to school functions and social gatherings. Though gone, we feel part of the school and hopefully that link of past and present will continue for the future. There was always a great spirit of unity and co-operation of which I have great memories and that is alive and well.



Ms. Justina Lyons in 1978

## Musicals over the past 30 years

Calamity Jane	1980
The Boyfriend	1981
The Gypsy Baron	1982
Pirates of Penzance	1983
Annie Get Your Gun	1985
Fiddler on the Roof	1987
My Fair Lady	1989
Oklahoma	1991
Carousel	1993
Fiddler on the Roof	1995
The Pirates of Penzance	1997
Oliver	1999
Calamity Jane	2001
Treading the Boards	2003
Annie Get Your Gun	2005
Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat	2007

## In 1978...

- The Beegees were number one in the charts with "How Deep Is Your Love?"
- Ireland was represented in the Eurovision Song Contest by Colm T. Wilkinson singing "Born To Sing."
- Ireland's 2nd national television station, RTE2 aired live from the Cork Opera House.
- The 50th Annual Academy Awards were held.
- Volkswagen became the first non-American automobile to be manufactured in the world.
- Katie Holmes, Nicky Byrne and Ashton Kutcher were born in 1978.
- The president of Ireland was Patrick Hillary.
- FIFA World Cup started in Argentina.
- Artificial insulin was invented.



# When did your star light up the sky this year?

As we come to the end of another school year, we come to remember and to recall all that this year has brought in to our lives.

For some they are the stars of the sports field.....

For others a time to shine came on the stage....in the school musical ....

For others it was their organisational skills that shone thorough as a member of the student council, year book committee, green team etc....

For others still it was in school and state exams....gaining high marks...merits, distinctions....

Perhaps some of you shone in other ways...as a good friend....as one who cared....as young scientists...as home economists....as debaters...artists or poets....

The school year offers many opportunities to us to shine in many ways....and this is good...it is what school is about...but it is not the end of the story of the star that shines....

Every day during the year we are offered numerous opportunities to shine in the dark corner...

To offer a smile to someone who is unhappy...

To say hello and offer the hand of friendship to someone who is lonely...

To offer help to another student who struggles with a subject...

To help a teacher or member of staff...

To become involved in charity/fundraising activities in our school

To be the one who shows initiative in taking care of our school environment...collecting the litter...collecting the recyclables....

These are just some of the ways we may have been the star that shone in the world this school year as an example to others.

So as we look forward to the holidays let us remember that we are constantly invited to shine like the stars...not only in school but everyday whether at home, at school or away on holidays...the invitation from God remains....

We take with us this quotation from the Book of Genesis:

*'Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on earth.'*

We pray for each other that we will seek always to be the light in the sky for others, lighting their way through the darkness of the world. Enjoy the Summer!



Ms. Orla Macken,  
Chaplain.

## Student Council

The main aim of the student council is to provide a forum for students and teachers to discuss school issues. The student Council is elected to represent the student body. The Student Council gives an important voice to the student body, putting forward new ideas and suggestions to improve the school for everyone. They also play an active role in school events and activities.

The student Council showed their enthusiasm and commitment with the launch of 'One More Song', the school CD celebrating 30 of Ballyhaunis Community School. We were responsible for meeting and greeting the guests. We also had to compère the event. evening was very successful and enjoyable for all.

We would like to thank Ms. Hayes for her guidance and assistance throughout the year.

**By Fiona Freyne & Aisling Robinson**



Back row (L-R)-  
Darren Dennehy,  
Kenneth Carrick, Craig  
John Finan, Ryan Word  
Brendan O'Gara,  
Paul Carney, Jason No  
Middle row (L-R)-  
Shane Muldoon,  
Clare Kenny, Emer Flan  
Ann-Marie Hora,  
Amy Regan, Nicola Ki  
Evelyn Kearns, Maura  
Carole Keane, Ms. Hay  
(Student Council Co-  
Front row (L-R)-  
Niamh Kilkenny,  
Emily-Lee Worden,  
Laura Culliney,  
Róna Burke,  
Fiona Freyne,  
Damien Keadin,  
Declan McNamara  
Gary Patterson,  
Luke McDermott.



# Charity & Fund-raising

YEARBOOK 2008

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoe Box Appeal.

Every November, in the run-up to Christmas, Junior and Senior students along with their tutors and Religion teachers organize a "shoe box appeal". Each student gift-wraps and fills a shoe-box with gifts suitable for boys and girls, aged between 2-14 years.

These shoe-boxes are then shipped to less fortunate children, in developing countries including Eastern Europe. Each year the school would send approx 200 shoe-boxes.



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The class of LCA 1 and their teacher, Ms Warde, generously donated €100 to St. Vincent De Paul following the success of their innovative enterprise. This involved the production of Santa scrolls which were sold among the school community. (Pictured right.)

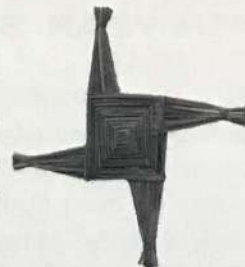
Ms Finn and the class of 1B also contributed to the St. Vincent De Paul appeal by compiling a Christmas box for less fortunate children.



## ST. BRIGID'S DAY

Once again this year the religious department was very busy on St. Brigid's day. A7/B1 was awash with green rushes and the religion classes and Transition year were busy making St. Brigid's crosses.

Every year these crosses are made in conjunction with Ballyhaunis A.B.C. (Aid for Belarussian children) and are sold at all the local churches over the weekend. Ballyhaunis A.B.C. is a local charity, which brings 12 children to Ballyhaunis from the South East region of Belarus every summer for a month's holiday and families in the surrounding area host these children.



A raffle was also held at Easter in aid of this charity and Ethan Toal, 4th year, is now the proud owner of a new guitar thanks to the sponsor – 'Tunes'. Thanks to the students in B.C.S. for all their help from Ballyhaunis A.B.C.

## TEMPLE STREET

The Friends of Temple street committee was set up by a group of students and Ms. Osgood in the year 2005. Our main aim was to fundraise various amounts of money throughout the year.

We started off with the selling of keyrings, where we raised €525. We continued with our Monster Easter Raffle, where we got sponsored spot prizes from enterprise around the town, our total amount raised from this raffle was €1128.

In our second year of fundraising, we held the same event as the previous year, with the Halloween badges and key ring's raising €275 and the Easter raffle raising a further €825. However, this wasn't just any normal fundraising year, we had a sponsored head shave in aid with temple street and Ballyhaunis May Bank Holiday Festival. We had four brave lads shave their heads from B.C.S.- John Lyons, Risteard Byrne, Craig Hughes and Paul Caulfield, between the four lads, the school and the local area raised a huge €4,900 euro. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the four lads and everyone who helped out with our fundraising events. I would also like to thank Mr. Coleman's 3rd year class of 2007 for donating their mock money and the LCA1 class that raised €305.

Our total amount of money fundraised for Temple Street over the past 3 years is €8,078

Amy Conroy



# Charity & Fund-raising

## SHANE RAISES MONEY FOR TEMPLE STREET CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

LCA 1 student, Shane Cleary, together with his parents organised and ran a "25" Card Drive, in Brickens in November 2007. All tickets and posters were designed and distributed by Shane. There was great night enjoyed by all and they raised a staggering €702. Shane wanted to donate all money raised to the Children's University Hospital, Temple St., where Shane had attended. This was an outstanding show of generosity of time and effort on Shane's behalf, here is Shane receiving a Certificate of Commendation from Ms. Osgood and Ms. Moran in recognition of his outstanding achievement.



## PINK RIBBON DAY

Last October for breast cancer awareness month, Ms Moran recruited Transition years and L.C.As to sell the pink ribbons to the students in the school. The students and teachers paid €2 each for a ribbon to support this very cause. The final amount raised by students and staff was €600.

We would like to give a big thank you to all the people who supported the campaign.

*Mairead Connolly*

## 4TH YEAR SPONSORED WALK

On the 2nd of April all 4th year students and their religion teachers took part in the annual sponsored walk for the Henry Madden Tanzania Fund. Since 2002 the students of BCS have raised over €15,000. Every cent of the money raised goes directly to the communities of two towns in Tanzania: Hagugu and Ntuntu. Over the years this school has raised money for agricultural machinery which, along with land given to the Parish Priest, provided food for over 2000 people in the village. We have also raised money to finance the drilled of new wells which will provide the two communities with running water.

This year the money raised couldn't have come at a better time as the Tanzanian people were starving and suffering 9 months of drought. Every year BCS makes a great difference to the lives of the people of Tanzania. Every penny counts and this year the 4th year students were delighted with the €2,575 collected for this worthwhile cause. Well done everyone.

*Millie Daniel-Dempsey and Fiona Freyne.*





# The Pioneers

The school branch of the pioneers had a very successful year. The first event for the branch was the Readoiri competitions. The regional final of this took place in Knock in November. The school was well represented with competitors in ballad group, senior solo music, singing and junior solo singing. The ballad group was unfortunate to be beaten in a very close competition against Mt. St. Michael's, Claremorris. The competition was tough in the solo singing but Ellen Hynes won, going through to represent the school in the Connacht semi final in Crossmolina in December. Ellen qualified for the Connacht final in January in Roscommon. She unfortunately didn't qualify for the All-Ireland. Well done to all who represented the school in these competitions.

The pioneer quiz teams have so far done well in their competition. They won the first round of their competition and went through to the Connacht final in April, in Clonberne. They came 2nd to Ballaghadreen in the closely contested quiz but still go through to the All-Ireland final to be held in Tralee on April 26th. Ellen represented the branch in the tough "super brain" competition. She went against the clock in 2 minute rounds of general knowledge and was placed 4th overall. The team consisted of Niall Hynes, Ellen Hynes, Sean O'Rourke, Ryan Warden and Margaret Egan.

The branch also organized their annual national school quiz, held this year in April. All local schools were invited and 10 teams took part on the night. As with all pioneer events it was closely contested but Scoil Iosa was victorious on the night with Began and Knock coming 2nd and 3rd. A good night was had by all!! Members from the school branch also went to the annual national pioneer youth ball held in the Belmont Hotel, Knock. A great night was had by all 400 young pioneers who were fortunate enough to get tickets.

A special word of thanks to Ms Meehan for her dedication to the pioneer group throughout the year.

*By Ellen Hynes*



*Back: L-R: Niall Hynes, Margaret Egan, Eric Hynes, Sean O'Rourke.*

*Front: L-R: Martina Mullarkey, Edel Walsh, Kelly Niland.*

## Magazine Committee

It all started just before the Easter holidays, when Ms Mooney recruited volunteers for the epic task of creating a yearbook like no other! We began by delegating jobs, such as collecting photos, writing articles and coming up with any new ideas. We pooled all our ideas together and then set about compiling all of the information we had gathered.

On behalf of the yearbook committee, we would like to thank all the teachers involved - Ms Mooney, Ms Osgood, Ms Lennon and Mr Quinn. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to all of the staff and students for their invaluable contribution to this yearbook.

We would also like to thank the past staff and students whose contribution is greatly appreciated. Finally, we want to thank Knock Printing for their expertise.

Enjoy!

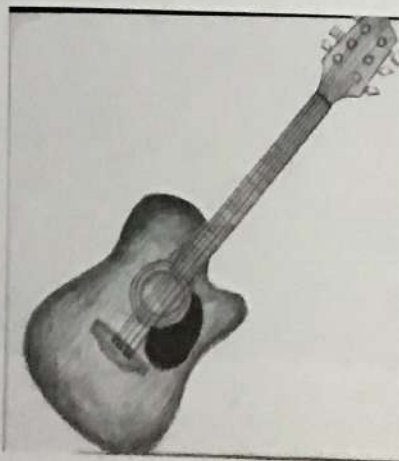
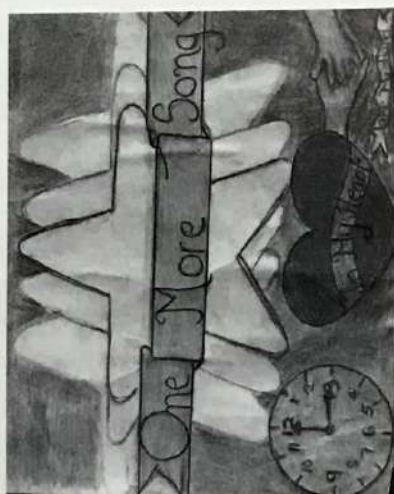
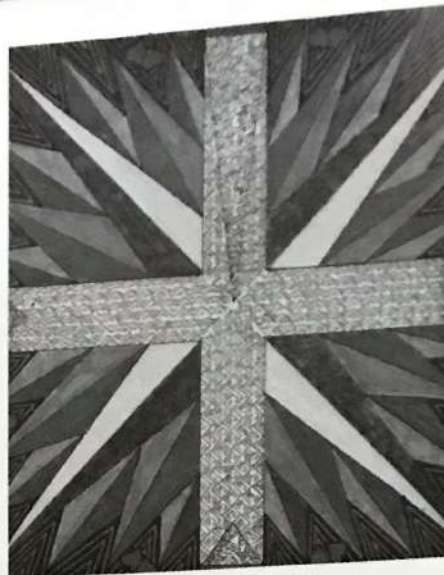
*Susan Lenehan and Cliona Hensey.*



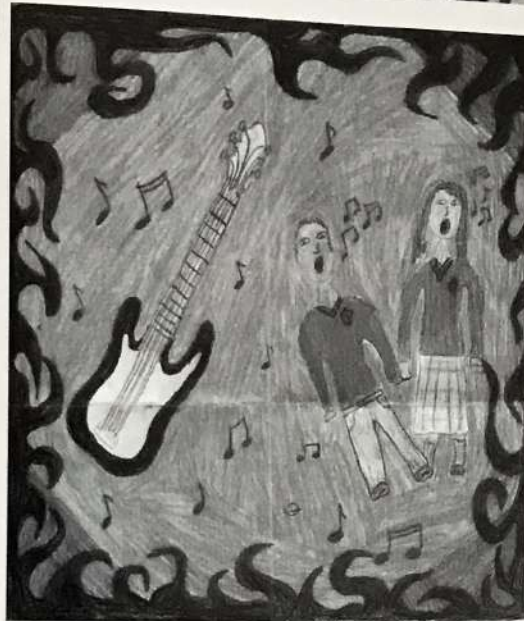
*Cliona Hensey, Padraic Kearney, Darragh Macken, Geraldine Egan, Shauna Folliard, Claire Meagh, Cathriona Leonard, Lisa Tighe, Susan Lenehan, Gráinne Glavey, Amy Regan, Lydia Concannon, Niall Hynes.*



# ARTWORK









# "A Case of Identity"

## FORENSIC SCIENCE DAY

On Tuesday, January 22nd 2007, senior Biology students and Transition Year students were Forensic scientists for the day, with a murder to solve!

The day involved an interactive presentation "A Case of Identity" by a Forensic Scientist from Australia. Students were presented with a crime scene where they were required to examine the evidence in order to solve the murder.

The presentation incorporated exhibits and displays so that students could see and understand the techniques used by Forensic Scientists to solve crimes. These included:

**Processing the Crime-** students learnt how to search the crime scene and use search patterns to process the scene in three dimensions.

**Physical Fit & Refractive index** - using these techniques students were able to identify the murder weapon.

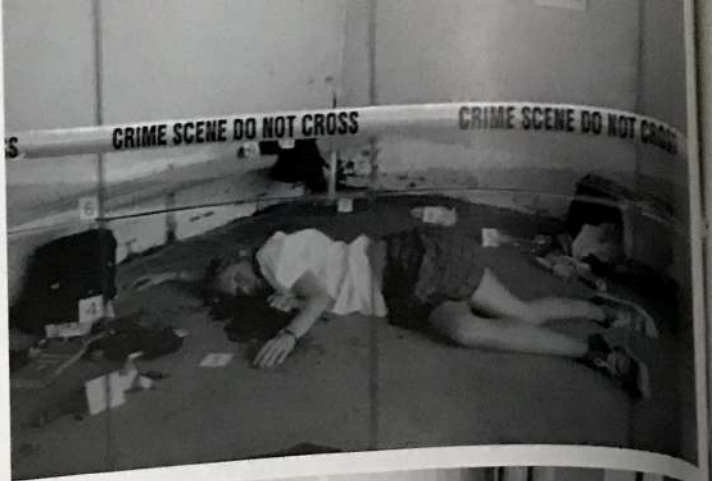
**Fingerprinting** - by locating & matching fingerprints found at the crime scene students linked the victim with the murder weapon and pieced together events leading up to the crime.


**DNA Profiling** - students assessed the results of this highly sensitive technique to eliminate innocent suspects and to identify the guilty party through the blood and saliva evidence left behind at the crime scene.

**Drink Spiking** - information on drink spiking was presented, along with simple-to-use tests that can identify a potentially spiked drink.

**Microscopy** - students examined the fibres found on the victim and used these to help eliminate potential suspects.

It was a very enjoyable experience for all students while also being of great benefit to the senior biology classes.






### Ballyhaunis Community School

HOME
DEPARTMENTS
PROJECTS
PHOTO GALLERY
SPORT
ADMINISTRATION

Initializing ticker...

Check it Out

- Newsletter
- Calendar
- Students Council
- Full Week
- Multicultural project
- Carri Service
- Yearbook Covers
- Fundraising



**Fundraising Raffle in aid of Mayo Palliative Services & Gait**

The draw for the Monster Raffle draw took place in Ballyhaunis Community Centre, Dec. 19th.

Prizes included a Pool Table, Christmas Hampers, Sweets and lots more. Thanks to all those who supported the raffle by selling or buying tickets.

**Winners**

1st Prize - Pool Table - Barry Waldron, L. Cert Student

2nd Prize - Hamper - Helen Waldron, Johnstown, Ballyhaunis

3rd Prize - Hamper - Dymphna Folland, Kilsone, Ballyhaunis

4th Prize - Voucher - Margaret Fitzgerald, Ennis, Ballyhaunis

5th Prize - Tin of Sweets - Karen Conroy, Brokens, Claremorris

**Thanks to all our sponsors.**

Present to accept the cheques were Cynthia Clongwell from Mayo Hospice and Mary Tierney from Galway Hospice. Both adapted cheques towards their very worthy local charities.

Also present was Mrs. Marion Henney and Charles Henney wife and daughter Michael Henney (R.I.P.). The recent publication of his book 'Years in the shadows of which are going to the Galway Hospice and Mayo Palliative' has encouraged the students and staff of Ballyhaunis Community School

## New School Website

This year saw the introduction of a new school website [www.ballyhauniscs.ie](http://www.ballyhauniscs.ie).

The website is in its infancy but plans are afoot to develop this site into a potential resource for the students, teachers, parents and the broader community. It is hoped in the short term that students and parents/guardians will be able to connect to the site to view information on subjects and subject choices, assisting both in making an informed decision. General information in relation to uniforms, book lists and other requirements will also be available.

The activities of the school will be visible on line and the many successes achieved in a wide variety of areas will be able to be seen by the community at large. Hopefully past students will dip in to see the changes have occurred since their stay at their "Alma Mater" and tell us of their experiences since their departure.

Content from all sources will be considered for the website.



# A Day In The Life At BCS





# Newgrange

The 10th of April was a day that no one would soon forget. It was a long day as the bus left at nine am and didn't get back until nine in the evening. The art classes from 4th and 5th year got the chance to go to the famous site of Newgrange. Whilst it was exciting to get the chance to go to Newgrange the journey up only added to the experience. Just twenty minutes drive outside of Newgrange the bus had broken down and we were left stranded for half an hour. But eventually another bus did arrive and brought us to our destination.

Our tour started as soon as we arrived as there was an exhibition in the Visitors Centre on the many artifacts from Newgrange and the history of Newgrange. We then set off at quarter past two to the actual site of Newgrange. The tour guide gave us a lot of information on Newgrange before we entered. After the talk we were able to head down the nineteen meter passage, which lead to the main burial tomb. The guide was able to show us how the light would illuminate the passage during the winter solstice, which isn't restricted to just the 21st of December it can last from the 19th until the 23rd of December weather depending. The main lights were shut off and a single light was shone from the entrance of the tomb to brighten up the whole passage.

All in all, it was a great day and a once in a life time opportunity to see one of Irelands greatest landmarks.

*By Joanne Kearsey*





# Green School's Committee

This year Ms. Brogan and Ms. Mulroy decided to revamp the Green Committee in the school. It is our aim to achieve Green Flag status for our school, Ballyhaunis Community School. The first thing we had to do was decide on committee members. Two were taken from each year and three from Transition Year:

Chairperson – Laura Henry; Secretary – Mairead Connolly; Treasurer – Ruth Judge  
Ms. Brogan and Ms. Mulroy invited in Sharon Cameron from the council to talk to us about recycling. We learned some interesting things, such as fleeces that we wear are made from recycled plastic bottles and milk cartons.

The senior Green Committee ventured up to Derrinnumera Recycling Centre. This was also a new experience for many people on the Committee, it was an informative day and many people took a lot out of it. We are now setting up a bin rota scheme in the school. TYs have monitored bins from the very beginning of our Green Schools C adventure, but we have finally got a system going where all the other years are getting involved with the recycling system in the school. We have put up rotas above every recycling point in the school and it would be a great help if you could check it out and see if it is coming up during the coming weeks.

Here is a list of the years and their assigned areas:

1st year girls:	E Area	1st year boys:	D Area
2nd year girls:	B Area	2nd year boys:	C Area
4th year girls:	Assembly Area and A Area		

We would like to thank everybody who has co-operated so far with the Green Schools Committee but please bear in mind that it is still room for vast improvements in this school.

*By Laura Henry, Mairead Connolly & Ruth Judge*



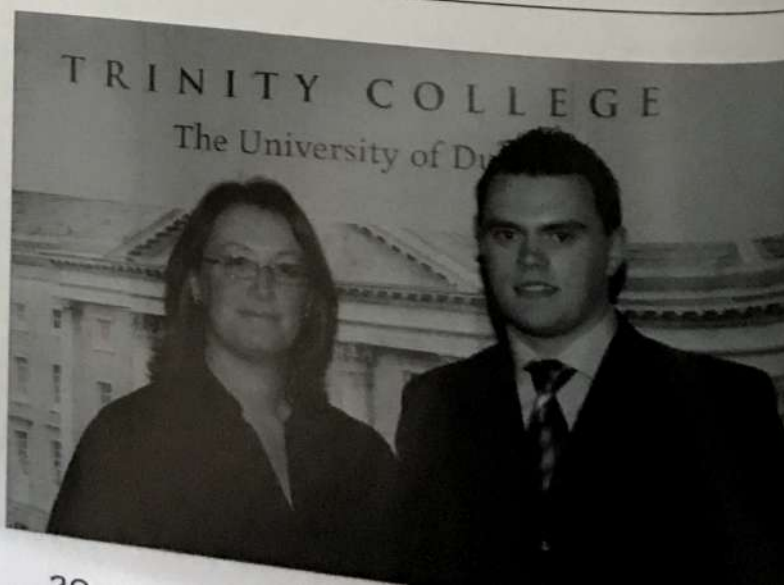
Reduce... Reuse... Recycle



## Well done Danny!

Danny Regan Leaving Cert. 2007 pictured here with Professor Ruth Byrne, Vice- Provist of Trinity College Dublin.

Danny was awarded a Trinity Entrance Exhibition for achieving outstanding Leaving Certificate results, attaining over 560 points.





Ballyhaunis Community School Established an English as a foreign Language course to accommodate the influx of non English speakers in the Ballyhaunis area. This project was established as there is a large number of people living in the Ballyhaunis area with little or no proficiency in the English language. The aim of the course is to develop and foster the student's ability to use English effectively for practical communication social and vocational purposes. Particular emphasis is placed on grammatical concepts as well as the development of literacy and numeracy where necessary. The activities in this course are intended to make everyday situations and conversations a little bit easier for the students.

## **Some of the thematic areas covered include:**

General Conversation & Communication  
Food, drink & clothes  
Shops & shopping  
The home  
Reading timetables  
Weather & holidays  
Daily routines  
Reading timetables  
Health & Medicine/ Making appointments

Everyday and Global problems  
Jobs  
Sports  
Animals & Pets  
Countries, Language & People  
At school & University  
Parents / Teacher meetings  
Employment rights

The classes are provided for adults with all levels of English from beginner to advanced. There are numerous classes provided each week.

Monday	2:30 -- 3:50
Tuesday	2:30 -- 3:50
Wednesday	1:50 -- 3:50
Thursday	1:50 -- 3:50



*Pictured right: Students:  
Haile Ghebregergic, Tadelech Mehari,  
Jane Duskova, Riyaz Hassan Alobaidi,  
Sarah Nazir Altamimi.*

## Language Support Classes

In September this course was designed with the aim of developing and fostering the student's ability to use English effectively for practical communication, social and vocational purposes. Particular emphasis was placed on grammatical concepts while the aims of the aural and written sections were to enhance the students' literacy skills.

In September, the students were given a goal to work towards and on reaching this they would then be brought on a trip. The students' successfully reached this and in February were brought on a trip to Dublin. This tour took in such attractions as Trinity College, National Gallery, National History Museum, Dublin Castle, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Guinness Storehouse, Kilmainham Gaol, and Dublin Zoo. The aim of this tour was that participating students would better familiarize themselves with Dublin and consequently attain a cultural and historical appreciation of Ireland's capital.

**Ms. Grimes**



## From Somalia to Ballyhaunis:

My name is Yasin Saleh. I am a student at Ballyhaunis Community school. I have been in this school for eight months. I like this school because there is more respect and responsibilities. The students and teachers are very friendly. This school has given us the encouragement to achieve our aims in a safe and caring environment. The best thing I like in this school is the teachers because they use all their knowledge for us to get a nice education in life. Thanks to all the teachers for being so kind to us.

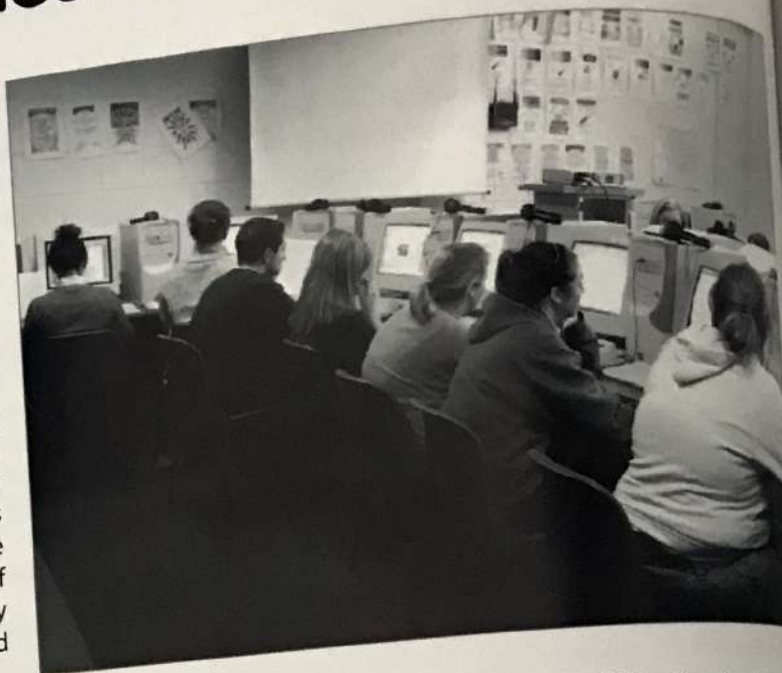
**Yasin Saleh.**

*Left: Diaga, Fatima, Suha, Lukas, Radek, Lukas, Kuba and Bartoz enjoying a day out in Dublin.*



# Post Leaving Certificate Courses

Ballyhaunis Community School has been involved in the provision of **quality Adult Education** since its foundation 30 years ago. Hundreds of students have gone through the training offered and have been successful in their chosen careers. Some used the opportunity to repeat a Leaving Certificate subject while gaining lifelong skills. Others saw the value in learning skills that would be beneficial any where in the world and at any time in life. Many more use the opportunity of second chance education to resource and up skill themselves in this technologically oriented world. Many learners complete Post Leaving Certificate or Further Education and Training courses leading to FETAC awards with the specific intention of using their award to progress to 3rd level through a system known as the Higher Education Links Scheme. This scheme has been in existence for almost a decade and this year twenty-nine higher education institutions including universities, institutes of technology and private colleges, are offering places on a variety of courses to candidates who have successfully completed awards.



Students educated through our further education sector received qualifications from the RSA Examinations Board, The Euro Institute Office Technology, The National Council for Vocational Awards (NCVA), City and Guilds and now **FETAC** – The Further Education Training Awards Council. Awards are also offered in **Information and Communication Technology** Sector (ICT) by ICS Skills comm known as **ECDL** Ireland. This provision of further education is expanding this year with the introduction of a series of new courses following on the successful achievement by the school of **FETAC Quality Assurance Award**. This enables the school to continue to provide existing and new courses leading to FETAC Certification. We are the only provider of further education in this region to have achieved this award.

The opportunities are greater than ever now at Ballyhaunis CS as we have launched a series of new training opportunities from September 2007 to compliment existing courses. These include the following:

## **FETAC Level 5 awards**

1. **Art/Craft/Design with Portfolio Preparation**
2. **Computer Aided Design (CAD) with Construction Technology**
3. **Childcare/ Special Needs Assistant**
4. **Computers, Business & English as a second language**
5. **Computers for Beginners**
6. **Medical/Dental/Legal Receptionist plus ECDL**
7. **Office Administration Plus ECDL**
8. **Tourism & Travel**

ECDL CAD (Computer Aided Design)

EQUAL SKILLS CERTIFICATION

(Computers for Beginners)

ECDL CERTIFICATION (7 Modules)

ECDL ADVANCED ( Word, Powerpoint, Access, Excel)

NETASSURE (Training on latest problems ie Viruses, Malware, Spam)

**For further information please contact Ballyhaunis CS and ask for a member of the PLC Department**

## **From a mature point of view...**

The year spent attending the PLC course was over before I knew it. I was a mature student among others all just a "few years" younger than myself, making it full of laughter and fun, and some work!! The group was a mixture of some delightful characters. The diligent "morning type" to the more relaxed "turn up sometime type", all of whom have got to know each other that much more over the year. I felt very welcomed and would recommend the course to any mature student wanting to brush up on their skills especially on the computer and book-keeping side.



PLC-'07/'08...

The secretarial course started off on 8th September 2007. We were all very nervous at first, but we soon settled in with Colleen handing out her Silvermints, and Joanna, warning everyone to "Recycle that paper, save the environment".

The weeks flew, especially for some who only came in the odd day – girls ye know who ye are! Marge was always on the ball, making sure her projects were up-to-date and Maura kept the printers busy with all her printing. Mary was always a head of us in book keeping, as every time we looked she was quite content playing solitaire. Seamus' time was cut short with us as he got his long awaited call to go and join the guards!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our teachers and our year head Ms. Byrnes.

Thank you to Ms. Byrnes who put us on the right track at the beginning of the year.

Thanks to Ms. Kenny for her patience when it came to Tas Books (book-keeping) onto the computers as it was very temperamental. You'll never forget us for that.

Thank you to Mrs. Warde for all her help with getting our typing up to speed, with our long lessons typing A S D F...J K L ; and ten-minute speed tests!

Thanks to "Mr. Mathsbook" for all his sarcastic comments, but its ok sir, we know you didn't mean them really!

Thank you Mrs. Waldron for all her dedication trying to teach us Excel and Access, it can't have been easy!

Thanks to Miss. Mooney for helping us with all her tasks especially that DREADED video presentation (by God the nerves were rattling). The "rescue remedy" was drunk dry in the minutes leading to "lights, camera, action!!" (If only it had been brandy!)

Ever the enthusiast, Mrs. Byrne who helped us get sorted with our work experience.

## The European Studies Programme

The European studies programme is a post-primary curriculum based programme linking schools in Ireland with schools across Europe though sustained collaborative projects furthering tolerance, mutual understanding and appreciation of the cultures of others.

Currently more than 300 schools in 25 European countries are engaged in the programme. It is jointly funded by the departments of education in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

There are two programmes, the Junior programme for 11-15 year olds and the Senior programme which is for students aged 16+. Ballyhaunis Community School is currently involved in both programmes. A sample of our students work is free to view on the European Studies website; promoting places of interest in Mayo.

We are involved with schools across Europe including 'CE Gadda', Parma, Italy, 'Lycee Livet', Nantes, France, 'Nolaskolan' Ornskoldsvik, Sweden, and St. Louise's Comprehensive, The Falls Road, Belfast which we have visited with our Transition Year students.



*The National coordinator of European Studies Ms Aoife Ruane meeting with Ms O'Loughlin, TD and Transition year students all of whom are involved in this programme.*



# Creative Writing

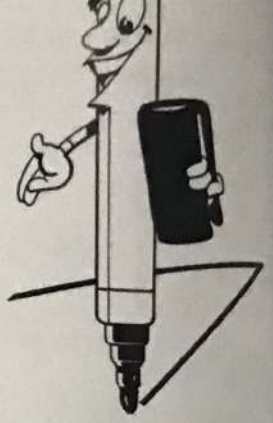
## THE VAMPIRE DIARY 15th April 1867

Once I opened my eyes I felt something was different, I could remember nothing of last night, but the deserted street made me feel no better. As I tried to sit up my head started spinning, then I realized there was a pain inside my skin, pulsing through my veins, every breath I took made it worse and the pain overwhelmed me. A thunderous pulsing filled my ears, my breathing became rapid and my heart stung. I heard screams, terrifying screams and it took me a while to realize they were mine. I couldn't move, I did my best opening my eyes and when I did I saw shadows gathering around me, whispering things, they said confused me, "Demon, he's possessed-call the priest!" their panicky voices seemed alien. I tried to speak but my throat was burning with an intense pain. My screams grew louder as something started burning my skin and combined with my burning blood the pain was unbearable.

I heard chanting; for once it was a familiar voice-Father Stuart, the exorcist. I heard him many times before. I was usually part of the crowd that went along to see the "evil one." But why was it me now? What was going on?

Then it started becoming clearer. Images of last night flashed before me-the mob, burning torches, screams "Vampire! Get him before he kills the children!" The leader's voice echoed and now the same voice was chanting before me. "I wasn't evil!" the words roared in my head, but my mouth just wouldn't form them. I had to get away... it was my only chance. As the pain became more intense I started thinking that death wasn't so bad. At least I wouldn't feel the pain. The thoughts ran through my head and then something, I'm not sure what, made me crawl. I don't know how I got the strength, but the crowd around me was taken by surprise and seeing me fight for my life scared them. I knew they wouldn't dare touch me. In their eyes I was like a disease. I didn't realize how fast I got out of the chanting circle, but their murmurs were steadily coming closer. I had to get away faster than this. I looked and saw, through my hazy eyes, an alley; I thought that maybe there I would be safer. I was nearly there when I saw a carriage coming towards me. With my last ounce of strength I clung on to its side and waited until the town became a distant speck as we drove away. I clung on to the cart until we reached the country side. I needed to hide somewhere they wouldn't look-"the woods!" I hit the ground and rolled down into a ditch. For a moment I thought I saw the terrified face of the farmer, but he was out of sight before I could confirm my theory. Once again I started crawling, my legs felt dead, they just wouldn't move. I crawled for what seemed like an eternity. My thirst was killing me, even though I already felt dead. It's just that burning pain that reminded me "I'm still alive." I couldn't help but think "would it have been easier if I just stayed in town and let Father Stuart get rid of me, was I really the evil one they spoke of in their chants?" These thoughts puzzled me and I still didn't have any answers when I reached a stream. I thought my heart would jump for joy, but it didn't seem to feel anything. I stuck my head into the stream, not caring if I drowned I was just so thirsty. I waited for the refreshing water to go down my throat, waited for it to quench the fire inside me, but it just made it all worse. It felt like I was drinking acid. I screamed as it ran down all around my face. I dragged my head out of the water and still felt the pain. I don't know how long I laid there screaming as I slowly blanked out.

It felt like years had passed when I opened my eyes again. This time I was sure I was dead. I felt no pain; I saw everything clearer than ever, heard everything perfectly and had an amazing sense of smell. I tried my luck sitting up and it seemed to work-no dizziness. I was shocked when I could stand, but still I felt that thirst and just didn't know what for. I breathed in the air just to test my lungs, but I was distracted by an indescribable scent, so beautiful I was mesmerized. I ran towards it and soon I reached a small clearing, beside the outskirts of the woods and saw a small boy, no older than five playing in the field. The scent seemed to be coming off him; it was so... fresh... delicious even. I looked around and saw no-one else but this delicious creature, I walked slowly towards him. I felt myself kneeling down to the ground as I got closer, still the child hadn't noticed me. When I got so close the smell was overpowering I grabbed him and held him pressed against my chest, his head was flailing madly as he tried to scream for his mother, but his terrified gaze on me made it clear his voice was gone. What happened next feels like a blur. I saw a vein pulsing through his neck and as I got closer to it the smell hypnotized me. I bit into the child's neck and felt him stiffen as my teeth pierced his skin, made two slits that oozed with blood. Hot delicious blood poured into my mouth, caressed my throat and killed my thirst. I felt my thoughts melt away as I drank the blood; the boy was becoming limp in my hands. It took me awhile to hear the terrified scream of a woman, the mother, her screams woke me up from my trance, and I opened my eyes and saw her tear stained face. I dropped the limp child to my feet. He looked like a porcelain doll, blood still pouring from his neck. I kept staring at the child and before I realized he was dead, more people were coming towards me. I turned and ran, too terrified to think about what I'd done...



## STORY OF HEART

Once upon a time in a city of cartoons there lived a heart called love, many cartoons were his friends. Suddenly a flood covered the whole city and every cartoon took ships, boats etc. However love was poor and didn't have anything to go with and he didn't know how to swim. Then love cried for help and a sad face came along in a boat. Love said "please could you help me to get out of this city?" but sad face said "no I can't help you I am so sad. I don't want to help anybody not even you love" and went. Love tried again to find somebody to help him. After a few minutes a smiley face was going on an air balloon. Love said "smiley face could you help me to get out of this city?" but smiley face said "no I can't help you because I am so happy I don't want any body to interrupt my happiness" and set off with his air balloon, but then love said "nobody will take me or help me" and gave up. A boy came along and said "don't worry I will help you" and took love with him and landed him on a safe place. Love thanked him for saving him and the boy said "only humans know what the value of love is."



# Poetry

## BROKEN

Our arrival and departure.  
It has left nature broken.  
It's heart broken. Its people, broken

The wooden hull gated the stones underneath.  
Stepping out into the cold, dark water  
We approached the sleeping, peaceful village.

Twenty uniformed and royal pirates  
Ordered to rape, plunder and kill  
No man on watch. No man in bed. No man on land.

Five miles away, somhairle bui received a messenger  
The wind had carried the first crack of the rifle  
And shortly afterwards; the first scream

Defenseless mothers followed their tears to the ground.  
Inside lifeless homes, babies would no longer stir in the crib.  
On the mainland Somhairle Bui watched flames  
invade the night

Silently, we turn our backs and leave this island  
But grown men will cry for their sins tonight  
Hoping that these troubles will end-one day.

**BY Ethan Toal**

## THE AMERICAN DREAM

*Written in response to "The Cage"*  
**by John Montague**

The streets of New York  
Endless paths of nothingness  
Like a black hole  
That suck the light and life away.  
The life.  
No hope. No escape.

False smiles and cheesy grins dictate my face  
As I work. Caged in the land of the free.  
Blocking out happier times of life in Garvaghey-  
My main job.

With a tired mind and drained soul  
I dragged my heavy heart away from home  
Back to reality.

**BY Fiona Freyne**

## SPRING '08 - THE SEASON OF RESIGNATIONS

Eddie, Bertie and Johnny,  
Three stalwart leaders  
All vanished at the wink of an eye.  
Spring 2008-the season of resignations.

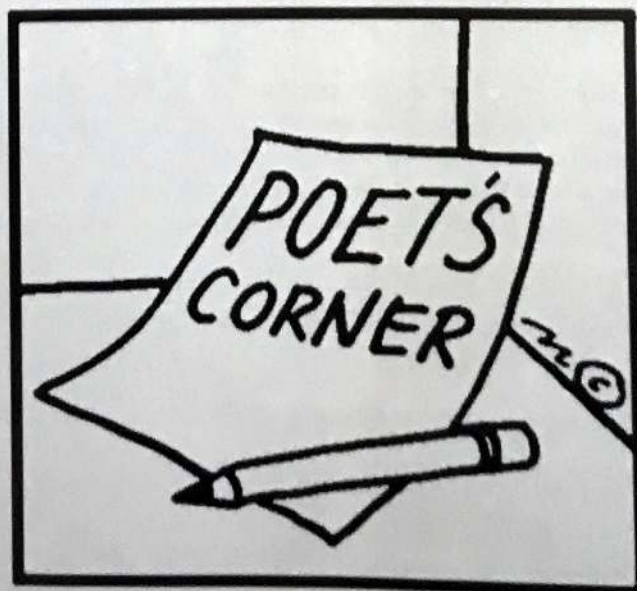
A popular, pleasant face  
That graced the Irish scene,  
Powerful, sunning and capable,  
Our leader of the last decade.

A man who brought fame and fortune to our shores,  
Many triumphs at home and abroad,  
Raising Irish spirits-  
Taking rugby to new heights.

Rossies in a crisis,  
Where did it all go wrong?  
Misbehaving malcontents  
Causing his ill-fated reign.

In this modern era  
Expectations are so high no room to falter, stumble or twist  
Serving the masses, doing one's best.  
No longer pleases all.  
All must be accountable.  
Spring 2008-the season of resignations.

**BY Nessa Doherty**







## Camogie

This year brought an exciting new sport to the girls of Ballyhaunis Community School, known as camogie. Surrounding clubs such as Toreen has a strong camogie background and has trained many excellent Camogie players from under age to secondary school level. We have used this year as a training year, allowing the more experienced girls to help train those who have never played before. At present we have girls from 1st year to 4th year coming training with a minimum of 20 girls per training session. Our main aim is to build strong junior and senior panels with the hope of entering both teams into schools competitions next year.

*Ms. S. Gibbons.*

## Boys Gaelic Football

It has been another busy year for Gaelic games in B.C.S. Fielding teams in both football and hurling the school participated in fourteen competitions in all with varying degrees of success. With over two hundred students involved it is plain to see the spirit of the G.A.A. is alive and well in the school.

The first year team have done very well this year. They qualified for the final of the Mayo Championship only to lose out narrowly to Rice College in an epic final. A good win against St. Nally's got the league off to a good start but defeats to St. Josephs and St. Attracta's brought the campaign to a premature end. However, the team really prospered in the white heat of the championship. Good wins against Carrick-on-Shannon and St. Brendan's of Bellmullet ensured qualification for the Connaught semi-final where Holy Rosary College of Mountbellew lie in wait. At the time of going to press this game has yet to be played. However, I'm sure, whatever the outcome, the boys will have done themselves proud.

The second years, under the Stewardship of Mr. McHugh, have also had a busy year. Good wins in the league over Balla, Ballinrobe and Gorlor Abbey have seen them progress into the knock out stages which again, at the time of going to press, have yet to be played. A narrow defeat to Dunmore C.S. put paid to our championship ambitions but the panel can be proud of their efforts this year.

The Juvenile team, managed this year by the ageless Mr. Rudden, found the going tough in a very competitive section of the league. Injuries to a number of key players meant they were unable to enjoy the same level of success they experiences in first and second year. Nonetheless, they still gave a very good account of themselves and I've no doubt Mr. Rudden will have them back firing on all cylinders next year.

The Junior team also found themselves in a very challenging section of the league. Defeats to strong Kiltimagh and St. Attracta's side meant the section came to a premature end. Although not the strongest panel within the school they still played with the pride and passion we expect from B.C.S.

The Senior team, this year in the capable hands of Mr. Murren, suffered a disappointing defeat at the hands of Garbally in the championship. The game played in very difficult conditions was a nip and tuck affair but unfortunately Ballyhaunis came out on the wrong side of the result on the day. I've no doubt if they managed to overcome this difficult time, this talented bunch of footballers would have gone on to be a force to be reckoned with. The team, however, managed to put this disappointment behind them and have qualified for the Connaught league final which had yet to be played at the time of going to press.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers involved in G.A.A. in the school for their time and selfless commitment. I would also like to thank Mr. McHugh and Ms. Moran, the remainder of the teachers, and care-taking staff and secretary's for their support in facilitating Gaelic games within the school.

Thanks also the Eugene Lavin and Hugh Rudden for their time and expertise.

We are also very indebted to Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club, Aughamore G.A.A club and Micheal Glavey's G.A.A. club for the use of their pitches and facilities throughout the year.

A special word of thanks also to our main sponsors Ballyhaunis Credit Union.





#### HOGAN PANEL

*Back Row: Darren Nolan, Jamail Kezze, Dean Glavey, Eric Hynes, Eddie Cleary, Andrew Cunnane, Jamie Waldron.*

*Middle Row: Eric Eaton, Jamie Skeffington, Michael McGuire, Michael Walsh, Ultan Griffin, Aiden Niland.*

*Front Row: John Judge, Brendan Finn, Paul Raftery, Hannan Iqbal, Brian Kelly, John Lyons.*



#### SENIOR TEAM

*Back Row: Mark Potgeiter, Kenny Feeney, Robert Lyons, Niall Asilia, Joey Ganley, Rory Collins, Niall Prenty.*

*Middle Row: Thaigh Morley, Shane Culliney, Patrick Flanagan, Fintan Crawley, Kamron Azfal, Paul Caulfield.*

*Front Row: Risteard Byrne, Michael Morley, Gerard Grogan, John Gallagher, Brian Hunt.*



#### JUNIOR TEAM

*Back Row: Mark Potgeieter, Risteard Byrne, Rory Collins, Joseph Flynn, Paul Freely, Paul Carney, Aidan Richardson, John Duffy*

*Middle Row: Kevin Byrne, Sean Ronane, Michael Morley, Stephen Keane, Caoileann Fitzmaurice, David McNamara, Kamran Afzal, Pdraic Waldron, Damien Molaney, Issac Carroll.*

*Front Row: Gerard Grogan, Niall Freeman, Tomás Morley, Richie Crinnigan, Kevin Morley, Damien Keadin, Paul Caulfield, Christopher Flannagan, Conor Freely.*





## SECOND YEAR GAELIC FOOTBALL TEAM

*Back Row: Eugene Durka, John Mc Nieve, Seamus B, Shane Muldoon, Sean Gr, Daniel Folliard, Oisin Mc L, Niall Melvin, Paul O'Gara, Niall Lyons, Fintan Kearne, Ian Coyne, Colm Keane, Jonh Kilboyle, Dillon Lysn*

*Front Row: Martin McDon, Brian Neary, Shane Murphy, Eoghan Collins, Darragh Richardson, Shane Boland, Kieran Brennan, Damien De, Daniel Harrison, Dermot Cr*



## JUVENILE TEAM

*Back Row: John Flynn, Isaac Carroll, Caoileann Fitzmaurice, Thomas Morley, John Finan, Brendan O'Gara, Adrian Gavin, Seamus Burke. Middle Row: Kevin Byrne, Sean Griffin, Gearoid Keane, Kieran McDermott, John Walden, Gerard Grogan, Kieran Kiely, Garry Patterson.*

*Front Row: Shane Muldoon, Neil Murphy, Niall Freeman, Damien Keadin, Connor Freeley, Eoghan Collins, Scott Matthews, Paul O'Gara.*



## FIRST YEAR BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL

*Back Row: Thomas McGuire, Eanna McNamara, Daniel Cunnane, Liam Conboy, Rory Mannion, Darren Duffy, Michael Flynn, Darren Tarpey*

*Front Row: Jason Fahy, Conor Hussey, Paul Finnegan, Luke McDermott, Patrick Kiely, Declan Muldoon, Adrian Phillip, Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin.*



# 'JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAM COAT'

*Aideen Murray, Caroline Leonard, Keith Jordan.*





# Junior & Senior Girls Football

Training began in September with great commitment from both the Junior and Senior teams. The junior girls faced tough competition from Castlereagh, Elphin and Mohill. The senior team also met with tough opposition when they played against Balla, Louisburgh and Castlereagh. The poor weather conditions made it most difficult to get the games played this year. While we didn't progress as far as we would have liked there is a young, talented team with high hopes for the future. On behalf of all the girls on the teams, we would like to thank Ms. Macken, Ms. Mooney and Ms. Osgood for their help and dedication throughout the year. I would also like to extend our gratitude to Brendan Cregg taking the time to assist in our training. I want to thank Mr. McHugh, Ms. Moran and the teaching staff for supporting us throughout the years. A special word of thanks to Eileen Jennings for always ensuring we had clean jerseys and to the office staff for arranging our transport. Furthermore, on a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the girls that I have been fortunate enough to play football with over the last five years. I wish them every sporting success in the future.

*Ciarra H.*



*Back Row: Aideen Murray, Sarah Grennan, Amy Brady, Ciara Horan, Sandra Forde, Elaine Lilly, Ashling Caulfield, Roisin Fitzmaurice, Sharron Lynskey.*

*Middle Row: Kaitlynn Brady, Lisa Walsh, Katie Conroy, Ashling Robinson, Orla Shannon, Eilish Egan, Joanne Cregg, Emily Worden, Charlotte Donne, Niamh Cunnane.*

*Front Row: Laura Kilgariff, Louise Culliney, Jennifer Waldron, Louise McNamara, Marie Staunton, Emily Hickey, Sarah Caulfield, Maura Kelly.*

## 1st Year Girls Gaelic

Our 1st year girls' team turned out in large numbers at the start of the year. We had 30 at each training session which was great to see such interest in ladies Gaelic football. Unfortunately we only had two matches due to two teams dropping out of our group. We played Ballina first who beat us in the first half but the second half was Ballyhaunis's, played outstanding. Next was Sligo who beat us but again, we lacked match practice by this time. There is a very talented young bunch of girls with a great interest in playing football who should continue on to playing senior level. They are a team which should and will win some silverware before leaving school.



**Ms. Keane and Ms. Raftery (Trainers)**

### 1ST YEAR GIRLS GAELIC

*Back L - R: Fiona Brady, Kirsty Philips, Megan O'Doherty, Joan Egan, Jennifer Lilly, Shiofa Flatley, Margaret Cleary, Grace Canny, Shauna Kelly*

*Middle L - R: Aine Lilly, Sinead Garvey, Hira Mehmood, Micheala Boland, Bronwyn Potgieter, Aisling Kenny, Clodagh Sloyan, Aideen Lyons, Rebecca McGowan, Meagan Carroll, Laura Culliney*

*Front L - R: Lisa O'Connell, Clare Egan, Victoria Miskell, Rona Burke, Edel Fitzmaurice, Olivia Murphy, Lisa Hunt,*



# Senior Hurling

The year started with a game against Castlebar, a game which we lost due to players having a big match that following weekend and needing a rest. Our next game was a very tricky tie against Monengeesha, a Galway team and we played to our strengths winning the match in Tooreen by five points.

Mountbellew followed, a game we won comprehensively, and we were then matched with a play off with Castlebar for a place in the final. We won that game with ease in Ballyvary, but due to Monengeesha winning their remaining games we were then faced with another play off against Monengeesha in Abbeyknockmoy. In a thrilling game we came out the winners with a resounding victory, which on surface level looked easy as we won on score line of 7-10 to 1-4, but it was a thrilling game throughout, a tit for tat affair! Our final is fixed for next Tuesday the 29th against Spiddal from Galway.

I would like to thank all the lads for all the work and effort they have put in this year. A special word of thanks must go to Adrian Hession, our trainer and manager for all his work and dedication against all odds. It has been a really good year for hurling in this school and hopefully next Tuesday evening we will be celebrating with a Connaught title!!!

**Keith Jordan**



*Back Row: Ryan Worden, Joey Ganley, Thaigh Morley, Risteard Byrne, Kenny Feeney, Michael Morley, Liam McDermott, Patrick Morris, Paul Freeley.*

*Middle Row: Rory Collins, Aiden Fitzmaurice, Gearoid Keane, Shane Muldoon, Ayaz Ul-Hassan, Kevin Morley, Kamron Azfal, Richard Crinnigan, Kieran Kiely, Steven Keane, Paul Carney.*

*Front Row: Sean Ronayne, Mark Potgeiter, Steven Hoban, Keith Jordan, Niall Freeman, Brian Hunt.*



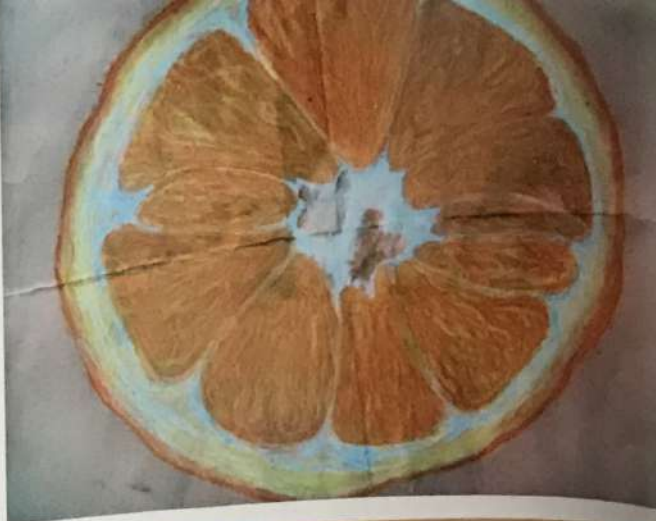
*Back Row: Aiden Niland, Sean Griffin, Shane Muldoon, John Flynn, Conor Hussey, Eric Hynes, Dermot Crinnigan,*

*Middle Row: Liam Conboy, Jason Fahey, Dylan Lynskey, Patrick Kiely, John Waldron, Luke Harrison, Daniel Folliard,*

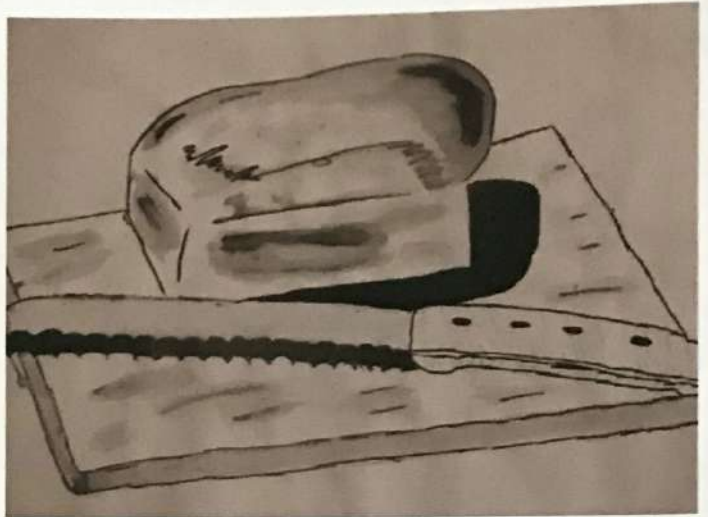
*Front Row: Darren Nolan, Dean Glavey, Luke McDermott, Shane Boland, John Judge, Hannan Iqbal, Paul Raftery, Gary Patterson, Jamail Kezze, Paul Finnegan, James Cribben, Jarlath Carney.*



# ARTWORK







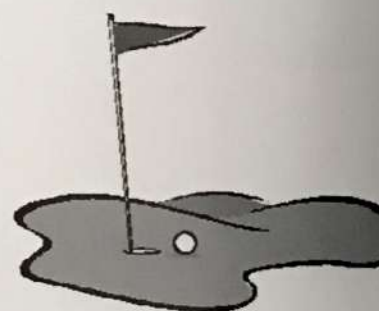


# Golf and Boxing



BACK: L-R:  
Paul Freeley,  
Rory Collins,  
Padraig Waldron,  
Mark Potgieter,

FRONT: L-R:  
Eoghan Collins,  
Conor Freeley,  
Paul Finnegan,  
Diarmuid Finnegan.



L-R:  
Mark Forde  
& Fiona Freyne.



## BOXING

BACK: L-R:  
Brandon Peake,  
Damian Keadian,  
Martin McDonagh,  
Conor Nolan,  
Jason Fahey.

FRONT: L-R:  
Leanne Storie,  
Siobhan Finn,  
Emma Keane,  
Sinead Kirrane.





# 'One More Song...'

The CD "One More Song" developed from an idea that our music teacher Mrs. Devine had in late January to record the school folk group which had been in existence for -years.

Coincidentally, 2008 marked the 30 year Anniversary of the schools foundation and so, it seemed a fitting project to mark this special occasion. Ballyhaunis Community School has a strong tradition of both music and school liturgy and so a collection of contemporary liturgical music was an ideal way of celebrating/displaying these aspects of school life.

It was the 25th of January and when we first heard the news of a CD being produced to commemorate the school's 30th anniversary we were very excited. We were called out into the Assembly Area where Mrs. Devine, Ms. McHugh and Ms. Flynn explained to us about this once in a lifetime opportunity. We stayed back after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and also missed numerous amounts of classes (which, of course, we were very disappointed about!) It was hard going and we had to sacrifice some lunch-time but it was worth it all. Some rehearsals took place during the Mid-Term as well.

The best song, in my opinion, is "You Raise Me Up." It was the most fun to record also. The best exercise however, was the "shimmy"-well, Mrs. Devine thought so anyways! The day had finally arrived and we were filled with mixed emotion. We were nervous but the excitement took over when we met our producer, the cool, calm and very efficient Kenneth McHugh, Ms. McHugh's brother.

Ms. Hugh was very helpful when it came to pronunciation and talking posh! It was funny at the beginning but after we started taking it seriously, our daily elocution lessons were very helpful as you can hear on the CD. It was extremely hard work but in all honesty, we enjoyed every rehearsal and it was a great method of us socialising.

Well, it's time to say goodbye, until we release our next really big hit! Only joking. If you haven't already, we would really appreciate it if you bought the CD. After all, the money is going towards The Mayo Roscommon Hospice and the Irish Association of Suicidology-two great causes.

A huge thanks to all our sponsors who are named on the inside cover of the CD, the artists for designing it so beautifully, the main man-Mr. Ken McHugh and of course the teachers involved-Mrs. Devine, Ms. McHugh and Ms. Flynn. We will never forget this experience.

By Martina Mullarkey  
& Kelly Niland





# 1st Year



1D

Back Row: Darren Tarpey, Bronwyn Potgeiter, Michael Walsh, Kirsty Phillips, Claire Walshe, Olivia Murphy.  
 Middle Back Row: Shahzeb Yousaf, Rosie Simcox, Tara Mulkeen, Ryan Peake, Clodagh Sloyan, Lisa O Connell  
 Middle Front Row: Simon Waldron, Sheeba Younas, Adrain Philips, Darren Nolan, Jamie Waldron  
 Front Row: Phelim Webb, Azhar Tayyab, Keith Plunkett, Diaga Zarina, Chloe Nunan



1B

Back L – R: Aisling Kenny, Lukasz Malachowicz, Brian Kelly, Ultan Griffin, Michael Flynn, Brendan Finn,  
 Padraig Fitzgerald, Zeenat Javaid Iqbal,  
 Middle L – R: Lewis Seden, Jamail Kezze, Dean Glavey, Paul Finnegan, Mohammed Kezzeh, Sheung Lai Pang  
 Middle Front L – R: Lauren Gourley, Patrick Kiely, John Judge, Louise Henry, Sinead Garvey, Shauna Kelly,  
 Shiofra Flatley, Nicola Hunt, Conor Fitzgerald  
 Front L – R: Niamh Hunt, Bartosz Gostkowski, Hannan Iqbal, Conor Hussey, Eric Hynes, Rory Mannion, Edel Fitzmaurice





2A

Back Row: Eoghan Collins, Seamus Burke, Stefan Danicic, Dermot Crinnigan, Sammy Asilia, Martin McDonagh  
 Middle Back: Niamh Cunnane, Stephen Brehony, Ciarán Brennan, Brendan Connolly, Ian Coyne, Katie Conroy  
 Middle Front: Shane Boland, Elaine Egan, Sarah Deegan, Holly Adams, Aoife Cassidy, Greta Domarkaite  
 Front Row: Fatima Noor, Zaira Arshad, Sarah Caulfield, Ciara Dee, Hannah Al Jumail, Anne Folan



2B

Back Row: Jaroslav Vasek, Marek Vasek, Colm Keane, John Flynn, Ivan Hynes, Luke Harris  
 Middle Row: Darren Dennehy, Fintan Kearney, Dylan Lynskey, Patrick Devaney, Sean Griffin, Daniel Harrison, Daniel Folliard, Eugene  
 Front Row: Laura Kilgariff, Jade McDermott, Ann Marie Heneghan, Laura Haverty, Claire Kenny, Sarah Grennan, Grace Lyons, Maria Lyons, Sharron Lynskey



# 2nd Year



2C

Back Row (L-R): John McNeive, Siobhan Morley, Melissa McLoughlin, Lisa Naughton, Yasin Saleh, Shane Muldoon.  
 Middle Back (L-R): Eilish O'Gara, Kieran McLoughlin, Shane Murphy, Gary Patterson, Kelly Niland  
 Middle Front (L-R): Martina Malarchy, Tara Plunkett, Kiarissa Murphy, Oisin McDermott, Neil Lyons, Danielle Higgins.  
 Front (L-R): Winnie Mongan, Louise McNamara, Saadia Nazir, Mistura Yussuf, John Kilboyle, Niall Melvin.



2D

Back row L - R: Paul O' Gara, Edel Walsh, James Simcox, Brandon Peake, Aine Waldron,  
 Middle row L - R: Raj Singh, Tracy Gwala, Debohra Ogundare, Sheraz Ul-Hassan, Jason Nolan, Darragh Richardson,  
 Louise Ruane, Laura Lalikova.  
 Front row L - R: Tracy Regan, Bronagh Walsh, Jennifer O'Neill, Jennifer Waldron, Emily Wordon, Marie Staunton.



# 3rd Year



3A

Back L – R: Ciaran Davy, John Finan, Conor Dooley, Padraic Egan, Cathal Fahy, Isaac Carroll  
 Middle L – R: Marie Cleary, Danielle Duffy, Celine Brennan, Fatima Afzal, Joanne Cregg, Eilish Egan  
 Middle Front L – R: Page Conor, Siobhan Finn, Rachel Byrne, Audrey Costello, Amy Brady, Ramona Frayne  
 Front L – R: Siobhan Conboy, Stephen Comer, Diarmuid Finnegan, Gareth Carrick, Eimear Flatley, Niall Cherbatji



3B

Back L – R: Robyn Gallagher, Cathal Glavey, Caoileann Fitzmaurice, Joseph Flynn, Davis Fitzmaurice, Adrian Gavin  
 Middle L – R: Roisin Hunt, Damien Keadin, Rebekka Johnson, Anne-Marie Hora, Connor Freeley, Laura Lynch  
 Front L – R: Lisa Jordan, Michelle Lenehan, Edel Lynch, Martha Lyons, Emma Keane, Siobhan Finn



# 3rd Year



3C

Back L – R: David Lyons, Clare O'Dwyer, Conor Kearney, Kieran Kiely, Michelle Neenan, Amy Molohe, Cathal Leneghan, Kevin Byrne  
 Middle L – R: Gearoid Keane, Siobhan Maloney, Kelly-Ann McKay, Sinead Morley, Robyn Moran, Aoife McDonagh, Stephanie Mooney  
 Front L – R: Taran Grover, Ferzana Nazir, Scott Matthews, Declan McNamara, Niall Freeman, Kieran McDermott, Sandra Gwala



3D

Back L – R: Christopher McDonagh, Andrew McCormack, Sean O'Rourke, Thomas Morley, Brendan O'Gara, Vygintas Vezelis  
 Middle Back L – R: Laura Regan, Paras Chaudry, Cathal McGowan, Damon Paine, Diarmuid Niland, Neil Murphy, Lisa Rowley  
 Middle Front L – R: Shahad Shaamile, Laura Patterson, Leanne Storie, Melanie Ronan, Ailee Webb, Emer Walsh  
 Front L – R: Victoria Tighe-Hayden, Ciara Sloyan, Lana Raftery, Wenesa Staszczuk, Aisling Waldron, Micheala Webb.



# 4th Year



4A

Back Row: Krzysztof Redzik, David McNamara, Stephen Cregg, John Duffy, Sara Leneghan, Brian Waldron, Patrick Morris  
 Middle Row: Caroline Leonard, Sinéad Grennan, Orla Lyons, Nicola Kilkenny, Alma Mannion, Mateusz Maliszewski, Kamran Afzal, Orla Shannon,  
 Front Row: Mohamad Cherbatji, Justina Katkunaije, Nessa Doherty, Sinéad Fahy, Corina Byrne, Michele Keane



4B

Back Row: Elaine Lilly, Gerard Grogan, Aurimas Brazauskas, Gerard Finn, Ethan Toal, Sandra Forde  
 Middle Row: Brendan Waldron, Emma Forde, Sinéad Higgins, Rebecca Creighton, Emma Brereton, Edgar Lisicin  
 Front Row: Rory Collins, Aidan Richardson, Ashling Forde, Louise Culliney, Margaret Egan, Sean Durkan, Amin Aysha.



# 4th Year



4C

*Back Row: Mark Potgeiter, Richard Crinnigan, Neil Kearney, Paul Carney, Sean Ronayne  
Middle Row: Padraig Waldron, Louise Joyce, Sharon Nolan, Emma Loftus, Mahrugh Azhar, Aideen Murray  
Front Row: Jake Walsh, Grace Cribbin, Marion Glavey, Aisling Caulfield, Noreen Iqbal, Emma Barr, faraz Ul-hassan*



4D

*Back Row: Daniel Mangan, Stephen Keane, Patrick Freely, Mark Forde, Liam McDermott, Adrian Melvin, Niall Cribbin  
Middle Back Row: Paula Kenny, Lisa Folan, Sharon Neary, Fiona Freyne, Evelyn Kearns, Christopher Flanagan  
Middle Front Row: Kevin Morley, Roisin Fitzmaurice, Leanne Lynch, Eimear Hill, Roisin Murphy, John-Francis McDonagh  
Front Row: Riona Murray, Millie Daniel-Dempsey, Sean Brennan, Charlotte Donne, Stacey Maloney*



# LCA Classes



LCA1

*Back Row: Leonora Folliard, Derwyn Waldron, Shane Cleary, Stephen Waldron, Nicole Niland  
Front Row: Michelle Connor, Christina Niland, Shirley McGowan, Mairead Griffin, Elaine Mulkeen, Denise McCormack*



LCA2

*Back Row: Patrick Ryan, Darren Mc Garry, Joseph Lyons, Gavin O'Connor, James Egan  
Front Row: Mudasser Amin, Keelan Webb Kenny, Gemma Harris, Ciaran Robinson, Rachel Nolan, David Hussey, Ashti Hatji*



# Repeat Leaving Cert



*Repeat Leaving Cert Students*

*Back Row:*

*Kenneth Noone,  
Aidan Fitzmaurice,  
Stephen Hoban*

*Front row:*

*Keith Kenny,  
Lisa Regan.*

*(Missing from photo:  
Robert Cregg, Ciara Lyons)*

## S.P.H.E. Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E)

S.P.H.E, as part of the school curriculum, supports the personal development, health and well-being of young people and helps them create and maintain supportive relationships.

### 1st year S.P.H.E. Day

On Thursday, the second week of school, we, as first years, had our SPHE day. It was held during fourth, fifth and sixth classes. The first years were put into different groups and went with their SPHE teachers to the classrooms. We were surprised to be called out of class and were wondering what we would be doing in the two hours of non-class time. It was full of games and activities focused on getting to know our new classmates. After two fun-filled hours of fruit salad (YUMMEE), story puzzles, hobby questionnaires and lots more, I can safely say a great day was had by all!!!! A big thanks to all the teachers who took time out of their busy schedules to accommodate the SPHE evening.  
By Rona Burke (1A)

### 2nd Year S.P.H.E. Day

The S.P.H.E. day started with us all being divided up into groups of twelve. Each group had a teacher and their own room to do the activities in. We began by playing fruit salad- a game which we all enjoyed a lot. We then had to solve a murder case which was really hard. It took us nearly an hour and a half to solve! We then did a story about a boy and each time he got sad or hurt we had to tear off parts of the poster. At the end of the day we all got a sheet of paper with our hand print on it. We passed it around the group and each person wrote something nice on the sheet. The whole day was great and I'm sure next years second years will enjoy it just as much as we did.

### 3rd year S.P.H.E. day

In March, an SPHE day was held for all third year students. We learned a lot about relationships and ourselves. In the morning we were divided into groups and spent the day in them. Everyone participated in the discussions. We all felt that it was informative and an enjoyable day and a much needed break away from schoolwork and study. Many thanks to the teachers involved for a fantastic day.

*By Lisa Rowley and Emer Walshe.*



*Back (L-R): Jason Nolan, Stephen Brehony, Stefan Danicic, John Flynn, Oisin McDermott, Sheraz Ul-Hassan, Ms McCann  
Front (L-R): Ann Marie Henaghan, Siobhan Morley, Deborah Ogundare, Aine Waldron, Ciara Dee.*



# Retreats

## 3RD YEAR RETREAT

The third years had a very enjoyable day in Ballintubber Abbey in January. We all gathered around in a circle while we talked about our feelings and learned about the importance of showing the true you and not hiding behind "masks". We watched a very informative video on the history of Ballintubber. After lunch we walked two miles of the tochar walk through the mucky fields leading to Crough Patrick. Wellies were essential!! After the walk we winded down and relaxed by meditating. Unfortunately it was soon time to depart and we headed home. I can truly say a wonderful day was had by all!

*By Emma Keane and Sinead Kirrane*

## 4TH YEAR RETREAT

On the 13th of March, a group of 4th year students went to a NET Canada Retreat in Knock. We took part in a mixture of different activities. In the morning, we had drama and games to get to know the NET Canada Team better. We then were divided into small groups to talk about anything we wanted. Then the boys and girls were separated and we got a talk from the NET Canada Team. After lunch we were given a chance to pray for our own intentions. We ended the day with a game. Everybody had a lovely, relaxing and peaceful day.

*By Louise Joyce & Mark Forde*

## THE CEILÍ MISSION TEAM

**February 4th to 8th inclusive 2008.**

The week before the February midterm break, the school was very fortunate to the ceili mission team. The mission team were based in Westmeath, for the week that they were with us, they were joined by members of Our Lady's School, Knock. Evangelisation, in Knock.

During the week the Mission team met with and engaged in activity based work shops. All students in the school were given opportunity to partake in these work-shops. The work-shops covered themes, such as, self esteem, inclusion and drug awareness. We were also involved in the facilitating of the Ash Wednesday liturgies that are celebrated in the school. We must express our gratitude to the parish, who funded the week of work shops. Their musical energy still brings a smile to student's faces.

"Making melodies in my heart....."





# All Ireland win for Quiz Team....Again!!

Once again the school quiz team has had a successful year. We hoped to repeat last years' All Ireland win. With the help of Mrs Joyce, Mrs Brogan and Ms Finn we prepared for the county final in Castlebar on the 24th of January. After a hard-fought competition that went right down to the wire, Ballyhaunis narrowly emerged the victors. The winning team that night were Cliona Hensey, Niall Hynes, Ryan Worden and Sean O'Rourke. Ballyhaunis were represented by another two teams that night that finished strongly but, unfortunately, did not get through to the All-Ireland final. The members of the two teams were Ellen Hynes, Sarah Lynskey, Máire Eachtáin and Brendan 'Gara' on one team and Sharon Nolan, Gerard Finn, Robhan Maloney and Robyn Moran on the other.

On the 1st of March we boarded the train to Dublin. After touring the city with our inspirational mascot, "Clarence" we headed to the North Star Hotel beside Connolly station. We felt nervous before the quiz began, but we soon settled down once the quiz got underway. It was undeniably the most closely-fought competition that we ever took part in. In the ninth round we pulled ahead by two points. In the tenth and final round, the music round we scored full marks. We knew the cup was coming back home to Ballyhaunis!!

We would like to sincerely thank Mrs Joyce, Mrs Brogan and Ms Finn and the school for all the help they have given us this year. A big thank you has to go to Mrs Joyce who as always put so much time and preparation into making this year just as successful as last. Go raibh míle míle maith agat!

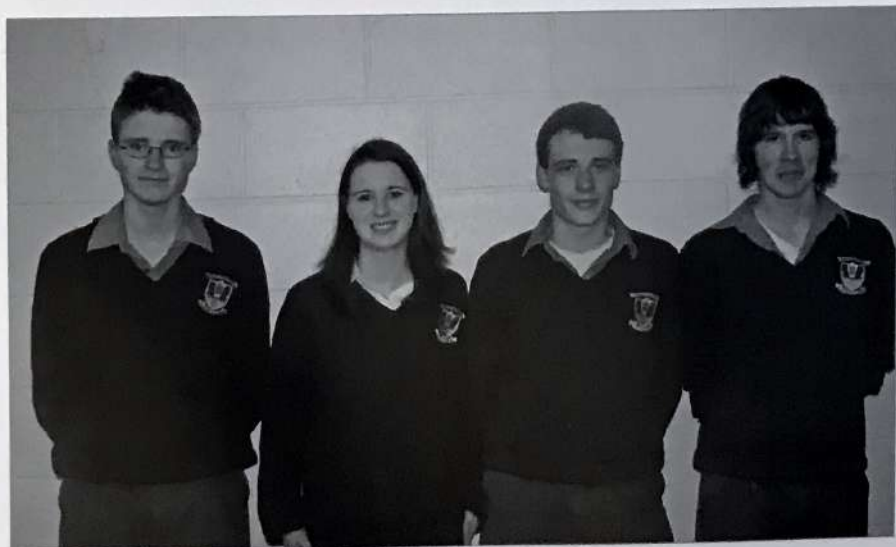


*Pictured L-R: Feachtas representative, Mrs. Eva Brogan, Sean O'Rourke, Ryan Worden, Niall Hynes, Cliona Hensey, Mrs. Ann Joyce.*

## TCH Quiz

The TCH campaign got off to a good start for the school quiz team, which comprised of Niall Hynes, Cliona Hensey, Ryan Worden and Sean O'Rourke. We had good wins over Castlebar and Westport to start off. In the second round, we defeated Lacken Cross by 104 points to 90. For the third round, we headed to Sligo town to play Ballymoate in the very plush surroundings of the Glass House hotel! We enjoyed an emphatic victory against the opposition, beating them by 104 points to 72. We were now in the last 16 and had high hopes of reaching the quarter finals for the first time. Sadly, this was not to be as we lost by just two points to a stronger Ballaghaderreen side.

On behalf of the team, we would like to thank Mrs. Henry for all her hard work and dedication. We really appreciate all she did for us.



*Pictured: L-R: Niall Hynes, Cliona Hensey, Ryan Worden, Sean O'Rourke.*



# "Seachtain na Gaeilge Quiz"

Ballyhaunis was also represented by Junior and Senior teams at a quiz hosted in the convent in Castlebar for "Seachtain na Gaeilge". The senior team came first and the Junior team finishing second. This was another remarkable achievement.



## SENIOR TEAM

*Pictured L-R:  
Mrs. Ann Joyce (Head of Irish),  
Cliona Hensey,  
Niall Hynes,  
Sarah Lynskey,  
Ellen Hynes,  
Mrs. Pat McHugh (Principal),  
Ms. Geraldine Finn.*



## JUNIOR TEAM:

*Pictured: L-R:  
Mrs. Ann Joyce (Head of Irish),  
Robyn Gallagher,  
Robyn Moran,  
Maura Naughton,  
Brendan O' Gara,  
Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal),  
Ms. Geraldine Finn.*

## Trip to Achill

That Wednesday was like no other, we set off bright and early full of anticipation and excitement for the annual 4th year trip to Achill. Little did we know what to expect! Three days of freedom! 50 students let loose in Achill! Kayaking, canoeing, surfing and mountain walking. The fun never stopped.

There were many highlights. Miss Achill was hilarious. The lads showed a side we never new existed! Jumping off the pier in the dark was another high point. We have never been so cold but it was worth it!

We were very sad having to leave on Friday afternoon. Diarmuid, Horse and Pockets, the Dog, were the coolest ever!! We will never forget our three days together in Achill.

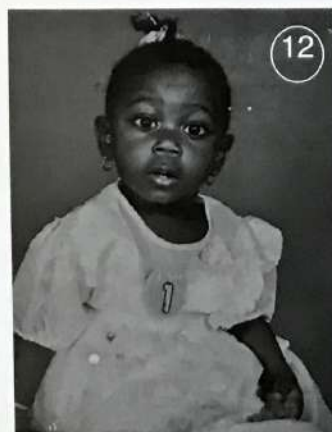
*By Roisin Fitzmaurice, Nessa Doherty and Charlotte Donne.*





# Leaving Cert's Baby Photos

## When We Were Young



Answers: (1) Patrick Flanagan, (2) Geraldine Egan, (3) Carole Keane, (4) Claire Meagh, (5) Ursula Byrne, (6) Susan Lenahan, (7) Niall Hynes, (8) Paul Caulfield, (9) Louise Keane, (10) Caroline Waldron, (11) Robert Lyons, (12) Doyin Salami, (13) Padraic Kearney, (14) Lydia Concanon and Fergal Fitzmaurice.



# L.C. Memory Lane

Well..... Leaving Cert, the time has finally arrived but yet it seems like yesterday when we all took our first steps into BCS. I think we can speak for the whole year in saying it's been an unforgettable journey. Life has never been dull here in BCS, whether its retreats, musicals or quiz's. But it has to be said the highlights have been "The Saw Doctors", concert "Mamma Mia", the Achill trip and Norway not forgetting the famous 5<sup>th</sup> year retreat with the legend himself, Fr. Benny. The laughs and craic we've all had here with our friends are too many to mention, but I'm sure the following selection will paint a clear picture of just some of the fun times we all had here in BCS.....

Cathriona Leonard & Claire Meagh

Rugby against the fifth years in third year

Robert Lyons

Best time ever was in Norway.....it was savage!!!!!!!  
Emma Jenkins

We won a competition for a visit from "the Saw Doctors" and had a concert in the gym; it was an enjoyable day for everyone!!!

Michelle Waldron

Cillian Freeman's eyebrow being waxed in Achill..."ahhhhhh my Fe&in eyebrow"  
Kenny Fenny

The time Mr. McHugh won one hundred euro off Mr. McDonnagh. What a legend!!!  
Fergal Fitzmaurice

When we sank in a canoe in Achill September 06', the guy was exceptionally angry!  
Louise Keane

When Niamh was in Ag. Science and she started screaming and having a panic attack because Tommy threw dirt at her!!!!  
Shauna Folliard

I'll never forget the time me, Keith, Glavey, Red, Liam, Bob and Devine were standing at a window in school, we were pushing and shoving then Keith and Joe fell through the window!  
Tommy Finn

I'll never forget our first year table quiz. Niamh, Carol and I were on a team together. Niamh and I pulled the chair from Carol, she fell in front of the whole gym as if that wasn't bad enough she fell for it again and oh yes, yet again!  
Funny day!!! Clara Ganley

We had a huge fight in the music room, the old age battle of the sexes erupted! There wasn't much harmony in the music room that day!!!

Tran. Yrs. 06'

"Dancing around the bag"  
"60% of the time it works every time"  
"High is dry, low is wet"  
"Banana"  
"Two at a time on the bonnet"  
"Savage"  
"G' laaaaadd"  
"Open them windows there"  
"That's awful thick"

In TY we went on a tour bus around Belfast. We made a video of the tour & the tour guides were really funny! Laura had us all in stitches when she was messing with the camera!!!!!!  
Siobhan Lyons

One day Michelle, Rachel and I went down the walkway near the friary on a really hot day. But we landed in a field & couldn't get across so we had to try and jump the river but we all fell in!!! We had to go back school soaking wet!!!!  
Amanda Fleming

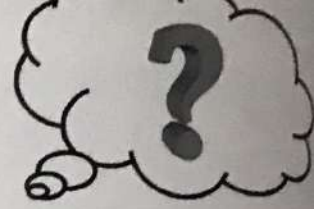


# L.C. Memory Lane





# Where do you see yourself 10 years from now.....?



1. "Running an angling centre on Lough Corrib and Lough Mask"-Ronan Baggot
2. "I see myself as Paul's boss on a farm"- Patrick Brennan
3. "Running my own business, a big car and travelled the world!"- Risteard Byrne
4. "Leader of a communist country named-"Ursuland"- Ursula Byrne
5. "Married with 3 children and have a successful Montessori"- Lydia Concannon
6. "Travelling the world before settling down"- Amy Conroy
7. "Who knows?! The other side of the world perhaps"- Aoife Coyne
8. "Teaching in Ballyhaunis"- Michael Devine
9. "In ten years I see myself being 27 years old"- John Gallagher
10. "I see myself as musical director in the Gaiety Theatre"- Gráinne Glavey
11. "President of the world"- Enda Griffin
12. "I'll be the first female manager of Newcastle United!"- Cliona Hensey
13. "In ten years I see myself as Pat's farmer"- Paul Higgins
14. "Running my own ostrich farm!!"- Niall Hynes
15. "Junior vice president of the world"- Andrew Judge
16. "In ten years I will have my own business"- Padraic Kearney
17. "Have a class car, like a BMW or Audi. Bring on ten years!!- Aileen Kirrane
18. "In ten years I see myself 'happy'" - Susan Lenehan.
19. "I'll be a man -Dave-maybe pregnant like that guy in America"-Sarah Lynskey
20. "I see myself married, teaching and happy!!" - Laura Melvin
21. "I see myself being an Ag consultant and a part-time farmer"- Darragh Sloyan
22. "I see myself owning and running Fyffe's Banana company"-Lisa Tighe
23. "Own my own pub and hotel. I will win the lotto"- Sean Cunanne.
24. "I will be the grounds man at arsenal football club"- Jamie Tighe.
25. "I will be a billionaire"- Eddie McNulty
26. "I hope to be Taoiseach or have my own hotel in Spain"- Ken Carrick.
27. "I'll be a qualified carpenter, working and living in Australia"- Kieran Culliney.
28. "Hopefully a good job, lots of friends and still close to my family"- Niall Asilia.
29. "Working and living away from Ireland"- Damien Plunkett.
30. "Being a multi billionaire"- Patrick Flanagan
31. "A good career, my own house, married and maybe children"- Ciara Horan
32. "A self made millionaire and owning my own helicopter"- Donal Rachford.
33. "I see myself owning my own beauty salon"- Melissa Kenny.
34. "I hope to be working"- Adrian Ruane.
35. "I don't know we'll have to see when we get there"- Kevin McNamara.
36. "I see myself with a successful job, married and maybe kids."- Siobhan Lyons.
37. "I'll be the first woman Taoiseach of Ireland"- Amy Regan.
38. "I will hopefully be the highest earner in RTE"- Darragh Macken.
39. "I hope to have won the lotto and traveling the world"- Ciaran Robinson
40. "I hope to have a good steady job."-Darren McGarry.
41. "I hope to have a good steady job."-Joseph Lyons
42. "I hope to have a good job"-James Egan.
43. "I hope to have a good job"-Gavin O'Connor.
44. "I see myself with a fit guy, a lovely house, job and a family"-Gemma Harris.
45. "A good job, flashy car, nice house, family, and my own business."- Kelan Kenny.
46. "I see myself working and having a family"-Mudassar Amin.
47. "I see myself working, having a family and being happy"- Paddy Ryan.
48. "Finished college, working in my own business and a family"-Rachel Nolan
49. "I'll be working in a good job and maybe I might have a family"-David Hussey.



50. "Residing in rural Donegal running my own knitting business"- Carole Keane
51. "Caroline and I will have our own business, Amy will get discounts"-Chloe Ruane
52. "Living the high life with the girls and have our own salon"- Caroline Cleary
53. "Well settled with a good income and a career as a beautician"- Amanda Fleming
54. "Selling ice to Eskimos in Iceland!!"- Shauna Folliard
55. "Living the high life as always!!"- Keith Jordan
56. "I'll probably still be here!!"- Tommy Finn
57. "I'll be the dictator of Ireland and I will own everyone!"- John Lyons
58. "Let's just say this signature will be worth millions Paul Caulfield"- Paul Caulfield
59. "On a beach somewhere after winning the lotto"-Niall Prenty
60. "Taking it easy on a remote island"- Craig Hughes
61. "I will have opened a well-known gun shop. Whahahahahaha!!"- Brain Waldron
62. "Living it up!"- Michael Morley
63. "Working at my own business"- Ola Shaamile
64. "Opening my own tattoo shop"-Joanne Kearsey
65. "I'll be a qualified teacher; I could be back here yet!"- Clara Ganley
66. "Walking in Memphis"- Sean McKay
67. "Having a good career, hopefully earning lots of money!"- Brian Finan
68. "Chelsea FC manager"- Liam Groarke
69. "Taking Mr.McGarry's job!"- Nigel Glavey
70. "Caroline C and I will our own beauty salon"- Amy Hayden
71. "I'll be wining and dining with the rich and famous!!"-Cathriona Leonard
72. "Married, a gardai, still playing sport and owning a nice home."- Thaigh Morley
73. "I'll be a "big rock star live in hilltop houses driving fifteen cars"- Fintan Crawley
74. "I hope to be a musician traveling the world."- Ellen Hynes
75. "In ten years time I hope to be the Manchester United manager."- Shane Culliney
76. "I hope to set up my own business and be my own boss."- Ayaz Ul-Hassan
77. "To have a successful business career and own a house"- Michelle Waldron
78. "In ten years time I hope to be working with the ould lad!"- Nigel Gavin
79. "I hope to be a sports journalist and own a house"-Geraldine Clancy
80. "To be a nurse, have a nice big house, car and maybe a family?"- Eimear Tarpey
81. "In ten years time I hope to be a millionaire"- Robert Lyons
82. "Have a savage car, good job, a house and lots of money"- Cillian Freeman
83. "I hope to be married in ten years time to someone special." Katie Sloyan
84. "Living a picture perfect life, married, a career in economics"- Doyin Salami
85. "To be a nurse with a house, be happy and healthy& loaded!"- Geraldine Egan
86. "A T.D. with a house and comfortable living"- Brian Hunt
87. "A software developer in jail for hacking into bank accounts"-Fergal Fitzmaurice.
88. "An interior architect, happy in life, a car, big house and money"- Emma Jenkins
89. "Either engaged or married, working-as a teacher and to be happy"- Niamh Lyons
90. "A quantity surveyor working at home and abroad and loaded!"-Derek Morley
91. "A well paid job, travelling abroad, to be happy and healthy"-Louise Keane
92. "A personal trainer, win all Irelands with Tooreen and Aghamore"-Joey Ganley
93. "Winning all Irelands' with Tooreen, Aghamore & Mayo"- Kenny Feeney
94. "I see myself as a successful business woman living in turkey."- Zaahra Shaamile
95. "A qualified teacher, be happy and healthy"-Claire Meagh
96. "I hope to be living like a queen in a castle!!"- Maria McGuire
97. "Working maybe as a nurse, time will tell. God knows!"- Amana Nazir
98. "Join the priesthood."- Frankie Daly
99. "A successful businessman"- Suleman Almas
100. "Overtaken Ronan Baggot as the no.1 angler in Ireland"- Brendan Caulfield
101. "I see myself as a computer programmer"- Nigel Waldron
102. "I will be a qualified mechanic and I'll have people working for me"- Kenneth Murphy.
103. "I will probably still be here repeating for the tenth time! - Caroline Waldron.



## AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

Clumsy clogs “*knocking everything*”  
Fergal Fitzmaurice & Carole Keane

Comedian of the year “*jokes all round*”  
Andrew Judge & Carole Keane

Couple of the year “*cupid worked for some*”  
Liam Groarke & Clara Ganley

First to be a millionaire “*most business like*”  
Nigel Waldron & Sarah Jane Lynskey

Most environmentally aware “*go green*”  
Darragh Macken & Amy Regan

Sports star superstar “*it's all in the feet*”  
Michael Morley & Ciara Horan

The charmer “*smooth talker*”  
Keith Jordan & Lydia Concannon

The chatterbox “*no awkward silences*”  
Keith Jordan & Amy Regan

Undiscovered talent “*Hollywood watch out*”  
Paul Higgins & Laura Melvin

Most Unique Laugh “*stands out of a crowd*”  
Ronan Baggott & Lisa Tighe



# Leaving Cert. Class of 2008



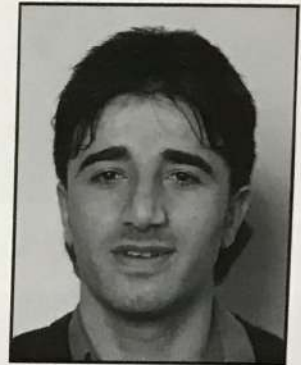
*Saleman Ahmad*



*Mudassar Amin*



*Niall Asilia*



*Ashfi Barwari*



*Roman Baggott*



*Patrick Brennan*



*Risteard Byrne*



*Ursula Byrne*



*Ken Carrick*



*Brandon Carfield*



*Paul Carfield*



*Geraldine Clancy*



*\*Caroline Cleary\**



*Lydia Concanon*

*Photos and Autographs*





Anna Connel



Aoife Coyne



Fintan Conley



Kieran Lullinay



Shane Callaghan



Stephen Connel



Frankie Daly



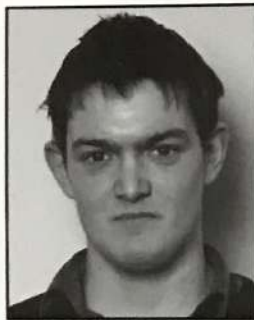
Michael Devine



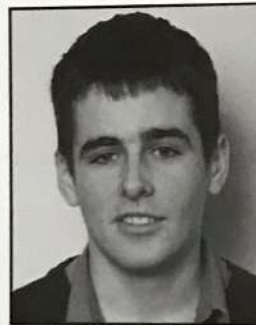
Geraldine Egan



James Egan



Kenny Kenney



Brian Finn

Leaving  
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2008



Tommy Finn



Seagal Fitzmaurice



Patrick Fitzgerald



Amanda Fleming

Photos  
and  
Autographs



Sharna Follard



Cillian Keenan



John Gallagher



Clare Gormley



Jay GANLEY



Nigel Gault



Catherine Gault





Nigel Slaney



Luke Griffin



Liamy Groarke



Gemma Harris



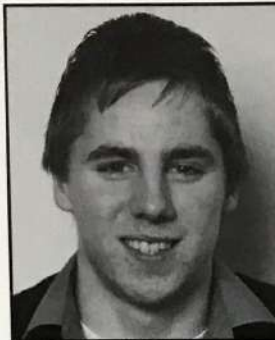
Cliona Hensey



Paul Higgins



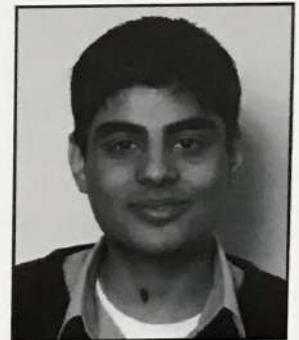
Caoimhe O'Sullivan



Craig Hughes



Brian Hunt



Ayaaz ul-Hassan



David Hussey



Ellen Hynes

Leaving  
Cert.  
2008

Photos

and

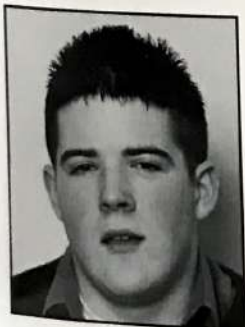
Autographs



Niall Hynes



Emma Jenkins



Keith Jordan



Andrew Judge



Carol Keane



Louise Keane



Padraic Kearney



Joanne Kearney



Melissa Keung



Relan Webb



Aileen Wierane





Susan Lenehan



Catharina Leonard



Sarah Lynskey



Robert Lyons



Siobhan Lyons



John Lyons



Joseph Lyons



Niamh Lyons



Darragh Macken



Darren Mcgarry



Maria McGuire



Simon McKear

Leaving  
Cert.  
2008



Kevin McNamara



Eddie Mc Nally

Photos  
and  
Autographs



Claire Neagh



Asad Mahmood



Laura Melvin



Kevin Moran



Derek Morley



Michael Morley



Angela Maly



Kenneth Murphy



Amiana Naji





Rachel Noal



Gavin O'Connor



Darrin Plunkett



Niall Puntty



Amy Regan



Liam Ryan



Donal Rochford



Adrian Ruane



Chloe Rose



Doreen Salani



Orla Shaamile



Zahra Shaamile

Leaving  
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2008  
Photos  
and  
Autographs



Darragh Sloyan



\*Katie SLOYAN\*



Eimear Tierney



\*Amy Hayden\*



Jamie Tighe



Lisa Tighe



Brian Waldron



Caroline Waldron



Michelle Waldron



Nigel Waldron



Zahir Javid



# Leaving Cert Retreat

The Leaving Cert retreat was on Thursday 11th of October and Friday the 12th. We headed to Knock with high expectations and enthusiasm. The retreat promised to be the best yet! We were greeted by Gerry Glennon upon arrival who entertained us with his recollection of girls dancing round the handbag in River Island. He also talked to us about the hardship of loss that he had experienced when his parents died. We had a short interval in which we toured Knock. After break Fr. Benny McHale talked to us about various topics that were of huge interest to us. Through his humor and his stories he left us with an open mind on what is ahead of us when we leave school. On the second day, we received a talk from Our Lady's School of Evangelisation. It was rather interesting. We had a final talk from Fr. Benny in the evening about the occult which for some, it was too much to take and they had to leave. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers, Fr Benny, Gerry Glennon and all the staff at Knock that made these days possible. We really appreciate all they did to facilitate our two days. It was most certainly the best retreat from school.

*By Lisa Tighe and Niall Hynes*

## 5th Year Trip to Mountbellew

We embarked on a trip to Mountbellew Agricultural College on the 14th March as part of our Leaving Certificate Ag. Science course. We were given a tour of the college by former pupils of school, Paddy, Joe, Egan and John (Deere) Swanick. We were shown the suckler and dairy farm, the sheep enterprise and all the machinery. It was a very worthwhile trip, the 'townies' gained a valuable insight into the world of farming... (Darragh Sloyan). We would like to thank Ms. Comer and Mr. Murray for taking us on this beneficial trip.

*By Brendan Caulfield, Ronan Baggott and Pat Brennan*

## Memories of Leaving Cert Applied

As the year is coming to an end, I can happily say that doing L.C.A. was the right choice for me. We had fun during the 2 years of L.C.A. We all did our mini companies, there was the car wash, indoor soccer tournament and Easter raffle as part of our V.P.G. task. This was a great success!

We went on so many trips: the Carmelite convent, cenacolo drug rehabilitation centre and the School of Evangelization in Knock, Turlough Museum of Country Life in Castlebar, Swinford Heritage Centre and the refugee centre in Ballyhaunis. All of our trips weren't just educational. We went bowling to Castlebar, we went to Croke Park, Liffey Valley shopping centre, the ice-rink and to the Guinness factory which was great fun!

We were lucky enough to have a presentation from a past L.C.A. student Mairead Keane, who gave a great presentation on her career as a prison officer. Mairead also told us about all the things she achieved in her L.C.A. years, from fundraising to flying a plane. Mr. McHugh informed us that she was one of the best L.C.A. students ever. It was interesting to see how someone had made the most of their years in school. Everyone in my class is happy that we have completed all of our tasks and are all doing really well. The Leaving Cert is drawing near and everyone is nervous about it. We have an Irish oral coming up in May and also an I.T. exam so we're all studying hard.

Since doing L.C.A. everyone has become closer and wiser. Our life in this school is coming to an end, and we're all going our own way! Some of us are going to college, others are going working but know matter where we all end up, we will always be friends and in 10 years time when we come back for our school reunion we will always remember the fun and the craic we had throughout our years in school. L.C.A. was the best thing we all ever did.

*Rachel Nolan L.C.A.*

## Reflection on LCA1

The first two weeks of LCA for us was difficult as it was a big change from third year. The fun kicked in but so, too, did the work. The main task was our drama task. It went very well and everyone got the "magic channel"! It took us six weeks but with the help of Mr. McCann we are now ready for Hollywood.

Our mini-company, with the help of Ms. Ward was a great success. It was priceless to see the reactions of the little children's faces. It made us remember our childhood. It was rewarding as we gave €100 to St. Vincent de Paul. It was early, but the trip to Dublin was worth it because of all the shops and the ice-skating. The best part was to see Mr. McDonagh running around the ring. Even Britney Spears enjoyed the trip!!

After our day out we had more tasks ahead. A memorable one was the hotel and catering task. It took us three days but we prepared a delicious meal for 12 of our wonderful teachers. Jamie Oliver (Stephen Waldron) liked his apron but didn't like his blisters after the three days! Thanks to Ms. Flynn for all her help.

Looking forward to holidays now but happy LCA1 was so successful for all of us. The lads are looking forward to the silage season and we're all looking forward to LCA2 next year!

*LCA1 students*



# Transition Year 2008

## DIARY OF EVENTS

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since we began our journey as T.Y's last August. It has been a whirlwind of a year for us!!! Our first major trip away as a class was to Killary. Unfortunately it clashed with the Junior Cert results but that didn't dampen our spirits!! Transition Year is activity and tour based, because of that we went on many trips and did lot of activities. Some of them included Killary, Dublin, Roscommon, ice-skating and Road Safety in Castlebar. We also visited an art exhibition and a recycling centre. Many in school activities were organised for us including Salsa Dancing, Kick-Boxing, a Law module and a Personal Etiquette day.

Two major highlights of the Year had to be the school musical "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" & The Rihanna Concert. The Musical was a wonderful experience & won't be forgotten for a while. The Rihanna concert was brilliant, everyone enjoyed it, even Mrs. Devine and Ms. Grimes!!! We also got to experience the working life by doing two-week block of work experience twice in the year and everyone gained something from that. The final term holds many things for us such as driving lessons and our long awaited trip to London in May. It also brings our Graduation night. This is a Liturgical service where we reflect on our year. It also allows us to display projects and photographs from the year. The Year has gone so fast and it's suddenly coming to an end. It has been a brilliant year and we have many memories from it!!

**By Aisling Horan**

## Rihanna Concert.

On the morning of the 26th of February, all of the TYs gathered, full of excitement at the upcoming day. By 7.30 that evening we were all seated in the RDS awaiting Rihannas grand entrance. We didn't have long to wait until she burst onto stage singing 'Pon de Replay'!

The atmosphere in the stadium was electric for the hour and a half long concert. We all made our way back to the bus and left Dublin on a high- despite a few falling asleep (Mrs. Devine!!). We rolled into Ballyhaunis at 3 o'clock Thursday morning- tired and exhilarated by the days events!!!!

Thank You Mrs. Devine and Ms. Grimes!

**By Michelle McDermott & Lisa Walsh.**

## London Trip

For the first time in three years, the Transition Years are planning an overseas trip to London. The trip will last for 4 days and 3 nights. Activities planned for this trip include a day trip to Thorke Park, seeing 'Wicked' in the West End, London Eye, BBC Studio tour, ice skating and many many more. This trip is sure to be action-packed! A lot of organising and planning has gone into this trip. Throughout the year the T.Ys have fundraised to part fund this trip. Fundraising events include cake sales, a talent show, 1st year quiz etc...

This trip is sure to be the highlight of T.Y 07/08. So let's go mental girls and boy!!!

**By Hannah Donegan & Rebecca Deacon**

## Guest Speakers

Throughout the course of our transition year, we have had a lot of different guest speakers invited into our school. As the majority of T.Y are girls, Mrs. Keane invited in a guest speaker, Dolores. She travels to different schools all around Ireland and provides a workshop.

When she came to our school she taught us about a number of different topics. For example she spoke to us about interview preparation, the content of c.v's and table manners. Our favourite topic that she spoke about was personal grooming for example, hair and make-up, skincare and fake tan application. We all learned a lot from this day and really enjoyed it.

We also had a barrister come in for a law day. He taught us about all the different types of courts in Ireland. In the evening we had our own mock trial.

For our health and leisure class we had Barry and Donna come in and teach us salsa dancing. We loved it so much the way of having fun and keeping fit!

We all hope to have a workshop in our next health and leisure class to teach us kick-boxing. Everyone is really looking forward to it!

**By Laura Henry and Jenny Lyons**



# Killary

From the moment we came into Transition Year in September there was only one thing we could think about, our trip to Killary. The aim of this trip was not only to have fun but to bond us as a group as this would be essential for the rest of the year.

After hours of driving through miles of boggy marshland we were all in high spirits and were very excited about our first outing together. On arrival we weren't given long to settle in before being thrust into our first activities, the Giant Swing and the Fan, two terrifying but enjoyable experiences, they were only a taste of what was to come. Our evening activities were a bit more calm and consisted of toasting marshmallows over an open fire while the lads...and a few daring girls (Adena and Ruth!) joined in on a game of soccer!

On Thursday we had a very eventful day including kayaking, gorge walking, laser combating and in the evening an attempted quiz (taken over by chants between us and certain Offaly boys!). Entertainment that night was provided by "the twins" who had an Eminem themed night!

Our last day in Killary involved the High Ropes Challenge and the Trapeze, a terrifying but worthwhile experience, and archery where we got to spend quality time with Thierry! Our departure from Killary was a sad one and the activities, people we met and bonds formed will be ones we will remember for ever.

A big thank you to Mrs. Henry and Ms. Meehan who accompanied us on the trip and made the experience more enjoyable.

*By Kathryn Waldron, Adena Morley  
and Ruth Judge.*

## T.Y Overview: The Lad's Perspective

When I was being interviewed for T.Y. I was told that there would only be one other lad in it, but he was my friend so it was o.k. The first couple of weeks were fine but then Daniel left so I was the only lad in a group of twenty girls. I considered leaving but after I found out all that we would I decided to stay.

Our first outing to Killary was brilliant. Daniel was still in T.Y. then so we shared a room. We go on a lot of trips and we are hoping to go to London in May. One of my favourite trips was when we went to Roscommon to see 'Psycho Spaghetti'. It was a one man comedy show and it was hilarious! We also went to Claremorris to see an art exhibition with Mr. Pratt. It was quite interesting and had some very unusual art pieces. One of our big trips was when we went to the Gaeity in Dublin to see 'Joseph And His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. Some of the fourth years who were involved in the play came with us and we had great fun.

Of course all these trips aren't free and to raise money we hold events like cake sales, jersey days and a very successful 1st year talent show. They were all very successful and everyone enjoyed taking part.

A major event we took part in was the launch of the school's CD 'One More Song'. It celebrated the 30th anniversary of the school and all the money we raised from the sale of the CDs went to the Mayo - Roscommon hospice and the Irish association of suicidology. On the launch night alone we raised over two and a half thousand euro. I was one of the few who were helping sell the CDs whereas the others were making refreshments for those who attended.

T.Y. is not all fun and games though. We do have regular classes such as Maths, French, Irish and English. But even so the workload is not overbearing.

I have greatly enjoyed T.Y. despite being the only lad and if given the choice I would definitely do it again. It's sad to see the end of the year come and the return to normality with it.

*By Sean Kearsey*

## Roscommon Trip

Mrs. Osgood brought us to Roscommon on a day trip to see a play called 'Physco Spaghetti'. This was a comedy act by Gerard Casey. He gave us an insight into the life of a teenager. We didn't know what to expect judging by the unusual name but everyone had a fantastic day! Gerard had the audience in stitches from beginning to end with his witty sense of humour. I don't think any of us have ever laughed as much as we did in that hour. We all agree that 'Physco Spaghetti' was definitely one of the highlights of our T.Y. year.

*By: Jessica Kelly & Laura Waldron*





TRANSITION YEAR  
OUR YEAR IN  
PHOTOS'

JOSEPH  
and the Amazing  
TECHNICOLO  
DREAMCOAT

TRANSITION YEAR 2007/'08