

# BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL



# Yearbook 2010



## Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union Ltd.

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# Greetings from the Principal



The production of the school magazine is a significant milestone each year. It reminds me that the school year is drawing to a close and it prompts me to reflect on the year just passed. Despite the foreboding and gloom relating to all the educational cut backs our school year went relatively smoothly due to the marvellous co operation of the entire school

community. The teaching staff to a person rose to the challenge of the times and ensured that the interests of the students were foremost. The magazine records most of the events of note during a busy year.

Maybe it's me but I think there is a definite touch of the Germanic about the Editorial committee this year. They have been business like from the start. I was asked for my little contribution in very early March, you remember March, cold biting winds coming from the still frozen lands of the aforementioned Germany, not a daffodil in sight much less the lilies of April. I found it very hard at that stage to think of graduations, end of term and summer holidays, but then how do you ignore the stellar smile of Adena Morley who reminded me in almost a whisper that my deadline was March 12th, other years it was early May. In many ways that preparation and attention to detail was the hallmark of the 2010 Leaving Certificate class. They have always been a group of young people who were the very epitome of what you would like young people to be. They certainly knew how to enjoy themselves and yet had the work ethic that will reward them in mid August with some outstanding results. I want to wish them well as they prepare to leave us here in BCS to move on their journey of discovery through life.

I think it was Shakespeare who said that parting was such sweet sorrow and so it was this year when we said adieu to three stalwarts of the Community School. Mr Matt O'Dwyer retired after a lifetime of dedication to the students of the area as did Mrs Brid Whyte. Both Matt and Brid commenced their teaching careers in the Convent School in the town and transferred to the Community School upon it opening in 1977. Sr. Maura Callaghan also retired, Sr. Maura was the last of the Mercy Sisters to leave our school and so would be remiss of me not to pay tribute not just to Sr. Maura but to the many other Mercy Sisters who gave so selflessly of their time, energy and knowledge down the years. Sr. Maura spent a number of years teaching in the US and she brought a wealth of new and exciting teaching techniques with her to Ballyhaunis. I will miss the broad perspective and wise counsel of all three but I wish them long and happy retirements. May I also wish a speedy recovery to Mrs Peggy Egan and welcome back a rejuvenated Ms Orla Phillips from her period of illness.

I know you will enjoy reading this years production, it has the unique imprimatur of the class of 2010 about it. I want to thank everyone, staff and students alike who were involved in the production. I also want to thank our generous sponsors for their continued support, it is much appreciated.

So take our Year Book to a quiet space, relax in a comfortable chair and take some "me" time. I know that you agree with me that the class of 2010 will be worthy ambassadors of Ballyhaunis Community School for many years to come.



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# Teaching Staff 2009/2010



**Back row:** Ms. Anne Varden, Mr. Colin Quinn, Mrs. Eileen Byrne, Mr. Padraic Shannon, Ms. Mairéad Conway.

**Middle row:** Mrs. Olive Lyons, Ms. Geraldine Finn, Ms. Anne Keane, Mrs. Josephine Loftus, Mr. Pat McHugh, Ms. Antoinette Lennon.

**Front row:** Mr. Michael Murray, Mrs. Áine Fallon, Ms. Mary Mooney, Ms. Genevieve Murray, Mrs. Siobhán Mannix, Mrs. Patricia Hargaden-Whyte, Mr. Patrick McGarry.



**Back row:** Mr. Ray Wooley, Mr. David McDonagh, Mrs. Ann Joyce, Ms. Michelle Moran, Mr. Ger Cannon, Mr. Sean McHugh.

**Middle row:** Ms. Concepta Moran, Mrs Anne-Marie O'Reilly, Ms. Shelly Gibbons, Mrs. Bernadine Waldron, Ms. Eadaoin Flynn, Ms. Geraldine O'Loughlin, Mrs. Karen Reilly.

**Front row:** Mrs. Sharon Mulroy, Mrs. Eva Brogan, Ms. Cathriona Raftery, Mrs. Anna Henry, Ms. Orla Macken, Ms. Colleen Hayes.

# Staff 2009/2010



*Administrative Staff: Mrs. Mary Francis Cleary and Mrs. Justina Lyons.*



*Supervision Staff : Mrs. Eileen Nestor and Mrs. Cáit Webb*



*Caretaking Staff: Mr. Paddy Kelly and Mrs. Eileen Jennings*



*Administrative Staff: Mrs. Patricia Gaughan*



*Special Needs Assistant: Mrs. Bernie Lyons*



*Caretaker: Mr. Con Boyle*

# Staff News

A new academic year arrived once again and the staff of B.C.S welcomed Ms. Reilly, Ms. Moran and Ms. Corcoran to the teaching staff.

Back in September the staff got the year off to a start with a round of golf organised by Mrs. Henry, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On behalf of the school community we would like to thank Mr. Matt O' Dwyer, Mrs. Brid White and Sr. Maura Callaghan for their commitment and dedication to the school. We wish them a long and happy retirement.

Congratulations to Ms. Bernie Osgood on the birth of her son Conor, Mrs. Áine Fallon on the birth of her daughter Anna, and Mrs. Aoife Keane on the birth of her daughter Sarah.

Congratulations to Ms. Byrnes (Mrs. O Reilly) on her marriage last summer. We wish Anne-Marie and Danny a long and happy life together. We would also like to extend our wishes to Ms. Anne Keane and Ms. Deirdre Keehan on their forthcoming weddings this summer.

The staff is delighted to welcome back Ms. Orla Phillips and we extend our best wishes to Mrs. Peggy Egan.

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*Presentation being made to Mrs. Áine Fallon.  
Included in the picture are: Mr. Pat McHugh, Mrs. Áine Fallon, Ms. Mary Mooney.*



*Presentation being made to Mrs. Marge Hierons.  
Included in the picture are: Mr. Pat McHugh, Mrs. Eva Brogan, Mrs. Marge Hierons.*



*Anna Fallon-daughter of Mrs. Áine Fallon*



*Conor Osgood-Daly-son of Ms. Bernie Osgood*



# Retirements

## Matt O'Dwyer - Retirement

It was my privilege to be a colleague of Matt O'Dwyer since I joined Ballyhaunis Community School as a fledgling Science teacher.

Matt has been a great support to me and I'm sure all Science teachers in our department down through the years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Matt for all his help during our years working together. It was during our unofficial meetings "out the back" that we asked Matt numerous questions on how issues should be approached and he could always be relied upon to offer good help and advice. He also knew where everything was in our organised chaos, finding things instantly. Indeed he would find it difficult to find anything after one of my bouts of cleaning! He would always stop to help with setting up experiments, making up chemical solutions etc. His help and advice will be greatly missed. I was delighted in the last number of years to be able to help him in the IT department during our most recent inservices!!

Matt was a dedicated teacher. He accepted students of all levels of ability and discipline into his Science and Chemistry classes which was challenging to say the least. I used to enjoy passing through his Leaving Certificate Chemistry classes and seeing all his students enthusiastically working through difficult experiments.

On behalf of the Science Department I would like to wish Matt a wonderful retirement with his wife Geraldine and his family.

*Aoife Keane*



## Matt O'Dwyer - Retirement

My first time meeting with Matt O'Dwyer was back in 1970. I had just been appointed a Physics teacher in St. Patricks College and Matt had just taken up his teaching post in the Convent of Mercy.

Our common interests at the time were matters scientific, starting out on a teaching career. Also exchanging notes on yet another exam the H Dip. in Ed!

Fast forwarding to 1977, we continued our practice in the new BCS- C Area. Together with Vinnie we developed a conscientious and hard working faculty of science.

Whatever help I could provide to the faculty on a practical level, Matt was always more than generous when I needed help on the theory and the mathematical. We used to take inspiration from the famous scientists Crockcroft and Walton!! (nobel prize winners)

Matt was a very good colleague and I enjoyed working with him over the years. Now we have the pleasure to continue our friendship when we meet on our hill walking outings with our fellow retirees.

Matt, many happy years of retirement with Geraldine and your family.

*Terry Coleman*



# Retirements

## Brid White - A Tribute to an inspirational teacher and a wonderful friend

It was a great privilege to have been a colleague of Brid White since we came to Ballyhaunis Community School. Brid was a no-nonsense teacher who challenged her students and in the process, taught them the joy of learning, helped shape their careers and their successes. Brid had a great ability to multi-task and find humour in serious situations. She was always pleasant and helpful. She loved to share the excitement of learning with students and teachers alike. Her dedication and commitment to duty never once wavered up to her retirement last August. She can enjoy her retirement secure in the knowledge that she has changed more lives than she could ever know and that her name is greatly admired and fondly remembered by both her colleagues and students. Inside and outside the classroom Brid always maintained a positive attitude about everything. She always seeks to see the positive in others. She shared a smile with everyone she met. She always takes time to visit her former retired colleagues and friends irrespective of how busy she is. We had good laughs together. She taught us to live a life of few regrets. One simple piece of advice that we will remember and treasure is that "We should always remember to live everyday like it's the best day of our lives". "There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it!"

Brid, We value your friendship very much, your work, your wisdom, your smile, your sense of humour and we would like to wish you, your husband Chris, a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh tú sult agus taitneamh as an saol atá amach romhat agus guimid rath Dé ort, a Bhríd, ar Chris agus ar do chlann uilig. Fad saol duit.

*Patricia Hargaden Whyte & Ann Joyce*



## Matt O' Dwyer - A Sporting Life

I'm sure I speak for all the staff when I say that to have worked with Matt was a pleasure in the real sense of the word. He played a master role in the development of the Community School as a member of the original staff back in 1977/78. From the outset Matt had a keen interest in sport both on and off the field. In the first year Matt captained a teachers soccer side that was beaten 3-1 by a student selection! Matt's interest in sport was wide and varied and he carried his love of Athletics, Golf and Soccer to the students of B.C.S with great passion and enthusiasm down through the years. He had a great relationship with his students/players whom he always got the best out of, and will be remembered by them with affection and admiration. Finally I would like to thank Matt for his years of dedication to sport in B.C.S and in particular to the ladies soccer in the later years.

I hope you enjoy a long and happy retirement and send good wishes to Geraldine and the rest of your family.

*Patrick Noone*





# Students Achievements

## Olwyn



On the 2nd of March 1993 a star was born! Little did we know then what a star Olwyn Murray was going to be and how much she would achieve. Throughout Primary school she loved to sing at every opportunity. Success was always on her side from there on! Her entry to secondary school was another stepping stone in her career. From talent shows in first and second year to playing the lead role "Sandy" in the school's production of "Grease" this year she has left a lasting impression on both students and teachers.

In the midst of all this performing and school work included, were her trips to Hollywood to partake in the World Championships of Performing Arts. On her two trips to Hollywood she did not come home empty handed. At the age of sixteen she had six gold medals to her name! Then on November 28th 2008 Olwyn took part on a show that has to be said is the biggest show in Ireland...She performed on the Late Late Toy Show something she, along with others, dreamed of from a young age! This verified that she truly was a star in the making. Last September Olwyn decided to take her career to a more national level! She auditioned for The All Ireland Talent Show which turned out to be a rollercoaster of an experience for Olwyn not to mention her family, teachers and friends. The 24th of January was a date we booked free in our diaries! This would be Olwyn's first live show. After an unbelievable performance of "The Greatest Love of All" by the legendary Whitney Houston Olwyn was surely guaranteed a place in the semi finals...and that she was.

At the later date of 7th March, Olwyn once again took to the stage at the Ardmore Studios and performed "A Moment like This", a song which people associate with Olwyn after she performed it on the Late Late Toy Show back in 2008. She sang it flawlessly even though she was suffering from

a severe throat infection. We all waited anxiously for the results of the contestants through to the final and when Gráinne Seoige announced Olwyn was through "The West" went wild...jumping, screaming, hugging!!

And so on the 14th of March we were off again to the studios. Olwyn that night performed an outstanding version of "Hallelujah". However it is was not meant to be as Gráinne announced Olwyn came in fourth place. Although Olwyn didn't win this national competition she is still a deserving star in our eyes. Although she spent hours and hours campaigning in all corners of the province, from radio interviews to live performances for different events, not once did Olwyn complain. Even though she got mass publicity from all parts of the country, even making the front page of the "Irish Independent", the publicity didn't go to her head. She is still the same grounded yet outrageous Olwyn she always was...just the way we like her! "Awh, I'm not able for this..."

*By: Rebekka Johnston, Eimear Flatley & Laura Patterson*

## Presentation to Mahrukh Azhar



Pictured is Mahrukh Azhar, a leaving certificate student 2009 who received the J.P. McManus All Ireland Scholarship

at the University of Limerick. Also pictured are J.P. McManus (scheme sponsor), Minister Batt O'Keeffe (Minister for Education) and Mr. P. McHugh (Principal of B.C.S.). Mahrukh is currently in her first year studying Medicine at NUIG. This is just the second year of the scholarship scheme and already four students from Ballyhaunis Community School have received a scholarship towards pursuing their third level education.



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# Students Achievements

## Glas Vegas

Several months ago, Louise Mc Namara, Tracey Regan, Emily Worden and Niamh Rooney, representing the Elwood School of Irish Dancing, auditioned for the TG4 talent competition "*Glas Vegas*".

Thankfully we progressed to the televised shows. On 6th January we went up to the RTÉ studios in Dublin to film the show. Throughout the day we had a dress rehearsal, a trip to make-up and a chance to talk to the other competitors and judges.

Our dance routine lasted approximately 90 seconds. The routine went brilliantly and we were very pleased to see that the audience and judges enjoyed the dance as much as we did.

Unfortunately we ended in 3rd place and didn't progress to the next round, but we are very proud of what we have achieved and are pleased that we gained so much from the whole experience.

*Emily Worden*



*Louise McNamara, Emily Worden, Tracey Regan*

## Scór na nÓg

Scór na nÓg took place in Breaffy House in January 2010. It was our third time taken place in the county Final and after winning twice already, we were hoping for three in a row. We were entering the competition as a ballad group and had to sing two ballads. After losing in the semi-final last year we were determined to bring the County title back to Aghamore once again. We were waiting back stage nervously about to perform. When they were announcing the results, the real nerves were kicking in. As they were announcing the results of the Ballad Groups, we were all sitting beside each other with our heads down. When they called our names, we were delighted. We jumped up and screamed for as long as we could. We would like to thank our parents, our community and Bord na nÓg for supporting us and believing in us. It was one of many great days in our lives.

*Sinéad Niland*



*Michaela Durrkin, Emma Duffy, Sinéad Niland, Deirdre Durkin*



## Kelly Donegan

Kelly travelled to Glasgow during the Easter holidays to represent her country in the Worlds Championship for Irish dancing. She danced the Reel and the Hornpipe, getting through to the set dance. She did remarkably well, being placed 14th overall.

Kelly will travel to Spain in June for the European Championships.

# Chaplain's Piece 2010

## Companions on the Journey - Chaplain's Message

Tucked away in the B area is the Chaplain's office, a refuge for any person needing a listening ear. Part of our ministerial gift is time, time to give lavishly and that's what differs us from the gifts of others in the school. We are a friendly pair who work together to promote an atmosphere of trust and friendship. As Chaplains we work a lot with groups and individuals allowing them precious time to discover themselves and resolve any conflicts they may have. The Chaplain's voice within the school also provides the key to spiritual development. From organising of school retreats to the preparation of school liturgies we are a busy duo. Highlighting the liturgical year brings with it a flurry of celebration from making St. Bridget's Day crosses (an industry in itself!!!) to providing the sacrament of reconciliation, during Advent and Lent to facilitating Rainbows Support Group. Of course this could not be achieved without the very generous time given to us from a very devoted and committed staff and team of priests.

The freedom to be creative in our ministry is evident from our Sacred Space Board and School Chapel, changed regularly to promote events in the liturgical calendar and to promote spirituality amongst our school community. Themes in our school masses and liturgies are reflective of the groups we are working with and together with the generous support of the school staff we strive to make such events celebrations to remember.

Looking back over the school year it is evident that school is much more than just books, homework, classes, it is also about challenges, new experiences, acceptance of change, some sad times but mostly happy times. 2009/2010 was all of these and more.

*In signing off we wish to do so in the words of Albert Einstein... 'try not to become just people of success, but also people of value'.*

### Why School Retreats?

A 'Retreat' is an opportunity for students to spend a day in the company of classmates, away from school, classes etc.

The day usually has a theme – helping students to discover a little bit more about themselves, others and the world. It is also an opportunity to address some questions students may have about their faith.

Gone are the days of students going on religious retreats that require a lot of prayer, fasting and reflection. Mr. McHugh often speaks to student about his experience

of school retreats where students had to be silent (a difficult task for Mr. McHugh!) for the whole day, deep in thought and prayer. Thankfully in today's world we are blessed with a variety of retreat team experiences for our students. This year the 2nd years spent the day with the Youth Ministry Team in Knock. As well as learning about the significance of Knock, visiting the Museum, students also had the opportunity through games and activities to get to know their year group better.

3rd years travelled to beautiful Ballintubber Abbey. The theme for their day was called 'Masks' – we all wear masks to cover up who we really are and sometimes we try to be people we are not. This day helps students to take away the mask and become comfortable with who they are. Students also get the opportunity to walk 2miles of Tochar Padraig and experience a piece of this ancient pilgrimage.

T.Y. students along with hundreds of young people from the Diocese have the opportunity to climb Croagh Patrick during the annual youth pilgrimage.

This year 4th years had the chance to spend the day with the enthusiastic NET Ministry team. The team are from Canada consisting of trained volunteers aged between 19 and 35. As well as giving an account of their own personal faith journey they also use drama, music and games to make this a very worthwhile experience for our students.

Finally the Leaving Cert students are doubly blessed in that as well as having two days for their retreat they also had the infamous 'Fr. Benny' regaling them with his stories and the odd joke thrown in for good measure. Students return to school high in their praise for their retreat with Fr. Benny and also their last opportunity for much needed time-out before the dreaded build up to the exams.

In answering the question posed 'Why School Retreats'? Students have always enjoyed their time out of school immensely despite their initial worries or concerns. Providing students with an opportunity for time out (retreat) is a tradition we hope to continue to offer to the students of Ballyhaunis Community School.

*O. Macken & K. Reilly*



## Feachtas Tráth na gCeist

Another year...another tráth na gCeist! This year three teams from the school traveled to Castlebar on the 28th January to represent B.C.S in the regional rounds of the Feachtas Tráth na gCeist . We were happy with our result as one of the three quiz teams placed second, securing a place in the final. This team consisted of Seán O'Rourke, Robyn Moran, Róna Burke and Jonathan Klein. We traveled to Dublin on the morning of the 6th of March with high hopes. But sadly a first place victory was not to be.

We were however successful in placing 4th out of a total of 17 teams. Many thanks go to Ms. Keehan and Ms. Finn respectively for accompanying us to Castlebar and Dublin. Also we are grateful for the support of Mr. McHugh and the school staff. A special thanks goes to Mrs. Joyce, who I'm sure without her continued hard work and dedication we would never have made it as far as we did!

*Robyn Moran*



*Back row: Mrs. Ann Joyce, Ms. Geraldine Finn, Mr. Pat McHugh, Ms. Deirdre Keehan  
Front row: Róna Burke, Robyn Moran, Seán O'Rourke, Johnathon Klein*

## Additional Quiz Teams



*Back row: Ms. Geraldine Finn, Paul O'Gara, Dylan Lynskey, Sinéad Garvey, Claire O'Dwyer, Ms. Ann Joyce  
Front row: Eric Hynes, Dermott Crinnigan, Noreen Cassidy, Meaghan O'Doherty  
Absent from photo: Ms. Deirdre Keehan*

## Engineering Awards

Prize- Giving by the E.T.T.A. (Engineering Technology Teachers Association) held in the McWilliam Hotel, November 2009.



*Pictured is Kevin Morley who was awarded second place in Ordinary level Leaving Cert Engineering in the Galway/ Mayo region.*



*Pictured is John Flynn who was awarded second place in Ordinary level Junior Cert Metalwork in the Galway/ Mayo region.*



*Pictured is Mohanned Cherbatji who was awarded first place in Ordinary level Leaving Cert Engineering in the Galway/ Mayo region.*

## Class 1A



**Back row:** James Folliard, Peter Dooley, Liam Duffy, Mantas Aguonis, Bilal Amin, Evan Coyne, Thomas Coll.

**Middle row:** Sheila Brady, Laura Carney, Labhaoise Cunnane, Anna Bugari.

**Front row:** Kelly Donegan, Lynette Duffy, Jennifer Cox, Aine Coyne, Maisie Donne, Yvonne Davy, Natasha Burrows.

*Missing from photo: Anna Doherty, Hiba Arshad, Bazla Alam, Mohammed Ahmad, Sarah Creighton*

## Class 1B



**Back row:** Lewis Kearsey, Connor Hagney, Neil Folliard, Brian Gavin, Phillip Fitzmaurice, Faysal Kezze, Joe Kelly, Ryan Kilbane, Dean Henry.

**Middle row:** Jules Gossy, Hannah Hardcastle, Doina Dima, Leanne Hession, Stacey Hayden, Ciara Jordan.

**Front row:** Lisa Higgins, Carol Freeley, Sarah Feeney, Megan Griffiths, Ria Dunleavy.

## Class 1C



**Back row:** *Kalvin Lyons, Kevin McNulty, Davóg Frayne, James Burke, Joseph Lyons, James Murphy.*

**Middle row:** *Qasim Nazir, Connor McCarrick, Aoife Lilly, Aisling Lynskey, Lisa Morley, Rory Nestor, Declan Kilgarriff.*

**Front row:** *Tammy McMahon, Laoise McDermott, Mary Maughan, Niamh Murray, Maryam Mahmood, Rosina Lukoseviciute, Aoife Murray, Tessa Lyons.*

*Missing from photo: James Lyons, Amy Mannion, Sean Lyons, Tautvydas Mackevicius*

## Class 1D



**Back row:** *Mark Phillips, Hamzha Yousaf, Stephen Ryan, Sean Sutton, Gbolahan Salami, Cian O'Boyle.*

**Middle row:** *Ria Marigliano, Colm Ronan, Niall Robinson, Shawn Groarke, David Regan, Waqas Rehman, Shane Seddon, Stephen Nolan, Marlena Staszczuk.*

**Front row:** *Erika Webb, Dervla Phillips, Maria Waldron, Mary Warde, Ailish Phillips, Mary Waldron.*

*Missing from photo: Gersi Sherri, Grace Worden*



# First Year Boys Football



*Back Row: Rory Nestor, Davóg Frayne, Conor Hagney, Sean Groake, Brian Gavin, Stephen Nolan, Sean Sutton, Humza Yousuf, Stephen Ryan, Ryan Kilbane.  
Front Row: Joseph Kelly, Colom Ronan, Tomas Cail, Liam Duffy, Waqas Rehman, Niall Ronbinson, Shane Seddon, Cian O'Boyle, James Murphy.*

in the championship, but were beaten by a much stronger team.

The team was put through their paces all year by the management team of Mr. McHugh (the gaffer), Seamus Burke (selector), Eoghan Collins (trainer & referee) and John Flynn (water boy). The team, captained by Liam Duffy, would like to thank Mr. McHugh and the Transition Year boys for all of their support throughout the year.

*Seamus Burke*

The first year boys football team played Kiltimagh in their first ever game for the school in October. Conditions on the day were very difficult and the team came out second best.

In their second game they tasted success when they defeated St.Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen. Two weeks later they played Foxford in a friendly match where every player got a chance to impress the gaffer!! In their final league game they played Oranmore. Unfortunately they were defeated by a much stronger side.

The side improved throughout the league and gave a strong performance against Oranmore

# First Year Boys Soccer



*Back Row: Davóg Frayne, Humza Yousuf, Mark Phillips, Stephen Nolan, Liam Duffy, Gersi Sherri.  
Bottom Row: Shawn Groake, Connor Hagney, Waqas Rehman, Joseph Kelly, Ryan Kilbane.*

The first year boy's soccer team had a very successful season and were very unlucky to get knocked out in a play-off against St. Muiredeach's Ballina. We started our season with a narrow 2-1 defeat to Sligo kingpins Summerhill College. We followed this with a convincing 5-2 victory over Gortnor Abbey at home. In our final league game we drew two each with Ballina, we should have easily won this match having dominated much of the second half, but an elusive winner was not to come so we were forced to travel to Ballina for a play-off match. Everyone played well throughout the season but the star performers were, leading goalscorer Stephen Nolan, Captan Liam Duffy and Waqas Rehman.

# First Year Girls GAA

First Year girls training has been on-going throughout the school year. This year the first year team were very lucky in that they got to experience and benefit from the rigorous training sessions and expertise organised by the Sport & Recreation PLC class under the guidance of Ms. Gibbons. Early predictions are this group of girls have a bright footballing future ahead of them having displayed great skill and ability and they will be a great asset to the junior team next year. Well done girls and keep up the good work.



*Back row: Stacey Hayden, Niamh Murray, Sarah Feeney, Jules Gossy, Erica Webb, Lisa Morley, Anna Bugari, Doina Dima.  
Middle row: Ciara Jordan, Sheila Brady, Aoife Murray, Dervla Philips, Tammy McMahon  
Front row: Carol Freeley, Kelly Donegan, Aoife Lilly, Laura Carney, Maria Waldron, Aisling Lynskey, Aine Coyne*

# Tessa Lyons

Hi, my name is Tessa Lyons. I'm in first year. I'm going to tell you about my life with cone dystrophy. Cone dystrophy affects my eyesight. When I first found out I was shocked and didn't know what to do or say, I was so upset, I wasn't able to get my head around it.

It was so bad that I had to use a computer in school. I was nervous about using a computer because I didn't know what people would say. The first day I used it everyone said it was cool, except me because I was the one who had to use it. It was hard to deal with at the time and it still is at times.

During the year Ms. Reilly asked me to talk to the PLCs students about it. I agreed to do it but on the day I was having second thoughts about it. When I went in I set up my computer and they began to ask me questions about it and my life with it. I gave them as much information as I could and they thanked me after it. At the end of the day I was glad I did this presentation.

My first year in this school was difficult at first as I was moving classes a lot, meeting new people and different teachers. I can't do all the subjects like woodwork, metalwork and technical graphics. Looking back on my first year, I have developed a lot and I think the kindness and support of both my teachers and my friends really helped.

That's my story.

## 1st Year Disco



## 1st Year Skip-a-thon



*Stacey Hayden, Kelly Donegan, Grace Worden, Amy Mannion*

On the 12th January 2010 the devastating earthquake in Haiti occurred. 200,000 people were killed and many more injured. As a class, we decided to raise money in aid of Haiti. Many suggestions were made. Eventually we decided to hold a 'skip-a-thon'. On 22nd January, 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D competed against each other to see who could do the most skips in a minute. Everyone paid €2 to have a go. The following finalists were picked - Kelly Donegan from 1A, Stacey Hayden from 1B, Amy Mannion from 1C and Grace Worden from 1D. We had two weeks to prepare for the final. Posters were made, finalists were training, and the stage was set up. Finally the big day arrived. On the 3rd February, all first year classes paid to watch it. The pressure was on! Each contestant skipped their best while we were shouting their support. It was a close one but Kelly Donegan from 1A came out top with a staggering 176 skips in 1 minute! We would like to thank Ms. Mulroy, Ms. O'Reilly, Ms. Corcoran, and Ms. Donoghue for letting us organise the event. We would also like to thank the Transition Year students for all their help.

*Written by Megan Griffiths, Ria Dunleavy, and Ciara Jordan*



# Carole Freeley.....



Carol Freeley (1B) successfully qualified for the Scifest Science competition. She compiled a study of "Animal Anatomies", which she presented at Scifest in Athlone Institute of Technology. Judges were very impressed with the huge effort and interest Carol had put in, and encouraged her to attend veterinary lectures aimed at second level students.

*Mr. Padraic Shannon.*

## Experiences of First Year Students

We started first year early in September not knowing what to expect.

We were separated into are different class groups and given our time tables for the rest of the year. At first it was hard to adjust to the new subjects, new teachers and the longer day but everyone settled in pretty well.

There were a lot of activities for first years to take part in such as hurling and Gaelic blitz, cross country, Christmas fancy dress, The Haiti skip off, the talent show and more. Before we knew it we only had a few weeks to prepare for our Christmas tests which seemed pretty daunting, but all was ok, there was nothing to worry about. Our first year flew by so quickly. Who ever said school was all chalk and no talk!! It is definitely true what they say school days are the best days of are lives!!!

*Niamh Murray and Rory Nestor*

## Third Year S.P.H.E. Day

This year our S.P.H.E day was held on two separate days. All third year students were involved. We were divided into groups and in these groups we talked quite a lot about relationships and about ourselves. Everyone participated in the discussions. We all felt that it was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. We learned so much about ourselves and our year group. Many thanks to the teachers involved.

*By Brian Kelly and Aisling Kenny*

## U15 Boys Soccer



The U15 Boys had a very convincing first round victory over Manorhamilton, winning by a score of 5-3. Morgan Lyons was the hero scoring a quick fire hat-trick. At the time of publication we were due to play Summerhill in the Connaught Quarter final.

*Back Row: Patrick Kiely, Andrew Cunnane, David Bance, Jarlath Carney, Connor Hussey, Darren Duffy, Morgan Lyons, Rory Mannion  
Front Row: Luke McDermott, Jakub Szebesta, Michael O'Rourke, Lewis Seddon, Joseph Laughran, James Cribbin*



# Cybersafety – Some thoughts for Safe Surfing

I know. You're sick and tired of being lectured to. You know how to keep yourself safe online. You're not a baby! You use privacy settings on Facebook and Bebo. You aren't meeting strangers offline. You are careful. You aren't sharing too much info and you think the media has blown the risks out of proportion. OK, You can stop reading now and go and do something else.

For the rest of you, just in case there is something you hadn't thought about, or you have a friend who isn't as careful and smart as you are...

Most young people understand enough about cybersafety to write a book. They don't want to be hurt or get into trouble. Problems being reported when young people are connected through mobile phones, game devices or the Internet itself are either because the teenagers didn't know enough about the technology, or because they were just not thinking.

## Not thinking is:

1. When you believe your boyfriend/girlfriend/friend when they tell you they would never share the photo with anyone and no one else will see it.
2. When you think no one can figure out that the anonymous email, IM or post you made came from you. (They collect the electronic footprint when you interact online. It can be traced back to your computer.)
3. When you do things online that you would never do offline just because you can.
4. When you think that cute sixteen year old boy or girl you met online is always a cute sixteen year old

boy or girl.

5. When you think someone will send you an iPod just for playing a game and giving them some "harmless" personal information (like your name, date of birth, credit card details).
6. When you know better, but do it anyway.

## THINKB4UClick

- The only time you can protect yourself from the consequences of things going wrong is BEFORE you click the button.



- What you post online stays online – FOREVER!
- Deleting it afterwards may not delete it from everyone else's copies, Google or what was already printed out or forwarded.



*"the best filter is the one between your ears." USE IT!*

For further information on safety online checkout  
[www.ballyhauniscs.ie](http://www.ballyhauniscs.ie) - safe surfing  
[www.watchyourspace.ie](http://www.watchyourspace.ie)  
[www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)

# Further Education and Training

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Our compliment of courses has been further expanded for

September 2010 with the inclusion of two new courses: Childcare Supervisor (FETAC Level 6) and Radio Production (FETAC Level5)

We also offer ECDL and ECDL Advanced

Course listings and information available online [www.ballyhauniscs.ie](http://www.ballyhauniscs.ie) or email [plcbcs@iol.ie](mailto:plcbcs@iol.ie)  
 To speak to the PLC Co-ordinator Bernadine Waldron ring 086 0341072



## Class 2A



**Back row:** Cian Caulfield, Damien Callaghan, Cyril Collins, Seán Burke, Cian Conboy, Padraic Connolly, John Cribbin, Ali Almas.  
**Middle row:** David Frayne, Cian Cunningham, Fergal Boland, Joey Loughran, Morgan Lyons, Anthony Brereton, Jason Coyne.  
**Front row:** Edel Coffey, Greta Narkeviciute, Emma Duffy, Aoife Devaney, Tasha Coyne, Laura Araviciute, Shannon Biesty.  
*Missing from photo:* David Cleary, Patricia Daly, Noreen Ashraf

## Class 2B



**Back row:** Darragh Freeman, Andrew Henry, Kieran Folliard, Liam Kearney, Jack Hughes, Mark Sutton, Tommy Kearns, Gerard Freeley, Seán Gildea.  
**Middle row:** Eamon Hora, Joey Fahy, David Harrison, Ronan Forde, Eric Fitzgerald, Michael Flanagan, Shane Healy, Omoarebun Ebeleghe.  
**Front row:** Michaela Durkin, Danika Gallagher, Sonia Henry, Riona Joyce, Caoimhe Henry, Sarah Flynn, Deirdre Durkin.  
*Missing from photo:* Chantelle Maughan

## Class 2C



**Back row:** Thomas McNamara, Haider Mahmood, Seán McDermott, Colm Morley, Darren Maloney, Andrew Manning, Daniel McDermott, Bongani Dhlamini-Nkosi, Martin McDonagh.

**Middle row:** Victorija Konovalciuk, Thomas Kilboyle, Jason McGoldrick, Kevin Kilbride, David Kenny, Conor Lyons, John Morley, David Kilkenny, Claire Moran.

**Front row:** Katriona Ward, Jasmine Moss, Elaine Neary, Shauna Morley, Nicole McNamara, Sinéad Niland, Michelle McNamara.  
Missing from photo: Sara Mitrovic

## Class 2D



**Back row:** Michael Waldron, Michael O'Rourke, Thomas McDonagh, James Reidy, Robert Morley, Zubir Koohestani, Mark Tighe, Faisal Reza.

**Middle row:** Momna Shafique, Martin O' Gara, Michael Naughton, Stephen Regan, Ronan Murphy, Conor Waldron, Hussain Noor, Shahzad Rehman, Asia Tayyab.

**Front row:** Aisling Tarpey, Hazel Nolan, Anne O'Gara, Sarah Staunton, Pamela Ubaezuonu, Emma Waldron.  
Missing from photo: Marlena Marciniak, Mark Ruane.



## Second Year Football 2009-'10



*Back row: Cyril Collins, Daniel Harrison, Joey Fahy, Jack Hughes, Thomas McDonagh, James Reedy, Daniel McDermott, Martin McDonagh, David Kenny.*

*Middle row: Jason Coyne, Fergal Boland, Michael Waldron, Shane Healy, Seán Burke, Stephen Regan, Joey Loughran, Darragh Freeman, Conor Lyons, Thomas Kilboyle.*

*Front row: Ronan Murphy, Damien Callaghan, Morgan Lyons, Cian Conboy, Sean Gildee, Robert Morley, David Freyne, Michael O'Rourke, Liam Kearney, Michael Flanagan.*

The second year campaign started with a blitz held in Castlerea where we first played Elphin and won by a point with a late goal in the last minute. Then we played a very strong Castlerea side in the final. We stuck with them for the first half but they dominated the second half running out winners in the end.

We travelled to Tubbercurry for our first league game. We started off badly and were behind after the first half. We fought hard against the wind for the second half scoring three goals but it wasn't enough as we were beaten by a marginal four points in the end. Our next match was home where we played St. Nathy narrowly losing out in the end. We then travelled to Ballinrobe to play Oranmore in the Connacht quarter final of the B League which we ran out deserved winners on the day winning by thirteen points on a score line of 5 – 7 to 1 – 6. We reached the semi final where we lost out by seven points to a strong Castlerea side.

The team would like to thank Mr Murren for taking the time and interest to train us throughout the year.

*David Kenny*

## 2nd Year retreat to Knock

We arrived in Knock at 10:00am accompanied by Ms Flynn and Ms Reilly. We were then greeted by two ladies, Nicola and Helen. We were all brought into a big room by Helen and we introduced ourselves to her. We then answered a few questions about ourselves and wrote personal letters to God.

We were split up into two groups and we were brought on a tour of the shrine. We watched a short DVD about the apparition while the other group visited the museum. After we watched the DVD we went to where the apparition had taken place. While we were in the museum we were given a list of questions and had to find the answers around the museum.

After our lunch we were split into groups again. Half of us watched a short clip of a scene from the movie "Blood Diamond" which portrayed the love amongst a father and a son. The other group stayed with Nicola where everyone learned new facts about each other.

At the end of the day we had a short prayer service. Fr. Nigel came into the room where we prayed together and were blessed. We returned to the school at 3:45. We had a wonderful day and we learned a lot of new things about ourselves and our friends. We also learned more about the spiritual and God. We had great fun!

*Sinéad Niland and Claire Moran*

## Our Retreat in Knock

When we heard we were going to Knock we weren't exactly overwhelmed. Class 2A and 2B went on the first day. When we arrived at 10:00am we were greeted by two friendly girls, we were taken into a room where we talked and wrote a letter to God that nobody else would see. We had a lot of little breaks and our lunch lasted an hour. We were also taken into the Basilica and the Museum. We also talked about ourselves and the Body of Christ was exposed to us. It was very religious and prayerful, but at the same time we did have a good laugh and we enjoyed ourselves. We were told some facts and had a quiz. At the end of the day the winner was given a prize. It was an enjoyable day!

*Michaela Durkin.*

## 2nd Year Retreat

On February 9th and 10th the second year students set off to Knock for the day. 2A and 2B went on Tuesday and 2C and 2D went on Wednesday. We were all looking forward to a day of relaxation and enjoyment away from the school and books.

We arrived in Knock at 9.30am. The day consisted of a discussion about where our faith is at and we each wrote a letter to God. We learned more about each other and opened our hearts to God. We went on a tour around the re-vamped Museum and took part in a quiz. We also learned about the history of Knock and the Apparition.

We had the opportunity to witness the blessed sacrament being exposed and we learned a little more about why we need to confess our sins and the need to forgive people who wrong us. Many thanks to our teacher who accompanied us on the day. Mrs. Mulroy, Ms. Donaghue, Ms. Macken and Ms. Flynn. We really enjoyed our experience.

Caoimhe Henry & Danika Gallagher 2B



## Multi-Cultural Day 2010

Our school has a unique multi-cultural student body, recently some 2nd year students decided to celebrate this by hosting a multi-cultural morning on Monday 25th January last. Inspired by the rainbow of cultures that already exists in the school, the students also researched other countries traditions and festivals. Students were transported from Ballyhaunis to Bangladesh, from America to Nigeria, from Japan to New Zealand. They feasted on chawal (rice) from Pakistan and cheeses from France. They watched horse-racing from Afghanistan and listened to Spanish flamenco. They also got the opportunity to try on traditional clothes like Shalwar – Kamees (both male and female) from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The morning was a great success and everybody left feeling a little more familiar with the wealth of cultures that were presented, enriching our learning and promoting integration. Well done and many thanks to all those who participated.

*Ms. G. Murray*



## 2D CSPE Action Project

Spring-time promises to bring a splash of colour to the garden between the A and the B areas. The avid environmentalists in 2D are working hard on their Action Project. The aim of their project is to restore and improve the garden. After much discussion with Mr. McHugh, the class decided to plant bulbs in the existing pots and to give a general clean-up to the whole area. The research committee set to work pricing bulbs and compost. A raffle was held to raise funds and the gardening committee worked hard digging, sowing bulbs and adding compost to the trees. The painting committee are waiting for fine weather to paint the pots and two bird feeders are under construction. It is hoped that in the near future a Stevenson Screen and a water feature will also be installed in the garden. Well done to all involved.



## Creative Writing

### Brian Clown

You may be with the powerful leaders,  
But if you ask me or any of my readers,  
They will agree with me when I say,  
You're just in it for the pay.

Those big lips and that endless frown,  
You would be better off as a clown,  
So listen here and serve your purpose,  
By leaving Ireland and joining a circus.

*Eric Fitzgerald*

## 1st Year School Tour



## Aghamore Foróige Club Help Haiti



When Mid West Radio organized the big car boot sale in Knock on 31st January for the victims of the earth quake in Haiti the members of our club said they would like to do something for the cause.

At a meeting on the 15th February we decided to organize a wake-athon. Sponsorship cards were printed and the event was set for Friday night the 19th of February.

On Friday night the meeting went ahead at 8.30 as usual and we stayed awake all night until 8.30 on Saturday morning. When the money raised was counted it came to €560.

At our next meeting more money was raised bringing the total to €1080 which we presented to the Mid-West Radio Charity fund.

The Presentation was made live on air on Wednesday the 10th March on the Tommie Marren Show.

Well done to all who took part.

*Olivia Murphy*



Transition Year



## Class 3A



**Back row:** Jordan Dalton, Jarlath Carney, Daniel Cunnane, Liam Conboy, Jason Fahy, David Bance, Darren Duffy, James Cribbin.

**Middle row:** Joan Egan, Diarmuid Byrne, Liam Coll, Mark Davy, Andrew Cunnane, Donatas Bradauskas, Margaret Cleary.

**Front row:** Laura Culliney, Fiona Brady, Claire Egan, Michaela Boland, Noreen Cassidy, Róna Burke.

*Missing from photo:* Megan Carroll, Conor Nolan, Suha Riyaz, Bilal Ahsan, Haseeb Arshad, Farhan Ahmad, Eddie Cleary, Eric Eaton.

## Class 3B



**Back row:** Brian Kelly, Rory Mannion, Brendan Finn, Lewis Seddon, Michael Flynn, Conor Hussey, Patrick Kiely.

**Middle row:** Paul Finnegan, Mohammed Kezze, Bartosz Gostkowski, Sinéad Garvey, Lauren Gourlay, Edel Fitzmaurice, Louise Henry, John Judge, Eric Hynes, Conor Fitzgerald.

**Front row:** Ultan Griffin, Nicola Hunt, Zeenat Javaid, Shauna Kelly, Aisling Kenny, Shíofra Flatley, Niamh Hunt, Pdraig Fitzgerald.

*Missing from photo:* Dean Glavey, Hannan Iqbal, Lucas Malachowicz, Jamil Kezze.



## Class 3C



**Back row:** Richard Niland, Éanna McNamara, Enda Mulkeen, Declan Muldoon, Aidan Niland, Jakub Szebesta, John Lyons, Stefan McMillan, Luke McDermott.

**Middle row:** Andrea Morris, Jarlath Meagh, Jonathan Klein, Aron Moran, Paul Kilkenny, Michael McGuire, Thomas McGuire, Lukas Kolodzieczyk, Paul Raftery, Jennifer Lilly.

**Front row:** Victoria Miscell, Hira Mahmood, Eadaoin Lyons, Aine Lilly, Niamh Kilkenny, Marian Morris, Lisa Hunt, Sandra Lyons.  
Missing from photo: Rebecca McGowan, Terry McDonagh.

## Class 3D



**Back row:** Darren Tarpey, Darren Nolan, Jamie Waldron, Adrian Phillips, Michael Walsh, Mateusz Marcinak, Shahzeb Yousaf, Keith Plunkett.

**Middle row:** Phelim Webb, Daiga Zarina, Bronwyn Potgieter, Bridget McDonagh, Lisa O'Connell, Rosie Simcox, Sheba Younas, Simon Waldron.

**Front row:** Claire Walshe, Megan O'Doherty, Clodagh Sloyan, Tara Mulkeen, Chloe Noonan, Kirsty Phillips, Olivia Murphy.  
Missing from photo: Ryan Peake, Azhar Tayyab.



## SPORT at BCS

Ballyhaunis Community School offers a broad and diverse range of extra curricular activities. This year alone 30 teams represented the school in over 10 different sports at varying ages and levels.

The school has a very strong association with the G.A.A and has enjoys much success down through the years. This year has been no exception with many exciting and entertaining outings. The Senior Boys GAA team is through to the semi final of the Connacht Championship while the junior ladies will play in the Connaught final of their competition.

The school along with providing the core sports such as soccer, hurling camogie, basketball, volleyball, rugby and Olympic handball this year the school is also offering Pilates, aerobics and circuit training. As well as many successful teams BCS students have also had success on an individual basis especially in golf, athletics and handball. The broad and varied range of extra curricular sports held here in Ballyhaunis Community School gives students the opportunity to sample many activities and coupled with the extensive choice which is covered in the Physical Education program caters for all needs, levels of interest and abilities.

## Cross Country

On the 20th of January, a team of 13 boys and 4 girls traveled with Mr.Wooley to the Sligo racecourse for a cross country competition. This was the first time this school had entered a cross country competition. The Minor boys, Ryan Kilbane, Niall Robinson, Cian O'Boyle, and Colm Ronan finished between 23rd and 54th out of 106 in the 1500m. In the 2000m Junior race, Liam Duffy, Steven Nolan, Joseph Lyons and Michael O'Rourke finished between 32nd and 65th. The 4000m Inter boys saw Luke McDermott, Andrew Cunnane, Jonathan Klein and Zubir Koohestani finish between 32nd and 56th. Sean Griffin finished in an impressive 16th place in the 6000m Senior Race. In the girls Minor race Carol Freely, Anna Bugari, Stacey Hayden and Aoife Lilly ran 1500m. Despite very bad weather conditions every single member of our team finished the run and enjoyed the challenge of the day.

*Andrew Cunnane and Jonathan Klein.*

## Boys Badminton

Badminton is becoming a very popular sport in BCS and this is reflected in the success of our badminton teams this year. We hosted a badminton tournament in our gym. The teams that attended were St.Colman's College, Claremorris, and St. Nathy's. College, Ballaghederreen.

There was an under-19 and an under-16 competition. For the under-19's we had two teams : Ballyhaunis A – John Kilboyle, Daragh Richardson, Michael Flynn and Kamron Afsal. Ballyhaunis B – Gary Patterson, Shane Boland, Stephan Danicic, and Hassan Almas. Ballyhaunis B were victorious and will go on to represent Ballyhaunis in the Connacht Finals.

The under 16's had two teams also: Ballyhaunis A – Darren Duffy, Patrick Kiely, Hassan Iqbal, and Sheraz Hassan. Ballyhaunis B – Conor Nolan, Michael Walsh, Azar, and Haseeb. The tournament was very successful and very enjoyable.

*Shane Boland and Darragh Richardson*

## Girls Badminton

Our badminton team has had a very successful year. We started out as a large panel of over 25 players who were all very eager to participate. Training took place every Friday and our dedication paid off when we made it through the first round of the Connaught badminton league. Our success was due to the sportsmanship and commitment shown by all the players throughout the year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our coaches Ms. Hayes, Mr. Wooley and Mr. Shannon!

*Laura Lalikova*



*Back Row: Tracey Regan, Louise Ruane, Laura Lalikova, Stefan Danicic, Sheraz UI Hassan, Hassan Alam, Joanne Cregg, Kelly McKay, Sarah Caulfield  
Middle Row: Haseeb Arshad, Azar Tayyab, Michael Walsh, Claire Moran, Lisa Hunt, Rona Burke, Sinead Garvey, Kirsty Phillips  
Front Row: Michaela Boland, Lauren Gourlay, Noreen Cassidy, Louise Henry, Claire Egan, Edel Fitzmaurice*

## Junior Boys GAA

This year's junior team got off to a great start with convincing victories over Swinford and St. Louis of Kiltimagh. We defeated Balla in the Mayo county final in Claremorris in terrible conditions.

We reached the semi-final of the League by defeating Garbely Collage in Ballyhaunis. At the time of writing this match has not been played. We reached the Quarter final of the championship but were beaten by Oranmore who, on the day were the stronger team.

On behalf of the junior panel I would like to thank Mr. McDonagh for all the hard work he has put in to this team and for his dedication throughout the year.

*John Finan*



*Back Row: Paul O'Gara, Fintan Kearney, John Finan, Eoghan Collins, Sean Griffin, John McNieve, Caoileann Fitzmaurice, Gearoid Keane  
Front Row: Oisin McDermott, Darren Duffy, Conor Hussey, John Waldron, Jarlath Carney*

## Junior Girls Gaelic

This year the junior girl's team has done extremely well in the school's championship. We started off the year on a high with a panel of over 35 out at trainings. Our debut match against Salerno went better than expected with a score line of 12-13 to 1-1. We continued our winning streak against both Ballinasloe and Taylor Hill. Our closest match to date was against Castlereagh which ended in a draw. We qualified for the quarter final hammering Ballisadare. In the Connaught semi-final we met a very strong Carraroe side. The first half was a hard fought battle with Ballyhaunis coming out on top by two points, 2-2 to 2-5. In the second half Ballyhaunis upped the pace and kept Carraroe to just 5 points. It was a well deserved victory and now we await the Connaught final against Taylor Hill, Galway.

On behalf of the whole junior squad I would like to thank Ms Gibbons and the T.Y lads for their effort and commitment in making this year so enjoyable for all the players.

*Joanne Cregg*



*Back row: Aisling Tarpey, Joanne Cregg, Naimh Cunnane,  
Lisa Walsh, Aoife Lilly, Clodagh Sloyan, Noreen Cassidy.  
Middle row: Lisa O' Connell, Maria Waldron, Labhaoise Cunnane, Shauna Morley, Sonia Henry, Tara Mulkeen, Aoife Cassidy.  
Front row: Áine Lilly, Ríona Joyce, Claire Egan, Sheila Brady, Áine Coyne, Aisling Lynskey, Lisa Morley.*

## Juvenile GAA Report 2009/2010



*Back Row: Conor Nolan, Daniel Cunnane, Neil Lyons, Darren Duffy, Declan Muldoon, Liam Conboy, Andrew Cunnane, John Flynn, Michael Flynn, Rory Mannion, Paul O'Gara, Conor Hussey.*

*Front Row: Adrian Philips, Morgan Lyons, Luke McDermott, Hanan Iqbal, David Bance, James Cribbin, Patrick Kiely, Jarlath Carney.*

Our first game started with an experimental challenge, we tried out lots of different tactics and it was the beginning of a learning curve. This proved a success as we are so far unbeaten in both Connacht league and championship. We qualified for the semi final of the league, we beat Mountbellew by four points which proved to be a very tough encounter. We then had a very comprehensive win over Loughrea. We then faced St Josephs of Galway which was one of our most competitive opponents, we narrowly beat them by a single point. We are now through to the Connacht semi final of the league, we will face rice collage of Westport which is expected to be fascinating encounter! In the Connacht championship we faced Kiltimagh, which we were victories by beating them by fourteen points. Next we faced Garbally in the Connacht semi final, which proved to be a very tough encounter! We narrowly lost by four points, we were very unfortunate in this game as a number of things didn't fall our way and we were very disappointed not to be going into a Connacht final!

We would like to thank our manager Mr. Wooley and trainer Eoghan Collins for their commitment throughout the year.

Panel: Rory Mannion, Patrick Kiely, Daniel Cunnane, James Cribbin, Declan Muldoon, Jarleth Carney, Paul O'Gara, Conor Hussey, Neil Lyons, Darren Duffy, Michael Flynn, Luke McDermott, Conor Nolan, John Flynn, Morgan Lyons, Hannan Iqbal, Liam Conboy, Michael O'Rourke, Adrian Phillips, David Bance, Andrew Cunnane, Jason Fahy.

*Darren Duffy*

## Junior & Senior Ladies Gaelic Team - Presentation of New Jerseys





## Third year retreat to Ballintubber

On Tuesday the 9th of March 2010, 32 third year students went on a retreat to Ballintubber Abbey in Co. Mayo. It was a cold morning and everyone was tired but before we knew it the sun was shining down on top of us!

The bus journey to Ballintubber was great fun! Everyone had high expectations from hearing what previous third years thought about the day. When we arrived Ms O'Donoghue told us where to go as she gathered us in the church grounds. We walked into a warm cosy room in the upstairs of the church where we were welcomed by Fr. Frank and the retreat team. Everyone sat down, got comfortable and had tea and biscuits!

Fr. Frank and the retreat team introduced us to the everyday masks people can wear. It was hilarious as we watched them do impressions of teenagers today. After our quiet meditation we had a small lunch break before returning to the church for another session from the retreat team!!

Soon after, we got changed into our (very colourful) wellies and went for a walk through the mighty fields of Ballintubber! The walk was very enjoyable but probably would have been better if it was muddy (we complain when it rains and when it shines!).

Overall it was a great day and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it! On behalf of the third year students we would like to thank Ms. Macken and Ms. O'Donoghue for organising the retreat and accompanying us!

*By Olivia Murphy and Meaghan O'Doherty*

## Fundraising for Trócaire

Together our 3D class decided to raise money for Trócaire. Our first idea was to have a D.V.D day for 3rd years, which was a big success when we raised €120. We wanted to raise more money for Trócaire so we decided to have a cake sale. Our class came together and brought in all sorts of different cakes and buns. We raised another €80. So in total we raised €200 in our class for Trócaire. We would like to thank Mrs. Joyce for helping us, and letting us out of tutor class to get things organised.

*Claire Walshe*



## 2nd Year SPHE Day

On Tuesday, 23rd of March, we got to have a break from the books as we took part in our SPHE day. We were divided into small groups where we talked about bullying, feelings and friendship. It was a really enjoyable day as we played lots of games and relaxed in the afternoon with meditation. We got to know one another better as a year group and realised the importance of looking out for one another. We would like to thank all the teachers involved and Mrs. Byrne for organising such an enjoyable day.

## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Last February, 14 lucky students, accompanied by Ms. Keehan and Ms. Finn, got the opportunity to produce a programme at Mid-West Radio for "Seachtain na Gaeilge". The students were split into two groups and each made and produced a 15 minute programme. Topics included news, sport, gossip and music. As it was for Seachtain na Gaeilge, it was done "as Gaeilge". Although it was for a competition, all students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and showed off their radio and Irish speaking skills. 10 other schools across the province entered this competition for a prize of €500. Maybe this might be the beginning of someone's prosperous career in media. Fergal D'Arcy, watch this space!!

*Paul O'Gara & Aoife Cassidy*



## Creative Writing

### New girl in school

After a summer of rain and sun I began a new chapter of my life in Ballyhaunis Community School. I left everyone and everything behind me in my old school- my friends, my teachers, my chosen sport (Volleyball) and my locker! To say that I was scared (on my first day) would be the understatement of the year!! Making new friends was daunting at first but it soon became easier with the help and support of the school-both students and teachers. I found the school very big, people were much taller than me. Initially, I felt like a small 'fish' in a big 'pond', but as time passed by I became more confident.

I am very happy in my new school-I have friends and I get on well with all my teachers. My principal always asks if "I am doing ok" whenever he sees me in the halls. I can proudly say that Ballyhaunis Community School is my school. I think that school life is most enjoyable if you're positive.

*Amana Shafique*

# Blind Date Hits Ballyhaunis

It all started one ordinary Tuesday morning in Mrs. Mulroy's 5th year Religion class. We all knew we wanted to do something for charity this year...god knows there were so many people left without their basic human needs after disasters like the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. But the question was what exactly? We wanted something quirky, unlike anything that had been organised in school before and then suddenly the idea of a blind date began to formulate! Before we knew it we had tracked down likely 'dates' and preparations were well underway to make this one of the most memorable events the school had ever seen.

I don't think I could write about Blind Date without mentioning our 'articulate' script writers! Gearóid Keane, Joe Lyons and Ryan Worden certainly had the Leaving Certs in the mood for love after the first reading of the script. Unfortunately, it was decided that a little editing would have to be done before the show be put on for other students (for fear of putting ideas in some peoples' heads!).

On the day emotions were running high and a nervous tension filled the air especially amongst the teachers who were frantically attempting to send us back to class! And at last the time came for Cilla Black aka Laura Waldron to strut on stage and introduce the show. At first Ivanna Tinkle had to choose between three very eligible bachelors; a smelly farmer, a Star Wars fanatic and a 'gentleman' armed with a pocket full of chloroform! Understandably, the chloroform man (Declan McNamara) won hands down. After that Neil Murphy, as Ballyhaunis's very own Lance Von Spain had the privilege to find a date for Brendan O'Gara, a talented Spanish salsa dancer. It was clear from the outset however that when Diarmuid Niland (aka 'Sandy') and his assets came

on stage there was only one contender in this competition. As the happy couple walked off stage, we all knew we had just witnessed the beginning of something beautiful. So then Cilla was back on stage for the much anticipated teachers round. Ms. Donaghue, Ms. Corcoran and Ms. Gibbons were all put at the mercy of Mr. McDonagh. Despite being slightly scared by Ms Gibbons obsession with his voice, he was not deterred from the task at hand and had soon found himself a lovely Irish girl (Ms. Corcoran).

Taking part in the Blind Date was certainly an experience to say the least. Receiving the final script on the day and learning lines minutes before going on stage certainly made it a day to remember. But as far as I could see the audience loved it too. From Mr. McDonagh's 'grand' entrance to the dodgy chat up lines which come with a recommendation never to be used except on stage, there was definitely never a dull moment.

Many thanks to all those who got involved, from the teachers to the 'much needed' makeup artists! It was great fun for all involved and more importantly a staggering amount was raised for the Chile Relief Fund. All that now remains to be said is to wish the three couples the very best and let's hope they will share a bright and happy future together!!!

*Mairéad Connolly*





## Hurling in Ballyhaunis Community School 09/10



*Back Row: Davóg Frayne, James Lyons, Mark Phillips, Mohammad Ahmed, Joseph Lyons, Ryan Kilbane, Shawn Groarke, Waqas Rehman, Shane Seddon.  
Front Row: Brian Gavin, Joseph Kelly, James Murphy, James Burke, Qasim Nazir, Niall Robinson.*

Junior and Senior hurling this year has suffered due to the lack of interest from other schools to take part. To date we have played a junior hurling game against Holy Rosary College from Mountbellew in Galway. This was a tight game which we narrowly lost; our performance on the day was very good considering we were missing a lot of our more established junior players. The younger players who stepped in that day highlighted the fact that there is a bright future for hurling in B.C.S. We will be playing Holy Rosary College in a senior game in the coming weeks where we will be expecting a victory due to a strong senior team this year. To date we have played a first and second year blitz and more of the same will be coming in the next few weeks.

*Mr. Cannon*

## Aoife McDonagh



Aoife McDonagh has had a very successful year, winning the County Championship, the Connaught Championship and the All-Ireland Handball Championship with the girls inter-provincial team of ten. She also represented her school and continued her winning streak, securing the County Championship and the Connaught Championship for the school.

## Record Breaking Soccer

Congratulations and well done to Ballyhaunis Community School students and Club Next Foróige members who successfully smashed the world record for the longest 5 a side indoor soccer marathon in Barnacarroil on April 9th/10th. They started on Friday afternoon at 3.00pm and continued for 33 hours till Saturday at midnight. The students were very sore and exhausted but delighted to have achieved their goal. As well as setting a new world record, the students also raised €5,000 for the Special Olympics. Well done to all.



*Back (l-r): Darren Dennehy, Oisín McDermott, Paul O'Gara, Patrick Devaney.  
Middle row (l-r) Siobhan Wilcock, Dermot Crinnigan, Shane Boland, Daniel Harrison, Michelle Leneghan.  
Front row (l-r) : Niamh Cunnane, Sharron Lynskey, Roisin Hunt, Siobhan Conboy.*

## Cricket, a King's game!

Cricket is a game of two wheels encircled by bat and bowl, mere players involved in batting and bowling.



*Kamran Afzal*

The process of this batting and bowling takes place in the field of cricket with the desired dream of victory. Attainment of success neither lies in the hands of the bowlers nor in the hands of batsman. The team has had a complete make-over in the last season. Under the joint captaincy of Arslan Afzal and Waqar Ul-Hassan (past students of the school) we had a dream start to the season with a win over Castlebar. It was a fantastic effort by the team. As the season took off, training sessions were becoming very stressful as more importance was being given to the fielding and batting aspects of the game. Players the likes of Farukh Iqbal can inspire anybody to do better on the field.

There are high hopes for our young side and hopefully we can add more silverware to the cabinet in the upcoming summer. My most memorable moment in my sporting career so far has been in the Connaught Cup where I caught the ball, broke my finger and won the match!!!!

*Kamran Afzal*



# The Musical - Grease





# Down Memory Lane





# Artwork





# A Day In The Life





# Camogie

The Camogie season started off in flying form for the junior girls of B.C.S. Although one of our early games ended in a narrow defeat, that didn't stop us from winning our play off stage and reaching an important semi-final against St. Cuan's of Castleblakeney. We had met this team at the start of the competition and we knew it would not be easy. Unfortunately we were only one point down when the final whistle blew. The whole team was delighted that we had come this far.

The 1st and 2nd years began the season with a minor defeat to Coláiste na Coribe. They are looking forward to the matches ahead against St. Cuan's, Castleblakeney and St. Bridgits, Loughrea. The 1st years will also be taking part in a blitz after Easter.

The whole team would like to give a huge thanks to Ms. Gibbons and Ms. Varden for all the hard work and effort that has been put in this year to keep this brilliant sport alive in the school.

*Niamh Cunnane*



## Minor Girls Camogie-

Back row: Kelly Donegan, Shauna Morley, Sheila Brady, Aoife Lilly, Sarah Feeney, Aisling Tarpey, Ciara Jordan, Riona Joyce, Jennifer Cox.  
Front row: Ria Dunleavy, Sonia Henry, Aisling Lynskey, Lisa Morley, Maria Waldron, Labhaoise Cunnane, Carol Freeley, Aine Coyne.



## Senior Girls Camogie

Back Row: Aisling Tarpey, Joanne Cregg, Niamh Cunnane, Lisa Walsh, Aoife Lilly, Clodagh Sloyan, Noreen Cassidy  
Middle Row: Lisa O'Connell, Maria Waldron, Labhaoise Cunnane, Shauna Morley, Sonia Henry, Tara Mulkeen, Aoife Cassidy  
Front Row: Aine Lilly, Riona Joyce, Claire Egan, Sheila Brady, Aine Coyne, Aisling Lynskey, Lisa Morley

## Mid West Radio Edge Sports Awards



The Mid West Radio Edge Sports Awards took place in mid February in the Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen. Every month Mid West Radio choose an exceptional sporting moment or achievement as the monthly winner, some months may have more than one winner.

Na Brídeoga U-14 panel received the prestigious award for the month of June 2009 for their victorious win of Féile na nGael, the U-14 All-Ireland Competition in Camogie. The award was accepted by one of the managers, John Cunnane, and Captain Mairéad Charlton. They accepted the award from former Mayo football star David Brady.

*Róna Burke*

## Na Brídeoga Camogie

Na Brídeoga Camogie Club represented Mayo in the 2009 Féile Na Gael competition held in Laois/Offaly last year. The panel of 25 captured the Division 4 Camogie Title victory over opponents Seir Kieran of Offaly. Over the weekend we scored an impressive total of 31 goals and 14 points while only conceding 3 goals and 3 points. It was an enjoyable weekend we are sure never to forget!

*Shauna Morley 2nd Year*

# Artwork





## Talent Show

On the 12th of February 2010 a concert was held in the auditorium here at B.C.S to raise money for Olwyn Murray's campaign as she competed in the All Ireland Talent Show. The show kicked off at 8pm with Mid-West radio presenter, Gerry Glennon (who is also a past BCS student) as our MC. We had special guests, the rambling Rogues and Paul Clesham, along with many of our own very talented students here at BCS. A raffle was held at the interval which was preceded by more wonderful acts, along with some excerpts from the musical 'Grease', which the school performed in December and in which Olwyn was our leading lady. The main focus of the night was Olwyn's campaign and so, Olwyn sang the ever famous 'On My Own' and her beautiful version of 'Songbird' to end the show with a bang!! The night was a huge success and over €900 was raised in aid of Olwyn's campaign. Many thanks to all who took part in the concert and to Mrs. Devine and all of the teachers who made the night such a massive success. Most importantly, thanks to everyone who came along on the night and who supported us in helping Olwyn to follow her dream.

*Siobhán Wilcock*

## Green Schools Committee

The work of the Green Schools Committee is still going on in the school. This work is very evident in the huge reduction of litter both on the school corridors and in the school yard.

The recycling programme is also ongoing and is proving to be very successful. Plastic bottles, tetra packs and sandwich cartons are being recycled. In addition to this we have also embarked upon a composting programme in the school. All organic waste i.e. tea bags, fruit cores and all the organic waste from the Home Economics department is being composted. Hopefully in the future this will give us rich compost in which we hope to grow potted plants, flowers and shrubs and this will further enhance the school's environment.

Since embarking on the above programmes the amount of rubbish going to the landfill has fallen dramatically. We are very proud of our achievements but we can do better. We would ask all students to be more environmentally aware especially with regard to lunchtime. Do we really need to buy a bottle of water everyday? Couldn't we use the same bottle over and over? Using a lunch box would reduce the amount of tinfoil or cling film being used. These simple yet little changes make a huge difference in reducing the amount of waste we produce.

We would also ask all students to keep an eye on the recycling rotas in their areas and to ensure that all

## West Factor Finalists



*L-r : Fourth year students Siobhan Maloney, Jenny Waldron, Niamh Cunnane and Siobhan Wilcock.*

EXCITEMENT was fever pitch in Ballyhaunis Community School when yet again the musical talents of students gave the school a reason to celebrate. Following on from the success of

Olwyn Murray reaching the last four in the All-Ireland Talent Show. Four 4th year students took to the stage to take part in the grand final of the West Factor Talent Show which took place in the McWilliam Park Hotel in Claremorris. Catering for country, trad and folk music, the provincial event generated major interest across the region. All four contestants did themselves and the school proud.

recyclables are properly separated.

Mar a deir an seanfhocal – "ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine"

*Transition Years*



*Back row: Darren Dennehy, Daniel Harrison, Ian Coyne, Seán Griffin, Darragh Richardson, Stephen Brehony, John Flynn, Seamus Burke. Middle row: Mrs. Brogan, Shane Boland, Eugene Durkan, Brendan Connolly, Joe Sutton, Eoghan Collins, Gary Patterson, Niall Melvin. Front row: Grace Lyons, Jade McDermott, Sharon Lynskey, Louise McNamara, Aoife Hill, Edel Walsh.*

*Pictured are Transition Year students (who are actively involved in school recycling) with the school composter*



# Ballyhaunis Community School

## Students to Stage 'Grease'

It was all hands on deck at Ballyhaunis Community School as staff and students got ready to stage their musical masterpiece – Grease with a Ballyhaunis twist! When Mrs. **Siobhan Devine** (Musical director) and Mrs. **Anna Henry** (Producer) first thought of staging Grease they knew that some wonderful talent would be needed – after the auditions it was clear that there was talent in abundance among the 4th, T.Y. and 5th year students. Auditions for this exciting event started Mid-October. Mrs. Devine, Mrs. Henry and Ms. Aine Egan (choreographer), were delighted at all the talent showcased, and swiftly decided on the leads and the chorus' and wasted no time in getting to work! As well as the lead roles, the choruses and dancers combined together, which meant that there were 90 students performing on stage. Such a large number required a serious amount of time, effort and energy from the production team. Aine Egan was choreographer of the show. Aine put us all through our paces with amazing results – the dance routines were full of energy and they really added to the show. It was hard to believe that these students were just 15 and 16 year old amateurs – they could definitely give X-Factor dancers a run for their money!

Every preparation was being made with the weeks flying by! As the opening night drew nearer we were certainly feeling the pressure. However, we were in very capable hands and our worries soon went away. Before we knew it, Ms Mannix and Ms Flynn (the Costume Department) had transported us back to 1965-we certainly looked the part!! That daunting date, 2nd of December, was on our tails and to both our relief and terror, there was an assembly area full of excited primary school children, their parents and teachers. We were standing rather nervously behind the stage curtains, which a week before was our beloved Music room! After that show we polished our performance over the next two days and we took to the stage on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night- December 4th, 5th and 6th in the school auditorium. Our production of Grease proved to be a show you wouldn't want to have missed was a roaring success!!! As well as Mrs. Siobhan Devine and Mrs. Anna Henry steering the production of the musical it would not be possible to undertake the staging of the musical without the help of a large number of staff members. Back stage was co-ordinated by Mrs. O'Reilly, Set design & construction fell under the remit of Mr. Sean McHugh while set painting was undertaken by Ms. Antoinette Lennon. Mrs. Siobhan Mannix and Ms.

Eadaoin Flynn looked after the costumes. Ms. Shelley Gibbons and Ms. Aisling Comer co-ordinated make-up, while Mrs. Ann Joyce, Mrs. Patricia Hardigan Whyte and Mrs. Justina Lyons looked after ticket sales. Mrs. Bernadine Waldron produced the souvenir programme while tickets, posters and P.R.O. was taken care of by Ms. Orla Macken. On behalf of the cast I would like to thank all involved in making this happen,. Thank you, it was a truly unforgettable experience for all involved!!

### The Cast of Grease

The role of Sandy was easy to cast – **Olwyn Murray**, who is already making a name for herself in the music industry.

The part of Danny Zuko went to **Cathal Glavey** – a very talented musician and singer.

The members of the cool T. Birds are **Gary Patterson** (Kenickie), **Kieran McDermott** (Roger), **Darragh Richardson** (Sonny) and **Paul O'Gara** (Doody).

The dazzling Pink Ladies are: **Siobhan Wilcock** (Rizzo), **Niamh Cunnane** (Frenchy), **Katie Conroy** (Marty) and **Michelle Lenehan** (Jan).

**Siobhan Maloney** played Patty and **Padraic Egan** played Eugene.

**Lisa Jordan** played Cha-Cha

**Klarissa Murphy** played school teacher Miss. Lynch

**Jennie Waldron** was the teen angel

**Neil Murphy** was D.J. - Vince Fontane

**Sean O'Rourke** played Johnny Casino.

**Brendan O'Gara**, **Declan McNamara** and **Cathal McGowan** are Ballyhaunis Community School's current 'resident' band and for the musical were 'The Band' on stage.

*Michelle Lenehan*

## Latest Fundraising efforts at Ballyhaunis Commuity School

Pictured are Leaving cert students and their teacher Mrs. Sharon Mulroy who helped to raise €2,000 for the Chile Relief Fund. The students have organised a number of fundraising activities since February culminating in a 'Blind Date' Ballyhaunis C.S. style. The students presented the cheque to Ms. Pauline Moran, Principal of Santa Maria College, Louisburgh who's sister Mary T. has been working in Chile over the past 19 years. Mary T. witnessed and survived the devastating earthquake which struck Chile in February. She continues to work tirelessly to help people affected by this latest natural disaster. Sr. Mary T. McDonagh was very heartened to hear that the students of Ballyhaunis Community School wanted to play their part and help raise much needed funds for the devastated Chilian people. Well done to all involved.



*Presentation of cheque in aid of Chile Relief Fund  
Back (l-r): Ryan Worden, Adrian Gavin, Diarmuid Niland, Cathal McGowan, Joe Flynn.  
Middle row (l-r) Ms. Pauline Moran, Mrs. Sharon Mulroy, Sean O'Rourke, Ruth Judge, Gearoid Keane, Neil Murphy, Mr. Pat McHugh.  
Front row (l-r) : Kathryn Waldron, Laura Waldron, Declan McNamara, Mairéad Connolly, Adena Morley.*



## Haiti Relief Fund

Other fundraising events which took place during the year included: the making of St. Bridget's Crosses. Here students gathered rushes, learned to make the crosses and sold them in order to raise much needed funds for the victims of the Haiti Earthquake disaster. The students succeeded in raising €1,850 for Haiti through the selling of the crosses and organising a Skip-off competition. There was great competition between the boys and girls, with the girls coming out as clear winners.

## Trócaire Lenten Campaign

First year students were instrumental in fundraising €1,500 towards Trócaire. Students opted to give up



something they enjoy for 24 hours for example some students abandoned their phones, others gave up T.V., computer games, the playstation etc for 24 hours. Other year groups played their part in the fundraising by organising various activities. 3D Class and their tutor Mrs. Joyce contributed €230 to the Trócaire fund by organising a cake sale and DVD session.

## Operation Christmas Child - Shoe Box Appeal

Despite the recession it was very heartening to see that students and their parents continued the tradition of filling a shoe box with gifts and toys to give to the needy children all over the world. This year Operation Christmas child concentrated on children in eastern European countries who would receive nothing for Christmas if it wasn't for the generosity of people. Again well done to all the students and their families who filled a shoe box and a special word of thanks to the class tutors for organising their tutor classes to take part.

## 4th Year Fancy Dress Sponsored Walk in aid of Henry Madden Tanzania Fund



Each year our 4th year students and their religion teachers organise and take part in the annual sponsored walk in aid of the Henry Madden Tanzania Fund. Since 2002 Henry, along with the help of BCS has fundraised over €10,000 for the people of Tanzania. Henry, a local community person has made several visits to Tanzania and he brings back photographic evidence of both the desperate situation the people of Tanzania are living in and also proof of the valuable contribution people can make in third world countries. Students have the opportunity to see the desperate lifestyle of their peers living on the other side of the world in 2010. This is a lesson no classroom or textbook can teach. Every cent of the money raised by the students goes directly to the communities of two towns in Tanzania. Every cent counts and this year the 4th year students through their creative and colourful endeavors raised a considerable amount for this worthwhile cause. Well done everyone.



# Our TY journey so far...



*Transition Year Class-*

*Back row: Darren Dennehy, Daniel Harrison, Ian Coyne, Seán Griffin, Darragh Richardson, Stephen Brehony, John Flynn, Seamus Burke.*

*Middle row: Shane Boland, Eugene Durkan, Brendan Connolly, Joe Sutton, Eoghan Collins, Gary Patterson, Niall Melvin.*

*Front row: Grace Lyons, Jade McDermott, Sharon Lynskey, Louise McNamara, Aoife Hill, Edel Walsh.*

*Missing from photo: Neil Lyons, Emily Worden, Ivan Hynes.*

Our journey so far in TY has been eventful and enjoyable. We have all made new friends, enjoyed many experiences and have had great craic throughout the year.

In September, we started our year in TY with a 3 day trip to Killary Outdoor Adventure Centre. During our stay we had a chance to do a variety of different activities including kayaking, canoeing, laser combat, high rope climbing, wall climbing, gorge walking and orienteering. Each evening we did a different activity with one of the instructors. Overall, the highlights for everyone were the terrifying cliff jump, jumping in the muddy bogholes and the adrenaline pumping bungee swing. Also in that month, we held a Jersey Day prior to the All-Ireland Football Final. It went exceptionally well and we raised a total of €600.

In October, we visited Derrynumera Recycling Centre, with our Geography class. We arrived at the centre and were greeted by the site manager, who showed us the various areas of the centre and explained how each item was recycled. After this, we traveled to Croagh Patrick where Mrs. Brogan showed us geographical features of the bay.

For two weeks during the months of October and March, we had an opportunity to go on work experience. This was a big part of the TY programme and everyone benefited from it.

In November we went on a second Geography trip to the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Westport. It was an interesting day, and we completed a project on this topic back in school. Following that, we held a cake sale in the school's assembly area. We sold different cakes and buns which we made in Home Economics and raised around €180. Later that month, we held a coffee morning in aid of Mayo-Roscommon Hospice. With the help of Ms. Flynn and other members of staff, we successfully raised approximately €200.

For our mini company 2010, we decided to make t-shirts in association with our school musical, "Grease". We designed and successfully sold over 150 t-shirts in early December, before the musical was staged.

The TY class was also highly involved in "Grease". Students took on a range of different roles. Some strutted their stuff on stage as lead roles and choruses, whilst others worked hard behind the scenes as stage crew, selling tickets and directing traffic.

Transition Year gave a lot of students the chance to engage in more sports. Some got the chance to play more sport during school and others had the opportunity to train the Junior Girls Football team and the First Year Boys Soccer team. In February of this year, Paul Byrne, FAI officer for the Mayo Region came to the school to give a coaching course. Six TY students took part and completed this course, which qualifies them to train 6-9 year olds.

The majority of Transition Years took part in the First Aid course which was held over a few weeks in January. The students who took part found it to be a worthwhile experience and gained good knowledge of First Aid.

During Seachtain na Gaelige, our Irish class organised a table quiz, as Gaelige, for the first and second year students. In our music class we have organised a talent show and music quiz. We have also taken part in dancing with Gráinne Kelly. In geography, we have done many projects and have taken an active role in the Green Schools Programme by promoting recycling in our school.

After Easter, we are planning to complete a defibrillator course and in May we have planned a trip to Belfast and Derry.

So far, our year has been full of fun and worthwhile experiences and we hope to do even more during the final months!

*By: Emily Worden, Louise McNamara, Sean Griffin, Gary Patterson and Sharron Lynskey.*

## YSI – Spread a Smile!

'Spread a Smile' is the catchy title of the Transition year Young Social Innovators project. The YSI project aims to involve young people in social issues evident in their community and to take an active role in their communities.

In September, Ms Murray asked us what we thought of the "Spread a Smile!" idea. Everyone was enthusiastic and loved the idea of making others smile during all the "doom and gloom".

In late September we launched the campaign within the school with an unexpected surprise. We played fun music over the intercom and gave out sweets to the students. It went really well and put a smile on everyone's face!

We then visited our local Supervalu store. We spoke to the shoppers and gave out our smiley face stickers. The shoppers were very pleased to see young teenagers giving up their time for others.

We also spent an afternoon with the elderly over at Brookville Nursing Home. We put on a short concert which included music, dance and singing for the residents to enjoy. They really enjoyed our visit and were pleased to have some entertainment for the afternoon.

In February we continued our campaign in the school by giving hot chocolate and home-made biscuits to the Leaving Cert students. A lot of the students were shocked and confused about the event, but gradually warmed to the idea of some time out to relax and enjoy themselves.

Following that we visited Rita Lundon's playschool in Ballyhaunis to spend some time with the young children. During our time there we played games with the children, read stories, sang some of their favourite songs and gave them sweets. On this occasion our mascot, "The Clown", was on hand to help entertain and keep them all smiling!

On March 23rd, we travelled to NUIG to participate in the YSI Speak Out Forum. We were the first school to be called up to Speak Out and present our project. The nerves hit! Our hearts were pounding as we walked out onto the stage hoping our dance would impress. Thankfully the routine went down exceptionally and left everyone in the room smiling and cheering! We now await the call to take part in the Showcase in Croke Park in May.

We intend on spreading our project further by the end of the school year. We hope to organise computer classes for adults and sports days for the national school children of the community.

On behalf of the TY class we would like to acknowledge all the hard work Ms Murray has put into our project. We

would also like to thank the other teachers and students who have co-operated during our campaign.

*Sharon Lynskey, Emily Worden, Louise McNamara*



## BCS Banking

This project began way back in September. The T.Y. class submitted names for our preferred posts and so a journey began. We held numerous meetings and decided to call this project "Bank of the Future". Posters had to be quickly drawn up for the opening day! Our catch phrase was to be "No need to rob just save a few bob".

We officially launched the bank on the 19th of November. We had a colourful display to add to the sweets that we gave out. Great fun was had by all. We had quite a number of new customers by the end of the day. The project was put on hold until after Christmas because of the school musical.

Then the freezing weather arrived so we didn't get going again until February. We opened a couple more times with moderate interest. The bank was situated in the 'E' offices. We had lots of support from Jarlath who was our contact in AIB. We are proud of our achievements so far and will continue to provide a helpful and friendly service for the rest of the year and into the next.

*Brendan Connolly*

## Achill Trip for 4th Years

We set off for Achill, some of us with suitcases we could just about carry and others that had to be checked for other reasons. On the scenic journey there none of us really knew what to expect! When we arrived we were informed of the rules: basically boys on one side and girls the other, which, of course, everyone abided by! The rooms were assigned, we were divided into groups and then we were left to settle in.

Throughout the three days in Achill we took part in many different activities such as canoeing, surfing, archery, wall climbing, hill walking and other group activities, all of which were great fun especially the bog holes! Some getting more into it than others!

After the soup and sandwiches in the evening we settled down to watch DVDs. The trip would not have been complete without the famous Ms. Achill competition which was held on the last night. A competition of such a high standard with 'Philomena Begley' blasting out a song, Sammy displaying his 'finest', Mac singing his heart out and of course Ms Achill herself (Ciaran Brennan) with her outstanding dance moves.

Unfortunately it all had to come to an end. There wasn't one person who wanted to leave. It is one of the most enjoyable memories we will treasure from Ballyhaunis Community School. But there's nothing better on a journey home than Kieran Kiely singing 'The Climb'. On behalf of the 4th year students we would like to thank Ms Rafferty, Mr. Murray and everyone who made this trip possible for us.

*By Jennie Waldron and Jenny Lyons.*



## 4th Year Retreat

On February 25th, some very enthusiastic 4th year students set off on a much needed break from school to Knock on Retreat. When we arrived we were greeted by some of the members of the Net Retreat Team.. This group travels to schools all around Ireland providing school retreats. We started the day with a brainstorming session of what the day could bring, we also played some warm up games. We were then divided into smaller groups and worked with a team member on the theme of life. The day also included a drama and music and the team members shared their own personal faith experiences. Overall the day was really enjoyable, we had lots of fun as well as getting to know ourselves and the other students better.

*Áine Waldron & Tara Plunkett*

On the 25th February, 4th years headed off to Knock for their retreat. When we arrived in Knock, we were greeted by NET (National Evangelisation Team). We were introduced and the games began! After the games, we sat down and watched the NET team perform a short drama. We were then split into smaller groups to talk about the day so far. This was followed by a small break which included tea and of course biscuits! When we returned, we sang a song called "Everyday", which the lads sang very loudly! We watched a short movie about the 3 flames of love and then we talked about relationships and chastity. We watched another drama and returned to our small groups. After this, the girls were separated from the fellas to have our women session! We learnt about the 6 truths of women and listened to some wise words from the NET team. Meanwhile, the boys were next door watching "Braveheart"! We broke up for lunch and when we returned, it was time for another round of our favourite song, "Everyday", then over to the chapel for some prayer and reflection. Another Song and drama were performed and confessions were available. After this reflection, we returned to the centre and yes, once again we sang! We played the "key game" again after some persuasion and we said our goodbyes to the NET team and returned to school. A great day was had by all and no-one will forget "Everyday" in a hurry! A big thanks to Ms. Macken for organising the retreat and to Ms. Flynn and Ms. Donoghue who accompanied us on our retreat.

*By: Siobhán Wilcock.*

## 4th Year Art Exhibition





# School tour 2009/10

The Ballyhaunis School Tour to Barcelona was one of the most highly anticipated events on the 2009/10 school calendar, and yes, it did live up to everyone's expectations. From the moment we received our tour itinerary, there was no doubt left in anyone's mind, that this would be a tour to remember.

We departed the school grounds at 12:30 on Saturday night (24 October), making sure we were in plenty of time for our 6:30am flight from Dublin Airport. Despite traveling through the night we were all much too excited to get even a wink of sleep.

On arrival we headed straight to our awaiting coach for our guided tour of the beautifully picturesque city that is Barcelona. Despite being slightly bleary from the lack of sleep it in no way hindered our ability to take in the idealic surroundings and enjoy such wondrous sights such as Montjuic, Sagrada Familia, Gaudi Buildings or the busy streets of Las Ramblas.

By the time we reached our hotel in Salou (an hour outside of Barcelona) we were all exhausted from our long but thoroughly enjoyable day and (much to the delight of the teachers) headed straight to bed.

Sunday morning we were all up bright and early, so we treated ourselves with a quick visit to Salou Beach to soak up some sun before heading to the world famous Mare Magnum shopping centre for a day of intense shopping

and bargain hunting. By the time the lads were all shopped out and the girls had as many "Designer Handbags" as they could possibly carry, it was time to load ourselves back on the coach, and head for the Nou Camp, where Barcelona's prestigiously talented players such as Messi and Xavi disposed of Zaragoza in their 6-1 victory made this one of my personal highlights.

Monday was the day everyone was waiting for! Our trip to the famed PortAventura. Even with the vast queues(although the more wise headed amongst us had the sense to buy express tickets) it was near impossible not to enjoy the experience of Hurricane Condor's 70mph descent from nearly 300ft or the heart pounding 7 loop the loops in Europe's largest rollercoaster Dragon Khan. After an enthralling day at the park we headed to Salou beach to say our sad farewell to Barcelona. We took care not to stay out too late as we were all conscious that we would be up early to catch our return flights.

Early the next morning everyone, somewhat dejected, regrettably packed their bags and with our hearts heavy in our chest, we bid our silent goodbyes to Barcelona in the hope that we would return again. We boarded the plane (which was now weighed down with Fake Designer Handbags) with memories of probably the best weekend in our lives and one that we will surely never forget.

A special word of thanks to Mr. McHugh, Mrs. Brogan, Ms. Varden, Ms. Keane, Mr. Murray, Mr. Cannon, Ms. Macken, Ms. Gibbons, Ms. Raftery and Mr. McGarry - tour organiser.

*Gearóid Keane*



## Class 4A



**Back row:** Tomás Morley, Ciarán Brennan, Claire O'Dwyer, Roisín Hunt, Kieran McDermott, Cathal Glavey.

**Middle row:** Sarah Caulfield, Laura Frederika Lalikova, Hollie Adams, Laura Kilgarrieff, Kelly Ann McKay, Elaine Egan, Katie Conroy, Melissa McLoughlin.

**Front row:** Áine Waldron, Tracey Regan, Celine Brennan, Ciara Dee, Niamh Cunnane.

*Missing from Photo:* Siobhán Maloney.

## Class 4B



**Back row:** Shane Murphy, Kieran McLoughlin, Garreth Carrick, Sheraz UI-Hassan, Brian Neary, Oisín McDermott, Sammy Asilia.

**Middle row:** Pdraig Egan, Damien Keadin, Laura Haverty, Clare Kenny, Bronagh Walsh, Daniel Folliard, Shane Muldoon.

**Front row:** Tara Plunkett, Martina Mullarkey, Anne Folan, Jennifer O'Neill, Sarah Grennan.

*Missing from photo:* Kelly Niland, Fatima Noor, Hassan Alam, Joy Osunde, Emma Deegan, John Waldron.



## Class 4C



**Back row:** Liam O'Connor, Waseem Ashraf, Stefan Danicic, Dermott Crinnigan, Connor Freeley, Kial Wallace, James Simcox.  
**Middle row:** Bunmi Fabiyi, Danielle Duffy, John Kilboyle, Paul O'Gara, Siobhán Wilcock, Siobhán Conboy.  
**Front row:** Maria Lyons, Greta Domarkaite, Louise Ruane, Lisa Jordan, Joanne Cregg, Éilis O'Gara.  
*Missing from photo:* Luke Harris, Isaac Carroll

## Class 4D



**Back row:** Fintan Kearney, Colm Keane, Dylan Lynskey, Siobhán Morley, Michelle Neenan, Kieran Kiely, Caoileann Fitzmaurice, John McNeive.  
**Middle row:** Raj Grover, Patrick Devaney, Sarah Deegan, Danielle Higgins, Celine Conroy, Jason Nolan, Brandon Peake.  
**Front row:** Lisa Naughton, Andrea Reynolds, Marie Staunton, Aoife Cassidy, Hannah Al Jumail, Jennifer Waldron.  
*Missing from photo:* Zaira Arshad, Saadir Nazir, Mistura Yussuf.



## Senior Boys Gaelic Football



*Back Row: Tomás Morley, John Finan, Shane Muldoon, Isaac Carroll, Eoghan Collins, Cathal Fahy, John McNieve, Caoileann Fitzmaurice, Joseph Flynn, Seán Griffin*  
*Front Row: Paul O'Gara, Oisín McDermott, John Waldon, Kieran Kiely, Connor Freely, Niall Freeman, Ryan Worden, Brendan O'Gara, Fintan Kearney, Gearoid Keane*

For the Senior Boys Gaelic Panel it's been another year of so near, yet so far. A solid Flanagan Cup campaign laid down sturdy foundations for what would prove an exhilarating year. A convincing victory over Balla C.S., 0-17 to 2-8, and a rugged tussle with Swinford, 2-11 to 1-10 (A.E.T.) led to a final appearance vs. St. Louis', Kiltimagh. This time Louis' came out on top.

On the 26th of January our Championship voyage began.

St. Mary's, Strokestown proved worthy opposition, but we eventually ran out with a 7 point victory. The very next day we were summoned to play St. Nathy's, Ballaghadereen. Our grit and hunger enabled us to overpower a determined Nathy's outfit, 1-19 to 2-1. Under the able captaincy of Niall Freeman we had progressed through the opening rounds. A tantalizing Connacht Championship Semi-Final showdown with bitter rivals Kiltimagh beckoned.

On home turf, with a point to prove, we locked horns with the enemy. Throughout this electrifying encounter we battled fearlessly. Our backs held the opposition to 0-2 from play in an exemplary defensive display. In inclement conditions our forwards returned the favour with some majestic scores. However, our valiant effort was in vain. After a tense and frenetic game, St. Louis' had escaped our clutches by the minimum margin, 0-06 to 0-07. This was definitely the one that got away.

Our Championship odyssey was over, but a promising league campaign landed us in contention for Connacht League honours. This time it was Connacht Champions St. Attracta's who stood between us and a Connacht Final. Unfortunately, we came out second best in this Semi-Final shoot-out.

On behalf of the entire Senior Panel we would like to sincerely thank Mr. Rudden, Mr. Murren and in particular, Mr. McDonagh, for their time, devotion and expertise throughout the year. It has been an honour and a privilege to represent the school over the past five years.

*Ryan Worden and Brendan O'Gara.*

## Leaving Cert Retreat!

On the 15th and 16th of October Leaving Certs made the much anticipated trip to.....Knock! After a few ups and downs (and extra money!) we finally got going! We were split into two groups and we each spent a day with Fr. Benny and Aids West. Just as promised, Fr. Benny was a well of stories, jokes and laughter. He kept us on the edge of our seats with his captivating stories. He talked to us about a wide range of topics such as prayer, cults and suicide. We also had talk with representatives from Aids West. They warned us about the dangers of unprotected sex and the need for positive and sensible attitudes towards relationships. It was a very informative presentation. We would like to thank the religion department, Fr. Benny, Aids West and the staff at the Rest and Care centre. It was by far the most enjoyable retreat of our time in school.

*Edel Lynch & Aisling Waldron*

## GAA Presentation



*Brendan O'Gara received the 4th year M.V.P. GAA League award. Also pictured is Mr. David McDonagh (Coach), Mr. Hugh Rudden (Connacht Colleges secretary) and Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal).*

## SENIOR LADIES G.A.A



*Back Row: Fiona Brady, Róna Burke, Aisling Tarpey, Sinead Garvey, Niamh Cunnane, Amy Brady, Andrea Morris, Aisling Horan*

*Middle Row: Aine Lilly, Shiofra Flatley, Lisa O'Connell, Joanne Cregg, Lisa Washe.*

*Front Row: Riona Joyce, Sonia Henry, Sheila Brady, Shauna Morley, Pamela Ubazuonu*

*Missing from photo: Hannah Donegan, Aoife McDonagh, Michelle Neenan, Anne Marie Heneghan, Sharon Lynskey, Jennie Waldron, Marie Staunton*

Ladies football has gone from strength to strength this year with both Junior and Senior Ladies reaching the latter stages of their competitions. Our panel consists of a group of young, highly dedicated girls with every member playing a pivotal role.

This year we did a sponsored walk to raise much needed

funds for a set of new jerseys. This year's football campaign got off to a fantastic start with a great display of football against Elphin. We won effortlessly with a superb scoreline of 5-17 to 4-6. Our high morale was slightly knocked following a close encounter against Carraroe, resulting in a loss. However, we went on to win 2 games back to back against St. Cuans and Clifden to reach the Connacht semi-final, beating both teams comprehensively.

The Connacht Semi-Final took place in Foxford with adverse windy conditions against a very physical Foxford side. It was a tightly fought contest during the first half, with no assistance from the referee. However, we prevailed during the second half and took score after score to progress to the Connacht Final. The final score ended up 4-9 to 2-8.

The Connacht Final took place on the 29th of April. Our morale was slightly shaken after numerous injuries being received by some of the players in the run up to the final. This greatly affected our starting team and although the team was weakened, we still held a tight scoreline until the end. We didn't seem to have the luck on the day. However, it was still a huge achievement to get to this stage. Maybe it will be our turn next year!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who sponsored and supported us during this campaign.

We would also like to thank Ms. Keane and Ms. Gibbons for all their hard work and dedication throughout this successful sporting year. We are very proud to have represented the school over the past five / six years and we wish the girls every sporting success in the future.

*By Hannah Donegan, Amy Brady and Lisa Walsh  
(Leaving Cert.)*

## U-18 Soccer

The U-18 soccer team only played one game this year against St. Gearlds of Galway. The team played well on the day and we nearly grabbed a few goals towards the end but were very unfortunate to lose by a couple of goals. We would just like to thank Mr. Noone for all his hard work throughout the year.

*Caoileann Fitzmaurice*



*Back Row: Mr. Noone, Gerard Grogan, Rory Collins, Shane Muldoon, Kieran Kiely, Sammy Asilia, Oisín McDermott, Brandon Peake*

*Front Row: Wasseem Ashraf, Paul Carney, Connor Freeley, Gary Patterson, Ciaran Brennan, Sheraz Ul-Hassan*



# Leaving Cert Photos



Adena Morley



Adrian Gavin



Adrienne Kenny



Ailee Webb



Aisling Horan



Aisling Waldron



Amy Brady



Anne-Marie Hora



Aoife McDonagh



Audrey Costello



Avril Feeney



Aysha Amin



Brendan O'Gara



Cathal Fahy



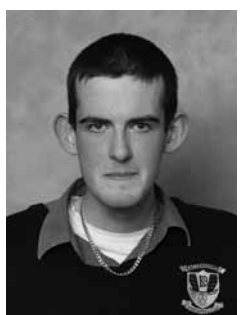
Cathal Leneghan



Cathal McGowan



Ciara Sloyan



Ciaran Davy



Conor Kearney



Damon Payne



David Grogan



David Lyons



David Fitzmaurice



Declan McNamara



Diarmuid Finnegan

# Leaving Cert Photos



Diarmuid Niland



Edele Lynch



Edele Lyons



Eilish Egan



Eimear Flatley



Emer Walsh



Emma Keane



Emma Niland



Faizan Yousaf



Fatima Afzal



Ferzana Nazir



Gearóid Keane



Hannah Donegan



Ihsan Almas



Jennifer Lyons



Jessica Kelly



John Finan



Joseph Flynn



Kathryn Waldron



Katie Culliney



Lana Raftery



Laura Regan



Laura Waldron



Laura Henry



Laura Lynch



# Leaving Cert Photos



Laura Patterson



Leanne Storie



Lisa Finn



Lisa Rowley



Lisa Walsh



Mairéad Connolly



Marie Cleary



Martha Lyons



Mat Yui Lee



Maura Naughton



Melanie Ronan



Michaela Webb



Michelle Lenehan



Michelle McDermott



Neil Murphy



Niall Cherbatji



Niall Freeman



Olwyn Murray



Rachel Byrne



Ramona Frayne

# Leaving Cert Photos



Rebekka Johnston



Robyn Gallagher



Robyn Moran



Ruth Judge



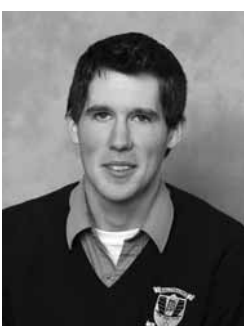
Ryan Worden



Sara Cherbati



Sean Kearsey



Sean O'Rourke



Sinéad Korrane



Sinéad Morley



Siobhán Finn



Stephen Comer



Taran Grover



Victoria Tighe Hayden



Vygintas Vezelis



Wenesa Staszczuk

Missing from photo: Lisa Cunnane



## Sponsored Cycle

Pictured are students, accompanied by Mr. Wooley and Ms. Gibbons, who participated in a sponsored cycle in May 2009 in order to raise money for new gym equipment. The students also took part in a sponsored walk within the locality and a sponsored climb of Croagh Patrick.

*Students in the above photo include-Conor Freeley, Lauren Gourlay, Aron Moran, Danielle Duffy, Colm Morley, Joanne Cregg, Siobhán Conboy, Isaac Carroll, Damien Keadin, Patrick Kiely, Michael Flanagan, Azhar Tayyab, Shane Healy.*



## Athletics

*Back row: Stephen Nolan, Johnathon Klein, Joseph Lyons, Cian O'Boyle, Jarlath Carnry, Andrew Cunnane, Michael O'Rourke.*

*Middle row: Niall Robinson, Ryan Kilbane, Shawn Groarke, Colm Ronan.*

*Front row: Zubir Koohestani, Aoife Lilly, Carol Freeley, Rory Nestor, Stacey Hayden, Anna Bugari, Liam Duffy.*

## Leaving Cert Graduation Committee

*Back row: Joe Flynn, Adena Morley, Hannah Donegan, Anne-Marie Hora, Ryan Worden*  
*Front row: Laura Waldron, Eimear Flatley, Rebekka Johnston*



## Repeat Leaving Certs

*Back row: Paul Carney, Gerard Grogan, David McNamara, Rory Collins, Kamran Afzal*

*Front row: Mateusz Maliszewski, Fiona Freyne, Noreen Iqbal, Roisin Fitzmaurice*

# Leaving Cert Applied - Memory Lane

September 2008 started with 11 students, 4 girls and 7 boys, but as we got to the end of LCA we lost two, Thomas Gallagher and Christopher McDonagh. We were all very apprehensive and shy as we did not know each other and we had to really work hard to become a team.

Our first task was our drama task and it was such fun. With the help of Ms Murray we put on a Broadway production. We have our dresses, suits and speeches ready for the Oscars!

Our second task was our enterprise task when we brought Cinemobile to BCS. Every student and every teacher was excited about the event. Our aim was to make a profit but we gave into temptation and ate all the crisps! Thanks to Ms Osgood for all her help.

The third task involved cooking and serving up a three

course meal for the teachers and management. It was great fun, very successful and thank god nobody got food poisoned! Science thanks to Mrs. Keane for all her help. Our hard work paid off when Mr. McDonagh brought us off to Castlebar for a well deserved trip. This involved bowling, cinema and fast food, but most of all a break from school.

After a lovely summer we returned to school for our final year as LCA 2 students. Little did we know the tough year ahead of us. It was all work and no play! We had three tasks to complete from September to January. We were happy to get them finished and hopefully we got full credits.

As a treat, we had two trips to Galway and we had tones of fun. When Adrian fell down the stairs, Damon losing his shopping bags, Faizan falling on the ice, Vicky chatting up the ice marshals and Marie bringing her date to the cinema. All these memories we will never forget.

Thanks to all the teachers, management and staff at BCS. We would also like to wish all the students in our Leaving Cert year the very best for the future!





# Leaving Cert. Memory Lane

They say time flies when you're having fun and with Leaving Cert drawing to a close, truer words were never spoken. From the Saw Doctor's in 1st Year to Grease in Leaving Cert. It's been one hell of a journey!

Despite our heads remaining firmly in the books, we still had time for some memorable extra-curricular exploits. Through our acting abilities in 'Blind Date' we managed to raise a staggering amount for a great cause in Chile. Also through our athleticism on the field we yielded 3 Connacht Football titles. At this stage those countless SPHE days and those enlightening retreats have formed a kaleidoscope of memories, yet Fr. Benny's entertaining

retreat in Knock in Leaving Cert. will be one that will remain indelibly etched on our memories. In 1st year we ventured as far as Athlone to the unchartered waters of Hudson Bay, by 4th year we braved the elements of Achill Island and in Leaving Cert. we took to the skies ascending on Barcelona!

Our time here in BCS has taught us that the sky is no the limit – after all, there are footprints on the moon!  
"These were our times and our times were the good times"  
the following are a sample of some of the best;

*Michelle Lenehan, Edel Lynch, Martha Lyons, Cathal McGowen, Brendan O'Gara, Laura Patterson, Ryan Worden*

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# Best Memory of Time in School

Mr. Charles with his "have a pivoting Christmas" and his Geographical version of American Pie. Not to mention Mrs. Erosion and Mr. Deposition.

- **Siobhán Finn**

Mr. Murray's random yet hilarious comments during our study and the human anatomy and reproduction in Ag.

- **Michelle Lenehan**

The day we were going to Barcelona. Everyone was so excited and all ready to go while some had to leave school early to pack! will never forget the time on Barcelona. So many memories with such wonderful people.

- **Emer Walshe**

It has to be Achill. It gave everyone a chance to get to know each other, especially the Tran years who were new to this amazing group of super intelligent beings. It also gave everyone a chance to mix with other groups and bond as a year.

- **Joseph Flynn.**

London with the music class, what a weekend!

- **Seán O'Rourke**

Biology class with Aisling...especially doubles on

Thursday evenings! And EVERY lunchtime!

- **Ciara Sloyan**

The time myself and Niland went out raking the Gaelic pitch with the LCA's just to doss class. Then Mr. McDonagh came out and caught us..His reaction was priceless!!

- **Cathal McGowan**

Enjoyed it all but if I had to pick it would have to be, being late for every 1st, 4th and 7th classes with Eilish because we were in the D area toilets!!

- **Michaela Webb**

Would have to be T.Y. especially London – the craic we had. I'll never forget the people I did T.Y> with, they're all legend, never be forgotten..... Especially Sean – don't know how he put up with us "go on my son!"

- **Edele Lyons**

May 22nd 2007 – winning the Connacht Football championship in 2nd Year. We had lost the Connacht League Final to Roscommon CBS only a week earlier. Thankfully, we overcame Rice College. I collected my 3rd Connacht medal. It was a magical day.

-**Brendan O'Gara**

The day Ramona and I knocked the curtain in the Library. Irish with Mrs. Brogan. 4th year Achill. Barcelona.

- **Eilish Egan**

Me and Ray k.o'd on the floor in Barcelona eating buttons!

- **Leanne Storie**

Getting locked out on the balcony on the last night in Barcelona! Leno saving us then!! -Edel Lynch  
Best memory has to be the time I was in T.Y. Especially when we went on trips... some crack! Good times girls good times!

- **Jenny Lyons**

TY – memories I will never forget. Barcelona – best trip with all the girls and lads.

-**Ashling Horan**

Lunchtimes – we roar laughing at the most stupid things! Not one day goes past without us being in tears laughing! I will really miss everyone!

- **Rebekka Johnston**

Getting stuck on the Dragon Khan in Barcelona with Emma K, Ryan and Stevo! Such a laugh “we’re gonna die!” haha, poor Stevo nearly had a heart-attack! “Barr-caaaa-looone da-da-da” haha!

– **Sinéad Kirrane**

Just sitting in the assembly area at break with the girls. The amount of times I left that bench with pains in my sides from laughing so much. I really will miss it! So many memories! Love ye all!

- **Eimear Flatley**

When me (...and an anonymous other person!) were caught attempting to buy drink in Barcelona by Mr McHugh Mrs.Brogan and Ms Macken!

- **Gearóid Keane**

4th year LCVP class-4B. Best class ever! Cathal Fahy and the egg...need I say anymore!

-**Emma Niland**

When we took Robyn G’s shoe and put it on a tree branch...she was shoeless for ages...haha!

- **Maura Naughton**

In Barcelona when 10 of us and some teachers went into a shop and Mr. McHugh pretended that the teachers were his children and we were his grandchildren. “ We can’t afford anything in the shop.” What a holiday!

- **Robyn Gallagher**

There are so many memories I have but T.Y was such craic! Made friends for life....good times girlies...and Sean!

- **Avril Feeney**

Barcelona...messy messy...best time ever!!

- **Wenesa Staszczuk**

The randomness at break with the girls...4th year LCVP class with Ms. Courtain and Mr. Murren’s maths class... such craic!

- **Rachel Byrne**

All of transition year, the fundraising, the trip to Killary and of course our London holiday! Being the only lad was different but I mixed well with everyone and will never forget it!

- **Seán Kearsley**

Achill

– **Aoife McDonagh**

2nd year French when Tomas thought he sat on a thumbtack and leapt a foot in the air – priceless!!!

– **Laura Patterson**

Blind date

– **Niall Cherbatji**

The best memories from school has to be T.Y. Made friends for life! Best year in school!

– **Laura Henry**

So many good memories – one of the best is our gangs shenanigans up the front from snowball fights to pushing each other in bushes - we never had a dull day!

- **Amy Brady**

The time I left the room in Barcelona for 2 seconds to come back and find Leanne in the shower with her clothes on!

– **Aliee Webb**

Barcelona definitely the best memory of the five years!

– **Melanie Ronan**

In Achill when we were all in the lads rooms and Mr. Murray came in and we all got in big trouble but what Mr. Murray didn’t know (..and still doesn’t know!) was that Anne-Marie Hora was under Geared Keane’s bed and got off scot free when she jumped out the window while Mr. Murray was sending us home!

– **Olwyn Murray**

The banter in Barcelona? No, it’s definitely the time the midnight patrollers walked into our room in Achill...



At the time, we were in the company of seven female fugitives!

– **Ryan Worden**

Barcelona – t'was unreal craic!

– **Stephen Comer**

Without a doubt the tour to Barcelona. Watching Barcelona ripping Real Zaragoza apart, and Finan's paper airplanes flying through the Nou Camp and in the words of Brendan O'Gara "...it was live!"

– **Cathal Leneghan**

Our fights doing the DCG project after school and Barcelona!

– **Michelle McDermott**

Geography classes with Rebekka!

– **Lisa Walsh**

Our groups bonding session when the gang of us went on our infamous 'Midnight Wander' – what a traumatic night! Will never forget the look on Mr. Murray's face when he opened the door! Hilarious thinking bout it now!

– **Martha Lyons**

In Barcelona when myself, Sinead K, Ryan and Stevo were on the Dragon Khan in Port Aventura as we went up to the highest point about to drop it stopped!! We were stuck up in the air for about 10 minutes even though it felt like ages, scary at the time but we had a great laugh about it later! Good times!

- **Emma Keane**

Achill.. Enough said.. the memorable canoeing with the instructor sinking our boat every 2 mins! And that hill walk will go down in history – I think everyone will remember what was said or rather shouted that day for a long time to come!

- **Sinéad Morley**

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## Creative Writing

### Some Nice Phrases But A Truly Pointless Story

It was a dark, cold night in the middle of January. My neighbour and I were walking down an old bog road after a successful day of fishing. I had caught two perch, a pike and a shark while he had only caught one shoe and a cold. We were in a rush home because we were going to have some tea.

After about ten minutes of walking I said to myself that there must be a shortcut, so with that thought in mind, I carried on through the vast bog of Tully with Gordon (my neighbour) following close behind. There were rumours that a man came out of the vast bog of Tully with a bag of turf, I was soon going to find out if that was true!

As I began to cross the ditch into the vast bog of Tully, I thought about what Neil Armstrong said when he first walked on the moon... "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind". I applied the same basic principle here.

This was it, I was finally in the vast bog of Tully. After five long agonising minutes of blood, sweat and tears trying to get into the bog, Gordon had pointed that there was a gate right beside me! After this slight mishap, we carried on into the dark night... Who knows what we could have come upon... Badgers with rifles, foxes with machetes, it was all waiting for us in the bog. Nevertheless we carried on.

When we reached the far side of the vast bog of Tully, we found that the grass was greener! Unfortunately, I came out with no bag of turf, but I could hear this faint noise. It was indescribable! I started to get worried, until Gordon kindly pointed out that it was my phone ringing... It was Mum! It turns out that she was waiting for us at the other side of the vast bog of Tully, so we had to walk all the way back to where we started off!

This is why I think that communication is important, so you can pre-arrange things before you set off!

*Cathal McGowan*

# Leaving Cert Baby Photos





# Croagh Patrick 2009



# Yearbook Committee

After the February mid-term break a group of enthusiastic Leaving Cert students met in 'E1' to discuss the production of a school yearbook like no other!!! Ms Mooney introduced this worthwhile project to us, while also highlighting the importance of our role-it was going to be a team effort! Without wasting any time she began delegating the various tasks and areas of responsibility to each of the committee members. From the outset we focused on the tasks at hand and tried to meet the various deadlines throughout. With each passing week we saw our concept become a reality. At this point in time we would like to thank the teachers and students who submitted articles and photos for the publication of this yearbook. In addition, we would like to thank Ms Mooney, our yearbook editor and the following teachers for their dedication to this project - Ms. Macken, Ms. Lennon, Ms. Keehan, Ms. Varden, and Ms. Mannix. We hope you enjoy reading our yearbook just as much as we reveled in its production!

*Wenesa Staszczuk*

## A Special Thank You...

The production of a school yearbook depends upon the goodwill and co-operation of the school community. In this manner I wish to thank Mr. McHugh (Principal), Ms. Moran (Vice-Principal), the teaching staff, the administrative staff and the entire student body for their co-operation and support throughout. In addition, I want to pay special tribute to the dedicated yearbook committee I was privileged to have worked with. This publication is testament to all the time and energy they have invested in making this yearbook one to remember. I sincerely hope that all the Leaving Certificate students look back upon this yearbook with many fond memories.

*Mary Mooney -Yearbook Editor*

## Yearbook Committee



**Back row:** Ruth Judge, Mairéad Connolly, Neil Murphy, Ryan Worden, Brendan O' Gara, Stephen Comer, Gearóid Keane, Rachel Byrne, Aoife McDonagh, Katie Culliney.

**Middle back row:** Emma Niland, Aisling Horan, Kathryn Waldron, Sinéad Morley, Laura Patterson, Martha Lyons, Robyn Moran, Siobhán Finn, Michelle McDermott, Éilis Egan, Ciara Sloyan.

**Middle front row:** Jessica Kelly, Adrienne Kenny, Leanne Storie, Sara Cherbatji, Emma Keane, Sinéad Kirrane, Edel Lynch, Wenesa Staszczuk, Ashling Waldron, Michaela Webb.

**Front row:** Adena Morley, Laura Waldron, Edel Lyons, Fatima Afzal, Michelle Leneghan, Emer Walshe, Lisa Rowley, Melanie Ronan, Laura Lynch.

## Leaving Cert Baby Names

1. Emma Keane & Brendan O'Gara, 2. Aoife McDonagh, 3. Adrienne Kenny, 4. Michelle McDermott, 5. Caoileann, John, Declan, Stephen, 6. Cathal Fahy, 7. Ciarán Davy, 8. Sinéad & Adena Morley, 9. Hannah Donegan, 10. Niall Cherbatji, 11. Anne-Marie Hora, 12. Éilish Egan, 13. Laura Regan, 14. Tomás Morley & Sinéad Kirrane, 15. Jessica Kelly, 16. Eimear Flatley, 17. Ryan Worden, 18. Amy Brady, 19. Robyn Gallagher, 20. Aisling Horan, 21. Seán Kearsey, 22. Gearóid Keane., 23. Olwyn Murray, 24. Laura Henry



# Leaving Cert Awards

<b>Comedian of the year:</b>	1. Joseph Flynn 2. Declan McNamara	1. Eimear Flatley 2. Emer Walshe
<b>Babe of the year:</b>	1. Ishan Almas (Sonny) 2. Ryan Worden	1. Rebekka Johnston 2. Laura Henry
<b>"You're soooo sound"</b>	1. Brendan O'Gara 2. Diarmuid Niland	1. Eimear Flatley 2. Laura Waldron
<b>Flirt/Charmer of the year:</b>	1. Cathal Fahy 2. Joseph Flynn	1. Ruth Judge 2. Olwyn Murray
<b>Drama King/Queen:</b>	1. Gearoid Keane 2. David Fitzmaurice	1. Olwyn Murray 2. Edele Lyons
<b>Most likely to appear on "Crime -call"</b>	1. David Lyons 2. Declan McNamara	1. Katie Culliney 2. Avril Feeney
<b>First Millionaire:</b>	1. Ryan Worden 2. Diarmuid Finnegan	1. Robyn Gallagher 2. Olwyn Murray
<b>Romeo and Juliet of the year:</b>	1. Joseph Flynn and Lana Raftery 2. Ryan Worden and Sinead Kirrane	
<b>Sportsperson of the year:</b>	1. Brendan O'Gara 2. Niall Freeman (Fluff)	1. Lisa Walsh 2. Aisling Horan
<b>Hairdo of the year:</b>	1. Niall Freeman (Fluff) 2. Gearoid Keane	1. Sinead Kirrane 2. Jessica Kelly
<b>Chatterbox of the year:</b>	1. Declan McNamara 2. John Finan	1. Laura Wldron 2. Edele Lyons
<b>Nicest Smile of the year:</b>	1. Declan McNamara 2. John Finan	1. Sinead Morley 2. Ruth Judge
<b>Musician of the year:</b>	1. Sean O'Rourke 2. Brendan O'Gara	1. Olwyn Murray 2. Eimear Flatley
<b>Rear of the year:</b>	1. Ryan Worden 2. John Finan	1. Adena Morley 2. Lisa Walsh
<b>Most Distinctive Laugh:</b>	1. Cathal Fahy 2. Cathal Leneghan	1. Avril Feeney 2. Sinead Morley
<b>Legs 11:</b>	1. Cathal Fahy 2. Diarmuid Niland	1. Jenny Lyons 2. Olwyn Murray

## Teachers Awards

<b>Hottest:</b>	1. Mr. Ger Cannon 2. Mr Paul McHugh	1. Ms Cathriona Raftery 2. Mrs Patricia Hargaden-Whyte
<b>Funniest:</b>	Mr Pat Noone	Ms Aisling Comer
<b>Nicest:</b>	Mr Padraig Shannon	Ms Mary Mooney



*Leaving Cert Class 2010*





# COMMUNITY SCHOOL



*"Unem Cordium"*