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GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Summer has come early this year and as I write these few words in March, the thermometer on the wall tells me we are hotter than Spain, France or Italy, and I begin to wonder where will the school magazine end up being read this year - the outback of Australia?, the broad Plains of Canada?, Clapham?, Brooklyn? Some of our former students and indeed a few

teachers have gone to far flung places in recent times, some because of economic necessity and others to explore the far away hills, oh to be young again or even retired!

There has been a school magazine produced every year since 1978 but each one has been unique. The production team is drawn from the Leaving Cert class each year and they have their own slant and view of life that is reflected in the published magazine and that is what makes it such an honest and refreshing read. I hope you enjoy this year's offering.

Ms. Mary Mooney has been Editor in Chief for several years now and she sets a high bar each year. The collection of material is distributed amongst the volunteer committee

but if there is any slackness detected then another person is assigned to the duty. I want to thank all of Ms. Mooney's committee for their dedication and especially Ms. Mooney for her commitment as Editor. I would like to acknowledge the role of Fr. Stephen Farragher our new Parish Priest whose many talents include an expertise with photography that would put many professionals to shame.

For the past several years we have had colleagues retire and this year is no different. Eileen Nestor who was one of the Supervisory staff, Ann Joyce who taught Maths and Irish and our caretaker Con Boyle each retired this past year. It is superfluous of me to speak in depth of those three people in this message as they are each acknowledged in other sections of the magazine. It is important to say however that each in their own way enriched the school community during their time here.

So if you are in sun kissed Bali, the slopes of the Alps or in Main Street Ballyhaunis I hope you enjoy reading the contributions of the class of 2012 in this year's School magazine.

**Pat McHugh,
Principal.**

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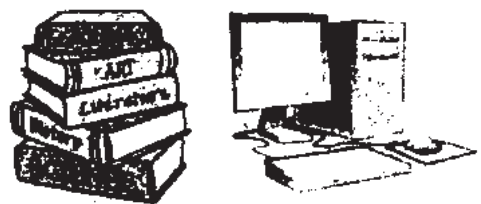
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STAFF 2011/2012



Back Row: Mr. Raymond Woolley, Mr. Pádraig Shannon, Mr. Colin Quinn, Mr. David McDonagh, Ms. Heather Coleman, Ms. Bernie Osgood, Ms. Deirdre Ryan, Mrs. Olive Lyons, Mrs. Siobhan Mannix, Ms. Aisling Comer, Mrs. Mairéad Quinn, Ms. Catherine Monaghan.
Middle Row: Ms. Mairéad Conway, Ms. Orla Phillips, Mr. Michael Murray, Mr. Patrick Noone, Mrs. Ann-Marie O'Reilly, Mr. Pat McHugh, Ms. Antoinette Lennon, Ms. Éadaoin Flynn, Mrs. Siobhan Devine, Mrs. Bernadine Waldron, Mrs. Aoife Keane, Mrs. Mona Herr, Ms. Concepta Moran, Mr. Sean McHugh.
Front Row: Ms. Colleen Hayes, Mr. Patrick McGarry, Mrs. Sharon Mulroy, Ms. Orla Macken, Ms. Mary Mooney, Ms. Claire Caulfield, Ms. Margaret Corcoran, Ms. Denise Lally, Ms. Ann Varden, Mrs. Anna Henry, Ms. Eva Brogan, Mrs. Catriona Murphy, Mrs. Patricia Hargaden-Whyte, Ms. Geraldine O'Loughlin.
Missing from photo: Mrs. Áine Fallon, Ms. Genevieve Murray, Mrs. Josephine Loftus, Mrs. Eileen Byrne, Mrs. Anne Grogan, Mrs. Gillian Madden.

STAFF 2011 2012



▲ Administrative Staff:
Mrs. Marge Hierons.



▲ Administrative Staff: Mrs. Mary Frances Cleary
and Mrs. Justina Lyons.



◀ Special Needs
Assistant:
Mrs. Bernie Lyons



Left to Right: Mrs. Eileen
Jennings (caretaking) and Mrs
Cáit Webb (supervision) ▶

STAFF NEWS

The school year 2011-2012 welcomed many new teachers to the school; Ms. Coleman, Mrs. Herr, Ms. Lally and Ms. Ryan! As the saying goes, as one door opens another closes, and summer 2011 marked the retirements of Mrs. Anne Joyce, Mr. Con Boyle and Mrs. Eileen Nestor. On behalf of the school community, we would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication down through the years. We wish them all the best for the future.

During the summer of 2011 the weddings of Ms. Catriona Raftery, Ms. Ann Varden and Mr. David McDonagh took

place. We would like to congratulate all the couples and wish them a long and happy life together. Also, in keeping with matrimonial news, congratulations to Ms. Mary Mooney on her recent engagement.

Congratulations to Ms. Áine Fallon on the birth of her son, Matthew, Ms. Gillian Madden on the birth of her daughter, Chloe and Ms. Genevieve Murray on the birth of her son, Daithí.



Baby Daithí Melia (son of Ms. Genevieve Murray).



Pictured are Mr. and Mrs. David McDonagh on the occasion of their wedding.



Baby Matthew Fallon (son of Mrs. Áine Fallon).



Pictured are Ms. Catriona Raftery and Mr. David Murphy on the occasion of their wedding.

RETIREMENTS – Ann Joyce



Ann took up her position as teacher of Irish and Maths in Ballyhaunis Community School in 1991. It came as a great surprise and a shock to all in BCS (both teachers and students) when Ann announced her retirement in the spring of 2001, after

twenty years of dedicated service to the school.

Amongst many of Ann's achievements were her successes with teams in the "Feachtas Tráth na gCeist", All-Ireland competitions. Having reached the All-Ireland finals on many occasions her teams successfully claimed the title in 2007 and 2008.

Her love of the Irish language was evident throughout the school, especially during Seachtain na Gaeilge, organising sean nós dancing, Aifreann na Gaeilge, tráth na gCeist and poster competitions and many other events.

Ann took part in many staff outings from bowling to golfing. It was only when Ann hit the golf course for the first time she discovered that she was a left handed golfer.

While writing this article we were reminded of a funny incident that Ann often spoke of. On Wednesday afternoon's Ann had a study class of Leaving Certs in the library. On one hot summer's afternoon, just as Ann had settled the group, Paddy Kelly revved up the hoover causing a minor

disturbance. When Paddy disappeared with the hoover a huge bumble bee flew in the window and disturbed all once more. On dispensing with the bumble bee, a helicopter hovered overhead. Ann was a very relieved woman when the bell finally rang.

As a Year Head to the present 4th year girls she was a kind and caring person, always there for her students. They fondly remember her wonderful impromptu parties she would always give at Christmas and at the end of the school year. The girls remember her as a thorough, dedicated teacher of maths, who never gave up on any student. Today she is greatly missed by her girls.

Ann's brief during the school show was treasurer in charge on the ticket sales. She was so reliable, organised and efficient. That was one less worry for Mrs Devine.

She always took an interest in all school activities. Her huge support for "Our School's Got Talent" was more than just attending the show. She took a personal interest in students competing and was a mother figure to them.

Mar fhocal scoir, ba mhór an onóir dúinn go léir, aithne a bheith againn ort mar mhuinteoir den scóth, mar chara dilís, agus duine cineálta lách agus gealgháireach. Chuaigh Aine i bhfeidim orainn go léir. Táimid croíbriste agus coillte gan thú ar fhoireann na scoile seo. Tá croí mór agat a Áine, agus is mór an trua dúinn go bhfuil tú imithe uainn, ach tí do scolaireacht, agus críonnacht fós i dtaisce inár gcroithe i mBeál átha hAmhnais.

Go neirí leat i do shaol agus go gcumhdaí Dia thú.

Eva Brogan/Geraldine O' Loughlin.

When I meet up with BCS friends and we start reminiscing about the "good old days". Ms. Joyce's name always comes up and expressions like "she got me through my Irish exam" or Ms. Joyce, "just an amazing teacher" is a regular comment. I had the privilege of being a student in Ms. Joyce's Leaving Certificate Irish class. Ms. Joyce was a model teacher in every way by always being prepared and having excellent classroom management. Irish can be a difficult subject to teach but Ms. Joyce made the subject accessible to all by using newspaper articles that were relevant to students' daily lives. She gave students the confidence to use the Irish language to debate issues and express themselves. As a teacher she made it clear that she only had the highest expectations for her students. Ms. Joyce brought a passion and energy to her subject on a daily basis. Coming up to the Leaving Certificate exam, Ms Joyce gave extra classes in her own time. There are several students who were in

that Irish class of Leaving Certificate 1996 who went on to work in the field of education. These students had the advantage of witnessing the standard Ms. Joyce had set- of what it means to be an inspirational teacher. Sometimes, only on mature reflection, we realise how lucky we were to have such a dedicated teacher, but even as students we knew we were in safe hands. I hope Ms. Joyce realises the love of the language she instilled in her students and even those who weren't passionate Gaeilgoirs, she inspired those students to believe that with a strong work ethic, nothing was impossible. Wishing Ms. Joyce every good wish on her retirement and thank you for your tireless commitment to your students past and present.

"A teacher affects eternity; she can never tell where her influence stops".

Caroline Connell- Ballinlough - Student 1996.

I have had the privilege of being taught by Ann from 1st year to Leaving Cert. During those 5 years she had a huge influence upon me sitting in F4 for most of that time. Watching Ann teach gave me my "grá" for maths and that remains with me today.

Ann was always so efficient and dedicated in her teaching. She was always so eager to get the best results for all her students. This included taking them after class for extra tuition. It was never an issue with Ann and she always wanted to get the best out of everyone.

As a teacher of maths, I understand that many students find maths quite challenging and Ann would always find an easy and student friendly method. This was one of Ann's many unique characteristics and this always gave student's more confidence to apply themselves. Many of my classmates, whom Ann taught, always have a good word to say about her and were sad to hear she was retiring. She was everyone's, "favourite teacher".

It was a pleasure and honour to come on board and work alongside Ann in the maths department. Having worked alongside Ann for 6 years, her organisational skills and competence were again obvious and to the fore. She assumed the role as head of the maths department on Mr. Murren's retirement and fulfilled her duties so willingly and so passionately.

Ann's teaching and work within the maths department was always so comprehensive, nothing was left undone.

I have to thank Ann for personally giving me a "love of" maths and for inspiring me to become a maths teacher today, a career which I enjoy immensely. I also want to thank her for the hard work and standard of maths she brought to BCS and I hope that this will continue into the future. I sincerely hope that I have gained some of the teaching skills which she implemented and have included them into my own teaching practices.

Of behalf of everyone in the maths department, I thank Ann for all her help, guidance and assistance over the years working together. I hope she enjoys her retirement with her family and that she has a happy, healthy and long life.

Anne Grogan



Pictured with Ann are former teachers of the Maths department (Mr. Ton Grogan, Sr. Maura Callaghan and Mr. Micheál Murren) and Mrs. Peggy Egan .



Pictured with Ann are current teachers of the Maths Department.



Pictured with Ann are current teachers in the Irish Department.



◀ *Pictured are Ms. Concepta Moran (deputy-principal) and Mr. Pat McHugh (principal) making a presentation to Mrs. Ann Joyce.*

RETIREMENTS - Con Boyle

Con Boyle - A Gentleman of Nature

There are very few people through the history of mankind who are known universally by their first name, fewer still are known by the abbreviated version of their first name, Con Boyle is one of that select band. Everyone in the school community knew him simply as Con. On the same vane only the Pope and Con Boyle to my knowledge to have had a vehicle named after them, the Popemobile and the Conmobile! (to the uninitiated it is actually a ride on vacuum cleaner).

Con Boyle retired on August 19th last year after 13 years of totally dedicated service to the School Community. Con was more than a caretaker, he was a friend and advisor on a range of matters far beyond his role. Not that Con ever pushed his opinions on anybody, he would offer solid advice if asked and he had a practical slant on proposals that was always soundly based but he would loyally implement the decision made whether his advice was taken or not but most of the time it was taken. Con has many fine qualities, he was loyal and discreet which are two essential qualities for a person in his position. He never overstepped his role and at the same time he knew instinctively the right thing to do in a given situation. He was also so organised, it always baffled me how he could take an enormous bunch of keys out of his pocket and at a glance open the lock first time, he also knew where everything was, he never mislaid, much less lost, anything.

Con was conscientious and totally honest; he was generous with his time. Many many times he answered alarm calls in the dead of night throughout the years. It took some time to convince him that he should not enter the school alone at night lest he encounter unsavoury characters, in more recent years he waited for the Gardai to arrive. He was scrupulous about the business of the school and he never wasted a nail, I often saw him decked in his green wellies tramping the large wheelie bin to ensure that we got maximum benefit from the refuse service. His time keeping was enviable; he was always here in the morning before 8.00am to ensure, with his colleague Paddy Kelly that everything was in smooth working order for the day.

Con had a special rapport with the students and there was genuine sadness amongst the student population when word leaked out that he was leaving. He discreetly handled their requests without fuss and was known for his obliging manner. Teachers also made many requests of Con. He had his list and he got round to everyone in due course. I often said "Ms or Mr Everyman needs a door repaired or a white board installed as soon as you can get round to it" and more often than not Con's reply would be that "I did that job

yesterday evening".

Con was a proud Donegal man, not only that he was proud of his native Kilcar and Glencolmille, not many people knew that Con was a native Irish speaker and liked nothing better than to speak Donegal Irish with visitors to the school from that area and there were a few on occasions. He was kept up to the minute with Radio na Gaeltachta which he listened to on his mobile phone. Con spent many years of his earlier life in England and worked for the same firm of shop fitters for years. In a world where people flit from job to job it is a testament to Con that he was retained for as long as he wished to remain. The job entailed travelling all over the UK fitting out new shops. It was a job he loved and excelled at. The skills he acquired there were put to very good use with us many years later. Con could turn his talented hands to any task but I think he was happiest when painting the school during the summer. He would be found in the bowels of the C area on warm July days and he would be oblivious of time such was his interest in the task in hand with the aforementioned R. na G. providing background mood music.

Con Boyle is a family man devoted to Phil and Catriona, his daughter. He could have stayed on a few more years if he wished but he felt he had made his contribution and that it was time for him to move on. Con is not vain or naive and realised that even he was replaceable and so are we all but one thing is for sure Con Boyle is a hard act to follow. May I wish both Phil and Con many happy years of retirement and whether it is in Donegal or Mayo may the sun always shine, may the fish keep biting and may R. na G. keep you entertained.

P. McHugh



Pictured are Con Boyle, Aine Whelan Ann Joyce.

RETIREMENTS - Con Boyle



Pictured are Con Boyle, and Ann Joyce with the Retirement Committee and Justina Lyons.



Pictured are Ms. Concepta Moran (deputy-principal) and Mr. Pat McHugh (principal) making a presentation to Mrs. Phil Boyle.



Pictured are Con Boyle and Ann Joyce.

RETIREMENTS

- Eileen Nestor

Eileen Nestor-Retirement

Eileen Nestor has retired or should I say has quietly slipped away in her modest unassuming way. Eileen had been part of the "unsung hero group" within the school. They were always there, on time and did the job in hand without fuss or commotion. Eileen was part of the Supervision Team at break times for over ten years. She turned up twice a day every day the school was open and supervised in a most effective and unobtrusive way. She had the respect of the students who always did as she asked them. She could marshal 6'6" lads and move them along with the minimum of fuss and Eileen was not....let's just say she was not 6' 6"! Eileen Nestor brought to her position a lifetime's experience of dealing with the public. She was born into a family business in Main Street and her people skills would have been honed there under the watchful eye of her parents. Following her training she worked as a nurse in various hospitals in both the UK and Ireland. She then assisted in the Family Bar business and took on the job of Supervisor in this school as something to occupy her during the morning hours when the Bar would have been quite. Her personality and maturity shone forth. She certainly never lost her cool and there were a few occasions when her presence was instrumental in defusing a situation that could easily have got out of hand. In relation to managing young people you either have the skill or you haven't, Eileen Nestor is one person who has that natural charm to smooth even the most fraught of situations. On behalf of the entire school community I wish her well in a long, active and happy retirement. And the biggest loss of all for some of us was that this year we had no one with the inside track for Cheltenham or Aintree!!

P. McHugh



Pictured are Ms. Concepta Moran (deputy-principal) and Mr. Pat McHugh (principal) making a presentation to Mrs. Eileen Nestor.

BCS ONLINE - SCHOOL BLOG



The school blog located at www.ballyhauniscs.scoilnet.ie goes from strength to strength annually as activities that occur with the school community are recorded. The archives allow review of past events while the calendar notes present and future happenings. If you have any articles/photos/videos of interest contact Phelim Webb, Tara Mulkeen or Mrs Waldron to get them online. So get posting.

Canon Joe Cooney-Retirement

As the 2010/2011 school year at Ballyhaunis Community school drew to a close we learned that Canon Joe Cooney, parish priest of Ballyhaunis and sacramental chaplain to the school was about to retire. Even though Fr. Joe had his retirement well earned it was still tinged with sadness at the thought he would no longer be part of the fabric of the school community. We decided that it would be a fitting gesture to make a presentation to him to express our appreciation for all he had done for generations of students of the school. The problem was what to get for a man of simple tastes who already had everything he needed. We racked our heads to think of an appropriate gift, eventually we agreed on a picture of Crossboyne village as Fr. Joe is a native of Crossboyne. We choose a photograph that captured the essence of Crossboyne village and engaged artist Bernie Prendergast to reproduce a charcoal drawing of the picture which we had framed and presented it to "The Canon" on the night of the Leaving Cert Graduation. He was bowled over with this work of art and said that it would get pride of place in his new home in Knock – and it does.

Fr. Joe has been a good friend and loyal servant to the school since 2003. He took his responsibility as a member of the School's Board of Management very seriously and rarely missed a meeting. He could always be relied upon to consider each item carefully and offer advice that was always sound and sensible. Canon Joe is first and foremost a deeply religious man who has a marvellous capacity with words. His homily at the annual Graduation Mass always captured the essence of the moment and his advice to the young people who were about to move on into the wider world was always appropriate and was delivered with a nice mixture of humour and gravitas.

He willingly attended for confessions in the school at both Christmas and Easter and sat for several hours because he knew that it was important to remain in touch with young people and encourage them to practice their faith for as long as possible. He willingly celebrated Mass at other times as requested and made the Parochial Hall available to us for school retreats. Fr. Joe has the ability to appreciate the events that are important to young people in a way that people many years younger do not.

Fr. Joe has earned his retirement but true to the man he does not abandon his vocation to be God's servant. He is at the end of the phone to offer sound advice and to help out whenever he is needed. He still assists with Christmas and Easter Confessions and even caused a bit of a stir at the Beginning of school year Mass with the 3rd years.

Fr. Joe we wish you well as you begin a new chapter in your life. We ask that you be rewarded for your dedicated service and pray for your continued inspiration and blessing on our school community.

From the words of the great philosopher and poet John O'Donohue whose sentiments reflect our wishes for you now and always...

Now is the time to enjoy your heart's desire,
To live the dreams you've waited for,
To awaken the depths beyond your work
And enter into your infinite source.

Pat McHugh

Orla Macken



Pictured is Mr. Pat McHugh (principal) making a presentation to Canon Joe Cooney on his retirement.

REFLECTION

On the occasion of your Retirement

**To Canon Joe Cooney, Mrs. Ann Joyce,
Mr. Con Boyle
and Mrs. Eileen Nestor**

This is where your life has arrived,
After all the years of effort and toil;
Look back with graciousness and thanks
on all your great and quiet achievements.

You stand on the shore of new invitation
To open your life to what is left undone;
Let your heart enjoy a different rhythm
When drawn to the wonder of other horizons.

Have the courage for a new approach to time;
Allow it to slow until you find freedom
To draw alongside the mystery you hold
And befriend your own beauty of soul.

Now is the time to enjoy your heart's desire,
To live the dreams you've waited for,
To awaken the depths beyond your work
And enter into your infinite source.

John O'Donohue

STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS

Eric Hynes - Athletics



I started athletics last year when I was asked to join Swinford A.C. Shortly after joining I was told I would be more suited to race walking rather than running. I took part in the Mayo indoor championships and came 2nd over 1500m and went on to compete in Connacht's and All-Irelands. My next competition was the Irish school's championships where I took part in the senior boy's 3000m

race. After winning the Connacht's I went on to take part in the All-Ireland on the 4th of June in Tullamore where I just missed out on a bronze medal. Accordingly, I learned that it is true what they say - 'fourth place is the loneliest place in athletics'. With that I began to train harder for the clubs track and field competition where I was to take part in the U18 5000m walks. After coming 2nd in the county and in the Connacht's, I went to Tullamore for the All-Ireland's on the 23rd of August. I went out hard in the race and finally my work all year paid off as I was rewarded with my first All-Ireland medal. I won a silver medal and gained my place on the national squad. On the Halloween break I travelled with the squad to Leeds for a training weekend with the British team. On the 2nd of March I travelled to the Isle of Man for my first international race, where team Ireland took on England and the Isle of Man in the tri-nations match. Doing the 5000m I came an impressive 4th out of 15 in my race. On the 11th of March this year I won the Connacht title for 1500m.



Dylan Maughan 2B - All Ireland Boxing Champion



My name is Dylan Maughan and I am currently in second year. I train with Bekan Boxing Club and my trainer is Martin Peake. We meet twice per week. In addition, I do my fitness training each day at home, while running

a couple of miles every day and using my punch bag. In February 2012 I won the Mayo Boy 3 title. While in March, I won the Connaught Boy 3 title. On April 14th I went to the National Stadium and won the All-Ireland National Boy 3 Champion title. This was an amazing moment and one day I would like to box for Ireland in the Olympic Games.

Dylan Maughan 2B - All Ireland Boxing Champion

This is an annual competition held by the Galway/Mayo Engineering and Technology Teachers Association (ETTA). The awards were presented in The McWilliam Park Hotel, November 2011.

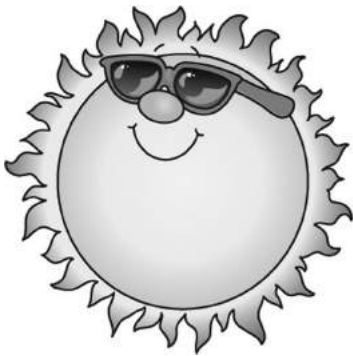


Stephen Regan – 2nd place in O.L. Metalwork 2011 in the Galway/ Mayo Region



Mark Ruane – 1st place in O.L. Metalwork 2011 in the Galway/Mayo Region

A WORD FROM MS. MACKEN - SCHOOL CHAPLAIN



Another school year draws to a close, a year that was eventful, that provided many experiences and new lessons for us all. Looking back over the year it is evident that school life 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. 2011/2012 was all of these and more.

As you are aware the Chaplain's office is a refuge for any person needing a listening ear. Part of my ministerial role is time, time to give to groups and individuals allowing them 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, preparation of school liturgies, providing the sacrament of reconciliation during Advent and Lent to facilitating various social justice projects. One such project that I devoted some time to during Lent 2012 was the SERVE project – it was the main focus of our fundraising efforts this year. Staff and students were very inspired by Fr. Mike Murphy's presentation on the lives and community spirit of the people of the Philippians despite living in abject poverty. Students set about organising many colourful and fun events including a sponsored walk, blind date and fancy dress soccer. It never ceases to amaze me how generous the staff and students of BCS are with their time, energy and money to help others who are less fortunate than themselves. An impressive 2000 was raised for this very worthy cause.

During the summer of 2011 we bid farewell to Mrs. Ann Joyce, Mr. Con Boyle and Mrs.

Eileen Nestor - I would like to wish them well as they each begin a new chapter in their lives. This school year also brought a new face to the community, Fr. Stephen Farragher was appointed Parish Priest of Ballyhaunis in June 2011



and since coming to Ballyhaunis he has become a regular presence in our school. From the side-line of the football field to the assembly area taking pictures for this magazine, Fr. Stephen is rarely without his camera. It's like having a resident member of the papazzari on the staff! I would like to thank for Fr. Stephen for being so generous with his time and for being such a support to us all in the school.

On a sad note 2011/2012 saw the passing of four past students and two retired staff members. Siobhan Healy, David Fitzmaurice, Jason Morley and Shane Cleary each had their young lives sadly cut short. Each of these young people walked the corridors and sat in the classrooms that we visit every day. Their passing is a reminder to us all of how fragile our lives are and how important it is to make the most of everyday and every opportunity. We also remember fondly Mary Freeley a former English and French teacher and Vera O'Connell who was one of the school's first caretakers. We hope they have found their eternal reward. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a Ainm dilis.

As the last term draws to a close it brings the usual examination fever with practical and orals as well as the Leaving Cert Graduation Ceremony, the 1st year tour, the school magazine, and the build up to the longed for Summer Holidays. This year has been a busy and eventful one, and at this stage we all deserve a much needed rest until we meet again in September. For all the Junior and Leaving Cert students our thoughts and prayers will be with you as you begin your state exams in June.

In signing off I leave you with a reflection of thanksgiving for all that is good and positive about our lives and our school.

Have a lovely summer!

O. Macken



Reflection

At the end of this school year we give thanks:

For all the teaching and learning that have taken place in
our school,
both in and out of the classroom,

For the talents and gifts that have been shared
and the challenges that have been faced.

For the burdens that have been lifted
and the hurts that have been healed
For the respect and care that have been given.

We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun
and for those that have grown.

For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles,
For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days
And for the love that has kept us going.

We give thanks for the community that we are and we ask
God to -

 bless our students as they sit their exams:
 may they be inspired with confidence and calmness

 bless our families as we take our holidays,
 may our time together leave us with memories to cherish.

 Pour out your love on us that we may return
 renewed and refreshed
 to continue our journey together.

AMEN

PEER MENTORING

The transition from primary to post-primary school can be both an exciting and frightening experience for students. At Ballyhaunis Community School, we are aware that the first term in our school presents students with many challenges, more subjects, more teachers and more personalities to deal with. This year 20 leaving cert. students took on the role of acting as peer mentors for the First Year group. These senior students were trained by Peter Duffy, from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ireland. They were then assigned to small groups of students and met regularly with them. We have found that appropriate peer support within the school can and does increase the opportunity for personal and social development; it can also provide additional support and encouragement with many aspects of school life and help to build confidence and self-esteem, encouraging a more positive participation in school life. Two of our senior mentors, Sharon Lynskey and Noreen Cassidy have described the mentoring as follows: 'a chance to take on more responsibility as senior students and try to lead our first years by good example. Much of our time was spent visiting first year areas and ensuring they were getting on well, especially during the first term. We found many issues they may have had were easily resolved and were mainly in relation to the huge transition from primary to secondary. Satisfaction for us came from knowing that we could help our new students in some small way - making school life a more enjoyable experience'.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our current mentors for all their hard work and commitment and to wish our fourth year students all the best in their upcoming mentoring interviews.



Back row: Neil Lyons, Sinéad Garvey, Megan O'Doherty, Adrain Phillips, Andrea Morris, Louise McNamara, Sharon Lynskey.
Middle row: Mr. Pat McHugh (principal), Rosie Simcox, Rebecca McGowan, Michaela Boland, Aisling Kenny, Emily Worden, Jennifer Lilly, Jonathan Kein, Ms. Karen Reilly (director of the Mentor programme).
Front row: Noreen Cassidy, Marian Morris, Hannan Iqbal, Diarmuid Byrne, Niamh Kilkenny, Sheba Younas.

FIRST YEAR MERIT SYSTEM

A merit system was introduced in BCS this year as a great way of encouraging good manners and positive behaviour. Our first year students were awarded merits by their class teachers for a variety of reasons including punctuality, completing quality homework, doing ones best in class, being pleasant and courteous etc.

Awards were presented on three occasions throughout the year and the categories divided into Gold, Silver and Bronze. Students very much looked forward to the awards ceremony during which they received certificates of merit and prizes for their efforts. Many of our first years managed to receive all three gold awards and their hard work will be acknowledged by management at the end of the school year.

A very well done to all first year recipients.



JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL 2011/12

The Junior Ladies football campaign began with a match against Mohill in the month of October. The Mohill ladies included very strong players and in spite of a hard-fought comeback, the score line remained and the match was lost by a narrow margin. Despite the persistence of our managers, unfortunately no further matches could be organised due to the withdrawal of some schools. The team continued to train and their work was awarded with a challenge match against Charlestown. An outstanding performance was displayed and we eventually emerged as deserving winners.

Although there was no silverware to be won, the team thoroughly enjoyed the matches that they participated in. We would like to sincerely thank Mrs. Grogan and Ms. Macken for their commitment to the team and their continued help in developing ladies football in the school.



*Back Row: Shannon Keadin, Leanne Henry, Sarah Feeney, Maedhbh Glavey, Sonia Henry, Riona Joyce
Middle Row: Shona Niland, Stacey Hayden, Shauna Morley, Eimear Kiely, Aisling Tarpey
Front Row: Maria Waldron, Niamh Murray, Saoirse Caulfield, Róisín Ní Shuilleabhán, Róisín Fitzmaurice, Rebecca Walsh.*

STUDENT PASS CARD

In a bid to reduce traffic on corridors this year we introduced a 'green card system'. This is a corridor pass which the class teacher uses to allow a student to leave the room for whatever reason they see fit. During class no student should be on the corridor unless they are in possession of a pass card.

Mentors were involved in conducting observation studies throughout the year which monitored traffic to and from toilets, lockers, office etc. Findings showed that a large amount of movement was occurring during class time but since the introduction of the pass there has been a dramatic decline in such disruption. Just one of the new initiatives to enhance learning in our school.

CLASS 1A



Back Row: Derbhla Phillips, Robert Douglas, Aifobhokhan Ebeleghe, Stefan Forteig, Calum Gardiner, Jason Cullinane, Darren Coyne, Seán Herr, Jessica Carroll.

Middle Row: Eileen Maughan, Diarmuid Duffy, Liam Foody, Patrick James Burke, Abusafyan Ahned, Ibrahim Ashraf, Hamza Muhammed Azhar, Geger Ali Ahmed, Chloe Greenwood,

Front Row: Lauren Gallagher, Ciara Delaney, Sive Duffy, Jasmine Chong, Sana Almas, Abigail Adams, Joanne Coffey, Claire Fahy, Danielle Coyne,

Missing: Jennifer Cleary, Jennifer Golden, Ellen Maughan

CLASS 1B



Back Row: Caoimhe Connaughton, Stephen Morley, Sean Kenny, Martin Macdonagh, Brian Morley, Michael McGarry, Connor Macewan, Ellie Macdonagh

Middle Row: Oisín Lloyd, Rachel Lyons, Michaela Kilkenny, Eleanor Harrisson, Faysal Kezze, Karam Kezze, Tiernan Murphy, Paula Matuzaite, Barbara McDonagh, Karina Meehan, Nadine Mangan.

Front Row: Diarmuid Keane, Gary Higgins, Saskia Kirrane, Aleena Khalid, Emma Lyons, Gemma Lilly, Katie Henry, Michelle Lyons, Seán Mannion, Robert Lilly.

CLASS 1C



Back Row: MacAngel Ubaezuonu, Callyn Murphy-Maitland, Cian Ruane, Eoin Morris, Jordan Squire, Brian O'Neil, Eamonn Philips, Dylan Niland, Aoife Mulrennan.

Middle Row: Peace Omotayo, William Walsh, Mudasir Rehman, Patrick Niland, Cassandra Niland, Michael O'Doherty, Caolan Regan, Dylan Noonan, Michael Tighe, Brendan Waldron.

Front Row: Aisling O'Gara, Shauna Murray, Jade Crosby, Rachel McDonagh, Chloe Naughton, Megan Morley, Laura Mulkeen, Gabrielle Murphy, Aisling O'Boyle.

Missing: Michael McDonagh, Amy Taylor.

THOUGHTS ON FIRST YEAR!

First year is full of new experiences. It is a big step up from primary school. You have to be very organised. When we first came in we were all very nervous but we soon got into the swing of things. Our first day was very enjoyable, we met many new teachers and we made many new friends. We met our year head whom we report to for assembly (roll call) everyday. We learnt a lot about being organised and being prepared. We had a tour of the school and learnt all the areas and classrooms (well we tried!) The school may seem big but once you get to know the areas and classrooms it is not as big as you think! We also got our own lockers which we use to keep our books in.

Now we are all very happy in this school. The teachers are so helpful. If you have a problem, don't hesitate to ask a teacher for help. We also have a shop so if you forget your lunch you can always go to the shop. There are so many fun things to do in school. We had the opportunity to do cross country running. We got to the Connacht finals where we came 4th in Connacht just missing out on qualifying for the All-Irelands. There was also a first year skip-off to raise

money for charity. We also have P.E. twice a week which is great fun. In addition, there is also athletics in the school. The T.Y. students organised a DVD day for us, which we thoroughly enjoyed. We watched 'Johnny English Reborn'. During lent we raised money for Trócaire by doing a 24-hour fast. The proceeds of this went to the people of Uganda.

During the year we had a taste of many subjects. At the end of the year we have to pick 3 subjects from the following: French, Woodwork, Metalwork, Technical Graphics, Business Studies, Home Economics, Art and Music. Be careful with what you choose because it may affect your career later in life! Don't be nervous if you're coming into the school by yourself because everyone is so nice and helpful in the school. First is a very enjoyable year!

**Eleanor Harrison, Caoimhe Connaughton,
Emma Lyons and Saskia Kirrane**

FUNDRAISING IN BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ms. Murphy / Ms. Macken

The school year of 2011-2012 was a very busy year for fundraising in Ballyhaunis Community School. Each term brought a different charity and events for the students and teachers of BCS to become involved with.

November/December Shoe Box Appeal

It's amazing what a simple gift-filled shoebox can do for a child in need. It can put a smile on a face. It can make a child feel loved. It can even bring lasting joy into difficult circumstances.

This year BCS shared in the joy of a shoebox by collecting 120 shoeboxes filled with little gifts for boys and girls who are less fortunate than themselves. Our boxes were sent all over the world including Belarus, Kenya, Bosnia, Kosova, Mozambique, Swaziland and many more. A little effort can make a huge difference. These shoeboxes bring joy, hope and a little of God's love into desperate situations and it helps us all to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Well done to the generous participants.



FUNDRAISING IN BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

1st Years - Best Trócaire Fundraisers (2012)



1ST YEARS - THE BIG SKIP OFF

Ms. Murphy / Ms. Macken

The annual Big Skip Off FINAL took place on Wednesday the 28th of March 2012. This is an extremely competitive event as each 1st year student boy and girl attempt to win the coveted title of best boy/girls skipper in First year for 2012. The skip off class heats had taken place during the previous weeks, great fun was had by all, even a skipping rope was broken from the sheer intensity of the skipping!! Some of the students would not claim to be good skippers but took part anyway for the fun and to help charity. Each class group were represented by putting forward their top boy and girls to take part in the final. Representating 1A was: P.J. Burke and Jennifer Cleary, 1B was represented by

Robert Lilly and Eleanor Harrison and 1C was represented by Aisling O'Gara and MacAngel.

The competition this year was incredible and the lead up to the final was very tense. On final day the atmosphere was electric and the 1st years had brilliant fun as they prepared banners in support for their classmate, hoping that the coveted title would be bestowed on their class. After a tightly fought contest the overall winners were Aisling O'Gara from 1C and Robert Lilly from 1B. It was a nerve-wrecking and nail-biting experience but was worth it all. The winners received their certificates and Easter Eggs from Mr. McHugh. The proceeds went to charity so first years are not just fit but generous too!

Well done to all involved and good luck to next year's skippers, start practising.



Skip off Winners



Eoin Morris in action



Skip-off finalists



Eleanor Harrison



Aisling O'Gara



Jennifer Cleary



MacAngel



Robert Lilly



P.J. Burke



▲ *Michael O'Doherty having fun*

1ST YEAR SUMMER TOUR 2011

Wednesday, June 2nd, what a beginning to the summer holidays! The dreaded summer tests over, the uniforms packed safely away until September and three long blissful months stretched ahead of us.

When Ms. Macken mentioned to us way back in April about the annual end of year tour it seemed like an eternity away. Now the day finally arrived, over 95 eager 1st years (well now technically 2nd years) boarded the buses – the lads winning the battle to occupy the back seats - we hit off to Westport House for a fun filled action packed day.

We had a fantastic time trying out different sports including paddle boarding, canoeing, combat games and archery. Canoes capsized, team members got wet but most importantly new friendships were made and fun was had by all.

Thanks to all the teachers who accompanied us on the day. We had a memorable day, definitely one of the highlights of our first year in B.C.S.!



FIRST YEAR BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL

Mayo Semi-Final

Ballyhaunis 8 – 06 Belmullet 4 – 07

Ballyhaunis played Belmullet in a close encounter in Knockmore. Belmullet went 1-02 ahead in the first few minutes but then Dylan Niland got a quick hat-trick follow by 2 points from Darren Coyne to put Ballyhaunis in the lead. It was level enough for the rest of the first half and Ballyhaunis went in at the break with a one point lead.

As with the first half, it was very close until Belmullet had a man sent off for 2 yellows, while another man sent off with a straight red. Ballyhaunis then took control of the game and prevented Belmullet from scoring for the remainder of the match. Great goals from Gary Higgins and Brian Morley secured the win for Ballyhaunis. While the performances of Brian Morley, Owen Morris, Dylan Niland, Gary Higgins and Calum Gardiner were commendable.



Back row: Callyn Murphy, Michael McGarry, Eoin Morris, Dylan Niland, Aifobhokhan Ebeleghe, Eamonn Phillips, Michael Tighe, Calum Gardiner, Bobby Douglas, Seán Herr, Gary Higgins, Darren Coyne, Jason Cullinane, Cian Ruane, Martin McDonagh.

Front row: Macangel Ubazuonu, Liam Foody, Brian O'Neill, Peace Omotayo, William Walshe, Brian Morley, Seán Kenny, Daramuid Duffy, Robert Lilly, Tiernan Murphy, Michael O'Doherty.

1ST YEAR BOYS SOCCER

Ballyhaunis 6-3 Charlestown

Ballyhaunis went 3-0 up at half time. Charlestown made a game of it by scoring 3. A brilliant performance after that by the ballyhaunis team made the score 6-3. Goals on the day from Michael McDonagh (2), Gary Higgins, Brian Morley, Michael McGarry and Tiernan Murphy.

Ballyhaunis 7-0 St. Endas

The 1st years ended their season with an outstanding victory. Gary Higgins got the 1st goal after 10 minutes, which handed them an early lead. This was soon followed by William Walsh, with a cracking finish into the top corner. Tiernan Murphy completed the 1st half by rounding the keeper and putting the ball in the back of the net. The second half resumed with a goal from Gary Higgins who added to his tally. Brian Morley scored as a result of a surging run from his own half. Diarmuid Duffy replaced Michael O'Doherty while Darren Coyne, Liam Foody, Mudisir Rehman and Callyn Murphy-Maitland came on for Gary Higgins, Tiernan Murphy, Eamon Phillips and Cian Ruane. A shot from William Walsh was deflected into Darren Coyne's path who scored to make

an instant impact. The 7th goal was a screamer by Michael McGarry to finish the match. It was a brilliant display by all, with some great passing moves by the team.

Panel-Eamon Philips, Darren Coyne, Brian Morley, Calum Gardiner, Sean Kenny, Michael McGarry, Cian Ruane, Callyn Murphy Maitland, Michael O'Doherty, Mudisir Rehman, Gary Higgins, William Walsh, McAngel Ubazounu, Tiernan Murphy, Diarmuid Duffy, Liam Foody, Jager Ali.



*Back row: Mr. Noone, Michael McGarry, Brian Morley, Calum Gardiner, Cian Ruane, Eamonn Phillips, Dylan Niland, Aifobhokhan Ebeleghe, Darren Coyne, Michael McDonagh.
Front row: Peace Omotayo, William Walshe, Gary Higgins, Tiernan Murphy, Michael O'Doherty, Macangel Ubazuonu.*

UNDER 14 LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

The Under 14 ladies football began training in September. Impressive numbers turned up for each training session with over 30 footballers each time. A large amount of interest from first year girls this year helped to boost the numbers also. Some were first time footballers and some were seasoned through excellent club underage development programmes. We played our first match at home against Swinford. We took control of the game well in the first half scoring 2-3 however the second half we didn't take our points and lost 5-4 to 4-3. We travelled to Boyle in Roscommon for our second match against Abbey College and lost 6-4 to 4-6. However, thanks to all of the girls who are a credit to their clubs still put in a huge effort at training. We look forward to continued dedication next year. A sincere thanks also to trainers Aisling Tarpey, Lisa O'Connell and Sinead Horan for all their support throughout the year.

*Managers: Bernie Osgood
& Mary Mooney*

FIRST YEAR LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

September saw a record number of first year girls signing up for Gaelic Football with over 35 names collected. The girls have great potential with continued hard training and dedication will go on to do great things on the football field. In first year there is a one day blitz competition which was held in Ballinrobe. We were in the fortunate position of entering two teams and had a great day out. We arrived home without a win but definitely grew in strength from the experience. Keep up the training over the Summer girls and we'll see ye in September for Under 14. Thanks to all the panel who put in a great effort at training all year. A special word of thanks also to trainers Aisling Tarpey, Lisa O'Connell and Sinead Horan for all their support throughout the year.

Managers: Bernie Osgood & Mary Mooney



*Back Row: Leanne Henry, Serena McLoughlin, Emma Rowley, Aoife Mulrennan, Demi Greally, Shona Niland, Rebecca Walsh, Shannon Keadin, Eimear Kiely, Jessica Carroll
Middle Row: Rachel Lyons, Róisín Ní Shuilleabhán, Saoirse Caulfield, Michaela Kilkenny, Cassie Niland, Eleanor Harrison, Sinéad Horan, Abigail Adams, Derbhla Phillips, Danielle Coyne, Shauna Murray, Caoimhe Connaughton, Joanne Coffey, Emma Lyons
Front Row: Claire Fahy, Nadine Mangan, Megan Morley, Gabrielle Murphy, Hillary Phillips, Kaitlyn Clarke, Róisín Fitzmaurice, Saskia Kirrane, Sarah Beehan, Katie Henry, Sive Duffy, Michelle Lyons.*

OPEN EVENING

Monday Feb. 6th

This school year brought a new approach to enrolling 1st years for 2012/2013 school year.

Much research has been conducted about the importance of easing the transition from primary to post primary school for 6th class students. There is no doubt that it is a huge leap to come from possibly a small primary school with the same teacher in the one classroom to starting in BCS with 580 students and 50 teachers. To help ease the anxiety of students and their parents and to showcase the great school we have – an open evening was organised where 6th class students and their parents were taken on a guided tour of the school and its facilities.

Forty 4th year students took on the role of senior mentors for the evening. They welcomed the students and parents, took them on a guided tour of the school to meet the teachers and see the facilities and organised some light refreshments

for everyone at the end of the evening. These students are truly a credit to themselves, their parents and the school, they did an excellent job on the night.

There was a lot of positive feedback from the evening with comments from parents, a lot of whom are past students themselves, delighted with the opportunity to see the classrooms and meet with the teachers who will be teaching their son/daughter over the coming year.

Many thanks and well done to each subject department for all of their hard work in preparing their classrooms and show casing their subject on the night. Many thanks also to the Home Economics department who facilitated the refreshments being served.

Although it was a long evening for everyone involved it was a very worthwhile exercise - one that we hope will pay dividends and go some way in helping to ease the anxieties of our incoming students.



CLASS 2A



Back Row: Adrian Boyle, Stephan Collins, Thomas Connell, Kieran Crosby, Cathal Brady, Fraz Ahmed, Killian Brehony, Daragh Crawley.

Middle Row: Daniel McCormack, Oisín Coffey, Piarais Caulfield, John Cassidy, Radek Cervenak, Azad Ali, Séan Carrick, James Cribbin.

Front Row: Orla Cleary, Emer Daniel-Dempsey, Huma Arshad, Katelyn Clarke, Sarah Behan, Rebecca Bowen.

Missing: Hina Ali

CLASS 2B



Back Row: Niall Fitzgerald, Meadhbh Glavey, Leanne Henry, Sinéad Horan, Maura Forde, Amy Gilblin, Hayley Conroy, Lewis Gourlay

Middle Row: Radoslaw Grzedzinski, Aleksandras Graciovos, Padraic Duffy, Oisín Henry, Shane Crinnigan, Daniel Greally, Tommy Folliard, Barry Forde

Front Row: Niall Dunleavy, Claudia Glavey, Róisín Fitzmaurice, Milena Gawłowska, Shane Cribbin

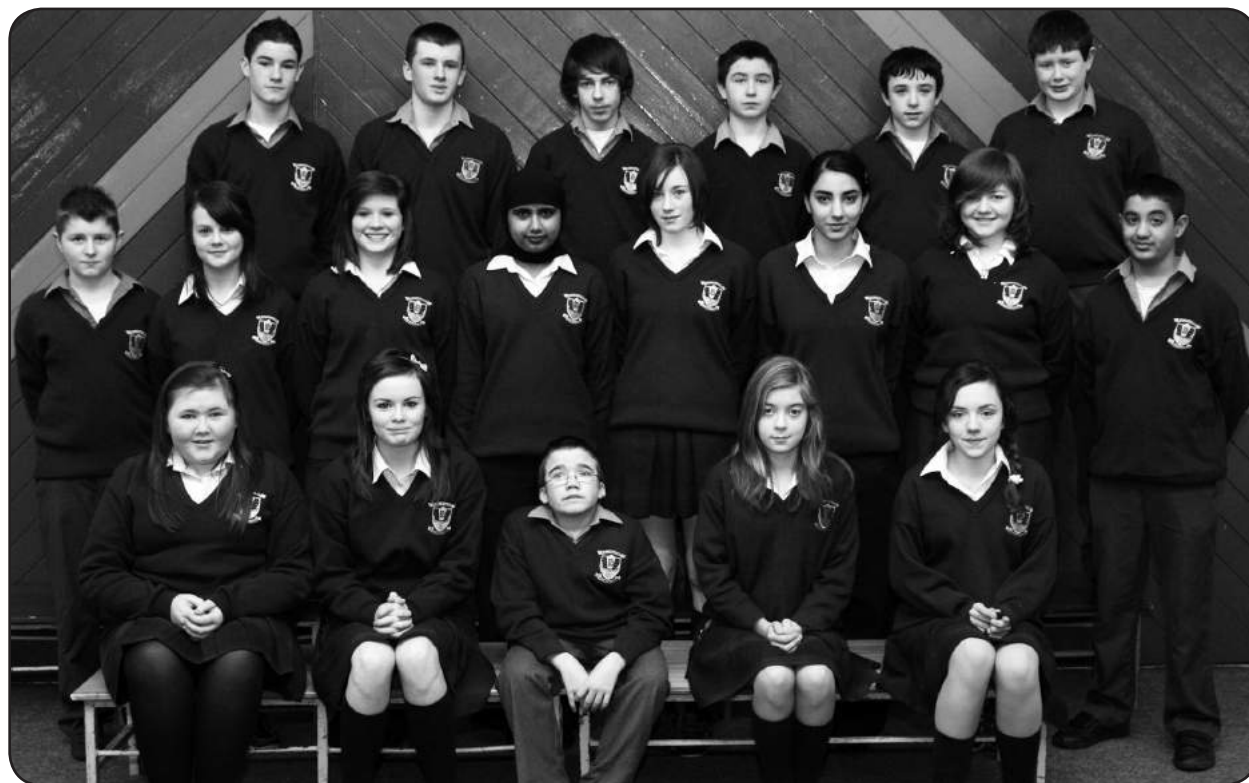
Missing: Damien Egan, John Cunnane Anmul Kaur Grover, Dylan Maughan

CLASS 2C



*Back Row: Patrick Keadin, Cathal Carney, Conor Lenehan, Darragh Hunt, James Lyons, Aiden Henry, Michael Hill, Matthew Grogan.
Middle Row: Cian Henry, Emer Kiely, Saoirse Caulfield, Riona Kearney, Serena McLoughlin, Anna Khromova, Sorcha McNamara.
Front Row: Hassan Mahmood, Katie McKay, Laura Lavin, Roisin Byrne, Zaid Gulzar.
Missing: Sean Harris, Shannon Keadin, Martin Ward, Adam Hickey.*

CLASS 2D



*Back Row: Thomas Murphy, Martin Mulkeen, Robert McCormack, Liam Cregg, Sean Ruane, Cormac Reidy.
Middle Row: James Reynolds, Aoife Nolan, Lucy Moss, Tayba Muneer, Shona Niland, Zuzan Ali Ahmed, Katie Moran, Jahangeer Javid.
Front Row: Ciara Mulkeen, Claire O'Gara, Kamil Maliszewski, Aimee Regan, Davina Morris.
Missing: Chantelle McDonagh, Thomas McDonagh, Chloe McNulty, Róisín Ní Shuilleabháin, Hillary Phillips, Robert Naughton.*

CLASS 2E



Back Row: Jonathan Ryan, Brendan Morrissey, Aaron Peake, Bilal Saleh, Shoaib Muhammad Younas.

Middle Row: Kevin Tighe, Carlton Ubaezuonu, David Webb, Conor Wallace, Mazhar Tayyab, Emma Rowley.

Front Row: Sarah Skeffington, Catherine Quinn, Jiya Ali, Demi Walsh Greally, Rebecca Walsh, Barbora Vichtova.

Missing: Freddie Kemp, Danil Spicyn, Seán Tarmey, Brian Waldron.

FUNDRAISING IN BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ms. Murphy / Ms. Macken

2nd years EASTER RAFFLE

Well done to Ms. Coleman and 2C class for organising the Easter Raffle. The students secured no less than eight easter eggs for the raffle – two of which were fabulous baskets with loads of easter eggs and other chocolate goodies. Saskia Kirrane 1st year and Eimer Kiely 2nd year were the lucky winners of the Easter baskets.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Pat Ryan, Supervalu, Ballyhaunis, Tommy Carney, Claremorris and Caulfield's Gud to Go, Ballyhaunis. A wonderful €250 was raised for the SERVE project. Well done to all who purchased tickets and supported the raffle.



Pictured are Ms. Coleman, Mr. McHugh (principal) and students of 2C being presented with the Easter egg kindly sponsored by Ryan's SuperValu, Ballyhaunis.

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL GOLF

Our school took part in one golf tournament this year. It took place in Ballinrobe in late October in terrible conditions. The team performed quite well considering the conditions but we failed to make it through to the next round. We gained plenty of experience and all members of the team are eligible to play next year where we hope to improve on this year's performance.

Team- Cian Henry, Oisín Henry, Liam Foody.



Back row: Shane Healy, Cian Caulfield, Conor Lyons, Patrick Kiely, Adrian Phillips, Darren Duffy, Mark Sutttn, Paul Finnegan, Cian Conboy
Front row: Shane Boland, Shawn Groarke, Oisín Coffey, Rory Nestor, Matthew Grogan, Oisín Henry, Cian Henry, Adam Hickey, Dean Glavey.

SECOND YEAR FOOTBALL

Ballyhaunis started the year with a challenge game against St. Attracta's. It was their first game and the play was a little rusty. Ballyhaunis played well in the first half after a strong performance from the forwards, they were up by three points at half time. However in the second half their heads dropped after a few easy scores from St Attracta's. Ballyhaunis lost the game with a score of 3-12 to 3-6.

The first game was a wake-up call as Ballyhaunis defeated St. Nathy's 4-12 to 2-4 in the first game of the league. The Forward line again with a strong performance this time in both halves constantly taking their chances as they came. The backs also had a strong game not conceding much.

Up next Ballyhaunis bet Rice College comfortably with a score of 3-13 to 1-8. It was a shaky start to the game against Rice College for Ballyhaunis, not scoring much in the first half it looked to be a close game but Ballyhaunis were by far the stronger team in the second half pulling off a victory.

In the last game of the group stages Ballyhaunis defeated Roscommon C.B.S., 3-8 to 2-8, meaning they advanced to the semi-finals of the Championship. It was a strong

performance by the forwards as they brought themselves into a ten point lead at half time. However, C.B.S started a comeback in the second half ending the game in a three point lead to Ballyhaunis. It was a great second half performance from the Ballyhaunis defence.

Before the semi-final Ballyhaunis had two challenge games. The first of which they played St. Attractas and bet them 5-7 to 1-4. They then played Summerhill where they completely turned the game around by coming from a ten point deficit to pull out a draw of what everyone thought was a game won by Summerhill.

It was time for the semi-final where Ballyhaunis played Roscommon C.B.S and defeated them with a dominant score line, 4-9 to 2-0. It was a great all round performance by Ballyhaunis to proceed with ease to the Connaught final against Athenry.

The day had come for the Connaught final and Ballyhaunis were confident, but it wasn't to be their day as they were defeated after a successful run of massive wins and score lines. Athenry were the stronger team on the day as they pulled off a result of 4-10 to 3-6. Ballyhaunis battled well and were determined to win but it wasn't enough for Athenry.

By Michael O'Rourke & Damien Egan



Back row: Oisín Henry, Cathal Carne, Carlton Ubazuonu, Seán Carrick, Damien Egan, John Cunnane, James Cribbin, Darragh Hunt, Aidan Henry, Raobert Naughton, Azad Ali, Stephen Collins, Darragh Crawley, Thomas Connell.

Front row: Liam Cregg, Piarais Caulfield, James Reynolds, cian Henry, Seán Ruane, Cathal Brady, Patrick Keadin, Padraic Duffy, James Lyons, John Cassidy, Robert McCormack, Shane Crinnigan.

BALLYHAUNIS RUGBY CLUB

Ballyhaunis R.F.C. has been part of rugby in Connacht for over thirty years and currently fields an adult team in the Connacht Junior League. The underage structure continues to grow with age grade teams fielding at under 17, under 15, under 13 and minis.

U17 Rugby

Unfortunately the U17 rugby team were unable to get enough players to enter the league. The club has put a huge effort into getting players and hopefully there will be enough for next year.

U15 Rugby

The U15 rugby had an all round good year. They had a large squad with many quality players. The team had their first game against a new Ballaghaderreen team away. It was a tight game and Ballaghaderreen came out victorious. Ballyhaunis turned around to defeat Tuam and they went from strength to strength. They had more victories over Carrick-on-Shannon and Dunmore. Ballyhaunis finished

in the middle of the table on a high after beating Carrick on Shannon 104 to 15 points.



Back row: Davog Frayne, Thomas McDonagh, Joey Fahy, Daragh Crawley, Mark Sutton, John Judge, Ultan Griffin, Joseph Lyons.
Middle row: Shane Healy, Cathal Brady, Oisín Coffey, Darragh Hunt, Seán Sutton, James Lyons, Stephen Ryan, Steven Nolan, Eugene Durkin
Front row: Martin McDonagh, Piarais Caufield, Martin Mulkeen, Thomas Coll, Rory Nestor.

OUR SCHOOL'S GOT TALENT

It was an amazing and unforgettable experience for all the competitors. Entries from BCS include Kaitlyn Clarke, Carol Freely, Oisín Coffey and Claudia Glavey, Pamela, Sean Carrick, Joanne Coffey and Cara Dilis consisting of Niamh Murray, Aine Coyne, Ciara Jordan, Maria Waldron, Ailish Phillips and Ria Dunleavy.

Memories were made and school stars were discovered. The numbers got smaller and the competition got tougher with Claudia and Oisín along with Cara Dilis making it the County final and Cara Dilis securing a place in the Connaught Final.

Well done to all who competed, I'm sure we will see these names again in the near future.

Cara Dilis



SCÓR NA NÓG-SINGING

A late September evening, I received one of the most exciting phone calls I was to ever receive. The ballad group with four county titles already to their name, asking Mairéad Mooney and myself to join their Ballad Group for this year's Scór Na nÓg. It was such an honour to have been asked to sing with a group of girls as talented and as hard working as they are. I always admired them over the year, achieving so much at such an early age.

We sailed through the first round in Aghamore. Then making our way Kilmavee for the East Mayo Final, we won by a large margin. On the 26th of November the County Final was on in Breaffy G.A.A. club. Nerves were high backstage, waiting patiently for our turn to grace the stage. Afterwards, waiting patiently in our seats to hear the final results. "An Ballad Grúpa Achadh Mór!" We screamed with delight! Another county title for Aghamore. We'd like to thank our parents, Bórd Na nÓg and Ellen Hynes for all their help and support. It was greatly appreciated!

Meadhbh Glavey



Scór na nÓg Singers - Deirdre Durkin, Meadhbh Glavey, Sinéad Niland, Michaela Durkin.

SCÓR NA NÓG-DANCING

The county final of Scór na nóg took place last year in Breaffy in November 2011.

Our team had got through to the county final for both the all girls set and figure dancing (the plain set and the high call cap). Unfortunately this year we didn't get through to Connaught scór but we enjoyed the experience as we do every year. We also represented Connaught in the All-Ireland fleadh last August which took place in Cavan.

On behalf of the 8 girls, we would like to thank everyone who came to support us at scórs and fleadhs throughout the year, as well as our teacher Gráinne for all her hard work and dedication. Congratulations to the Aghamore ballad group who went on to represent Mayo in the Connaught Scór in Castlebar !!

Mary Waldron & Anna Doherty



Scór na nÓg Dancers - Karina Meehan, Anna Doherty, Mary Waldron, Sarah Creighton, Elenaor Harrison.

SEACHTAÍN NA GAEILGE 2012

Bhi Seachtain na Gaeilge den scoth againn idir an 5-17 Marta. Bhaineamar an taitneamh as na himeachtaí éagsúla. I measc na himeachtaí bhí tráth na gceist, cluiche biongo, comórtas na bpostaeirí chomh maith le Céili. Bhi an spórt againn i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge 2012.

Mile Buíochas do gach duine a ghlac páirt in sna himeachtaí go léir!

Mrs. Brogan



2ND AND 3RD YEAR STUDENTS SHOEBOX APPEAL



CLASS 3A



Back Row: Liam Duffy, Manas Aguonis, Peter Dooley, Mohammad Ahmad, James Folliard, Leon Travers, Evan Coyne
Middle Row: Shelia Brady, Lynette Duffy, Hiba Arshad, Aroosa Yaqoob, Bazla Alam, Yvonne Davy, Jennifer Cox, Laura Carney.
Front Row: Thomas Coll, Labhaoise Cunnane, Sarah Creighton, Maisie Donne, Anna Doherty, Áine Coyne, Kelly Donegan, Muhammad Bilal.

CLASS 3B



*Back Row: Dean Henry, Faisal Kezzeh, Neal Folliard, Brian Gavin, Stacey Hayden, Ciara Jordan, Lewis Kearsey,
Middle Row: Philip Fitzmaurice, Saleha Gulzar, Hannah Hardcastle, Sarah Feeney, Roisín McDonagh, Doina Dima, Ryan Kilbane.
Front Row: Conor Hagney, Carol Freeley, Lisa Higgins, Ria Dunleavy, Megan Griffiths, Joesph Kelly.
Missing: Jules Gossy*

CLASS 3C



*Back Row: Joseph Lyons, James Murphy, Kalvin Lyons, James Burke, Qasim Nazir, Declan Kilgariff, Davog Frayne.
Middle Row: Seán Niland, Maryam Mahmood, Niamh Murray, James Lyons, Aleksandra Pawlak, Tammy McMahon, Lisa Morley,
Conor McCarrick.
Front Row: Rosina Lukoseviciute, Aisling Lynskey, Aoife Murray, Tessa Lyons, Aoife Lilly, Laoise McDermott.
Missing: Amy Mannion, Mary Maughan, Kevin McNulty, Rory Nestor*

CLASS 3D



Back Row: Ria Marigliano, Mark Phillips, Cian O'Boyle, Niall Robinson, Steven Nolan, Steven Ryan, Andrian Sava, Marlena Staszcyk.
Middle Row: Seán Sutton, Waqas Rehman, Dervla Philips, Alish Philips, Erika Webb, Shawn Groarke, Colm Ronan.
Front Row: Maria Waldron, Grace Worden, David Regan, Duha Riyaz, Mary Waldron.
Missing: Patrick Crosby, Andra Owusu, Hamza Yousaf.

3A C.S.P.E. ACTION PROJECT!



As part of our Junior Certificate C.S.P.E. course we had to carry out an action project and our class chose to bring in a guest speaker from An Garda Síochána. Our class prepared for his visit with the help and guidance of our C.S.P.E. teacher, Ms. Mooney. The day was a major success

largely due to all the hard work which our class had put in to prepare for the project, as well as the fascinating power point presentation which the guest speaker had prepared specifically for our action project. He provided us with a deep insight into the training involved in becoming a guard, the daily tasks and duties which it entails, the equipment used, the various specialist divisions within the police force, the challenges and rewards of the career in question, as well as opportunities for promotion. As he was a Dublin G.A.A. supporter, we decided to thank him with a Dublin jersey that we signed and we presented it to him in a frame made by two students in our class. It was a small token of our sincere gratitude and appreciation. His commitment and dedication from the very outset played a vital part in the success of our action project. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and feel that we learned so much from the experience!



By Yvonne Davy, Kelly Donegan, Jenny Cox and Aine Coyne

3B C.S.P.E ACTION PROJECT



Our C.S.P.E Action project focused on the issue of Animal Cruelty. Our aim was to inform people that animals have rights too and people must be responsible and treat them properly. Ann and Chris from the Mayo Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals came to our visit class. They brought in two puppies who had been thrown from a moving car and had been rescued by the M.S.P.C.A. It was a very interesting talk as we gained lots of information and all our questions were answered. We learnt of the importance of getting cats neutered and caring for animals correctly. We also did a mini project and sent a survey around the school, as well as designing posters. We really enjoyed doing the project and we

learnt a lot about the serious issue of Animal Cruelty. Our class would like to thank Ms.Coleman for all her hard work in organising the talk and contacting the M.S.P.C.A.



3C ACTION PROJECT

Our 3C third year class arranged to invite a prison officer into BCS for our CSPE action project. A lot of time and effort was put into arranging this guest speaker. Thankfully the hard work paid off as prison officer Hynes gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk on life as a prison officer and life as a prisoner in our Irish prison system. He had the full attention of all the 3C students which is not always an easy task. We would like to thank Mr. Hynes again as we really appreciated his help in completing our C.S.P.E. action project.

3D ACTION PROJECT

As part of our CSPE action project, our class was visited by Second Lieutenant Ristead Byrne from the Irish Defence Forces.

On the day of our visit, Second Lieutenant Byrne talked us through the different positions in the army, their training, their support to the guards and their peace keeping duties abroad. Some students tried on his Army rucksack, helmet and gas mask. Everyone really enjoyed the day and we learned a lot about the Irish Army. Finally, we wrote up our report on what we had learned from our experiences of doing our CSPE action project.

Marlena Staszczyk



FUNDRAISING IN BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ms. Murphy / Ms. Macken

Lent 2012 - FEBRUARY / MARCH Daffodil Day

A huge thank you from the junior students to everyone who supported the Irish Cancer Society by buying a daffodil on Daffodil day - staff and students of BCS really showed they 'care' on Daffodil Day. We campaigned for this cause by visiting the various classes to sell the merchandise. Every Daffodil sold allows the Irish Cancer information and patient care services. We raised €175 on Friday March 23rd and we could not have done this without your continued help.

Thank you again for your support.

3RD YEARS GO EXPLORING... ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY AT NUIG

On Feb 29th last third years students from Ballyhaunis Community School visited NUI Galway as part of the University's 'Explore Engineering and Technology Week'.

The event was an opportunity for 3rd year students to build on their natural curiosity and explore how science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) impact on our world through exciting and interactive demonstrations. The students had the opportunity to meet with experienced engineers and I.T. specialists – notably some are past students of Ballyhaunis Community School. They also learned about robotics, mobile phone apps, sports engineering to name but a few topics covered on the day.

It was also back to college for the teachers who accompanied the 3rd years. A workshop entitled 'Inspiring next generation engineers and IT specialists' highlighting the importance of the STEM subjects for the future job market was facilitated for the teachers.

The visit to NUIG was wonderful exposure for the junior cert students, it brought to life the scientific and engineering subjects and it gave them an insight into a third level college environment.

Many thanks to Mrs. E. Byrne for organising the trip and thanks also to Mrs. E. Brogan, Mr. M. Murray and Ms. A.M. O'Reilly for accompanying the students.

O. Macken

On Feb 29th last third years students visited NUI Galway as part of the University's 'Explore Engineering and Technology Week'.

The event was an opportunity for us to build on our natural curiosity and explore how science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) impact on our world through exciting and interactive demonstrations. We had the opportunity to meet with experienced engineers and I.T. specialists – notably some are past students of Ballyhaunis Community School. We also learned about robotics, mobile phone apps, sports engineering to name but a few topics covered on the day.

It was also 'back to college' for our teachers - Mrs. Brogan, Mrs. Byrne, Mr. Murray and Mrs. O'Reilly. A workshop called 'Inspiring next generation engineers and IT specialists' was organised for the teachers on the day.

After all the presentations and talks we had the chance to walk around the campus and see the different buildings and lecture halls. We saw what college life was really like and found it to be a great experience. We're all looking forward to being students in college in a few years time!! Fingers crossed.

Erika Webb, Dervla Phillips, Steven Ryan.



3RD YEARS GO EXPLORING...ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY AT NUIG



FUNDRAISING IN BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ms. Murphy / Ms. Macken

3rd years

Third Year Fancy Dress Soccer

The third years organised a very competitive soccer tournament. Each class paid money to enter with the hope of winning the title. The four classes trained hard and chose their teams wisely. The games showed great skill and enthusiasm as each battled to put the ball in the back of the net. The final took place on Friday the 30th of March which was a very enjoyable 40mins. Unfortunately the sun did not shine on the eager participants but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the excited crowd. ONE goal later the winning team was crowned. Well done to the players of 3D, your hard work was rewarded. Many thanks also to the

team players who put in such an effort with their costumes – its not easy for a banana to play soccer or for little red riding hood to play while carrying her basket. On the other team despite the mix up with team colour socks and mad hairdo's great fun was had by all. Well done and thanks to all who took part. Thanks to Ms. Phillips, Ms. Corcoran and Mrs. Mulroy for putting forward their classes for the challenge.



CLASS 4A



Back Row: Kieran Folliard, Ali Raza, Bongani Dhlamini-Nkosi, Cian Conboy, Gerry Freeley, Cian Caufield, Eamon Hora, Haider Mahmood UI Hassan.

Middle Row: Edel Coffey, Nicole McNamara, Fergal Boland, Damien Callaghan, Phelim Webb, Anne O'Gara, Fiona Brady.

Front Row: Emma Duffy, Shiofra Flatley, Noreen Ashraf, Laura Araviciute, Tasha Coyne, Shannon Biesty.

Missing: Danielius Andriukaitis, Michael Flanagan, Josef Loughran.

CLASS 4B



Back Row: Conor Lyons, Eanna McNamara, Michael Walsh, Jason McGoldrick, Eric Hynes, David Kilkenny, David Kenny, Omoarebun Ebeleghe.

Middle Row: Zubir Koohestani, Liam Kearney, Muzammal Yaqoob, Anthony Brereton, Thomas Kilboyle, Thomas McNamara, John Cribbin.

Front Row: Greta Narkeviciute, Claire Moran, Viktorija Konovalaciuk, Riona Joyce, Elaine Neary.

Missing: Thomas McDonagh, Hussain Noor,

CLASS 4C



Back Row: Arkadiusz Grzedzyski, Robert Morley, Aisling Tarpey, Marlena Marciniak, Sean Gildea, Kirsty Philips, Liam Coll, Mark Tighe, Darragh Freeman.

Middle Row: Zaneta Grzedzyska, Lauren Gurlay, Éadaoin Lyons, Sonia Henry, Emma Waldron, Sarah Flynn, Michael Naughton, Danika Gallagher, Niamh Hunt.

Front Row: Lisa O'Connell, Deirdre Durkin, Aoife Devaney, Tara Mulkeen, Louise Henry, Edel Fitzmaurice.

Missing: Lukasz Danilczuk,

THE STUDENTS COUNCIL

This year we are hoping to run a small library in the school two days a week during lunch time.

Staff and students are trying to encourage young people to take an interest in reading.

A variety of reading materials including novels, magazines, newspapers etc. will be available. It is hoped that this leisure activity will also improve literacy levels.



Back Row: James Simcox, Darragh Hunt, John Cunnane, Steven Nolan, Niall Robinson, Declan Muldoon

Middle Row: Liam Cregg, Brian Gavin, Niamh Murray, Róisín Ní Shuilleabháin, Patrick Keadin, Ciara Jordan, Cathal Brady, Davóg Frayne

Front Row: Meadhbh Glavey, Kaitlyn Clarke, Conor Wallace, Rebecca Walsh, Anna Doherty.

U-15 BOYS SOCCER

Ballyhaunis vs Kiltimagh

The u-15 boys soccer team kicked off the year with a challenge match against Kiltimagh in a home affair. Kiltimagh took an early lead but it was short lived after James Reynolds put in a through ball which reached Cathal Carney who buried it in the back of the net. Ballyhaunis' second goal came from a deflected corner by Cathal Carney. A penalty was soon after awarded to Ballyhaunis in which Cathal Carney scored without hesitation giving Ballyhaunis a 3-2 lead at half time. The second half started off badly for Ballyhaunis as they conceded an equaliser making the match a real nail biter. But this didn't discourage the home side because Cathal Carney scored his 3rd of the day soon after that making it 4-3 just before he was subbed. Great Performances by James Lyons, Patrick Keadin, Stephen Collins kept the lead up for most of the second half. In the last ten minutes of game Kiltimagh managed to score an equaliser making the final score 4-4.

finished by Robert Naughton. This still wasn't enough to beat the opponents from Sligo. The game finished 2-1 to Summerhill.

Ballyhaunis vs. St.Enda's

This match was a must-win for the Ballyhaunis team in order to secure their place in the knockouts and they most certainly proved they wanted it. St.Enda's took an early lead. Robert Naughton soon struck back with a brilliant goal in the top corner. St.Enda's then scored two more times before half time leaving in 3-1 going into the dressing rooms. Mid way into the second half Ballyhaunis conceded once more. Ballyhaunis went all out for the final 10 minutes and Robert Naughton scored his second, but unfortunately this was just a conciliation goal. It was a 4-2 loss for Ballyhaunis.

Although the team did not win anything this year, the boys played very well and never gave up in each game. Special thanks to Micheal Murphy and Mr.Noone, their trainers who stuck with them and were fully committed to the team.

Ballyhaunis vs. Summerhill

In late November, they started their Connaught Cup campaign with a game against Summerhill away on astroturf in Sligo. The Ballyhaunis side got off to a rough as they conceded a goal. The 1st half ended with a 1-0 advantage to Summerhill. A different team came out on the pitch and played to their ability but this was not enough to take on a strong Summerhill side. They conceded another to make it 2-0 early into the second half. This did not affect the Ballyhaunis lads and they fought their way back into the game with a great team goal produced by Carlton Ubazuonu and Niall Dunleavy which was



Back Row: John Cunnane, Stephen Collins, James Lyons, Azad Ali, Ryan Kilbane, Robert McCormack, Tom Murphy, Robert Naughton.

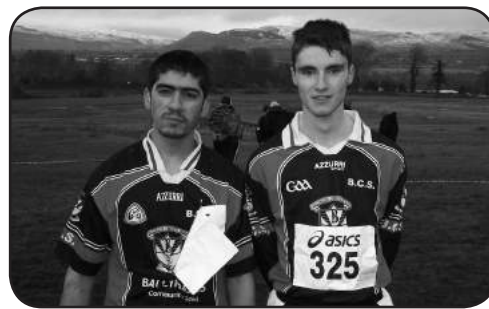
Front Row: Niall Dunleavy, Seán Ruane, Joseph Kelly, James Reynolds, Liam Cregg, Martin Mulkeen.

CROSS COUNTRY

We started training for the cross country championships after Christmas in the cold wet weather in preparation for the first competition the North Connacht's in Sligo on the 26th of January. We left the school just after 9:00 that morning expecting that we would all have to race in the cold of the snow. When we got there we were all relieved that the only bit of snow to be seen was up on the hills. After a quick bite to eat the minors got changed and started their warm up before their race. The minor girls were up first doing 2000m. They pushed hard and the whole team finished in the top 30 out of a field of 95. The team qualified in second place overall with 54 points. The team consisted of Michaela Kilkenny, Eleanor Harrison, Caoimhe Lily, Rachel Lyons, Soskia Kirane, Sive Duffy and Cassandra Niland. They were quickly followed by the boys doing 2000m.

Darren Coyne went through. The next race of the day was the junior boys doing 3000m. Padraig Duffy and Seán Carrick also joined the growing list of students going through to the Connacht finals. The boys were followed by the intermediate girls doing 3000m. Our two girls Shauna Niland and Pamela also qualified. The inter boys followed doing 4500m and we had one qualifier from this race Bongani. The final race of the day was the senior boys doing 5500m and Eric Hynes and Sahid qualifying.

With less than two weeks to the Connacht finals we continued with our training. A team of 17 travelled to St. Mary's of Galway on the 8th of February at 12noon. The minor girls started their race but they found the conditions difficult and Eleanor just missed out on an All-Ireland trip. Darren Coyne was next and he got his just rewards coming 5th out of a field of over 100 athletes, and earned a place in the All-Ireland finals on the 10th of March. The junior boys followed but only Seán travelled. Unfortunately disaster came on his second lap when a push in the back left him with a twisted ankle and out of the race. With this on everyone's mind, Shauna and Pamela ran well in their race and finished mid field in a very competitive race. Bongani followed suit in his race. Eric and Sahid ran in the senior boy's race with Eric finishing well up the field which is very encouraging as they are both seniors again next year. We all left drained after a tough day and delighted that Darren had qualified. Next year we will be back and hope that this years' experience will help us qualify for the All-Irelands next year.



CRICKET- A GAME OF PASSION

Cricket is a game of two wheels encircled by bat and bowl, players involved in batting and bowling. 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 bowler nor the batsman.

The team has had a complete makeover in the last season under the management of Arslan Afzal (past student of the school) and the captaincy of Mohammad Shabbir. We had a dream start to the season with a win over Galway. As the season took off, training sessions became more important with there being a lot of youngsters on the team who could learn so much from the more experienced players. The most important aspect of cricket is fielding, the youngsters learned a lot from Farukh Iqbal as he is the best fielder in our team.

We had great success last year as we won the North-West Cup and the Arslan Afzal Cup. My most memorable moment was when I scored a six on my debut and won the match against Riverstown!!

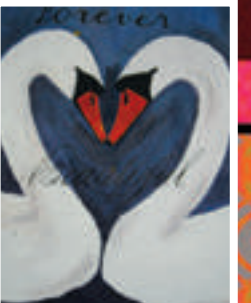
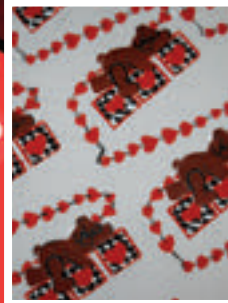
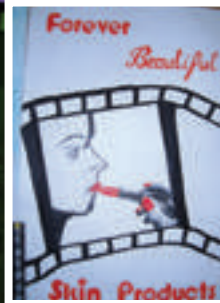
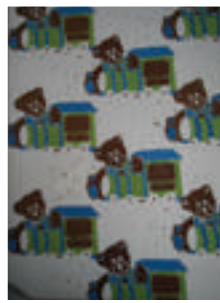
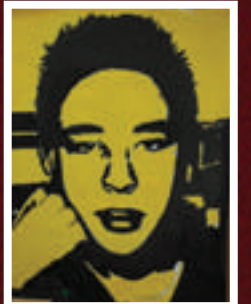
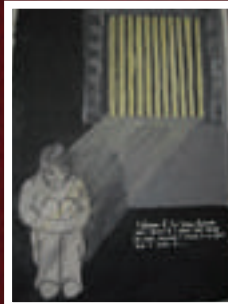
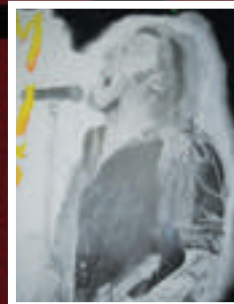
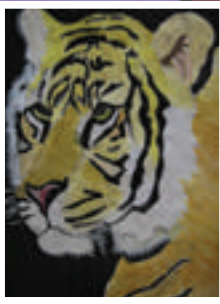
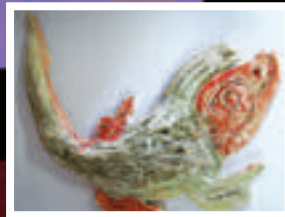
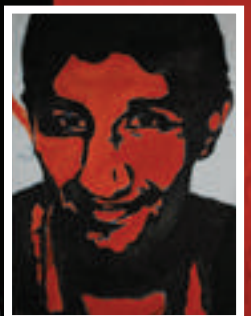
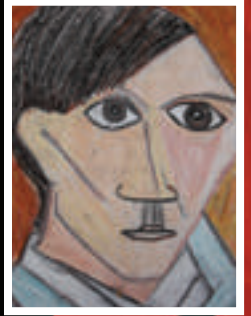
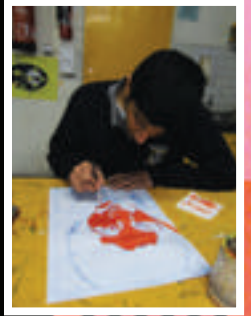
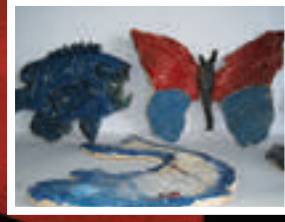
Hannan Iqbal



TRANSITION YEAR



BCS ARTWORK



A Day in the Life

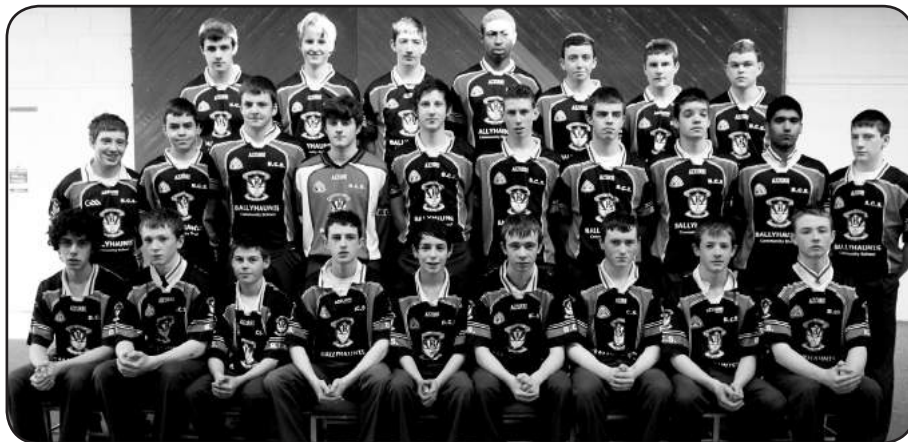


BCS Musical



JUVENILE FOOTBALL

A special thanks to Mr. Hugh Rudden for all the hard work he has put in throughout the year with the panel. It has been a tough year for the team and hopefully the team will have better luck next year.



Back row: Davog Frayne, Steven Ryan, Steven Nolan, Darragh Hunt, Joseph Lyons, Cian O'Boyle, Omo Ebeleghe.

Centre Row: Azad Ali, Ryan Kilbane, Niall Robinson, Mark Philips, James Murphy, Sean Sutton, Colm Ronan.

Front Row: Conor Hagney, Joe Kelly, Shawn Groarke, Jason Coyne, Waqas Rehman, James Lyons, Neal Folliard. Not present: Liam Duffy.

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL GAA AWARDS 2010

Ballyhaunis Community School held its annual GAA awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 24th. Medals were presented to the First year team members who won the Tarmey Cup, the Junior team which captured the Colleran Cup and the Senior team who prevailed in the very competitive Flanagan Cup. Awards were made to players for their outstanding performances in their particular grade. They were as follows:

First Year Player of the Year:

James Lyons

Second Year Player of the Year:

Mark Phillips

Juvenile Player of the Year:

David Kenny

Junior Player of the Year:

Conor Hussey

Senior Player of the Year:

Eoghan Collins

Players at all levels were congratulated for representing the school with pride and distinction and were wished good luck for next year's campaigns.



Pictured is James Lyons receiving the First Year Player of the Year Award. Also pictured is Mr. David McDonagh, Mr. Sean McHugh (Coaches), Mr. Hugh Rudden (Connacht Colleges Secretary) and Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal), Ms. Concepta Moran (Deputy Principal).



Pictured is Mark Phillips receiving the Second Year Player of the Year Award with Mr. Hugh Rudden (Connacht Colleges Secretary) and Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal).



Pictured is David Kenny receiving the Juvenile Player of the Year Award with Mr. Hugh Rudden (Connacht Colleges Secretary) and Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal).



Pictured is Conor Hussey receiving the Junior Player of the Year Award with Mr. Hugh Rudden (Connacht Colleges Secretary) and Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal).



Pictured is Eoghan Collins Senior Player of the Year Award. Also pictured is Mr. David McDonagh (Coach), Mr. Hugh Rudden (Connacht Colleges Secretary) and Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal), Ms. Concepta Moran (Deputy Principal).

TRANSITION YEAR



Back Row: Seán McDermott, Paidrag Connolly, Darren Maloney, Seán Burke, Michael Waldron, Michael O' Rourke, Martin O' Gara, Cian Cunningham, Kevin Kilbride.

Middle Row: Eric Fitzgerald, Daniel McDermott, Andrew Whealan, Ronan Murphy, Morgan Lyons, Jason Coyne, Cyril Collins.

Front Row: David Frayne, Caoimhe Henry, Sara Mitrovic, Michaela Durkin, Ronan Forde.

Missing: Tommy Kearns, James Reidy, Mark Ruane.

B.C.S BANKING

Once again it was the time of the year for the A.I.B build a bank challenge where six transition year students are picked to run the school bank. At the start of the year Ms. Waldron notified the class of 24 about the bank. Therefore everybody was eager to be one of the chosen six. As the demand for the six positions was very high, interviews were held for all the positions. The lucky team was as follows...**Bank Manager:** Ronan Murphy, **Assistant Manager:** Michael Waldron, **Sales & Marketing Executive:** Martin o Gara, **Auditor:** Pádraig Connolly, **Tellers:** Cian Cunningham and Caoimhe Henry. We were all delighted and honoured to be picked for the school bank.

We started off with our launch day on the 10th of November. This was a massive success as Helen, our A.I.B liaison officer brought out lots of freebies and sweets which attracted attention straight away in the Assembly area. Our aim for the year was to try and open as many accounts as possible and then to entice the account holders to lodge money into the account. We held meetings every Thursday at lunch time where we discussed bank matters with Ms. Waldron. As a team we tried to come up with ideas to attract customers and therefore we came up with an idea to raffle off a Tablet PC. Also we held a Xbox games day most Thursdays at lunch time.

Now the time had a approached after long days of blood, sweat and tears, D-Day ! On the 5th of March the team headed up to The Radisson Hotel in Galway. When we arrived we went into the conference room and set up our presentation board. Judges then came around and

interviewed us on how the year had gone so far. After long deliberation the judges finally announced the final ten and we made it in out of forty five schools! Unfortunately we did not make the national finals but we were delighted that we made the top ten.

The bank team would like to thank Helen and Ms. Waldron for helping us throughout the project, we couldn't have done it without them!

Ronan Murphy and Cian Cunningham



GREEN SCHOOLS



Another year has passed and hopefully our school has become a little greener. Our recycling programme is still ongoing and very successful. 80% of all our recyclable materials are being recycled and not going to landfill as previously had been the case. Let's try and make it 100%. We are still composting organic matter and this

has also been successful in reducing material going to landfill. Paper and batteries are also recycled with Rehab benefiting from this programme. We have two main target areas for next term and next year. Litter in the school can be a problem from time to time and we would ask anybody to be more mindful when disposing of their litter. Also we have to date not targeted litter and recycling outside the school grounds. We would welcome any suggestions or ideas with regard to this.

The green schools committee would like to thank everybody for their co-operation and would ask everybody to renew their efforts on this regard.

Mrs. Brogan

BALLYHAUNIS A.B.C. (AID FOR BELARUSIAN CHILDREN)

Ballyhaunis A.B.C. is now in operation for eighteen years. Every year Ballyhaunis A.B.C brings children from farms and orphanages in the South East of Belarus to Ballyhaunis for a month's holiday. The holidays in Ireland provide respite to the Belarusian children from the high levels of radiation to which they continue to be exposed to. Normally the group hosts ten or twelve children and the children come during the month of July. Local families volunteer to host children and their interpreter. Each family hosts two boys or two girls for two weeks during July. During their time here we also take the children on various outings. The group also helps fund a hospice in Belarus for terminally ill children. The hospice employs two nurses and a doctor. Our main annual fundraising events are the making and sale of St. Brigid's crosses and this year again the students directed by the religion department helped us out with the making of the crosses. Over 200 crosses were sold at masses at the local churches around St. Brigid's day. This was a great help to our fundraising for a very worthwhile cause. It also keeps a very old tradition alive and well.

Ms. Lyons

GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

The green schools committee is very heavily involved in our school. Our job is to spread awareness of the importance of recycling and make our school a tidier place. The recycling programme is important in our school. In each area there are three bins, two recycling and one general waste bin. It is obvious that the students are taking recycling serious because after each lunch break we check the bins and note that they are being used properly. This year we tried to encourage students to recycle more by introducing a merit system. We drew up a rota so that the students could take turns in sorting out the recyclables and the two students who did the best job would receive a merit as a reward. We would like to thank everybody for their co-operation throughout the year. We feel we made a massive difference within our school. **Michael O'Rourke & Michaela Durkin**

CLASS 4D



Back Row: Joey Fahy, Mark Sutton, John Morley,
Middle Row: Momna Shafique, Shahedulah Habibi, Shane Healy, Steven Regan, Conor Waldron, Colm Morley, Asia Tayyab
Front Row: Shauna Morley, Sinead Niland, Pamela Ubazuonu, Jasmine Moss, Michelle McNamara, Sarah Staunton.
Missing from photo: Aron Moran, Andrew Henry, Hira Mahmood, Chantell Maughan, Hazel Nolan, Shahzad Rehman.

COMMUNITY CARE PROJECT

Religious Education for T.Y. students is very different from the normal class based experience. Instead of listening to stories about others putting their faith into action, this is exactly what our T.Y. students do every week. Every Monday morning from 9 until 11 the T.Y. students are placed in community based placements with the opportunity to experience three placements during the course of the school year. The placements range from walking the dogs for the MSPCA, to preparing meals for the meals on wheels service to providing one to one computer training for the Over 55's. Each placement is 8/10 weeks in duration so the students have plenty of variety throughout the course of the school year.

The feedback from the community placements is very complimentary towards the students. They are deemed to be respectful, well mannered and caring within the role they carry out. Community Care programme is an invaluable experience for the T.Y. students – it gives them a great insight into the world of work and how rewarding community care as a career option can be.

This year the Transition Year students volunteered in the following placements:

- Scoil Íosa Primary School- helping with the Literacy and Numeracy programme
- Rita Landon Play school.
- Brookvale Nursing Home.
- Lohan Park Group Home- Meals on Wheels.
- MSPCA-Mayo Society to prevent cruelty to animals.
- Friary Creche
- Friary Play School
- Friary Office- one to one computer tutoring with the over 55's
- Western Care- Training centre for adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.



Well done to the T.Y. students from embracing the challenge and for attending each of their placements with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Truly the students put the concepts of social justice, care and concern for all into action. Well done all.

O. Macken, C. Murphy



CREATIVE WRITING

- I AM

I am
A girl who became a young lady.
a daughter, an auntie.

I am
a good dancer,
a rotten cook,
not bad at running.

I am
good at helping around the house.
I am a person, a person who always
shares without hesitating

I am forgetful,
rarely on time,
never tongue tied,
and has lots to say.

I am
always honest
and try my best, always looking for
fun new things to do

**I am – well the best way to put it
I am me**

Róisín McDonagh

CONCERT HALL HITS THE RIGHT NOTE!



On the 8th of November 2011 the Junior Cert music class had to wake up extra early. However, it was for a good cause, we were going to the Concert Hall in Dublin! Our class were especially lucky because last year's Junior Cert music class missed the opportunity to go to the Concert Hall, as they were taking part in the "Our School's Got Talent" talent competition.

We set off on the minibus early in the morning for Dublin. Seeing as though we had plenty of time to spare, Ms. Devine allowed us to stop off for a break and a bit of breakfast after the long journey! Already, we began to spot other third year students from various schools around the country, whom we assumed were going to attend the concert also. The excitement was building because we couldn't wait to hear our "set works" being performed right before our eyes!

On arrival to the Concert Hall we waited outside on the steps for someone to guide us in and show us the way. While waiting, we saw many different school uniforms. I'm sure we'd all agree that after seeing some uniforms we could easily say that we're thankful for and like ours. (As much as we dislike putting them on in the morning!)

After about fifteen or twenty minutes we were guided into the Concert Hall, brought through many corridors and eventually the massive orchestral room we were about to take our seats. We passed row after row (still quite empty) until we were told to stop and sit down. The room really was impressive and as soon as we got settled it quickly filled up with students and teachers. Last but certainly not least, the orchestra and conductor (who also presented the show) entered and took their positions. The conductor welcomed us all and then began the show. Once they began to play our "set works" it really was fantastic because it sounded just like and as good as our CD at school! We also gained more background information on all of the "works", more than we would learn from the book. It was more fun too because we were interacting with the conductor and the orchestra in answering various questions. The atmosphere in the room really was the finishing touch!

Overall, it was a brilliant day. Not only did we get to experience our "set works" being played right in front of us, we gained a further insight and learned more about them in an enjoyable way. Speaking to this year's 2nd year music students I would say, try not to miss out on this extremely beneficial day out next year. You'll have great craic on the bus and when you're there and maybe if you're good, you'll be allowed to go shopping afterwards like we did!!

Sarah Creighton

WESTERN CARE PARTY

Western Care is a voluntary organisation that supports people who have learning and associated disabilities. It is one of the placements that T.Y. students volunteer with on Monday mornings as part of the Community Care programme. On Dec 14th the T.Y. students decided to continue the long tradition in our school (started by Leaving Cert Applied students) of organising a Christmas party for the staff and service users of Western Care.

Much preparation went into organising A7/B1 and transforming it into a festive venue for the afternoon. The

students organised refreshments and loads of goodies for our visitors. There was even a surprise visit from our very own Santa Clause who had gifts for all our invited guests. Many thanks to Mrs. Devine and all the musicians, dancers, sean nos dancers as well as the cast from Footloose, Mamma Mia and High School musical who made a special appearance 'for one afternoon only'! Our T.Y. students did the school proud. They were very welcoming and courteous to the staff and service users from Western Care. They were really impressed and delighted with the afternoon. Well done T.Y's and to all the students who provided entertainment for the afternoon.

C. Murphy / O. Macken



TRIP TO STRASBOURG

The Graduate is an online quiz for students, in which questions are answered weekly relating to the EU. I heard about the quiz from my brother who won it in 2005. After one week of taking the quiz it was announced that I had won a 4 day trip to Strasbourg in France with 25 other students from around the country. I was delighted to hear this and I couldn't wait to go. Jim Higgins, M.E.P., came into the school to award me with my prize which added to my excitement. On the 20th of March 2012, the 25 other lucky winners and I were introduced to one another and we got on very well. We hopped on a plane and it wasn't long until we were in the stunning city of Strasbourg. On the 3rd day of our trip we went to the European Parliament where we took part in

Euroscola, a programme in which students from all 27 EU member states are given the chance to spend a day in the parliament and do work similar to the M.E.P.s. We elected two students from our group to get up and address the parliament in Irish, we also spoke about different problems and how things could be changed in the EU. It was very interesting to meet students from all across the E.U. and it was easy to chat as everyone spoke a common language, English. I learned a lot from the Euroscola programme in relation to how the E.U. functions and what it's like to be an M.E.P. This trip was a great experience and has been one of the highlights to my T.Y. year. I will never forget the time I spent on this trip.

Michael Waldron



EUROPEAN STUDIES STUDENTS VISIT LEINSTER HOUSE

On Friday, 2nd of March 2012 the TY and 3D classes went to Dublin to see Leinster House, the National History Museum

and Trinity College. The trip was an amazing experience for us all.

First, we visited Leinster House, where we were welcomed by John O'Mahony T.D. We then proceeded to the Visitor's Area of the Dáil where we watched a fiery debate concerning the sale of gold and scrap metal. Afterwards, we got a tour of Leinster House. We visited the Senate room and saw the flag of the Irish Brigade that President John F. Kennedy presented to the Irish people during his visit in 1963. Later, we met with past pupil Joan Flanagan who works for the European Parliament in Dublin. She gave us an interesting presentation and quiz on the European Parliament. Overall, our visit to Leinster House was very worthwhile and enjoyable.

After Leinster House we proceeded to



the National History Museum where we saw some fascinating artefacts such as the Tara Brooch, the Ardagh Chalice and Viking remains. In the afternoon we visited Trinity College where we saw The Book of Kells, The Harp (which appears on Irish coins) and The Long Library where they had a copy of every book written in the British Isles since the 18th Century.

The day also had its lighter moments – playing football in Trinity, taking time out in Grafton Street and doing a bit of shopping in Liffey Valley. All in all, it was a very enjoyable day.

On behalf of the T.Y. and 3D classes we would like to thank John O'Mahony T.D. and Joan Flanagan for facilitating our visit to Leinster House.

By Morgan Lyons and Michael O'Rourke.



JIM HIGGINS SPEAKS TO EUROPEAN STUDIES STUDENTS



On Wednesday 29th February Jim Higgins M.E.P. visited our Transition Year class. He told us all about his politics career and his life as a member of the European Parliament.

Before entering politics Jim Higgins taught in Ballyhaunis for ten years. In 1979, Jim Higgins was elected to Mayo County Council. Two years later he was nominated to the Senate by the Taoiseach of the time, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald. Jim was first elected to Dáil Éireann in 1987 and was re-elected in the next three elections - 1989, 1992 and 1997. In 1994 he was appointed Minister of State at the Department of



Finance. One year later he became Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and Defence as well as Chief Whip of the government. In 2002 he lost his seat in the Dail by 87 votes to our Taoiseach Enda Kenny.

In 2004 he was elected to the European Parliament as one of Ireland's eleven MEPs. Since he joined the Parliament the number of countries in the European Union has increased from fifteen to twenty-seven. Next year, it will increase to twenty-eight when Croatia becomes a member. Jim Higgins described the European Union as "the most successful political experiment in the history of politics."

The European Parliament shares power with the European Commission and European Council of Ministers and laws are made by co-decision. There are 736 MEPs in the European Parliament. Each month the Parliament meets for three weeks in Brussels and for one week in Strasbourg. There are twenty-three official languages in the European Union and Jim speaks "as Gaeilge" when addressing the Parliament.

Other MEPs use their earphones to listen as his speech is translated into their languages.

In the European Parliament Jim Higgins is a member of the European Peoples Party. It is the largest party in the European Parliament with 273 members. While party politics may divide politicians at home, the eleven Irish MEPs work closely together (and with the 3 MEPs from Northern Ireland) to look after Ireland's interests. There are twenty-three committees in the European Parliament and Jim Higgins serves on three of these – Transport and Tourism, Fisheries, and Petitions.

Jim answered our questions on a wide variety of topics ranging from the Euro, Oireachtas Reform and MEP salaries to what he would see as his greatest political achievement to date. We learnt that the average salary of an MEP is €91,000 which is €9,000 less than that of a TD. We also discovered that Jim would like to see the Senate completely reformed as opposed to being abolished. Perhaps not surprising in a man who took the time to come in to talk to our Transition Year class, Jim is most proud of how he helped individual families (such as the Mc Brearty family in Donegal) get justice by highlighting their grievances.

On behalf of the Transition Year Class we would like to thank Jim Higgins M.E.P. for coming in to talk to us about his life and work as a Member of the European Parliament.

By Michaela Durkin and Caoimhe Henry



TY Y.S.I.

Following the success of last year's project "Teens Help Teens", we were excited about Y.S.I. 2012. Our project is called "Paws the Cruelty". Members of our class decided on this project because they felt strongly on the issue of animal cruelty. We worked together to try and raise awareness on the issue. We first made a survey with a number of questions to try and find out what the students already knew about animal cruelty. After this we got in touch with the Mayo Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The M.S.P.C.A. gave us mugs and pens to sell to the students in the school; we are currently selling these products around the school. As part of our project we have produced wristbands with our logo "Paws the Cruelty". The money raised goes straight to the M.S.P.C.A.

We did a lot of research on puppy farms around the country to see the affect cruelty can have on animals; we also looked at Smithfield Market which is a market where they illegally sell mistreated horses.

On Thursday the 8th of March we went to the Ardilon Hotel in Galway to the Y.S.I. Shout Out to promote our project.

There were lots of other schools from across Connaught at the 'Shout Out' fighting with us for a place in the final Y.S.I Showcase in Dublin. It was also a great opportunity to make new friends and get to know people from other schools. We enjoyed working on our project and we feel we got our point across. It was an enjoyable experience! For the rest of this school year we will be busy selling our products, raising money and spreading our message, 'Paws the Cruelty'.

By Michael O'Rourke & Michaela Durkin



T.Y. FISHING TRIP

On the historic day in question, the five of us (Martin O'Gara, David Frayne, Daniel McDermott, Ronan Murphy and eventually Seán Burke) landed down to lake O' Flynn at 11 o'clock. We started fishing straight away. We had no luck in the first half hour. We then got a phone call from Seán Burke saying that he was on his way down, so we started to make our way into the jetty when Ronan Murphy hooked into the first trout of the day. We then headed back out onto the lake where the feeding frenzy started with Daniel McDermott getting the next two fish one after another. Just a few seconds later I landed my first trout of the day while David Frayne hooked into the biggest trout of the day. Ronan Murphy caught the next two, and in a blink of an eye Seán Burke caught his first trout of the day. We then weighed and bagged the trout and went straight back out.

When we got out it wasn't as good as it was in the morning, but Ronan still caught one more trout. I caught the first Pike of the day when all of a sudden David had hooked into his first Pike also. His pike was a fighter but in the end the fish was landed and returned safely back into the lake to fight another day! We had some great ones hooked but as always they were the ones that got away. We went back into shore a little disappointed that we didn't catch more, so we went back out for the last time. We were full of optimism that we would catch more, and it paid off with Seán landing the second biggest of the day. Then I hooked and landed 3 trout in a row, one after another. Ronan then caught two more and seeing as though we had so many already caught we had to put one back. So after the day's fishing we went back into shore and counted all the fish. We had an astonishing 17 Trout and two Pike. That's a new record for lake O' Flynn. But as always the story continues....

Martin O'Gara and Daniel McDermott



T.Y. SHAVE OR DYE FUNDRAISER

Pictured are the T.Y. students who participated in the 'Shave and Dye' campaign in order to raise money for Mayo-Roscommon hospice.

Absent from the photo is Eric Fitzgerald.

MUSICAL BCS GOES BROADWAY

Lights... Camera...Action. November 2011 'BCS Goes Broadway' was about to begin with the least ever time to prepare and cast a school production, would we be ready? Tensions were high but i think everyone will agree, the show was a roaring succes.

This year the decision was made to have three musicals in one show. They were 'High School Musical', 'Footloose' and 'Mamma Mia'. They were packed full of their well known smash hits.

'High School Musical' is amodern love story based in an American High School. The story centres around Troy Boltan and Gabriella Montez and their audition for their school musical as well as the competition they faced from Sharpay Evans and her brtoher Ryan. In our production plenty of talent was showcased by singers dancers and comedians.

'Footloose' is a rock and rollmusical in which Ren McCormack attempts to bring the small town of Bomont back to life by getting by getting the ban on dance lifted. Our production conntained all the catchy hits as well as some very funny dialogue.

'Mamma Mia' is a musical love story told throughthe songs of ABBA Sophie Sheridan and Sky attempt to organise their wedding while Sophie encounters some difficulty in the fact that she has three possible fathers ! Our production captured all the best of the humour and the cathiest tunes from the musical.

Everyone, from the leads and chourses to the stage crew, make-up and parking attendants put in their very best effort and it is fair to say it is an experience we will never, ever forget. Huge thanks must be givin to Hazel McLynn-Lloyd, Ms.Devin and Ms.Henry for organising the show and putting us through our paces. It is safe to say we all throughly enjoyed our little slice of Broadway!

By: Sineád Garvey, Sean Gildea, Kirsty Phillips, Michael Walsh, Caoimhe Henry, Michael O'Rourke, Michaela Durkin and Morgan Lyons.

Cast

High School Musical :

Troy - Morgan Lyons	Gabriella - Michaela Durkin
Sharpay- Caoimhe Henry	Ryan - Michael o'Rourke
Teacher - Olivia Murphey	Chad- Michael Waldron
Troy's Dad - Eanna McNamara	Taylor- Shiofra Flatley
Kelsie- Elaine Neary	Students - Sara Mitrovic and Laura Araviciute

Footloose Leads:

Ren - Sean Gildea	Willard - Michael Walsh
Wendy Jo - Shauna Finan	Rusty - Sineád Garvey
Urleen - Róna Burke	

Mamma Mia Leads:

Sophie - Deirdre Durkin	Sky - Michael Waldron
Donna - Claire Moran	Sam - Shane Healy
Tanya - Kirsty Phillips	Harry - Jim Reidy
Roise - Tasha Coyne	Bill - Michael O'Rourke
Pepper - Tommy Kearns	

T.Y. MEMORY LANE ARTICLE

At the beginning of the year we plunged straight into T.Y. with a treasure hunt. This was a good bonding activity to start off the year and before we knew it ,we were packing our bags to go to Killary adventure centre! During our stay we had to partake in numerous different activites which we wouldn't get to pursue very often. We took part in may activites such as kayaking, gorge walking, terrifying swing and not to forget the 'Killary challenge'. It was tough but we all persevered and helped each other throughout, whether it was swimming through bogholes to running through forests. It was challenging but we all enjoyed every minute. The craic was certainly had during our stay and on our last night we had a bonfire to end it with a bang!

In October, our English teacher, Ms. Mooney, arranged for us to see a dramatic one man performance on stage called "Psycho Spagetti". It was an hilarious stand up show based on the life of the average teenager. Later that month we went on a Geography trip with our teacher Mrs Brogan, Ms. Varden also accompanied us on this trip. When we arrived at Derinumerra, we were greeted by a man who showed us all the different areas of the centre. We learned such a vast amount of information about how items are recycled. We visited the statue at Croagh Patrick where Mrs. Brogan showed us all the different geographical features that could be seen from the statue.

During the following month our attention were focused on the highly anticipated school musical. Many of the T.Y. students played important roles in the musical "BCS Goes Broadway". It was a very memorable experience. Throughout the year we held many fundraising events . Before our Christmas holidays we held a bag packing event in Ryan's Supervalu. This venture was hugely successful and we gave some of our profits to Western Care. We also held a dvd day, a cake sale and a shave and dye event!

As part of our E.U. Studies we invited Jim Higgins ,M.E.P., to address our class on his career as a member of European Parliament. We found this talk very beneficial. John O'Mahony T.D. invited us to visit the Dáil , along with the 3D class. This was a great experience. We saw politicians in action in the Dáil. Jim Higgins told us about the the MacBrewty.

We started the "Bulid a Bank" Challenge in November. We named our bank "Ibank" With the slogans "iBank with B.C.S." And "Ibank, Keeping an eye on your savings

JUNIOR BOYS FOOTBALL



*Back Row: Omoarebun Ebeleghe, Jim Reidy, Liam Kearney, Sean Gildea, Michael Walsh, Cian Conboy, John Morley, Conor Lyons, Sean Burke, Liam Coll, Cyril Collins, Mr. Rudden (trainer).
Front Row: Joey Loughran, Shane Healy, Jason Coyne, Morgan Lyons, David Frayne, Fergal Boland, Darragh Freeman.*

The Ballyhaunis Junior team were not very successful this year. They didn't record a win but were very unlucky to be on the losing side on a few occasions.

They began the year with a heavy defeat in the league to Balla S.C. away from home on the score line 4-16 to 0-10. Their next outing in the league was against St. Louis C.S. in Kiltimagh. Ballyhaunis performed very well against St. Louis but were 2 points down at half time. The game was very tight in the second half and Ballyhaunis piled on the pressure but couldn't get that winning goal and ended up losing by 2 points.

Ballyhaunis were now out of the league so they now had to concentrate on the Championship. Our first game of the Championship was against Athenry VS in Corofin.

Ballyhaunis started the game well having complete control of the for the first fifteen minutes. Fergal Boland opened the scoring in the first minute which was followed by another fine point from Michael Walsh. Morgan Lyons then scored the first goal of the game from a well worked move involving Seán Burke and Fergal Boland. Seán Burke followed this with another point from the resulting kickout. Athenry scored their first point of the game from a free. Ballyhaunis then added two more points from Morgan Lyons and Fergal Boland to leave Ballyhaunis 1-05 to 0-01 up. Athenry got their second point from their full forward who was on top form. Jason Coyne scored another Ballyhaunis point followed by two more points from Athenry one from a free. Morgan Lyons scored his and Ballyhaunis' second goal of the game from a good pass from Jason Coyne. Athenry scored two more points before half time to leave it 2-06 to 0-06 in favour of Ballyhaunis at the break.

At the start of the second half Ballyhaunis scored two points from Fergal Boland and Conor Lyons, but that's when it all went wrong for Ballyhaunis. Athenry scored three quick goals in a devastating fashion. Liam Coll scored again for

Ballyhaunis followed by a free from Morgan Lyons. Athenry took control from here scoring 4 points without reply. Ballyhaunis tried to get back into the game and scored points from Morgan Lyons and a Fergal Boland free. But unfortunately for Ballyhaunis Athenry scored another goal to put a 5 point gap between the teams. Ballyhaunis applied a lot of pressure near the end of the game but couldn't get that goal they needed and ended up losing by 3 points.

Panel: Jamil Kezze, Shane Healy, Mark Phillips, John Morley, Sean

Gildea, Cian Conboy, Michael O'Rourke, David Kenny, Liam Conboy, Liam Duffy, Morgan Lyons, Sean Burke, Fergal Boland, Stephen Nolan, Conor Lyons, Jim Reidy, Mark Sutton, Jason Coyne, Liam Kearney, Michael Walsh, David Frayne, Liam Coll, Cyril Collins Darragh Freeman.

MENTORS 2012/2013

Twenty five 4th year students were selected to be mentors to the incoming 1st year group in Sept. 2012. Pictured are the mentors with Mr. Paul Thornton NBSS Mentor facilitator after their training day.

The mentors will play an important role in helping the new 1st years to settle into our school community. Well done to all who volunteered to be a mentor this year. A very rigours selection process took place with 25 students being put forward to take on this important role.



CYBER GREEN- DUNDALK



Mrs. Bernadine Waldron and Transition year students 2010/2011 were involved in an international project "The Asia -Europe Classroom" with N.U.I. Maynooth and 30 partner schools from both Asia and Europe.



The project was titled "Go Cyber Green". It involved students forming links with other students in a safe protected online environment called "eleg". Students uploaded personal profiles and gave their

opinions on individuals with green credentials. Following this, they worked on my own place and looked at Ireland from many perspectives, eg. customs, cultural traditions, festivals, food and drink. We read the materials provided by the partner schools in the sharing and commented on the work.

Annually an Asia – Europe conference is held in some location across the globe from Singapore to Copenhagen where specially selected projects are presented. This year for the first time the conference was held in Ireland, 6 projects from 40 were selected for presentation and "Go Cyber Green" was one of the six. From the 30 schools involved in "Go Cyber Green" Ballyhaunis Community School was chosen as the representative school and I was chosen as the representative student.

Niamh Hunt And I, along with Mrs. Waldron, travelled to

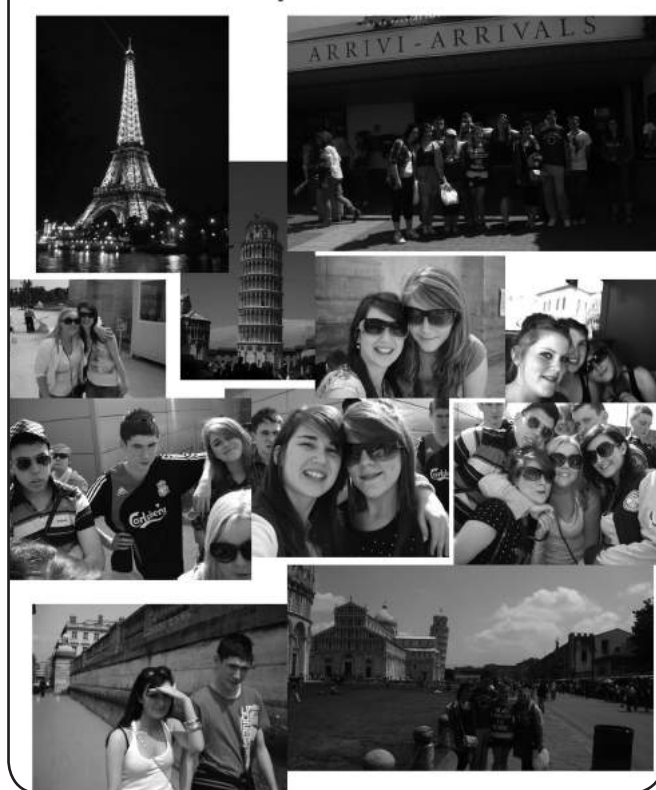


Dundalk for the 10th International Asia -Europe Conference. We met an international group of people including the Minister for Education, Mr. R. Quinn, and the Minister of State for Education, Mr. C. Cannon. Additionally, we met many new students from many different countries. I presented to a group in excess of 135 educators. The project was presented with 500 and a merit award to enable its expansion.

By Louise Henry & Niamh Hunt

PARIS ARTICLE

PARIS/PISA 2011



Monday, the 9th of May 2011. This was the day the 2010/2011 class of Transition Years had been waiting for all year. Our trip to Paris which had been planned since the beginning of T.Y. was upon us.

We set off with sleepy heads to Dublin Airport and boarded our plane bound for Paris. We landed early Tuesday morning with hardly any sleep and started off on a walking tour of Paris! We met our guide in central Paris and took in our breathtaking surroundings. Gardens, museums, boutiques and impeccable architecture. We weren't in Paris a half hour and we were already in love with this beautiful city.

That night we had a breathtaking boat trip down the river Seine through the heart of Paris seeing the Louvre museum, Notre Dame cathedral and of course the astounding Eiffel Tower.

Day two and we woke up as excited as little kids as it was time for Disneyland! The highlight of the trip for some and a childhood dream come true for many. Between Edel and Kirsty selling tickets to Dutch people and Mrs. Hardegan and Phelim going on 'Space Mountain' an impressive 13 times and Aron, Éanna and Miko having a 'wonderful' time, a great day was had by all.

Day three and we woke with excited but heavy hearts. It was the day we would climb the world famous landmark the Eiffel Tower, but also the day we would have to go home. We started the day with a visit to the Sacre Cour cathedral. The sights from the top of the cathedral were majestic. You could see rooftops and skylines for miles! After that, we went to our main destination, the Eiffel tower. We will never forget the feeling of standing on one of the world's most recognised landmarks.

At that stage, all that was left was to pack up and leave for Paris airport. However, fate had other plans for us. We were told that night in the terminal that our plane had technical difficulties. After a series of negotiations, Mrs. Hargedan and Mrs. Henry got us on a plane to Pisa to return to Dublin from there! We could not believe our luck! An extra day away from home and we were headed to Pisa, Italy. So not only did we get to stand on the Eiffel tower, we also witnessed one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the leaning tower of Pisa.

It was a great trip, turned into a whirlwind adventure and one the T.Y. class of 2010/2011 will never forget. I will end this with one of Louise Henry's favourite quotes, "don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened".

Kirsty Phillips

4TH YEAR TRIP TO ACHILL

As promised, our 4th Year trip to Achill achieved above and beyond our expectations! We made our way out to the bus park, some of us with suitcases we could just about carry, highly anticipating this long awaited adventure. When we finally arrived at the centre, we were reminded of the notorious, golden rule: boys on one side, girls on the other, which of course we all strictly abided by! We were divided into our teams for the next three days and left to settle into our rooms.

Throughout the three days we took part in numerous activities such as hill walking, canoeing, surfing, gorge walking and whenever possible, the odd bog hole was involved! This was enjoyed more by some rather than others.

Although these activities were the main focus of our trip, nothing can beat the memorable and truly epic evening activities. On our first evening we played an unforgettable game of hide and seek, which I'm afraid went on far longer than the instructors would have liked. But our trip wouldn't have been complete without the rendition of "Miss Achill" conducted by our highly capable mc, Shane Healy. It was Seán Gildea who impressed the crowd in his tiny garments and gained the prestigious honour of "Miss Achill 2011" !

As they say, all good things must come to an end but we were left with fond memories and certain catch phrases which have been carried on (and cannot be repeated here for good reason). On behalf of the 4th year students, I would like to thank Mr. Murray and Ms. Murphy for making this trip possible for us.

By Shauna Morley



LCA2 / 4TH YEAR TRIP TO CASTLEBAR

On Thursday, March 22nd LCA2 and 4th year students took some time out from study and class and headed off to Castlebar for a much needed 'day out'. Could it be planned any better because it was a glorious sunny day, far too sunny and warm to be heading into a dark cinema but the tickets were booked and the film was chosen by trip organiser Mr. McDonagh – '21 Jump Street' we were informed 'is a fantastic film'! With popcorn in tow we headed into the film and yes it did live up to its reputation, it was lighthearted and funny – just what we all needed. After lunch the students had the opportunity to show off their bowling skills.

Great fun was had by all- it was a relaxed day out - a welcome change from the books and school. Many thanks to Ms. Murphy and Ms. Macken for coming with us on the trip.



FUNDRAISING IN BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ms. Murphy / Ms. Macken

Temple Street

The annual Halloween "Trick or Treat" for Temple Street fundraiser campaign was organised by enthusiastic group of 4th year students. They gave up their break time to sell the key rings for Temple Street Children's Hospital. The students were overwhelmed by the support of students and teachers in BCS as 200 was raised for this worthy cause. Well done and thanks to everyone for supporting.

JANUARY

Hope Foundation

The "Hope Foundation" was a new charity supported by BCS in this academic school year. The organisation works to support the most disadvantaged children in the world. A day of hope was celebrated in the school where 4th year

students worked hard to sell bars of Hope Chocolate for 2 each. An amazing sum of 620 was raised which will help to make a positive difference to the lives of these poor neglected children. Once again BCS showed its generosity.

4th Years Fancy Dress Sponsored Walk

On the 27th of March Ballyhaunis Community School took to the town in style wearing every costume imaginable! From Santa and his reindeer, alongside a Jamaican-looking smurf, the school was full of colour and variety. We even had a guest appearance from our very own Andy Carroll (Tiger), we also had a priest to say mass (Aron), an enthusiastic sailor, and a fantastic tribute act from LMFAO!

A few last minute costumes were arranged, such as tutu's worn by a few lads, several devoted GAA players, Gleeks and a "melting" snowman. Luigi made an appearance, unfortunately Mario was nowhere in sight.. The true nerds of the school were out in numbers and who can forget the beach babes. Of course Ballyhaunis wouldn't be the same without a few farmers thrown in and with that, we were all set for the walk!

After getting a lot of odd looks from other students, we set off on what can only be described as Ireland's hottest day of the year, it didn't take long for the sweat to start pumping and the lads to strip down!

A few of the very devoted walkers stayed in costume, although Santa looked a bit worse for wear by the end. I don't think anyone anticipated the walk to be as long as it was, especially some brave girls wearing heels!

We had a lovely warm welcome from Henry Madden and his wife Kathleen who greeted us with warm welcomes and much needed drinks and sweets, we took a quick break, a few group photos were taken and we set off home.

However our peace was short lived when suddenly Mrs. Murphy broke the news that we had only SIX minutes to get back to the school to make it in time for the buses, as several students attempted to run, the phrase "go on without me" was never as frequently used for the students wearing the

costumes! But in the end buses were met by parades of panting students and we all got home in time.

In the end it was an amazing day, full of laughs and banter. Big thanks to Ms. Macken, Mrs. Mulroy and Mrs. Murphy for organising the event, also to Henry Madden for the refreshments.

By Niamh Hunt and Louise Henry.



CROAGH PATRICK CLIMB



The Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick took place on Sunday the 29th of April.

Around 200 young people celebrated their faith together and enjoyed a great day out. 33 students and Mrs. Murphy and Ms Macken represented Ballyhaunis Community School and completed the climb. We could not have asked for a better day, there wasn't a cloud in the sky and the views were spectacular.

We began the climb at 11am. Fr. Pat Farragher and the team from the Diocesan Youth Council prepared us for the climb spiritually with each of us filling in a card with the reason why we were climbing this special mountain, some did it for their families, others did it to thank God while others wanted to do the climb to be able to say 'I reached the top'.

But of course we all realized after reaching the summit that the most important part of the climb was the journey, the friendship, helping each other, encouraging each other, meeting the strangers on the path and saying things like 'your nearly there', 'keep going'.

Mass was celebrated in the Oratory at 1pm - this was an

opportunity for us all to thank God for bringing us safely to the summit and to offer our intentions.

The day finished with a much-needed barbeque in the Millennium Park in Murrisk at 3pm. The burgers never tasted so good! Archbishop Neary was there to congratulate the climbers on making it to the top and down safely.

This day was also part of the preparations for the International Eucharistic Congress, which will be held in Dublin in June 2012.

Well done to everyone involved and a special thanks to the students for giving their day to be part of the Diocesan Youth climb.

Mrs. Murphy & Ms Macken



POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

The Pope John Paul II Award is dedicated to the memory of the late Pope John Paul II who was very committed to young people and who had great belief and confidence in them.

As well as the feeling of personal achievement that can be gained from taking part in the award, participation helps to show future employers and educators that you as a young person can make an ongoing commitment to a task. Remember religion is not just for learning it is for living and through taking an active part in the church and community young people can experience the contentment and fulfilment that comes from serving others, especially those in great need.

This year there are ten 4th year / T.Y. students participating in the Pope John Paul II Award. The award is non-competitive, flexible and voluntary and requires an ongoing commitment. There are four Awards: The Papal Cross, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

The students will gain their Award by taking part in activities through Parish Involvement and Social Awareness. Examples of activities in the parish that can be completed for the Award are:

- Reading at Mass
- Member of choir/folk group
- Helping with Church decoration – Crib, Easter Garden etc
- Collector / Usher
- Helping with the 1st Holy Communion programme
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin
- Parish Website / Facebook page

Examples of activities in the area of Social Awareness that can be completed for the Award are:

- Member of St. Vincent de Paul
- Working in a youth club – Foroige / No Name Club
- Ongoing fundraising
- Regular visitation of residential homes
- Volunteering in a local Charity Shop
- Help with Meals on Wheels
- Involvement with MSPCA / Western Care / Friary

Computer Classes for over 55's etc.

The ten 4th year / T.Y. students will have completed their Parish / Social involvement by September and hopefully each of them will receive their Gold Award at the Diocesan Awards Ceremony in November.

Well done to the students for showing such commitment to their faith and to their community.

The JP II Award will be open to next year's 4th / T.Y. students in September if they wish to take on the challenge!

O. Macken

THE SERVE PHILIPPINES PROJECT 2012



The SERVE Philippines Project was the main focus of our fundraising efforts during Lent 2012. Fr Mike Murphy, PP, Roundfort, who spent time volunteering with SERVE in the Philippines in 2007, spoke to the 4th and 5th year students in February about the SERVE project. In his presentation he talked about his previous visits to the Badjao community in the Philippines, he came across horrific stories where families just did not even consider bringing their children, ill from TB, to hospital. They let the child die at home because they didn't have the money for hospital treatment. "In essence, 20 was the price put on life there."

Fourteen volunteers from the Tuam Diocese are destined to spend five weeks of summer 2012 working together to help a community in great need in the Philippines. The group will be based with the Badjao community in Cebu, the Philippines. The humanitarian mission has been organised in conjunction with SERVE, an Irish overseas development charity. Fr. Mike informed us that the Badjao community have had their informal settlements deliberately burnt down on many occasions. For many years they lived with little dignity, but were finally given a plot of land by the sea on the outskirts of Cebu. SERVE funded the building of a school there in 2008, which was the first concrete structure in the area. This has been a huge boost to the community. Native teachers are employed in the school. However, there is no running water, sewage, or electricity in the area, and little improvement in their human rights.

The 14 people who have volunteered for this project, will live in the intense conditions that the people of the Badjao community live in – they will experience exactly what it is



really like for this community. Life there bears no comparison to what we are used to in Ireland.

Funds raised will help build houses for a people totally abandoned by society because they are peace-loving, semi-illiterate, afraid to demand their basic rights and, in general, live almost unknown to the world.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the various fundraising events throughout the school year. It never ceases to amaze me how generous the staff and students of

BCS are with their time, energy and money to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves. We are delighted to be able to contribute to this worthy cause. The money raised will be used to ensure people can live in dignity with a house, water, light and a place to sleep.

Well done and thanks to all who supported the various events.

O. Macken

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURES

Friday, May 20th marked a wonderful day at Ballyhaunis Community Schools when staff and non-exam students took some time out to celebrate the diversity that is very much a part of this unique school.

With no less than 23 cultures walking the corridors of this now well established multi-denominational school from the following cultures: Afghanistan, Australia, Croatia, Congo, Czech Republic, Iraq, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, the Traveller Community, Syria, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

The celebration was a huge success, with the colours, sounds and tastes of each of the cultures combining to create a great buzz and a super atmosphere in the school.

The celebrations included displays and presentations from each of the cultures as well as workshops in Zumba dancing, Drums, Sean nos dancing, and guest speakers from the traveller, Lithuanian and Syrian communities. One of the most popular displays on the day was from Traveller tinsmith Ted Maughan. The students from Pakistan the second largest culture at Ballyhaunis Community School put on a wonderful display of traditional dress, food tasting and a display of the artistry of Henna – a skin decoration very popular with the Pakistan culture. The Irish Culture was also well represented with traditional Irish dancing and Sean Nos dancing.

The Celebration was launched by the Cathlaoireach of Mayo County Council, Cllr. Michael Burke. Congratulations and well done to all involved. A special word of thanks to all the students who presented their cultures in a most colourful and interesting way. Truly it was a great education for all the school community – one that cannot be just learned from text books.

O. Macken

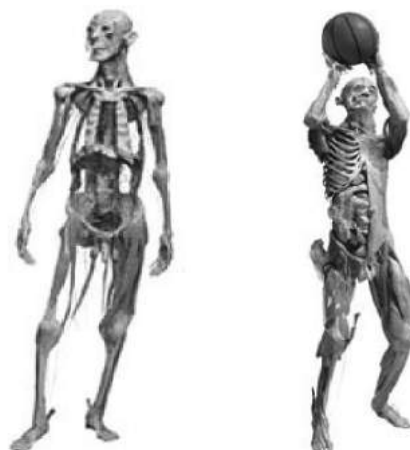


THE HUMAN BODY EXHIBITION

On Thursday 29th March, 4th Year Biology and Transition Year Students attended The Human Body Exhibition in the Ambassador Theatre in Dublin, with Mrs Mannix, Mrs Keane and Mr Woolley.

The Human Body Exhibition highlighted the essential components of the human anatomy. Nine galleries displayed carefully dissected and preserved partial- and full-body specimens. These amazing specimens provided insight into how the human body functions and how it is affected by lifestyle choices, such as smoking and overeating. Designed to educate, encourage and enlighten, the exhibition displayed the physical damage caused by neglecting your body.

The carefully dissected specimens provided a window into the miraculous way the body functions and gave students the opportunity to see exactly what lies beneath their skin!



CREATIVE WRITING

TO BE FORGOTTEN

I already forgot when I felt 'safe' with you
When I felt fake warm
And cold, hard as ice lips, that hurt me with every kiss
I didn't feel passion

I was drowning in this addiction which was you
Something that kept me not to be free – not to spread
my wings
Your moment of inattention – for me spark of hope
Little light in the darkness – in this horror of lies and pain

Ocean of memories but too many tears
My bad moments but your happiness
Addicted to you, I was hurt incessantly
With watch in my eyes, I got lost in time

Your heart is like a big piece of melting ice
And when it will all melt, you will disappear too
Despite your promise, begging for the last chance
Something that didn't make sense, faded away

Be happy with all your plans and thoughts
Not feeling pain but giving it to surrounding you people
Irrevocably, forever and completely
Ejected from the heart, deleted from my memory

Marlena Marciniak, 4C

CREATIVE WRITING

Part 1: Death's Shadow

Wherever you go,
You leave broken hearts,
In your wake,
You never give, but always take.

And I'm just a broken shadow,
Following you around,
Delving in your darkest secrets,
Not wanting to be found.

And my mind is troubled,
At what it discovers,
Helpless souls captured,
By your deathly hands.

You breathe in their life,
As if trying to achieve,
A score in eternity,
And they are helpless.

They can't take any action,
All they do is grieve,
And see the sleeping silently,
Because you, Death, embraced them,
Wrapped them in a cloak,
Of the unknown.

Asia Tayyab

ATHLETICS

Every May, the athletics season commences. Mr. Woolley begins trials across various events including sprinting, long distance, javelin, long jump, high jump, shot put and several relay teams. On May 2nd, we travelled to Sligo for the first stage of the competition. We performed well and 22 out of the 45 students who went, qualified for the Connaught finals. It was a fun day out and a great experience for all students who entered. At the Connaught finals, the standard was very high and unfortunately no Ballyhaunis students qualified for the All-Ireland final.

We were not as successful as 2 years ago when Morgan Lyons qualified for the All-Ireland final for the 100m sprint and the Junior boys relay team consisting of Michael O'Rourke, Morgan Lyons, Seán Gildea and Robert Morley stormed through to the All-Ireland final in Tullamore after an amazing performance in the Connaught final. In June, Mr. Woolley brought the relay team to Tullamore, the standard was incredible and the competition proved too difficult as the team finished 7th and Morgan finished 8th.

We anticipate a successful season this year as the relay team who reached national level are in the proper age group this year. We have students who have achieved gold in Connaught finals such as Thomas McDonagh and Mark Sutton at the shot put, and Morgan Lyons and Gary Patterson have come in medal position at province level in the 100m. Eric Hynes also came 4th in the 3000m walk. All these students are training hard and we hope they all can make it to national level. We also have great potential in the first year students who will be training in the following weeks. We would like to thank Mr. Woolley for giving up his time to organise a team and for giving us the opportunity to compete.

LC MUSIC CLASS TRIP TO DUBLIN

The well anticipated Leaving Cert music trip took place on the 10th of November. With great interest from all members for this educational putting, we headed off early on that morning destined for the National Concert Hall in Dublin. As part of our Leaving Cert music course we study four set works – Piano Quartet No. 1 by Gerald Barry, Romeo and Juliet Overture by P. Tchaikovsky, Jesu der du Meine Seele by J.S. Bach and the famous Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen. On the day the Piano Quartet and Jesu der du Meine Seele were being performed. A superb performance of Bach's work by the all male choir and an energetic performance of Barry's Quartet on violin, viola, cello, and piano gave each of us an interesting insight into the pieces, which will be invaluable for us as we prepare for our examinations. We each got a greater understanding of the pieces. Afterwards,

CREATIVE WRITING

Part 2: Death's Shadow

And I accept the dreary cold,
That you always bring,
I hear all the souls,
Sing a cry in unison.

And my screams of silence,
Fall on deaf ears,
All I do is follow; follow,
Wherever you go.

Sometimes I want to disappear,
And I want to separate,
From this dreadful fear,
But I'm just a broken shadow.

The lonely wind,
Whispers to me,
About the hysterical sobs,
Of the isolated souls.

And I just wear,
A broken smile,
Before I tear,
And fall apart.

You are Death,
And I'm your shadow,
Trapped in eternity,
And time is slow

Asia Tayyab

we ventured to Liffey Valley for some 'light' shopping and food. Craic and banter was had by all and the bus journeys up and down were memorable. On behalf of the class I want to thank Mrs. Devine for organising a very memorable trip.

Róna Burke



Leaving Cert Class of 2012



Farhan Ahmad



Haseeb Arshad



Bilal Ahsan



Waseem Ashraf



David Bance



Michaela Boland



Shane Boland



Donatus Bradauskas



Stephen Brehony



Róna Burke



Seamus Burke



Diarmuid Byrne



Jarlath Carney



Megan Carroll



Noreen Cassidy



Eoghan Collins



Liam Conboy



Brendan Connolly



Ian Coyne



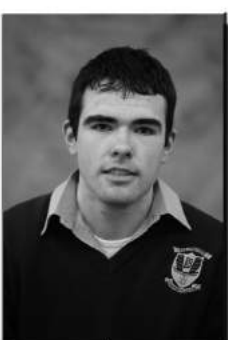
James Cribbin



Laura Culliney



Andrew Cunnane



Daniel Cunnane



Jordan Dalton



Mark Davey

Leaving Cert Class of 2012



Darren Dennehy



Darren Duffy



Eugene Durkan



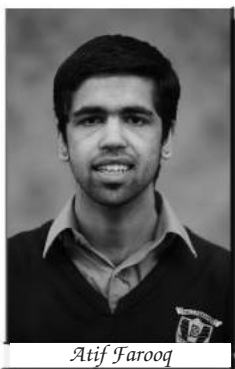
Claire Egan



Joan Egan



Jason Fahy



Atif Farooq



Shauna Finan



Brendan Finn



Paul Finnegan



Conor Fitzgerald



Padraig Fitzgerald



John Flynn



Michael Flynn



Sinéad Garvey



Bartosz Gostkowski



Dean Glavey



Sean Griffin



Ultan Griffin



Daniel Harrison



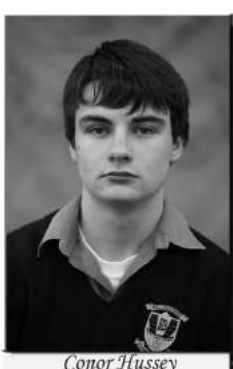
Aoife Hill



Lisa Hunt



Nicola Hunt



Conor Hussey



Ivan Hynes

Leaving Cert Class of 2012



Hannan Iqbal



Zeenat Javaid



Sibion Joyce



John Judge



Brian Kelly



Shauna Kelly



Aisling Kenny



Jamail Kezze



Mohammed Kezzeh



Patrick Kjely



Niamh Kilgenny



Paul Kilgenny



Jonathan Klein



Aine Lilly



Jennifer Lilly



Sharon Lynskey



Grace Lyons



John Lyons



Neil Lyons



Sandra Lyons



Lukasz Malachowicz



Rory Mannion



Jade McDermott



Luke McDermott



Rebecca McGowan

Leaving Cert Class of 2012



Michael McGuire



Thomas McGuire



Stefan McMillan



Louise McNamara



Jarlath Meagh



Niall Melvin



Vicky Miskell



Andrea Morris



Marian Morris



Declan Muldoon



Enda Mulkeen



Olivia Murphy



Aiden Niland



Darren Nolan



Conor Nolan



Megan O'Doherty



Gary Patterson



Ryan Peake



Adrian Phillips



Bronwyn Potgieter



Paul Raftery



Darragh Richardson



Suha Riyaz



Jamie Skeffington



Clodagh Sloyan

Leaving Cert Class of 2012



Joe Sutton



Jakub Szebesta



Darren Tarpey



Azhar Tayyab



Jamie Waldron



Simon Waldron



Claire Walshe



Emily Worden



Sheba Younas



Shahzeb Yousaf



Daigs Zarina

Missing from photo -

Mateusz Marciniak

REPEAT LEAVING CERTS



Back Row: Isaac Carroll, Paul O' Gara, Daniel Lynch, John Waldron, Caoileann Fitzmaurice, Dylan Lynskey.

Front Row: Danielle Higgins, Marie Staunton, Saadia Nazir, Áine Waldron, Sarah Greenan, Laura Haverty.

Missing: Hassan Alam, Sarah Caufield, Katie Conroy, Radoslaw Kuschel, John McNeive, Andrea Reynolds, James Simcox.

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL GAA AWARDS 2011

Ballyhaunis Community School held its Ladies GAA awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 24th. Medals were presented to the Senior team members who were Connacht 'C' runners up in 2011. Awards were made to players for their outstanding performances in their particular grade. They were as follows:

First Year Player of the Year : Shannon Kedian

Juvenile Player of the Year: Shelia Brady

Junior Player of the Year: Róna Burke

Senior Player of the Year: Niamh Cunnane

Players at all levels were congratulated for representing the school with pride and distinction and were wished good luck for next year's campaigns.

Well done to all involved.



Senior Ladies GAA team who were Connacht 'C' runners up in 2011 with Ms. Anne Grogan and Ms. Shellie Gibbons (Coaches).



Róna Burke receiving the Junior Player of the Year Award with Ms. Shellie Gibbons (Coach) and Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal).



Niamh Cunnane receiving the Senior Player of the Year Award with Mrs. Anne Grogan (Coach) and Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal).



Shannon Kedian receiving the First Year Player of the Year Award with Ms. Mary Mooney (Coach) and Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal).



Shelia Brady receiving the Juvenile Player of the Year Award with Ms. Mary Mooney (Coach) and Mr. Pat McHugh (Principal).

SENIOR FOOTBALL

The senior football campaign began on the 14th of September with a game against Charlestown in the first round of the Flanagan Cup. Ballyhaunis had good win on a score line of 2-10 to 3-3. Ballyhaunis won their next two matches in the Flanagan cup beating Ballinrobe 2-13 to 0-5 and Foxford 2-14 to 2-6. Ballyhaunis are now waiting to play Kiltimagh in the Flanagan cup Final which should prove to be an exciting match. The league then began on the 26th October with a comfortable win over St.Nathy's. We then played Kiltimagh in the the second round of the league. Kiltimagh put on a brave display and were only 4 points down at half time. However Ballyhaunis pulled away in the second half winning on a score line of 1-10 to 0-6. This was Ballyhaunis fifth win in a row. Ballyhaunis next match was against Headford in their third league match of the season. After a slow start to the game Ballyhaunis found themselves 1 point down at half time. After half time Ballyhaunis came out a different team and began to pull away from Headford, the final score finished in Ballyhaunis favour on a score line of 3-12 to 1-6.

Ballyhaunis then played Westport in the Connaught semi-final Ballyhaunis started very well and were 1-7 to 2-1 ahead at half time ,however, they knew that Rice College were going to come out stronger in the second half and were only 2 points down with 10 minutes left. Ballyhaunis managed to break away and scored a goal to put the game beyond Westport. Ballyhaunis had all the momentum with them their last 7 matches; however they were coming up against a very strong Tubbercurry team in the Connaught final. Ballyhaunis started very nervous and were 1-3 to no score down within 10 minutes and in truth, they never really recovered from this. They kept trying and were only 4 points down with 14 minutes left but Tubbercurry finished strong and emerged as the winners on the day. However ,this was a bad loss for Ballyhaunis, it was their first defeat and they were to play Mountbellow in the Championship.

Before Ballyhaunis started the championship they had numerous challenge games and were playing well. On the day of the match, Mountbellew had the better start and went two points up. A few minutes later Ballyhaunis were awarded a penalty which was taken well and gave

Ballyhaunis a one point lead. It continued to be a tight game with Mountbellew leading 2-2 to 1-8 at half time. Ballyhaunis were the better team in the second half taking the lead on numerous occasions but could never kill off Mountbellew, resulting in the game going into extra time. Ballyhaunis won the match with the last kick of the game as a result of a well taken point from Darren Duffy. Then we proceeded to set up a rematch with Tubbercurry. This was played on the 22nd of February in the centre of excellence. Ballyhaunis started well and the teams were level 10 minutes into the game but Tubbercurry scored a well taken goal 15 minutes in and were 1-2 to 0-2 up. Ballyhaunis responded in the best way possible with a brilliant goal by Seán Griffin. It was a very close opening half with the teams swapping points for the remainder of the half. The second half was much the same with Ballyhaunis playing very well. When the final whistle blew the teams were level and we were heading for extra time. Tubbercurry scored a crucial early goal in extra time which Ballyhaunis never recovered from. It was a disappointing end to a great match as Tubbercurry ran out 4-11 to 1-10 winners. Ballyhaunis were disappointed with the loss and put in a great performance even though there were alot

of forced changes. On behalf of the team we would like to thank Mr. Woolley and Jimmy Lyons for their commitment throughout the year.



Back Row: C. Hussey, S. Burke, P. O'Gara, C. Lyons, P. Kiely, S. Burke, R. Mannion, N. Lyons, L. Conboy, C. Conboy, D. Kenny, J. Carney.
Front Row: J. Kezze, M. Lyons, D. Duffy, J. Cribben, S. Griffin, E. Collins, J. Sutton, F. Boland.

SENIOR BOYS FOOTBALL RESULTS

Ballyhaunis 2-10 : 3-3 Charlestown
Ballyhaunis 2-13 : 0-5 Ballinrobe
Ballyhaunis 2-14 : 2-6 Foxford
Ballyhaunis 3-12 : 1-6 Headford
Ballyhaunis 6-14 : 1-2 St.Nathy's
Ballyhaunis 1-10 : 0-6 Kiltimagh
Ballyhaunis 2-9 : 2-4 Westport
Ballyhaunis 0-8 : 1-11 Tubercurry
Ballyhaunis 3-9 : 2-11 Mountbellew (aet)
Ballyhaunis 1-10 : 4-11 Tubercurry (aet)

Score Difference

For: 25 G 135p (210p)

Against: 21g 83p (146p)

Average: 16p Scored – 12p Conceded
per game

SENIOR SOCCER 2012

Ballyhaunis 2-0 Kiltimagh

Darren Duffy (pen) 55, 67. Ballyhaunis got their first match off to a winning start by easily beating Kiltimagh. A Joey Loughran cross struck a hand and Darren Duffy converted from the spot. This was followed by a run from Gary Patterson down the wing, who then crossed to find Duffy finished the move for his second.

Ballyhaunis 4-2 Manorhamilton

Morgan Lyons (2) Darren Duffy (2). Ballyhaunis kept their unbeaten run going in the league. Ballyhaunis trailed at half time. In the second half a cross from Luke McDermott was headed in by Morgan Lyons. A through ball from Darren Duffy found Morgan again who finished well to add his second. For Ballyhaunis' 3rd goal the ball was scrambled in from Darren Duffy. Darren Duffy put away the penalty. An in swinging free caught the Ballyhaunis defence off guard which resulted in a consolation goal for Manorhamilton.

Connaught semi-final Ballyhaunis 6-1 Belmullet

Ballyhaunis won easily to secure their place in the Connaught Final. A Morgan Lyons shot rebounded off the post to Jamil Kezze who broke the deadlock and made it 1-0. Straight away after that an Andrew Cunnane cross found Morgan Lyons head who put it in the back of the net. A Belmullet free kick found one of their players who scored to make it 2-1. A trademark Morgan Lyons run was superbly finished to make it 3-1. A brilliant team goal with one touch passing was finished by James Cribbin who put the ball through the keeper's legs. Another Morgan Lyons cross found

Darren Duffy who put the ball in the bottom corner. And Morgan Lyons completed his hatrick after a pass from Gary Patterson.

Connacht Senior Final Ballyhaunis 1-3 St. Louis

Morgan again beat his marker to find Joey again with a pin point cross who then fired the ball into the roof of the net. The resulting throw went to St. Louis number 11 whose shot went into the bottom corner leaving Caoileann Fitzmaurice no chance. A counter attack by St Louis from a Ballyhaunis free kick which was finished by number 11 for his second goal. With 20 minutes left, St. Louis scored on the break which was the final nail in the coffin.

Manager- Mr. McGarry

Panel - Patrick Kiely, Caoileann Fitzmaurice, Seamus Burke, Jamil Kezze, Jarlath Carney, Andrew Cunnane, Darren Duffy, Neil Lyons, Luke McDermott, Joey Loughran, Liam

Duffy, Morgan Lyons, Eoghan Collins, Gary Patterson, Jason Coyne, Sean Burke, David Bance, Conor Nolan, Ryan Peake, Adrian Phillips, Shane Boland, James Cribbin, Seán Griffin, Tom McDonagh.



Back Row: Patrick Kiely, Neil Lyons, Adrian Phillips, Seán Griffin, Morgan Lyons, Jarlath Carney, Caoileann Fitzmaurice, Seamus Burke, Eoghan Collins, Conor Nolan.

Front Row: Shane Boland, David Bance, Jason Coyne, Jamil Kezze, Luke McDermott, Liam Duffy, Gary Patterson, Darren Duffy, Andrew Cunnane, Josef Loughran, Seán Burke, James Cribbin.

FUNDRAISING IN BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ms. Murphy / Ms. Macken

OCTOBER

Local Charity Raffle

The 5B Leaving Cert class approached local businesses in Ballyhaunis to donate a spot prize for a "Halloween school raffle". Their response was very exciting as each business had something unique to offer as a prize. The ticket sales amounted to 400. This money was donated to local charities which included MSPCA, St. Vincent de Paul and Western Care. The 5B class together with their class teacher would like to thank all local businesses who supported our charity event. It was much appreciated.



5th Years

Blind Date

BCS played host to the famous Blind date game show. Students and teachers laughed from start to finish as love was in the air. Cupid was definitely active as dates were

arranged for both teachers and students.

The Blind Date this year was held for two very worthy causes- Trocaire and the SERVE Project - Aid for Poverty Stricken Children in the Philippines. It was organised by 5A religion class and Mrs Mulroy. This charity was brought to our attention by Fr. Mike Murphy who spoke to the Leaving Cert religion classes about his work and what the charity does. Fr. Mike and a group of Irish volunteers help to give children adequate living conditions and try to help them escape from the clutches of a corrupt society.

To start off, it was a very Blind Date, it was sidelined due to 'unfortunate events'.... But it was soon reinstated when the pupils of 5A expressed their interest in holding a fundraising event for the charity. Preparation began a few weeks before the due date. Scripts were written, personas were created and people were drafted in to take part.

Sharron Lynksey and Eoghan Collins readily agreed to take on the role of presenters extraordinaire. No doubt their wittiness and coolness added to the overall performances. And also, John 'Wally' Waldron did a superb job of giving some background information on each of the contestants. Niamh Kilkenny took the part of Jolyene, a young country cowgirl in desperate need of finding love. She was lucky to be choosing from three hot 'stud muffins'; Bunny Eared G-Patz, Teacher's Pet Luke McD and The Dualstar Sean Griffin.

Then, Slick Mick Darragh Rich was fortunate enough to have the pick of Naughty Nurse Megan Carroll, Facebook Guru Meaghan O'D and Tae Lovin' Róna Burke.

After several rounds of questions, tensions and emotions were running high, but decisions had to be made. After much contemplation, Niamh picked Sean as the most worthy of her affections and Darragh decided to choose

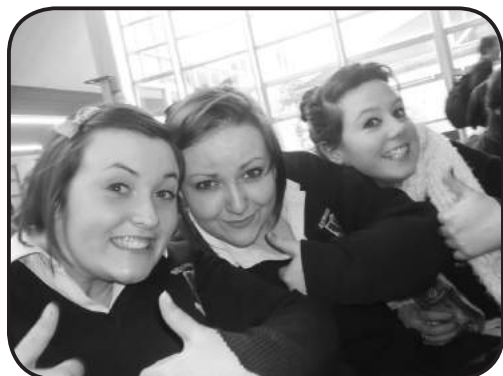
The All-rounder Rona. They were swept off into the sunset on the Ger-mobile, courtesy of Mr. Gerry Glavey, destined for their exciting dates.

The atmosphere was electric after the previous two rounds and anticipation was high for the teachers round. 'Too Cool for School' Mr. Mac was choosing from Mrs Doyle Wannabe Nora (Ms Comer), Sixties Hippy Daphney (Ms Varden) and Sporty Serena (Mrs Grogan). After interesting questions, emotional songs and poems, Mr Mac decided that Serena was the only one of these desperados to live up to his standards.

Some were more lucky than others in finding true love.

Special thanks to the Mrs. Mulroy for organising the event and to Mrs. Murphy and Ms. Macken for their expertise, support and guidance. A special word of thanks to Ms. Varden, Mrs. Grogan, Ms Comer and Mr. McDonagh for entering into the spirit of things and being such good sports. Everyone involved was delighted to have the opportunity to raise money for such a worthy cause.

Róna Burke and Niamh Kilkenny



GAA IN ACTION



RETREATS 2011 / 2012

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.

2nd Year Retreat - February 1st and 2nd Knock Youth Ministry



The 2nd year students Retreat day was facilitated by the Youth Ministry team in Knock. During the retreat students were invited and enabled to go on an inward

journey of self-discovery. They are given an opportunity to reflect on themselves and their lives in light of their faith and so that they can make more informed decisions when faced with the choices life presents.

Part of the retreat day is meeting with young people from Cenacolo – which is a

centre for young recovering drug addicts. The young people share their story of how they fell into the drug trap and how faith has been an important part of their recovery.

The informal part of the day - the visit to the local chipper and the long walks around Knock during lunch-break all added to the experience of the day.

3rd Year Retreat – November 29th and 30th Ballintubber Abbey



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. In the afternoon students are guided through two miles of Tóchar Phádraic (the ancient pilgrim path to Croagh Patrick) as a symbol of their faith journey. Like true pilgrims each student is asked to accept and include everyone and not to complain but rather to say 'thanks be to God' for the (sometimes) many discomforts along the way !!!

Transition Year Retreat - Wednesday March 7th

Authentic Youth

The T.Y.'s from Ballyhaunis C.S. teamed up with T.Y.'s from Dunmore C.S. and Glenamaddy C.S. for their Retreat

experience this year. The day began with each school group sticking to their own in huddles in the Parochial Hall, but by the end of the day, phone numbers were exchanged and new friendships were made.

The Retreat was facilitated by Jude Barry from the Authentic Youth Retreat team. The team highlight that life has much more to offer than lies, sadness and questionable role models, and offer a genuine alternative for today's Youth.

The team focused on how young people are been negatively impacted by what they see and hear through the media. In an environment of increasing divorce, unemployment and rising suicide rates, it seems that hurt is taking over and our materialistically driven nation is beginning to forget where true love, meaning and purpose comes from. The Retreat team challenge this in their multi sensory approach to the day i.e. games, stories, clips from film, discussion etc.

The comments from the students after the day were very positive

Many of my false opinions about God have been changed"

"The day inspired me to make positive choices"

"The retreat was the highlight of my year"

The idea of schools coming together helped to make the day more enjoyable.

Leaving Cert Retreat - Oct 13th and 14th Fr. Benny McHale

Leaving Cert students were 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. Fr. Benny McHale has been giving the Leaving Cert Retreat in our school for the past 10 years. Year after year students request Fr. Benny to be their Retreat facilitator. Fr. Benny has an amazing gift of keeping an audience captivated for hours. He addresses the students on many life issues including faith, the occult, drug misuse, suicide etc. Students have said that Fr. Benny answers their questions honestly and thoroughly and he is very aware of the challenges faced by young people in today's world.

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.



YEARBOOK EDITOR

With each publication of the school yearbook it becomes increasingly evident that such a venture will never reach fruition without the goodwill and co-operation of the entire school community. In this respect, I wish to sincerely thank Mr. Pat McHugh (principal), Ms. Concepta Moran (deputy-principal), the teaching staff, the administrative staff and the entire student body for reflecting the true spirit of Ballyhaunis Community School in diligently collaborating to help produce the yearbook for this school year. Additionally, I wish to personally thank the Yearbook committee for their support and co-operation. They were invaluable to this year's publication and were highly efficient and competent throughout. I wish to acknowledge the T.Y. students on the committee who so enthusiastically rose to the challenge of the 'photoshop' venture in the editing of the photos. They gave so freely of their time and it was deeply appreciated. For this particular yearbook endeavour, I was most privileged to have had the opportunity to work with Fr. Stephen Farragher. His expertise in the area of photography greatly eased the burden, having very generously offered to give up so much of his time in the taking of the yearbook photos. He has played a pivotal role in the high standard of this year's publication. I am most grateful for all of his expertise and support throughout. On a parting note, I want to wish the Leaving Certificate class of 2011-2012 every health, happiness and success in the future. I can only hope that they will cherish this year's publication of the

yearbook in documenting the final 'chapter' of their 'journey' in Ballyhaunis Community School. To conclude, I want to express my profound gratitude to the team at Berry Print, Westport. They play a vital part at this key stage, with their professionalism and expertise bringing the publication to 'new heights' every year.

Mary Mooney



Back Row: Adrian Philips, Briann Kelly, Michael Flynn, Jonathan Klien, Ivan Hynes.

Middle Row: Caoimhe Henry, Tommy Kearns, Cian Cunningham, Pádraig Connolly, Ronan Murphy, Sinéad Garvey.

Front Row: Noreen Cassidy, Róna Burke, Michaela Boland, Emily Worden, Claire Egan, Vicky Miskell.

Learning for Life -P.L.C. Course

*Learning for Life
In Ballyhaunis Community School
of Further Education*

Ballyhaunis Community School provides opportunities for progression to third level education and upskilling for all.

Further information available online or through our PLC office

Web: www.ballyhauniscs.ie
Phone: 086 0341072

LC AWARDS

Drama Queens:

Drama Kings:

First to make a million:

Legs 11:

Babe of the Year:

Comedian of the Year:

Soundest:

Hair of the Year:

Future Taoiseach:

Musician of the Year:

Bebo Stunnah 2K12:

Most Distinctive laugh: Grace Lyons and Jennifer Lilly

Couple of the Year:

Sportsperson of the Year:

Michaela Boland and Aisling Kenny
Adrian Phillips and Stephen Brehony
Róna Burke and Sinéad Garvey
Brendan Connolly and Conor Nolan
Andrea Morris and Aisling Kenny
John Flynn and Neil Lyons
Aisling Kenny and Megan Carroll
Donatus Bradauskas and Gary Patterson
Jennifer Lilly and Niamh Kilkenny
James Cribbin and Darragh Richardson
Jennifer Lilly and Claire Walshe
James Cribbin and Declan Muldoon
Megan Carroll and Andrea Morris
Gary Patterson and Adrian Phillips
Róna Burke and Sinéad Garvey
Donatus Bradauskas and Dean Glavey
Shauna Finan and Rebecca McGowan
Brian Kelly and Darren Nolan
Michaela Boland and Claire Walshe
Thomas McGuire and James Cribbin
Luke McDermott and Eugene Durkan
Aisling Kenny and Patrick Kiely
Joan Egan and Jason Fahy
Róna Burke and Sharon Lynskey
Conor Hussey and Darren Duffy

LEAVING CERT BABY PHOTOS



MEMORY LANE

"Boys will be boys", Mr. O'Dwyer claimed as he defended our devilmint to management in our first week at Ballyhaunis Community School. Even when we said a sad goodbye to our gentleman of a year head, and hello to Mr. "county footballer" McDonagh, the theme continued. The girls however were little angels and took to Ms. O'Loughlin like a duck takes to water. Throughout the many years ahead, from arson attacks to Mr. Noone's new hair colour (pink), it was shall we say an eventful five years and what a lot of crazy moments we have had!!!

First year was a great experience as we left our cosy primary schools to enter the mass crowded corridors and variety of students and teachers in BCS. We were nervous for about an hour and then the friendships formed and fears were forgotten. From SPHE days to sports days to fundraising events and the long tour to Galway to see the funky fish. A lot of fun was had in that year as we bonded like glue and thankfully survived our first of many years in BCS.

By the time second year came around the insecurity had been lost, the nice quiet shy girls made human pyramids while the boys got up to no good as usual. Attempts were made to reform us as we were transported to Knock to look for forgiveness and guidance to develop into mature students, we can't say it was very successful but we tried. Before we knew it the year was over and we said a sad goodbye to our good friends Sunny Pang and Grace Canny.

After an enjoyable summer we faced back into our third year ready to sit the big Junior Cert exam, well some more than others. It was exam papers, revision books, new folders, copies, biros and of course highlighters. We had great intentions to do our very best and we studied hard. However fun was also on our agenda as we enjoyed our meaningful SPHE day and soccer tournament and our trip to Ballintudder Abbey for exam guidance. While we struggled away at the Junior Cert, the Transition years enjoyed a great year of fun with numerous cake sales and trips to Killary and Derry and Belfast. They really made the most of their year and by the time we all grouped together in fourth year they showed their new maturity.

As fourth year began we escaped to the wild and rugged hills of Achill Island for a bonding session. From sneaking instead of sleeping, scrubbing showers, jumping bog holes, cold Atlantic water and beauty paginate competitions; an abundance of fun was had. We all left with new friendships, new haircuts and new sayings such as "it wasn't me it was Conor" and "QUUUINNN!". We too showed our generous side as we took to the road on a charity sponsored walk. We saw our fellow students in a new light; we had superman, joker from Batman, Wally and many more. It was all for a good cause and we had good laughs along the way. We were sad to see the end of fourth year as we knew a tough year laid ahead.

We have now arrived in the final year of our time in BCS. It started with a taste of Broadway where we the cast came to life in the assembly area entertaining students, teachers, parents and friends.

How could we forget Fr. Benny's infamous retreat. Along with his side kick Johnny who enlightened us with his song, "stay gone baby", Fr. Benny used his humour and life experience to teach us not to take life for granted and live life to the full.

We then organised a Blind Date charity event where love was in the air and matches were made. Even the teachers, which included Mr. McD., who found his perfect footballer's wife.

So here we are facing the Big Leaving Certificate exam, ready to get straight A'S and qualify as teachers, doctors, nurses, dentists and make a difference to our lives and the lives of others. So thanks to BCS for the good times we shared and good luck to the leaving cert class of 2012.

BABY PHOTOS - ANSWERS

1. Adrian Phillips
2. Aoife Hill
3. Claire Walshe
4. Patrick Kiely
5. Clodagh Sloyan,
Aisling Kenny and Rebecca McGowen
6. Clodagh Sloyan
7. Andrea Morris
8. Aisling Kenny
9. Dean Glavey
10. Andrew Cunnane
11. Daniel Cunnane and Paul Kilkenny
12. Eoghan Collins
13. Emily Worden
14. Conor Hussey
15. Marian Morris
16. Gary Patterson
17. Michaela Boland
18. Ian Coyne
19. Daiga Zarina
20. Jason Fahy
21. Suha Riaz
22. Noreen Cassidy
23. Róna Burke
24. Meaghan O'Doherty
25. Megan Carroll
26. Róna Burke and Sinead Garvey
27. Niamh Kilkenny
28. Vicky Miskell
29. Michael Flynn and Conor Hussey

Leaving Cert Memory Lane

"Never let the fear of falling keep you from flying"



