



Mercy College NEWSLETTER

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AWARDS DAY

INSIDE
GREEN SCHOOL

YSI

SPORTS DAY

SCHOOL TOURS

ALL THE LATEST
SPORTS NEWS

TRANSITION
YEAR NEWS

MUSIC NEWS

END OF YEAR AWARDS

AND MUCH,
MUCH MORE.....



Our aim in Mercy College is to help each girl reach her full potential. We emphasise values such as kindness and respect and hope that our students are well prepared to take their place in society as responsible and compassionate human beings, with a sense of fun and a positive outlook on life. Since I last wrote to you at Christmas, those qualities have again been in evidence in the many events and activities that have taken place, a flavour of which is captured here.

The success of any school depends on the involvement and enthusiasm of so many people. We are so lucky in Mercy College to have a wonderful team of teachers, support staff, as well as active members of our Board of Management, Student Council and Parents' Association, each of whom plays an essential role in school life.

The contribution of the Parents' Association to the school is greatly appreciated. We are fortunate that the association has become very active in recent months. Members now (among other things) facilitate the celebrations which are held to mark the 6th Year graduation, represent the parents on all policy committees, raise funds and participate in adult education courses organised by our Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator Ms. Anna Dunwoody. This work brings the parents, pupils and staff closer together and such a vibrant and enthusiastic association is a testament to the strong on-going support for the school among parents.

The student council is a very valuable body which is elected directly by all of the pupils, conducts its own meetings under the guidance of Ms. Conneely, who passes on the ideas and suggestions of the council in order to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to contribute to school planning and processes.

Mercy welcomed many guests again this year. In March, we had a visit of students, teachers and their principal from Norway. In April, we welcomed a delegation of Turkish educators, along with members of the Council of Europe. The group spent a morning with us, visiting one CSPE class and listening to several presentations from staff and students in relation to work being done in the school around citizenship, student leadership and democracy.

Mercy College students did some visiting of their own with 1st year students visiting Ferrycarrig National Heritage Park in Wexford. 2nd year students visited Glasnevin Cemetery and went bowling to mark the end of the school year and 3rd year students also visited Glasnevin Cemetery as part of the History curriculum. 3rd years also visited Powerscourt as part of their Geography studies, while 5th year Biology students carried out some of their ecology studies in the Zoo in May. TY students participated in the 3 day outdoor adventure trip to Carlingford and visited Causey Farm.

1st year students completed their Trinity College/ Bridge 21 projects, with Ms. Byrne's Maths class making oral and video presentations on numeracy. Mr. O'Mahony and Ms. Quinn attended the Bridge

21 display day and workshop on 8th May in the Science Gallery, Trinity College.

A series of talks on internet safety for parents, and for 2nd and 3rd year students was held at the start of May. The talk by Garda Sergeant Jim Clavin and Microsoft's Darren Dunwoody was highly informative both in relation to technical and legal issues related to the internet and provided a great deal of food for thought, as well as tips for parents on managing teenagers' use of smart devices and ensuring the girls stay safe.

Students across all year groups have raised funds for a wide range of charities this year, including DSPCA, the Irish Wheelchair Association, Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, CRC and Child Vision. TY students reached the final of YSI with their project on Disability and Integration. They also reached the YSI Dragon's Den and received €200 for their Textile Book project, which they donated to Child Vision.

The school received its 1st Green Flag at a ceremony in Croke Park. We also reached the Neat Streets final in the Mansion House. In recognition of her work in YSI, Ms. Mary Scully was awarded a certificate by Lord Mayor Naoise O' Muirí and Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy at a ceremony in the Mansion House last month.

Mercy Melodies and Sports Day allowed the girls to put more of their talents on show – thanks to all who made both events so enjoyable and successful.

Our annual Awards Ceremony took place on Monday May 20th, allowing us the opportunity to mark the achievements and contribution of our students in so many parts of school life – the Arts, Sports, Community and Academic. We were delighted to welcome back past pupil Aisling Keenan, now a Staff Editor with U magazine, as our keynote speaker. In addition, Louise Wade of Office Depot, our Business in the Community link company, was on hand to present the LCVP awards. Former colleagues Deirdre Teeling and Maedhbh Daltun presented awards for the Best Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate results of 2012, while Mr. Young presented the Sr. Mary Gonzales trophy for Mathematics. In addition, the efforts and achievements of numerous students were acknowledged during the ceremony.

The school also used the occasion to acknowledge the contribution of our outgoing Education Welfare Officer Joanne Rafferty, who has worked so hard with us to ensure that students in danger of dropping out of school do not do so. Joanne will take up a new appointment in Donegal during the summer.

We marked the end of the Leaving Certificate students' time with us with a beautiful graduation Mass, followed by distribution of graduation certificates and a light buffet. We are extremely grateful to all involved in making it such a lovely occasion – Fr. John Hand and the parish of St. Brendan's, the Mercy College staff involved in preparing the liturgy, the music and the food, and the Parents' Association, whose members had a

key role in preparing the food and attending to the refreshments on the night.

4th year Transition Year students marked the completion of their years' work and activities with a Mass for students, parents and staff. Once again, Fr. John Hand celebrated the liturgy. Thanks to all staff involved – Ms. Rooney, Ms. Doherty, Ms. Dunwoody, Ms. Quinn, Monica and to Rosemarie who made such fabulous cakes for both events. At the end of the Mass, each student received a folder containing the certificates she had achieved throughout the year. The activities and skills included First Aid, Drive Safe 4 Life, Zumba Dancing, Kick-boxing, YSI and a range of subject specific certs. Students also were awarded the Department of Education and Skills school certificate at Distinction, Merit or Pass level, related to their achievements, level of involvement, work rate and attendance.

Each end-of-year brings changes to a school environment. Four of our teachers are departing Mercy College this year. Mr. Noel Young has worked here since 1995 as a Mathematics teacher, History teacher and teacher of I.T. During those years he has been our I.T. co-ordinator, always willing to give advice and help to those of us less able in technological matters! Mr Robert Hogan came to Mercy College in 1978 as a French and English teacher. In more recent years he was appointed as an Assistant Principal and served as Year Head and form teacher, as well as writing a Leaving Certificate revision book used by students throughout the country.

Ms. Anne Casey came to Mercy College in 1981, planning to stay in Dublin for 3 years. Little did she realise that she would be here 32 years later. She has taught Maths and Irish to countless girls during those years, always conducting her classes in a skilful and good-humoured manner.

Ms. Edel Walsh began her career at the school in 1990 and taught Gaeilge, a lifelong passion, and French. She served regularly as a Form Teacher, looking after the pastoral care needs of a class group. She co-ordinated Seachtain na Gaeilge events for all the girls to enjoy each year and ensured that those students keen to visit the Gaeltacht were supported to do so.

We wish each of them the very best in the future and thank them for their enormous contribution to the school.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Siobhán Cassidy on the birth of the newest member of the extended Mercy family, her son Theo.

I would like to thank all members of staff for providing such enriching opportunities for the students of the school, and to congratulate the students on being so involved and so successful in many different areas of school and community life. I wish our state examinations candidates every success and thank our outgoing Leaving Certificates for all they have contributed to Mercy College over their 5 or 6 year journey with us. I hope that each member of our school community has an enjoyable and relaxing summer.



The strength of any organisation lies in its people, those involved on a day-to-day basis and those who make up the wider school community. Mercy College lost one of its greatest advocates and contributors in December with the passing of Mrs. Frances Campbell.

Frances first became involved in Mercy College life as a member of the Parents' Association when her own daughters Úna and Susan were pupils of the school. She was a key member of the committee that developed the gym in 1992 and continued to contribute to Mercy through her work as a member of the Board of Management right up to her passing.

Frances was also involved in the school on a weekly basis, volunteering as a Paired Reader since the programme began 10 years ago, as well as giving her time one morning a week voluntarily to help run the Breakfast Club. She gave of herself generously at all other school events throughout the years and had a kind, reassuring word for everyone.

Such was her energy that outside of the volunteering she did in and for Mercy College, she worked for and with the Bone Marrow for Leukaemia Trust, co-ordinating and often participating in charity walks throughout the world.

Frances worked tirelessly to make the world a better place and her passing is a huge loss to all who knew her within and outside of the Mercy College community. Our sincere condolences to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

It was with great sadness in February that we learned of the death of Frances's daughter Susan. Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON

NEW HSCL

My name is Anna Dunwoody and I am the new Home School Community Liaison Coordinator in Mercy College. I have come to know many parents in my role as a Home Economics and English teacher. Since taking up my new position in February I have been warmly welcomed by everyone. Many thanks to all the parents who have invited myself and Linda Devitt, the SCP Coordinator into their home.

I especially want to thank the parents association, the art club and the book club for their support as I settle into my new role in the school. A big thank you to Monica Adams and Monica Heade for the help and support in the Parents' Room. I look forward to meeting more parents in September, especially the parents of incoming first years.

If you would like me to visit or you have a question or query, please feel free to contact me on 086 0241797 or by email at hscl@mercycoolock.ie **Anna Dunwoody**

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club attached to the HSCL has been held once a month in the Parent's Room during term time.

Initially set up by Maria Somers, it was taken over by Maedhbh Daltun who was a wonderful inspiration to us and opened up our minds with trips to accompany the books we were reading, e.g. "Tuesdays with Morrie". We read the book and saw the stage play locally.

Our books cover a wide variety of themes, from a new issue, "The Casual Vacancy" by J. K. Rowling to "Emma" by Jane Austen, written 200 years ago. It is interesting to hear the varied opinions when we discuss the books. Of course, all discussions are accompanied with tea and cakes!

We welcome Anna Dunwoody who has taken over from Maedhbh and wish her well in her new post.

Mary Bennett, Book Club Member

COURSES FOR PARENTS

Parents have been taking part in a variety of courses this year including Yoga, Irish, Maths, Gardening, Computers, Art and Pottery classes.

Many thanks to the course tutors for their hard work and dedication. Also thanks to the parents who have participated in these courses with great enthusiasm.

The Parents Association recently suggested running a Crochet Course. This has now begun and happens in the Parents room every Wednesday from 11.15am to 1.00pm. New members are always welcome – to book your place contact Anna on 086 0241797.

READ AND SUCCEED

First year students in Mercy College have read 1186 books and completed 908 quizzes on line as part of the Accelerated Reader Programme. The programme was a great success and the girls really enjoyed it. Thanks to all the staff for their co-operation and support. Well done girls and we hope all students have discovered the joy of reading that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Once again Mercy College wishes to thank all our volunteers from the local community who are so generous with their time in supporting our Paired reading Programme.

Here are some recommendations for the long hot summer !!!

Top Reads as recommended by 1st Years

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
The Twilight Series by Stephanie Meyer
Conspiracy 365 by Gabrielle Lord
Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne
Any book by Jacqueline Wilson
Beautiful Dead by Eden Maguire
House of Night Series by P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast
Sweep Series by Cate Tiernan
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
I was Jane Austen's Best Friend by Cora Harrison
City of Bones by Cassandra Clare
Blood Ties by Tanya Huff

Popular Reads for Older Teenagers & Adult

Strumpet City by James Plunkett
Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn
The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein
A Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin
12th of Never by James Patterson
Skeletons at the Feast by Chris Bohjalian

Paula Moran

Once in
a Minute

WHAT IS ONCE IN A MINUTE,
TWICE IN A MOMENT AND
NEVER IN A THOUSAND
YEARS?

ANSWER SEE PAGE 11

Make up your Mind!

YOU DO NOT WANT TO HAVE IT, BUT WHEN YOU HAVE
IT, YOU DO NOT WANT TO LOSE IT. WHAT IS IT?

ANSWER SEE PAGE 11

As part of the JCSP English course, the students of Boyne wrote a book called The Lucky Numbers. It was an excellent book, full of adventure, excitement and great imagination! All the girls received certificates at the Make-a-Book Showcase in the Civic Offices, where their book was displayed. Two students, Ciara Scanlon and Kelsey Graydon wrote their own books, which were also displayed at the Make a Book exhibition. Ciara's book was called "What goes around comes around" and Kelsey's book was called "Cursed". Both books were excellent. Well done to all the girls for all their hard work !!!!! **Ms. Traynor**

DCU MATHS QUIZ

On the 9th March two teams were selected from 2nd year students to represent Mercy College in a maths quiz hosted by DCU. The teams were: The Mercy Dolls – Nicole Byrne, Nicole McCarney, Erica Barry, Katie Wilson. The Green Girls – Shauna Marshall, Leah Kelly, Shannon Maguire and Rebecca Vickers. We competed against 17 other schools and one of our teams "The Mercy Dolls" came 4th only 2 points behind the 3rd place team. During the rounds, spot prizes were given out. The questions were very challenging but we all found it a great experience. A special thanks to Ms Molyneaux for bringing us. **2nd Year Mathematicians**

On Wednesday 17th April, twelve 1st year students went to the DCU maths quiz. There were two teams and three supporters. The teams were: The Green Goblins – Hannah Redmond, Zojun Chen, Jodie Williams, Molly Bannon and Mercy Moths – Kelly Talbot, Sophie Bonney, Ciara Henry and Yasmin Bollard. Casey Mitchell was sub and the three supporters were Shannon Aherne, Charlene McGrane and Chloe Roberts. Many thanks to Mr McEvoy and Ms. Martin who brought us. Although we did not win, we were the top placed All girls school. Overall, we had a very interesting and enjoyable day. **Shannon and Hannah 1st year**



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS

During March, 6th Year Geography students visited Portmarnock beach to carry out our fieldwork. We were blessed with the weather as the sun was shining. Mr O'Mahony, Ms Conneely and Ms O'Regan joined us for the day which was full of laughter and learning. Ms. Conneely enjoyed her cup of tea along with her beloved tea cakes while looking fabulous as ever in her stunning hiking boots!!! The day was a great success as we gathered all the information needed. We would like to thank Ms O'Regan for organising the trip and putting up with us not only for the day but for the past two years.

Ciara Keogh 6th year

This March saw the launch of National Bowling week for schools, where free bowling was provided to all school from the 11th to 15th of March. The scheme is one of many to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ten Pin Bowling arriving in Ireland. Not to pass up on a bargain, the Maths department brought all first year Maths classes with their teachers (and guest appearance from Ms. O'Hanlon) up to the Leisureplex to avail of our free game of bowling!

We had one of the very few sunny afternoons this Spring to stroll to the Leisureplex. On arrival the girls were divided into groups of 6 to play for an hour. Though the music may have been a little loud for the poor old teachers drinking their tea, a great time was had by all. There were many winners and losers from all classes but the girls from Mide showed their experience excelling in their groups! Mr. Scott was the only teacher bowling and sadly he didn't top his group much to the delight of his students!! We may have even managed to squeeze in a little Maths when adding up the scores. Looking forward to National Bowling Week next year, already!! **Ms. Byrne**



THE VISITS



GLENDALOUGH

On the 20th March all of 3rd year students went on a geography field trip to Glendalough. The trip was both enjoyable and educational. It was raining when we got there so we did not complete the hike but we still climbed to the top of the waterfall and got even wetter!! We also saw the ruins of the old church and graveyard. We brought a packed lunch and luckily we had a sheltered area to eat. Some of us treated ourselves to hot chips from the cafe. We only hope that waterfalls come up on our Junior Certificate Exam! **Lisa Gilligan 3rd year**



RUGBY 7S

During the Easter holidays, my team-mates and I embarked on our very first venture on the World Rugby 7s Series in China. Having qualified for the World Cup last summer, our inclusion in the World Series will help our preparations for the World Cup, which will be held at the end of June this year.

After a preparatory tournament in Hong Kong, playing alongside the men's 7s circuit, we went to China with a lot of work to do and loads to learn from World 7s superpowers of the likes of New Zealand, England and Canada. Drawn in a tough pool alongside Canada, Australia and Japan, we knew we had our work cut out for us.

After the initial round of games on Saturday, Day 1 of the competition, we qualified for the Cup/Plate section of the draw. However, we were drawn against New Zealand in the ¼ finals. Knowing the skill and pace with which the New Zealanders play, we knew we had to play beyond what we had previously played in order to compete with them. After a competitive first half, the New Zealanders pulled away in the second half, meaning we were now contesting the Plate section of the competition.

With world class teams like Australia and the Netherlands in the Plate competition, we again had to raise our standards. After an exceptionally close game, we overcame Australia by 1 point to qualify for the Plate final, an achievement which went beyond our initial expectations for our first World Series competition. The Dutch also won their semi-final meaning we would be playing the team who had previously beaten us twice in the Europeans last season. Being an incredibly skilful and fast side, we knew we had to play smarter rugby in order to beat this professional Dutch team. After an exhausting 14 minutes, we came out on top, winning our very first piece of silverware at a world stage.

With a huge amount of work still to do, and with a lot of training and learning still to come, we now continue our preparations for the European Championships in France and the World Cup later this summer in Russia.

Ms. Feighery

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Well done to 6th years for their work in relation to College applications this year. Students have applied for College places through the Central Applications Office (CAO) – offers will be made approx 4-5 days after the Leaving Certificate results in mid August 2013. Many students have applied for consideration under the Higher Education Access Route (H.E.A.R), The Trinity Access Programme (T.A.P.) and the Blanchardstown 'Reach' Programme. Many students have secured places on FETAC level 5 courses. This involved an application form,

an interview and two references. Students can on completion of these courses link with FETAC level 6 and 7 courses through the CAO system. Good luck to all!

5th years have one career class per week and so have begun to contemplate their future career/working life. Many have visited Dublin City University (DCU) under various schemes offered by the access service. These include – Discover DCU, the Young Social Innovators Programme and 3rd level student shadowing. St. Patricks College,

Drumcondra has opened its door to students this year under a new student shadowing scheme.

Four Transition year students were lucky to secure work experience placements with 'Google'. Some Junior Certificate students completed assessments with the Talented Youth Centre based in DCU and have been awarded places on exciting summer workshops.

Ms. Conneely

STUDENT COUNCIL RAISES €1600 FOR SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

The Student Council has had a lively year. Aoife Redmond (Head Girl) was Chairperson for this academic year. Linda Devitt co-ordinator of the School Completion Programme asked the Student Council for support around two issues:

- Would students attending the Breakfast Club be willing to make a small contribution to cover costs?

- The Council were asked to suggest suitable trips for the Summer project 2013

Before Christmas the Council spent much time discussing cyber bullying. 3rd and 6th year Council members attended assemblies to highlight the issue and asked students to take responsibility around social media. The Children's Referendum was also discussed during pre-Christmas meetings. The annual Student Council walk took place on Friday 3rd May.

The History Department had a very busy time with three History trips, with both 2nd and 3rd year students visiting Glasnevin cemetery and 1st year students heading south. The following is a summary of the trips:

3RD YEAR AND 2ND YEAR

We went to Glasnevin cemetery and museum where we visited the final resting places of The Republican dead, leaders of the 1916 rising, the war of independence and the civil war. We saw the crypt of Daniel O'Connell and it is claimed that it is lucky to touch his coffin, which is 9ft long and 3ft wide built for a king. There are people buried quite near each other that had been great friends and became enemies during the struggle for Irish Independence. One such case is Kevin O'Higgins and Rory O'Connor. Rory was O'Higgins's best man at his wedding. Six months later O'Higgins issued O'Connor's death warrant. The museum occupies two floors, the ground floor tells the story of the world's largest cemetery. There are stories of grave robbing combined with different religious beliefs practiced by inhabitants of Glasnevin. The first floor contains Interactive Computers that can tell the story, with pictures, film clips and documentation of many people buried within the walls of Glasnevin. We had a very good and enjoyable trip. **Lorna Mc Loughlin and Amy Burns**

FERRYCARRIG 1ST YEAR

All first year students left Mercy College at 8.30am on Thursday 2nd May, it took 2 hours for the bus to arrive in Wexford. We then had our lunch before we visited the National Heritage Park where we were shown a DVD regarding all that we would see and do for the rest of the day. After this we walked through a forest that was designed like a Neolithic, Mesolithic and Bronze Age camp site. We visited the huts that people lived in and they cooked us meat from a spit and we also had garlic leaves. We were shown where they grew crops and we were given the history about how the people lived. We were then shown a crannog and Viking ship and we were allowed to board the ship. We also visited Viking houses, these were made of wattle and doeb and the roofs were thatched. There was also a chicken called Jackson!! Finally, we visited a monastery and wrote on the walls (we were asked to do this!). Many thanks to Ms. Doherty, Ms. Quinn, Ms. Larry and Ms. O'Hanlon.

Nikita Ward and Amber Mitchell 1st year Connaught



ARAS AN UACHTARAIN

We went to Aras an Uachtarain. We got the bus to the Phoenix Park. Ciaran, the president's Aide de Camp showed us around the state rooms. We sat on Marie Antoinette's chair which was a present from Charles de Gaulle, a former president of France. We were served lovely food and drinks. The cups had golden harps, the symbol of Ireland on them. Michael D. Higgins was not there. He was in France giving a speech at the Sorbonne University. We got to meet his two dogs, Shadow and Brod. It was a really fun day. **By Jessica, Neema, Nicole and Ellen, 4th years.**



EASTER RAFFLE

On Thursday 21st March the Parents Association arranged an Easter Raffle in the school. There was great excitement and €258 was raised towards the 6th year graduation. Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered to collect prizes and organised the event.

MERCY COLLEGE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association in Mercy College meets one Friday a month from 9.15am to 10.15 am in the Parents Room. The Chairperson of the association is Patricia Whelan, The Secretary is Martina Delaney and the Treasurer is Pauline McCabe. If you would like to be involved but cannot attend meetings you can check out the school website (www.mercycoolock.ie) for new information or contact the HSCL Anna Dunwoody on 086 0241797 to add your email to the Parents Association contacts list.

Tipped over Train!

A TRAIN WAS ON ITS WAY TO FLORIDA WHEN IT DERAILED. WHERE DID THEY BURY THE SURVIVORS?
ANSWER SEE PAGE 11

No Space Necessary!

WHAT CAN FILL A ROOM BUT TAKES UP NO SPACE
ANSWER SEE PAGE 11



MUSIC NEWS

This has been a very busy year for the music department. Following the success of The Wiz, the music department has been buzzing with activity since Christmas.

A number of students began guitar lessons after school on a Wednesday. We look forward to hearing them all perform soon.

The 3rd year and 6th year students have been working very hard to prepare for their practicals. All 3rd and 6th year students performed extremely well.

The 1st year music students have been busy practicing for Mercy Melodies. A number of them performed solo, and they all performed in a choir. Students performed from all years at Mercy Melodies and it was a wonderful night of music.

Usually this would be the grand finale of the Music Departments year, however this year the music students from all year recorded a cd during the last week of May. The Cd will be released in October.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support for the Music Department this year.
Ms R Doherty

HELPING EACH GIRL REACH HER POTENTIAL

Ms. Conneely was kept busy as ever with the Guidance process beginning before the pupils enter the school with a visit to the feeder primary schools and a talk for incoming parents. Guidance continues in 3rd Year with the completion of DATS testing. Timetabled guidance classes start in Transition Year, where the girls are encouraged to begin thinking about potential career areas, to use work experience as a time to focus on future pathways, to consider possible college applications and to prepare accordingly. Careers Guidance classes continue in 5th Year and students attend a variety of career talks held in the school, visit various university and college open days, have the opportunity to attend Higher Options Career Exhibition and familiarise themselves with relevant college websites and career related computer programs such as Qualifax. Students are also advised on curriculum vitae, job applications and interview technique. The programme continues for 6th Years with individual appointments for each student, as well as weekly classes. A study techniques course is organised for students. For parents, a meeting takes place in January where applications systems for all colleges and for HEAR, TAP and DARE schemes are explained.

The multitudinous events and activities of the school are reported on our website www.mercycoolock.ie, through Twitter and by text, at Board of Management meetings and through our bi-annual newsletters.

SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME

Summer Project – The Coolock SCP summer project will run from 10th to 14th June in Mercy College. 30 students from 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th year have already registered to take part. Activities include a trip to the Irelands Eye, a picnic in Stephen's Green, a Viking Splash Tour, a day in the Carlingford Adventure Centre, sports, cinema, bowling and q-zar. If you would like to sign up or have any queries you can talk to Linda.

Breakfast Club – Our Breakfast Club is going very well this year. The Breakfast Club is open to all students, it runs everyday from 8.00 to 8.45 in the parent's room. Students can have toast, cereal (Special K, Cheerios Cornflakes, Rice Cripies etc.), apple juice, orange juice, milk, fruit, yogurts etc. Regretfully we no longer provide chocolate spread however we do provide healthy alternatives. We would like to thank the volunteers who come in each morning (including the cold, frosty mornings in December)

to help prepare and serve breakfast to the students. A big thank you to: Una Byrne, Margaret Quinn, Brema Coffey, Iris Graham and Monica Heade.

Homework Club – Homework Club takes place Monday to Thursday from 3.50 to 4.50 in the Study Hall. It is open to all first and second year students. If a student is having difficulty with their homework the teacher can help. It also means that students can leave the books they are finished with in their lockers so the school bag is lighter. New members are always welcome.

If you are interested in taking part in any of these activities, just pop in to Linda, Co-ordinator Coolock SCP. Her office is beside the Language Lab

ANSWERS:

MAKE UP YOUR MIND! // ANSWER: A LAW SUIT

ONCE IN A MINUTE // ANSWER: THE LETTER M!

TIPPED OVER TRAIN // ANSWER: THEY DIDN'T NEED TO. THE SURVIVORS ARE STILL ALIVE!

NO SPACE NECESSARY! // ANSWER: LIGHT

SUMMER SPORTS NEWS

As usual we had a super jam packed year of sport in Mercy highlighted with the Cadette Volleyball team reaching the school's first ever volleyball All-Ireland Final, the Senior Basketball Team playing "A" grade reaching the All-Ireland and we also had the brilliant Robinsons RIPNRUN Road-show. We also have had a great response to sport from the new 1st Years and overall Mercy has had it highest numbers of girls playing sport from 1st to 6th Year in recent years.

This is the 6th year that Mercy College Coolock has been playing volleyball and it is our first ever All Ireland Final. The team of Rebecca O'Reilly, Louise Sherlock, Kaitlin Kelly, Kaela Hutton, Angel Lowry, Elijah Malari, Leanne Nevin, Sarah Luong were absolutely delighted to have reached the final. The team had trained really well up to the final before and after school. The team has beaten Colaiste Brid, Santa Sabina 1 & 2, Portmarnock, Naas and Mery College Coolock 2 in their semi final. The girls had not dropped a set on their journey to UCD. Unfortunately on the day Ennis were too strong for us but we are now looking forward to next year as all the team are under 16 again.

In Spikeball we started with 6 teams in this 1st and 2nd Year competition and were delighted to have a 2nd year team reach the All-Ireland Spikeball Finals in UCD. Thanks to Kaela, Elijah and Sarah Whelan who were a great help coaching throughout the year. Volleyball continues to grow and next year should see the return of a senior team.

A basketball update since Christmas saw the 1st and 2nd year girls competed in their East Leinster League. They found it tough going in the A grade but made steady progress, with training still on-going we hope to make big improvements next year. In the last match the 1st years had a great win over Loreto Foxrock.

The end of season was topped off with the Robinson RipNRUN Roadshow. A super day that saw girls from 1st to 5th year taking part and all had loads of fun. The sports girls also ran a hugely successful cake sale for two days having all made homemade cakes and buns raising €355 to help cover the cost of hiring buses for sports events.

A big thank you to all the girls who gave up their time to attend training and represent their school Mercy College. I enjoyed every bit of it and look forward to working with everyone next year.





BOOK TERM FOR INCLUSION

YEAR STUDENT....

INCLUSION AWARENESS

The aim of this project was to increase student awareness on inclusion and reduce the stigma related to people with disabilities. It was clear that students were not fully aware of certain disabilities such as Wheelchair Users, Visually Impaired, Down Syndrome or Autism. As we have a number of students in our school community that have these disabilities we thought we could help give tips and advice to students in our school who might know someone who has these disabilities. It was obvious that students in our class feel strongly about this issue.

We liaised with 2nd year students who are involved in a Disabilities project with CSPE. We organised a poster campaign and a number of competitions like the best inclusion poster, best inclusion motto for Mercy, Guess what's in the bowl-while blindfolded. We volunteered with other students to take part in sharing positive comments on our thoughts display board about people with autism, down syndrome, visually impaired and wheelchair users.

We raised awareness on students with disabilities by giving a presentation to each year group during school assembly. Also Kerrie (a 3rd year student) gave her own talk on her thoughts as a wheelchair user. At lunch we sold angel badges to raise money for the Irish Wheelchair Association'.



YSI SPEAKOUT

On the 8th March the girls did the school proud with their performance at the YSI Speakout in the Helix. The spoke, sang and danced As a result of their brilliant performance and their excellent written report, they have progressed to the Poster Showcase at the YSI Annual Event. In other YSI news we must congratulate Ms. Scully, whose hard work for YSI throughout the years has been acknowledged. She was awarded a Certificate by the Lord Mayor of Dublin on the 30th April.



TACTILE BOOKS

As part of the YSI programme, we made tactile books for the visually impaired students of the Child Vision Primary School in Drumcondra. This was done in collaboration with the Home Economics department. Tactile books are made out of material with large writing to help visually impaired students to read. You also use your sense of touch to read the book. This was done by using different textured material. To make the book we started off with cardboard and covered them with coloured fabric. We then stitched, glued and embroidered our stories onto the material. This was very time consuming. At the end of our project, we came up with 5 great books: Hansel and Gretel, The three little pigs, The Seasons, A day at the beach and Humpty Dumpty.

We really enjoyed making them and we carried them to the YSI Den. This is something similar to the Dragons Den where we had to pitch our idea to potential investors. This was very nerve wracking but we succeeded in gaining an investment of €200 for the tactile books. Many thanks to Ms. Coffey for both her help and patience.

Sarah Whelan, Mairead McCabe and Lauren McDonagh



CARLINGFORD

At the end of April, we went to Carlingford for three days and nights. The trip was always great fun and there was never a dull moment. Even the weather was behaving itself with only a few showers to contend with. The only drawback was getting up at 7am each morning!! The food was very good and the activities were both fun and exhausting. We went pier jumping, kayaking (Canadian style – with three in a kayak), night line, lazer tag, murder mystery, low ropes, communication breakdown, archery, high ropes and zorbin. The whole trip was very character building and for some, they managed to overcome their fears. The trip has strengthened our friendships and none of us wanted to go home. I am sure that we all slept very well when we got home. Many thanks to the teachers and staff that brought us here and Ms. Rooney for organising everything.

Ashley O'Dowd and Lydia Perry



ARTISTIC RECYCLING

YSI, in collaboration with the Art Department and Eco-UNESCO decided to recycle paper, magazines, cans etc., It brought a lot of creativity from designing head gear, to dresses and shoes. The girls work has also been exhibited and put forward to the final, where they did very well.



STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

The Student Enterprise Awards scheme is managed and delivered within the City by an independent, voluntary group of parents, teachers and others under the auspices of the Dublin City Enterprise Board. Its objective is to encourage initiative, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial skills at second level.

Congratulations to both our teams Macket (Niamh Marshall, Ashley O' Dowd, Aoife O Carroll and Andrea Kelly) and Nail-X (Sarah Whelan, Frankie Whelan, Kelly Radford, Elijah Mallari and Neema Kobelo) that represented our school in the Leinster heats. It was a very early start with teams meeting in Croke Park at 8 am to set up their stands. Judging began at 9 and each team had to answer questions regarding the product, their report, marketing and finance. Lunch was at 12.30 and the students were given a pre packed lunch and fruit juice. The awards ceremony started at 13.30 and was presided over by Naoise O Muiri, the Lord Mayor of Dublin. Although the teams did not win any of the categories, it was a very valuable learning experience and hopefully we will have some young entrepreneurs of the future. **Ms Higgins**

A TASTE OF SPAIN

As part of our Spanish module, we had to study Spanish culture and as part of this, we brought in to school, home cooked Spanish food. This consisted of patatas bravas, paella, tortilla and championes. Then when we had it all set up the 1st year students came up to the class and had a tasting session. Thankfully, all got positive responses.



WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

On the Friday before the Easter break, all transition year students paid a visit to the Irish Wheelchair Association. There, we met other Transition year students. We were allowed to use wheelchairs to give us the experience of being a wheelchair user. After a while, we were split into teams and played basketball against each other. Mercy did not make it into the finals but it was a very valuable experience it demonstrated to us how many skills you needed to use playing basketball whilst wheelchair bound.

Lauren Mc Donagh

End of Year Awards

