



**SPECIAL  
EDITION**

**MERCY COLLEGE**

# NEWSLETTER

TEL. 01 848 0014 / 848 0888 / 848 0290

**MERCYCOOLock.IE**

FAX 01 848 0163 EMAIL [INFO@MERCYCOOLock.IE](mailto:INFO@MERCYCOOLock.IE)

## MERCY COLLEGE

# 50TH

## *Anniversary*





# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is a great pleasure to write for a very special edition of the Mercy College newsletter. This publication to mark the 50th anniversary captures both our celebrations over the past number of months and the ongoing life of the school, as we continue to record the successes, achievements and contribution of our most precious resource – our people.

It has been an immensely productive year – with Geography field trips, History trips to Derry and Poland, visiting speakers, visitors from Norway, Spain and Australia, various sporting, musical, artistic and social events in addition to the daily work of the school. Nowhere is the Mercy spirit and ethos more evident than in the fundraising efforts of students, staff and the wider school community. We have been delighted to be able to support the Simon Community, the Cystic Fibrosis Association, the Bone Marrow Leukaemia Trust and Focus Ireland among others, with thousands of euro raised since September.

We have celebrated the 50th anniversary of Mercy College with many exciting events – starting with our beautiful Jubilee Mass on Mercy Day and ending with our 5K Fun Run in St. Anne's Park in March. It was fitting that both our first and final events involved the whole school community. The entire Mercy College extended family – students, parents, staff and friends – has been involved and the old proverb 'Ní neart go cur le chéile' has certainly been in evidence.

Our festivities have involved many people who have contributed to life in Mercy College throughout the 50 years. Among our current students are a good many whose mothers and even grandmothers attended the school. It was wonderful to see so many of them at our celebrations. It was also wonderful to see so many friendships rekindled, especially at our reunion event in October.

On an anniversary such as this, we naturally look back over the 50 years. We think of the changes that have taken place in the school, its building and facilities. It is very easy to list the huge number of ways in which schools and society have changed in half a century. As our potted history on the back cover indicates, many things are different. 1963 was the year when John F. Kennedy and The Beatles came to Ireland, man had not yet walked on the moon. Education in those days had none of the technology we have today. It was impossible then to imagine our world of computers, smartphones, tablets and other technological discoveries.

We look back to 1963 not just as a date in history but a moment in which the Sisters of Mercy opened the doors

of Coolock House to the young girls of the locality, their main purpose – to help every girl who came through the gates fulfil her potential and develop as someone of character who wants to make a difference in the world.

It is also important to recognise the many ways in which our world in Mercy College has not changed. We continue to be guided by our Mercy traditions and our CEIST charter: Promoting Spiritual and Human Development; Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning; Showing Respect for Every Person; Creating Community and Being Just and Responsible. The values held dear by those who first opened the school are still cherished today.

The 1st years of 2013 share similar hopes and fears to their predecessors 50 years ago – they want to do well, be happy and enjoy success in their personal and professional lives. At the heart of all we do is the fact that we care about the happiness, well-being and achievements of the young people in our care.

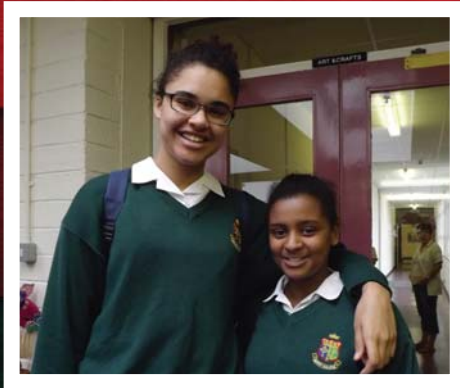
Our Jubilee theme – 'A Golden Past - A Shining Future' – encapsulated all that has gone before and all that we hope is to come. Catherine McAuley was an extraordinary woman who wanted the young women of Dublin and beyond to be educated. All of the work carried out in Mercy College during the past 50 years has been done in her memory and hopefully, we have the school she imagined – dynamic, caring and life-affirming.

We think of the contribution of all those who have made Mercy College what it is: staff, parents, members of the Boards of Management, pupils past and present. We give thanks for all those who have gone before, those who are part of the Mercy community today and those who will continue that work in the future.

I want to express my immense gratitude to each one of you who has made this year such a special one. It is my great privilege to be Principal of such a vibrant and welcoming school. I hope that members of our staff, student and parent body will be around to mark the 75th and even the 100th anniversary of Mercy College!

PATRICIA DWYER

# JUNIOR CERT RESULTS



# LEAVING CERT SUCCESS



**Junior Certificate students sat 746 examinations and enjoyed a pass rate of 95%. Well done to all concerned!**

**Leaving Certificate students took 341 examination papers, with a pass rate of 93%, mostly at grades A, B and C.**

Students are now pursuing courses in Engineering, Theology, Media and Film, Nursing, Geography, Spanish, Art Portfolio preparation, Business, Accounting, Beauty Therapy, Pharmaceutical Technician to name a few. We wish each member of the class of 2013 every success in the years ahead.



## TRANSITION YEAR & YSI NEWS

OUR

HOMELESSNESS

AWARENESS

WEEK

For our homelessness awareness week, we carried out many fundraising activities. For one of our fundraisers we decided to sell pancakes and hot chocolate. Our T.Y. students spent their day mixing and frying the pancakes and pouring the cups of cocoa to be sold at break and lunch times. It was a great success with students queuing up for their tasty treats.

We also took part in the Simon Community's annual fun run in the Phoenix Park and raised money through sponsors. It was a great day with teachers and students all taking part in the fun and run. We sang for Simon during the month of December on O'Connell Street and we collected clothes, toiletries and other items for Trust. In total we raised €1,000 which was donated to three homelessness charities; The Peter McVerry Trust, The Simon Community and Trust.

As well as fundraising, we knew it was important to inform people about homelessness and its many problems. We read out messages over the school intercom and had a thoughts board in the foyer. On the thoughts board we asked students to write their opinions on homelessness. We also held a few competitions during the week, such as designing a poster, super hero, poem or motto on homelessness as well as word searches and crosswords. At the end of the week, we collected all of the entries and picked our winners. From looking at the entries we realised that we really had made a difference to the knowledge people have on the issue of homelessness and that our awareness week had been very successful.

KAYLEIGH TULLY-KNOTT

## WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

After the mid term break, 4th year students were invited by the Irish Wheelchair Association to take part in a wheelchair basketball tournament. We were split into four teams, with each team playing three matches of a four minute duration. There were teams from all over Leinster and we had a great time playing against them. It is a very tricky and physical game and needed a lot of skill mastering the wheelchair. We had a great time and would love to do it again.





## KICKBOXING

From September until the end of November all 4th year students participated in kickboxing. This took place on Thursday afternoons in the gym. During this time, we learned a lot of new skills and self defence techniques. It is a great way to keep fit and active and was very enjoyable and suitable to all ages regardless of fitness levels. We found the instructor very helpful and extremely patient. Overall, we are now happier, fitter and more confident in our ability to defend ourselves. **NIAMH BARRY AND CHLOE CALLAN**

## FIRST AID

One of the most beneficial courses we have done this year was First Aid. This course was given to us by the Red Cross and we learned really useful information and practical skills like CPR, how to apply a sling and dressings. We were shown how to put a person in a recovery position. We are glad we took part in this and we really enjoyed it. Hopefully it has influenced some of us to go into the medical profession! **GRACE ASHE, SHANNON O'REILLY AND AINE HUGHES**

## DRIVE SAFE FOR LIFE

The whole aim of this course was to introduce us to the perils and hazards of driving. During the course, we were shown DVDs. The DVDs were about people whose lives had been destroyed as a result of reckless driving and drivers. It was very thought provoking seeing how a person's life can change so suddenly due to a car crash. We were also given a mock driving theory tests part of our course, I don't know if many of us passed!! **LAURIE MURPHY AND REBECCA KIRBY**

## PAIRED MATHS

Students from 4th year have been involved in a Paired Maths Programme called Maths For Fun. All senior infants in Scoil Chaitriona participated in the 4 week programme. Congratulations to the 4th year students for their enthusiasm and time.

## ZUMBA

After Christmas all 4th year students started Zumba. Every Thursday afternoon for an energetic hour, we danced and did circuit training with Larissa. Zumba was a great help to us in reaching our 50 km goal for Méc's 50th anniversary. We really enjoy Zumba and we all feel a lot fitter and more energetic. We would like to thank Larissa for making this a very enjoyable experience. **LOUISE SHERLOCK**

## FIGHTING WORDS

Fighting Words is a creative writing centre based at the back of Croke Park. We took part in group activities, one of which was to create characters for a story. Once the characters were decided, we wrote the beginning of the story as a team. After this we worked alone to write our own ending to the story. Each person then read out the ending to the story. It was very interesting hearing all the different endings. It was by far the best outing we have had in 4th year to date. Many thanks to Ms. Rooney for organising and accompanying us to Fighting Words.

**RACHAEL MURPHY, SHANNON KEARNEY AND SARAH DELAHUNTY**

## SONG SCHOOL

During March over a period of 2 days, all 4th year students participated in a workshop called Songschool. This was run by Joey, Joseph and Joe who split us up into teams of 6 and 7. Two groups went with each leader and work began with each group writing their own song, both the music and lyrics. At the end of the two days each group did a podcast, with Sarah Kennedy and Louise Sherlock acting as presenters of the show. Each group was asked about how they came up with their song and who inspired them in their writing. It was a fabulous two days and a brilliant experience.

**SARAH KENNEDY**

---

## TRANSITION YEAR MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

From the 3rd March I participated in a TY Mental Health Programme in St Patrick's Hospital. 80 Transition Year students took part in this Programme.

The aim of this course was to give students an insight into what mental health actually is and what happens in mental health hospitals. Some of the activities we participated in were art therapy, a mock interview with a patient, mindfulness, drama therapy, teamwork practice, cardiac first response training, digital media and a discussion about eating disorders.

I thoroughly enjoyed this experience. I learned a lot about the importance of our mental health. I also made a lot of new friends. I would really recommend this opportunity to any Transition year students of the future.

**NICOLE FITZPATRICK**



# INTERNET SAFETY

We had an Internet Safety Awareness Week from 18th – 22nd November. We asked students to complete our questionnaire on Internet Safety. We organised a poster campaign and various other competitions such as mottos, poems and superhero posters. We encouraged students to get involved in our campaign through a scavenger hunt, by looking at our electronic messaging board in the foyer and listening to the intercom messages on Internet Safety each morning. We raised awareness by giving a presentation to each year group during assemblies. We asked students to make comments on our thought board about cyberbullying, Askfm and facebook, etc. We had various speakers from Hotline.ie, Microsoft and Barnardos to talk to us about Internet Safety. Safer Internet Day 2014 was celebrated on 11th February 2014.

## OUR ETIQUETTE:

1. Be responsible online
2. Keep your password safe
3. Keep your antivirus software up to date
4. Think before you post
5. Put your facebook page on private
6. Be wary of befriending someone you don't know
7. Always log out properly

## CYBER BULLYING – key points!!

1. Don't reply to the message
2. Keep the message
3. Tell somebody
4. Block the sender
5. Report the problem

[www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie) and [www.npc.ie](http://www.npc.ie) gives advice to parents on Internet Safety

[www.watchyourspace.ie](http://www.watchyourspace.ie) gives advice to teenagers on Internet Safety

[www.hotline.ie](http://www.hotline.ie) and [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie) report any harmful or abusive material

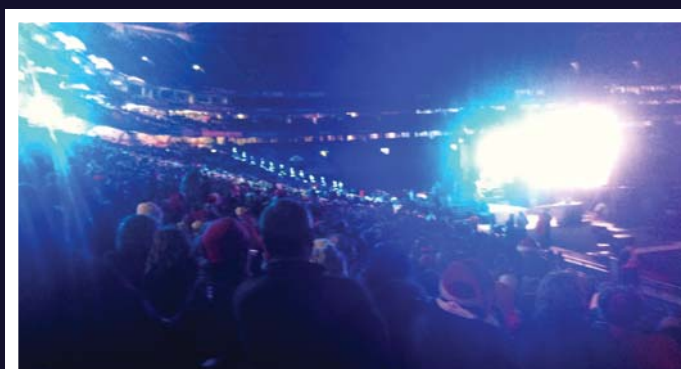
(All online messages can be traced to a PC and can always be found even if deleted-Don't send a message that you are not prepared to say to someone face to face)

## DON'T LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAW

This was a brilliant module where a Barrister came into us and talked to us about different areas of the law. We were shown a DVD about prisons in Ireland and how they operate. During the course, we were broken into different groups and we had a mock trial. There was a Judge, a prosecutor, defence attorney and Jury. At the end of the mock trial, the defendant was found guilty. A lot of the girls found it very interesting and it gave us an insight into the legal system in Ireland.

KAITLIN KELLY



## STARS, CHOIRS & CAROLS

All 4th year students were invited to take part in "Stars, Choirs and Carols" which was a charity concert that took place in Croke Park on December 19th. In order to take part in this event our students needed to raise money for two Irish charities: 'Cliona's Foundation' and 'The Sanctuary'. All students started to think about fundraising back in September and both classes decided upon different events which could raise money for the two charities. Students from 4.1 had a bake sale and students from 4.2 sold goodie bags and held a school raffle. All students also participated in a sponsored walk and we managed to raise €600 which went directly to the charities.

On the night our 4th year students along with 50,000 other voices from choirs all over Ireland packed into Croke Park. Everyone sang Christmas Carols for charity whilst at the same time we managed to be a part of an attempt to break the 'Guinness World Record' for the most people singing Christmas carols in one place. Miriam O'Callaghan hosted the event and Louis Walsh made an appearance on the night. No other medium brings hope and raises the spirit like the power of song and the atmosphere and sense of goodwill around the stadium was electric.



'Stars, Choirs and Carols' was an unforgettable festive evening which was great fun and we were delighted to take part in this worthy event.

MS. MCQUAID AND MS.DOHERTY

# 2ND YEAR NEWS



## TOO LOUD!!!

On the 21st November an organisation called Deaf Hear came to visit our school to assess the volume to which we put our phones and ipods on. We were brought in pairs where the volumes were checked using head phones that were built on the model of a head known as the sound head. We connected our phones and ipods to the sound head and 30 seconds later we saw our result. Green told us that the volume was fine and enjoy the music. Amber told us its a little loud and turn it down. Red told us the volume is too loud and it was damaging our hearing. 12 students also managed to turn off the machine completely meaning that the volume they were listening to their music was ridiculously high. We all felt that it was a very useful experience. **LAURYN SMITH 2ND YEAR**

## CAKE SALE FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Just before the mid term break 2nd year student and the Parents Association held a cake sale and hot chocolate with cream. We would like to thank all the parents, staff and students for their support both for baking and purchasing cakes. **LAUREN CARROLL**

## ALONE

The topic we chose for our C.S.P.E. project was ALONE. On the 24th October, a representative from ALONE came to our class and talked to us about the work that they do for the elderly. He told us that volunteers visit houses to have a chat and a cup of tea. Every Christmas they hold a party for all volunteers and their elderly friends. We hope to raise funds in the near future for this worthy cause. **YASMIN BOLLARD 2ND YEAR**

## SIMON COMMUNITY

On the 12th March, 2nd year class Uladh walked 15.5 kilometres each as part of a fundraising exercise for the Simon Community. We took the DART from Harmonstown to Sutton where we walked around Howth Head. In total we walked 390 kilometres. Many thanks to the two 4th year students and Mr O'Mahony for all their help.

**AOIBHEANN DWYER AND SARAH MOONEY 2ND YEAR**

## LEINSTER HOUSE

On the 10th of October we went on a trip to Leinster House to learn more about the Seanad. One of the girls in class organised the bus to and from Leinster House. When we arrived we were shown around the place, we were not allowed to take photographs and for security reasons we were asked to switch off all phones and leave our bags in a secure area. We were shown the Seanad and we were given a brief talk about how they voted in the past and the present. We then had a question and answer section and were shown oil paintings of different Taoisigh. We were given a booklet to take home with us. We all found it very interesting and enjoyable. **KIERA BRADY 2ND YEAR**

## OILEÁN ACLA

Ar an 3ú Marta chuaigh an dara bliain go dtí an Ghaeltacht. D'fhágamar an scoil déanach ar a dó dheag a chlog agus shroicheadar Acaill ar a cúig. Chuamar díreach go dtí na tithe le haghaidh dinnéar. Bhí dhá theach i gceist – teach Mháirín agus teach Bhríd. An oíche sin d'imríomar clúichí sa halla agus d'fhéachamar ar scannán. Dé Máirt bhíomar ag surfáil. Bhain gach duine an taitneamh as. Bhí sé an deacair na culaith fhliuch a chur orainn. Um thráthnóna chuamar ag cadhcáil. Bhí an t-uisce an fuar arís! Bhí lá iontach againn. Dé céadaoin bhí pleidhcíocht sa phortach ar súil againn nó rothaíocht. Bhí an portach salach agus fuar. Ar an rothaíocht bhí caora i ngach áit. D'fhágamar Acaill ar a 1 agus bhíomar abhaile arís ar a cúig a chlog. Bhí turas den scoth againn!







## GARDA BAND REVISIT MERCY COLLEGE

It has been almost 10 years since the Garda Band played in Mercy. It is great that they could play here to celebrate our 50th anniversary. All students and staff had a fabulous hour of entertainment. Many thanks to Ms. Doherty for organising it.



# 50 YEARS OF MUSIC

This has been a busy year for the Music department. We began in September by practicing for the opening of school mass which also celebrated the 50th anniversary of Mercy College. Students from all years practiced very hard and they performed to a very high standard with over 100 students in the choir.

Our next project was the launch of our 3rd CD Mercy Melodies a celebration of 50 years. This has been an ongoing project since June 2012. The CD involved students from all years and included past pupils. We would like to thank Noel Young and

Grainne Byrne for their huge contribution in the production of our CD. We launched the CD before the mid term break with a concert in school. We have dedicated the CD to the memory of our past pupil and former choir member Lisa Kelly.

The CD is still available to purchase in the office for €7. The term ended with our annual Carol service, a fitting way to prepare us for Christmas.

MS. DOHERTY

## CD LAUNCH







# STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARD CITY HALL

## CONGRATULATIONS TO L'IL DOORS WINNERS OF THE JUDGES MERIT AWARD

Many congratulations to the two companies that took part in the Dublin City Final of the Student Enterprise Awards. The two were chosen from 4th year mini companies to represent the school. To do this, they had to compete with other mini companies in their year. The preparation for the competition began in September culminating in a Christmas Trade Fare. After Christmas the companies had to do out a lengthy report, a business entrepreneur visited the school and gave the girls direction and encouragement. They then had to present it to the Dragons. The Dragons then chose the companies that would represent Mercy College in City Hall. The two companies that were selected were L'il Doors and OBACH. L'il Doors produced fairy doors and have been very successful with a retail shop interested in purchasing their

product. OBACH produced folders that also had a pencil case, ruler and rubber included. The two other companies M.T.D and Reflections also proved to be very successful companies.

I would like to congratulate both teams for all their efforts. It was really brilliant to see their displays and equally encouraging to see how well the companies dealt with the judges and their questions. Congratulations to L'il Doors who were the winners of the Judges Merit Award. They each received a Dublin Crystal glass trophy and €100 which the girls have kindly donated to Temple Street Hospital. Not only did the girls sell to the judges on the day but they also sold their display with the permission of the Art Department. That's enterprising!! **PAULA HIGGINS**







# MERCY COLLEGE

# 50TH

## Anniversary Gathering



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY GATHERING

A fabulous night celebrating the 50th anniversary of the school took place in Parnell's GAA club at the end of October.

Over 190 past pupils and staff celebrated this special occasion in a beautifully decorated Parnell's function room.

Guests were welcomed by the Principal Ms. Patricia Dwyer, with four previous principals in attendance on the night. A sparkling wine reception started the evening, followed by a wonderful meal.

The meal included a choice of main course and dessert. A special cake was made by a member of staff featuring different aspects of school life. Each guest received a pen and a small box of Butlers' chocolates to celebrate and remember the occasion. A wonderful night of dancing and singing followed continuing into the early hours of the morning.

Lots of hard work went into organising the event and all agreed it was a wonderful success. Many thanks to all who helped make this night a great success. **MOYA O'LEARY AND GRAINNE BYRNE**





# RUNNING FOR MER

On Thursday 13th March, everybody in the school took part in a 5km run in St. Anne's Park. It was a brilliant event enjoyed by all. The event began at 1:00 pm. Each group was lead by some teachers and coloured balloons, representing the group colour. Each student and teacher took off full of spirit. At the end of the first lap, we were all greeted with music and our DJ was Ms. Byrne dressed as a leprechaun encouraging us to keep going. Ms. Fitzgerald also went around encouraging us and offering support. As we approached the finishing line, the people that finished earlier clapped and congratulated us on finishing, followed by more music. Although we were out of breath, that did not stop us from enjoying the atmosphere! For finishing the race, each student received a goody bag full of prizes and the bag itself had the Mercy crest with the 50 year celebration emblazoned on it. Many thanks to all that took part in the fun run and to all the organisers that made the day a success.

We reached a staggering combined total of 1968 kilometres over the two events. **TARA MATTHEWS, 1ST YEAR**







# MERCY THE BIG EVENT



## THE GREAT WARM UP

As part of the 50th celebrations, each form class did their bit in the weeks before the big run. Some classes went to Portmarnock beach, others to the Hill of Howth, while 6th Years clocked up the kilometres in the gym of Parnell's GAA club.

Among the other activities were a treasure hunt in the local area with students dressed in costumes from 5 decades, a wheelchair relay, a clean-up of the Stardust Memorial Park, laps of the hockey pitch and Zumba dancing.

All the kilometres were put on our target board in the foyer. Overall, students, staff, parents and other members of the Mercy College community beat the target of 1000KM and went on to almost double it. Well done to all - Mercy is now a fitter place!!





# MERCY SPORTS NEWS

As usual sports were extremely busy in the 1st term. Girls from first to sixth year have been training and playing matches. This is the fourth year I have operated the compulsory after school activities for 1st year up to Christmas time. This has resulted in a huge increase in the numbers of 1st years playing sport. We have over 20 1st year girls training for basketball and another 20 for volleyball every week. I could not train the volleyball girls without the help of the 4th year coaches Kaitlin Kelly, Jessica Kelly, Maria Petrakova, Louise Sherlock, Sara Lyons and Liana Harte who help me at lunchtime. The senior sports students Lynn Ryan, Antonia Cummins, Sarah Fitzpatrick, Lauren Hynes and Ilham Abdallah have helped coach basketball every Tuesday and Friday. All coaches have a huge impact on the 1st Years' success and are vital to sport in Mercy.



## SENIOR & BASKETBALL

Our school is playing in the A division for the second year now. We were unlucky not to qualify to the knockout stages with many games very close, including extra time. All 4th and 5th year students continue to train for the DCU invitation tournament in May.

## CADETTE VOLLEYBALL

Cadette Volleyball started training very early September. These girls have been training every Friday morning before school and Monday at lunchtime. We have two cadette teams and both teams qualified top in the first round, and also emerged successful from round 2 to qualify for round 3. Both cadette teams played some great volleyball. The A team got to the All Ireland semi finals and were narrowly defeated by Portlaoise who went on to win the finals. Well done girls.

## JUNIOR (2ND YR) & MINOR (1ST YR) BASKETBALL

The current 2nd Year girls train every Monday and Thursday with Mark Ingle and their matches started in January. The 1st & 2nd years are very keen on basketball, and we have large numbers involved, girls train up to 3 times a week. All these girls are a pleasure to coach and I have no doubt they really enjoy the experience of playing basketball in Mercy. The league is now finished for the season and both teams did very well with more wins than losses.

## JUNIOR (2ND YR) & MINOR (1ST YR) VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball is very popular with the junior girls. All the girls play Spikeball which is a 4-a-side volleyball game and J6 6-a-side. Currently the girls are playing Spikeball. We have 6 spikeball teams. The 1st Years are loving their volleyball experience and it is great to have so many girls involved. Four teams made it to the regional finals and played very well. The Junior 6 will be starting soon, so will keep you posted.





# HALLOWEEN

## DRESS UP DAY

### FOR 6TH YEARS

On the 25th October we carried on the tradition of 6th year students dressing up for Halloween. We had a great time and a lot of time and effort was put into our costumes. It was brilliant to see that most of the outfits were home made and although I say it myself, some were pretty ingenious. We had Batman and Robin, a leprechaun, lego man, Mario, Tina Turner, rubix cube, two Holy Communion students (dresses still fit after all these years!!) and many more. Some of the teachers got into the spirit of things, Ms. Dwyer dressed up as Batman (holding a poster looking for Robin!!), Ms. Kearns, Ms Dorgan and Ms.Byrne dressed up as students – complete with buns in their hair. We enjoyed having a dance off in the field and even learned to twerk! Overall it was very successful and a great laugh. Most importantly we raised a lot of money for Cystic Fibrosis.

HANNAH KELLY, HEAD GIRL





# GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

6th years are working hard on their college applications. Many have applied to Central Applications Office (CAO) and Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses. Students have attended the Higher Options Conference and other career exhibitions. Since September representatives from many 3rd level institutions including Dublin City University, Dublin Institute of Technology and Trinity College have come to

Mercy College to advise students on course options. The key to success at third level is making an "informed choice". This is achieved through research and visiting the Colleges. 5th years are working hard in the various career classes on their interests. Some have attended a workshop "Discover DCU". Good luck to all 6th years for the coming year.

## DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY (DCU) ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

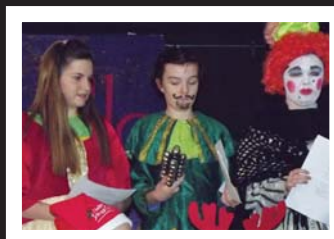
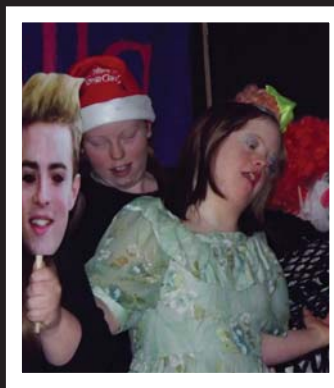
On December the 3rd 21 lucky students were invited to attend the DCU Access Service annual Achievement Awards. Achievement was acknowledged in the following areas: Academic, sport, arts and culture, attendance and community spirit. Rachel Gunn 3rd year was invited to sing at the event. She sang solo with students from local schools. Well done Rachel.



## ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Research has shown that school attendance is vital to success. There is a direct link between good attendance and academic performance. One of our Transition Year students, Sarah Kennedy was awarded the Gold Medal for attendance at the Achievement Awards in DCU on December 3rd 2013.

MS. CONNEELY



## CINDERELLA

The girls from Mide and SNR1 put on a Christmas show "Cinderella" this year. It was a fantastic success and there are definitely a few budding actresses in our midst! Well done top all involved in the show.



# HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON (HSCL)

It is hard to believe that it is 2014 already. The past few months have flown by. It has been a very busy term. I have visited almost all the first year parents and want to thank you so much for the warm welcome and your time. It is wonderful to see that the first years have settled in so well and are participating in a wide range of activities such as breakfast club, homework club, choir and sports.

Our local HSCL cluster consists of the 5 local schools: Mercy College, Chanel College, Scoil Chaitriona Cailini, Scoil Chaitriona Nai and St Brendan's Boys National School. As

a group we run courses which are open to parents/family from all schools. This term we have had Pottery, Maths, Irish, Christmas Cake Making and Healthy Life Choices.

The maths course "Helping your daughter with her maths homework" was very successful and will run again later in the year. Many thanks to Ms Byrne for making the new maths course easy to understand and fun to attend. For more details and to book a place on the next course please contact me on 086 0241797.



## CHRISTMAS CAKE MAKING

The Christmas Cake Making was an overwhelming success with a huge demand for places. Unfortunately we could only accommodate 24 people this year, but we do plan to run a similar course next Christmas.



## PAIRED READING TUTORS

This year 12 transition year students have been involved in a Paired Reading programme with Scoil Chaitriona Nai. For the month of November the students went the primary school and read with all the senior infant classes. The primary teachers were very appreciative of the extra help and were so impressed with our students, that they have asked them to participate in a Paired Maths programme. Congratulations to the Transition Year Paired Reading Tutors on their success in the Scoil Chaitriona Nai.

## THE HEALTHY LIFE CHOICES COURSE

The Healthy Life Choices Course involved getting fit, developing healthy eating patterns and losing weight. Parents participated in circuit training, spinning and meditation. They also attended weekly talks on healthy eating and participated in the slim 4 life weight loss programme. The group lost a total of 29 stone 8 1/2 lbs. This was a huge achievement and many congratulations to those involved for their perseverance.

We are running a Healthy Food Made Easy Course. The course involved cooking and tasting healthy recipes, learning about nutritious food and shopping tips to keep costs down.

A wide range of courses have also taken place in the Parents Room this term. The crochet club (Wednesdays at 11am) continues to be a great success due to the dedication and skill of the course tutors Patricia Whelan and Yvonne Marshall. The art club (Thursdays at 10am) still has some places, so if you are interested in developing your painting skills please contact me. An American Scrap booking class has also just finished, with parents learning how to embellish and decorate photos, turning them into spectacular records or precious memories.

---

Many thanks to all the parents, staff and our extended community for all your support this term.  
ANNA DUNWOODY | HSCL (HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON)



# SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME

## SUMMER PROJECT

The Coolock SCP summer project ran from 10th to 14th June. 30 students from 1st to 2nd year registered to take part. It was a fun filled week with outings everyday. Activities included a trip to Ireland's Eye, a picnic in Dublin Zoo, a Viking Splash Tour, a day in Causey Farm, sports, cinema and Extreme High Wire experience in Balbriggan. We were blessed with sunshine each day and we will be running the project in June for 1st and 2nd year students at a cost of €50 for the week.



## HOMework CLUB

This takes place Monday to Thursday from 3.50 to 4.50 in the Study Hall. It is open to all 1st and 2nd year students. If a student is having difficulty with their homework the teacher can help. We have a maths teacher at the homework club 3 days a week. It also means the school bag is lighter. New members are always welcome.

If you are interested in taking part in these lessons or any of the activities mentioned just pop into Linda, Coordinator SCP, her office is located beside the language lab.

LINDA DEVITT

## BREAKFAST CLUB

This is open to all students and it runs from 8.00 to 8.45 in the Parent's room. Students can have toast, cereal ( Special K, Cheerios, Cornflakes, Rice Crispies etc.), apple juice, orange juice, milk fruit, yogurts etc., We had a visit from Kelloggs Ireland in November. The staff from Kelloggs were particularly impressed with the large numbers of students using the Breakfast Club and the courtesy and good manners shown by each student. We would like to thank our volunteers who come in each morning (including the cold and frosty mornings in December) to help prepare and serve breakfast to the students. A big thank you to: Una Byrne, Ms Quinn, Iris Graham and Monica Heade.



## MATHS WEEK

Another jam packed Maths week this year. We had something for everyone. The 6th years gambled for big money in Mercy's Maths Millionaire Euro Drop which was won by Shannon Perry, Eimear Gorman and Nadine Flanagan. 5th years played Countdown with Ms. Martin filling in as Carol Vorderman. Bingo was a great success with 1st years again this year. The whole school took part in the Mayhem Maths Treasure Hunt and school maths quiz. Roll on to next Maths week 2013 + 1.

MS BYRNE AND MR MCEVOY

# THE GREEN COMMITTEE 2013-2014

- Our green committee has been very active this year. We started in September with a paper recycling competition 'Which form can recycle the most paper?' Uladh won this competition and helped us to increase our recycling of paper which then reduced our waste.
- We welcomed new members to the green committee. We're delighted with their enthusiasm and ideas for Mercy. They received their Green School badges.
- We ordered new large cardboard bins to recycle paper for each classroom.
- We had an Autumn Clean in November around the school, school grounds and locality.
- We had a bottle top competition to promote awareness on recycling. As a result of the competition, we collected 4,000 bottle tops. Thank you to all who contributed. We have already completed a mural using the bottle tops which will be displayed in the school and it is also entered into the Eco Unesco Clubs competition for 2014.
- In February, we had an Energy Workshop where we learned all about Energy generation, we saw a demonstration on how a mini wind turbine would work along with how a car could run on hydrogen.
- In March, a number of green members attended an Eco- Unesco workshop at the Greenhouse in the city centre to help us with our green theme projects







# POLAND 2013

On October 24th we made our way to Krakow, Poland. The trip lasted 4 days and was a wonderful experience. After arriving at the hotel and settling into our rooms we went on a guided tour around the area. On the second day we went on a very long bus journey to visit Auschwitz. When we arrived we were shown a short clip that gave us some background information regarding Auschwitz and all that occurred there during the second world war. We were then given a guided tour around the place. It was a very grim and heartbreaking, I don't think our group had ever been so quiet!! After a long day we headed to a water park which was really great fun and in stark contrast to what we had just seen.

The following day, we went to a salt mine which brought us what seemed like thousands of feet underground. On a few occasions we were told to lick the walls, I did on more than one occasion!! The next day we visited a Jewish Area and got the amazing opportunity to hear a holocaust survivor tell us his story. After that we did a bit of retail therapy in the largest shopping centre I have seen and we also went to a market for our last minute bargains. It was an amazing trip and on behalf of the students we would like to thank Ms O'Hanlon for organising the trip and to Ms Rooney and Mr O'Mahony for coming along to help. JENNIFER LAVELLE 6TH YEAR



## FRIENDSHIP BREAKFAST

As part of a fundraiser for Childline, 6th years decided, with the help of staff, to hold a Cheerio's breakfast morning for 1st year students. Coming at the end of Friendship Week, it was a great opportunity for 1st and 6th years to meet and get to know each other. The simple task of eating breakfast together broke down the barriers between the different year groups. It was a great success in terms of raising money for Childline and also building a bond between the oldest and youngest year groups. We would especially like to thank Monica for her great help in the kitchen preparing food, also to our religion teachers who supported and encouraged us to get involved. All in all, it was a great morning and we hope that there will be many more breakfast mornings to come.

JESSICA LALLY 6TH YEAR



## MINDFULNESS

They define mindfulness as a quality or state of being conscious or aware of something. Basically it is about being present within yourself. Do you ever find your mind wandering when you're meant to be concentrating on something else? I for one am a devil for it, but doing this mindfulness course with the lovely and kind Tom has really helped me. It's helped me concentrate on the task at hand, in the moment. I find I get things done much more quickly and efficiently. It is amazing what a little meditation can do!

The course is not just about meditation, it's about recognising certain feelings inside and learning how to deal with them. We all push away feelings that don't make us happy, but the more we push them away the harder they come back. This course helped me to acknowledge those feelings instead of brushing them off. Acknowledgement of feelings is one of the keys to being happy in my opinion. I found this course very helpful and interesting and I would highly recommend it to anyone, of any age or gender. CATHY WALSH 6TH YEAR



# HISTORY 50 YEARS

## OF MERCY COLLEGE COOLOCK

### 2ND SEPTEMBER 1963

A Secondary School was opened in the lower part of the Convent of Mercy, once the home of Catherine McAuley. It was called Virgo Clemens College. Eighteen pupils were enrolled then.

### 1964

The following year the number of students had increased to 52. Arrangements to build a new Secondary School were begun in 1964.

### 1965

In September 1965 two prefabricated rooms and a cloakroom were erected near the Convent for the use of the Secondary School. Forty four new pupils were admitted and work began on the extended school on 8th September 1965.

### 1966

Fourteen pupils of the first class formed in Virgo Clemens did the Intermediate Certificate Examination. The convent parlour was the classroom for the first Leaving Certificate pupils in Sept. 1966. Fifty seven new pupils had been enrolled that year making a total of 140.

### 1967

Having bulldozed the old stables, farmyard and part of the surrounds, the foundation for the new Virgo Clemens was cut on the feast of the Sacred Heart, June 9th. 1967. This same year, Mr. O'Malley, Minister for Education, launched his free post - primary scheme. As a result, 90 new pupils were admitted. Fortunately, the men worked very hard and three rooms, the first of the new College, were ready for the 7th. Sept. 1967, to accommodate the newly enrolled. The total number of pupils 1967 - '68 was 220.

### 1968

By September a second block of Virgo Clemens School was nearing completion. Some classes moved into it early in September and the whole school was ready after the Christmas holidays, January 1969.

### 1969

Before this second block could be erected, the old coach house and other old buildings on the Malahide Rd. side of the College, had to be bulldozed. Also the high walled garden with its flower and trained apple or pear tree lined walks, its glasshouses, where vines were cultivated and its many vegetable plots had to be levelled. Trees had to be cut down as well and by degrees the grounds had to be attended to when the new building was erected.

### 1971

A Sports pavilion was erected in 1971. Tennis courts were laid in concrete and fenced in with a gate capable of being locked. Concrete paths were laid from the main entrance to the school and around the building and one badly needed between the College and the Convent was laid then too.

### 1980s

The name of the school was changed from Virgo Clemens to Mercy College.

### 1990

The Language Laboratory was furnished.

### 1992

The sports hall was blessed by Bishop Jim Moriarty and officially opened by President Mary Robinson in September 1992.

### 1993

The first computer room was fitted and furnished.

The present school is in a modern building, which includes specialist rooms, plus an Assembly Hall.

The extensive grounds provide a hockey all-weather pitch and outdoor basketball court.

### 2003-2013

Many improvements have been made to the facilities within the school. We have added a second Computer Room, two totally refurbished and modern Science Labs and a Canteen that offers a wide choice of menu options for lunch.

The most recent addition to the school is a Multi-Sensory Room with equipment designed to create a stimulating and yet calming atmosphere for students with special needs.

2013 also saw the school being awarded the green flag for the first time. This fosters a sense of ownership for our environment and it develops a personal and collective responsibility for conserving energy and recycling within the school.

In addition Mercy College offers Breakfast Club, Homework Club and After-school Study, all significant aids in supporting students to fulfil their potential. Almost all girls attending Mercy College continue their studies after second level, taking up places at Universities and Colleges of Further Education.

