



MERCY COLLEGE

MAY 2015

NEWSLETTER

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MERCY 2015

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mercy College is a wonderful school community where students, staff and parents/guardians work in partnership to create an environment that fosters student success. The pages that follow capture just a flavour of the fruits of that partnership.

Each picture of students engaged in school related activities reminds me of what a vibrant school community Mercy College is and why I have missed it so much during my absence this year. I recognize how fortunate I am to work in such a caring community. All members of staff of Mercy College are passionate and committed to helping students to achieve their very best. We work collaboratively in all areas of school life and bring our diverse skills and interests to help our students reach their individual level of excellence, not only academically, but in the other areas where their talents lie – music, art, sport, creative writing, enterprise, computers, media, design, fighting for social justice and much more.

I want to thank my colleagues for their support this academic year. Their care and concern, along with that of current students and parents, past pupils, the Board of

Management and members of the wider Mercy community, have been a wonderful source of energy and help during my illness. I have been very lucky that in my absence the school community has been ably led by Mr. O'Mahony and Ms. Dunwoody. I am extremely grateful to them for the excellent job they have done.

I wish our Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate students every success as they face into state examinations and beyond. I want to thank our 6th year students for all that they have contributed to life in Mercy during their five or six years with us. Long after their departure, I will still have my 2015 calendar, not to mention my Liverpool shirt! As they head off to university or college in the autumn, the entire Mercy College staff wishes them a journey that brings happiness and success.

I hope the summer provides each of you with the opportunity to connect with family and friends and a chance to relax in each other's company, hopefully with some sunshine thrown in! I look forward to working with you again in August. Every good wish.

PATRICIA DWYER

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS CONNEELY FOR RECEIVING THE CTYI - DCU TEACHER AWARD

MERCY MELODIES



THE MERCY 5KM CHALLENGE

Due to the success of the school's first 5km last year in St Anne's Park, Raheny, we decided to make it an annual event. In early January all students completed the Bleep Fitness Test. For the seven weeks following this test all students took part in a weekly fitness module. This module included one running class a week and some type of circuit/fitness training. This year we have linked up with Parnell's gym with the 5th and 6th year students training in the gym there every Wednesday and Thursdays morning. All students were given a sponsorship card and to date we have raised €3,000 for school equipment. The race this year saw more students jogging and running compared to last year, which is a reflection of all the training that students undertook in school and in Parnell's. On average students are improving by over two levels on the Bleep Test after completing the seven weeks of fitness training. Well done to all students.

The overall winners on the day were

1st Julia Filipczak

2nd Sinead Gribbin

3rd Saoirse Talbot

1st Year	Chantelle Dempsey, Kayla Brazil, Shauna Dowling
2nd Year	Alisha Roddick, Khiara Fields, Emma McGarr
3rd Year	Lauryn Smith, Kelly Talbot, Kerri Hayes Ryan
4th Year	Lauren Rooney, Ciara Symes, Aoife Horgan
5th Year	Rachel Douglas, Katie McCabe, Aoife Fairbrother
6th Year	Dayna O'Neill, Nicole Byrne, Rebecca O'Reilly,
	Hayley Burns, Niamh Malone

Thanks to the students, parents and staff who made the 5km such a success and a special thank you to our sponsors Forest Laboratories, Members First Credit Union, Artane and Paperpunch Office Supplies.

MS FITZGERALD



GREEN SCHOOL FLAG

APPLICATION FOR SECOND GREEN SCHOOL FLAG ON ENERGY 2015

We are delighted to announce that the Green Committee of Mercy College has been successful in its application for a second green flag. In March, we had an inspection by Clare Egan 'Environmental Officer' from Green Schools to assess whether Mercy College is entitled to retain our current Litter and Waste Flag and to get our second flag on Energy. The Green Committee has worked very hard this year in the lead up to this inspection and the whole Mercy College community is delighted with this positive outcome.

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALISTS 2015



Well done to the following students from the Green Committee;

Laura Phelan
Shauna O'Callaghan
Sophie O' Donnell
Katie Downey
Paige Ivers Murtagh

For representing Mercy College at the Young Environmentalists 2015. These students spoke about their Energy project 'Energy is Life, Life is Energy, Don't Waste it' at Eco - Unesco's Greenhouse on Thursday 26th March. The girls explained the work done by the members of the Green Committee this year: They have given energy presentations to all year groups on how to reduce energy use at home and at school. They announced energy messages on the intercom, held energy competitions, carried out energy audits and surveys. They also welcomed speakers from An Taisce, SEAI, Green Schools, Vernon and Eco - Unesco to Mercy, as well as creating a video on Energy.



JUNIOR SOCIAL INNOVATION WORKSHOP

As we are a school community of Innovation, 2nd year classes, Mc Auley and Nagle did a 3 hour workshop showing them the necessary skills needed to become social innovators. This workshop introduced the students to social issues, social innovation and looked at how they can become an active member in their community. All students had a really great time & enjoyed the experience.

SEAI COMPETITION

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

Our Green Committee has also reached the finals of the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) competition taking place in May with its Energy Project in which the girls will showcase their talents and achievements in front of SEAI judges. We are hoping to get funding for new thermostats for the radiators in our school.

APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE

The Green Committee and Science classes attended an SEAI workshop on Monday 23rd March called "Everyday Experimenting". This involved learning about energy with an experimental, hands-on approach.

HSCL NEWS

It has been a very busy year so far. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who I have visited and met since the new year. You all have been so welcoming and supportive, it really has been a pleasure getting to know you all.

We have run many classes for parents this term. We have had fitness, gardening, pottery, choir, yoga, healthy eating and hope to continue this into next year. If you have any particular requests for classes to be run next year, please let me know and we would be happy to accommodate if possible.

EASTER CRAFTS

Just before Easter we ran our Easter Craft class run by our SNA Rosemarie. This was a very successful and enjoyable morning making cards and Easter favours. I would like to thank Rosemarie for her time and preparation and all the parents who took part.

PAIRED MATHS TUTOR

Students from transition year took part in our Paired Maths Programme with Scoil Chaitríona Naí. Students went to Scoil Chaitríona on a Thursday morning and engaged with three different classes from the junior school in board games with mathematical concepts. Many of the students were past pupils.

All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was easy to spot some potential teachers among them.

CROCHET AND ART CLUB

Crochet club continues every Monday during the school term under the guidance of Yvonne Marshall. I would like to thank Yvonne for her continued dedication. The club will be helping with the restoration of the basketball pitch.

Art club also continues on a Thursday in the Parents' Room. If you are interested in any of these clubs please get in contact.

PARENTS' RETREAT TO GLENDALOUGH

The retreat for parents took place on the 30th April. This was a very relaxing day for everyone. It was a great chance to get to know people and to have some time for ourselves. We hope many more of you will join us on our next day out.

MS DOHERTY



YSI ACTION PROJECT 4.1

We hope to improve health and wellbeing and create a vibrant and colourful area where students from Mercy College can enjoy physical activity and fresh air at lunch time with their friends. We designed our ideal recreation area and surveyed students for their opinions on the outdoor area. We had two clean up days involving teachers, students and parents. We arranged for a sports officer from Dublin City Council to do lunch time activities on our basketball court and held a fun obstacle course for 1st year students. We interviewed speakers from the Sky Sports living programme.

We would like to thank all our sponsors: *BEGreene Gardening, Woodies, Heiton Buckley Supplies, Chadwicks, Crown Paint, Members First (Coolock-Artane) Credit Union, ESB Finglas Depot, PACE, Dublin City Council, Coolock Crochet Club, Coolock Gardening Club.*

We would especially like to thank Ms. Scully, Ms Walton and Johnny for all their work.

YSI ACTION PROJECT 4.2



We want to make people more aware of gender inequality in sport in our society and try to make change. We interviewed successful female Irish and International sportswomen in our local area and investigated their experience of gender inequality in a variety of sports – rowing, rugby, basketball, Gaelic football. We hope that these inspiring women will act as role models to encourage gender equality in sport. We also hope that they will inspire our own students to believe in themselves and trust their abilities, talents and skills. We interviewed International rower Elaine Fitzgerald, International rugby players Fiona Coughlan and Sophie Spence, International rugby sevens Jeannette Feighery, Dublin Gaelic footballer Lindsay Peat and National basketball player endorsed by Sky 'Living for Sport' Aoife Mc Dermott.

Overall, we want.....more women on the boards of committees and sporting events.....broadcasting organisations to improve their media coverage of women's sports.....women's and men's fixtures and results publicized equally.....we want women's teams to get the funding and support they deserve without gender bias.

We have successfully the reached the YSI finals. We were interviewed by RTE and featured on sportswomen.ie.

YSI ADVOCATE PROJECT

As part of our school's involvement with the young social innovators (YSI) we the 5th year YSI advocates along with the support of our teacher Ms Harte and our PE teacher Ms Fitzgerald decided to bring about a big change to our school. We wanted to introduce a new healthy eating lifestyle for all students.

The plan of action was to tackle different areas each week ranging from cutting out sugary drinks to picking the healthy option over an unhealthy one. The biggest change to be made was the introduction of fruit pots into our cafeteria. We had the backing of the school and with the support of our teachers we partnered up with Keeling's in Kinsealy who agreed to supply us with the fruit. The contents of the fruit pots ranged over the weeks from grapes, strawberries, different types of melons, orange and pineapple. Every Monday and Wednesday our YSI advocate team come in early to prepare the fruit pots along with one of our teachers. The preparation is split into sections and each person has a certain task to do. Some lay out the pots while others prepare the fruit. We sell the fruit pots for one euro at break and lunch.

We wanted to keep the price low so the product could compete with unhealthy items sold at the same price. Our aim was to give students the option of having a healthier snack instead of chocolate. The fruit pots are now on sale four days a week with sales averaging around 220 pots a week. They have been a huge success and are extremely popular with the students. The success of the project is reflected in the decision that the school will continue to sell fruit pots. Another change we made was the introduction of healthy breakfast biscuits. These are sold for fifty cent and they offer a healthier option over cookies and chocolate.



We also held a fun day for the first years in our school just after Christmas. There was an obstacle course, rounders, snatch the bacon and basketball. First years were split into teams and they played the various games. The aim of these activities was to get the first years active and involved. It was extremely successful with the majority of first years having a fun time.



YSI INTERNET SAFETY LAUNCH

Students Robyn Richardson, Liana Harte and Lisa Gilligan from Mercy College attended the Website Internet Safety Launch 2015 at Dublin Castle to showcase their Internet Safety project completed as part of YSI Young Social Innovators as transition year students last year. As published in the previous newsletter, they won the Webwise National Competition #It'sup2us. At the launch the girls were interviewed by RTE, TV3, UTV and webwise. They also met with Damien English TD – Minister for State at the Departments of Education and Skills and Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with special responsibility for Skills Research and Innovation. Their efforts have also been recognised locally in the newspaper 'The Northside People'.



TRANSITION YEAR NEWS

ZUMBA

During March 4th year students started Zumba dancing. The dance teacher's name is Sinead and she is lovely, lively and full of fun. Most of all, she was very encouraging to all of us. Zumba is a great way to tone up and keep fit while having fun. This will continue until the end of the school year and hopefully some of us will continue with Zumba classes. **RACHEL GUNN, CAMERON CARRIE, JAIMIE DEMPSEY AND SOPHIE SLEIN**

DRIVE FOR LIFE

During April, Pat McNeely from Drive for Life came in to talk to us about the dangers of the road. He also did a theory test with us and needless to say a lot of us failed!! He also showed us case studies full of graphic images about past car accidents and how it affects peoples' lives forever. Despite the graphic nature, we all felt we learned something new. Hopefully, we will remember this when we are driving our cars in the future. **CHLOE AND KATIE**

IRISH DANCING

During January, all 4th year students took up Irish dancing. At the start, our dance teacher Ciara introduced us to traditional dance moves – Irish Jigs and then we moved onto other Irish dancing techniques. It was seriously hard work and we were exhausted.

SONG SCHOOL

On the 25th and 26th March we took part in a musical programme called Song School. We started off the day by introducing ourselves and we sang some songs with the three teachers Justin, Joseph and Peter. Then we split into groups and started to write a song. We recorded the vocals and added some backing music. We also made a group song entitled "Times". At the end of the second day we had a podcast where we all heard each other's songs. The podcast was then put on itunes for anyone to hear. We all really enjoyed the two days and hopefully it has encouraged a career in music for some of the girls. **DANIELLE FITZPATRICK, LAURA HARRIS, AMY KAVANAGH AND SABINA GURJEVA**

HOME ECONOMICS

This term has been busy for the girls in Home Ec. We started off in early January with a trip to Collins Barracks where we got to track fashion through the ages and follow our history of fashion. "The way we wore" was the key exhibition that we were viewing on the day. It was very interesting to see what type of clothes were worn in Ireland years ago and how some items have now come back into fashion. After spending an hour on our tour we got something nice to eat before returning to Mercy College.

The first and second year girls also used recycled old socks to make new sock buddy friends who all got a name. The week before mid-term we had a pancake feast in the kitchen with toppings of chocolate, nutella, lemon, sugar to name but a few. Lunch time came and we didn't even hear the bell, we were so busy with our baking.

The ASDAN girls have had a busy time this term as well. On the 9th of February as part of one of the ASDAN tasks we went to the Hilton Hotel for breakfast. Having previously viewed the menu, everyone knew what they were after. From

scrambled eggs to scones to bagels there was something for everyone and Sarah even got freshly baked cookies and milk. Then on the 16th of March the girls hosted a breakfast morning for St. Patrick's Day and invited the 1st and 2nd years along with some special guests. The girls were busy cooking all morning and the smell of rashers, sausages and eggs filled the corridors of Mercy. At 10.30 everyone arrived and the girls did an excellent job serving and plating up for everyone. Nicole and Sarah took charge of the beverages, Neema was welcoming the guests and Áine and Ellen were helping to take orders.

On the 18th of March, Gillian Smith (Dentist) came to speak to Mide, Asdan and 1st and 2nd SNR on the importance of keeping their teeth clean. The girls got the opportunity to practice brushing teeth and remembering that you need to spend 2 minutes brushing them. They got the chance to ask questions and looked at foods that are very bad for your teeth. We were surprised at some of the foods but there was no surprise that fizzy drinks were the worst!

FOZZIE THE GUIDE DOG



Pictured above: Fozzie, Andrea Kelly, Shelley Darling and Stacey Kearns (Sixth Year)

On Thursday 12th of March, we had a visit from Clodagh from My Canine Companion and her dog Fozzie. Fozzie is an assistance dog to a young primary school boy. Sixth years are fundraising to help get an assistance dog for Jessica McQuirk, a sixth year student in our school. Jessica needs the dog because she has autism. Having an assistance dog would help her to gain independence. The cost to train the dog is €10,000 and Jessica's family need to raise half. Clodagh brought Fozzie along to meet students and to answer their questions on the work of an assistance dog. Fozzie was very well behaved on the day and was a hit with all.

MAKE A BOOK COMPETITION



Ms. Traynor's 1st and 2nd year English class took part in the JCSP make a book competition. They wrote a wonderful book called "Revenge" It was exhibited in the civic offices. It was very well received on the day and the girls received great praise from all involved.

Many thanks to Ms Traynor, Catherine, Elaine and Rosemarie for all their help with the project.

Well done to all involved.

STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

This year two teams were selected to represent our school - Trinket Toadstools 4th year and Doggys Inc., 1st year. The Dublin City awards were held in The Print Room, Dublin Castle. There were many different innovative products on view from schools throughout the Dublin city area. The Deputy Lord Mayor attended and Minister for Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton gave out the prizes. Unfortunately, we did not win anything this year but the students had a great day. Hopefully, this experience will help them develop more innovative ideas in the future. **MS HIGGINS AND MS MALONEY**

CRAFTY WORK



The SNR Department held a Craft Fair on Thursday 26th of March in St.Brendan's Community Centre. It was a great success, raising over €1200. The girls worked very hard all year in activity classes, making wonderful products to sell.

Thanks to everyone for their support and to all in St Brendan's Community Centre for the use of the hall. A special thanks to our amazing SNAs, Rosemarie, Elaine, Angela, Sophia, Catherine Gráinne and Georgina for all their hard work.

SCIFEST



Our Scifest was the culmination of Transition Year students' hard work on their science projects. Students followed scientific methods to investigate topics that may not normally be considered very scientific. Projects included researching self tanning methods, the effects of Coca Cola on their teeth, different shampoo quality and the best material for sliding down a slide. Students displayed their work along with a detailed report explaining their methods at their science fair. It was attended by parents and 3rd class girls from Scoil Chaitríona, who enjoyed the presentation and were excited by their discoveries. MS. BYRNE

2015 D.C.U. MATHS QUIZ



Two teams from 1st year attended DCU maths quiz on 15th April. It was a close fought contest with 21 teams competing and only a narrow margin separating the top teams. We finished in 4th place and were given DCU t-shirts as prizes. It was a great success and congratulations to all who took part. MR MCEVOY

On the 11th of March Mercy College had two teams and a group of supporters represent the school in the D.C.U. Access Maths Quiz for Second Year students. All of the girls involved put lots of extra work into preparing for the quiz and were excited to get the opportunity to visit the University and take part in the competition. Twelve schools were warmly welcomed and well represented and both teams from Mercy came close to the top in the end. The organisers in D.C.U. said that it was the highest standard that they had seen in the four years of running the quiz and were delighted with the student participation. Well done to all involved



5TH YEAR RELIGION

FAITH IN THE CITY

On Monday the 2nd of February, South Circular Mosque held a Faith in the City open evening event for all religions. Nine 5th year students, Nuwriya, Jessica, Emilia, Nicole, Becky, Sarah, Louise, Kaitlin and Sarah were accompanied by Ms. Harrison and Ms Quinn to attend the event.

At the event the girls received an introduction and a brief talk about the history of the mosque. Books with information on Islam and food were displayed for all the visitors. The visitors were also given a tour of the mosque and were invited to observe Muslims pray. We learned men and women pray separately so they are not distracted.

These quotes are from the girls who visited the mosque –

"The mosque was eye opening" Becky
"The mosque was welcoming" Sarah
"It made me see Islam from a better perspective" – Jessica
"It was great to share a part of my religion with my friends" Nuwriya
"It was interesting to find out about their religion and what they do" – Nicole

BY JESSICA KELLY AND NUWRIYA ABDALLAH 5TH YEAR

DISCOVER ISLAM SCHOOL EVENT

On Tuesday the 14th of April Nuwriya Abdallah organised a religious event called Discover Islam. This idea was inspired by the mosque event and suggestions from classmates. The event Discover Islam was held during 5th year religion class in the study hall. Many students volunteered to help set up the hall. Nuwriya started the event by introducing our visitors, all from different ethnic backgrounds. Haran, Najet, Nor and Sajida from the South Circular Mosque, Nayla and Ilham past students and also Nuwriya's sisters and Rayan, a Trinity College nursing student. Najet, Nayla, Sajida and Nuwriya drew henna designs on students. There were also Islamic books on display on a table. Ilham and Rayan gave students an opportunity to try on hijabs (head scarves) to see what it felt like with one on. Hanan and Nor were serving the food that was prepared for our guests by our visitors. Many teachers were welcomed throughout the event. At the end, four students stood up to thank our visitors and Nuwriya.

These are some quotes from the students about the day –

"I loved dressing up in the hijab" Sophie Scally
"I like the music" Grace Ashe
"The food was gorgeous" Shannon Kearney
"The henna tattoos were really pretty" Shannon Byrne

BY JESSICA KELLY AND NUWRIYA ADBALLAH 5TH YEAR

JEWISH MUSEUM

During January 2nd year students went to visit the Jewish Museum and the Islamic Cultural Centre. This was the first time that any group from Mercy had visited an Islamic Mosque. Firstly, we went to the Islamic centre. It is a beautiful dome shaped building which was much bigger than we expected. The first thing we noticed was the star and crescent moon, the symbol for Islam, on the roof. Before we entered the mosque we had to take off our shoes as a sign of respect. Our guide told us all about Mecca, Hajj, Muslim beliefs and prayer.

Next we travelled to the Jewish Museum. It was a very special day to be there as it was 70 years since the liberation of the Jewish people from the concentration camps. We were shown many artifacts such as Kippls, Arc Tefillin, Sacred texts and marriage gowns. Lastly, we all enjoyed a meal together where we chatted about our day. We would like to thank the teachers who arranged the trip Ms Finnerty, Ms. Quinn, Ms. Harrison, Ms. Kelly and Monica. NAGLE

MUSIC NEWS



All first and second year music students have been taking part in a bodhran workshop, 'Bodhran Beats' over the past few weeks. The students excelled throughout the workshops and by the end all students could accompany a polka, reel and a hornpipe and perform the rhythms learnt within a group setting. A vibrant musical atmosphere was created with the help of the facilitator, Robert and it was fitting to see Irish music live in the classroom in the approach to St. Patrick's Day!!

The fourth year students have been busy again preparing the second 'mini musical' of the year. 4.2 had great success with the second class boys in St. Brendan's National School and the play, 'Giraffes Can't Dance' was a huge success.

This term 4.1 have been working with the 3rd class girls from Scoil Chaitríona preparing the mini musical 'The Lorax'. The students have been busy teaching the songs and dances to the younger students and setting the stage and sourcing costumes so we are ready for the performance in May.

4TH YEARS GOOGLE FOR A DAY!



Twenty lucky Transition Year Students spent a day at Google headquarters in Barrow Street before Easter.

The day began with a tour of the amazing 13-storey office space. Each floor is decorated around a special theme and has a unique atmosphere, ranging from a hippy 1960s vibe to an "Alice in Wonderland" floor complete with mini-furniture.

The 365 degree view of Dublin from the upper floors is stunning. Floor to ceiling windows provide workers in the company an opportunity to contemplate the beauty of the city as they work out strategies to lure clients or work on new ideas for products.

Over the course of the day, students met employees and attended various seminars. All employees they met had a degree, ranging from Law to Engineering. Some had achieved very high points at Leaving Certificate while others

had average scores. All had highly developed social skills and were very confident doing presentations. The positive attitude of all was especially evident.

After a gourmet lunch overlooking the city, the Mercy Googlers entered the Dragons' Den. They were divided into groups with a mission to design a product to be developed by Google. Experts from the company assessed the products, raised concerns, and awarded points to each group.

The winners came up with a mobile phone app that organises your clothes - your very own stylist at the click of a button. All products earned high praise.

Before the students left, they had a final opportunity to visit one of the many food pods for refreshment after all their hard work. Some took a final opportunity to use the swings in the café to relax their weary brains. A great day was had by all.



NATIONAL GALLERY & HISTORY MUSEUM

5th and 6th year Art students along with Ms Kearns, Ms Cassidy and Ms Walton visited the National Gallery, Merrion Square. There were two exhibitions that we were interested in: The Hennessy Portrait Artist of the year and Lines of Vision. We then viewed Ancient Irish Artifacts in the National History Museum. Having toured the exhibitions and gallery students had to complete a worksheet on their favourite pieces and on the gallery itself. These trips are very important as they expose students to realistic art works. It is hoped that it will inspire their own creativity and that they will link it to their History of Art studies. Not only can a visit like this help with exam questions on an artist or painting, but also there can be questions on a visit to an exhibition. The students and teachers enjoyed the Art trip. It is good to see students react in a positive way to these great works and wonderful buildings. MS. CASSIDY

A VERY WINDY DAY AT THE BEACH

During a very wet and windy day in March 6th year Geography students went to Portmarnock beach as part of our field trip. With clipboards in hand, we surveyed the area in record time. The wind created havoc with our paperwork but we battled our way through it. In the end, we managed to gather all the information that we needed to complete our fieldwork. Despite the weather, we all had an enjoyable day. SARAH WHELAN

BREAKFAST AT MERCY NEXT STOP TIFFANYS

The Student Council's second Annual Breakfast for Sixth Years took place in early February 2015.

The event provided the Sixth Years with a little time out during the hectic schedule for their Mock Leaving Certificate 2015. The Council worked very well together as they made tea and coffee, buttered toast, and served the 650 sausages cooked by Monica before the sun came up. It was a relaxed, happy event and, hopefully, the students will remember it when they look back on their final year in Mercy College.

The Council would like to thank Carol and Kathleen for their generous support on the morning and of course Monica.

DCU ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Twenty Fourth and Fifth Year students were awarded certificates from DCU in early December 2014. Category of award included Academic, Sport, Special Nomination and Community Spirit. Parents were invited to attend what was a most enjoyable evening.

Three Sixth Years - Lydia Perry, Kelly Curtis and Ciara Flynn - did the school proud by singing solo and as a group as part of the entertainment on the night.

Kaela Hutton was awarded a Gold Medal for attendance. MS. CONNEELY

MERCY STUDENTS WIN DCU UNITY PRIZE



Our students were asked to participate in the UNITY (University Transition Year) Programme. This is run by DCU as part of the DCU access programme 2015. This involved working with DCU staff on a multimedia project. Students divided themselves into teams ranging from 4 to 8 members. They were then asked to work on a project based on "Inspiring stories from our local community". In the end 6 multimedia videos from 5 local schools were chosen to be entered in the final. The finals took place in DCU on May 13th 2015. Our video "The importance of sport" won 1st prize in the Documentary section. The creators of this video were Sabina Gurjeva, Laura Harris, Amy Kavanagh and Danielle Fitzpatrick from 4.2. The winners received a One 4 All voucher and a lovely glass trophy and certificate each. The school was also given an original print which is now hanging in the foyer. If you would like to view the winning video just log on to DCU Unity. MS. HARRISON AND MS. CONNEELY

SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME

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, Iris Graham, Monica Heade, Ms Keelin and Ms Martin

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.



MERCY SOCCER

It was a great first year for Mercy soccer. The senior team qualified for the quarter finals against St. Louis, Dundalk. The game was a close contest, finishing 2-1 in defeat. We were very unlucky with a last minute shot hitting the post. Rachel Douglas was the top goal scorer of the tournament. Kaitlin Kelly, Louise Sherlock and Lauryn Walsh were exceptional on the day. The junior team played great football and narrowly lost out on a place in the quarter finals. Hollie Mc Cabe, Sinéad Murray and Aoibheann Dwyer played brilliantly. Training for next season will take place soon. Keep up the good work and effort. MS. MARTIN AND MR MC EVOY

SUMMER PROJECT

We are hoping to run the summer project from 8th to 12th June in Mercy College. Activities from previous years have included: trips to the Irelands Eye, a picnic in St. Stephen's Green, Viking Splash Tours, Causey Farm, 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.

If you are interested in taking part in any of the activities mentioned just pop into Linda, Co-ordinator Coolock SCP, her office is beside the Language lab.

LINDA DEVITT



CEIST STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Three students, accompanied by Ms. Quinn, attended the inaugural CEIST Leadership Conference for students in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. They participated in workshops and plenary sessions with students from all round the country. An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, addressed the conference.

LONDON CALLING



Forty nine students from 1st, 2nd and 3rd years, along with five members of the Mercy College staff visited London in May. It was a whistle stop tour but the girls fitted a huge amount into the trip. Starting with a very, very early flight to Stansted, the trip included visits to the Bank of England Museum, Covent Garden, the Science Museum, a guided bus tour of the city, the scary London Dungeon and the London Eye – and that was just day 1!! London was extremely busy as the general election results had been announced overnight and the city was preparing for the VE Day remembrance ceremonies. After an overnight stay in the Travelodge Hotel Docklands, the group made its way to Thorpe Park, where the very brave went on rides such as Saw, Nemesis Inferno, Stealth, The Swarm and Colossus. The less adventurous among us, namely the adults, went on rides like the Flying Fish, the Banana Boat, the Angry Birds 4D experience and, of course, the bumper cars. We finished our day with some retail therapy in Watford before heading back to the airport and home. The trip was a wonderful experience for all involved. The girls were a credit to their school and their families and we look forward to travelling with them on school trips in the future. Thank you to Ms. Boyle for the huge amount of preparation and organization that went into ensuring the trip ran so smoothly, and to Ms. Devitt, Ms. Doherty and Ms. Kelly for accompanying the girls. MS. DWYER





2ND YEAR HISTORY TRIP

On the 5th of May 2015, 2nd year students went to Enniscorthy in Co. Wexford. We went to the 1798 centre to learn more about the Irish Rebellion. We were split into two groups and were given a historian each. The historian showed us a room where they could dress up as the Irish people of 1798.

The teachers took a bunch of pictures of the girls while we were enjoying ourselves wearing the costumes. We were then shown around the centre to see different accounts of the Rebellion.

In the first room we were shown a short video about the argument between Thomas Payne and Edmund Burke {whose statue is outside Trinity College today}. We were then shown a short film of the battle that took place on top of Vinegar Hill. We were given details about a boy named John Murphy who died during the battle. We were taken up the Vinegar Hill. Unfortunately we had to walk up while it was raining.

The historian then explained what happened on Vinegar Hill and how many of the Irish escaped. The teachers took a group picture of everyone. Before leaving we said a big thank you to the historian and the teachers that organised it. It was a very enjoyable day, everyone had fun and we learned a lot of things. MUNASHE AND RACHELLE



NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK

On the 28th April all 1st year students visited the National Heritage Park in Co. Wexford. When we arrived, we were assigned a tour guide and were shown around the park. The tour guided introduced us to many areas in the park and described to us in detail the historical significance. We were brought to a fulacht fia, a place that was used for cooking. We were then shown how meat was cooked in the Middle Ages using ancient cookery techniques. We then got to taste the meat. After this, we were then shown ancient settlements such as crannogs and a newly built copy of a monastery. It was a very interesting experience and a very enjoyable day learning about Ireland's past. On behalf of the 1st year students, we would like to thank all the teachers that took time to bring us and bring history to life.

CHLOE CAREY 1ST YEAR



We were all off to sunny Spain.... We arrived in Barcelona and went straight to the Nou Camp stadium the morning after Barcelona's victory over Bayern Munich. Our tour guide Wilhelm then showed us the highlights of Barcelona, including the Sagrada Familia, Las Ramblas and Montjuic. A jam packed day of soaking up the culture and sunshine!!

Day 2 was Port Aventura day. The girls, braved some of the biggest rollercoasters (and longest queues) in Europe. Everyone managed to hold onto their breakfast and as they tried rides ranging from the tame teacups to the terrifying Shambala.

After dinner (and a dip in the pool) we went to the House of Illusion for some good old fashioned magic. The girls watched ladies get sawn in half, men escape from handcuffs and some fire eating.

The last day came all too quickly. We headed back into Barcelona for some more culture at the Picasso Museum, a wander through the winding streets of Barceloneta, a trip to the beach and some shopping at the Maremagum centre. We all arrived back in Dublin in once piece (though a little redder). Ms. Byrne, Ms. Martin, Ms. Harte, Ms. Keelan and Ms. Feighery would like to thank the girls for their punctuality, politeness and good humour that made the trip a pleasure. They were a credit to Mercy College. MS BYRNE



OILEÁN ACLA

Ar an 23ú Márta chuaigh an dara agus an cúigiú bliain go dtí an Ghaeltacht. D'fhágamar an scoil maidin Luain ar a hocht a chlog agus shroicheamar Acaill ag am lóin. Chuamar díreach go dtí na tithe agus ansin ag curachóireacht don tráthnóna. Bhí dhá theach l gceist – teach Mháirín agus teach Bhríd. An oíche sin chuamar ar thuras chuig caisleán.

Dé Máirt rinneamar siúlóid. Bhain gach duine an taitneamh as. Bhí sé an deacair mar bhí an ghaoth chomh láidir sin! Dé Céadaoin bhí surfáil ar súil again. Bhí an fharraige gharbh agus fhuar ach bhí sé taitneamhach.

D'fhágamar Acaill ar a 1 agus bhíomar abhaile arís ar a cúig a chlog. Bhí turas den scoth againn!

SPORTS DAY



CARLINGFORD

During April, Transition Year students visited Carlingford in Co. Louth. We left school at 5pm on a Tuesday evening and arrived in Carlingford at around 7.30 in the evening. We started our trip by learning circus skills. After that we settled into our rooms for a good night's sleep. The following morning, after a lovely breakfast, we went canoeing. We had an amazing time, though a lot of us spent more time in the water than in the canoes!

We then went for a lovely lunch in the adventure centre. After lunch, we undertook a challenge course in the sky park. In the evening we went for a blindfolded walk in the forest where we had to use team skills to help and guide each other through the darkness. On our last day, we returned to the sky park to do high ropes. This involved putting on a harness and being put on a zip wire. This was an amazing experience and not for the faint hearted!! Finally, we went back to the forest and got into camouflage suits and had to shoot each other with laser guns. It was great fun. We would like to thank Ms. Harrison and Ms Rooney for bringing us and also send thanks to all the staff and team leaders in the adventure centre.

AMY KAVANAGH, LAURA HARRIS AND SABINA GURJEVA



