



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents / Guardians,

As we start the second term of our school year 2016/17 I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of St Mary's school community a Happy New Year.

The first term has been a very busy one for staff and students in St Mary's and this newsletter highlights many of the activities our students have been involved in.

Once again St Mary's students obtained excellent exams results in the 2016 Leaving Cert and Junior Cert exams. In September we held a reception to celebrate the achievements of the top Leaving Cert students of 2016, Sarah Walsh and Caoimhe Sheehan and the top LCA students Michaela Roche and Cheyenne O'Keeffe. This event was attended by Board of Management members, Parents Association, Student Council and staff and was a most enjoyable occasion for the award recipients and their families.

Congratulations to Julie Crowley who was awarded the Kelleher scholarship to University College Cork, Caoimhe Sheehan who won an academic award from Trinity College Dublin and Caoilfhionn Brophy who was awarded an academic scholarship by IT Carlow. Congratulations to all scholarship recipients, their parents and their teachers.

This term also saw the end of the 3 year cycle of the school's Board of Management and the formation of a new Board of Management by our trustees CEIST. Mr John Hourihan has been appointed Chair of the Board and I would like to take this opportunity to wish the new Board well for their 3 year term ahead.

Congratulation to Ms. Una Griffin, Deputy Principal who leaves us to take up her new position as Principal of CBS Charleville on January 16th. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Griffin for her commitment and support to all members of the school community during her time in St Mary's. Ms Sinead Luttrell has been appointed as our new Deputy Principal and we look forward to welcoming her to St Mary's.

Finally, I look forward to working with all members of the school community throughout 2017 and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,
Yvonne Bane

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Caoimhe Sheehan, Trinity College Entrance Scholarship recipient, with her parents, Philip and Jacqueline



Julie Crowley, UCC Entrance Scholarship recipient

STAFF PHOTO 2016



LCA CLASS PLANT DAFFODIL BULBS

The Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) class planted daffodil bulbs as part of their Healthy Lifestyles module. According to Ms. Rosemary Flanagan, 'It is hoped that the daffodils will visually enhance the school grounds in the spring'. The students intend to harvest the daffodils to raise funds for Daffodil Day 2017. Rang Réiltín kindly helped the LCA girls plant the daffodils. They all enjoyed the fresh air, the teamwork and learning the new skill of planting flowers. Though gardening can be hard work, the students said it was a rewarding activity that promoted positive mental health. Thanks to staff members, Danny Sheehan, Margaret Kiely and Sally O'Halloran for their help and expertise.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Yvonne Bane, Principal, with Anna Burns who got 11 A grades in her Junior Certificate.



Leaving Cert High Achievers, Sarah Walsh and Caoimhe Sheehan. Leaving Cert Applied High Achievers, Michaela Roche and Cheyenne O'Keeffe. Pictured also, Una Griffin and Yvonne Bane who made presentations.



Caoimhe Cronin and Shauna Murphy

ST. MARY'S STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR YOUNG SCIENTIST EXHIBITION

Three students from St. Mary's have qualified for the final of the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition, 2017. The Exhibition will take place in the RDS Dublin, 11th – 14th January.

Shauna Murphy and Caoimhe Cronin are competing in the Intermediate Chemical, Physical and Mathematical category. The title of their project is 'Uptake, Accumulation and Transfer of Alpha Radioactivity by Five Common Food Crops Growing in Selected Cork Soils, Some Amended with Phosphate Fertilizer; Implications for Human Health'.

Emily Murphy is competing in the Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Junior category. The title of her project is 'Assessment and Evaluation of the Production and Combustion of Fuel Pellets Made from Waste Coffee Grounds; Impact on Waste Minimisation in Ireland'.



Emily Murphy

Shauna, Caoimhe and Emily have dedicated significant time outside of school hours to their project work; even to the extent of working through the summer holiday. They have been ably supported by their mentors, Martin Timmons and Rory Coote.

FRENCH THEATRE FOR SCHOOLS

French Theatre for Schools (FTFS) came to St. Mary's for transition year French students on Wednesday 7th November. Seven students took part in the play – Le Secret Noir. C'était un succès énorme, Je vous assure! This interactive drama was highly entertaining and a fun learning experience.



TY Irish debate team with Ms. Cantillon. They have qualified for the regional finals of the Gael Linn debate competition



Evening of Carols

MUSIC EVENTS

2016/17 is a very busy school year for the Music Department. Sixth year students attended 'A Leaving Cert Guide to Bach' in October. The concert took place in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. In November, a large group of junior and senior music students travelled to the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, Dublin for an entertaining performance of the hit musical Sister Act. A number of concerts took place in the school. First and second years attended Buntús Baroque in October. First years and transition years attended Ortús Ansemlle in November. Also in November, first years and second years attended a performance by the Irish Guitar Quartet. A lovely Evening of Carols was held in the Aemilian Theatre on December 7th. Music students from every year group were involved. Fifth year students are travelling to the National Concert hall in January for a performance of Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture by the National Symphony Orchestra. Transition year music students are looking forward to welcoming Ian Wilson, composer, who will facilitate a series of 'Composer in the Classroom' workshops. The students will compose a piece to be performed by Chamber Choir Ireland at a gala concert in spring 2017.



Ms. Carr, Lean Duane and Chloe Ferris at the Macroom Food Festival

GAEILGE 24



Bhí lá iontach againn i Scoil Mhuire ar an 17ú Deireadh Fómhair nuair a ghlac timpeall 250 dalta páirt sa dúshlán bhliantúil Gaeilge 24. Labhair na daltaí Gaeilge ar feadh 24 uair an chloig agus bhailigh siad urraíocht ar son Chonradh na Gaeilge. Bhailíomar timpeall €2000! Comhghairdeas libh go léir a chailíní - is fíor an seanfhocal, 'Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste!'

OPEN EVENING



St. Mary's Open Evening took place on Wednesday 28th September. A large crowd of prospective first years and their parents attended. Junior art projects were put on display. Science teachers demonstrated fun experiments. The talents of music students were enjoyed by all. In the history room, sixth class girls were taken on a journey through time. Online games and inter-activities were played in the computer room courtesy of the tech savvy language teachers. Puzzles were solved in the maths room. Volcanos were investigated in the geography room. Delicious cakes, baked by home economics students, were devoured. All parents were given a copy of the School Prospectus. The principal, Yvonne Bane, gave a special address to parents at 7.45 pm in the Sports Hall. The whole evening was a very enjoyable experience for all.

PHYSICS TRIP TO BERLIN



Senior Physics students in front of the Brandenburg Gate

During the October mid-term, Ms. Delores Meade and Ms. Sheena McQuillan travelled to Berlin with a group of twenty physics students.

They visited the Spectrum Museum, the Otto Bock Centre, the Reichstag, the East Wall Gallery, the Topography of Terror and the TV Tower. They also experienced a fascinating two-and-a-half hour walking tour of the city, marvelling at sites like the Brandenburg Gate.

10-pin bowling not only applied the laws of physics, but was great fun too. Dunkin' Donuts was a serious attraction! A wonderful time was had by all! – Leah Cunningham, fifth year.

ÚNA GRIFFIN APPOINTED PRINCIPAL, CBS CHARLEVILLE

Úna Griffin, St. Mary's deputy principal, has recently been appointed principal of Christian Brothers Secondary School Charleville. The St Mary's school community would like to thank Ms Griffin for her excellent contribution to the school. We wish her the very best in her new appointment.



MINI COMPANY

The transition year mini company class showcased their companies at the Schools Enterprise Programme Trade Fair on Friday 9th December at Mallow GAA Sports Complex. The programme is run by the North Cork Enterprise Board. Three companies were on display including Bringloidi who have been selling handmade chocolates, Hygge who have created a range of candles and Handie Bandie. Handie Bandie won the prize of Best Innovation at the Trade Fair for their silicone bands that have been designed for water bottles. The bands will hold your money and a key for when you are out walking, training, at the gym or participating in any sporting activity and need a handie band to wrap around your water bottle. The bands will go on sale in the New Year.



Rang Reiltin students with certs for completing an 8 week swimming module

STEFANIE PREISSNER

On Thursday 29th October, Stefanie Preissner, past pupil, spoke to senior students about her career as a writer. This was organised by the English Department. Stefanie didn't see Irish girls being represented in television and so decided to write a TV show that reflects some of her own life experiences. And so, 'Can't Cope, Won't Cope' was born. The show, which aired on RTE 2 in September and October, was a huge hit. Stefanie has since featured in numerous magazines and newspapers. Also, she appeared on The Late Late Show. Stefanie offered the students some engaging insights into making a living as a writer in Ireland. She was wonderfully entertaining in her delivery of the talk.



MAKE-A-WISH

Ms. Donna Crowley and her TY class are participating in the Kids-for-Wish Schools' Entrepreneurship Awards 2016/17. They want to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Make-A-Wish foundation has one simple aim - they grant the wishes of children (aged between 3 and 17 years) living with life-threatening medical conditions. A wish granted is true magic for a child, providing respite from the normal routine of hospitals, doctors and treatment. The Kids-for-Wish Schools' Entrepreneurship Awards are designed to encourage students to creatively fundraise to help make wishes come true for children with life threatening conditions. To date, Ms. Crowley's class have been very creative in their efforts to fundraise. For example, they hosted a very successful 'Fairy Fun Walk' last October. Their fundraising efforts will continue throughout the school year.

PEDAL ENERGY DAY OF ACTION



In 2016 the Green Schools Committee achieved the Green Flag for Litter and Waste. They are now working towards the Green Flag for Energy. The Committee, mentored by Ms. Aisling O'Connor, hosted a Pedal Energy Day of Action on Wednesday 26th October. The whole school body was involved. The Committee received a grant of €1,000 from Cork County Council. The money was used to fund the event. Gavin Harte, Pedal Energy, came to the school. He brought the equipment and expertise needed to make the day a success. Participating students cycled six stationary bicycles. These were set up to generate enough electricity to power a laptop, projector and microphone. Gavin delivered an interactive presentation about energy use and climate change. It was an informative and entertaining day. Students were shocked to discover how much energy certain electrical appliances use. The Committee hopes that the students and staff will, from now on, be extra conscious of turning off lights, projectors and computers around the school.

NEWS IN SPORT



Junior camogie Munster 7s champions with their coach Mr. Coote



Members of the St. Mary's U19 basketball squad who reached the Munster Final



Ms. Dunne's TY Creative Craft Class making decorative Christmas table centrepieces