



Monaghan Collegiate School

Spring/Summer 2013
Monaghan Collegiate School
Corlatt
Monaghan

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Thanks to Mr. Reid &
Mr. Killoran for their
support and encouragement.
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A message from the Principal, Mr. Johnston Reid.

School newsletters and magazines are renowned as the breeding grounds for aspiring journalists and politicians. I make no outlandish predictions about our students, but I am absolutely thrilled that the School Newsletter has come to fruition and delighted that our students have had the opportunity to get involved in such a venture. I have no doubt that they will have learned an immense amount from the experience, and as we intend to repeat the process more regularly I encourage others to come aboard. To you the reader, I hope that you enjoy this opportunity to view school life through the eyes of the students. Finally thank you to Ms McCaffrey and Mrs O'Connor for their encouragement and technical help.

Moving on.....As we go to print Junior & Leaving Certificate pupils are completing their Junior & Leaving Certificate Examinations and we wish them



every success. As our Leaving Certificate students take their leave we also say farewell to some of our overseas students who joined us for the Year. They informed the Committee that they thoroughly enjoyed their time at MCS and have invited some of their Irish fellow students back to visit them in their own countries of Mexico, Spain, China, Brazil, Germany, New Zealand & Canada.

Form 6 also expressed their thanks for the wonderful Graduation Ceremony held on the 22nd May 2013. Leaving Certificate students enjoyed inspirational words from Mr. Reid, Mr. Killoran, Rev. Daniel Reyes Martin, Chairperson of the Board of Management and Pastor Stephen Matthews who was the Guest Speaker. Presentations were made to the pupils and gifts of thanks to the staff, were followed by a very moving slide show by Suzanna Crawford of events over the past six years at MCS, including their tour to Barcelona & Italy, Art trip to Newgrange and many other activities. 6th Yr photo on Page 7.

Spring/Summer 2013 Committee

Our thanks to the pupils who participated in the Newsletter. Articles submitted were researched, edited and submitted by the Erin Steenson, Adam Dudgeon, Isaac John, Dominika Glowinkowska, Jill Wylie, Pamela McMahon, Natasha Wilson, Rachel Smyth, Aimie McCaffrey.

The Committee wish to acknowledge the support of Ms Ciara McCaffrey & Mrs. Siobhán O'Connor.



Scripture Union Weekend

The **S.U. weekend** this year took place in Kilkeel. We left the school at 5:00pm. Mr. Reid was principal turned bus driver for the afternoon. When we arrived we were treated to a much needed dinner by Mr. Reid. The guest speaker this year was Pastor Colin Creighton from Carrickmacross. He led worship on Friday night before we all hit our pillows after a hard day's work at school.

We were woken bright and early by Mrs. Sloan for some breakfast. Mr. Reid showed off his cooking skills with a nice healthy fry. We had another meeting before heading to Newcastle. Although it was raining this didn't dampen our spirits. Most of us enjoyed eating Maud's ice-cream and strolling up the streets.

When we arrived back to our accommodation we watched the rugby. If this didn't suit everybody there was plenty of fun to be had. Mrs. Sloan had carefully organised some games that everyone took part in. On Sunday we went to Kilkeel Presbyterian Church. We all had a brilliant beef and potato dinner with apple tart for dessert.



The weekend proved to be a great success and we would like to thank the teachers for their valuable contributions to discussions and for all their hard work.

Through their conversations and the message that Pastor Colin delivered we learned more about God. Thanks to Mr. Reid, Mrs. Sloan, Mr. Clarke, Pastor & Mrs Creighton for an amazing weekend. Our thanks also to Mr. Killoran & the Parents Association for their support too.

Pictured to the left are some of the S.U. members & staff at the annual Dinner Dance in the Hillgrove Hotel.

Ski Trip

On January 26th 2013, Transition Year students gathered in McNally's car park at 4am to leave for Belfast Airport, where a week of skiing awaited. The bus was filled with excitement and nerves as many students were flying alone for the first time. Many were anxious about leaving their families and home for a full week.

After Ms. Wright had successfully distributed her diet coke into some of the students lighter cases, we proceeded to breakfast. The announcement came across for our flight and before we knew it we were on the plane.

Three hours later we arrived to Strasburg airport in Austria. We were mesmerized by the amount of snow. After our luggage was collected we made a three hour bus journey to our hotel.

The week was enjoyed by everyone, and we even made friends with another school. Throughout the week our skiing improved with the help of our instructors. Although we had some injuries, it didn't take away from the enjoyment. Each night we took part in activities such as rifle shooting and swimming.

Overall the experience will never be forgotten. We are very thankful for the teachers who looked after us. We would highly recommend this trip to those considering going in the future. Congratulations to Ms. Wright on organising another successful School Tour.



The Debate Club

This year the club was run by Ms. Maloney. Although numbers were small with only four we still had a great time arguing about different topics carefully selected by our teacher. Some topics included *"Should schools use uniforms, Fair Trade & Global Warming, Capitalism vs Socialism."* We were split into teams of two with two in each team. These teams were swapped every debate so we all had a chance to work with each other. We met every Monday at lunch time to confer with one another and then to give our side of the argument. This was a great opportunity for those involved to practice public speaking and to write speeches. Ms. Maloney was very good to us always praising our work but giving constructive criticism when needed. We all had good fun and on behalf of those who took part in debating we would like to thank Ms. Maloney for all her hard work and for facilitating us with this extra curriculum activity.



Monaghan Collegiate School Easter Service.

On Thursday the 21st of March, Monaghan Collegiate School held its annual Easter Service in the Collegiate Sports Hall. To start the service, Mr Reid our Principal, gave an opening speech, welcoming everyone whilst explaining the progression of the service. Immediately after this, Reverend Daniel Reyes-Martin, Chairperson of the Board of Management, opened in prayer. This was followed by bible readings from Isaiah and John, read by Mrs. Siobhán O'Connor and Mr. Eric Clarke.

Guests and pupils were amazed by the display of talent within our small school. For the music, we were wowed by sixth forms Virginie Aubin and her exceptional piano solo, Matthew Greer and Ryan Finnegan's brilliant guitar duet and the beautiful and joyful rendition of "Oh Happy Day" performed by the school choir. We also had the pleasure of listening to an Easter poem read by Marinella Escamilla, Élyse Leclerc, Raysa Franca, Shara Hasan ad Paula Vilela.

The main body of the service was presented by Canon Ian Berry, alongside his assistant for the day, Reverend Ronnie Agnew. Rev. Agnew under Canon Berry's guidance played "heads or tails" with various members of the audience. Michaela Treanor, Connor Rice, Stephan Acheson, Beverly Mc Bride and Mrs Wright-Kendrick all agreed to participate. Canon Berry used this entertaining game to introduce the topic of his sermon, "The Two Sides of Easter". Towards the end of his address, he closed with the following lines: "There are two sides to Easter. Nothing to do with chance, but it's a choice that everyone makes. Are you on the right side of Easter?"

This year's Easter Service was a very special occasion for everyone. Between the wonderful talent of the pupils and Canon Berry's thought provoking words, it certainly was a memorable service for all.



Horseriding Success

Congratulations to the Monaghan Collegiate School Junior Show Jumping Team who won the Killossery Lodge Stud Inter School Show Jumping League in February. Team members were Avril Mackarel, Gemma Treanor, Luncinda Kinghan & Ciara Woods. We are grateful to the Parents Committee and David Kinghan, Chef D'equipe for their support and dedication.



Ósin Craig wins Young Rotarian of the Year Competition

Earlier this year Ósin Craig not only won the Monaghan Young Rotarian of the Year Competition but also went on to win the prestigious prize at regional level against many other talented competitors. As part of the prize Ósin won a trip to the European Parliament along with a trip to the Stormont and Dáil Éireann. He participated in a debate with other young people on various pertinent topics for young people in Europe today. Ósin would like to extend his thanks to Barra Flynn & Monaghan Rotary Club and to Ms. Wright Kendrick & Mr. Reid for their support. Information on the next competition will be available from Ms. Wright Kendrick early in the new term.

St Patrick's Day Celebrations & Canadian Rugby School visit MCS to celebrate 'the Gathering'

On Friday the 15th of March, Monaghan Collegiate School welcomed Thomas Mc Skeane, a local ceili dancer who put the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th years through their paces, alongside the visiting Canadian rugby team from Miramichi High School. The team (with some very tall players) were invited to attend our celebrations and meet with staff and pupils. The visiting team also played a Rugby match against MCS and Monaghan Rugby Club and enjoyed many local visits and outings. Before the Ceili kicked off, we got a chance to talk with Mr. Mc Skeane about his profession.

Mr. Mc Skeane spoke about how Ceili dancing has been around for the past 200-300 years, but the ver-

sions danced on the day were created in the 1920s, so they're fairly modern. Mr. Mc Skeane felt that ceili dancing was a positive influence on Irish culture. He said "It's not only great fun and a perfect way to get people to mix together, but it lets people experience something authentically Irish. The music, the style of dance, it's unlike anywhere else."

Mr. Mc Skeane also highlighted how ceili dancing is really popular in other parts of the world such as the United States and the United Kingdom not just in Monaghan Collegiate School and the locality. Locally there are currently around 150 to 200 people signed up to ceili classes. Depending on the size of the group, the classes cost between

three to five euro for a two hour class." He noted that "generally the classes run between September and Easter. Seachtaine na Gaelige would be the busiest time of the year." So Irish Dancing is a very affordable way to enjoy dance and indeed keep fit!

Ceili dancing definitely got the school into the spirit of the week and welcomed our guests to the school in a lively and friendly way. Thanks to those who took part and to Mr. Mc Skeane for his involvement. The Miramichi High School Boys, their Coaches & members from Monaghan Rugby club really enjoyed the Ceili which was followed by a special dish of Irish Stew & homemade Apple Pie.



Table Tennis Final

Monaghan Collegiate Table Tennis team travelled to UCD on Friday 12th April to participate in the final of the All Ireland Table Tennis Championship. The team, Ryan Mc Conkey, Dylan Scott, Jason Forde, Stephen Fawcett, Aaron Allister and Jamie Fawcett, played Connaught in the semi final and won 5-0. They went on to play Blackrock in the final. They played a tough game but were beaten 5-2. Mr. Hutchinson, who is the team coach

and who travelled with them on the day admits, "Runners up in the All Ireland Final is an excellent result." Mr. Hutchinson, who is pleased with the outcome also said, "Congratulations to the boys for runners up." No doubt the team will build on their achievement this year and will return refreshed after the summer holidays. Some of the team members are pictured here.



MS Readathon Presentation



Pictured above are Form 1 & 2 following the presentation to MS Ireland. The pupils enjoyed reading their books and raised over €1,100.⁴ Thanks to all the pupils who participated in this worthy cause.

MCS enjoy action packed Cross Border sporting trip to Manchester.

The weekend of the 12th-14th April 2013 offered an amazing opportunity for twelve 1st and 2nd year pupils from Monaghan Collegiate School. 48 pupils in total, accompanied by teachers from Monaghan Collegiate School, Devenish College – Enniskillen, St. Joseph's College – Enniskillen and Colaiste Cholmcille – Ballyshannon, travelled to both Manchester and Liverpool to watch a number of premier sporting fixtures. Funded by the European Union's Peace III Programme, the opportunity marks the beginning of a number of future activities that will link pupils and staff from the four schools.

Mr. James Mc Donald, lead teacher

from Monaghan Collegiate School commented:



"On Friday evening the group visited Salford Stadium in Manchester for a very exciting game of rugby between Sale Sharks and Gloucester."

"We visited Old Trafford, then it was on to Liverpool, where we enjoyed a top class Premiership game between Everton and Queens Park Rangers."

The trip is only part of the programme which also involves the pupils taking part in a soccer coaching programme which is supported by both the IFA and FAI. The final part of the programme will be a World Cup style tournament. This will take place on Friday 17th at the Lakeland Forum in Enniskillen.

Strong links have been formed within the four schools and it is hoped that this will lead to further joint opportunities in the future. Our sincere thanks to Mr. McDonald.

Transition Year Physics Education: Astrophysics Day

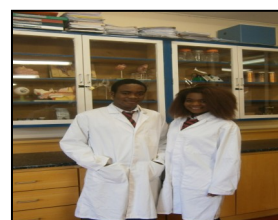
This November, one of MCS students, Shirley John was picked to attend an astrophysics day in Trinity College Dublin. Astrophysics derived from the Greek word "astro" meaning stars and "physis" meaning nature.

It is a branch of astronomy that deals with the physics of the universe. The TYPE Astrophysics day featured in giving students a lecture based on "Power of 10" by Dr Eric

Finch. The lecturer spoke about precise cameras in satellites which ranged from 10^{16} . At this power you can see the brightest star in the galaxy, or at 10 microns, you can see a capillary vessel, the smallest vessel in the body.

Shirley's brother, 5th yr student Isaac, also had the pleasure of experiencing the astrophysics day last year, featuring in an interactive 3D astronomy animation.

Both students ended their day making an organic comet and receiving its formula. It was an enjoyable experience and a fantastic opportunity to prepare students for a career in the field of science. Thanks to the Science Teachers for their support.



Rugby Success for Dean & David

This year has been a very busy year for sports at Monaghan Collegiate School and will continue to be a very busy summer for two of our students, Dean Wilson & David McConkey, who have been training weekly, for the last few months in Armagh. Against significant competition they have been successfully chosen to train over the summer with the Ulster Under 16 Development Squad each Monday in Cookstown.

Mr. David McGregor, Rugby Coach at MCS told the Committee that the standard of play in the South East Region is very high and it is a great opportunity and achievement for these two young Collegiate pupils. He went on to say that their tough training has paid off and they have made the cut out of a large number of players.

We wish Dean & David every success and hope they enjoy their training.



Monaghan Collegiate School Past Pupil Interviews

Joanne Wylie

Joanne Wylie is a past pupil and Head Girl of Monaghan Collegiate and has the distinction of coming 1st Place in Ireland in the Home Economics Honours Leaving Certificate paper in 2012. She is studying Medicine.

How have you settled into University life?

As a first year medical student at Cardiff University, Wales, this has been one of the most interesting years of my life.

Is your schedule busy as a medical student?

Yes I volunteer at a local mental health hospital every Tuesday which has aided my understanding of many psychiatric disorders. It has also

helped me to familiarise myself working in a non –stereotypical hospital environment. I also have been on placement in a geriatric ward one day a week for six weeks. Here I take patient's histories and visiting the stroke ward was a real eye-opener as some of the patients had been there for almost ten years.

Can you give me a brief description of some of the work first year entails?

At the moment I am doing dissection which is a very new but absolutely amazing experience, one I never thought I'd get the opportunity to do. With the biggest DR in Europe Cardiff is famous for its excellent anatomy teaching school.

How did you find your course work?

Yes the work is difficult and requires a lot of dedication and study.

However I received first in my year in Chemistry and second in my year in Biology. I am also the class representative and communicate any problems or queries that my course mates have to the medical staff.

Are you a part of any other clubs to get away from the busy life of a medic?

I am also a member of the Christian Union and have helped organise a recent Easter event, arranging for free lunch bars for Cardiff University students. We had a weekend away last term allowing me to explore outside Cardiff. I am really enjoying life as a Medical Student.



David Mc Bride

David McBride L.C. student 2012, is attending Harper Adams University to study Agricultural Engineering and on entrance to H.A.U. achieved 1st place in Ulster. David & Mr. Reid, on behalf of the School received this accolade & award from Basil Bane, of Harper Adams recently.

How are you enjoying your new life in Harper Adams University?

Although I was uneasy at first with a long move from home, I have since found my feet and settled in to the exciting university life. As Harper is one of the smaller universities in England it has given me the chance to get to know lots of people and its friendly environment enabled me to interact with people undergoing the same process as myself.

You were recently awarded the prestigious PMc Connel Scholarship, you must be very pleased?

I was delighted to receive this award as I have worked with their ma-

chines for many years. The scholarship has been a major help as it has brought some financial relief to me as university fees have increased drastically in the last year. The scholarship has also given me great contacts in Mc Connel and hopefully these will stand to me in the future.

Harper Adams is well known for its range of clubs and societies, have you joined any?

The biggest club that I am involved in is Harper Ireland. This is a club for all the Irish members of Harper Adams. We recently organised an event called the Paddy's Ball in which 1830 people attended and the main act at the ball was Tinchy Stryder. This involvement helped my teamwork and organisational skills. Another benefit of this club is the familiar feeling of home as it is only Irish people at our meetings.

I am also a member of the GAA club and at the start of the year I helped to revive the club as it was becoming non-existent. Before coming to

Harper I had never played Gaelic football but now I am now thankfully the vice-captain.

You also got the chance to do some charity work, can you tell me a little about that?

As I was elected as the new clubs and societies representative I was able to take part in raising money for Help for Heroes. As part of the S.U. initiations I and two fellow members of the S.U. were taken to Skegness which is situated on the east coast of England. From here we were set the task of raising as much money as possible whilst trying to get back to Harper Adams, with no money or food and with just an emergency mobile phone. The trip was the best experience of my life and I have met some very generous



Junk Kouture

Junk Kouture is a creative competition where contestants must design and put together a costume made entirely from recycled items. It is a great opportunity for budding fashion designers. Thousands of entries are submitted every year and this year Lauren Nolan in Transition Year was chosen to pass through to the regional finals.

On March 8th the North Regional Final was held in the Millennium Forum Theatre, Co. Derry. A group of students and teachers travelled to the show to watch Shirley John grace the stage in Lauren's dress. After a stunning performance from Shirley and a lot of screaming from her supporters, Lauren's dress received a Golden Ticket to the Grand Final on April 19th in the Bord Gais Theatre, Co. Dublin.

The Junk Kouture final took place on April 19th in the Bord Gais Theatre, Dublin. Shirley John opened the show with Lauren Nolan's stunning design. Her performance was outstanding and the judges agreed. Lauren and Shirley walked out with the Glamour Award, a three day trip to the Cannes Film Festival in France.



Shirley modelled Lauren's dress in the amazing surroundings of Cannes. Lauren and Shirley said that "it didn't feel real at first, it was just so unexpected."

The winning dress Lauren designed is made from curtain hooks, wallpaper, plastic bags, lace and face masks to name just a few items. It is entirely white in colour and is given the name Pre-madonna Girl.

Lauren and Shirley would like to extend their thanks to Mrs. Creighton, who attended the Festival with the girls, for all her support and help. Also, a big thanks all the people who voted for them and attended the Competitions. The girls have had a truly wonderful experience and hope they have inspired other students to enter the competition next year. Our thanks to Monaghan County Council Environment Section for sponsorship towards the supporters bus and to Bank of Ireland for their sponsorship of the Glamour Award.



Sports Day



Sports Day was held on Wednesday 30th May 2013 and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our thanks to Mr. Dugdale and the staff for organising a wide range of sporting activities to suit all abilities.

The day was extremely hot and it was a very pleasant and

unexpected surprise when the 'Ice Cream Van' arrived in the early after noon. The arrival of the van was heralded by the musical chimes synonymous with Ice Cream Vans.

Farewell to Form 6 Farewell to the class of 2013

We wish a fond farewell to all our 6th Students leaving Monaghan Collegiate School this year. Keep in touch and we wish you all well in your future studies.





Collegiate Sale of Work Day

Date for your diary.

Ms. Wright Kendrick would like us to remind you that the annual sale will take place on St. Patrick's Church Monaghan on Friday 29th November 2013.

The Committee look forward to welcoming you to the Tea/coffee & delicious refreshment area, in addition to the usual popular stalls.

Parents' Association Update

A big thank you to the Parents' Association and all who supported them for all their hard work and funds raised towards School Development this year.

Mr. David Maxwell, Chairperson of the Committee informed us that plans are already afoot for activities in 2013/2014 and your continued support is very much appreciated.

Fondly remembering Mrs. Wilkinson



It was with great sadness that the School heard of the passing of Mrs. Jean Wilkinson, retired Deputy Principal of Monaghan Collegiate School for 1952 to the early 1980s.

Our sympathy to her sons Raymond & Osbourne & daughter in law Christine, family & friends.

She was a wonderful teacher and supporter of the school for over half a century and the School was greatly enriched by all she did for the pupils.

Mrs. Wilkinson was the first teacher on the present site of Monaghan Collegiate School, which opened in 1951, classes took place in Corlatt House, now the present location of the Sports Hall. The original school had 20 pupils approx. Her funeral was attended by many past pupils, teachers, parents and past along with current staff and pupils.

Pictured Left to right are Mrs. C. Johnston, Mr. M. Killoran, with Mrs. J. Wilkinson & Mrs. A. North.

Monaghan Collegiate School Prize Day

Date for your diary.

Prize Day, the culmination of the academic year will be held on Friday 25th October 2013 in St. Patrick's Church, Monaghan. It is always a very memorable day, last October's Guest Speaker, was esteemed past pupil, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church Dr. Roy Patton. In the picture below we see Bishop John McDowell, Chairperson of the Board of Governors, giving the Opening Address to pupils, parents, staff and guests.



Thanks to all the staff & pupils who supplied articles & photos for this Newsletter, we could not have done it without you.

Finally thank you to you our reader.



The last word.

First & Second year pupils told us that one of the 'high' points of the year was the visit by the Miramichi High School Rugby Team and their tallest player who made a big impression in the Sports Hall.