



Monaghan Collegiate School

Spring 2014

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Welcome to our Newsletter

A message from the Principal, Mr. Johnston Reid

As we approach mid-term and consign our New Year's resolutions to the status of aspirational yet again, it is my pleasure to introduce to you another School Newsletter.

It is particularly gratifying to see the production of another edition of the School Newsletter. The first edition was a great success, but to realise that it was not just a one off is even more satisfying. I have watched the editorial team beaver away under the guidance of Ms McCaffrey, in the Computer Room during their lunch break. It is so encouraging to realise that our students are enjoying the opportunity to participate in self-directed learning; taking real ownership of

the project. Thank you to all involved.

I feel that it would be fair to say that 2013 ended on a high for the school. There was the fantastic Carol Service on Wednesday 18th where we again visited in word and song the Manger, and were reminded of the true meaning of Christmas - new hope in Christ. I genuinely appreciate the support given to it by the parents, both in their attendance at the service and in encouraging their young people to attend. The production of "A Modern Christmas Carol" on the Thursday night was an outstanding success. Both events between them raised €1621 for charity. The two beneficiary charities are SO-

SAD and ISPCC. Sincere thanks to all who took part in both events.

The New Year brings with it the reality checks of life and in our case the school examinations. I hope that everyone has had the opportunity to do some serious preparation for their examinations, but whatever the outcome the message of new hope is still there for everyone. I should note that such hope is similar to the message of Christmas, it is dependent on the response of the individual, their commitment to change and to grasp the opportunities presented.

I wish everyone a very pleasant and successful 2014, I commend to you our Newsletter.

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Newsletter Committee 2014

Dates to note

- * TY Work Experience 24th Feb—28th Feb.
- * PTM 3rd and 6th 27th February.
- * Easter Service 10th April.
- * Leavers Service 20th May.
- * Summer Exams 1st, 2nd, 5th Yrs 22nd—27th May.
- * State Exams 3rd and 6th 4th June—20th June.

The Newsletter committee met in September 2013 and have been researching events that have been happening in school and reporting on them. Articles published were researched, and submitted by Shannon Forde, Natasha Wilson, Pamela McMahon, Rachel Smyth, Aimee McCaffrey, Tracey Farrell, Shirley John, Ellen McDermott and Marya Novikova. The articles were edited by Shannon Forde and Natasha Wilson. The committee wish to acknowledge the support of Ms. McCaffrey & Siobhán O'Connor. We would also like to all those who contributed material for this years newsletter.



The Carol Service by Shannon Forde Form 5

On Wednesday the 18th of December, the pupils, staff and community gathered in First Monaghan, Presbyterian Church for the annual Carol Service.

It was a lively service which got those attending in the Christmas Spirit, and involved staff and pupils.

Rebecca Breakey and Matthew Greer performed 'O Holy Night', Ellen McDermott sang 'Silent Night', accompanied by Natasha Wilson on guitar, and Nicole Finn

played 'Allegro' on piano.

Many thanks to those who read on the day, including Head Boy, Adam Dudgeon, Head Girl, Erin Steenson, Rebekah Greer in Form 1, members of staff and the Parents Association.

Joining us on the day were Bishop McDowell, Canon Berry and Canon Helene Steed who gave the Christmas Address, on how Jesus

is the most important gift that was ever given.

The Carol Service provided a lovely lead into the holiday season and it was an event enjoyed by all on the day.



Sale Of Work by Committee

The Annual Sale of Work, Co-ordinated by Ms. Wright, took place on 29th November in St. Patrick's Church Hall. The sale was a great success raising in excess of €5,000 towards the School Development Fund. The Sale of Work commenced at ten o'clock on the Friday morning, with Captain David Hamilton opening the sale. The sale was a very enjoyable experience for all who attended with delicious sandwiches, traybakes and refreshments served throughout the day by the 'Teas' committee, led by Mrs. Adele Scott. The Transition Year Mini Company

displays were excellent, with a large variety of products for sale. Items for sale included tasty baked goods, beautiful Christmas boxes, handmade bracelets, and handmade wooden ornaments. The teachers and customers were very impressed with the quality of goods for sale, including the Mini-Company Co-ordinator Ms. Murnaghan. The students agreed that the sale had gone well and had said that it was a good learning experience. The atmosphere throughout the day was very positive, helped by the crowds which gathered to explore the differing stalls. The white elephant and the

cake stands enjoyed great success on the day. We would like to thank all of those involved, our sponsors, teachers, parents, including those who assisted in setting up the stalls and the ladies who ran the 'Teas'. Finally, thanks to everyone who got involved and contributed in any way to the event.



Music Is The Joy Of Life by Ellen Mc Dermott Form 5

On the 19th of October 2013, an audience gathered in St. Patrick's Church Monaghan to watch choirs and organists perform. The event was sponsored by Co-operation Ireland and involved choirs from throughout the County. After being welcomed, the congregation joined to sing "Thine Be The Glory" by William Mc Bride.

The Church Choirs, with members of churches from different parts of County Monaghan, gave an excellent rendition of "What friend we have in Jesus" and "Still" accompanied on piano by Stephen Furphy.

After a reading of the poem "The Music of Life" read by Pamela Patton, primary school children, of all ages gathered to sing "We Plough the Fields". This was followed by "Panis Angelicus" performed by Ms. Emily Fleming and an organ recital from Alanna Crawford. Monaghan Collegiate School Choir performed "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and were met afterwards with a warm round of applause. After an organ recital by Manuel Mackarel Monaghan Collegiate School and Church Choirs joined to sing "Amazing Grace". Stephen Furphy gave an excellent performance of

Bach's Toccata in D minor on the organ. The congregation joined in song once again to sing "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing".

Finally all the choirs joined together to sing "Look at the World" and were followed by Canon Ian Berry ending the night with the Benediction. We would like to say thanks to all involved, including Ms. Fleming, Mrs. Sloan and Mrs Eithne Mc Cord, past pupil. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all and everyone was invited for refreshments after. Our thanks to Patricia & Carolyn at Co-Operation Ireland for their support.

Peace III Soccer trip to Manchester by Pamela Mc Mahon Form 5

On 7th October last, Mr. McDonald had the pleasure of accompanying selected first year students to a Soccer Skills Day in aid of a Peace III Project they have participated in. There were four secondary schools involved: Devenish College of Enniskillen, St. Joseph's College of Enniskillen, Coláiste Íascaigh of Sligo and Monaghan Collegiate School. The students involved in this include: Ethan Duffy, Jordan Graham, Joshua Keating, Mark McCoy, Ryan Wilson, Darren Browne, Troy Jennings, Jonathan Lyster, Conor Mc Kenna, Timothy Nelson, Daniel Smyth and Markus Mullen.

When they arrived, they tackled into four sets of different sporting activities. The schools gathered around after lunch for a discussion regarding the Cross Border Problems in the past. The speakers concluded the talk with how they are working for Peace and Reconciliation in the bordering counties. The students, who are football fanatics, ended the day on a buzz as they had a very competitive and heart racing football quiz to find out which team knew the most about the sport.

They met up again on October 12th at the Lakeland Forum in Enniskillen, where all

four schools were divided into six teams of eight with two students from each school on a team. The six teams represented six countries; France, Argentina, China, USA, Holland and Sweden. Each participant was awarded a medal and a t-shirt representing the country they were playing. The County Fermanagh District Council Chairman, Alex Baird, was on hand to distribute the medals to each student.

During the weekend of the 22nd and 24th of November 2013, the twelve first year pupils had an amazing opportunity to travel to Manchester and Wigan to watch a number of sporting fixtures. On the Friday, the group of 48 pupils along with their teachers watched an exciting game of rugby between Sale Sharks and Worcester Warriors in Salford Stadium in Manchester. The next day they visited the Imperial War Museum in Manchester before a visit to the home of Manchester United, Old Trafford. They then enjoyed cheering at a

Championship game in which Wigan was against Brighton and they topped the evening off by heading to the cinema.

Mr. James Mc Donald, lead-teacher from Monaghan Collegiate School added: "This is the second year that we have been involved in this project and I must say that the boys, again this year, have had a great time and are going away with life long memories of a fantastic experience."

It was funded by the European Union's Peace III Programme and was designed to build friendships and offer opportunities to discuss peace and reconciliation issues. Our thanks to everyone who participated and helped make the trip a success.



International Students by Marya Novikova Form 5



Every year the classrooms in Monaghan Collegiate fill with students, new and old

and some International students who are trying to improve themselves in a new society; they are overcoming difficulties like language, differences between cultures, traditions, and sometimes the weather. I feel, from my experience, that Monaghan Collegiate gives them the best opportunity to adapt and follow their goals in Ireland.

Luan Saltori an international student from Brazil, in the school spoke about his experience

in particular "I've been in Ireland for about four months and so far it has been great. The school has excellent teachers, a great structure and I've learned a lot here, and also made a lot of friends. Everyone is friendly and willing to help each other, I don't regret a single moment/ It's a great school, a great country and a brilliant place to live." In conclusion I would like to encourage students to come and enjoy studying in Ireland.

3rd Year C.S.P.E Action Project with S.O.S.A.D by Shannon Forde

On Tuesday the 22nd of October, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th year students welcomed Pat Cusack from Save Our Sons and Daughters (SOSAD) as part of the 3rd year C.S.P.E. Action Project. SOSAD is an organisation based in the north-east of Ireland that raises awareness of suicide and provides support and help for those feeling suicidal. They also provide support for those who have been bereaved by suicide, and give direction to those who have been approached by, and wish to help, someone feeling suicidal. Pat Cusack is a great speaker, he spoke about a very difficult, but extremely important subject matter. It was clear how important to him the work he did was, and how much he cared about people, to give up his free time to volunteer for such a vital organisation like SOSAD. Pat

spoke about the work he does for SOSAD and explained how suicide is a permanent solution to what is often only a temporary problem and how it is "Okay to not be okay". SOSAD offers a wide range of support for those in need or at risk, including 24 hour emergency support, suicide interventions, psychological assessments and free counselling. All volunteers are trained and experienced, who are ready to help anyone who contacts them. On the day, each student was asked to

put Pat's number (0860459168) in their phones, and urged that if they ever needed someone to talk to, he was there. SOSAD Carrickmacross can also be contacted on 0429668992. Students raised €200 on the day. Thanks to Mr. Pollock, Yvonne Deery and Pat Cusack.



Monaghan Collegiate Prize-Giving Day by Shirley John Form 5

Brigadier General Paul Fry, Officer Commanding Irish Air Corps.

The annual Prize Giving Day, is a day that brings together the members of the school and their family and friends, in celebration and acknowledgement of the successes of the students, both academic and non-academic throughout the previous year. As usual, a guest speaker is invited to this event to give a few words of encouragement and inspiration to the students. This year, the guest speaker was the renowned Brigadier General Paul Fry, Officer commanding Irish Air Corps.

The Brigadier General began his speech by addressing the audience, welcoming them and thanking the principal, Mr Reid, for the opportunity to speak to the students. The main message of General Fry's speech was to encourage students to pursue the career of their heart's desire. Using himself as an example, Brigadier General Paul Fry told of how he had always envisioned himself in his occupation ever since he

was in secondary school. After his Leaving Cert, he proceeded to becoming a Cadet in the military air force where he learnt many skills but his heart lay with flying air crafts.

The Brigadier General urged the students to do their utmost to achieve whatever they set their minds to. General Fry advised the students to trust themselves and their decisions, saying "Believe in yourself and achieve whatever your dreams may be". The students were instructed to work their hardest to achieve their own personal satisfaction because no one can do it for them, "if not you, then who?"

Brigadier General Paul Fry encouraged the young boys and girls to consider a possible career in the Air Force, stating the perks that his career entailed. Some of these were the opportunity to travel, mostly on operational flights, meeting with Global and European Air Chiefs and with such a high position as his, congregating with people such as Irish President, Michael. D. Higgins, Taoi-



seach Enda Kenny, as well as the Presidents of countries such as Finland, Latvia and Argentina.

The Brigadier General ended with this life lesson, "Continuous effort, not strain in intelligence, is the key to success" A motivating speech, designed to encourage the students of Monaghan Collegiate School, a speech which succeeded in its aim.

Article on presentation to Rev. Daniel Reyes Martin in next edition.

A Modern Christmas Carol by Committee

On Thursday 19th of December, the Transition Year students staged their production of DM Larson's 'A Christmas Carol'. The play was performed in St Patrick's Church Hall along with the school choir. Students from First year through to Sixth year were involved and added to the festive spirit of the occasion. There were over 250 people in attendance on the night and everyone involved helped to make the one night only show, a success.

The play saw the traditional story of a Christmas Carol transformed into a modern and humorous tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's terrifying night with the ghosts of his past, present and future. The tale, while familiar, was cast in a new light by the Transition Year students. The Transition Year Talent was not only clear in the wonderful interpretations of the characters on stage, but was also

clear in the masterfully crafted props. Rehearsals had been ongoing throughout the month of December with the choir working in collaboration with the budding actors of Transition Year. The play was produced By Ms. Fleming and Ms. Mc Phillips with help from the staff in Monaghan Collegiate, including, Mrs. Sloane, Ms. Hutchinson, Ms. McCaffrey, Mr. Trainor, Mr. Lovett,

Mr. Pollock, Ms. Murnaghan and Mrs. Rose Hastings to name just a few. The professional lighting and sound was provided by Waveform Sound.

It was clear that the audience were very impressed with their performance and all those involved enjoyed the night. All money raised from ticket sales was donated to S.O.S.A.D and I.S.P.C.C. Thank you.



H.S.A School Safety Programme by Ms. Fleming

The Health and Safety Authority 'open badges pilot project' is a way of recognising the achievement and completion by the fourth year students of the HSA range of choose safety programmes. It awards a 'digital badge' to students who complete any of the six units in the choose safety programme.

A badge is a symbol of an accomplishment, of skills, of competency and of interest. Badges can be used to represent achievements, communicate successes and set goals. The badges can be kept in an online backpack with the students then able to send a link to the backpack to teachers, parents, poten-

tial employers or share with friends via social media.

Best wishes and thank you to all the Fourth Years we have volunteered to be part of this worthwhile pilot.

Motivational Guest Speaker Enlightens Forms 4, 5 and 6.

Earlier this year forms 4, 5 and 6 were visited by Austin Hunter for a highly motivational speech. He started off the talk by telling us about his life and his success as a journalist, editor and a public relations manager which inspired us throughout the talk. He then advised us on what to put on our Curriculum Vitae which as particularly helpful for forms 4, 5 and 6. Interviews were another topic

that was covered during the talk. He helped prepare us and gave us advice on how to impress the interviewer. Some of the interesting things he informed us of was that navy was a believable colour and how vigorous hand gestures can be extremely off putting. All in all, we enjoyed and learned a lot from the talk and hopefully his tips will help us in future interviews. We would like to thank

Austin Hunter for taking the time to come into Monaghan Collegiate School to talk to us as we got an insight into his life and also gained knowledge on several topics. Our thanks to Ms. Murnaghan Careers Teacher for her support and for organising the event.

Article by Tracey Farrell, Form 5

Scripture Union Weekend by Lauren Hall Form 4

The Scripture Union weekend took place in a Youth Centre in Rosstrevor on the 31st of January – 2nd February. 25 students attended the weekend along with Mr. Reid, Mrs. Sloan Mr. Lovett and Ms. Windrum.

Due to the weather our activities were restricted, leaving us to rely on ourselves to provide our own entertainment. The Centre had great facilities and contained a large room with comfortable seats and a TV with many games. This allowed us to relax and be comfortable sitting about with a cuppa, giving us a good opportunity to get to know everybody and to see the teach-

ers in a different light. We had meetings and quiet times each day which were an encouragement to each of us.

Our weekend was packed with games, tea, chat, a lack of sleep, lots of laughs and plenty of harmless mischief, but overall it was a great weekend which everyone enjoyed.

The hard work of the SU committee and teachers paid off as we each had an amazing time.

‘Be still and know that I am God.’



Monaghan Collegiate Sports by Pamela Mc Mahon

The U16'S girls basketball team have been very successful this year. The team members are Kelly Mc Cormill (Captain), Natalie Kinghan, Victoria Mc Elwaine, Naomi Condell, Amber Harrison, Kelsey Mc Cormill, Abigail Mc Geough, Sophie Knox, Ellen Molloy, Lucinda Kinghan, Hannah Dudgeon and Lucy Nelson. The girls were crowned North East Regional Winners and received a Trophy and a Shield which is now proudly on display

in the schools foyer.

The 1st and 2nd year girls have currently won all their team matches so far.

We also have a boys 1st and 2nd year team for the first time and the boys are

performing well.

Monaghan Collegiate Table Tennis Boys team have also won the Boys Rugby Teams after their match against Cavan Royal School recently)

Athletics

Emma Geary, Form 2, qualified for the Ulster Schools Cross Country Finals in Belfast on 11th February 2014 and competed against 100 runners, achieving a personal best. Emma enjoyed her experience.



Parents Association Activities by Natasha Wilson

The Parents Association held their annual table quiz on Monday 27th January, in the school sports hall. The table quiz is a great opportunity for the parents of students to socialise, this year's funds raised from the event will help fund educational and sports trips for students and it will also assist in school development.

David Maxell, Chairperson, told me that this year the Parents Association

are staging a production of Sam Cree's "The Wedding Bliss" in the Garage Theatre, Monaghan on 30th April & 1st May. Auditions were held for students and parents, under the direction of Krista Hamilton. There was a great interest from both parents, staff, students & friends and casting has taken place. The play is a hilarious, vintage style play and an evening of fun and laughter is promised.

The play takes place in the living room of the Galbraiths, a working class family, whose daughter Myra is considering marriage to a Country Man Denis Hall. His parents visit coinciding with the visit of an American couple, the Hingleheifers, and the regular visits of their next door neighbours, the Beatties.

Don't miss this first production of by Monaghan Collegiate Players. Tickets available from School Office.

Transition Year Road Safety Awareness by Lauren Hall

A few weeks ago, our Transition Year group went to a Road Safety Awareness event in the Hilgrove Hotel. We were joined by TYs from other schools in Monaghan town. The day was organised to show young drivers the effects of driving and the importance of safety.

The day was separated into three parts. We were firstly given a presentation from Dr. Butt from Cavan General Hospital's Accident and Emergency department. We were then brought into a dark room and shown real life videos of car accidents from the Gardai. The Guards told us an array of true incidents that happened as a result of careless driving.

We then went outside to a simulator

which was a car which span around to show us how it would feel to be in a car accident and just how beneficial and importance a seat belt is. We were told the consequences of not wearing your seat belt, which was quite disturbing to hear.

For the third section, we went into the main function room. We had a road safety demonstration from Rally School Ireland. Three young rally drivers showed us their equipment and safety precautions from Rallying. This showed us just how different it is driving in a rally environment and on everyday roads. Finally, a family member of a victim spoke to us about her experience losing her son. It suddenly made us realise how much of a reality it was and

how it could happen to anybody. She made us all realise the effects our careless driving could have on our parents, and it was definitely an emotional time. An undertaker then spoke to us showing us his work preparing a body to make it a comfortable experience for the family.

This day was, in my opinion, the most beneficial event we have been to. Throughout the day there was nothing held back, causing fear and some tears. It made us see the importance of safety. It was very well organised and the intensity of it all made it an eye opening experience. Thank to all involved.

Our thanks to Monaghan Rotary Club was hosting this event.

Monaghan Collegiate VS Cavan Royal by David Mc Conkey Form 4

It was a cold, soaking wet day in late January when both rival teams took to the pitch. It wasn't hard to see that the 'friendly' match would be a tough contest. From the kick off, which Monaghan collected, Cavan Royal School were up and the first huge hit of this match was made. Both contested the rucks and scrums well, even with the conditions of the pitch. Monaghan got the first try after a few strong runs through the Royal's defence and good offloads allowed an easy run under the roots.

The rest of the half was a scrappy contest with only two tries separating the sides at half time.

As more of a crowd gathered, both teams lined out again. The Collegiate then gathered speed and began to put Cavan under pressure on their own line. The Collegiate scored another two tries from more strong rucking, running and smart plays in the backs. The fifth and final try went to the Collegiate in the last play of the match. Both teams

showed respect during and after the match, thanks also to Malcolm Allister, who is a past pupil, who was the referee on the day.



Transition Year Ski Trip by Naomi Condell Form 4

The ski trip is highly anticipated each year by the Transition Year students and I can certainly see why. This year we went to Ehrwald, Austria staying in large wooden cabins, a new experience for many students. While on our trip we met with another school from Co. Cork, it was great to meet people from home. The trip provided us with the opportunity

to learn a new skill. On the first day of the trip we learned the basics of skiing, such as learning how to stop, an essential skill, and also how to snow plough. Over the next few days as our skills developed we travelled to a different resort to experience new slopes. We were fortunate to experience real snow. In the evenings there were various activities to

keep us all entertained, such as rifle shooting, ice skating, swimming and fancy dress! The trip was an enjoyable and once in a lifetime experience. I would highly recommend the ski trip, it is a week that many students will never forget. Thanks to all the teachers who accompanied us on the trip.

A Modern Christmas Carol Photographs on the Night.



Taste of Monaghan by Rebecca Ross Form 4

During cookery class with our teacher Mrs. Sloan, we were told about the Taste of Monaghan Cookery Competition. It sounded interesting and fun. I took an application form and filled it out. Firstly, we had to research a dish that could be made within 30 minutes and that used leftover foods. I found a dish online which caught my eye because it sounded unusual. This turned out to be the dish that helped me to win the competition. It was called *Potato, Brie, Sausage and Sage Patties*. To complete my dish I served the patties with garlic green beans and cranberry sauce. We filled out another form, explaining what our dish was and why we chose it. These were then sent to committee in charge of the competition to be judged. The judges had to pick out five recipes from all of the applicants from the schools in county Monaghan. A week or so later, we got word back to say that Sophie Knox and I had been chosen as

finalists and we would be going on Friday 4th October to cook our dish live in the Taste of Monaghan marquee. There were two other finalists from Beechhill College and another finalist



from St. Macartan's College. We were a bit nervous on the day, but we carried on and all our dishes looked and tasted great. I enjoyed taking part in the competition and was very happy when I was awarded first place. Thank you to all those involved in the competition and to Mrs. Sloan for all her help.

MS Read-a-thon

By Rachel Smyth Form 5

From October 11th to November 11th 2013 our 1st and 2nd year student participated in the MS Read-a-thon. The Read-a-thon is when people read in aid of gathering money to support individuals suffering from Multiple Sclerosis. Our students did extremely well and raised €680 in total for this worthy cause.

This money will go towards offering support services to MS sufferers throughout Ireland. It was a very enjoyable experience, will improve reading skills and most importantly support a worthy cause. Thanks to all those who participated and to Ms. McCaffrey.

