



Monaghan Collegiate School

Summer 2014

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Welcome to our Newsletter



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Dates to note

- * State Examinations 4th June—20th June 2014
- * CAO change of mind closes on 1st July 2014 at 5 pm.
- * SUSI— Third Level Grant see www.studentfinance.ie Tel: 076 1087874
- * Leaving Certificate Results Wednesday 13th August 2014 at 9.00 am.
- * Junior Certificate results Wednesday 10th September 2014 at 3.30 pm.

A message from the Principal Mr. Johnston Reid

The recurrent theme of my letters appears to be my moaning about the accelerating passage of time, so in this message for the Newsletter I will just point to the imminence of the school holidays and the hope of an opportunity for all to have a time of rest and relaxation.

The Editorial Board of the Newsletter has again been weaving its magic so as to produce a com-

prehensive report of life in school over the past few months. Life has been hectic and the students involved in the Newsletter have been attending and recording events to report them to their readership. On behalf of the school I want to acknowledge all their hard work and that of the staff involved, and I commend this publication to you for your perusal.

We wish every success to all our examination candidates.

Finally let me wish you and your family a very pleasant and peaceful summer.

Principal



Newsletter Committee

The Newsletter met again in January 2014. Articles that have been published were researched by Tracey Farrell, Shannon Forde, Emma Hall, Shirley John, Aimee Mc Caffrey, Ellen Mc Dermott, Pamela McMahon, Mariia Novikova, Rachel Smyth and Natasha Wilson. The Committee would like to extend

thanks for the support from Ms. Mc Caffrey, Mrs. Siobhan O' Connor, School Administrator. We would also like to extend our appreciation for the contributions made by the current Transition Year students to the Newsletter.

Finally, thank you to those who contributed and helped with the articles in any way.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of our School Newsletter.



Easter Service - Shirley John Form 5

Our annual Easter Service here at the Collegiate was a great event at which the whole student body, including the parents, the members of staff, the Board of Management and the Board of Governors were assembled. It was truly a magnificent gathering in reverence of the death and resurrection of Christ.

To commence the service, the Principal, Mr. Reid, gave a short word of welcome to the audience and introduced Rev. Agnew, a member of the Board, to start the service with an opening prayer. A passage from the Book of Isaiah was then read by a member of staff, Mr. Dugdale, before the congregation,

accompanied by Lauren Hall on the keyboard, sang the hymn "How Deep The Father's Love". It was clear that the service was a lovely joint effort between staff, pupils and members of the school community. After this, the Head Girl Elect, Lauren Nolan read, followed by a song from the school choir, "Celebrate, Jesus, Celebrate", directed by Ms. Fleming. Another reading from the Book of John was also read by Head Boy Elect Aaron Smith. A beautiful solo was sung by fifth year student Ellen McDermott, accompanied on the guitar by fellow fifth year, Natasha Wilson, after a piano solo from Nicole Finn,

3rd year. The musical accompaniments created a calm and peaceful atmosphere during the service. A short yet effective piece on The Passion of Christ was then re-enacted by a group of Fifth Year students, after which the Easter message was conveyed by Archdeacon Helen Steed.

In closing, the hymn, "See What a Morning" was sung by the congregation, accompanied by Rebecca Ross followed by the Benediction from Canon Ian Berry. It was a truly beautiful gathering that really reminded the school community of the true meaning of Easter.

Farewell to Rev. Daniel Reyes Martin - Aimee McCaffrey Form 5

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Rev. Daniel Reyes Martin in November 2013. Rev. Reyes Martin was Chairperson of the Board of Management and was a great support to management, staff and pupils of Monaghan Collegiate School.

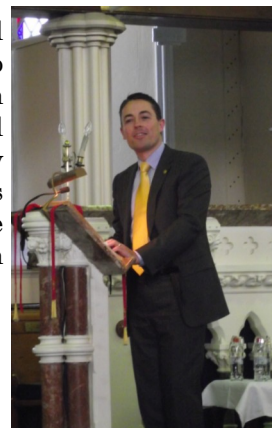
He not only was Chairperson of the Board of Management but also served as Minister of Ballyalbany and Glen-

nan Presbyterian Churches from October 2008 to November 2013.

Rev. Daniel followed God's calling and moved south to Kilkenny Presbyterian Church. With deep sadness we learned of the passing of Rev. Daniel's father in Spain in April 2014.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to all the family. We would also like to wish Daniel,

Ruth and their two children David and Miriam every blessing as they settle into life in Kilkenny.



UCAS - Natasha Wilson Form 5

On March 5th 2014, our Form Five students attended the UCAS Northern Convention in the Kings Hall Belfast, accompanied by Ms. Murnaghan, Ms. Windrum and Mr. Reid.

The convention gave students time to explore career options as universities and colleges from the UK

were highly represented. There were also representatives from some of the higher education institutions in the Republic of Ireland.

The day was enjoyed by all those who attended and it is highly recommended for incoming students to Form Five next year as it was well organised and offered a wide

UCAS

variety of information about third level education in the United Kingdom.

Fifth Form look forward to attending the Higher Options Exhibition in Dublin next September.

Our thanks to Ms. Murnaghan for her Careers advice and support during the year.

International Day - Tracey Farrell Form 5

On Wednesday the 9th of April, Monaghan Collegiate School held an International Day in which many of the pupils were involved. The day was a success and was greatly enjoyed by both the students, staff, parents and the host families. Everyone gathered in the sports hall throughout the day for the event. Members of the parents association and the Board of Governors also attended. The Vn. Helen Steele, newly appointed Archdeacon of Clogher, opened the day by giving an inspirational

speech. Our sincere best wishes to the Vn. Steed on her appointment.

Some of the countries involved in the International Day were, Ireland, Germany, Japan, Scotland, Switzerland, Spain, Mexico, Thailand, Korea, Brazil, Russia,



France, South Africa, Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, and Taiwan, to name just a few.

Each country had an individual stall in which a student had decorated with the significant flag of their country and different types of food associated with the country. The audience was also granted the privilege of viewing traditional dances.

Thank you to all those who took part and attended the event and thank you to Ms. Wright-Kendrick

International Day - Mariia Novikova Form 5

The International Day from an international perspective had a lot of success in Monaghan Collegiate School. Our first visitors seemed so excited to see the tables full of traditional items, decorations and of course, food.

It was only the beginning, after lunchtime the main event began. The amount of food on the tables increased and the overseas students talked about their countries. All the tables on display seemed to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

The most colourful table won First place, Monika Lukosiute from Lithuania. I asked her what she thought about the event,

"I really enjoyed International Day

because it was nice meeting people of many different nationalities. It was nice to get to know their cultures and traditions better. Knowledge is a path to friendship."

After Monika was awarded her prize, students did a performance, each of them prepared a Powerpoint presentation about their countries and some of them even performed their national dance.

Shirley John who also took part in the event stated "I think International Day is a great way for the students to get to know each outside an academic level. It's fascinating to see the richness of diversity the school harbours."

In my opinion, the International Day was amazing a memorable

event. I want to say thank you to all the people involved and to those who attended the event, it was great fun.



Lost and Found - Shannon Forde Form 5

Over the year, a lot of items of clothing or personal belongings have been misplaced or forgotten and are now in the lost and found.

It would be greatly appreciated that if anyone has lost anything, that they contact the office and reclaim their possessions.

All garments are in good condition, any further enquiries please contact the school office. I would also like to encourage everyone to label their belongings and look after them carefully.

Monaghan Collegiate Basketball - Pamela Mc Mahon Form 5

The second year girl's basketball team won the North East Regional League. They defeated St. Oliver's Secondary School Drogheda in the final, with a winning score of 46-24. The team members were Kelly Mc Cormill (captain), Lucinda Kinghan, Lauren Allister, Sally Burko, Naomi Windrum, Abbey Killoran, Emma Geary, Kirsten Spain, Charlotte Mc Mahon, Ciara Woods, Hannah Cullen, Avril Mackarel, Gemma Treanor, Mollie Molloy and Sandra Mancewitz.

Our first year girls basketball team lost narrowly in the semi final to the eventual winners, St. Oliver's, Drogheda. Mr. Dugdale (basketball coach), was very happy

with the performance of all the school basketball teams this year. The school for the first time had a boy's basketball team at 1st and 2nd year levels, with the boys representing themselves well on the court. The teams have progressed over the season.

The girls under16 team and the girl's second year team won their respective leagues, with convincing wins in both finals. Well done to all!

Vince Lombardi, a famous American sportsman once said, "Winning means you're willing to go longer, work

harder and give more than anyone else." A fitting thought for the teams as they conclude the school year and reflect on this year's sporting events.



Seachtain na Gaeilge - Pamela Mc Mahon

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ag Scoil Choláisteach Mhuineacháin ón gcéad lá Márta go dtí an seachtú lá déag Márta. Bhí a lán imeachtaí eagraithe timpeall na Scoile i rith na seachtaine.



There were a variety of different events taking place in the school over the week including; a Poster Competition, a Seisiún Ceoil, Cíilí dancing, Tráth na gCeist agus Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine.

The poster competition was organised for 1st and 2nd year classes under the theme of "Seanfhocail na Gaeilge" Prizes were awarded for the top four posters in each class.

The Transition Year group along

with the foreign exchange students took part in a Céilí dancing session on Friday 14th. Bríd Donnelly was invited to the school as the dance instructor. All the students participated in the dances which included Ionsaí na hInse (Seige of Ennis), Ballaí na Luimnigh (Walls of Limerick) and Port an Fhómhar (Harvest Time Jig) and each and everyone of them thoroughly enjoyed the activities. Mr. Killoran thanked Bríd for her enthusiastic approach to the lesson. He said it was "Go hiontach agus go hálainn ar fad".

A Seisiún Ceoil was organised in the school lobby during lunchtime on Friday 14th March. A crowd gathered around to listen to the beautiful music that was played by Michaela Treanor, Rebecca Breakey, James Boyd, Nicole Finn and Levana Courtney.

A Tráth na gCeist took place with the

1st and 2nd years between the Irish teachers Mr. McDonald and Mr. Trainor. It consisted of the two years being divided into groups and competing against each other for small prizes.

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar fheabhas. Ghlac idir na daltaí agus na múinteoirí páirt sna himeachtaí agus bhí an chraic go hiontach.

Ba sheachtain rathúil í Seachtain na Gaeilge I mbliana agus ba shampla iontach í de Mhana na Scoile; Obair le chéile, flourish as individuals (bláthú mar dhuine aonair).



Enterprise Awards - Rachel Smyth and Natasha Wilson

On March 4th 2014, four TY mini-company teams participated in the student enterprise awards, held by the Monaghan County Enterprise Board. The event took place in the Four Seasons Monaghan and was attended by all secondary schools in Monaghan. The teams from Monaghan Collegiate were "DS Woodcrafts", "Delicious Nice Recipes", "Bizarre Bracelets", and "Puzzles". Following a successful

sale of work in November 2013, two teams from MCS were awarded prizes in the senior category.



"Delicious Nice Recipes", set up by Diane Allen, Natalie Kinghan and Rebecca Ross won 2nd prize and "DS Woodcrafts" set up by Dean Wilson and Stuart Allen were awarded 3rd place. Both teams were awarded money for their school and qualified for nationals in Croke Park later this year. We

would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the teams that took



part and wish them continued success in the future.

Ms. Murnaghan would like to encourage the current Third Year



pupils to start thinking about their mini company ideas for next year.

Forget Me Not - Shirley John

Rowan Greig, a Junior Cert student, was involved with **Sharp Focus: Crossing the Divide**, which is a cross border film project that works with teenagers with an interest in drama and that also helps promote peace between the North and South.

This production wrote and directed a series of films, one of them being "Forget Me Not" in which Rowan and members of the Monaghan Youth Theatre were involved in, including Krista Hamilton who directed this years school play "Wedding Fever"

This short film is centred around the topic of conflict, particularly "The Troubles". Before the shooting of this film, Rowan and those involved listened to the tales of people affected by the Belfast

Troubles. One that impacted immensely on Rowan was the documentary of a man who not only lost his leg in a bomb but also his house and family. This raw emotion felt was then placed into the film to make it as real and effective for everyone involved. In the film, Rowan is involved with a gang that nearly killed an innocent, old woman during a flash mob.

Apart from the joy of the whole experience, Rowan tells us that his favourite highlights were attending the premiere of the movie at Belfast Waterfront Hall and in the Dublin Lighthouse Cinema at which he met Jack Rieymor, the new lead for the films "Transformers" and "The Delivery Man"

Rowan said it was excellent time spent, a great way to make new friends and get involved in a good cause.

He would love to do this again and urges all interested in the Arts to also join up.



Transition Year Review - Amber Harrison Form 4

Transition year is a worthwhile experience as it gives students a break from some of the stress of studying for rigorous state examinations. This year, Transition Year has been great. There was a lot to get involved in, inside and outside school. For a lot of the students the main events of the year were the Transition Year play "A Modern Christmas Carol" and the skiing trip to Austria. The play was a very productive event for us as a lot of the students had never acted before. It was a great night and everyone wanted to do the play all over again!

Skiing was also an amazing experience and everyone was sad to leave. All the activities offered to us on the trip were really

enjoyable. There was a ski show, ice skating, shooting and swimming. We also got to see the city of Innsbruck which was a lovely quaint city.



These events were only a few of the highlights of Transition Year. We also had three weeks work experience. It was a really good opportunity to get out into the working world and look for placement. Looking for work experience has given the students a taste of what their future will be like. We now know that it is not easy to get work. Work experience has helped a lot of students with their career choice which is such an important and difficult decision. We also got to go to Junk Kouture to see Nicole Mc Carron model the dress Ria O' Connor made from

recycled material. It was amazing to see Ria and Nicole get so far in the competition. Nicole got the experience of modelling in the O2 in Dublin. Ria made an amazing outfit and it was a great way to spend her time in Transition Year.

We were also involved in The Bronze Gaisce Award, collecting money for various charities and we were taken on a few day trips. Transition Year is a great opportunity to get involved in events and I would advise everyone to get involved in everything they can and make the best of it. Our thanks to Mrs. Rowntree, TY Coordinator and all the staff involved in making the year so special.



Leavers Service by Committee

On Tuesday, 20th May, Sixth Years, members of staff and the Board of Governors & Management attended the Annual Leavers Service. The Service was

opened by Mr. Reid who wished the Sixth Years success in their exams. There was an 800 euro Bursary from Monaghan Credit Union which was won by Stephanie Graham.

The Service continued with motivational speeches given by Canon Ian Berry, Mr. Reid and Mr. Killoran. The current Head Boy and Girl Adam Dudgeon and Erin Steenson gave emotional speeches to fellow students and teachers about their time in school over the last six years. There was then a Powerpoint presentation of photographs of the

students memories. The Service concluded with gift presentations to teachers and photograph presentations to students. The service was concluded with a prayer from Bishop John Mc Dowell.



Junk Kouture - Ellen Mc Dermott Form 5

On Friday 2nd May, Junk Kouture took to the big stage in Ireland's premiere venue, The O2, home to world famous artists. For its fourth year, Junk Kouture showcased Ireland's best student designers,



making outfits from recycled material such as chicken wire, electric cables, milk bottles and even bubble gum wrap. Around 80 finalists, from across Ireland put their designs on display, on Dublin's ultimate catwalk.

Ria O' Connor's creation

"The Lost Queen" was exhibited in the last 20 finalists. The dress, modelled by Nicole Mc Carron, wowed everyone. Ria used discarded chicken wire, bubble wrap, sponge and old remnants of hand weaving from a local weaver, Liz Cristy. The bodice is made from

plaited bin bags, old linen and ribbon. She also used striped back telephone wire in the design of the shoes and collar. Her design is inspired by the costume of many queens of the past and tells the story of a girl going from rags to riches through the use of colour and materials used. The supporters from the school cheered her on with colourful banners, as Nicole gracefully showed off Ria's meticulous creation.

Hundreds of students applied for the competition with their designs, but only 20 of the best outfits got to the final. "The Lost Queen" didn't disappoint and was among them. The overall winner in the Grand Finale however, was from Athlone. The design was named

"Pine-A-Coladas", an outfit made from rope, pine cones and dried pineapple. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all and hopefully we will have another entry in the final next year. Thanks to all those who were supportive on the night, and those who got involved and helped Ria to the final.



Teacher Student Football - Rachel Smyth Form 5

On Friday during lunch time Collegiate teachers, Mr. Mc Donald, Mr. Pollock, Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Killoran team up and play against a team of students including, Aaron Allister, Adam Dudgeon, Carl Foentjies and Aaron Maxwell.

Both teams compete at high standard. However, much to the 6th Form's dismay, the final match played by the Sixth Years ended in defeat. All participants find this activity enjoyable and it is

a great example of the extra-curricular activities that take place during the school year.



Physics and Agricultural Science Activities

On January 10th 2014 Senior Physics students and their teacher Mrs. Rowntree travelled to NUI Maynooth for an afternoon of Leaving Certificate Physics Practical Examination. This was a wonderful opportunity for revision and for using different equipment to complete particular experiments. Students stated it was a worthwhile experience.

Our thanks to all members of staff for organising many interesting educational, cultural & recreational day trips during the year. They really have added to our educational experience.



Sports Day was organised on Wednesday 28th May in the school grounds. The day consisted of activities which included: football, basketball, unihoc, rounders and tennis. There were a number of competitions running throughout the day such as sprints, relays, javelin throwing, long jump and high jump with the students eager to beat their fellow classmates. After lunch, the atmosphere was intense as there was an entertaining and competitive students versus teachers rounders game. There was also a pleasant surprise for the students as Mr. Reid, Mr. Dugdale & staff handed out ice cream, juice & chocolate to all involved. Overall sports day was a huge success with everyone participating and enjoying the sporting fun and the weather.



Wedding Fever - Emma Hall Form 5

“Wedding Fever” by Sam Cree was brought to the stage of the Garage Theatre Monaghan by the “Collegiate Players” a drama group formed from a mix of parents, teachers, pupils and friends of Monaghan Collegiate School.

David Maxwell, the Chairperson of the Parents Association, was one of the driving forces behind this pro-

duction. His enthusiasm was infectious and mirrored the enthusiasm of the entire cast who should be praised for their dedication to this project.

The play ran for a total of three nights and was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience who even gave a standing ovation. The feedback was extremely positive with the audience commenting “I haven’t laughed as much in years” and “I haven’t had so many laughs in a long time.”

Director Krista Rushing-Hamilton praised her cast by saying how proud she was of everyone. She complimented everyone on how hard they worked giving the audience the “gift of laughter”. The Play was a great fundraiser for the



School. Most of the cast were novice actors but all really enjoyed the experience highlighting the school motto **“Working Together to Flourish as Individuals”**.

