



# Monaghan Collegiate School

End of Year 2015/2016

Telephone 047 82060 or 047 82405

Fax 047 71895



The School Community wish Mr. Elliott and Mrs. Moffett each, a long and happy retirement and thank them for them for their lifetime of service to the School.

## Welcome to our Newsletter

Newsletter June 2016

It is a tall order to capture the mood of a vibrant and dynamic school in a few short pages of the School Newsletter. It is a similar skill to reporting on live football where enthusiasm and accuracy, dramatic and routine have to blend together.

I think when you read this edition of the Newsletter you will agree that our young reporters have done a very good job in conveying that sense of being really alive and relevant, while remaining true to the natural style and language of the young.

On behalf of the Management 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.

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

Yours in education,

Johnston T Reid

Principal.

*Best wishes to past pupil and former Deputy Head Girl Pamela Allen who is the Monaghan Rose representative for the Rose of Tralee. Pamela studied Nursing at Trinity College and is nursing in Tallaght Hospital.*



### Inside this issue:

Easter Service	2
S.U. Weekend	2
Computer Update	3
International Day	4
Past Pupil Interview	5
TY Activities	8
Girl's Rugby	8

### Dates to remember:

- \* August 17th 2016 Leaving Certificate Results.
- \* 14th September Junior Certificate September Results.
- \* SUSI Grant for Third Level now open.
- \* Contact School office or visit [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) for change of mind details for 3rd level 2016.

## The Newsletter Committee by Tracey Patterson

It's the end of another busy school year, in which many activities occurred. From reaching the Junk Kouture final to the girl's rugby team placing third in their rugby tournament, it has been an exciting year for all students and staff at Monaghan Collegiate School. Of course we would like to say a big thanks to Ms. Mc

Caffrey, who facilitates the newsletter committee and ensures everything runs smoothly. We would also like to say thanks to Siobhan O' Connor for all her support during the year. This year's committee consisted of Amy Allister, Darren Brown, Sally Burko, Naomi Condell, Hannah Dudgeon, Rory Gallagher, Emma Geary,

Amber Harrison, Sophie Knox, Lucy Mackarel, Abigail Mc Geough, Lucy Nelson and Tracey Patterson. Also we would like to thank those who contributed and helped with the preparation of the newsletter in any way. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter, and look forward to what next year will have in store.

## Easter Service by Sophie Knox

On Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> March, the pupils, staff of Monaghan Collegiate School, along with the wider community gathered in the school's sports hall for the annual Easter Service. The service was a fitting



way to conclude another term at our school. Many thanks should be given to those who read on the day, which included Deputy Head Boy, Richard Martin and Deputy Head Girl, Naomi Condell. A big thank you to the staff who contributed on the day, including, Ms. Murnaghan and Mrs. Caulfield. Abigail Finlay, Form 1, read an empowering Easter monologue from Mary Magdalene's viewpoint. It was a very moving reading and brought our attention to the real meaning of Easter. We

are indebted to our school choir who sang so beautifully under the guidance of musical directors Mr. Lovett and Mrs. Sloan. Mrs. Hollinger preformed a solo, 'The Night Before Easter' accompanied by the school choir. The music greatly added to the enjoyment of the service. Joining us on the day were Rev. S. Mc Nie and Rev. N. Cardwell who gave the Easter address. The Easter service provided a lovely lead into the Easter holidays and it was an event enjoyed by all.

## SU Weekend by Tracey Patterson



On Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> February, the annual Scripture Union Weekend took place in the Faith Mission Centre in Portadown. We departed after school on Friday evening and made our way to Portadown, stopping off at Mr. Reid's church in Armagh. There we had a home cooked meal of shepherd's pie which even came with ice cream as dessert. We then attended a service with Rev. Sam Finlay speaking to us and teaching important lessons to us about Christianity. After a late night of playing pool and organising rooms and teams, we had some enlightening quiet time in small intimate groups, which I think was one of the most beneficial parts of the weekend. After about two hours sleep, we all rose early the next morning not so

delicious breakfast and the staff spoke to us about their faith and their experiences as both a secondary school student and as a college student, and advised us on how to be a good Christian despite the situations we may be in. We departed a while later to go roller blading, a sore experience for some but a pleasant experience for all.



We also went for a walk around a scenic park, which was a lovely

addition to the day. We even got to make the most of a short trip to Rushmere, where we got some amazing food and bought some nice clothes. When we returned, we had supper and watched a movie, and we played fun team games where everyone got involved and enjoyed themselves. There was also a quiz that night and then we had another quiet time before we all hit the hay knowing another early morning was awaiting all of us. Again we rose, tired and some of us grumpy, and had our last quiet time and had breakfast before we departed for Church. We enjoyed the service despite being tired, and we packed up our stuff and tidied our rooms when we got back. We left the Faith Mission Centre later that day after a group meeting and a group photograph, and made our way home, where I'm sure most of us had a much needed snooze. Overall, the SU weekend was both a fun and enlightening experience to all who attended and I think it brought us all closer together and helped us to bond in our faith.

## Computers by Rory Gallagher

The world is still evolving at a rapid rate, and at Monaghan Collegiate School, we strive to stay at the forefront of innovation and technology. Our school has recently invested in purchasing 75 new computers to enhance and improve the students' IT skills.

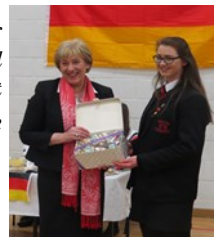
These computers feature new wide-screen monitors, faster processors and overall better performance. Each student has been assigned their own personal login credentials, to make it easier and more secure for them to access all of their own work. The computer room has been outfitted with brand new office chairs to reduce back

strain and allow students to focus on their work for longer periods of time. All computer files in the school have been moved onto a new server, which can be accessed from each desktop.

Computers are a fundamental aspect of second-level education, as students can conduct research online, complete class work and take online courses such as ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) and the 'Choose Safety' programme from the HSA. The computers are also a valuable resource for senior cycle students when completing their CAO and UCAS applications for third-level.

As well as the new desktop computers, our school has also received some new overhead projectors for the classroom smart-boards. These boards are vital for today's classes. They are effective teaching tools for our teachers as they provide a more engaging and interactive learning experience for students. Overall, these improvements to our schools' IT facilities will make it even easier for us to work together to flourish as individuals.

*Pictured is Minister Humphreys and Head Girl Natalie Kinghan at a recent visit to the school.*



## Enterprise Awards by Lucy Nelson

Every year, as part of a Transition Year module, TY's get involved in Mini Company. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016, Ms. Murnaghan took the mini companies to the Four Seasons for the County Enterprise Awards. Ms. Murnaghan also runs Junior and Intermediate mini companies and they meet every Tuesday at lunch time and occasionally sell their fantastic products in the school. One junior mini company entered the County Enterprise Awards and one Intermediate. We were delighted when 'Castlebridge Candles', a mini company set up by

Lucinda Kinghan, Kelly McCormill and Naomi Windrum won second place for innovation in the whole of Monaghan in the senior company.



'Kustom Cupcakes' to Croke Park in Dublin.

They left at 7am and it was a very enjoyable day. Ms. Murnaghan commented that, 'there were fantastic innovative products from all over the country'. Nicole and Jennifer set up a beautiful stand embellished with decoration and their mouth watering cupcakes. Everyone really enjoyed the day and the competition was amazing.



'Kustom Kupcakes', created by Jennifer Doran and Nicole Wilson won first place in the intermediate category and moved on to Croke Park to compete nationally. 'Kustom Cupcakes' are beautifully decorated cupcakes that are all homemade and they looked fabulous for the County Enterprise Awards. On Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> April Ms. Murnaghan took the very excited Monaghan winners,





## International Day by Darren Brown

International Day is an annual event at Monaghan Collegiate School. It allows Irish students to embrace the different cultures of the exchange students that attend our school. On the 14<sup>th</sup> March, Ms. Wright, the Student's Council and the exchange students created a memorable event. The event was opened by Minister Humphreys; Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gael-tacht. Each stall on the day showed the school community their national flag, various foods native to the country and costumes that are traditionally worn in the student's home countries.

As well as the International students, the Irish students also got involved in the day. Readings of Irish poems and a showcase of

Irish dancing allowed the local students to feel part of the festivities. The day was open to the public and we received a large turnout from the wider school community. The Students Council was heavily involved in the event, serving tea and ushering. After each country had showcased their country it was up to Minister Humphreys to pick which countries were placed. I couldn't have agreed more with the overall decision on the day. In third place we had Italy. Mexico were runners up and Japan were the winners of the 2016 International Day.

After speaking to a number of the International students from

Form 4 and Form 5, they all provided me with a lot of positive feedback about the event. They said that the day made them feel welcome in MCS and it also made them feel immensely proud of their home country. The standard has now been set for next year's International and Irish students!



## Knights of the Borrowed Dark by Emma Geary

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> years students received a pre-published version of the *Knights of the Borrowed Dark* by Dave Rudden, some of the eager Form 2 students took it in turns to read the book. The book was published earlier in April. This was a very unique opportunity as they got a chance to read the book before it was published in Ireland or England. Dave Rudden is from Cavan. *Knights of the Borrowed Dark* is about a boy called Denizen Hardwick who is an orphan. Denizen doesn't believe in magic until he's ambushed by a monster created from shadows and sees it destroyed by a word made of sunlight. In the book Denizen is about to discover that there's a world beyond the one he knows, a world of living darkness where an unseen enemy awaits.

As the book notes, 'Fortunately for

humanity, between us and the shadows stand the Knights of the Borrowed Dark.'

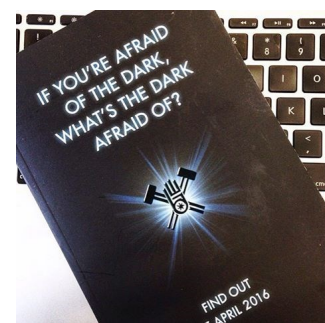
### Review by Anna Berry Form 2

I really enjoyed the book *Knights of the Borrowed Dark* by Dave Rudden. At the start it took me a while to understand the characters, setting and the story as it was nothing like I had read before. When I read more of the book I got to know the characters and most were likeable. I liked that it mentioned Dublin, although the story took place in other worlds, the world of the orphanage and Seraphim Row.

The main character Denizen was funny, entertaining, clever and he seemed relatable. The plot was

gripping and exciting and I always wanted to read on. There is an unexpected twist at the end which I found surprising, but I thought that it was a satisfying ending.

Overall I loved the book. I thought it was unique, entertaining, gripping, exciting and an adventurous book. It left me wondering about what will happen next to Denizen and his friends and family?



## Past Pupil Interview with Dr. Jade Pollock by Luke Pollock

**Jade Pollock returned to the Collegiate this year to speak to Form 3 about Cancer Research.**

**Can you give a brief description of your life after the Collegiate?**

As soon as I left the Collegiate, I moved to Dublin and spent eight years living and studying in the city. I had always wanted to study for my degree in Trinity College, and was lucky enough to receive a place in their Natural Sciences course in 2011. Aside from studying, I was really involved in college life and took any opportunity to travel abroad.

**What was it like to return to the Collegiate, after completing your PhD?**

It was exciting to come back and see the changes around the school and to catch up with those teachers I had during my time there. Returning reminds you how your school life shapes your future career. It was lovely to see such an increase in international students studying in the Collegiate too, which is quite similar to being in University.

**Can you give a brief description of your current role?**

I currently work as a Clinical Scientist in oncology. This role involves laboratory testing of human patient samples for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of disease, and can lead to cancer patients being enrolled in clinical trials for new treatments, which is one of the greatest parts of my job.

**What motivated you to follow this career path?/How did you decide which route to take after leaving secondary school?**

After my Leaving Certificate, I was unsure of my next move. As I loved Biology, I decided to study Natural Sciences, specialising in Biochemistry. I really developed an interest in cancer research and applied for funding to study my Ph.D. through Trinity College. I spent four years researching the effects of new cancer drugs and decided to move into clinical science, which allows me to have more involvement in healthcare and patient diagnosis, while also using my background in Biochemistry.

**What was your favourite subject and why?**

In school my favourite subjects were P.E., because I'm pretty competitive and played basketball right up until I left (I still miss it!)

and Art, being creative I spent most of my spare time in the Art Room.

**How do you find the working world in comparison to school?**

The working world is great because you've chosen your own career and have a lot of independence, but school is such a great opportunity to try lots of different subjects, get involved in clubs and spent time with your friends. I would say I miss that about school, but I love what I do now.

**Have you any advice for senior cycle students on succeeding in the exams?**

I would say to study early and choose the subjects which reflect your strengths but will also allow you to apply for the course that interests you. It's a stressful time but will be made much easier if you enjoy the subject you're studying. We're always laughing at stories from our time at school, so definitely enjoy yourselves and make the most of it!



## Photos from International Day



## Balmoral by Bethan Hill



On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of May, Transition Year headed off to Balmoral Park for the annual Balmoral show along with Mr. Killoran and Mrs. Sharon Mc Kenna. Boarding the bus there was high spirits among the group. We all had our sunglasses at the ready as the sun was beating down.

When we arrived there at ten o'clock, we were set loose and most of us went straight to the food pavilion, where we were greeted with an abundance of free samples. There was yoghurt, cake, bread, crisps and even bacon jam!

Soon enough, we had eaten every-

thing we could and ventured further down the park to the machinery. The majority of the girls walked past it without a second glance but the boys were in their element! From forklifts to tractors and trailers, there was anything they could have dreamed of. We then came to the Agri Pavilion. Inside, there was cows and plenty of them. Every breed of cow was under the tent, washed and cleaned to perfection.

Around the park a bit, there was motor bike racing. These brave people were going over ramps and jumps on their bikes. It was scary to watch!

One of the highlights of the day for everyone was the amusements! The giant Ferris wheel was the first thing we saw when we arrived in Balmoral. We managed to take plenty of selfies at the top!

The weather just continued to improve and by the time three thirty came along, we were boiling. Bearing our free sunglasses and pens we hopped back on the bus and set off for Monaghan. We were back at the school by 5pm, exhausted from one of the highlights of our Transition Year.

## Athletics in MCS by Committee



On Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May three of our students headed up to Antrim to compete in the district D track and field school championships. Competitors from MCS were Thomas Mc Adam, Jamie Eakin and Emma Geary. Emma won the intermediate 300 metres and quali-

fied for the Ulster's. She won silver in the 1500m steeplechase at the Ulster school track and field on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> May and she has qualified to the track and field schools All-Irelands. She is looking forward to taking part. Emma has also had success outside school

with her athletic club Glaslough Harriers in winning two bronze Ulster medals in the indoor championship and qualifying for the All-Ireland indoor championships. Emma Geary has also been selected to compete for the Ulster Schools team in the Inter Provincial on 25th June 2016 in Dublin.

## First Aid by Sally Burko

Fourth years got to enjoy two whole days of learning the very practical and necessary skills of first aid. The facilitator that came in and talked about first aid, Philip, was very nice and explained everything very well. We learned the theory side of first aid and also the practical side of course. Some of the skills we learned were how to perform CPR, what to do if someone is choking, what to do if someone is bleeding, burned and

many more. At the end of the second day we were given random scenarios and were told to act using the information and actions we learned in the course. My drama skills had to be kicked in when I was asked to pretend I was choking and someone else would have to act and do something. The day was really interesting and also funny when we had to watch people acting out scenarios which ended with up with some kind of laughter



being thrown in. I definitely recommend students to do a first aid course because it is good to know and you never know when you might need to use it, but hopefully you won't need to use it. Overall the day was extremely enjoyable and the course is a worthwhile addition to the TY course. Thanks to all involved!



## Junk Kouture by Lucy Mackarel

We are into our fourth year of entering the trash, fashion competition. This year we had three teams creating innovative dresses from junk. The three groups got through to the semi finals in Londonderry. The semi final was held in the Millennium Forum and the three teams manned by Mrs. Creighton and Ms. Murnaghan arrived early in the morning to get into the dressing rooms and begin preparing be-

fore the show. 'Pistachio Punk' by Emma Geary and Bethan Hill was cleverly made from nut shells and newspapers. 'Lost to the Woods' was designed by Laura Clarke and myself. It was modelled by Malve Wilhelm and it was made from balewrap, broken CD's and building membrane.



It was an amazing day and night in which one team from our school, the dress designed by the very talented Nasha Wanichwecharungruang, going by the name 'Cloud 9', got through to the Dublin finals in the 3 arena. The team consisted of

Nasha, Chloe Smith and Charlotte Mc Mahon. This memorable costume was made from stuffing and cardboard cut outs with glitter.

'Cloud 9' took to the stage on April the 14<sup>th</sup> at the 3 Arena Dublin, with an enthusiastic team of 55 supporters. Sadly, they did not win a prize, but praise should be



awarded for making it through to Dublin.



## Slippery Slopes by Lauren Allister

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016, Ms. Wright, Mr. Pollock and Mr. McDonald bravely took on the massive task of bringing a very trustworthy group TY group to Italy on a ski trip. We set off on a Saturday afternoon, with an over excited bunch of teens arriving in San Valentino that evening. Ready to hit the slopes bright and early the next morning we went to get kitted out in the finest attire. The first lesson hilariously consisted of a lot of waddling, collisions and falling. By the second day most of us had got the hang of it, or so we thought.

Our evenings were made up of various activities like swimming, ice-skating, sports and general craic. We had a night of volleyball and soccer that suddenly turned competitive with the addition of Mr.

McDonald and Mr. Pollock rivaling it out for the top spot. On one of the evenings we also got to see a fantastic ski show in which one of our own students was involved in.

By the end of the week, we felt we were practically professionals and we were presented with certificates and our top skiers received prizes. The standard of skiing had increased significantly over the week.

We ended our stay in San Valentino in style, with a memorable fancy dress party. We had all sorts of outfits and makeup. On our final morning we set off for Verona where we played our part in being typical tourists for a while, as we visited the amphitheatre and Romeo and Juliet's balcony.

We were sad to leave but grateful that we could finally have a well needed catch up on sleep. We had an unforgettable week full of craic and good fun. We thoroughly enjoyed every moment and will look back and laugh in the years to come. Altogether it was a great trip and I would like to thank Ms. Wright, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Pollock for organising the trip and accompanying us on it.





## MCS Photos 2015-2016



## MCS Rugby by Kelly Mc Cormill

Our school rugby team started around Christmas time 2015, with the help of our coach Davy Mc Gregor. We competed in two blitzes, both of which were in Five Mile Town. Between both of those days we only lost one match in total, which meant we could go to the Aviva to play in the school All Irelands. There were a few complications before we got to the Aviva, some of our younger players were not allowed to play because they were not born before a certain date. Thankfully four of the older girls stepped up and said they would help us out so we wouldn't

excited too. Our first two months were to be played on the warm up pitch. We won both of these matches which meant we could continue on to play on the Aviva Stadium Dublin.

As we walked through the tunnel onto the pitch we were all so excit-

again, because we had scored the first try, we had won the game. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I turned around, all of the team and the supporters were kept in suspense, they were eagerly waiting to see what was happening. I began screaming and running, we all erupted in cheers.

The feeling of winning the plate



have to pull out. On the day of the blitz in the Aviva we got on the bus at the school to travel down to Dublin. We were all so nervous but

ed. The stadium was amazing. In our first match we lost, which meant we were then to play in the Plate final. We knew it was going to be a tough match, we knew we would have to be on top form if we wanted to win. We scored the first try of the match which was more important than we realised. By the end of the match it was a draw. The referee called myself up and also the other captain. There was to be two minutes of extra time and whatever team scored first won the match. The two minutes were up, still no team had scored. The referee called us both over

was the most amazing feeling ever. Let's just say it will be a day we will never forget. Playing in the Aviva is a once in a lifetime experience and it was made even better by the result. We were third in Ireland! Thanks to all involved.

