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Principal's Welcome

I am delighted to present the Scoil Uí Mhuirí Annual Report 2011/2012. This report marks another year of exceptional progress and success for all members of the Scoil Uí Mhuirí school community.

The commencement of the 2011/2012 academic year saw the highest number of students ever to start in Scoil Uí Mhuirí walk through the doors in August 2011 to embark on the next phase of their education. A total of 130 students commenced in 1st Year bringing the total student enrolment at the school to 580 students, representing an increase of almost 11% in one year.




As the school continues to expand and improve the quality of service it provides to an increasing and more diverse student population, Scoil Uí Mhuirí engaged in a number of key developments during the year. Significant among these was the opening of a four classroom extension in August 2011. The new wing has been kitted out to the highest standard and includes two general classrooms, a new Technology room and a new Art/Drawing room. The new extension was ready in time to accommodate everyone returning to the school after their summer break.

Other developments included the ratification of the school's Revised Admissions Policy, ratification of the school's E Learning Plan and a key focus on School Self Evaluation with several subject departments at the school engaging in a pilot of the Department of Education and Skills, Draft School Self Evaluation Guidelines. The support and development of staff in the delivery of high quality teaching and learning experiences for our students was supported by access to a range of Continuing Professional Development events and many of our students accessed training around Study Skills. A new Parents Room, supported by the Parents' Association also provided a base for expanding the range of courses available to Parents during the school year.

Towards the end of the school year, the Design Team appointed by Co. Louth VEC in early 2012 to design the new extension planned for the school held their first meeting at the school. The extension will be of a similar size to the existing school building which will mean an effective doubling of the accommodation at the school.

We in Scoil Uí Mhuirí can take great pride in our achievements both academic and non-academic during the 2011/2012 academic year. As we reflect on the school year, we also have fond memories of successes in state examinations, enterprise competitions, musicals, debating, science competitions, sports including soccer, gaelic, basketball, rugby, athletics, to name but a few.

And in the midst of our busy year, our students also took time out to organise fundraising events for many voluntary organisations including the Gary Kelly Cancer Centre, the local Hospice Movement, St. Vincent de Paul, the Irish Heart Foundation and the Samaritans. Our students' enthusiasm and commitment to these fundraising projects demonstrates to all of us here in Scoil Uí Mhuirí and to the wider community the level of awareness and understanding that our students have of the very important work carried out by these organisations. For all their work in this regard our students are to be commended.



This Annual Report contains an outline of the main activities, developments and initiatives that took place in Scoil Uí Mhuirí during the 2011/2012 academic year. It provides a flavour of the main curricular, co- curricular and extra- curricular activities that members of the school community have engaged in over the course of the year. The Annual Report provides you with a snapshot of a school year, therefore, we invite you to visit our school website, www.scoiluimhuiri.ie, on a regular basis to gain an insight into current highlights and developments at the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank the staff, both teaching and non-teaching at Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Our staff team are extremely committed to our students, their welfare and their learning. They have worked so hard throughout the year to ensure that our students achieve their full potential, whatever that may be and they have also given of their free time regularly to ensure that our students have opportunities to excel and avail of and participate in a variety of extra - curricular activities.

A word of thanks to our parents/guardians, the Board of Management and Co. Louth VEC for their continued support and co-operation throughout the school year.

We in Scoil Uí Mhuirí are very proud of our students' achievements both in school and outside during the 2011/2012 academic year. Our students' exemplary performance and achievements have brought great joy and a huge sense of pride to the school, their families and the local community. We look forward to continued success in the 2012/2013 school year.

Fiona Kindlon
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Overview and History of Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Scoil Uí Mhuirí is a vibrant, dynamic Post Primary school situated in the heart of the growing community of Dunleer, Co. Louth. The school has grown and developed since its opening in 1954 when 55 pupils were enrolled. Today there is a student cohort of over 600 with a teaching staff of 45.

The first major development for the school occurred in 1994 with the building of a new extension to the original school. In September 2006, students were finally able to take their seats in a new €5m extension which created a brand new state of the art school environment.

In August 2011, there was great excitement in the school as the latest expansion to the school's accommodation facilities threw open its doors to teachers and students. The latest wing has been kitted out to the highest of standards and includes two general classrooms, a new Technology room and a new Art/Drawing room.

The Department of Education and Skills has since sanctioned the construction of yet another multi-million euro extension at the school. The permanent extension will be of a similar size to the existing school building which will mean an effective doubling of the building infrastructure at the school. The new extension is currently at design stage and it is envisaged that the school will be in a position to accommodate 750 students by September 2014. This is an exciting time for Scoil Uí Mhuirí as it embarks on this latest phase of its development. This further extension to the school is an indication of the rapid growth the school is experiencing.

The school proudly serves the areas of Annagassan, Clogherhead, Fieldstown, Walshestown, Tenure, Philipstown, Dromin, Kilsaran, Togher and the growing region of Dunleer itself.

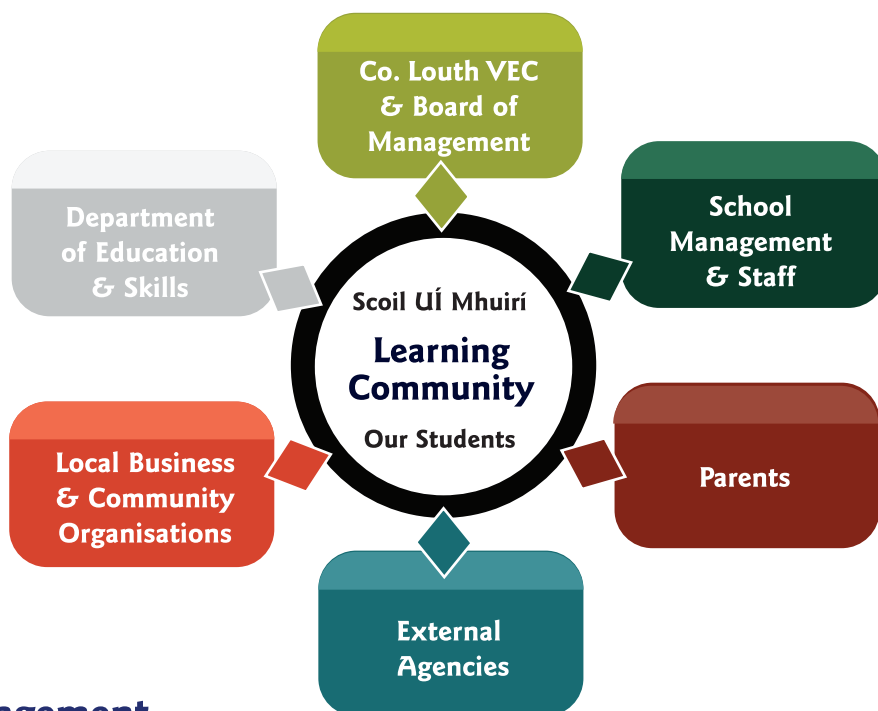
Having forged strong ties with the local community and industry, Scoil Uí Mhuirí is today rightfully regarded as a leading light of education in the North East Region.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí Mission Statement & Vision

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí we are a learning community committed to the development of the whole person within a context which values each of its members. In Scoil Uí Mhuirí we have a vision that all of our students will develop a love of learning and a keen sense of social responsibility through a positive and happy school experience.

We hope they will develop as caring, well-adjusted individuals, who will succeed in life and contribute positively to the wider community. Our caring and dedicated staff is committed to helping each student achieve his/her potential.



School Ownership and Management

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Post Primary school is owned by the Department of Education and Skills, and is administered as a learning centre by Co. Louth Vocational Education Committee. It is the policy of the Vocational Education Committee through the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Pádraig Kirk, to devolve responsibility for the day to day running of the school to the Board of Management and the senior management team comprising the Principal, Ms. Fiona Kindlon and the Deputy Principal, Mr. Ray Donagh.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Logo

Our school logo evolved from a joint artist in residence project between Scoil Uí Mhuirí and St. Olivers Community College in Drogheda, coordinated by County Louth VEC and funded by the Arts council. At the time an artist specialising in sculpture design was appointed to work with students in both schools and a different design theme was set for each school. Scoil Uí Mhuirí's theme was 'Newgrange' and the artist's brief was to work with as many students as possible from Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

At the time, class periods were organised to allow as many students as possible get involved. Student design activities included discussions, sketching and model development using a hot wire cutter to model ideas from polystyrene. A series of designs were developed but towards the end of the process one of our students at the time, Cathal Kierans came up with the design which today we use as our school logo.



Quite a creative achievement, it appears very geometrical but is actually based on the Newgrange solstice. So, if you walk around our sculpture you will eventually see through from one side to the other, if you see the light! Local company, Darby Engineering were selected to manufacture the final product. It was produced in sections and finally welded in place – not where it is today but in front of the old original school building. It was moved to its current location when the school was being extended a number of years ago.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí
Post Primary School

Our School Uniform

Students at Scoil Uí Mhuirí must dress according to the school's dress code and they should be proud to wear the Scoil Uí Mhuirí uniform. At all times students must remember that they represent their school community when wearing their school uniform.



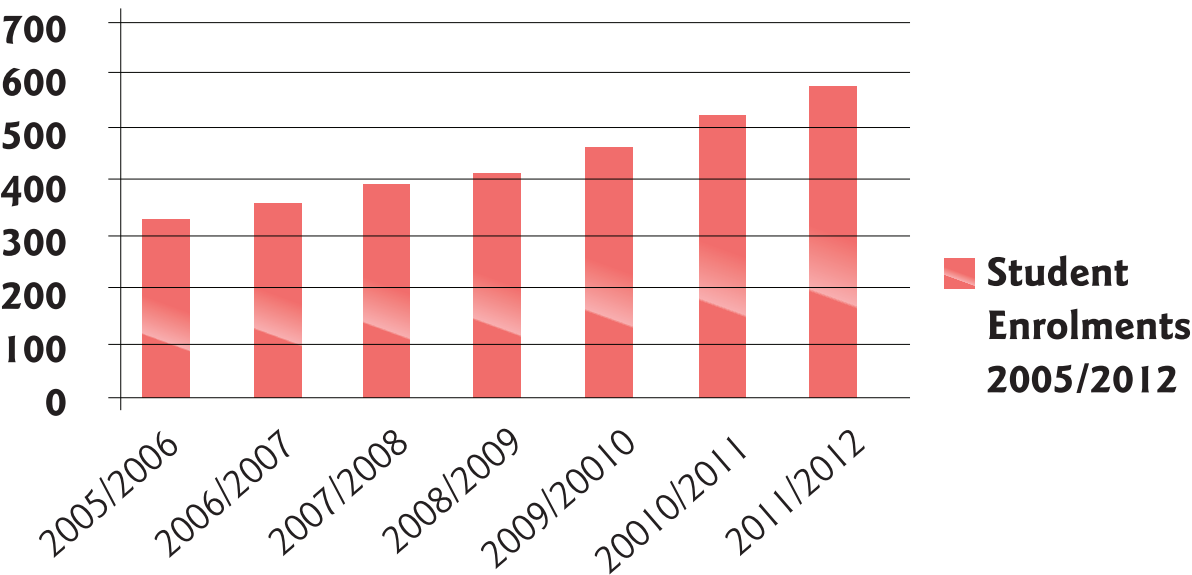
Our school uniform consists of: navy trousers/skirt, a navy jumper with the school name and crest, a white shirt and black shoes. Our students also designed our PE uniform which consists of a polo shirt, navy blue tracksuit bottoms and a navy blue tracksuit hoody and all the PE uniform items must have the school PE crest.



Student Enrolment at Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2011/2012

The commencement of the academic year saw the highest number of students ever to start in Scoil Uí Mhuirí in Dunleer walk through the doors in August 2011 to embark on the next phase of their education. A total of 130 students commenced in 1st Year bringing the total student enrolment at the school to 580 students, representing an increase of almost 11% in one year.

The gender profile among the students currently stands at approximately sixty percent boys and forty percent girls.



Department of Education and Skills Programmes at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Scoil Uí Mhuirí provides all Department of Education and Skills programmes and these are well planned and co-ordinated.

These programmes include:

- ▶ The Junior Certificate (JC)
- ▶ The Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JSCP)
- ▶ Transition Year (TY)
- ▶ The Leaving Certificate Established (LC)
- ▶ The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)
- ▶ The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

Core teams have been established for each of the programmes, JCSP, TY, LCA and LCVP and these teams regularly engage in a review of these programmes in collaboration with management in an effort to ensure that all resources are utilised efficiently and effectively in the provision of these programmes at the school. The LCVP continues to be the Leaving Certificate of choice for the majority of Leaving Certificate students. A minority of Scoil Uí Mhuirí students are not eligible for the LCVP due to their subject choice and the DES requirement for students to be engaging in specific Vocational Subject Groupings (VSG's). Those particular students engage however with the content of the programme over the course of the two years in order to acquire the skills and competencies which the LCVP promotes. The characteristics of each of these programmes is outlined below.

1. The Junior Cert

The Junior Certificate is a three year programme. First year students in Scoil Uí Mhuirí take twelve academic subjects thus offering them a wide range of subjects. Students choose their four option subjects after they have had an opportunity to sample all optional subjects from August – October each year. This process should ensure that students choose those subjects in which they are most likely to succeed. First Year students in Scoil Uí Mhuirí also engage in two periods of ICT each week as part of the school's commitment to ensuring that students have the ICT skills necessary to make the best use of the technology available to them in the school during their five/six years in Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

Junior Certificate Subjects 2011/2012

English	Home Economics
Irish	Metalwork
Mathematics	Materials Technology (Wood)
ICT	History
Civic, Social and Political Education	Social, Personal and Health Education
Geography	Art, Craft and Design
Physical Education	Technology
Religious Education	Technical Graphics
French / German / Spanish	Business Studies
Science	Environmental and Social Studies

2. The Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP)

The Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) is a national programme of the Department of Education and Skills. It aims to provide a curriculum framework that assists schools and teachers in making the Junior Certificate more accessible to those young people who may leave school without formal qualifications. It attempts to help young people experience success and develop a positive self-image by providing a curriculum and assessment framework suitable to their needs. On completion of the programme students receive a profile which is an official record of their achievements from the Department of Education and Skills. Following the Junior Certificate, pupils may opt for Transition Year or go straight into 5th Year to follow one of the Leaving Certificate Programmes.



3. Transition Year

The Transition Year (TY) offers pupils a broad educational experience with a view to the attainment of increased maturity, before proceeding to further study. It provides a bridge to help pupils make the transition from a highly-structured environment to one where they take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making. Pupils participate in learning strategies which are active and experiential and which help them to develop a range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. Transition Year should also provide an opportunity for pupils to reflect on and develop an awareness of the value of education and training in preparing them for the ever-changing demands of the adult world of work and relationships.

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí TY remains an optional programme with a total of 24 students engaging in the programme during the 2011/2012 academic year.

Transition Year Subjects/Programmes on offer in Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2011/2012

English	Mathematics
Irish	Home Economics (Cook It Programme)
Biology	Business & Enterprise
Music & Drama	Religious Education
History	Physical Education
Electronics	Information Technology & E- Learning
Geography	Paired Reading (Primary School & First Year)
Design & Communication Graphics	Personal Development
Physics	

4. The Leaving Certificate Established

The Leaving Certificate Established Programme is a two-year cycle offered to students. All Leaving Certificate subjects are offered at Higher, Ordinary and Foundation levels where applicable. In general, students study seven academic subjects for examination. In 2011/2012 we expanded our curriculum to include Construction Studies at Senior Cycle.

Leaving Certificate Subjects on offer in Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2011/2012

English	Design and Communication Graphics
Irish	Art
French	History
German	Home Economics
Mathematics	Link Modules
Business Studies	Religion
Biology	Physical Education
Physics	Career Guidance
Technology	Engineering
Construction Studies	Agricultural Science
Music	

5. The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

The LCA is a modular based Leaving Certificate incorporating a high proportion of Work Experience. It is a very popular route for students who may have more of a vocational orientation. It is an ideal progression route to PLC Courses and is highly regarded in the world of employment. The Leaving Certificate Applied was introduced to recognise the talents of all students and provide opportunities for development in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge. It is an innovative programme in the way students learn, in what they learn and in the way their achievements are assessed. The advantage of Leaving Certificate Applied is that it focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps students apply what they learn in the real world. The two-year programme consists of four half-year blocks called 'Sessions' and achievements are credited in each of these sessions. Student engaging in the LCA are also rewarded for their attendance as part of the programme.

6. The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

The LCVP is an enhanced Leaving Certificate programme. Students who have specified subject combinations of subjects (VSG's) qualify to engage with the two LCVP Link Modules, Enterprise Education and Preparation for the World of Work. The LCVP therefore combines the established Leaving Certificate with the Link Modules. Active Learning Methodologies are the key to the success of this programme. There are many benefits of taking the LCVP for students whether they intend going to college, taking up employment or indeed setting up their own business. A distinction in this programme is the equivalent of a grade 'C' on a higher level paper and is therefore very valuable for students when calculating points for college.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Senior Management Team 2011/2012

Ms. Fiona Kindlon Principal ♦ Mr. Ray Donagh Deputy Principal

On the 29 August 2011, Ms. Fiona Kindlon took up the position of Principal at Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Fiona holds an honours undergraduate degree in Commerce from University College, Galway, as well as first class honours Diplomas in Education and Educational Management from UCG and NUI, Maynooth respectively.

Fiona joins the staff of Scoil Uí Mhuirí from Ardee Community School where she has taught Business subjects, Mathematics and ICT. Fiona started teaching in Ardee Community School in 1994, but between 2002 and 2010 she was on secondment from her teaching role to the post of Regional Development Officer with the Department of Education and Skills Professional Development Service for Teachers. In this role Ms. Kindlon was responsible for the planning, coordination and delivery of a range of continuous professional development programmes for teachers at second level. Fiona worked with management teams and staff in approximately 300 schools across the country in this role, and for the 2010/2011 school year was directly responsible for the coordination of Co. Louth VEC's programme of teacher professional development.

Fiona's research areas of expertise include teacher professional development, school self-evaluation, student work experience placements and enterprise education. Fiona brings a wealth of experience to the post including extensive classroom teaching experience, as well as curriculum development, school development planning and state examinations experience. Fiona recognises the inextricable link between high quality teaching and learning methods and student achievement and attainment and is committed to supporting and promoting teacher professional development. Fiona places great value on student involvement in extra-curricular activities and plans to develop even further the wide range of these activities already available at Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

Other Personnel Changes 2011/2012

- ▶ Mr. Martin Cassidy returned to Scoil Uí Mhuirí having completed a number of years on secondment to T4, the Technology Subjects Support Service
- ▶ Ms. Una Kirk departed Scoil Uí Mhuirí to take up a position as Deputy Principal in St. Oliver's Community College, Drogheda, Co. Louth
- ▶ Ms. Síona McCourt continued with a secondment to the Project Maths Support Team
- ▶ Ms. Clare Coyle commenced as a teacher of English
- ▶ Ms. Niamh Keenan commenced as a teacher of French
- ▶ Ms. Maria Mc Geough commenced as a teacher of Irish
- ▶ Mr. Sein O Maonaigh commenced as a teacher of Irish
- ▶ Ms. Nicola Reilly commenced as a teacher of Business & Maths

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Teaching Staff 2011/2012

Staff Member	Subject Department(s)
Ms. Keira Bartley	Home Economics
Ms. Frances Beard	HSCL Officer
Ms. Arlene Birch	Maths
Ms. Aileen Carey	Maths & Science
Mr. Martin Cassidy	Technology Subjects
Ms. Melissa Clarke	English & History
Ms. Therese Clinton	Maths & Religion
Ms. Maire Conneely	Maths & Science
Ms. Mary Cox	Maths & Science
Ms. Clare Coyle	English
Mr. Ian Cumiskey	Modern Foreign Languages
Ms. Gillian Curran	English, Geography & SEN Co-ordinator
Mr. Peter Devin	English & History
Ms. Lorraine Duffy	English & History
Ms. Fiona Duggan	PE & Geography
Ms. Martina Farrell	Business & Maths
Ms. Lorna Finnegan	PE & Geography
Ms. Geraldine Friel	Home Economics & Religion
Mr. Michael Gurn	Maths
Mr. Colin Heaphey	Technology Subjects
Ms. Miriam Howard	Irish & Modern Foreign Languages

Staff Member	Subject Department(s)
Mr. Alan Hurley	Technology Subjects & Maths
Ms. Niamh Keenan	Modern Foreign Languages
Ms. Valerie Kelly	Business
Ms. Ann Marie Kirk	Maths & Science
Ms. Noeleen Lyons	Modern Foreign Languages
Mr. Gordon Magennis	Mr. Gordon Magennis
Ms. Bernadette Martin	Art
Mr. Brian Mathews	Technology Subjects
Mr. Aiden Matthews	Guidance Counsellor
Ms. Jacqueline Matthews	Irish & Modern Foreign Languages
Ms. Anna McCready	Business
Mr. John McGahon	Technology Subjects
Ms. Maria Mc Geough	Irish
Ms. Pamela Mulroy	English & Irish
Ms. Gemma Murphy	Home Economics
Ms. Caroline Murphy	Irish & Religion
Ms. Fiona O Connell	Irish & English
Mr. Sein O Maonaigh	Irish
Ms. Nicola Reilly	Business & Maths
Ms. Kathryn Shannon	English
Ms. Fiona Shields	English & Music

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Non Teaching Staff 2011/2012

Staff Member	Duties
Ms. Audrey Dorian	School Secretary
Ms. Debbie Fay	Special Needs Assistant
Mr. George Reynolds	School Caretaker
Ms. Sandra Mc Cann	Catering Services
Ms. Sheila Mc Evoy	Student Services, Cleaner
Fr. Michael Murtagh	School Chaplain
Ms. Paula Quinn & Mr. Paul Rosbotham	School Completion Project Worker
Ms. Agnes Reynolds	Cleaner

FÁS/Jobbridge Internships

Intern	Duties
Ms. Susanne Booth	CPD & General Administration

Assistant Principals & Associated Duties 2011/2012

Post Holder	Duties
Mr. Martin Cassidy	1st Year Head, Annual Prize giving and Stock Taking
Ms. Frances Beard	2nd Year Head, Peer Education Programme and State Examination fees
Ms. Valerie Kelly	3rd Year Head, School Shop and Financial and Budgetary Administration
Ms. Kathryn Shannon	5th Year Head, Coordinator Pastoral Care & Library Development
Ms. Máire Conneely	6th Year Head, Mentoring Programme for 1st Years & Co-ordinator of Mock Examination Papers

Programme Co-ordinator	Duties
Ms. Miriam Howard	Co-ordinator of LCVP & Transition Year Programme

Special Duties Teachers & Associated Duties 2011/2012

Post Holder	Duties
Ms. Lorraine Duffy	Assistant Year Head 5th Year, Student Lockers and Enrolment Day Procedures
Ms. Geraldine Friel	Assistant Year Head 2nd Year, Relocation of Classes for In-school Exams and Co-ordinator of Events for EAL Students
Ms. Jacqueline Matthews	Assistant Year Head 3rd Year, Website Maintenance and Co-ordinator of Anti-Bullying Procedures
Ms. Mary Cox	Assistant Year Head 1st Year, School PR/ Liaison with Press and First Aid
Mr. John Mc Gahon	Assistant Year Head 2nd Year, Assistant Health and Safety Officer and Co-ordinator of 1st Year Subject Sampling
Ms. Fiona Ní Chonaill	Assistant Year Head 5th Year, Timetabling of In-House Exams and Induction and Mentoring of New Teachers
Ms. Caroline Murphy	Assistant Year Head 3rd Year, Liaison with Student Council and Student of the Month Awards
Mr. Alan Hurley	Assistant Year Head 6th Year, Co-ordinator of LCA, Co-ordinator of ICT Department and Assistant Timetabling
Ms. Martina Farrell	Assistant Year Head 1st Year, Liaison with local Business and Community organisations and compilation of Annual Report

Class Tutors 2011/2012

Year Group	Class	Tutor
1st Year	1 Walton 1 Tyndall 1 Kelvin 1 Callan 1 Boyle	Peter Devin Ian Cumiskey Gillian Curran Mary Cox Fiona Duggan
2nd Year	2 Deer 2 Fox 2 Hare 2 Mink 2 Seal	Caroline Murphy Fiona Shields Melissa Clarke Martina Farrell Arlene Birch
3rd Year	3 Bleu 3 Gris 3 Jaune 3 Rouge 3 Vert	Aileen Carey Michael Gurn Pamela Mulroy Kiera Bartley Jacqueline Matthews
TY		Miriam Howard
5th Year	5 Bowen 5 Shaw 5 Yeats 5 Joyce	Gemma Murphy Anna Mc Cready Geraldine Friel Fiona O' Connell
6th Year	6 Ash 6 Beech 6 Cedar 6 Oak	Alan Hurley Lorna Finnegan Annemarie Kirk Therese Clinton

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Board of Management 2011/2012

Board Member	Details
Mr. Liam Reilly	Chairperson, Co. Louth VEC Committee Member
Ms. Fiona Kindlon	Secretary to the Board, Principal Scoil Uí Mhuirí
Mr. Alan Hurley	Teacher Representative
Ms. Therese Clinton	Teacher Representative
Mr. John Molloy	Parents' Representative
Ms. Eranda Langeveldt	Parents' Representative
Mr. Thomas Clare	Local Community Representative
Mr. Benny Devlin	Co. Louth VEC Committee Member
Mr. Tomas Sharkey	Co. Louth VEC Committee Member
Mr. Oliver Tully	Co. Louth VEC Committee Member

Student Council 2011/2012

Year Group	Student Council Member
1st Year	Bobby Mc Mullan & Chloe Lynch
2nd Year	Sadbh Mc Cann & Liam Fussey
3rd Year	Craig Sharkey & Celine White
TY	Saoirse Kelly & Robin Blakey
5th Year	Niamh Devlin & Cathal Costello
6th Year	Aine Murphy & Emmet Callan
The Link teacher to the Student Council for 2011/2012 was Ms Caroline Murphy.	



Green Schools Committee 2011/2012

This year Scoil Uí Mhuiri participated in the Green Schools Programme and successfully completed the second theme 'Energy'. Our Green Schools Committee were busy implementing their Energy Action Plan in Scoil Uí Mhuirí during the 2011/2012 school year. Meetings take place once a month at lunch time with some tasks needing extra time to monitor.

Committee members for 2011/2012 were as follows:	
1st Year	Patrick Kirwan
2nd Year	Kaeli Van Rhijn & Chelsea Halpenny
3rd Year	Craig Sharkey & Kristian Clinton
TY	Saoirse Kelly & Robin Blakey
Staff	Ms. Gemma Murphy and Mr. Colin Heaphy

Building on their Environmental Review, the committee implemented their energy conservation plan with a view to reducing energy usage and to increase energy conservation in the school and the wider community. The committee also looked at waste within specific classrooms e.g. the Home Economics and Woodwork classrooms.

Planning is in place to introduce a composter that will in turn provide valuable compost for our garden/greenhouse. This will be managed by our LCA Agricultural students.



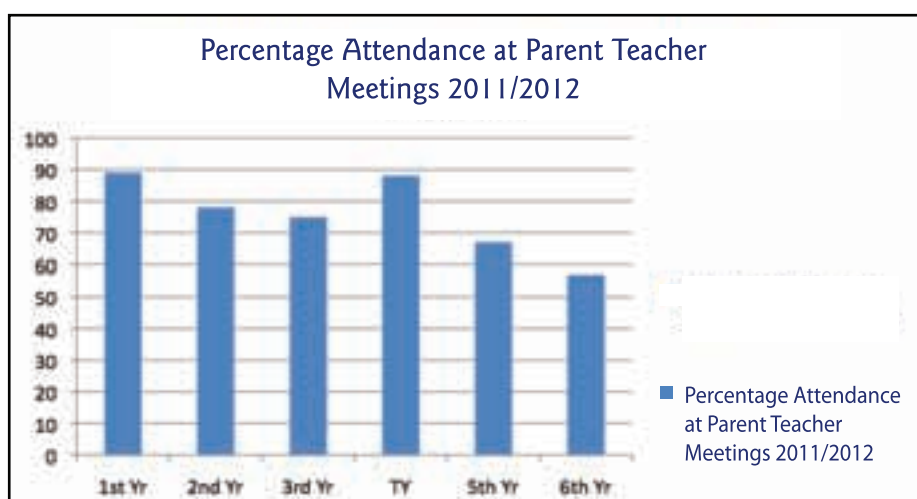
Two members of the Green Schools Committee, Kaeli Van Rhijn and Kristian Clinton, travelled to Dublin to receive our second Green Flag at the National Green Schools Award ceremony held in Croke Park before the summer holidays. On their return to school, the flag was proudly received by our Principal Ms Fiona Kindlon. We also had a visit from Olympic medallist Michael Carruth who was on hand to raise our Green Flag at the school.


Communications Between School and Home

Scoil Uí Mhuirí places a strong emphasis on partnership with parents to ensure the best possible progress for each student. Education is viewed as a joint effort between students, parents and school. Great emphasis is placed on mutual co-operation. During the 2011/2012 school year regular communication took place with parents/guardians as outlined below:

- ▶ The School Principal, Ms. Kindlon and Deputy Principal, Mr. Donagh were available to meet parents/guardians on an appointment basis throughout the school year
- ▶ Each Year Group is allocated a Year Head. As well as monitoring attendance and behaviour, the Year Head also takes a pastoral interest in each student's welfare. The Year Heads liaised closely with parents/guardians during the school year and were available to meet parents/guardians by appointment
- ▶ The Guidance Counsellor, Mr. Aiden Matthews, the Home School Community Liaison Officer, Ms. Frances Beard, the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Ms. Gillian Curran and the School Completion Project Worker, Ms. Paula Mc Cabe were available to meet parents/ guardians on an appointment basis throughout the school year.
- ▶ A series of home visits were carried out by the HSCL Officer and the SCP Project Worker
- ▶ Formal Parent Teacher Meetings for all year groups took place during the year. The Parent/ Teacher meeting provided parents/guardians with an opportunity to meet with their son's/ daughter's teachers and to discuss how they were progressing in school. Notice of such meetings was included in the student's journal which was distributed at the start of each academic year. A reminder letter and text was also sent to parents/guardians. Information was also posted on the school's website www.scoiluimhuiri.ie

Attendance rates for each of the Year Group Parent Teacher Meetings is outlined below:



- 
- ▶ A comprehensive report issued for all 1st, 2nd & 5th Years at Christmas and Summer time
 - ▶ Five weekly reports issued for all 3rd and 6th Year students throughout the year
 - ▶ Newsletters issued to all parents/guardians at Christmas, Easter and Summer time. These newsletters outlined a range of activities and events that had taken place in Scoil Uí Mhuirí during a specific term
 - ▶ Our comprehensive school website www.scoiluimhuiri.ie was updated throughout the year by our website co-ordinator Ms. Jacqueline Matthews.
 - ▶ The school text system was also utilised to maintain regular communication between school and home
The school organised a number of Information Meetings during the year in relation to the following matters:
 - 1st Year Enrolment
 - Transfer and Transition from Primary to Post Primary School
 - Transition Year
 - Leaving Certificate (Established)
 - Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)
 - Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)
 - Educational Tours (International)
 - ▶ The Student Journal provided another form of communication between home and school
 - ▶ Scoil Uí Mhuirí Parents' Association was involved in ongoing consultation in relation to the school's policy documents and in fundraising efforts. Matters of educational interest were discussed by the Parents Association at their monthly meetings during the school year. The Principal met with the Parents Association and/or its representatives on a regular basis. The AGM of the Parents Association took place early in the school year

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Guidance Counsellor

2011/2012 was a very busy year for the school's Guidance Counsellor Mr. Aiden Matthews. The following is a list of some of the activities that Mr. Matthews was engaged with in consultation and collaboration with school management over the course of the school year:

- ▶ One to One Counselling for students regarding a range of issues
- ▶ Enrolment Procedures/Preparation for Assessment Tests
- ▶ Links with Primary Schools re: 1st year Student Intake
- ▶ Compilation of results of Assessment Tests
- ▶ Allocation of students to Mixed Ability Classes – 1st Year
- ▶ Liaison with SCP re: Transfer and Transition Programme for 1st Years
- ▶ Liaison with Subject Taster co-ordinator re: 1st Year Taster Programme
- ▶ Delivering Anti Bullying Programmes to students
- ▶ Student Subject Choice Forms & Allocation of Subject Options
- ▶ Transfer and Transition Support for new students other than 1st Year
- ▶ Links with HSE/Social Workers
- ▶ Organisation of visits to College Open Days
- ▶ Applications for Reasonable Accommodations for students for State Examinations
- ▶ Follow up with past pupils re: progression to third level etc
- ▶ Presentations at Parents' Information Nights
- ▶ Meeting Prospective Parents - Open Night
- ▶ College Applications support for students
- ▶ Liaison with Third Level Colleges etc
- ▶ Liaison with External Agencies
- ▶ Career Interviews 6th Year students (Individual)
- ▶ Subject Choice Interviews with students (Individual)
- ▶ Timetabled Guidance classes with 5th Year, 6th Year & LCA students
- ▶ Aptitude testing 5th Years
- ▶ Regular meeting with parents/guardians
- ▶ Liaison with SEN Co-ordinator/SCP Project Worker/HSCL Officer/Yearheads/ Class Tutors and School Management re: student issues
- ▶ Member of Care Support Team

Home School Community Liaison Officer (HSCL)

2011/2012 was a very busy year for the school's HSCL Officer Ms. Frances Beard as our student population increased and a greater number of parents became aware of the variety of supports provided by the HSCL officer Ms. Beard at the school.

During the year, Ms. Beard visited many families in an effort to discuss challenges emerging and to consider any supports that could be put in place to ensure that students remained in the education system and were supported within the school environment.

During the summer of 2011, Scoil Uí Mhuirí were delighted to take delivery of a prefab which was sourced and financed by the Parents Association at the school. This prefab would now become the Parents' room at Scoil Uí Mhuirí and would provide much needed space for coffee mornings, parents information sessions, parents classes and presentation ceremonies to take place over the course of the school year.



The following are some of the classes that were offered to parents during the 2011/2012 school year:

Knitting club

Large quantities of wool and knitting needles were donated by parents together with lots of patterns. A number of parents attended these sessions where the more experienced knitters were able to advise the newer knitters to the club. Some beautiful scarves and baby clothes were produced and light refreshments were served.

Cookery classes

While this class was called 'Budget Cookery', those attending had an opportunity to develop many culinary skills including yeast cookery, bread-making and cake making. It was a very enjoyable class.

IT Computer Skills

Some parents decided to take their computing skills to a higher level with participants obtaining a FETAC Level 3 qualification.

Health and Beauty

We were delighted to obtain funding for a Health and Beauty Class. Those attending the course had opportunities to explore areas such as Skin care, Facials, Make-up, Hand and Foot care and Diet and Nutrition.

The School Completion Programme (SCP)

The School Completion Programme is a National Programme that assists and supports targeted young people in their attendance and participation in school. School Completion Programme is working with 124 clusters of schools nationally.

Deeside School Completion Programme

Our cluster of schools consists of 7 schools, at both primary and secondary level in rural Louth and Meath. At second level the schools involved in the programme are; Ardee Community School, Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer and O' Carolan College, Nobber. At Primary level they consist of Tallanstown NS, Ballapousta NS, Monastery Boys School and Scoil Mhuire Na Trócaire, Ardee. Project staff are based in each of the three Secondary Schools; where we work on a daily basis with school staff to ensure that our young people are supported and encouraged to reach their full potential.

At Deeside, we support young people in a number of ways, school attendance, homework, exams, project work, lunches, moving from Primary to Secondary School and resolving difficulties and personal problems. All this work happens in an individual or group setting. As part of our work with young people, we build trusting and supportive relationships with parents/guardians which in turn allow us to create a positive school experience for young people. To enhance our work and to ensure the best service, we work closely with other agencies in the community. This work allows our families, our schools and our community to benefit from the support services available.

Some of the agencies our programme works closely with are:

- St. Vincent de Paul
- Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- Family Support Services/Health Service
- Youth Work Ireland, Louth
- Juvenile Liaison Officer, An Garda Síochána

During the 2011/2012 school year various programmes were delivered to targeted students at Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

Some of these included:

- Class Relationships
- Sexual Health
- Personal Hygiene
- Anger Management
- Crime Prevention - Visit to Wheatfield prison
- Self-Esteem and confidence building
- Mental health issues
- Conflict Resolution

School Completion Programme 2011/2012

During the 2011/2012 school year, the SCP Personnel in Scoil Uí Mhuirí also supported students in a number of ways including: working on school attendance, homework, exams, project work, moving from primary to post primary school and resolving difficulties and personal problems.



SCP Summer Programme 2012

Students participating in SCP at Scoil Uí Mhuirí were invited to take part in the summer programme. The summer programme allows SCP staff to continue the work with students during the summer weeks and it also provides staff with the opportunity to develop a rapport with students outside the school setting.

Two trips were organised by SCP this summer. They included a girls mini break which took place in Newcastle, Co. Down in June 2012. Eight students were invited to attend the two night break. Activities included health and beauty, cookery, shopping challenges and forest and beach walks.

In July 2012, an adventure trip place then in Annalong Co. Down. Twenty students were invited on this trip and the activities on offer for the students included abseiling, canoeing and bouldering.



Pastoral Care Team

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí the Pastoral Care Team meets to consider how the school community is responding to the overall needs of each member of the school community but in particular the student and more specifically those students dealing with particular challenges. During 2011/2012, the Pastoral Care Team comprising the Guidance Counsellor, a member of the Middle Management Team, the SEN Co-ordinator, the SCP Project Worker and the Home School Community Liaison Officer and various teaching staff members have worked together to enhance the provision of supports offered to those students experiencing difficulty within the school system.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Parents' Association 2011/2012

The role of the Parents Association is to sustain and maintain a relationship with the school's Board of Management, Principal, teaching staff, students and ancillary staff so as to develop a learning environment that is beneficial to all. The Parents' Association works to ensure that parents have an opportunity to work with the school on a series of issues including policy development and resources provision for the school. Typical activities include:

- ▶ Organising information/social events for new parents to the school
- ▶ Organising welcome events for new students to the school
- ▶ Arranging talks on topics of interest to parents, e.g. guest speakers on parenting/discipline
- ▶ Channelling parents views on school policy issues to the Principal/Board of Management
- ▶ Contributing to school newsletters and other school publications
- ▶ Helping to organise and supervise extra -curricular activities
- ▶ Organising Fund Raising events for the school

The Parents' Association met on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the school and as always the monthly Parents Association meeting was open to all parents to attend.

Parents Association Officers 2011/2012

Chairperson	John Molloy
Secretary	Eranda Langeveldt
Treasurer	Geraldine Fussey
PRO	Julia Keane
Board of Management Representative	Eranda Langeveldt
Board of Management Representative	John Molloy

Fund Raising 2011/2012

The main fund raising for the parents association was the €20.00 per family which was paid along with the €100 book scheme payment at the beginning of the school year. While this was an optional payment it was a payment which was well used during the year for the benefit of the students and for the school itself.

Study Skills Project 2011/2012

The Parents Association covered the cost of Study Skills training for students during the 2011/2012 school year. The purpose of this training was to assist students in preparing for examinations. At the Parents' Association AGM, a study skills presentation was made to parents present and this gave parents some ideas regarding how to assist their sons/daughters while studying.

Tall Ships Scholarships

The Parents' Association also sponsored two students to take part in the tall ships project.

Links with Primary Schools

Meeting of Primary School Principals and Scoil Uí Mhuirí staff

A meeting of Primary School Principals from our ten feeder schools took place in the school in September 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- ▶ Discuss how best we can work together to ensure a smooth transition for students from primary to post primary schooling
- ▶ Provide opportunities for the Primary Principals to meet with Mr. Aiden Matthews, Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Gillian Curran, SEN Co-ordinator, Ms. Paula McCabe, SCP Project Worker, Ms. Frances Beard, HSCL Officer, the Deputy Principal and Principal
- ▶ Provide the Primary Principals with an opportunity to view our facilities including our newly opened four classroom extension

Visits to the Primary Schools - Principal

In advance of Open Night, the Principal visited all Primary School in the area to make a presentation to all 6th class pupils in schools in our catchment area about Scoil Uí Mhuirí. The Principal was accompanied by two past pupils of each primary school who had made the transition to Scoil Uí Mhuirí. These first year students had an opportunity to meet with the 6th class pupils and share with them their experiences of Scoil Uí Mhuirí to date.

Visits to the Primary School – Support Services

The Guidance Counsellor, Special Education Needs Co-ordinator and the School Completion Project Worker visited the Primary Schools regularly in preparation for the Transfer and Transition of students to Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Regular communication also took place by phone with the Primary Schools

Open Night 2011

Open night was held on 26th October 2011 from 6pm to 8pm. Parents of 6th class pupils in primary schools in our catchment area were invited to attend with their sons/daughters and view the excellent facilities in our school. The Principal welcomed everyone to the open night and gave an overview of Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

Each subject department had set up displays showcasing their subject and those attending the open night were able to avail of tours of the facilities under the guidance and direction of our students.



The following is a sample of some of the activities that took place during the evening:

- ▶ Science experiments
- ▶ Students and Parents were encouraged to make clay models in the Art room
- ▶ They were also encouraged to ice fairy cakes in the Home Economics kitchen
- ▶ Visitors were encouraged to try out the state of the art equipment in the gym
- ▶ Sudoku competitions in Maths
- ▶ Guided tours of the school were given by our senior students
- ▶ Music students performed
- ▶ Woodwork students showed off their skills
- ▶ Sample German and French food were available

The feedback which we received on Open Night in the school was excellent. The benefits of open night are that it encouraged a high number of 6th class students to attend our school in September 2012. It also gave teachers and students an opportunity to showcase the great work that goes on in Scoil Uí Mhuirí each day.

Transfer and Transition Programme

The following events took place during 2011/2012 in preparation for student transition to Scoil Uí Mhuirí:

Assessment Tests

Prior to entry into 1st Year we asked all prospective 1st Year students to sit our Assessment Tests. The purpose of this assessment process was to establish the ability of our incoming students in two main areas: verbal reasoning and numerical ability. This information was of vital importance to the school in assigning our students to mixed ability classes. The assessment process also helped us identify those students who needed to access learning support.

Information Session for Parents/Guardians

An Information Session for all parents/guardians of incoming 1st Year students was held in the Assembly Hall while students were completing their Assessment Tests. This session was facilitated by the Principal, Deputy Principal, Home School Community Liaison Officer, School Completion Project Worker, Guidance Counsellor and the incoming 1st Year Year Head for 2012/2013. Information Packs were distributed during the session and those present also had an opportunity to ask any questions/discuss any concerns they had about the transition process.

Transfer and Transition Programme for Students

Transfer Programmes are a key intervention in the School Completion Programme. The transition from primary to post primary education has been noted as a critical educational step for many children. Transfer programmes assist in the transition from Primary to Post Primary, as they provide information on the new system and structures which the young person will encounter, they prepare the child by encouraging them to identify strategies which will assist them in overcoming the difficulties which may arise, they give a forum to the young person transferring and their parents/guardians to express any fears they may have during this process of change

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí all sixth class students from primary schools in our catchment area who intended enrolling in the school for first year were invited to participate in the transfer programme. The School Completion Programme project worker contacted the Principal of each feeder primary school. Letters were sent to the Principals outlining the dates the programme was being delivered. Consent forms were also sent to the schools and distributed to the students coming to Scoil Uí Mhuirí. On the day the transfer programme was being delivered, students were transported by bus to Scoil Uí Mhuirí and the programme was delivered to each student. The transfer programme was followed up with an induction day for 1st year students in August 2012. SCP designed a booklet for students to help them with the transition.

The aims and objectives of this programme were:

- ▶ To provide an opportunity for students to get to know the school
- ▶ To provide an opportunity for students to get to know other students
- ▶ To help ease the transition to second level for students
- ▶ To provide an opportunity to reflect and share the positive and negative experiences in primary school and possible positive and negative experiences in secondary school
- ▶ To introduce the idea of timetables and to help students to gain an understanding of them
- ▶ To share the experiences of students from the second level school.

Links with External Agencies

During the 2011/2012 academic year, management and staff at Scoil Uí Mhuirí worked in collaboration with a wide range of external agencies and organisations including the following:

- ▶ National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)
- ▶ State Examinations Commission (SEC)
- ▶ National Council for Special Education (NCSE)
- ▶ National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)
- ▶ National Education Welfare Board (NEWB)
- ▶ Special Education Support Service (SESS)
- ▶ Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST)
- ▶ Health Service Executive (HSE)

Local Business and Community Organisations

During the 2011/2012 academic year, management and staff at Scoil Uí Mhuirí worked in collaboration with the following local businesses and community organisations:

- ▶ Bank of Ireland, Dunleer
- ▶ Dunleer Parish Credit Union
- ▶ Glen Dimplex
- ▶ Suretank
- ▶ St. Vincent de Paul
- ▶ Local Hospice Movement
- ▶ Thomas Clare
- ▶ Joe Torris, Pat's Giftshop
- ▶ Eamonn Victory, Centra
- ▶ Michael Durnin, Butcher
- ▶ Anne Reilly, Paycheck Plus
- ▶ Jim Dunne, JF Travel
- ▶ AIB Bank

Work Experience

A large number of employers in Dunleer and surrounding areas also provided our TY, LCA and LCVP students with valuable work experience placements. This support was much appreciated by our students and provided them with an opportunity to research careers and develop key skills for the future. A Thank You To All Our Work Experience Providers

Groups using Scoil Uí Mhuirí's facilities 2011/2012

A number of groups and organisations continue to utilise our state of the art facilities at Scoil Uí Mhuirí in the evening time to facilitate classes/courses etc. Groups accessing our facilities during the 2011/2012 school year included:

- ▶ Dunleer AC
- ▶ Karate Club
- ▶ Youth Development Officer, Co. Louth VEC
- ▶ Music Generation Louth
- ▶ The "Lets Go" Summer camp
- ▶ T4, PDST the Technology Subjects Support Service

Staff Continuous Professional Development (CPD) 2011/2012

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is a priority in Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Teaching staff are facilitated to attend courses and programmes to assist them in keeping updated with changes in subject syllabi, programme plans and effective teaching and learning methodologies.

During 2011/2012 Scoil Uí Mhuirí staff engaged in a variety of CPD events both inside and outside of school time. The content of many of these events focused on active teaching and learning methodologies, differentiated instruction, student learning outcomes, assessment for learning, integrating literacy and numeracy into subject teaching and using ICT to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom. Several staff members also engaged in a Pilot Programme with the Inspectorate Division of the Department of Education and Skills regarding School Self Evaluation.

1. Whole Staff Continuous Professional Development

Topic	Facilitator
Differentiated Teaching & Learning	Ms. Della Meade, PDA, CLVEC
DEIS Monitoring & Review	Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal
Literacy and Numeracy Strategy	Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal
Introducing an Autism Class	Ms. Miriam Hilliard, SENO, NCSE
Introducing an Autism Class	Ms. Maire Ni Bhroithe, Principal, Rathoath Community College

2. Subject Specific Continuous Professional Development

Topic	Facilitator
Gaeilge	Gaeilge Support Services
Project Maths	Project Maths Development Team
SPHE	SPHE Support Service
LCA	PDST (LCA)
Science - Discover Sensors Training	Discover Science & Engineering/SFI
English	PDST (Modern Languages)
Technology Subjects	T4 Support Services
Biology	PDST (Sciences & Applied Maths)
French	French Teachers Association
Review of Examination Papers	Various Subject Department Associations/Teacher Professional Networks
Geography	PDST (Cultural & Environmental)
PE	PDST (Physical Education)
Business	Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland
Art	Art Teachers Association of Ireland
Home Economics	PDST (Sciences & Applied Maths)
Physics	PDST (Sciences & Applied Maths)

3. CLVEC Initiatives

Topic	Facilitator
Literacy Project	Ms. Della Meade, PDA, CLVEC
Review of Geography Department Plans	Mr. Gerard Mc Guill
Review of TY Plans	Mr. Gerard Mc Guill
Gaeltacht Scholarships	Dr. Pádraig Kirk, CEO, CLVEC
Review of Admissions Policy	Mr. Gerard Mc Guill

4. DES Pilot Projects

Topic	Facilitator
Draft School Self Evaluation Guidelines	Ms. Maria Lorigan Inspectorate Division, DES

5. Other Continuous Professional Development

Topic	Facilitator
Child Protection Procedures Training	SPHE Support Service/IVEA
Conference on Bullying	TCD
Apple Conference	Apple
Introducing an Autism Class	SESS
Transfer and Transition	SESS
Gifted and Talented Students	ICEPE
Defibrillator & Health & Safety	Various



Child Protection Policy of Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer, Co. Louth

The Board of Management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí adopted and implemented fully and without modification the Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools as part of the school's overall Child Protection Policy.

The Board of Management of the school appointed Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal, as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Mr. Ray Donagh, Deputy Principal was appointed Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP).

The DLP acted as a liaison with outside agencies and as a resource person to any staff member or volunteer who has child protection concerns.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí pilot Department of Education and Skills, Draft School Self Evaluation (SSE) Guidelines

Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer was one of six post primary schools across the country which was been selected to engage with a pilot project on Draft School Self Evaluation (SSE) Guidelines developed by the Inspectorate Division of the Department of Education and Skills. The Guidelines focus on evaluating teaching and learning as an essential starting point for school self - evaluation.

Staff members engaging with the project at Scoil Uí Mhuirí included Melissa Clarke, English Department, Martina Farrell and Anna Mc Cready, Business Department and Alan Hurley, Technology Department. The project group will met several times over the academic year and they will work closely with the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills in sharing their experiences of using the Guidelines.

Project members used information from external evaluations including recommendations from subject inspection reports and a recent WSE-MLL Inspection to help identify strengths and areas for improvement in the school. Each project member focused on teaching and learning in their own classroom and reflected on various aspects of their practice in this regard. By reflecting on what they teach and how they teach it, and on what students learn and how they learn, school management and teachers are aware that certain aspects of the education provided by the school are effective and that improvement is needed in other aspects.

A range of evaluation methods and tools were utilised by the project group to gather the evidence necessary for school self-evaluation including questionnaires, interviews, review of students work, analysis of assessment data and observation of teachers in their own classrooms. Project members also engaged in collaborative teaching and review processes. The group elicited the views of teachers, students and parents and towards the end of the process a school self-evaluation report was drawn up. The findings of the project group will be disseminated to all staff members during the coming academic year and following discussions with staff, a school improvement plan will be developed. Participation in this project provided opportunities to build on the work that had commenced within the school on SSE during the academic year 2010/2011 and to contribute to the discussions around SSE and the content of the final Guidelines for post primary schools. Engagement in the process also enables management and staff at Scoil Uí Mhuirí to maintain high standards and improve the learning experiences and educational outcomes for all students in the school.

The pilot project group are currently exploring ways of expanding the project in the coming academic year and part of the discussions will also focus on involving parents/guardians in the process in the future. School self-evaluation is also providing the school with a supportive and systematic way of affirming good practice and further developing a whole school approach to literacy and numeracy.

Copies of the SSE Draft Guidelines for Post Primary Schools can be accessed on www.education.ie



Revised Admissions Policy

Following consultation and collaboration with all relevant partners in the Scoil Uí Mhuirí school community, a revised Admissions Policy for the school was ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting of 14 March 2012. Copies of the Admissions Policy are available from the school office and on our school website www.scoiluimhuiri.ie.

Copies of the Revised Admissions Policy were distributed to the Principals of each of our ten feeder primary schools. A copy was also distributed to the Chairperson of the Parents' Association in each of the feeder primary schools in our catchment area.

An invitation was extended to the Principals and Parents' Association representatives from each of the feeder primary schools to attend a short information session in the school on Monday 23 April 2012 at 7pm. The purpose of the meeting was to create an awareness and understanding of the Revised Admission Policy and to answer any questions around the admissions process.

After the meeting those in attendance had an opportunity to view the exceptional facilities at Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

First meeting of the Scoil Uí Mhuirí extension Design Team

The full Design Team appointed by Co. Louth VEC in early 2012 to design the new extension planned for Scoil Uí Mhuirí in Dunleer held their first meeting at the school during May 2012. The full Design Team is made up of architects (McGarry Ní Éanaigh Architects Ltd.), quantity surveyors (Austin Reddy and Co.), civil and structural engineers (RPS Consulting Engineers), mechanical and electrical engineers (Varming Consulting Engineers) and project supervisors (OLM Consultancy Ltd.). The companies came together as a team to meet with school management personnel, survey the site and discuss the project matrix and timelines. CEO of the VEC, Dr. Pádraig Kirk, school Principal Fiona Kindlon and the school's Deputy Principal, Ray Donagh, also attended the meeting.

The extension planned for the school which is a sizeable project for the VEC, will be of a similar size to the existing school building which will mean an effective doubling of the accommodation at the school. This is an exciting time for Scoil Uí Mhuirí as it embarks on this latest phase of its development. This will be the third extension to the school in recent years and is an indication of the rapid growth it is experiencing.

Integration of ICT into Teaching and Learning in Scoil Uí Mhuirí

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí we recognise the need for our students to be capable of using a wide variety of ICTs for learning in their future careers. In 2011/2012, we continued our efforts to increase the use of ICT in teaching and learning in the school. This included:

- The ratification of our school E Learning Plan
- Expansion of the use of interactive whiteboards in some subject areas
- Use of iPads as a teaching and learning tool in the SEN Department
- Introduction of Podcasting as a teaching and learning methodology in some classes
- Access to training courses for teachers on the use of ICT and interactive whiteboards in the classroom



E-Learning in the Modern Foreign Language Class at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

From February to May 2012, Students from 1 Callan, 1 Kelvin and 2 Fox participated in an e-learning project with their teacher Ms. Noeleen Lyons. The purpose of the project was to increase students' use of the target language in their modern language classes through the use of technology. To achieve this, students produced podcasts (multimedia digital files made available online) on themselves and their school in French. These podcasts were made available to a French partner school near Toulouse who sent back podcasts in English in return.

In addition, students experimented with linking their classes via Skype (an internet programme which allows video calls). Over the course of a week, students participated in lively discussions via this video link in French and German.

As a follow on to this initiative, Una Carroll and Cormac O'Brien (2 Fox), Cathal McCartney and Patrick Clarke (1 Callan) and Janet Akintunde (1 Kelvin) presented their project at an e-learning conference for schools hosted by Co. Louth and Co. Cavan VECs in September 2012.

Intercultural Week

Scoil Uí Mhuirí students celebrated Inter-cultural week in March 2012. Students from the seventeen nations represented within the school community took part in a series of events and activities both inside and outside the classroom.

The Home Economics students created some international cuisine, while the French and German students enjoyed a traditional continental breakfast. Business students displayed projects on the countries that trade with Ireland. Art students made 2-D masks. Second Year maths students mastered the art of Chinese multiplication. The music students were treated to a session of Samba drumming.

Projects, flags and maps, produced by the students were displayed daily in the reception area and the many competitions held throughout the week generated huge enthusiasm among students and served to remind us all of the great diversity of culture within our school community.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain Na Gaeilge took place during the week beginning the 12th March 2012. Students participated in a range of events within the school including Bodhrán workshops, Poster competitions, Tráth na gceist, Toraíocht Taisce, Comórtas crosfhocail, Céilí agus ceol sa rang. Comórtas an lae at lunchtime proved to be a great success this year with students from all years participating.



Maths Week 2011

This year's Maths week in Scoil Ui Mhuiri was 'Fun and Interactivity' from beginning to end, as the students were challenged daily with games, puzzles, tricks and riddles. The programme for the week was devised by the Transition Year students with their teacher Mr. M. Gurn. Poems were written, crosswords were filled, prizes were available and competition was fierce!! The students rose to the occasion each day with over 200 entrants to many of the competitions.



Mathematical literacy has recently been identified as a weakness of traditional mathematics teaching in schools and one of the priorities of the new Project Maths syllabus is to address this issue. Scoil Ui Mhuiri, this week, endeavoured through fun and games to improve the mathematical literacy of their students and to alight in them an interest in Maths.



Science Week 2011

Scoil Uí Mhuirí students were busy during Science week enjoying all things scientific. Throughout the week a series of Quizzes, Crosswords and Science Shows were organised for students at the school. 1st Year Science students were treated to Spectacular Science Shows by 3rd Year students on Tuesday and Wednesday. The whole school participated in a General Science Quiz on Monday of Science week and the Transition Year Students organised a table quiz for all 3rd year science students which took place on the Friday morning. Prizes galore were distributed during the week. This week provided us with an opportunity to raise the profile of Science subjects among the student body. Great fun was had by all.



Study Skills Week

Study Skills week took place early in the school year. As part of Study Skills week, staff members focused on our Homework Policy with students. Study Skills programmes were also provided to many of our students and our Parents had an opportunity to listen to Study Skills tips at a presentation facilitated by 'Student Enrichment Services'.

Anti Bullying Week

Anti Bullying week took place in October 2011. During Anti Bullying week, five lessons from the “Cool Schools Programme” were taught to students during the first class each day for the week. Discussion also took place around the school's Anti Bullying policy. Following on from a very successful “Anti Bullying Awareness Week” a Confidential Bullying Questionnaire was distributed to all students in the school. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year SPHE teachers, and TY, 5th and 6th Year Religion teachers disseminated the questionnaires to each of their students. Students were also reminded about the suggestion box/post box in the school entrance hall for any information that they wish to submit around bullying. Two staff members also attended an international conference on the topic of Bullying which took place in Trinity College, Dublin.

Fundraising for Local Charities 2011/2012

During each school year, the students and staff of Scoil Uí Mhuirí ensure that they do as much as possible for local charities and the 2011/2012 year was no exception with students and staff raising over 1000 for various charities. The following charities benefited from monies collected by the students and staff of Scoil Uí Mhuirí:



- ▶ Hospice Movement (Staff Coffee Morning)
- ▶ SVP (Ms Shields and the Choir sang carols for the Christmas shoppers in Dunleer)
- ▶ 6th Year LCVP students held a sports afternoon for various charities
- ▶ Irish Cancer Society (Daffodil Day)
- ▶ Irish Heart Foundation (Happy Heart Day) TY students helped sell “Happy Hearts” for the Irish Heart Foundation in Drogheda
- ▶ Gary Kelly Cancer Centre (Non uniform day for students/uniform day for staff!)
- ▶ TY Mini-company students donated some of their profits to various charities
- ▶ Samaritans (Easter Egg raffle)

Visiting Speakers to Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Scoil Uí Mhuirí staff and students were delighted to welcome many speakers to the school during the 2011/2012 school year. A selection of some of our visiting speakers included:

- Representatives from SOSAD, the Samaritans, Cura and Aware spoke with many of our Senior Students as part of their RE programme
- Ms. Siona Mc Court, spoke with some of the Junior students about her experience working in a Children's Orphanage in Vietnam
- Mr. Rory Mulvey and his team gave a training session to many of our students on Study Skills

Educational Trips 2011/2012

The following are a selection of some of the educational tours/outings that Scoil Uí Mhuirí students engaged in over the school year.

Month	Educational Tour	Students	Subject Links
September 2011	Higher Options Conference, Ploughing Championships Carlingford Adventure Centre Ideas Generation Workshops Clogherhead Beach Tayto Factory Armagh	6th Years LCA TY TY 3 Vert TY & LCA	Guidance Agriculture/Horticulture Teambuilding Mini Company CSPE Enterprise
October 2011	Mosque, Dublin The Zone Navan DKIT/O' Fiaich Institute The Chocolate Warehouse Causey Farm	2 Mink & 3 Vert LCA 6th Years 5th Year LCVP LCA 2	Religion PE Guidance Enterprise Education Team Building
November 2011	Gaeltacht Raithcairn Islamic Cultural Centre National Gallery	TY & 1 Boyle 2 Hare, 2 Deer, 3 Jaune & 3 Gris	Irish Religion Art
December 2011	DIT Clogherhead Beach Guinness Storehouse	6th Years 3rd Years 2nd & 3rd Years	Guidance ESS Business
January 2012	Art Gallery Wheatfield Prison Visit to Armagh	Selection of students Selection of students 3rd Years	Art SCP Music
February 2012	Dublin Zoo The Dail & Botanic Gardens	2 Mink 2 Hare & 2 Seal	CSPE CSPE
March 2012	Irish Country Quads Enterprise Competitions Macbeth Triathlon Planetarium, Armagh Swimming/Aura Dundalk	LCA 1 TY 5th Years TY 5th & 6th Years TY	Team Building Mini Company English PE Physics PE
May 2012	Scifest Anagassan Beach Walking Tour of Drogheda Alton Towers	5th Years 5th Years 1 Boyle & 2 Seal TY	Biology Biology History Celebration of TY Year

3rd Year trip to the Helix Romeo and Juliet Production

As part of the Junior Certificate English course, 3 Vert and 3 Rouge went to the Helix during the school year to see a production of their Shakespearean Drama Romeo and Juliet. The production was by the Cyclone Company. All students benefited from seeing the production live as it brought the character and themes of the play to life, using a modern and student friendly twist.

Geography & History Trip – Rome & Sorrento

During the October Midterm break in 2011, forty students and five teachers headed to Rome and Sorrento for a geography and history trip. Highlights of the trip included visits to Pompeii, scaling the heights of Vesuvius, a day trip to Capri and the opportunity to make our own pizza and mozzarella!!! Much time was spent sampling local culture and the many delightful flavours of gelato.



The group also tried their hand at an Irish Dancing flash mob at the Trevi fountain in Rome.

Thanks to the teachers Ms. Clarke, Ms. Clinton, Ms. Duggan, Ms. Farrell and Ms. Finnegan who facilitated the trip.

Business & Foreign Language Trip- Cologne & Strasbourg

Business & Modern Foreign Language students embarked on a trip to Germany and France in 2012 where the students visited the city of Cologne followed by a trip to Phantasialand Theme Park. The highlight of this trip had to be a visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Here, students had an opportunity to see exactly what goes on inside this building. Business and Language students found the entire trip extremely educational. Thanks to all those staff members who accompanied the students on this Educational Tour.



3 Vert C.S.P.E Action Project

On the 19th of September 2011, 3 Vert organised a Clean Up Our Beaches Environmental Campaign in Clogherhead, Co. Louth. The 3 Vert students spent the morning clearing litter from the beach area and gathered information on what they had found. They wrote letters to the Local Council about their findings and created a school wide Awareness Campaign on the importance of caring for the environment.





2 Hare CSPE Action Project – Show Racism the Red Card

On 19th April 2012, 2 Hare attended the 'Show Racism the Red Card' third annual Anti Racism Creative Competition Awards Ceremony held at the AVIVA stadium in Dublin. 450 young people came from Cork, Kerry, Tipperary, Wicklow, Dublin, Louth, Limerick, Monaghan and Donegal to participate in the awards presentation and they included a group of students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

The Awards were hosted by Moldovan born RTE Children's TV Presenter Diana Bunici and President Michael D Higgins gave the opening speech.

This was followed by a DVD presentation featuring top stars in the world of football talking about their experience of racism. In that DVD, players including Samuel Eto, Didier Drogba and Ryan Giggs feature. Following the DVD presentation, young people in the audience put questions to the guest panel. The panel included: Marco Tardelli (Ireland coach), Eamon Dunphy (TV pundit), Gordon D'Arcy (Ireland rugby), Philly Mac Mahon (Dublin SFC), Gary Sice (Galway SFC) and Camilla Lillevold Oeverboe (Norway SRTRC)

The event provided an opportunity for students to showcase their work in this area. President Higgins took time to visit the various stands and hear from the young people present about the origins of their project ideas,

The 2 Hare class were commended on their entry and already have plans in place for next year's competition. Congratulations to all.

International Visitors

Scoil Uí Mhuirí welcomes International Delegation

On Wednesday 9 November 2011, the management, staff and students of Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer, extended a Cead Mile Failte to 50 international delegates who were attending the 10th Asia Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) conference which took place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk from 7 to the 11 November 2011. This conference was being hosted by Co. Louth VEC in collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills.

On their arrival at the school, the delegation were warmly welcomed by Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal, Mr. Ray Donagh, Deputy Principal, members of the students' council and the Student Council Liaison Teacher, Ms. Caroline Murphy. The proceedings commenced with a musical interlude by the school's recorder group under the guidance of Ms. Fiona Shiels, music teacher, followed by a presentation on Scoil Uí Mhuirí by the Principal and Deputy Principal. Members of the Student Council also addressed the delegates about their role in policy and decision making in the school. These presentations were followed by tours of the school facilities which were facilitated by Scoil Uí Mhuirí students. The delegates appreciated the opportunity to see first hand the school's state of the art facilities and to observe the range of subjects and programmes on offer in the school.



During their visits to classrooms, the delegates interacted with students and teachers in order to hear more about teaching and learning in Scoil Uí Mhuirí classrooms. The delegates were very impressed with the school's broad curriculum, the integration of ICT into teaching and learning and the variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities on offer in the school, thus ensuring that students have every opportunity and support in place to enable them achieve their potential.

Towards the end of the visit, the Scoil Uí Mhuirí choir impressed the delegates with a series of musical performances. Overall, the visit was a great success and provided an opportunity for our international visitors to see why Scoil Uí Mhuirí remains highly regarded in the community and beyond as a centre of excellence in teaching and learning.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí welcomes French students

On Tuesday 27 March 2012, management, staff and students at Scoil Uí Mhuirí extended a Cead Mile Failte to staff and students from Collège Jules Ferry Saint Dié, France. The students joined us for the day and they engaged in a range of activities including ceili dancing, camogie and taking part in a variety of subject classes in the school.



AIB Build a Bank Challenge

The school Bank team also had a victorious year; they won a Gold Medal Award at the Regional Finals of the AIB Build A Bank Challenge. The Bank consisted of six members:

- ▶ Bank Manager Cathal Sweeney
- ▶ Assistant Manager Jessica England
- ▶ Sales & Marketing Kevin Moore
- ▶ Auditor Jack Mc Conville
- ▶ Tellers Saoirse Kelly and Amy Byrne

They were selected after an interview process and were trained up on how to run a Bank. The Bank opened in the school every Tuesday lunchtime. They called themselves The “Banking Wizards”. Mr. Colm Cooper the Kerry footballer came to our school to present the Gold Medal Certificate to the Bank Team and while he was here in the school, he also held a training session with some of our talented Gaelic players. Who knows some of our students might meet him in Croke Park some day!



National Career Skills Competition Winner

Congratulations to Roseline Olaniran, 6th Year, who won second place in the LCVP category of this year's National Career Skills Competition. There were over 4000 entrants in this competition. Roseline, a 6th Year student and her teacher Ms. Anna McCready attended the presentation in the Clock Tower at the Department of Education and Skills, where she was delighted to receive a prize of a Nikon Camera and a trophy for her school. She was presented with her prizes by the Minister of State for Training & Skills, Ciarán Cannon. Well done Roseline.



Coca Cola School Stars Competition

Scoil Uí Mhuiri enjoyed huge success in the Coca Cola Schoolstars talent competition last Autumn. Amy Byrne, Niamh Devlin, Cheryl Campbell, Una Carroll, Shauna Sullivan and the Scoil Uí Mhuiri School Choir gave outstanding performances throughout the competition. The choir reached the final of the competition and were extremely honoured to have an opportunity to sing for Mr. Louis Walshe of X Factor fame.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí Students compete in Feachtas Quiz

In October 2011, students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí competed in the Feachtas Quiz. Based in Dublin, Feachtas is an organisation that aims to promote and encourage pupils to use the native language outside of the classroom. Students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer enjoyed participating against teams from schools in Counties Louth and Monaghan.

Junior Achievement Company Programme

This was the first year in which Scoil Uí Mhuirí TY students entered the Junior Achievement Company competition for schools. All nine mini companies from TY were entered and we were thrilled to hear that one of our companies, RBN Productions, got through to the Regional Finals of the Programme which was held in the Glencarn Hotel, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan. RBN Productions managed to secure a place in the top ten mini companies in Counties Louth, Monaghan and Cavan and they were rewarded with a lovely piece of glassware for their achievements



Scoil Uí Mhuirí Maths Students Excel

Scoil Uí Mhuirí were delighted to announce that a number of our first year maths students were highly successful in the Mathematical Talent Search process facilitated by DCU's Centre for Talented Youth in Ireland (CTYI). These students presented in class with exceptional mathematical ability and as a result plans were put in place for those students to take part in CTYI's assessment process. As a follow on, these students were invited to take part in a range of summer courses organised by CTYI for Gifted and Talented students. Congrats to all.

Student Enterprise Awards

The Transition Year students set up Mini Companies as part of their Business course during the 2011/2012 school year. In total there were nine mini companies in operation. The students began the year by seeking investment from local Business people in a Dragons Den event entitled “Dunleer Dragons Den”. Each company received an investment and then set about producing their goods and services.



A Trade Fair was organised for December 2011. Each of the nine companies showcased their products on that night. Everybody present was hugely impressed. Four companies were selected by a team of judges to represent the school at the Louth County Enterprise Student Awards.

The four companies were:

1. KLINKS
2. RBN Productions
3. Flowbolt Ltd
4. JT Woodcrafts

The awards ceremonies were held in early March 2012. Each company had to set up a display and were interviewed by a team of judges. When the results were announced there was great excitement as one of our companies: KLINKS was announced as the winner of the Innovation Award in the Senior Category.



Barry's Free Range Eggs was also entered in the Junior Category. Barry walked away with a Highly Commended Award in the Junior Category.



Swimming

The aquatics experience was delivered in the Aura pool in Dundalk for all 2nd Year students during the 2011/2012 school year. With the numbers of confident swimmers growing each year the number of lifesaving awards presented to our students keeps increasing.

Many students attained Junior Aquatic Water Safety Level 1 awards and the following twenty eight students excelled and achieved their Level 2 award. Congratulations to Sadbh McCann, Liam Fussey, Shannon Murray, Amy McConnoran, Conall Maher, Robert McEvoy, Claire Gregory, Alan McDonnell, Ruairi Murphy, Cormac O'Brien, Darragh McEvoy, Aaron Scullion, Liam Callan, Cormac Flanagan, Sean McCartney, Conor Fahey, Conall Butterly, Alanna Dowling, Jessica Sullivan, Declan Taaffe, Cillian Crosbie, Cian Callan, James Torris, Jack Rogers, Jake Murtagh, Sam Mulroy, Dan Caffrey, Brendan Dias.



School Musical

The Transition Year school musical, “Bugsy A Musical” directed by Ms. Clare Coyle and Ms. Fiona Shields, took place in the school during March 2012. Local musicians from the Drogheda Brass Band, together with Ms. Shields and Mr. Cumiskey provided the musical accompaniment for the students. The musical, which was sold out on both nights, was hailed as a huge success by all who attended.



The musical programme, which is run in conjunction with the Personal Development module in TY, is a very popular element of the TY programme and is cited by many students as one of the highlights of the TY Programme at the school.

Students who took part in the musical had opportunities to develop a range of skills including team-building skills, confidence, self-discipline, organisational and acting skills to name a few.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí Students awarded Co. Louth VEC Gaeltacht Scholarships

During the 2011/2012 school year, Co. Louth VEC awarded Gaeltacht scholarship to ten students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí. These scholarships provide Scoil Uí Mhuirí students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Irish language and by so doing acquire a love for the language, while also enhancing their language skills that will pay dividends in future examinations.

The scholarships cover the cost of a three week stay for each student during the summer in Coláiste Bhríde in Rann na Feirste in Donegal. Coláiste Bhríde has been operating since 1926 in the village of Rannafast overlooking the Atlantic, where Irish remains the spoken language. Students are accommodated with families where Irish is the first language. This total immersion in the culture provides the best possible opportunity to improve and enhance the spoken word. Students attended formal Irish lessons during their time in the Gaeltacht, and they also partook in social activities such as sports, drama, music, céilí and debates, all through the medium of Irish.

The aim of the Gaeltacht programmes is that students will leave with improved language abilities, and an enhanced appreciation for both the Irish language and culture. Congratulations to all students.



The winners for 2011/2012 were:

Patrick Clarke,
Ben Dunne,
Conall Maher,
Jack Mc Fadden,
Thomas Dorian,
Ciaran Gallagher,
Michelle Connolly,
Lisa Mc Donald,
Cathal Costello
and Christina White.

Gaeilge Scholarships	Winners
Comhaltas Uladh Scholarships	Darragh Mc Evoy, Jack Rogers
Feis Mhuirtheimhne Scholarships	Michael Mc Evoy, Leanne Geoghegan

Tall Ships Scholarships

For the past number of years the Parents Association and JF Travel have supported our students by financing a scholarship to join a Tall Ship for a voyage of approximately ten days. This year three lucky Scoil Uí Mhuirí students joined a Tall Ship for such a voyage. Ronan Fitzpatrick and PJ Caffrey flew to the UK to board the Starvos S Niarchos as she sailed around the south coast of England and over to France. As members of crew the students had to stand watch, which sometimes involved being woken at 4am! They also had to climb the rigging to handle the sails or stow them again after use. Michael McEvoy was also awarded a scholarship which he will take up next summer after he completes his Leaving Certificate Examinations. Each of the students have to battle the elements, overcome sea sickness & learn to share a tiny living environment with up to sixty other strangers.

We would like to thank the Parents Association and JF Travel for their continued support for our Tall Ships Scholarships and look forward to offering more scholarships in the coming year.

TY students take part in DkIT Music and Creative Media Summer Workshop

Co. Louth VEC awarded two of Scoil Uí Mhuirí's TY students with places on the Music and Creative Media Workshop, which took place in Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) during the summer of 2012. The workshops were designed for anyone over 16 years of age with an interest in Music and Creative Media or considering a possible career path in this area. Our students had opportunities to engage in workshops on Photo Shop, Flash animation, Video editing, Drea weaver – web design, Audio recording techniques and DJ-ing. DkIT and their Music and Creative Media Department have successfully established a proven track record of offering high quality courses and excellent service where students can work with the best and latest equipment and facilities.

Congrats to Amy Byrne and Mohammed Asubiaro on securing places on the course.



Student of the Month Award Winners 2011/2012

A sincere thanks to the Dunleer Parish Credit Union who sponsor our Student of the Month Awards. This years winners were as follows:



Month/Year	Junior Winner	Senior Winner
September 2011	Dylan Kirwan	Conall Martin
October 2011	Chloe Callan	Emma Mc Donnell
November 2011	Nadine Weldon	Niamh Devlin
December 2011	Ciaran Hoey	Mark Loughlin
January 2012	Kaeli Van Rhijn	Thomas Brennan
February 2012	Cormac O' Brien	Eimear Murray
March 2012	Ronan Costello	Michael Mc Evoy
April 2012	Gideon Shobowale	Moritz Ajayi

Annual Awards Ceremony 2012

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's annual Awards Ceremony took place on Thursday 24 May 2012 at the school. The Awards Ceremony is one of the key events in our school calendar as it provides us with an opportunity to recognise and celebrate our students' achievements during this academic year. The range of awards presented on the day reflected all aspects of school life in Scoil Uí Mhuirí. 2011/2012 has been an enormously successful year for Scoil Uí Mhuirí.



We are really proud of our students' achievements and we wish them continued success in the years ahead both in school and outside of it as well. Our students' achievements bring great joy and a huge sense of pride to the school, their families and the local community. We encourage all Scoil Uí Mhuirí students to maintain their exemplary performance in the coming school year.

We would like to thank all staff members and students involved in preparing for the Awards Ceremony and we would like to extend a special word of thanks to our Sponsors for their continued support and commitment to the students, staff and management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí throughout the academic year.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí Student Awards for 2011/12

Sport

Athletics		Gaelic	
Best junior male:	Conor Kirwan	Junior Boys:	Cian Callan
Best junior female:	Katelynn Smith	Senior Boys:	Wayne Campbell
Best senior male:	Conor Faulkner	Chess	
Best senior female:	Niamh Fussey		
Camogie	Aoife Gregory		
P.. Judge			
Basketball			
1st Year	2nd Year	U16s	U19s
MVP Boys:	MVP Boys:	MVP Boys:	MVP Boys:
Lee Neilon	Cormac O’Brien	Abi Sasore	John McKeown
MIP Boys:	MIP Boys:	MIP Boys:	MIP Boys:
Bobby McMullen	Alan McDonnell	Uthman Adegoke	Jordan McEnteggart
		MVP Girls:	
		Nadine Weldon	
		MIP Girls:	
		Rebecca Howell	

Water Safety

Level 1	Level 2
2 Deer: Jack McFadden, Todd O Reilly	2 Deer: Sadbh McCann, Liam Fussey, Shannon Murray, Amy McConnoran, Conall Maher, Robert McEvoy, Claire Gregory, Alan McDonnell, Ruairi Murphy
2 Fox: Eoghan Clare, Una Carroll, Rebecca Howell, Shannon McCauley, David Holdcroft, Nikitta Kelly,	2 Fox: Cormac O'Brien, Darragh McEvoy, Aaron Scullion, Liam Callan, Cormac Flanagan, Sean McCartney, Conor Fahey, Conall Butterly, Alanna Dowling, Jessica Sullivan
2 Hare: Courtney Mundow, Aisling Shannon, Sinead Butterly, Christopher Harmon, Andy Power, Dean Clarke, Adam Montague, Thomas Dorian	2 Hare: Declan Taaffe, Cillian Crosbie, Cian Callan, James Torris, Jack Rogers
2 Mink: Nathan Sauramba, Darren McMullan, Sean Coyle, Aaron Murphy, Shauna Fogarty, Lana Jordan, Ciara Johnson, Matthew Monaghan, Ashley Molloy	2 Mink: Jake Murtagh, Sam Mulroy, Dan Caffrey, Brendan Dyas
2 Seal: Dearbhla McGroder, Rebecca Geraghty, Aoife Gregory	

Full Attendance

1st Year	Emily Gaughran, Ciarán Faulkner, Seán Iriwin, Aisling Hickey, Karl McNeill, Jason Neary, Johanna Young.
2nd Year	Cormac O'Brien, Raphael Wilson, Aaron Murphy.
3rd Year	Robert Lewin, Dean Sweeney, Israel Akinbode, Lauren Kearney-Keaskin, Kurt McGrane, Kelly Clarke, Jack Foley, Maria Molloy.
5th Year	Cathal Grimes, Alan Torris & Michael McEvoy
6th Year	Sheriff Adegoke, Michael Turnbull, Andrew White, Amy McNee, David Reid.

Tall Ships Scholarship

JF Travel/Parents Association: P.J. Caffrey, Ronan Fitzpatrick & Michael McEvoy

Peer Education Awards

Amy Byrne, Ashley McCullough, Joe McGovern

Build a Bank Challenge

Bank Manager	Cathal Sweeney	Auditor	Jack Mc Conville
Assistant Manager	Jessica England	Teller	Amy Byrne
Marketing Manager	Kevin Moore	Teller	Saoirse Kelly

Co. Louth Enterprise Awards

The following students received Enterprise Awards for their mini companies.

Runner- Up in the Junior Category Barry Callan (Barrys Free Range Eggs) 1st Year

Innovation Award at Senior Level Katie Mc Grane, Amy Byrne and Jessica England (CLICKS) TY Class

Junior Achievement Award

The following students reached the Regional Finals of the Junior Achievement Mini- Company competition:
Robin Blakey, Saoirse Kelly, Mohammed Asubiaro (RBN Productions) TY Class

Subject Specific Awards (All will receive a Cert.)

Junior Art Student		Senior Art Student	Michael McEvoy
Dunleer Credit Union Junior Business Studies Student		Dunleer Credit Union Senior Business Studies Student	Lauren Mc Morrow
Euro Language Award	Karl Martin		
Gaeltacht Scholarships		2 Bliain See sheet	IdirBhliain 5ú Bliain
Junior Maths Student	Sam McKeown	Senior Maths Student	Neil Young
Junior Music Student		Senior Music Student	Robin Blakey
LAN Junior Science Student		LAN Senior Science Student	Eimear Murray
Best Young Technologist		LAN Senior Technologist/ Engineering Student	Naoise Gogan
Winner of 'Liam Cosgrove Cup' Best Woodwork Student Runner up		LAN DCG/ Constructions Studies Student of the Year	Karl Martin
Carlito's Chef of the Year Winner		Carlitos Chef of the Year Runner Up	Kevin Moore Jessica England
Junior Home Economics		Senior Home Economics	Rosaline Olaniran
Creative Writing	Niamh Murray		
Scifest Certificates (All 5 th year, have Certificates)	Colm Reilly, Conor Faulkner, Layla Wynne, Rebecca Nevins, Jessica Hand, Jessica Byrne, Krizandra Langvelt		

Coca Cola Schoolstars Participants

Jessica Sullivan, Shauna Sullivan, Hayleigh Malone, Sophie Matthews, Una Carroll, Ciara McGrory, Caroline Bellews, Cormac Matthews, Aideen Byrne, Erica Quinn, Amy Byrne, Robin Blakey, Niamh Devlin. Choir: Ceadaoin Fleming, Sean Malone, Katie O'Brien

Awards for Academic Excellence 2011, best Jun. Cert. results 2011

Cathal Sweeney, Leanne Geoghegan, Amy Byrne, Emma McDonnell, Ciaran Gallagher, Krizandra Langevelt, Hanna Gregory, Jessica Hand, Tiernan Hoey, Sean Callan, Fintan Martin, Jessica Byrne.

OVERALL

Best Junior Cert Results 2011

Best overall Jun. Cert. results: Lisa McDonald

Overall Class Students of the Year 2012

1st Years

I Boyle Katie O'Brein
I Callan Charlie McGuire
I Tyndall Ciarán Hoey
I Walton Nicole Connor
I Kelvin Róisín Greene

2nd Years

2 Deer Jack McFadden
2 Fox Cormac O'Brien
2 Hare Jack Rogers
2 Mink Lana Jordan
2 Seal Gideon Shobowale

3rd Years

3 Blue Nadine Weldon
3 Gris Rory Daly
3 Jaune Lisa McGowan
3 Rouge Niamh Murray
3 Vert Claire Kirwan

TY

TY Kevin Moore

5th Years

5 Bowen Paul Smyth
5 Shaw Moritz Ajayi
5 Yeats Niamh Devlin
5 Joyce Tieran Hoey

6th Years

6 Ash Róisín Butterly
6 Beech Conal Martin
6 Cedar Kim Jordan
6 Oak Katie Barrett

OVERALL Student of the Year

Student of the Year — Junior

(Academic) Samuel McKeown (Spirit) Abi Sasore

Student of the Year — Senior

(Academic) Shannen Plunkett (Spirit) Sheriff Adegoke

Athletics News 2011/2012

1st Year Success at Claremont Stadium

The Scoil Uí Mhuirí 1st Year Athletics Team competed in their first event in Claremont Stadium, Navan, on 27th September 2011. The students were a credit to the school as they participated with great spirit and they were also very successful with a gold performance for Dammi Sasore in the girls long jump competition, winning with a huge leap of 4.20m. In second place in the girls' 800m was Aoife Kelly and in 3rd place in the relay were the Scoil Uí Mhuirí boys (Enda Mc Kenna, Mark Whelan, Mark Mc Cullough and Thomas Byrne) after a great effort to get to the final. Well done to all and roll on the next competition!

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Girls Team

Aoife Kelly – 800m, relay, Dammy Sasore - long jump, relay, Kayleigh Mc Hugh - long jump, relay, Céadaoin Fleming - shot putt, relay, Katie O'Brien - shot putt, 800m and Laura Byrne – shot putt, 800m

Boys Team

Enda Mc Kenna - A relay, 800m, Mark Whelan – A relay, long jump, Mark Mc Cullough – A relay, 800m, Thomas Byrne – A relay, 800m, long jump, James Martin – B relay, long jump, Charlie Mc Guire - B relay, shot putt, Dylan Carter – B relay, long jump and Ciarán Dunne – B relay, 800m

Relay Subs

Mark Hamill & Seán Malone

Shot Putt

Seán Malone – shot putt, Ciarán Dunne – shot putt and Mark Hamill – shot putt

Leinster Schools' Cross Country Championships

3rd year student Niamh Murray represented her school at the Leinster Schools' Championships in Santry, having qualified from the North Leinster Championships. Niamh ran a steady race in the under 17 Intermediate 3,500 metres to record a top 35 finish, and is eligible to compete in this age group again next year as she is only 15. Well done Niamh.

North Leinster Schools' Cross Country

The Minor, Junior and Intermediate Scoil Uí Mhuirí athletes competed in the North Leinster Championships on Wednesday 1st February 2012 in Dublin. The minor girls team ran very well with Aoife Kelly leading the girls home. The minor boys and junior boys also did their best against tough opposition, but it was Niamh Murray who had the best outing on the day, running the Intermediate 3,000 metres event, and finishing 8th to qualify for the Leinster Intermediate girls championship on February 8th 2012 in Santry. Well done to everybody who competed.



Drogheda and District Schools' Cross Country

The Scoil Uí Mhuirí athletics team were very successful at the Drogheda and District schools 25th anniversary event with two sets of team medals coming back to Dunleer. The Girls under 14 were recipients of bronze team medals, led home by Aoife Kelly while the girls over 15 were silver team medallists, with Eimear Murray finishing 4th just ahead of her younger sister Niamh in 5th, followed by Niamh Fussey and Ciara Mc Mahon. The boys under 14 and 15 ran very well in their first cross country races of the season, but unfortunately finished out of the medals on this occasion. The boys under 17 were led home by Abi Sasore, while the under 20 boys had a 12th place finish in Patrick Duff.

Basketball

The 2011/12 school year again saw our Basketball teams to the fore in Regional finals. Three of the four boys teams reached their respective finals with the U19s bringing home the silverware on this occasion. Led by their captain John McKeown the Dunleer team always looked strong. The U16s had a close encounter with Colaiste Oiriall from Monaghan but could not compete with the height of the Monaghan side. Abi Sasore did well to keep the Dunleer side in touch but was unable to break free from the Monaghan team, they were unlucky to lose out in a close contest. The 2nd year boys made their first finals appearance also against Colaiste Oiriall. They were no match for their well drilled opponents. Lee Neilon and Bobby McMullan were the stars for Dunleer on the day.



Senior Gaelic Team reach Semi—Final of Lennon Shield

There was a great sense of achievement among the school's U -18 boy's Gaelic football team who reached the semi final of the Lennon Shield earlier in the new school year. The team were narrowly beaten by a strong team from Bush Post Primary School. In the end our team lost by a point!! The team also played well in the Lennon Cup.



Graduation Mass 2012

On Tuesday evening 22nd May 2012, our ninety seven 6th Year students, their Parents/Guardians and Scoil Uí Mhuirí staff members gathered in St. Brigid's Church Dunleer for our 6th Year Graduation Mass. The evening provided us with an opportunity to honour our 6th Year students and congratulate them on their hard work, commitment, dedication and achievements during their time at Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

And to help us mark this important milestone in our 6th Year's lives, we were delighted to welcome back two honoured guests for the evening, Ms. Brid Rocks, former Principal and Ms. Una Kirk, former Year Head. Towards the end of the evening the students were presented with their Graduation Certificate by Ms. Kindlon, Principal and Mr. Donagh, Deputy Principal.



Junior Certificate & Leaving Certificate Examinations 2012

Scoil Uí Mhuirí were delighted with the collective results of its Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate students. This year, over two hundred students sat the State Examinations at the school. There was great excitement in the school on Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate results day when Ms. Kindlon, Principal, Mr. Donagh, Deputy Principal and many staff members met with students to distribute their results.



In general, there was a marked increase in the numbers of students taking Higher Level papers in a range of subjects and this is a trend that should continue in the future. Exceptional grades were achieved in a range of subjects including Maths, English, Science and the Arts.

A number of our Leaving Certificate students achieved well over 500 points. Our honours Maths students benefitted from the extra points allocation. The bonus points for Maths were welcomed, they enhanced some scores and will probably continue to have a positive impact on future Leaving Certificate results. The school were also delighted with the Leaving Certificate Applied results and the Junior Certificate Schools Programme results.



Our Junior Certificate students have progressed to Senior Cycle where they are engaging in either Transition Year, the Established Leaving Certificate, the Leaving Certificate Applied or the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

Many of our Leaving Certificate students have attained places in third-level colleges such as NUI Maynooth, DCU, St. Patricks College, TCD, DKIT, as well as O'Fiaich College of Further Education and DIFE.



An analysis of the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate results from the school had been completed and comparisons made with last year's results both locally and nationally.

Congratulations to all our examination students and best wishes for the future.

