

Overview of the Academic Year 2010/2011 – A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the Scoil Uí Mhuirí Annual Report 2010-11, the second to be published. This academic year was very significant in the history of Scoil Uí Mhuirí in that it was the most successful to date in all key areas. This exceptional progress is testament to the commitment and hard work from the stakeholders of our school community - the in-school management, staff, parents, Board of Management, Co Louth Vocational Education Committee and, above all, our wonderful energetic, enthusiastic young students, the lifeblood of Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

The development programme for this school has borne significant fruit this year. Curricular expansion involving the inclusion of additional optional subjects has provided greater life choices. Similarly the addition of two very significant new programme options or alternatives – Junior Certificate Schools Programme and Leaving Certificate Applied Programme - has permitted and motivated more students to make the most suitable selection, thereby optimising their results and opportunity to progress. The impact of these major changes will continue to positively reflect in the school's success into the future.

A major expansion of extra-curricular and co-curricular activity has been a very notable feature of this school year. Achievements in many areas as diverse as school shows, trade fairs, sports and athletics competitions, Young Scientist project entry and educational tours both at home and abroad, provide a flavour. At all levels students represented their school with enthusiasm, enjoyment and pride. The educational value of these activities cannot be overestimated and much credit is due to the commitment and dedication of our teaching and non-teaching staff.

The very significant expansion of Scoil Uí Mhuirí is gratifying for the management, staff and students of the school, and impressive for the wider community. It is with great pleasure and pride that we open our new four classroom extension in time for the new academic year. The addition of two specialist technology rooms and two mainstream classrooms will add significantly to the impressive facilities available in Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

The principal and deputy principal in co-operation with the Board of Management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí and Co Louth Vocational Education Committee will continue the work to obtain approval and funding for the permanent additional accommodation and resources needed for the future.

This annual report presents a snapshot of our school for the year 2010/11. It is designed to be read in conjunction with the Whole School Plan, our school brochure and the Scoil Uí Mhuirí website – www.scoiluimhuiri.ie.

Bríd Rocks, Principal, Secretary Board of Management.

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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. It is situated 23 kilometres from Dundalk and 16 kilometres from Drogheda the main towns in the county. The school proudly serves the areas of Annagassan, Clogherhead, Fieldstown, Walshetown, Tenure, Philipstown, Dromin, Kilsaran, Togher and the growing region of the Dunleer itself. The school has grown and developed since its opening in 1954 when 55 pupils were enrolled. Today there is a student cohort of 580 with a teaching staff of over 40.

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 the new €5million 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 schools accommodation facilities threw open its doors to teachers and students. The new 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 have sanctioned the construction of yet another extension at Scoil Uí Mhuirí and it is envisaged that the school will be in a position to accommodate 750 students by September 2013.

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.

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 and Deputy Principal.

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.

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 building. It was moved by a crane before phase one of our new extension commenced a number of years ago.



Our 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.

In School Management 2010/2011

Scoil Uí Mhuirí is managed by the Principal and Deputy Principal assisted by a team of Assistant Principals and teachers with special duties and responsibilities. The management team also works in tandem with the Board of Management and a close working relationship is maintained between the management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí and the CEO.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Senior Management Team 2010/2011

Brid Rocks	Principal
Ray Donagh	Deputy Principal

Board of Management 2010/2011

Mr. Liam Reilly
Ms. Brid Rocks
Mr. Alan Hurley
Ms. Therese Clinton
Mr. John Molloy
Ms. Eranda Langeveldt
Mr. Thomas Clare
Mr. Benny Devlin
Mr. Tomas Sharkey
Mr. Richard Mc Geough
Mr. Oliver Tully

Assistant Principals & Associated Duties 2010/2011

Frances Beard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year Head (1st Years)• Peer Education Programme• State exam fees
Valerie Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year Head (2nd Years)• School Shop• Financial and Budgetary Administration
Kathryn Shannon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year Head (3rd Years)• Coordinator Pastoral Care• Library Development
Una Kirk (<i>acting</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year Head (5th Years)• Co-ordinator SPHE• Preparation of School Newsletter
Máire Conneely	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year Head (6th Years)• Mentoring Programme for 1st Years• Co-ordinator of pre-exam papers

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

Special Duties Teachers & Associated Duties 2010/2011

Lorraine Duffy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Year Head • Student Lockers • Enrolment Day Procedures
Geraldine Friel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Year Head • Relocation of Classes for In-school Exams • Co-ordinator of Events for EAL Students
Jacqueline Matthews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Year Head • Website Maintenance • Co-ordinator of Anti-Bullying Procedures
Mary Cox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Year Head • School PR/ Liaison with Press • First Aid
John Mc Gahon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Year Head • Assistant Health and Safety Officer • Co-ordinator of 1st Year Subject Sampling
Fiona Ní Chonaill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Year Head • Timetabling of In-House Exams • Induction and Mentoring of New Teachers
Caroline Murphy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Year Head • Liaison with Student Council • Student of the Month Awards
Alan Hurley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Year Head • Co-ordinator of LCA • Co-ordinator of ICT Department • Assistant Timetabling
Lorna Finnegan (<i>acting</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Year Head • Co-ordinator of Co-curricular Sporting Activities • Co-ordinator of External Awards (GAISCE, BOI, etc) • Co-ordinator of Annual Awards Ceremony
Martina Farrell (<i>Acting/Appointed December 2010</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Year Head • Liaison with local Business Community • Annual Report

Teaching Staff 2010/2011

Adyta Amanowicz	Miriam Howard
Keira Bartley	Alan Hurley
Frances Beard	Valerie Kelly
Arlene Birch	Ann Marie Kirk
Miriam Butterly	Una Kirk
Aileen Carey	Noeleen Lyons
Melissa Clarke	Gordon Magennis
Therese Clinton	Bernadette Martin
Maire Conneely	Brian Mathews
Mary Cox	Aiden Matthews
Ian Cumiskey	Jacqueline Matthews
Gillian Curran	Anna McCready
Peter Devin	John McGahon
Lorraine Duffy	Pamela Mulroy
Fiona Duggan	Gemma Murphy
Martina Farrell	Caroline Murphy
Lorna Finnegan	Colleen McCooey
Fintan Kelly	Fiona OConnell
Geraldine Friel	Kathryn Shannon
Michael Gurn	Fiona Shields
Colin Heaphey	Helen White

The following Personnel joined the staff of Scoil Uí Mhuirí during the 2010/2011 school year:

- Ms Fiona Duggan as a teacher of Physical Education and Geography
- Mr Gordon Magennis as a teacher of Woodwork, Metalwork and Drawing
- Ms Anna McCready as a teacher of Business and CSPE
- Ms Colleen McCooey as a teacher of Resource
- Mr Michael Gurn as a teacher of Maths
- Ms Helen White as a teacher of Irish

Further changes to staff for the school year 2010/2011 included:

- Mr Martin Cassidy was on secondment to T4
- Ms Gillian Curran commenced maternity leave in October 2010
- Ms Síona McCourt was on secondment to the Project Maths team

Non Teaching Staff 2010/2011

Audrey Dorian	School Secretary
Debbie Fay	Special Needs Assistant
Sandra Mc Cann	Catering Services
Sheila Mc Evoy	Student Services, Cleaner
Fr. Michael Murtagh	School Chaplain
Paula Quinn & Paul Rosbotham	School Completion Project Worker
Agnes Reynolds	Cleaner
George Reynolds	Caretaker
Frances Beard	Home School Liaison Officer

Student Enrolment

Enrolment at the school is rising each year and the student enrolment in Scoil Uí Mhuirí for the academic year 2010/2011 was 523 students.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Programmes

The following is a list of the programmes offered in Scoil Uí Mhuirí during the 2010/2011 school year:

- Junior Certificate Programme
- Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP)
- Transition Year (Optional)
- Leaving Certificate Programme
- Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

Junior Certificate Programme

The Junior Certificate is a three year programme. In first year pupils take 12 academic subjects thus offering them a wide range of subjects. They choose their option subjects after they have had an opportunity to sample all of them, thus ensuring that they choose the subjects in which they are most likely to succeed. Students access ICT classes in first year in order to ensure all our students have the skills to make the best use of the technology available to them in the school.

Junior Certificate Subjects 2010/2011

English	Home Economics
Irish	Material Technology (Metal)
Mathematics	Materials Technology (Wood)
Computer Studies	History
Civic, Social and Political Education	Social, Personal and Health Education
Geography	Art, Craft and Design
Physical Education	Technology
Religious Education	Technical Graphics
French	Business Studies
Science	Tutorial
Environmental and Social Studies	

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.

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.

Transition Year Subjects/Programmes on offer in Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2010/2011

English	Mathematics
Irish	Home Economics (Cook It Programme)
Biology	Business & Enterprise
Music & Drama	Religious Education
History	Physical Education
Electronics	Information Technology & E- Learning
Career Guidance	Photography
Young Social Innovators (YSI)	Paired Reading (Primary School & First Year)
Careers	Personal Development

Leaving Certificate

The Leaving Certificate 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. This year saw the introduction of Construction Studies to our curriculum.

Leaving Certificate Subjects on offer in Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2010/2011

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

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

The LCVP is an enhanced Leaving Certificate programme. Students who have specified subject combinations qualify to take the “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.

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.

Staff Continuous Professional Development (CPD) 2010/2011

The following is a list of National, Local, Cross Schools, Individual and Whole Staff CPD events that Scoil Uí Mhuirí teachers participated in during this academic year:

- Many teachers took part in a range of ICT In-services which was provided by Navan and Monaghan Education Centres
- A series of Discover Sensors CPD sessions for all Science teachers across the scheme took place during the year. These took place in Scoil Uí Mhuirí
- Scoil Uí Mhuirí staff along with O Fiaich College staff attended an E-Learning Forum on the 20th October 2010 in the Crowne Plaza Dundalk. This event was organised by ICT Personnel in both Scoil Uí Mhuirí and O' Fiaich College
- Two staff members took part in a CPD session for the 'Diversity in Schools' project with schools from the North and South of Ireland.
- Training was provided to those interested in MOODLE.
- Teachers new to SPHE attended a series of SPHE CPD events
- A T4 In- service Programme was held in our school. This was organised by Mr Martin Cassidy who was on secondment to the Department of Education and Skills, T4 Support Service
- An Induction Programme for teaching staff new to the CLVEC scheme was delivered by Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Professional Development Associate, County Louth VEC. Teachers new to Scoil Uí Mhuirí also engaged in Induction Training which was facilitated by the Principal, Deputy Principal and staff mentoring co-ordinator at the school
- The Maths teachers attended a series of Project Maths In-services throughout the year

Staff members from Scoil Uí Mhuirí attended the following CPD events/meetings which were organised and facilitated by Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Professional Development Associate, Co. Louth VEC and aimed specifically at teachers across the CLVEC scheme:

- The Technology and Modern Foreign Languages Departments engaged in a Self Evaluation Process over the year
- The Music Teacher attended a CPD session for Co. Louth VEC's teachers of music
- The PE teachers attended a meeting of the scheme's PE/Sports teachers
- The JCSP co-ordinator attended a CPD session for JCSP Co-ordinators across the scheme
- The French teachers were represented at a meeting of the scheme's French teachers
- A number of staff engaged in a ten week evening course on First Aid
- Some members of staff attended an evening course on 'Using Assessment to Support Teaching and Learning in the Classroom'
- Several teachers of Gaeilge attended a course on 'Using ICT as a teaching and learning tool in the Gaeilge classroom'

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 2010/2011, we continued our efforts to increase the use of ICT in teaching and learning in the school. This included:

- The development of our school E Learning Plan
- Introduction of school wide wireless broadband
- Piloting of iPads as a teaching and learning tool in the resource department
- Exploration of the use of 'Moodle', as a Virtual Learning Environment within the school
- Introduction of interactive whiteboards in some subject areas
- Provision of a computer programming course for students delivered by students at lunchtime
- Completion of the introduction of computers and projectors into all classrooms

Student Council

The Student Council had a very busy year involved in all aspects of school life. Some of the areas they were directly involved with included:

- Working with the Parents' Association on a Road Safety project
- Surveying students on changes to school uniform and P.E. uniform
- Engaging in a very successful video conference meeting was held with the Student Council members from O' Fiaich College, Dundalk where issues relevant to both schools were discussed. This was followed by a joint trip to the Zoo in Dublin
- Meeting with Department of Education and Skills Inspectors during the school's WSE: MLL Inspection where they had an opportunity to excel in representing the school's student body
- Engaging in a meeting with the school's Board of Management and the Parents' Association, where the student council had opportunities to discuss issues relevant to the study body in the school

The Student Council Members for year 2010/2011 were as follows:

1st Year	Kaeli Van Rhijn and Dean Clarke
2nd Year	Celine White and Dean Sweeney
3rd Year	Terri Callan and Luke Callan
TY	Niamh Devlin and Stephen Mc Mullan
5th Year	Ugne Brazenaite and Emmet Callan
6th Year	Sadhbh Gregory and Dermot Hoey
Other:	Louise Foyle and Kieran Langan

The Link teacher to the Student Council for 2010/2011 was Ms Caroline Murphy.

Student Supports at Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2010/2011

Home School Community Liaison Officer (HSCL)

The role of the HSCL Officer came to the fore during the 2010/2011 academic year as more parents became aware of the variety of supports provided by the HSCL officer, Ms. Frances Beard. During the year, Frances visited many families in an effort to discuss challenges emerging and to consider any supports that needed to be put in place to ensure that students remained in the education system and were supported within the school environment. A number of classes were also offered to parents in the following areas;

- Computing Fetac Level 3 - introduction to computing and the internet
- English and Communication - helped parents to improve their English skills e.g spelling, form filling, letter-writing etc.
- Basic Maths -Parents had opportunities to brush up on their own maths skills in order to help their children with homework. Particular attention was given to Junior Certificate Maths topics
- English language classes were provided for non –national parents
- Parents joined us to participate in ‘*Paired Reading*’ programmes with their children
- Coffee mornings were enjoyed by parents and students in a “getting to know you session”

Guidance Counsellor

Our Guidance Counsellor, Mr Aiden Matthews provided students and their parents/guardians with information and support in order to help them make the right career decisions in their lives. As well as continuous class contact, Aiden was available to all students to discuss any personal, educational or career issues.

School Completion Programme

School Completion Programme is a National Programme that assists and supports targeted young people in their attendance and participation in school. During the 2010/2011 school year, the SCP Personnel in Scoil Uí Mhuirí 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.

Some of the agencies the SCP team worked with over the year included:

- 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

Pastoral Care Team

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí the Pastoral Care Team reviews 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 2010/2011, 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.

Links with Primary Schools – Transfer and Transition

Visits to the Primary Schools

Before the Open Night in October 2010, the Principal went out to make a presentation to all 6th class pupils in schools in our catchment area. The Principal also brought with her two past pupils of that school who were in 1st Year in Scoil Uí Mhuirí at the time to tell of their experience in Scoil Uí Mhuirí so far. Our Guidance Counsellor and our School Completion Officer were also in direct contact with the Principals of the Primary Schools as was our Resource teacher Ms Gillian Curran.

Transfer and Transition Programme

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 aims and objectives of this programme are:

- 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.

Open Night

Open night was held on 14th October 2010 from 6pm to 8pm. Parents of 5th and 6th class pupils in primary schools in our catchment area were invited to attend and view the excellent facilities in our school. Each subject department set up displays showcasing their subject.

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

- Science experiments
- Children 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

People were encouraged to take the tour as it meant they had a guide who showed them everything. 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 2011. It also gave teachers and students an opportunity to showcase the great work that goes on in Scoil Ui Mhuiri each day.

National Competitions 2010/2011

Student Enterprise Awards

The Transition Year students set up Mini Companies as part of their Business course. In total there were nine companies. They 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 which had to be postponed to January due to the bad weather. 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. The Clock Men
2. Dunleer Annual Calender
3. Stephens Honey
4. Coireal Ceilteach

The awards were held in early March. 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: Coireal Ceilteach (set up by Cathal Costello) was announced as the overall winner of the Senior Category.

Cathal then went on to represent Louth in the National Finals of the Student Enterprise Awards where he was placed 9th out of 34 companies. Cathal also won an Award at the Dundalk Grammar School Cross Border Trade Fair for Best Overall Company.

Get up and Go Mini Company Competition

The same four companies listed above went forward to the Get Up & Go Mini Company Competition where on that day Stephen Mc Mullan with his company Stephens Honey came home with 3rd Prize in the Accounts Category.

AIB Build a Bank Challenge

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

- Bank Manager: Cathal Costello
- Assistant Manager: Niamh Devlin
- Sales & Marketing: Joe Sheard
- Auditor: Michael McEvoy
- Tellers: Christina White and Ronan Fitzpatrick

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 “REAL” Champions Bank based on the loss of the Louth Team in the Leinster Final in 2010. Some of the players on that team came in to officially open the bank.

Young Scientist Competition

Two second year students from Scoil Ui Mhuiri, Dunleer got through to the Young Scientist exhibition in the RDS from 12th – 15th January 2011. The students were Niamh Murray and Lynne Bowhan and their project was called “Keeping eggs fresh”. The girls investigated seven methods of preserving eggs. The seven methods were as follows; fridge, lard, ash from fire, room temperature, in water glass, oats and salt. The girls studied the eggs over a six week period checking their freshness with a method called candling as often as possible.

They found that the eggs which were dipped in the chemical water glass (sodium silicate) worked best and eggs would stay fresh for up to a year when preserved in water glass. Surprisingly they found that the worst method was in the fridge, with the eggs reducing in freshness quickest using this method. The results from best to worst method were as follows:

- 1) Water glass
- 2) Lard
- 3) Oats
- 4) Salt
- 5) Room Temperature
- 6) Ash
- 7) Fridge

The girls got a great response from the judges and the public alike with lots of interest in their poster and their project. The project received a highly commended rosette from the judges.

Debating at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

The 2010/2011 year was a progressive one for debating in our school. At senior level, several maiden speakers cut their teeth in challenging surroundings and did very well. In fifth year, Katie Wardle and Lindsey Kirwan debated aggressively in November at the Trinity College School debates amid seasoned and well oiled debating teams. They did punch way above their weight and did the school proud, as did Cheryl Campbell and Jordan McEnteggart who went up the next week. All of these students were maiden speakers in competitive debating at the time so well done to them all.

Later on in the year we competed in the Concern Debates which went well also. Again, because we hadn't competed for a few years, many of the debaters were first timers. Colm Lawless, Micheal Turnbull and Stephanie Ojo debated against Mercy Secondary School, Trim and Castleblaney College. Their captain was Katie Wardle. We got to the second round and participated heartily. We do have some things to learn but it was great to see our students really engaging in the process and it did generate substantial enthusiasm for debating among other classes in the school.

Lest we forget, we were on the wireless this year too! The TY students took part in the 'LMFM Great Debate' in Drogheda and did the school proud. We met St Joseph's, Drogheda and Greenhills, Drogheda on their home turf and put up a formidable show on both occasions. The team - Jordan McEnteggart, Cheryl Campbell, Joe Sheard and captain Ronan Fitzpatrick – were unified, spirited and sharp. I don't think the podcast is still up there but up until a few weeks ago we could listen to the dulcet tones of our fourth years debating their way through motions on romance and the alcohol limit.

Next year we have big plans to introduce competitive debating at Junior Cycle and get into more national competitions. We will have a strong fifth year cohort of debaters and we will enter the Concern and Trinity debates, if not more. We hope to make debating part of the culture of the school. We look forward to students developing skills they never thought they had and having a bit of fun along the way.

Young Social Innovators (YSI)

The TY class also took part in the YSI project during the year. Their project this year was on Road Safety and they did the school proud when they took part in the Speak-Out in Navan, Co. Meath.

Gaisce Awards

During Transition Year students were encouraged to take up the Gaisce Award. This challenge by the President of Ireland is aimed at any young person between the ages of 15 – 25. It is offered at three levels and our students start at Bronze. Students were asked to select a challenge under each area which they would complete on a weekly basis on their own time.

For Community Service many offered to pass on their sporting skills as youth coaches, as part of their Physical Recreation students trained in martial arts, gaelic, dancing etc. For their new skills challenge many students learned the guitar, developed their cookery or photography skills. Finally for their adventure expedition the students travelled to Wicklow to hike for 30km over two days carrying all their supplies with them! While twenty three students took up this challenge at the beginning of the year only the most dedicated finished it out. Congratulations to all who received their Bronze Award, hopefully you will continue to Silver & to Gold!

Army Survival Course

This year for the first time ever two of our students were selected to participate in the Army Survival Course. Aaron McCann & Stephen McMullen took part in the four day course run by the 2nd Field Artillery Regiment in Wicklow. During the event the boys learned survival skills, survived on army rations and very little sleep! This event is open to any person registered for the Gaisce Award at Bronze, Silver or Gold level and only twenty five participants are selected each year. We hope Aaron & Stephen will be the first of many Scoil Uí Mhuirí students to enjoy this experience.

Scholarships 2010/2011

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 four lucky students joined a Tall Ship for a voyage. Kieran Langan, Amy Malone and Kim Jordan flew to the Canaries to board the Starvos S Niarchos as she sailed around the Canary Islands. 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. Dylan Toner also joined the Stavros for his voyage around the south coast of England. Each student had 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 & JF Travel for their continued support & look forward to offering more scholarships in the coming year.

Gaeltacht Scholarships

Each year students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí have the opportunity of visiting the Gaeltacht. This year a group of eighteen JCSP students from 2nd Year visited the Rath Cairn Gaeltacht on Lá Fheile Bhríde. In October 2010 a group of 4th Year and 5th Year students spent two days in the Rath Cairn Gaeltacht improving on their cúpla focal.

VEC scholarships were awarded to students to attend Colaiste Bhríde, Rann Na Feirste in County Donegal during the summer holidays and students also won Feis Muirthimhne, Comhaltais Ulaidh and local GAA scholarships.

Students who attended summer courses in 2011 included: Ciaran ÓGallachóir, Gearóid O' Conluín, Michael Mac Fhiobuá, Thomas Dorian, Aindriú de Faoite and Nichola Ní Chiorra

Annual Awards 2011

The Annual Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday the 24th May 2011 in the school gymnasium. This wonderful event to celebrate the achievements of our students is one of the highlights in our school calendar, an event in which the school remembers achievements of the past school year and gives recognition to the commitment, dedication and hard work of students. It is also a forum where we can thank and reward all our students who have represented Scoil Uí Mhuirí with distinction throughout the year.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Themed Weeks 2010/2011

Over the course of the year, we engaged in several themed weeks including the following:

Study Skills

Study skills week took place the first week in November. As part of Study Skills week the Student Enrichment Services presented a talk on “Study Skills and your child”. Study skills programmes were provided to our students later in the year.

Anti Bullying

Anti Bullying week took place in early October. Five lessons on bullying were taught to all students during first class each day for that week. Teachers were encouraged to promote the anti bullying message in any way they could. SPHE teachers also made posters with their classes which were displayed around the school.

Intercultural Week

Scoil Uí Mhuirí celebrated inter-cultural week, where the students from all 19 nations represented in the school took part in a series of events and activities both inside and outside the classroom.

The week began with a visit to DKIT when Ms. Friel and ten students attended the “All of Us” Multicultural Celebration of Diversity, a joint initiative by Co. Louth VEC and the DKIT. Students enjoyed the lectures, exhibition stands and savoured the ethnic dishes at the food tasting exhibition. The day ended with a multinational dance workshop where the Scoil Uí Mhuirí students did themselves proud with a display of fancy foot work!

Meanwhile multicultural activities took place within classrooms at Scoil Uí Mhuirí. The Home Economics students enjoyed a demonstration in Indian cuisine by the chef of Fushia House, Ardee. French and German students enjoyed traditional continental breakfasts. Business students studied the countries which trade with Ireland, Art students made masks from different countries. First year maths students learned Chinese and Egyptian multiplication.

A samba - drumming workshop was hosted by the Music department for 1st, 2nd and 5th Year students. Students of English composed poetry of an intercultural flavour, and traditional dance moves were taught in P.E. The subject of “Racism” was covered in CSPE, Religion students presented projects on the major world Religions, and our young students of Science demonstrated their knowledge of international scientists in very impressive projects.

The first years raised €130 for the victims of the tsunami and earthquake in Japan in a table quiz. The winners of the table quiz were: Raphael Wilson, Nathan Sauramba, Gideon Shaobowale and Jamie Curtis.

The colourful display of flags, maps and projects in the foyer of the school were changed daily and the projects displayed were of huge interest to all the students.

Maths Week

During the school year 2010 – 2011 the Maths department implemented the new Project Maths curriculum. Maths week was held from the 9th – 16th October 2010. During this week the Transition year students organised maths events at lunchtime. Sudoku, maths quizzes and Countdown were enjoyed by all.

The Hamilton medal was awarded to Seamus Winters for his project on Einstein. This is an annual competition for all First year maths students. The Hamilton medal was donated to Scoil Uí Mhuirí by Dr. Peter Connolly, former CEO, CLVEC.

In association with Intercultural week, maths students studied Chinese Multiplication. This allowed students an insight into the different approach taken to the teaching and learning of maths within other cultures.

Science Week

Science week took place between the 7th and 12th November 2010. There were a series of activities organised in the school. 1st Year students took part in a science quiz. 3rd Year science students organised a science experiments demonstration for 1st Year students. 3rd Year students took part in a table quiz.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain Na Gaeilge took place the week beginning the 14th March 2011. There were many activities organised for the students including: Quizzes, crossword puzzles, Irish Dancing and La Glas Eadai .

Music in Scoil Uí Mhuirí

School Musical

The Transition Year school musical, 'The Golden Ticket', directed by Ms. Una Kirk and Ms. Fiona Shields, took place in February 2011. Locals from the Drogheda Brass Band accompanied the students. Led by Cathal Costello, Craig Devlin and Stephen McMullen, 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 good reason to apply for TY. Students who took part in the musical had opportunities to develop a range of skills including team-building skills, confidence and self-discipline to name a few.

School Choir

The Scoil Ui Mhuiri School Choir performed fantastically in last Autumn's Schoolstars competition, reaching the semi-final stage. Students involved came from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year and all did their school, family and friends proud. Despite the big snow of last year, the annual carol service went ahead with a very small choir. Despite small numbers, the service was beautiful and well-worth continuing with in the face of the bad weather.

A small group of first years went into the village to sing Christmas carols to help raise funds for the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul on the day of their collection. They sang outside the SVP's recently-opened shop and were well-taken care of on the day by staff who had tea and cookies ready for them once they finished. A great day was enjoyed by all.

Music Competitions

Scoil Ui Mhuiri had fifteen acts participating in the first ever Schoolstars last Autumn/Winter. The acts varied from solo singers to group acts to the school choir. Each heat was compered by Mr. Joe Rooney and was hosted in the TLT, Drogheda. The students of Scoil Ui Mhuiri gave outstanding performances each night with many acts achieving high praise from the judges. The choir reached the quarter-final stage, Megan Murphy Byrne, Niamh Devlin, Una Carroll and the Choir reached the semi-final stage and Niamh Devlin went on to scoop a place within the top ten in the grand finale. Well done to all our music students. You did your school and your families proud.

School Newspaper: Scoil Uí Mhuirí Times

In the school year 2010/2011, Scoil Uí Mhuirí founded its first school newspaper. It was an extracurricular endeavour which saw approximately twenty students ranging from first to sixth year taking part. The newspaper team met every week during their lunch hour to brainstorm ideas, record interviews and write reports on the events that were taking place within the school, community, country and world at large. It was very successful with students reporting on current affairs, sports, fashion and entertainment to name but a few.

While the school newspaper enabled the students a representative voice for their peers, it was also provided a great opportunity for the students involved to gain an insight and experience into the world of journalism and media, areas that many of our students wish to go on to further education to study.

In the future we wish to adapt and evolve the newspaper with an emphasis on online media. We will continue to create, inform and involve the school community on the events in our world and hope it will be as successful as it has been in this year.

Newspaper Members 2010/2011

Name	Class
Sinead Butterly	1 Hare
Adam Montague	1 Hare
Aishling Shannon	1 Hare
Jack Rogers	1 Hare
Tony Smith	1 Hare
Cillian Crosbie	1 Hare
Thomas Dorian	1 Hare
Jamie Curtis	1 Mink
Matthew Monaghan	1 Mink
Lana Jordan	1 Mink
Cormac Matthews	1 Fox
Courtney Mundow	1 Hare
Thomas Gregory	2 Jaune
Ciara Byrne	2 Jaune
Sarah Maguire	2 Vert
Lucy Matthews	2 Vert
Conor Smyth	2 Vert
Matthew Turnbull	2 Vert
Liam McGrath	3 Bowen
Daniel Dowd	3 Bowen
Mark McLoughlin	3 Joyce
Stephanie Ojo	5 Oak
Adam Mackin	6.1

The teacher involved with this project was Ms. Melissa Clarke.

Fundraising 2010/2011

Each year, the students and staff of Scoil Uí Mhuirí ensure that they do as much as possible for local Charities with the year 2010-2011 being no exception. The following money was raised for local Charities:

- 1 Mink held a Cake Sale in aid of The Irish Wheelchair Association raising €127
- The staff organised a coffee morning for the local Hospice and raised over €100
- Ms Shields and the Choir sang carols for the Christmas shoppers in Dunleer and raised over €200 for SVP
- 6.1 students held a table quiz for 1st years and all monies raised were donated to SVP
- Daffodils were sold on Daffodil day raising €250 for the Irish Cancer Society. A letter was received by the school from the Irish Cancer Society thanking us for the amount we raised
- TY students helped sell “Happy Hearts” for the Irish Heart Foundation in Drogheda
- TY Mini-company students donated some of their profits to Charity including Age Action Ireland
- TY students also sold badges etc for other Charitable causes

Educational Trips 2010/2011

- In September 2010 the 6.1 class went to Higher Options in the RDS
- LCA students attended The Ploughing Championships as part of their Agriculture and Horticulture course
- On Monday 20th September 2010 1 Seal and 1 Fox went on a guided tour of Mellifont Abbey as part of their History and ESS course
- The TY class went on a teambuilding trip to Carlingford on the 23rd & 24th of September 2010
- On September 29th 2010 the TY class attended an Ideas Generation Workshop organised by Louth County Enterprise Board in Dundalk
- 5 Ash went to The Zone Activity Centre on the 4th October 2010 as part of the Leisure course in LCA
- Leaving Certificate students attended DKIT open day in October
- TY students and 5 Cedar went to the Gaeltacht in Rathcairn on the 18th & 19th October 2010
- On the 21st of October 201 TY and 5 Ash went on a trip to the Tayto factory in Armagh in order to help them develop their mini-company ideas
- On the 21st October 2010 all 3rd years went to Tanagh adventure centre for a team building day
- In November 2010 1 Mink & 1 Hare went to the Viking Splash Tour as part of their SPHE programme
- 2 Gris and 2 Rouge went to Leinster House as part of their CSPE programme on the 4th November 2010.
- TY and 5th Year French students went to the cinema in Dundalk to view a French film on the 9th November 2010
- TY and 5th Year Science students attended a talk on Forensics in DKIT
- 6th Year Art students and LCA2 went to the National Gallery on the 17th November 2010
- On 18th November 6.1 attended an open day in DCU
- On the 22nd November 2010, 3 Yeats and the 2nd Year JCSP students went to the Waxworks Museum as part of the JCSP Programme
- 2 Bleu and 2 Rouge attended the Mosque as part of their RE programme
- 5 Oak and 5 Cedar went to Maynooth Open Day in November 2010
- Niamh Murray and Lynne Bowhan competed in the Young Scientist Exhibition in January 2011
- 3 Joyce went to the Zoo as part of their CSPE programme on 19th January 2011
- Some of our music students attended a cross border project with St Patricks High School Armagh in January 2011
- 5th Years and TY students went to the careers exhibition “Choices 2011” at the end of January 2011
- In early February 2011 2nd Year JCSP students went to the Gaeltacht in Rathcairn as part of an initiative to promote the use of the Irish language
- On 3rd March 2011 the TY class attended the Louth Student Enterprise Awards
- On 6th March 2011 the “Real” Champions Bank attended the Regional Finals of the AIB Build a Bank Challenge.
- Cathal Costello attended the National Student Enterprise Awards in Croke Park in April 2011

- The Student Council went on a trip to the Zoo with the Student Council from O' Fiaich College
- 5 Ash and TY students went on a visit to the Nuremore Hotel as part of their Hotel, Catering and Tourism course
- On Friday 21st March 2011 2 Bleu and 3 Joyce went to the Helix theatre to see The Merchant of Venice
- Some TY students attended the "Get up and Go " mini company competition
- On April 4th 2011 the TY class went on retreat to Stephenstown Pond
- 3rd Year ESS Students went on a field trip to the local village of Clogherhead
- 1st & 2nd Year Geography students went to the Giants Causeway on the 13th & 14th April 2011
- Throughout the year students attended various debating competitions
- There were numerous Football and Basketball games attended by our students throughout the year
- Athletics events also featured throughout the year

International Trips

USA Ski Trip

Students from Scoil Ui Mhuiri went on a very successful Ski trip to New Hampshire, USA during the mid-term break in February 2011. We say it was successful educational outing as nobody came home with any broken bones!!!!

Paris Trip

There was also a trip organised to Paris in March 2011. Students did some sightseeing and also visited Disney Land Paris. This trip helped students develop their spoken French which enhanced their preparation for the French oral examinations.

2011 German/Irish Exchange

Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer and Realschule Hilpoltstein participated in their 4th exchange project in 2011. Ms. Howard and Ms. Matthews started this project in 2006, when they initiated an ICT project combining virtual videoconferencing meetings with actual meetings. This project developed as the teachers commenced a European Comenius initiative, and together with the National Agency, Léargas succeeded in bringing groups of students to Germany two years in succession, with the German students visiting Ireland also on two occasions, the theme being National Games ie. Hurling and Gaelic Football, together with Olympic Handball and Voelkerball.

This partnership has blossomed ever since and the Scoil Uí Mhuirí and Realschule teachers have kept in contact. The Hilpoltstein teachers and a new group of students arrived in Ireland in February 2011 for a five day stay. They attended school with their partners, participated in two International races, a road race in Armagh and the Rás na hÉireann cross country race in Oldbridge, Drogheda. They also attended a special performance of the Scoil Uí Mhuirí musical: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and did some swimming, bowling and Skyclimbing!

The Scoil Uí Mhuirí students travelled to Munich in late April 2011 and visited Neuschwanstein Castle in southern Germany before meeting up with their exchange partners. The Dunleer students enjoyed attending school in Germany, starting at 7.30 am! They also went to "Palm Beach" swimming complex in Nuremberg, did lots of shopping, visited a lake, played mini golf and enjoyed an afternoon at the "Fruehlingsfest" at the site of the world famous "Oktoberfest".

International Visits to Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Rwandan Visit

In May 2011, the Engineering Department welcomed a fact finding delegation from the Ministry of Education of the Central African Republic of Rwanda made up of Paul Kagame, Theoneste Bagosora and Pierre Habumuremyi. The visit came about as a result of year long collaboration between T4 and the Republic of Rwanda Technology Development initiative task force which will see the introduction of the Irish Engineering Technology and Design & Communication Graphic syllabi into Republic of Rwanda schools from January 2012. The revised Irish Technology syllabi were chosen because of the high level of technology advancement in the program which includes elements such as Computer Aided Drawing (CAD), Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM), ICT, Robotics, Computer Control, Pneumatics, Electronics, Project Management, etc.

During their visit to Scoil Uí Mhuirí they met with school principal Bríd Rocks, Co. Louth VEC CEO Dr. Pádraig Kirk, representatives of T4 as well as Scoil Uí Mhuirí teachers John McGahon, Gordon Magennis and Colin Heaphey. They also had the opportunity to interact with 5th Year students Karl Martin, Eoin Rigney, Sean Daly, Wayne Campbell and Emmett Callan who demonstrated the capability and operation of many of the CAD/CAM machines available in our school as well as manual manufacturing and assembly techniques.

Sport in Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2010/2011

Basketball

The 2010/11 school year saw our Basketball teams to the fore in Regional finals. Four of the six teams competing for our school reached their respective finals. Before Christmas 2010 our U16 and U19 boys teams both faced Colaiste Oiriall from Monaghan in the North East final. The U19's, captained by John McKeown, had a slow start to their game and allowed the Monaghan outfit to jump to an early lead. While they fought back in the final quarter they had left themselves with too much to do and ended up narrowly beaten. The U16's reversed the result to bring home the first trophy of the season with a well-deserved victory in which every team member played their part. Captained by Craig Devlin and Jordan McEnteggart the team led from start to finish. A shot by Abi Sasore on the buzzer sealed the victory.

In the new year, the first and second year teams competed in their competitions and we were represented in Regional Finals by both 2nd Year teams. The girls entered the final as hot favourites having won the competition in 1st Year; they now set out to retain their title. A superb defensive effort by Sarah Maguire and Ciara McMahon in the press led to a number of steals which the girls easily converted. Ciara McGrory, Nadine Weldon and Sophie Monaghan all dominated under the boards and the Sacred Heart, Drogheda team had no response to their attacking play. A strong display helped this team to retain their title & earn promotion to a higher division for the coming year.

The 2nd Year boys team sought to add to the girls victory. Despite outstanding play from Abi Sasore and Michael O'Neill the game was just out of reach at the final whistle. We look forward to seeing all players and teams competing again next season.

GAA

Undoubtedly the highlight of 2010/2011 in the Scoil Uí Mhuirí GAA season was the winning of the U14 Flood Cup. This was the first GAA trophy won in the school's history and signals and a strengthening of GAA in Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

The proud U14 team overcame the challenges of Ardee Community School, O'Fiaich College Dundalk and Bush Post Primary school in the group stages of the competition and went on to meet De La Salle, Dundalk in the semi Finals. Winning the semi-final led our footballers to a final against St. Josephs CBS Drogheda who are a renowned Gaelic Footballing force in the county.

In which proved to be the toughest challenge the boys of Scoil Uí Mhuirí faced in their Flood Cup campaign, they won out after a highly competitive and entertaining match. The final scoreline, Scoil Uí Mhuirí 4 - 9 St Josephs CBS 2 - 12.

Athletics

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's athletics team competed in the first Louth VEC Track & Field Championships at Bush Post Primary School's track on Wednesday April 6th 2011, with over fifty students from the school competing in a range of events against athletes from host school Bush Post Primary, as well as athletes from St. Oliver's Community College, Drogheda and O Fiaich College, Dundalk.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's senior athlete Amy Malone accepted the senior shield on behalf of the Scoil Uí Mhuirí athletics team who came first in the senior team competition. The Scoil Uí Mhuirí Junior squad were second in the Junior Shield competition. All of the athletes competed very well.

North Leinster Schools Athletics Championships

Well done to our medallists at the annual North Leinsters in Santry: Abi Sasore in the long jump, Lisa Mc Gowan high jump, Sheriff Adegoke 400m hurdles, Niamh Fussey 80m hurdles and Liam Fussey javelin, showing once again the versatility of the students who benefit from their modern sports facilities in Dunleer.

Leinster Schools Athletics Championships

Liam Fussey became the minor boys javelin Champion for 2011 in Santry in May 2011, while his sister Niamh excelled at hurdles once again, taking the bronze medal in the Intermediate girls competition.

Sports Day

End of year in Scoil Uí Mhuirí signifies Sports Day and this year was no exception. With the new extension being built and the increase in student numbers space was at a premium. For the first time the sports day was divided into Junior and Senior sections. With the assistance of the TY students the event ran without a hitch. A big favourite this year was the addition of the Bouncy Obstacle Course. We hope to add to the event next year and have a few more surprises up our sleeves!!!

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Parents' Association 2010/2011

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. During the 2010/2011 academic year, the Parents' Association Officers were as follows:

Chairperson	Celine Fanning
Secretary	Mary Callan
Treasurer	Maureen Kearney
PRO	Peter Keane
Board of Management Representative	Eranda Langeveldt
Board of Management Representative	John Molloy

Fund Raising 2010/2011

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. It reduced the need for the Parents Association to be involved in major fund raising and allowed the Parents Association support the school in special projects.

During the year the Parents Association were happy to assist the school in a number of ways especially in school and afterschool activities and primarily in the installation of CCTV cameras throughout the school. This project alone contributed approximately €27,000 to the school. This CCTV project has increased the protection of all the students in the school along with the security of our developing school.

Study Skills Project 2010/2011

The Parents Association have paid for and sponsored the Study Skills project. During the

2010/2011 school year the focus was on 3rd and 6th Year students. This training will aid the students to study and prepare for examinations in a skilled way. 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.

Road Safety Project

Mr. John Molloy was engaged with the Board of Management, Ms. Rocks, the Parents' Association and the Student Council in organising a road safety education programme for all students in the school. As part of this process, the Road Safety Authority provided a community road safety education program named "***A call to Action***". This was a two hour presentation which took place in April 2010. The main topics covered included:

- Speed and Speeding
- Road user Impairment: Fatigue, Mobile Phone use, Alcohol and Drug use.
- Unsafe behaviour towards or by vulnerable road users
- Safety Belts, child restraints and safety on Buses

At this talk a member of the Fire Service and an Garda Síochána were present to speak. A special guest speaker was also present who gave a very personal account of her own experience after being left wheelchair bound from a road traffic accident. The project also identified the need to have ramps installed on the Barn Road where the school is situated in response to an accident which occurred during the year. Discussions had begun with Louth County Council regarding the feasibility of placing ramps/speed tables in the vicinity of the school. This project is on going.

Other Activities

The Parents' Association also sponsored two students to take part in the tall ships project. They ran a competition to give Driving Lessons to a number of students from 5th and 6th Year through the Dunleer Driving School. Four students were successful in winning a €250 Voucher each for driving lessons.

Links with the Student Council

The Parents' Association also continued to liaise with the Student Council, in order to keep the student body up to date with any fund raising events or programmes which would be of interest to them.

Supporting Adult Education and Home School Community Liaison Service

The Parents' Association along with the HSCL Officer identified the need to have a dedicated space for the Home School Community Liaison Parent Classes. As a result the Parents' Association contributed €5,550 towards the purchasing and installation of a portacabin for this purpose. This portacabin was installed during the Summer of 2011.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Links with Outside Agencies 2010/2011

The following is a list of those some of those groups and agencies that we linked with locally during the year

- Bank of Ireland
- Allied Irish Bank
- Louth County Enterprise Board
- Dunleer Parish Credit Union
- Junior Achievement Ireland

Groups using Scoil Uí Mhuirí's facilities 2010/2011

There were a number of groups which used the fine facilities we have in Scoil Ui Mhuiri during the year. These included:

- The Youth Development Group who held a course each Wednesday night
- Karate classes were held on a Monday night in our state of the art gymnasium
- Dunleer Athletics Club also used our gym on Tuesday and Thursday nights
- The local Camogie club also made use of the gym for a six week block
- The "Lets Go" Summer camp and Dunleer Athletics Club made use of our facilities for their Summer camps

Communication with Parents/Guardians

Every effort was made to communicate regularly with parents /guardians throughout the school year.

This included:

- Management and staff communicated with Parents by letter and by phone throughout the year
- A series of appointments took place with management and staff
- Reports were sent out to Parents at Christmas and also at the beginning of the Summer holidays. 3rd and 6th Year parents received reports on a five weekly basis
- The “text” system was also introduced to maintain regular contact with home
- Parent Teacher Meetings were held for each year group

Other methods of communication during the year included:

Press Releases

Ms Mary Cox kept the local newspapers and radio regularly informed on events taking place in Scoil Ui Mhuiri during the 2010/2011 school year.

Website

Our school website, www.scoiluimhuiri.ie was updated regularly by Ms. Jacqueline Matthews

Open Night

Our open night was held in October 2011. Parents of 5th and 6th class pupils in primary schools in our catchment area were invited to attend and view the excellent facilities in our school. Each subject department set up displays showcasing their subject. The night was a huge success and the feedback received by the Principal was excellent.

Information Booklet

An information booklet giving information on our school, its facilities, subjects, programmes and student supports was distributed at various events throughout the year.

Graduation Mass 2011

The Scoil Uí Mhuirí Leaving Certificate graduation mass took place on Thursday 26th May 2011. There was a large attendance of teachers, parents, family and friends of sixth year students to celebrate the evening. There was a great sense of pride amongst parents and teaching staff of the students. Although some of our 6th Year students felt it was a sad occasion for them leaving behind their schooldays and ending their second level education, the event marked the beginning of a new chapter in their lives.

Examination Success 2011

Once again this year, students from our Junior and Leaving Certificate classes reaped the rewards of their hard work and their teachers were delighted to offer their congratulations to one and all. There were many examples of high achievement in this year's groups and the school were delighted with the results of all examinations.

Appendix 1

Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Annual Awards Ceremony 2011

<u>Sport</u>			
<u>Athletics</u>		<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Badminton</u>
Best junior male:	Liam Fussey	Junior Boys: Christian Clinton	Junior Boys: Ryan Winters
Best junior female:	Lisa Mc Gowan	Senior Boys: Kieran Langan	
Best senior male:	Sheriff Adegoke	<u>Chess</u>	
Best senior female:	Niamh Fussey	Cathal Sweeney	
<u>Basketball</u>			
1st Year	2nd Year	U16s	U19s
MVP Boys: Darren McMullan	MVP Boys: Abi Sasore	MVP Boys: Ciaran O'Brien	MVP Boys: John McKeown
MIP Boys: Cormac O'Brien	MIP Boys: Michael O'Hare	MIP Boys: Sean Callan	MIP Boys: Eoin Rigney
	MVP Girls: Sophie Monaghan		MVP Girls: Niamh Devlin
	MIP Girls: Sarah Maguire		

Water Safety

Level 1

2 Bleu: Caroline Bellew, Karen Byrne, Eddie Hand,
Luke Mulvanny, Michael O'Hare

2 Jaune: Jack Healy, Jack Jein, Lisa McGowan, Kurt
McGrane

2 Vert: Kelly Clarke, Jack Foley

2 Rouge: Saga Alhgren, Eoin Gregory, Sean Marry,
Dean Reynolds, Abi Sasore, Conor Treanor,

Level 2

2 Bleu: Peter Carron, David Kirk, Cillian Madden,
Cormac Marron, Craig Sharkey

2 Jaune: Cian Byrne, Thomas Gregory, Colin Smith

2 Rouge: Darragh Goodman, Ben Holdcroft, Sean
Keenan, Ciarán O'Rourke,

Soccer Coaching

FAI Kick Start 1 Awards

Paul Doyle, Niamh Mulready, Kieran Langan, Craig Devlin, Emmett Kelledy, Tara Reilly, Jamie Byrne, Jason Carroll, Chris McGlynn, Jordan Dillon, Natasha Murray, Jennylee Fleming, Danielle Lahiff

Full Attendance

1st Year	Ashley Molloy, Conal Maher, Cormac O'Brien
2nd Year	Kelly Clarke, Kurt Mc Grane, Maria Molloy
3rd Year	Emma McDonnell
TY	Rebecca Mc Ardle, Aaron Mc Cann & Michael Mc Evoy
5th Year	Peter Adeniyi
6th Year	None
Overall Award	

<u>Tall Ships Scholarship</u>	
JF Travel: Kieran Langan & Amy Malone	Parents Association: Kim Jordan & Dylan Toner

<u>Peer Mentoring Awards</u>
Megan Murphy Byrne, Suzanne Kierans, Sinead O’Callaghan, Dermot Hoey, Kelly Mcauley, Sarah Brennan, Shane Sheridan, Courtney Smyth, Ben Fay, Amy Landy, Oskar Debski, Julia Debska, Karl Hodgers, Lee Hack, Dennis Heeney, Antonia Sambanidis, Dean Maguire.

<u>Peer Education Awards</u>
Rebecca McArdle, Cathal Costello, Christina White, Craig Devlin,

<u>Build a Bank Challenge</u>			
<i>Bank Manager</i>	Cathal Costello	<i>Auditor</i>	Michael McEvoy
<i>Assistant Manager</i>	Niamh Devlin	<i>Teller</i>	Ronan Fitzpatrick
<i>Marketing Manager</i>	Joe Sheard	<i>Teller</i>	Christina White

<u>Co. Louth Enterprise Awards</u>	
The following students received Enterprise Awards for their mini companies.	
Stephens Honey Stephen McMullan	Dunleer Annual Calender Michael McEvoy, Thomas Brennan, Brian Daly

The ClockMen Lorcan Mc Cann, Shane McGrory, Aaron McCann, Cathal Grimes	Coireal Ceilteach (OVERALL SENIOR WINNER AT LOUTH COUNTY ENTERPRISE STUDENT AWARDS) Cathal Costello
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<u>Coca Cola Schoolstars Participants</u>		
Mohammed Asubiaro and Conor Faulkner Una Carroll Suzan Akande Nicola Kerr and Stephen Marron	Ciara McGrory Hayleigh Malone Susan Murphy Cheryl Campbell Sheriff Adegoke, John Bello, Peter Adeniyi and Utman Adegoke	Scoil Ui Mhuiri School Choir Kelly McAuley Caroline Bellew Cormac Matthews Megan Murphy Byrne Niamh Devlin

<u>Subject Specific Awards</u>			
<i>Junior Art Student</i>	Caroline Bellew	<i>Senior Art Student</i>	Shelby Byrne
<i>Dunleer Credit Union Junior Business Studies Student</i>	Leanne Geoghegan	<i>Dunleer Credit Union Senior Business Studies Student</i>	Sinead O'Callaghan
<i>Euro Language Award (German)</i>	John King	<i>Goethe Institute German Award</i>	Ronan Fitzpatrick
<i>Gaeltacht Scholarships</i>	1 ^ú Bliain Gearóid Conlon, Rachel Donnelly,	2 Bliain Jack Foley, Sarah Maguire	IdirBhliain Michael Mc Evoy

	Lana Jordan	Nadine Weldon	5ú Bliain Andrew White, Nicola Kerr
Junior Maths Student	Amy Byrne	Senior Maths Student	John Mc Geough
Best Maths Project	Seamus Winters		
Junior Music Student	Amy Byrne Robin Blakey	Senior Music Student	Megan Murphy Byrne
LAN Junior Science Student	Emma McDonnell	LAN Senior Science Student	Megan Murphy Byrne
Best Young Technologist	Seyi Akintunde	LAN Senior Technologist/ Engineering Student	John King
Winner of 'Liam Cosgrove Cup' Best Woodwork Student	Fintan Martin	LAN DCG/ Constructions Studies Student of the Year	John King
Carlito's Chef of the Year Winner	Eimear Corrigan	Carlitos Chef of the Year Runner Up	

<u>Bank of Ireland Student Awards</u>		
Category	Junior	Senior
Academic	Hanna Gregory	Sinead O'Callaghan
Art	Katie McGrane	Leanne Connolly
Community Spirit		Jennylee Fleming
Entrepreneur	Marcelle Langeveldt & Michaela Callan	Cathal Costello
Sport	Moritz Ajayi	Karl Hodgers
Music	Lisa McDonald	Kelly McAuley

Wise Owl Awards for Academic Excellence

Religion	Stephen McMullan, Eimear Corrigan, Michael Turnbull, Niamh Devlin, Michael McEvoy, Aoife Moore Kavanagh, Eimear Murray, Lauren Rath, Rosaline Olaniran, Joe Sheard, Aoife Duffy, Chloe Fay, Naoise Gogan, Rebecca McArdle
Metalwork	Michael McEvoy, Eoin Rigney, Cathal Costello, Emmett Callan
English	Charmaine Dunne, Michael McEvoy, Jammie Smyth, Naoise Gogan, Lauren Rath
Science	Michael McEvoy, Eimear Murray
Irish	Michael McEvoy
History	Michael McEvoy, Naoise Gogan
Woodwork	Eoin Rigney, Joe Sheard, Cathal Costello
German	Michael McEvoy
Technology	Naoise Gogan

OVERALL

Best Junior Cert Results

Michael McEvoy, Naoise Gogan, Eimear Murray

Dunleer Credit Union Student of the Year

1st Years		2nd Years		3rd Years	
1 Deer	Liam Fussey	2 Bleu	Michael O'Hare	3 Bowen	Amy Byrne

1 Fox	Cormac O'Brien	2 Gris	Ciara McMahon	3 Joyce	Michael McKenna
1 Hare	Christopher Harmon	2 Jaune	Lisa McGowan	3 Shaw	Lisa Mc Donald
1 Mink	Ciara Johnson	2 Rouge	Niamh Murray	3 Yeats	Luke Montague
1 Seal	Megan Lynch	2 Vert	Jack Foley		
TY's		5th Years		6th Years	
TY	Michael Mc Evoy	5 Ash	Roisin Butterly	6.1	Rebecca Fanning
		5 Beech	Stacey Friel	6.2	Karl Hodgers
		5 Cedar	Laura Dyas	LCA 2	Jamie Byrne
		5 Oak	Katie Wardle		

OVERALL	
Student of the Year — Junior	
Name: Leanne Geoghegan (Academic)	Name: Paul Smyth (Spirit)
Student of the Year — Senior	
Name: Megan Murphy Byrne (Academic)	Name: Christopher Rigney (Spirit)