



Scoil Uí Mhuirí
Post Primary School



Christmas Newsletter 2012



Students celebrate success in State 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.



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 (3 Fox), Cathal McCartney and Patrick Clarke (2 Callan) and Janet Akintunde (2 Kelvin) presented their project at an e-learning conference for schools hosted by Co. Louth and Co. Cavan VECs in September 2012.

Enrolment Night 2012

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Enrolment Night for 1st Year students 2013/2014 took place in the school on Monday 22 October 2012 from 6-8pm. Over 300 students and their parents/guardians from 6th classes in primary schools in our catchment area attended the event.

Over the course of the evening those in attendance had an opportunity to hear about Scoil Uí Mhuirí regarding subjects/programmes on offer, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and the various supports in place for our students. Parents/Guardians had an opportunity to hear more about the school's commitment to promoting high quality teaching and learning. ICT, resources, facilities, performance in State Examinations and progression to Third Level Education were among the other issues discussed during the evening.

Information sessions were facilitated by Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal and Ms. Paula Mc Cabe, School Completion Project Worker. While the 6th class pupils had opportunities to question the current 1st Year students about their experiences in the school to date, Ms. Paula Mc Cabe gave an overview of the school's effective Transfer and Transition Programme for all 1st Year students.

Mr. Donagh, Deputy Principal also launched the school's new DVD which provides an overview of a day in the life of Scoil Uí Mhuirí.



School Choir reaches Final of Coca Cola School Stars Competition



Once again this year, the school choir, under the guidance and direction of Ms. Fiona Shields reached the final of the highly competitive Coca Cola School Stars Competition which took place in the TLT, Drogheda recently. Mr. Louis Walsh stated that he was really impressed with our choir's performances. One lucky 1st Year student, Dennis Woods had an opportunity to have a chat with Louis, get his autograph and his photo taken with the X Factor judge. Congrats to all involved. You have done your school proud.

Coffee Morning for 1st Year Parents/Guardians

In early October 2012, parents/guardians of all our 1st Year students were invited to a coffee morning in the school. The purpose of the coffee morning was to give those parents/guardians an opportunity to discuss how the 1st Year transition process had been for their son/daughter and also to have an opportunity to meet other parents/guardians of 1st Year students. We were delighted with the large numbers who attended the event.

During the coffee morning those in attendance also had opportunities to meet with the Principal, Deputy Principal, Home School Community Liaison Officer, School Completion Project Worker, Guidance Counsellor and the 1st Year Year Head.



Towards the end of the event parents/guardians were asked to complete a Review and Evaluation questionnaire. Parents/Guardians have rated our Transfer and Transition Programme as being highly effective in ensuring a smooth transition for students from Primary to Post Primary school.

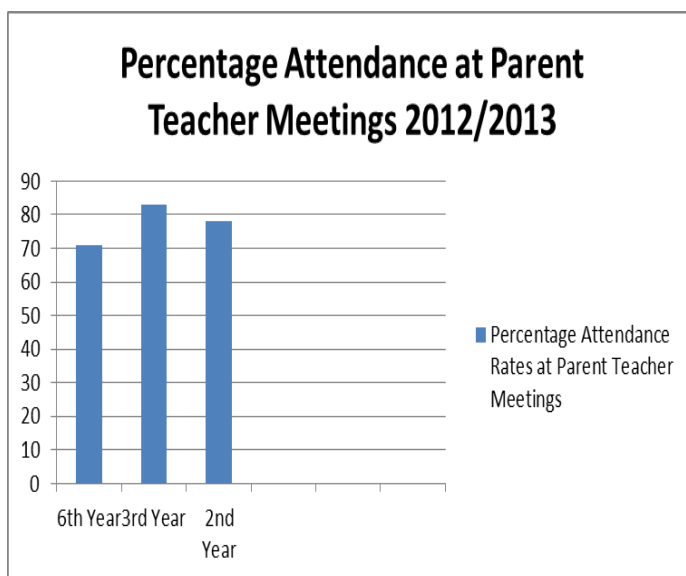
Parent Teacher Meetings at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

The Parent/Teacher meeting provides you with an opportunity to meet with your son's/daughter's teachers and to discuss how they are progressing in school. It is important that you attend these meetings.

The Home School Community Liaison Officer, Ms. Frances Beard, liaises with parents/guardians prior to these meetings to encourage all to attend.

During the first term, Parent Teacher Meetings have taken place for 6th Year, 3rd Year and 2nd Year students. Attendance levels for each of these meetings is outlined in the accompanying bar chart.

The following Parent Teacher Meetings are scheduled for early in the New Year: 5th Year /TY Parent Teacher Meeting: Tuesday 22 January 2013 and 1st Year Parent Teacher Meeting: Tuesday 5 February 2013. Parents/guardians will be notified by letter and text.



Parents Classes at Scoil Uí Mhuirí



Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Home School Community Liaison Officer, Ms. Beard, has been busy over the past few months setting up classes for our parents/guardians.

This term, parents/guardians had an opportunity to avail of two six week classes in Junior Certificate Maths and ICT Skills. These classes took place in our HSCL room and our ICT suite.

Plans are already underway for classes in the New Year. For further information please contact Ms. Beard at the school. Details of courses on offer will also be posted on our website www.scoilumhuiri.ie in the New Year.

Parents Association News 2012/2013

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. Others 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 meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the school and as always the monthly Parents Association meeting is open to all parents to attend.

Parents Association Officers 2012/2013

Chairperson	Mr. Kevin Murray
Secretary	Ms. Mary Feely
Treasurer	Mr. John Mc Conville
PRO	Ms. Julia Keane
Board of Management Representative	Ms. Terri Callan
Board of Management Representative	Mr. Peter Keane

Parents Association AGM 2012

The Parents Association held their AGM on Wednesday 10 October 2012. During the AGM, officers for the coming year were elected. Ms. Kindlon, Principal and Mr. Donagh, Deputy Principal also addressed the parents/guardians present on the evening. Guest speaker on the evening was Mr. Enda Murphy, a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist who spoke to Parents/Guardians on the topic: "Finding the Balance with your Teenager". Enda also outlined details of a six week programme for parents around the area of Positive Mental Health.

Evening Course for Parents "Protecting our Children: Finding the Balance with your Teenager"

We were overwhelmed with the demand for our six week course for parents: "Protecting our Children: Finding the Balance with your Teenager" which has been developed by Mr. Enda Murphy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapist in collaboration with Scoil Uí Mhuirí. The aim of the programme is to provide support, guidance and advice to parents/guardians by discussing issues including promoting positive mental health. The first group of parents have just completed their programme and a presentation of certificates evening took place in the school on Thursday 20 December 2012. Plans are now being put in place for next steps in developing and delivering the programme. Information will be circulated directly to all parents/guardians in the New Year.



Student of the Month Awards

Congratulations to all our Student of the Month Junior and Senior Award winners. A sincere thanks to Dunleer Parish Credit Union who sponsor our Student of the Month Awards. The overall winners of the awards for each month are as follows:

Month/Year	Junior Winner	Senior Winner
September 2012	Ciaran Dunne	Leanne Geoghegan
October 2012	Alanna Dowling	Joe Sheard
November 2012	Glory Obe	Heather Walsh



Fundraising at Scoil Uí Mhuirí



Students and staff at Scoil Uí Mhuirí have once again been very generous in contributing to a range of fundraising events which took place in the school during the first term of the 2012/2013 academic year.

Some of the charities which have benefitted to date include: St. Vincent de Paul and the Hospice Movement. Fundraising activities have included coffee mornings, no uniform day, teachers versus students charity basketball match and collection of food hampers for the St. Vincent de Paul.

GAA All Star Award for Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Dean Matthews



Congratulations and best wishes to Dean Matthews, 6th Year who has been awarded a GAA All Star Award. Scoil Uí Mhuirí would also like to congratulate Craig Devlin, Tiernan Hoey, Cathal Grimes and Sean Halpenny who were all nominated for All Star awards.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Lisa Mc Gowan nominated for Bank of Ireland Junior Dragons Den

Congratulations to Lisa Mc Gowan, TY who recently took part in the All Ireland Final of the Bank of Ireland Junior Dragons Den competition for her mini company idea "Glics".



TY students and St. Mary's Drumcar collaborate for Cooking Skills Programme

Students and staff at Scoil Uí Mhuirí would like to wish all our friends at St. Mary's Drumcar a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you back in Scoil Uí Mhuirí in January 2013.



New Board of Management Elected

Co. Louth VEC recently ratified new Boards of Management for its schools and centres across the county. The new Boards will run for a three year term up to September 2015. The new Board of Management for Scoil Uí Mhuirí comprises the following members:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Details</i>
Mr. Liam Reilly Mr. Tomas Sharkey Mr. Benny Devlin Mr. Colm Markey	VEC Committee Member VEC Committee Member VEC Committee Member VEC Committee Member
Ms. Fiona Kindlon	Secretary to the Board
Ms. Miriam Howard Mr. John Mc Gahon	Staff Representative Staff Representative
Ms. Terri Callan Mr. Peter Keane	Parent Representative Parent Representative
Mr. Derek Devlin Mr. Kevin Matthews	Community Representative Community Representative

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Child Protection Policy

The Board of Management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí has adopted 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 has appointed Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal, as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Mr. Ray Donagh, Deputy Principal as the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLp). The DLP will continue to act 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 Annual Report 2011/2012

The Board of Management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí recently adopted the Annual Report 2011/2012. The 2011/2012 academic year marked another year of exceptional progress and success for all members of the Scoil Uí Mhuirí community. The 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 will be available on our website in the New Year. For information on current activities and events at the school we invite you to visit our website www.scoiluimhuiri.ie.

6th Year Gaeilge Students get practice for their Oral Irish Exam

Caith amach é

Once again this year ,the 6th year gaeilge students had the opportunity to partake in the “caith amach é”workshop to assist them in gaining more marks in their forthcoming oral Irish exams.The students enjoyed this humorous approach to learning produced by Niall and Seán Mac Donnacha,who also work with T.G4.



TY students engage with the CASALA Project

TY students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí and other schools across Co. Louth VEC are engaging in a unique collaborative project with the Centre for Affective Solutions for Ambient Living Awareness (CASALA) based at the Netwell centre in Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT).

These students are working with the residents of the Great Northern Haven in Dundalk on a project which will examine issues common to both young and old residents of Co. Louth.

The development is managed by CASALA, an organisation whose aim is to collaborate and engage with industry, care givers and older people to help deliver timely assistance and quality care in the home and the community through technological advances.



The focus of the collaborative project will be to bring Transition Year students and residents of the Great Northern Haven together as co-designers of a software application that will address a health and wellbeing issue that is common to both groups. Participants will be engaged in the process of designing apps for either mobile phones or tablet IT devices such as the iPad.

Themed Weeks at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Scoil Uí Mhuirí students and staff were busy over the past few weeks engaging in a range of themed weeks. The following themed weeks took place during term 1:

- Study Skills Week
- Anti Bullying Week
- Enterprise Week,
- Maths Week
- Science Week

During these weeks, students engaged in a range of activities including competitions, quizzes, crosswords, visits out to local enterprise, visiting speakers in to the school and poem competitions to name but a few. Our TY students also held a trade fair in the school on Monday 3 December 2012. Congratulations to all involved in organising these weeks and well done to those students who won prizes for their efforts. Our next themed week is 'Positive Mental Health' week which commences on Monday 14 January 2013.



Music Generation Louth at Scoil Uí Mhuiri



Music Generation Louth is a new music service for the county that aims to help children and young people access vocal and instrumental tuition in their local area. It is led by Co. Louth VEC and is part of Music Generation, a new national programme for music education initiated by Music Network with seed funding from U2 and the Ireland Funds. Create Louth and Co. Louth VEC provide local partnership income.

Since September 2012, Music Generation Louth has offered a programme of music tuition for children and young people in the Dunleer area with a selection of classes on offer at Scoil Uí Mhuiri in a wide selection of instruments and musical styles catering for beginners through to advanced level students.

Both individual and group lessons are available with prices starting at just €7 per class. Classes take place in the evening time. Instrumental hire is also available to those enrolling in classes with hire costs ranging from €15 to €45 per term, depending on the choice of instrument. Full details are available on the Music Generation website: www.musicgenerationlouth.ie For further information, and to enrol, call 042 9364635 or email: musicgeneration@louthvec.ie

TY Lá Ghaelach - Feirm Causey



Scoil Uí Mhuiri's TY students engaged in an educational outing to Feirm Causey beside the Rath Cairn Ghaeltacht in Co.Meath to practise their cúpla focal and partake in some cultural events. Activities students engaged in included a Bodhrán workshop, bread making, a Céilí workshop and a tour of the farm. Bog all go léir as gaeilge.

Funding and Planning Permission secured for new Sports Facility at Scoil Uí Mhuiri

The prospect of a new state-of-the-art outdoor sports facility for Scoil Uí Mhuiri and the community of mid-Louth edged a step closer this month as news came through that an application for funding made by Co. Louth VEC, in collaboration with Dunleer Athletics Association, to the Sports Capital Programme was successful. The Sports Capital Programme, which is administered by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, aims to foster an integrated and planned approach to developing sports and physical recreation facilities throughout the country. Co. Louth VEC and Dunleer AC made their joint application to the fund last June and this joint application was awarded €120,000.

The local education authority has already been granted full planning permission for the development which is to consist of a new full-size 400m running track, a grass football pitch, a jogging track, tennis courts, javelin, high-jump, long-jump and shot putt facilities and changing rooms, as well as perimeter fencing and floodlighting.

CEO, Dr. Pádraig Kirk, said, "we are very pleased to have been awarded this level of funding. Together with Dunleer AC, it is clear that we were punching well above our weight as this was the largest single award to be made in Co. Louth and was among the largest awarded to sporting organisations across the country". The CEO continued, "it is envisaged that the facilities would be developed on a phased basis on a seven acre site adjacent to the school, with priority being afforded in the first instance to the running track and football field". The school's €5m extension is currently at design stage with construction planned to commence late next year. Dr. Kirk added, "it now makes sense that the construction of the school extension, running track and football field would all take place simultaneously".

