



Scoil Uí Mhuirí *Christmas Newsletter 2011*



School Choir excels at School Stars Final in TLT Drogheda

Our school choir did us all proud over the past few weeks when they reached the finals of the highly competitive 'Coca Cola School Stars' competition which was held in the TLT, Drogheda. The choir under the guidance and direction of Ms. Fiona Shiels, music teacher performed 'Video Killed The Radio Star' and a mix of Rhianna's 'Fly' and Katy Perry's 'Firework'.

Excellent feedback was received from X Factor judge Louis Walsh. Preparations are already under way for next year's competition. Congrats to all involved.



Junior Certificate Results 2011

There was great excitement in Scoil Uí Mhuirí on Wednesday 14th September 2011 as students gathered in the Assembly Hall at 3pm to collect their Junior Certificate results. The Principal, Ms. Kindlon congratulated all students on a fantastic set of Junior Certificate results. She highlighted that hard work, commitment and motivation from students combined with a range of supports from a highly competent and professional management and teaching team within the school had contributed to this year's success in the Junior Certificate Examinations. The school reported excellent grades in a wide range of subject areas including Maths and Science. Ms. Kindlon also expressed her thanks to the parents of the Junior Certificate class of 2011 and acknowledged the importance of regular communication between school and home to ensure that all students in Scoil Uí Mhuirí are supported in achieving their potential.

Senior Gaelic Team reach Semi—Final of Lennon Shield

There was a great sense of achievement among the school's U -18 boy's Gaelic football team who reached the semi final of the Lennon Shield earlier this term. The team were narrowly beaten by a strong team from Bush Post Primary School. In the end our team lost by a point!! The team also played well in the Lennon Cup. The U 14 and U 16 season has



yet to start but our 1st Years have been busy taking part in a series of blitzes in the Darver GAA Centre. In the most recent blitz they won all their games. Well done to all. U 16 training will commence after Christmas on Mondays and Tuesdays at lunchtime and on Thursdays after school.

Annual Report 2010/2011

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Annual Report 2010/2011 is now available to download on our school website www.scoiluimhuiri.ie.

Camogie Training

Camogie Training commenced this term and will continue on Wednesdays after school. A blitz is being planned for all players for the New Year.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meeting have taken place during the first term for 6th Years and 2nd Years. Arrangements for future parent teacher meetings are as follows: **5th Years & TY 19/01/2012, 3rd Years 30/01/2012, 1st Years & Targeted 6th Years 07/02/2012**

Scoil Uí Mhuirí welcomes International Delegation

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

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



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



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

National Career Skills Competition Winner

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



U 19 Boys Basketball Team bring home the Cup



Congratulations to our U 19 Boys Basketball team who recently won the North East Regional Finals. Our U 16 Boys Basketball team also did us proud at the regional finals in the last few weeks. Our U 16 Girls got through to the semi finals also. Boy's basketball training is on Tuesdays after school, Girls training on Mondays after school and 1st & 2nd Year Boys will train at lunchtime on Tuesdays.

Beach Clean Up

Students from 3 Vert organised a beach clean up at Clogherhead as part of their CSPE course.



Maths Week 2011

This year's Maths week in Scoil Uí Mhuirí was 'Fun and Interactivity' from beginning to end, as the students were challenged daily with games, puzzles, tricks and riddles. The programme for the week was devised by the Transition Year students with their teacher Mr. M. Gurn. Poems were written, crosswords were

filled, prizes were available and competition was fierce!! The students rose to the occasion each day with over 200 entrants to many of the competitions.

Mathematical literacy has recently been identified as a weakness of traditional mathematics

teaching in schools and one of the priorities of the new Project Maths syllabus is to address this issue. Scoil Uí Mhuirí, this week, endeavoured through fun and games to improve the mathematical literacy of their students and to alight in them an interest in Maths. Pictured above is a photo of the winners and organisers of the weeks events.



Science Week 2011

Scoil Uí Mhuirí students were busy during Science week enjoying all things scientific. Throughout the week a series of Quizzes, Crosswords and Science Shows were organised for students at the school. 1st Year Science

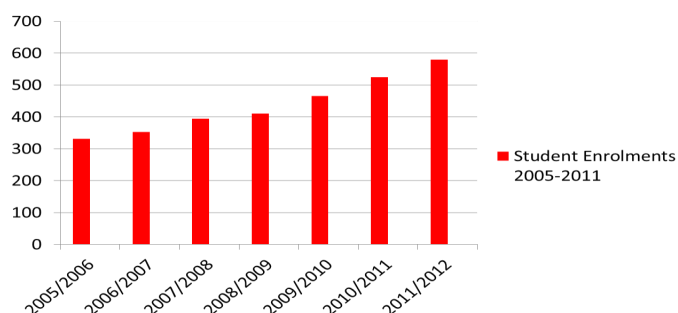
students were treated to Spectacular Science Shows by 3rd Year students on Tuesday and Wednesday. The whole school participated in a General Science Quiz on Monday of Science week and the Transition Year Students organised a table quiz for all 3rd year science students which took place on the Friday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



Increasing Enrolments at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

The highest number of first year students ever to start in Scoil Uí Mhuirí in Dunleer walked through the front doors of the school on 29th August 2011 to embark on a new phase of their life.

A total of 130 first year students started at the school on the 29th August 2011 and were warmly welcomed by the new school principal, Ms. Fiona Kindlon, the deputy principal, Mr. Ray Donagh and all of the teaching staff at the school. At present 580 students are attending Scoil Uí Mhuirí.



Business Students appear on RTE's Frontline Budget Special



Visiting Speakers

Scoil Uí Mhuirí staff and students were delighted to welcome many speakers to the school over the past few weeks. Representatives from SOSAD, the Samaritans, Cura and Aware spoke with many of our Senior Students as part of their RE course and Ms. Siona Mc Court, spoke with some of the Junior students about her experience working with in a Children's Orphanage in Vietnam.

Athletics News

September saw the 1st Years competing in the annual 1st Years athletics competition in Navan with some outstanding performances from our students. In October, the cross country team participated in the annual Drogheda District cross country court. The girls U 14 team achieved third place and the U 15 team achieved second place. Well done to all participants. Athletics training takes place every Tuesday at 1pm.



Parents' Classes - Coming Soon....

- English & Communication (Brush up on your writing skills or even prepare a CV)
- Junior Certificate Maths (Refresh your Maths and maybe help your son/daughter with their Maths)
- Knitting /Crochet Club (Join in a club and share the craic while learning a new skill)
- Monthly Book Club (For all you avid readers and those who read at a more leisurely pace why not join in our club once a month to review books)
- Budget Cookery (Following on from our very successful 6 weekly cookery course this term, we hope to have another course in the New Year)

To book your place in advance, please contact Frances Beard, HSCL Officer at the school

Fundraising Events

Scoil Uí Mhuirí students have once again been very generous in contributing to a range of fundraising events which took place in the school during term one. Some of the charities that have benefitted include: SOSAD, St. Vincent de Paul, Crumlin Children's Hospital and the Gary Kelly Cancer Centre in Drogheda. Congrats again to all students.



Educational Trips Term 1

The TY students have been busy taking part in educational outings since the beginning of the school year. Activities organised included a trip to the Rath Cairn Gaeltacht in Co. Meath for two days where TY students had opportunities to improve their oral Irish skills. TY students also visited the Tayto Factory in County Armagh and attended a conference in The Fairways Hotel in Dundalk as part of their Enterprise Education/Mini Companies courses. A day in Carlingford Adventure Centre in September was also a chance for all TY students to develop their team building skills. TY German students went to the cinema in Dublin to watch the German film Neukölln Unlimited as part of their film studies programme. As part of TY PE programme, our TY students also enjoyed a wide variety of activities of their choice including the driving range in Dundalk, a mountain biking experience in the Wicklow mountains and Horse Riding lessons.

2nd & 3rd Year students attended a trip to the Mosque in Dublin as part of their RE studies and also the 2nd and 3rd year Business students attended a trip to the Guinness Factory in Dublin to learn more about production, marketing, finance and customer service. The 5th Year classes all attended the Chocolate Warehouse as part of their Enterprise Education studies in LCVP.

The day all History, Geography and ESS students were all waiting for finally arrived as the students all travelled to Italy for five days on the 1st of November. The trip was a huge success. Everybody enjoyed the beautiful historical sights of Rome and the students learned how to make real Italian pizza.

Student of the Month Awards

Congrats to all our Junior and Senior Student of the Month Award Winners and a big thank you to the Dunleer Parish Credit Union for sponsorship of these awards.

Soccer Training

This year sees soccer training return to the school for the first time in four years. The teams are performing well to date. The U 19 and U 17 teams are in the semi final of the league and the U 15 season has just commenced. Watch this space!!!

