



Scoil Uí Mhuirí
Post Primary School

Easter Newsletter 2013



Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Michael Mc Evoy produces winning poster

There was great celebration in Scoil Uí Mhuirí recently when 6th Year student, Michael Mc Evoy, received news that he had produced the winning poster in the 'Go MAD for Peace' poster competition organised by 'Instruments of Peace' earlier in the school year.

Michael's poster has become the signature poster of the 2013 Peace Campaign in Ireland by Instruments of Peace for the celebration of the 32nd UN International Day of Peace on 21st September 2013.

An awards ceremony to mark Michael's achievement took place in the school recently. Michael was joined at the event by his parents, Johann and Gerard, brother Darragh and sister Emer as well as other family members, students and staff of Scoil Uí Mhuirí and representatives from Instruments of Peace and Kairos Communications who are currently developing a documentary on Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Michael was awarded a certificate, medal and a cheque for his efforts. The Principal of Scoil Uí Mhuirí was also honoured to receive a certificate and a medal to mark the achievements of this Scoil Uí Mhuirí student. Michael's winning poster will be appearing all over the country in the coming months to promote the 32nd UN International Day of Peace on 21st September 2013.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal, Scoil Uí Mhuirí said "this is a fantastic achievement for Michael, his Religious Education teacher, Ms. Geradline Friel, his art teacher, Ms. Bernadette Martin, Scoil Uí Mhuirí and for Co. Louth VEC. Michael is an exemplary student who consistently works to a very high standard.



Barry Callan scoops top prize in Student Enterprise Awards



Congratulations to 2nd Year student, Barry Callan who won the Intermediate Section of the Louth County Enterprise Board's Student Enterprise Awards which was held in the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk recently.

Barry's business 'Barry's free range eggs' is proving very successful locally and his business customer base is expanding all the time. Barry will now represent Co. Louth at the National Finals of the Student Enterprise Awards which will be held in the Croke Park Conference Centre in April 2013. Congrats also to Ms. Farrell, Barry's Business Studies teacher.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Athletics News

The Scoil Uí Mhuirí Athletics team has been actively training and competing since September 2012. The Louth VEC track and field Championships in September were very exciting as the Scoil Uí Mhuirí students competed in a range of events from high jump, javelin, shot putt and long jump to sprints, relays and middle distance events, winning medals in all disciplines. There was success also at the 1st year track and field sports in Navan. There were cross country races in Drogheda and DCU in October and January respectively and the minor girls under 14 team came away with medals in Drogheda and a qualification from DCU for the Leinster Schools' Cross Country Championships in first year student Seoda Matthews. The Santa Mile was a great success in December and Craig Devlin (6th year) was a worthy winner of the event this year.



Next up is the North Leinster Schools' Track & Field event in Santry stadium and the in form Niamh Fussey (6th Year) must surely be in with a chance of a medal once again in the sprint hurdles. Niamh has had a great indoor club season and seeks to emulate her medal winning performances in almost every Championship since she started competing for Scoil Uí Mhuirí in first year. Others hoping for a medal will be Conor Faulkner and Lisa Mc Gowan in the high jump, Liam Fussey, Conor Kirwan and Kaitlynn Smyth in the javelin, Tunji Ifaturoti and Adeola Ifaturoti in the shot putt and Niamh Murray in the middle distance events.

The Scoil Uí Mhuirí athletics team will be travelling to Boston in September 2013 to compete in the Ocean State Cross Country schools championship. The students are presently fund raising and training hard, hoping to improve on the 2008 medal tally of 3 individual medals.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí GAA News

It has been another busy year on the GAA front with both the Lennon Cup and Flood Cup campaigns having already been concluded. Unfortunately, neither team were able to deliver any silverware but both competed extremely well in their respective competitions. Dean Matthews, 6th Year was rewarded for his outstanding performances in the Lennon Cup by being named on the Lennon Cup All-Star team at an awards ceremony in DkIT. Dean is only the 2nd player from Scoil Uí Mhuirí to have gained a place on the All-Star team.



The Moore Cup team are currently beginning preparations for their forthcoming campaign and will hopefully be successful in their endeavours under the guidance of Mr. Magennis and Mr. Gurn. 1st and 5th year blitzes are being planned for the last term.

Senior Cycle Information Night 2013

An information night on Senior Cycle Options for Parents/Guardians and students from 3rd Year and TY took place in the school on Wednesday 20 March 2013. Those in attendance had an opportunity to access information on options for Senior Cycle including subject choice, career possibilities, the TY, LCA and LCVP programmes. An information pack was distributed on the evening and those in attendance also had opportunities to ask questions on the transition to Senior Cycle. Promotional DVDs for the school's TY and LCA programmes were also launched on the night. Further information, including contact details for the various programme co-ordinators may be obtained from the school office.

The Corny Collins Show - a TY Musical Hit!



Congratulations to our TY students who staged 'The Corny Collins Show' an adaptation of the musical 'Hairspray' in March 2013. Our TY students wowed audiences on both nights with their high quality production of this show. Thanks to all those staff members involved in working with the TY students on their musical. A particular word of thanks and congratulations to Ms. Howard, Ms. Clarke, Ms. Shiels and Mr. Cumiskey.

Seachtain na Gaeilge at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place in Scoil Uí Mhuirí from 11th – 15th March 2013. Throughout the week, students participated in various activities within the school, including poster competitions, Tráth na gCeist, Toraíocht Taisce, Comórtas crosfhocail, Céilí, cluichí agus ceol sa rang.

Senior students will have an opportunity to practise their cúpla focal next month on their lá Ghaelach trip to Co na Mí. Competitions for CLVEC Gaeltacht scholarships will take place next term. Students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí will have an opportunity to enter into a competition for a part scholarship to Coláiste Bhríde, Rann na Feirste, Co Donegal.



All 1st Year students engage in 'Connect with Respect' Programme

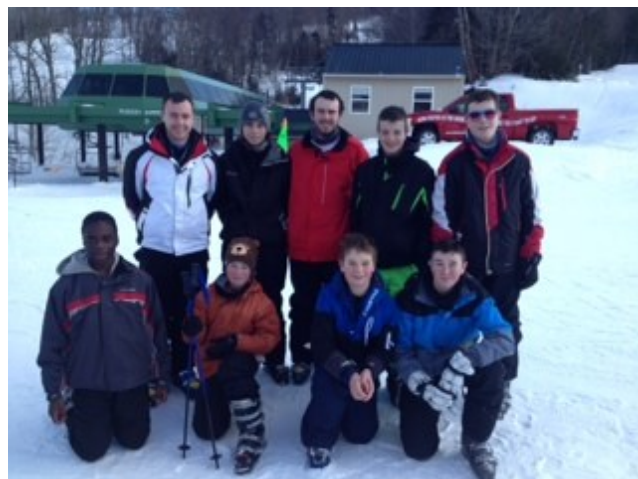
On Wednesday 20th March 2013, Scoil Uí Mhuirí were delighted to welcome local Garda, Kevin Conway to the school to deliver the 'Connect with Respect' programme to all 1st Year students at the school. This new module of the Garda Schools Programme aims to help students understand the impact that cyberbullying can have on different people, and to recognise that cyberbullying is not acceptable. It hopes to prevent this behaviour from occurring and to enable people to respond effectively if it does. Plans are being put in place to deliver the programme to all 2nd Year students in the last term.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Revised Anti Bullying Policy

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Board of Management recently ratified a Revised Anti Bullying Policy. Copies of the Revised Policy may be obtained from the school office or on the school website www.scoiluimhuiri.ie

Educational Trip to Boston



Congratulations to all students and staff involved in our recent educational trip to Boston. A very enjoyable trip was had by all. Thank you to Mr. Hurley, Ms. Kirk and Mr. B Mathews for facilitating same.



Parents Classes—Spring 2013

Maths classes - An enthusiastic group of parents faced their fear and took on the challenge of the new Junior Cert Maths, Project Maths. Originally they took these classes to help their children with their homework but now that they have become totally engaged in the classes they may well continue with their studies in the future.

Fetac Level 3 Computers - After a short induction course in the Autumn our parents' computer class members are now on their way to completing FETAC Level 3 in computing. This is an excellent way to learn about the internet, emailing and completing documents.

If you are interested in availing of classes please contact Ms. Frances Beard, HSCL Officer on 087 1941355

'Think Good, Feel Good' - Positive Mental Health Week 2013



Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Inaugural, Positive Mental Health Week 'Think Good, Feel Good' week took place in Scoil Uí Mhuirí from Monday 14th to Friday 18th January 2013. The 'Think Good, Feel Good' week has been developed to enhance the range of supports already accessible to students in the school for looking after their mental health.



The organising team at Scoil Uí Mhuirí including Ms. Paula McCabe, SCP and Ms. Melissa Clarke, and the Student Council, scheduled a range of activities including random acts of kindness along with a series of classroom lessons and questionnaires around the theme of Positive Mental Health which were delivered to all students attending the school. A series of lunchtime classes in yogalates, kickboxing and Kung Fu were also available to students.



On Wednesday 16th January, a variety of agencies and services including the Samaritans and Grow set up stands in the school and all students had an opportunity to visit the stands throughout the day. The purpose of this activity was to make students aware of the range of external supports available for looking after our mental health. A 'Think Good, Feel Good' t-shirt and flag were designed by students and staff and iRadio's iTeam joined us in the school for a special closing ceremony to the week on Friday 18th. A special word of thanks to Victory's Centra in Dunleer who sponsored spot prizes throughout the week. Congratulations to all involved in this event.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí host Louth Children's Services Committee Seminar

Scoil Uí Mhuirí recently hosted the Louth Children's Services Committee (CSC) inaugural seminar. The seminar entitled, 'Growing Up in Louth – Making a Difference for Children' was attended by over 100 professionals working in the area of children and young people's services across Co. Louth, including teachers, parents, child care workers, Gardaí, youth workers and public service officials.



The highlight of the seminar was the address given by Mr. John Lonergan, former Governor of Mountjoy prison. John gave a very thought provoking and entertaining speech on the wide range of issues affecting young people in Ireland today, and those professionals that interact with them in addressing issues and problems as they occur. For further information on the Louth Children's Services Committee see www.louthcsc.ie

Plans for Extension arrive in Scoil Uí Mhuirí

There was great excitement in Scoil Uí Mhuirí at the end of February when the plans for the new extension arrived at the school. The plans were put on display in the school for staff and students, while members of the school's Board of Management and Parents Association began calling to the school to view the plans also. A special meeting was held for residents living in the vicinity of the school to explain the proposed development. The packed meeting was attended by Michael McGarry and David Stronge of McGarry Ní Éanaigh Architects Ltd., the firm contracted by Co. Louth VEC to design the new facility. The reaction to the proposed extension and feedback on the proposals by all the partners was extremely positive with everybody now looking forward to construction getting underway.



CEO of Co. Louth VEC, Dr. Pádraig Kirk, said, "student numbers at Scoil Uí Mhuirí are growing fast and this new extension will allow the school to comfortably accommodate up to 750 students. It represents a major body of work for the school and for Co. Louth VEC and we plan to have construction staff on site later this year."

New Website being developed for Scoil Uí Mhuirí



Scoil Uí Mhuirí will launch a new school website after the Easter holidays. The website will continue to be a one stop shop for all the information you need about Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

Our website is regularly updated by Ms. Matthews, our website co-ordinator. Many staff members include notes and reference information for students on the 'Subjects Department' section of the website and we hope to develop this further in the future. You can also download copies of our newsletters and annual reports from the website. Log on to www.scoiluimhuiri.ie for more information.