

CHRISTMAS 2012

Mercy College

NEWSLETTER



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THE WIZ

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Patricia Dwyer



It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another year but with the Christmas lights on and festivities in full swing there can be no doubt that 2012 is drawing to a close.

As we enter the season of Advent, we are grateful to be able to reflect positively on all that has been achieved since the summer. The school goes from strength to strength and I hope this newsletter will once again give you a flavour of all that has been going on in our very special school community.

There is so much activity in this busy and bustling school and I truly love being part of the fabric of Mercy College. I am honoured to be part of a staff that goes the extra mile, whether it involves working on the school musical well into the night, supervised study sessions and homework club, volunteering for Breakfast Club, extra-curricular sporting activities, cultural outings and field trips, CSPE projects, training courses, lunch time sports, art competitions, literacy programmes like DEAR and Accelerated Reader, extra tuition and so much more. Each year, each day, each minute brings something new and exciting and anyone who becomes part of our school or comes for a visit cannot help but feel the warm, welcoming and vibrant atmosphere.

Our first years are settling in very well and there is a lovely hard-working atmosphere in the group. Their Senior Prefects and the extended student leadership team have helped to answer their questions and put them at ease. 3rd and 6th Years have settled in well to more serious schoolwork and are still finding time to be involved in many of the school extra-curricular activities. The Transition Years are adapting well to a different type of year and are finding no difficulty at all engaging with the wide variety of activities on offer, from yoga to work experience.

Staff and students have been engaged in numerous learning opportunities and enriching activities, the most exciting of which is our participation in the Bridge 21 programme in Trinity College. To date, classes Uladh, Laighean and Transition Year have attended workshops in Trinity and produced excellent project work. Our students also continue to benefit from our strong links with Dublin City University. To date this year, girls have attended DCU for Shadowing Day, Discover DCU and Maths workshops. Over 20 of our 4th and 5th Years received DCU Achievement Awards for their academic, sporting, artistic and cultural work, as well as their contributions to their school and community.

The Student Council, Student Mentor Team, Green Committee and 4th Year Young Social Innovators have been very active and have shown great leadership throughout the term; leadership that has benefitted the school community and others, including Child Vision, Cystic Fibrosis Ireland and the Irish Wheelchair Association.

As with the wider community, Mercy College has not been immune from the effects of economic pressures as cuts continue to be applied to school staffing and budgets. However, I am delighted to say that we have not cut the provision of any subject for our students and that student supports such as guidance and counselling, breakfast club, after-school study, homework club and our range of extra-curricular activities have remained intact. This has been possible because of support from the School Completion Programme, our own Board of Management and the fundraising efforts of staff, students, parents and guardians.

Despite financial constraints, we have continued to make improvements to our building and classrooms so that the girls can enjoy a bright and fresh learning environment. New roller blinds have been installed in all classrooms. We are currently finalising the plans for the installation of a multi-sensory classroom to be ready early in the New Year.

These difficult economic times have also made very apparent to students the need to make the most of their education. We are extremely proud of the success enjoyed by our students who sat state examinations in 2012. The members of the Leaving Certificate class of 2012 are now undertaking university and further education courses in areas as diverse as Law, Engineering, Equine Science, Early Childhood Education, Event Management, Nursing Studies, Politics, International Relations, Teaching, Business Management, Science, Drama Studies, Art, Make-up Artistry, Social Care and Japanese. Mercy College is now represented in universities and colleges across the country including Trinity, UCD, DCU, NUI Maynooth and even the University of Limerick and Dundalk Institute of Technology.

Our Junior Certificate class also performed extremely well, with all students enjoying success and achieving certification. It is always heartening to see the girls achieve their potential and we look forward to supporting them to do the same at Leaving Certificate in the coming years.

It has been a particularly exciting term for three members of staff. We offer our warmest congratulations to Ms. Mary Boyle, Ms. Katrina Harrison and their husbands on the births of their baby girls Aoibh and Ruth respectively. In addition, we wish Ms. Maedhbh Daltún every success and happiness as she leaves Mercy College to take up the position of Principal of St. Joseph's Secondary School, Stanhope Street. Maedhbh will be a huge loss to Mercy as she was an integral part of our community, involved in so many aspects of school life including her contribution to our music department and liturgical events and the many activities and events she ran as Home-School-Community-Liaison teacher. It has been my immense pleasure and privilege to work with her for the past seven and a half years. We will miss Maedhbh greatly and sincerely hope she comes back to see us regularly, particularly as we celebrate 50 years of Mercy College in 2013.

I wish to thank all who have contributed to this newsletter, particularly Ms. Downes-Higgins who as Editor in Chief chased us all for our articles!!

I want to thank the students for their good humour and co-operation. I would like to thank both the teaching and support staff for their dedication, enthusiasm and very hard work all term. I would also like to thank the members of our Board of Management for their significant contribution to making the school a better place. Lastly may I wish each family a safe and peaceful Christmas, full of smiles and happiness. Be kind to those you meet and to yourselves. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh.

Patricia Dwyer





FAREWELL TO MERCY COLLEGE

It is with very mixed emotions that I am writing this note. After a very happy almost 17 years (yes it really has been that long!) in Mercy College, first as music teacher and later as Home School Community Liaison Coordinator, I am moving on to a different challenge. From January 2013, I will be taking up the post of Principal in St. Joseph's Secondary School, Stanhope Street.

It feels like only yesterday when I walked into my first music class in Mercy College in 1996. I was immediately impressed by the warm and caring atmosphere in the school and by the friendship and support offered by my colleagues. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the students in Mercy College and it has always been a huge source of pride to see the girls go on to reach their goals in areas of further study or work. Many students have gone on to achieve marvellous things in the field of music as teachers, choir directors, performers and far beyond. It was wonderful also to work as part of a team with such a dedicated and good-humoured colleague in the music department!

I moved to the position of Home School Liaison Coordinator in 2009 and have been privileged to meet parents both in their homes and in school. The new role also brought with it the opportunity to meet others from the wider school community; HSCL Coordinators from our neighbouring schools, paired readers, those who run courses for us and of course the infamous Mercy College Book Club. I will miss the monthly lively discussions (sometimes even about the book!) and the excellent company. I will also greatly miss the SCP Coordinator with whom I was lucky to work so closely.

I have been very fortunate to work in such a unique place, where the gifts of all are recognised, valued and developed. I believe that it is this recognition of our talents which motivates us to strive for excellence in all we do. I will miss all my colleagues enormously and would like to thank them sincerely for their friendship, encouragement, debates about height and unwavering patience in the office, no matter what the request. I would also like to wish the students all the best for the future.

Slán agus beannacht.
Maedhbh Daltún.

A WINDOW ON THE LANE

In December 2011, a group of fifteen Transition Year students was selected to take part in a creative writing initiative in conjunction with Fighting Words and the Hugh Lane Gallery.

Fighting Words, a creative writing centre, was founded by the Irish author Roddy Doyle and Sean Love, the former executive director of Amnesty International (Ireland). The centre helps students of all ages to develop their writing skills and to explore their love of writing in a kind and relaxing environment.

The municipal gallery was founded by Hugh Lane on Harcourt Street in 1908, and is the first known public gallery of modern art in the world. Since it relocated to Parnell Square at the top of O'Connell Street, the museum has a permanent collection and hosts exhibitions, mostly by contemporary Irish artists.

'We visited the Hugh Lane Gallery and Fighting Words once a month for six months. The beautiful artwork inspired a variety of creative genre, short stories and poetry. After months of hard work and much help from the volunteers from Fighting Words and the Hugh Lane Gallery and our teachers, we finally produced a brilliant collection of short stories and poems that would become our book!'

The book was launched on 9th October in Mercy College, with over 200 guests in attendance, including friends and families of the authors, representatives of Fighting Words and the Hugh Lane, local politicians and representatives from the Irish Times, Irish Independent and the Northside People. The wonderful book and its launch was made possible by the hard work and enthusiasm of many people. The girls would like to thank the Fighting Words Volunteers, the Production and Design team, staff of the Hugh Lane Gallery, their teachers, particularly Ms. O'Leary, Ms. Rooney, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Dunwoody and their Principal Ms. Dwyer. They would like to extend a special thanks to Gráinne Byrne, Monica Heade and Rosemarie O'Kelly for making the launch such a success.

'A Window on the Lane' is available from Easons, Dubray Books and all good bookshops.



MERCY SPORTS NEWS



As usual sports were extremely busy in the 1st term. Girls from first to sixth year have been training and playing matches. This is the third year I have operated the compulsory after school activities for 1st year up to Christmas time. This has resulted in a huge increase in the numbers of 1st years playing sport. We have over 20 1st year girls training for basketball and another 20 for volleyball every week. I could not train the volleyball girls without the help of Kaela Hutton, Elijah Malari and Sarah Whelan in 4th and 5th year who help me 3 days a week. Holly Hatton (Senior Sports Prefect) Lynn Ryan, Antonia Cummins, Sarah Fitzpatrick, Lauren Ryan and Ilham Abdallah have helped coach basketball every Thursday and Friday. All coaches have a huge impact on the 1st Years success and are vital to sport in Mercy.



JUNIOR (2ND YR) & MINOR (1ST YR) BASKETBALL

The current 2nd Year girls train every Wednesday with Sean Ingle and their matches start in January. The 1st years are also very keen on basketball we have large numbers involved. Girls train up to 3 times a week. All girls are a pleasure to coach. I have no doubt they will really enjoy their basketball experience in Mercy.

JUNIOR (2ND YR) & MINOR (1ST YR) VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball is very popular with junior girls. All the girls play Spikeball which is a 4 aside volleyball game and J6 6 aside. Currently the girls are playing Spikeball. We have 6 spikeball teams and all teams are in action on the 22nd of November. The 1st Years are loving their volleyball experience and it is great to have so many girls involved.

SENIOR & CADETTE BASKETBALL

Our school was promoted in basketball from the "B" to the "A" grade. This is a new challenge for the school which the girls have fully embraced and are doing very well to date. This senior team is made up of girls from 3rd, 5th and 6th year. The senior girls have four wins from five and look good to make it to the league play offs in December. The Cadette team (u-16) has also enjoyed the same success winning four out of five matches. With hard work I hope that both teams will make it to the East Leinster Final.

CADETTE VOLLEYBALL

Cadette Volleyball started training in early September. These girls have been training every Friday morning before school and on Wednesdays. We have two cadette teams and both teams qualified top in round 1 and round 2 winning all three of their matches. Both cadette teams are playing some great volleyball and I would hope both teams will do well in round 3.

NEWSFLASH SENIOR A (UNDER 19) WERE NARROWLY BEATEN BY HOLY FAITH CLONTARF IN THE EAST LEINSTER FINALS. BOTH TEAMS WILL GO FORWARD TO THE ALL IRELAND PLAYOFFS IN 2013

JUNIOR GAELIC FOOTBALL

The gaelic season has just started. The team is made up of girls from 1st to 3rd year. The girls are put through their paces by Ms. Dorgan every Tuesday and Wednesday. Girls will be playing in a league and also in a blitz.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



Every year, the 21st of September is International Day of Peace or Peace Day. Peace Day officially begins at the UN's Headquarters in New York when the Secretary General rings the Peace Bell. This bell was given to the United Nations by Japan in 1954 as a reminder of the human cost of war. It was made using coins from all over the world. They were collected by children during a UN Conference in Paris in 1951, melted down and then used to cast the bell. It is inscribed in Japanese with the words, "Long live absolute world peace".

The United Nations and the Peace One Day campaign has succeeded in getting war torn countries all around the world to agree to a cease fire on the 21st September every year. Even in Afghanistan it has been a day when charities have been able to distribute food and provide medical care. Last year, over one million children were vaccinated during the cease fire. Every year, millions of people around the world are benefiting from a day of Peace. But sadly, a permanent peace still seems a distant dream.

And that is only the beginning. World Peace is going to take the whole world to achieve - we are all part of it. Instead of doing the easy thing - fighting and continuing the "Them and Us" attitudes, we need to do the hard thing - forgive, understand and trust. All over the world, on September 21st people hold special meetings, religious ceremonies, demonstrations and campaigns, all trying in their own ways to bring about World Peace.

At Mercy College, we marked the day too. Students prepared a Peace Day Presentation, which ran on the display screens. Everyone received a celebration "Peace Day cookie" courtesy of the Transition Year Students and the entire school joined together to create a human peace symbol in the school grounds. All of this was committing to do whatever we can to bring about peace in our school, in our homes, in our communities, our country and throughout the world. A slide show of our Peace Symbol can be viewed on the school website.



HALLOWEEN MEGA FUND RAISER

This Halloween 6th year students chose Cystic Fibrosis as their charity of choice. The fundraiser took place on the Friday before the mid-term break. 6th year students were allowed to dress up in costumes. There was great variety and it was brilliant to see how innovative all the girls were. We had a Transylvanian princess, jelly bean bags, a bunch of grapes. Mrs Brown also made an appearance. The staff sponsored two students who dressed up as mime artists not to speak for the day!! Some of the teachers dressed up and Ms. Byrne dressed up as Mr O'Mahony. All other students were allowed to wear one piece of purple for the day. Many thanks to all who contributed and we managed to raise over €500 for Cystic Fibrosis Ireland.

Aoife Redmond (6th year Head girl)

CHEERIOS CHILDLINE BREAKFAST

This initiative was undertaken by 6th year students under the help and guidance of Ms. Quinn and Monica. 1st year students were invited to the hall and given cheerios, toast and a cup of tea for their breakfast. It was a great success and we raised €160. Thanks to all who contributed. Sinead O'Beirne and Kelly Callan



UCD ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Rachel Conlon, Leaving Certificate class of 2012, received a University College Dublin Alumni Award recently. Dr. Hugh Brady, President of UCD, presented the award to Rachel, who is studying English, Music and Sociology. Another member of the Mercy class of 2012, Laura Cahill, recently received a UCD bursary. She is undertaking a B. Sc. degree in Equine Science.

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The following students were presented with their awards in DCU. The awards ranged from such areas as academic, sporting, community, arts and culture. Well done girls.

Mairead McCabe, Sarah Whelan, Lauren Butler, Niamh Marshall, Amy Shanley, Ngoc Vi Pham, Lauren Hynes, Kaela Hutton, Lauren McDonagh, Kelly Radford, Aoife Behan, Naomi Kane, Sabrina Brady, Elijah Mallari, Lesley Carroll, Nichole O'Dwyer, Jade Boyd, Stacey Kearns, Chelsea Dillon and Tammy Williams.

JUNIOR CERT RESULTS 2012





INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
DCU



EVENT MANAGEMENT
ITB



LAW, POLITICS & HISTORY
NUI MAYNOOTH



MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING
TRINITY COLLEGE



SPORTS & LEISURE
MANAGEMENT ITB



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
DIT



SOCIAL STUDIES
ITB

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Just a flavour of the destinations
of the Class of 2012



ENGINEERING
TRINITY COLLEGE



SCIENCE
TRINITY COLLEGE



SCIENCE
UCD



ENGLISH, HISTORY &
PSYCHOLOGY UCD



EQUINE SCIENCE
UCD



SCIENCE
KILLESTER COLLEGE

A BLAST FROM THE PAST: A LOOK AT FURTHER STUDIES OF SOME OF OUR OTHER PAST PUPILS



SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANT
KILLESTER COLLEGE



NURSING
TRINITY / ST. JAMES



ARTS
UCD



ARTS
UCD



DENTAL NURSING
TRINITY COLLEGE



RELIGION AND HISTORY
MATER DEI



ARCHITECTURE
DIT



GEOLOGY
TRINITY COLLEGE



CULINARY ARTS
DIT



PRIMARY TEACHING GRADUATED 2012
ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE



B.A. CONFERRED 2012
UCD



NURSING
UCD



CHEMISTRY
DCU



SOCIOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY
TRINITY COLLEGE



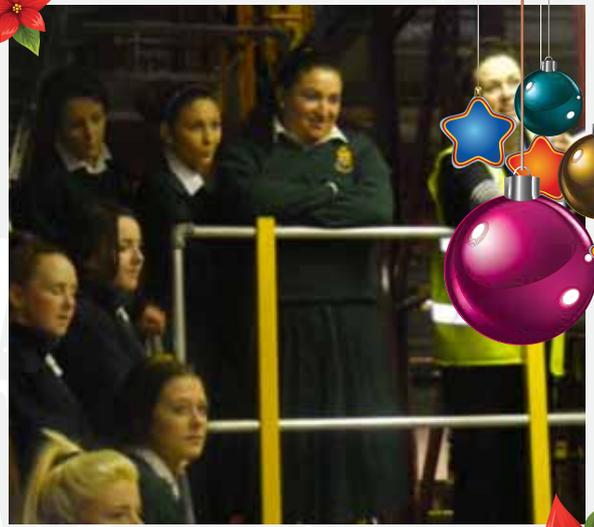
B.A. CONFERRED 2012
UCD

5TH YEAR LCVP SITE VISIT

On Monday 5th November the 5th Year LCVP students visited Office Depot in Rosemount Business Park. This visit was arranged as part of the Skills at Work Programme which is run for 5th year students studying LCVP. Staff from various departments in the company gave talks about their career path and their role in the company. Students were then given tours of the Distribution and Call Centres. A lovely lunch was provided and we were all presented with gifts to mark the occasion.

It was a very interesting and enjoyable day. The students and staff who attended the Site Visit would like to thank Kirsty Joyce and Louise O'Brien from Office Depot for their valuable contribution to Mercy College and their commitment to the Skills at Work Programme.

Ms Dunwoody Programme Co-ordinator



VISIT TO DSPCA



GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to the 6th year class of 2012 on their wonderful Leaving Certificate results. We wish the girls every success as they begin the transition from Mercy College to life at third level. The group are represented in almost all Central Applications Office (CAO) institutions in Dublin and beyond. This includes Trinity College Dublin (TCD), University College Dublin (UCD), Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), I.T.B., National University of Ireland (NUI Maynooth), University of Limerick (UL). Many other students went on to PLC courses.

The present 6th and 5th year students began the new academic year with a trip to the Higher Options Career Exhibition at the R.D.S. – always a great kick start to the year as students spoke to various representatives from the various Higher Education Institutions. They also collected information on various courses/careers. Our links with Dublin City University (DCU) grow stronger each academic year. 6th year students are involved in extra maths and oral Irish classes after school. Some 5th years have attended a work shop called "Discover DCU". During December twenty senior students will be presented with Achievement Awards under various categories including academic achievement and success in sport. 6th years also enjoyed a trip to Parnell Gaelic Club, to visit a career fair organised by Northside Partnership and had another opportunity to meet staff from Post Leaving Certificate

(PLC) colleges. Remember to get your CAO applications in and applications for PLC courses as soon as possible!! Good luck to all.

Ms. Conneely

STUDENT COUNCIL

The first Student Council meeting of the new year took place in mid October and attendance at meetings has been high. The Children's Referendum was discussed as some 6th years were entitled to vote. This debate followed through into religion class at senior level. Plans for the coming year include - discussions around Cyber Bullying and the use of social media apps. All the fund raising has paid off and each class has new roller blinds. Well done girls.

Ms. Conneely

HEALTH AND SAFETY

From the 22nd to the 26th of October, we held our first safety week in Mercy College. During assembly, each year was given a talk regarding safety and a DVD was also shown. A questionnaire was also filled in by students regarding their awareness of health and safety regulations in the school. As a result, new posters were displayed around the school regarding fire exits and fire regulations. Each classroom was given new posters showing their emergency exits. **Laura Dignam, 6th year**



MUSIC NEWS



THE WIZ

Rehearsals began in September for Mercy College's production of THE WIZ. This is a musical based on the story of the The Wizard of Oz. Congratulations to all who had the nerve to audition. We cast the show in late September. The show is being directed and choreographed by Michael Evans. Michael is well known throughout Dublin as a choreographer and for playing the lead in many musicals. Ms Doherty is organising the show, and is our Musical Director. Over 40 students have been rehearsing every Tuesday and Thursday until 6 o'clock and at weekends. It has been a wonderful experience for everyone involved.

THE WIZ CAST

Dorothy	Nuwriya Abdallah
Scarecrow	Jessica Lally
Tinman	Jessica Byrne
Lion	Hannah Kelly
Addaperle	Nichelle Gabie
Evillene	Abigail Smith
Glinda/Aunt Em	Ciara Flynn
The Wi	Lydia Perry
Uncle Henry/Gatekeeper	Chloe Hogan
Lord High Underling	Cathy Walsh
Messenger	Lauren Smyth
Winged Monkey	Ciara Richardson

1st year: Kira Kenny, Orla Flynn, Erica Dillon, Ciara Brady, Nicole Fulton, Bernice Mc Ardle, Sarah O' Connor, Aoife Thornton
Laura Phelan, Kelsey Settell, Shannon Aherne, Charlie Mc Grane, Amber Mitchell, Seana O' Callaghan

2nd Year: Ciara Scanlon, Laura Byrne

3rd Year: Hazel Whelan, Robyn Richardson, Lauren Mulligan

4th Year: Tammy Williams, Stacey Kearns, Nicole Carthy, Caoimhe Butler, Andrea Kelly, Lauren Walsh, Ellen O'Brien

4TH YEAR SET DESIGNERS

Three fourth year students took on the role of designing and making the sets for our school musical THE WIZ. These students are Niamh Marshall, Lauren Mc Donagh and Kelly Radford. They worked tirelessly at designing and building a house, throne and the scenes for the stage and did a marvellous job. Their talent has really shone in this project.

4TH YEAR POSTER DESIGN

4th years designed the posters for The Wiz. We had beautiful posters around the school and in businesses in the area.

GUITAR CLUB

Eleven students from all years began guitar lessons this term. This takes place on a Wednesday afternoon after school. After one lesson the students were able to play 'Hey Jude'. We are looking forward to their first public performance. There are still places available. Anyone interested please contact Ms Doherty.

TRANSITION YEAR NEWS



BRIDGE 21

Bridge 21 is a joint venture between Trinity College Dublin and Suas Education Development. It offers a new model of learning, that can be adapted to Irish Schools designed to support an innovative 21st Century learning model for 2nd level education that is: Team based, Technology mediated, Project based, Cross Curricular.

The whole idea behind this initiative is to improve students' learning in the classroom by introducing teamwork where students learn essential life skills such as organisation, communication and leadership. It is all about learning by doing.

On Monday October 22nd Transition year students went to TCD. It was a very enjoyable day and we all had lots of fun. We were divided into groups. One group made videos, another a radio advertisement and another posters around a particular project idea. It was brilliant and we learned a lot about media and communications, creating and editing. We were delighted to hear that we will be returning to Trinity in the New Year

Stacey Kearns 4th year

DRIVE SAFE 4 LIFE

This was a full day workshop given to Transition Year students regarding safe driving and in particular the perils of getting into cars with people that you may know or do not know. It described in graphic details the perils of the road and the importance of wearing safety belts. Also not to get into cars with somebody who you know has no regard for the speed limits. At times it was very harrowing and extremely thought provoking. It brought home to us how vulnerable you are when you get into a car.



FIGHTING WORDS

Fighting Words is a creative writing centre and it was established by Roddy Doyle and Sean Love. It aims to help people from as young as primary school to young adults to improve their writing skills. When we first arrived, we had to gather around the interactive white board and were asked to volunteer and have a conversation. This conversation was then going to be used to form the basis of our story. From this we built up the characters of our story. This became very difficult as a lot of students had their own views on characters. Although chaotic at first, the basic story line began to develop. We were then split into groups where we could either develop the story line or write a new story of our own. Overall it was a very enjoyable day.

Niamh Marshall

IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME

Garda Barron came into give a talk to the 4th year students on the 11th October. This talk was based around road safety. The title of the talk was "It Won't Happen To Me". It was really great and very informative and again it brought home to us the perils of the road and that we should all be road aware and in particular at night time we should have on reflective clothing. Aoife O'Carroll 4th year

LEGAL EAGLES

4th year students were also given a talk by a well known barrister about Court and court procedures. This was followed up by a trip to the Four Courts where they were not only shown the courts but they had to do a mock trial. We have a couple of budding barristers as a result! Sarah Whelan and Elijah Mallari

BRIGHT SPARKS

As part of the mini company programme, students have been entered into the Student Enterprise Awards. It offers students the opportunity to take a business from the idea stage, through market research to production; selling, record keeping, management and finally writing a comprehensive report on the activity. The students themselves set up small companies and can have one to 5 shareholders. They each have to come up with a product idea, develop it, do market research, marketing, advertising, production, finance and costings. This is all done in with the help of and support from County and City Enterprise Boards who send out a mentor to the school. Our mentor is Serena. Serena will help and advise us regarding how to brainstorm, types of products and will give advice. The trade fair was held at the end of November and this was to show the girls products and to try and sell some. After Christmas during the new term we have to write up reports and hopefully some of our products will be entered into the county finals. Then it's on to the national finals. Participation in this scheme enables students to develop and acquire a wide range of personal and business attributes and skills. All of these are relevant to entrepreneurship. We will keep you posted on how well the girls are doing in the next newsletter.

Ms. P. Higgins (Downes)

SCULPTURE IN CONTEXT 2012



On the 27th September 5th year students went to the "Sculpture in Context 2012 exhibition" in the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. The exhibition is one of the most prestigious outdoor sculpture exhibitions in Ireland. It provides the student with an opportunity to view work by some of Ireland's most promising and well established artists. The sculptures were displayed throughout the gardens, ponds, Great Palm House, and curvilinear range, with the smaller works exhibited in the gallery above the visitors' centre. The work ranged in subject matter, size and material. We hope the visit will inspire great work from our own artists in Mercy.
Ms. Kearns and Ms. Cassidy

WASSA WASSA

One of the activities that we took part in this term was Wassa Wassa. This was a workshop on African culture and included learning how to play traditional African drums. We really enjoyed all aspects, in particular the drumming. We were divided into groups and were given different patterns to play. After a lot of practice it sounded really great. Learning about African culture including, food and rituals and was very interesting and enjoyable.
Tammy Williams, Kelly Radford and Neema Kobelo

INCLUSION WEEK

Our Young Social Innovator (YSI) topic this year is inclusion. As part of the project, we organised an Inclusion Awareness Week from Monday 5th to Friday 9th November. During the week, we had the following activities: wordsearches and crosswords, questionnaires, angel pins for sale, thought boards, sign language and a cake sale. Each day before 11 we gave a short presentation over the intercom covering a wide range of topics. The week was a great success and we managed to raise a lot of money for our chosen charities- Child Vision and the Irish Wheelchair Association. Sarah Whelan and Elijah Mallari



MATHS WEEK

Another maths week has come and gone. As usual the enthusiasm of the students was fantastic. Each morning the foyer was filled with curious students waiting for the daily question. This year the maths quiz was based around car registration numbers and the ultimate winner was Sophie Smith. Well done Sophie. In second place was Sinead Redmond. The foyer was also bedecked with excellent projects that 4th year students had worked tirelessly on for two weeks. This year the students chose to research the lives and works of various mathematicians including Descartes, Newton, Pythagoras and Hamilton. The 5th year students also attended talks in DCU on the practical use of maths in everyday life. The aim was to show students that maths could be fun!! The 1st year students enjoyed a long game of bingo in the hall. With Ms. Byrne calling out the numbers the girls got their "eyes down" to get prizes and even to pick up the bingo lingo!

Do you feel up to the Licence Plate Challenge?

05 D 25	09 C 81
03 DL 9	11 KK 121
06 MN 36	12 CE 144
04 L 16	02 D 4
07 CW 49	13 TS 169

Add up all the numbers that appear before the letters.
Add up all the numbers that appear after the letters.
Add up all the letters as if they were roman numerals.
The car with the licence number ?? D 64 was built in which year.
Good luck.



5th Year students prepare the Mercy College 'Giving Tree' for St. Vincent de Paul.

GREEN SCHOOL NEWS

For the last three years Mercy College has been working hard to keep the school clean and green. In particular, this year, the green committee feels that we are ready to apply for the green flag under the theme litter and waste. Our whole school community is involved in this. We have already increased our recycling facilities introducing more paper and compost bins. To make students aware, we had poster competitions and classroom competitions to see which class recycled the most plastic bottles. Remember "don't be mean keep the Earth clean". The following poem was written by first year students from Mumhan and Mide

Remember to recycle
Each and everyday
Collect all the rubbish and
You'll be on the way
Clean up the classroom
Litter in the bin
Everybody be clean & we're in for the win



Students find stranded pony at Mercy College

SCP NEWS



BREAKFAST CLUB – Our Breakfast Club is going very well this year. The Breakfast Club is open to all students. It runs everyday from 8.00 to 8.45 in the parents' room. Students can have toast, cereal, apple juice, orange juice, milk, fruit, yogurts etc. Attendance has been extremely high so far this year, with Monica serving breakfast to on average 50 students a day. We would like to thank all the volunteers who help every morning with the Breakfast Club.

HOMEWORK CLUB – Homework Club takes place Monday to Thursday from 3.50 to 4.50 in the Hall. It is open to all first and second year students. Students can have a sandwich and drink before starting their homework. If a student is having difficulty with their homework the teacher can help. It also means that students can leave the books that they have finished with in their lockers so their school bag is lighter. Homework Club will recommence in 2013 on Monday 14th January.



SUMMER PROJECT – The Summer Project in Mercy College took place from 18th -22nd June 2012. It was a great success. The sun shone each day and all 33 participants enjoyed the various activities. Our navigation skills were tested as Linda managed to get us lost on Ireland's Eye. From stained glass painting in St Patrick's Cathedral to canoeing on Carlingford Lough fun was had by all and many new friendships blossomed. Other activities included: cinema, Viking splash, zorbing, orienteering, sports. A big thank you to Ms Doherty and the 4th year helpers: Hannah Kelly and Cathy Walsh.



HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON NEWS



PARENTS

Many thanks to all the parents who have warmly welcomed myself and Linda Devitt, the SCP Coordinator into their homes since the start of the school year. It has been wonderful to meet 1st year parents for the first time and to catch up with others. It is wonderful to see the 1st year students settling in so well to Mercy College. Thanks also to all those who attended the 4th and 5th year Parent-Teacher meetings. If you did not have a chance to attend these, please note that meetings will also take place from 4.15pm – 6.45pm on the following dates; January 9th (6th years), February 5th (2nd years), February 26th (3rd years) and March 13th (1st years). Parent-Teacher meetings provide an ideal opportunity to discuss your daughter's progress with her teachers and to meet her Year Head to discuss any concerns you might have. If you would like me to visit you in your home or drop in to see me in the school, please phone or text me on 087 6550995.

COURSES FOR PARENTS

Courses for parents this term have included: Art, Irish, Yoga and Gardening. Many thanks to our course tutors for all their hard work and thanks also to the parents for their enthusiastic participation. The talented Mercy Art group, under the expert guidance of Yvonne O'Brien, is busy preparing for a special art exhibition in 2013 which will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Mercy College. We look forward also in the new year to new courses which will include: Pottery, Health and Beauty, Meditation and Financial Planning. The courses are all free of charge. If you are interested in any of the courses mentioned above please contact me on 087 6550995 or hscl@mercycoolock.ie. You are welcome to bring a friend/family member too!

BOOK CLUB

Mercy College Book Club is enjoying continued success. This year, we have enjoyed reading and discussing *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Alborn. We had a wonderful trip on Wednesday, 7th November to the petite Viking Theatre in Clontarf to see an excellent production of Alborn's play. The Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of every month in the Parents' Room. New members are especially welcome.

COFFEE MORNING

A coffee morning was held in aid of St. Francis' Hospice, Raheny on September 20th. Many thanks to all the parents and staff who supported the morning. A sum of €200 was raised for the hospice.

DCU

Dublin City University is organising an information evening for parents and students regarding applications for higher education grants on the 9th January, 2013. It will be held from 6pm – 7pm in the Axis Theatre, Ballymun.

Happy Christmas to all the parents and families of our students. A special word of thanks to Monica Adams and Monica Heade for their continued help and support in the Parents' Room. Maedhbh Daltún.

