



St. Patrick's Secondary School Coláiste an Oileáin

NEWS LETTER



A message from the Principal. *Denis O'Donovan*

The 2013/2014 school year has begun with great enthusiasm and energy with the whole school community engaging in a very positive atmosphere of work, study and activities. We returned to school on August 27th when we welcomed the first year class of 2013, 35 in total, all of whom have settled into post primary school extremely well.

This year has seen the progression of our educational partnership with the Presentation Convent and the introduction of a Joint Transition Year programme. A total of 24 students, 16 boys and 8 girls, have signed up for the TY programme and each of them have embraced the many opportunities and experiences that Transition Year presents. The students have been busy with their academic work, a variety of training programmes and team building activities, business enterprise ventures, charity fundraising as well as weekly work experience and community work. TYO has been an invaluable opportunity for both schools and is superbly coordinated by Mr T. Long and Ms A. Leen.

Following the very successful running of our joint school musical last year, 'Oliver', Staff and students from both schools undertook another production this year. 'The sound of music' was stage in early December to a packed hall for four performances. The show was a huge success.

In early November the school underwent a WSE-MLL (Whole School Evaluation – Management Leadership Learning) carried out over four days in the school by the inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills. The initial feedback from the inspectors has been hugely complimentary of the school describing St. Patrick's as "a very good school, wonderful commitment to teaching and learning with a wonderful caring and supportive atmosphere in the school". The views of parents and students were also taken as part of the overall evaluation process and the results were hugely impressive with parents and students expressing a very high satisfaction rate with many aspects of the school which reflects the dedication of staff, students and parents to the school.

I wish to thank our dedicated staff who work tirelessly to provide the many educational opportunities that are a very important part of school life. I wish to take this opportunity to wish you and your family every blessing this Christmas and the very best for 2014.

FIRST YEAR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



SCHOOL EVALUATION

As part of the Whole School Evaluation by the Dept. of Education & Skills the views of Parents & Students on the school were sought through questionnaires which were set, administered and collated by the Department of Education and Skills Inspectorate. Below is a summary of the main findings.

PARENTS VIEWS ON THE SCHOOL

	Strongly Agree/Agree	Don't Know	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
Discipline is good in the school	98%	1%	1%
I have been informed of school rules	98%	1%	1%
A good atmosphere in the school	96%	3%	1%
The school is well run	98%	1%	1%
My child was made feel very welcome	99%	1%	0%
My child feels safe & well looked after	99%	0%	1%
My child is treated fairly	98%	1%	1%
Teaching is good in the school	95%	4%	1%
My child is doing well in school	85%	14%	1%
I am happy with amount of homework	92%	5%	3%
I know who to talk to re any problem	99%	0%	1%
Overall I am very happy with school	97%	2%	1%

STUDENTS VIEWS ON THE SCHOOL

	Strongly Agree/Agree	Don't Know	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
I am proud to be in this School	92%	6%	2%
I feel safe and cared for in school	91%	7%	1%
I get on well with other students	94%	4%	2%
I understand the school rules	96%	3%	1%
There is a good atmosphere in the school	89%	10%	1%
Attendance is checked regularly	97%	1%	2%
I have to use my Journal for homework	100%	0%	0%
I am getting on well in school	90%	6%	4%
Teachers encourage me to do my best	92%	5%	3%
All students are treated fairly	81%	11%	8%
My Classes are interesting	81%	12%	9%
I enjoy going to my classes	83%	12%	5%

STUDENT COUNCIL

The class representatives on the Student Council



Joseph O'Callaghan 6th Year



Neil Crowley 5th Year



Adam Tees TY



Paddy Flynn 3rd Year



Art O'Mahony 2nd Year

This is the second year of the student council with newly elected members from each class for the 2013/2014 school year. First year will elect a representative later in the year. Over the course of last year the student council were involved in putting a bullying campaign in place and putting a school shop in place. The student council are currently getting the views of the students on homework with a view to making an input to the School's homework policy.

The student council is a voice for all students with a view to having a positive impact on school life for everyone. The student council is chaired by Paddy Flynn the third year representative, and Neil Crowley from fifth year is secretary of the council.



A Student Voice



My Journey to Dáil Na nÓg 2013

by Paddy Flynn



I am third year student in this school and on the 14th and 15th of November I went to proceedings in Dublin with Kerry Comhairle na nÓg which I'm a member of. On the 14th courtesy of local man John Breen and T.D Michael Healy Rae, we got an interesting tour of the Dáil. We then headed to the Royal College of Surgeons which was holding a sexual education event and our group participated as one of the workshops there. Bernard Brogan and the actor Fred Cooke in the humorous 'Spar' ads were hosting the event and we were lucky to get to meet with them.

On the 15th of November I along with 7 other youth members of Kerry Comhairle Na Nóg represented Kerry at the national Dáil na nÓg event in the Croke Park stadium. We as Kerry representatives and other youth members of Ireland were to make up over 200 members who were there on the day. Workshops were there such as for 'Foroige' a youth action group with branches all over the country. The event was opened by Minister Frances Fitzgerald and the youth including myself were to discuss relevant issues and put forward a recommendation of improvement or change. Each of the 20 tables had a different topic my table had the topic of 'the impact of social networking on stress for young people'. We then went to vote 3 times on the recommendation we thought best and eventually one recommendation won which was to organise a mental health gathering to promote mental health through music, culture and different events. The new Comhairle na nÓg website was also launched and a questions and answers panel took place with 1 question asked from each table. I asked why more ministers were not there as I thought they should have been there to support and acknowledge the work of the Comhairle's. Overall the event was excellent covering everything on the agenda for the day and it was a great experience and a great opportunity to represent my community, school and county.

SPORTS DESK

A First Year Hat Trick



Gold Medal Winners



Silver Medal Winners



Forrest. Each and every one of them showed great qualities both on and off the field and have a very bright future in this school.

St. Patrick's Secondary School took part in a first year 9 a-side GAA blitz in Clounmacon on Friday 18th of October. We entered 3 teams in the competition which in itself was a great achievement and shows the sporting talent this class boasts. We had great success in this competition and returned home with gold, silver and bronze medals. One of our teams beat St. Michaels Listowel, Causeway, Castleisland Community College and one of our own teams on their way to winning their group. Another one of our teams were very unlucky to lose out to a Causeway team by a single point in their group. They played fantastic football and beat Castleisland Community College, Listowel Community College and Ballybunion. Our final team finished third in their group and showed great heart and determination throughout the day, as did all our teams. The day finished with an overall final between St. Patricks Castleisland and Causeway Comprehensive School. St Patricks emerged victorious on a score line of 3-4 to 1-3. All students had a great day out and were coached on the day by Patrick McCarthy and John

THE ACTIVE SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Our School has applied for the *Active School Flag*. This is a non-competitive initiative which seeks to strive to achieve a physically active and physically educated school community. An Active Schools Committee has been set up, consisting of teachers, pupils, parents and members of the local community. Mr McCarthy has been appointed as the Active School Flag coordinator. An *Active School Week* took place in the school which started on Friday the 25th September. It involved both teachers and pupils taking a more active approach to school for the week. Some activities for the week were a School Sports Day, an Athletics Day, Health and Nutrition, Cross-Curricular Activities, 3K fun walk/Run and much more. Physical Activity and the importance of healthy eating and nutrition play a vital role in the lives of our pupils and we hope this initiative will promote this further. Research has shown strong correlations between physical activity & healthy eating and academic achievement.



Football:

Kerry Post Primary Schools

Joe O'Connor Cup (U16 ½) - Round 1 defeated by Killarney Community College in what was a very competitive affair, losing by a point. We defeated Ballybunion in round 2 which set up a quarter final against Causeway Comprehensive which we won well. We then played Pobalscoil Inbher Scéine Knemare and after a thrilling contest we just lost out to a slightly stronger Kenmare side on a score line of 4-12 to 4-8

Senior Team - Our senior team entered two competitions this year, the Moynihan Cup with games against Rathmore and Gaeil Coláiste Chiarraí and the Munster Colleges competition with one game against Hazelwood college Dromcolligher. Unfortunately we had no success with these competitions.

U15 Team - This team competed in the Munster Colleges U15 competition with a victory over St. Pauls of Waterford and were defeated by Rathmore in round 2.

We will have teams competing in the following football competitions after Christmas Munster Colleges U16 ½ , Kerry Post Primary schools U15 Russell Shield and the First year competition.

Soccer:

U17 Team - Our U17 soccer team competed in the Munster schools John Murphy cup. Our first outing was a game against Tralee Community College which we won 3 -1. This gave us a second round game against Killarney Community College. This was a thrilling encounter which saw the sides level at 2-2 after full time. The game then went to penalties after which the Killarney side came out on top 5-4

Our First year soccer team will compete in the Munster Schools first year competition after Christmas.



Basketball:

Our U16 basketball team is currently training and are so far successful in defence of their South West title. This team has been together since first year, they won the all-Ireland schools 'A' basketball title in first year and got to the all-Ireland final again in second year losing by a basket. This year the plan is to reach another all Ireland final.

The 2013/2014 campaign has started very successfully in the U16 'A' competition winning their group with wins over Castleisland Community College (44-28), CBS The Green Tralee (54-25) and Scoil Phobail Rathmore (51-39). They have now secured a place in the semi- final on December 13th

This team also participated in a schools 'A' tournament in Mounthawk last September competing against St. Malachy's Belfast, Presentation Brothers Cork, Mercy Mounthawk Tralee, Calasactius College Oranmore and Gaelcholáiste Mhuire. Our boys progressed all the way to the semi-final to lose out by 5 points to Calasactius College Oranmore who went on to win the tournament beating St. Malachy's of Belfast. This tournament proved to be invaluable training for our boys in preparation for the season ahead.

Our first year basketball team are also currently training for their competition which will begin after Christmas.

TRANSITION YEAR – TO DATE



Visiting Kerry Airport – Business Enterprise

On Torc Mountain – Team Building



F1 Challenge – DCG & Engineering



Muckross House – Local History

Fundraising For Local Charity – SVP →

The TY Team – Active schools Programme ↓



NEWS BOARD



Competing in the ISTA Science Quiz



Student Awards – Best Attendance 2012/2013



1st Year Team Building on Banna Strand



1st Years – Christmas Shoe box appeal



2nd Year ready to climb high in Dingle



Kerry Earth Week & M O'Coileán of Kerry County Council

OUR TRIP TO DINGLE by Paul Walsh 2nd year

On Dec 6th last our 2nd year class had a school trip to Dingle. We left school at 9am and our first stop was Dingle Ocean World, where we got a tour of the aquarium where we saw some strange and colourful fish. Next stop was rock climbing, by far the best part of the day. We spent an hour and a half rock climbing. We greatly enjoyed our day and hope to have many more days like that and thanks to our teachers who organised this day out for us.

JOINT SCHOOL MUSICAL - THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The Joint school musical represents one aspect of the educational partnership between St. Patrick's and Presentation Convent, which was put in place in September 2012 for the benefit of all our students. Both schools have endeavoured to put together an educational, creative and entertaining experience for students of both schools. The pool of talent in both schools is first class and it is a very worthwhile endeavour to provide an opportunity for these students to showcase their talents. This joint venture demonstrates both schools' commitment to a holistic education and its dedication to enhancing opportunities for each student.

