



# St. Patrick's Secondary School Coláiste an Oileáin

## NEWSLETTER



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

I am delighted to introduce our now annual Christmas newsletter which gives us an opportunity to keep you informed of the variety of great work being done in our school and an opportunity to showcase the great work being done by our teachers and their students. We returned to school on August 26<sup>th</sup> when we welcomed our new first year class, 36 students in total and all who have settled in and are committed and enthusiastic about their work.

At the start of the school year we also welcomed our new Guidance Counsellor, Ms Rosenberg-Polak to the staff. Ms Rosenberg-Polak has already made a significant contribution to Guidance and Counselling in the school. This is a very important advisory and support service which is available to all students from 1<sup>st</sup> year to 6<sup>th</sup> year.

Our educational partnership with The Presentation Convent continues to thrive with student in all years availing of subjects offered by both schools. The joint Transition Year Programme continues to be hugely successful with a full class again this year, 14 boys and 10 girls all of whom are benefitting greatly from the opportunities of the Transition Year Programme.

One great highlight from last year was our first year basketball team winning the All Ireland 'A' basketball title and this year many of our school teams are still involved in competition with our U16 basketball team doing very well, our U15 footballers have reached the Munster final of the McGrath cup and our first year football teams winning medals at the first year blitz.

I wish to thank our dedicated staff who work tirelessly and give so generously of their time 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 2015.

## ALL IRELAND BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS 2014



## THE CLASS OF 1964 - Reunion



On Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> and 50 years on, the Leaving Certificate class of 1964 reunited at their alma mater St. Patrick's Secondary School, College Road in Castleisland.

It was wonderful to witness the reactions of classmates reuniting for the first time in 50 years and it was also very fitting that one of their teachers at the time Sean O'Dell was present to join the class of '64.

They took a tour of the school and marvelled at the changes that have taken place down through the years. They paused at the classrooms where they sat and recalled the many memorable incidents and memories they shared as students in the school. After visiting the school the class gathered for a social evening at Peter Browne's where they further recalled their school days. They spoke about their teachers at the time, Tim and Nora Kerrisk, Jim Lyons and Sean O'Dell, cycling and often walking to school from as far

away as Brosna, studying Hamlet, Sitting three Mathematics papers for their Leaving – Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry, and many other subjects.

They recalled in particular having to attend school on Saturdays for a half day, the last half hour of which was spent singing and learning songs like "A soldier's Song", and "A nation once again". It was an evening of great memories. Gach ráth orthu go léir. **Front L to R Patsy Sullivan, T. J. McCarthy, Moss Connor, Sean O'Dell, Jim Doran, Anthony O'Callaghan, Brendan Flynn. Back L to R Sean Twomey, Timmy Neligan, Pat McGuire, Brian O'Connor, John Breen, Jack Nolan, Ciaran Fleming, Billy Broderick. Absent Tom Fleming and Maurice Brosnan. Deceased Pat O'Leary and George Jennings RIP.**

## AN ACTIVE SCHOOL – Blue Flag Award

In September 2013 the staff and students of St. Patrick's Secondary school embarked on a mission of developing a more active and healthy lifestyle for the whole school community. This was part of working towards achieving The Active Schools Flag, an initiative supported by the Department of Education and Skills.

This initiative was led by our PE teacher Patrick McCarthy who set up an active school committee made up of teachers and students who developed a programme of activities for the year. This involved a 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> years individual 6 week health and fitness programmes and their progress was monitored throughout the year. Our Students have participated in many physical activity events throughout the year including a 3k and 5k fun run, a fun athletics day, a tag rugby tournament, a cooperative games day in Killaloe, as well as climbing Torc Mountain and Mount Brandon. Students were also encouraged to walk and cycle to school as a means of becoming more active. On Tuesday May 27<sup>th</sup> a representative from Active Schools visited the school to evaluate the work that had been done by the school and was most impressed by the amount of activities and progress made and had no hesitation in awarding the Active school flag to our school.



Congratulations to PE teacher Patrick McCarthy and all staff and students of the School on achieving this flag as recognition for the hard work and dedication towards keeping our school physically active & healthy and promoting positive mental health.

We would like to thank Georgie O'Callaghan, Sean Brosnan and Denny Porter for their contribution in encouraging students to become more active and healthy, our thanks to An Ríocht athletic club, Castleisland Rugby Club, Castleisland Soccer Club, Castleisland Desmonds GAA club and Castleisland Community Centre who all have given us the use of their facilities and have helped us in our endeavours.

# SPORTS DESK

## FIRST YEAR 2014 - To date



*First year football teams with Jack O'Connor*



*First Year Soccer Futsal in Tralee*



*Athletics day at An Ríocht*



*First years at their Rugby Blitz Day at Tralee Rugby Club*

## SPORTS ROUND UP

**BASKETBALL:** We have four school teams competing this year U19, U16, 2<sup>nd</sup> year and 1<sup>st</sup> year. Our U19 team go to the latter stages within the county but were defeated by CBS The Green, Tralee in their last game. Our U16 team have won the 'A' south West regional final and are through to the All- Ireland quarter final. The first and second year competitions will begin after Christmas.

**SOCCER:** We have two school teams competing in schools soccer competitions. Our U17 team were defeated by Killarney Community College in the first round of their competition and our first year team will be in action after Christmas.

**RUGBY:** Both our senior and junior rugby teams had one outing each this year, competing in their respective blitz. Both teams performed very well in what were participation focused rather than competitive type blitz.



*Senior Soccer Team 2014*

### **Under 15 Munster Football – McGrath Cup**

We opened our Munster campaign with a comfortable win over Kinsale on a score of 4-16 to 4 points.

Next up was a great win against De La Salle of Waterford on a score of 7-6 to 2-8. Another comfortable win against Kilmacthomas of Waterford on a score of 8-14 to 3-2 meant we progressed to the Munster North final against Bandon. This was an extremely tough match that required an excellent performance from the entire squad. The game finished 3-12 to 1-16 in favour of St. Pat's. We are now due to play John the Baptist Hospital in the Munster final which will take a huge effort to win.

### **Under 16.5 Joe O' Connor Cup Football**

Two very comfortable wins against Killarney C.C. and Gaelcolaiste has seen us progress to the semi-final against Kenmare.

### **Senior Moynihan Cup Football**

Very unlucky against Rathmore in the opening game, eventually losing out by 2 points on a score line of 2-12 to 2-10.

In the second game we came up against a very strong Causeway team which unfortunately put an end to our run in this competition.

### **Senior Munster Football**

Beaten by a very strong Askeaton team on a score line of 5-9 to 4-8.

This was a very young team and there were some excellent performances throughout both campaigns.

### **1st Year Football**

Our first years entered 2 teams in a 9 a-side blitz in Clounmacon and both teams coming away with medals on the day. Our first year team will be in action again in the new year.



*U15 Football team who have reached the MUNSTER FINAL of the McGrath Cup*

# OUR TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME

## Transition Year 2014-15

*Tim Long, Transition Year Co-ordinator.*

*It has never been more essential to equip tomorrow's society with the skills to meet the challenges of the future.*



Transition Year 2014-15 in St. Patricks Secondary school has already seen students engage in many diverse learning activities. The programme is offered in conjunction with our educational partners of Presentation Secondary School.

So far this year there has been an extensive and interesting array of areas that students have experienced, such as Forensic Science, Engineering, Culinary Skills, Design and Communication Graphics, Art competitions, Press Pass Initiative, Geography project work and much more. All the while, students continue to study core subjects of English, Irish and

Maths, thus consolidating and developing their knowledge for Senior Cycle.

Our Young Social Innovators are currently beginning a project to reduce the isolation of the elderly members of our community. Many cultural and educational day-trips have taken place, outdoor pursuits and guest speakers from many walks of life. Students partake in a full Physical Education programme throughout the year, including organising sporting events for students of both schools, all the while competing with school teams in a wide variety of sports. There are many extra-curricular activities that the students are taking on at the moment, including *An Gaisce* (The President's Award), driver education, the BT Young scientist competition, a school based credit union, fundraising activities and young entrepreneur programme.

As part of their social development, students engage in community care and charity work. We would like to thank all of the organisations who work with our students on a weekly basis to help enhance their TY experience.

The emphasis throughout the whole of Transition Year is on giving our students the opportunity to take responsibility and ownership of their own learning. Students learn to plan and manage their time according to deadlines while being encouraged to challenge their own beliefs to become fully rounded young people.

Students from last year, Transition Year 2013-14, felt the programme enabled them to become more mature, more confident people. Gathering valuable new skills and allowing them to move into the next phase of their education ready to take on the challenge of Leaving Certificate.

The cooperation and innovation of the fantastic teachers and staff of both St Patricks and Presentation Secondary Schools continues to allow the programme to evolve and grow. An additional thanks to Ms Annette Leen, TY co-ordinator Presentation Secondary School and to the principals of both schools for their continued support.

## Transition Year in Pictures



*Home Economics Class - A tasty result*



*Giving a helping hand at the Indoor Market*



*Wheelchair Basketball - A different experience*



*The Press Pass Initiative*



My experiences in T.Y. so far and there have been quite a few, even in a short time frame. My personal highlight so far would be the wheelchair basketball. It's a sport I would never have acknowledged, or given it a second thought. Now that I've done it I would leap at the chance to do it again. It is also an educational experience as you really feel what it's like to be a person with a physical disability.

That is only one example of what we have done, we have gone to Cappanalea, Fota Island, Surfing and with many more in the pipeline too. There are also opportunities to attend lectures in the I.T. Tralee such as Health and Leisure, Hotel Management and Computer Graphics.

The co-ordinators often ask for our opinions on where and what we would like to do as a class, it is easy to adapt and plan around us. For example, they asked us on if we wanted to go to surfing in Castlegregory or to climb Torc Mountain.

There is also a misconception that T.Y. is a 'doss' year, it isn't. There is academic work involved and more than any one of us anticipated. We also have the chance to prepare for the Leaving Cert, in subjects such as the French and Irish oral exams.

In T.Y. our coordinators trust us to work independently as there is a lot of project work, which requires that you move out of your comfort zone and try new things. Work Experience is a prime example of this, and from my the experience it's definitely worth trying a profession that you would never see yourself doing in the future, and I personally guarantee your preconceptions will be completely changed.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Year LCVP – The workplace experience

*by Kieran Griffin, Mike Cremins & Thomas McNally – on behalf of the 5<sup>th</sup> year LCVP class.*



The 5<sup>th</sup> year LCVP class visited Dairymaster at their headquarters in Causeway recently. Dairymaster design, manufacture and sell farming equipment which is primarily aimed at the Dairy farming market.

Our visit began in the conference room where we got an overview of the company and from there to the Research and Development rooms where Computer Aided Design is used and we also saw 3D printing in action. The next stop was manufacturing where we saw injection moulding, welding, robotic and laser machinery and electro polishing being demonstrated in the manufacture of automatic feeders, milk tanks and moo monitors.

It was hugely interesting and a very worthwhile experience to observe the fusion of engineering, veterinary, and design all of which generates over 300 jobs. Dairymaster have global contracts from Scartaglen to South Korea and from Ballymac to Belarus.

This was a very worthwhile and valuable experience as we got an opportunity to see what we study in Engineering, DCG and the science being used in industry.

## STUDENT COUNCIL 2014/2015

The newly elected student council for 2014/2015 with the council's teacher coordinator Mr Patrick McCarthy.

Front L to R: Eimear Horgan TY, Mr McCarthy, David Lynch 5<sup>th</sup> year, Lorcan Hickey 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

Back L to R: Art O'Mahony 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Chris Barrett 6<sup>th</sup> year representing Mike O'Sullivan who was absent.

The student council is a voice for all students with a view to making a positive contribution to school life. The council are currently working on a number of projects.



# MY RING OF KERRY CYCLE... by Shane O'Donoghue 5<sup>th</sup> year



I cycled my first ring of Kerry cycle when I was 14 years of age. I tend to start my training for the ring of Kerry charity cycle around January and for the past two years my father and I had done it but this year I also got my friend Seamus to do it with me. We have supported motor neurone disease for the last two years. We decided on this charity because my father's cousin asked us to support this charity. The brand of my bike is Giant, my cycling gear consists of a helmet, jell shorts, gloves, sun glasses and cleets/cycling shoes.

I always like to start my training for the charity cycle with a few 10km cycles and even a 15km cycle and after a few weeks of doing those cycles I would do a 50km cycle. That route takes me from Farranfore to Tralee and from Tralee to Castleisland and home to Farranfore again. I take this route for about 1 month. A change then to a 60km route, that starts from Farranfore on to Killarney and from Killarney to Beaufort and from there into Milltown and home to Farranfore.

I would do this route for about 1 month. I would then go for a big cycle which would be around 120km and do this route 2/3 times before the Ring of Kerry. This route is from Farranfore to Killarney and from Killarney up Molls Gap and turn left at the Avoca shop at the very top of Molls Gap, then down the other side into Kenmare and Kilgarvin from there then into Glenflesk and Killarney and then home to Farranfore. I also try and do a variety charity cycles before the ring of Kerry like The Stephaine O Sullivan cycle, The Ring of North Kerry, The fire brigade services and the Paud O'Leary cycle. The best moments for me when I go cycling is the fitness and the atmosphere when you go cycling in a group because everybody gets along with each other.

The ring of Kerry itself is a great day, because you have the training done and it's just an exciting day. July 5<sup>th</sup> this year was cycle day. My father, my friend and I started the day at 5:00am and were on the road to killarney for around 5:45. We always like to be cycling by 6:15am. Our first stop was at Cahersiveen secondary school Colaiste na Sceilge for tea, sweets and sandwiches. The next big stop was Kenmare but you could also stop in Sneem or on the road because there were small stops all along the road. The toughest part of the cycle was the climb outside Kenmare to the top of Molls Gap, after that it was all down-hill into Killarney where there was food and refreshments waiting for us .I am delighted to have taken up cycling because it is an excellent form of exercise, keeping fit and a great way to build muscle and improve muscle tone.

## GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING

### Guidance Counsellor – Ms Rosenberg-Polak



The School has a fully qualified Guidance Counsellor whose remit is to help students make informed personal, educational and career decisions. The Guidance Counsellor will offer students help and support in coping with personal difficulties and academic concerns.

The Guidance & Counselling service provides an “open door” policy to students and all students are informed of the service provided at the beginning of the school year and encouraged to avail of it.

The School's Guidance and Counselling service offers a range of interventions and activities which help the students make choices about their lives. As students go through second level education they will make significant choices related to personal issues, social issues, educational issues and career issues. The Guidance Counsellor is a trained professional with the expertise and knowledge to help students make choices in these three important areas. Guidance and counselling is available to all students from first year to sixth year.

The Guidance Counsellor will provide help and assistance through;

- Consultation
- Assessment
- Information
- Guidance activities
- Referrals



# NEWS BOARD



*Sean Kelly MEP with 5th year and TY students*



*First year Christmas shoe box appeal*



*Daniel Kearney Student of the year 2014*



*Cllr John Brassil Chair of KCC with 2nd year CSPE*



*5th years preparing for surfing in Castlegregory*



*Award winners at the 2014 Graduation Ceremony*

*U16 'A' South West Basketball Champions 2014/2015*



