



SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,
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A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As the school year draws to a close for many it will be the start of the Summer holidays, for our Leaving Certificate students it will be both an end and a beginning. Application forms for various college courses and employment opportunities have been filled in as our students prepare to move out into the world. Some will continue on to third-level education, others will go straight to the world of work. It can be a time of mixed emotions, of excitement and expectancy at what lies ahead and also of sadness at the parting of friends, many of whom have been together since their early years in primary school.

It is important to remember that education is a life long pursuit. To quote William Butler Yeats; 'education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire'

To the Leaving Certificate Class of 2004 we offer our well wishes. To all of the students, parents and teachers we say thank you for your wonderful efforts. Your talents have shone throughout this past year. The many academic, sporting and fund-raising activities undertaken by the students is indicative of a healthy and vibrant school.

To Page 6



Annual Awards Ceremony: Letting Our Light Shine

Munster MEP Brian Crowley was guest of honour at the St. Aidan's Awards Ceremony which took place on Friday, May 14th. The event celebrated the individual achievements of pupils, both past and present, who have excelled in a variety of fields over the past 12 months.

Principal Mr. Liam Ahern described the ceremony as being the highlight of the school year and a celebration of the tremendous effort put in by staff and pupils.

More than ninety students were nominated for various awards which included academic

excellence, humanities and technology.

The programme of events included a gymnastic display, Irish dancing, poetry and music. Past Pupil Keith O' Donoghue made a guest appearance with his band Elephant to perform a number of tracks from their recently released debut CD 'In The Moon'. The band accompanied Brian Crowley in a superb rendition of 'Unchained Melody' which proved to be one of the many highlights of a most memorable evening.

Mr. Ahern announced that the Community Award would henceforth be named *The Dr. Steele Community Award* in recognition of the tremendous contribution which the college's former principal has made to the locality. Dr. Steele, who attended the ceremony, presented this year's Community Award to Fr. James Mc Sweeney. Congratulations and well done to all involved.

Bíodh Bhur Solas ag Taitneamh.

PEOPLE IN NEED TELETHON.

On Wednesday May 19th students participated in a sponsored music marathon in aid of the People in Need Telethon. A great day was had by all and all monies raised will be used to fund local charities. Well done to all involved.





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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Engineering, science and technology have always been an integral part of the curriculum on offer in St. Aidan's. Many of our past pupils have progressed to third level courses in these fields and, subsequently, to very successful and rewarding careers. Research indicates that demands for graduates in these areas will continue to remain very strong. In March, Fourth and Fifth Year students travelled to the Annual Engineering Exhibition in CIT and all were hugely impressed by the wide variety of stands and exhibits. The trip also included a visit to UCC. In April Leaving Certificate Biology students undertook a woodland study in Fota.



PHOTOS.

Above: Trips to CIT, UCC, Fota.

Left: 2nd Years enthusiastically experimenting. Opposite Page.

Far Right; First Aid winners Maria Kelleher and Evan Guiton.

Right: Transition Year students visit the Garda Training Centre in Templemore, Co. Tipperary.

Top: Class of 2004.

Fr. Vincent Hodnett P.P. congratulates Madeleine at her recent Graduation party.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE CLASS OF 2004 BÍODH BHUR SOLAS AG TAITHNEAMH



The class of 2004 are a most courteous and pleasant group of students. Over the last six years they have matured into responsible young adults and are now ready to take on the world. When they leave St. Aidan's in June we will remember their positive outlook, good nature and kindness as well as their hard work and commitment to their studies. In the coming weeks they will face the challenge of the Leaving Certificate

examination. On behalf of the Sixth Year Pastoral Team, Mr. Forde, Ms. Queally and Mrs. Owens, I would like to wish each and every one of them all the very best both in the exams and in their lives thereafter.

Ms. M. Dineen, Sixth Year Tutor.

Photo: Class of 2004 pictured with Mr. Ahern, Principal, Mr. O' Brien, Deputy Principal, 6th Year Tutor, Ms. Dineen and 6th Year Class Tutors, Ms. Queally, Mrs. Owens and Mr. Forde.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAW

Law is the cement of society, a knowledge of which increases one's understanding of public affairs and promotes accuracy of expression.



Congratulations to Evan Guiton who took first place in the Transition Year P.A.L. (Public Access to Law) programme examination.

P.A.L is a specially devised law programme, which gives a unique insight into law as seen through the eyes of a practicing barrister and which has become a success story in Irish schools. The programme was introduced to Transition Year in St. Aidan's this year.

The course is designed to help young people gain on understanding of how Irish law works. Students are assisted in developing their presentation and reasoning skills and are encouraged to think on their feet and to work creatively as part of a team.



TYP FIRST AID COMPETITION: AIDAN'S TAKES TOP PRIZE

Congratulations to Maria Kelleher and Evan Guiton who took first place in the inter-school Transition Year First Aid competition which took place on Saturday 15th of May, in Christ the King secondary school, Douglas.

Up to thirty teams from seven different schools took part in the competition. The students have been studying First Aid as part of their Transition Year Programme.



Life-long Learning: Madeleine Leads the Way

Madeleine Forde, a resident of Glen Heights, Ballyvolane and mother of six children, all of whom attended St. Aidan's Community College has recently been elected as the Minister for Education Representative on the Governing Body of University College Cork. Her story is truly one of vision, determination and triumph over adversity. Madeleine returned to education to complete her Leaving Certificate in 1996. She then studied a two-year Diploma in Social Studies in UCC and went on to complete a Bachelor of Science (Youth & Community) degree, graduating with honours in Summer 2003. Her success is all the more remarkable given the fact that she was suffering from cancer in her final year in college and was receiving chemotherapy and radium treatment up to the week of the exams.

Madeleine has recently commenced working part-time with the Ballyvolane/Dublin Hill School Completion Programme. Well done Madeleine on your tremendous effort and wishing you every success in the future.



From Dublin Hill to the Cannes Film Festival.

The debut movie, *Grey*, directed by St. Aidan's past pupil Joe Murphy received its first Cork screening on May 8th at the Kino cinema. Joe, a former resident of Springmount Road, Glanmire, attended St. Aidan's from 1986 to 1991. He is feeling optimistic about his own future prospects and those of his movie which will be filmed at the Cannes Film Festival shortly. We wish Joe all the best in Cannes and in his future film career.

St. Aidan's Parents Association

The school year is drawing to a close and everyone is looking forward to a well earned break. The Parents Association has had a busy and a successful year. Fundraising has provided a new drum kit and other items for the Music Department. Once again, thanks to the First Year students for their participation in the bag packing in Dunnes Stores.

We look forward to meeting new members in September. Everyone is welcome and your ideas and support will be greatly appreciated. Remember, this is YOUR school, for YOUR children and YOU too can be involved.

A word of thanks to this year's committee, Patricia Sabbani, Brian Gould, Rose Lomasney, Helen O' Flynn, Paula Kearney, Ann Roberts, Myra McCarthy, Mary Senior, Evan Roberts, Alfonso Toco, Helen Brady and Marian Clifford. A special thank-you to Geraldine McSweeney, our outgoing treasurer of six years, for her invaluable contribution.

Rose Mintern, Honorary Secretary



Humourfit

On Wed 25th February Humourfit Theatre Company visited St. Aidan's and performed for the 1st, 2nd and 5th Year pupils. Two plays were presented, "Fill Up Yer Auld Lungs," A story about the damage caused by smoking and "Helen's Story...Diary of a Drinker". The performance succeeded ingeniously in entertaining us whilst forcing us to ponder topical subjects.

What the critics said:

Artistic Director, Michael O' Sullivan, punctuated these very challenging pieces with some highly amusing mimes. All the students seemed enthusiastic and the atmosphere was electric.

Kate Mitchell Class Breandan, 2nd Year.

"Fill up Yer Auld Lungs" was very good and very amusing.

It was very informative about the serious effects of smoking.

Kieran Crowley Class: Deaglan, 2nd Year.

"Helens Story" was a very dramatic play. Patrice was outstanding and she obviously put a huge effort into learning and delivering all those lines. I learned a lot from her about the negative aspects of alcohol.

Keith O' Sullivan, Class Breandan.

I thought *Fill up Yer Auld Lungs* was excellent. It took a funny approach to a serious subject. Patrice and Sinead were brilliant and really got "into" character. It was very enjoyable and the fact that they presented the story through the medium of drama was very interesting.

Sinead Jones, Class Deaglan.

MATHS FOR FUN

A Maths for Fun programme for First Years was held in the college in March the aim of which was to make maths an enjoyable and positive experience for students. Parents Marilyn Barry, Rita O'Neill and Maria Nason, and

Geraldine O' Regan in conjunction with Grace Hickey (H.S.C.L), Maths teachers Miss Hough, Mr. Doyle and Miss Heneghan O'Sullivan and Fourth Year students Therese Mc Enery and Emma Allen. Many thanks to all who participated and made it a very successful educational venture.



PHOTOS

Top: *Shandon* by Tricia Deasy, 2nd Year.

Left: Humourfit Team with students.

Bottom left: Maths for Fun.

Opposite Page: First Year award winners with parents.

Top right: Jenny Coughlan, First Year Award winner.

Centre: College choir at Awards Ceremony.

Centre Right: Laura O' Regan receives award from Brian Crowley, MEP.

Bottom: Irish dancers at Award Ceremony.

Right: Amanda Murphy on Drums.

AWARDS CEREMONY 2004



We ask ourselves: "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?" Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people around you won't feel so insecure. We are all meant to shine as children do. We are born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our light shine we unconsciously give others permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Nelson Mandela



AIDAN'S GOES INTERNATIONAL



A Group of 4th and 5th Year students travelled to Barcelona in April for a five day visit. Some of the many activities included a sight-seeing trip of Barcelona, a tour of the Nou Camp football stadium, ice skating, a visit to the Salvador Dali Museum and a day in Port Aventura theme park. The students were also kept busy during evening time with visits to a Flamenco dancing show, a disco and a karaoke show and, overall, a great time was had by all. Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Kingston, Ms. Hickey & Mr. Cremin would like to thank all the students for their excellent behaviour and co-operation during the trip.

The First and Second Year trip to London in February proved to be a hugely memorable excursion. Highlights included seeing Fame - The Musical on the West End and visits to London Tower, Buckingham Palace, Selhurst Park, Madame Toussaud's, The Science Museum and even a boat trip on the Thames. The memories might just last a lifetime!



Lenten Fast Raises Over 4000 Euro.

Dear Students,

I wish to thank you most sincerely on behalf of the people in the parish of St.Patrick's (San Palticio) for your invaluable help again this year. Once more you have, through your participation in the 24-hour fast, helped provide medical aid for a people who are suffering from the effects of poverty and illness. Without your help many of these people would be in danger of death. As you know I have worked in St Patrick's Parish in Manta, Ecuador for a number of years up until last year when I returned to Ireland and began work here in Bantry. However, I still maintain close contact with the Parish and medical centre, and, with your help, I am in a position to collect funds and send them to the people in charge of the centre. I am forwarded a report on how the money is spent every two months and I assure you that this invaluable medical aid reaches the most needy, especially babies, children and old people in the parish, which has a population of 50,000. Let me conclude by thanking your principal, Mr Ahern and the staff members of St Aidan's for their continued support.

Wishing You God's Blessing,

Fr. Ted Sheehan.



From page 1

A school must be at the heart of the community and it is our wish at St. Aidan's that the school will continue to play an active part in the life of the locality. In this regard I would like to pay tribute to the students of Transition Year who were so willing to get involved in many aspects of community life during this past year. Finally, I would like to wish students, parents and teachers a happy, safe and healthy Summer.

Mr. L. Ahern, Principal, May 2004

SPORTS DAY

St. Aidan's first ever Sports Day took place on a fine sunny day at the end of April. This event had been eagerly awaited and turned out to be a fantastic day. All students, from first year to sixth year, enjoyed participating in a number of activities which included hockey, soccer, basketball, high jump, javelin and many more. Congratulations to the students on their efforts and thanks to the teachers for all their help.

Ms. N. Guile, PE Teacher.



PHOTOS

Opposite page:

Left: George, Amanda, Carolyn and Tony at Madame Toussaud's

Left centre:

1.) Visit to Gaudi's Parc Guell in Barcelona.

2.) Buckingham Palace.

3.) Ready to Fly.

Centre: Chilling out in sunny Spain.

This Page:

Centre: London trip: visit to Selhurst Park to see Crystal Palace.

Debbie and Ciara visit the Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona.

Right: Sports Day Endeavours.

Centre: Orla O' Driscoll displays her gymnastic skills.

Bottom: Fun activities in Trabolgan.



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