



SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,
Newsletter Issue 5 Summer 2000

Millennium Concert a Shining Celebration



Go dTè Siad Slàn

We take this opportunity to say farewell to the class of 2000. Their paths and ours were one for the last six years. We walked together, laughed together, occasionally cried together. In the human view of things, this journey of ours through time together may seem the result of chance. In the divine view, we were together because Providence meant us to be together. We were together for our mutual good. Our hope for today is that we have, in fact, done for each other the good we were meant to do. Our prayer for tomorrow is that the blessing of Almighty God will rest forever on those who were committed to our care as children and who now leave us to make their way as young men and women in the world, ready, willing and able to face whatever challenges and opportunities life brings their way. Faoi choimirce na Maighdine go raibh siad uile.

Dr. E.J. Steele
Principal

Shandon's Firkin Crane Theatre came alive to the St. Aidan's production of their Millennium Concert which was held recently. The showcase event, which featured the diverse and immense talents of Muintéaras Aodáin, the pupils, past pupils, parents & teachers of the college, proved to be a tremendous success.

A massive cast of over seventy pupils took part and among the many highlights of the show were the opening ceremony, a celebration of darkness to light, the theme of which was inspired by the College motto "Bíodh bhur solas ag taithneamh - Let your light shine."

All types of music were featured, from classical to contemporary, rock to traditional and original compositions to well-known favourites. A dance production choreographed by Fifth Year student Antoinette Geaney displayed the considerable talent of St. Aidan's dancers and tracks from up and coming rock group The Elements indicated a new sound sensation just waiting to be discovered. The show concluded with a grand finale of Cork songs, sung by the St. Aidans Choir. The entire show was video recorded and an

audio digital recording was produced by St. Aidan's departments of Music and Information Technology using the latest in computer applications. The CD which was subsequently mastered in the College, was launched in May to a tremendous response and is currently for sale in the school. Complimenting all involved on the success of the show, Principal Dr. F.J. Steele stated that immense vision and commitment had brought this memorable project to fruition. He paid a special tribute to all the teachers and parents whose co-operation & dedication had made the show possible.

Photo shows Dr. Steele accompanied by Keith O'Donoghue and Mr. M Forde at the CD Launch Ceremony





Third World Lenten Campaign

Our students can hold their heads up high again this year. The Lenten Fast in conjunction with a Jumble Sale organized by Class Breandán and Class Déaglán, yielded over £1000. This will, undoubtedly, make a meaningful difference in the lives of many facing unrelenting hardship in the developing world. Photos show Trócaire representative, Eleanor Murphy, receiving a cheque from Fifth Year students (top) and Fourth Year student organizers of World Development Week (bottom).

Something to think about...

If we could shrink the Earth's population to a village of precisely one hundred people, where all existing ratios remain the same, it would look like this.

There would be fifty seven Asians, twenty one Europeans, fourteen from the Americas (North and South) and eight Africans.

Fifty one would be female, forty nine would be male. Seventy would be non-white, thirty would be white. Seventy would be non-Christian, thirty would be Christian.

Fifty per cent of the entire world's wealth would be in the hands of only six people and all six would be from the United States.

Eighty would live in substandard housing.

Seventy would be unable to read.

Fifty would suffer from malnutrition.

One would be near death. One would be near birth.

Only one would have College Education.

No one would have a computer.

When one considers our world from such an incredibly compressed perspective, the need for both tolerance and understanding becomes glaringly apparent.

If we begin from the recognition that all beings cherish happiness and do not want suffering it then becomes both morally wrong and pragmatically unwise to pursue only one's own happiness oblivious to the feelings and aspirations of all others who surround us as members of the same human family. The wiser course is to think of others when pursuing our own happiness.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON

Another year has flown by and what an active year it has been for teachers and pupils, but so also for parents.

September saw the return of a group of determined adults to the Leaving Certificate night classes.

The activities of the Women's Group, which meets weekly, included classes in Parenting Teenagers, First Aid, Image and Style, Gardening, Flower Arranging, Jubilee Celebration and a meeting with the Community Garda, Caroline Nolan. The group, in conjunction with the Parents' Association offered invaluable support to the College throughout the year, particularly, during the Millennium Concert, Open Night, Informal Session for 1st Year Par-

ents and Enrolment Day.

The highlight of the year for one group was the Enneagram seminar where parents spent an enjoyable day learning about personality types.

Parents proved their interest in life-long learning through participation in classes in Conversational Irish, Cookery and Computers.

Through the various activities, parents got to know one another, got to know teachers, learned more about the school and the community, thereby enhancing partnership between all parties.

Best wishes to all preparing for exams.

*Brenda O'Donoghue
Home School Community Liaison*

Congratulations to all those who successfully completed the St. John's Ambulance First Aid course. Fourth and Fifth Year girls participated in the course which ran over a six week period. The Girls Development Group showed remarkable dedication both during the course and in preparation for their exam. Many thanks to Mr Pdraig Treacy of St John's Ambulance photographed here after presenting the girls with their certificates.



Basketball Players Weekend Away

On Friday April 7th a group of basketball players, accompanied by teachers Ms. M. Scanlon and Ms. D. Geary, headed for Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre in Limerick. The girls participated in many activities,

ranging from indoor rock climbing to completing a very challenging assault course. On Saturday they took to the water and canoed on Lough Gur for the morning. During the afternoon they navigated their way through dense forestation and, thankfully, eventually returned safely.

A thoroughly enjoyable weekend was had by all and plans for next years trip to a mystery location are already well under-way.



Tour de France

A brilliant time was had by all Fourth Years who recently visited France on a four-day trip during the Easter holidays. The twenty-two pupils were accompanied by Ms. Hickey, Ms. Doyle and Mr. Flannery.

The trip started off with an unexpected surprise. At 5 o'clock on Thursday morning before departing from Dublin airport, some of the group met Westlife! When we arrived in Paris, we visited the Louvre Museum, before receiving a guided tour of Inner Paris. Thursday ended with a boat trip along the River Seine. The group rose early Friday morning to visit Disneyland, where a great time was had by all.

On Saturday we went ice-skating, visited a local market, and spent the afternoon in the Palace of Versailles. That night we had a tour of Paris. On Sunday we went to the top of the Arc de Triomphe and shopped on the Champs Elysees. We arrived in Dublin at 10.30 Sunday night from Beauvais Airport and finally arrived back at Dublin Hill at 2.30 Monday morning. A brilliant time was had by all and we would like, on behalf of all the group, to say a big 'Thank You' to the teachers involved

Olivia Kenneally, Donal Óg O' Donovan



Now That You've Come So Far.

You will probably by now have begun to recognize how central work is to the happiness of the individual and the character of society. Since work is what you do with most of your waking life, you must now begin to consider what you will be working for. Begin now to view life's work as a quest, a game, a battle and a school, by considering an approach to work as would a poet, a hero, a warrior and a student. That you might experience everyday life as a heroic quest in which you fight for what you believe in, and a lesson in which you learn eagerly, wisely and patiently. Be brave and realize that only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go. Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage. View your life as a work of art in progress, as your unique creative expression of your individualism. Then, in the integration of life and work, you will begin to see the sacred in the ordinary, the beautiful in the practical. Enhance human creativity in work and, framed within a poetic view, a view alive with spirit, guided by the heart and nourished with love, you will begin to experience the full joy of living.

View your life's work as a Quest in the sense that through it you discover yourself, like the heroes of old in search of the Holy Grail. View your life's work as a game in that to fulfill it to you will have to play many roles. Working from a strong sense of purpose and righteousness will allow you to approach the game with a sense of fun and laughter. Through research and reflection, seek and you will find the role which will best allow you to express your mission in life. View your life's work as a battle in the sense that without hard work and commitment you may abandon your grand intentions to the realms of mere dreams.

But never lose the idea of service, for to make a career choice apart from a consideration of the impact of our work in society is to make an immature choice. It is immature because it lacks the vision of just how important your contribution can be and the confidence to face up to one's responsibilities to humankind. 'They' are never going to make the world a better place, its up to you and me. Never settle for work that is destructive to human happiness, or even indifferent to it. There is much work to be done. Our world is in peril from many external sources. Irreplaceable resources dwindle as we try to buy our way to heaven. And from within, the poverty of spirit and 'tiger economy mentality' has, in many cases created a barren wasteland and social abyss in place of genuine humanity and caring community. But is it not

GRADUATION 2000



preoccupations with possessions more than anything else that prevents us from living freely and nobly.

Don't forget to have the patience, acceptance and commitment to view the movement towards life's work as a lifelong unfolding process. And into this process build integrity, enjoyment, service and excellence. Integrity in that your life's work should be something you deeply care about, something you can be proud to work for, born out of your visions, values and ideas. Service in that your life's work can make this world a better place. Enjoyment in that it's something you enjoy doing. If you enjoy your work you're sure to bring creativity and enthusiasm to it. Excellence in that it's something you can give your all to.

'The dancer has her body pain.
The writer struggles and wracks her brain.
The craftsman sweats every detail.
The musician, his everlasting scales.'

So ask, 'to what can I dedicate enough to persist to excellence?' Aim for maximum results and avoid settling for taking what is easily available rather than persisting until you get what you really desire. Continue to acquire the confidence, knowledge, skills and experience you need to realise your life's goals. And if things sometimes don't go your way realize that, no matter what situation you are in, it can be changed. The winds of God never cease to blow. Set the sails of your hope that these winds may fill them.

'Far away, there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them and try to follow where they lead.'

Go neirí go geal libh as seo amach agus bean-
nacht Dé oraibh go léir

GRADUATION 2000



Photos: Class Ide with Tutor Mr. Kelleher (top left), Class Lean with Tutor Ms. Queally (bottom left), Class Colman with Tutor Ms. Dineen (top right) and Class Marcus with Tutor Ms. O'Reilly (bottom right). Also included are Principal, Dr. Steele, Deputy Principal Mr. John O'Brien, College Chaplain Fr. Shem Furlong OSA.

Arts Week

To mark the Millennium, an Arts Week was organized by the English Department which dovetailed beautifully with the rehearsals and general preparations for the Millennium Concert. Music students prepared recitals which were performed in front of captive and appreciative audiences. Film showings took place each day after school. High points during the week included visits from poet Thomas McCarthy, sports writer Gerry Desmond, writer-in-residence Tadhg Ó Dúshláine and, on World Book Day, a visit from Aubrey Flegg who writes Junior Fiction. Book vouchers were distributed and the English Department also invited a bookshop into the school which proved a big hit with the pupils.

Art students prepared an exhibition of their work and Keith O'Donoghue, a Sixth Year student, presented his Greatest Classical Hits to fascinated audiences.

The high point of the week was a Poetry Exhibition which took place in 1st year. Pupils, parents and teachers celebrated in poetry and song. A special feature of the exhibition was the improvised performance of Lord of the Dance by parent Mrs. O'Riordan, photographed below.



ST. AIDAN'S MILLENNIUM CONCERT 2000



Thrilling Munster Final Sees Aidan's Out on Penalties

The St. Aidans U-15 team has achieved considerable success in the last three years. Two years ago, they won the first ever Munster U-13 championship and lost the All-Ireland semi-final to Cabra C.S. of Dublin after extra time, last year as U-14's they won the only trophy available to them by winning the Cork cup. This year, the success story continued but heartache was their lot in the Munster final, losing on penalties after extra time to Nagle Community College. Nagle themselves went on to lose the All-Ireland on penalties. A major part of the success story has been the input of Cork City's Colin O'Brien as coach, Eddie McCarthy of Cobh as assistant coach and Anthony Buckley of Cork City as trainer. Mr. Liam O' Flynn, manager, said: "We are very grateful for the goodwill of the local community who have been very generous in their sponsorship. In particular, Blackpool Credit Union deserve special thanks as do local shops Deccie's and Centra. The players themselves deserve all the credit in the world for training three times a week in all conditions. They definitely have the talent and motivation to launch a major assault on the title in the years to come. *Photo shows Tim Dennehy receiving his Munster Final runners up medal*

First Steps Towards A Career in Sports Journalism

Castletownbere native, Aidan O'Sullivan, is a Fifth Year student at St Aidan's Community College in Dublin Hill on Cork's northside. Not surprisingly, given his background, his sporting roots are in the GAA. However, he has developed an interest in other sports and has ambitions to become a sports journalist. Here Aidan gives us an insight into the soccer scene in his school and the contribution that a couple of City players have made to it. He also suggested that the good times would return to Turner's Cross.....

Cork City FC has a formidable Youth policy, both inside and outside the club. Within the club, emphasis is placed on nurturing home grown talent. One only has to look at the achievements of Greg O'Halloran at both first team and international level. City's influence is also experienced outside of Turner's Cross. St Aidan's Community College in Dublin Hill, for example, has enjoyed all the fruits of City's widespread youth development. Since the introduction of soccer in the school in 1996, St Aidan's AFC have won four Munster titles under manager Liam O'Flynn. This year "Aidan's" have been coached by City's midfielder Colin O'Brien. Colin, the FAI Development Officer for Cork, trains three nights a week with the youngsters. 'Aidans' have also been assisted by



This article was published in a recent edition of Cork City F.C.'s programme. Congratulations Aidan!

city defender Anthony Buckley. Indeed the U-15s reached the Munster Final only to lose on penalties to Nagle Community College. Both City players were invaluable in the tough route to the final. St Aidan's are indebted both, to the two players, and Cork City as a club.

This season has ultimately been a poor one for City but there is much potential for the club both on and off the field. It is the biggest club in Munster and should, therefore, be attracting more people from wider areas. It is hard to forget May 1998 when City won the Cup at Dalymount Park after a hard-fought game against Shelbourne. In both games fans turned out in large numbers to give the team vital vocal support. One cannot over-emphasize the effect that this had on the players. In an era when Cork youth soccer has

never been stronger, it is imperative that young players break into the first team. Never have so many players from Cork represented their country on the playing fields of Europe. Celtic's Liam Miller and Colin Healy are shining examples, but there are many younger players to look out for, including, Dean Buckley (Leeds U-15) and Roy O'Donovan (Blarney Street Athletic U-14). There is a vast amount of up and coming talent in the Cork area. The future is indeed bright for soccer in Cork and indeed in the country as a whole.



Basketball News

Another season has drawn to a close for schoolboys' basketball. The first and second year teams did us proud in all of their league matches

The first year boys have shown considerable skill, talent and enthusiasm for the game and will undoubtedly return next year as a challenging team.

The second year boys had a great season which saw them reach the Cork final of the second year 'C' league. A nail biting match in the Parochial Hall ended in a four point defeat for St. Aidans. However, the determination and spirit of the team and the fantastic supporters made it a memorable day for everyone. Many thanks to coach, Paul Kelleher, 6th year.



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