



SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,
Newsletter Issue 7 Spring 2001

"ANOIS TEACHT AN EARRAIGH ..."

In Irish tradition, Lá 'le Bríde, St. Brigid's Day, February 1st, is the first day of the season of Spring. This a time of longer, and we hope, warmer days, of increasingly more light and less darkness. It is a time of re-generation. The Winter is gone. The Summer is just round the corner. There's a general sense of new beginnings and fresh hope.

The natural season of Spring commonly overlaps the supernatural season of Lent. In Old and in Middle English, the word 'Lent' was, in fact, just another word for Spring. Lent, too, is a time for

new beginnings, for fresh hope. It is a time in which we take stock of where we stand with God and with the neighbour. It is a time in which we resolve to start again, to try harder, to do more to be the people we are meant to be.

If we did not have these new beginnings, we would, so to speak, have to invent them. Young and old, we can fall into a rut and the same old ding-dong can see us drifting almost imperceptibly into something less than excellence in the various aspects of our lives.

In these seasons of new beginnings, of self-examination, of fresh hope, all of us can look at ourselves again. We can look, especially, at how we approach

the basic duties of our everyday lives, personal duties, professional duties, duties at home, duties at school, duties at work, duties at play. We can promise God, ourselves and others that we will go all out to be what we are meant to be, that we will do, not necessarily extraordinary things, but ordinary things extra-ordinarily well. That is the road to excellence. That's the road we were made for, the road each of us, young and old, is meant to walk. That's the road we must take.

Beir bua agus beannacht!

Dr. F. J. Steele, Principal.

Prize-giving 2000:

A celebration of our students achievements



Presentation of award for "Excellent Leaving Certificate Results"

Back: Brian Murphy, John McCarthy, Dr F.J. Steele, Alan Corbett, Robert Coughlan
Front: Mr. J. O' Brien, Laura Horan, Frank Murphy, Brid O' Flynn, Diarmuid O'Donovan

Inside this issue.....

Lord Mayor visits St. Aidan's
Going to College? An applicant's guide.
Our budding young writers.
Prize-giving 2000.
St. Aidan's Pupils' Council: One small step,
but in the right direction.
Civic Day 2000.
St. Aidan's triumph at Parochial Hall.
St. Aidan's Hurling Club News.
Annual 12-Hour Soccer Marathon in aid of
St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Hampers.

St. Aidan's Community
College, Dublin Hill, Cork.

Principal: Dr. F.J. Steele.
Deputy Principal: Mr. J. O' Brien.
School Tel.: (021) 4309598
School Fax.: (021) 4303274
Absence line: (021) 4393207
E-mail: aidanscork@eircom.net
Website: <http://homepage.tinet.ie/~staidans>

Lord Mayor visits St. Aidan's



Councillor P. J. Hourigan - Lord Mayor, and his Lady Wife, pictured with Dr. Steele - Principal and Caroline Crean - Student President, on the occasion of the Lord Mayor's customary annual visit to St. Aidan's.



A selection of students greet the Lord Mayor, Councillor P. J. Hourigan during his visit to the College.

As per usual we were informed of the Lord Mayor's proposed visit to the College by letter well in advance of the chosen date. The big day took place on 12th October 2000. Traditionally all students assemble in the main area, and this year was no exception. Cork City is unique in that, the Lord Mayor asks the school Principal to award the pupils a half-day off school to mark the visit. It is not surprising therefore that the Lord Mayor receives a rapturous welcome.

Councillor P. J. Hourigan Lord Mayor and his Lady Wife duly arrived and Dr. Steele addressed a ceád míle fáilte to both. He also outlined the history of the position of the Lord Mayor, its significance and the honour it is for the community, associated with the College, that he should visit. The Lord Mayor addressed the assembled pupils, encouraging them to live healthy lives and avoid the scourge of alcohol and other drug and substance abuse. He also wished the students every success in their studies. His last few words went down a treat:- "that the pupils be awarded a half day" - smiles all round!

His visit was more popular than ever in an Autumn devoid of a visit from either "Liam McCarthy", "Sam McGuire" or "O' Duffy".

Mr. G. Kelly

Going to College? An applicant's guide!

February 1st is a date on the calendar which concentrates the mind of many of our Leaving Certificate students and this particular Guidance Counsellor. No it does not spell the commencement of our pre exams, rather that this is the date students pick their under-graduate courses in higher education institutions. The Central Applications Office - more commonly known by its initials CAO, is the organisation in Galway, which processes such applications. One application form, with up to 10 degree choices and 10 certificate/diploma courses for courses ranging from Medicine to Aquatic Science, in geographical areas as far flung as Cork to Letterkenny. Application fee is £20 for this one-stop-shop application system and it really is a very efficient one. But what about those students who may not be too sure about what course would suit them at this early stage of the school year? Not to worry, a change of mind form will be issued to all applicants in May along with a statement of the courses they applied for in February. This form may then be used to register a change of course choices if desired and a student may avail of this option right up to July 1st. All courses, with the exception of those courses known as restricted courses e.g. Art, Music, Architecture etc., can be changed up to this date. A measure surely designed to reduce the stress levels amongst students and parents in what is always a challenging year. Of course much stress is caused by a lack of information. On that score if this, for the most part, calm Guidance Counsellor can be of any help to you or yours, do not hesitate to make contact.

David Kingston
Guidance Counsellor

Our budding young writers,



Adam O Mahony and Jennifer Kenneally, whose work was published in the Cork Millennium Anthology.

On Saturday 16th of December 2000, Lord Mayor P. J. Hourigan launched The Cork Millennium Anthology in the Vision Centre, North Main Street. The Anthology was published by the Munster Literature Centre in association with Cork Corporation, The Arts Council and the Millennium Festival Committees. The publication brings together the work of both established and promising writers from the Munster region. St. Aidan's students featured in four works in the Anthology. Mark Horgan and Keith O' Donoghue, both now past pupils and Jennifer Kenneally and Adam O' Mahoney now second year students contributed under the Anthology's Young Writing section.

The highlight of the launch included individual readings by four of the contributors, including Michael Davitt reading "Doirse". Jennifer did us all proud by reading her contribution last to the assembled guests.

The launch concluded with Jennifer, as the youngest contributor to the publication, presenting the Lord Mayor with a copy of the Anthology.

Ms. A. O' Donovan

Prize-Giving 2000

On Monday, December 4th, 2000, Muintearas Aodain held its annual prize-giving ceremony honouring the multifaceted talents of our pupils, past and present. The guest of honour for prize-giving 2000 was Mr. Frank Murphy, Secretary of Cork County Board G.A.A.. The audience was also addressed by Mrs. Helen O' Flynn, Chairperson of the Parents' Association, Alan Corbett, President of the Pupils' Council, Dr. F.J. Steele, Principal, and Diarmuid O' Donovan, Chairperson of the Board of Management. The M.C. for the Ceremony was Ms. Elizabeth O' Reilly and the citations were read by Fr. Shem Furlong. The Prize-giving Ceremony is a reflection of our fundamental vision as a school. Each individual student is special and gifted in a unique way and should be encouraged to develop this gift to the fullest extent possible.

This vision of talent as a light which we as educators strive to draw or lead out is encapsulated in our school motto 'Biodh bhur solas ag taitneamh' - 'Let your light shine'. This is our raison d'etre, our driving force, our educational aspiration.

The varied range of awards honour students achievements in state examinations, in the academic and pastoral life of the College and in the co-curricular area of college life, through sport, cultural and creative activities.

Ba mhaith linn traoslú le cách as ucht a n-éachtaí
Ms. E. O' Reilly



Pastoral Achievement Award

Back: Mr. J. O' Brien, Alan Corbett, Dr. F. J. Steele,
Front: Ciara O' Driscoll, Mr. Frank Murphy, Cian Murray,
Mr. Diarmuid O' Donovan.

Most Outstanding L.C. Results, Pupil of the Year, Award for Creativity.

Back: Dr. F.J. Steele, Mrs O' Donoghue, Keith O' Donoghue,
Mr. O' Donoghue, Alan Corbett.
Front: Mr. J. O' Brien, Billy Kelleher T.D., Frank Murphy,
Noel O' Flynn, T.D., Diarmuid O' Donovan.



Pupil Contribution to the Co-Curricular Life of the College.

Back: Caroline Crean, Antoinette Geaney, Kenneth O' Brien, Kevin Murray, Alan Corbett, Tamara Hickey, Orla Murphy, Derrick O' Sullivan. Front: Declan Hourihan, Mr. J. O' Brien, Frank Murphy, Dr. F.J. Steele, Hannah Hodgson.



Community Service Award.

Back: Mrs. A. O' Donovan, Alan Corbett, Dr. F.J. Steele.
Front: Mr. J. O' Brien, Mrs Madeleine Forde, Mr. Frank Murphy, Albert Brown, Mr. Diarmuid O' Donovan.



Pastoral Achievement Award.

Back: Justin Molina, John Ryan, Tamara Hickey, Dr. F.J. Steele, Alan Corbett, Darren Dineen. Front: Mr. J. O' Brien, Caroline Crean, Frank Murphy, Ciara Davis, Diarmuid O' Donovan.

St. Aidan's Pupils' Council - One Small Step but in the Right Direction!

*"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive
But, to be young was very Heaven"* (Wordsworth)

International Year of Youth, 1985, and St. Aidan's sought an appropriate response. Through the inspired vision of its Principal, Dr. Steele, a most fitting tribute was found - a Pupils' Council was established.

Forming such an organisation within any school is an enormous challenge not least because it encourages young people to work with adults and their peers at a stage in their own lives when compromise doesn't always come easily and the voyage of self-discovery that is underway usually takes precedence over more mundane matters like school and community.

The Pupils Council is and always has been an invitation to pupils to get involved, to participate in what affects them most directly and to assume responsibility for themselves and others.

Learning to be a representative is an invaluable experience, being part of a Year-Group Council which helps to run a Year-Group can be stimulating, having a say in how the overall school community operates is essential training for all.

Being a representative means having responsibilities, but also being accountable.

Last November we witnessed a closely-contested Presidential election in St. Aidan's. We had no less than six candidates from three year groups: Alan Corbett from Fourth Year, Marguerite O'Mahony, Aishling McCauley and Donal Óg O' Donovan from Fifth Year, Kate Griffin and Justin Molina from Sixth Year.

Six well-organised campaigns ensued and the electorate, the entire pupil body, had an excellent opportunity to make an informed decision about their president elect as each of the candidates addressed assemblies and launched their manifestos. The election took place in St. Aidan's on November 24th and the Executive Council took responsibility for the entire electoral procedure.



Pictured above: Alan Corbett and Donal Óg O' Donovan President and Vice President of the Pupils' Council.

The Pupils decided that Alan Corbett, class Beinean, Fourth Year, would be their new President and Donal Óg O' Donovan, class Breandan, Fifth Year, their new Vice-President. In a recent interview, Alan, had this to say: *"Now that I am President, I would like to thank everyone who helped me, everyone who voted for me and everyone else in the school. Even if you didn't vote for me, I will still do my very best to represent you. The past five months have been a hectic time in my life. I have always tried to be a positive person and, hopefully, I have left a good impression."*

Since becoming President, I have had a busy schedule with the Civic Day on November 27th when the whole school welcomed the Politicians who represent us in Dail Eireann and then the Pupils' Council had a most interesting question and answer session with them. Exactly a week later, on December 4th, I presided at our annual Prizegiving and made my first formal, public address. On a day-to-day basis I've been having a variety of meetings at different levels." When asked if he found the position too demanding, Alan's response was: *"Definitely not! My appetite for this job is absolutely massive and I am enjoying every minute of it."* Alan concluded with the following words of gratitude:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Maors who are helping me with the day-to-day work of the Council. Special thanks must also go to my "Twelve Apostles" - they know who they are... I wish to live up to the standards set by some of my predecessors and, hopefully, my work will shine through. I will continue to do my very best for you all."



The Pupils' Council Back:(LtoR) Alan Corbett(President), Laura Whelan, Donal Og O' Donovan(Vice-President), Kate Griffin, Katie Nugent, John Murphy. Front:(LtoR) Ciara O' Brien, Mark O' Mahony, Marguerite O' Mahony, Julianne Murphy, Aisling McCauley

The Education Act 1998 recommends to all schools the establishment of a Students' Council; it is extremely gratifying to have 'been there and done that' fifteen years ago in St Aidan's.

The Pupils Council is a learning process, not just for the pupils, but for the entire college community. It has always been the way for-

ward here.

We want the young people of this college to work with their parents and teachers, we want a happy environment for all, we want our pupils to be, in the famous words of the poet, John Donne, "involved in humanity" because "no man is an island". First-Year pupil, Jennifer Murphy of Class Colman captures these sentiments very well when she says "I like being a Maor because it's very interesting and I can help my fellow classmates. If they have a problem, they can rely on me. If they needed something, I would try my best to get it for them. They can trust me."

There are some cynics who will feel that a Pupils' Council is a "waste of time"; there are others, possibly greater cynics, who will see it as the first step towards the complete annihilation of civilisation as we know it. It is, however, neither of these things. The existence of a Pupils' Council provides everybody, young and not-so young with a glorious, not-to-be-missed



Jennifer Murphy - Maor of Class Colman

Civic Day 2000

How time flies from one annual event to the next! On Monday 27th of November, the sitting Dáil Deputies for Cork North Central were invited to attend the yearly debate at our College. Bernard Allen sent his sincere apologies for not attending this year and it was his only absence in the long history of the event.

All of the other T.D.'s were punctual and Mr. Diarmuid O'Donovan, Chairman of the Board of Management, extended a C ad M ile F aile to them. The topic for the day was: "IRISH POLITICS TODAY; The Challenge to the young; To curse the darkness or light a candle". The visiting deputies, comprising of, Liam Burke T.D., Billy Kelleher T.D., Noel O' Flynn T.D. and Dan Wallace T.D. and Minister for State, were allowed 5 minutes to deliver their views on the topic. The assembled pupil body registered their reaction by way of smile, nod, frown, sigh, or collectively, by applause in appreciation for their participation in the Civic Day.

Dr. Steele was very generous in his thanks to the politicians. He again outlined the Colleges commitment to Civic Day. He stated how conscious we must all be of the need to prepare our students for life in general and for civic responsibility in particular.

opportunity to work together and to actually progress. Young people may view the adults in their lives as boring and conservative; adults may see young people as mindlessly rebellious and recalcitrant - the Pupils' Council breaks down these out-dated stereotypes and provides a framework within which a healthy respect for the other can be cultivated.

Out-going Vice-President, Caroline Crean of Class Fiontan, Sixth Year, is of the opinion that participation in the Pupils' Council is a most worthwhile experience while the new Vice-President, Donal  g O'Donovan has this to say: "The students of St. Aidan's are very lucky because we have a vibrant Students' Council, which is the envy of many other schools. From the moment you enter the school in September of First Year, until you leave after Sixth Year, you can have a say in the running of the school."

Most of us elect maors (representatives) from our classes in September and give no further thought to what they do, other than collect the roll. In reality, they attend Year-Group Council and Pupils' Council meetings and do their utmost to represent the views of their respective classes.

It's a difficult job being a representative as you must learn that communication is a two-way process and sometimes negotiations can be demanding.

The purpose of the Council is to give

pupils an opportunity to participate in the running of their school and if any pupil has an idea, a complaint, or just a point of view, there is a forum where he/she will be listened to.

Because there are so many students in St. Aidan's, it would be impossible for everybody to talk to the Principal about the school. This is why we have a system of communication within our Council. Any pupil can bring a matter to the attention of his/her class representative who, in turn, can bring the issue to Year-Group Council from where it may be passed on to the Executive Council and the President and Vice-President who meet with the Principal on a weekly basis.

So, if you've got something to say, if you want to make a difference, use the system and, most importantly, make your contribution to the running of the school."

We are enormously proud of our pupils - they are second to none. We trust them implicitly to be their best selves and to do the right thing. The Pupils' Council will always stand as a tribute to their sincerity, to their talent, and to their dreams.

"In dreams begins responsibility" W.B. Yeats.

Ms. R. Desmond



Pictured at the Civic Day: (L to R) Liam Burke T.D., Diarmuid O' Donovan, Alan Corbett, Donal O'g O' Donovan, Billy Kelleher T.D., Dan Wallace T.D. & Minister for State, Noel O' Flynn T.D.

At this stage Mr. Kelly announced that the Deputies would adjourn to the "Demo room", where they would answer questions put by the Pupils Council. Mr. Diarmuid O' Donovan was busy in the chair as pupils demanded answers to questions regarding "burning issues" in their neighbourhood and issues of National importance. Despite a sometimes heated debate all the Deputies promised to return next year if God and a General Election spares them!

St. Aidan's triumph at Parochial Hall

St. Aidan's Senior basketball team were Crowned County Champions on Tuesday 9th January, in a keenly contested match against the North Presentation in Parochial Hall. Bernie O' Mahony opened the scoring for St. Aidan's with a well taken outside shot. Orla Murphy added 3 points to the St. Aidan's tally with a converted free throw and a powerful drive to the basket. North Presentation replied with two free throws. With Orla and Sabrina O' Brien dominating the boards, St Aidan's opened up a gap with 4 points from their captain Niamh Goulding and a well taken rebound converted to a score by Sabrina. The North Presentation point guard was fouled in the act of shooting and this brought their total to seven points. Four more points a piece from Bernie and Orla gave St. Aidan's a comfortable 7 seven point lead at half time. North Presentation opened the second half with two converted free throws. St. Aidan's then settled quickly with 3 more points from Orla and a great jump shot from Deirdre Sheehan who was playing superb defence. The introduction of Evelyn Barry gave the North Presentation more problems. Evelyn drove the base line twice in quick succession and scored on both occasions. Aisling Ryan replied with two points for the opposition but Niamh followed this score with two skillfully converted baskets on the break. North Presentation added 7 points to their tally but St. Aidan's were now going from strength to strength. Sabrina finished the game very strongly with 4 more points and Evelyn got



The victorious Girls Senior Basketball team pictured with their team Coach Ms. Scanlan.

their final 2 points with a superbly taken outside shot. St. Aidan's ran out convincing winners by a scoreline of 39 to 21. The jubilant team were heartily congratulated by their many supporters, friends and family and by their coach Ms. Scanlan. For her superb display in offence, scoring 11 points, and her strong defence, Orla Murphy was presented with "The Most Valuable Player" of the match award. Team: Niamh Goulding (Captain), Orla Murphy (Vice Captain), Sabrina O' Brien, Bernie O' Mahony, Deirdre Sheehan, Evelyn Barry, Yvonne O' Leary, Anna Cummins and Gillian O' Leary. The team would like to thank Miss D.

Geary and Miss M. Gorucu for accompanying the St. Aidan's supporters to Parochial Hall. They were also delighted with the welcome they received on returning to the school by Dr. F. J. Steele, Mr. J. O' Brien, Fr. Shem Furlong, Maeve Flavin, Alan Corbett - President of the Students Council and Donal Óg O' Donovan - Vice President of the Students Council. The team are presently training hard for the All-Ireland qualifiers which will be held in New Ross, Co. Wexford. A special word of thanks to Mr & Mrs Guckian (Decky's) for their kind sponsorship.
Ms. M. Scanlan



Pictured making a presentation of hurleys to St. Aidan's G.A.A. - John O' Callaghan (Chairman of Glen Rovers) and Paudie McCarthy (Glen Rovers). Also included are Dr. F.J. Steele (Principal), Mr. P. Kelleher (Hurling Coach) and Committee members.

Junior Mathematics Competition 2001

Twenty two pupils sat the first round of the Irish Junior Mathematics Competition, 2001 on Thursday 25th January. I wish to thank all the students who participated in the first round and put in extra time preparing for the competition.

The following are the top 3 students in St. Aidan's Community College.

1st - Maeve Horan, Class Marcus
2nd - Therese McEnery, Class Marcus
3rd - Brian Moylan, Class Lean
 Maeve received a very high score of 79 and has been invited to the final round in March.

It is an honour for St. Aidan's to have Maeve representing us in the final of the competition.

Ms. J. Hough

St. Aidan's Hurling Club

This year started at a frantic pace and it was straight into the Harty Cup, yet again. It was a brave move by all concerned as the panel was very young, but what is a better way of gaining experience than being thrown in at the deep end.

In a competition, which in the opinion of many, is being hi-jacked by schools not operating within the spirit of the competition, we are a symbol of what is great about the G.A.A., honest effort and a love for the great game of hurling. It was quite obvious that we were not up to Midleton C.B.S. on the day, but a valuable step was taken. Some boys became men in that hour and many of them realised that to compete at the highest level a greater commitment to excellence is needed. In order to build for the future a development panel is training every week. The success of this venture is being monitored and with this the individual progress of players. The memory of Jimmy Barry Murphy is an inspiration to all. He led a Cork team into the Munster Championship only to be hosed by Limerick, that same team of Young Guns went on to be All-Ireland Champions. Fortune favours the brave and the Young Guns of St. Aidan's will have their day in the sun.



St. Aidan's Harty Cup Team 2000 who were defeated by Midleton C.B.S. in Carrigtwohill.

In the Munster College's a very promising St. Aidan's side beat Pallaskenry in the first round and later disposed of Carrigaline Community College in a very convincing fashion. We were now at the quarter final stage but lost on a day we failed to live up to our potential. In the Cork Colleges we beat our neighbours Mayfield Community School in the first round, and we await the winners of Youghal and Douglas. The under 14 team are to be commended on their dedication to training. They train twice a week and this takes into account

they have not had a competitive match yet. They are due to play Bishopstown, Mitchelstown and Cobh in the league. We have a good side and are confident of making an impact in this competition. These young hurlers are committed to making sure that St. Aidan's stay on the Cork and Munster hurling map.

A special word of thanks to the students of St. Aidan's who are on the hurling committee. They work hard maintaining the profile of the G.A.A. in the school, as well as washing the occasional jersey. Thanks too

to Glen Rover's Hurling Club for their generous offer of a coach to help develop hurling and camogie in the school. The Glen also provided the school with Senior and Under Age hurleys which will be well used. Thanks to Mr. Michael Galvin, Park Court for his time and effort in maintaining our hurleys. Thanks to the office staff, Eamonn and Christy for their support. For anyone else who lends a hand, thank you.

Mr. P. Kelleher

St. Vincent de Paul - 12 Hour Soccer Marathon

On Friday 8th December St Aidan's Community College held its Annual 12-Hour Soccer Marathon in aid of the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. The day was a huge financial success as well as being very enjoyable for both teachers and pupils alike.

Thanks to Mr. Kelleher's outstanding efforts and dedication to this worthy cause the day was excellently organised and ran very smoothly. Tim Dennehy, Barry Brady and Roy O' Donovan also proved instrumental in the success of the day, not only did they organise the teams and fixtures but also demonstrated extremely impartial refereeing throughout.



Representatives of St. Vincent De Paul pictured with Mr. P. Kelleher and Barry Brady at the very successful 12 Hour Soccer Marathon



Staff and Students of St. Aidans pictured at the presentation of the Christmas Hampers to a St. Vincent De Paul representative.

Thanks also to the teachers who volunteered their time to the supervision of the event. Special thanks must go to Mr. Kelly who lifted the tone of the event by providing some light entertainment. Perhaps the highlight of the day was when the successful male and female student teams played a selection of the teachers. A total of £1650 was collected for this worthy charity. On Friday 16th December 5 pupils along with Ms O' Donoghue and Mr. Flannery travelled to Musgrave's Cash and Carry to purchase the ingredients for the hampers. The hampers were prepared by members of the Pupils' Council and were presented to representatives of St Vincent de Paul on time for distribution before Christmas.

Ms. E. O' Donoghue

Blackpool Credit Union Limited



75,76 Watercourse Road,
Blackpool,
Cork.
Tel.353+(21)4501757
Fax353+(21)4505606



Opening Hours:

Monday:	9.15am - 4.00pm
Tuesday:	9.15am - 4.00pm
Wednesday:	9.15am - 4.00pm
Thursday:	9.30am - 4.00pm
Friday:	9.15am - 12.30pm 1.30pm - 7.30pm
Saturday:	9.15am - 12.00pm

List of Services and Budget Payments:

Gas	VHI	Foreign Exchange
Telephone	BUPA	Insurance Payments
ESB	Rail Tickets	Insurance Benefit
Multichannel	Gift Drafts	Financial Counselling

PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE