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St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,
Newsletter Issue 9 Autumn 2001

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

People around the world have found events at Holy Cross School in the Ardoyne in Belfast sad in the extreme. The sight of very small children caught up in the political disagreements of their elders has upset the world.

At home and abroad, many have wondered whether it would be better to educate Catholic children and Protestant children together, so that they would grow up together, come to know each other, and, it is hoped, bring into adulthood the friendships that are part and parcel of school life everywhere. Funnily enough, research suggests that denominational schools do much to counter sectarianism but, rightly or wrongly, the pundits see it otherwise.

However, as they have elsewhere, divisions based on religion will one day disappear in Ireland. What may not

disappear quite so quickly or so easily are the more hidden and, in some respects, more hurtful decisions based on social class.

In Ireland, North and South, Troubles or no Troubles, tuppence ha'penny still looks down on tuppence and that deep and abiding division keeps children, adults and whole sections of our society as far apart as religion ever did. That is not good for Ireland. It's not good for its people. It's not good for its children. It's not even good for its economy.

Any education worth the name should help us to take people as we find them, irrespective of address, irrespective of background; to respect them, not for what they have, but for what they are; to see and celebrate in them the image and likeness of the Eternal God who

made us all.

North and South, schools are expected to supply the remedy for every ill. They simply can't do so and, perhaps, they would be ill-advised to even try to do so.

Like any other individual or institution, they can, though, do what in them lies. In the matter of social distinctions, they can do all that in them lies to ensure that they are part, not of the problem, but of the solution. They can do all that they can to ensure that, irrespective of social class or background, irrespective of income or bank balance, children enter their doors and walk their corridors free of the hurt of social divisions.

Dr. F.J. Steele, Principal

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Above: Class Maors 2001 pictured with Ms. R. Desmond, Dean of Discipline

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Careers project - A job in itself!

Do you need a science subject for nursing? Can you become an electrician if you are colour blind? Is there a minimum height requirement to become a Garda? How do you go about securing an apprenticeship and what has FÁS got to do with it? Is there more to teaching than the long holidays? These are just some of the questions your children will be addressing in the course of October in their Career Project. What better way to discover the link between what's taught and its relevance in the world of work. Information is easily obtained by checking the media, surfing the net or simply asking around. It will help develop the talent of sourcing information and evaluating it. It will encourage the wannabee Florence Nightingale in First Year to work hard, retain the subjects critical to nursing in Senior Cycle and make an informed career choice in Sixth Year.

Admissions Offices in every third level institution in the state can tell horror stories of students accepting courses without researching its content. Imagine the heartbreak when such a student drops out, not to mention the financial implications of this on parents. Hopefully the six projects our students research in the course of their time here reduces the chance of that happening to one of ours. Of course the Careers Exhibition held in the Rochestown Park on October 16th & 17th provided a great deal of information for our Leaving Cert. and Transition Year students. Representatives of over 90 organisations be it third level such as U.C.C. and C.I.T. or training bodies such as F.A.S. or Cert were present. When you add in interests such as Civil Service, Defence Forces, Naval Service it could be fairly described as a one-stop-shop for the information gatherer,

Hopefully those that attended may read the literature that they took in great abundance from the Conference Centre. Going that extra yard will turn an enjoyable outing into a really productive day's work. As for our Leaving Certs - The C.A.O. forms have arrived and have been distributed. By the time you read this I will have explained how to complete the application form. That is by far the easiest exercise to complete. To apply for a course you know enough about to be enthusiastic about is another days work. I will have met each student on an individual basis by the end of November to further this process. Your son or daughter will know in advance when we are meeting and if you would like to be present you would be more than welcome.

Mr. D. Kingston
Guidance Councillor



Above: A number of the Leaving Cert Geography class completing their fieldwork project at Garrettstown in September

Leaving Cert Geography Field Trip

The Leaving Cert Geography class completed their fieldwork project at Garrettstown in September. The fieldwork consisted of a coastal study. We first of all checked the newspapers to make sure the tide was out far enough to complete the study. The weather on the day was excellent with a gentle south westerly breeze. Our fieldwork included a sediment analysis on a transect of the beach, a study of longshore drift and a beach profile. The concepts that we studied in our textbooks became very clear when we actually carried out the fieldwork on the day and as the fieldwork project consists of 25% of the total Leaving Cert mark, it was very much a day well spent.



Richard Childs, P.C. Superstore, on behalf of Fred Sorensen, Director of P.C. Superstore & former student of St. Aidan's, making a generous presentation of a laptop to Dr. Steele

Below: 6th Year students who received their ECDL Certificates pictured with Dr. Steele - Principal & Mr. J. Buckley - Computer Teacher.



St. Aidan's honoured by Lord Mayor's visit.



Above: Councillor Tom O' Driscoll - Lord Mayor, pictured with Dr. F.J. Steele - Principal, Alan Corbett - Student President, Mr. Gerry Kelly - Co-ordinator of Activities, on the occasion of the Lord Mayors' visit to St. Aidan's

The Lord Mayor's visit to St. Aidan's took place on Thursday 11th October. He arrived ahead of schedule flanked by Dan O' Shea who arranges the Lord Mayor's schedule and Tony his driver. After the Lord Mayor was escorted to the stage, where he was introduced to Mr. O'Brien, Deputy Principal and Alan Corbett, President of the Pupils Council. Mr. Gerry Kelly, M.C. called on Dr. Steele, Principal, to address a welcome to the very special visitor. Dr. Steele outlined the prestige and the esteem with which the office of Lord Mayor is held agus cuir sé céad míle fáilte roimh an Ard Mhaora.

Councillor Tom O' Driscoll displaying traits of his regular profession held the assembled pupils rivetted to his every word.

Every Lord Mayor's last words are memorable requesting the Principal to grant a half day!

St. Aidan's Leaving Certs. lead the way in computer competence.

Over 50 students of the Leaving Cert. class of 2001/2002 were recently presented with the ECDL, the internationally recognised certificate in Information Technology.

This marks another highly successful year for St. Aidan's in the development of Computer Competence, not only for its students but its staff and to the wider community.

The ECDL syllabus is covered as part of the 4th and 5th year Computer Studies Programme and the students have the option of registering and completing the 7 examinations

Since 1998, over 300 people, comprised of 4th, 5th and 6th year students along with members of the wider community have successfully completed the ECDL. In the past 2 years also, over 40 employees of Cork County Council and over 20 members of the staff of the college have attained the ECDL at St. Aidan's.

The co-ordinator of all aspects of the course is Mr. J Buckley, Head of Computer Science.

On Wednesday 24th October Richard Childs, Head of Operations at P.C. Superstore, Lavitts Quay, on behalf of Fred Sorensen, Director of P.C. Superstore, made a presentation of a computer laptop to St. Aidan's. Fred Sorensen is a past pupil of St. Aidan's and we wish to thank him most sincerely for his generosity.



MAEVE SCORES HIGH!

Irish Junior Maths Competition



Approximately 8000 First Year students from 110 schools around the country took part in the first round of the competition held on the 25th January 2001. 156 students competed in the final in centres in Clomel, Cork, Dublin, Donegal, Galway and Carnlough, Co. Antrim. Out of the 156 students 55 achieved a score of 100 or more. The average mark was 72. Maeve Horan, Class Marcus was selected to represent St. Aidan's in the competition, after achieving the highest score among our first years in the first round. In the final, which was held in Coláiste An Spioráid Naomh on the 5th May, Maeve scored a mark of 114, which placed her in the top 30 in Ireland - Well done Maeve. Many thanks to all First Year Maths Teachers who prepared their students for the competition - Ms. Quirke, Ms Heneghan O' Sullivan & Dr. Pilar Carniciero.

Ms. J. Hough

St. Aidan's displays its talents at



Open sessions of one kind or another are a feature of the school year in most schools now. They have been a feature of St. Aidan's since October, 1983, and St. Aidan's was amongst the first schools in the Cork region to provide this service.



Open Night is principally for the benefit of the parents of pupils in Sixth Class at Primary School who are considering their children's options for First Year and who want to learn as much as they can about the choices available to them. In that respect, Open Night is a chance for Muintir Aodain to meet its future pupils and parents, to tell them what we are about and to show them something of who we are and what we do.



nd facilities at *Open Night 2001*



Open Night is also for ourselves and, in this respect, it is something like a Station Mass. We put the house in order, so to speak, but, in doing so, we plan together and work together, before, during and after the event, and so strengthen the bonds between ourselves.

Open Night, therefore, strengthens St. Aidan's both internally and externally. It brings us closer to the community of prospective pupils and their parents, and it brings pupils, teachers and parents closer to each other. It is therefore, one of those College events in which we live in a very special and immediate way our College motto. We let our light shine, brightly and proudly, before the world.

Dr. F.J. Steele, Principal



Photos: Staff, students and future students of St. Aidan's pictured at the highly successful Open Night which took place on Thursday 25th October.

Photos include the Principals address to the assembled parents, stands for the various activities in the college, prospective students checking out some of the modern facilities available, some a little ahead of time!.



St. Aidan's A.F.C.: Season kicks off on a high note!

St. Aidan's A.F.C. is up and running again this year. Already we have had a good result, with the school Senior Team beating Kinsale 4 - 3 in our first match of the Munster Championships. On the same note, Michael Buckley, Leaving Cert., has the distinct honour of being only the second pupil in the schools' history to make the panel for the Irish Schools senior team, a magnificent achievement. He follows hot on the footsteps of Paul Fitzgerald, who performed admirably as the centre half of the 1998 Irish Schools team, remaining unbeaten for the year. We wish Michael all the success in the world. This year the U-17 captain is Tim Dennehy and the vice-captain is Kevin Murphy. Well done to both.



Roy O' Donovan (Coventry F.C. and formerly St. Aidan's) takes the U-13's through some warm up exercises at a recent training session



Above: Michael Buckley, who has been chosen for the panel for the Irish Schools senior team, pictured with Mr. Cremin & Mr. O' Flynn (Soccer Coaches).

The U-13's and U-15's look promising also in training. A lot of work will be done with them over the mid-term to ensure they are properly prepared and focused for the games to come. The U-13's had a special guest up to them last Monday when Roy O' Donovan, a St. Aidan's pupil up to last year, came up to do a coaching session. Now plying his trade with Coventry, Roy remarked how he enjoyed school training so much and emphasised to the U-13's how special it is to be given the chance to represent your school in competition. We couldn't agree more. Here's hoping that all the school teams perform with distinction and skill and do us all proud.

Mr. O' Flynn
Mr. Cremin
Mr. O' Dwyer



St. Aidan's U-13 soccer team pictured at a recent training session with Mr. O' Flynn (Team Coach), Michael Buckley, Roy O' Donovan, Cian O' Brien & Colin Falvey.

Le Voyage en France

The annual transition year trip to France will take place from Friday March 22nd to Tuesday March 26th 2002. This trip, which has been an enormous success with the past two years, is of high benefit to all participating students. While a full itinerary is being planned at present, it is anticipated that activities will include a sight seeing tour of Paris accompanied by a tour guide, a trip down the Seine on the Baton Mouche, a visit to the Eiffel Tower and/or the Arc De Triomphe as well as a full day in Eurodisney.

Bon voyage a tout le monde.
Ms. G. Hickey
Tour Co-ordinator

Our trip to Shielbeggan Baskets of fun!

After many wrong turns and inquiries for directions we finally hit Shielbaggan with a bang. After a nose around the centre and a quick introduction to the personnel we soon found ourselves dodging potholes and holding on for dear life as we headed for the leisure centre. After the shock of the spin wore off we were somersaulting and diving into the pool. The lifeguards didn't seem a bit impressed with our aquatic skills. After a dip in the Jacuzzi and a spell in the steamroom we soon found ourselves indulging in the local cuisine - Chips and curry.

The next day we found ourselves on the shores of Wexford's beaches. After struggling with our wetsuits we soon found ourselves skimming along the water in speedboat holding on for our lives. Throughout the day we tried our hand at windsurfing and kayaking but most of the time was spent in the water or going around in circles.

After a quick change into dry clothes and a bite to eat we split into two groups and tried our hands at rock climbing, abseiling and horse riding. On day three armed with a map we set off through the forest orienteering. We finally returned to the start after an hour and a half much to the delight of the instructors



Above; St. Aidan's Staff and Students pictured on their visit to Shielbaggan Activity Centre.

who thought they were going to have to send out a search party. After mastering the orienteering we found our way back to the centre for lunch and team challenges. Tempers frayed as we struggled to complete our assignments. All was forgiven when water became involved and the activities were abandoned as a free for all broke out with buckets of water and hoses being sprayed on everyone. Revenge was quickly taken as teachers and instructors became prime targets. The day came to a close with some archery - arrows flying in all directions as we struggled to hit our targets. Before leaving we each received our certificates and Shielbaggan bid us a fond farewell.

Lisa Bullman and Laura Whelan (5th year)

St. Aidan's Hurling News

Harty Cup Competition

Our Senior Hurlers travelled to Watergrasshill on Wednesday 10th October to try and take their place among the elite in the quarter final of the competition.

A fine first half performance saw us take a 4 point lead but after conceding an

unfortunate goal we went in at half time on level scores. In the second half we opened the scoring but this was to be our last score. Colaiste an Phiarsaigh took control of the game and gave a very determined display. Our lads fought to the bitter end and could have made that vital break through except for the excellence of the Glanmire goal minder.

Well done to everyone and especially to Donal O' Donovan (Capt), Tom Neally, Gary Forde, Ian Scott, Gavin Moylan, Shane O' Donoghue, Diarmuid Dorris and Eoghan Geaney, who were in command throughout. A special word of thanks to Tom Nott who coached the team.

U16 and U161/2 Competitions

We suffered two poor defeats at U16 & U161/2 levels. Our U16 hurlers were heavily beaten by newcomers Presentation College (Mardyke) on Friday 12th of October, and Monday 15th seen a similar fate when Tralee travelled to the Glen Field and were too strong for our U161/2 hurlers.

U14 Hurling

The 1st and 2nd year competitions will commence in the coming weeks. Hopefully these young hurlers will go all the way in their championship.



Above: St. Aidan's Harty Cup Team 2001, defeated by Colaiste An Phiarsaigh on Wednesday 10th October at Watergrasshill.

Mr. F Savage
Hurling Coach

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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

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