



# SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,  
Newsletter Issue 10 Spring 2002



*'The Annual Prize-giving is an occasion on which we recognise and celebrate the light, the gifts, the talents and the attainments of a whole cross-section of the College.'*

Pictured above are a number of students who received awards at Prize-giving 2001 accompanied by Dr. Steele - Principal, Mr. Diarmuid O' Donovan - Chairman of the Board of Management, Mr. J. O' Brien - Deputy Principal and Guest of Honour Dr. Patrick Kelleher, Director of C.I.J.

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## St. Aidan's

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## "Am I my brother's keeper?"

These are the words of Cain. He had just killed his brother, Abel, out of envy. He was being questioned by the Lord about Abel's whereabouts. He insists, in effect, that he knows nothing about his brother and that, anyway, what happened to his brother was nothing to do with him.

The temptation to react like Cain when we are challenged about our responsibilities can be quite strong at times. We can feel that it is all very well for others to comment; that we are responsible for enough as it is; that this matter or that is someone else's responsibility anyway; that we carry no brief for Cain and, in fact, we disagree completely with him, but, for all we know, Abel might have brought the whole thing on himself.

Whether it is about bullying in school

or racism in society, we often choose to mind only what we see as our own business. We have no time for bullying or racism. We may even have suffered from something like it ourselves and know just how damaging it can be to peace of mind and self respect. But, sorry, we really do have enough on our plates.

Martin Niemoller was a German Protestant Pastor. He ended up in a concentration camp because he was outspoken. He survived and years later, wrote about his experiences. In a very famous and oft-quoted passage, he set out a lesson he had learned from his experiences.

'In Germany, the Nazis came first for the Communists and I didn't speak up. I felt that, since I wasn't a Communist, it was no concern of mine. Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up. I felt that, since I wasn't a Jew, it was

not my affair. Then they came for the labour leaders and I didn't speak up. I was not a labour leader or even a member of a trade union. It was none of my business. By the time they came for me ... it was too late. There was no one left to speak up.'

In minding others, we mind ourselves. In speaking up for them now, we help ensure that when the time comes and the need is there, some-one will speak up for us. 'Ar scáth a cheile a mhaireann na daoine'. 'People live in the shelter of each other'. In school and out of school, we are our brother's keeper; we are our sister's keeper. Cain got it wrong. He always does. Martin Niemoller got it right. In the long run, he always does

Beir bua agus beannacht!

F.J. Steele, Principal



## Home School Liaison - Closing the Gap

My name is Grace Hickey and I have recently been appointed as the Home School Liaison Co-ordinator. My role is to strengthen the links between home and school, to ensure that your child benefits from all the educational opportunities available to him or her.

Educational research has shown that students whose parents support their schooling will do better than those who do not receive a similar level of support. We, the staff at St. Aidan's, want parents to feel comfortable approaching our school we want you to feel you can talk to us if you have worries

concerning your child or indeed if you simply want to become more involved in your child's education.

Part of my role as Home School Liaison Co-ordinator is to organise courses that meet the personal, educational and leisure needs of parents. Your suggestions and ideas are most welcome.

I am available in the 'Parents Room' each morning from 9:05am to 10:00am. Alternatively, if you would prefer to arrange a meeting at the school or in your home, I may be contacted on 4307486.



Congratulations to Fr. James on his fantastic window display over the Christmas period. We are all very proud of the amount of money raised for the Bothar project - 32 goats will make a big difference to families in Tanzania. Well done Fr. James.



## Tune-Time

St. Oliver's Church Christmas Carol Concert took place on the week leading up to Christmas and saw the participation of many choirs and bands from all over Cork, including our very own 'St. Aidan's', Carrigaline Singers, St. Mary's Choir, St. Oliver's Folk Group, The Blackpool Church Choir, Mayfield Brass Band and St. Oliver's Primary School Choir.

It was an extremely festive night that consisted of story-telling, traditional Christmas Carols and other Christmas songs which all contributed in enhancing the spirit of Christmas for people young and old.

Ms. C. Kelleher

## A word of advice!

February, 2002

Dear David,

Once again I am calling on your help to source a staff member for me. The details are on the attached papers.

'L' has been a valued and loyal staff member for several years past, but she is leaving shortly to study for her finals at U.C.C.

Perhaps you would phone me with a short-list of possible candidates.

Sincerely  
'A'

When 'L' was in fifth year I was asked to recommend a number of students who would be interested in being interviewed for a part-time position in a local business whose owner had a reputation for being a good employer. 'L' was the successful applicant and it was easy to see why. As a student she was ambitious in a quiet sort of way. She was extremely hard working, paid attention to detail, got on well with her classmates and staff, was clean cut and well spoken. All of these qualities would be required in the business she was joining. She was in fact replacing another past pupil who was moving on.

The only request I made of 'L' was that she would make a good impression on her employer, that

he would come to me once again seeking a replacement. She did that in spades as last weeks letter indicates. Her good work may still live on in that it presents one of our girls with an opportunity to replace her.

The nub of this tale is not that we are a job-recruiting agency. In truth it is only the rare occasions we are asked to make such recommendations and in any event Fás and the IDA can cheerfully survive without our input. Rather is it a tale of a focused young person who made a little money in a focused environment over the past number of years, kept the opportunity open for someone else and will complete her studies successfully.

Many of our students have part-time work. Unencumbered by labour laws, I myself worked at eleven years of age. I held many a part-time job on and off during my student days and never regretted doing so but I never lost sight of the fact that I was a full-time student and the book work associated with this was never ignored. In short, I knew which side my bread was really buttered on. My hope is that your son or daughter, like 'L' whose identity I have endeavoured to protect, is similarly switched on.

David Kingston  
Guidance Councillor



## T.D.'s go back to school!

The 'Civic Day' concept at St. Aidan's has been an annual event now for some 15 years. In that time many different motions have been discussed by the visiting T.D.'s and the Pupils' Council.

Deputies Bernard Allen, Billy Kelleher, Noel O' Flynn and Minister Dan Wallace attended, while Councillor Jim Corr deputised for Deputy Liam Burke who sent his apologies.

This year's motion related to the role of young people in politics. All of the public representatives recommended that young people take an active interest in politics and to perhaps join a political party. However, some T.D.'s stressed that since being a public representative was so demanding on time it may be wiser to enjoy their youth before becoming seriously involved.

President of the Pupils' Council, Shane O' Donoghue, proudly represented the pupils of St. Aidan's at the top table. Dr. Steele welcomed



Above: Dr. F.J. Steele - Principal, Deputies Noel O' Flynn, Billy Kelleher, Mr. Diarmuid O' Donovan - Chairman of the Board of Management, Councillor Jim Corr, Minister Dan Wallace & Deputy Bernard Allen, pictured at Civic Day.

the special guests and thanked them for their continued interest and commitment to St. Aidan's Civic Day.

The Chairman of the Board of Management, Mr. Diarmuid O' Donovan, chaired the question and answer session where members of the Pupils' Council displayed their skills as

pupil representatives, and who knows maybe public representatives in the future.

This year's occasion was probably more significant than others in that a General Election will take place during the school year. Mr. Gerry Kelly was M.C. for the day and looked on with some interest.

## Litter Picking

In general, people seem to be more litter conscious these days, however there is still a lot of litter about. Mr. Cremin, Fourth Year Tutor, recently mobilised a large number of troops in a major attack on litter in the general vicinity of the College. (Pictured across)

Mr. Kelly procured litter picking 'gadgets', gloves and refuse sacks from Mr. Jim Dooley who is a supervisor in the anti-litter unit of Cork Co. Council.

During the litter picking operation there was loads of banter, good humour and occasional words of encouragement from Mr. Cremin and Mr. Kelly.

The pupils learned how difficult it is to collect litter even though so many people thoughtlessly throw it away. Everybody involved realises the image created by the presence of litter is not good, and that a litter free environment is beneficial for residents self esteem, pride, self respect and indeed the value of their property. If anybody wishes to contact Mr. Jim Dooley regarding litter or dumping you may phone him at 4276891.



Below: Donal Óg O' Donovan, Kenneth O' Grady, John Ryan & Robert Sheehan, with their teachers Ms. J. Hough & Mr. J. O' Donovan, who represented St. Aidan's at the Inter-School table quiz, held in U.C.C. on 26th January. The team finished joint second but were resigned to third place after a tie break round. Well done lads!





# Annual Prize-Giving



Above: Rose Lomasney, Chair of the Carrignavar Branch of the ICA, pictured receiving the Community Service award on behalf of the I.C.A. Also included are Dr. Steele, Dr. Patrick Kelleher, Mr. J. O' Brien, Mr. Diarmuid O' Donovan & Mr. Gerry Kelly.

Worn over the heart of every pupil in the College is the College motto; 'Bíodh bhur solas ag taitneamh', 'Let your light shine'. Every single pupil has been given a whole range of gifts of soul, mind and body by the God who made each one of them in his own image and likeness. In the range of their talents they are all different. In the fact of their talents they are all the same because each one of them is particularly blessed in way or another. In this sense, each of them has light. Each of them is light. Together, parent, pupil and teacher, we want that light to shine and our fundamental job as parents and as teachers, as educators in the home and in the school, is to help pupils recognise their own giftedness and to help them develop their respective talents to the greatest extent possible.



Above: Tamara Hickey & Trevor Hussey, pictured with Dr. Steele, Mr. Diarmuid O' Donovan, Mr. J. O' Brien & Dr. Patrick Kelleher, having received their awards for their outstanding achievements throughout the school year.

Below: Bernadette O' Mahony, along with her family, Mr. Diarmuid O' Donovan & Mr. Billy Kelleher, T.D., receiving her award at 'Awards Night 2001'

The Annual Prize-giving is an occasion on which we recognise and celebrate the light, the gifts, the talents and the attainments of a whole cross-section of the College. We recognise achievements of all kinds, curricular, pastoral and co-curricular, individual and collective, some widely known, some not so widely known. We mark outstanding performances in the examination hall and in the sports arenas. We mark as well remarkable personal achievements of all kinds, achievements often made against the odds and in the face of considerable difficulties. There are no grades in the Leaving Certificate for kindness. All the better, therefore, that there would be awards at our Prize-giving for those who have excelled in care and consideration for others.

The Annual Prize-giving is very much an act of muintir Aodáin and the presence and involvement of the Chair and the members of the



*Handwritten signature: Amy Lewis*



# ng, December 2001

Board of Management, parents, pupils, staff, friend and guests is a statement in itself about how we see ourselves and about the kind of Community College we would like to be.

The presence at the Annual Prize-giving of the families of the award-winners is especially welcome because our giftedness always derives, in part at least from them, and its expression and development is greatly enhanced by them, sometimes by their sacrifices on our behalf.

The presence of our sponsors is likewise valued and their generosity helps us provide the prize-winners with additional recognition of their attainments.

Over the years, our Guests of Honour have added lustre to the occasion and, this year, the pro-active participation of Dr. Patrick Kelleher, Director, Cork Institute of Technology, was very much appreciated indeed.

A feature of the Annual Prize-giving at St. Aidan's is the presentation of the award for Community Service. This year, that Award went to the Irish Countrywomen's Association and was received on behalf of the ICA by Mrs. Rose Lomasney, Chair of the Carrignavar Branch of the ICA and a member of the Executive Committee of our Parents' Association.

To all those involved in Prize-giving 2001 must go our warmest congratulations and to those pupils who did not make it this year must go our encouragement: There is an award there for you: Make it yours: Put your name on it for December, 2002!

Dr.F.J. Steele, Principal

*David Steele*



Above & left: Award winners pictured with their families, College staff and guests at 'Awards Night 2001', a night where we recognise and celebrate the light, the gifts, the talents and the attainments of a whole cross-section of the College

*Sultana*



Anthony Crowley Blackpad, Soap & St Vincent De Paul

## St. Vincent De Paul scores at St. Aidan's!

The tradition of holding a soccer marathon on the 8th of December was continued with the same venom and vigour this year under the stewardship of Mr. K Flannery and Mr. L O' Flynn. The pupils showed great char-

acter and commitment by raising a staggering 2925.34 Euro in sponsorship. To their credit there was a great attendance and participation in the marathon itself when one considers that it was held on a Saturday.



Above: Students pictured with the Christmas Hampers, produced from the proceeds of the Soccer Marathon. Above right: Students pictured with a St. Vincent de Paul representative at the Soccer Marathon on the 8th December



Starting with the first game at 9:00am, the days activity produced moments of magic, missed chances, good luck, bad luck, ripples of applause and bursts of laughter. A female staff team took on a student side as did the male members of staff. These games encapsulated the wonderful team work that operated amongst the staff and pupils in bringing a wonderful day to a most satisfactory conclusion at 9:00pm.

The hardworking group of pupil organisers and supervising teachers were well pleased with the day and the final result was that everyone was a winner.

It goes to prove that *'It is in giving that we receive'*

## St. Aidan's A.F.C.

This year has been another productive one for St. Aidan's A.F.C. Our U-13 team lost to Ballincollig Community School before Christmas but showed great potential and the 'assembly line' of great talent looks to be continuing. Ballincollig had seven of the Lakewood U-12 team from last year who reached the National Cup Final, and so it proved difficult to get a result. Nevertheless, our lads performed admirably and will be a force to be reckoned with over the next few years.

Similarly, the U-15 team fielded six players eligible again next year and eventually lost to a very strong St. Brendan's (Killarney) team, who were the National Champions last year. Although beaten 4-1, the game was tight until the very end and sterling performances from Danny O' Leary, James Fogarthy and Llyod Crowley bodes well for the future also.

The School Senior Team lost to Clonmel Town in the Munster quarter-final. Indeed, the size of previously 'unfashionable' schools who normally played Gaelic football and hurling is welcome and is indicative of a thriving competition where more teams are entering each year. Long may it continue, as it leads to better standards, better levels of fitness required and better facilities. Rest assured St. Aidan's A.F.C. will be right up there on all counts over the coming years.

Mr. L O' Flynn



Above: Michael Buckley, James Fitzgerald & Tim Dennehy, busy organising teams and fixtures prior to the soccer marathon

Below: Some friendly 'banter' among some of the participants on the day





## *Basketball Update*

### *Outstanding performances allround!*



Above: 1st Year Basketball team - Nicole McIlwraith, Katherine Sutton, Melissa Gould, Louise O' Flynn, Audrey Lane, Roisin Foley, Fiona McCarthy, Shona Walsh, Kirsty Roe, Emma Buckley. Other members - Jessica Reid & Sarah Kelleher  
 Below: 2nd Year Basketball team - Lena Hayes, Nicola Aberne, Triona Horgan, Maria Kelleher, Therese McEnery, Lorna Murray, Gerelyn Nolan, Debbie O' Brien, Lorraine Dennehy, Sarah Murray, Lucia Hallahan, Ciara O' Brien. Other members - Claire Senior & Niamh Taylor



The Junior and Minor Leagues swung into action recently. The first year team gave a super display in their first competitive game defeating Presentation Ballypnehane, 28 - 10. Katherine Sutton & Roisin Foley were superb throughout the game, contributing 10 points and 6 points respectively. Louise O' Sullivan contributed a basket in each half. Other contributors to the score-line were Jessica Reed and Melissa Gould.

The second Year team were unlucky to be defeated by Presentation Ballypnehane, in the second period of extra time, on a score-line of 22-28. Lorraine Dennehy put in great display both offensively and defensively, making some great passes which led to scores for Triona Horgan (6 pts.), Niamh Taylor (6 pts.) and Aisling Walsh (2 pts.). Ciara O' Brien scored in the first half and also added a basket to her tally in extra time. Lorraine scored the final basket of the game for St. Aidan's but Ballypnehane finished the stronger. Although the girls were disappointed they were spirited from start to finish and can look forward to their next game with optimism.

The Senior Girls team have qualified for the County V.E.C. Final which will be held in Neptune in April. Well done!

Ms. M Scanlon

## *Buaileadh Bos!*

Congratulations to Glen Rover's U-21 Hurlers who recently won the Premier County title in their grade. Members of the panel and mentors visited the College recently to share their celebrations with us. (Photo opposite) Team captain Shane Kennefick addressed a full College assembly and spoke about the importance of sport and encouraged all students to get involved. We were particularly delighted in St. Aidan's to welcome so many of our past and present pupils who played their part in Glen Rovers great victory. We look forward to seeing these gentlemen back again in the future with many more county titles. The winter close season is now over and we have just learned that the Senior hurlers are



playing Youghal in the Cork County Semi-final, venue to be neutral on the 9th of March. Our U-14 and U-16 Hurlers will be in action soon to complete their league campaigns.

Ms. A O' Donovan  
Mr. F Savage

*Dave O'Brien (President)*  
*Jude O'Callaghan*



# Blackpool Credit Union Limited



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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
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Saturday:	9.15am - 12.00pm

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