



SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,
Newsletter Issue 13 Spring 2003

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

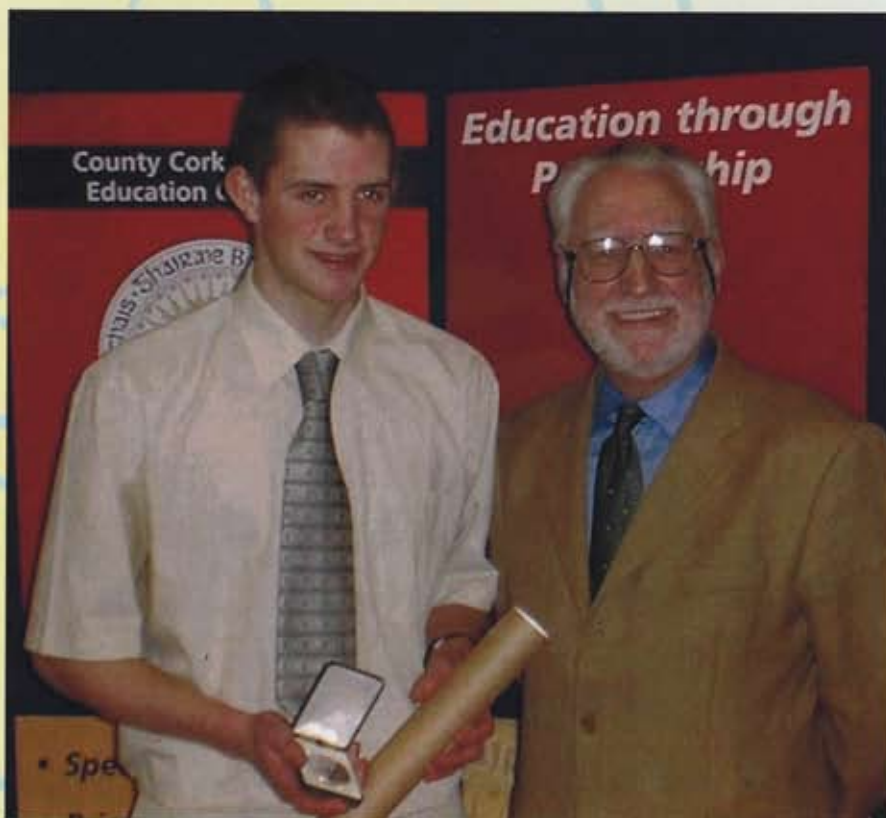
"What's the youth of today coming to?" There are actual records which show that this question has been asked by the old of the young in every era right back into ancient history. Daily reports in our media highlight one concern after another regarding the activities and difficulties of contemporary teenagers. Only too often, there is abundant, clear and incontrovertible evidence that these concerns are entirely legitimate and very well-founded. It is, though, a fact that most young people live their lives sensibly and positively. It is also a fact that the example set for the young is not itself always what it should be. At the end of the day, both at home and in school, the best and the most effective lessons are taught, not by word, but by deed and, even as we articulate our anxieties about the rising generation, might we not, with profit all round, practice what we preach so that the young have before them only the best models for humane - and, yes, for Christian - living.

F. J. Steele, Spring 2003

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DONAL ÓG HEADS VEC HONOURS LIST



At the Co. Cork VEC Awards ceremony held on Thursday, 19th December 2002, Dónal Óg O'Donovan of the Leaving Certificate Class Of 2002 was the recipient of two prestigious awards. He received a Certificate of Distinction to mark his outstanding achievement in the leaving Certificate Examinations in June 2002, at which he scored 555 points on the CAO scale.

He received the Committee's Medal for the Outstanding Male Athlete in the Committee's schools in 2001-2002. Donal- who came to St Aidan's from Scoil Oilibheir in 1996- captained the St. Aidan's Harty Cup Team. He was a member of the Cork

Minor Hurling training panel and the regular choice at right corner back on the Cork Minor Football Team. He won county championship medals in Premier Minor Hurling with Glen Rovers and in Premier Minor Football With St Nicks. He also played during the season for Glen Rovers and for St Nicks at under 21, Intermediate and Senior Levels. By any standard, both in the examination hall and on the playing field, 2001-2002 was a remarkable year all round for this multi-talented young man. Nár laige a lámh choíche.

Photo shows Dónal Óg with Dr. Steele at the Awards ceremony.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD-GAISCE BRONZE MEDAL



James Fogarty is a pupil in Class Dáivi, Fourth Year. Through his work with the Glen Young Adults' Project he became involved in Gaisce, the President's Award Scheme. Under that Scheme, he undertook a series of activities and completed every single one of them in exemplary fashion. He trained for, and served with, the Youth Council in the Glen. He successfully completed a twenty-four week course in guitar with the Cork School of Music. He worked as a club leader in outdoor pursuits, in hiking and hill-walking, in particular. He was one of a team of five that accepted and met a challenge to cycle the Ring of Kerry. For his outstanding performance overall, he was awarded a Bronze Medal from the President of Ireland, which was presented to him recently by the Principal. His parents, his family, his community and his school are very proud indeed of James and extend to him the warmest congratulations and every blessing for the future.



HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON

Dear Parents,
Many parents have enjoyed a variety of courses and classes during the first term. Some of these activities will continue and there will be some new ones.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group which meets every Wednesday morning at 10.30am, is open to all mothers who would like to participate in our ongoing activities. It is also an opportunity to meet other parents for a chat over a cup of tea / coffee. Activities to date have included cookery classes, the Enneagram and Christmas table decorations. Spring activities will include:

- Colourisme (similar to Colour-me-Beautiful)
- Cork Social and Health Talk
- A 4-week Interior Design course
- A 5-week Family Communications course
- A 3-week Gardening course

ADULT EDUCATION

Groups of adults have successfully completed the following courses:

- Beginners Computers
- Food and Cookery (certified by FETAC)
- Conversational French (certified by FETAC)
- Foundation Maths

Ongoing classes include:

- Foundation Computers (certified by FETAC)
- ECDL
- Leaving Certificate History

If you are interested in coming along to the Women's Group, if you have any suggestions for courses or if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Grace Hickey, Home School Links



Career Planning

Sixth Year students accompanied by Mr. Kingston and UCC representative pictured at the CIT and UCC stands at the Careers Guidance Exhibition which was held in the Rochestown Park Hotel recently.



CIVIC DAY

On Monday November 18th, 2002, St Aidan's hosted its annual Civic Day. In attendance were Deputies Bernard Allen T.D, Billy Kelleher T.D, Kathleen Lynch T.D, Noel O' Flynn T.D and Dan Wallace T.D. The topic for the event selected by the pupils was "The Nice Treaty's Implications for the Youth of Ireland".

Displaying considerable interest, the student body gathered in the main assembly area to listen as the T.Ds responded individually to the motion.

The topic was popular with the politicians and all expressed their delight at

being afforded the opportunity to inform the pupils about Nice and to discuss matters arising with them. The deputies were invited to address the pupils and each spoke for approximately five minutes. In the course of their speeches, many other issues were raised and this, at times, impeded the delivery of concise and accurate information on the chosen topic.

Part two of Civic Day's proceedings consisted of a questions and answers session involving the deputies and St. Aidan's Pupils' Council. The T.D.s were formally welcomed to the Pupils Council Chamber by the President Eoin Cullinane of Class Daivi, Vice President Laura Whelan and members of the Executive Council. Fr Shem Furlong O.S.A, Chairperson of St. Aidan's Board

Of Management, chaired the proceedings. Many questions were raised in reference to the treaty including the validity and constitutionality of holding a second Referendum on Nice when the people had already rejected it. Other questions, in the wider discussion, included the proposed re-introduction of college fees, Government funding for second level education and refugee related issues.

All in all, an interesting dialogue ensued between pupils and politicians. Fr Shem formally closed the session, Eoin Cullinane paid tribute to the politicians on behalf of the Pupils' Council and wished them luck in their continuing careers.

Damien Bloss, Class Beinean



Physics Students Visit UCC

On January 29th, Fourth and Fifth Year Physics students attended this year's Tyndall Lecture for school's, entitled 'The Sonic Boom', which was organised by the Institute of Physics of Ireland and presented by Dr. Pdraig Dunne of University College Dublin. The visit included lunch in UCC and a tour of the campus which gave a valuable insight into college life. The trip coincided with Rag Week and the numerous activities provided our students with great entertainment and showed that there's more to university than books and study.

Photo shows St. Aidan's students pictured with Dr. Pdraig Dunne.

COLLEGE OPEN EVENING



We offer our thanks and congratulations to pupils, teachers, parents and all who helped in any way to ensure that our light shone on this important occasion.



THE CLOUD OF THREATENING WAR

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its labourers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children... This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

*Dwight Eisenhower
Former US President and World War II general*

The annual Prize-giving is always a very special occasion in the College calendar and we are very pleased each year to celebrate the many and varied achievements of all those pupils who have displayed excellence in the different fields of endeavour, curricular, pastoral and co-curricular. The Guest of Honour at this Year's Prize Giving Ceremony was Mr. Michael O' Regan, President, National Parents' Council, Post Primary. Congratulations to all award recipients on the night - biodh bhur solas ag taith-neamh.

Photos show some of the award winners pictured with Dr. Steele, Mr. MI O' Regan, Fr. Shem Furlong OSA and Mr. John O'Brien.

PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY



A Celebration of Excellence



Life

To earn in life, you have to
Give, to give in life you
Have to live

To live in life, you
Must gain respect, to gain
Respect you must look at
Life's prospects

To have respect you must
Be nice, to be nice
You must make your choices
Right

To be right, you have
To be sure, keep being sure
Follow these instructions
And life will give you more

By Amanda O' Flaherty
Class Colman



Class Barra, Second Year raised over eight hundred euro for the Evening Echo Christmas Charity Appeal in aid of the Leukaemia Ward, Mercy Hospital. Brian O'Connor, a member of Class Barra was recently diagnosed with leukaemia and his classmates decided, as part of their CSPE studies, to become involved in the fundraising effort to help Brian and others in a similar position. The class designed, printed and sold 600 Christmas cards in their fundraising effort. They would like to thank Decky and Dell for sponsoring the printing costs of the card and, also, the people of the community who supported their efforts so generously by purchasing cards. It is great to see Brian, pictured above with his classmates from Class Barra, back at school again.



The December Soccer Marathon is fast becoming a tradition in the college since its inauguration some years ago and enthusiasm for the event continues to grow. Under the stewardship of Mr. K Flannery and Mr. L O' Flynn the event on the 8th December ran like a well oiled machine from 9am to 9pm. Hundreds of students turned up throughout the day, brimful of energy and generosity.

Many of the staff attended on the day and assisted in conducting the event and even played a game to bring the curtain down on what proved to be a wonderful day of sporting entertainment. A special word of thanks must go to the organizing committee, composing of students from 4th, 5th and 6th year, who were responsible for the distribution and collection of sponsorship cards along with organisation of fixtures. A total of 3,876 euro was raised and hampers were prepared by the Pupils Council for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. The Mercy Hospital Childrens' Ward and Bothar also benefited. Many thanks to all students who participated in any way in this truly worthy event.

Photos: Top - Hampers being presented to SVP representatives. Middle - presentation to Fr. James Mc Sweeney on behalf of Bothar. Bottom left - Kate Murray receives a voucher for her tremendous achievement of raising 180 euros for the soccer marathon. Bottom right - Representative from the Mercy Hospital receiving a presentation of books from students and staff



CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED

Jan 2003

Dear Dr. Steele,

On behalf of my conference, I would like to thank you, your staff and pupils for the magnificent Christmas Hampers, which you again provided us with for distribution to our needy families and individuals. It certainly meant that many parents and children had a special time to look forward to, without the financial worries associated with such an event.

May I also compliment Mr Flannery, coordinator of the Soccer Marathon, who treated Danny and I so very kindly, and give a first hand account of the type of studies being undertaken at the college. I was most impressed. Thank you, and every blessing and success in 2003.

Sincerely,
Helen Egan,
Secretary, SVP,
Blackpool, Cork.

SOLAS is produced by the staff and students of St. Aidan's Community College and is printed by Watermans Printers, Little Island. 2000 copies are distributed once per term in the Greater Dublin Hill Area. Warmest thanks to Blackpool Credit Union for their continued sponsorship.



JURYS SPORTS STAR AWARD FOR MARTIN

Well done to Martin Higgins, Class Colmcille, Fifth Year, on winning the Evening Echo Young Sports Star of the Year recently at a glittering function in Jurys Hotel. Martin is an international tennis player and is consistently in the top five in the Irish rankings. He spent Summer 2002 touring the European cir-

cuit to play in world ranking events and he hopes to be awarded a scholarship from an American University when he completes his Leaving Certificate in St. Aidan's in 2004.

Photo: Martin Higgins receiving award from Manager Jurys Hotel accompanied by J. Mc. Hale, Evening Echo.

Congratulations to Glen Rovers/St. Nicholas on winning the Premier Minor Double and also the Feile na nGael hurling. It was great to see so many of our pupils represented on all 3 panels. Photos: Top-Members of the Cork Senior and Intermediate Camogie panels who visited St. Aidan's in October pictured with some First Year students. Included is Pa Finn (Senior Coach), Linda Mellerick and Sile Burns. Bottom-Eoin Hourihan, Conor Dorris and Eoghan Geaney pictured with Glen Rovers / St. Nicholas underage teams officers who visited the school with their victory trophies recently.



The college under 15 soccer team was beaten in a very close-fought encounter with Clonmel in January. To get to the quarter-final stage of the Munster competition was a great achievement and the 4-2 score line did not reflect the dominance of St. Aidan's in this game. Thanks to the players for their dedication in training, their sense of humour and their nobility in defeat. We wish this up-and-coming team every success future competitions.



Blackpool Credit Union Limited



5 Gt. William O' Brien Street,
Blackpool,
Cork.

Tel. 353+(21) 4501757
Fax 353+(21) 4505606



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Thursday:	9.30am - 4.00pm
Friday:	9.15am - 6.30pm
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