



# SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,  
Newsletter Issue 16 Spring 2004

Tel: 021-4309598 Fax: 021-4303274 Email: aidancork@eircom.net www: <http://homepage.tinet.ie/staidans>

## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A new year, a new Solas and the countdown to the June examinations begins in earnest. The CAO forms are filled in, decisions have been made and our students are now preparing for the pre-examinations.

Our school mission statement states that we at St. Aidan's aim to create a safe, caring, Christian environment for our students. How do we fulfill this aim? We begin by looking at issues such as bullying. For the victims of bullying school can be a lonely existence and the onus is on the school to create a safe and caring place for all, a place where the student is encouraged and supported in breaking the veil of secrecy that surrounds bullying. As part of the process of putting an anti-bullying policy in place, St. Aidan's organised an anti-bullying week to raise all of our awareness on the topic. The message is simple 'talk to someone, a friend, an adult'. I would like to thank all involved, particularly our students, who participated in the various events during the week.

In relation to parental involvement, St. Aidan's seeks to be a parent friendly school, not because the 1998 Education Act advocates this, rather, because it is right and fitting that we do so. The Act uses the word 'partnership', yet parents do not exercise this right of involvement and are slow to participate, oftentimes leaving it to others. This is a time of great change in Education so I would urge you, as parents, to get involved, either through our Parents Council or through the Home School Liaison activities. Perhaps you have an area of expertise that you can share with us.

In quoting our school motto 'Bíodh bhúr solas ag taitneamh - let your light shine' it is obvious from this edition that students and teachers have taken this to heart and the many photographs of the huge array of curricular and extra curricular events and activities of these past months are indicative of this. Our Christmas concert proved to be an outstanding success with many talents, which were hidden up to now, on display.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Solas which reflects the enormous amount of work going on in St. Aidan's. I would like to pay tribute both to our staff, who give so freely of their time, and to our students who respond so enthusiastically in letting their light shine.

*L. Ahern, Principal*

## CIVICS DAY: THE TRADITION CONTINUES



On Dec 1st 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 selected by the pupils was 'The Smoking Ban'. 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 gratitude at being afforded the opportunity to inform the pupils of the relevant issues and to discuss matters arising from them. The deputies were invited to address the pupils and each spoke for approximately five minutes.

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 of the Pupils' Council Cian O'Brien and members of the Executive Council. Many questions were asked in reference to the smoking ban as well as some challenging questions on related issues. All in all, an interesting dialogue ensued between pupils and politicians. Fr Shem formally closed the session, Cian O'Brien paid tribute to the politicians on behalf of the Pupils' Council and wished them well in their continuing careers. *Clare Senior and Aisling Walshe*

## TY SCHOOLS QUIZ: AIDAN'S TAKE FIRST PRIZE



Transition Year pupils Eoin Murphy, Donal Ryan, Maeve Horan & Clare Senior (Story p3)



## ADULT CLASSES

Dear Parents,  
Many parents have enjoyed a variety of courses and classes during the first term. Some new courses for term two are as follows:

### LIFESTYLE AND YOU

This is a fun approach to bringing out the best in yourself in today's hectic lifestyle.

Starts Weds. Morning Feb. 4th for three weeks.

### HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED AT SCHOOL

Get tips on how to help your child study, how to motivate the disinterested student and how to help your child get the best results possible for him/her at school. Dr Rosarii Griffin

Weds Morning, March 3rd/ March 10th.

### DIY

If you are fed up of paying big call-out charges for small jobs this is the course for you. DIY is a six week course and will include classes on basic plumbing, tiling, electrical work etc. The course will run on Tuesday evenings from 7.15 pm starting on Tuesday, February 24th.

### BASIC MATHS

A four week Basic Maths course will begin in March. If you feel that you would like to refresh your mathematical skills please come along. This course will start on Monday, March 1st from 7pm-9pm.

*Grace Hickey, Home School Links*

**PHOTO:** Top - Introduction to Computers.  
Bottom - Image and Style Class.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Bhuaigh na daltaí trasna scoláireachtaí ó Choiste Gairmoideachais Chontae Chorcaí anuraidh. Chaith said tri sheachtain i nGaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne an samhradh seo caite. Comhghairdeachas agus go n-eirí an bóthar libh amach anseo.

*Cúl: Darren Dillane Jonathan O'Donovan  
Chun Tosaigh: Ian Mintern Jonathan Ring*



## AIDAN'S GOES INTERNATIONAL

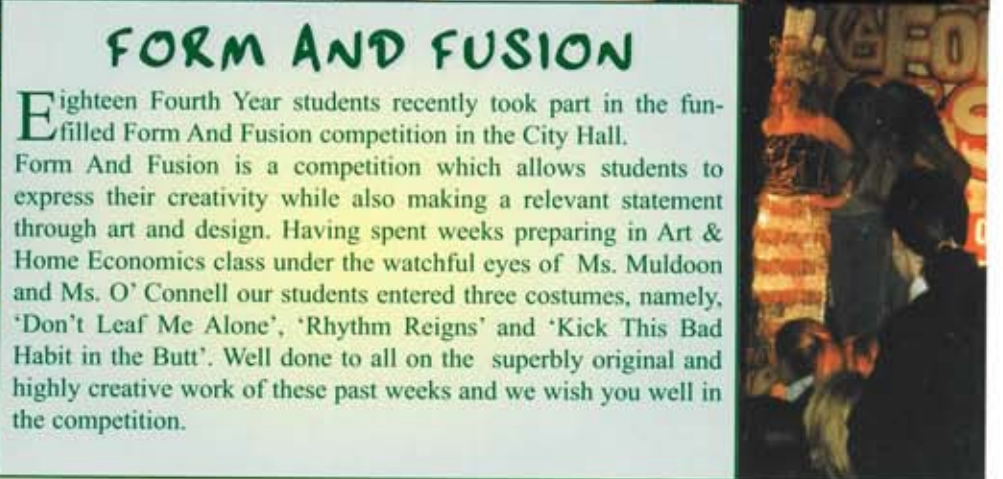
This year St. Aidan's offers, not one, but two school tours. The first, to London, involving First and Second Year pupils, takes place in late February and the second, to Barcelona, involving Fourth and Fifth Year pupils, takes place in April. We wish all participants a safe and pleasant journey and look forward to reporting back on the groups' adventures in the Summer edition of SOLAS.



## DEPARTMENT DAY

Fourth and Fifth Year girls thoroughly enjoyed a full day department lecture given by Claire Cullinane in December. Some of the many topics covered included, confidence building, skin and hair care, make-up and colour analysis. We look forward to a return visit next year.





## FORM AND FUSION

Eighteen Fourth Year students recently took part in the fun-filled Form And Fusion competition in the City Hall.

Form And Fusion is a competition which allows students to express their creativity while also making a relevant statement through art and design. Having spent weeks preparing in Art & Home Economics class under the watchful eyes of Ms. Muldoon and Ms. O'Connell our students entered three costumes, namely, 'Don't Leaf Me Alone', 'Rhythm Reigns' and 'Kick This Bad Habit in the Butt'. Well done to all on the superbly original and highly creative work of these past weeks and we wish you well in the competition.



## FIRST PRIZE FOR AIDAN'S IN TY QUIZ

St. Aidan's Transition Year quiz team recently won first prize in the Inter Schools Transition Year Quiz Competition which was held in St. Angela's College in November.

Competing against over forty teams from schools all over Cork City, including Christian Brothers College, Presentation Boys College and Scoil Mhuire, the two St. Aidan's teams put in a fine performance and one of the teams, with members Eoin Murphy, Donal Ryan, Maeve Horan and Clare Senior, did us proud in securing overall first place in the competition.

Many weeks were spent preparing under the tutelage of Ms. Mc Donald and all the hard work certainly paid off on the night. Each member of the winning team received a gift voucher with the rest of the proceeds going towards a third world charity.

Well done to Stephen Hegarty, Caitriona Horgan, Aisling Walshe and Andrew Green who also participated in the competition.

*SOLAS is produced by the staff and students of St. Aidan's Community College and is distributed once per term in the Greater Dublin Hill Area. Warmest thanks to Blackpool Credit Union for their continued sponsorship. Many thanks also to Brendan Halpin, Niamh Taylor & Clare Senior, all of Transition Year, for their invaluable help in this production.*

## ANOIS TEACHT AN EARRAIGH...

Noreen, Philomena, Kathleen, Catriona, and Sandra hard at work making St. Brigids crosses which they sold after masses in St. Olivers Church. The proceeds, which amounted to 1350 euros, were donated to Marymount Hospice. Well done girls on this fantastic achievement.



# CHRISTMAS 2003 A TIME FOR CAROLS A TIME FOR CARING



December 2003 proved to be an extremely eventful month in the college with numerous fund raising events taking place. The annual St. Vincent de Paul Soccer Marathon raised over 4000 euros. Class Eanna made a presentation to Ursula Hegarty, Sunbeam Redevelopment Fund following their fundraising endeavours. A presentation of books was also made to the Mercy Hospital Children's Ward.

The Christmas concert proved to be a hugely enjoyable event and the 300 euros proceeds were donated to SHARE, whose representatives visited on the day and outlined the work of the organisation. During the concert Colm Long of St. Olivers Folk Choir presented a bass guitar to St. Aidan's Guitar Club and past pupil Keith O Donoghue returned to give a spell-binding musical performance.



The College Choir was extremely busy over the season with performances at St. Olivers Carol Recital and the Christmas Toy Mass as well as carol singing at the official opening of Fr. James' Live Crib, which was blessed by Bishop Buckley on the evening. Our Fourth and Fifth Year Pupils played a major part in supervising the Live Crib each evening prior to Christmas and were delighted to hear that the venture raised over 6000 euros for Bothar and Mary Mount Hospice. Well done Fr. James and well done St. Aidan's!

We offer sincere thanks to pupils and teachers who participated in anyway to make this season of Christmas such a special one in the life of Muintearas Aodáin.







## OPEN EVENING

This year's open evening proved to be a tremendous success with all college departments, clubs and societies truly letting their light shine. Following the Principal's Address to the large crowd in attendance (pictured above) past pupils Fred Sorensen and Pamela Crowley (pictured above with Principal Ahern) outlined how their experience as students in St. Aidan's helped them achieve their current professional success. Many thanks to all staff and students who participated in any way on the night.

Bíodh Bhur Solas ag Taitheamh



## PHOTOS

\*Top: Open Evening.

\*Above: First Year Bowling Trip organised by the Fifth Year Meitheal Group (pictured on top).

\*Voting in the Pupils' Council Presidential Elections.

\*Opposite: Some of the former members of St. Aidan's staff who themselves went on to become Principals/Deputy Principals pictured at Dr. Steele's Retirement Party which was held in The Rochestwon Park Hotel in October. L to R, Donal O' Brien, Kieran Groeger, Dr. Steele, John O' Brien, Breandán O' Lionáird, Pat Mc Kelvey.





## SPORTS NEWS

**SOCCKER:** The U18 Munster team have had a very successful campaign beating Carragaline and Davis College, Mallow en route to the quarter final. We finally bowed out to a well-drilled and efficient Coláiste Choilm team, the backbone of which won an All-Ireland Club title with Lakewood not too long ago. We look forward to the U18 Cork Cup competition.

Our U13 team displayed great courage and spirit in our group games before succumbing to a very impressive Deerpark team. Well done to all involved!

**PHOTOS:** (Clockwise from top)

\*Soccer U18's in action.

\*Football U14 who had fine wins over

\*Macroom and Farranferris before losing to Coláiste an Phiarsaigh. (Trainers: Mr Breen, Tony Buckley-6th Year)

\*Scoil Oilibhéir 6th Class who gave a great performance in their recent challenge soccer game against the St. Aidan's u13 side.

\*St. Nicks. U-21 County Championship winners on their recent visit to the school.

\*Aidan's U18 soccer team.

\*Aidan's U13 soccer team.

\*Mark Field and Trevor O'Connor pictured at the U19 Basketball County Final in Neptune in January. Aidan's were narrowly beaten by Mallow. Well done to all involved on the magnificent achievement of getting to the final.

\*Third Year girls basketball members on Open Evening



# Blackpool Credit Union Limited



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

Tel. 353+(21) 4501757

Fax 353+(21) 4505606



## Opening Hours:

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Wednesday:	9.15am - 4.00pm
Thursday:	9.30am - 4.00pm
Friday:	9.15am - 6.30pm
Saturday:	9.15am - 12.00pm

## List of Services and Budget Payments

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