

SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,
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Solas Awards Ceremony A Celebration of Excellence



A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we draw to the end of a very successful school year I would like to wish our Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students every success in their upcoming examinations. It has been a year of unprecedented growth with an expected enrolment of over six hundred for September 2007. This reflects the excellent work and commitment of both staff and students. September 2007 will see 130 new students joining the college and my thanks to the many primary schools from which we receive such tremendous support.

I would also like to congratulate Eoin Murphy from last year's Leaving Certificate group who received the Martin Langan Achievement Medal from the County Cork VEC and also an entrance scholarship to UCC.

Our college Vision Statement states that "St. Aidan's strives to be a safe, caring Christian community where each child is valued and nurtured to be the best that they can be." It is a vision that we strive hard to

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Ms. Joan Russell, Education Officer of County Cork VEC, was Guest of Honour at the St. Aidan's Annual Solas Awards Ceremony which took place on Wednesday 23rd May. The event celebrated the achievements of pupils who have excelled in a variety of fields over the past twelve months. Over one hundred students were nominated for awards in various categories which including humanities, sports, science and technology.

The programme of events included Irish dancing, music and a multimedia video display of highlights from the past year in the college. The above picture truly captures the spirit of the occasion, one which is the high point of the College year and one which drew a capacity crowd despite the fact that it clashed with the Champions League Final in Athens.

Ms Russell, in her address, praised the students of St. Aidan's for their mutual respect for one another, which was evident from the warm congratulations which the win-

ners received from their fellow nominees on stage. She referred to the rapidly changing face of Irish education and to the many challenges it faced. She spoke of the importance of acknowledging achievement - not just academic, but covering a wide variety of areas. She outlined the great value that education brings and how the Irish education system continues to strive to nurture all aspects of the individual - physical, spiritual, emotional and intellectual. She expressed heartfelt congratulations to all award nominees and thanked teachers of the college for their cooperation and vision, which has helped make St. Aidan's the caring committed college that it is.

The Dr. Steele Community Award was presented to college caretakers Eamonn O' Callaghan and Christy Kelleher. Dr. Steele, in presenting the award, praised and thanked both men for their commitment and dedication to the school community. Well done to all award nominees.

Bíodh bhur solas ag taitheamh.



Meitheal

Congratulations to Stephen McCarthy, Stephanie Reed, Stephanie Fogarty, Roy O'Flynn, Gary Condon, Keith Hannigan, and Catherine Dennehy, all in Transition Year, who have just completed training as Meitheal mentors. Watch out for the new Meitheal team in the school from September. The Meitheal team are here to help!



A Challenge Facing Us

Is there a link between what we learn in school and what we eventually earn outside of it? Do better educated people have greater job security, enhanced promotion prospects, a more interesting career path and better working conditions? Every statistic on the subject confirms yes as the answer. Do you have to be exceptionally bright to do exceptionally well in school? No is the answer. Ambition and hard work is all it takes. The eight students who spent a week in U.C.C. this term on a "taster programme" now know what it takes. Those who went to the U.C.C. and C.I.T. open days know the benefits of successfully applying for courses of study there. They know the sacrifices necessary. The top of the range mobile or top of the range lifestyle, financed by a part-time job which eats into study time, is just one of the sacrifices which they will be called upon to make. For some, the test will prove too hard. For others, with greater ambition, the hard work is already started. As a school naturally enough we support such endeavours. All we ask of parents is an equal measurement of encouragement at home.

Mr. Kingston

Home School Community Liaison

A lot of my time as Home School Community Co-ordinator is spent on home visitation. During the last couple of years, an increasing number of students are coming to St. Aidan's from many to many parts of the northside of Cork city including, Farranree, Gurranbraher, Blackpool, Commons Road as well as our more traditional areas of Ballyvolane/Dublin Hill, the Glen and parts of Mayfield. The home visitation service provides a valuable link between the home and school and although there is a very large area to cover, I enjoy the challenge and I am very grateful for the courtesy and kindness I receive from our parents when I call. Many thanks to St. Aidan's parents who have generously given their time to help with some of our activities this year; including; Local Committee, Maths & Science for Fun, Reading

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achieve and I hope that our Solas magazine reflects the efforts made by staff and students to achieve this goal.

To conclude, I would like to thank our college staff, our students and their parents / guardians for helping to create the unique learning community that is St. Aidan's.

Liam Ahern, Principal

Gaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne

Comghairdeachas leis na daltaí a bhuaigh scoiláireachtaí go Gaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne. Beidh ranganna acu gach maidin, cluichí um tráthnóna agus beidh céilí ar siúl gach oíche. Beidh an-chraic acu agus feabhsóidh a gcuid Gaelige go mór. Go n-éirí go geal leo!



Active Home Involvement in Schooling

In study after study, researchers discover how important it is for parents and guardians to be actively involved in their child's education. Here are some of the findings of major research into home involvement: Simply put, when there is an interest in a student's education at home, the student does better in school. And when the family is involved in school, children go farther in school - and the schools they go to are better.

It doesn't begin with attending parent-teacher-student meetings, although that's a good place to start! A home environment that encourages learning is more important to student achievement than income, education level or cultural background. Reading achievement is one example of the importance of learning activities in the home. Reading aloud to younger children is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child's chance of reading success. Talking to children about books and reading stories and parts of the newspaper aloud to them also supports reading achievement.

It's never too late. Getting involved doesn't end in primary school! The earlier that home involvement begins in a child's educational process, the more powerful the effects. However the family can make an important contribution to student achievement for students of all ages - from nursery school all the way through to the Leaving Certificate and beyond - just by asking about and discussing issues related to their education.

The more active home involvement the better. Three kinds of home involvement are consistently associated with higher student achievement: actively organising and monitoring a child's time by helping to arrange their meal-times, training times and t.v. time; by helping with homework, which again might also involve facilitating their work-times and meal-times; and discussing school matters in a constructive and mutually supportive way.

And in case you're feeling guilty about talking when you could have been studying, some good news. When children and parents talk regularly about school, children perform better academically. Obviously, discussions about Sunderland's future or the next Harry Potter movie don't count, except when they lead on to discussions about school.

What are the benefits? Positive results of home involvement include improved student achievement, reduced absenteeism, improved behaviour and restored confidence among people in their children's schooling. The time and effort required is a small price to pay for the huge benefits that follow.

Mr C.Manley & Mrs A.O'Donovan

Photos

Top: Meitheal Team

Middle: First Year students receive Access Programme Awards at UCC

Bottom: Gaeltacht Scholarship Winners

for Fun, and providing mentoring support for new parents. This year's Local Committee is very much concerned with environmental awareness both in school and in the local community. This work is ongoing and if any parent would like to get involved we would be delighted to hear from you. The Maths for Fun and Reading initiatives were conducted over seven week modules and were very enthusiastically received by the students, parents and staff involved. We are also very grateful to the Community Women's Education Initiative for funding and providing morning courses and we look forward to continuing this very worthwhile partnership.

If you are interested in participating in any of our activities, you are very welcome to contact me at 021- 4307 486.

Joe Cotter, Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator.



Words of Wisdom from UCC

Fifteen of last year's Leaving Certificate students, almost 25% of the year group, from St. Aidan's went on to study at UCC. One year on we hear some of their stories.

Evan Guiton, Business Information Systems

Impressions of UCC - There's always something happening and great freedom to do what you decide.

Advice - Third level education is worth doing. It gives you the opportunity to get the job you want and have a great experience doing it.

Career Prospects - Business Information Systems open up a lot of opportunities. It has a six-month work experience placement in America, most graduates end up in America or London.

Ali Keane, Arts

Impressions of UCC - College is a massive change from school. Students really have to mature as it is up to them to do their own work. The social side of UCC is a good laugh and it is easy to make friends.

Advice - Study hard. Work hard. Focus on the work. It's easy to stray from



the work but if you want to continue to college, it's worth it in the end.
Career Prospects-The career prospects with an Arts degree are broad. You can go into careers like teaching or journalism. I'm indecisive as yet but you can also use the degree to go into things like the Defence Forces and you can receive better pay. Its good to keep your options open in your first year.

Lorraine Dennehy, Early Childhood Studies

Impressions of UCC - Big change from secondary school with major emphasis on social life and meeting new people.

Advice - it is worth it to go onto third level education for many different reasons. The resources, facilities and opportunities available to you will stand to you in the future such as meeting new people and enjoying the social life and extra- curricular activities.

Career Prospects- At present, I have no idea which area of childcare I will end up in but pediatric nutrition and psychology appeal to me at the moment.

Eoin Murphy, Accounting (UCC Scholarship Winner)

Impressions of UCC - College is extremely different to secondary school. It's up to yourself whether you want to do the work or not. This is difficult to get used to at first.

Advice to students at St. Aidan's - My advice to students is just do the best you can and hopefully you'll get the points you need.

Career Prospects - Accounting is one of the best business degrees around so it opens a lot of doors. Hopefully, I'll be on my way to becoming a Chartered Accountant if I complete the course.



Poetry

Two Souls

It's a Rover

I could tell you that when on a school trip I received divine inspiration from a Vermeer painting in the National Gallery of Art but, honestly, the poem I submitted was written on the number seven bus in about ten minutes. Don't get me wrong, the Vermeer painting that I viewed was truly beautiful and it did give me inspiration but I receive most of my inspiration in unusual places. It doesn't matter where you are or who you are with, inspiration can hit when you least expect it. Although you may not have the slightest idea when it may hit, my advice would be to always be prepared whether it be with an A4 pad and selection of pens or a napkin and pencil. Ideas, like inspiration, can come out of the blue but, unlike inspiration, with a little work it can blossom into something you could never have imagined you could create, which in turn could inspire someone else. Redrafting, I've been told is extremely important to help develop style but in my experience it only took away from anything I wrote. The poem I submitted was my first draft and when I tried to improve it I only made it worse. Inspiration comes to everyone at different times, be it in a beautiful gallery surrounded by masterpieces, or on an overcrowded city bus. It's up to you whether you expand on it or not. "I just went with my inspiration. It's all you can do."- Yoko Ono

Kate Murray

Kate won the Senior Poetry Competition organised by the Department of English in April. Darren King was runner up. Megan Scanlon won the Junior section for her Haiku.

Two souls, lost in their own lives,
Once separated by a breath, now separated by
an eternity.
An everlasting tether tying their souls together
Until such time as they are in need, in pain, in
remorse,
In wanting, their soulmates love and affection.

But never shall they reunite,
Never shall their souls be one in this eternal
hardship,
Where every soul resides knowingly or not
That they will lose the reason they were put on
this earth for.

Lost since childhood, that romantic wanting of
another soul,
Of the forgiveness, the sympathy, the love that
it brings.
A friendship lost can mend overtime,
But time wasted wanting love to return
Will never render itself to souls that are not
willing to accept.

I am distraught in thinking we shall never
share that same grace,
That love, that loyalty
But all is not lost!

If ever I need a shoulder, an ear or a heart,
You'll be there for me.
If not physically then spiritually,
And in my heart,

Bring me through the hardships of this
Inconsiderate, intolerable hate and fear,
In which we reside.

Kate Murray

It's a Rover.
It's like a four-leaf clover:
So hard to find.
No peace of mind
Until its life is over.

It's a Rover.
It's driven by someone older.
If you see cars in piles
For miles and miles
The one in front's a Rover.

It's a Rover.
The engine won't turn over.
On an early morn
It's like a thorn
In the side of its luckless owner

Darren King (inspired by R. Hall)

HAIKU (Galloping Filly Foal)

Following the mare,
She steadies her wobbly feet
Then she gets the beat.

Her mother's soft breath
Snorts upon this filly's back
Nudging her to stand

Galloping the field
She stumbles in the soft grass
Figuring this world.

Once again they roam
And now the filly has grown
She now has a foal.

Megan Scanlon

Leaving Certificate Applied

The Leaving Certificate Applied was introduced to St. Aidans last September and the college's first LCA class - class Seosamh - have now successfully completed their first year. The LCA is a distinct, self-contained two-year programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The programme puts an emphasis on forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past. The programme was introduced to St. Aidans to recognise the talents of all students and to provide opportunities for development in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge by helping students apply what they learn in the real world.



LCA Work Experience

Work Experience is a key component of the LCA programme. Each year students complete four weeks of work experience in two different locations. Students are required to prepare and plan for the work placement, to complete a journal detailing various work related aspects whilst on the programme and, on completion, to critically reflect on the experience. The module plays a key part in helping the student develop his/her self-confidence, communication and interpersonal skills through interacting with adults in a working environment. Also, it helps the student to explore different career paths and to investigate further training opportunities. Many thanks to all the local employers who have facilitated our students on work placement over this past year. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Jellyzone Mini Company

On 02 March '07 Class Seosamh had an Enterprise Day, making plans for the Jellyzone mini company, which turned out to be very successful. We first set up the room and looked over the set of questions which we had prepared for our first visitor Mr. Peter Walsh, owner of Woodlands Flooring. We asked him many questions about his business. His answers were interesting and he outlined how he came up with his company name and also why he decided to enter the flooring business. Mr. Walsh joined us for a tea break and delightful refreshments were served which were purchased from the company budget. After the tea break Ms. Cotter outlined her mini company experiences. She gave us a lot of valuable advice about the importance of working together as a team. When our visitors left we discussed the product that might sell best for us and also the competition from other areas. Our company was a success and we made a profit with which we were very pleased.

Noreen Mc Carthy

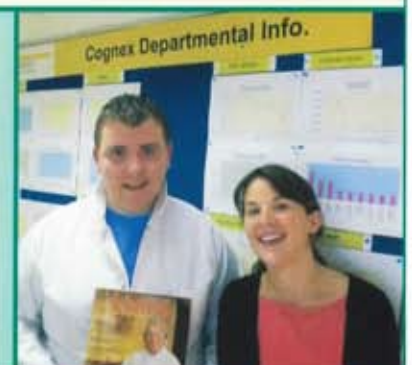
SCHOOLS BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

This is the second year of the SBP Programme in which St. Aidans is teamed up with Heitons Atlantic Homecare, Blackpool. During the year, Personnel Manager, Niamh Madden visited the school on three occasions and shared her valuable insights with class Seosamh, LCA on various work related aspects such as job applications, interview skills and CV preparation. The class also visited the Blackpool store and was given a full tour of the premises. Many thanks to Niamh and also to Niamh Fitzgerald, SBP Coordinator, for their commitment to, and development of, the programme in the St. Aidan's during this past year.



Photos

Top: LCA Awards Ceremony
 Left: Class Seosamh visit Woodlands Flooring.
 Left: Emma Power on work experience in Dublin Hill Hair and Beauty Salon.
 Right: Timmy O'Sullivan, pictured with Lorraine Powell, HR Manager, on work experience in Cognex, Dublin Hill.
 Bottom: Class Seosamh with John Spillane.



Visit of John Spillane to Class Seosamh

On 24 November 2006 John Spillane, a self employed musician, came to visit Class Seosamh to help us complete two key assignments for our Leaving Certificate Applied programme. For Jobsearch we had to interview a self-employed person and for English and Communications we had to interview a guest speaker. Before John visited we prepared our questions for him in class. My question for Jobsearch was "Why did you make the choice to be self employed?" When John arrived Laura welcomed him as Gaeilge. When we finished the questions John sang a few songs including "All the ways you wander", "Johnny don't go to Ballincollig" and many more. He then gave us his autograph and we had some photographs taken. I then thanked John on behalf of the class for coming to see us.

Timothy O'Sullivan Class Seosamh.



Welcome to First Years 2007



Europe Comes to Aidan's

As part of the Junior Certificate Schools Programme, class Antoin undertook a task of making a book. The subject selected was the European Union and the students invited Mr. Simon Coveney MEP to come to visit them. Each student did a report on their chosen country and, to get more information, letters were written in English to ambassadors of their countries requesting materials and information. Work was also under way in other subject areas.

Science: reading temperature - Ms Karina Buckley, and RTE weather presenter visited the class. Maths: two graphs were made - one on the enlargement of the EU done on the computer and another showing the temperature of their country with details of the mean and the mode. Woodwork: maps of the countries were drawn on wood and cut out in the woodwork class. Metalwork: a stand was made to display the book. Irish: students wrote an acknowledgement in Irish in the book.

CSPE: students worked on flags of countries and learned about government. ESS: students learned about the beginning of the EU and the history of the countries. Computers: graphs were drawn and letters typed up.

A programme to present the book to the school was planned. It gave the students the opportunity to inform other students in St. Aidan's about the European Union. Letters were again written to Presidents, Kings and Queens of the EU countries inviting them to the programme. Ambassadors were also invited as well as MEPs, local politicians, the Board of Management, parents and students. Each student prepared a slide presentation on their country and displayed the materials they had gathered. They also displayed the letters received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Taoiseach and Queen Elizabeth's Office, just to name a few! Food was prepared for visitors to give a flavour of the cuisine from each of the different countries.

Mrs. M. Flanagan.

Photos

Top: First Year classes Eanna, Lean, Colman, Brid, Marcus.

Left: Marie O'Sullivan receives award from Mr. B. O'Brien, CEO, Co. Cork VEC.

Right: Visiting Dignitaries include Lord Mayor Cllr, Michael Ahern and Simon Coveney, MEP.

Right: Music from the different countries.

Far Right: Claire Higgins with her reply from the Irish Embassy in Portugal





Donna's New York Diary

Second year student Donna Duggan was one of 72 students who travelled to New York in February. Here she gives an account of the trip.

It was the night before I headed off on the trip of a lifetime. My Mam was double checking that I had everything packed: warm clothes, gloves, shoes etc. Then I was off to bed to try and get some sleep, which I knew would be hard to do because of all the excitement.

Next morning when we arrived at the school the leaders of the groups called us into lines and gave us our passports and woolly hats. At nine a.m. everyone walked down to St. Oliver's Church in the rain. Fr. James' Mass left everyone we were leaving behind feeling safe and secure. As we were leaving the church the rain was pouring so all our efforts (for the girls applying make-up, straightening our hair and the boys styling their hair with gel) were in vain. When we reached the coaches they were playing "New York, New York".

The plane journey was long but was well worth it. It was very exciting to land and see the snow on the run-way. We collected our bags and headed for the YMCA hostel which

had a restaurant, basketball court, gym, swimming pools and access to the internet. Once we arrived at the hostel we got our school I.D. cards (which displayed our name, photo, hostel address and emergency contact number) and our room keys. We dropped our suitcases and headed straight for the Empire State building. Everyone was exhausted and just wanted to sleep.

Planet Hollywood in Times Square before going to see *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway. On the wonderful cruise we saw the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge and many other wonderful sites. It was absolutely freezing on the cruise! The night before we left we were exhausted and excited to be going home but upset to be leaving the Big Apple. Our bags were bursting with all the extra stuff we bought for everyone back home.

As we were leaving the hostel we took one last look at the sites of New York. We saw Ground Zero, where the Twin Towers once stood tall. It was a very emotional experience. When you look at that big empty space it brings back memories of 9/11. We also managed some last minute shopping at Century 21 near ground zero before having lunch at Lunasa Irish pub.

When we reached JFK airport the excitement of coming home grew stronger. We were all wondering how our pictures would come out but, not to fear, Fr. James went to a lot of trouble making a DVD with hundreds of photos and great music that everyone enjoyed. New York City was one of the best experiences that we will ever have and has given us memories which we will never forget.



how- ever it was well worth it because the view from the top was indescribable.

Over the next few days we visited Madison Square Garden, Central Park, a few museums, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Woodbury Common and West Point Military Academy. We ate at the Hard Rock Café before ice-skating at the Rockefeller Centre. We ate at





Leaving Certificate Class of 2007

It is time to bid farewell to our Sixth Year students. It is hard to believe that the time has passed so quickly and that they have grown from quiet, shy and nervous First Years to mature responsible adults. I must give them credit for their hard work over the past year. I hope this will stand to them in their exams and that they will reap their rewards in August when they get their results. On behalf of the Sixth Year tutors and all the staff I would like to wish each and everyone well both in their forthcoming exams and in the future.

Ms. M. Kingston, Sixth Year Tutor

Say Hello and Wave Goodbye

During my six years in St. Aidan's I have developed and matured to become a more confident person. This is due to the support shown by my teachers and peers. I was continuously encouraged from my first day in this school. In particular, during Transition Year, I had the chance to experience an array of work opportunities which will be advantageous for my future career. Not only did I make friends in the classroom, but also through extra-curricular activities such as music and sport. If I could give one piece of advice it would be, that 'Wisdom is not a product of schooling but the life long attempt to acquire it' (Albert Einstein).

Ivan Lomasney, 6th Year, Class Daivi

First year is completely different to primary school. You move around a lot more and make lots of new friends. You also get all new teachers and books. First year is a good experience!

Roy Shaw, 1st Year, Class Brid

Parting Words from our Student President

For those of you who don't know, I'm Liam Deasy, President of the Pupils' Council this year. It's hard to believe that it's almost six years since I started in St. Aidan's Community College and that there's only three weeks left before I graduate.

We hear it all the time from teachers about how the time will fly and even I have to admit it definitely has. Even still, to say I'm sorry to be finishing would be a lie. There's nobody that would like to be stuck in school forever, least of all myself. I'm literally counting down the days in anticipation. Then comes the Leaving Cert.

After the fourteen years in the school system it all comes down to one state exam. I'm on the last bend, but to anyone who has still got it ahead of them, my advice is simple: Don't drive yourself mad, but keep a cool head and give it your best shot. After the amount of our lives we spend building up to it, why give up at the end? Find a balance between work and having a laugh and get the grade you want. As I like to say, pressure is for tyres!

They say that school days are the best of our lives. I'm about to find out if the real world is as bad as they make out. I doubt it! Thanks for reading. Good luck! (and look after that drum kit!)

Liam Deasy, 6th Year, Class Daivi, 2007

Physics Trip to UCC

In February, St. Aidan's visited UCC to attend the Annual Physics Tyndall Lecture. This year's lecture entitled 'Rock Guitar in 11 Dimensions: Strats, Strads and Superstrings' was presented by Dr. Mark Lewney. It addressed such questions as what causes the revolutionary, history-changing sound of the rock guitar and how it helps us understand the nature of the entire Universe. Afterwards the students were given a guided tour of UCC and a great day out was had by all.



Ecology

On Friday 4th of May the Leaving Certificate Biology class travelled by train from Cork to Fota for an Ecology Fieldwork course. During the morning there was a lecture on Leaving Certificate Ecology in the Education Centre in Fota Wildlife Park. The lunch break gave students an opportunity to wander around the park itself and look at the animals while the afternoon was spent doing practical fieldwork in the woodlands beside Fota House. The weather could not have been better with sunshine and blue skies all day. In fact, the shade in the woods was a relief for some! It also meant that Mark's shorts were not so visible. Everybody enjoyed the day immensely.

Mr. J. Doyle





Visit to Kilfinane

"I thought Kilfinane was a good trip overall. Canoeing was by far the best activity. Rock-climbing, hill walking and orienteering were alright. The grub at the kitchen was nice except when we had to do the washing up"
Danny O'Connor, Class Agata

On the 23rd and 24th of April, forty two First and Second Year students headed off for an activity trip to Kilfinane outdoor centre in Limerick. They were accompanied by Mr. Manley, Ms. Quane and Mr.

Ahern. On arrival the group was divided into four smaller groups and each headed off on activities. Over the two days everybody took part in canoeing, rock-climbing, hill walking and orienteering. Everybody's favourite was canoeing. A number of people took an unexpected swim but even that did not dampen their spirits. Orienteering proved to be a bit difficult for one or two groups - they need to work a bit more on their map reading! Each group helped out in the kitchen after the meals - although quite a few did not know their sweeping brush from their tea towel! The rain stayed with us for the two days but even that did not take from the fun. A great trip, enjoyed by all.
Ms. Quane



Composer in The Classroom

Well known singer/song writer John Spillane worked with the Fourth Year Music class for twelve weeks as part of the 'Composer in The Classroom' project during which time the students composed several songs. Two of the songs were performed by the students both in the Millennium Hall on the 2nd of May in a concert which included four other schools, and at the Solas Awards ceremony in St. Aidans on May 23rd. The first song 'Believe in Yourself' was composed by Catherine Dennehy and the second 'To be Happy in Life' was written by Niamh O'Connell.
Stephanie Fogarty.



Destination Nicaragua

Nicaragua is one of the biggest countries in Central America. The capital city is Managua and the second largest is Esteli, which was the destination for myself and six other young people and eight adults from various organisations from around Cork, including Mayfield Art Centre. We travelled to Nicaragua as part of an art exchange in which there were representatives from Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Hungary and, of course, Nicaragua. The exchange involved all the young people teaching the other young people skills in mural painting and art. The art group in Esteli is called FUNARTE. This was set up to help young people learn about their rights and to educate them to be respectful of all people and of nature. The main objective was to paint a mural incorporating the culture from each representative country. We succeeded in this and the mural is on a wall in the town centre of Esteli, for all to see.
Michael O' Callaghan, Fifth Year

SHARE 2007

Well done to our two SHARE representatives, Fifth Year students Gavin O'Callaghan and Michael O'Callaghan, for their tremendous work with the organization during this past year. They unfailingly attended the weekly meetings and played an influential part in the SHARE Student Executive. They visited the elderly SHARE residents on a weekly basis, they spent twelve hours a day collecting on the streets of Cork in the lead up to Christmas and, thanks to their efforts, over one thousand euros was raised for SHARE in the St. Aidan's Christmas Concert. Their dedication and commitment has truly set an example for students from this college for the years to come. Well done lads, you have done yourselves and your school proud.

Photos

Top: Trip to Kilfinane.
 Middle: John Spillane with Fourth Years
 Left: Michael's trip to Nicaragua.
 Bottom: SHARE
 Bottom Right: Fifth Years Paintballing in Kinsale



Transition Year in Review

As you can see it has been a very busy Transition Year. We started the year with a trip to Kinsale Outdoor Activity where we learned sea canoeing. During the year we completed many courses. Eight pupils (including myself) competed in an inter-schools First Aid Competition. *Drive for Life* was the highlight of November which really brought home the consequences of dangerous driving. The two weeks work experience proved to be a real eye opener into the world of work. The PAL (*Public Access to Law*) programme gave an insight into the legal system in Ireland. The mock trial in the afternoon was great fun. Guest speakers included Cura, The Counselling Centre and Mna Feasa. Among the other highlights of the year were John Spillane's *Composer in the Classroom*. Now back to reality in Fifth Year! *Cian Kearney*

Barcelona Trip

A group of 26 Transition Year students, pictured below, accompanied by three teachers set off for Barcelona on April 12th for five days. We stayed in the quiet tourist resort of Costa Calleta, there were plenty of activities to do in our hotel with its swimming pool and games room and nearby beaches. Our first day was spent visiting cultural sites of the city, followed by a traditional Salsa show in the evening. Other activities included a visit to Montserrat monastery-where we enjoyed the spectacular views en route to the summit by cable car, ice skating, swimming, bowling, a Barcelona vs Mallorca match playing in the Noucamp stadium and a trip to the Portaventura theme park. Many thanks to the students for their excellent behaviour and cooperation throughout the trip and to the teachers who gave up their time to accompany them.



SUCCESS AT BANKING FINALS

In September six Transition Year students (pictured above) were appointed to run the AIB School Bank following interviews conducted by AIB personnel. Sara O'Brien, Sinead Reed, Stephanie Fogarty, Roy O' Flynn, Stephanie Reed and Stephen McCarthy, under the guidance of Ms. Mc Donnell, dedicated their time to gaining new customers, opening new accounts and providing on going promotions to encourage their bank customers to save regularly. As a part of the *AIB Build a Bank Challenge* the Bank Team had to submit a Business Plan and a project titled *Emerging Technologies in Student Banking* to AIB Head Office in Dublin. In March the students competed at regional finals held in Silversprings Hotel. The students presented an exhibition on their project and were interviewed and adjudicated by three judges. Twenty schools from throughout Cork city and county competed in the event but success on the day went to St. Aidan's. The students each won a digital camera and a camcorder and TV/DVD Combo unit was won for the school. A specially commissioned piece of crystal was also presented to the Bank Team on the day. Well done to all involved!



St Aidan's Mountaineering Group.

As part of the Mathematics Transition Year Program, students learn map reading and use of scales. To give a real life flavour to this module, three trips were undertaken to remote areas of Munster. The first trip was to the south approaches of the Galtee Mountains in November 2006. Despite adverse weather (surprise, surprise!) the students completed the first stage of the climb on Galtee Mor, the highest peak of the range. Our second trip was far more dramatic. On a day and night of heavy rain and storms across all of Europe, we set out for the Knockmealdown range in North Waterford. A brutally difficult climb up the Sugarloaf was followed by an overnight in the forest. No tents were used, and students were issued with survival bags, which kept out

the worst of the weather. Below freezing conditions could still not dampen the spirits of our lads and ladies, who came through the ordeal with flying colours. The third trip was an overnight on the North slopes of the Galtee range. Students and staff hiked for an hour and a half up the slopes before setting up camp near an abandoned shepherds stone cottage beside a small trout stream. Conditions were dry and sunny and all cooking was done on an open campfire. It was the first time for most students to experience an overnight in the Irish mountain countryside, and reports would indicate that it was thoroughly enjoyed. Special thanks to staff members Mr. O Flynn, Ms. Cotter and Ms. Scanlon without whom we could not have undertaken these expeditions. *J.P. Rea, Mathematics Dept.*



Tour of Dublin

We arrived in Dublin about 12 o'clock and immediately got the LUAS to the Four Courts. We got a brief history of the courts and were told how it was badly damaged by fighting in the Irish Civil War, but currently is where the Supreme Court sits in session. The court hears murder, libel and individual cases. We went up to Christ Church, the foundations of which are there for nearly 800 years. We saw some beautiful religious icons and old statues, saw where Strongbow is buried and went into the treasure room, which was amazing. We passed through Temple Bar, an area full of cool tourists, trendy shops and new apartments. Mr. McGrath told us that in the 1980's the

city council nearly turned Temple Bar into a bus depot. Of course, no trip to Dublin would be complete without shopping (well, at least for us girls) and so off we all went and shopped until we dropped. Next stop was Trinity College, one of the oldest colleges in the world, which was very impressive. I did not realise that the Book of Kells is situated in Trinity. At one time Catholics were banned from attending the college, but we found out that this is not the case today and graduates include Mary Robinson (past President) and President Mc Aleese. Another unexpected surprise was that, as a group, we got to know each other better and I think a few of us made some new friends. I'd like to thank the teachers who made the day possible. *Rachel Forde*

St. Aidans A.F.C.

The highlight of our year was undoubtedly the visit to Garretstown beach on the 22nd of December for training. A composite mixture of the 1st years, U-14's, U-15 fi's, U-16's and U-18's went but the day was spoiled by the glorious sunshine! An icy arctic wind blowing across the wide expanse of the deserted beach was just the tonic required and congratulations to all those who went for a plunge in the gelid waters. The day started in the Kylemore Café for breakfast, a rigorous session of physical conditioning on the beach ensued and a thoroughly enjoyable day was rounded off by pool and bowling in the Leisureplex in Blackpool. The teamwork, friendship forged and ability to thrive under adverse conditions will stand to those who were brave enough to go for many a year. Well done, lads!! Our First Year team performed remarkably well during the campaign, losing after extra time to a physically strong Douglas team in the Munster semi-final. 6-4 a.e.t. was the final result but this is a team full

of promise and will be back with a vengeance next year.

Our U-14's put in a remarkable amount of effort in training and are very committed, yet lost to an excellent Cobh side on one of the biggest pitches in Western Europe!! They too will form the nucleus of next years U-15 fi's team and will be a match for anyone. Our U-15 fi Munster team did not put in the required commitment and lost because of it. There is a lesson in that. Similarly our U-16 Cork Cup team was withdrawn from the competition for that very reason.

Finally, for U-18's senior team lost to a wonder goal to a very impressive Midelton C.B.S. outfit in a cracker at Leeds Park. They beat many fancied teams on their way to the Munster quarter-final and can be proud of their absolute commitment to training and professionalism both on and off the pitch. To the departing Leaving Certs, may you all have a bright future and a successful one. Thanks for everything.

A special thanks to Mr. Warren, Mr. Ruby and Mr. O'Flynn for all their effort during the year.



Boys Basketball

St Aidan's boy's basketball teams enjoyed unprecedented success this year in winning four prestigious trophies as well as qualifying for both the first and second year All-Ireland competitions. The First Year team enjoyed a fantastic season as they claimed the school's first ever Cork A league title. The captains Roy Downey and Evan Kearney were inspirational figures as they demonstrated the dedication and skill levels required to become top athletes. Having won the Cork League, the team competed in the All-Ireland competition in Limerick against the elite basketball schools in Ireland. They progressed to the quarter final stage following two impressive victories over St. Fintan's, from Dublin, and Castleblaney. They beat St. Joseph's of Galway, however they got a reprieve as best runners up and were, ironically, paired against Aidan's once again in the semi finals.

A fatigued Aidan's team failed to replicate their previous performanc-

es as the Galway outfit reversed the tables to book their place in the final. Despite the huge disappointment, the team finished the season on a high by winning the V.E.C competition in spectacular style. The Second Years also qualified to the All-Ireland in Castleisland. Castleisland and St Joseph's proved too strong in the All-Ireland play-offs but a lot of credit must be attributed to the players as they progressed enormously as a team this season. The U-16 team, under the astute guidance of Ms Cotter, triumphed for the second consecutive year in the V.E.C competition. I would like to congratulate Craig Forde and Roy Downey who represented Cork this year in the inter-regional basketball competitions. A special mention goes to Calvin Healy, Dean O'Doherty, Shane O' Connor, Graham Hosford and Gerald Sproul for assisting me throughout the year. Absolute gentlemen! The future is extremely bright for St. Aidan's Boys' Basketball Academy and All-Ireland titles are definitely a realistic goal in the forthcoming years.

Mr. P.J.Coughlan



St. Aidan's Girls Basketball

The year began with the Cadet and Senior teams competing valiantly in their respective leagues. There was some outstanding play from both sets of teams and we look forward to next year with the same level of enthusiasm. The commitment of the minor and junior

teams this year, both to training and to matches, was excellent with the Junior team having a panel of nineteen. The Minor team worked well together to gain a place in the quarter finals, unfortunately the other team was just too strong for them on the day. The Junior team was fantastic this year and thoroughly earned their place in the finals.

Ms. N.Guile & Ms. M. Scanton



St. Aidan's Athletic Club

After a lapse of four years, the club started into training last September. This year we had students competing in both Cross-Country and Track & Field competitions. Most recently, on Saturday, 12th May the South-Munster Track & Field Championship took place at the C.I.T. Track. Shane Murray of Class Siobhan ran very well to finish 4th in the Senior 200m final. Oleg Syrotyuk of Class Caitriona competed well to finish 4th in the intermediate High Jump by achieving a P.B. and he was 5th in the Javelin. Jonathan Tarapacz qualified into the Final 8 in the Junior Long Jump, where he finished 7th overall. He also competed in the in the High Jump and the Javelin. During the winter and spring training was geared towards the Cross-Country. Both Christopher Joyce and Bernard Geoghegan of Class Caitriona proved the fittest in this discipline. They were ably assisted by Richard Horgan, Cory O'Callaghan and Liam Arnold, all of Class Cliona, to make up the Intermediate team. The junior team of Luke Crowley, Keith Lomasney and Dean O'Doherty, all of Class Aodan, made up the Junior Team. The Minor team consisted of Eoin Lynch and Michael Healy of Class Brid, Stephen O'Reilly of Class Eanna and Aaron Whitmore of Class Colman. This was the first season for all our athletes and, hopefully, they gained valuable experience for next year. It would be nice to see girls getting involved in Athletics as it is a sport which has something to suit everyone at all levels - sprints, middle-distance, jumping and throwing.

Ms. Hough.



St. Aidan's Under 14 Hurling

The St Aidan's Under 14 panel under the Captaincy of Niall Creedon enjoyed some mixed success during the year. We started with a difficult game against Douglas CC and, despite a dominant second half performance, the team left too much to do from the first half. We lost 3:3 to 5:5. Calvin Healy, Craig Forde and Niall Creedon shone for the home team. Next up was Cholaiste Choilm Ballincollig- again a home fixture in the Glen Fields. This time Ballincollig proved to be no match for St Aidan's who won the game 2:14 to 3:5 with some great performances, this time from centre back Ryan Dunphy and centre forward Daniel Morrissey. The game away against Glanmire C.C. was now crucial if we were to progress to the next round. This game turned

out to be a real nervous affair and ended in a draw. The replay was in our own patch two weeks later. The squad were rewarded with a fine double score victory 2:12 to 1:6. Here were some excellent performances by Colin McCarthy, Roy Downey and David Rea. We now got the luck of the draw and received a by into the semi final where The Patrician Academy Mallow were to be our opponents. The game was played in Blarney and, unfortunately, the team just had one of those days. However, in typical St Aidan's fashion we showed a 'never say die attitude' in the second half but, alas, Mallow enjoyed a comfortable win in the end. This was certainly a learning curve for this squad of players and I must say at this stage that with their enthusiasm, effort in training and further development of talent these players have a great future ahead of them for their clubs and for St. Aidan's.

Mr. K. Ruby.

St. Aidan's Camogie

Camogie training started this year in October, with training each Tuesday at the school field. After a slow start, numbers grew enough to have our first game against Coachford in the Glen Fields. A lively game, played in misty conditions, saw St. Aidan's girls lose by three points to a more experienced side. Still, it was a good start. Our next championship game was against Passage, a very strong team with many years of playing behind them. In very cold and stormy weather

Passage ran out convincing winners. As training continued, our skill levels increased and in the New Year we took on and beat the Mon, Kanturk and finally beat Coachford in their own back yard. An attractive new kit helped the mental attitude and our thanks to the VEC for this. Thanks also to Mary at Glen Rovers for the constant use of the pitch, and finally to Rob Lotty of the Munster Colleges Camogie Association. We look forward to continuing on the winning trail next year.

Mr. John Rea.



Pictured above: Kieran Mc Enery & Stephen Mc Carthy, Joint Captains of Sports Day winning team.



St. Aidan's Sports Day 2007

Thursday 16th May brought us a beautiful sunny day for our annual Sports Day. The day was packed full of activities from start to finish with students from every year group involved. The atmosphere this year was excellent with all students supporting each other throughout the day. During the morning the students took part in soccer, basketball, hockey and table-tennis matches. Also, they attempted the high jump, javelin, shot putt and more!! In the afternoon the students ran as fast as they could in the 800m, 100m, relay and the 3-legged race (which was more of a crawl in some cases!). Well done to everyone involved and a huge thank you to the staff for all their help.



Ms. N. Guile (P.E. Teacher)

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