

SOLAS



**St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,
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PAST PUPIL ELLYN FOR U.S. PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR



A past pupil from St. Aidan's has been nominated for US Professor of the Year. Elynn Mulcahy graduated from St. Aidan's in 1992 and completed a bachelor's degree in Microbiology in 1996 in University College Cork. She then received a fellowship to pursue her PhD in Medical Microbiology and Immunology at Creighton University in Nebraska. She

has lived in Kansas since 2003 during which time she completed postdoctoral studies in HIV neuroinvasion at The University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) and pursued a Masters of Public Health from KUMC. Dr. Mulcahy is currently an Associate Professor at Johnson County Community College (JCCC), the largest third level institution in Kansas. At JCCC she teaches Microbiology, Cell and Molecular Biology, Biotechnology, Public Health, Cultural Competency, and other infectious disease topics to undergraduate students and allied health professionals. Her current public health interest focuses on refugee health, development of programmes for refugee women and providing education for refugees on chronic health diseases. Dr. Mulcahy received the JCCC College Scholars Recipient in 2008, awarded for her public health education programs with women refugees. She received the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Faculty Achievement Award in 2009. She was awarded a National Fellowship in 2006 and has been identified by JCCC students as a person who most made a difference in their college career.

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Praise From Minister as Extension Officially Opened

St Aidan's Community College was lauded as an example for others to follow by the minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation Batt O' Keeffe. He was speaking at the official opening of a €160,000 extension, incorporating two extra classrooms and a resource room, which took place on May 21st 2010.

Minister O' Keeffe said that, as the largest school in the North side, St Aidan's had to lead by example and he paid tribute to the 700 plus students and the teaching staff for going beyond this, citing their wide subject choice as well as their excellence in sports and academia.

The minister also said it was great to see Dr. Frank Steele, Founding Principal of the school, in the audience as he had done much good work in building the reputation of the school which opened in 1983.

He praised the school for placing such importance on being innovative, stating: "People think innovation is about a white coat in a lab but it is about finding new

ideas, purpose or ways of doing things and St Aidan's is doing this." The Minister also agreed to do what he could to get further improvements for the school in response to Fr. Shem Furlong, the chairperson of the board of management, who said resources were stretched and improvements to the infrastructure were needed. Fr Furlong said that in 1983 a light was lit when the school first opened and 27 years later that light shines brighter than ever before.

CEO of County Cork VEC, Barra O Briain, were among the speakers to pay tribute to the students who took part on an excursion to Spain as part of the Comenius programme. Due to the volcanic ash cloud, the students had to take an arduous land and sea route home. The Mayor of County Cork, Cllr. Derry Canty, said the amount of students from St. Aidan's who progressed both to UCC and CIT was proof of the high calibre of teaching in the school.

See also page two.

NEW EXTENSION MARKS NEW ERA FOR AIDANS



In 1983 a light was lit on this site with the founding of this school, St. Aidan's Community College – to serve the educational needs of the local community. 'From little acorns, great oaks grow' and what began as a small school, has grown and developed into what it is today, a thriving school serving over 700 students, the largest second-level school on the north side of the city, providing our students with a broad, holistic and comprehensive education through a wide range of subjects, services and co-curricular activities. The light has also spread its illumination throughout this island and further afield to other continents wherever the past pupils of St. Aidan's have journeyed.

From its inception, the school has been very proactive, innovative, and ahead of its time with initiatives which include; inaugurating a Students' Council as early as 1985, developing Subject Departments, defining Pastoral Care structures, developing strategies to support students with additional educational needs. More recent initiatives include the Team Teaching Pilot Programme and the very exciting, on-going Co-operative Learning Project, both facilitated by Co. Cork V.E.C.



Here in St. Aidan's we believe every pupil entrusted to our care has light, is light. Our raison d'être, our mission as educators is to enable our students to discover and develop their light, their giftedness, to prepare them for the next stage of their journey in life, be it in pursuing further education or moving directly to the world of work. We also encourage them to continue their voyage of discovery, inculcating in all a desire and appreciation for life-long learning. All of this is encapsulated in our College motto: 'Bíodh bhur solas ag taitneamh' – 'Let your light shine'. It is a lived motto - one which embodies a very positive ethos that permeates all aspects of daily life in the school. Central to what can be done and provided is, of course, resources. Our efforts are enhanced by our very professional, committed and dedicated staff that goes above and beyond the call of duty in their efforts and work to provide the best for our students. The external perspective, as evidenced in our recent Whole School Evaluation, described St. Aidan's as 'an excellent school with a dedicated staff committed to providing the best possible education to all students' and we are rightly proud of our achievements.

Over the years we have been very fortunate and blessed to have been granted a number of facilities and resources that have enabled this school to respond to the growing and diverse educational needs of our pupils and today we gather for the official opening of our most recent extension – two classrooms and a resource room. For these we are most grateful to you Minister and to our C.E.O., an t-uasal Barra O Briain. We are honoured and privileged that you, Minister O'Keeffe, are with us today to perform this ceremony. It is right and fitting that you should do so as you sanctioned this extension while you were Minister for Education and Science. On behalf of St. Aidan's, I thank you and an t-uasal Barra O' Briain most sincerely. Looking to the future, we wish to continue to provide a broad, comprehensive education, and in the words of the W.S.E. Report 'the best possible education' for our present and future students. As a school that continues to experience growth, so too our needs are growing, particularly the need for further facilities and resources. Even with this most recent extension, our physical resources are still stretched. While very conscious of the economic situation and



constraints of the present time, we would ask you Minister to do all you can and exert all the influence and imagination you possibly can, to help us gain the necessary, essential resources that are required for us to continue to respond to the educational needs of this community. Today is a day of celebration for all of us and this occasion marks a significant milestone in the evolution of this school. On behalf of St. Aidan's, Muintir Aodáin, I express our sincere thanks to you, Minister O'Keeffe, for your work and effort in helping us obtain this extension, and for taking the time from your busy schedule to be with us today to officially open it. I would like to thank: Cllr. Derry Canty, Lord Mayor of Count Cork, CEO, an t-uasal Barra O Briain, Education Officer, Ms. Joan Russell, distinguished public representatives and distinguished guests, Founding Principal, Dr F. Steele, members of the Board Of Management, Parent Representatives, Principal and Staff and, finally, central to and at the heart of St. Aidan's, our students.

Fr. Shem Furlong,

Chairperson, St. Aidan's Board of Management



PHOTOS: 1.) Blessing by Fr. Chris and Fr. Shem. 2.) Guests at Opening Ceremony. 3.) Parents' Council with Meitheal Team Members. 4.) Minister O' Keeffe with Kirsten Radford and Elena Canty.



WORLD RENOWNED EDUCATOR VISITS AIDANS

St. Aidan's recently welcomed world expert in the area of Instructional Intelligence to share his expertise with our staff and students. Dr. Barrie Bennett, pictured above with class Diarmuid, is an associate professor at the Ontario Education Institute in the University of Toronto. He is an expert in the fields of teacher learning and instructional intelligence. He works with school boards around the world, focusing on ways teachers can integrate strategies and skills to create more meaningful learning experiences for all students. Professor Bennett is working on a 5 year project with a number of schools in Ireland. He engages with schools to look at their current practices and assists them in responding to the diversity of learning styles in classrooms today. His focus is for each school to determine the best methods of instruction for themselves – given who and what they teach. Prof. Bennett believes that students can often learn more effectively working in groups and many of his methods encourage learning through co-operation. "In the real world" he states "there are very few employers who want their workers to sit in rows, and put up their hand when stuck on a problem and wait for the boss to come over and solve it". Professor Bennett combines his classroom experience with a vast amount of research. He is the author of three books, namely *Cooperative Learning: Where Heart Meets Mind*, *Classroom Management: A Thinking and Caring Approach*, and *Beyond Monet: The Artful Science of Instructional Integration*.



A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As another academic year draws to a close I wish our Leaving and Junior Certificate classes every success in the upcoming state examinations. It has been an extremely busy year in the college and my sincere thanks to the staff, students and parents for their dedication, commitment and support throughout the year. Our college continues to grow and we will be welcoming 130 new students to the college in September 2010. We are very proud of the fact that of these, over 40 have brothers and sisters already in the school.

In October the college was visited by a team of Department of Education and Science Inspectors over a three day period as part of a Whole School Evaluation. During their stay they examined all aspects of the school and their report stated that St Aidan's was "an excellent school", a finding which we are very proud of. Minister Batt O' Keeffe opened our new extension on Friday the 21st of May and stated that "St Aidan's was an example for others to follow". He also praised the college's involvement in a number of new initiatives in collaboration with County Cork VEC, including a Team Teaching DVD which will be launched and distributed to all second level schools in September. As indicated in the surrounding pages it has been an excellent year for both co curricular and extra curricular activities and I sincerely thank all the students and staff who participated in so many ways. As you read through this edition of Solas I hope you will get a sense of the St Aidan's mission statement which states that we aspire to be a safe caring Christian education community, where each student is supported and nurtured to be the best that they can be.

Liam Ahern

From page 1

Recently, she has been nominated for the US Professor of the Year for teaching and service to her community. Dr. Mulcahy attributes her interest in science and education to two influential teachers at St. Aidan's, Ms. Healy, her chemistry teacher and Mrs. Morrish who taught her biology. She also feels that the skills learned in secondary school, particularly those in writing and mathematics, are vital to success in college and working life and she thanked, in particular, her English teacher Mr. Kirwin. Ms Healy remembered Ellyn as "a great student, very unassuming, diligent, with a lovely, bright, vivacious demeanour". She continued: "She was fantastic on the senior debating team, a force to be reckoned with in a very reserved way, and won a number of major debating competitions. I am so proud of what she has achieved and I know that the late Máirín Morrish would have been absolutely delighted at her enormous success."

A Ellyn, comhghairdeas agus go n-eírí go breá leat

Photos: Page 1: 1. Ellyn. 2. Ms. Healy & students Katie O Callaghan, Amy O Connor, Andrew Horgan, Keara O' Brien, Paul Forrest.

SHARING INTERNATIONAL EXPERTISE

In October leading international educator Joseph Driessen delivered a workshop to St. Aidan's staff and parents on improving educational achievement. Joseph is much in demand as a speaker, facilitator and education consultant. Based in New Zealand, he is a regular speaker at international boys' education conferences, and is frequently engaged to give professional development seminars to school staff.

Joseph's workshop 7 Ways To Improve Boys' Education At Your School has been attended by thousands of teachers, and has become a source of inspiration to many schools. Picture shows Joseph Driessen with Class Lucas.

EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS COMENIUS 2010

In 2008 St.Aidan's entered into a Comenius Partnership with three other European schools (Germany, Romania and Spain). Our acceptance into the programme was as a result of great foresight by Ms Fitzgibbon who worked diligently as the Project Co-ordinator. The project's aim was to learn about climate change, sustainable development, renewable energies and other environmental issues so as to enable young people experience other cultures and ways of life. Students would use English as the working language and information technologies as the working media. Throughout the two years tasks to be completed included:

- Designing a common web site with presentations from each school. (www.climatechange.eu).
- Producing newsletters from each school - five in total.
- Making a multilingual dictionary with everyday words and expressions related to the chosen topics.
- Completing projects on renewable energies. Students made solar ovens, windmills, biogas fuel and used solar cells to generate electricity.



Four meetings took place, one in each country and the topics of the meetings were: Climate change and its regional effects, Sustainable development, Reuse, reduction and recycling of waste, reduction of water consumption and other limited resources, Reduction of energy consumption and use of renewable energies. Different students worked on each topic which involved much research including examining Irish Government Policies. All work was done in the students' own time. In October 2009 St Aidan's hosted the project. We welcomed our German, Romanian and Spanish partners and hoped to give them a memorable experience. Students experienced classroom life first-hand as they spent some time each day with their host in various subject classes. Students worked hard and all presentations were extremely professional. We learned a lot from each other, in particular that much still needs to be done here in the area of water conservation. Activities during the week included attending a hurling match and visiting Cobh. Our Romanian friends visited St. Anne's, Shandon to ring the bells and travelled on to Blarney Castle. All agreed that the highlight of the week was the trip to Dingle. The day cleared up nicely allowing for a much anticipated break on the beach at Inch to enjoy the Atlantic waves. A great sing-song was enjoyed on the journey home. A wonderful night was had by all at the farewell party which included Irish Ceili dancing, Mr. Harrington entertained us on the banjo and some students sang traditional Irish songs. Many thanks to all the families and parents who hosted our visitors. We couldn't have done it without you! I've no doubt that your son/daughter will look back on this amazing opportunity in years to come and cherish the experience that they were so much a part of. **Ms. H Healy**

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Eight students accompanied by Ms. Healy and Mr. Ahern travelled to Spain in May for the final Comenius meeting. A wonderful time was had by all as photos illustrate. Because of flight disruptions due to the volcanic ash the group had to find an alternative way to return home. The resulting journey over land and sea took three days to complete. The group returned to St. Aidan's on Weds May 12th to a heroes' welcome. Photos: 1. Students with Ms. Joan Russell, VEC Education Officer, 2, 3 Scenes from Spain. 4. The journey home. 5. Farewell Party - Irish style!

When the Saints come marching in

By Ann Murray

A GROUP of eight students who helped to finally resolve a long-term international problem have returned home after a long and eventful journey. The group, who spent time in Spain, returned to St. Aidan's on Wednesday night.

The eight students and two teachers who spent time in Spain to help resolve a long-term international problem have returned home after a long and eventful journey. The group, who spent time in Spain, returned to St. Aidan's on Wednesday night.

The group returned to St. Aidan's on Wednesday night to a heroes' welcome. Photos: 1. Students with Ms. Joan Russell, VEC Education Officer, 2, 3 Scenes from Spain. 4. The journey home. 5. Farewell Party - Irish style!

TRANSITION TIMES

Transition Year students had a busy year of activities in addition to the set academic programme. Highlights in September included visits to the Kinsale Outdoor Education centre and participation in the Drive for Life, Road Safety Module.

This year saw a new departure for the College with a two hour TY module operating on Thursday mornings. The year group was divided into five groups and each participated in rotation in five modules, namely; Effective Communication delivered by The Social Health Education Project, Acting Skills - by the Gaiety School of Acting, Introduction to Chinese language and Culture, delivered by the Confucius Institute, UCC, First Aid - St John's Ambulance/Irish Red Cross and a series of guest speakers including representatives from Narcotics Anonymous, Mna Feasa, YMCA and Life Pregnancy Care.

The year group also participated in the thought provoking AXA Roadsafe Road Show at the Rochestown Park Hotel in October as well as in the Cork Careers Exhibition. The Galtee Mountain camping trip took place under the leadership of An tUas Rosbaire. Class Brid visited IBM as part of the Schools Business Partnership and there was a trip to UCC for prospective physics students. Mr John Hartnett, manager of the



Blackpool Retail and Commercial Centre delivered a talk to students in preparation for their work experience placements in February.

Following the Easter holidays, all students participated in the Public Access to Law (PAL) course. Two barristers visited St Aidan's and described how the Irish legal system works and organised mock trials for the students. Students also participated in various Flag Days including those organised by The Irish Heart Foundation, and The Cork Deaf Association. Transition Year girls participated in an *Image & Style* workshop with Claire Cullinane and Catherine Meehan. Students also participated in several subject based field trips over the course of the year.

Mr. C. O'Brien,
TY Coordinator.

TY see also page 12&13.



WEST MEETS EAST

I began teaching in St. Aidan's in Oct 2009. It was sunny, and people there were sunny, too. I was in charge of the Chinese course for Transition Year. Each week I prepared different topics for each class so that the students would know more about the language as well as the culture. I found that different groups were interested in different topics, but all of the students were very fast learners. They were active and confident in role play and cooperative and willing to help each other in team work. They were such a group of energetic and happy students that you couldn't help loving them. It was a great pleasure to teach in the school and I did enjoy my time in St. Aidan's. Now when I'm in the school, I can always hear somebody say "ni hao" (hello in Chinese) to me with a big smile. I'm so proud of them and I sincerely wish every student a bright future!

Xu YuHong, Instructor,
UCC Confucius Inst of Asian Studies

Dear Mr. O' Brien,

I'm delighted to tell you that St. Aidan's TY student Maxine Hayes has won the third prize in the first Chinese competition for secondary school students in Ireland. She has learned Chinese for only four weeks but was competing against contestants who have been learning Chinese for almost a year. She got high praise from the judge for her Chinese calligraphy and tongue twister performance. I do admire her bravery and wisdom and feel so proud of being her teacher.

Xu YuHong



Maxine's award is hugely significant coming as it does in a week when Minister Micheál Martin said he was convinced Ireland should have Chinese on the Leaving Certificate to raise the country's competence in the Chinese language. He went on to say that the world order has changed dramatically and that the first half of the 21st century will be about Asia in general and China in particular, thus emphasising the importance of China to Ireland's future economy. Well done Maxine!



MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust (IHCPT) is a non-profit registered charitable organisation which has grown and developed over the past 50 years. On Easter Sunday this year the Trust again took over 500 young people with special needs and various disabilities to Lourdes. The week included various social activities specially geared towards the young people and the benefits of the week to these young lives are immense. These include the formation of new friendships, increased self-awareness and the opportunity to have some time away from their normal routines – many of which can be considerably challenging, in a loving and caring environment where full 24 hour medical care is provided. An additional benefit of the week is the opportunity for respite that it provides for many parents of these young people, who require substantial care in their daily lives at home. St. Aidans has been involved with the IHCPT for the past six years and this year six staff members as well as eight students accompanied the group as carers.

Here, Laura tells the story: *On the 4th of April 2010, several students embarked on a trip of a life time: Laura, Ciara, Megan, Eimear, Alison, and Danny from 5th year, also Cian and Richard from 6th year all were given the fantastic opportunity of visiting Lourdes on an Easter Pilgrimage with IHCPT (Irish Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust). We helped the Pilgrims to have a fulfilled and memorable holiday. Each student participated and gave of their own unique, 'oomph' that made the trip an amazing success. We visited St. Bernadette's Grotto and the Pyrenees Mountains. We made a great connection with the pilgrims and enjoyed the experience so much that we are already beginning fundraising for next year.*

Laura Power, Class Aodan



RAFAEL HELPS HOMELAND

Over 400mm of rain fell over northern Luzon in the Philippines during a typhoon on September 25th 2009 leaving much of the country's capital and surrounding regions submerged in water. Over 100 people were killed and 340,000 people were left without drinking water or food. I decided to help because I was raised in the Philippines and I love my homeland. I also have many relatives there and my dad inspired me to help. We raised funds for the people affected, collecting clothes from hospitals and money from people. We also did a street collection in town.

The Universal Filipino Irish Association helped transport these goods by ship and plane to the Philippines. There are many serious situations in the world and we often don't realise that other people face much bigger problems than ourselves. Everyone in the world needs support and there is great satisfaction to be got from assisting others.

Rafael Nonescan, Class Neasa



1 to 5 Lourdes Trip. 6. Glen Cunningham presents Cheque to representatives from St. Vincent De Paul. 7. Franciscan visit.

TROCAIRE 24 HOUR FAST

In February, Janet Twomey of Trocaire came to visit St Aidan's and spoke to Transition Year students about the work of Trocaire in many different countries in dealing with the poorest of the poor. She encouraged the students to get involved in this year's 24 hour fast, saying that even the smallest amounts collected would go a long way to feeding a family. The students as well as some of the teaching staff responded generously and about 50 Students, along with three staff members, completed the Fast. Even though there was a lot of hunger pangs for 24 hours the event was a great success. Last week Janet returned to St Aidan's and was presented with a cheque for one thousand nine hundred and forty six euro by Erica Dowling and Cian Boyle. Well done to all those who took part and to all the mams, dads, grannies and grandas and pestered neighbours who sponsored our students so generously.

Fr. Chris



DAFFODIL DAY

Daffodil Day activities at St. Aidan's included an Art Competition, Coffee Morning, selling of Irish Cancer Society merchandise and an easter egg raffle in aid of Marymount Hospice Cork. A total of € 2,000 was raised of which €500.00 was donated to Marymount Hospice. Daffodil Day Coordinator Maeve Flavin Murphy paid tribute to all the students, staff and parents who contributed so generously and commended, in particular, students Hayley McCarthy, Ciara Goggins, Maria McElhinney and Ms. Kingston for their wonderful assistance to make the week such a success. Pic: Maeve Flavin Murphy, Ciara Goggins, Hayley McCarthy, Maria Mc Elhinney, Ms. Marguerite Kingston.



SHARE-ING IS CARING

SHARE is a Cork based charity that has an excellent reputation for helping and providing accommodation to the elderly of our city. As this year's representatives, we were honoured to represent St. Aidan's on this year's Student Executive. Each week we attended a meeting in the Dún Rís SHARE complex on Grattan Street. Additionally, we were assigned a resident in Cnoc Mhuire complex on Shandon Street who we visited every week. As well as making many new friends, we learned so many new skills, especially during the Christmas street collection! We have gained many memories which will never be forgotten.

*Alison Dowling,
Eimear O'Leary, Class Aodan.*



FIRST YEAR RETREAT

On May 18th, fifty First-Year students went on a retreat to Bessboro which was organized by the Meitheal team. Scala offered the retreat and everyone there was very nice and welcoming. First we had some icebreakers so we could get to know our year group. Those games were fun and everyone was having a good time so far. Next we broke into different groups and played different games. After a quick break we meditated. This was very relaxing and much better than doing work in school. We came together in big group next and watched parts of Shrek and talked about friendship. We all left the retreat happy after our relaxing day thanks to the Meitheal Team. **Sarah Linehan, Class Lucas, Sean Healy, Class Ailbhe**



THE MEITHEAL TEAM

Each year a group of Fourth Year students receive training at the end of school year to become the Meitheal Team, and for the last year that team has been made up of: Ciara, Alison, Danny, Laura, Sam, Megan, Eimear and Evan. The Meitheal programme is there to ensure that First Years receive a heart-felt welcome into the school and are helped to settle in. The team members make themselves known and offer support throughout the year to whoever needs it. This year our team organised many events including a retreat to Scala, a St. Patricks Day Ceili, an Anti-Bullying Programme and we even helped with the School Mass. As a Meitheal Team we have made ourselves known throughout the school for all the work we have done. Five members of our team even had the opportunity to go to Lourdes with IHCPT. We are proud of the work we have done this year and we say "Good Luck" to next year's Team.



FIRST YEAR TRIP TO KILFINANE

52 First Year students packed their bags, kissed goodbye to their moms and boarded the bus to Co. Limerick on Monday 6th February. Apart from a few tearful goodbyes, most students were looking forward to an action-packed two day break at the Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre. The students knew it would be tough to keep with the pace and energy of Ms. Quane, Fr. Chris and Ms. Guiry but they were sure to give it a go! Over the next two days a variety of challenges were presented. Rock-climbing (indoors) proved to be a favourite of many... perhaps because it was warm inside. Others enjoyed the stunning views across the Ballyhoura Mountains as they strolled through forests trails and muddy paths. Not everyone loved hill walking, but for some strange reason teenagers have an unusual dislike of walking! The competitive spirit emerged for orienteering, however, some had left their map reading skills back in the geography classroom and one or two groups may have got lost! Luckily, Fr. Chris was there to save the day! A big challenge, on very cold days, was kayaking. This activity took place at Lough Gur in freezing temperatures.

Many hands were frozen to the paddles by the end of the session and those that were unlucky enough to capsize had chattering teeth for a few hours!! Hot showers and delicious soup were truly appreciated! There were plenty of things to do in the evening included pool, table tennis, board games, chatting and a night time treasure hunt. Mobile phones were almost forgotten about – except for those important texts to moms and dads worrying at home! Tears started again when it was time to go home and many wanted to stay for at least an extra night or two. Everybody had a great time and students were surprised how much fun could be had outdoors!



Photos: 1. First Year Retreat. 2. Outgoing and incoming Meitheal Teams. 3. & 4. Kilfinane trip.

Ms. Quane

JCSP : MICHAEL COLLINS – A LIFE

On the 25th of March, accompanied by our teachers Mr Keenan and Ms Hegarty, Class Muire headed off to City Hall to present our 'Make a Book' project on 'Michael Collins – A Life' as part of the Junior Certificate Schools Programme. We started with a 30 minute wait outside the school gates as the bus driver had forgotten all about us! At City Hall we were given a quiz sheet with questions to answer on all the different displays. Inside we saw many different presentations from schools all over Munster! There were projects on WW2, Cork Hurling, the Arctic explorer Tom Crean, Dunne's Stores, the different streets of Cork City, 'The Hobbit' and even one on Celebrities. Our own project was much admired by all, especially the bust of Michael Collins, and it was chosen to be taken up to Dublin for the exhibition there. After photographs and refreshments, we had lunch in McDonalds on Winthrop St. It was a fantastic and exciting day out and a few weeks later we learned that Megan had won an i-pod touch in the quiz!!

Ms. Hegarty, Mr. Keenan



TURAS GAELTACHTA BEALTAINÉ

Ar an Aoine 21ú Bealtaine, chuaigh dorn mic-léinn as an Idirbhliain agus as an gCúigiú Bliain siar go Ceanntá i gcoilár na Gaeltachta i gCorca Dhuibhne i gCiarraí. Leanann na micléinn so Árd-Chúrsa Léinn na hArdteiste agus oibríonn siad go dúthrachtach ar a son. Ba mhaith liom domhan rúnda na nGael a nochtadh dóibh agus cé ná fuil ach blaiseadh na Gaolúinne acu go fóillín, níl aon dabht agam go rachadh an deireadh seachtaine so i bhfeidhm orthu go mór agus go fada. Ná ficfá soir ná siar ár leithéid micléinn a chuaigh ann agus tuairim go rachadh an turas agus an siúlóid ar an mBlascaod maorga sia siar ina gcuimhne go deo agus chun tosaigh ina saoldearcadh úr a thá fé bhláth agus a' teacht chun solais. Bíodh bhur solas ag taitneamh 's ag lonnradh mar réiltín órga i bhFlaitheis an Rí uile-chumhachtaigh. Beidh dream eile ag dul le Máistreás Ní Scanláin sa bhFómhair agus bail ó Dhia orthusan leis.

An tUasal Rosboire



THE GALTEE MOUNTAIN TRIP:

This Deireadh Fómhair seo caite we headed once more to the mountains with, undoubtedly, one of the best groups yet, Rang Bríd and Rang Léan. We had a sing-song that would be the envy of any session in Ireland with many beautiful singers and players. Nicola Ní Shúilleabháin, Áine Ní Dhomhnaill, Ciarán Ó Maolrianaigh and Roy Ó Dúnaigh who by his own words brought the



Farewell to the Leaving Certificate Class of 2010. It is hard to believe that it is that time of year again when we bid farewell to our Leaving Cert classes, Ciara, Caitriona, Cliona and our Leaving Cert Applied class, class Seosamh. You have been looking

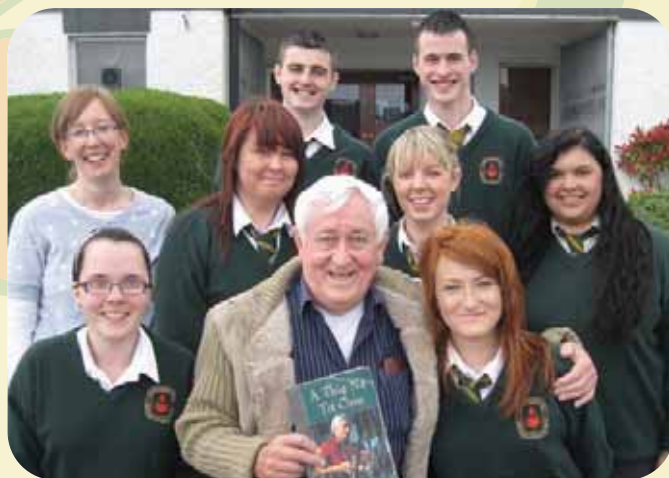
forward to this day for so long now it is finally here. You are now entering a new phase in your lives, with this will come many new challenges, new people to meet and new places to see. I hope that we here in St. Aidan's have given you the confidence to meet these challenges, and you will take them on to the best of your ability. On behalf of the staff at St. Aidan's I would like to wish you every success in your exams and very happy, healthy and successful lives thereafter.



Samantha Hill
Class Ciara.
Design of
Year Book Cover

Miss M. Kingston, 6th Year Tutor.

MAIDHC BRINGSTHE HOUSE DOWN



Thug an t-údar cáiliúil Maidhc Dainín Ó Sé cuairt ar an scoil le déanaí. Labhair Maidhc le daltaí na hArdteiste agus daltaí ón gcúigiú agus an chéad bliain. Tá a leabhar 'A Thig ná tit orm' ar an gcúrsa don Ardteistiméireacht. Bhí áthas an domhain ar na daltaí bualadh leis mar tá a dhírbheatháisnéis á staidéar acu. Maidhc spoke to the students about his childhood, growing up in Kerry in the 1940s and 1950s. He told the students about his experience of being an Irish emigrant in London and Chicago and before finishing up, he entertained the students with a selection of tunes on his accordion. It was a memorable occasion for all who got to meet and listen to Maidhc's life story. His famous 'féith an ghrinn' or sense of humour was experienced firsthand by all. Beannacht Dé air! **Ms. Caffrey**

inimitable "Downey Factor". It was wonderful to have these students on the mountain as they have grown and inhabit a beautiful space wherever they are or will be. The light of their youth and of their fun will remain shining on the ancient mountain always and forever in our hearts. Bíodh bhur solas ag taitneamh 's ag lonnradh mar réiltín órga an Rí uile-chumhachtaigh go deo.

An tUasal Rosboire

LEAVING CERTIFICATE CLASS OF 2010



BÍODH BHUR SOLAS AG TAITHNEAMH





WEEE RECYCLE, DO YOU??

Class Colmán in Transition Year have been very busy over the last few weeks. They have been taking part in the Recycling Awareness Competition 2009-10. The Competition began at the end of April when June Clune of WEEE Ireland visited St Aidan's to tell the students about the competition. The competition, which started in 2007, is a joint venture between WEEE Ireland and Rehab Recycle. The aim of the competition is to raise awareness of the recycling of batteries and electrical goods.



As part of the competition the school was given three 1000 litre wheelie bins to fill. The students were very enthusiastic participants, making and displaying posters around the school and going around collecting old or broken small white goods from home. Amongst the items collected were vacuum cleaners, remote controls, televisions, cameras, Christmas lights, kettles as well as an assortment of obsolete or broken computers and equipment in the school. The students are busy putting the finishing touches to the project at the moment. Go n-éirí go breá leo!

Ms. Caffrey, Green Schools Co-Ordinator



SUCCESS FOR SCHOOL BANK TEAM

Our bank team is made up of 8 transition year students. Nicola O Sullivan, Carrie Miller, Roy Shaw, Aine O Donnell, Shauna Lawless, Aaron Bevan, Ryan Donovan and Adam Noone. At the AIB build a bank regional competition, the school bank was awarded 'Best Customer Loyalty programme'. and we were each awarded an Ipod shuffle. We were delighted to have won one of the prize categories at the competition.

Nicola O'Sullivan, Class Bríd

Photos: 1. June Clune visit. 2. Recycling in Action. 3. TY Merit Awards. 4. Humourfit. 5. Michaela O'Callaghan and Sorcha O'Regan. 6. Edel O'Connell and Claire Twohig. 7. Lord Mayor visit. 8. School Bank team winners. OPPOSITE PAGE: 1. Visiting artist Susan Herlihy with 2nd years. 2. Richard joins FGC (Friday Guitar Club) 3. 2nd and 4th Year Art students trip to the Opera House 4. First Year Merit Certificate awards.

DOODLE 4 GOOGLE

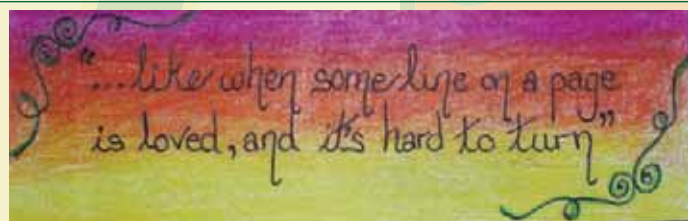
Both Megan Punch and Veronika Hornowska, First Year students at St.Aidan's Community College, made it to the regional finals of the Doodle4Google art competition in January where the two budding artists received certificates of achievement. As part of the prestigious art competition students were asked to create their own doodle logo for the Google search engine page. This year's theme was 'My Future' and students were asked to think big and dream big with their designs. Well done girls! **Ms. Y. Lee**



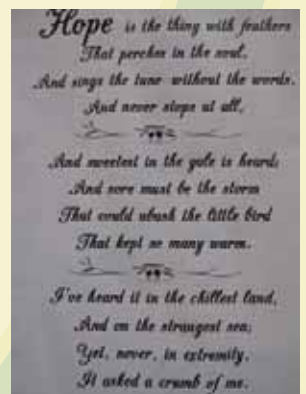
SLANTZ OF LIGHT

The newly re-furbished Library at St Aidan's hosted an Exhibition of poetry and art entitled 'Slantz of Light'. Fifth-Year students, inspired by the poetry of Emily Dickinson, presented a rich fusion of artistic and poetic work which proved a great success with all visitors. The exhibition officially opened at the start of February with the students' parents being the first to attend. The poetry and art explored a wide variety of topics including studies of fear and the human mind, representations of hope and the beauty of nature. The exhibition showed the immense ability of the students in tackling a demanding project and rising to the challenge in sterling fashion with thought-provoking and complex images. The young 'poartists' are eagerly anticipating their next project... The overall winner of the exhibition was Evan Barry, for his work entitled "Frozen".

Photographs show: L-R (Back) Craig Forde, (3rd Place), Owen Dunne, (2nd Place), Kevin Canning, (Highly Commended), Laura Power, (Highly Commended), Kayleigh Fitzgerald, (Highly Commended) and Evan Barry, (1st Place)



Lyanne's Proudest Moment: Congratulations to Lyanne Sheehy, Class Ciara, for designing the inaugural bookmark for the St.Aidan's Library.





St. Aidan's is set to launch an impressive new website which features the most up-to-date internet technology. The site has several features including a past pupils section containing a database allowing our alumni to register and stay in touch with us, which will be the first stage of the setting up of the college's Past Pupils' Union and plans for which are being currently put in place. The site also includes a latest news section, a comprehensive on-line archive of news stories, photos and back issues of Solas, a full calendar detailing all important dates of the school year and a Google Earth school location facility. The site goes live on line on June 20th.

ALUMNI EXPERTISE

One of a school's greatest resources is its past pupils. St. Aidan's has in this past year brought back several of its alumni to share their skills and insights with our students and to offer guidance and inspiration as they plan for their future careers.

THE INDIE PROJECT:

Three past pupils of St. Aidan's who are now studying Business Information Systems in UCC returned to their old Alma Mater to share their skills with our Transition Year students and to give their perspectives on university life. Ciara Hayes, Emma Crean and Brian O' Neill delivered a seven week Internet applications course as part of the INDIE project.

Here's what Ciara and Emma had to say:

Well, overall my experience of UCC has been amazing and it's a totally different life compared to school. There is a great atmosphere here and especially in the BIS course. Overall, I find BIS to be an excellent course, difficult at times but there is always someone there to help. With regard to bringing the skills I have learned back to St. Aidan's, it has been an experience and really opened my eyes. It was difficult at first but once they actually see what they can accomplish it really pays off. Through this project the pupils have a first hand view of web development, but also for me to be able to use the experience as a way to improve my public speaking for the future.

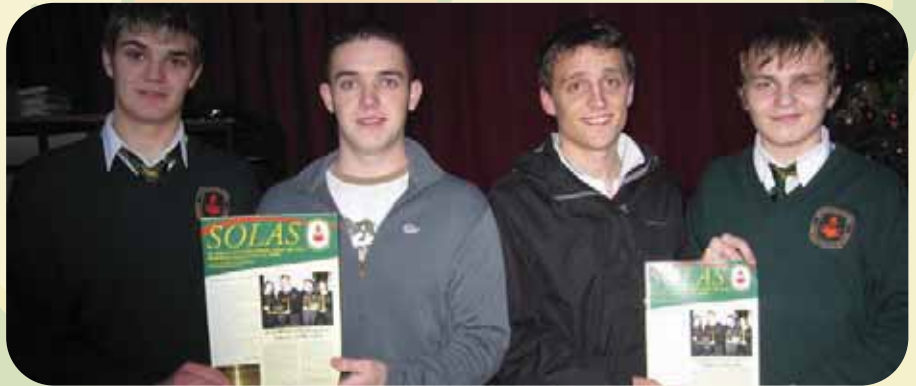
Ciara Hayes, 2nd Year BIS, UCC.

We are involved in a programme called I.N.D.I.E. It's based on teaching HTML, a computer programming language for internet applications. With the TY students we taught them how to write a CV & host it on the internet. The skills learned will be of great help to them in the future. In 3rd year we will be on placement for 6 months in the United States or in the UK.

Emma Crean, 2nd Year BIS, UCC.

AIDANS INAUGURAL AUTHORS

Congratulations to Paul Reid, Leaving Certificate class of '95, on the publication of his debut novel *A Cruel Harvest* and also to Valerie Sheehan O' Brien, St. Aidan's 1996, on the publication of her novel *In a World of Men*.



PHOTOS: 1. Aidan & Ciara with TY Students. 2. Past pupil Aidan O' Sullivan, IBM systems engineer, with TY students. 3. Physics past pupils Greg Ramsell and Roy Kelly with Deividas Umantas and Vaidas Kersys. Greg is now a fully qualified electrician in EMC. Roy, having being awarded top marks in his CIT engineering course transferred to 3rd year Electrical Engineering in UCC. 4. Debs Ball, Class of 2009. 5. Laura O'Regan (opposite page) with Leaving Cert students. Laura is currently studying Genetics in UCC. 6. (opposite page) TY students celebrate Junior Cert. results.



AIDANS PRESTIGIOUS IBM PARTNERSHIP

Transition year students from Class Brid had several days to remember thanks to their involvement in the Schools Business Partnership (SBP) programme. The programme matches a school with a local company and facilitates various work and career related activities throughout the academic year.

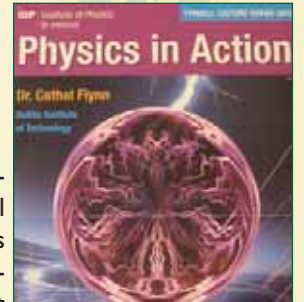
These include; a site visit, 'A Day in the Life' talk by company employees, CV workshops, practice interviews and advice on interview skills. St. Aidan's highly prestigious partnership with IBM Tivoli is now in its second year and is proving to be a tremendous learning experience for the thirty students of Class Brid who enthusiastically participated in the project. The class paid a visit to IBM facility at the Cork Airport Business Park some weeks back to gain an insight into the workings of this world class company and were treated to a wonderfully educational programme of events. Members of the IBM HR department visited St. Aidan's in early March to provide advice on interview preparation and job search skills and practice interviews were conducted with the students. Ms. Diane Beckingham, SBP Co-ordinator, expressed her admiration for those involved as follows: "The students have displayed great maturity, commitment and good manners. They have participated enthusiastically and have built a great rapport with IBM." St. Aidan's is honoured to be associated with such a prestigious and world renowned company as IBM and wishes to thank Ms. Paula Hallahan, IBM HR Manager and Ms. Diane Beckingham for all their wonderful work to make the programme such a success.



PHOTOS ABOVE:
1. IBM Visit.
2. UCC Physics Trip
3. Robert and Aisling Sheehan.
4. IBM Best Interviewees.



UCC Physics: Robert Lights The Way



39 students travelled to UCC in February to attend the annual Tyndall Physics Lecture for Schools. This year's lecture entitled Physics in Action provided a fascinating insight

into the everyday applications of Physics. The day proves to be of significant benefit to the students in providing insights into the role played by physics in many careers. The day includes a tour of UCC thus providing a sample taste of student life in our local university and potentially planting the seeds for our students to consider progressing to third level education in the areas of Science and Technology. Indeed, many Physics students from St. Aidans have pursued third level study and post-graduate research, right up to Doctoral level, in this field. One such student, Robert Sheehan, is currently completing his PhD in UCC. Robert graduated from St. Aidans in 2002 and entered the Physics and Astrophysics program in UCC graduating with a double first class honours BSc degree. As a student he developed an interest in optics, electromagnetism, advanced calculus and programming and to further his studies. Robert choose to pursue a PhD in Physics in UCC in the area of Integrated Photonics, an area associated with Ireland's internet network. His work is linked to the lasers that transmit the signals bringing the internet into your home.

Robert joined our students for lunch and discussed various aspects of college life with them. Indeed, Robert's sister Aisling, pictured opposite, is currently a TY student in St. Aidan's.



LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

This year, the third group of Leaving Certificate Applied students in the history of St.Aidan's will complete the programme in the coming weeks. It has been a very busy year for the LCA 2 students. The students completed three tasks in term one and are now concentrating on study. A number of outings relating to classwork also took place, including a visit to Glenfields Community Creche and to a pottery workshop in Midleton.

In April, the students got to enjoy the proceeds of their profit from the mini-company which they ran last year, with a visit to Rossini's Italian Restaurant, where a very tasty meal was enjoyed by all. The LCA 1 students have been on a steep learning curve since September last, meeting work deadlines and taking responsibility for completion of work. Next year will even be more demanding, and students will need to get straight down to work following the summer holidays. Some students have made a good solid start, but others will need to ponder their future during the holidays. LCA 1 students ran a very successful mini company, under the guidance of Ms. Cotter, Ms. Desmond and Mr. Manley.

They also had a number of work related outings including a visit to see the Ogham Stones in U.C.C. and a visit to Cork Public Museum in Fitzgerald's Park. When the students return in September hard work, self motivation and commitment will be required if a good grade is to be achieved in the Leaving Certificate Examination. The Leaving Certificate Applied programme continues to be a great success in St.Aidan's and hopefully we will have a number of students in line for awards from County Cork V.E.C. following results in August. I wish the present cohort of students every success in the state examinations and success in continuing education and employment thereafter.

Ms. M. Downey,

Leaving Certificate Applied Co-ordinator.



The LCA 1 Class produced a Buffet lunch for the Staff on Thursday 22nd April. This was part of their Hotel, Catering and Tourism Task and the class decided to charge €5 per person which raised €140 for Marymount Hospice. They spent a very busy morning making sandwiches and baking and decorating an array of buns and cakes. The end result was a mouth-watering lunch for the 20 staff members who bought their tickets from the convincing marketing team.

"There was a great team spirit in the Home Economics room during the morning and we enjoyed the pressure of getting everything ready in time", stated one of the students. The class members were interviewed, as part of this task, on Tuesday by an external examiner who will award each individual pupil credits, which will be part of their final Leaving Certificate marks. **Ms. O'Connell**

SPORTS NEWS

CLASH OF THE ASH:

Our hurlers made tremendous progress this year making it all the way to the UI6 Munster Final where they suffered a one point heart-breaking defeat to Mitchelstown. They showed fantastic form in beating Coláiste an Phiarsaigh in the quarter final and Carrigaline in the semi final. Cork players Danny Morrissey and Cian Boyle were outstanding and led St.Aidan's boys into the Munster final full of confidence. Despite the disappointment of losing the final, it was a superb game and great spirit was shown by all.

Our UI8's also showed great promise this year when they beat Douglas in the first round of their campaign. Captain Christopher Joyce was outstanding as were Eoin Connolly, Ciaran McCarthy and Danny O'Callaghan. However, we were plagued with injuries in the second round when, despite the best efforts of inspirational captain Christopher Joyce, Eoin Connolly, Adrian Murphy and especially Calvin Healy, our opponents, Mitchelstown, ran out winners in the end. With so many talented hurling players in St.Aidan's the future looks bright indeed.

Fr. Chris



Cumann Caide 2010

It has been a barren enough spell for our footballers in the last while – the college last achieved honours in the under 16 championship of 2002 and before that in 1994. Our senior footballers did extremely well, unfortunately we were narrowly beaten in the County Semi-Final after our talisman Danny Cal was injured early on in the game. However, there were strong performances in the match and throughout the year by each and every player. They showed great spirit and commitment all through the season, training hard over midterm and during an horrendous winter. The seeds have been sown for future success. Our under 16's, unluckily, were beaten by two points by Carrigaline in a fractious County Quarter-Final. But, it was our under 14 ½ panel who excelled incredibly. After being beaten by Crosshaven in their first game, they trained hard and committed themselves to an absolute do-or-die attitude. As our footballers grew in understanding of each other and were shaped as a classy footballing unit by our Kenmare coach P. Ó Duibhir, the victories starting mounting and our confidence started growing into a winning mentality. Many difficulties were faced and surmounted during the course of our last season but the boys won out in the end. They were crowned fé 14 ½ County Champions of Corcaigh in the grounds of our school Pobalcholaíste Aodáin by the chairman of the Coiste Cholaíste Chorcaí, Mr. Mick Evans. That championship was won at training where our team grew from a rag-tag band of boys from all the clubs in the North-side to a well honed stylish football team. Special mention must be made of the commitment of our coaches P. Ó Duibhir (uas) and A. Ó Laignin (uas) who will bring these footballers into the next challenge where success is now considered only proper.

An tUasal Rosboire

PHOTOS THIS PAGE:

- 1) Painéal Caide fé 14.
- 2) Painéal Shinsir Caide.
- 3) Painéal Caide fé 16
- 4) Bronnadh an Choirn.
- 5) Pitch and Putt team.
- 6) Ms. Delaney with Aisling O'Keeffe and Stephanie Callanan
- 9) Fr. Chris with Calvin Healy and Christopher Joyce (who represented Cork at Minor level this year)

PHOTOS OPPOSITE PAGE:

- 1) Painéal Iománaíochta fé 14.
- 2) Painéal Iománaíochta fé 16.
- 3) Painéal Shinsir.



PITCH & PUTT

St. Aidan's Pitch and Putt team participated in competition in Crosshaven in October. Our best scorers were Daniel Long (5th year), James O'Connor (3rd year), Mark Kelly (2nd year) and Dylan O'Donoghue (3rd year). Team: James Sheehan, Jack O'Keefe, Brian Kelly, Liam McElhenny, Gavin Duggan, Eric O'Donnoghue, Ian Coughlan, Michael O'Mahoney, Ryan Lemass, Shane Corcoran, Craig Butler, Chris Mullane and Kalim Nolan.



AIDANS INTERNATIONALS

Roy Downey: Our inspirational point guard Roy Downey, Class Bríd will represent Ireland at the U16 European championships in Estonia this summer. Roy was also the starting point guard for Ireland in the Europeans Championships in Portugal last summer when he was a year out of his age group. He is proving to be one of Neptune's and Ireland's



hottest prospects. In St.Aidan's league campaign Roy averaged 30 points helping St.Aidan's to go unbeaten in Cork & reach the All-Ireland final.

Scott MacNamara: Scott from class Daivi in third year is currently captain of the Irish U17 Cricket team. Scott shows tremendous dedication and travels to Dublin or Belfast once a week for International training. His U17 Irish team had a fantastic season this year winning the ICC World U17 championship in England and will be competing in the West Indies in the World cup this summer. Scott is also a fantastic rugby player and is a member of the Munster U17 squad.

Darren Murphy: Darren, Class Donncha, captained the Irish U15 Soccer team which, in May, won the Tri Nations, beating Northern Ireland in the final. Thus far this year he has played international games in Dubai and Holland. Darren's mother, Jacqueline was also a pupil of St.Aidan's.



SPORTS DAY

This year Sports Day was organised for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students on the 11th May. We were blessed with great weather which only added to the fantastic atmosphere that Sports Day creates. The students enjoyed the usual activities such as soccer, basketball, hockey, high-jump and javelin but they also experienced some new activities. The Poc-Fada was introduced, as was Tug O' War and a slow cycle. An enjoyable day was had both by students and staff and thanks must go to the 4th and 5th Year students who helped with the officiating on the day.

Ms Keniry



Congratulations to the girls who received trophies for either 'Most Valuable Player' or 'Most Improved Player' 2009/2010 in basketball or camogie: Mary McCarthy, Megan Punch, Lauren Callanan, Jessica Lane, Aisling Connolly, Danielle Mackey, Leanne O'Sullivan, Stephanie Callanan, Edel O'Connell (Camogie), Kelly Fitzgerald (Camogie).



CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS: St Aidans Camogie teams completed another amazing championship season reaching the intermediate B final and winning the Junior B county championship. Our Intermediate team cruised to the final after an exceptional display against Mount Mercy to gain a coveted place in the county final in which they were defeated by St.Al's in Carrigtwohill.

Our captain Stephanie Callanan (6th year) played a central role in this year's championship and will be greatly missed!

The talent and sheer determination of our junior team remains unmatched in the county and we still remain unbeaten. St. Mary's Midleton posed as fierce opposition in the final but St. Aidan's began the second half with a desire and intensity that Midleton couldn't counteract. Aidan's scored an array of goals from Aisling O'Keeffe, Leanne O' Sullivan and the top Cork Colleges' scorer Edel O'Connell who finished up the season scoring 18-13. Lauren Callanan, Jessica Lane and Jennifer Hosford were star performers. St.Aidan's team displayed pure passion until the final whistle and were crowned county champions 2010. Edel O'Connell received the Player of the year award. Kelly Fitzgerald received the award for Most Improved Player of the Year.



Ms. Delaney

PHOTOS: 1,2,3) Sports Day Winners. 4) See Above 5) Ms Furlong with Roy Downey and Scott Mc Namara 6) Camogie Champions. 7) Miss Delaney with Aisling O'Keeffe and Leanne O'Sullivan.

AIDANS TO COMPETE IN USA WORLD GAMES

The World Scholar Athlete games are held in America every four years. The next games will be held in the University of Connecticut, USA, in June and July 2011. Over 2500 scholar athletes from countries from all over the world will be selected to compete in these games and St. Aidan's has just been offered 15 of these places. This is a huge honour for the school as over 75,000 students apply to these games and only the very lucky are selected for this once in a life time opportunity. At present St. Aidan's top athletes from 2nd to 5th year are busy getting their application forms ready to send off to the States in the hope that they will be given one of these 15 highly sought after spots. The selected 15 will travel with Miss Delaney and Miss Furlong to Connecticut where they will receive top class coaching in their chosen sports before competing with different athletes from all over the world. Our students will also be fortunate enough to experience presentations and work shops from some of the most famous sporting, political and humanitarian speakers in the world and will round it all off with a 3-day tour of New York city. We wish all our students the very best of luck and, whoever is selected, we have no doubt they will represent St. Aidan's with pride in this trip of a life time!



PHOTOS: 1.) National Finalists: Anthony O Callaghan, Finbarr Falvey, Shane Connolly, Eric Mc Carthy, Roy Downey, Denis Gosnell, Philip Cashman. 2.) Girls winning basketball team. 3.) Action from Tallaght. 4.) Roy Downey, Niall Creedon (Seandún Hurler of the Year) and Shane Connolly with Minister O' Keffe. 5. Jordan Blount

AIDANS BASKETBALL ALL IRELAND FINALISTS



It's been a very successful year for all of St. Aidan's basketball teams and our school is fast becoming a basketball powerhouse on both the Cork and the national stage having come close to achieving All Ireland glory!

The boys' teams entered the Schools competitions this year after a two year break and are thrilled by their achievements to date. Basketball Ireland insisted that the boys play at 'A' level despite the players two year absence from the competition as inspirational captain Roy Downey was the starting point guard for the Irish U16 team in the Europeans Championships last summer. Our Senior team captained by Gerry Sproule and Shane O'Connor did extremely well in reaching the Cork league semi- final and were very unlucky to lose out to Colaiste Choilm, Cork Champions. Our Cadette team captained by Roy Downey and Shane Connolly were motivated by this and went on to make history by reaching the schools first ever All Ireland Cadette final at 'A' level. Although the boys were beaten by Oranmore they did the school proud by beating some very good teams on their way to the final. Our First Year boys team also did extremely well reaching the Cork final and All Ireland quarter final which they were very unlucky to lose to Presentation Bray. We would like to wish best of luck to Jordan Blount (Class Lucas) who will represent Munster at the All Irelands and Roy Downey who will play for Ireland in the European Championships this summer.



GIRLS BASKETBALL:

Our girls also made history this year when our Cadette team qualified for the All Ireland Cup semi-final. The girls had a tremendous campaign beating Presentation Kilkenny 100 points to nil in the first round and then Presentation Waterford by a single point in what turned out to be an epic quarter final. They were unlucky to lose to Castlecommer Community College in the semi final. However, with the majority of this team underage again next season, there is no doubt that we will get that highly sought after gold medal next year! Our first, second year and senior teams also showed great potential with some great performances and results, in particular with our second years reaching the league semi final.

St. Aidan's has put a huge focus on basketball in recent months and now has 7 basketball teams training hard on a regular basis and competing in competitions at local and national level. On a daily basis the gym and outdoor courts are a hive of activity and the 5 basketball coaches have developed a serious basketball programme which will ensure that St. Aidan's is represented at All Ireland level for years to come.

Ms. J. Furlong

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

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