



ST. JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL DROGHEDA NEWSLETTER

Proud of our Past, Confident of our Future

May 2014
Vol. 13 Issue 7



Principal's Message

St. Joseph's Secondary School was founded in 1858 and has a proud tradition in offering an excellent teaching and learning experience to second level students in the local and wider community. The school is under the trusteeship of Edmund Rice Schools Trust. We offer a Junior and Leaving Certificate curriculum, Leaving Certificate Applied and the Transition Year programme. Our academic courses are complemented with a wide range of extra-curricular activities which are detailed in this newsletter.

Our medium term plans include the current construction of an extension to the school to accommodate additional workshops, labs and classrooms. The aerial photo below was taken on the 13th of May. The extension comprises of a single storey building attached to the rear of the school behind the houses and a two storey building located to the south of the current school building. This extension will facilitate offering additional subjects at Leaving Certificate in September 2015. An all-weather pitch will also be built to the rear of the PE hall on the existing basketball court when the extension is complete.

It is difficult to portray in this newsletter all that happens in St. Joseph's and you are welcome to call to the school, or you can download our prospectus from our website.

Best wishes, David Madden, Principal



**Check out the latest news on our School's Website
www.droghedacbs.ie**





Dr. T.K. Whitaker returns to St. Joseph's.

Distinguished past pupil Dr. Whitaker, who is 97 years old, returned to his alma mater on the 28th of January, 2014, to perform the sod turning ceremony for the new extension. Photo opposite are some members of the school's Board of Management. Back row: Mr. Frank Bradley, Mr. Sean Kelly, Mr. Ray Mitchell, Mr. David Madden, Principal. Front row: Ms. Linda Breen, Dr. T. K. Whitaker, Mr. John Mc Eaney, chairperson.



Daniel's Delight at J.P. Manus Scholarship

Daniel Nelis from Thomas Street, Drogheda, a past pupil of St. Joseph's Secondary school, celebrated with delight following the announcement that he was awarded a J.P. McManus all-Ireland scholarship for academic excellence on the basis of his outstanding Leaving Certificate results in 2013. Daniel achieved 570 points in his Leaving Cert, including As in English, History, Chemistry and Biology. The scholarship is worth €6,500 per year and will be used to fund Daniel's university studies. Daniel commenced his degree studies at Trinity College Dublin in September where he is currently specialising in Chemistry, Biology and Maths. Daniel is the second student from St. Joseph's to be awarded a J.P. Mc Manus Scholarship in as many years. Last year Shane Cunningham

from Moneymore was presented with his scholarship by former US President Bill Clinton at a special ceremony in the University of Limerick. Shane is currently studying Actuarial Mathematics at DCU.



Daniel says that he did not get any extra grinds in his subjects but just studied hard at school, at home and at Drogheda library. An all-rounder he has played soccer for Albion Rovers for many years. Daniel was presented officially with his JP Mc Manus scholarship at a special awards ceremony in November, which was attended by his family as well as St. Joseph's School Principal, Mr. David Madden. Mr. Madden has expressed delight at Daniel's achievements and those of all his class mates.



Both photos above were taken on the 14th of April, 2014. The photo on the left shows the first block being laid by one of the team of bricklayers. The photo on the right shows the foundation and floor of the four WW and Technology workshops being poured. A total of 230 cubic metres of concrete was poured into the floor and it took 27 cement trucks to deliver this quantity of concrete.

Water Polo

Water polo's growing strength and popularity in the school was again underlined this year as the team reached two Leinster finals. With high demand two school teams entered the first tournament of the year. Jamie Kelly, Jack Hoey, Ian Connor and Sean Bannon were particularly impressive as they making their debuts. Strong performance from James Healy and Conor Gradwell ensured the 'A' teams passage to the final. They took an early lead through a Conor Mc Quaile strike, but despite the best efforts of Man-of-the-match Luke Callaghan, they came up just short against Blackrock Collage. In the second tournament, the prestigious O'Brien Tournament, the Joey's again reached the final. Liam Hanna, Jack Reilly and Andrew Healy were important players as the team



reached the final with a 100% record. Blackrock were again the opponents, and once again they were too strong. A fighting performance, spearheaded by Callaghan and Gradwell gave the Joey's hope, but the team never really recovered from a poor start and ended up as runners up, by an 8-6 score line.

Team: Aaron Grimes, Andrew Healy, James Healy, Luke Callaghan(C), Conor Gradwell, Conor Mc Quaile, Liam Hanna, Jack Reilly, Conor Butterly, Aaron Lynch, Jamie Kelly, John Stephenson, Ian Connor, Sean Bannon, Jack Hoey. Coaches: Mr. Gradwell and Ms. Hackett.

Conor Mc Quaile.

Drogheda Secondary Schools Talent Competition.

The Barbican Centre rocked to the performances by the next generation of local talented performers in April. The event was organised by the Parents Council to raise much needed funds for the Breakfast Club. Prize money for the winners was sponsored by Coca Cola and the prizes for the raffle were generously donated by local businesses. Pictured right are Jade Quinn, Sacred Heart, 2nd place, compere Gerry Kelly, Robert Mc Donnell, St. Joseph's, 3rd place, Ryan Carroll and Sean Thornton, St. Joseph's, 1st place, judges Alison Comyn and Katie Anna Mohan.





St. Joseph's Chess Club

Having now been running for two consecutive years the school Chess Club has established itself as a respectable force among its competitors. The year consisted of several ups and downs concluding with a more than satisfactory 4—4 draw with a seasoned Greenhills team. It's fair to say that the Joe's squad is making great progress as the standard of chess play has improved consistently since its establishment. Hopefully with this steady improvement the team will achieve greater success next season. Any budding chess players are welcome to join the Chess Club. We meet every Wednesday lunch time in Room 2.

Andrew Formbski 6th year.

Parents' Council

The Parents Council has had a very busy year. In addition to supporting the work of the school, the Council has organised financial support for the school's sports clubs and activities.

The following were sponsored:

After school study €500, Breakfast Club €1,500, Sports Equipment €1,000, Golf Competition €463, Peadar Mc Cann end of year Awards €400.

The Parents' Council ran two fundraisers this year, the Christmas Card Project and the very successful Drogheda Schools Talent Competition. The Parents Council also participated in the Whole School Evaluation which was conducted by the Department of Education and Skills and the Canteen Committee which was set up to research how the canteen should operate in September after its refurbishment during the summer.

The officers of the Parents' Council are Ms Bernie Reilly, Chairperson, Colette Donohoe Secretary and Anna Keller Treasurer. The Parents Council meet on the first Monday of each school month in the school at 7.30pm and new members are always welcome to come along and participate.

Are you OK? Senior Prefects and Student Council Members Kamil, Adam, Conor and Luke, present the proceeds of their Chocolate Hearts fundraiser to Drogheda representatives of the charity www.areyouok.ie



Homework Club Report

The homework club has been a unique journey for many of our 1st year students. It was started this year to support a number of 1st year students with their schoolwork. Each Tuesday evening from 4.00pm to 5.00pm the Homework club gathers and works with the school's SNA team and students from Transition Year.

Its aim is to create a relaxed and friendly environment where students develop good practices in the use of the school journal, presentation of their work and how to study. The TY students support each student individually and they made it easy for the lads to seek help.

The club has been an undoubted success for the students. Everyone has expanded their horizons by being part of the experience. The students have developed confidence with regard to school work and are progressing towards their own learning potential.

Congratulations to all involved.



On March 26th, 6th year student David Thornton received his Gold Medal from Archbishop Éamon Martin for completing The Pope John Paul II Award. David undertook various work in his parish and school and organised many fundraising activities to achieve his award. He is pictured with his Award Leader Ms. A. Flood. Congratulations to David on his great achievement.

Basketball Fundraiser

A Non Uniform/Jersey Day was held in the school on April 11th to help fundraise for one of our students, Robert Sullivan, who made the U17 Irish National Basketball Team. Some of the proceeds were also donated to the India Project. The funds will help in sending Robert to Macedonia in August to represent our country in a Basketball Tournament.

The students in the picture are Daniel Burnell, Robert Sullivan, Conor Healy and Jamie Kelly.



Basketball Year 2013-2014

All Ireland U 16 Champions

This year's basketball team had a very successful year. Our under 16 team were the most successful squad winning the All Ireland cup against a very strong St.Andrew's side from Dublin. Our U 16 team also won the North-East league and went on to the All Ireland league final but lost narrowly to Carrigaline from Cork. Carrigaline scored a three pointer in the dying seconds of the game to snatch the victory from the Joes.

Our under 19's squad made it to the All Ireland playoffs after losing narrowly in the North-East final. The playoffs were held in our school but were not able to make it through to the semi finals. The first year team played very well in their first year of basketball and put in great efforts in their games, they will surely be more successful next year. The second year squad had a good year by getting to the North-East finals and they just missed out on winning the finals after being beaten by a much organised Carrickmacross team.

Overall the basketball year was successful and we hope to win more trophies next year with our first and second year teams showing much potential to be great team's in the coming years.

A big thanks to our coaches Mr Mc Groggan and Ms Conlon for all their hard work, patience and time.
Sam Reilly TY.





St Joseph's Hurling 2013/14

The hurling campaign started this year with the Junior team hoping to make it out of the group stage in the Dublin league. The first game was against Pobalscoil Neasain. St Joseph's started well despite the poor weather conditions with Paul Mathews dominating the mid-field and with lots of good scores John Stephenson, Michael Ryan, Ian Connor and new-comer Danny Burnell. Quick goals before half-time set the Joeys up for a

twelve point victory.

Our next two games were just as comfortable with Cian Haughey very relaxed in goal, Ross Berkerey strong in centre-back and youngsters players Evan Mc Grane, Liam Ryan, Ryan Walsh and Kieron Mc Aleer progressing well during the competition. Winning the group stage raised our expectations and put us in a quarter-final against Beneavin college.

Cormac Hughes returning from injury and Tom Burke and Ciaran Tracey starting to get their touch in propelled us into a semi-final against St Marks in Tallaght. This game was hard won but thanks to an early goal from Liam Ryan and accurate free-taking from John Stephenson, St Josephs managed to create a good lead by half time. Great defensive play from Alan Connor, Ian Connor and Tom Burke kept the joeys ahead until the end.

St. Joseph's were now in their first final and expectations were high since we were playing Pobalscoil Neasain who we had defeated easily in the group stage. Once again the joeys got off to a great start and two goals from Liam Ryan and Michael Ryan gave us a great start and star player Paul Mathews blazed through for a point. PS Neasain came back strong and managed a pull back two goals before half-time. The momentum was now Neasain and even with the Joey's battling hard they couldn't close the five point deficit. A brilliant goal from Paul Mathews at the end lifted the joeys hopes but time ran out before the comeback was complete. Disappointment in the end but it was still a great achievement to have gotten so far.

It was a great years hurling and with this skilful team playing Senior hurling next year for the school we hope to go one over. The team are grateful for all the work teachers Mr. Ryan and Mr. Crummey put into the team and also a special thanks to Dublin hurler Chris Crummey for travelling up to Drogheda and sharing his expertise.

Player not mentioned above but deserve an honourable mention are Cillian Hickey, Padraig O'Donoghue, Finn Madden, James Russell, Ciaran Walshe and Jack Carr.

This year we also took part in our first U14 Dublin competition but our team was too young and too light. With everyone who took part underage again next year we hope to go a long way in the competition. Ryan Walsh, Dylan Tiernan, Cathal Doherty, Liam Woods, Jack Murray and Sean Ker-risk performed well throughout.

Michael Ryan TY.



Extra Curricular Activities

It is an important part of life in St. Joseph's to become involved in sports and other activities outside the class. The following are some of the activities offered by our school:

| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Teachers/parents/coaches</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| U14 Gaelic football | Mr. Kent/Mr. Lynch |
| U16 Gaelic football | Mr. Mathews/Mr. Mc Cole |
| U18 Gaelic football | Mr. Vaughan/Mr. Sharkey |
| U16 Hurling | Mr. Crummey/Mr. Ryan |
| 1st year soccer | Mr. Heeney/Mr. Mc Donagh |
| 1st and 2nd year rugby | Ms. Hackett |
| Junior basketball | Ms. Conlon/Mr. Mc Groggan |
| Senior basketball | Ms. Conlon/Mr. Mc Groggan |
| Chess | Mr. Reilly |
| Water Polo | Ms. Hackett/Mr. Gradwell |
| Tennis | Ms. Hackett |
| Junior rugby | Mr. Mc Creery |
| Music | Ms. Flood/Mr. Vaughan |
| Athletics | Mr. Stephenson/Mr. Mc Creery |
| Green schools | Mr. Sharkey/Ms. Murphy |
| Golf | Mr. Mitchell |
| Breakfast Club | Mr. Vaughan |
| Students Council | Mr. O Connor |

St. Joseph's Past Pupils' Union

Are you interested in joining the school's Past Pupils' Union? New members are always welcome. St. Joseph's has a vibrant Past Pupils' Union which was first established in 1958. Its members meet on a monthly basis during school term.

Among the many activities which are organised by the Past Pupils' Union are:

- Establishing strong links between the school, businesses and the local community through the past-pupil network.
- Peadar Mc Cann awards for academic achievement and numerous other awards in the area of sport, extra-curricular, community activity and social justice.
- The presentation of a defibrillator for the school community.
- Fun Quizzes to raise money for Edmund Rice projects abroad - including the India Project.
- Donating funds, supports and resources for the students.
- Assisting the school with work placements, mock interviews, guest speakers, career visits and other learning opportunities.
- Presenting specially commissioned past pupil ties to each of the Leaving Cert students.
- Supporting the school in its educational endeavour.
- Organising school re-unions.

The following officers were elected for the current year:

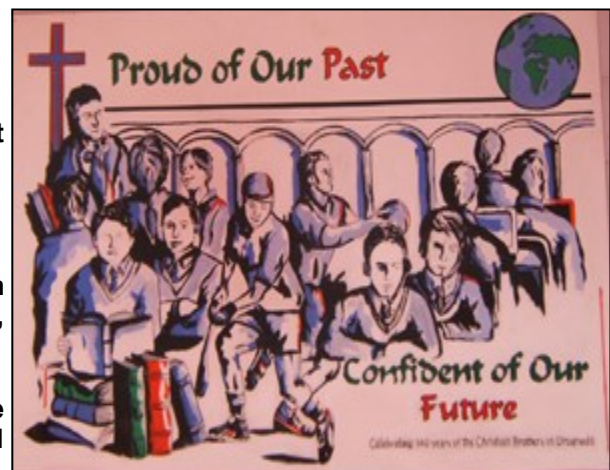
President: Seán Ó Briain,

Treasurer: Pat Shields; Secretary: Robert Quaile

Registrar: Peter Durnin

Members of the executive: Seán Ó Gréagóir, Tom Tallon, Frank Kelly, Paul Maher, Tommy Byrne, Alfie Woods, John Mc Donnell.

New members are always welcome. Please phone the school at 041-9837232 or e mail cbsoff@eircom.net



Peadar Mc Cann Student Awards

Students who have achieved success in the academic, sporting, extra-curricular and community arenas were all honoured at the Peadar Mc Cann Awards Evening which was held in the school on Monday 19th May last. Past Pupil, Professor Peter Gillen of the RCSI and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (who received the Peadar Mc Cann Award himself in 1973) was guest of honour on the evening. Eighty awards in all were presented.



Among the award winners were: Daniel Nelis, best Leaving Cert Student 2013 and Jordi Myers, best Junior Cert Student 2013. Gold Medals for academic excellence in the State Examinations were also presented to: James Carolan, David Coffey, Sean Doherty, Mark Hoey, Sean Mc Connell, Emmet Murphy, Ross Murphy, Michael Ryan and Tommy Dennis. Niall Connor from 6th Year LCA won the PPU President's Award.

Stephen Paclibar from 6th Year won the Peadar Mc Cann Award for Creative Arts, while Cathal Thornton was presented with the Jim Mooney Memorial Medal for English. Fifth Year student Luke Callaghan, chairperson of the Senior Prefects, was the proud recipient of the Jim Hanlon

Civic Award. The Paddy Hallinan trophy for the most promising young Gaelic player was awarded to First Year student, Daire Nally, while Fifth Year student Robert Sullivan, who plays for the Ireland under 18 basketball team, won the coveted Br Hunt Sports Star of the Year award.

Photo above: Stephen Paclibar, Creative Arts.

Photo right: Jordi Myers, best Junior Cert student 2013.



Student Council Achievements & Activities 2013-'14

St. Joseph's Secondary School has a very active Student Council with members elected from every year in the school. Some of the Council's more notable activities during the year are listed below:

- Participating in the Louth Comhairle Na nÓg Annual. Conference/ Workshop.
- Attending Board of Management meeting to make a presentation on the work of the Council.
- Conducting a survey of the students on the November Exams.
- Meeting the Department of Education inspectors as part of the Whole School Evaluation.
- Representing the student body on the School Canteen Committee.
- Organising a Valentine's Day love heart chocolates sale in aid of "Are You Okay.ie".
- Running a pool tournament for the first year students.
- Participating in the 'Challenge for Inclusion Project' with Louth Comhairle Na nÓg.
- Conducting a Bullying/Cyber Bullying survey with the student body.
- Highlighting an Anti-Homophobic Campaign in the school.
- Assisting with the arrangement for the 3rd & 6th Year Parent / Teacher Meeting.

Chairman Adam Mc Ginn 5.1
Secretary: Michael Janik 3F

Vice Chairman: Stephen Newman TY
Treasurer: Paul Sambrooks 5.1

First Year Soccer

I Joined the 1st year soccer team when I came to St. Joseph's. We played 4 games, against Ardee, St. Mary's (twice) and De La Salle, Dundalk. We were very unlucky to concede a late goal against Ardee in our first game, which cost us the match. We created lots of chances against De La Salle but we could not score, even though we only had 12 fit players for that game. I am looking forward to next season and thanks to our coaches Mr. Heeney and Mr. Mc Donagh for their time and effort.

Nathan Sutherland 1S



Business Students at The Mill

Our picture shows winners of the 2nd Year Business Studies competition who were recently presented with their prizes during a visit to The Mill, Drogheda's newly opened enterprise and innovation centre. Mr. Sean Mc Entee, General Manager of The Mill, complimented the students on their projects which analysed the marketing strategies of Jameson Irish Whiskey and Ben and Jerrys Ice Cream.

Left to right: Jason Nolan, Matt Deegan, Farid Kekere-Ekun, Mr. Lynch, Ben Gerrard, Sean Mc Entee, Niall Mc Donnell and Cian Fitzpatrick.

St. Joseph's Golf Society

The 2013/2014 school year was another good one for the Joe's Golfers. The year began with the Leinster Schools Senior (Match Play) Championship. Ben McKenna, Sean Fanning and Ciaran Tracey represented the school and while not qualifying put in a great performance against the formidable opponents of Balbriggan Community College and St Aidan's CBS Whitehall.

In the Leinster Schools Inter School League Match Play the Joe's were teed up against Colaiste Ris Dundalk, St Ciaran's Community School, Kells, Gormanstown College and Ardee Community School. Luke Maguire, J.P. Kierans, Sean Fanning, Ciaran Tracey, Ben McKenna, Conor Gradwell all represented the school in what were hard fought league games. The Joe's students put in a great effort with some great play, however Ardee ended winners of the group. The school also played in the Leinster Irish Junior Schools Championship with a great performance put in by Ross Nally, Ben McKenna and Karl Monaghan.

On Friday April 4th, the School golf year concluded with 33 student golfers taking to the fairways at the wonderful County Louth Golf Club, Baltray. Nine teams played for the coveted school golf team Oliver Tully Perpetual Trophy and the overall individual winner prize among others. There were great team efforts but it was the team lead by Ciaran Tracey that won the day. Tracey with team mates Darren Holdcroft, Darren Morgan and Shane Morgan returned a magnificent 114 points to lift the trophy. Dillon Rice, Declan McNamara and Luke Mitchell were the winners of the prize for the best three ball team score.

There was great competition for the overall individual winner prize with great personal scores from Ciaran Tracey, Ben McKenna, Sean Fanning and J.P. Kierans but it was Philip Devlin with a wonderful score of 44 points who was to take the prize. The front nine prize went to Declan McNamara, while the back nine went to Philip Devlin. The prize for the longest drive was won by Shane Morgan with J.P. Kierans taking the prize for nearest the pin.

The school competition was a fitting end to the golf year with all students enjoying a great day. A special word of thanks is expressed to the School Parents Association and Co. Louth Golf Club who supported the event. The school has a great crop of golfers and we look forward to further developments and achievements in the years ahead. The school golf is open to all students who play golf and we look forward to welcoming new members especially from the new incoming first years.

Photo: Mr. Ray Mitchell, parent and coordinator for the school golf, Shane Morgan, Mr Oliver Tully (presenting the perpetual trophy), Ciaran Tracey (Team Captain), Darren Morgan and Darren Holdcroft and Ms Bernie Reilly, Chairperson Parents Association.



Junior Rugby Overview of 2013-1014 season

by Killian Grant 3rd Year

The season for St. Joseph's Junior Rugby team is a season we won't forget. The Joey's had big wins during the season beating The Grammar, St. Mary's and Coláiste Ris from Dundalk.

The start of the season kicked off with a Blitz held in Boyne R.F.C. Joey's narrowly lost to Mary's by 3 points but beat Grammar by 15 points and Colaiste na Ris by 5. The boys were disappointed with the loss to St. Mary's but our coaches lifted our spirits and encouraged us to prepare for our next game against Ashbourne R.F.C.

Our next big game was away to Ashbourne R.F.C, a very strong outfit. The lads battled bravely against excellent opposition but unfortunately went down 29-14. Ashbourne were the better team on the day but there were outstanding individual performances from the Joey's; particularly from forwards Tadhg O'Reilly (Captain) and Luke Mitchell.

The last game of the season was against our arch rivals "The Mary's". This was a "must win" for us and everyone was up for it. We had fantastic mentors in 6th year

Cathal Downey and 5th year Tom Burke who oversaw the forwards and backs plays respectively. As a result Joey's came back from 15-5 down to clinch a fantastic victory. There was excellent play all round. Man of the Match went to Panache Marata who was unstoppable. Tommy Dillon at inside centre was like a man possessed alongside myself at outside centre and we had some great gain-line breaks. Our Captain, Tadhg O'Reilly as always led by example and caused The Mary's no end of headaches at the breakdown.

Overall the Junior Rugby has grown throughout the year and with training twice a week at lunch times there has been fantastic turnouts. We are all really looking forward to building on these foundations for next year. We have had a lot of help and great coaching especially from Ms Hackett, Cathal Downey 6th year, Tom Burke 5th year and CRFO of Leinster development Graham Mc Quil-lan. A really enjoyable year especially rounding off the season beating The Mary's! The final score against the Mary's was 17-15 to Joey's.



Senior Prefects

Fifteen students and two mentors were selected from Transition Year, Fifth Year and the LCA group to the position of Senior Prefects for this year. The successful applicants subsequently attended a very successful training course in the D Hotel in Drogheda.

The main role of the prefects is to assist incoming First Year students to make a successful transition from primary to secondary School. The prefects visit First Year students in their classrooms, look out for them in the school and organise various activities for them to help them to make new friends and settle down well in their new environment. The prefects also play an ambassadorial role, representing the school at numerous events and helping out generally with school activities, including Parent Teacher meetings.

For Christmas the prefects organised a general knowledge table quiz for all the First Year students in the gym, which resulted in a great afternoon of fun for all. For Valentine's Day, the Senior Prefects and Students' Council organised a Chocolate Hearts fundraiser with the proceeds going to local charity group areyouok.ie. This year's events culminated with a First Year trip to Fantasia Waterpark in mid-May. The Senior Prefects are Luke Callaghan, Daire Boylan, Bobby Cudden, Tommy Dennis, Fergal Donohue, Kamil Karkosz, J.P. Kierans, James Leonard, Gareth Lodge Lau, Reece Garry-Levins, Adam Mc Ginn, Mason Moran, Eoin Munster, Jack Stephen Reilly, Michael Ryan, Ciaran Conway, Aaron Lynch.



Visit to the Criminal Courts of Justice

Class 5.1 visited the Criminal Courts of Justice in Parkgate St. and Collins Barracks with Mr. Carolan and Mr. Sharkey at the start of April. The class took part in a mock trial and sat in on some of the cases that were in session that day, including the Anglo Irish Trial, and then taking in a tour of the museum at Collins Barracks. In the mock trial Caolan McKenna was found not guilty of assaulting Jack S. Reilly by a jury of his peers. Below is an artist's impression of the defendant!



Transition Year Trip to France

St. Joseph's Transition Year students recently took part in their first foreign exchange programme. The corresponding school was located in Lens in the north of France. Eleven students travelled to France, where they stayed with host families. It was an early morning start for the trip as we were at Dublin airport before 6am. We landed in Paris on the Monday morning and made our way to Paris city centre and we visited all the major landmarks in this famous city. After a long day travelling it was then time for us to meet our host families. We arrived in Lens and received a warm welcome from all the teachers and students. However, this was only the beginning of what was to be an exciting and eventful few days for the Joey's!!

The second day in France started with a good walk up a local mountain, we then went to a mine museum which was very informative and historical. We then returned to our host families for the evening.

Day three was a more relaxed day, some of our students went to school with their French student while some went on a trip with their host family.

On our second last day we travelled with the French students and visited a World War II site and saw the horrific results of the war. Next up was a trip to the second biggest aquarium in Europe. It was something different for us and also very enjoyable. This was a great chance for us to get to know the French students better.

We then entered into our final day in France, after waving au revoir to our French friends, we visited numerous World War I sites where it was clear the devastating effects the Great War had caused to the people of France. This ended our trip which was a great educational, cultural and enjoyable experience in France.

The French students then visited Ireland on the following week and it was our turn to provide the accommodation. They too had a jam packed schedule where they did a tour of Dublin, Belfast and Drogheda. Other activities included a long round of pitch and putt, a visit to Carlingford adventure centre and even a trip to a paint balling centre was included in the week. They departed Drogheda early Saturday morning and that ended a great trip in many ways for both French and Irish and it will live long in the memory for everyone involved in the trip.

A special thanks to Mr Vaughan and Mr Kelly for all their help throughout the trip.

Darragh McCann TY

Supervised Study

The school was open during the October mid-term break, the first week of January, the February mid-term break and the Easter holidays for all students but in particular for 3rd and 6th year students.

Supervised study lasted from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm each day. The sessions were very well attended. A minimal fee was charged and it cost a total of €5 to attend during the two weeks of the Easter break for example. This was made possible by a generous donation from the Parents Council.

Fundraising

A number of fundraising initiatives were arranged by students and teachers before Christmas. Ms. O Doherty and her 1R class raised €270 for the **Laura Lynn Foundation**, Ireland's first Children's hospice. Mr. Lynch and the 6th year LCA students raised €300 for the newly opened **Drogheda Soup kitchen**. Ms. Mac Namee and Ms. Flood arranged a Christmas lunch for staff which raised €350 for the **Lourdes Hospital Oncology Unit**. Mr. Stephenson's annual Johnny Mc Kenna 10k run for students raised €1,000 for **Drogheda Home Hospice**. Ms. Flood coordinated coffee mornings for 5th and 6th years generating €750 which was used to purchase baby products for the **Drogheda Women's Refuge**. Thanks to parents as well who donated non perishable food and toys to the Refuge. Some students from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year fasted before Christmas to raise €250 for the Drogheda Cares at Christmas charity.

Personal Reflection at the end of the two year Leaving Cert Applied course By Niall Connor.

When I started LCA in 5th year I knew exactly what I wanted to do after school which was to be a chef. I did my work experience in the West Court Hotel as a Chef. I worked with the Pastry Chef every Friday for the two years. My duties included baking breads, making all the desserts for the restaurant and assisting with all the evening functions. Due to the long term work placement I was able to obtain a summer job and weekend work in the kitchen as the pastry chef. This is still ongoing and I hope to get a job there whilst I am in college.



Because of this work experience I now know that this career is definitely the one for me as I love learning new skills and information about the catering industry. I have recently been offered a one year course in professional Cookery in Colasite Ide. On completion of this course I plan on going to D.I.T for 4 years. After college I hope to go to France for one year to expand my knowledge and skills on pastries.

Another great experience on the LCA course was the Leadership And Communications course which ran

for several weeks in 6th year. This was organised by Ms. Murphy and Mr. Bond from NEPS. The course was all about building self confidence, communication skills and showing me how to deal with every day problems. Going into this course I was very apprehensive and nervous as I am not really good talking about myself. As the weeks went by I became really at ease and felt good about talking about myself.

The course taught me how to express my problems. It made me more aware of myself and showed me that I should give myself praise when I do something good or achieve something. I really enjoyed doing this course and getting to go on the group bonding session at the end of the course was really enjoyable.

I am so grateful for the opportunities that L.C.A gave to me I have I really enjoyed doing this course and the work experience as it opened my eyes to a new career that I always wanted to pursue.

My ultimate aim is to go to France to pursue a career in Culinary Arts.

Reunion of the Class of 1994.

The Leaving Cert class of 1994 from St. Joseph's Secondary School will hold a 20th Year school reunion in the upstairs bar at McHugh's Pub, Chord Road, Drogheda at 9pm on Sunday 1st June. Past pupils and present or retired school staff are especially welcome to attend. The main organiser is Nicolas McKeon at 086 3109516.

U 16 Gaelic Football

Co. Louth Champions North Leinster Champions Leinster Champions

This season the U 16 Gaelic football team had an amazing team year in which they won 3 trophies, Louth, North Leinster and Leinster. They started the year off by entering the North Leinster which they previously won at U 14 level.

St Joseph's recorded back to back North Leinster wins with a comprehensive victory over St. Mary's CBS, Portlaoise. The Joe's took the game to the Laois side early on and recorded points from Ross Nally, Sean Birch, Ben McKenna and Ciaran Downey but it was a goal expertly taken by Nally that put the Drogheda side in complete control. The Joe's direct football and running were causing all sorts of problems and from a lovely team move. Gerard Harding had a shot brilliantly saved but Birch slammed home the rebound. Points from Bannon, Harding and Downey increased the Joe's advantage by half time. The second half was a scrappy affair as Joe's defence including Fergal O Donoghue, Luke Cormican and Ian Connor dominated proceedings. The Joe's upped the game in the last ten minutes and pulled further away with a hat trick of cool penalties



taken by the excellent Emmet Carolan. The Joe's had some excellent performances from Nally, Jamie Kelly and Paul Mathews but Conor Farrell was a real leader on the day and collected the man of the match award.

On the 28th of March at Clane GAA club grounds the Joe's claimed yet another piece of silverware. Having beaten Portlaoise in the North Leinster Final and Dublin Champions Colaiste Eanna in the Leinster semi-final, the Joe's beat Coláiste Iosagáin in a tightly played match where every ball was contested and no quarter was given by either team. Every Joe's player deserves the man of the match award as it took a complete team effort to secure the win. The team was well supported in Clane with teachers, parents, grand parents and 150 students travelling to the

match.

The Joes wrapped up the treble with a fine win over Bush Community College, winning by a considerable score. The first half was a scrappy affair both team kicking some bad wides and the Joe's hitting the woodwork many times. But after an unbelievable second half restricting Bush to a few points the Joe's put them away early in the second half giving them plain sailing to win the treble. Credit to the team managers Mr. Mathews and Mr. Mc Cole for coaching the team all the way to winning the three trophies.



Team Photo: Back row: Mr. Mc Cole, Sam Reilly, Ross Gildea, Ross Berkley, Sean Carroll, Padraig O Donoghue, Fergal O Donoghue, Ahu Obhakhon, Cormac Hughes, Ciaran Downey, Ben Mc Kenna, Emmet Carolan, Ross Nally, Adam Mc Ginn, Donal Carr, Luke Cormican, Mr. Mathews.
Front Row: Sean Birch, Ian Connor (capt), Paul Mathews, Conor Farrell, Ronan Levins, Jamie Kelly, Jake Devine, Ben Somerville, Shaun Bannon, Daniel Burnell, Eoghan Callaghan, Gerard Harding, Andrew Kinch. Absent: Declan Mc Namara, Caolán Mc Kenna, Reece Levins.



Athletics

The athletics team had quite a successful year. The senior cross country had a strong start to the season, winning the Drogheda District Schools Cross Country. Jack Mc Cullough followed up their success with a convincing win in the junior boys race. Mc Cullough ended his cross country season with 18th place in the All Ireland championships.

Mark Rogers started off the Track season with wins in the Leinster and All Ireland senior combined events championships. The events being hurdles, long jump, shot putt, 200m and 800m. The Joe's then set their sights on the CBS All Irelands. Rogers had a win in the high jump. Jack Mc Cullough had a silver in the 1500m while Diarmiad Mckeen and Blake Rowan also took home a silver in the 800 and long jump respectively. We had two 3rd place finishes, Mark Rogers in the 800m and Jack Reilly in the Shot Putt. In the North Leinster schools Diarmuid McKeon had a win the junior boys 800m. Mark Rogers had a win in the 400m hurdles and the high jump.

Congratulations to all our athletes and good luck to those with Leinsters and All Irelands yet to come.

Green Schools

This year in Green Schools we have been working very hard to get the Green Flag. Our green school committee Anthony Kent (2R), Jake Cunningham (2R), Finn Madden (2F), Cormac Young (TY) and Glen Mitchell (TY) have been working on projects that will help us get the green flag.

We have built a pond in the middle of the school garden. The photos below shows it being started and the finished pond. Credit goes to Jake Cunningham, Niall and Jim, caretakers, for helping to build the pond and it is soon get some fish. We also have plans to get a mini windmill built. Aaron Lynch in fifth year is working on collecting parts for the windmill. We hope to complete this at the start of September. We are also planning a walk to school day on Wednesday 14th of May. There will be a raffle for prizes for everyone who walks. Our after break clean ups have been a great success as well and again thanks to the help from Niall and Jim. This has been a great year for our Green Schools and we hope to get lots of students to join us next year. We are really grateful to Mr Sharkey and Ms Murphy and we thank them for all their help.

Josh Reilly 2R



Erasmus + Project

Our School, along with a school from Germany, Portugal and Italy have applied to the European Union for funding for a joint Erasmus + project entitled "Matters of Matter". The project involves the development and implementation of new materials for use in every day life. The project is split into 3 main areas,

1. Studying current research into new materials in each of the partner countries.
2. Experimenting with these new materials.
3. Devising and implementing new uses for these materials

The application for funding for the project was made in late April this year and the result of this application will be announced by the European Union in late July/ August. If successful the Transition Year science students will begin work on this three year project in September. TY students will have the opportunity to travel to the participating countries. Science teachers Mr. Mc Donagh and Mrs. Clinton will be the coordinators of the project.

Fingers crossed for its success!!



Images from 2013 –2014





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