



# St. Catherine's Senior School

## NEWSLETTER

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### A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

With the summer holidays fast approaching, it is time to bring you the latest news from St. Catherine's. All classes have received coaching from Kevin in the GAA this year. We hope to further develop the girls' skills in Gaelic and Camogie next year. Fourth class had a great time swimming and some senior girls took part in the Parkside races.



Second class have had a busy few months preparing for First Penance and First Holy Communion. Their special day was a really happy occasion. Bishop Eamonn Walsh confirmed sixth class girls on Pentecost Sunday, in a joyous, prayerful ceremony. He will return to Cabra in October for a follow up meeting. We thank Sr. Philomena for her tremendous work with the sacrament classes and also Miss O'Neill and the choir and Miss Egan and the musicians for the beautiful music at both celebrations.



The Green Schools Committee worked tirelessly this year. We are aiming for our second Green Flag and the focus is on saving energy. The Committee visited Glanmore Foods in Blanchardstown and advised them on ways to save energy in their factory. There are 'energy monitors' in school also, who check that we are implementing our energy saving measures each day.



We were thrilled when our project with Glanmore Foods won first prize in the 'An Taisce Green Schools Competition'. The school was awarded €4,000 by the ESB to fund an energy saving project in the school. Eimear, Zara, Demi, Jodi and Kate presented their project in Tailor's Hall and collected the prize. They have featured in **five** newspapers, RTE Digital Radio and Phoenix FM. Media stars in the making! The Committee have been guided by Miss Ryan and Miss Garvey, who have encouraged the girls to achieve such great results. We congratulate all involved in the Green Schools initiative and look forward to next year.

Our sixth class girls are leaving us for second level and we wish them the very best of luck in their new schools. They have grown up very quickly and are about to begin another exciting stage in their lives.



We wish you a safe and carefree summer and look forward to seeing everyone on **Thursday, September 1st**. Happy Holidays!

## THE SACRAMENTS



On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of May, I made my First Holy Communion. First my auntie did my hair. Then I got dressed. After that my family and I went to the church of the Most Precious Blood. Kelsey, Tracy and Rachel said a prayer. Next the girls and I said our prayers. Finally it was over. My family and I went to a hotel. We had a lovely dinner. I got a piece of delicious chocolate cake. Then we all went home.

**Jasmine, 2nd Class**



Sixth class were confirmed on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Our Confirmation was a day that my class and I will never forget. We all had to arrive at the church before a quarter past twelve. I was very nervous because I had to do a reading. It was quite nerve wrecking. However I did it. I was very happy when Bishop Eamonn Walsh gave my class and I a special little card with a message on it. He asked us to try to live as the card asks us to in its message. He will return to the church on October 5<sup>th</sup> to meet with us.

**Ciara Deegan, 6th Class**

## DCU



When I went to DCU I did a medicine course. It was a great course because it was fun and very interesting. I did it on Wednesdays every week for six weeks. I learned about a lot of diseases and cures. On the second week we learned about the heart. Our teacher brought in a pigs heart and we held it. On the last week I graduated and got a certificate. It was a brilliant opportunity.



**April Egan, 4th Class**

## GERMAN LESSONS



In May, some pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> class got a chance to learn German in St. Dominics. Fourth year girls taught us German. There were four girls in each group. We learned lots of things like numbers, colours, months, days and lots more. The fourth years made us folders with sheets with things to do. During the final session we had a chance to taste German food. We tasted some delicious biscuits. The fourth years gave us certificates for all our hard work.

**Amy McGarry, 5th Class**

## A VISIT TO ST. DOMINICS

Sixth class girls visited St. Dominic's college during the summer term. Several fifth year pupils chaperoned the girls in small groups as they completed a tour of the school, visiting various classes and teachers as they went about their regular routine. Afterwards, the girls were treated to some sweets and a drink. It was a great help for the girls to observe what life in secondary school is all about and put their minds at ease about their future in secondary school.



## TUTANKHAMUN

On Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, we went to the RDS to see the Tutankhamun exhibition. It was very interesting. Tutankhamun became a King when he was just 8 years old and died when he was 18. He was married to his half sister. Howard Carter found his tomb in 1922.



**Kelly Kidd, 5th Class**

## CAMOGIE AND FOOTBALL

Kevin came to our school this year. He was going to teach us Camogie. The first day we had no camogie sticks, no helmets and no balls. He told us the toe always points to the sky and you use the heel to hit the ball with. You put your hands at the bottom of the stick with one hand at the top like a guitar. Training is on in the Bogies Wednesday and Monday 5pm to 6pm and Thursday in school. It is a lot of fun! Now we are starting to do matches. After school finishes for the Summer, there is a summer camp for two weeks. I hope it is fun!

Niamh Walker-Browning,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Class



## SWIMMING LESSONS



Every Thursday this term, fourth class went to St.

Joseph's swimming pool for swimming lessons. First we got our bags. Then we put our coats on. Soon we were on our way. Everyone was so excited. After the long walk we put our goggles on and our hats. Then we jumped in. During the swimming we learned loads of things including the dolphin swim, the mushroom swim, the arm stroke, the back stroke and we also got play time. Finally when we got our lunch, we were starving. I was scared but now I am fine.

Claire Donegon, 4<sup>th</sup> Class

## A TRIP TO GLANMORE FOODS

Third Class and the Green Schools Committee went to see how Glanmore Foods could save energy. Read Jessica's report of the day...



'Yesterday, we visited Glanmore Foods. They make our lunches. We went around the factory and we looked at ways that they could save energy. Here are 3 ways that I think they could save energy:

1. When it's day time, blinds should be pulled open and lights turned off in the office.
2. All laptops or computers should be plugged out when not in use.
3. Every time they upgrade the machines, they should think of machines that save energy.

We also saw some good ways that they already save energy. We could use these ideas in our school. In the bathroom, the sinks had some buttons on the bottom of it. You would have to hold your knee there for as long as you need water. Some rooms had lights which turn on when you're in and off when you're out. I liked the trip because the smell was lovely and we got to play with the dough. Also we got to go in the room where it was -21 degrees celcius and we went in the room where it was very very warm.



Jessica Ionas, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Well done to those parents who participated in computer, cookery and gentle relaxation classes. Congratulations to the parents who participated in the Book Club and Storysack projects and for the follow-up work in the Parents' Room. A big thank you to those parents who volunteered their time to help us assemble the Transfer Packs for 6th classes in St. Catherine's, St. Finbarr's and Christ the King. We appreciate the willingness and generous spirit that each of you give to us to support our Home / School Projects.



Monica Egan, HSCL Coordinator

## CAVAN CRYSTAL MAZE



Sixth class went on school tour to the Cavan Crystal Maze in June. The Crystal Maze is a series of physical, mental and skill challenges. Everybody was put on a team and the teams navigated around Ireland's biggest hedge maze, attempting a variety of challenges to win crystals. The team which gathered the most crystals won a beautiful crystal trophy. After the Crystal Maze, sixth class climbed to the summit of Loughanleagh Mountain where they viewed a giant's grave and learned about wind energy. Finally, they went to Dún-na Rí Forest Park where teams used a map to navigate around the park locating features, solving questions and winning some more crystals. A wonderful day was had by all and it was a memorable trip to end our years in Saint Catherine's Senior School.



## CROKE PARK

On Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June Ms. Heeney's and Ms. Haverty's classes headed off to Croke park. They took the train from Broombridge and got lunch when they arrived. They were then brought on a tour of Croke Park. While they were there, they were preparing the stage for 'Take That'. They heard all about the history of the stadium and of the GAA. They played some interactive games and had lots of fun!



## SPEECH AND DRAMA



For the last weeks, we have been going to speech and drama. We go every Wednesday. We love it! Last Wednesday, our speech and drama teacher Ms. Carroll told us that we are going to do a play. We were discussing what we were going to do and wear. I enjoyed working on the play the best. I hope she comes back again.

**Chloe Gore, 3rd Class**

## CHOCOLATE WAREHOUSE



Second, Third and Fifth classes visited the Chocolate Warehouse in Walkinstown in June. There they listened to the story of cocoa beans and how they are harvested and prepared for use. They watched a video of the making of chocolate bars, sweets and Easter Eggs. They got to decorate and package their own chocolates and took part in a table quiz to test their knowledge.

## RIDING OUT THE HURRICANE

In May, Ms. Garvey's class started reading a book called 'Riding Out the Hurricane'. It was about a girl called Jade from New Orleans set during Hurricane Katrina. We started reading the book in a book club hosted by Ms. Egan and some parents. On June 3rd, we got to meet Maeve McMahon, the author of the book. Everyone was really excited because the previous day we had each written a question and drawn a picture for Maeve. When we got there, we asked all our questions and had a great time. It truly is a great book, so I would recommend reading it!

**Áine Kennedy, 5th Class**



The book recently received a Silver Nautilus Book Award in the teen category, which recognises books that promote spiritual growth, conscious living and positive social change. We offer our congratulations to Maeve and wish her the best of luck with her book.