



CASTLEREA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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December 2012

Happy Christmas

Fröhliche Weihnachten

Bon Noël

Nollaig Shona

December 2012

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As another year draws to a close we reflect on what has been a very busy but very successful year in CCS. Students have achieved in all aspects of school life, in sport, technology and academically. Two students, Romy Madden and Caroline Grogan, received entrance scholarships to UCD based on their Leaving Cert results. Paul Brennan has the distinction of achieving 1st place in Ireland for his Technology project while Shauna Creighton achieved third place. At Junior Cert level Sean Davies and Nathan Cook also received awards for Technology and Samantha Ryan received an award for Leaving Cert Technology. Students achieved excellent Leaving Cert results and recently the school hosted its Leaving Cert Scholarship and Awards ceremony. I would like to thank local businesses for their very generous sponsorship. Nine students received scholarships worth €500 each.

Our sponsors were John Murphy, Harmac Medical,

Castlereah Credit Union, and Mary Mullarkey, Solicitor, Barrack St. The scholarships are given to students who achieve 500 points or more in the Leaving Cert. Just under 10% of students achieve at this high standard at Leaving Cert. We would like to extend our very heartfelt congratulations to the recipients and wish them well in their future studies. Our sincere thanks to the sponsors for their generosity in these difficult times. It is heartening to see such strong support from the community for the school and the students and we look forward to continued strong links with all the organisations.

This year also 26 Leaving Cert students were conferred with Certificates of attendance in Youth Leadership and Community Development from the National University of Ireland, Galway. The programme was successfully completed in the school in May. CCS was the first school to be involved in the programme and it was a very proud occasion for all involved.

We would like to acknowledge the Arm/Williamstown Road Association for their very generous donation to the school. It was a very thoughtful gesture and we are most appreciative of the donation and the spirit in which it was made.

At the moment the Prefects are extremely busy organising the Christmas Raffle. We have many wonderful prizes. First Prize is a Samsung Tablet sponsored by Trojan IT, 2nd Prize is a Kindle sponsored by Diginet, 3rd prize is a Camera sponsored by Bonnidae Vending. There are many other prizes and a full list of sponsors will be published later.

Sincere thanks for your generosity and support throughout this very busy term.

I hope you enjoy our new look newsletter and that you have time to browse through it.

May I wish you all peace to your souls, happiness to your homes and hope to your dreams this Christmas.

In the words of Calvin Coolidge

'Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.'

Mary Mullarkey





Students receive National Honours.

Young Technologists Success

Castlerea Community School once again excelled in the 2012 ETTA (Engineering and Technology Teachers Association) Young Technologist awards scooping five awards in total in the Regional Final this year and three in the National Final. The ETTA presents prizes for the best Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Technology projects.

In the Regional Final Paul Brennan 1st, Shauna Creighton 2nd and Samantha Ryan 3rd received awards for their Leaving Certificate Technology Projects. Nathan Cook (2nd) and Sean Davies (3rd) received awards for their Junior Certificate Projects. They each received specially engraved Crystal Trophies and certificates. Paul, Shauna and Nathan then went forward to the National Finals on 17th November which were held in Athenry this year. Paul received the prestigious award of 1st place in Ireland, with Shauna coming 3rd in the Leaving Certificate section. Nathan was in the top ten in the Ireland in the Junior Certificate section. The Leaving Certs again received specially commissioned crystal trophies and they all received certificates.

The Leaving Cert projects involved designing a project to help people with disabilities. Paul designed a working model of a prosthetic arm and Shauna designed a lift to enable people with mobility problems to access their home. Nathan for his Junior Cert. project designed a device to encourage young children to brush their teeth for the required length of time.

Students made working models and they were all electromechanically controlled. All projects were individual.

Well done to all, this is a truly wonderful achievement and C.C.S. is justly proud of these students.

Junior Certs. Results

Congratulations to all the Junior Cert students on their excellent results. Students have now progressed to their senior options of Transition Year, Leaving Cert Applied or Leaving Cert established. Exams are important in that they are a test of knowledge and skill.



The photo shows Paul Brennan, Shauna Creighton and Nathan Cook receiving their Technology Awards for their Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate projects at the ETTA National Finals. Also in the photograph are Ms. Mullarkey Principal, Mr. William Rowan (President ETTA) and Ms. Hanbury (Teacher).



The photo shows Sean Davies and Nathan Cook receiving their awards for his Junior Certificate Technology projects from at the Regional ETTA Finals Also in the photograph are Mr Gerry Cummins ETTA and Ms. Hanbury (Teacher) .



The photo shows Shauna Creighton, Paul Brennan and Samantha Ryan receiving their ETTA Awards for their Leaving Certificate Technology project at the Regional Final. Also in the photograph Mr Gerry Cummins ETTA and Ms. Hanbury (Teacher) .



Pictured Rebecca Moylan, Ben McGovern, Aoife Collins, and Anita Bruen, who achieved excellent Junior Cert. results.

Leaving Cert. Scholarships



Pictured receiving their DCU Scholarships are Romy Madden and Caroline Grogan with Principal Ms. Mullarkey.

Each year UCD recognises the calibre of its First Year high-achieving students by giving Entrance Scholarship Awards to the student who achieved the highest points in each degree programme across the university. The awards are presented to first year students who achieve 540 points or more in their Leaving Certificate.

In 2012 approximately 4% of the Leaving Cert cohort received 540 points or more. Included in that elite group are two Castlerea students, Caroline Grogan and Romy Madden who are now studying at UCD. Caroline is studying Law and Romy is studying Physiotherapy.

Dr Hugh Brady, President UCD, acknowledged their accomplishments at an awards ceremony recently when they were presented with recognition certificates. School Principal, Ms Mary Mullarkey, was presented with a commemorative plaque for the school. Their achievements will also be recorded on their final academic transcript when they graduate.

Christmas Raffle

Tickets for the annual Christmas Raffle are now on sale in the school. Once again C.C.S is offering excellent prizes including a Tablet, a Kindle, a digital camera and many other prizes. The draw for the raffle will take place before Christmas. Tickets cost €1 each or 6 for €5. They can be purchased from the Prefects, so don't delay! "If you're not in you can't win".



School Scholarship Awards

This year Castlerea's business community got behind the Leaving Cert Awards scheme and contributed in a very positive way. The ceremony recognises and applauds the achievements of Leaving cert students who achieve 500 points or more in the Leaving Cert. Approximately 10% of the Leaving cert cohort nationally achieve at this level so these students belong to a very elite group. This year 9 students were awarded scholarships of €500 each with six of the scholarships sponsored by local business. Harmac Medical again this year sponsored two scholarships. The recipients were Nicola Boyle and Siobhan Igoe. The recipients of the John Murphy scholarships were Aaron Keane and Christopher Cornwall. Mary Mullarkey, Solicitor, sponsored a scholarship for Aileen Fitzmaurice and Louise Brown's scholarship was sponsored by Castlerea Credit Union. The three remaining scholarships were sponsored by the school and the recipients were Eileen Shannon, Romy Madden and Caroline Grogan. The scholarships are intended to assist students at third level and by pairing the students with local business it is hoped to begin a business relationship which will benefit the students into the future.

Paul Brennan received a plaque and award on the night for his outstanding achievement in getting 1st place in Ireland with his Technology project.



NUIG Conferring

Youth Leadership and Community Development (Roscommon)

On the 19th October, twenty six Leaving Cert students and their Year Head Mr. J. Mulhern and Ms. Mullarkey, Principal, travelled to N.U.I.G. to receive their certificates in Youth Leadership and Community Development, at the University's Conferring Ceremony. This programme was successfully completed at the end of the last school year and involved such areas as team building, group dynamics, social analysis, designing for action and a field trip to the university where the students had to deliver a short presentation. The students involved found the overall process a very rewarding and useful one gaining experience which will be a valuable asset in the future. The school would like to thank Roscommon Partnership and N.U.I.G for their input and commitment to the programme, in particular the facilitators Ms. Theresa O'Brien and Ms. Jackie Murphy. Dr. Browne in his address highlighted the importance of Adult and Continuing Education Section – He singled out CCS for special mention. CCS was the only school to receive awards on the night. Students involved were: Claire Callaghan, Katie Conlon, Noel Duffy, Brian Egan, Megan Egan, Katy Flynn, Kate Gordon, Rachel Harte, Maeve Hitchen, Emma Keane, Keith Keenan, Shane Kelly, Rachel Kerrane, Maeve King, Diarmuid Lannon, Aidan Leech, Nicole Mannion, Hollie McHugh, Jamie Mee, Aisling Mulligan, Kimberly Noone, Lauren O'Sullivan, Kelly Ryan, Jemma Shaughnessy, Shane Swanick and Michelle Taylor.



Pictured above are the recipients of a School Scholarship for those who got over 500 points along with members of the board of management and sponsors.



Leaving Cert Applied

Since September LCA students are focused enthusiastically for adult and working life.

Year 1 students set off excitedly to find work experience in their given area of interest while Year 2 started in the areas of work they had secured over the summer months.

Year 2 LCA students have undertaken a Practical Achievement task outside school.

After much research they discovered there are vast opportunities open to them in the Castlerea and surrounding areas. Some chose to get involved in:

The development of an existing or new practical skill (sporting, musical, computer, art, gardening, saddler, metalwork, etc)

Undertaking an initiative, coaching a team, involvement with older people, youth support work, sport for adults with special needs etc.

Developing a product: log splitter, dog poop lifter, litter hook, safety signs, etc

Providing a service – mural advertising, door to door turf sales – Mini business venture!!!

These tasks facilitate students gaining credit for achievements undertaken outside of school time. All these ventures are motivated and supported by enthusiastic families and dedicated guiding teachers.

Castlerea Community School would like to acknowledge most sincerely all those employers, further education providers, crafts people, voluntary team coaches and mentors who by their presence, skill and expertise will awaken the community spirit of these young adults over the coming school year.

PLC Courses – Business Studies and Community and Health Services

This year's PLC courses are well underway. With two very full classes it has a nice mix of our own past pupils and some new students from the surrounding areas. We welcome these new students and hope they have an enjoyable and educational year. The courses will run right up to May 2013, allowing all students ample time to choose what their career paths will be for the future.

TY News

Good Luck to TY students who have now entered into the BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition. Ms Dervin and Ms Hanbury are working with the students on this research.

Opening School Mass 2012/2013

In keeping with tradition Castlerea Community school gathered in St Patrick's Church for the opening school Mass. Thank you to Canon Joe Fitzgerald the celebrant.

A team of students and teachers chose readings and prepared music that made the connection between school life and how the Eucharist can be supportive of it.

To add more meaning students creatively enhanced the altar area with fabric, autumn fruits and candles. The opening ceremony of light pointed to the closeness and intimacy with which we work best together in school.



(C.C.S Leaving cert students around the sacred space they created for the 2012 Opening school Mass)

Lunch Time Activities

Lunch time activities for first years are now in full swing. There is a huge interest in the basketball league. The referees for the league are being organised by T.Y students Ben McGovern and Francis McElroy.

An Indoor Soccer League will follow for 1st and 2nd years when the Basketball finishes. Other activities will be arranged as the year progresses such as Club Gaeilge and Table Tennis competitions.

The School Library is also open Mon, Wed and Fri from 1:30 for all book lovers. There is a huge selection of books and reference

Prism

On Thursday 18th October, over 50 students took part in the annual PRISM (Problem Solving for Irish Second-level Mathematicians) Contest. The contest was run in conjunction with Maths Week Ireland which took place from October 13th to 21st. The winners were Dylan Carlos (Senior) and Emma Callaghan (Junior).

Students on their recent trip to the Burren in Co. Clare

Guidance Higher Options

Recently Leaving Cert students attended the Higher Options conference in the R.D.S. in Dublin. Over 200 exhibitors were in attendance including the Irish Universities and Institutes of Technology and the UK colleges. The Defence Force had a spectacular stand and was very popular with students. Students gathered prospectuses from various stands and attended talks on the CAO, Art and Design, Nursing and Agriculture. It was a very informative day and should be beneficial to students as they progress with their college and career research.

At the Sea Shore

On an October morning, the Leaving Cert Geography students set out for the Burren in Co. Clare. As they journeyed deeper into the Burren they experienced many beautiful sites.

The first major landmark was Dungaigue Castle in Kinvara a small fishing village. Next Mullaghmore was to be seen in the distance and the clints and gikes of this lakeshore region.

As students journeyed to Lahinch they saw Lemanagh Castle with its imposing facade. Next they viewed a number of Turloughs and got a taste of this remote landscape. The final destination was Cregg Beach where the students saw many of the erosional features associated with the coast which they had studied in the classroom. This showed evidence of the mighty force of the destructive waves which operate along the west coast of Ireland. This was all part of the geographical investigation which is a core area of study and is compulsory for all students. There is a possible 100 marks 20% to be gained from the investigation before students sit their Leaving Cert in June.

While doing the Geography investigation students gathered information, observed and identified the features and recorded their findings. All of the information gathered will be written up in class in the coming weeks.





Recipe for Success

Michael Grogan once again gave a most inspiring and motivational talk to Leaving Cert students. Michael is a former student of C.C.S and is now a Management Consultant with Merck Pharmaceutical in Philadelphia.

In his speech, he outlined the importance of life and career planning. The kernel of his advice is focus, faith and follow through.

Michael also spoke about his very rewarding volunteer work in Africa. In November he spent three weeks in Tanzania providing free training and one to one coaching thereby helping people to improve their management and leadership skills.

The talk was followed by a very lively question and answer session. Sincere thanks to Michael for taking the time to help the students.



Ms. Mullarkey making a presentation to Michael Grogan.

An Triail

On Tuesday Nov 20th, 5th yr and 6th yr students accompanied by their Irish teachers attended a performance of "An Triail" by Mairéad Ní Ghráda in the Dean Crowe Theatre, Athlone. This was an excellent performance which gave the students a greater understanding and insight into the drama and was a very worthwhile experience.

Pictured below are members of the choir, some of the readers and choir mistresses involved in the Carol Service.



Ag Science

Sixth year students travelled to the farm of Roscommon Agri- Supplies owner, Eddie Naughton, near Roscommon town. The students learned first-hand about the cultivation of Spring Barley from seedbed preparation to harvesting, drying, and rolling. Filling a void that no text book could, Eddie was able to explain the difficulties and implications that our less than "summery" weather had on growth of this crop. Bursting with all this invaluable practical information and on site photos, the C.C.S. students will be well prepared for their practical assessment. We would like to thank Eddie for generously sharing his expertise and time.

School Tour

Students and teachers enjoyed a fun-filled tour to Barcelona recently. The city is the capital of Catalonia and boasts splendid architecture and historical sights.

The forty students and six teachers left Castlereagh on the morning of Thursday the 25th. Despite the early hour and the chill in the air spirits were high as we headed for the airport. Unfortunately the rain followed us to Barcelona but a spot of shopping in Tarragona made up for the bad weather.

The following day the entourage enjoyed a guided tour of the city, taking in sights like the Columbus statue, the Sagrada Familia, the Gaudi houses and the view of the city from Montjuic. The day was rounded off with a visit to the city's science museum.

Port Aventura theme park was Saturday's port of call. With some of the biggest rollercoasters in Europe- the daredevils in the group were in their element.

No trip to Barcelona is complete without a visit to Camp Nou, home of Barcelona FC. It is an impressive stadium and the club is proud of its recent successful history. Seeing the Champion's League Cup was a highlight for the group and many of them had pictures taken holding the prestigious silverware.

All too quickly it was time to go home but all agreed it was a fabulous four days and an experience none will forget.

The students would like to take the opportunity to thank their Principal Ms. Mullarkey, Tour Leader Mr. O'Rourke and teachers Mr. Heduan, Mr. Carty, Ms. Kenny, Ms. Harkin and Ms. Mullarkey.

Personal reflection /Retreat days



(A group of 3rd year students in CCS " Sacred space" participating in a Reflection workshop)

On November 5th, 6th & 7th, Leaving Cert. and Junior Cert. students availed of a challenging, experiential and innovative Christian Retreat programme.

The days were facilitated by Ms Yvonne Griffin & Mr Declan O'Brien " Connect Retreats "

To help pitch the programme at the specific needs of the students, they were surveyed months in advance regarding content and format. In consultation with the school's management and the RE department the facilitating team creatively pitched the content of both days at the level and needs of these young people.

The core theme running through each day was:

1. Relationship towards self.
2. Relationship towards others.
3. Relationship towards God.

These workshops involve guided discussion, case studies and meditation designed to instil in students a deeper sense of the sacred and the importance of a healthy personal relationship with themselves, others and God.

Students commented afterwards that they enjoyed the days. They found them inspiring and encouraging. Hopefully they can face life's challenges while working on building a daily relationship with God.

Prefects and Student Council

Members of the Student Council and Prefects were privileged to have Liam Moroney (Chief Executive Youth work Ireland) facilitate at an induction workshop, on Wednesday 17th Oct. He guided both groups through their respective roles within the school and the duties attaching to these roles.



Visit to Mid-West Radio

On Thursday the 8th of November, LCA 2 visited Mid-West Radio in Ballyhaunis. This trip was necessary in order to fulfil one of their Key Assignments in English and Communication.

The students, accompanied by Mid-West's Gerry Glennon were given a tour of the studios, the offices, the Control Room, the Board Room etc. They were afforded the opportunity to experience hands-on live broadcasting under the guidance of staff.

Gerry gave the students an in-depth, informative account of day to day life in Mid West Radio. They also replied to their many interesting questions.

Michelle Taylor, on behalf of LCA 2 thanked Gerry for a very interesting and informative morning. The students returned to CCS fully equipped with all the skills and knowledge to undertake the assignment

TY Work Experience

TY students have participated in their work experience. They observed and tasted various aspects of the world of work. Hopefully this experience proved to be beneficial to them in the future. The students and staff would like to thank all the employers who provided them with this opportunity.

Psycho Spaghetti

On Monday October 15th, Transition Year Students attended Psycho Spaghetti in the Abbey Hotel. Psycho Spaghetti is a brilliant comedy show written specifically for teenagers. This hilarious one-man show written and performed by Ger Carey, takes a comic look at young people and the relationship they have with their teachers, friends and family. Overall, it was an excellent show which kept the full house of T.Y students captivated for almost two hours.

Cyber Bullying Talk

On Wednesday the 7th November John Wills from Barnardos gave a talk to parents on cyber-bullying. A large crowd attended on the night. John spoke about issues facing parents today with regard to internet use by children/teenagers both at home and on mobile devices. He outlined behaviour patterns for parents to be aware of in relation to recognising signs of cyber-bullying. The duration of the talk was two hours and John supplied handouts for parents on the night. The night was very informative.



First Year students presenting a cheque to John Wills Barnardos as a result of a fund-raising initiative.

Drug and Alcohol Awareness

As part of the Western Regions Drugs Task Force Regional Awareness week 2012 the T.Y class launched a "5 Fact" campaign "Don't be a fool, drugs aren't cool". The students visited all Tutor groups in the school highlighting factual messages about impact of underage drinking on young people. This campaign is supported by Project Match Castlerea. A number of the Transition Year students will also be actively involved in the Drug and Alcohol awareness day which will be held in the Old Mill Castlerea to raise awareness about drugs and alcohol.

Students Visit to Garda Station

Students from Room 4 visited the Castlerea Garda Station on Wednesday 28th November. Garda Maher kindly gave the group a talk on the work of the Garda Síochána and the group were given a full tour of the Station. The students were afforded the opportunity to see interview rooms and the holding cells as well as other areas within the station. The students also got a chance to see all the equipment the Gardaí use such as the finger- print machine and breathalyser.

We would like to thank Garda Maher for his informative tour of the station.

Physics Trip

Some Leaving Cert students attended the Cern Science Exhibition in Galway recently. It was a truly education experience.



Some of the Leaving Cert Physics Students at the Cern Accelerating Science Exhibition in Galway recently.

Mayo – Roscommon Hospice Talk

As part of their study for community work Transition Year and Leaving Cert Applied students invited a guest speaker from Mayo-Roscommon Hospice.

Andy Moran, who is the Development Officer, visited the school on 13th of November to speak to them about the work of the hospice. Andy's biggest role is to educate young people by raising awareness about the Foundation and its Palliative care service. He gave a very informative talk about the invaluable work of the hospice. He highlighted the importance of fundraising as it is vital to maintaining the services to the patients and their families. He encouraged young people to become involved in helping the Mayo-Roscommon Hospice through volunteering and fund raising. A number of students from TY and LCA have already been involved in work experience in the local hospice shop. The students are planning to organise a fund raiser to support this worthwhile cause in the near future. The students thanked Andy for taking the time out of his busy schedule to visit CCS.



Andy Moran with some of the CCS students and teachers Ms Ryan and Ms Callaghan during his recent visit to CCS



Busy Week for LCA 1

The LCA 1 group staged an Art Exhibition as part of their General Education Task on Thursday 29th November. The theme of the art exhibition was *Identity and Individuality*. The theme showcased the students beautiful array of lino printing, self-portrait paintings and mod-roc facial masks. First Year students were permitted to attend. Each first year was given a fairy cake prepared by the LCA students as a little memento of their visit to this exciting and innovative Art Exhibition. Ms. Connaughton and Ms. Comer, the teachers who anchored the task were delighted with the success of the exhibition.



LCA students at their Art Exhibition with Ms. Connaughton and Ms. Comer.

LCA Coffee Morning

LCA organised a coffee morning on Wednesday 28th November as part of their LCA Key Assignment task. In true Darina Allen style, they baked an assortment of delicious goodies to tempt the palates of fellow students. Teachers and students were impressed with the culinary skills of the LCA students. Ms Collins and the LCA students were pleased with the outcome of the coffee morning.

TY News

The T.Y students took part in The Trade Fair in The Hub on Sunday 9th of Dec. This was to showcase the products they made for their Mini-Companies. They thoroughly enjoyed their experience and would like to thank the public for their support.



Carol Service

Castlerea Community School's Carol Service took place on Wednesday 19th of December in the School Assembly Hall.

Families and friends of the school community were invited to the Service of Carols, Readings, Reflections and Prayers.

In Keeping with tradition this year's service had an Ecumenical and Multi-Cultural dimension.

A collection took place on the night for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

A truly uplifting and worthwhile experience was had by all. Well done to those involved.

Pictured left are the Students at the Enterprise day at the Hub where they displayed their Mini Companies. Also in the photo is Ms. Ryan Business Studies Teacher.

Gaisce Awards

President Michael D. Higgins personally sent his best wishes and congratulations to thirty-two Fifth Year and Transition Year students from Castlerea Community School who received their Gaisce Awards on Tuesday evening last. The award ceremony was held at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The students received their well-deserved award from Dr. James Browne, President of the University. Gaisce, the President's Award is the most prestigious Award in Ireland for young people aged 15 to 25.

In his address Dr. Browne spoke of the wonderful work done by young people. Unfortunately this is not frequently recognised by the press who highlighted the negative behaviour of the minority.

These thirty-two students completed many personal challenges to achieve this award. These challenges included learning a new personal skill, becoming more physically active, contributing to and building connections within the local community and undertaking an adventure trip where they hiked 26km over two days and camped out.

Mr. Patrick G.Callaghan, CEO of Gaisce and Mr. Hugh MacConville, Development Officer for the West were also in attendance. Mr. Callaghan highlighted the importance of challenging young people to strive to do better and become better. He said people are at their best when they are out of their comfort zones. He focused on the importance of decision making and summed it up and stressed that what we choose to do



The proud students were accompanied to the Gaisce Awards by their Principal, Ms. Mary Mullarkey, their President Award leaders; Ms. Aine Mullarkey, Ms. Catherine Kelly and Ms. Caithriona Moran.



Fun Pages

What are the names of the following towns in English?

Answers on page 13

1. An Uaimh
2. Cathair na Mart
3. Cúil an tSudaire
4. Neidín
5. Cluain Cearbán
6. Dúrlas Éile
7. An tAonach
8. Cora Droma Rúisc
9. Rath Luirc
10. Ceanannas

By Evan Brogan

Meaning of Placenames in Co Roscommon

Mainistir na Búille/Boyle - 'Monastery of the Boyle River'
Loch Glinne/Loughglinn - 'Lake of the Valley'
Dún Gar/ Frenchpark - 'The Fort of Favour'
An Caisleán Riabhach/Castlerea - 'Speckled Castle'
Beál na mBuillí/ Strokestown - 'The pass . . . of the ford of Strokes'
Bealach an Doirín/Ballaghadereen - 'The Way of the Little Oak'
Ail Finn/ Elphin - 'The Rock of the Clear Spring'
Baile an Locha/Ballinlough - 'Town of the Lake'
Ros Comáin/Roscommon - 'Saint Coman's Wood'
Baile an Tobair/Ballintobber - 'Settlement of the Well'
Lios Lochna/Castleplunkett - 'The Fort of the Lakes'

By Anita Bruen

Rivers of Ireland

Dublin on the Liffey,
Cork on the Lee,
Limerick on the Shannon,
With Lough Allen, Derg and Ree.

Waterford on the Suir,
Kilkenny on the Nore,
New Ross on the Barrow,
You've heard them all before.

Wexford on the Slaney,
Drogheda on the Boyne,
Belfast on the Lagan,
Derry on the Foyle.

Ballyshannon on the Erne,
Ballina on the Moy,
Galway on the Corrib,
And now to all - Goodbye!

Submitted by Andrew Lyons

Seanfhocail

1. Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste, ná Béarla cliste.
Broken Irish is better than clever English.
2. Aithníonn ciaróg ciaróg eile.
One cockroach recognises another.
3. Is glas iad na cnoic i bhfad uainn.
Faraway hills are green.
4. Is minic a bhris béal duine a shrón.
It is often that a person's mouth, broke his nose.
5. Níl aon tintéan mar do thintéan féin.
There is no fireplace like your own fireplace.
6. Is minic a bhíonn ciúin ciontach.
The quiet one is often guilty.
7. Is é do mhac do mhac inniú ach is í d'íníon d'íníon go deo.
Your son is your son today but your daughter is your daughter forever.
8. Dá fhada an lá tagann an trathnóna.
However long the day, the evening will come.
9. Tús maith leath na hoibre.
A good start is half the work.
10. Má tú ag lorg cara gan locht, beidh tú gan cara go deo.
If you are looking for a friend without a fault, you will be without a friend forever.

Aisling Kelly



TEACHERS PET HATES!

Ms O'Leary – Bullies

Ms Colleary – People who hold grudges, disrespect for elderly people.

Ms Galvin – Bad Manners and Arrogance.

Ms Kenny – Cheeky Students

Ms Connaughton – Negative attitudes and students who are always complaining.

Ms Harkin – Repeating myself to people who don't listen!

Mr Whitney – Chewing gum.

Ms Hurley – People who answer back and are rude.

Ms Connelly – Giddy students and random irrelevant stories.

Ms Fadden – Bad Manners.

Ms McNulty – People cracking their knuckles.

Mr Freyne – Bad Manners.

Mr Gooney – Daniel O'Donnell.

Mr O'Rourke – People not being on time.

Mr Henry – Students who always forget their PE gear or bad attitude.

By Colm Earley



Smile

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like a flu,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too,
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,
When he smiled, I realised I'd passed it on to him!

I thought about that smile and then I realised its worth,
A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

By Lorna Jane Burke

Riddles

1. There are three men in a car. They have been shot to death. There are no holes in the windows, doors etc. The car looks brand new. How did the men get shot?
2. A father and his son were in a car crash in which the Father died. The boy was hurt badly and rushed to hospital. When he came to the emergency room the surgeon, who was operating on him said, 'I can't operate on this little boy. He's my son. How can this be?'
3. There is a murder on a Sunday. A detective goes up to the butcher and asks him, 'What were you doing when the crime was committed'. The butcher said, 'I was chopping meat'. Next he asked the postman, and the postman said, 'I was delivering post'. Finally he asked the baker and the baker said, 'I was baking cupcakes'. Who committed the crime?
4. Three men went diving into a river but only two got their heads wet. Why?
5. A man lives in an 18th floor building. Every morning he gets in the elevator and pushes the first floor button. He gets out and goes to work. When he gets home he goes to the same elevator and pushes the button for the 12th floor. He gets out and walks up six floors to get to his apartment. Why?

1. They were in a convertible!
2. The surgeon was his mother.
3. The postman – he doesn't deliver post on a Sunday.
4. The third man was bald.
5. He was not tall enough to reach the button of the 18th floor.

Answers to Riddles



Ten Major Things that Happened in the Last Twenty Five Years.

1. In 1990, Nelson Mandela was freed from prison.
2. In 1991, the Cold War between the East and West ended, the Berlin Wall comes down.
3. In 2001, The World Trade Centre was hit by a hijacked plane in September.
4. In 2006, Google purchased Youtube for \$1.65 billion .
5. In 2007, Apple introduced the iPhone.
6. In 2008, Barack Obama was elected the first black President of America.
7. In 2009, Micheal Jackson was found dead.
8. In 2010, the earthquake in Haiti occurred.
9. n 2011, Prince William married Kate Middleton.
10. In 2012, the highest Skydive ever, took place. Felix Baumgartner, jumped from a skateboard sized shelf, outside the capsule that was carried into stratosphere by an enormous balloon.

By Louise Doyle

Are You Smarter Than A First Year CCS Student?

Answers on page 13.

Geography Round

1. List the three Balearic Islands.
2. The supercontinent that existed 200 million years ago is known as _____.
3. Name the rock found in the Giant's Causeway.

Science Round

1. List all seven characteristics of living things.
2. List the six constituents of a balanced diet.

Maths Round

1. An aeroplane lands at Rome on its way to Cairo. 183 people get off and 42 get on. If there were then 235 people on the plane, how many people were on the plane before it landed

History Round

1. What was the dye that the Celtic Warriors sometimes put on before battle?
2. What does the word Crannóg mean?
3. The rich Romans were known as _____ and the poor Romans were known as _____.

Babhta Gaeilge – Fíor nó Bréagach

1. Is é Enda Kenny ainm an Tánaiste?
2. Tá an Túr Eiffel i Meiriceá.
3. Is é an tUasail Mulhern príomhoide na scoile.

Religion Round

1. Who founded the organisation St Vincent de Paul?
2. Where did Jesus grow up?
3. What does the word Trócaire mean?

By Alana Bligh



The Lavin Brothers

The three Lavin brothers, who are my grand-uncles were very talented Irish traditional musicians. The music has been in our family for generations.

The eldest brother of three was Pake, who was born in 1908. Mick, who was the second oldest was born in 1914 and Jim, who was the youngest of the three was born in 1920. They were three of nine children. They were from Castlereah and stayed in Castlereah most of their lives.

The three brothers started playing music at a very young age of seven or eight and were established musicians long before Comhaltas Ceolteoirí Éireann was set up.

Pake played the Flute and the Uilleann Pipes. He worked in England for a while and then later travelled to America to stay there for about seven or eight years, then he returned to Ireland. He died in 1975 at the age of 69.

Mick also played the Flute and the Uilleann Pipes. He also spent some time working and returned to Ireland often. Years later he moved back to Castlereah. He died in 1980 at the age of 66.

Jim played the Flute, Uilleann Pipes and the Tin-Whistle. He never emigrated. He is very highly thought of (as are all of the Lavin brothers) in the Irish Music World. Jim is still alive and is 92 years of age since July of this year. He is still a resident of Castlereah.

The Lavin brothers played a lot of music together and there are a few recordings of them playing. They were fantastic musicians and are very well known for their Piping.

Róisín Igoe

The Irish Civil War

This year remembers the 90th anniversary of one of the most bitter conflicts our small island has ever witnessed – the Irish Civil War.

After the Anglo-Irish Treaty was passed, Ireland was divided. Many felt it was the best available deal at the time and as Michael Collins argued, it was a 'stepping stone', towards full independence. Others felt that signing the Treaty was an act of betrayal towards everything the IRA had fought for during the War of Independence. The IRA itself was split. Those within the IRA who didn't support the Treaty became known as the 'Irregulars'. They were angry that they had to swear an 'Oath of Allegiance', to the King of England, that the British retained control of the three large ports around Ireland and that the six counties of Northern Ireland remained partitioned. On 14th April 1922, the Irregulars led by Rory O'Connor took over the Four Courts and various other buildings across Dublin. After issuing several warnings and coming under great pressure from the British government, Michael Collins ordered his men to attack the Four Courts. Fighting continued for a few days but the Pro-Treaty side was much stronger and defeated the Anti-Treaty side quite easily. The Irregulars lost many men and leaders, such as Cathal Brugha.

Most of the civil war was fought in Munster and the Irregulars used guerrilla warfare to try and claim different towns around Munster. However, they were outnumbered and badly equipped to try and match the Pro-Treaty side. The Pro-Treaty side was given arms from Britain and had over 55,000 men by the end of 1922. Throughout the war terrible acts were committed by both sides.

The vast majority of the Irish public supported Michael Collins and the Provisional Government, and it did not take long for the Free State Army to win the Civil War. Arthur Griffith died from a suspected brain haemorrhage on the 12th August and Michael Collins was killed ten days later at Beal na Bláth in an ambush. Following the death of Liam Lynch, leader of the Irregulars, Eamonn de Valera convinced the new leader, Frank Aiken to call a truce. The Civil War was a significant event in Irish history and cost an estimated 4,000 lives.

By Ben McGovern

OUR COUNTY

I am from Roscommon
It's a great place to be
I live in Castleplunkett
Not far from Castlereah

When I look out my window
Oh! The view I can see
The landscape and sky and a
Turlough next to me

If you have never been to Roscommon before
I ask you to come and take a glimpse
Of the attractions to explore

There is so much to do for the
Young and the old
Between swimming and golf
And Bingo I'm told!

So come to our county for fun
And the craic, you won't be
Disappointed, I'll put my money on that.

Aoife Collins (1st Year)



John F Kennedy



John Fitzgerald Kennedy was born on the 29th, 1917 in Brooklyn. On the 20th January 1961, he became the 35th president of the United States of America. He was assassinated at 12.30 pm on Friday, November 22nd, 1963 in Dealey Plaza, Dallas, Texas. Kennedy was fatally shot while travelling with his wife Jacqueline, Texas Governor John Connolly and Nellie Connolly, in the Presidential motorcade. A ten month investigation by the Warren Commission concluded that Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald acting alone and that Jack Ruby had acted alone in shooting Oswald. The Commission's conclusions were initially supported by a majority of the American public. However polls conducted from 1966-2004, found that as many as 80% of Americans have suspected that there was a plot or cover-up.

Contrary to the Warren Commission, the United States House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that Kennedy might have been assassinated as a result of a conspiracy. The HSCA found the Warren Commission and original FBI investigation report to be seriously flawed. While agreeing with the Commission that Oswald fired all the shots which caused injuries to Governor John Connolly and killed Kennedy, the HSCA stated that there were at least four shots fired. They also concluded that there was a very high probability that two men fired at the President but this was never proven. Kennedy's assassination remains the subject of widespread debate and has spawned numerous conspiracy theories and alternative scenarios.

By Courtney Croghan

History Mystery

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860,
John F Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

Both were particularly concerned with civil rights,
Both wives lost their children while living in the White House.

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday,
Both Presidents were shot in the head.

It gets even more weird

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy,
Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln.

Both were assassinated by Southerners,
Both were succeeded by Southerners named Johnson.

And! Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808,
Lyndon Johnson who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839,
Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939.

Both assassins were known by their three names,
Both names are composed of fifteen letters.

Furthermore

Lincoln was shot at a theatre named 'Ford',
Kennedy was shot in a car called 'Lincoln' made by 'Ford'.

Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials.

Did You Know the following about Castlerea?

1. The Castlerea Musical Society was founded in 1968 and has put on 44 shows to date.
2. Castlerea railway station is 152 years old, one of the oldest railway stations in Ireland.
3. The last shot of the War of Independence was fired in Castlerea, when Sergeant James King, a member of the RIC, was shot dead on the 11th July 1921.
4. Castlerea is the birthplace of the first President of Ireland, Douglas Hyde.
5. Castlerea swimming pool is the oldest outdoor swimming pool in Ireland.
6. The population of Castlerea town is 3,055 people, however the population of the town and the rural areas surrounding it is 15,501.
7. Castlerea is the second largest town in the County.
8. Castlerea is one of the few towns that can claim to have a train in one of its pubs!
9. The town is the ancestral home of the O'Connor clan, who lived in Clonalis House.
10. Castlerea is twinned with Newark, New Jersey and Soulac Sur Mer, France.

By Ben McGovern



Safe Slurry Handling

Introduction

Slurry presents two particular safety and health problems – drowning and gas poisoning. Drowning is by far the most common cause of death involving slurry.

Toxic gases such as Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S), Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Ammonia and Methane are produced by bacteria during the decomposition of slurry. Hydrogen Sulphide gas is poisonous to humans and animals. It is fatal in seconds, one breath is enough. The Gas release is greatest when the crust is broken in the first thirty minutes of agitation.

Top Tips For Safe Slurry Handling.

All of the points listed below are very important for safe slurry handling:

Ventilate

- ❖ Choose a windy day if possible
- ❖ Open all doors and outlets

Evacuate

- ❖ All persons
- ❖ All animals

Agitate

- ❖ Do not stand near slats
- ❖ Do not enter the building for one hour
- ❖ Avoid smoking and naked flame

Protect Openings

- ❖ Install a manhole safety access cover
- ❖ If slat(s) has to be removed, provide adequate temporary protection of openings
- ❖ Warn children and visitors
- ❖ Use warning signs
- ❖ Never stand over slats or near tank access points when agitation is in progress

By Kevin Smyth



Answers to names of towns in Irish from page 8

Compassion.
 Nazareth
 Frederick Ozanam
 Religion Round
 Breağach
 Breağach
 Breağach
 Irish Round 4
 Patricians and Plebians
 A Young Tree
 Woad
 History Round 2
 Amylase
 Water.
 teins, Vitamins, Minerals,
 Carbohydrates, Fats, Pro-
 Response.
 production, Movement,
 Excretion, Growth, Re-
 Nutrition, Respiration,
 Science Round 2
 Basalt
 Pangea
 Majorca, Menorca, Ibiza
 Geography Round 1
 Answers to 'Are You Smarter than a First Year CCS student?' from page 10

FARM FACTS

- A cow can eat up to 20kg of hay and drink 75 litres of water every day.
- Dairy cows can yield 27 litres of milk a day.
- Cows that lay down more often tend to produce more milk.
- A cow spends six hours a day eating and with eight hours chewing their cud.
- A dairy sheep can yield two litres of milk a day. Sheep milk is commonly used in France.
- If the wool from one sheep was made into one single thread, it would be 200 km long.
- Sheep are shorn to keep them cooler.
- The largest pig on record named Bill, weighed 1,158 kilograms.
- The pig is rated as the fourth most intelligent animal.
- A Piglets tail is chopped off when it is born to prevent them biting it.
- Goats originated from the deer.
- In 1960, the average hen laid 193 eggs. Today the average hen lays 325 eggs a year.
- There is no nutritional difference between white and brown eggs.
- If chickens eat wheat, they will have pale yellow in their egg, and if they eat corn, they will have dark yellow yolks.

By Shane Gordon.



Facts on Hurricane Sandy

- Hurricane Sandy began in Jamaica on October 22nd, 2012.
- More than 12,000 flights were cancelled and the three main airports in America were shut down for two days.
- As a result of the damage there was no trading on Wall Street for two days.
- During the height of the storm there were over 3.5 million tweets with the hashtag #Sandy and about ten pictures per second were being uploaded to Instagram with the hashtag #Sandy.
- As a result of the storm, the Greenwich Village Halloween parade was postponed for the first time in the parade's history.
- The death toll was at least 149 people.
- Hurricane Sandy was named after award winning actress, Sandy Dennis.

By Sharon Shriane

Katie inspires Castlerea Ladies

Since Katie Taylor stepped foot into the public eye, female boxing has become more popular and trendy because they saw Katie advance so far and at such a young age. She has proven that girls are just as capable as males in this sport.

In our school alone, there are five female boxers competing in tournaments and competitions. Four of these girls come from Castlerea Boxing Club and they are Clodagh Raftery, Laura Harte, Laura Mulroy and Lois Walsh. The other female boxer in our school comes from Ballyhaunis Boxing Club and her name is Mary Collins.

Even though the girls come from different clubs, there's no rivalry between them. They all have the same goal and that is to get to the All Ireland Final or achieve even bigger dreams.

Who knows, could the future Katie Taylor hail from CCS?!

By Lois Walsh

INTERESTING FACTS

- You're more likely to die on your way to buy a lottery ticket than you are of actually winning the lottery.
- Women speak about 7,000 words a day. Men just speak over 2,000.
- Jellyfish evaporate in the sun. They're made up of 98% water.
- It cost seven million dollars to build the Titanic and 200 million to make a movie about it.
- An elephant can die from a broken heart.
- 2% of the Earth's people have red hair.
- A seashell next to your ear is the sound of your blood surging, not the ocean.
- A shrimp's heart is in its head.
- Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
- Every time you sneeze some of your brain cells die.
- Laughing lowers levels of stress hormones and strengthens the immune system. 1. Six year olds laugh an average of 300 times a day. Adults only laugh 15 to 100 times a day.
- Dalmatians are born without spots.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men. By Marissa Connell

From Brazil to Ireland

On March 2nd, 2006, my mother, brothers and I moved from Brazil to Ireland. I was six years old. It wasn't easy at all leaving our family behind to come to a foreign country where we didn't know the customs, culture or language.

My father had moved here a year before us. He loved it so much here that instead of going back to his home country, he brought his family to Ireland so we'd be close again.

I left from Goiania Airport to Sao Paulo, from there to Amsterdam and from Amsterdam to Dublin. I arrived here on Saturday, 3rd March 2006.

I really hated Ireland at first, but within time I got used to it. Getting used to the climate, time and especially learning the language were my hardest challenges. Ireland now doesn't seem half as bad as I thought it would be. I really do love it here now. I feel at home, I've lived more than half my life here. Now my hardest challenge will be leaving the country I have so much love for, to go back to my own country. For I know we will return but I know not when!

By Luana Camargo

Simple Steps to a Healthier You!

- Be loving to yourself – Tell yourself you are a good person, not perfect, nobody is, but you try your best.
- Count your blessings before bed – Think of three nice things that happened today.
- Don't ponder problems or make decisions in the middle of the night – Your brain can't process things then. Write a reminder for the next morning.
- Never lose hope – If it seems to be slipping away, phone a friend and share the problem.
- Make things fun – Wear bright colours, put on makeup, do your hair, play music during chores and reward yourself with flowers or a movie.
- Examine any wobbles – if you have done something wrong, put it right.
- Reach out to other people – Be nice, listen to other people and pay compliments.
- Cultivate peace – ask yourself what makes you feel peaceful and do more of it.

By: Rachel Smyth



CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

B	E	C	G	W	P	L	A	Q	V	D	H	X	I	R	M	E	P	L	Q
G	S	T	H	G	I	L	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	H	E	V	Y
G	E	V	H	R	Y	V	E	H	G	C	Y	O	Z	Q	R	Z	L	T	M
M	R	H	V	J	I	N	G	L	E	B	E	L	L	S	I	E	B	S	Y
I	C	I	C	L	E	S	G	D	H	T	I	N	A	A	B	C	T	U	N
S	Q	N	F	H	C	T	T	G	V	D	G	N	T	Z	G	D	B	Q	M
T	V	F	V	D	G	S	W	M	Q	M	P	N	C	U	R	B	S	G	E
L	Z	H	R	V	D	H	R	A	A	W	A	Q	M	S	T	A	B	L	E
E	F	W	N	P	Q	M	G	S	J	S	X	E	N	T	Z	T	E	W	N
T	W	N	D	H	V	E	H	V	E	E	T	Y	E	N	D	B	C	A	Y
O	A	B	T	I	N	S	E	L	I	F	X	R	R	E	S	W	N	C	U
E	S	F	H	R	B	X	B	W	K	C	U	L	E	S	R	N	C	X	T
T	D	W	B	F	D	U	R	S	V	A	J	G	V	E	E	J	H	R	B
W	V	X	U	G	A	V	E	H	M	A	N	G	E	R	R	C	I	V	E
W	N	Y	W	B	B	S	S	D	H	V	W	M	Y	P	A	G	M	V	S
P	Q	L	Z	M	W	G	D	B	D	Y	S	N	E	M	H	A	N	Y	C
F	A	H	F	X	L	Q	P	A	J	F	Z	M	U	D	V	S	E	R	W
N	F	C	G	S	V	S	G	R	T	C	C	W	K	H	D	R	Y	B	P

Find these words:

Christmas tree , Presents , Baubles , Tinsel , Christmas lights , Jingle Bells , Mistletoe , Manger , Crib , Stable, Santa , Chimney , Icicles .

Compiled by Luke Madden



SANTA CLAUS FACTS



- Santa Claus is a legendary figure who brings gifts to children at Christmas. He has been portrayed as a jolly, stout, white bearded man with twinkling eyes. He wears a red, fur-trimmed outfit and is usually pictured with a red nose.
- He travels in his sleigh which is pulled by his nine trustworthy reindeer – Rudolf, Dancer, Prancer, Vixon, Blitzen, Donor, Comet, Cupid and Dasher.
- The custom of giving gifts on a special day in Winter was practised before Christianity was founded. After Christianity was well established, Saint Nicholas became a symbol of the custom among Christians. During the Reformation of the 1500's, Protestants substituted non-religious characters for Saint Nicholas. In England, the saint was replaced by a gentleman called Father Christmas.
- The people of the Netherlands were especially fond of Saint Nicholas. English-speaking children spoke the Dutch name for the saint, Sinterklass, quickly and excitedly so that it sounded like Santy Claus or Santa Claus. Eventually Santa Claus became the most commonly used name.
- In some areas of Germany, gifts are delivered at Christmas time by Knecht Ruprecht (Saint Nicholas) or Christkind (Christ Child). From the name Christkind came the character Kris Kringle, the angel-like figure who brings gifts at Christmas.
- In France, Pere Noel leaves small presents in homes on Christmas Eve.
- Saint Nicholas was known to throw money through people's open windows at Christmas. One year he found that a window wasn't open in one of the houses so he threw it down the chimney instead. That's why today we think Santa comes down the chimney.
- In Germany, children fill their boots with carrots, straw or sugar for Santa's reindeer. Santa rewards them with gifts or candy.
- Santa Clause's suit was originally green, but in the 1930's Coca Cola advertised him in a red and white suit. Many other companies tried to do the same but it never caught on as much as Coca Cola's advertisement.
- In modern times we now believe that Santa Claus makes a list of all the children who are naughty and nice as it says in the popular Christmas song, 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'.

By Rebecca Moylan



THE SNOWMAN

I built a snowman yesterday and for his hair I
used some hay,
His eyes were made out of stone black coal,
And for a nose I left a hole,
I stuck a carrot long and thin,
In the hole, I laid it in.

In his belly I stuck two stones,
And I carved in some lines to look like bones,
I put a stick on either side,
Stuck them in quick, got some string and they
were tied.

I got some gloves, a scarf and hat,
I put them on and that was that,
My snowman was built, I was full of pride, I never
would have thought
That he would have died.

I woke up next morning so excited that I did the
limbo,
Thinking my snowman was outside the window,
I ran downstairs and got into a muddle,
For all I could see was one giant puddle.

My Mammy told me my snowman had died,
And there for an hour I sat and cried
I had never felt so upset,
So my Daddy got me a new pet.

Three years on I'm still rubbing my cat,
But I will not build a snowman and that is that,
So don't try make me or I will cry,
Because I know now that he is going to die.

I love my cat so soft he felt
And I know that he is not going to melt.

Sarah Mee