



“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

Malcolm Forbes

“Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don’t.”

Pete Seeger



Success for Swimmers -

Sarah Kelly, a Junior Cert. student, travelled to Florida before Christmas to train with the Irish Senior Swimming Squad. Sarah said it was a great experience.

Her aim is to qualify for the Olympics in 2016. Sarah sees herself in 5 years time getting ready for the World Championships. Her advice to other fellow swimmers is “to try hard and to just follow your dreams”.

We wish Sarah the very best of luck in her future career of swimming and hope she’ll bring home gold in the 2016 Olympics.



Sarah Kelly

Shannon Caulfield: Congratulations to Shannon Caulfield, 1st year, on her win in the 50m Butterfly swim which was part of the Community Games held in Roscommon. Shannon took part in the All-Ireland Finals at the end of May in the same event where she performed very well.

Romy Madden: Romy, a past pupil of CCS represented UCD in the All-Ireland Intersvarsity Swimming Finals. Romy was selected to represent Ireland in the Celtic Nations Intersvarsities.

5th Year Retreat

On Friday 19th April, 5th year students from Castlerea Community School attended a ‘Faith and Life Celebration’ organised by the Diocese of Elphin. This day was open to all schools in the diocese. The day included song and reflection. Students were also given an excellent personal experience by Billy Shortt who grew up in the North and had troubled teenage years before finding faith. Marian Carroll gave an inspiring account of her life-changing experience in Knock in 1989 when she was cured from multiple sclerosis. Fr. Conal O’Cuinn who is a priest with many years’ experience engaged positively with the teenagers and their faith. A reflective, thought-provoking and enjoyable day was had by all.

Galway Rape Crisis Talk

In January a guest speaker, Suzanne Bonner from the Galway Rape Crisis Centre spoke to Leaving Cert. students. This is part of their Education Programme which aims to educate and challenge young people around the area of sexual violence. She also addressed a range of health related issues. Students found this talk most beneficial

“Romeo and Juliet”

On Tuesday the 7th of May 2nd Year students travelled to the TF in Castlebar for the Icarus Theatre Collective production of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”. In all 46 students made the trip and were accompanied by their English teachers Ms. Mullarkey and Ms. Fadden. The collection of eight actors from Southsea in England put on an energetic and entertaining performance for their young audience and indeed it was an enjoyable experience for the students. It will undoubtedly aid them in their studies.



Variety Show

A variety concert was presented in Castlerea Community School on the 20th March 2013. The show was organised by the TY students with the support of staff. It consisted of a variety of acts including singing, dancing, comedy sketches and music etc. A raffle was organised with the prizes donated by local businesses. The M.C.s on the night were Shauna Russell and Kevin Igoe who kept the show running smoothly. The huge crowd which attended were awed by the outstanding talent and enthusiasm of the performers. The show would not have been possible without the support of the many teachers who willingly gave of their time both in preparation for the show and on the night. A great night was had by all.

Gaisce Adventure Trip

Despite unfavourable weather conditions the thirty students taking part in the Gaisce Awards this year bravely journeyed to Lilliput Adventure Centre in Mullingar to complete the Adventure Journey section of the Award. The group consisted of 11 silver and 19 bronze participants. The trip took place from the 13th to the 15th May. It was a fun and thoroughly enjoyable experience for those involved and they now look forward to receiving their awards later in the year. They were accompanied on the trip by their mentors Ms. Áine Mullarkey and Ms. Caitríona Moran.



Gaisce students who visited Lilliput in May.



“Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way”

Booker T. Washington

“Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.”

B. Skinner



Performance of “Macbeth”

On Wednesday 23rd February, the Senior English students at CCS were treated to an outstanding performance of “Macbeth”. The performance was staged by a company - “Boil in the Bag Productions”. This company is co-owned by Orlaith Rafter (best known for playing the character Robyn Doyle in “Fair City”) and Eamonn Owens (best known for his lead role in the film “The Butcher Boy”). The performance focused on the key scenes in the play and performed them in the traditional fashion; they then took these scenes and performed them in a modern-day situation. The students found that the performance helped them see the play in a new light and aided their understanding of some of the key scenes. The performance was a huge success and enjoyed thoroughly by students and teachers alike..



English teacher Ms Laura McCann and students with Orlaith Rafter and Eamon Owens following an enjoyable performance of “Macbeth”.

Basketball

Commiserations to the Senior Boys’ Basketball Team who were beaten in the All-Ireland Schools’ Cup semi-Final.

Incoming 1st Year Induction Day.

Incoming first years for the school year 2013/2014 were afforded the opportunity to participate in an Induction Day. Lunch was provided for the students. The afternoon proved a wonderful success with students participating in numerous team-building activities where students integrated and got to meet students from other schools in the area. This should help to ease the transition from Primary School to Secondary School in late August!

Down Syndrome Ireland Fundraiser



TY Students presenting a cheque for €739.90 as a result of the Honey Days Collection in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland to Mrs Deborah Thomas Branch Secretary. The proceeds are divided between Head Office and the Local Branch.

The Power of “No”

The transition from teenager to adult life can be very difficult and even traumatic at times. The learning curve of the teenage years is very sharp and the influences of those short six years have a profound effect on the adult life stage.

During those formative years young people need to develop independence and self-discipline. This message was brought home to Junior Cert. students by Marian Keigher and Carol Murray from Vita House recently in their presentation entitled “The Power of No”.

The main purpose of this talk was to get students to reflect on the decisions they make. Students found this a worthwhile exercise. They said it equipped them with strategies to resist peer-pressure.



3rd Year students who attended a recent talk on The Power of “No”. Also included in the picture were Ms. Marian Keigher, Ms. Pauline Fadden (Teacher) and Ms. Carol Murray



"A mistake is simply another way of doing things."

Katherine Graham

"Teachers open the door but you must enter yourself."

Chinese proverb



Leaving Cert. Chemistry Trip



Pictured above are the Leaving Cert. Chemistry Class with their teacher Mr. McCormack on a visit to the Castlereagh Sewage Treatment Plant.

On Thursday Feb 28th the Leaving Cert. Chemistry class, accompanied by their teacher Mr. McCormack visited Castlereagh Sewage Treatment Plant. They were provided with a very informative and enjoyable tour of the plant by Mr. Colm Larkin to whom we wish to express our sincere thanks. As sewage treatment and water treatment are on the Leaving Cert. syllabus this visit proved to be a very rewarding exercise for the students. The students took samples of the final effluent back with them for further analysis in the school laboratory.

3rd Year Trip to Knock



3rd Year students at the Apparition Chapel in Knock.

On the 20th February, 3rd year students visited Knock. This trip was organised as part of their Junior Cert. Religion class where they are required to investigate a place of importance. All students were given a guided tour of the grounds where the tour guide Ann-Marie gave an excellent account of the Apparition and the significance of Knock to millions of people today. Then they visited the museum which offered a fantastic insight into life in Ireland at this time through the many artefacts and witness accounts available. An enjoyable and educational experience was had by all.

Senior History Trip

On Tuesday 19th February, a group of 28 5th and 6th year History students, accompanied by Ms. O' Dea and Mr. Gooney, travelled to Dublin to visit Glasnevin Cemetery and the National Museum at Collins Barracks. The day began in Glasnevin with a guided walking tour of the graves of famous people in Irish history, including Daniel O'Connell, Roger Casement, Charles Stewart Parnell, Eamon DeValera and Rory O'Connor. The highlight of the tour for many was standing at the grave of Michael Collins. The group then moved on to Collins Barracks.

These visits were a valuable exercise in bringing to life some of the key personalities and events that are studied on the Leaving Cert. course.



The Senior History Students at Glasnevin Cemetery accompanied by Ms. O'Dea and Mr. Gooney



“The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.”

William James

“The only real failure in life is one not learned from.”

Anthony. D’Angelo



LCA.



Photographed in the newly revamped school library are the Castlerea Community School LCA Year 1 and Year 2 students having received certification of their Leaving Certificate Credits for session 1 and 3. LCA Years 1 and 2 received Certification of their Leaving Cert. Credits for Session 1 and Session 3 respectively. The majority of these students received Merits or Distinctions for their tasks, projects and module work. Congratulations to the students on their work and to the teachers who guided them.

1st Year Retreat.

On March 19th & 20th first year students availed of a challenging, experiential and innovative Christian Retreat Programme. The students were facilitated by Sr. Mae McManus-(Galilee Community). Students commented afterwards that they enjoyed the days. They found them inspiring and encouraging.

Ladies Football

All -Star Awards

Congratulations to Richael Timothy who received an All-Star Award at the Green Farm Foods Connaught Ladies Gaelic football Elite Stars Banquet in Breaffy House, Castlebar on Sunday 20th January. Richael participated with the Connaught Ladies football team in the Post Primary Schools Interprovincial Competition in Kinnegad.



Senior Art Trip



5th and 6th Year students at the Model Art Gallery in Sligo.

5th Year and Leaving Cert Art Class students took a trip to the Model Art Gallery in Sligo. Students visited the gallery in preparation for their Leaving Cert Art History exam.

Walk For Water

On Thursday, 28th February the school had a visit from Fr. John Laizer CSSp. and Ann Farrell (Plan Ireland). Fr. John was promoting the “Walk For Water” which took place on Monday, 18th March

On the day he was warmly received by students from all Year Groups. He gave them an insight into life in his native village of Monduli, Tanzania. He explained about their limited means and how education was crucial to their progression. Water has always been a big issue in this area and now, with climate change, the rain is even more infrequent. This impacts on the lives of women in particular who may have to walk long distances carrying heavy containers of water on their heads. The money raised from the walk will directly fund a water project which will make a positive difference to their lives



Fr John Laizer with some students from CCS promoting the “Walk For Water”.

LCA Hotel & Catering Task



LCA 1 students displaying the confectionary they made for Mother’s Day as part of their Hotel and Catering Task.



“Correction does much but encouragement does more.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“The entire fruit is already present in the seed.”

Tertullian



All - Ireland Debating



Pictured above are the 1st Year Debating Team, Sara Sharkey, Luke Madden, Dean Manning and Laoise Miley with mentors Mrs Galvin and Ms Hanbury receiving their Silver Medals at the All Ireland Community Games Finals recently.

Congratulations to 1st Year CCS students Sara Sharkey, Luke Madden, Laoise Miley and Dean Manning who were Silver Medal Winners in the All-Ireland U-14 Community Games Debating Competition. Qualifying for this competition necessitated preparing 10 different topics. Representing County Roscommon, these students spoke most convincingly and eloquently at each stage of the competition. The topic for the semi-final was “That this house believes Sport should be all about participation.” After having given an inspirational and informative speech they advanced to the All-Ireland Final. Their given topic in the Final was “That this house would make voting compulsory”. Once again the students were extremely enlightened, knowledgeable and persuasive and were indeed worthy Silver Medallists. A truly wonderful achievement.

Trip To Lourdes

Four students travelled to Lourdes during the Easter holidays with the Irish Pilgrimage Trust where they spent one week. The students were randomly chosen from all the applicants. They attended the International Mass and visited the Grotto. On their visit they went into the Holy Baths and they also visited St Bernadette’s house. A great time was had by all and they would love to return again sometime in the future.



Students who travelled to Lourdes over the Easter were L to R Niamh Cooke, Sarah Louise King, Lee Corrigan. Missing from Photo was Siobhan Cahill

Young Social Innovator



TY students taking part in the Young Social Innovator Project.

The Transition Year students travelled to the Ardilaun Hotel in Galway on Tuesday 12th March to showcase their Young Social Innovator project. The YSI encourages students to act on a social issue within the community that they feel needs to be improved. This year, the students decided to focus on Road Safety. They believe that the area outside their school needs improvement in the form of a pedestrian crossing. They have been promoting their idea throughout the community and so far the feedback has been good. The students contacted two of their local TDs to ask for their assistance. They were successful in their endeavour as their action plan was put before Roscommon County Council. However, due to lack of funding the issue cannot be addressed at the moment. The day in Galway was a Speak-Out in which all the schools in the region who are took part in the YSI were given the opportunity to display the work they had done. The Transition Year students at CCS put on a marvellous display. They took to the stage to showcase the dangers on our roads today and they also used the opportunity to highlight the dangers of using your mobile phone when around traffic. Through the use of a car and a mobile phone (shown in the photo above), the students were able to get the point across that, with a little awareness we can all work together to make our roads a safer place. The display was well-received by the audience.



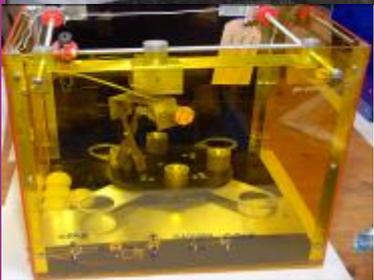
Sincere sympathy to members of Staff who have been bereaved this school year:-

Breege Doyle on the death of her sister Mary, James Reidy on the death of his mother Sarah, Damien O'Rourke on the death of his father Michael, Laurence Freyne on the death of his wife Máire, Joe Mulhern on the death of his father John, Julie O'Dea on the death of her sister Mary, Mary Croghan on the death of her sister Anne, Joan Farrell on the death of her father Harry, Edward Rowntree on the death of his father Eamon, Rosaleen Reilly on the death of her mother Maureen and to all members of the wider school community who have also been bereaved this year..

“Go suaimhní said i síocháin”

Samples of Student Project Work

“Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what the.” are capable of being.
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



“To youth I have but three words of counsel – work, work, work”
Otto von Bismarck

