

CLUNY

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Cluny Class of 2009. Where they are now.
- Cluny Book-worm Club
- Debating in English, Irish & French
- International Cookery in TY Culinary Arts
- Sporting Achievements

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Newsletter

ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2009

Smiles all round!



School News

Dear Friends,

As you are aware by now, our Principal, Mary White has been unwell and is receiving medical care at this time. She is recovering rapidly and we look forward to her return in the Spring.

We keep her in our thoughts and prayers and she has told me that the cards and letters which constantly arrive from the girls give her huge comfort and a lot of laughs too!

In the meantime, I am proud and honoured to be the acting principal of such an outstanding school. I am inspired daily by our students, teachers and staff, all working together to achieve excellence, to create a caring school community whilst preparing to contribute in a meaningful way to our society.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

We have had a very busy and successful first term so far.



Our Second, Third and Sixth Year Parent-Teacher Meetings have taken place and we would like to thank you for taking the time to come to the school and showing such support for the work that we do here. Your involvement as a parent makes a huge difference in successful student learning, and your presence as an involved parent adds quality to our school family.

The installation of new windows throughout the school is almost complete and next year's project involves water conservation, all in line with our Green Schools ethos.

We have weathered the storm of an industrial-action day and we thank you for your cooperation at that time.

The school is currently reviewing its Code of Behaviour and to that effect, an audit is being conducted in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Schools'. A Questionnaire is currently being completed by students, parents and staff. The Parent Questionnaire

was presented to all members of the Parents Association on Nov 30th and then to five randomly selected parents from each class list. Student Questionnaires have been administered to randomly selected students.

The Student Council have been working closely with the Parents Association to create the first 'Cluny Calendar'. It includes year group photographs and art work produced by the students. A special commendation has to go to Denise French (parent) for her work in enlisting the services of Joe Cunningham the photographer, securing sponsorship and her involvement in the selection processes. She has worked closely with Molly Brady Martin and Rebecca Dwyer (our Head and Deputy Head Girls respectively) and together they have managed to get the calendar printed and ready for sale within the selected deadline. After printing costs are met, all monies will go to the charity The Children's Hospice. Well done to all!

DURING THE TERM

SEPTEMBER

The class of 2009 returned for their Debs reception, hosted so generously yet again by the Parents Association. The glamour of these young ladies was Hollywood-worthy! Three of the same group, Rebecca Fox (UCD), Jane Maguire (UCD) and Aisling Franciosi (TCD) received Higher Achievement/Entrance Exhibition awards from their chosen universities and we are so proud of them and congratulate them on their prize-winning results.

Our Transition Year students, having received superb Junior Certificate results the day before, headed off to Recess in Co. Galway for an orienteering weekend. Great fun was had by all and there were plenty of photos to prove it.



'... all working togetherine to achieve excellence , to create a caring school community...'

School News

OCTOBER



Our Fifth Year students presented the school musical 'Fame' and played to capacity audiences in October. Irene Burke (producer), along with John O'Farrell (musical director) and Debbie Kirwan (choreographer) once again delivered a Broadway standard show which had the audiences clapping, cheering and singing along. We extend our thanks to the boys from our neighbouring schools for completing the cast. *[To mention one such neighbouring school, Clonkeen College staged their annual Pantomime 'The Gingerbread Man' during the first week of December. This was a great fun event and some of our girls were included in their cast thus sharing talent and building on the spirit of collegiality which exists between our schools.]*

Our Sixth Years having twined with their First Year 'Buddies', organized a 'coffee morning' get-to-know-you event and are currently planning an outing with the First Years just before Christmas. The Hallowe'en Fun day on October 23rd (where we all donned costumes, some cute and some very clever designs!) raised €750 for The Children's Hospice the students' chosen Charity for this year.

NOVEMBER

Our annual Science Week took place between Nov 9th and 13th with its usual learning-through-fun events such as quizzes, puzzles, guessing games and explorations. During the week our exhibition skeleton, 'Mr No-Body' managed to develop bright blue eyes and a pouty red mouth! Rather strange, but then again, maybe there's a scientific explanation for the phenomenon!



The Sierra Leone House headed by Emma Lynam managed to secure a visit from the Head of the Cluny mission in Sierra Leone, Sr Anne. After addressing a gathering of the entire school body, she made a special presentation about the mission, the work of the sisters and the need for constant support, such as that which our school offers.

The Parents Association in conjunction with the Guidance department presented a very successful Careers Evening on the 19th. They enlisted the voluntary services of many generous professionals who made themselves available to meet with our students and discuss their work and careers and we thank them most sincerely.

DECEMBER

First, Second and Fifth Year Exams have taken place and now we find ourselves in the season of Advent with Christmas getting closer and closer!

The Transition Years have again undertaken the project 'TY Tree for V De P' and those of you visiting the school will see this beautiful tree in the foyer. The Art Department has created an 'Advent Candle' which contains paintings from St Luke's Gospel.



'It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.' (Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986.)

Using the words of our pope as inspiration for our theme, the Music and Religious Education Departments presented our annual Carol Service on Tuesday Dec 15th. A huge crowd attended. Our wonderful Parents Association again provide tea/coffee and mince pies at the end of the evening and a great night was had by all.

Finally, a health warning with a difference!

ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.

An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.

A loss of interest in judging other people.

A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.

A loss of interest in conflict.

A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)

Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.

Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.

Frequent attacks of smiling.

An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.

An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

PS The school will not provide vaccinations for this virus!!!!

To one and all... A Happy and Peaceful Christmas
Caroline Lundy (Acting Principal)

Leaving Certificate Class 2009

Congratulations to all students who sat their leaving certificate this year. We are extremely proud of them and wish them happiness and success in their chosen careers.

Outline of results and destinations: seventy - four students

HONOURS	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	PASS
<u>Numbers attaining</u>	8	21	21	12	6	2	0	4

points	550-600	500-550	450-500	400-450	350-400	300-350	<300
<u>No of students attaining</u>	2	14	8	15	18	7	10

DEGREES

University College Dublin

Arts	7
General Nursing	2
Engineering	1
Neuroscience	2
Psychology	1
Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences	1
Science	7
Sports Management	1
Business and Law	1
International Modern languages	1
International German	1
Commerce	1
Economics and Politics	1

Trinity College Dublin

Science	2
BESS	1
European Studies	1
Engineering	1
English Literature and German	1
Physiotherapy	1
Italian and French	1
Spanish and French	1

National University of Ireland

Maynooth

Anthropology	1
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Dublin Institute of Technology

Business and Management	1
Tourism Marketing	2
Retail and Services Management	1
Nutraceuticals in Health and Nutrition	1

Civil Engineering	1
Media Arts	1
Product Design	1
Business and Retail Management	1
Hospitality Management	1

IADT Dun Laoghaire

Psychology	2
Applied Psychology	1

IT Tallaght

Social care practice	2
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Blanchardstown IT

Social care practice	2
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Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Medicine	1
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Dublin Business School

Social Science	1
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UK

Science	1
Computer science	1
Drama and theatre	1
Sound Engineering	1

Post Leaving Certificate Courses

Beauty Therapy	1
Fashion Design	2
Leisure Management and Fitness Instructor	1

<u>Working/Repeating</u>	4
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**Congratulations
to all the class
of '09 on their
great Leaving
Cert results.**



Study Skills

Session 1

The first Study Skills session for all classes was held on 09 November with the help of the class teacher. The purpose of this session was to raise student awareness of the importance of organized study.

Each year had a different emphasis depending on the needs of that year. Aspects of study for all years includes planning skills, guidelines for exam preparation and a reminder of the importance of going back over the class work.

Sixth and Third Year had a study skills day run by a professional study skills company at the

very beginning of the year. The feedback from both groups has been extremely positive. The students were provided with practical and useful advice, we hope will be put into practice.

There are lots of resources on study skills available, through books, skool.ie etc. Help from the subject teachers, Tutor or myself is available at any time, just ask!

Ms Dullaghan, Study Skills Co-Ordinator



Useful study skills websites:

<http://www.skool.ie/>

[examcentre](http://www.examcentre.com/)

<http://www.moresuccess.ie/>

[content/Studyskills](http://www.content/Studyskills.com/)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

[schools/studentlife/](http://www.schools/studentlife.com/)

[revisionandskills](http://www.revisionandskills.com/)

http://www.revise.ie

<http://how-to-study.com>

New Books available in Library

New books added to Cluny Library's stock since September 2009

Fiction:

Abdel-Fattah, Randa:	Where the streets had a name
Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi	Purple hibiscus
Ashley, Bernard	No way to go
Blundell, Judy	What I saw and how I lied
Christopher, Lucy	Stolen
Collins, Suzanne	The hunger games
Cooper, Susan	Victory
Curtis, Vanessa	Zelah Green: queen of clean
Dessen, Sarah	Lock & key
Doherty, Berlin	A beautiful place for a murder
Falkner, Brian	The super freak
Fisher, Catherine	Incarceron
Fisher, Catherine	Sapphique
Fombelle, Timothée de	Toby alone
Fombelle, Timothée de	Toby and the secrets of the tree
Geras, Adèle	Dido
Halberstam, Gaby	The red dress
Hoffman, Mary	Troubadour
Horowitz, Anthony	Necropolis
Hyde, Lily	Dreamland
Impey, Rose	Six feet deep
Lake, Nick	The secret ministry of frost
Lanagan, Margo	Tender morsels
Lovric, Michelle	The undrowned child
McGann, Oisín	The wisdom of dead men
Michael, Livi	Faerie heart
Mitchell, Jane	Chalkline
Pettersen, Per	Out stealing horses
Picoult, Jodi	My sister's keeper
Prue, Sally	Wheels of war
Rai, Bali	City of ghosts
Rose, Malcolm	Forbidden island
Rosoff, Meg	The bride's farewell
Sedgwick, Marcus	Revolver
Speyer, Chris	Devil's rock
Smelcer, John E.	The great death
Ward, Rachel	Numbers
Wilson, Jacqueline	Hetty Feather

Irish books

Colfer, Eoin	Artemis Fowl
Harrison, Cora	Dhá chorp
Lyons, Claire	Lasair na gréine
Mullen, Michael	Na seolta bána
Ní Dhuibhne, Éilis	Dún an airgid
Ní Ghlinn, Áine	Tromluí
Ní Ghuairim, Aoife	An tádh dearg
O'Connor, Seán	Seán Ruiséal agus an guth istoíche
Ó Murchadha, Frainge	Idir dhá chomhairle
Ó Neachtain, Joe Steve	Lámh láidir
Ó Raghallaigh, Colmán	An tóraíocht
Ó Raghallaigh, Colmán	An Táin
Ó Raghallaigh, Colmán	An sclábhái
Ó Raghallaigh, Colmán	Deirdre agus Mic Uisnigh
Ó Raghallaigh, Colmán	Strainséiri
Parkinson, Siobhán	Dialann sár-rúnda: Amy Ní Chonchúir
Titley, Alan	Amach
Ua Cearnaigh, Seán	Gleann na mistéire
Wynn Jones, Sioned	Coinnigh do mhisneach
Maclean, Malcolm	An leabhar mor = The great book of Gaelic
Ní Dhomhnaill, Nuala	Pharaoh's daughter
Ní Ghearbhuigh, Ailbhe	Péacadh
Ní Mhurchú, Maria	Duilleoga draíochta
Ó Neachtain, Joe Steve	An Dé deiridh
Cloake, Fionnuala	Ceist agam ort!
O'Donoghue, Jo	Favourite Irish proverbs

Irish History

Hunt, Gerry	Blood upon the Rose – Easter 1916
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Biography

Chatwin, Bruce	In Patagonia
Coetzee, J. M.	Boyhood: scenes from provincial life
Busby, Cylin	The year we disappeared: a father-daughter memoir

1st Year Parents Evening



'... The whole night was a success from the speakers to the musicians to the cakes!'

On the 3rd of November 1st years had their parents evening. The whole evening was very enjoyable. The evening started with Mrs Lundy making a speech about the school, its rules and how the school runs. After Mrs Lundy's speech, our new Guidance Counsellor took the floor. This was a chance for our parents and my fellow 1st years to meet our new Guidance Counsellor Mrs Kelly for the first time. When Mrs Kelly was finished everyone had settled down and was ready for that night's events. Some girls from 1Y got up and talked about their subjects choices. They were followed by girls from 1X who talked about the school's sports that many of us take part in. Then girls from 1W talked about the societies and the activities during lunch such as drama and choir. The night did not only have students and teachers talking about the school, It also featured three musical performances: Ciara Mc Keown played the piano, I (Naomi Carney) sang and Aoife O'Driscoll played the violin. Before parents and students were

allowed to leave their seats to grab a cake and socialize. All the 1st years performed the song "A Whole New World" together up on the choir stands. We finished our song and rushed for the cakes. Of course the whole point of the evening was to introduce our parents to other parents that they didn't already know. I think the whole night was a success from the speakers to the musicians to the cakes! (Which were made by the two Home Economics classes in 1st Year.)

By Naomi Carney



Reflection of a 1st Year Student

Hi my name is Niamh Plunkett. I started in First Year in September 2009. So far I've had a great time. I think I can say that everyone in first year has made friends and is settling in well.

It's fun doing all the new subjects you can do like Music, Home Economics and doing science experiments. It's really different moving from classroom to classroom, having a timetable

and having lots of different teachers. But we're all getting used to it.

We also have buddies in 6th Year. I think it's good because then you can recognise one more person in the school, and it's not someone in your year.

Everyone is enjoying first year so far and we are all looking forward to the rest of the year, (except for the Christmas tests).



Science Week—Quiz



Eyes down!

National Science Week 2009 was held from 8th to 15th November. During this week a number of events and competitions were held at St Joseph of Cluny. These included a science table quiz for 1st and 6th year 'buddies', a wordsearch competition and a science poster competition. A science debate was also held by the 5th years. The motion debated was Science, A Threat to Humanity. Science Week in St Joseph of Cluny was a great success. There was terrific involvement and participation by students from all year groups and it was greatly enjoyed by all. Congratulations to everyone involved

and well done to all our competition winners.

Poster competition winner:

Aoibheann Mc Guirk (2nd yr)

Wordsearch competition winner:

Lorna Carroll (3rd yr)

Table quiz winners:

1st Place:

Rebecca Dwyer (6th Yr)

Kate O Donoghue (6th Yr)

Lauren Higgins (1st yr)

Orla Meehan (1st Yr)

2nd Place:

Sarah Cooper (6th Yr)

Rina Watanabe (6th Yr)

Clíodhna Gillen (6th Yr)

Kim Taylor (1st Yr)

Grace Hickey (1st Yr)

Clare McHale (1st Yr)

1st Years and

6th Year

Buddies team

up for a great

afternoon of

fun &

learning.



Exhibition Debate

3rd Years put on an exhibition debate for 1st Years in October to start off the debate season.

Emma Crotty, Lauren Foster Ryan and Leah Moran proposed the motion "That this house would abolish school uniform". The motion was opposed by Megan Ross, Eleanor O'Mahony and Katie O'Byrne.

It was an enthusiastic and lively debate and the motion was carried by Emma, Lauren and Leah. Leah's dry wit won her the Best Speaker Award.

The 1st Years are chomping at the bit to start their own engagement with current topics.



Enthusiastic audience

Junior Achievement Programme

For six weeks, our Business Studies class took part in a Junior Achievement programme. It was delivered by Simone Harney from Baxter Healthcare.

We learnt about personal economics, making good first impressions and how to keep a household budget. We also learnt the do's and don'ts of interviews.

Our business class really enjoyed the programme and we learnt lots of skills for life.
Ayo Arogundade 2Y



Ms. Simone Harney, Human Resource Manager, Baxter Healthcare with Mrs Smyth's Second Year Business Studies class.

Díospóireacht Gael Linn



díospóireacht ar siúl i scoil Mainistir Loreto Foxrock. Bhí Coláiste Naomh Conleth agus Mainistir Loreto Deilginis ag glacadh páirt freisin. Ní raibh Sadbh ag caint ach bhí sí sa lucht éisteacha le Nicole O'Hara. Tháing an t-Uasal Ó Murcú agus Ms. Breheny freisin chun muid a thacú.

Ar dtús, thosaigh an Cathaoirleach ag caint linn. Tar éis sin, thosaigh na cainteoirí ag labhairt. Nuair a bhí gach duine críochnaithe ag caint, d'imigh na moltóirí chun na buaiteoirí a roghnú. Bhuaigh Coláiste Naomh Conleth agus Mainistir Loreto Deilginis ach dúirt na mholtóirí go raibh caighdeán an-ard ag gach aon duine. Níor bhuamar ach fuairamar taithí an-mhaith. D'fhoghlaimíomar a lán níos mó Gaeilge agus bhí a lán spraoi againn.

Eleanor O'Mahony 3y.

Rinne mise, Katie O'Byrne, Megan Ross agus Sadbh Frison Roche Díospóireacht Gael linn dhá seachtaine ó shin. Ba é an rún a bhí os ár gcomhair ná 'gur Cheart dúinn ár gcuid laethanta saoire a chaitheamh in Éirinn. Bhí ár bhfoireann I gcoinne an rún. Fuairamar an rún dhá seachtaine roimh an dhíospóireacht. Bhuaileamar leis an t-Uasal Ó Murcú ag am lóin. D'inis sé dúinn conas an díospóireacht a dhéanamh as Gaeilge. D'ullmhaíomar ár n-óraid abhaile. Thug ár múinteoir Gaeilge Ms. Hackett cabhair dúinn. Tar éis a lán oibre agus cleachtaithe, tháinig an lá. Bhí an

Junior Achievers!

"D'fhoghlaimíomar a lán níos mó Gaeilge agus bhí a lán spraoi againn."

El 'Open Day' En La Clase De Español

¡Hola Amigos! El primer de octubre, as you probably know, Cluny had a very successful open day. ¡La Clase de español fue fantástica!

The room was brightly decorated in rojo y amarillo. Había comida sabrosa por ejemplo, tortillas y salsa. Jugamos muchos juegos como pin the tail en el toro, hopscotch en Español, face-painting y Spanish quiz. Escuchamos la música española while las chicas nuevas got to meet las chicas de Cluny y nuestra profesora extraordinaria

Señora Coleman! Fue muy exitoso y esperamos que we encouraged everyone to learn this great language y to visit Spain. We had a great time- Lo pasamos bomba- We hope you did too!!

By Rebecca Blake 3W & Niamh Casey 3X

With help from Sophie Byrne, Lauren Foster Ryan, Fiona Fagan and Caitriona Fay.



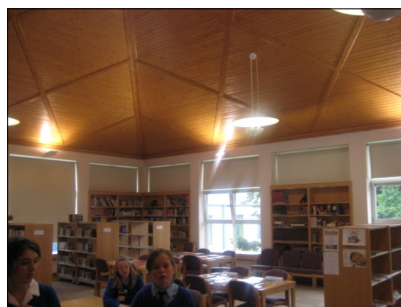
The Cluny Bookworms!

Last year Iníon ní Mhaicín started the Cluny Bookworms, Cluny's one and only book club! We met once a month to discuss and recommend books. Iníon ní Mhaicín gave us a theme every month, which was easier than everyone having to read the same book. A few of the themes we had included; historical fiction, books translated from other languages and classics. We had a month to choose and read a book. If we were too busy, we could choose a book we had already read. Iníon ní Mhaicín was always there to help us if we needed any help choosing our book. Everyone took their turn to speak about a book or two that they had read and whether or not they liked it. We had big discussions about books like Harry Potter and Twilight.

The book club is great for both people who read a lot and people who read a little bit. This year Iníon ní Mhaicín is organising a mixed-year book club and everyone is welcome. It's a great way to meet people from different years. The book club is on once a month during lunchtime. Even if you're in an exam year you can find time for the Cluny bookworms. All of the members from

last year really enjoyed themselves and have great memories. If you are interested in participating this year go to the library and ask Iníon ní Mhaicín for more information. We have great fun at the Cluny Bookworms and we hope to see a lot of new people this year!

By Eleanor O'Mahony 3Y



'The book club is great for both people who read a lot and people who read a little bit.'

Fun with the Cluny Bookworms

Fame the Musical Success



The annual Fifth Year musical write-up. Filled with the fun, spree and frolics of it all. This year I have the privilege of this final musical task. As most of you reading this know, the 2010 musical was indeed Fame. From the mad nights rehearsing in the Concert Hall, to gracing the stage of New York's High School of Performing Arts, it was great craic. It all started by finding out what our musical was, followed by ransacking Penney's for luminous legwarmers. The next phase, a more exciting phase was, to ransack local schools for the buachaillí. This proved to be quite successful. The lads

added great craic and laughter to the musical. Mainly the times where the main gate was locked, and the brave girls who live in skirts and dresses, ok, mainly me, had the lovely experience of hopping the gate with everyone in stitches. Yet it added to the wonderful atmosphere guided by musical genius Mr. O' Farrell, our brave choreographer Debbie, who took 8 talented dancers and the 60-odd left footed individuals and made us look somewhat graceful, and of course, our director, Ms Burke. There were so many other people involved, like the make-up and artwork ladies, the band and lighting

"The next phase, a more exciting phase was, to ransack local schools for the buachaillí"

The talented cast of Fame in all their glam.



Fame

crew etc., without whom Fame wouldn't have been possible. From hideous stage make-up and speedy costume changes, to on-stage and off-screen romance with a certain ballet dancer (you know who you are), the musical was hands down brilliant! Yes, you read it every year with the same clichéd sentences; yet, there is no other way to evaluate the musical on behalf of the fifth years then as the best experience of our lives.

By Katie Deevy 5N



TY Culinary Arts—Around the World in Two Weeks

One of the many topics we cover in Transition Year Culinary Arts is “International Cookery.” This topic was spread out over two weeks. In the first week, we all chose a dish from a European country and designed a three-course menu using other typical dishes. It was very interesting researching the traditional recipes of various European countries and our mouths were watering as we flicked through images of Paella, Canneloni, Boeuf Bourguignon, Moussaka and Wiener Schnitzel. It was hard to choose between all the dishes, but in the end we went for a taste of Italy and after much deliberation we decided to make Bruschetta. We had both tried bruschetta previously in a restaurant and it was definitely one of our favourite starters. In our practical class, we found we weren't the only ones to favour the Italian cuisine as many of our classmates had chosen dishes such as Spaghetti Carbonara and Ravioli. The kitchen was filled with the aromas of basil, oregano, garlic, tomato and onions and all around was the sound of meat sizzling and sauces bubbling.

For the second part of the assignment, we were asked to prepare an Asian dish of our choice, accompanied by a suitable menu. As we looked for a possible dish we learned a lot about Asian food. It was interesting to see the contrast between the types of ingredients used in this type of cookery and that of European. We also discovered how big a range of ingredients can be found in Asian food, including cumin seeds, oyster sauce and water chestnuts. We learned of the wide variety of Asian dishes available, as before we'd only heard of the typical traditional ones, such as Chicken Korma from India. Two Asian cookery books later, we finally opted for a Beef and Broccoli Stir-Fry. This was quite a quick and easy dish to make but nonetheless, was very tasty. We were both really surprised when Ms. Wolohan announced we were the class winners of the “International Cookery” competition.

Amy Dominguez and Hannah Kirwan 4L



International Cookery



This year in Transition Year we chose to do Culinary Arts. We have two separate groups who do Culinary

Arts on Friday afternoon and Miss. Fahey teaches us. Since September we have made some interesting dishes. We particularly enjoyed the international cookery weeks. One week we had to prepare, cook and serve a European dish and the second week we had to prepare something Asian. We chose to make a dish from Italy,

Gnocchi with a sun-dried tomato sauce with bacon. It was fantastico!! For our Asian dish we chose to make Kung Po Chicken. For both weeks of international cookery we also designed menus from each country. We had a great assortment of dishes in the class from France, Mexico etc. The fabulous aromas from the kitchen even drew Mrs. Lundy from her office. Unfortunately there was no food to spare. Sorry Mrs. Lundy! The best dishes and menus were awarded a prize of cinema vouchers, and guess what? We won!

By Mollie Ball & Jennifer Campbell, TY.



Fifth Year Art Trip

On Wednesday the 25th of November, Ms. McNulty's 5th Year Art class went to see two exhibitions, one by Francis Bacon, for the centenary of his birth and one by Edvard Munch. Our first stop was the Hugh Lane Gallery, where we visited Francis Bacon's studio. It had been painstakingly catalogued and transported from London to Dublin. The studio itself was a chaotic mess of clothes, sketches, paints, unfinished works and many other mystery items, giving us a vague idea of how this complicated man operated. As our tour progressed, we were shown a room of slashed canvases. These were pieces which Bacon was unhappy with. Some, he had cut deliberate holes in while others appeared to be slashed in random acts of frustration. Bacon worked largely from secondary sources (photographs etc.), and we saw evidence of this in the vast amount of photography on display, much of it the work of John Deakin. It was obvious that Bacon favoured people over landscapes as a subject matter, and his many portraits are distorted, disfigured and some disturbing. He physically manipulated photographs to suit his characters, many influenced by his lovers of the time, such as John Edwards, Peter Lacey and George Dyer. This manipulation included tearing, folding and swapping various body parts for those of others. All in all, it was a very interesting exhibition and we enjoyed it greatly. Afterwards, we took part in a workshop inspired by Bacon's work. A few days earlier, we had all taken embarrassing photographs of each other close up, an eye here, a nose there etc. we all

made mono-prints of these photographs during the workshop, and I think they all came out really well.

Later on, we braved the rain to go to the National Gallery. This is where we saw the gallery's collection of modern art, including works by Picasso yes, that Picasso, Monet and Renoir, giving us a taste of art coming into the 20th century and throughout. Then of course, came the famous Edvard Munch exhibition. The exhibition contained forty works, all of them prints, by Norway's most famous artist. One of these was the world renowned "The Scream" which we all know as the painting of a bald man seemingly screaming. It turns out however, that the man is not screaming, but shielding his ears from a terrible scream running through nature. The piece is a lithograph, not the original painting, but very impressive nonetheless. Munch's work epitomized expressionism for us. After weeks of learning about his tortured life and controversial paintings, such as The Sick Child and Madonna; we finally saw for ourselves the extent of his visionary success. The outing was very beneficial for us because we were able to see first hand, the work of the artists we had been learning about and I don't doubt this knowledge will come in useful for the exams. Thank you Ms. McNulty, from the Fifth Years.

By Zuzia Whelan

5th Year Art students at the Frances Bacon Exhibition in the Hugh Lane Gallery and taking part in a printing workshop afterwards



Art Dept continued



Art students Deneige Hudson and Stephanie Bryan were meeting artist Graham Knuttle in the House of Fraser. Tipperary Cristal were launching their new range of kitchen ware and limited addition plates designed by Knuttle.



Puppets from this year's Leaving Certificate Craft examinations—the Couch Potato and the Prima Donna.



5th Year Art students designed posters for their musical 'Fame' in October.

“...the thought of writing a speech in French was more than daunting”

Debating *en français*

Every Monday since September, sixth-year students have gathered in the library at lunch-time to take part in debates in French. When the French teachers, Mme Cassidy, Mme Molloy and Mme Ryan, suggested debating at the start of the year the thought of writing a speech in French was more than daunting. Never mind the actual debating part! Despite this, a good group volunteered to take on the challenge.

The motions so far this year have included interesting topics ranging from sport and holidays to all aspects of school life.

Surprisingly, the speeches aren't nearly as difficult to write as I had expected and our teachers are always more than willing to give us a hand. Taking part in the debates has, without a doubt, improved both our written and oral French and we've even managed to have a few laughs along the way! Vive le français!

Francesca Feaheny 6N



Ireland's answer to Jamie Oliver

“Ireland's answer to Jamie Oliver” *RTE.ie* A young up and coming chef by the name of Donal Skehan recently launched his own cookery book *Good Mood Food* following the success of his cookery blog *thegood-moodfoodblog.com*. We were fortunate enough to be honoured with a visit from Donal to our transition year culinary arts class Friday 27th Nov. Donal spoke to the girls about the value of simple, healthy home cooking. He demonstrated one of the

recipes from the blog *Aromatic Duck Salad*. Donal's presence caused great excitement in the school and he proved to be an extremely socialable and charming guest. We look forward to a return visit at some stage in the near future!

By Deirdre Fahey.



Donal Skehan Author of Good Mood Food Book

Blackrock Radio - Cluny on Air!

On a cold, wet, dreary afternoon in mid November a small group of Transition Year students were privileged enough to attend Blackrock College for a day to record a twenty-seven minute slot for their very own radio. The lucky chosen few were Ciara O'Dowd, Lauren Flanagan, Keeva O'Neill, Aideen Cooney, Ciara Fitzgerald, Ali Taylor, Aisling Murphy, Lucy Murray and myself, Catherine McDonnell. We had an amazing time in the end, but it was not all fun and frolics from day one.

For weeks we had been hearing about the radio show from Mr. Byrne, being told to think of good ideas for guest speakers, performers, games etc. All the girls were putting their thinking caps on like never before, in hope that their idea was good enough for the show, and they could therefore spend a day flirting with the boys and of course working on the show too.

As soon as we found out who the 'editorial board' was, everything happened very fast. Girls began to come to us with ideas for guest speakers, but with only having twenty-seven minutes to work with, we were finding it hard to fit in everyone's ideas, and decided to scrap the lot.

Mr. Byrne then surprised us by telling us a group of boys from Blackrock College were coming to the school to inform us about the show and make sure we knew what we were doing. So not only did we have the stress of making sure we had our show sorted out, we had the stress of making sure we looked good for the boys too. Not that we had anything to worry about of course, because the boys showed up with the hair gelled, blazers ironed to perfection, full of enthusiasm and bursting with plenty of confidence. They made more of an effort than we did. They were more narcissistic than us!

The boys made their presentation and told us exactly how to organise our show. Then we knew we had to put the foot down and get to work, because we only had one week to fully prepare. We brainstormed many ideas for the show, from interviewing a man who nearly died climbing Mount Everest to Mikey from Boyzone, but then settled on focusing our show around the much loved x-factor. We tried to get an interview with Louis Walsh or Jedward, but were not in luck. We then discovered our very own Stacey Solomon, more commonly known as Aideen Cooney. When she tried, she could impersonate Stacey perfectly and so we de-

cided to interview her and get a few laughs out of it. We also had a type of debate organised on pro and anti Jedward fans, spoke about the x-factor, played a music game called pop queen and of course played x-factor songs in between. That was our line up and we hoped it would run smoothly, but of course that's just too much to expect from us Cluny girls.

We left school at 11 o'clock on the day of recording, to be at Blackrock College for 12 o'clock. We waved goodbye to the ever-so jealous friends of ours as we made tracks towards heaven in any 16-year-old girls eyes. It was cold, wet, and windy as we made a run for Glenageary Dart station. Plastering on the make up on a moving bus was quite tricky, but we managed the best we could.

As we arrived at the entrance, the boys were patiently waiting for us, blazers spick and span, hair slicked back and smiles beaming. They gave us a guided tour of their castle, I mean school, and then led us to the recording studio. As if the howling in the corridors wasn't bad enough, we also had to keep it cool as their whole year were pounding down the doors trying to get in at us. No pressure as the onlookers stared at us trying to record our show. So mature!

An hour passed, we had six minutes done. They constantly reminded us that we were the worst group they had ever met, and we constantly reminded them that it's hard to concentrate when you have a group of boys literally licking the glass of the studio from the other side.

The boys had estimated that the recording would take an hour and a half, but two classroom changes and 4 hours later, we still weren't finished. The boys admitted they had never spent so long on one show before with one group, which just goes to show how special we Cluny girls are.

Finally at 5 o'clock after all the laughs and re-takes, we were finished. I never fully understood how it took us 5 hours to complete twenty-seven minutes of recording, but it was a day well spent. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would do it again any day, and am one hundred percent certain that the other girls would say the same. So watch out Gerry Ryan, there are new radio presenters on the block.

Catherine McDonnell, 4C

Imagine Design Competition—Slate



Clunly student Zoe O'Reilly's award winning poster for Best Graphic Design Poster section.

As part of our TY art course in Feb. 09, Mrs McNulty entered our class into Imagine, a national design competition run by NUI Maynooth. The idea was to design an object for the classroom of the future, something that would make school easier, and more manageable.

We were told to think of a problem, and then use creativity to come up with a solution. A product designer came to help us improve our ideas and everyone found that very helpful. Soon we had finished our plans, and the solutions our

class had come up with were very interesting. We had everything from electronic desks and spellcheck pens to virtual classrooms.

A few weeks later the finalists were shortlisted, and to my surprise my design was among the eight shortlisted(!)

I have a problem with heavy bags. I hate lugging clunky books around all day. So I designed a palm-held device called Slate that had all your books on it in digital format. The Slate had a touch screen and you could use it as a digital copybook, organiser, calculator, whatever you need for school. The public had to vote online for their favourite and, together with the judges decision, the overall winner was chosen and announced on 31st March. Everyone was very supportive and logged on to vote (even me, admittedly).

I won 'Best Graphic Design Poster' my prize was an Ipod and my family and I had a great day at the presentation ceremony. It was a very interesting competition and we all learned a lot from participating in it.

Zoe O'Reilly

"... everything from electronic desks and spellcheck, pens to virtual classrooms"

Forensic Science Day

The forensic science day was a day when we could experience what it was like to be a forensic scientist.

A lady from Australia talked to us about what it was like to be a crime scene investigator. When we arrived there was a crime scene set up. It was about a girl who was murdered while walking home from school. We had to find out who killed her, and how she died. We were told how to find the different pieces of evidence and we worked out who killed the poor girl. It was a very interesting event.

Isobel Mahon 4N



Recess October 2009

The morning we'd been looking forward to for weeks had finally arrived. Our year was finally heading to Recess Adventure Centre in Connemara for the weekend. We arrived at the school at 8am on Thursday 10th September, tired and bleary eyed after our celebrations of our Junior Cert results the night before, but ridiculously excited for what the weekend had in store for us. Accompanied by Mr. Randolph, Ms. Seymour and Ms. Fahey, we set off on the bus.

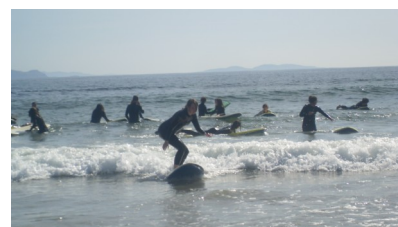
After a long drive and countless verses of 101 different songs, we arrived at the centre. The surroundings were unbelievable. We scrambled off the bus to nab the best beds and check out the place that would be our home for the next four days. We were then sorted into our activity groups, four groups of 18 girls, in which we would partake in the four different activities: canoeing, hill walking, orienteering and rock climbing/abseiling. Each group then did one of the four activities for our Thursday afternoon activity. My group did canoeing. Although it was very cold, we really enjoyed it. One of the other groups did orienteering and, though I'm not mentioning any names, two very special people got lost in the woods and got the whole year sick with worry. It turned out ok in the end though; with them insisting that they "weren't lost at all." *Yeah, right...*

The next morning, my group went rock climbing and abseiling on the side of a nearby quarry. It was the most frightening thing we'd ever done. After lunch, we set off for hill walking. The mountain we climbed was a few kilometres away from the centre. It was really tiring, but most of us managed it. The weather was incredible. The bog sliding on the way down was the best bit of the

activities. We returned to the centre absolutely shattered, but looking forward to the day trip to Achill for surfing the next day.

At 6.30 the next morning (I repeat, 6.30am!), Mr. Randolph woke us all up banging pots and pans. We were the grumpiest people in Galway. We drove for two hours to Achill, most people sleeping but a few staying awake for a bit of banter. On arrival, we were split into two groups. The first group went surfing while my group went on a walk to one of the most beautiful beaches I've ever seen. It was like something out of a film. The sun was scorching. We messed about on the beach for a while, before returning to the surfers by bus. After a lovely BBQ, the groups swapped positions. Surfing was great craic, and despite our general clumsiness, there were only one or two injuries!

After very little sleep from the night before, we started packing our bags. We had one morning activity, orienteering for me. With the thought of the €50 prize for the fastest pair to complete the course, we set off through the woods with our maps looking for the red boards. After a lot of confusion over the location of one board (we concluded that a certain competitive person had thrown it in the lake after finding it on



Recess continued

Thursday), we drove back to the centre to say our final goodbyes to our temporary home. We left the centre with great memories and heavy hearts that the weekend was over. We arrived home with mud on our clothes and smiles on our faces.

When anyone in my year talks about Recess, we smile, remembering the laughter we shared, the sickening amount of Pot Noodles and Jaffa Cakes. It wasn't really the location

that mattered, it was the fact that our whole year got so much closer that made everyone love Recess. Everyone came home with the knowledge that they had a whole year of friends, not just girls they shared classes with. We all really enjoyed Recess, and will remember the weekend for the rest of our lives.
By Joy Murphy, 4L



French Theatre

On Monday the 9th of November, Transition Year were treated to a special performance by FTFS, the travelling French Theatre Group.

There were four main characters who were excellent French speakers, with cameos by a few girls from our year group. Lucy Murray stole the show with her impressive French accent! The whole show was in French with singing and dancing. We also learned quite a few new phrases.

We enjoyed the drama – it really helped our French, and it will certainly stand to us in the Leaving Certificate.

Rachel Keegan, 4L and Joy Murphy, 4L

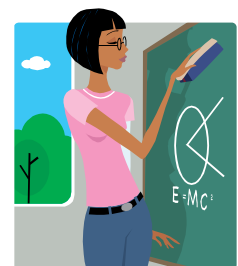


***“Lucy Murray
stole the show
with her
impressive
French
accent”***

Congratulations

Congratulations to Katie Wolohan who has recently been accepted to UCD's School of Physics Transition Year Program. The program runs from November 30th to December 4th. We hope that Katie enjoys her university experience and look forward to hearing all about it in the next newsletter.

Well done to Transition Year students Caoimhe Basquille, Niamh O Hanrahan and Aisling Murphy. They have been invited to take examinations in DCU to select students to represent Ireland at the Science Olympiads in Azerbaijan and Sweden in 2010. Best of luck girls!



**UCD School of Physics TY
Programme**

Apron from Africa



About 18 months ago I set off to Watamu in Kenya with my father as part of an NGO called

'Friends from Ireland'. There we built a tremendous workshop connected to a primary and secondary school. During our two week stay we developed close friendships with the local school kids, teachers and the Principal. Honestly, we fell in love with the place, the music, the people, the food, the language... everything. Personally I felt that we hadn't done quite enough to repay the school and its members for the humbling welcoming and overwhelming hospitality they showed us.

While there we came up with the 'Apron From Africa' idea. The concept is simple, profitable and makes perfect sense with the right people behind it. Two local women in Watamu, Alice and Christine, were hired to work in the school sewing workshop that we helped to construct. When approached, Ms. Wolahan and Ms. White backed us 100% and Cluny sent out a fantastic order for 200 aprons. Alice and Christine bought about 15 rolls of material and sewing equipment. Two apron samples were posted back to us in Dublin and they looked incredible. I know it

sounds pathetic but the only thing discussed in my house for about four months were aprons. We were so excited. We knew what this employment would mean for Alice, Christine and the school.

So this summer my family and I headed to Watamu on holiday and to do a little business. We returned to the school and were greeted with the same open arms by the staff. They showed us the sewing room and we met Alice and Christine. We then stuffed two big suitcases with aprons in order to save on postage costs and thereby increase the profits. Alice and Christine both have children in the school so they are splitting the profits with the school. The local area of Watamu is really struggling economically. Staff of the school had been left without wages for months. Tourism has been hit with the global recession and local men and women are not being employed by the hotels. There is no welfare system, so if you have no job you ask your family for food and if they have none you go hungry.

We hope that we can inspire other schools to adopt Aprons From Africa as part of their school uniform. There is a short clip on Utube called 'Aprons From Africa,' check it out. So thank you for your support and please continue to spread the word.

Ciara Spain 6N

"We fell in love with the place, the music, the people, the food, the language..... everything"

Retirement Best Wishes

All the staff and students at St Joseph of Cluny would like to wish Mrs Julianne Purcell a happy and healthy retirement. Mrs Purcell dedicated over 20 years of her life to teaching mathematics and geography at Cluny. She will be greatly missed by students and colleagues alike. Everyone wishes her a long and happy retirement and hope that she comes to visit often!



Glendalough

With the promise of a spiritually enlightened, blissfully sunny day, we the Sixth Years set off with our sun-cream and cameras to Glendalough for a little prayer, meditation and much needed guidance. After the inevitable trip to the sweet shop and public toilets we all posed for, what I imagine will be, one of the most treasured pictures of our years in Cluny. Then we met with Father Michael, a gentle character with a deep spiritual presence and love of nature.

Our first meditation exercise was a simple but effective one. Fr. Michael instructed us to follow a maze-like path, one behind the other in single file. We were challenged to ask God for guidance, to help us with a problem or to use the time to reflect upon ourselves. Despite the curious on-lookers, we each fell silent in the trance of our own footsteps and thoughts. By the time we reached the end of the trail we lifted our heads to be greeted by the glorious mountains and calm blue sky. The tranquillity was blissful. We were encouraged to notice the simplistic ferns in front of us. They displayed hives of patterns from frosted spider webs that represented the complexities in life Fr. Michael said as we finished; 'We are spiritual beings on a human journey.' Suddenly the Leaving Certificate was being put into perspective!

We ventured on, only pausing to find inspiration from a tree and a rock. Speaking about the faults we all possess in our characters, Fr. Michael said 'the cracks are how the light gets through,' to which my friend turned to me and said 'Well now you won't take it as much of an insult when we tell you that you're cracked!'

By the lake Fr. Michael recounted the story of St. Kevin and the legendary monster beneath the surface and each of us blessed ourselves with the water. I could have put myself to sleep inhal-

ing its beauty. Further on we paused by the lake for a few minutes of meditation but we soon found ourselves uprooted by a few territorial brave ducks.

The word 'lunch' was mentioned and suddenly there was a stampede of blue tracksuits running to get to the chip van in the car park. Cluny soon took possession of the car park. We ate, lay contently on the warm tarmac in the glorious sun shine and had deep meaningful conversations about our fears and hopes for the next year. The most valuable thing I gained from this day was reassurance that I was not alone in fearing the future. I will not be facing the Leaving Certificate alone. We promised to look out for one another over the year and stop each other from being consumed by a textbooks. The atmosphere was inspiringly hopeful.

After lunch we had mass with Fr. Michael in the historic church. The whole year sat pensively under the watchful eyes of Mr. Larkin, Ms Mc Nulty and the ever graceful Suzanne. We sang 'Happy Birthday' to Mother Mary and remembered the suffering and grieving in our prayers. Ciara O'Riordan began the procession of group sing songs from 'the top 5 First Holy Communion' collection. Rachel Crotty started us off with an Alleluia and Rose Chambers sang a piece that made our skin goose-pimple despite being in the roaring heat. The mass was a success. We would have been happy to spend the remainder of the afternoon sitting there together. Unfortunately time was against us and we were loaded back onto the bus, tired and listless but none the less reassured of our bonds with friends, nature, the spiritual world and feeling still in awe of Glendalough itself.



**6th Year Retreat
to Glendalough**

Basketball—Senior U19

Our senior teams have had good success so far this season. Our Senior A's had wins over Dalkey, Loreto Foxrock, Loreto Beaufort but were disappointed to be knocked out of the U19 Cup by Holy Faith Clontarf. The team are still pushing for a Leinster play-off spot. Our other two senior teams – B & C are doing well. They still have matches outstanding before the Christmas break. The Senior C team have their third match coming up against Newpark,

which, in recent years has been a very competitive game.



“still a lot to play for before the play-off picture is formed”

Cadette Basketball U16

There are three U16 teams this year, mostly composed of 3rd Year students. It is a good sign because the 3rd Years are preparing for their Junior Cert. The results have been mixed with the U16's so far with losses to Colaiste Iosagain, Loreto Dalkey and Loreto Beaufort. Still a lot to play for however, with more games coming up in November and early December before the play-off picture is formed. Hopefully our teams

Cadette A, B and C will make the play-offs. Anything can happen then.



Junior Basketball U15 & 1st Yr U14

The league for 2nd and 1st Years has not started yet but a number of friendly games have been played and both year groups look promising. Our 2nd Year A team even had a two point win over Blackrock College 2nd Year B team - a win the girls were very pleased with!



Hockey—November 2009

Hockey – November 2009

The hockey season has been in full flight since the end of August with trials and practice matches getting underway on the first Saturday in September. These games are played in preparation for the various league campaigns for our eight teams. Each of our teams practice for an hour and a half twice a week, but unfortunately once midterm comes we lose time due to fading light. The Seniors however train once a week on the Astroturf in Newpark, where they have lights and this allows them to practice when it is dark.

Matches are generally played on Saturday mornings, but unfortunately some inclement weather has resulted in a number of games being played during the week. Again we welcome back our coaches - Ms Murphy and two of our past pupils, Brioni Somers who was with us some years ago and Rachel McGuire who was with us last year.

The league begins very early for Seniors with a little over three weeks to prepare. The Seniors As have found the competition very strong in their section so far, coming up against a determined St Marys team from Naas in their first game. This was followed by a better performance against Notre Dame in their next game and a victory over Loreto Balbriggan following that. The Seniors Bs have fared very well in their section so far, beating Holy Child Killiney, Loreto Balbriggan and East Glendalough respectively.

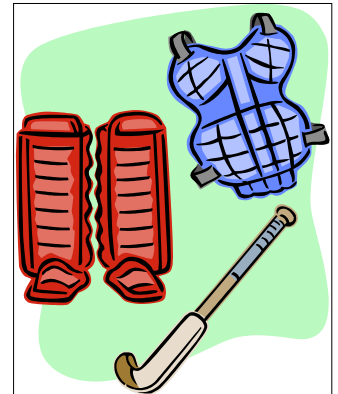
The Juniors have had a mixed start to their seasons. The As unfortunately losing to Kings Hospital in their first game, before registering a victory against Mt Sackville in their next. The Bs have been a little more consistent, with two victories against Kings Hospital and East Glendalough so far in their section.

The Minors began the season with enthusiasm with the Bs doing particularly well, resulting in two victories and a draw in their three league games to-date. The As unfortunately ran into a very strong Mt Anville team in their first game but produced a very good 4-0 victory over Loreto Dalkey subsequently.

As is usual, the First Years have shown a lot of interest in the game with much potential on display. The As were unfortunate to lose to Loreto Dalkey by a single goal after a fine display by the captain Sophie Grehan, while the Bs gave a very impressive display against Loreto Beaufort in their first league game.

Dedication to practice and to improving your skills is essential to progressing as a player and as a team, and I would like to wish all our teams well for the remainder of the season.

Ms M Seymour



“dedication to practice and to improving your skills is essential to progressing as a player..”

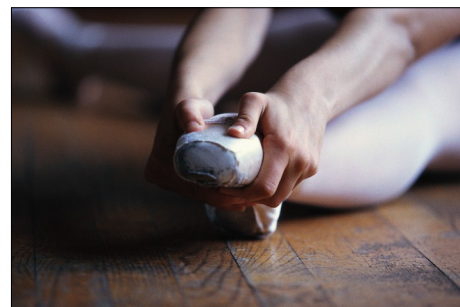
Enterprise Alert

Attention all 2nd & 3rd Years

The TY Enterprise class have produced a Junior Certificate survival guide as their mini company project. It is full of useful tips and helpful hints in languages, maths, science and also in the area of time management, study habits etc. It will be available to buy in January for only €5 a copy.

Rebecca Finnerty, General Manager

School Tights now in Stock

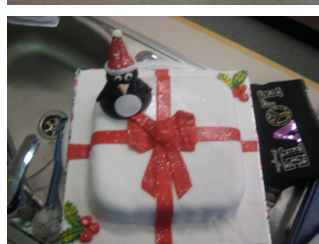


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