

June 2008



ST. JOSEPH OF CLUNY

Chalk and Talk

Sports Prizegiving 2008



World Boxing Champion Katie Taylor presents awards to
L-R: Ciara O'Riordan, Jennifer Curtin,
Rebecca Errity and Jessica McKell.

An Extraordinary Life



Rose Chambers and Kate O'Donoghue
who recorded the life and times of
Cluny Sister, Sr. Angela
(See story inside)

End of an Era



Graduation Class 2008. We are so proud of you, girls!

From the Principal's Desk

Now that we've reached the June exams 2008 I'd like to firstly wish all our students, parents and the teaching staff a long and enjoyable summer break. I hope you will all get a well earned opportunity to have some rest and time out with family and friends. Most particularly for our Sixth and Third Years we wish them a very enjoyable summer after their long weeks of study and revision. Our exam students seem to have been pleased with the first couple of days of the exams and with the new timetable arrangements for Sixth Years particularly.

We were all very sad to have reached the final day with our Sixth Year students on 21 May last. They had a lovely display of photographs from different stages of their lives on show in the school hall and they chose the symbol of rainbows as their theme. They seemed to have grown up with us over such a very short few years here. We were very pleased with their last days of celebration with us from Sports day on and for the beautiful lunch they shared with us. My thanks especially to Head Girl Cianna O'Connell and Deputy Head Girl Maeve O'Farrell for representing the student body so well during the year and for their work with the Student Council. My thanks also to the hard working Senior Prefects and House Captains. We hope that next autumn is an exciting one for all our graduates as they settle into their new colleges. We will miss them all.

I hope you were able to join us for our Musical Evening on 12 May last. It was really one of the nicest musical evenings we have had in the school and showcased the talent of both present and past pupils. We were all 'wowed' by the extent of the girl's talents and it was great to see some of our Sixth Years from last year returning to perform. Honor Heffernan added beautifully to the occasion. It was also an opportunity to thank Charles O'Connor for his contribution to music in the school over the last seven years on the eve of his departure to Sligo. My sincere thanks to Linda O'Reilly and the Parents Association. Linda has done magnificent work for the Association and has been a very approachable and hard working liaison for parents during her term as Chairperson. Our sincere thanks to Linda for that.

Congratulations to all our medal and prizewinning students from our three ceremonies this term i.e. Senior, Junior and Sports Awards ceremonies. Some of these were our Outstanding Junior Student Caoimhe Basquille 3Y, our Senior Linguist Aoife Ryan 6L, our St. Evangelist Science Award winner Sarah Pierce 6C, our Senior Sportsperson of the Year Laura Maher 6N, Junior Sportsperson Jessica Ennis 3W, Sr. Dolores Memorial winner Aisling Galligan 5N, Senior Music Award winner Jennifer Curtin 6N and Outstanding Senior Students Lean Breen 6N, Laura Maher 6N and Jennifer Curtin 6N. This year's Prizegiving ceremony was also the last one for our Prizegiving Co-ordinator and the outgoing Career Guidance teacher Frances Denny. As I mentioned at Prizegiving Mrs Denny's impending retirement is mixed with sadness and regret that we are losing the benefit of her vast 34 year experience to the school and happiness that as she is still young and healthy that she can enjoy the benefits of retirement way into the future.

Some of Mrs Denny's outstanding qualities are her professionalism, her capacity for hard work and her kindness. The fact that past pupils continue to stay in touch and call back to seek her advice is a testament to her knowledge. Throughout her career, each student was seen as a valued individual and if ever in difficulty she would go to painstaking lengths to help them through their difficulties and find solutions for them.

As a colleague her high standards, her contribution in every sphere of school life, her common sense grasp of what works in school life and her wide vision of the present and the future of the school have been invaluable. Many times I have sought her advice and it was invariably the right advice. We will miss her. On behalf of the staff, parents and many, many students she has helped and advised we wish her a long and happy retirement.

We look forward to our Fifth year students assuming the mantle of seniority next year in school. Congrats to Han-nagh Maguire 5N on becoming Head Girl and Laura O'Callaghan 5C on becoming Deputy Head Girl and to our new Senior Prefects and House Captains. We look forward to their assumption of the mantle of leadership of the student body next year.

Over the summer we will be undertaking the last section of upgrading work under the building project in the school i.e. a block of student toilets will be upgraded. After this work is completed we will be turning our attention to planning for upgrading work on the Hockey Pitch.

We are sorry that not more of you got to hear the music from a visiting St. Joseph of Cluny School from Trinidad. They travelled to visit us for four days this month with an entire 35 piece Caribbean steel band and gave us a great concert. We assembled some Junior and Senior students for the event. Had they been here a few weeks earlier the whole school would have enjoyed the treat. Twenty five adults and children travelled in the group and loved their trip to Dublin.

Congratulations to all our Sports winning students this year in particular to the recent gold medal wins of Caoimhe Basquille in the High Jump and Rachel Maguire in defending her National Title in the Discus. We were delighted with the visit of young Katie Taylor the young world boxing title holder who acted as our guest presenter at Sports Prizegiving. We are very pleased to have Ms. Rosemarey Kelly join the coaching staff as the school Badminton Coach for next year.

I would like to including some of the acknowledgements I made at Prizegiving in conclusion.

"Looking back over the year I would like to make honourable mention of a number of student's achievements which have marked the year for us in a special way.

1. Representative Students:-
 - In school debating the Concern team got to the

From the Principal's Desk *continued*

quarter finals.

- Sixth Year, Aoife Ryan 6L was the All Ireland representative for the Dublin City Branch of the Soroptimists, held in the Mansion House.
- Rebecca Dwyer 4L, Molly Brady Martin 4C, Cliodhna Gillan 4N won through to the European Forum finals in Dublin Castle.
- Fifth Year, Aisling Galligan 5N represented Ireland at the Model European Parliament in Rome; she opened and closed the Assembly for the Irish Delegation and made her school and country proud.
- School represented in the Mental Health Public Speaking, the "Know Your World Quiz" sponsored by Concern and the Leinster Schools u-15 debating competition. Aoife Cuthbert (3W) got to the semi-final of Leinster Schools u-15.
- Rebecca Dwyer 4L won the "Best Speaker Award" for her speech on "why Ireland shouldn't vote 'yes' for the Lisbon Treaty at the Model European Parliament in St. Andrews.

Congratulations to all participants.

My sincere thanks as always to Mr Byrne for his enthusiastic commitment and input into school debating this year.

2. In sport congratulations to Caoimhe Basquille 3Y and Rachel McGuire 6C who won gold again in defending her national discus title.
3. Congratulations also to the Senior A hockey team who got to the quarter final stage of the League.
4. Congratulations also to the Fifth years on the success of their musical 'High School Musical' last October i.e. our first Musical to have been entirely sold out eight days before the event! The producer Mrs Irene Burke and the choreographer Tania Hanner have an infinity of new ideas for each show.

Thank you to Mrs Linda O'Reilly and the Parents Association. They again worked very purposefully and in a very supportive way for the students and the staff in the school. I would like to congratulate the Association on two great events in particular this year i.e. the Parents Social which raised €2,500 for St. Luke's Hospital and the beautiful musical evening last Monday.

Linda is a past pupil herself and throughout her years in the Association she has been a tireless worker, a very loyal supporter of the school and its ethos and her legacy is that she will leave a very good, competent and successful Association behind. Thank you Linda.

As always my sincere thanks for the dedication of the teaching staff in Cluny whose guidance and hard work encourages so many students to take part in all aspects of school

life and whose encouragement of the students is so important to all of them.

You may have read Dr. Sean Brady, Archbishop of Armagh recently and his comments on a Catholic education 'which should serve society' he said 'by forming human individuals who will change society for the better.' He said education should do more than produce 'an educational product' shaped solely by the needs of a consumer economy or produce fodder for employers. The Archbishop did not claim a monopoly on the formation of children with a value system but he said 'in an age of moral confusion a Catholic education offers a clear and unapologetic set of values based on the gospels, which he identified as forgiveness, respect, service and non-violence.

His words have an important echo in a year when globally some of the old certainties are gone. It seems our world is now facing the impact of scarce resources, having long ignored the environmental costs of material gain. We are all facing serious economic and moral challenges ahead of what we must do when our abundant resources become scarce.

In 1974 Indira Gandhi appealed to young women in her society at a time of transition:

"... One of the biggest responsibilities of the educated women today is how to synthesize what has been valuable and timeless in our ancient traditions with what is good and valuable in modern thought. All that is modern is not good just as all that is old is neither all good nor all bad. We have to decide, not once and for all but almost every week, every month what is coming out that is good and useful to our country and what of the old we can keep and enshrine in our society. To be modern, most people think that it is something of a manner of dress or a manner of speaking or certain habits and customs, but that is not really being modern. It is a very superficial part of modernity.

...Now, for our country to become what we want it to become with a modern, rational society and firmly based on what is good in our ancient tradition and in our soil, for this we have to have a thinking public, thinking young women who are not content to accept what comes from any part of the world but are willing to listen to it, to analyze it and to decide whether it is to be accepted or whether it is to be thrown out and this is the sort of education which we want, which enables our young people to adjust to this changing world and to be able to contribute to it."

To our group of young women here this evening whatever you decide to become, keep what Indira Gandhi called 'the superficial part of modernity' at arms length, hold on to the values that your education has given you and chart a course that measures your success in terms of your contribution to others."

Hope you all have a very enjoyable summer holiday.

M. White.

Prize Giving 2008—Highlights

Senior Linguist

Aoife Ryan

Outstanding Junior Student

Award: Caoimhe Basquille

Sr. Evangelist Science Award

Sarah Pierce

Outstanding Senior Students

Award:

Leah Breen

Jennifer Curtin

Laura Maher

Sportsperson of the Year

Senior: Laura Maher

Junior: Jessica Ennis

Head Girl & Deputy Head Girl

Award:

Sr. Dolores Memorial Award

Aisling Galligan

Cianna O’Connell

HG

Maeve O’Farrell

DHG

Senior Music Award

Jennifer Curtin



Class 5N Participate in Sacred Music Concert in the Helix

On April 17th R.E. class 5N, united with approximately 400 students from schools around Dublin for a large scale concert of sacred music in the Helix Centre.

The Emmanuel Schools Liturgical Music Project, as it is called, is an initiative from the Diocesan Music Commission to introduce new and interesting sacred music to young people and their schools. The commission circulated this music to the schools involved and it now provides extra resources for all school liturgies and ceremonies for which we are most appreciative.

The 18 new songs were taught during R.E. classes and by April 17th we were ready for the 'big day' which began in Clonliffe College. Workshops were provided on various topics including Taize, Spirituality, Missionary Work, Prayer and many more. These workshops, apart from their own intrinsic value, provided the opportunity for the 400 plus students to mix and mingle and get some sense of the other schools involved.

After lunch all students and teachers moved to the Helix where they spent the afternoon rehearsing the upcoming performance with a sixteen piece orchestra. The Archdiocese provided a hot evening meal for the entire group in the Helix cafeteria and then they assembled on the stage for the concert.

The sound of 400 voices filling an auditorium is an event seldom experienced, and not to be for-

gotten. The conductor (and one of the main organisers of the event) maintained a relaxed pace and yet managed to keep the group energised and animated and delivering of their best, song after song, after song.

The Cluny girls had pride of place in the front row of the choir balcony and had a bird's eye view of how professional musicians work as well as a clear view of their audience. They each received a bound copy of the music the school received a certificate of participation.

While it was a very long day, it was filled with interest and 5N represented the school with pride and indeed I was most proud to be with them.

This is only the second of the 'Emmanuel' initiatives and Cluny was represented in the first one which took place in the NCH four years ago. We are proud to be able to tap into the talent of the girls and delighted that they were willing to participate and give of their time to an initiative coming from the Archdiocese. We look forward to the next project and hope to be represented there too!

Caroline Lundy



Visit of Holocaust Survivor to Cluny

On the 13th December 2007, all 6th Years and some 5th Year groups were privileged to hear a very moving talk by a Holocaust survivor, Tomi Reichental. He is one of five Holocaust survivors living in Ireland.

Born in 1935 in the Slovakian town of PI-ESTANY, he gave a talk which was both deeply moving and harrowing as he described his extraordinary experiences in the concentration camp known as BERGEN-BELSEN. He and his family had managed to avoid capture by the Nazis up to 1944 partly by changing their obviously Jewish name. However this all changed in late 1944 when due to a set of circumstances, Tomi along with his mother, grandmother and brother were all rounded up and sent to Bergen-Belsen. (His father had been arrested at an earlier time and had managed to escape. He had joined a resistance movement at this stage)

In his talk, he described very graphically the extreme hunger suffered by the inmates of the camp. He also described how as children, when playing outside the communal hut in which he and his family lived, piles of dead bodies were an everyday feature. His grandmother died from the horrific conditions in the camp. He talked very emotionally as he described how her body was handled and hurled onto a pile of other bodies in the yard. His obvious distress as he remembered these events was very moving for his listeners. His survival and that of his mother and brother was largely due to the fact that the liberation of the camp came about a few months later in 1945. (What was a remarkable fact was that Bergen-Belsen continued as a refugee camp for many of its original inmates up to 1950 and that 2,000 more children were born there during that period).

During the late 1950's Tomi came to Ireland to work as an engineer. He went on to marry and have a family here. He like many other Holo-

caust survivors did not talk openly about his experience for many years – in his case 55 years to be exact. It was only when his grandson came home from school one day and mentioned that they were studying about the Holocaust, that Tomi opened up and explained to him in detail what had happened. He was subsequently invited and accepted an invitation to give a talk in the school. He now gives talks in schools throughout Ireland under the auspices of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Tomi returned to Bergen-Belsen over the last few months for the first time since his release. This moving documentary will be shown by RTE later in the year and includes a visit to his beloved grandmother's grave.

All who were present to hear Tomi's talk were deeply moved and appreciative of his courage and strength in delivering his story. Many students afterwards described the experience as being 'unforgettable', 'inspirational', 'a once in a lifetime opportunity'.

We thank you Tomi for giving us that opportunity.

(5th Year History class)



Battle of the Pans

In February, I entered the Tesco Young Chef of the Year competition. I had to send in two original recipes for a starter and a main course, highlighting seasonal vegetables. I entered with Tomato Tart for starter, and Fizzy Lime Chicken with Crispy Herby Potatoes and Griddled Vegetables. I didn't think I'd really make it anywhere, as I knew how popular a competition it was and that there would be a lot of applicants.

Then, in April, out of nowhere I got a letter, congratulating me on getting to the Dublin finals! I was absolutely thrilled. After 2 weeks of hard practice and burnt fingers the day arrived.

The competition took place in Cook's Academy in Dun Laoghaire on 29th April. We arrived at 9.30 and were given 2 ½ hours cooking time before we presented to the judges. There were 4 of us altogether and we set about cooking. But, of course, something had to go wrong. The kitchen paper next to my hob went on fire, and there was a bit of a panic, but we managed to sort it out and everything was ok.

We went upstairs to the judges who tried our meals. I won second place! The judges said that I had lots of potential and that I should keep cooking. Tesco Young Chef of the Year is a fantastic competition, and I'd advise anyone who has any interest in cooking to enter!

Joy Murphy, 2Y



Forensics Day

Kate O'Donoghue 4L

On Wednesday 9th January, TY students were given the opportunity to solve a murder mystery. On going into the study hall, a number of unusual exhibits caught our attention. Immediately, we could tell that today's workshop would be considerably different to any other.

At the front of the hall a large stand showed us a picture of "Sally", the fictitious murder victim. Our aim was to find the culprit and discover the circumstances surrounding her death. First of all, we were told of all the different aspects of forensic science. Working at the scene, analysis in the lab and tackling the legal side of things. We listened to how investigations are conducted and to how different materials are tested in order to obtain vital clues. We were then given three suspect profiles. Now, we were set to go.

We were all allowed to freely investigate each exhibit and were given time to work out the mystery ourselves. Each exhibit focused on a different aspect of the crime scene. We examined footprints, fingerprints and DNA profiles and attempted to piece together the puzzle. You realize when you see all of these exhibits just how much skill is involved in being a forensic scientist. At a crime scene, every tiny detail is taken into account.

As we finished up our investigation, the whole story behind Sally's murder was revealed to us. The workshop was beneficial to us all as well as being good fun. It gave us skills to hold on to with a few safety tips along the way. Everyone was really impressed with the workshop and everyone enjoyed it.

My Day at the Zoo

First of all we were all split into three groups. The first group was going on a tour with a tour guide. She was telling us about tropical endangered animals and how their natural habitats were being destroyed by global warming etc. It was very interesting to hear about so many different animals and the history of Dublin Zoo. First of all we went to see the Ringed Tailed Lemurs, it was really funny to see them sitting up with their arms in the air. Our tour guide told us that they were sun bathing! After that we went in to see the different types of tropical birds such as: the pink pigeon, the hornbill and many others. The hornbill is a very, very big bird. It is supposed to be very tame. The pink pigeon is supposed to squeak when it is excited. After that we went to see the elephants. In March there was a new arrival to Dublin Zoo – a new baby elephant. At the moment there are four elephants in Dublin Zoo. Our tour guide was telling us about how elephants in the wild are being hunted down and now in the

wild there are only 35,000 – 50,000 elephants. After that we went to see the tigers. We only saw one out of the two different species that Dublin Zoo have, the Sumatran Tiger. They were the smaller species of the tiger that Dublin Zoo has. After the tour guide showed us around we were allowed around by ourselves. I really enjoyed my experience at the zoo and I hope to go again soon!

By Catherine O'Doherty



NUI Maynooth Experimental Physics Trip 5th & 6th Years

When I asked Fifth Years to recall for this article anything good about the trip, the first thing they said was

“The lunch was cheap!”

So we had a quick brain storming session and they came up with the following.

1. Opportunity to see the university campus and science facilities.
2. Had a very interesting presentation regarding the various science degrees.
3. Got to have a “hands on “ experience of some Leaving Cert physics practicals
 - Light
 - Gravity (it pulls you down!)
 - Acceleration

- Joule’s Law
- Plus a few more (actually 13 practicals in total)

4. College post-graduates were on hand to help with each practical, which made the experiments much easier to follow.

In summary we felt the lunch was cheap but – the experience was deep!

Ms. Dullaghan.

Friends of the Elderly

This year we undertook a project in conjunction with the organisation Friends of the Elderly. The project involved finding an elderly person willing to share their experiences and recording their stories in the form of a biography.

We were lucky enough to be introduced to Sister Angela who lives in the St. Joseph of Cluny convent beside the school. Throughout our Friday afternoon visits she told us about her extraordinary life.

Sister Angela spent fifty four years in Africa where she devoted her life to helping others. Throughout her time there, Sister Angela taught women and children valuable life skills which

gave them independence and a sense of self. There were both good and bad days but Sister Angela's faith and strength of character never faltered even when faced with challenges such as drought and civil war.

Sister Angela was thrilled with the finished project but not as thrilled as we were to have met her. We have found the project extremely rewarding and have been inspired by Sister Angela's faith and trust in God. We hope that next year others will take part in the project and will find it as enjoyable as we have.

By Rose Chambers and Kate O'Donoghue

Blood Brothers

Bang! Tell me it's not true. Tell me that the show isn't over. The story can't be finished yet! 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell is a powerful story and a chilling musical about two brothers separated at birth and destined to be brought back together by fate, by destiny and by the Devil.

From the very beginning the show catches your attention with bright characters, clever sets and witty songs. The actors are very dedicated to their characters and you can pick up their personalities almost instantly. Mrs. Johnston's hard-working, loving maternal character and Mrs. Jones' mental instability are obvious from the word go. However their job on the stage pales in comparison with those of Mickey, Eddie, Sammy, Linda and the other neighbourhood children.

Despite being aware that the people in front of us are fully grown men and women, we willingly agree to suspend our disbelief for a few hours and believe we are really watching children grow. By believing this we can thoroughly enjoy the hilarious scenes and reflect on our own childhood knowing we were all that age once. It is impossible to talk about "Blood Brothers" without mentioning the narrator. From the very moment he starts singing, the goosebumps won't go away.

Although somewhat frightening in the beginning, you get addicted to the shivers down your spine when you hear the words, 'The devil's got your number' It is easy to see that all the actors thoroughly enjoy their roles and that when they're on the stage they truly believe they are Sammy, Linda, Mrs. Johnstone and Eddie.

Seating isn't always very important but it is definitely worth the extra few euros for closer seats so as to feel part of the scenes and study the sets. We had brilliant seats – in the front and second row! It is amazing to think that a few chairs and a carpet can change a scene entirely. - That and how a few lighting changes can let you know you're somewhere else completely.

There is no doubt that 'Blood Brothers' is an incredible show from beginning to end and, even afterwards, I can still see Eddie and Mickey stretching their jumpers, I can still sense the tension between Linda and Mickey and his tablet and, without a doubt, I can still feel the Devil at my window.

by Patricia Mulholland (4C)

Hockey

This season, a total of ninety-eight hockey matches were played – beginning on September 8th and finishing on March 8th. Most matches are played on Saturday mornings often requiring the players to be on the pitch at 8.30am. Practice takes place twice a week for all teams with the Astroturf in Newpark used on a Wednesday for senior and Junior practice. Access to a facility like this is essential in improving our hockey skills.

We had ten league teams this year with four reaching the knock-out stages of their respective competitions with one other (the Minor Bs) just failing to reach this stage after a play-off.

Ms. Hickey continued her work with the Seniors as well as coaching the Minor As while Ms. Murphy (new to the school this year) coached the Juniors and Minor B and C teams as well as assisting Ms. Seymour with the First Year teams. I have no doubt that the girls benefited from Ms. Murphy's experience as assistant coach to the Leinster Senior Ladies team as well as being the Irish U18 manager.

Our Senior As had a very good season reaching the semi-final of the Senior 1 league before being beaten, after extra time by the eventual winners Our Lady's Grove in a very close and exciting match. Led by Laura Maher the As began their league season by beating East Glendalough, Sancta Maria, Notre Dame and Loreto Stephen's Green. Newpark were defeated in the quarter-final resulting in an encounter with Our Lady's Grove who unfortunately proved too strong on this occasion.

The Senior Bs also qualified from their section of the league following victories over Rathdown and Alexandra College, but a very strong Mt. Anville team ended their season in the knockout stages.

The Senior Cs found their league a little more difficult and following defeats to High School and Mt. Temple their interest in the league was over.

Our Junior As began their season very well and showed great potential with league victories over King's Hospital and Mt. Anville. A defeat to Muckross meant victory over Holy Child Killiney

was essential if they were to progress. This was duly achieved by a 3-0 scoreline and the team qualified to meet Dominican Cabra in the knock-out stages. Unfortunately nerves appeared to play their part with Cluny suffering a narrow 1-0 defeat.

The Junior Bs had a mixed season achieving a well-deserved 4-0 victory over Loreto Stephen's Green but unfortunately suffering defeats to Rathdown and Mt. Temple.

The Minor As found themselves in a most difficult league section and despite showing tremendous commitment and enthusiasm throughout the season, suffered defeats against Mt. Anville, Alexandra College and Our Lady's Terenure.

The Minor Bs began the season very well winning their first four matches. A narrow defeat to Wesley College followed by a 2-1 victory over Loreto Stephen's Green in torrential rain ensured a rematch with Mt. Sackville to secure a play-off place. In a very closely fought encounter Mt. Sackville claimed victory by a single goal in extra-time.

The Minor Cs gave some excellent displays in their league most notably against Alexandra College and St. Andrews but unfortunately Loreto Beaufort proved too strong, winning 3-1.

The First Years showed great potential and enthusiasm this year. The As led by Lauren Cavanagh gave some excellent displays particularly in defeating Wesley College. Having beaten St. Kilians and Our Lady's Grove, they qualified to meet Loreto Beaufort. Unfortunately Beaufort eventually claimed a 2-0 victory in a very close match.

The Bs improved greatly throughout the season with the highlight being their league victory over Loreto Foxrock.

Ms. M. Seymour

Athletics 2008

The athletics season started with the introduction of a running club on Wednesdays for enthusiastic and eager runners!!! And to my surprise 12 to 20 showed up every Wednesday until the October mid-term break because of the dark evenings. Back after Christmas and the runners returned! It had a steady turn-out right up to trials for the athletics team to compete in the East Leinster Championships.

This year the Championships were held over two days May 4th and 8th. Day one was a gorgeous day for athletics perhaps too warm for middle distance runners and sprinters, with some athletes having to run heats, then semi-final and final in a very short space of time. It was the day of discus throwers with all Cluny's medals coming from the field event. Leading the way was Ath-



letics Captain Rachel McGuire defending her East Leinster title. Next she will have to defend the Leinster title! Good luck Rachel – we know you can do it!!

Update: Rachel successfully defended her title—well done!

Medals on the day:

<i>Rachel McGuire</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Gold – Senior</i>
<i>Jessica Ennis</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Silver – Inter.</i>
<i>Sarah Goulding</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Silver – Junior</i>
<i>Jenny Campbell</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Bronze – Junior</i>

Day two on Thursday the sun was out in force again – more chance to top up on that tan you started on Wednesday. Only 2 medals for our efforts! Silver and bronze, our heroes of the day were Claire Hanney in Second Year and Kim Plenderleith in First Year

<i>Claire Hanney</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Silver</i>
<i>Kim Plenderleith</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Bronze</i>

All six medal winners have qualified for Leinster Athletic Championships that will take place over the next week. Not to be forgotten – Caoimhe Basquille missed the East Leinsters but because she is defending champion in the Junior High Jump she will be allowed to compete in the Leinster meet. Caoimhe was away competing for Ireland in gymnastics. We welcome her back and wish her and all our athletes the very best!!

Ed Randolph **Newsflash!**

Caoimhe Basquille awarded Leinster Champion Gold in High Jump—1.55 winning height.

Tennis

The school tennis season is quite short but extremely busy with a number of matches being played in a short period of time. Practice takes place twice a week in Cluny for all age-groups with our league matches being played in Sandycove Tennis Club.

As is the norm, there was lots of interest and enthusiasm at Minor level. Unfortunately this is not the case at the Junior and Senior age groups, with participation levels reduced.

The Minors, led by Jennifer Crotty, were drawn in a very difficult league section. Mt. Anville proved too strong for all teams in the section but our girls gave very good displays in beating Mt.

Sackville and narrowly losing to Rathdown.

The Juniors lead by Olivia Crossan also found the opposition very strong in their league section. Mt. Anville and Alexandra College provided difficult opposition but the girls earned a well deserved victory over Muckross Park.

The standard of tennis at Senior level is very strong and our Senior players found the opposition of Santa Sabina, Loreto Dalkey and Hold Child Killiney too strong for them, narrowly losing 2-1 in their matches. Special mention must go to Ashley O'Sheehan who won all her games.

M. Seymour

Basketball

Well done girls, to each and every one of you for your commitment and hard work!

Congratulations to the following teams for getting to the South Dublin League Semi-Finals: Senior A, Senior B, Senior C, Cadette A, Junior A, Junior C - First Year teams – Minor A, Minor B and Minor C. Once again we know what we can accomplish when we work together. Well done to all!

We had four league winners this season – Senior A team, Cadette A, Junior A and Junior C. All collected silverware representing Cluny! It's become a highlight of the season for a team to make it through to an All-Ireland tournament. This year, our Junior A team made it through as runner-up, losing in the final. And in the tournament quarter-final a 5 point loss to rivals, Coláiste Íosagáin, put an end to All-Ireland glory! Íosagáin went on to beat a very good Taylor's Hill from Galway in the final! So Second Years – next year and remember only 5 points difference this year. We are closing the gap!

The Minor A (1st Years) made it through to the All Ireland which took place in the new state of the art sports arena in the University of Limerick where our First Years finished eighth out of twelve schools. A very talented team next year

will do a lot better if we can stay healthy! Emma Lennon suffered a broken bone in her wrist which kept her from playing. There were good performances from Fiona Craddock, Orla Schutte, Aoife O'Connell, Carla Byrne, Kim Plenderleith, Rebecca Kelly and Grace Sheehy! The tournament was excellent for team bonding and learning! Plus the girls really enjoyed the trip!

Last but not least – Farewell to Sixth Years!

Jessica McKell, Rebecca Errity and Jenny Curtin reflect on six years of hoops in Cluny – 'We're not a team, we're family' – say the three Leaving Cert students.

Honourable mention for this season:

Rebecca Errity, Jessica McKell, Jenny Curtin, Amy Connolly, Ciara O'Riordan, Soracha McCarthy, Lisa Morgan, Shannon Egan, Stephanie Bryan, Katie Judge, Jenny Kavanagh, Sarah Flanagan, Aphria O'Higgins, Nicole Dunne, Sarah Gaynor, Emma Lester, Aisling O'Toole, Jade Hanley, Ruth Slamon, Grainne Killion, Ciara Stephenson, Anna McDermott, Rachel Slamon and last, but not least, next year's Senior Captains Daire Guilfoyle and Aoife O'Dowd.

Ed. Randolph



Ed Randolph stands tall and proud of his U.19 A Girls Shield winning team.

Sixth Year Farewell—We're a Family

For us basketball was, in the words of Adrienne Rich, “a succession of brief amazing moments”. How can we sum up six spectacular years of school basketball in a few short words? You can't.....but attempting the impossible never stopped us before!

This year we exceeded all expectations and overcame the personified obstacles that were the O'Reilly Twins from Cork. Yes, that's right, we are the Under 19's All-Ireland Plate Champions. We were undoubtedly the underdogs and so all odds were against us. We were facing two of the country's toughest teams, but against all odds, we pulled through.

Thanks to a combination of skill, teamwork and perseverance we topped our pool, qualifying for the final. This final was by far both the hardest and most rewarding match of our lives. Throughout the match it was basket for basket. But in the end our whole-hearted determination outweighed their undeniable skill.

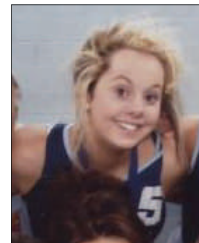
Our participation in basketball over the past six years has greatly added to our education in Cluny as a whole. Many a life skill has been learned, and these skills will stand to us in the future both on and off the court. From the importance of individual self-belief, the lessons we have learned are invaluable.

Basketball in Cluny would not have been the same without the girls who we were lucky enough to call our team mates. However, these girls are much more than team mates - they are our friends. It's reassuring to know that we are leaving the future of Cluny basketball in their capable hands.

We couldn't go without mentioning the one person who has a special place in our hearts, that is our coach and, above all, our friend, Mr. Ed Randolph. We feel that Ed has been the backbone of basketball and continues to be the changing face of sport in Cluny. It's difficult to express in words the depth of our gratitude and sheer admiration for the man who made our memories. The past six years in Cluny would not have been the same without you, Ed. We're going to miss you. In the words of the wise man himself

“It's not goodbye - it's see ya later!”

Jessica, Jennifer and Rebecca.



Puppets

2nd Year Art students made some wonderful puppets.

From Tutankhamen to Marie Antoinette each had a unique character.



Transition Year Art Module in the D.S.P.C.A.

The Transition Year art module groups have taken on a new project this year. We are re-designing and re-decorating the Education Room in the D.S.P.C.A animal centre. D.S.P.C.A stands for the Dublin Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



The animal centre is situated in Rathfarnham. The D.S.P.C.A was established in 1840 to prevent cruelty to animals and is now Ireland's largest animal welfare organisation. Under the supervision of Mrs McNulty, the TYs were delighted to have the opportunity to help this worthwhile cause.

Each module group will take a different aspect of the room to re-decorate. The aim of this project is to make the room appealing to people of all ages. Children, as young as two, come to this room to learn about caring for animals of all kinds. The Dublin S.P.C.A. believes that raising people's awareness is the best insurance against cruelty to animals. Therefore, the Education Room is very important. It needs to be inviting to entice people to come in and learn. We, along with Mrs McNulty, hope to achieve this.

The first module group were taken to visit the D.S.P.C.A animal centre in Rathfarnham. We were given the chance to learn about the D.S.P.C.A and their work. We got to view the existing Education room. By doing this, we developed inspiration for our project. After the tour of

the centre, we split up into groups. An hour later, we returned to the bus, sketches of different animals in our hands. There were all types of animals at the centre, including tortoises, goats, chickens and horses. It was surprising to see how many animals are neglected and abused in modern society. We were sad to leave the D.S.P.C.A without bringing the animals home with us.

I have to say that Art was one of my favourite modules. Our module group has completed a fantasy 3D yellow and orange tree that will stand in the corner of the room, as well as four 3D creative paintings, outlining the aims of the D.S.P.C.A- Rescue, Rehabilitate, Rehome and Release. These will be stuck up on the wall. Completed also was a 3D painting of a horse sticking his head out from a stable door, which will appear out of the other corner of the room.

We can't wait until the entire room is finished and opened to the public. We hope the other three module groups enjoy decorating the room as much as we did.

By Anna McDermott 4L



Transition Year

My Work Experience

One of the best things I've done this year was work experience. I was excited at the idea of being out of school for two whole weeks and being at the work place actually working. You see people working every day, but I never realised what it would be like to actually work. It never hit me until I was there. It wasn't going to be a doss. I wouldn't be able to excuse my way out of things. I wasn't the child anymore. I was treated for the first time like an adult. My age didn't matter! I was just a new person trying to learn the same things they would have already learnt. I thought I'd be like their personal slave, fetching them this

and that but I wasn't. Sure if I was asked to get someone or do something I would do it, but it wasn't a chore, it was a learning process. Everyone was so welcoming and helpful the time flew by. I didn't want to leave. What I thought I'd hate, I loved. I feel like I've grown as a person. I feel older, more mature. I am excited about the future and am eager to learn. I can talk to someone without feeling embarrassed. I can explain something confidently to an older person. I've definitely grown up. The skills I've learnt I will know forever and I am excited by the road ahead.

by Lauren Curtis

My T.Y. Experience

My name is Gemma Pidelaserra and I'm in 4th Year in St. Joseph of Cluny School. I hadn't heard about TY before I came to Ireland because it does not exist in Spain (my native country).

In TY we do a lot of "unusual" subjects such as Yoga, Singing, Drama, Dance, TV and Film, Aromatherapy, Westwood Gym. We also have options. Options are divided into 4 groups and each group has 3 subjects. Every 6/7 weeks we change our subjects. This way, we can try all of them so that at the end of the year it's easier to choose the ones that you want to do in the Leaving Cert.

I think that TY is a great year to develop new

skills and discover abilities that you have but you didn't know. I think it's a year where the main aim isn't to get the best mark on everything but to reflect, discover and experiment with yourself, to be able to say, at the end of the year who you are. It's a year to become more confident with yourself and to realise that every person is different, a year to reflect on your future and your past, a year that helps me to believe that I can do things, that I'm useful for something.

I think TY is a great chance to be well prepared for our future which will, in fact, be Ireland's future.

My TY

Transition Year - Well what can I say? It's nearly all over and it has been an amazing year. Third Year, last year, flew by. I was a student who just wanted to get the Junior Cert over and done with and it seems like such a blur looking back on it. I do not regret wishing the days away, something I intended not doing in TY. by Ashley O'Sheehan

My T.Y.

It is difficult to describe just one aspect of TY which I have experienced there has been so many challenges and have encountered, one of which is community service.

I chose the Rehabilitation Centre as my community service. I committed to it for nine weeks. When I walked in the door I didn't expect what I saw. I don't know what I expected but not this. I walked around and visited patients. Some were unable to talk due to their accidents. Others were amputees and others had back problems etc. The patients were from all over the country.

How long they are to stay at the Rehab depends on how serious the accident. What I found heart-breaking was Christmas time. Some of the patients were unable to get home for Christmas as the journey home would be too long and they wouldn't have the care they needed. There was one particular boy and his family had to travel from Cork all the time to visit him.

After my first night I realised that I am lucky. There are times I feel like giving up but I always return to my community service. It was a reality check for me as these people have to pick up their lives again.

What surprised me was that the patients I went to visit, were optimistic. They were upbeat and always willing to talk. Of course there were days when they were down and upset but that happens to all of us. It's the basis of humanity, to feel emotions. They would tell me about their day and what they had the next day or talk about what programme was on the TV. It was just small talk, but it made a difference to their day and mine. It was a nice feeling to know that you've taken the time to listen and that's the key. Listen to what they have to say. I felt fulfilled after every week I went. It also showed me how lucky I really am and that I should appreciate the small things in life more.

by Ciara Stephenson – 4L

Barcelona February 2008



Girls enjoy a visit to the Chocolate Museum and take part in a chocolate tasting workshop.



The Cluny girls visited the beautiful Cathedral in Girona.

Easter Cross

Two art students from Transition Year and four 6th Year art students used their talents to paint a series of panels for an Easter Cross that was displayed in the school foyer.

The theme of the cross was to explain that like Jesus, people today also suffer crosses. 21st century crosses may be addictions, sickness, poverty, or victims of injustice and that Christ is there to support us. After Easter 1st year R.E. students made lots of flowers to symbolise the Resurrection and the theme of Jesus bringing hope to us all.



Our Trip to W5

When we first heard we were going to W5, the science museum in Belfast, we were all REALLY excited. We had heard it was really good, and it obviously be a million times better than a day of studying in school!!!!

The day came. We arrived at the school dreary-eyed but excited at 7.30am on the 31st of January. We set off. After a long bus journey of rain, loud music and, to our delight, snow, we arrived. W5 was in the Odyssey, which was HUGE!!!

First, we saw a really interesting show about optical illusions. The demonstrator told us about how our eyes actually see two different images, but our brain gets a bit confused and pieces the two images together, creating the image as we see it.

We then had lunch. After lunch we went to the next floor. There was a harp with no strings and yet you could still play music because of lasers which was really cool!! On the same floor, there was a weather station explaining weather and cloud patterns. Then we filmed our very own weather report and watched it!! That was probably my favourite bit.

There was also a floor which dealt with our bodies fitness including a seat which you sat on and pulled yourself up the wall. There were three different seats with different pulley systems to see if our bodies could adapt to the different systems. There was also a bridge with the central parts missing, and we had to see if we could build it up again. We literally had to build a bridge and get over it!

We would have been perfectly happy to stay for another few hours and explore the different exhibitions, but unfortunately the day had to end eventually. We returned back to Dublin, with happy memories and lots of new information of different aspects of science. I would without a doubt return to W5.

by Joy Murphy, 2Y

TY Enterprise Students

Pictured L-R are this years Cluny School Bank Officials from TY Enterprise Class, Sarah Cooper, Claire Dempsey, Emma Lynam, Emma Roe, Cliodhna Gillen and Alison Burke at the Regional Final of the "Build a Bank Challenge" competition in March.



2nd Yr Business Studies Class

2nd Year Business Studies class pictured in A.I.B. Ballsbridge. Gavin Brock of A.I.B. was the Business Volunteer who presented the Junior Achievement programme entitled "Personal Economics"



ST. JOSEPH OF CLUNY

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St. Joseph of Cluny S.S.

Open Day

Thursday afternoon

October 2nd, 2008



New Punctuality Drive 08-09

Texting Service for parents of students who are late

Starting in August/September 2008 we are hoping as a staff to improve student punctuality and reduce the daily numbers of students who are coming to school late. For a lot of our students lateness is not a problem. But we did have a number of students this year for whom lateness had become a cause of repeated detentions and for whom lateness seems to have become an ingrained habit.

Repeat late offending students will be subject to a 'Punctuality Report Card' now and we are exploring the option of an automatic text home for students late after 8.30a.m.

Our primary aim here is to help students to acquire the important life skill of punctuality and also to keep parents informed.

M. White.

