

# News Update: Beginning of the School Year 2010



ST. JOSEPH OF CLUNY KILLINEY CO. DUBLIN

## From the Principal's Desk

September 2010

### School Re-opening

Dear Parents

I hope you all had a very enjoyable summer this year whether at home or abroad and that you continue to enjoy the last few weeks of autumn sunshine.

We are getting back into our stride in school now and we were delighted to welcome all our girls back from holidays in recent weeks. May I extend a very warm welcome to all our new First Year Parents. The First Years seem to be settling in well into their new school environment. The routine takes getting used to and also the demands of their new school timetable. If any First Year parents have any queries or concerns please don't hesitate to contact the school i.e. either their Year Head Mr. Pat Larkin or myself. Even if the girls are not presently in class

with their friends from primary school, it has been our experience that they will settle in and make new friends without difficulties. They tend to form an identity with their new class groups very quickly.

### Leaving Cert 2010

The Leaving Certificate students of 2010 had a wonderful set of results in August this year. Almost one third of the Leaving Cert class of 75 students achieved 500 points and higher from this years group which was wonderful news indeed. There were lots of individual personal achievements amongst all the students and in all the results achieved. Congratulations to all the Leaving Cert girls of 2010 and their teachers. We wish them every success in the next stage of their education. Special

congrats to our highest achievers who were Francesca Feaheny 600 points; Molly Brady Martin 590 points; Sarah Cooper 560 points and Niamh Allen 550 points. Molly is to be congratulated in particular as she also carried the position of Head Girl in Sixth Year and kept up her full engagement with school life and activities during her final year. Francesca has selected medicine as her chosen career and we wish her and all our L.C. students of 2010 well in their studies.

### Mrs Lundy, Principal of Muckross

The other significant news over the summer was the appointment of our Deputy Principal Mrs Caroline Lundy to the position of Principal of Muckross College in Donnybrook. We will miss Mrs Lundy in Cluny as she was a

### Special points of interest:

- SCHOOL PROCEDURES
- PARENT TEACHER MEETING REMINDERS
- PARENTS ASSOCIATION AGM
- MUSICAL
- ANNUAL REMINDERS
- DEBS DATE

## Annual Reminders

### Traffic Regulations

Please observe the one-way traffic system at all times

When dropping students at the student entrance please use the drop off route created by the traffic cones. Please have your daughter exit the car as quickly as possible.

### Supervision of Students

**8.15 a.m.— 4.15 p.m.**

Supervision of students begins at 8.15 and finishes at 4.15. We would ask parents to have their daughters attend only between these times.

### Debs Nights: Sixth Years 2010

The annual Debutants Reception will be held by the Parents Association on **Monday 28th September** from 4.30p.m. 6.30p.m.

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## From the Principal's Desk continued

very popular Deputy Principal and noteworthy in terms of her exacting standards re: uniform, demerits and student lateness while also having a great sense of fairness with students. She will also be missed of course as a teacher of senior Religion and for her love of Music and all things musical in the school. We congratulate and wish her well in her new appointment. A new appointment to the post of Deputy Principal will take place over the next two weeks.

### Summer Works 2010

During the summer we undertook some upgrading work in the school which included the replacement of all the school water tanks for a more modern prototype: the completion of the upgrading of our classroom wooden floors: the upgrading of our Geography Room and Sixth Year Common Room. We have also concluded equipping all school classrooms and practical rooms with ceiling mounted data projectors. The architectural firm Coady Partnership have undertaken the task of ground markings over the summer as a preliminary to the application for planning permission for the proposed new Astroturf. Works are not expected to commence until the spring however, so the present pitch should see us through this year's hockey season. We will keep parents updated on developments and will let you know when the plans can be viewed in the school etc. When things progress to the building phase, as always, our priority will be to keep the building works at an acceptable noise level to allow normal school life and all its activities to continue. The same will apply to any re-organisation of traffic which may

have to happen during the building phase.

### Traffic Management

Unfortunately delays in traffic have re-commenced since the opening of the school on 28 August last with some delays beginning as early as 8.10a.m. Can I appeal to all parents to undertake the following when driving onto the school grounds.

- Please do not drop your daughter immediately outside the student entrance when there are cars behind you. Please move along the cone 'alley' we have created to allow other cars to move in behind you. A delay outside the student entrance blocks up the traffic back down the avenue.
- Please do not drop off students along the avenue or outside the main school entrance. This can also cause a delay for the driver behind.
- Please consider dropping off your daughter on Avondale Road and let her walk through the school grounds. Students should be wearing school jackets now and should manage most autumn weather conditions, unless the rain is severe.
- The Green School Committee would like to remind you that September 20-25 is 'Walk to School' week in Cluny. Please consider this seriously for the week and at a minimum have the girls walk up the avenue for the week. An information notice is included in this mailing. Good luck to the Green

Schools this year in aiming for their Fourth Flag.

### Parents Association

The Parents Association notification has been sent out concerning the School Enrichment Services talk for parents on "Study Skills and Your Child" on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010 @ 7.30p.m. This is the agency which presents the annual Study Skills Seminar to Sixth and Third Years in August and which are very popular with the students. This seminar will be giving advice for parents of students in all year groups. Planting the seed early and getting the girls into good study habits is so important from the beginning.

The AGM of the Parents Association will take place on Wednesday 20 October @ 8.00p.m. All are welcome.

In the meantime the Parents Association will be hosting the reception for the Debs night on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September in the school hall between 4.30-6.30p.m. The early starting time is to accommodate the girl's hotel and dinner schedule.

Many thanks also to Mrs Mary Feeney and Mrs Paula Crotty from the Parents Association who organised with three other parents Mrs Linda Fagan, Mrs Maggie Bree and Mrs Teresa Husband to instruct all our Transition Year students in the Irish Heart Foundation CPR and Defibrillator Certified training Programme over several mornings this month. We are most grateful to Mrs Feeney and the team of parents for taking the time to undertake this very valuable training for the girls.

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## From the Principal's Desk continued

The HSE have contacted the school to inform us that the Cervical Cancer Vaccination Programme will commence for First and Second Years on 01 October next, the 3<sup>rd</sup> December and a third date to be fixed in the spring. This is a free national service rolling out for the first time in Irish schools this year. Letters will be forwarded to all relevant parents by the HSE over the coming weeks. Students who do not receive the vaccine through the school can have their local GP administer the vaccine. Normal charges will apply in that case however.

There is another health issue to bring to your attention. Due to national cut backs the HSE are not longer able to provide screening for First, Second and Third Year students for Scoliosis in secondary schools from 2009. The Parents Association are researching the possibility of funding a private medical practitioner who might undertake the screening in school. It is a disappointing development as quite a number of students have benefited from an early alert to get treatment for this condition over the years. The Parents Association will keep you informed on progress on the issue.

### Arnotts

As parents are aware, Arnotts are experiencing a supply issue with some Cluny uniform items this year. The issue related to the late deliveries from the suppliers of school jumpers particularly. As a result some of our new First Years and other students did not have their full school uniform at the start of the school term. Arnotts have apologised for this, accepted

full responsibility for the situation and offered a gesture to households that have been inconvenienced. Arnotts are in dialogue with the school at present about the resolution of the issue to ensure that it does not reoccur in the future. Many thanks for your understanding on the matter.

### School Fees

The Board of Management is most grateful to all our parents for their financial support of the school and for the prompt payment of school fees annually. The Board is pleased that due to effective financial management the fee increase was kept to a modest one this year. Nonetheless times are difficult for parents and families at present. The Board recommends that any parent who maybe experiencing difficulties meeting school fee payments would contact the school early in the year to discuss a way forward on the matter. The Board remains committed to a high standard of educational service for students and parents in Cluny. We hope parents in turn appreciate this involves significant financial planning on the Board's behalf. All schools fees are important to us to meet the financial needs of the school on an annual basis.

### School Musicals

As mentioned in the June Letter this year will see two major productions in the form of a Fifth Year Musical 'Footloose' in October i.e. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October next. This will be followed by a TY Musical in March 2010 in the form of a 'Musical Review' with excerpts from famous musicals loved by students and parents alike. Both musicals will be produced by Irene Burke and her production team

long associated with the success of musicals in the school. We wish them all well in the busy year ahead. Congrats to TY student Megan Ross who entered the Concern Worldwide Creative Writing Competition by Mr. J. Byrne and who won first place in the Junior Category for her essay on Millennium Development Goals. Well done Megan. Congrats also to Katie Deevy 6N who won several singing and music awards while in the United States this summer. Well done Katie.

Good luck to our Sixth Year Head Girl Emma Cogan 6N and Jenny Kavanagh 6N Deputy Head Girl and to all Sixth Year Prefects and House Captains.

Our next update will be the school Newsletter later this term which we will also send you out in the mail due to requests from parents to do so. Keep an eye on our website also for the latest news and updates.

### Junior Cert. Results

Finally congratulations to all our Third Years on their Junior Certificate results and hope the weather keeps find for them in Recess. Congrats to Megan Ross on 'clearing the board' with eleven A's and to Eleanor O'Mahony, Fiona Craddock, Lauren Foster Ryan and Emma Lennon with ten A's a piece. There were lots of other terrific individual achievements also. Well done to the students and teachers concerned.

Some annual reminders are included. Looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming school events.

M. White.

Ballinclea Road  
Killiney  
Co. Dublin

Phone: 01 2855027  
Fax: 01 2851310  
E-mail [cluny@eircom.net](mailto:cluny@eircom.net)  
Web site: [clunykillyneey.ie](http://clunykillyneey.ie)

**Parents Association A.G.M.**

**20th October 2010 @ 7.30p.m. In the Library**

*Any items for inclusion in the AGM please forward to the Chairperson Mrs Claire*

*Ryan via the School*

**Parent-teacher Meetings 2010-2011**

**Times to be announced  
closer to the date.**

**Sixth Years PTM**  
Mon Oct 18<sup>th</sup>  
\* New date

**Second Year PTM**  
Wed 17th November

**TY PTM**  
Wed. Jan. 26th

**Third Years PMT**  
Tues. Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>

**First Years PTM**  
Tues. 18th January

**Fifth Years PTM**  
Thurs. 10th March

**School Procedures 2010-2011**

If you have any queries or matters to discuss in relation to your daughters progress, subject, reports, behaviour uniform or disciplinary issues your first point of contact in the school is her Year Head. They are the following teachers:

**6<sup>th</sup> Year**  
**Mrs D. Smyth**

**5<sup>th</sup> Year**  
**Ms. Dullaghan**

**4<sup>th</sup> Year**  
**Mr. J. Byrne**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year**  
**Íníon Uí Aodhagáin**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year**  
**Ms. R. Molloy**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year**  
**Mr P. Larkin**

The Year Heads are looking forward to meeting you at the Parents – Teachers meeting during the year or will meet you by appointment if you wish, during term time.

The Tutors take a particular interest in the girls pastoral welfare and are the following:

**6C** Mr. J. O'Farrell  
**6L** Mrs B. Wolahan  
**6N** Mr. C. Hartigan

**5C** Ms. A. Delahunty  
**5L** Ms. D. Fahey  
**5N** Mr. R. Browne

**4C** Ms. C. Marren  
**4L** Ms. L. Forde  
**4N** Ms. M. Seymour

**3W** Ms. A. Breheny  
**3X** Ms. J. Ryan  
**3Y** Ms. A. Coleman

**2W** Ms. G. McEvoy  
**2X** Ms. J. Whelan  
**2Y** Mrs D. Smith

**1W** Mr. C. Twomey  
**1X** Ms. L. Connaghan  
**1Y** Ms. P. Rooney

**St. Joseph of  
Cluny 5th  
Years Present**



**October  
6th, 7th & 8th  
8p.m. sharp  
School Hall**

**Tickets €12 adults  
€10 students  
via school office**