



St. Joseph of Cluny S.S.

Newsletter Winter 2012

2012-2013 ISSUE 1

CLUNY KILLINEY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- LeChéile Celebration Mass
- Sports News Basketball and Hockey
- Open Evening
- Debating
- Chinese Studies

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From the Principal's Desk

Glad to have you join us in the seasonal run up to Christmas and the end of term. Patrick Kavanagh wrote in his poem 'Advent' about 'charming back the luxury of a child's soul' during this special season of Advent. Hopefully it will be an enjoyable season ahead for you all.

Mass of Celebration: 19 Nov 2012

In recognition of our recent association with the Le Cheile Catholic Schools Trust we decided to hold a special Mass of Celebration to mark the school's affiliation to Le Cheile in November. The event coincided with a visit from Sr. Claire Houraeau who is the Superior General of the Cluny Order and who flew in from Paris for the occasion. We were also delighted to secure our special guest Arch-



Mass of Celebration—19 November 2012

bishop Charles Brown, Papal Nuncio who was the chief celebrant of the Mass. The Mass was a very special occasion indeed. We were delighted to have parents from the senior and junior schools attend along with the students from both schools, the teaching staff both present and retired, the sisters of the Cluny order and special guests including representatives from some of the local Le Cheile schools. Mr Larkin opened the occasion by drawing our attention to the beautiful commemorative tapestry created for the occasion by the T.Y. Art depicting the elements of school life which the girls selected as being of importance to them. These included such varied items as the school lockers, sport, the



From the Principal's desk continued



Offertory
Procession

ST. JOSEPH
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WINTER
2012

Ms. Darmody
'Avec Anne-Marie
Aujourd'hui'



uniform and the school avenue and grounds. All the girls participated in the making of a link paper chain for Ms. Devaney where they identified aspects of life in the school which they valued. 'Friendship' was the most popular quality identified, followed by 'respect' and 'belonging'.

In his homily Archbishop Brown who hails from the Bronx in New York City spoke to the students about incorporating the meaning of their faith and the meaning of holiness into their daily lives. His presentation style and the theme of his homily was particularly well received by the students. Sr. Claire praised the work of the Le Cheile Trust in that congregations like our own Cluny congregation are encouraged to keep their founding charisms and their educational vision, whereas the legal challenges of the role of trusteeship will now be the work in progress for Le Cheile. The school Choir under the leadership of Mr. O' Farrell and Mrs Higgins included the beautiful 'Laudate Dominum' among the pieces selected. We were also delighted to have featured Ms. Connaughton who sang 'The Lord is My Shepherd' and to have featured Ms. Darmody who sang the anthem of the Cluny foundress Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey i.e. 'Avec Anne-Marie Aujourd'hui'. As always, the school Orchestra, were wonderful and all of our student participants did an excellent job.

Ms. Lambert presented the Offertory Procession where students, parents and teachers brought items to the altar representing school life. These included an iPad, reflecting the latest developments in education, a 'Tree of Life', symbolizing the contribution of parents to the school mission and an array of beautiful costumes, including one on a mannequin, representing the contribution of students to the Arts.

It was a very special occasion in the history of the school.



Sr. Maeve Guinan, Ms. Orla Lambert,
Ms. Mary White, Sr. Rowena &
Sr. Claire Houraeau

The granting of Planning Permission for the Hockey Astroturf: 03 Dec 2012

Other recent good news includes the granting by an Bord Pleanala of permission to build the much awaited astroturf. The Board is delighted at this very recent turn of events and has requested the Architects Coady Partnership to draw up the tender documentation over the next few months with a view to commencing building during the summer months and of course taking into account the duration of the state exams. The building works will include the creation of a new school entrance, new car parking and a new traffic route into and out onto Avondale Road, as well as a newly laid out school avenue. The new development will be carefully landscaped to enhance the beautiful grounds we already have and ensure the replanting of trees etc where any disturbance occurs. The construction of the floodlights will also, of course, be a wonderful new addition for our hockey students who presently have so little time to



From the Principal's desk continued

practice in the winter months. The pitch will be multi surface to allow for tennis in the summer term and for the playing of some other school sports. The construction is expected to be completed in the autumn.



Student Awards

It has been a busy time in school since the last September Newsletter. Recently I attended the **UCD Entrance Scholars Awards Ceremony** which featured no less

than 6 of our last years'. Sixth Years who received the awards as a result of their high performance in last years' Leaving Cert i.e. between 545 and 595 points. Our Award winners included Jennifer Campbell, College of Food Science; Aisling Ahern, College of Business and Law; Claire Hanney, Melanie Hogan, Aisling Murphy and Sophie O'Reilly, College of Health Sciences in UCD. Similarly **Trinity College** held a College Entrance Exhibition Award Ceremony and Orlaith Kelly was the recipient of this award on the basis of her performance in last years L.C. exam. Orlaith is studying Medicinal Chemistry in Trinity. The school congratulates these girls for their dedication to their studies and congratulates all our recent graduates and wishes them well in their new colleges. Our congratulations also to Ciara Mc Keown who was selected to participate in the Irish Science Olympiad due to her high results in Maths and Science in the 2012 JC exam.

The Parents Association

The AGM of the Parents Association was held on 27 September last under the very capable Chair Mrs Janet O'Doherty. We had some student presentations this year including from Katie O'Byrne 6L, Head Girl and Laura Spain 6C, Deputy Head Girl and Ms. Andrea Dillon, School Librarian. Ms. Dillon spoke about the Library programme for this year and her programme for encouraging the girls' reading habits. The AGM included the election of new parent representatives to the school Board of Management. Many thanks to Mrs Paula Crotty and Mr Paul Mc Sweeney for going forward

for election to the Board and thanks also to the new parents who have joined the Executive Committee of the Parents Association. We are very grateful for the very hard work undertaken all year by members of the Executive Committee at so many school events. The Careers Evening, run on 12 November, was a huge success featuring over 35 presenters of their particular careers including past pupils. Many thanks in particular to Mrs Paula Crotty, Parents Association and Ms Caroline McPhillips, Career Guidance teacher for their organizational skills here.

For further updates on our very busy Library and our busy Librarian please see our 'Library Newsletter' attached. The Library has been kitted out with a second mobile laptop trolley inclusive of ten laptops bringing the total of computers available in the Library to twenty-four. However. our range of books is, of course, the most important resource there. We have had several exhibitions in the Library this term, including a celebration of the first moon landing and a great array of ghouls and ghosts for Halloween and featuring a Harry Potter spinner hat representing different houses at Hogwarts. This was a great success. The theme for Christmas will be 'Winter Wonderland' and we are looking forward to performances there from our younger students in the run up to Christmas.

Student Success

Now that we are reaching the end of term it is time to acknowledge some student successes including debating. Four Sixth Year students represented the school in the Soroptomist Public Speaking Competition in the Mansion House i.e. Katie O'Byrne, Eleanor O'Mahony, Aine Flanagan and Fiona Craddock. Aine achieved first place and proceeds to the regional

....Sixth Years

who received

the awards as a

result of their

high

performance in

last years'

Leaving Cert



Katie O'Byrne Head Girl & Laura Spain Deputy Head Girl 2012-2013

From the Principal's desk continued



finals in the New Year. Two Sixth Year students teams participated in the Leinster Schools senior Debates in U.C.D i.e. Niamh Casey and Sadhbh Frisson Roche were on one team and Eleanor McSweeney and Eleanor O Mahony on the second. Congrats to Eleanor McSweeney who won best individual speaker on the day. Congrats to the Concern debate students who have successfully won through these rounds of debates. The students involved are Sarah Lynam, Ayo Arongundade, Niamh Plunkett and Gemma Lynch. Well done to Gemma Lynch who also represented the school in the Rotary Public Speaking Competition recently.



Well done also to the six T.Y. students who were involved in recording a 30 minute programme for Blackrock Radio recently. Congratulations to both Mr Byrne and Ms. McEvoy for their hard work and enthusiasm for debating and to all our student debaters on their success so far.

Well done on the success of the U16 Basketball who won the quarter final match against Glanmire, Cork and the Cadette team who are through to the final of the Dublin League next week. Our Senior players have had several matches around the country since September and they have put some dedicated work into the various competitions along, of course, with Mr. Randolph. Mrs Kelly, Badminton Coach, is pleased that the U16A badminton team are through to the semi- final of Division 2 and the U19 B team are through to the quarter finals of the Dublin League. The Junior A's had a good win in Hockey against St. Andrews recently (5-0 to Cluny) and a great Minor A win against Rathdown in the Leinster League. The First Years and Minor teams have won a number of their friendlies and are showing great promise. The new Hockey gear is going down well in First Year also! Well done to Ms Seymour and the Hockey coaches. Glad to see Ms. Somers Swimming Club is as popular in Castle Park this year as last. We are looking

forward to our first Cluny team swimming success.

Hope the new appointment arrangement for Parent Teacher meetings is working well for parents as we all adjust to the workings of the new computerized system. The feedback from the first three Parent Teacher meetings this term has been generally positive, though it requires us all to keep to the exact appointment time and to make every effort to keep within the 5 minute time schedule for each teacher. We are taking on board the evaluations received from parents as we work through the year. We hope the girls have been telling you about our school organized 'A Cyber-bullying Awareness and Positive Mental Health Week' happening this month. We will have lots of information for students on support systems available for them, including a speaker to address all junior groups and some of the senior years on the issue. It has become a matter of great public concern this term generally and not alone in schools.

Rehersals are well underway for our annual Carol Service which will take place on **Monday 17 December**. Hope you will all be able to join us for this very special annual Christmas event. We are always most grateful for the support of parents and students in the annual Christmas donation appeal and the family box collection. This event has become a very significant part of school life in December. In the meantime, may I wish all our students, parents, staff, sisters, past pupils and the wider Cluny community very good wishes to all of you for the Christmas festivities and for the Christmas Season ahead. And every good wish for 2013

Nollaig Shona agus
Athbhliain Shuaim-
hneach

M. White



Leaving Certificate Class 2012

<u>Points</u>	<u>550-625</u>	<u>500-550</u>	<u>450-500</u>	<u>400-450</u>	<u>350-400</u>	<u>300-350</u>	<u>< 300</u>
<u>No of students attaining</u>	6	12	13	15	6	8	6

<u>Honours</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Numbers attaining</u>	3	15	23	11	7	6	0	1

University College Dublin

Science	5
Arts	4
English with drama	1
Business and Law	2
Commerce	2
International Languages	1
Social Science	1
Physiotherapy	1
Medicine	1
General Nursing	2

Trinity College Dublin

Sociology and Philosophy	1
BESS	1
Medicinal Chemistry	1
Medicine	1
Intellectual disability nursing	1
General Nursing	1
Midwifery	1

NUI Galway

Arts	1
Drama with French & Italian	1

Dublin City University

Psychology	1
Sports Science and Health	1
Genetics and Cell Biology	1
Law	1
Economics, Politics & Law	1

Dublin Institute of Technology

Early Childhood education	1
Law	2
Marketing	2
Business Management	1
Retail and Services Management	1
Pharmaceutical healthcare	1

Biomedical Science	1
Automated Engineering	1
Drama Performance	1

IADT Dun Laoghaire

Business and French	1
Applied Psychology	1

IT Tallaght

Pharmaceutical Science	
DNA and Forensic Science	1

National College of Ireland

Information Technology	1
Business Studies	2

Mater Dei Institute of Education

Irish and Religion	1
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St.Pats Teacher Training College

Primary School Teaching	1
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Robert Gordon University Edinburgh

Occupational Therapy	1
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Oxford Brookes University London

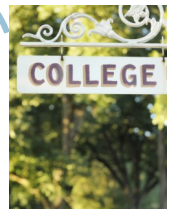
Occupational Therapy	1
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Post Leaving Certificate Courses

Childcare	2
Community and health studies	1
Hair and beauty	2
Dance	1

Working/Repeating

4



Sr. Claire Houraeau Addresses The Congregation



Sr. Claire Houraeau

Earlier this year, in March, the first school of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny in Ireland became part of the Le Chéile Trust, and today I am pleased to be here with you as our second secondary school takes its place beside its older sister in this organization which was surely an answer to prayer and inter-congregational dialogue.

Renewal is a word that has been doing the rounds of religious life for many years, indeed this year marks the 50th anniversary of Vatican II which opened up the vision of a new Church. But it has taken us a long time to really plunge into the changes that renewal calls for, and the reasons for that reluctance are not always evident. Were we too afraid of losing our identity, even as the post-Vatican era called us to claim our identity? Why was it so difficult to enter into dialogue with other Congregations which were experiencing similar difficulties with regard to recruitment and mission? Perhaps we felt that vocations would surely appear on the horizon, and that things would eventually level out. I'm not belittling the wonderful spirit of hope and prayer that Sisters, especially the older ones among us, kept alive, but thank God, not everyone sat and waited.

Today I would like to pay tribute to the founding members of the Trust who took those first steps in the dark, armed with an unshakeable faith in God, (the faith of the Irish, dare I say?) and plotted the way forward for a journey that is now inspiring so many religious and lay persons to put

their talents, experience, values and time at the service of our young Irish men and women. Of course there was, has always been, excellent Catholic schools in Ireland! No one doubts that for a moment. But Le Cheile has provided an answer to many of the problems that many a Trustee lost sleep over! They have put in place a system that handsomely bridges the gap between the old and the new. Congregations are encouraged to keep their founding charisms and their educational vision, and these in turn will be further developed by Le Cheile. At the same time the more practical problems will be taken on by the Trust, whose aim as their Charter states, is to carry on the legal, financial and inspirational role of trusteeship that has, up to now, been done by individual congregations.

Faced with the challenges of education today, our Congregations have seen the benefits of this collaborative effort and the splendid response of our lay colleagues as they work to uphold the special charism of each religious group. New relationships have been forged, new ventures attempted and the word Trust which some would say is non-existent, keeps its honourable place in our school. This can only be good for the teachers, students, parents and the society at large. Sister Una Collins, speaking on the Trust website, called the Trust "the best gift for Ireland" and I would like to reiterate that statement because a sound, value-based, catholic education is what Irish society needs to lead the way forward in the tumultuous times in which we live.

Photo L-R:

**Sr. Rowena Provincial Superior,
His Excellency Archbishop Charles Brown Papal Nuncio and Sr. Claire Superior General**



Opening of the Year Assembly 2012 Speeches



**Katie O'Byrne Head Girl
& Laura Spain Deputy Head Girl**

Hi girls, by now you all probably know who I am and what I do and are kind of hoping I'll wrap this up fairly sharpish as you're sick of listening to me make announcements, read out cheesy quotes, ask you how you are, try to get you to volunteer for things and, from time to time, mix you up with younger and older years.

But I promise I mean well, and as your Head and Deputy Head Girl this year, Laura and I are going to do everything in our power to make this year a productive, enjoyable and above all a positive year for you all.

Can I maybe start by asking you to give all the sixth years a round of applause for their presentations today. I'm sure you'll agree that they sold the extra-curricular life in Cluny to us and although a lot of them look big and old, there was quite a lot of nerves on the stage today! I've spent five years listening to cliché upon cliché about how your time here is going to fly and about how you should "make the most of it because before you know it, it's passed you by." But I don't think I ever really believed it. Yet today I find myself wanting to use this cliché again because there really is so much truth in it. As I enter my final year here, I am aware of just how privileged I have been to have been given the endless opportunities Cluny has to offer and the friendly atmosphere which has allowed me to make an infinite list of best friends and of course my 6th year sisters. Think I can't get any sappier with this speech? Just you wait.....

No one writes your destiny, you write your own destiny. You decide what you achieve and how you achieve it this year so set yourself goals. They can be big or small, academic or non-academic. They can be simple or complicated. This year set out with a positive attitude; tell

yourself that you will achieve your goals. Whatever you resolve to do, commit to your goals. You may not hit every note the first time or score every basket and you'll probably need to use your tip ex from time to time but don't let your failures define you, let them teach you. Some of the most successful people have failures. You can't change the direction of the wind, but you can adjust your sails to always reach your destination. Think.....what do you want to see when you open that envelope in the sports hall? whether it is in six years or in little over six months? How do you want to feel? All you can be is your best. Each one of us Cluny girls sitting here today have been given the gift of a privileged education. We go to an incredible school, but at the end of the day we can attend the best school in the world and still not achieve our full potential. It is what we make of it. It is our responsibility to put in the hard work and be all that we can be. We have been given the tools. Now it is left to us to put them to use. Everyone has something which they are good at and it is our responsibility to ourselves to find out what that is. Don't worry if you're not great at something straight away, that's why we're at school. We don't start out with greatness we become great. That is the opportunity which education provides and with a positive outlook, the sky is your limit.

Life is going to throw constant challenges and obstacles at you but if you're armed with a positive attitude you can fight them. Your circumstances might alter your goals but they do not alter the fact that there is no excuse for not trying...

Most of you will be aware of our sixth year Megan who came out of a serious operation last week. Megan is now battling a curable form of cancer, a battle which I believe 100% she is going to win. Those of you who have spoken to her over the last two weeks will have witnessed the extraordinary amount of positivity which she has been displaying. When she gave us all her news her togetherness and optimism was astounding. It was quite a shock for us all, but seeing Megan so unbelievably positive put everyone at ease. We're not worried because if anyone can get through this, Megan can.

Megan had to alter her goals for college but she did not give up on them. If anything, she's added more goals to her list, more subjects to

*You may not hit
every note the
first time or
score every
basket and you'll
probably need to
use your tip ex
from time to
time but don't
let your failures
define you, let
them teach you.*

Opening Assembly speeches continued



Mmmmm

*Choosing to be
positive and
having a grateful
attitude is going
to determine
how you're going
to live your life.*



study, more greatness to achieve, it's just going to happen a little later that she had originally planned.

My solution to everything is ice-cream. Ben and Jerry's chocolate fudge brownie so last Sunday evening, I packed up two spoons and a tub of Ben and Jerry's and headed into hospital to see Megan. When I arrived she informed me that she wasn't sure whether she had been more excited to see me or the ice-cream I was bringing. Sound, Megan!

As the two of us sat there and talked and laughed until visiting hours were well over, I began to find her positive attitudes not only admirable but truly inspirational. It was easy to forget that she was a girl who had been in surgery just three days previous to my visit.

I've made a decision not only for my sake and because it's our theme for the year but because I've seen first-hand how there really is no excuse for negativity. Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking will. Choosing to be positive and having a grateful attitude is going to determine how you're going to live your life. I'd encourage you to look at our sixth years, they are the most positive bunch of girls out there and will be singing to you later about how you should "get on up when you're down and take a good look around, we know it's not right but it's okay keep on moving on anyway".

Laura and I are so excited about working with you all to make sure you enjoy your time in school as much as we have. Hundreds of girls have sat where you now sit, have studied what you now study and

have made the mistakes that you're making. They've moved on and are all successful, confident women of today's world.

What will you do?who will you be?What will people say about you when you've gone? There is little difference in people but that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude, the big difference is whether it is positive or negative.

I hope you achieve everything that you are capable of this year, girls!
Thank you and don't forget to smile!



Laura Spain Deputy Head Girl's Speech

Good morning everyone, my name is Laura and it is my pleasure to be your Deputy Head Girl this year. This morning I particularly want to welcome the first years and any other new students. I hope that you are all as excited as I am for the year ahead.

As most of you know, my job is to organise the 6th year charity. We will be running fundraising events throughout the year and with all your bundles of enthusiasm, I am sure we will be as successful in supporting our chosen charity as we were last year. We are currently investigating a number of charities, and when we do make our decision, I will make sure you are all informed and kept up to date.

This year, Katie and I will promote our theme of positivity. We felt this theme should cover all aspects of a student's life and be at the heart of your experience in Cluny.

To ensure that all of you can be happy in school, we want to create an awareness of the support you have here. We want you to know that you can get through any challenges that the year may bring and that no matter how big or small the problem is, you have someone to talk to. Whether that's your prefect, tutor, year head or the ABC, there will always be somebody to help. Remember to look after yourself, each other and maintain a positive attitude throughout the year.

Every year the Head girl or Deputy stands up here and says how they remember sitting in the hall as a first year and how the time had absolutely flown since! And it's true. I remember listening to the Head Girl give her speech and being in absolute awe that she could stand up in front of so many people and speak with such confi-

Opening Assembly speeches continued



**6th Year
Prefects
of 2012-13
taking the
Prefect
Pledge**

dence. I genuinely never thought that six years from then I would be doing exactly the same thing.

In first year I was quiet and shy and to be completely honest I really struggled to settle in during the first few weeks of school. So no matter what year you're in, if you are sitting in this hall, feeling like you don't yet fit in or don't have the confidence you'd really like, that's ok. For some people, having confidence and being outgoing comes naturally, but not all. I can guarantee you're not the only one who feels, or has felt like this.

"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone." So my advice to you is this, take a step outside that comfort zone. Take up a sport. Join the orchestra. Go to Book Club. Save the planet with Green Schools. Set up your own society. Take part in House events. Talk to someone in your year you've never spoken to. Even if you do one

of those things I've named, you've taken the first step, even though it's a small one, it's a start.

Can I suggest one thing that we could all do starting from today? Next time you meet someone in the corridor lift your head, smile and say hello. We can do little things like this to create a friendly atmosphere in our school.

Be patient and be assured that there's an abundance of people here who care about you and your well being. But remember to always be yourself and not let anyone influence you into changing who you are or who you want to be.

In relation to the poem Grace read out; let's look at today as a fresh start for us all. We have the chance to improve our own lives and the lives of those around us. No matter what mistakes you've made in the past, it is only you who has control of what you do next, where you go with your life and what kind of person you really are. Learn from yesterday and live for today. Strive to be happy in what you do. Be kind to others and in return they will be kind to you.

Remember, you are the master of your fate, the captain of your soul.

Thank you and best of luck with the year ahead.

*"Life begins at
the end of your
comfort zone."
So my advice
to you is this,
take a step
outside that
comfort zone."*



House Captains 2012-2013

Fiji:

Ayo Arogundade

Gambia:

Kate Byrne

Ghana:

Therese Hussey

St. Lucia:

Fiona Deegan

Sierra Leone:

Cheryl Galvin

Tahiti:

Hannah McAteer

Hockey



...there are many more matches and points to play for, and hopefully positive results are not too far away.

The hockey season is well underway at this point, with league and cup matches having taken place for most teams. As is the norm, league matches begin shortly after returning to school following the summer break so preparation begins as early as possible. Practice matches start on Saturdays in early September with training sessions taking place twice a week. Our Senior and Minor teams practice in Newpark on the Astroturf once a week, while the other teams practiced on the Astroturf in Castlepark School up to the midterm break.

Our three Senior teams, while competing well have had mixed results so far. The Senior As found the opposition from Loreto Stephens Green and Newbridge College a little too strong this year. The Bs played out a 1-1 draw with Newbridge College before coming second to a very strong Muckcross team. The Cs have played one game so far, losing narrowly to Loreto Balbriggan. However there are many more matches and points to play for, and hopefully positive results are not too far away.

Our Junior teams have started the season well and are progressing very nicely in their leagues. The As have recorded victories over St Andrews and Jesus & Mary College, while the Bs have also secured wins against Dominican Cabra and St Raphaelas. The Junior Cs performed very well and gave a spirited display in their

first league game before losing to High School.

Alexandra College provided the opposition in the Junior Cup and proved a little too strong for our girls. However they still remain in the Plate competition.

The Minors have also started the league season very well – the As have had winning results against Rathdown, St Raphaelas and Holy Child Killiney so far, while the Bs were unlucky not to beat Teresians in their first league game, having been 1-0 up. That game finished in a 1-1 draw. Like the Juniors, the Minors went out at the first hurdle in the Cup losing narrowly to Loreto Foxrock.

The First Years are displaying lots of potential this year, as they enthusiastically wait for their first league game. They have played very well in practice matches against Loreto Dalkey and St Raphaelas, which augurs well for the future. Many are playing with clubs, which will really benefit their games and we look forward to some good displays from them in the league.

Having returned after midterm the light has decreased significantly. This obviously makes practice more difficult, however all teams are working hard. We look forward to the remainder of the season, and wish all our teams well in the rest of their matches.

Ms M Seymour

TY German prepares for Open Evening

On Wednesday 26th September the Transition Year German class enthusiastically prepared Room 12 for the Open Evening. As we are keen and interested students, we all made a lot of effort.

We displayed our work throughout the classroom. We chose posters which represented some of the themes of Germany. We purchased German biscuits and chocolate and Ashley even baked biscuits from a traditional recipe. We learned a German song 'muss ich denn' and sang it for the visitors. We made colourful stickers with German greetings and phrases on them and made sure that every visitor got one!



We also made sure the visitors understood the positive aspects of learning German and how important Germany is in our lives today. According to the German Embassy in Dublin, there are currently 2,000 job vacancies in Ireland which require a working knowledge of German. According to Sarah O'Keefe from the IDA, the IDA's portfolios of German companies employ 8,900 people in 99 companies in Ireland today.

The visitors enjoyed the food and the song, and I think that, together with the help of Ms Joy, we encouraged future students to do German and made the German Room a success on Open Evening.

Cliona Rellis 4L

Basketball



BASKETBALL NOVEMBER 29TH 2012/13

SENIOR TEAMS: The season is moving towards play-off honours with all 3 Sr. teams in the play-offs or trying to stay in touch with other schools who have their eyes on the same prize of making it into quarter or semi-final spots! Keep up the fighting Cluny Spirit girls!

Well done to the Sixth Years on the school U19 A Cup Team. A tough Cup draw saw the team go out of the Cup with a 3-point loss a to very good Kerry team. With the task of sitting their Leaving Certificate, Kim Plenderlieth, Fiona Craddock, Orla Schutte and Emma Lennon gave vital leadership to a young panel of players. They have lead by example and have been excellent role models for their peers on how to cope with an exam year and still participate in extra-curricular activities and sports. As a matter of fact, I would like to give a big 'Thumbs Up' to all the Sixth Years who are continuing to stay playing in their final year. Thank You! Good luck to all Senior teams in their bid to make the quarter and semi-finals!



U/16 CADETTE TEAMS: The U/16 teams in basketball are made up of Fourth Years and

Third Years. Two Second Years can be subs to the team. The Cadette teams are doing well. The Cad B team have had two tough losses but will look to bounce back before the Christmas break. The team is lead by Niamh McCarthy, Chloe Langan, Caoimhe O'Neill in scoring. The Cad A have a very good start to their season reaching the U/16 National Cup quarter-finals and were knocked out by Glanmire C.S. of Cork in extra time by 3 pts. 47-44 HEARTBREAKING! But the team regrouped and in league play reached the semi-finals and won with a 37-17 win over crosscity school Castleknock C.S. Now they will play in the Dublin Leinster Basketball final on Tuesday, December 11th. They will face the winner of Loreto St. Stephen's Green and Holy Family Newbridge. The team is lead by Captains Ciara McKeown and Ciara Crotty with a very strong supporting cast in Alex Plenderlieth, Hannah Foster-Ryan, Grainne Fay, Megan O'Toole, Tara Keenan, Rebecca Mahar, Hazel Nolan, Emma Nolan, and Elle Brown. Well done reaching the Final!

PLAYER OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER
 U/19 EMMA LENNON SR. A
 U/16 ALEX PLENDERLIETH CAD A
PLAYER OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER
 U/19 CATRIONA FAY SR. B
 U/16 HANNAH FOSTER-RYAN CAD A

U/15 SECOND YEARS (Juniors) and U/14 FIRST YEARS (Minors) have played friendly matches and are training away looking forward to their Leagues starting in January. It's good to see a number of First Years playing club basketball and school basketball. It will help them grow in confidence when league play starts up.

The entire basketball family would like to thank coaches Gillian Clarges and Lorraine Scully for their coaching input so far this season also Mrs Patricia O'Driscoll for her help with the U/16 team away-match to Galway. Thanks to all the parents who have helped with mentoring the teams.

Mr. Randolph along with the Captains of both U/19 and U/16 Cup teams would like to thank Ms. White and the Board of Management for their support in the National Competition this year.

Mr. Randolph

*I would like to
 give a big
 'Thumbs Up' to
 all the Sixth Years
 who are
 continuing to stay
 playing in their
 final year. Thank
 You! Good luck
 to all Senior
 teams in their bid
 to make the
 quarter and semi-
 finals!*



First Years : Business Open Evening

On the 26th of September 2012, we had a school Open Evening. In the business room we had many things happening.

1). One of the main things was "The Taste Test". We bought Coke, Pepsi, 7up and Sprite. Everybody had to take part in a blind taste test and see if they could recognise either Sprite and 7up or Coke and Pepsi by taste. The aim of it was to see if you knew your brands. We had been studying brands as part of our first year Business course.

If you guessed right you got a little prize. We were surprised at how many children got it right and really knew their brands.

2) The second thing that was going on in the business room was the logo quiz. We used the logos quiz app and got the visitors to give it a go and have a guess to see if they could recognise the company logos. We were amazed by all the children and how many logos they knew! But after a

while we had to delete the app and download it again because none of the children knew what the things were in the 2nd level so we had to repeat the first level. It was really fun.

3) The first years also decorated the business room with posters on the topics they were studying. This included the two consumer laws we had learned about. One was The Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act 1980 and the other was The Consumer Protection Act 2007. We wrote about the laws within these acts and some illegal signs. We also gave out cards for your wallet detailing your consumer rights. We also had a consumer corner and provided consumer information for the visitors. It was a great learning experience. We really can see how what we learned in business class works in the outside world.

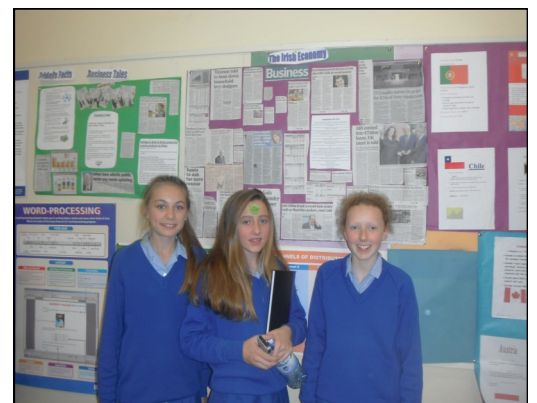
By Emily Kane, Grace Lehane, Ciara Buckley

2nd Year Business Class

In September, the 2nd year Business class did a project about the economies of countries around the world. We each chose a country, such as France, USA and Spain, and researched the type of economy, inflation rate and Gross National Product of our country as well as other facts such as it's currency and it's main industries. When we had finished our projects, we each presented them to the class. Everyone in the class enjoyed learning about the different economies of the world. On the Open Evening, the projects were displayed in Room 1, the business room, as a

sample of the work we had done in class. Doing this project was a great way of learning about economics and interesting facts about the world's countries.

Emily Harte, 2Y



Ist Years in Business Room

We also had a consumer corner and provided consumer information for the visitors

Fifth Year Business Open Evening



As part of Fifth Year Business, we completed a project for Open Evening on "Women in Business". We each picked a high profile woman in the Business world and studied her. After making our projects, we then had to each individually present them to the class. Some found this part easier than others as they are more into public speaking etc. We all presented a different successful woman in business to the class. We each learned a lot from other people's presentations and from the woman themselves. There were women everywhere; from Dublin to the US. Women who ranged from being a CEO in Dell to the founder of Lily O'

Brien's chocolates. There was something for everyone! Watching my class mates present a different successful woman in business shows us just how much we can achieve when we put our mind to it! It was a really fun and interesting project to research and present and I learned a lot doing it too!
Therese Hussey 5L

Our Fifth Year Business course has consisted of a number of different topics. One topic, which we studied in great detail was 'Entrepreneurship'. Our teacher, Ms. O'Riordan, gave us the opportunity to learn about it in a very creative way. We were set a task of partaking in a project titled 'My Famous Entrepreneur Project'. We spent time researching famous Entrepreneurs using books and the Internet combined with some knowledge of our own. Each Entrepreneur varied as some were relatives and others idols, however each project outlined greatly the successes of these business people. We really learned how the theory we studied in class works in real life entrepreneurship. We also learned lots about well known entrepreneurs. This was a very interesting project.
Jessica O'Sullivan

*We really learned
how the theory we
studied in class
works in real life
entrepreneurship*

Third Year Business

Eight third year students took part in a Business Quiz run by The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants in association with the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland. It was held in Tallaght IT on Wednesday November 14th. The girls performed excellently on the night. It was a great learning experience and a very enjoyable evening for them. Well done to all involved.

The teams from St Joseph of Cluny were as follows:

Team A: Ruth Cassidy, Anna Jackson, Isabel Lawlor-Plazas, Niamh McCarthy,

Team B: Sophie Forsyth, Niamh Kavanagh, Helena McAlinden, Saoirse Reade



First Year Finance Field Trip



First Year Finance Field Trip to Bank of Ireland Dun Laoghaire. **OUR TRIP TO THE BANK BY CAIT-LIN MURAT AND SINEAD RUIGROK**

On Wednesday November 7th we went on a Finance Field Trip to Bank of Ireland in Dun Laoghaire with our Business class. We got split into three groups. The first place my group went to was be-

hind the counters where people can lodge money or get money changed to another currency. Sinead, our tour guide, showed us the Australian dollar. It's made out of plastic for the surfers because they lose loads of money each year. We also saw the American dollar and the English pounds. She showed us a machine that sorts the money and splits it into two groups: the fit and the unfit notes. Two €50 notes came out as unfit because they were dirty and had marker on them. She told us that all the unfit notes will be sent off to a special place and burned. We were all shocked because they were getting rid of money during a recession! Next we went to see the teller in business banking. He had lots of money with him. He gave us a €500 note to hold then he showed us a machine just like the one the other girl before had shown us but bigger.

This one, you could put all different types of money into and it sorted it into all the groups €5s, €10s, €20s, €50s, €100, €200, €500. He showed us a safe where he keeps some of the money. For the third part of our tour we went to the big vaults. We got to see the big vault where all the records from as far back as the 1800's are kept and also where money is kept at night. Some personal belongings e.g. house deeds are also kept here. On this part we were told about all the raids that happened in the different banks. We heard one story where a man had taken a customer hostage and got away with around €120,000. Our tour guide brought us to another teller and he showed us two red buttons he had under his desk. If there was a robbery the teller can press these buttons and the guards will come. At the end we got lollipops. We really enjoyed the trip and learned lots.

The fourth year Enterprise class also attended the trip to Bank of Ireland. (see photo) They will be opening and running a school bank from Wednesday November 21st weekly. This will provide students with the opportunity to open a bank account and save money.

We were all shocked because they were getting rid of money during a recession!

Junior Achievement



Junior Achievement is part of a world-wide organisation reaching out to 7 million young people each year and is helping to create a culture of enterprise within the education system. All Junior Achievement programmes are taught by business volunteers recruited from supporting organisations and fully trained before they commence their programme.

The Transition year enterprise class in St Joseph of Cluny is taking part in the

Junior Achiever Company Programme. This is a seven-week programme where a business volunteer from the business community comes in to the classroom and works with the class to set up and run an actual business enterprise. The volunteer will link what they are doing in the classroom with their own job and their own industry. Tomas Ryan from Smurfit Kappa group is the Business Volunteer for St Joseph of Cluny.

TY Enterprise



**Enterprise
Cake Sale**

By Emma McSweeney, Aileen McGrath, Maria Dowdall, Rebekah Butler.

As part of our Enterprise class for Transition Year we are taking part in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Student Enterprise Competition. In conjunction with this we have had a guest speaker from the Enterprise Board to tell us about the competition and we have also attended two workshops on setting up your own business both of which were run by Dun Laoghaoire Rathdown Enterprise Board.

Workshop 1

The first workshop we attended took place on the 4th of October in the Stillorgan Park Hotel. It was an interactive workshop on how to brainstorm and come up with business ideas. There were ten other schools there. We did not have a business idea at this stage. The workshop showed us how to be creative and how simple ideas turn into successful ideas. We partook some interactive tasks where we had to come up with solutions to everyday problems. This helped us to think of ideas for our own company as well i.e were there any everyday problems we could come up with a solution to. We found this workshop very helpful and it helped us when coming up with our own product idea.

Workshop 2

On the 24th October we went back for the second workshop on a business plan. The aim of the second workshop was to go back with our own business idea and then we would meet some business mentors who are successful entrepreneurs in the business world who would help us with our idea. In the first half of the morning we learned how to write a business plan, including how to do a budget. In the second half of the morning we got an opportunity to talk to different mentors from the business world. We got to tell them about our products and company idea and they helped us on identifying any problems we may have and told us how to overcome them. They gave us feedback and advice and helped us on how to be more creative and also how to make a larger profit! They were all very helpful and gave us lots of advice. It was great to be able to go to the workshop as we learned a lot from it and it was really helpful for our enterprise group. It was a very informative and beneficial trip.

There are two mini companies starting up business in the Transition year enterprise class. On Wednesday November 9th the class held a cake sale to raise money for their mini-company. It was a great success.



Leinster Debates



**Leinster School
Debating Team**

This term I had the privilege of taking part in the Leinster Debates along with my teammate Sadhbh Frison-Roche. It was unlike any other debate I had taken part in before, as you can't rely on your speech too much. Instead one needs to be prepared to speak off the cuff. On Monday 12th November we headed in to Trinity, nervous yet excited and accompanied by our dedicated supporters. We competed against four other teams from schools around Leinster, proposing the motion that "American Apparel advertisements should be banned." One of the great things about Leinster is that the debates never fail to be fun, interesting and sometimes controversial. You get the chance to meet lots of new people and debate in a relaxed environment. Most of what you have prepared beforehand

ends up being scrapped a couple of minutes before you take to the floor and feel a surge of adrenalin as you engage in real life debating, surprising yourself as you realise that you actually are capable of voicing your opinions and rebutting arguments for 5 minutes in front of a crowd. Both Sadhbh and I had a lot of fun and were thrilled to hear we had gotten through to the next round. Before midterm, Eleanor O'Mahony and Eleanor McSweeney also competed in a round of the Leinster Debates in UCD. They did extremely well as they were up against tough competition from schools such as CBC, and well done to Eleanor McSweeney who got through as an individual speaker to the next round. Who knows, she may end up competing against Sadhbh and I!

Niamh Casey 6N

*one needs to be
prepared to speak
off the cuff*

Third Year Debating

In early September, my class, 3Y, debated against our fellow class 3W. Representing 3Y were Jennifer Hickey, Aisling Scully and myself. The 3W team consisted of Chloe Langan,

Niamh Kavanagh and Niamh Brennan. Our motion was "Co-education is the best education". Both teams put a lot of effort in, which really made the debate a great success. Everyone participated and spoke with the upmost clarity and precision. We spoke in front of our entire year which is not an easy task in the slightest. Each girl got up there with great confi-

dence and held the power of having a whole hall listening to you, and respected that power. There was a great enthusiasm, which really helped to get our points across! It was smiles and laughter all round, everyone walked away with pride and self- accomplishment. It was a great afternoon for all. Debating does really help improve English and makes confidence flourish. The debate ended in a draw with both sides holding their own until the end. It really brought debating into a new light and showed how much fun it can be and what you can achieve from it. Sarah Jane Ronan, 3Y



Concern Debates continued

This year's Concern Debating team consists of Gemma Lynch, Julie Davis, Sarah Lynam and I- the "Dream Team" of debating, some might say... As a matter of fact, Cluny has had a history of being quite successful in the Concern Debates with several teams winning all of their debates during the league phases and one team even going all the way and winning the national championship in 1998! No pressure on us for this year then...

The main difference between Concern Debates and other debates is that the Concern Debates are specifically about global issues such as poverty, justice and human rights. This means that the motions often tend to be very topical.

Now our first debate against Jesus and Mary College (formerly Our Lady's Grove), couldn't have had a more topical motion if it tried, as in the thick of the US Presidential Election, we had to argue against the motion that "The World Has More To Fear From President Romney than President Obama." Basically, we had to make Mitt Romney appear to be the good guy and absolutely tear Barack Obama to shreds which was as easy as my maths homework on the circle (so believe me, it wasn't easy). But we must have done a pretty good job of making *Mitt Romney*, of all people, seem like the answer to the entire world's problems because even though we were thrown into the deep end with a tough opening debate, we won!

With a win under our belt and a new member of the team, Niamh Plunkett, we were ready for our next debate against CBC Monkstown. The motion this time was that "The People of the Developed World are Responsible for Poverty in the Developing World." Again, we were opposing the motion which wasn't an easy feat. Cue the regurgitation of crucial dates, statistics and sources to back up our arguments and re-

but and refute the proposing team's points. The debate, after much deliberation among the adjudicators ended in a draw- not a bad result at all.

Our next debate will be against Loreto Abbey Dalkey and the motion is that "An AIDS free world will be achieved in our lifetime". Will it or won't it? Well, to us it will because for a change we will be proposing the motion. The research and speech writing will soon get underway and hopefully another win will be in the bag! Even if we don't win, as the debates work on a points system, we will still get the chance to take part in the final debate against St. Gerard's School. After all, it is the taking part that counts and the knowledge that I have acquired from the debates we've already done is second to none. I would seriously encourage prospective 4th and 5th year students to get involved in Concern Debating as the experience is an invaluable one!

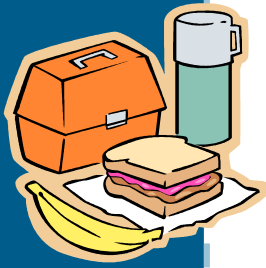
Ayodele Arogundade
5L

*...even though
we were
thrown into
the deep end
with a tough
opening
debate, we
won!*



Concern Debating Team

Poets's Corner



Response to an
abandoned
Lunchbox in
Room 9.
Dedicated to all
those invisible
lunch makers
out there.

The Lunchbox

*You may not think it's very much,
But there's a whole lot more to my
lunchbox.*

*Endless love and lots of care,
From an apple here and a sand-
wich there.*

*So perfectly wrapped, it takes
effort and time,
But if I don't like it I moan and I
whine.*

*I take it for granted the things
that she does,
But all of the time I'm surrounded
by love.*

*In my bar and my fruit, my water
and bundie,
It was made and created,
personalised just for me.*

*Like helping me study or pairing
my socks,
She shows that she loves me - in
my lunchbox.*

By Heather Rainey

The Lunchbox

*Love comes in
Many different forms,
Some big,
Some small,
Some fit in
A cubic form.*

By Anastasia Blinova



The Lunchbox

*A small pink box
Sat very still
Thrown and unwanted
On top of a windowsill*

*The bread was fresh
Packaged with care
A symbol un-noticed
A reminder she was there*

*The child had not seen
The story entwined
In the carefully packed parcel
She had left behind*

By Chelsey Mates

The Lunchbox

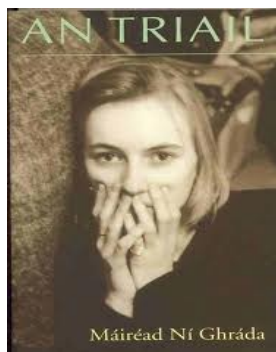
*A square pink box
Opens with a snap
Inside I find an array of foods
An apple for my teeth,
Crackers for my hunger,
A bar for something sweet!*

*But taking centre place,
My crustless sandwich,
Handmade this morning by my
mother,
Crust cast away to the grateful
birds in the garden.
It's the love and care that's gone
into my lunch,
That makes it like no other!*

By Laura Spain



Turas lae go dtí “An Triail”



An Mháirt seo chaite chuaigh na ranganna Gaeilge ardleibhéil go dtí Belvedere College chun an dráma “An Triail” a fheiceáil. Bhí sceitimíní orainn chun é a fheiceáil mar is scéal

tragóideach, suimiúil é. Tá an dráma suite sa bhliain 1961 in Éirinn agus leanann sé cailín óg, Máire, a fhaigheann amach go bhfuil sí ag iompar clainne gan a bheith pósta. Fágann sí a baile agus cuirtear Máire sa teach tearmainn go dtí go saolaítear a páiste. Feicimid a turas agus na daoine di-

friúla a mbuaileann sí leo ar a bealach go dtí go dtiteann gach rud anuas timpeall uirthi. Bhí an seó go hiontach. Bhí na haisteoirí ar fad ar fheabhas agus bhí siad an-tréitheach. Bhí sé lán le brón agus le greann. Thug an taispeántas tuiscint níos fearr dúinn. Bhí díomá orainn nuair a chríochnaigh sé ach bhaineamar a lán taitnimh as. Ar an mbealach abhaile, d’fhágamar beirt chailíní sa leithreas, ach ag an deireadh bhí gach rud agus gach duine go maith! Thaitin an lá go mór linn agus míle buíochas dár múinteoirí, Ms Darmody agus Ms O’Connor as an lá a eagrú.

Grace Morgan agus Ellen O’Connor.

Díospóireachtaí Gael Linn

Ar an 7ú Samhain, chuaigh Caoimhe Ní Dhiomsaigh, Ellen Ní Ághas agus mé féin go scoil Notre Dame chun páirt a ghlacadh sna Díospóireachtaí Gael Linn. Ní dhearnamar díospóireacht as Gaeilge riamh. Mar sin, bhíomar an-neirbhíseach ach ag an am céanna, bhíomar toilteanach chun triail a baint as!

Fuaireamar an rún cúpla seachtain roimhe sin. An rún a bhí os ár gcomhair ná “go bhfuil sé ceart go mbéadh cead ag Sean-adóirí agus ag Teachtaí Dála a rogha éadaí a chaitheamh i dTithe Oireachtais” agus bheinn ag argóint in aghaidh an rúin. Nuair a chonaiceamar é sin, bhí imní an-domhain orainn! Conas a bheinn ábalta caint faoi pholaitíocht, as Gaeilge, ar feadh ceithre nóiméad?!

Cé nach rabhamar ró-cinnte faoi cad a bhí go díreach i gceist leis an rún, thosaíomar ag déanamh taighde ar an ábhar ar aon nós agus d’fhoghlaimíomar a lán rudaí suimiúla faoi na cursaí sin! An raibh fhios agat go dtagann TD Luke “Ming” Flanagan isteach sna Tithe Oireachtais agus é ag caitheamh caitheamh bristí géine, t-léine agus gruaig shugánach air? Nó go gcaitheann sé t-léine le “Oscar The Grouch” ar? Cheap mé go raibh sé sin an-ait freisin...

Ar an lá, bhíomar ag argóint in aghaidh dhá scoileanna eile- Notre Dame agus Scoil Páirc Sandford. Ní raibh an triú scoil, Coláiste Íosa agus Mhuire ábalta a bheith ann. Bhíomar fós neirbhíseach ach ar bís freisin! Tháinig a lán daoine chun na díospóireachta a fheiceáil agus bhí ár múinteoirí agus ar dtuismitheoirí ag tacú linn!

Faraor, níor bhuamar áit sa chéad bhabhta eile. Bhí na scoileanna eile an-mhaith! Ach ní raibh an bua an rud is tabhachtaí- bhí taithí an-mhaith againn! D’fhoghlaimíomar a lán rudaí nua! Roimh an díospóireacht, ní raibh suim dá laghad agam i gcursaí polaitíochta! Ach anois, tá an féinmhúinín agam chun seas suas os comhair lucht féachana agus óráid a thabhairt ar aon ábhar faoin ngrian!

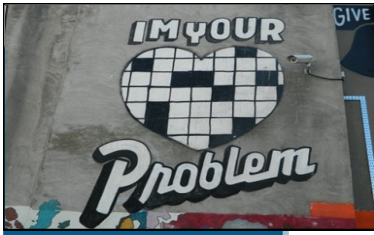
Ayodele Arogundade
5L



Irish Junior Debaters



Irish Senior Debaters



Art Mural Inspiration

Our class visited the Tivoli Theatre car park, Francis Street, Dublin City Centre with Ms. Archibald to see the murals. We went to gather inspiration and ideas for our class project which was to design and make an embroidered mural as a centre piece for the Le Cheile Mass. Our design brief was to create an individual piece based on what our school means to us. The combination of all our work put together told a story of our life at Cluny and became a lovely piece of Art in itself. The wall art we looked at was very artistic; it inspired us in so many

ways for our project. I thought the painted wall murals in the car park were really amazing and they inspired us all to create our very own.

Lucy Carvill 4N



Junk Kouture

This year the Transition Year arts and crafts class students are taking part in the national "Junk Kouture" competition. This competition consists of teams designing and making an outfit entirely out of recycled materials or rubbish.

My team includes myself and my friend Sophie. We have now designed our dress, collected all the materials needed and now are beginning the process of making our final design into a finished garment.

Our dress is going to be made completely out of black and white plastic bags, because of this monochromatic effect we plan on having a pop of red at the back of the dress. We sourced recycled silage bags from Sophie's uncle who works on a farm. Sophie and I manipulated the plastic bags to make it more unique and interesting as a fabric and for it to have a larger impact. Some of the techniques we used were burning the plastic, to distort the shape and texture. We also used different techniques e.g. plaiting

strips of the plastic bags together and sewing at the sides to make the under-skirt structure for keeping the skirt bouncy and full.

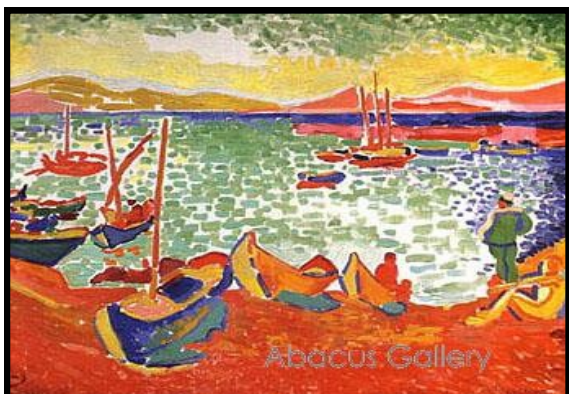
We are looking forward to finishing our Junk Kouture outfits soon and competing in the competition with the hopes of advancing to the further stages. When our dresses are finished we will be working with Debbie, the choreographer for the school musical to practice our performances on the catwalk.

The overall prize this year is a trip to the Cannes film festival with appearances on the red carpet so fingers crossed!

By Sarah-Kate O'Connor 4N



Boats in the Harbour, Colliure—Andre Derain



1905

Andre Derain was a French Fauvist painter of the 20th century. His famous works include, 'Charing Cross Bridge London' and 'Landscape in Provence'.

This is a typical fauvism style painting. It is a simple landscape of a boat harbour in Colliure, Southern France. Derain uses vibrant colours and broken brushwork to make this painting more unique. It may be a summers evening as the reflection of the sky is yellow and the land is red. There are warm colours that suggest heat.

The composition of this painting is quite busy. There are many boats in the foreground and middle ground. Although the perspective of the boats starts small and becomes larger it allows your eyes to move up the

painting. There are big mountains and a vast sky in the background. The middle ground is filled out with the green blue sea, a reflection of the sky above.

Derain uses light in an interesting way. He shows sunshine in the yellow sky which reflects yellow onto the sea. There are many different shades of each colour to show shadow and light. For example the green blue sky's light reflecting on the sea.

Derain uses a huge amount of vivid colour in this painting. He has a creative and personal interpretation of the scene he sees in the front of his eyes. The sea is not usually green or the land red. The splashes of colour add vibrancy to the image.

Andre Derain is a pioneer of Fauvism, a period of art in which more emphasis is placed on strong colours instead of realism in the image.

I am a big fan of bright colours and I love Derain's vibrant colour scheme of his work. I like the brushwork technique as it is unique to anything I have seen before. I have always liked the sea and I like this image of a harbour in France as it brings back memories of past summer holidays in the sun.

Jill Martin 5L

First Year Jam Tarts

Miss Fahey's and Mrs Wolahan's First Year Home Economics class made jam tarts for our First Year parent evening on the 14th November. We made the pastry first and our hands were aching trying to get it just right! We filled the tarts with lemon curd and blackberry and strawberry jam. The best part was cutting out the different shapes for the top which included hearts, stars and even a butterfly! The finished

tarts looked delicious and all the parents and teachers seemed to love them. Some even had seconds and thirds.....

By Amber Wickham
1X





TY Culinary Arts Jam Making

On Friday, 5th of October, Ms. Fahey's and Mrs. Wolohan's Culinary Arts classes made jam. Many of us were first time jam-makers, so it was really fun to make our favourite flavours ourselves. From strawberry to blackberry to plum, the delicious flavours were endless and the yummy smell of the cooking fruits wafted through Mrs. Wolohan's kitchen.

Niamh Plunkett and I decided to make blackberry jam. Niamh picked over a

kilo of fresh blackberries herself, and I bought a couple of hundred grams in Caviston's. We couldn't fit all of our berries and sugar in the largest saucepan in our unit, so we had to use a massive pot that reminded us of the ones in Recess!

Our jam was a success, as we got 8 jars from our jam; and it tasted really good as well!

Ashley Byrne 4L

The Knit and Stitch Show

During the Mid-Term, Ms Devaney brought her 5th year Art class on a trip to the Knit and Stitch Show in the RDS. Over the next few weeks our class will be learning how to make contemporary textile embroideries, by making our own felt, using embroidery stitches, fusing fibres and drawing with the sewing machine!

The show gave us great ideas for our own embroidery, and we're all very excited to put these new ideas to use.



At first, our expectations weren't too high for the Knit and Stitch show, as we thought it would be old fashioned and boring, but we were taken by surprise by the art work we saw. We saw modern techniques and creative uses of embroidery, beautiful creations that you wouldn't believe were done by hand. We saw interesting pieces such as a high heeled shoe made of felt and it was beautifully embroidered with felt and wire. My favourite art piece was an embroidered wooden door by a man we met called Mr.X. He has taken embroidery to a whole new level with different and modern ideas, including floral embroidery on an old car door and graffiti style 'tags' on doilies.



TY Chinese Studies—Review by Becky Hackett



**Zhang
Laoshi**
Teacher of
Chinese to
TY

Chinese was certainly not a module I was expecting to do this year, but I was pleasantly surprised by the fact that it was to be one of my first modules. I think we were all very eager to learn about a country whose culture was entirely different from our own. In our first class, Ms. Ryan told us about her exciting trips to China and asked us what aspects of Chinese culture we wanted to cover. No surprise that the first suggestion was food, which apparently is quite different to our own take-away's and much tastier! Everybody agreed that it was a great idea. Next we decided that we would also like to cover the family, language and characters, school life, music and film, important global heritage sites, tea and festivals. This was going to be fun! We learned so many things in Chinese class. We watched videos on the Terracotta War-

riors and the Great Wall, learned about the one child per family policy, marvelled at red wedding dresses and attempted to master the art of eating with chopsticks. When learning about tea we all got to sample some Jasmine tea and smelled other examples of Chinese tealeaves. Whilst learning about music, I tried to grasp why Westlife were so popular in China, but failed. That was the only one thing in the module that confused me. We also learned about how important family and family values are in China.

On Mondays we had a double class and so, every week a Chinese teacher Zhang Laoshi would come in and teach us how to speak Chinese and how to draw the characters. She taught us how to say hello (ni hao), goodbye (zai jian), thank you (xie xie), happiness (xing fu) and much more. It was really interesting and enjoyable. Zhang Laoshi also taught us the numbers from one to ten in Chinese. It was a lot of fun!

I really enjoyed the Chinese module and I hope it is staying for fourth year next year. It has expanded my knowledge of the world and was a really fun class. If that's not the aim of Transition Year, I don't know what is!

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中国研究 Chinese Studies—Student Quotes

你好 Nǐ hǎo. Hello. This year for the first time, the Transition Year students got to try out Chinese as an option. My group were the lucky ones that tried it out first. As no other years in the school had done it before, I had no idea what to expect. However, any previous expectations were far outdone by the end of the first class. I, along with everyone else, loved Chinese!" Emily Kavanagh 4 C

"Chinese is so different to anything we have ever done and I loved every second of it... The eight weeks have gone too fast...I found everything so interesting. I loved learning the Chinese language and learning how to write the characters." Any Lambert 4C

"...Towards the end of the module, we had to do a project on any part of the culture that we wanted. I chose to plan a holiday to China with 2,000 euro to book flights, accommodation, food, transport, to organise where I was going to visit and the souvenirs I was going to buy, It felt very realistic planning the holiday and I wished I could visit the country when I had completed it" Sophie Grehan 4C

"During our two other classes in the week we learned about different aspects of Chinese life, such as Chinese music (where we learnt how to sing Happy Birthday in Chinese), Chinese food, Chinese tea. We got to try different types of Chinese tea. I really enjoyed doing Chinese for the 8 weeks and think it has been a great experience. My only disappointment is that it's over now and I wish it went on for longer" 祝你生日快乐 Shèng rì kuài lè (Happy Birthday). Orla

Chinese Studies—Quotes continued



**TY students using
Chopsticks**

Kavanagh 4C

"Ms. Ryan taught us how to use chopsticks and let us play a game to see how many kidney beans we could pick up. It was harder than it looked!!" Emma Finn 4C

"Each of us received a Chinese name at the beginning. My name is 'fèi xiǎo én' which means knowledge and happiness" Grainne Fay 4C

"On Mondays we had a Chinese teacher called Zhang lǎoshī...she taught us how to say hello, how are you, goodbye, thank

you, numbers and lots more!" Lauren Higgins 4C

"I found it very interesting and beneficial to study a country so different to our own...being able to be taught the language by a native speaker was also very beneficial as it seemed more authentic.."

"From the notes I have taken and the help of Zhang lǎoshī and Ms. Ryan, this will not be a module that I will soon forget" Gemma Lynch 4C

*Every move and
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exaggeration was
what made the
play funny!*

French Play Review

On Tuesday, all of the French classes gathered in the hall to watch a French play. The play was called "Le Texte Perdu" or "The Lost Play-script".

It was about four good friends; Florent, Robin, Marege and Stephane; who had just gotten new jobs acting in a theatre company. But there was a problem. The night before, Stephane went to a disco and got himself a new girlfriend, but ended up losing her address and phone number! Even worse, he left his jacket at her place-which contained the only copy of the play-script that they all have to have studied by the coming Friday! What to do...?

I loved this play, mainly because of the four actors, who played all of the characters in the play and not just the four

friends. I was able to understand most of what they were saying, but for me the best part about their acting was their facial expressions. Every move and expression they made really exaggerated their feelings/emotions-and for me it was this over-exaggeration was what made the play funny! It also made the play easier to understand, and I think that even if I hadn't known a lot of French, I probably would have still understood the story of the play because of this.

Over all, I really enjoyed the French play, and I would like to see another one!

Grace Hickey 4N



History Fashion Show



This year for the Open Evening some students from 2X, 2Y and 2W participated in the history fashion show.

These students created their own costumes to give examples of the clothes worn by people we have studied. Alison Barnes, Charlotte Morgan and Sarah Glynn introduced each person and gave a detailed description of what they were wearing. Caitriona was the first person to appear as a Neolithic farmer. Next, Shirley and Gemma appeared on stage as two Celtic women. They were followed by Niamh who posed as a monk and blessed the crowd as she



passed. Jane and Caoimhe dressed as Roman

patricians, with Laura as their lowly slave. Robyn was the Medieval Lady of the Manor, and Dearbhla a Medieval Knight. Christina was dressed as a serf, with Lara and Marianne appearing as Shakespeare and his loving wife, Anne Hathaway. Eve and Ailbhe played the roles of Leonardo da Vinci and John Calvin respectively. This was followed by Amber as the memorable Queen

Elizabeth I, after which Kirsten appeared as George Washington, earning a chorus of laughter. Last, but not least, came Hannah as Marie Antoinette.

The fashion show was a great hit and lots of fun but we couldn't have done it without the help of our history teachers Ms. Connaughton, Ms. Doyle and Ms. Rooney.

Niamh Ring and Dearbhla Hanney 2X



The French Room on Open Evening

Bonjour les eleves et les parents! Le journée portes ouvertes dernier, J'ai aidé dans la salle francais. Hello students and parents! The past open evening I helped out in the French room. This was my second year helping in the French room and I didn't hesitate to volunteer again when Ms. Ryan asked who would like to do it. Myself and some other fourth years and some third years carried out the various activities for the prospective students and parents during open evening last September.

Aileen, Rebekah and I gave name tags to the children when they came in. They read "Je m'appelle ...". When we asked them their name in French some of them looked a bit scared, but

by the time they had left the French room they were all smiling! Some of the other girls played a game of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire", with questions relating to France and its culture. This was great as many children could play together as the girls used the overhead projector to display it on the whiteboard.

There was also a card matching, memory game. To play this you had to match the cards with the same images, one had the French word for the image and the other had the English word. The French teachers Ms. Ryan, Ms. Molloy, Ms. Joy and Mr. Twomey were all in the French room too and they talked to parents and their children, answering any questions they may have had. If all of this wasn't enough to convince the incoming students to choose French, we also had loads of jellies and pain au chocolat on offer! I really enjoyed helping out in the French room on Open Evening and hope to do so again next year. Merci beaucoup! Emily Kavanagh 4C



Geography Room Open Evening

We decided to help out in the geography room on the Open Evening because we thought it would be fun and we love geography. There were loads of different activities going on for the incoming first years. We helped set up all the different tables and clean the room. There were lots of different tables with puzzles, jigsaws and geography themed games.

We spent a lot of the time doing the jigsaws while waiting for people to come and see. When people arrived we tested different rocks to see what

type of rock they were. We used the scratch test and hydrochloric acid. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and they learned a lot. Later on, Ms. Rooney set up the interactive white board to play games. That was a huge success and got a lot of the kids involved. We told the parents about what we learn in class and about the school in general. We also had sweets to give away and the children were very excited. We think the night was a great success and we enjoyed taking part.
By Eilidh Murphy and Ailbhe Mulhall
2W



Neneh Lyons' Art

5th Year Art Still Life Drawing

We began 5th year Art by studying still-life and learning the skills needed to arrange our own. As part of our Christmas exams we had to set our own still-life up. We were given a passage from a book and we had to brainstorm our ideas from it. After reading 'A Walk in the Woods' by Bill Bryson, I wanted to create a creepy, deserted, sinister atmosphere. I was inspired and influenced by the still-life paintings of Paul Cezanne, one of my favourite Post-Impressionist painters. I chose animal skulls and autumnal leaves to create a rich warm colour scheme, in

the hope that the subjects may have an eerie quality. To create balance and harmony I arranged my still-life with movement and rhythm in the relationships between the objects so the viewers eye would be led around the drawing. The colour scheme was created with the leaves and forest objects such as wild mushrooms and conkers. Oil pastels are by far my favourite medium to work with as they showcase my bold and expressive style of drawing. I thoroughly enjoyed doing the still-life as I felt I've learned a lot and I've improved with my drawing skills.
Neneh Lyons

CSPE Mock Election

On Open Evening, 26th September 2012 there was a mock presidential election held in the CSPE room, room 7. A total of 127 people voted in this election. There were six celebrity candidates, as chosen by Mr Twomey. The candidates were Rihanna, Justin Bieber, Jedward, Miley Cyrus, Lady Gaga and Niall Horan. The polling station was buzzing with activity, with people of all ages voting. The following week in our CSPE class, Ms McEvoy gave

us the votes to count. Room 18 became a counting centre- it was pandemonium! We had four counts. Miley Cyrus and Lady Gaga were the first to be eliminated. Justin Bieber and Jedward went next. Niall Horan and Rihanna went head to head for presidential role in the final count. Niall Horan emerged victorious, with almost half the total votes. Most of our class were very happy with the result! We enjoyed counting and the whole experience!
By IX

**Caption
describing
picture or
graphic.**

6th Year Retreat to Glendalough



"What is it your plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" This was one of the many thought-

provoking quotes that Father Michael Rogers provided us with on our retreat to Glendalough last Tuesday. Our final retreat in Cluny had been much anticipated by the already exam-stressed 6th years, and we were not disappointed. We set out on a cold, windy morning equipped with nothing but jackets, lunch money and open minds.

As we arrived in Glendalough, the sun slowly began to break from the clouds to produce little heat, but plenty of sunshine. We were greeted by Father Rogers who began by exploring how though we're not all religious, human beings, by nature, are deeply spiritual. He then challenged us to think about the people in our lives whom have had a profound effect on us whilst we walked one by one in complete silence through a labyrinth. As we began to trace the spiral pattern laid out before us, there was an indescribable atmosphere of peace and tranquillity as we each lost ourselves in thought and the sound of nothing but our footsteps. As the day continued and we explored the breath-taking surroundings of Glendalough, we were given the opportunity to become in touch with nature and were given ample time for inner-reflection. Fa-

ther Rodgers managed to combine visiting all the sights in Glendalough with his words of guidance, wisdom and insight. We touched our ancestors past by tracing the walls of the Round tower, once built by hands almost a thousand years ago.

After plenty of warm chips and chat we set off again, this time by the picturesque lake and valleys before finishing our journey with a private mass in one of the church ruins. We each finished the day with a calm, positive attitude, with thoughts of the eminent exams put into perspective by the more important, simpler things in life. A part of the retreat which resonated with me and I feel sums up the day is a poem read to us by Father Rodgers as we looked out into the beautiful surroundings it is called 'Lost' by David Wagoner.

Lost

by David Wagoner

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,
Must ask permission to know it and be known.
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,
I have made this place around you.
If you leave it, you may come back again, saying
Here.

No two trees are the same to Raven.
No two branches are the same to Wren.
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows
Where you are. You must let it find you.



... though

we're not all

religious,

human beings,

by nature, are

deeply

spiritual.

Sixth Year Music Students at the NCH

Senior Music Students attended a performance at the National Concert Hall on Tuesday, 20th November. The concert is held annually and is aimed at Leaving Certificate music students, with a programme of Bach's Cantata BWV 75 *Jesu der Du Meine Seele*, and contemporary Irish composer Gerald Barry's *Piano Quartet No. 1* – sadly no *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Hearing the performances in a concert setting enhances the musical experiences for everyone, particularly experiencing the high quality performances of

the men and boys of the Palestrina Choir, under conductor Blathnaid Murphy, and the Orchestra of St. Cecilia. The Quartet performers, likewise, rose to the technical challenges of Barry's work, though the pianist remained quite reserved while performing the explosive hand clusters. Third Year students will be attending a similar concert in April 2013, where they will hear performances of their set works at the NCH.



Cluny Green Schools Action Day



We also had the pleasure of Dean Eaton, the Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer for the county council join us for our action day!

On November the 14th the whole school participated in the Cluny Green School's action day.

And what an action packed day it was! To start off the day there was a presentation given to each class by a member of green schools. These presentations gave students more awareness of their surrounding environment, including facts about the amount of waste in the world, as well as information about native plants and animals in Ireland. Once everyone's minds were filled with the powerful knowledge of their ecosystem, they were released into the wild to use their new found knowledge by participating in activities around the school! These activities went down a treat! Especially the bake sale in the foyer! The baked goods included natural ingredients; such as raspberry and blueberry muffins, carrot cake and oatmeal cookies.

After everyone's bellies were filled with the delicious, natural, home-made gourmet, they were given the opportunity to explore the action day further. There were guided expedi-

tions of the tree trail, colourful bird quizzes and bumblebee puzzles. It was all fun and games, with talks on trips to the zoo, with animal profiles and even a talk on edible plants! But it didn't stop there. There were bottle throwing games which involved throwing bottles into the recycle bins and winning a prize if you were successful! (to teach and remind people about recycling, through positive reinforcement, of course). We also had the pleasure of Dean Eaton, the Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer for the county council join us for our action day! He was thoroughly impressed by our exquisitely drawn map of the school, (as well as the beautifully made cakes!).

Overall I think everyone who participated deserves a big pat on the back. Whether it was a green school representative or a participating student, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day as well as learning and expanding their minds on crucial environmental topics! And hopefully the day sprouted a little seed of passion towards the environment!

Niamh Fahy 6N



Green Schools Presentation



Zoo Presentation



1st Yrs Diary of a Tree



Cluny Tree Trail



Presentation on Edible Wild Flowers



Bird Quiz

Deputy Principal's Diary



Ms. Órla Lambert,
Deputy Principal

It's hard to believe that we are finished our first term. What a busy time it has been!

I want to thank all the Fourth Year Hostesses who helped out and gave so generously of their time at recent Parent Teacher Meetings and to the Fifth Years who trained in the new recruits. How patient are those students who sit diligently watching the clock in order to ring the bell every 5 minutes! We hope that our parents are pleased with the new appointment system and that it has cut back on queue time.

Our celebration of the affiliation with the Le Chéile Trust was a beautiful ceremony with all the parents, students, staff and visitors contributing their skills and talents. Thanks to everyone who assisted in so many different ways. We look forward to working with Le Chéile and we thank them for all the support they have given us to date.

It was lovely to meet all the First Year parents at our Parent's Social Evening in November. The girls are well settled in. We have had great fun this term with their Multisport Sessions and Table Quizzes at lunch hour. These could not have happened without the assistance of their Year Head Ms Dullaghan, Tutors

Ms Rooney, Ms Fahey and Ms Smith along with the First Year Class Prefects, our Head Girl Katie and Deputy Laura who squeezed all this fun, food and games into 30 minutes. We are now looking at our First Year outing to the cinema and due to the success of the 1st Yr. lunch events we are hoping to organise a special lunch time activity for the Second Years in conjunction with the Second Year Prefects.

Many thanks to a very busy Parents Association and Ms. Mc Phillips for all their hard work this term on making the Careers Evening such a phenomenal event. It was lovely to meet all our past pupils and guests who volunteered to give of their time and expertise. A huge amount of planning went in to making the Debs Reception such an enjoyable event. We also acknowledge the support of the Scoliosis Screening by the Association, and a memorable Carol Service.

I want to thank Ms. Dillon for the exceptional work she has done in the library this term. Her Harry Potter Spinning Hat and themed Halloween décor went down a treat as did the Christmas themed decorations of the library. The story of the Nativity 'as Gaeilge' was a huge success. Comhgairdeachas libh go léir. This follows on last year's performances of A Christmas Carol and The Titanic Exhibition and Mock Trial.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. Nollaig Shona daíobh go léir agus athbhliain faoi mhaise.

Ms. O. Lambert.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. Nollaig Shona daíobh go léir agus athbhliain faoi mhaise.

Christmas Carol Service



St. Joseph of Cluny Secondary School

hosted the

Annual Christmas Carol Service

on

Monday 17th December

We hope you enjoyed the evening.

*Many thanks to the Parents Association for the
refreshments they served*

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.