



# Lantern

*News from Presentation College, Carlow*

## Upcoming Events

**28<sup>th</sup> April – Return to school after Easter Holidays**

**28<sup>th</sup> April – Start of Active School Week**

**5<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday**

**16<sup>th</sup> May – Sports Day**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May – TY Graduation**

**23<sup>rd</sup> May Sixth Year Graduation**

**26<sup>th</sup> May – Start of House Exams for First, Second and Fifth Years**

**30<sup>th</sup> May – Summer Holidays**

**4<sup>th</sup> June – Start of written LC and JC Examinations**

## **Hurling**

Congratulations to the combined Presentation College/Gaelcholáiste Senior Hurling team on winning the South Leinster Senior Hurling Championship. In a closely contested final they overcame Coláiste Cill Mhantain on a 2-9 to 1-10 score line. The team had a number of impressive victories right through the competition but had to work hard in the final to achieve the victory. Their success was a testimony to their commitment throughout the year. The Presentation College students on the team were J. Murphy, A. Dunne, E. Scully, J. Hickey, S. Comerford, A. Amond, C. Heffernan, S. Monaghan and P. Coughlan.

## **Table Tennis Success**

Presentation College Junior Table Tennis boys' team had tremendous success recently in the Irish Table Tennis Association School's Cup. The team, comprising all First Year students, had resounding victories over Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Terenure College and received a walkover from Blackrock College. They then represented Leinster at the All-Ireland Finals in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The team progressed to the final match where they were defeated by the narrowest of margins (5-4) by Coláiste Chuain. Well done to Tadhg Downey, Tomas Becher, Jack Honnen, Jordan Walsh, Nikita Fennelly and Kirill Fennelly. The team were accompanied to the finals by a group of enthusiastic supporters and their coach Mr. Ray Cleere and teacher Ms. Lucinda O'Connor. The boys are still strong contenders in the Inter Schools' League.

## **Athletics Success**

Well done to all the athletes from Presentation College who competed at the highest national level recently. Congratulations are due in particular to Second Year students Laura Ward and Niall Harvey who represented Ireland in Wales during the month of March.

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## **Shakespearian Drama**

Students from Third Year and Sixth Year enjoyed a trip to the Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin recently to experience some riveting Shakespearian drama. The Sixth Year group were entertained by twelve actors from the Gaiety School of Acting as they presented their version of 'Macbeth' in the morning. The same actors then changed costume and set to perform 'Romeo and Juliet' to an enthralled Third Year group in the afternoon. Both plays were accompanied with an extensive workshop which researched and analysed the plays and looked at exam questions on drama.

## **Fairtrade Fortnight Campaign**

Transition Year students recently organised a hugely successful Fairtrade Fortnight campaign. Over the course of the two weeks, they held different Fairtrade related activities and competitions for the students in our school. There was a Fairtrade poster competition, in which students had to design a Fairtrade poster reflecting this year's theme 'The Power of You'. They also created a Fairtrade quiz, which was distributed to Religion classes. Twice a week, a "Fairtrade pop-up shop" opened within the school and sold Fairtrade tea and coffee. In conjunction with this, they organised a Fairtrade bake sale that sold many different sweets and treats made with Fairtrade ingredients. A coffee morning was also held for the teachers. Transition Year students attended a talk in Carlow I.T on 6<sup>th</sup> March about Fairtrade which featured a guest speaker, Alex Flores, a cashew nut producer from El Salvador. Altogether, €642.62 was raised for Kaoma Orphanages and Presentation College has fulfilled all the criteria to become a "Fairtrade school".

## **Berlioz Workshop**

The Fifth and Sixth Year Music classes travelled to the National Concert Hall in Dublin recently to attend a workshop of Berlioz's 'Symphonie Fantastique' by the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. The workshop was expertly presented by Paul Rissmann. This was an invaluable experience for the students in gaining a

deeper understanding of the music they study for the Leaving Certificate.

## **Gael Linn Debating**

Well done to the Presentation College team of Anna McHugh, Niamh Chapman and Emily Mulhall (all from Second Year) who participated in the National Finals of the Gael Linn debating competition in Limerick Junction recently.

## **5km Run in PE**

A group of Sixth Years from Presentation College recently took part in a new element to senior PE class in the school. Accompanied by PE teachers and wearing high visibility tops, the group ran a 5km circuit around the nearby Browneshill Road and Hacketstown Road. By the end of March, it is hoped that all senior PE students will have completed the circuit at least once.

## **iComp**

Congratulations to Transition Year students from Presentation College, Pauric Dempsey, John Harding, Steven Grant and Lee Campbell who achieved second place in the recent iComp competition in association with University of Limerick and National Centre for Excellence in Maths Science and Technology. The students were tutored by their IT teacher, Ms. Claire McHugh.

## **History Projects**

Well done to everyone in 1A1 and 1A2 who completed their History projects in good order and on time. Students were required to make a model based on any area of History from the Junior Certificate syllabus. An impressive collection of crannógs, fulacht fiadh, helmets, weaponry, castles, ogham stones and much more arrived into the classroom. The students showed great creativity and ingenuity using all sorts of materials from wood, metal and clay to straw, cardboard and paper. All of the projects are currently on display in the classroom, along with an impressive display of wall charts made by classes 2A1 and 2A4.

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## **Science Inspection**

The Science and Physics Departments received overwhelmingly positive feedback in a recent inspection by the Department of Education and Skills.

## **Young Social Innovators**

Transition Year students were fortunate to be chosen to present their 'Young Social Innovators' project to the Y.S.I. Den in Dublin recently. This was quite an achievement, as the Den received an unprecedented amount of entries this year, with over six thousand students from across the country getting involved in the social innovation project. Gemma Kelly and Ian Fennell presented their project 'Cyber Bully Busted' to three dragons in the Den, in an effort to secure funding and support for their project. The Transition Year students, accompanied by their teacher Miss O' Sullivan, represented their team of thirteen, who have been working on an awareness campaign on the issue of cyber bullying over the past few months. The Den proved to be a very positive experience for the two, as they impressed the dragons with their pitch and confident presentation. The dragons proved very generous on the day, and the students not only secured funding for their project but also a mentor. The group look forward to organising a wide range of activities on the issue of cyber bullying over the coming months.

## **AIB Build-A-B ank**

A team of six Transition Year students recently took part in the Regional Finals of the AIB Build-a-Bank Challenge in Athlone. To be successful in this competition, the students had to establish and effectively run a branch of the AIB bank in their school, using their skills in business and marketing to encourage their fellow students to open accounts. In the beginning of the competition, the students had to go through an interview process to gain a place as one of the six members of the team. Following that, they had to open their branch weekly until the competition started, while striving to maintain a strong brand identity. The Presentation students chose the name

Gravity Bank, and aimed to encourage students to use online and mobile banking. The AIB-run competition hopes to encourage saving in students at an early stage. Now in its twelfth year, the programme has gone from strength to strength. Based on the feedback of those who have taken part in the past, it is a very rewarding and enriching experience both for teachers and students alike. Well done to our team of Steven Grant, Laura Murphy, Pauric Dempsey, John Harding, Matthew Taylor, Lee Campbell and their teacher Ms. Karen Donnelly.

## **Press Pass Award for Aaron**

Congratulations to Aaron Amond, Transition Year, who won third prize in the Sports category, in the National Newspapers of Ireland, Press Pass Awards. Aaron accompanied by his parents, teacher Miss O' Sullivan and Principal Ray Murray, was awarded his prize by the Minister for Education Ruairí Quinn at a ceremony in the National Convention Centre, Dublin. Over 18,000 Transition Year students around the country took part in the initiative, which is designed to encourage reading and promote literacy among second level students. Aaron's article focused on his local club securing a place in the All-Ireland semi-finals.

## **BT Young Scientist**

Congratulations to Ben McMahon in Transition Year who represented the school with distinction at the recent Young Scientist exhibition. Ben, accompanied by Science teacher Ms. O'Connor and fellow students Jason Kelly (First Year), Ciara Nolan, Gemma Kelly and Jessica Murphy (Transition Year), impressed judges with his research on attitudes to people with special needs.

## **Easter Greetings**

**At this special time of the year when we celebrate Christ's Resurrection and the gift of eternal life, I would like to wish all in the Presentation College school community a very happy, holy and peaceful Easter.**

**Ray Murray, Principal**

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