

The Pres. News

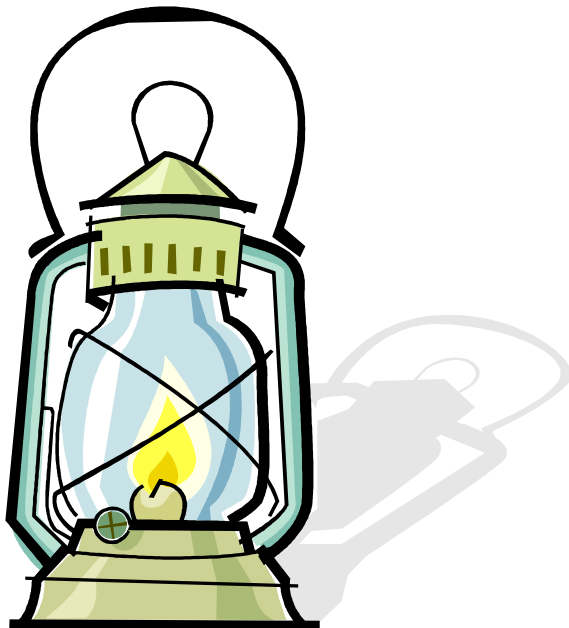
January 2011

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Presentation Bicentenary

This year is a very special year for the Presentation Sisters and wider Presentation Community locally as it marks the two-hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Presentation Sisters in Carlow.

The story of the Presentation Sisters in Carlow began when, at the invitation of **Fr. Andrew Fitzgerald**, a Carlow College Professor and a native of Kilkenny, three sisters from the Kilkenny Presentation Community founded the Carlow Convent on 29th January 1811. The founding Sisters were **Sr. de Sales Meighan, Sr. Magdalene Breen** and **Sr. Agnes Madden**.



The Sisters commenced their great work for the local people in the midst of great poverty and distress from famine and fever from the cellar of a house on Tullow Street.

The work of the Sisters prospered and schools were established during the course of the two centuries to meet the educational needs of the local children. Today, both **Presentation College** and **Scoil Mhuire gan Smál** are very proud to carry on that excellent tradition of education founded two centuries ago.

A very special **Mass of Thanksgiving** was held on Saturday, 29th January in the **Cathedral of the Assumption**, Carlow to mark the bicentenary. This was a very special occasion, organised by the **Presentation Sisters in Carlow** and one in which many members of our school community participated. Several members of staff sang in the choir, **Mr. Murray** read one of the readings, a number of students were involved in the Offertory Procession and the Lantern Ceremony and pride of place on the altar was given to a beautiful piece of art textile created under the guidance of **Ms. Kavanagh**, Home Economics Department.

We extend our congratulations to the present community of Presentation Sisters in Carlow, **Sr. Peggy Campion, Sr. Anna Hyland** and **Sr. Anne Marie Faragher** and wish them every blessing for the future.

School Mass

The beginning of year Mass was celebrated on Thursday, November 11th in **Holy Family Church, Askea** and was attended by staff and students. This was an opportunity for all of us to come together as a spiritual community to reflect on the year ahead and to ask God's blessing on our endeavours. Mass was celebrated by our **Chaplin, Fr. Liam Morgan**, who spoke to us about embracing life in all its entirety. To illustrate this, he showed us a sheet of white paper with a small, but visible black dot. The tendency is sometimes to focus on the dot, thereby failing to see the "full picture". He spoke about the need for openness to each other, to new experiences and to life's opportunities.



Fr. Liam's sentiments were endorsed by our **Principal, Mr. Murray** who reiterated the importance of openness to possibility, working together as a community and striving towards a good education which would allow us to walk in the footsteps of **Nano Nagle** (Foundress of the Presentation Order). Mr. Murray also welcomed all our new students (especially our First Years who were just beginning their secondary school journey) into the fold.

Flowers were presented to **Sister Anne Marie** of the **Presentation Order** on behalf of the student body, as the Mass was also a celebration of Nano Nagle's Feast Day.

It was a particularly poignant moment for four members of staff who had chosen to

retire from Presentation College. The teachers (**Anna Mulvihill, Mary Keating, Clare O'Farrell** and **Jackie Murphy**) were presented with gifts by Sixth Year students for their years of service and loving commitment to the school community. This beautiful ceremony was further enhanced by the voices and music of **Ms. Lyons'** choir.

Retirements

Ms. Anna Mulvihill (Deputy Principal), Ms. Clare O'Farrell and **Mr. Jackie Murphy** retired from the teaching staff in November while **Ms. Mary Keating** had retired at the end of the last school year. Staff and students were sad at the departure of these staff members who collectively had done so much for our school and the education of so many students over several decades.

Every one in our school community thanks them all very much for their contribution to our school and wishes them every health and happiness for the future.

Open Night Success – Again!

Congratulations to all students, staff and parents involved in our very successful Open Night on Monday, 15th November. The evening was a tremendous success and the school welcomed a huge number of primary school students – on a par with the record numbers of the previous year. Such was the huge attendance in the **School Library** for the **Principal's Address** that unfortunately large numbers of parents were unable to enter and hear **Mr. Murray** speak with pride of the educational opportunities on offer to students in Presentation College. Consequently the decision has been taken to hold two sessions of the Principal's Address next year to cater for the huge numbers attending Open Night.

Visitors to our school on the night were very impressed by the facilities on offer to students, the range of educational

opportunities and indeed the students themselves. The **Presentation College** students who assisted on the night were very informative, friendly and courteous to the invited guests and spoke with pride of the school. Many thanks to all involved!

Places in First Year next September have been offered to and accepted by the successful applicants. The first round of **Assessments Tests** for incoming students will take place on **Wednesday, 16th March**. Full details will be forwarded shortly to parents.



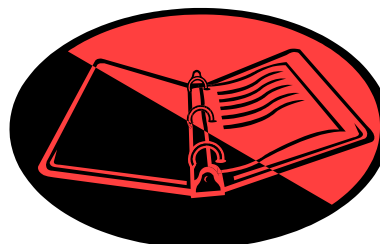
Comenius Project

In November, six of our students - **Tracey Deane, Eimear Connolly (Sixth Year)** and **Dale Amond, Mark Deane, Paul Heffernan, Lee Travers (Fifth Year)** – travelled to **Leiden in Holland** as part of the Comenius Project, now in its second and final year.

Presentation College was the only school in Ireland to be accepted onto the scheme last year and we are very grateful to **Ms. Sinéad Cadinot** who brought this project to fruition and ensured that it was embraced enthusiastically by all.

Comenius seeks to develop knowledge and understanding, among teachers and students, of the diversity of European cultures, languages and values.

On the first day of the project in the Dutch city all students, as ambassadors of their countries, made a presentation which endeavoured to evoke the uniqueness of their respective countries. Thus our students exhibited the intricacies of Irish dance, sang a song ‘as Gaeilge’ by the Corona’s and gave a rousing rendition of “I’ll Tell me Ma”. Their presentation delighted the entire community and was widely acknowledged as one of the most enjoyable.



Much time was devoted to discussing issues related to the European Union. In the evenings, they enjoyed activities such as ice-skating and hip-hop dancing. The students were warmly welcomed into the daily lives of their host families and consequently, encountered many new experiences during their time in Holland including the most common mode of transport – cycling – even to school during the most inclement weather! This was an unforgettable experience and lifelong links have been established between our students and their European counterparts.

Many thanks to **Ms. Larkin** and **Ms. O’Shea** who accompanied the students and worked tirelessly throughout their time in Holland

Student Concept Competition **Winners**

Well done to **Owen Scully, Lee Campbell, Conor Heffernan** and **Michael Glodzinski** who were all winners in this year’s **Junior Category** of the **Carlow Enterprise Board Competition**.

Owen designed a fingerprint security device for mobile phones, Lee designed an “App” to detect wireless networks, Conor designed a T-shirt with a zip for people who are injured and Michael designed a device to contact emergency services when a car’s airbag is activated in the event of an accident.

Art Competition

Congratulations to **Second Year** students **Viktorija Vilcauskyte** and **Jolanta Griskoveca** who scooped first and second prize respectively in the **Carlow Youth Work Networks’ Art Competition**. Viktorija will receive an “All-In-One” gift card worth €150, and Jolanta will receive a gift card worth €100. The prizes were presented on Thursday, January 13th. Well done to the girls and their teacher, **Ms. O’Farrell**.



Guidance Events

Rotary Club Leadership Interviews

Three **Sixth Year** students represented **Presentation College** at the **Leadership Interviews** run by the **Rotary Club**, Carlow to select The Young Leader of the Year in County Carlow. Our fine young leaders were **Lisa Carroll**, **Niamh Murray** and **Áine O’Neill**. Our team emerged the winner of the **Best Team of Leaders** at this year’s competition. The group represented themselves and our school proudly. These

interviews took place on Tuesday 2nd November 2010 in the **Seven Oaks Hotel**, Carlow. All students were presented with a certificate and their picture was in the **Nationalist**.

Lions Club Young Ambassador of the 21st Century

Three **Sixth Year** students represented **Presentation College** at the **County Finals** of this event on Friday, 5th November 2010. The three students are fine examples of the best that young people have to offer and spoke proudly of their involvement in **Meitheal**, **Prefects**, **Student Council** and especially **Zambia**. Our young ambassadors were **Sabrina Buggy**, **Eimear Connolly** and **Tracey Deane**. Congratulations and well done to all our students. They were presented with a certificate on the evening of the interviews.

IT Carlow Open Day

On Friday, 12th November all **Transition Year** and many **Leaving Certificate** students (with parental permission) attended IT Carlow Open Day. Students had the opportunity to attend at least three talks from the lecturers on the courses available at IT Carlow. IT Carlow offers third level education at level 6, level 7 and level 8 in Business, Computing, Engineering, Humanities and Science, for the students of Carlow. It makes third level education more accessible and less expensive. A good research day was had by all.

Carlow Careers Seminar

On Tuesday, 23rd November our **Fifth** and **Sixth Year** students all went along to the **Dolmen Hotel** for this fantastic career fair. Representatives of Universities, Institutes of Technology, Smaller Colleges, Private Colleges, Teacher Training Colleges, Gardaí, Defence Forces, Post Leaving Certificate Courses, FÁS, Agricultural Colleges and Nursing were in attendance. All students were bussed out and in and had fifty minutes to collect literature, ask

questions, think about the future and research courses, training programmes and careers.

NUI Maynooth Open Days

On Friday, 26th November 2010, NUI Maynooth had the first of its Open Days and all **Transition Year** students attended. Maynooth University had their Open Days on the Friday and Saturday. Many **Sixth Year** students went on the Saturday. All students attended talks on the courses on offer at Maynooth, they also had an opportunity to tour the campus and soak up the atmosphere of the nearest University to Carlow. More information on their website at www.nuim.ie



Leaving Certificate Student Talks

All **Leaving Certificate** students heard about DIT College and all their courses on Thursday, 18th November. These talks are a great educational event in the school and encourage our students to think widely before settling on a course or career.

Work Experience

All **Transition Year** students went on work experience from Monday, 6th December to Friday, 10th December 2010, and from Monday, 31st January to Friday, 4th February 2011. Students learn how to obtain and hold down a job like somebody starting off in a new position. As students are not qualified in any particular field the work experience can be more like work shadowing in some cases. Students must write a report on their work experience and keep a diary of their

day to day activities. Employers will furnish a report on the student on completion of their work experience.

DATS - Differential Aptitude Tests

All **Third Year** students sat their aptitude tests on Tuesday, 21st December 2010. These tests will allow students to see where their strengths lie, what their abilities are or to see what they are good at. These are used in conjunction with the probe interest questionnaire results and general school results to help the student decide what course and what subjects to choose next year.

Meitheal Events

On Friday, October 22nd our **First Year** students attended a fancy dress disco in **The Dome**. It was also attended by students from other second-level schools in Carlow. This proved to be a huge success and everyone enjoyed the ambiance created by the **Meitheal Leaders**.

On Thursday, December 16th, the First Years went to see the latest in the **Harry Potter** series “**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**” in the company of the Meitheal Leaders and their co-ordinator, **Ms. Doorley**. The film, despite its dark title, was entertaining and exciting. The Meitheal Leaders look forward to undergoing further training in **Castletown House** from the 18th to 20th of February.

Catholic Schools Week

During Catholic Schools Week which ran from 30th January to 5th February we are offered the opportunity to celebrate the contribution that Catholic Education makes to the wider community and the people who make up the living and vibrant faith communities which characterise our schools. The theme *Catholic Schools - Rooted in Jesus Christ* is inspired by the *Pastoral Letter of Holy Father Pope*

Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland, which was published on 20th March 2010.

The theme of the week was explored by students in their weekly **RE classes** and each day **Mr. Murray** read a “Thought for the Day” over the intercom to promote spiritual reflection during the week. The front hall of the school was also decorated with thought provoking posters and displays and our school **Chaplain, Fr. Liam Morgan** conducted a lovely service with **Sixth Year** students.



Pope John Paul II Awards

Nine of our students were awarded recently for their success and achievement in the Pope John Paul II Awards project. The aim of the project, which was run on a diocesan level, was to promote the involvement of young people in their parish and the development of their faith. This was the first year of the project and was very successful.

The Awards ceremony was held in the **Seven Oaks Hotel** on Friday, 28th January. **Monsignor Brendan Byrne** welcomed **Sabrina Buggy** (Gold), **Sandra Barry** (Bronze), **Tracey Deane** (Bronze), **Niamh Murray** (Bronze), **Lisa Carroll** (Bronze), **Áine Doyle** (Bronze) and **Mark Deane** (Bronze), **Paul Farrell** (Bronze) and

Jordan Ilowski (Gold). Well done to the above students, and their leader, **Robert Norton**.

Dancing at Lughnasa

Leaving Certificate students attended **Second Age’s** production of “**Dancing at Lughnasa**” by **Brian Friel** in the **Helix Theatre** on November 16th, accompanied by their teachers **Ms. Territt** and **Ms. McLean**. The play was directed by **David Horan** and the wonderful set created by **Maree Kearns**. The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance as the Ballybeg summer of 1963 came to life and the trials and tribulations of the Mundy sisters were portrayed. The most memorable scene was when the sisters burst into dance to the music of “Marconi”, their only outlet to express their feelings of outrage and anger, but also their love of music and dance. The performance enhanced the students’ knowledge of the play, which is on their Leaving Certificate English Course.

“Six Of The Best”

Presentation College accepted an invitation to participate in a schools’ extravaganza of talent at the **George Bernard Shaw Theatre** in Carlow recently. Six schools from Carlow town, three primary schools and three second-level schools performed a collection of pieces showcasing the student talent in each of the schools. **Presentation College** performed an excerpt from our highly acclaimed school show, “**Blood Brothers**”, which was enthusiastically received by a full house. Well done to all of the students involved who produced, yet again, an incredible performance!

Zambia Project

Bag Pack

Despite freezing fog, snow and ice, students, teachers and parents turned up to “bag pack” in **Tesco** on Friday, December 4th and

Saturday, December 5th. This generated €2,500 for **AIDS orphans** at **Kaoma Mission** in **Zambia**. Many thanks to all who participated!

Zambia Week

The highlight of our "Zambia Week" was the arrival of **Mrs. Beatrice Nosiku**, Principal of **Kaoma Community School**, for her second visit to Presentation College and **Ms. Audrey Likando**, a teacher at Kaoma Community School, who was visiting for the first time.

They received a huge Céad Míle Fáilte from Principal, **Mr. Ray Murray** and from our Fifth Year and Transition Year students at a colourful welcome ceremony. The **school choir**, led by music teacher **Ms. Maeve Lyons** performed an African chant, accompanied by drumming and **Tracey Deane**, our Head Girl, led a group of students in Irish dancing.

Project Coordinator, **Ms Mags Territt** referred to our joint objectives for the future, where we hope to further develop the partnership between the two schools. Mrs. Beatrice Nosiku reiterated our joint aims, emphasising the importance of "FRIENDSHIP" between both schools, her sweater highlighted this by bearing the words "Carlow - Kaoma Friendship" in Zambian colours.

Our Transition Year Zambian Committee brought them on a tour of our school, which impressed them greatly. They visited a number of classes and shared their life experiences of Kaoma and Zambia answering students' questions and demonstrating a number of Zambian activities, for example, how to light a brazier, which Zambians cook on, by swinging it around.

We are engaging in **Young Social Innovators** (YSI) joint projects, one based on **HIV/AIDS** in Zambia and Ireland and a second based on **Litter and Waste** in both schools. Teachers from both schools

attended a YSI in-service at All Hallows College in Dublin and the Zambian teachers presented their students' work on both topics to our Transition Year students, who will represent them at the YSI "speak-out" on March 30th.



Mrs Nosiku and Ms. Likando enjoyed cooking meringues with **Ms. Grant** and her Fifth Year Home Economics students and they actively participated in indoor hurling and dance workshops with **Ms. Kavanagh's** Transition Year P.E. students. They also played basketball and table tennis during a staff sports evening. Transition Year students enjoyed an "**African Cultural Awareness Day**" facilitated by **Ms. Beni Karuga**. They discussed development issues and were assisted by Mrs. Nosiku and Ms. Likando in making percussion instruments and hula skirts. Together, they celebrated African dance and music.

"**Worldwise**", a subsidiary of **Irish Aid**, who provided the grant for their reciprocal visit, held their annual **Student Forum** in Croke Park during our Zambia week. This year's theme was "**Seeds of Learning**". Zambian and Irish teachers and Transition Year students enthusiastically participated in a number of lively workshops and our student ambassadors, **Oisín McHugh** and **Shannon Doogue** reported back to the general body on "Tackling the Stigma of

HIV/AIDS and “Will the MDG 6 be achieved by 2015?”. Transition Year students set up a very colourful stall, displaying all their work on Kaoma Zambia and explaining our partnership to everyone. Mrs. Nosiku and Ms. Territt took part in the teachers’ evaluation focus group at the Forum, examining how best partnerships can be sustained. The keynote speaker at the Forum was **Professor Sheelagh Drudy** from UCD.



Mrs. Nosiku and Ms. Likando visited **Askea Boys and Girls** primary schools with our chaplain **Fr. Liam Morgan**. The primary school children have adopted the Kaoma orphanages as their confirmation charity and were thrilled to meet the visiting teachers. Our Zambian visitors spoke at masses in Askea parish and also attended a **Parish Partnership** meeting facilitated by **Susan Gallway** from **Waterford One World Centre**. It is our aim to extend the partnership to Askea and Kaoma parishes in the near future.

They discussed the **KAS programme** with **Ms. Helen Dunne** from **Carlow Rape Crisis Centre** and attended the **John Paul II Awards Ceremony**, organised by Fr. Liam Morgan. They hope to introduce both KAS and John Paul II awards to Kaoma Community school. They met **CEIST** representative **Mrs. Margaret Farrell** and adjudicated a whole school Zambian Art Competition organised by **Ms. Quinn** and **Ms. Ward** and a 1A1 Zambian poetry competition organised by Ms. Territt. They

were delighted when students suggested they display the art and poetry at their school. Both teachers thoroughly enjoyed a visit to our **National Museum** in Dublin and laughed loudly at the hilarious “Arrah-na Pogue” play by Dion Boucicault in the **Abbey Theatre**.



At our farewell ceremony, the Zambian teachers presented us with a Zambian brazier, a sieve, a poncho in Zambian colours, books on Africa and Zambian ceremonies and beautiful Zambian chitenge. Presentation College presented them with our college polo shirts and sweatshirts, a photograph collage of visits to Kaoma and Carlow and a plaque bearing Michelangelo’s quotation “We are still Learning”.

On their final day in Carlow, they felt privileged to participate in the **Presentation Bicentenary** mass in Carlow Cathedral at which they wore their beautiful blue and white Lozi national dress. They shared experiences with many Presentation sisters who worked in Zambian missions, throughout the years.

Our “Zambia Week” ended when Mrs. Nosiku and Ms. Likando departed for Lusaka, the following day, after an intensive but very worthwhile visit to Presentation College, Carlow. Both schools look forward to further developing our partnership and future visits.

Carol Singing

Thanks to the generosity of the Carlow people, a group of **Fifth** and **Sixth Year** students raised **€1,500** for the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** on Saturday, December 18th, when they belted out carols, danced,

and generally created a festive atmosphere on Tullow Street. The carol singing was led by our **Chaplain, Fr. Liam Morgan**.



Technology Competitions

F1 in Schools Competition

Building on last year's success, four teams from **Presentation College** are busy preparing for this year's **Regional Finals**, having qualified from hundreds of applications nationwide. The two **Junior teams, Mach6 and Jet Stream**, along with **Senior team, Team Phoenix** will join last year's **All-Ireland Champions, Team Quark**, aiming to reach the National Finals in April. Best of luck to all the teams.

Doodle for Google

With such lively and enthusiastic **First Year** students, it's no surprise that **Lee Campbell, Aaron Amond, Caoimhe Byrne and Pádraic Coughlan** have qualified from **Presentation College** in the 2011 Google design competition with the title "happiness is....." We hope they progress further in this excellent competition.

IT Developments

Technology advances at a very fast pace in **Presentation College** in 2011 as thirty **short throw projectors** and **ten SmartBoards** are installed in Maths rooms, laboratories and classrooms. **Teacher**

laptops have been allocated to twenty teachers and additional laptops have been added to the Technology Suite. Students can now purchase **USB wristbands** from the school **Computer Club**.

With funding for ICT from the Department of Education and Skills, Presentation College continues its commitments to advances in technology at all levels for students and teachers. Our newly updated website which can be found at www.presentationcollegearlow.com now contains a **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)** from "SchoolWise", which will be officially launched in early February.



iRap-It

Congratulations to **Stephen O'Callaghan, Paul Farrell, Michael Stapleton and Hugo-Hughes Doherty** on the launch of their product "**iRap-It**" in the **Carlow Vodafone Store** on Monday, December 20th. "**iRap-It**", a device which keeps your earphones tangle-free, is now on sale in Vodafone shops nationwide. We wish them every success with their product.

Student Attendance

The policy of our school has always been that full attendance is expected at all times and is seen as essential for students to achieve their potential from an educational point of view. Any particular problem in relation to a student's attendance will be reported by the school to the **Educational Welfare Officer**. Please note also that the

Board of Management operates a policy whereby students with significantly poor attendance are required to **repeat their school year**. Please remember also that students are required to present, on the day of their return from absence, a signed note from their parents explaining the absence from school. The co-operation of parents and students is thanked in this regard.

School Uniform

“**Thank You**” to the vast majority of students who arrive to school each day correctly and neatly attired in full school uniform. All members of our school community agree on the necessity for a school uniform and the value of wearing it with pride!



Strict enforcement of uniform regulations – including school jacket – will continue to apply with the guiding principle being “**No uniform – no school!**” Please ensure that your son/daughter has all items of uniform at all times. Please remember also that make-up, excessive jewellery, short skirts and garish hair colouring or styles are not allowed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Supervised Study

Supervised Study is available for all students after school each day from **Monday to Thursday, 4.15 – 6.15 pm**. This service offers students the opportunity to complete homework, study and revise in a quiet supervised environment each evening throughout the week. Further details are

available from **Mr. Nolan**. Please note also that **free Supervised Study** is available in the school on **Friday** afternoons from **2.00 – 4.00 pm**. **Mr. Murray** has the details.

“Mock” Exams

We would like to extend best wishes and every success to all **Third** and **Sixth Year** students sitting the “Mock” Exams. These exams are a very good practice run for the Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations in June and are a means of consolidating learning that has been done to this point. Keep up the studying and the good work!



Transition Year News

Development Education

Transition Year students attended a cluster **Development Education Workshop**, at the **Cathedral Parish Centre** on Thursday, December 16th. They were divided into groups with other Carlow-based schools and learned about HIV/AIDS, the role of NGOs, Self Help Africa and Concern. They also engaged in debating different issues.

St. Vincent de Paul

Mr. Frank Holden gave a talk to students on the **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, explaining its origin and role in society. A number of students helped to organize Christmas hampers which were distributed locally during the Christmas period. Well done to all involved.

Panto and Ice-skating

All **Transition Year** students enjoyed a trip to Dublin on Tuesday, December 21st. The students spent a few hours ice skating at

7Up's Christmas on Ice venue. They then enjoyed a fabulous performance of the **Olympia Christmas Panto, "Cinderella"** starring **Jedward**. The students especially enjoyed watching the performance of fellow class-mates **Leigh Walsh** and **Oisín McHugh**, as well as **First Year Pauric Dempsey** who were excellent. Well done to them all!

Gaisce - The President's Award

Thirty nine **Transition Year** students went to **Glendalough** on Thursday, 4th November as part of the **Gaisce Task**. This award is the highest honour a student can achieve from the **President of Ireland**. The Bronze Medal is what our students hope to achieve by the end of the school year. Students must achieve in four categories; 1-Community Involvement, 2-Personal Skill, 3-Physical Recreation, 4-Venture Project.

Our venture project was planned and prepared by all the students of TY. They had to book a bus, book the hostel, cook all meals, wash up and prepare for a long walk with practice sessions and safety advice.

On the Thursday evening students walked for three hours on the lower part of the beautiful Glendalough area. On Friday, 5th November the students went on a longer walk of four hours up into the mountains with beautiful views of the lakes and surrounding area.

Two teachers, **Mr Kelly** and **Ms O'Looney**, accompanied the students on the trip. The weather was great, only one small shower. Lunch in the woods was delightful after the first two hours of walking. All students finished the venture with confidence and were delighted to have one quarter of the Gaisce under their belt.

Physical Education Activities

Soccer

A **First Year** and **Third Year** group enjoyed the expertise of three students from **Carlow IT** who are currently studying for a

degree in **Sport and Exercise**, specialising in soccer. For five weeks, **Gary Seery**, **Bobby Tiernan** and **Shane Tracey** facilitated soccer training as part of the P.E. programme which was enthusiastically embraced by our students. The school soccer teams were also given the opportunity to train under the expert eyes of the college students.



Rugby

The **Fourth** and **Fifth Year** students have benefited from the expertise and skill of **Mr. Wes Whitten**, the **Carlow Rugby Development Officer** over the past few weeks. This training in rugby was to culminate in a very competitive game between the two groups on Tuesday, December 21st. Unfortunately due to weather conditions, the pitch proved unplayable so both groups went all out to grasp victory in a game of tag rugby in our splendid sports hall. The Fourth Years emerged victorious by a score of 24-22!

Homework Club

Students who may require assistance with homework assignments are invited to attend the Homework Club on **Wednesday** evenings from **4.05 to 5.00 pm**. There, **Ms. Delahunty** is on hand to help, advise and encourage in a warm and supervised environment. Last term's success was manifested in full enrolment.

Participants are requested to pay €10 per term and this amount is refunded to those with a 90% attendance record. Contact Ms. Delahunty for further details.

Registration Fee

A sincere thank you to the vast majority of parents who have paid the Registration Fee or School Levy as it is also known. As a voluntary, secondary school we are in effect discriminated against by the government in relation to funding relative to the other second level school sectors. To this end the Board of Management is compelled on an annual basis to fundraise to meet the necessary costs in running the school and providing an excellent education to our students. The Registration Fee is a very important part of this fundraising. It is vital that **all** families contribute to the scheme, a point that has been made by several families themselves. The details of the Registration Fee were forwarded to parents recently.

Your contributions, which can be paid to **Mr. Delaney** in the Book Shop, are most welcome and appreciated.

Sports Forum

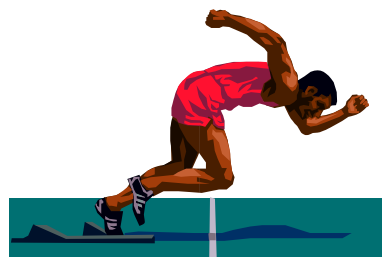
Athletics

The athletics season has been quiet since November. The cross country league was completed in late November with the school winning three sets of medals. The most successful team was the **Junior Boys** who won every leg of the league including the last relay leg. The team was **Nathan Walsh, David Aston, Conor Heffernan** and **James McGrath**.

The **Inter Boys** team of **Danny Lawler, Graham Power, Gavin Curran** and **Conor Cleary** were second while the **Inter Girls** of **Stacey Farrell, Molly Carbery, Vicky Kidd, Orla Gordon** and **Paulina Vidiksis** were third.

There was disappointment for **Paul Byrne** and **Owen Scully** with the cancellation of

their multi-event international in December due to the weather but the good news was that it was refixed for February 6th. Owen was also looking forward to last January 30th when he was part of the **Junior Irish Schools Team** which competed in **Cardiff** making it two weekends in a row representing Ireland.



Owen ran the 200M and was also part of the 4X200M relay team in Cardiff where he was joined by his class mate **Grace Lawler** who competed in the 60M and 4X200M relay. Both Grace and Owen performed very well in Cardiff both setting new personal times. Grace was third in the 60M sprint in 8.08s and was on the 4X200 relay team which won. Owen was second in the 200M in a time of 23.97s and was on the 4X200M relay team which finished second.

Grace is eligible to compete in this competition again next year. It is a major achievement for the school to have four Irish caps in the space of two weeks and great credit is due to **Mr. Delaney** for his tireless work and coaching.

Gaelic Football

Over the past three months the schools three boys Gaelic Football teams have been in action in the Leinster schools competitions. The star performers have been the **Juvenile Team** (Under 14) who reached the **South Leinster semi-final** where they met **St Kevin's, Dunlavin**. However, despite a fine performance, success was not to be theirs on the day but this team has tremendous potential and we look forward to the future. Thanks to **Ms. McHugh, Mr. O'Neill** and **Mr. Kennedy** for all of their hard work.

U-16 Soccer

The U-16 soccer team had a great win in the first round of the Carlow-Kilkenny League. **Aaron Buckley** was the first to score with a fine volley, before making it 2-0 in the second half. **John Nangle** finished off the match with an excellent goal in the last few minutes of the game. Each player contributed to an excellent performance by the Pres., but special mention must go to **Daryl Coleman** and **Keith Noctor** who worked tirelessly throughout the whole ninety minutes.