

# The Pres. News

## November 2011

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### Welcome

I would like to extend a sincere welcome back to all in our school community as we settle in to yet another year of hard work, study and numerous exciting activities and projects in Presentation College.

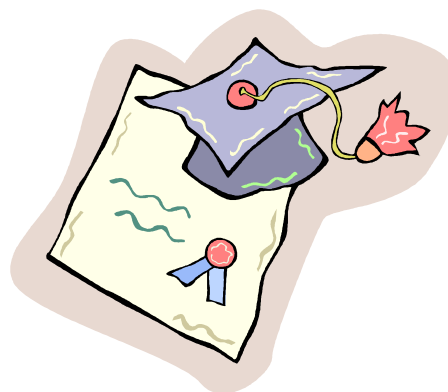
A very special and warm welcome to all of our First Year students as they begin their journey of second-level education in our school. A warm welcome also to the many students who have joined us in other year groups having transferred from other schools. This is a new and exciting beginning for you and I wish you every success and fulfilment of ambition for you in Presentation College. May your time here be happy and educationally very rewarding. **“Be proud of the Pres!”**

Ray Murray, Principal

### Pres Academic Awards

The high achievers among the Junior and Leaving Certificate students were honoured at an awards ceremony in the **Seven Oaks Hotel** on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> October. Speaking to the students, parents, and Board of Management members present, school **Principal Mr. Ray Murray** congratulated the students present and their colleagues, on their success in the Certificate examinations last summer. He said that the awards ceremony was a public acknowledgement

and recognition of the hard work and achievements of a large number of students in the school and of the support and encouragement received from teachers and parents. The school was rewarding the individual academic attainments of the students present.



This was the fifth year of the annual Pres Academic Awards, sponsored by the Board of Management. **Mr. Murray** pointed out that this ceremony was just one part of the programme of recognition and reward of pupil achievement in Presentation College, Carlow.

The **Chairperson** of the **Board of Management, Mr. Alex Stenson** also spoke and praised the efforts of the students and their teachers. He spoke of how proud the students should be of their success and of

being a part of the wonderful community that is the Presentation College.

**Mr. Stenson** also thanked the Principal for his work in this area and for initiating this scheme of awards.

He then presented the specially commissioned awards to the following students; **Junior Certificate: Hannah, Clarke, David Hatton, Philipp Heim, Ellen Murphy, Keith Nolan, Emily O'Callaghan and Peter Thompson. Leaving Certificate: Lisa Carroll** (Bachelor of Education at MIE), **Eimear Connolly** (Applied Science in Food and Business Management at NUIG), **Niamh Murray** (Commerce in UCD) and **Áine O'Neill** (Biomedical, Health and Life Science in UCD). **Mr. Murray** hoped that the occasion would be just one of many happy memories the students would have of their time in Presentation College and he wished the students present every further success in their continued studies.

The assembled guests were also informed that the top academic achievers in each subject area from all the other classes in the school would also be honoured at a special ceremony in the school.

### Maths Success

Congratulations to **David Hatton** and **Emily O'Callaghan** who have been selected by **U.C.D. School of Mathematical Sciences** to attend **Mathematics Enrichment** classes that are being offered at universities around the country. Each year a cohort of talented students are selected on the basis of their exceptional performance in Higher Level Mathematics in their Junior Cert. They both attained a grade A in their exam this year under the guidance of their teacher **Ms. Eleanor McLean**.

The enrichment classes lead into Olympiad training classes. The **International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)** is a prestigious annual team competition for

mathematically talented second-level students representing their countries. Ireland has participated in the competition since 1988, and Irish students have won medals in eight of these competitions.



Emily and David are currently immersed in their Transition Year programme in Presentation College where they are discovering many opportunities to further develop their talents.

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

### Exams

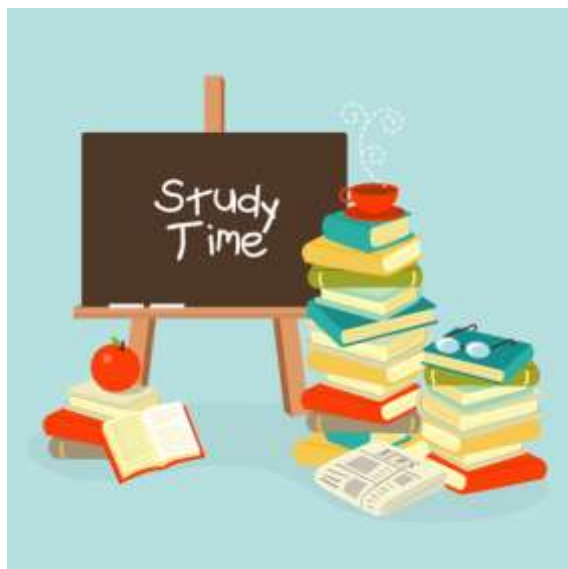
All **First Year** students had to complete assessment tests in all their examination subjects the week preceding the Halloween break. These exams reinforce the academic ethos in the school and serve as a further measure and assessment in the allocation of students to classes.

A reminder to **First, Second and Fifth Year** students that the formal **Christmas Exams** will take place from Monday, 28<sup>th</sup>

November to Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Keep up the hard work!

### Study Skills Seminar

On Tuesday and Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September all **Sixth Year** students attended a **Study Skills Seminar** in school. The **Third Year** students were also able to avail of this opportunity on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September. Topics such as goal-setting, organising a realistic timetable, note taking etc. were all discussed, and practised, during the seminar. On Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September, the parents of exam students were invited to attend a talk entitled “**Examination performance is a skill, not a talent. Success has as much to do with technique as with knowledge.**” The seminars were kindly subsidised by the **Parents’ Council** which reduced the cost per student.



### Homework Club

Students who may require assistance with homework assignments are invited to attend the Homework Club on **Wednesday** evenings from **4-5pm**. Here, **Ms. Delahunty** is on hand to help, advise and encourage in a warm and supervised environment.

Participants are requested to pay **€10 per term** and this amount is refunded to those with a ninety per cent attendance record.

The Homework Club is especially beneficial for First Year students who may be having difficulty making the transition from primary to secondary school.

### Open Night

Congratulations to all students, staff and parents who were involved in our very successful Open Night on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> November last. The evening was a fantastic success with huge numbers of primary school students in attendance. In fact the attendance figures show an **increase of almost 72%** over the past two years which is something that obviously bodes well for the future. Due to the **high level of enrolments already received for First Year** next September, school management took the step of texting all parents of existing students to submit applications as soon as possible so as to have a better opportunity of securing a place for their son/daughter.



Visitors to our school on the night were very impressed by the facilities on offer to students, the range of educational opportunities, the welcoming atmosphere 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 their school and their participation in class and in so many extra-curricular activities.

### School Calendar

The relevant dates for the current school year were forwarded earlier in the year. **Please keep the school calendar for reference and information. Additional copies are available from the school on request.**

### Formula One in Schools World Finals

On Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, five Fifth Year students, **Oisín Mc Hugh, Brian Rowan, Grace Byrne, Graham Power and Richard Mynhardt** embarked on the experience of a lifetime, as they, accompanied by teachers **Ms. Claire Mc Hugh, Mr. Mike Ryan** and **Principal Mr. Ray Murray**, jetted off to **Malaysia** to represent Ireland at the **F1 in Schools World Finals** in **Kuala Lumpur**.



The team were selected from the National Finals last May to form a collaboration team with a Malaysian School and to compete in the annual F1 in Schools event, held in various locations around the globe each year. The students competed for three days against 22 other teams from all around the world. The competition consisted of **Car Times, Portfolio Judging, Verbal Presentation, Pit Display** and **Scrutineering** among other categories. The team finished 11<sup>th</sup> overall and were extremely proud to have represented their country, town and school on such a stage. While there, they also enjoyed experiencing

Malaysian cuisine, culture, markets and also the amazing opportunity of seeing first-hand the **Singapore Grand Prix**. The team would like to thank all who supported them - teachers, students, parents and especially their sponsors; **Ford Ireland, Softworks, UNUM Ireland, Merck Sharpe and Dohme, Portasol, Solar Signs and Graphics, Burnside Autocyl Engineering, Connolly's Red Mills, Xenon Security Systems, Seven Oaks Hotel, Presentation College Board of Management, Presentation College Parent's Council, Dinn Rí and Carlow IT** among others.

### School Show

The mean city streets of New York came to life in Presentation College in the week before the Halloween mid-term break as almost seventy students from Second, Fourth and Fifth Year staged their production of **'West Side Story'**.

Presentation College was proudly celebrating its **twenty-fifth musical** since it first opened in 1982. During that time, over two thousand Carlow teenagers have had the opportunity to display their acting, dancing and musical talents. Many more have worked backstage, on lights, costumes, painting and ticket sales. A full list of our past shows is available in the discussion section of our Facebook page or on our website

at [www.presentationcollegearlow.com](http://www.presentationcollegearlow.com)



'West Side Story' is the story of love in the face of strife that leads to ultimate tragedy and is a modernisation of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. Maria (**Emily O'Callaghan**), of Puerto Rican origin, meets and falls in love with a boy from the other side of the tracks. Tony (**Peter Thompson**) is a former member of the Jets, a gang with strong dislike of the Puerto Ricans in New York. Tony and Maria's love is threatened as the Jets led by Riff (**Paul Byrne**) and the Puerto Rican Sharks led by Bernardo (**Sam Corcoran**) battle it out on the streets. Despite the efforts of Maria's friend Anita (**Shannon Nolan**), Police Officer Schrank (**Graham Power**) and Doc (**Joshua Mynhardt**), the affair inevitably leads to heartache and death.

Featuring great numbers such as 'When You're a Jet', 'America' and the classic 'Somewhere', 'West Side Story' was a show the whole family enjoyed. The **Musical Director** was **Maeve Lyons** with a strong production team of **Ann Delahunty**, **Edel Hayden**, **Claire McHugh**, **Declan O'Connor**, **Jacqui Quinn** and **Gillian Ward**. **Choreography** was by **Natalie O'Shea** with **direction advice** by **David Doyle**.

Well done and congratulations to all the students from Second, Fourth and Fifth Year who took part in the production of West Side Story. The cast entertained audiences for five sold out shows and continued a fine tradition in the school of live music with quality drama.

### **Per Cent for Art**

As a practical means of funding visual arts in Ireland, the **Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism** some years ago instituted the **Per Cent for Art Scheme**. Under this scheme, the budgets for all capital construction projects should include a sum to pay for an Irish visual art project, subject to certain limits and conditions.

Thanks to this scheme and following the construction of the new extension in our school, the Board of Management is pleased to announce that it has commissioned fine art painter, **Mr. Blaise Smith**, to make a series of two-dimensional artworks in the media of painting. Selection was made by way of a highly competitive two-stage open competition attracting artists locally, nationally and internationally.



Blaise has taken up residence in the school and will make a series of up to thirty artworks showing a year in the life of the school. This is the first time in Ireland such a commission has been undertaken so while it will be particular to our school, it will also be emblematic of life at school for young people today. The resulting body of work will include paintings of the school building itself and surrounding landscape, of students and staff engage in their various learning and teaching activities and of a wide variety of extracurricular activities that students experience in our school.

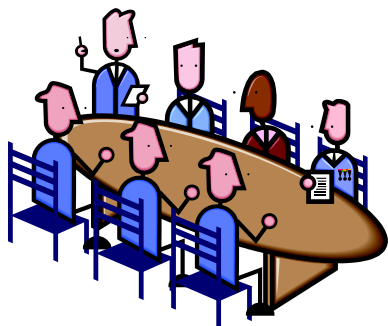
We are in the process of setting up a group of students and staff to document and record this unique project and we look forward to the final exhibition of work which will be launched in the autumn of 2012.

Born in 1967, Blaise attended **Fine Art** painting in **NCAD** before working for

several years in television and as a multimedia interface designer. He won the **Cork County Council Centenary Commission** in 1999, is a regular exhibitor in the **RHA Annual Show** and has been selected for the **BP Portrait Exhibition** in the **National Portrait Gallery, London** in 2003 and 2004. He also has had seven solo shows in the **Molesworth Gallery, Dublin**. Further information can be found at [www.blaisemith.com](http://www.blaisemith.com). We look forward to an exciting artistic year!

### **Board of Management 2011 – 2014**

A new Board of Management has been appointed to oversee the management of the school at the expiry of the previous Board's term of office. The members of the new Board are **Mr. Rory Healy** (Chairperson), **Fr. Conn Moloney**, **Sr. Anne Marie Farragher**, **Ms. Bríd McGrath**, **Ms. Vanessa Keating**, **Mr. Mike Ryan**, **Ms. Geraldine Doogue** and **Mr. Stan McHugh**. We wish the new Board every success for its three year term of office and a sincere thank you to all the members of the previous Board for all of their hard work.



### **Careers News**

#### **Higher Options Conference**

On Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September Leaving Certificate students visited the **RDS** to research colleges, careers and courses at the **Higher Options Conference** in Dublin. This is the largest careers conference in Ireland organised by the **Institute of**

**Guidance Counsellors** and the **Irish Times**. Students could visit stands from over 170 institutions. All the Irish colleges were there - **I.T.s, universities, teacher training colleges, smaller colleges and private colleges** along with the **Garda training college**. Many colleges from **England, Wales, Scotland** and **Northern Ireland** were also present. Students could visit the stands and ask those very important questions and collect the college prospectus to gather further information. Most of the post leaving certificate colleges were also in attendance. All in all it was a very busy conference with a very busy schedule. In the Concert Hall the students could attend lectures on how to choose a career, the **CAO** system, the **UCAS** system and many more. In the Industries Hall there were career talks taking place such as law as a career, renewable energy, the beauty industry, social work and many more. Students were given a timetable of all the talks and a map to locate where the college stands were in the RDS. A very worthwhile educational day was had by all.

#### **Guest Speakers**

##### Carlow IT

**Ms. Paula Butler**, Communications Officer, spoke to **Sixth Year students** on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Having a third level college on our doorstep is a wonderful opportunity for our students. They heard all about the courses available at the IT, the entrance requirements, qualifications awarded and job prospects. All the information can be found at [www.itcarlow.ie](http://www.itcarlow.ie)

##### DIT

**Mr. Joe O'Sullivan**, Schools Liaison Officer, travelled all the way from Dublin to speak to our **Sixth Year students** on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October. All Leaving Certificate students heard about the DIT College and all of the courses on offer.

These talks are a great educational event in the school and encourage our students to think widely before settling on a course or career. Further information is available on [www.dit.ie](http://www.dit.ie)



#### NUI Maynooth

On Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, **Ms Fiona Casey**, Student Liaison Officer at NUI Maynooth **University** visited our school to talk to the Leaving Certificate students about the wide range of courses in **Arts, Business, Science and Engineering** available at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet with the admissions staff of the college face to face, to ask again those important questions and collect information such as the prospectus to research further at home. Again the college website is another tool for research as is the student yearbook and career directory the Sixth Year diary this year. Check out [www.nuim.ie](http://www.nuim.ie)

#### Carlow College

**Ms Gertrude O'Neill**, Marketing Officer at Carlow College visited our school on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October. Carlow College (St. Patrick's College in the past) offers **Humanities and Social Studies** courses in the heart of Carlow town beside the

beautiful new Arts Centre and Theatre. Visit [www.carlowcollege.ie](http://www.carlowcollege.ie) Students also attended the Open Day on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### Transition Year News

#### Ploughing Championships

On 20<sup>th</sup> September, the Transition Year group, accompanied by **Ms. Hayden, Ms. Maher, Ms. Dunne** and **Mr. Kennedy** attended the **National Ploughing Championships** in **Athy, Co. Kildare**. Students had the opportunity to watch the ploughing, attend a sheep shearing competition and visit the many exhibits which included cars, food stalls, fashion, tented trade villages and much more. They also had the privilege of meeting some of the Presidential Candidates. The day proved to be very enjoyable and of particular benefit to those studying Agricultural Science.

#### Student Enterprise Day

On Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October, Transition Year students attended a special **Enterprise Seminar** in the **George Bernard Shaw Theatre**. This involved meeting with experienced business professionals who highlighted the different aspects of running your own business. Speakers included the **CEO of the County Enterprise Board** and successful entrepreneurs whose real-life stories were inspiring and invigorating. Students found the day both enjoyable and beneficial and left with new ideas for creating their own Mini-Companies. **Ms. Hayden** and **Ms. Maher** accompanied the students.

#### Drumming Workshop

On Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, Transition Year students participated in a **“Drumming for Business”** workshop hosted by **Eddie Sheehan** from **Ostinato** and **Jaqui McNabb** of the **County Enterprise Board**.

“Drumming for Business” is a new and innovative programme which has been designed with the objective of providing students with a comprehensive awareness and understanding of the skills required for business and entrepreneurship through the medium of music. Eddie Sheehan demonstrated how listening to, and making, different drum beats is akin to generating business ideas while Ms. McNabb focused on team building. The students benefited from this fun-filled workshop and were accompanied by **Ms. Hayden** and **Ms. Maher**.

#### A.I. B. Build a Bank Challenge

Under the guidance of financially-savvy **Ms. Donnelly**, the “A.I.B. Build a Bank” will be operating in the school again this year. The new school bank “**The Money Pocket**” will endeavour to emulate the success of last year’s “**Money Branch**” and will open for business in November. Interviews were held for six positions, and as a result, the bank will be in the capable hands of **Chloe Doyle** (Manager), **Darragh Byrne** (Assistant Manager), **Paulina Vidiksyte** (Marketing), **Ellen Murphy** (Auditor), **Karolina Wasylewicz** (Teller 1) and **Shannon Nolan** (Teller 2). We are very fortunate to have a school bank on school campus and “The Money Pocket” will be open every Thursday during lunch time. The countdown to Christmas has begun, so it makes sense to bank with “The Money Pocket”.

#### Gaisce/The President’s Award

On Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, Mr **Stephen Peers** visited our school to talk to the Transition Year students about the **President’s Award** or the **Gaisce Bronze Medal**. All TY students are expected to achieve this award over the course of the Transition Year. They must achieve certain objectives in the four areas of **Community Involvement**, **Venture Project**, **Physical**

**recreation** and **Personal Skill**. More information can be found on-line at [www.gaisce.ie](http://www.gaisce.ie).

#### Student Concept Competition

Congratulations to **Conor Heffernan** from Third Year who won the Overall Student Concept Competition in October. Conor’s entry, the “**LED SEE**” was chosen from over 500 entries from Carlow by the **County Enterprise Board** judges. Congratulations also to **Kelly Colton** and **John Murphy** who were also awarded on the night. They were presented with the awards at the **George Bernard Shaw Theatre** on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Conor has won awards in this competition since First Year and we wish him well in his future designs and ideas. The students were accompanied by their teachers **Ms. McHugh**, **Ms. Gibbons** and **Ms. Hayden**.



#### Ecology Field Trip

On Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October students from Fifth and Sixth Year studying **Biology** visited the **Bog of Allen Nature Centre**. They were accompanied by their teacher, **Ms. Dunne**. The Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore is an international centre for peat land education, conservation and research. The programme for students

includes guided walks across the Bog of Allen, workshops on peat-free gardening and composting and a visit to the Habitats and Gardens at the Nature Centre. All found it a great opportunity to combine active learning with good, clean (!) fun. Overall, it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile day.



### **Geography Field Trip**

On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September forty-five Sixth Year Geography students made a trip to **Kippure Estate** in the **Wicklow Mountains**. The purpose of this trip was to study the erosion taking place on the **River Liffey**. This research for their Geography Project is a mandatory section of the Leaving Certificate course and worth twenty per cent of their overall grade. While there, they carried out different experiments to test river velocity, discharge, bedrock analysis etc. In spite of the inclement weather conditions, students embraced the field study enthusiastically and will now embark on the final stage of the Project – a written recording of all their findings. The students were accompanied by **Ms. Delahunty, Ms. Hayden** and **Mr. McDermott**.

### **Sixth Year Retreat**

On Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, **Fr. Liam Morgan** led our Sixth Year students on an outdoor retreat in **Clogrenmane Woods**, accompanied by their R.E. teachers, **Ms. Delahunty, Ms. Grant** and **Mr. Clonan**. The woods were bathed in sunlight as the

group strolled through the leafy pathways, passing intermittently to listen to inspirational lines from scripture, poetry and **Fr. Liam**. The Sixth Years were reminded not only of the importance of the year ahead but also of the friendships already forged which would see them through, and beyond. This brief sojourn in such serene surroundings provided temporary respite for the challenging year that lies ahead and the focus was very much on possibilities, dreams, and personal fulfilment.

### **Prefect Training**

The Sixth Year Prefects participated in a day's training course at the start of the school year which was facilitated by **Stuart Wilson** from "**Zestlife**".

Stuart, formerly a very successful businessman, now works full time with young people. He shared his personal journey with the students, which was invigorating and inspiring. He spoke to them about breaking down the "fear barrier" – their own and those that incoming First Year students might have.

This was an extremely enlightening experience for the Prefects who embraced the day whole-heartedly. All agreed it was very beneficial in terms of confidence building as well as being extremely enjoyable. The training course was arranged by **Ms. Doorley**.

### **Lions Club**

Congratulations to **Sixth Year** student **Paul Farrell** who recently beat off competition from other Carlow second-level schools to secure the title of **Lions Club Young Ambassador of the Year**. He received the **Joe McDermott Memorial Shield** at a presentation in the school from **Mr. Frank Mulvey, President of Carlow Lions Club**, and **Mr. Billy Bolton of Merck Sharp Dohme, Ireland**. Well done Paul and to **Ms. O'Looney** for assisting.

## Rotary Club

Congratulations to **Stephen O'Callaghan, Dale Amond** and **Diana Chomicova** for winning **Best Team** at the **Rotary Club Leadership Interviews**. The Rotary Club endeavours to encourage and promote young leaders in society by inviting students from all schools to attend an interview and, subsequently, declare an overall winner and best team. The Presentation students emerged victorious and were declared the best team of leaders in the county. Well done!



## Science Quiz

The **Sixth Year** Science Quiz team of **Asmita Thapa, Lara Werner** and **Stephen O'Callaghan** represented the school recently in the regional finals of this competition. The team put up a spirited performance but success was not to be theirs on the night. Thanks to **Mr. Walshe** for his support and assistance.

## Aspiro

Congratulations to **Adele Byrne** who travelled with **Aspiro** choir to the **National Concert Hall** recently. **Aspiro** were there to record a piece by composer **Elaine Agnew** with the **National Symphony Orchestra**. This was a great opportunity and experience for the **Aspiro** members and they learned to respond to a new conductor, teamwork and discipline on stage. It was an all round

educational opportunity that few young people experience. **Adele** was a credit to herself, her family and our school!

## Computing Success

Well done to **Conor Saruwatari** who scooped **second prize** in **Web Design** at the **Computing Summer School** in **Carlow IT**. The Summer School was very enjoyable and educational and was attended by students from all over Leinster.

## German Trip

Throughout the Junior and Senior Cycles, our students are afforded the opportunity to visit other countries in Europe, and beyond. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, students from Second and Third Year will travel to Germany with their German teacher, **Ms. O'Mahony**, accompanied by **Ms. Dunne** and **Ms. Molyneaux**. While there, they will visit the cities of **Bonn** and **Cologne**. They will enjoy a guided walking tour of the **University of Heidelberg** which will culminate in a visit to its famous castle. They will also have the opportunity to stroll around the **Christmas Markets** which have become such an integral part of German culture. The highlight of the trip, for many, is likely to be the afternoon spent in **Phantasialand Theme Park**, one of the country's largest theme parks. The students are bound to have the experience of a lifetime and one that is sure to live long in their memories. We wish them "sichere Fahrt!"

## German Penpals

Second Year students who study German have begun to correspond with students in the **Johann-Riedere Realschule** in **Hausenberg**, Germany. This invaluable link between the two schools was the initiative of **Ms. O'Mahony** and former **German Language Assistant Ms. Veronika Wild**. This will be very beneficial for the students – as well as the German students who are

studying English – as it is an innovative and enjoyable way of reinforcing topics that are covered in class. Our students have just written their letters and are eagerly awaiting a response.

### **French Film**

On Tuesday, 18th October, French teachers **Ms. Cadinot** and **Ms. Owens** accompanied sixty-eight students from Transition Year, Fifth and Sixth Year to the **George Bernard Shaw Theatre** to watch the world-famous cult film “**Panique Au Village**”. Selected for both the 2009 Cannes Film Festival and the 2009 Toronto Film Festival, the animated movie starring three plastic toys – “Cowboy”, “Indien” and “Cheval” provided students the opportunity to view a comedy which holds the unique distinction of being the only stop-motion animated feature film ever chosen by the world’s most important film festival.

### **Croagh Patrick Experience**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> September, forty five students and seven adults from Presentation College gathered at Askea Church at 5am to set off for an experience of a lifetime. As it was such an early start, the bus was quiet, but the silence didn’t last too long after **Fr. Liam Morgan**, our chaplain, hopped on the bus, full of life. He got everyone in a good mood with his enthusiastic singing. At 10am we reached the base of **Croagh Patrick**. We officially began our climb at 10.30am. We all were flying it – for the first ten minutes! It became a lot harder, with the steep sides and pathway of broken rock. Soon, some people fell behind. We all decided to take it at our own pace, which was good for the first-timers! At the middle of the climb, we wanted to give up but we found the strength to continue. We were all doing the climb for different reasons, some students are hoping to travel to Zambia next Summer, and so used the trip as an opportunity to fund-raise

for the **AIDS orphanages** in **Kaoma, Zambia**. Other students used the trip as part of their **John Paul II Awards** and our Italian and Spanish visiting students enjoyed experiencing another part of Ireland. After three hours of excruciating, hard work, everyone made it to the summit and a sense of achievement was felt by all. We celebrated mass and afterwards spent time admiring the beautiful views of **Clew Bay** and **Clare Island** that surrounded us. Just when we thought the hard part was over, we had to turn around and walk back down again. This was a lot more difficult than we imagined it would be as the extremely steep slope was covered in loose, broken rock which made it almost impossible to walk on. We eventually made it down at 4pm and took a short trip to **Westport**, where some students went for a swim. We then began the long journey home. Yet again, Fr. Liam’s singing entertained us all and we had a wonderful time. I’ll never forget my experience, and not only did we all have a great time, but it was also for a great cause, which makes the blistering feet and aching muscles all worthwhile! (**Leigh Walsh, Fifth Year**)



## SmartClass 2025

Presentation College students entered the “**SmartClass 2025**” competition last October. SmartClass is a competition for post-primary schools in Ireland to win a complete technology package for their entire First Year student cohort. SmartClass is being run for the first time this year by **Intel, Steljes** and the **Educational Company of Ireland**. This IT competition requires competitors to produce a project on the class of the future. Well done to **Darragh Ó Riain** who managed the project with team **Oisín McHugh, Lee Campbell, David Hatton, Peter Thompson** and **Brian Rowan**. The “**Prezi**” can be viewed online at: <http://prezi.com/ccwgnfnqbj-d/smartclass-2025-presentation-college-carlow/>

## History Projects

Innovation and craftsmanship were the order of the day in a fine display of History projects produced by the **2A1 Class** recently. Recreations of Christopher Columbus’ caravels made from a variety of materials, clever board games based on the explorations, PowerPoint presentations, world maps with a bygone flavour and performances of songs about the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries provided students with an alternative way of learning History from the Junior Cert. syllabus. Well done to all students and their teacher **Mr. O’Connor**.

## Young Social Innovators

Last year, Transition Year students from **Presentation College** and **Kaoma Community School, Zambia** participated in two joint **Young Social Innovators** projects. The “**Rubbish Bandits**” created a cleaner environment in their “**Litter and Waste**” project. Both schools aim to achieve the **Green Schools Flag** award in the near future. “**Youth Alive Alert Enthusiastic,**”

inspired by **Kader Asmal’s** philosophy; “In the absence of a cure, Education is the social vaccine,” introduced a peer education programme on HIV and AIDS in both schools. Having won the **One World** challenge at the **YSI Annual Showcase** in May, **Ms. Beatrice Nosiku, Principal of Kaoma Community School** and her students were delighted to accept their trophy (sponsored by **World Wise**) from **Ms. Mags Territt** in June. They celebrated this achievement with the **District Education Board Secretary, Ms. Mutumba Sendoi**, the **PTA Chairperson Rev. Kauchingu**, the founder of the school **Sr. Molly Maloney** and all teachers and students at the school. Both schools plan to participate in an YSI Step-Up project on the same topic in 2012.



Well done to **Oisín Mc Hugh**, Fifth Year, who gave an interview on **Newstalk 108fm** recently. Oisín featured on the “**Global Village**” programme speaking about the **Young Social Innovators** project. Accompanied by **Ms. Rachel Collier, Chairperson of YSI**, he spoke about the joint project on HIV and AIDS between our school and our partner school in Kaoma Zambia.

## Development Education

On 17<sup>th</sup> June, students **Eimear Heffernan** and **Oisín McHugh** represented Presentation College at the **Irish Development Education Association 2011 Annual Conference in Dublin**. The theme of the conference was: **“Learning for the Seventh Generation: The Importance of a Global Perspective in Irish Education”**. They outlined our Transition Year Development Education programme and described the partnership we have with **Kaoma Community School, Zambia**. They explained how this gave students a greater awareness of issues affecting the Global South and highlighted the importance of global citizenship. They greatly impressed panelists with their enthusiastic engagement in various discussion groups. Well done Eimear and Oisín.



## Trócaire Human Rights School

Student **Oisín McHugh** was selected by **Ms. Mary Boyce** of **Trócaire** to attend the **Trócaire Human Rights Summer School**. Trócaire has created an environment in which quality learning and skills are developed in the area of human rights and global development issues. The school

encouraged a commitment to justice issues and facilitated action for human rights through a series of workshops, activities and guest speakers. It inspired Oisín to propose a programme called **“ART through Art”**, which would be a means of communicating Anti-Retroviral Treatment through art. This could be achieved through art competitions during **Zambia Week**. Well done to Oisín, who was highly commended for his active participation in the summer school.

## Concern Workshop

Fifth Year and Transition Year students recently participated in a **Concern Workshop**, organized by **Ms. Breda Gahan, Global HIV and AIDS Programme Advisor**. The students welcomed our visitors with drumming and an African chant. **Ms. Mendai Kwashimbisa, Mainstreaming Co-ordinator for Gender and HIV Concern, Zambia**, gave an enlightening presentation on **“Challenges and Progress in the HIV and AIDS Sector in Zambia”** with a particular focus on HIV and Young People.

## Zambia News

Our third **Global Education Experience (GEE)** to Zambia will take place during May/June 2012. Our school chaplain, **Fr. Liam Morgan, Ms. Grant, Ms. Lyons** and **Ms. Territt** will accompany nine students to the **Presentation Sisters Kaoma Mission**. Seventeen students have submitted applications and completed very informative and enlightening projects on **“Zambia and Ireland”**. Interviews will take place in November and nine students will be selected to represent Presentation College on the GEE to Zambia. The group will experience the lifelong, selfless commitment and dedication of **Presentation Sisters, Molly Maloney, Inez Fernandez, Angela Brennan** and **Clemintina** to the Zambian people. Our students will have the

opportunity to interact with Zambian students, to play with the children at the three orphanages and to learn about the home-based care programmes for AIDS widows and orphans. They will also learn about Zambian culture, customs and many development issues. Fundraising events will be held to raise funds for Kaoma Orphanages, Community School and the Home-Based Care projects.

These events include; **Tesco Bag Pack: December 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, BLAZE Firewalk: January 20<sup>th</sup>, Monster Valentine Raffle: February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>; Seven Oaks Fashion Show: March 29<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to your support!**

### **Meitheal**

Meitheal is a scheme whereby a group of ten Sixth Year students work to make the school a caring environment. This leadership programme is now in its fourth year in our school. The Meitheal Leaders work towards the integration of First Year students in our school, making their transition from primary school to secondary school easier. The **Meitheal Leaders** for the current year are: **Dale Amond, Diana Chomicova, Mark Deane, Niall Fagan, Eoin Farrell, Paul Farrell, Paul Heffernan, Stephen O’Callaghan, Patrycja Sadej and Lee Travers**. They were selected following an interview process last May and spent one week in **Castletown House, Co. Laois** during the first month of their holidays. Because the training is residential, the Leaders are given a sense of community, of the need for people to work together and they have brought this mindset to the school. At the end of the week, they were presented with their Meitheal badges which make them easily identifiable to all First Year students. Thus it is that ten friendly and mature Meitheal Leaders were there to welcome our First Year students into Presentation College on August 26<sup>th</sup>. They

immediately took care of their charges by involving them in small group activities, a treasure hunt to familiarise them with important locations within the school, “ice breakers” and other exercises which allowed them to get to know each other and the Meitheal Leaders. Since then, they have made themselves available to First Years during break and lunch time.

On 30<sup>th</sup> September the Leaders organised a **First Year Disco** in the **Dome** and invited students from St. Leo’s College, Carlow C.B.S. and Knockbeg College. This was a great opportunity for the students to mingle in a fully-supervised and fun-filled environment. The Meitheal Leaders have many more activities planned for next term which will really enhance the lives of First Years in our school. Well done to the Meitheal Leaders and their co-ordinator **Ms. Doorley** for all their great work throughout the school year.



### **Disciplinary and Pastoral Structures 2011/12**

Our school has policies and procedures in place that ensure all of our students and staff work in a harmonious and genuinely caring atmosphere. The school has a Code of Behaviour which clearly defines the high standards of behaviour expected of our students. The care and discipline in each Year Group is monitored by a Year Head and Dean of Discipline. A Pastoral Care

Team monitors each student's progress and happiness in the school.

The relevant personnel are as follows;

**Principal:** Mr. Ray Murray, **Deputy Principal:** Mr. Billy Delaney, **First Year Head:** Ms. Caitlín DeBúrca, **First Year Dean:** Ms. Ann Delahunty, **Second Year Head:** Ms. Anne Conway, **Second Year Dean:** Mr. Seán Moran, **Third Year Head and Dean:** Ms. Phyllis Daly, **Transition Year Coordinator:** Mr. Frank Nolan, **Fifth Year Head and Dean:** Mr. Séamus Walshe, **Sixth Year Head:** Mr. Billy Delaney, **Sixth Year Dean:** Ms. Orla O'Driscoll, **Guidance Counsellors:** Ms. Noreen O'Looney and Ms. Phyllis Daly, **Pastoral Care Team:** Mr. Billy Delaney, Ms. Noreen O'Looney, Ms. Phyllis Daly and Mr. Fergal Clonan. **Learning Support:** Mr. Mel McDermott.

### **Education (Welfare) Act 2000**

A reminder again that all of the provisions of this Act have been in effect for the past number of years. One of the main functions of the Act is to promote school attendance. In certain instances the relevant Educational Welfare Officer must be informed of any particular problem in relation to a student's 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.

The Board of Management has invested in a biometric attendance system whereby students are required to swipe their finger on a scanner each morning and afternoon to record their attendance in school. The system has proved popular and has the capability to provide detailed reports on any individual student's attendance record.

The Board of Management has also made a policy decision of requiring students with significantly poor attendance to repeat their school year. Please remember that students are required to present, on the day of their

return from absence, a signed note from their parents/guardians explaining the absence from school. The co-operation of parents and students is expected in this regard.

### **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.

### **Parents' Council 2011/12**

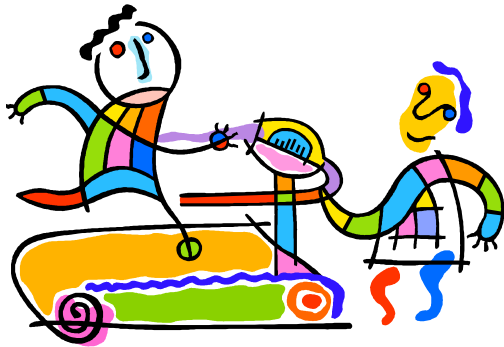
The school has an active Parents' Council which is to the fore in several school activities throughout the year. The Council is consulted on various programmes, policies and school decisions and assists with various school events. The **Chairperson** of the Parents' Council is **Mr. Stan McHugh**.

### **Physical Education Activities**

#### **Active School Flag**

Presentation College hopes to achieve the **Active School Flag** this year which was launched by the Department of Education and Skills in 2009. It is a non-competitive initiative which seeks to recognise schools which strive to achieve a physically active,

physically educated school community. To merit the coveted Active School Flag the school must fulfil certain criteria - firstly to commit to a process of self-evaluation in terms of the P.E. and physical activity opportunities that we currently offer, and secondly, plan and implement a series of changes that will enhance P.E. and extracurricular provision and promote physical activity.



#### Pres Mile

All students ran the "Pres Mile" in September, as part of their P.E. programme. Their individual times were recorded and these will be compared with their times next May as part of **Active School Week** in Presentation College.

#### Rugby

**Mr. Wes Whitten** made a very valuable contribution to the P.E. Department during the months of September and October. He introduced full contact rugby to Transition Year and Fifth Year boys, and tag rugby to Transition Year and Fifth Year girls. This proved to be very popular among the students and whetted their appetite for the Rugby World Cup and especially the progress of the Irish Team. The girls were victorious in a friendly match with local rivals Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach!

#### Golf

All TY students in Presentation College recently enjoyed golf lessons as part of their

PE course. **Mr. Michael Murphy** of **Carlow Driving Range** conducted the lesson and many students hope to return to the range to practice what they've learned.

#### Futsal

All First Year students are given the opportunity to play Futsal (a form of indoor soccer) every Wednesday during lunchtime in the very impressive Sports Hall which we are very privileged to have.

### Sports Forum

#### Athletics

The athletics school year started with the **Leinster Multi-events** last September. **Owen Scully**, Third Year, finished second in the Inter section and **Megan Wynne**, Second Year was seventh in the Junior. Owen went on to the All-Ireland where he was fifth.

A new addition to the calendar this year was an open Track and Field held in Kilkenny in October. The school had a very successful day.

Medal winners were; **Owen Scully**, Third Year - silver in 100m, gold in 300m Inter: **Gavin Curran**, Fifth Year, gold in 400m Senior: **Danny Lawler**, TY, bronze in 400m Senior: **Megan Wynne**, First Year, gold in 300m Junior: **Jordei Coleman**, First Year, bronze in 200m Minor: **Leah Hutton**, First Year, bronze in long jump Minor: **Liz Brophy**, First Year, third in shot Minor.

The school also won relay medals with the Inter and Senior boys, first, and the Minor girls, second.

The Cross Country season is also in full swing with the three county leagues finishing up last week. With athletes injured and away we did not field our full teams and we were not as successful as other years. The First Year Minor Girls won Division 2. The girls who contributed to this were **Emma Lyons**, **Leah Hutton**, **Natalia**

**Kubacka, Amy Murphy, Caoimhe Kelly, Nikita Butler and Hanna Carbery.**

The Senior Boys team of **Danny Lawler, Graham Power, Leon Carter and Paul Byrne** also won their section. **Paucic Coughlan**, Second Year, won the Bronze medal at Inter level in the County Cross Country.

### Football

The **South Leinster Colleges Football** season has just commenced. The Senior team had a very good first round win against **St Pauls, Monasterevin** on a 3-10 to 3-8 score line. This followed their very impressive performance in the Carlow School Blitz where they had wins over **Presentation De la Salle, Bagenalstown, Coláiste Eoin, Hacketstown** and a draw against **Gaelcholáiste, Cheatharlach**. The Juvenile (U14) team put up a spirited display in their first round league match against **Castlecomer Community School** but were unable to overcome a very strong Castlecomer team.

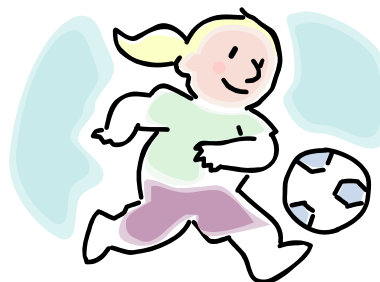
### Celebrity Bainisteoir

Well done to all our past and present pupils who were part of the tremendous victory of the **Killeshin football team** in Celebrity Bainisteoir recently.

### Ladies Football

The enthusiastic squad of junior girls began training immediately upon their return to school in late August. The panel, which is comprised of thirty players, train each Wednesday during lunchtime. In the first round the girls were ceded a walkover by **Presentation Secondary School, Wexford**. However, Lady Luck was not on their side when they encountered a team from **St. Mary's Secondary School New Ross**. They were also unlucky against **FCJ, Bunclody**. However the panel have great potential and

we look forward to greater things in the future!



### Rugby

The Rugby World Cup led to a definite resurgence in the game. This has certainly been the case in Presentation College, which now boasts a senior squad of at least thirty players. This is due to the enthusiasm and commitment of P.E. teachers, **Ms. Kavanagh** and **Ms. Moloney** who have been ably assisted by **Mr. McDermott** and **Mr. O'Connor**. **Mr. Wes Whitten** of **Carlow Rugby Club** provided training for Transition Year students. The senior squad, to date, has played two warm-up games. The first, a home game against **Presentation De la Salle Bagenalstown**, unfortunately ended in defeat for our players. The game was played in very turbulent weather conditions and our team members acquitted themselves very well. Our second game, a home game against Carnew also ended in defeat. The Co. Wicklow team was more experienced and this was evident on the day. However, our boys scored two very good tries and the trainers feel we have much to be excited about in the future.

### Soccer

On Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October the U-17 soccer team were narrowly beaten by **Tullow Community School**. The final score was 3-2. Players of the match were **Adam Duggan, James McGrath, Keith Noctor** and **Shane Byrne**.

Their next match was against local rivals, **CBS Carlow**. The Presentation Boys got off

to a great start scoring two goals from **Keith Noctor** and **Dylan Waters**. However as the game progressed the CBS boys found their feet and the match finished on a 2-2 scoreline. Best for Presentation College were **Adam Duggan, Shane Byrne** and **Owen Scully**.

The Senior team opened the league with a tough match against **Kilkenny C.B.S.** Despite playing very well, Presentation College lost by 5-2. Outstanding players were **Graham Power, Ben Callinan, Roy Byrne** and **Leon Carter**.

### Swimming

Well done to Vicky Kidd, Transition Year, who competed in the Leinster Schools swimming competition recently and qualified for the National Finals. Vicky also achieved a national Division Two qualifying time.

### Indoor Soccer

The ever-popular **Thursday Tournament** is well under way with nine teams competing for the coveted title and awards that are presented at the end of the year. The participating students really enjoy the competitive edge of the games and the team names reflect the creativity and skill to be seen in our brilliant **Sports Hall** each Thursday lunch-time. The participating teams this year are **De Smurfinators, The Wolfpack, We Are Kinda Cool, What's Their Name Again?, Score Five or Die, Power Rangers, Young Men Cars Money Business (YMCMB), Third Time Lucky** and **Purvis FC**. The best of luck to all!