

Colaiste Eamon Ris Loch Garman

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Loch Garman

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2008

A message from the Principal.

End of the school year good wishes:

Edmund Rice Schools Trust:

As you are all aware the Christian Brothers are withdrawing from trusteeship in school in Ireland. The new trust is ERST. The date for the changeover is June 18th 2008. This will mark and end to over two hundred years of involvement in education in Ireland. The Brothers opened the first school in Wexford in 1849 and have served the town since then. The new beginning will bring a great focus to Edmund Rice schools into the future. There is more about this later in the newsletter

State exams:

As we reach the end of another year in C.B.S. Wexford I would like to wish everyone the best of luck in their forthcoming exams. To the leaving certificate students who are after studying hard over the past five years I wish them every success in the exams and for the future. I hope that all the hard work pays off and that they get the result that they deserve.

To all the Junior Certificate students I wish them success and would appeal to them to give the exams their full attention and effort.

New Principal:

You probably all know by now that I have decided to move on from CBS Wexford. I have been appointed to a position in Gorey Community school. This will mean that there will be a new principal in this school in September. I wish to thank everyone involved in the running of this school over the past eleven years. The members of the Board of Management, parents council and all the teachers past and present. I would also like to thank the pupils of the school who made sure that I was never bored or at a loss as to what to spend my time on.

I would like to thank the staff for all their efforts throughout the school year and I wish them a long and happy holiday when the time comes.

Finally I would like to thank the parents for their support for the school. Without them and their sons we would all be out of a job.

End of Year Celebrations.

The sixth year graduation mass and awards will be held in the General Purpose room in the school on Friday 23rd at 7.30.p.m. All sixth years and their families are invited and the parent's council will provide some refreshments in the Gym afterwards. I would like to thank all associated with the end of year awards and ceremonies for all the hard work which goes into making these nights such a success.

New “Temporary” High Functioning Autism Unit.

This year our new unit opened. At this point it is a pre-fabricated building situated at the end of the senior corridor. The unit currently caters for 6 students with Aspergers Syndrome. Many other students benefit from the unit. The unit has a staff of 2 teachers and one special needs assistant. The unit will be incorporated into the new school building programme where it is hoped to have accommodation for 12 students.

Goodbye to the Brothers

The Christian Brothers will be handing over to a lay trustee body in June of this year after generations of service to education of young people in Ireland. Changing society and lack of vocations have led to the Brothers decision to hand over their schools.

The vision of the ERST is to promote full personal and social development in caring Christian communities of learning and teaching. Their mission is to provide Catholic education in the tradition of Edmund Rice.

The five key elements of the Edmund Rice School are;

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values;
- Promoting partnership in the school community;
- Excelling in teaching and learning;
- Creating a caring school community;
- Inspirational transformational leadership

Transition year Newsletter

Transition year was a very enjoyable experience, its well worth doing. We would encourage students in the future to do it. Over the years we have done a lot from self defence courses to mini companies. It improves students to mature and decide what to do when they leave school. The teachers have been very good to us as they have brought us on trips etc this year. We the students would like to thank Miss O’Leary for organising most of the trips and bringing us out as she was the head of transition year. Other teachers also contributed for bringing us on trips and letting us leave class for doing projects bar the exception of some. Overall it was an excellent experience and if we could do it again would, and we’re all looking forward to Oakwood.

By Eoin Healy and Luke Fortune

FIRST YEARS

A new group of first years came to the school last August from schools far and near. To their credit they settled into the years work very quickly. The vast majority grew into secondary school life that epitomises the values of an Edmund Rice education. Their disciplinary record to date is as good as any of the recent first years to join the school. Well done one and all.

The following deserve particular mention; Mariusz Kraska for excellence in swimming and basketball, Danny Fitzpatrick the under 13 soccer player of the year, Kamil Ptak and Ben Lowney for excellence in their history projects, Connor Kemp, Mark Bailey, Chris Hayes, Michael Maguire, Harry Hogan and Colm Cullen who represented the school in the Young Scientist and Scifest competitions.

MEITHEAL Leader Review by *Liam Howlin*

Being a Meitheal Leader involves working as part of a team, consisting of school mates. The Meitheal programme involves a team of ten people.

The Meitheal programme gave me the opportunity to work with a group of first year students, some of which I already knew from outside school. The programme taught me the values of team work and helped me to develop my communication skills.

I would recommend the Meitheal process to any fifth year student. It does however involve giving up your free time to plan and organise activities. The organisation of the first year sports day was part of our remit also.

The programme promotes co-operation and good social skills by integrating the first year classes. The benefits of the programme could be seen after two months as the students began to socialise together, learned each others names and also shared in each others hobbies outside school.

The Meitheal leader award ceremony allows the participants to receive performance appraisals and to communicate with Meitheal leaders from schools such as The Presentation, Loreto, St Peters and the Vocational College.

Personally I have made new friends through this and have gained the trust of my first year class. Mark Bailey (first year Birch) said of the programme, "I thought the Meitheal programme helped us to get used to the school and get to know the lads in our class. It was a good laugh as well and the meitheal leaders were like fair and good. If there was anything happening with anyone in the year, the leaders always did their best to help.

ART May 2008

The CBS annual Art Competition and Exhibition had a successful run again this year. The exhibition took place in the GP room again in May – around the same time that the 6th and 3rd years were undergoing their Leaving Certificate Craftwork Exam and Junior Certificate Art, Craft and Design practical exam work. Due to the fact that the Junior Certificate Project and exam had just finished the day previous to the Art work going up on the wall – there were few from this years 3rd years. However, the Art Dept wishes them well in their results and trust that they will achieve a just reward for all their effort this year. Good luck to both the Junior Certs and Leaving Certs in their results!

With regards to the Art Exhibition & Competition here are the results of the various categories.

JUNIOR LEVEL

1. Steve Kendall (3rd yrs)
2. Christopher Kehoe (2nd yr)
3. Wayne Shiggins (1st yrs)

SENIOR LEVEL

1. Thomas Hayes (6th yr)
2. Corey Clancy (6th yr)
3. Ciaran Murphy (4th yr)

MOST CREATIVE WORK

Thomas Hayes (6th yr)

BEST SKETCH – Three winners.

Thomas Hayes (6th yr), Steve Kendall (3rd yr), Harry Hogan (1st yr)

BEST GRAPHIC Work

Nathan Wysocki (1st yr)

School Chess competition champions 2007/'08

Congratulations to Stefan Kalchev (3rd year) who won the Congratulations to Stefan Kalchev (3rd year) who won the AA Cabs Wexford CBS Chess competition this year.

Congratulations to Jacques Heffernan who was victorious in the AA Cabs Wexford CBS First Year Chess competition.

Thanks to Mr Howlin who organised and ran chess competitions throughout the year.

BlastBeat

This year as a project for Transition years, they entered an international competition called BlastBeat. This involved setting up a record company which they called Kriminal Records. Kriminal Records was involved with promoting Wexfords local music Talent.

As part of the program they organised a “Battle of the Bands” gig in Riverbank Hotel (20/03/08). There was a lot of work involved and all finance came from Kriminal Records themselves. The gig was very successful with 150 people attending. The judges chose the very talented Salvage Dignity to proceed to the regional finals.

Other tasks involved making a short video which all the teachers enjoyed watching. Also there was a lot of paper work to be done.

Unfortunately Salvage Dignity did not make it past the Regional Finals, but Kriminal Records attended the National Final and the CEO, Ian Coleman, won an award for excelling in his work.

RETREATS

By Ms Spellmann and Ms Hayes

Fifth year students descended upon the quiet tranquil Ballyvaloe, to partake in the first retreat of the year. It was a day of reflection, team building, meditation and fun!! Fr. Brian, Ms. Spellman, Ms. Wallace and Ms. Hayes led the group to take time out to appreciate themselves and each other. In the busy school life this is something which isn't highlighted enough. From fun and frolics on the beach to quiet, thought provoking meditation, the lads left humming..... “I am the greatest!”

The transition year students went in May and got wonderful weather, this time the focus was on labels and our perception of who we think we are and who we think others are. Stereotypes were broken down and the real self emerged.

The retreats were enjoyed by the students and teachers equally. Well done to all. Hopefully a spiritual journey began for all.

CBS HAS TALENT

Ms. Spellman

CBS certainly has got talent..... it's a pity about the teachers!! Students gathered in the gym on Friday 16th May to enjoy the end of year show. The show opened with confident performances from Ms. Hayes and Paraigh O'Farrell , followed by the National Anthem sung by Chris Berry. The concert gave many students the chance to showcase their talents. There were three established bands, Bleedin' Spanners, Alternate and Salvage Dignity. Sixth year students Nathan Fitzpatrick sang "Broken Hallelujah" accompanied by Adam McGuire on guitar. Nine fifth year students came together to dance to Grease Lightening. We also had special guest performances from Shakey, a former CBS student and Annie O'Hara ,Wexfords entry for the Rose of Tralee.

All proceeds raised at the show were in aid of providing a defibrillator for the school. Brave teachers, Mr. Codd, Mr. Ryan , Mr. Hegarty and Mr. McMahon all got their legs waxed. While another group of teachers braved the crowd to perform a dance.

Other performers included Edan Hogan-Duff, Chris Hayes, Daniel Cunningham, Thomas Redmond, Danny Barnes, Jamie Lambert, Jack O'Carroll and James Bennett . Many thanks to all who helped from the backstage crew led by David Byrne to the lighting led by Fr. Brian to the sound led by Ms. Kavanagh. Well done to all involved!

TROCAIRE

By ***Dylan Lawlor and Dean Kehoe***

On Pancake Tuesday our first year religion class, Birch, held a bake sale in the GP room. Our class brought in cupcakes, Rice Krispies treats, brownies, buns and of course pancakes. It was a great success. Our target was to raise €745.00 to purchase all nine global gifts. The gifts are chicks, school pack, trees and seeds, survival kit, mother and baby care, weaving loom, gift of a future, gift of water, and a house. After the cake sale we raised more money by collecting change in classes after lunch in our new Trocaire donation box (made kindly by Mr. Whitney.) We exceeded our goal and raised €895.00 which allowed us to purchase another gift of water. These gifts will help people all over the world.

We would like to thank everyone for their support. More information on Trocaire's Global Gift can be found at www.trocaire.org.