

Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2015

Tel: 090 96 79222 Web: www.hrc.ie



Oliver Leaves Audiences Looking for More!

Over 2,000 people enjoyed our production of Oliver! With a cast of 70 TY students, a very talented First Year choir, impressive lighting and many special effects, the show was enjoyed by all and will be long remembered by everyone involved.

Construction of Extension has Begun

Construction work on our new extension and refurbishment of the existing school began in August. The blockwork has been completed, doors and windows have been installed and the roof will be in place by end of January. The extension includes a Sports Hall, Specialist Classrooms, General Purpose area with canteen, and a library.



Staff Retirement

Mr Peter Diskin retired from the teaching staff in August 2014 after 34 years of dedicated service in HRC. He taught science, biology and Maths and coached many football teams to victory during his teaching career. We wish Peter a long and happy retirement.

Development Lotto

The Parents' Association launched the HRC Development Lotto in November. To date the jackpot hasn't been won but many people have won many lucky dips. Thanks to all who have joined already. If you wish to join and help us build a stage and develop sporting facilities please contact us (0909679222) or Pauline Kilcommins, Mike Russell or Geraldine Callander

HRC Student Publishes Local History

Luke Silke LC1 has published "Cloondahamper a History" which was recently launched by Archbishop Michael Neary. Luke's diligence in pursuing the smallest lead has resulted in an exceptional work of local history that will be welcomed by everyone interested in seeing how the "ordinary people" of Ireland lived. HRC is very proud of its resident historian!



Luke presents a copy of his book *Cloondahamper a History* to Mrs Walsh and Sr Assumpta for the school library



Awards Business Studies

HRC students who received an A in Higher Level Business Studies in Junior Cert were honoured at an awards ceremony in NUIG. Pictured with Mrs Larkin, and Dr Turley, NUIG School of Business are Mairéad Ryan, Beth Muldoon, Sarah Gavin, Caoimhe Newell, Daniel Geraghty, Patrick McWalter and Daniel Curley.

Third Level Scholarships



Michael Daly received a Gaelic Football Sports Scholarship from Dr Pat Morgan NUIG. Michael, a very talented footballer for HRC and for his club, captained the Mountbellew-Maylough Minor football team to county victory in 2014.



Sarah Gormally, currently studying Veterinary Medicine, was awarded an Entrance Scholarship by UCD, based on her Leaving Cert results and also a Sports Scholarship for Ladies' Football.

Junior Cert Success



Anna Traynor, a talented musician and excellent academic student was delighted with her Junior Cert results, an amazing 10As all at Higher Level.

HPAT Bursary

Leaving Cert 2 student, Genevieve Callander, was awarded a HPAT Bursary for outstanding academic and extra-curricular achievements. Genevieve will use the bursary to study for the upcoming HPAT exam.

Scholarship to Germany

Following his excellent Junior Cert results in German, Eoin Corcoran was awarded a scholarship by the Goethe Institute to attend a language course during the summer holidays in Kiel University, Germany. This wonderful achievement for Eoin followed an earlier scholarship to attend the National Flight Academy in Florida in July 2013.



Credit Union Quiz

Cormac Monaghan, Áine Healy, Colman Monaghan and Ruairi Fallon (Junior Team) and Katie O'Sullivan, Anna Traynor, Siobhán Callander and Clara Doran (Senior Team) represented HRC at the Credit Union Quiz in the Clybaun Hotel, Galway where they performed excellently and were just narrowly pipped for first place.



German Exchange Programme



Visiting German students listen attentively to a talk on the GAA while our students prepare to impress them with their musical and dancing talent!

As part of the long established German exchange programme in Holy Rosary College we hosted 30 German students and their teachers in September. They attended class, were given a demonstration of the skills of Hurling and Football and enjoyed a presentation on the history of the GAA. Irish and German

students also took part in a speed dating event and all got the opportunity to interact in both German and English. They also attended a traditional Irish music and dance session in the GP room and greatly appreciated the talent of our students, some of whom had just started in first year.

John Paul II Awards



Dylan Kelly and Niamh Mannion (Menlough-Skehana Parish) were presented with medals by Archbishop Michael Neary at the recent John Paul II Awards ceremony in the Cathedral of the Assumption Tuam. The awards recognise the voluntary work done by young people in their parishes. Dylan and Niamh are pictured with their school mentors for the awards, Sr. Assumpta and Mrs Anna Geraghty.

Author's Success



Congratulations to Past Pupil, Mary Costello, whose first novel, *Academy Street* is the winner of the Eason *Novel of the Year* award 2014. Mary gave a very interesting workshop on creative writing to TY students last year and we hope to have her back again in 2015.

Christmas Card Art Winners



Winners of the Design a Christmas Card Art competition were Katie McMahon, Orla Keane, Geri-Anna McNamee, Sarah Fahey and Rachel Lyle

HRC 50

HRC will celebrate 50 years as a co-educational school during the school year 2015/2016. Gabriel O'Connor is currently writing a history of the school and a steering committee is planning a series of celebratory events. For more details log onto www.facebook.com/hrcfifty

Music in HRC

Music is fostered in HRC both as a subject and as an extra-curricular activity. Regular lunchtime sessions attract large numbers of musicians and singers and give the students the confidence to perform at many musical events during the year. *Trad for Trócaire* took place in October and showcased the amazing talent of our First Years. The students entertained the visiting German students, the residents of Clonberne and Mountbellew nursing homes and raised money for St Vincent de Paul as well as providing beautiful music and singing for our own Christmas Carol Service. Music adds another dimension to life in HRC!



HRC Student Council 2014/2015

The Student Council is a representative structure for students, through which they become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students. The student council works with Mrs Gilmore who is the link person between students, staff and management in the school. Representatives of the Council meet with the Board of Management and discuss their planned programme for the coming year.



Claire on Dream Team

Talented footballer Claire Dunleavy (Kilkerrin-Clonberne Ladies FC) has been named on the Galway Ladies Football Dream Team. She was one of just 15 players picked from all the lady footballers in Co. Galway and is the youngest player on the team. Congratulations Claire!



Meghan Kelly, Amy O'Reilly, Justina O'Loughlin, all winners in the event, were congratulated by Santa!

Merry Mile!

Over 400 students, some dressed in festive gear, took part in the Merry Mile fun run organised by TY students on 18 December. As well as being a fun aerobic event, €700 was raised and donated to the local branch of St Vincent de Paul.



Geography Field Trip

Leaving Cert Geography students with their teacher, Mrs Carroll, visited Liscannor Bay where they examined the area for evidence of erosion and deposition, photographed different rock types and learned to use clinometers, quadrats, anemometers and compasses. This important fieldtrip, which provided the students with invaluable practical information, proved very educational and worthwhile as the project counts for 20% of the total marks in Geography in the Leaving Cert exam.

Glo Health Mile Challenge!

In January, all Junior students will take part in the Glo Health Mile challenge. This involves all students running or jogging a mile against the clock and they will be awarded a coloured wristband indicating their time. The aim of the event is to encourage basic levels of fitness amongst students.



HRC Goes Organic!

Joseph Silke and Ronan Griffin, prepare the polytunnel for planting as other students remove the pumpkins for entry in the Mountbellew Agricultural Show.

The Horticulture programme in Transition Year teaches students to grow their own vegetables, fruit, herbs and fruit using organic methods. The polytunnel is in use all year round and copious amounts of fresh fruit and vegetables are produced under the watchful eye of Ms Mary O'Connor, herself a keen organic gardener and beekeeper.



Racing Driver Star!

Patrick Dempsey, first year, loves rugby but his favourite sport is Karting. Patrick's love of motor sport began when he and his Dad attended the Spanish Grand Prix in 2012. He started his racing career in the Irish Championship last year and had several wins and podium finishes. In September Patrick was crowned Irish Open Cadet Champion at a competition in Cork that was open to all 32 counties. Patrick's kart which can reach 75kph is purpose designed with a high performance engine and chassis and tyres similar to those used in senior categories! Karting is not for the faint hearted and so we congratulate this rising star of the sport.

On the Field



HRC Captains 2014-2015

Back: Lee Murphy (Snr Hurling), Colm Mannion (Snr Football), Keith Lyons (Snr Rugby), Michael McDonnell (Snr Rugby), Seán Gilmore (1st Yr Hurling). Front: Claire Dunleavy (Snr Lds Football), Chloe Miskell (Jnr Lds Football), Catherine Finnerty (Snr Camogie), Michael Flynn (Jnr Rugby), Gearóid Quirke (1st Yr Football)



Determination in tough conditions

Rugby

The senior rugby team are the defending Connacht Schools Development Cup champions. They are eagerly looking forward to defending that title and with the calibre of players like Michael McDonnell, Keith Lyons and Chris Fahy they will have a great chance. Their form in the league has been mixed so far but they will hope to turn that around when the Cup Competition begins in January.



First Year Football

The 1st years have enjoyed four matches to date with victories and defeats being shared in equal measure. The group will train twice weekly after Christmas in preparation for championship in March.

Senior Hurling

There is currently a very talented bunch of hurlers at senior level in the school. They play in the B grade and are involved in a competitive championship which is run on a group basis. To date they have faced the challenge of St. Raphael's Loughrea, losing narrowly, though they were missing some key players.



Connacht Champions Again

The senior Camogie team, coached by two very experienced camogie players, Ms Kilkenny and Ms Lally, are again Connacht champions having defeated Scoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe in the final. Playing in Gurteen on a miserable wet December day, the girls fulfilled the promise they had shown all year with a hard fought 1-6 to 0-5 victory. Captain, Áine Ryan, gratefully received the cup and thoughts immediately began to turn to an All-Ireland Semi Final in the New Year. This is two in a row for this team having moved up from "C" last year to capture the "B" title this year.



Sheer delight in Tuam Stadium when HRC beat St Louis, Kiltimagh in the Connacht final 2014.

Gaelic Football Connacht Champions

The backbone of the senior football team comes from the county minor winning Mountbellew-Moylough club. With the exception of one player of that line-up, all were Holy Rosary College students. It was a great achievement to win the title, a sign of a great future for the club With the likes of Colm Mannion, Colin Ryan, Thomas Rabbite and Patrick Mullins to the fore, HRC can challenge for honours in the championship again this year.

Athletics

The schools' athletics year kicks off in earnest in January with the schools' cross country competition. We look forward to again sending a very competitive team especially with some very strong runners in first year taking part. Later in the year, the track and field events will take place with an initial meet in NUIG'S Dangan facility where the jumpers and throwers also get to display their skills. It promises to be an exciting season!

Ladies Football

The Junior team has qualified for the Connacht B Semi- final and have shown great potential to date. They face a home semi-final against Carrick on Shannon CS in the New Year with hopes high that this team could land at least a provincial title and continue the great history of ladies' football in HRC.



U14 Ladies Football

This excellent team has been winning their matches by large margins. Under the stewardship of Ms Holohan they have posted some very big wins, the latest against Mount St. Michael, Claremorris. This team is a combination of a number of excellent 1st and 2nd year students with a strong element of the Kilkerrin-Clonberne team who narrowly lost the Féile final to a Dublin side.

Golf: David Kitt

Third Year student, David Kitt is gaining a growing reputation for his golfing skills. Over the past 12 months, he has lost 9 shots off his handicap to now play off 5. Not alone is he a regular winner in the local club competitions but David is also gaining provincial honours, coming agonisingly close to winning the Connacht U14 Open at Tuam Golf Club in August, finishing second by one shot.