

Mount Lourdes Grammar School Enniskillen

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2012



School Mass

St Michael's Church, Enniskillen, was filled to capacity at the beginning of term as our school community came together to celebrate our annual School Mass which was celebrated by school Chaplain, Canon Mc Quaid. The theme this year was 'Bless the Work of our Hands'.

Many thanks to all the students and staff who participated in the Mass.

The Music reflected the theme of the Mass and was performed by the Choir, soloists, instrumentalists and Traditional Group.



Aspiring Writers

A number of our students were successful in the Writing competition in the Fermanagh Show. Entrants were required to produce either poems or essays on an agricultural theme.



Back from left: Mairead Malone, Grainne Kennedy, Alana Murphy and Tara Fitzpatrick.

Front from left: Niamh Kearns, Riona O'Brien, Catriona Duffy and Grace Lunny.

Young Entrepreneurs



Léan Doonan and Katie Burns, Year 13, were selected for the regional finals of RTE's Junior Dragon's Den. They submitted their business idea to a judging panel and were one of only eleven applicants out of over four hundred to get through to this stage of the competition.

They designed an 'app' for Smart Phones which allows users to plan their social calendars by browsing local events and venues including Sporting fixtures, entertainment and shopping.

We are very proud of Orlaith Lynch, Year 14, following the publication of a paper she wrote on The Embryonic Stem Cell Debate.

Orlaith attended a course in the University of Nottingham which was organised by MEDLINK, a company that organises conferences for students who are interested in pursuing a career in Medicine. As part of the conference, Orlaith was asked to write a paper on Embryonic Stem research. Not only was Orlaith awarded a Merit by the University but she was asked for permission to publish her paper.

Stem Cell Research



Home Economics Award



Niamh Morris, Year 14, has been awarded a Drummond Award, (named after nutritionist Sir Jack Drummond), which is presented to students who perform to an exceptional standard in the nutritional element of the AS course in Home Economics. The awards are presented by the British Nutrition Foundation, the UK's leading body in nutritional research. Niamh was selected for this award as she received the highest mark in Northern Ireland in the AS Home Economics Unit, Principals of Nutrition.

She travelled to London in November where she received her award and prize money. The award was presented to Niamh by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Princess Ann. The school also received a certificate and £200 prize money for the Home Economics Department.

Public Speaking



Samantha McElgunn, Year 13, was placed third overall in the recent Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition. She convincingly delivered a very interesting and humorous speech on her chosen topic, 'Are Books a Thing of the Past?'

European Day of Languages

On Friday 28th September a number of events took place in school to mark European Day of Languages.

Year 9 students celebrated the day by competing in a Euro quiz. Year 10 students participated in a morning of Connected Learning organised by the Modern Languages, Physical Education and Home Economics Departments. The topic of their connected study was 'food and culture'. Students performed traditional dance in Physical Education lessons, enjoyed food tasting in Home Economics and presented short dramas in Modern Languages.

In the afternoon a number of guest speakers addressed students of Modern Languages in Years 11-14. Among the guest speakers were Dr Mary McAfee, who works as a Swedish translator, and Mary Keane, who produces short films in Irish for TG4.

We were also delighted to welcome past pupils Michaela Fitzpatrick, Caoimhe Henderson, Sinead Owens and Aine Monahan who are currently studying languages at various universities.

Students also watched a video message from Dáire Corrigan, son of Mrs Corrigan who recently retired from our Biology department. Dáire is currently based in Italy where he works as an engineer for Ferrari. In his message he told students how the skills he acquired when studying A Level German were invaluable when he had to learn Italian to take up his post in Italy.



French Shared Education Day

As part of the French Shared Education programme, Year 12-14 French students watched a highly enjoyable performance of "Les Filles" by the Onatti Theatre Company on Wednesday 21st November. They were joined by students from St Michael's College, Collegiate Grammar School and Portora Royal School.



A scene from "Les Filles", performed by the Onatti Theatre Company.

Students also participated in a series of French workshops.

History

As part of their study of the Normans, all Year 8 History students participated in an outreach programme delivered by Armagh Council's education section. Students heard a talk on the Battle of Hastings, viewed medieval weapons and armour and contributed to a lively debate.

Year 9 History students also enjoyed an outreach programme based on their study of the Plantations.



All Year 11 History students visited Derry as part of their study of Northern Ireland, 1963 – 1972. They viewed exhibits in the Museum of Free Derry and went on a walking tour of the Bogside area where they gained an insight into the history behind the murals.

The Grúpa Ceoil performing at the launch of Fermanagh Live Festival at the Townhall in Enniskillen.

Music students also participated in a Choral Workshop which was part of the Fermanagh Live Festival. The workshop was lead by Mr Ian Keatley, Organist and Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

In October, GCSE and A Level Music students travelled to the Waterfront Hall in Belfast where they attended a performance by the Ulster Orchestra.

Music



Maths Road-show

All Year 8 students attended a Maths Road-show organised by Sentinus.

Working in pairs, students were given the task of completing as many Maths challenges as they could in the fastest time. The puzzles were ranked and the number of points awarded for a correct solution increased with the difficulty of the puzzle. The activity is designed to develop students' thinking skills. The overall winners were Sarah Dolan, Eimear Shannon, Ciara Clarke and Sarah Prunty.



Young Enterprise

As part of the Enrichment Programme, Year 13 students are offered the opportunity to participate in Young Enterprise.

This year's students enjoyed a visit to the Bawnacre Centre where they participated in the Young Enterprise Northern Ireland Tourism Entrepreneurship Masterclass during Global Entrepreneurship Week.

Joined by students from schools across Fermanagh and Tyrone, participants were given the opportunity to develop the skills required to start their own business. They designed their own business plan and were addressed by local business people.

Year 8 students participated in a Young Enterprise Day, 'Your School, Your Business'. Students were required to complete a number of tasks during the session which developed a range of their skills including team-work, time management and communication. The activities complement the school's Induction Programme and help students to settle into life at Mount Lourdes.

Robotics Road-show

Year 8 students were also treated to a Robotics Road-show. They were given the opportunity to programme and control mini electronic cars. The Year 8s were supported on the day by Year 14 Technology and Design students who helped them to write their own IT programmes and to download these programmes to the robots. The activities work towards enhancing students' understanding of Robotics and developing ICT skills while giving them experience of programming.



Student Council

Congratulations to the 18 students from across all year groups who have been elected to this year's Student Council.

The Council is made up of elected members who aim to represent the interests and needs of the student body. Members have been busy attending meetings this term and they took part in the WELB Youth Conference on Bullying with Student Council representatives from other schools in Fermanagh.



Pictured left:
Members of the
Student Council
2012 – 2013.
Years 8 - 12

From left: Riona O'Brien, Aoife Flanagan, Cara Greene, Aine McAleer, Orlagh Goodwin, Eimear Cassidy, Eimear Shannon, Orlaigh Maguire, Roisin Shannon and Orlagh Murphy.

Pictured right:
Members of the
Student Council
2012 – 2013.
Years 13 and 14

From left: Niamh Walsh, Aine McManus, Orlaith McManus, Kirsty Gallagher, Roisin McCusker, Lucy Monaghan and Abigail Greene. Missing from the photograph: Lucy McManus.



Sport in Mount Lourdes

NETBALL

Congratulations to the Junior Netball team. They are through to the Northern Ireland Cup Final where they will play Our Lady and St. Patrick's College, Belfast, after Christmas.

The Year 9 Minor Netball team have reached the Western Area Final. Captained by Anna McCool this team have won matches against Sacred Heart College, Omagh, and Loreto Grammar School, Omagh, on their way to the final. They now meet Lumen Christi College, Derry, in the final.

We wish them good luck!

Young Ambassadors travel to the Paralympic Games

Our 'Young Ambassadors', Orlaith McManus and Lorna McCafferty, received tickets for the London 2012 Paralympics as a result of all their work in promoting 'The Games' in Mount Lourdes. Four other girls were also lucky enough to have the opportunity to travel with them to London; Zoe Power, Nicole McGrory, Lisa Fitzpatrick and Aoibheann Flanagan.



Mount Lourdes Gaelic football teams are up and running again with all teams entered in the "A" section at each level. Training continues on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for the U-16 and U-20 panels, and on Wednesday evening for the U-14 panel.

The U-20 team won their first two games against Moville Community College and Loreto Convent, Letterkenny, but were beat by the Loreto Grammar School, Omagh. These results guarantee them a place in an Ulster semi final.

The U-16 team won their first game against Moville Community College and will play St Ciaran's, Ballygawley, and Loreto Grammar School, Omagh, in the next two rounds.

The U-14 team will start their qualification campaign in the New Year and we wish them every success.

Gaelic Football

Junior Sports Tournaments

Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 had the opportunity to enjoy a number of in-house competitions during the first term.

These events included Netball and Sportshall Athletics tournaments for Years 8 and 9 and a Netball tournament for Year 10 students. The Year 14 Senior Sports Committee and Year 13 students who are following the Community Sports Leadership Award organised these activities.