

# SPORTS NEWS

## GIRLS GAELIC FOOTBALL CONNAUGHT FINAL

To all GAA supporters, please mark Thursday March 30th. In your diaries as the most important day for Girls football in St. Joseph's.

The U-16 girls reached the Connaught Final thanks to an emphatic win over Inverin in Tuam Stadium last week. The opponents for the final are the Ursuline Convent, Sligo and a high octane encounter is expected as the last time we met they won by the narrowest of margins.

The Senior Girls almost made it a double final event; however they bowed out at their championship last week, thanks to a narrow defeat by Ballyhaunis.

They battled hard following their shaky start and almost pulled off an amazing comeback.

## BASKETBALL



### FIRST YEAR GIRLS

The First Year girls basketball team got off to a flying start to the season when they played St. Brendans, Belmullet on the 11th February.

They played very well and won with a score of 19 points – 0. Their next match against Sacred Heart Westport proved to be more difficult. However they fought to the end and emerged victorious with a score of 22 points to 18.

Their final match in the group was played against a very strong side from St Tiernans, Crossmolina. They proved too difficult to overcome and we lost 36 – 20.

We are now through to the Mayo semi-final due to be played in the next few weeks.

### SECOND YEAR GIRLS

The Second Year girls basketball team had a very strong start to their season with a convincing win over Sacred Heart, Westport. The score was 25 – 11 to Foxford.

Their second match proved a lot more difficult against a very strong St Tiernans side. They lost this match 32 – 10.

They are now through to the Mayo semi-finals due to be played in the next few weeks.

### FIRST YEAR BOYS

The First Year boys basketball team got off to a good start to the season with an exciting win against Abbey Community School, Boyle.

Ronan Conlon scored the winning point with 5 seconds of extra time left to secure the win at 13 points – 12.

Their next match against Ballinrobe proved just as exciting. However this time it didn't go our way and we lost by one point after extra time. Final score: 22 – 21.

The next two games also resulted in losses against two very strong sides.

CBS Roscommon 34 – 12

St Louis, Kiltimagh 21 – 14.

However, we are training hard and looking forward to making our mark next year.

### SECOND YEAR BOYS

Our first match was against Abbey Community School. It was a very close match and again went to extra time. However, they scored in the last 3 seconds snatching the victory at 20 points – 19. The next match against CBS Roscommon started well but they were overcome by the opposition in the final quarter and lost 33 – 16.

Their last match saw them pulling together and playing well.

However, Kiltimagh took the victory 23 points – 18.

## GIRLS SOCCER



Another popular girls sport in St Josephs is girls soccer, with both U-16 and U-14 teams taking part in the schools competition.

This year the U-16 girls were unsuccessful against a strong Sligo side and were also defeated by Swinford on a cold and frosty day last January.

With most of this U-16 team comprising of U-14 players the future for the U-14 girls competition looks promising. The girls U-14 matches take place in the upcoming weeks. Good luck girls!

Schools and Colleges Cross Country

St Joseph's Secondary School enjoyed great success in this years Schools and Colleges Cross Country.

In the Mayo/Sligo competition held in Belleek, Ballina, Danial Murray had a great win in the Junior Boys event. He went on to take the Connaught title in convincing fashion. Finola Mulroy took 3rd in the girls event and finished 5th in the Connaughts.

The Junior Girls team of Becky Gilnagh, Laura Corcoran, Caitlin McGowan, Sharon Burke, Grace Moran and Niamh Langan took 2nd in team event and competed in the All-Ireland. This is the first girls team from St Joseph's to qualify for the All-Ireland finals.

Patrick McNulty had a very successful season finishing 3rd in both the Mayo/Sligo event and the Connaughts. He finished 20th place in the All-Ireland. His brother Joseph had a great run in the Connaughts finishing 4th followed closely by Michael Ruane in 8th position thus qualifying for the All-Irelands which were held in DCU Dublin on March 4th. 10 students in total qualified for the All-Irelands and travelled to Dublin amidst the snow!

While they were not in the medals they all performed excellently and they all enjoyed the experience.

We now anxiously await the track and field season which commences in April.

## GAA NEWS



The Juvenile First and Second Year boys Gaelic football teams are making a huge impact on their respective competitions this year.

The Juveniles had a great victory over Castlerea C.S. on a scoreline of 4-12 to 1-10, which sees them through to the Connaught Semi-Final.

The team is looking forward to a Connaught Seme-Final with St. Cuan's (Galway)



Cross Country participants pictured with Mrs. Breege McHale.



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CINNLIITE NAOMH IOSAIF

Cáisc 2006

Guímid beannachtaí na Cásca ar ár léitheoirí uilig - Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator of the universe  
And the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: You have sent your Son to be the light of the world  
And to call us to be people of light. Alleluia.

## MINISTER ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Funding for an upgrade of electrical wiring, new Fire alarm system and the update of the fuse room in the school has been announced by the Minister for Education and Science. The announcement was made under the Summer Works Scheme 2006 and the whole project will cost over €220,000. The works will be carried out during the summer months and will be completed in time for the new school year at the end of August.

Also due for upgrade this summer is the Metalwork Room. At Christmas the Minister announced grants to upgrade Metalwork and Technology equipment and the school has already received €71,600 to address key safety issues in specialist technology rooms. These monies are in the process of being expended to improve facilities in both Metalwork and Technology.

## PARENTS COUNCIL RAISES €3,000 FOR SCHOOL

A social Evening, organised by the Parents Council on January 27th. Raised over €3,000 for school funds. The evening was well attended by Parents and it took place in the Mayfly Hotel in Foxford. The school is most grateful to the Parents' Council for its hard work and also to the many Parents, who bought tickets for the evening. Given the success of the evening, it is likely that it will now become an annual event. The Council will decide at its next meeting how the money will be spent.



Parents' Council Treasurer, Mrs Mary Butler presenting a cheque from Fund Raising to Mr. B. Forde. Also pictured are members of the Parents Council.

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## YOUNG SCIENTIST PRIZE FOR STUDENTS



Mrs Marian Harkin M.E.P. pictured with young Scientist winners Conor Phillips, Eamonn Walsh and Sean Hynes.

Three young students from St. Joseph's were very successful in the school's first entry in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in Dublin. The students, Sean Hynes, Eamonn Walsh and Conor Phillips entered a technology project, entitled Timed Drug Dispenser and were awarded a Rosette of Commendation for their efforts. Their supervisor, Mr. Declan Cafferkey was very happy with the result also and the school is very proud of the achievement. The students have already begun to reflect on a project for next year's competition.

## HEALTHY EATING DAY



Art Competition winner Rebecca Clarke Transition Year, pictured with Mrs Mary Corcoran, Home Economics teacher. Absent from picture is Louisa Heneghan Transition Year, also a winner in the competition.

On Thursday, February 2nd. There was a Healthy Eating Day in the school. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness amongst pupils about healthy eating and its advantages in today's world. The day commenced with the distribution of fruit to all pupils at break time. In the afternoon, Ms. Liz Kirby, Dietician with the Health Services Executive (Western Region) visited the school and spoke to all Fifth Years and Transition Year students about Healthy Eating, Nutrition and Lifestyle. The students enjoyed and benefitted greatly from the day. An Art Competition organised in conjunction with the day was a great success. It was won by Louisa Heneghan and Rebecca Clarke of Transition Year.

## TRANSITION YEAR FRENCH EXCHANGE



Transition Year Students prior to their departure for Remiremont in France for their school exchange.

As we write the Transition Year students are visiting Remiremont in Eastern France in the shadow of the Vosges mountain range. They are on an exchange with the students of Lycée André Malraux. This is a co-educational boarding school and during their exchange the students will stay in the school with their counterparts. It is expected that our students will experience a varied programme of events, including the French language and culture. The students and teachers from the Lycée will pay a return visit to Foxford very soon – date to be announced. The village of Remiremont is the birthplace of General Humbert, who fought with the Irish during the 1798 Rebellion. He landed at Kilcummin in North Mayo with an army of French soldiers and is most famous for the Races of Castlebar' incident. The tour is accompanied by Fr. Joseph Gavigan and Miss Niamh Armstrong.



First Year Students 2005/6

## PAST PUPILS REUNION 1986 CLASS

There will be a Past Pupils Reunion on Saturday October 28th. For the 1981-1986 class. Students, who enrolled in 1981 and who studied in the school during the period up to 1986 are invited to attend. Proceedings will commence at 6pm. With a Mass and will be followed by a tour of the school afterwards. There will be a function in the Mayfly Hotel that evening, where no doubt much reminiscing will take place. Teachers of the period are also being invited. Further details from Mrs. Majella Hopkins and committee.

## In brief.....

- Leaving Certificate pupils raised over €5,000 in their Christmas fundraising for charity and the money is now being distributed to local charities and Concern.



Leaving Certificate Fundraising 2006. Head Boy, Michael John Lavin and Head Girl, Valerie Maloney present a cheque to Mr Don Healy, St. Vincent de Paul. Also pictured are Mr Michael Cosgrave and Fr Joseph Gavigan.

- Enrolment figures of new students for next year are 62 as we go to press. This is very promising and the school is grateful to Parents for their confidence in the school
- Fifth Years and Transition Years recently visited the Fas Opportunities Careers Exhibition in Croke Park in Dublin. The exhibition was most helpful in giving information about a variety of careers for the students.
- Transition Years hope to stage a drama production in May. They are working with Donna Jennings of Castlebar Pantomime fame.
- Congrats to Mrs. Blehein-McHale who won a major award for Athletics in the Western People Sports Award recently

## PLC COURSE IN CHILDCARE

Parents have you some time on your hands during the day? Are you interested in re-entering the workplace? Would you like to change career and pursue a qualification in Childcare or Special Needs Assistant? St. Joseph's has a PLC Childcare/Special Needs course, which runs over 4 days in the Top School. One day is spent in a childcare facility (usually Monday) to gain experience and practical expertise in the area of childcare. The course can be taken full time over one year or part time over two years. It commences each day at 9.40am and there is a half day one day per week. It is ideal for Parents with school-going children. Why not get further details from the Secretary. The next course begins in mid September. Grants are available to eligible applicants and there are no fees as costs are covered by FETAC and NDP 2000-2006.

## STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

by Anita Roach

The election of the student representatives took place in October. They have a vital say on how the school is run. We hold meetings every so often to get ideas of the students on how to make the school a better place. We hold events to raise money such as the Table Quiz. All the funds raised go back in to the development of the school for the students.

We purchased various items this year such as three

sofas, a paper shredder, framing for Junior Certificate Art pictures, retirement presents for Mr. Durkan and the very popular pool table. The profits generated by the table again go back into the school.

At the moment new hand dryers are being purchased and paint for the refurbishment of the toilets.

The profits from Denim Day on April 28th. Will go to the Irish Youth Foundation.

These are all the amazing things the Student Council has done for the school so far this year but there is much more to come.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Giblin, Mr. Forde and Mr. McLoughlin for their co-operation

## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2006

Bhí daltaí na scoile an-ghnóthach ag comóradh seachtain na Gaeilge. Tá ballaí na scoile clúdaithe le pictiúirí áille ag léiriú culture na tire seo.

D'eagraigh daltaí ah chúigiú bliain Tráth na gCeist Boird do na daltaí sóisearacha. D'éirigh thar cionn leis an ócáid agus comhghairdeas le chuile dhuine a bhí páirteach ann agus do na buaiteoirí.



Tráth na gCeist Céad áit le Bean Uí Eadhra



Tráth na gCeist Dara háit le Bean Uí Eadhra



Tráth na gCeist Triú áit le Bean Uí Eadhra