



ST. JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

FOXFORD, CO. MAYO

Email: info@stjosephsfoxford.com Web: www.stjosephsfoxford.com

Cinnlínte Naomh Iosaif Nollaig 2009

Beannachtaí na Nollag dár léitheoirí go léir agus rath san Athbhliain. We wish all of our readers the blessings of Christmas and the New Year

Bishop Kelly blesses new facilities at St. Joseph's

New outdoor facilities now completed at St. Joseph's Secondary School, were blessed on 27 November by school Trustee, Bishop Brendan Kelly. They were opened by Minister Dara Calleary and Leanne Mills, a First Year student. They comprise of a new Astro Turf pitch, new outdoor tarmac soccer pitch, new Basketball Court and upgraded surfaces in school yards. The development has been funded by the Department of Education and Science and will be of considerable value to the students and the community.

The Astro Turf Pitch is available for rental to community groups after school hours. Details from 087-6722455



Minister Dara Calleary T.D. and Leanne Mills officially open the new Astro Turf Pitch at St. Joseph's. Also pictured are Bishop Kelly, Fr. Thomas Mulligan Board of Management Chairman, Mr. Brendan Forde Principal, Mr. John O' Mahony T.D., Mrs. Patricia Sherry Parents Council Chairperson, Councillor Jimmy Maloney, First and Second Year students.

Bishop Kelly visits St. Josephs.

Bishop Kelly spoke to Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate pupils in their classes on Friday, November 27th. During the full day at the school he discussed many issues with the students, who exchanged views with him on many issues. Bishop Kelly enjoyed his visit to the school and is due to come back in the New Year to meet other students.

St. Joseph's students top of the class

A study completed recently on last year's Leaving Certificate class in St. Joseph's indicates that 83% of the class proceeded to Third Level courses in a variety of colleges. The school has students in all of the major universities, including Trinity, Galway, Limerick, DCU, College of Surgeons and in the Institutes of Technology. The results in the Leaving Certificate last year were outstanding and great tribute is due to the students, Parents, teachers and school staff. Louisa Heneghan achieved an Entrance Exhibition Scholarship to Trinity College. She is congratulated on her fine achievement.

Tributes paid to Mr. Cosgrave and Fr. Gavigan on their retirement

The Board of Management and staff have both paid tribute to retiring teachers, Mr. Cosgrave and Fr. Gavigan at functions held recently.

Michael Cosgrave was a student in the First class in the new St. Joseph's in 1961 and did his LC here in 1966. He attended UCG for BA in 1969, H Dip in 1971 and qualified in Remedial Education in 1975.

He was appointed to St Josephs on 1/8/1971 with a contract to teach Commerce, Hist/Geog, English and Games. He became Home School Community Liaison Coordinator in February 2002. He was teachers representative on the BOM 1997-2000. He retired in August 31 2009 after a teaching career of 38 years and an association with St. Josephs of 43 years. During the recent years he has been President of local SVP, an Accord Counsellor, Parish Renewal, the new Leisure Centre and Community Alert.

Fr. Joseph Gavigan was appointed by Bishop Flynn in April 2002 to St. Josephs Secondary School where he would remain as Teacher of Geography, Religious Education, CSPE for the next 14 years. Fr. Joe was appointed Special Duties teacher in 1998 as Parent Liaison Coordinator, EU Programmes Comenius, Socrates and Leargas as well as Assistant PRO. He excelled as TY Coordinator and did much to build up this option at St. Josephs.

Fr. Joe organised and planned many liturgies in the school: Christmas, Easter, Graduation, St. Blaise's Day, Masses for deceased students and former teachers, Prayers at Assembly etc. Fr. Joe has left a considerable religious legacy at our school and an example to us all.

Both men are wished well in their retirements. Ad multos annos



Pictured at the Board of Management Retirement dinner were Front left Fr. Gavigan, Mrs. Cosgrave and Mr. Cosgrave. Back Mrs. P Fielding, Mr. Brendan Forde, Mr. Kieran Ryan, Fr. Thomas Mulligan, Chairman BOM, Mr. Anthony Ruane and Mrs. Patricia Heneghan, all from the Board of Management.

New Board of Management, Parents and Student Councils

October 2009 marks the end of the three year terms of office for the Board of Management and Parents Councils. The school is grateful to the outgoing Board, Parents and Students Councils for their hard work and enthusiasm on behalf of the school community.

The new Board of Management is as follows:

Chairman: Fr. Thomas Mulligan

Trustee Reps: Mrs. Patricia Heneghan, Mr. Kieran Ryan and Fr. Gerard Davey

Teacher Reps: Miss Niamh Armstrong and Mr. Declan Cafferkey

Parent Reps: Mr. PJ Rainey and Mrs. Liz McHale

Secretary: Mr. Brendan Forde

The new Parents Council has met in November and December and is as follows:

First Year Pauline Geoghegan, Raymond Dempsey

Second Year Carol Dine, Patricia Sherry

Third Year Ann McGowan, Roddy Gallagher

Transition Year Esther Bourke

Fifth Year Julieanne Beale, Ursula Hanley

Sixth Year Raymond Traynor, Anthony Ruane

BOM: Liz McHale, PJ Rainey

The Council is deciding on a programme of activities for the coming year.

A new Students Council has also been elected and its membership is as follows:

First Year Shauna Dempsey, Michael Duffy and John Bourke

Second Year Morag Dine, Jason Farrell and Conor Burke-Walsh

Third Year Laura Brogan, Aaron Faughnan and Conor Nealon

TY Kevin Gallagher, Niamh McDonnell

Fifth Year Shauna Gaffney, Michelle Doocey and Patrick Conwell

Sixth Year

Fionnuala Mulroy, Maeve Heneghan and Niamh Langan

Amongst the events already organised were: A Soccer Tournament for Leanne Mills fund, a Presentation for Fr. Joseph Gavigan on 16 November and a Soccer Blitz for student council funds. The Council has also participated in School Planning in consultation about the Code of Behaviour. They have also received sponsorship for jerseys from Nigel Reape Office Supplies.

Gearrlínte...short news items

- The school's Public Speaking team recently defeated St. Muredach's College and Gortnor Abbey Secondary School in the Mental Health competition. Well done to Anthony Jordan, Chris Nealon, Richard Bourke, Shauna Helly and Jade Clayton. They will compete in the Mayo County Final on December 9th.
- Leaving Certificate students have presented €900 to Noreen McKensie of Make-a-wish foundation, €1000 to Sharon Fitzpatrick of Cancer Care West and €1000 to Mary McGrath of Aware. The proceeds were from last year's Fifth Year Concert and fundraising activities by the students.
- Kay Healy new Special Needs Assistant took up duty recently in the school. She joins the other 3 SNA's in the school who help pupils with special education needs.
- The new school prospectus is now available on the school website www.stjosephsfoxford.com
- The construction of the new classroom in St. Joseph's has commenced and will be completed by early February. Mulroy Builders, Castlebar are the contractors.
- Second Year students recently invited Teachtaí Dála Beverly Flynn and John O' Mahony to the school as part of their CSPE Action Project. Both TD's were highly impressed with the students and their knowledge of current affairs.
- Congratulations to Mrs. McHale on her recent success in the World Masters Athletic Championships. Her team achieved second place.
- Congratulations to Past Pupil and Parents Council member, Ray Dempsey on his recent appointment as Manager of the Mayo under 21 GAA team.



Second Year CSPE classes pictured with Deputies John O' Mahony T.D., Beverly Flynn T.D. and Teacher Miss Armstrong at the school recently.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Hampers

Once again, a number of 5th Year students are involved in St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Hampers. Like all charities, the St. Vincent de Paul is a very worthy charity and we are delighted to be able to lend a hand in any way possible.

Thanks are extended to all involved.

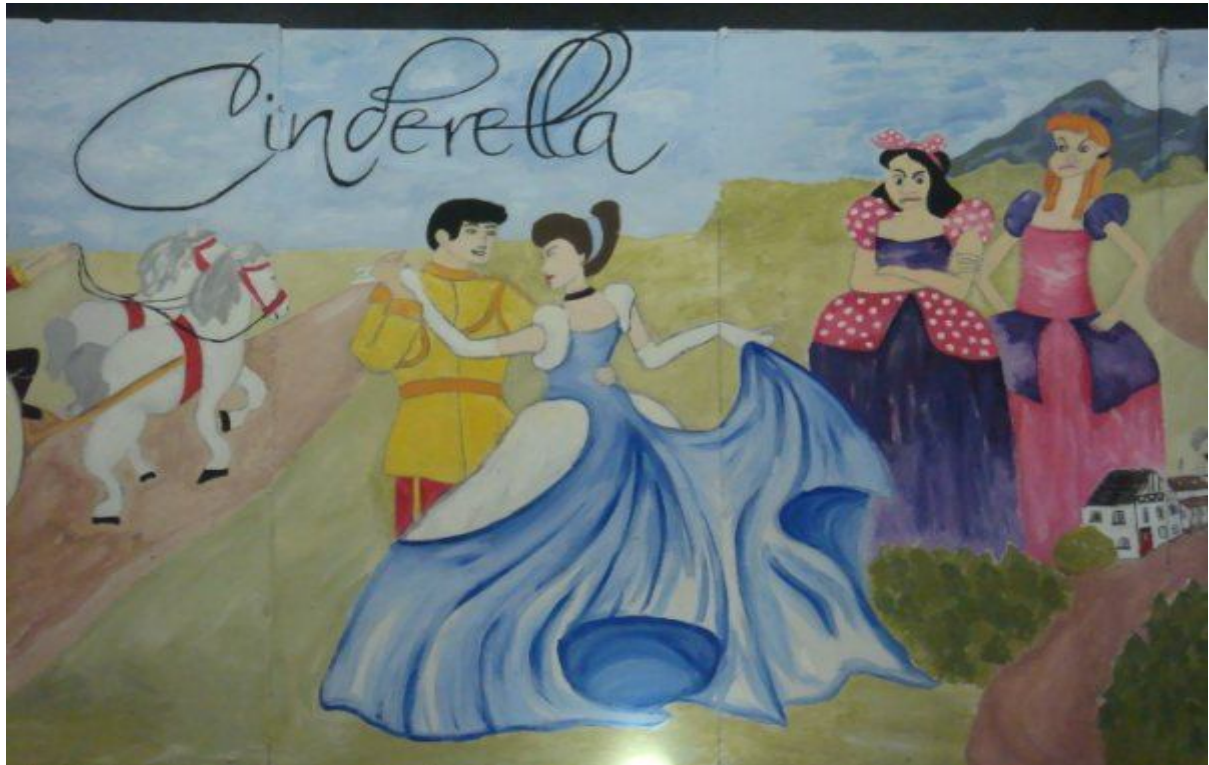
Transition Year, Christmas 2009

Transition Year students have been involved in many different activities to date, including a Bonding Day at the Atlantic Adventure Centre, an enterprise development programme, swimming lessons and life saving, and some trips out. Various guest speakers have been invited in to discuss different issues and topics with students, including speakers on enterprise, disability awareness, food safety, banking and careers. Transition year students are also engaging in one day's work experience per week in local workplaces which is proving to be very successful.

Following the success of past Christmas pantomimes in the school students are again busy preparing for a third school pantomime, "Cinderella". The pantomime will be running on Tuesday, 15th December and Wednesday, 16th December at 8:00pm in the school hall. A lot

of time has gone into preparing for this production, under the direction of Donna Jennings. Choreography is by Jackie Foley. So why not come along on the night for a memorable performance by the student's of St. Joseph's.

After all the drama and excitement of the pantomime has subsided in the New Year, students will get to engage in a first aid course, driving lessons, a mental health awareness programme and also the annual school trip abroad to Belgium, plus many more projects and events.



Artwork completed by students for Christmas Pantomime

Green Schools by the Green Schools Committee

The Green Schools committee lead by the Transition Year students are hard at work in pursuit of the school's second Green Flag. This flag will be awarded by showing that the school is promoting energy awareness as well as monitoring its litter and waste management programme.

Students are encouraged to reduce, reuse and recycle in order to minimise waste going to landfill.

Energy Awareness is a major theme this year. A poster competition has been organised, students have done a carbon footprint and from this they have pledged to make changes in order to be 'greener'.

A detailed environmental review of all energy has been done in order to see how and where energy can be conserved. We thank you for your help in keeping our school cleaner, greener and more energy efficient

CINNLINTE SPOIRT

Junior Boys GAA

The Junior Boys footballers defeated St. Aloysius College, Athlone 1-19 to 0-7 in their first league game of the year with an impressive display. Further games against Strokestown and Ballygar will be played as soon as weather permits.

Junior Panel: Kevin Mills, Tony McDermott, Justin Rice, Anthony Jordan, Ronan Gilmore, Pdraig Ruane, Thomas Clarke, Darragh Convey, Jonathan Flynn, Niall Brogan, Darren McHale, Tomas Hanley, Mickey Bourke, Gary Gilmartin, Jason Farrell, Dara McGowan, Brian Heneghan, Oisín McHugh, David McHale, James Langan and Ciaran Canning.

Senior Girls GAA by Niamh Langan and Jodie Murphy

The Senior Ladies football team has kicked off the championship year with a roaring start, facing their first team from Sancta Maria College, Louisburg. Whilst St. Joseph's were the better team, it unfortunately was not reflected on the scoreboard, leaving both teams with 8 points each. This draw left the Foxford girls with a hunger for victory against their next opponents, Belmullet. The pitch was the worst for wear but the ladies swam to victory with a thrilling shoreline. On the 4th of November, when the Foxford girls were preparing to play Ballisodare, it was fair to say there was a reluctance in the air. The team faced harsh weather conditions but thanks to their support team of Mrs. Breege McHale and Mr. Declan Cafferkey, the girls' spirits were lifted and they bombed through the torrential rain and gale force winds with a convincing win.

After their triumphant effort to date, the girls now see themselves in the Connaught Quarter Finals. Best of luck girls!

Junior Girls GAA by Katie Munnely and Sarah Mulvihill

The Junior Girls football team 2009 is in the Connaught Quarter Final. They have beaten schools from Ballisodare, Belmullet and Achill. There was a narrow defeat to Sancta Maria College, Louisburg.

The panel is: Jessica Tighe, Ayse Terzioglu, Rachel Bourke Walshe, Emily Mulvihill, Ruth Donnellan, Hayley Pye, Laura Bourke, Grace Dodd, Katie Munnelly, Sarah Mulvihill, Lydia Rainey, Shannon Bourke, Cliona Mulroy, Nadine Rainey, Laura Brogan, Rachel Knox, Michelle Moran, Megan Henry, Megan Clarke, Fiona Doherty, Ann-Marie Henry, Dara Sherry, Sinead Duffy, Hannah Langan and Ailish Gaughan. We look forward to the New Year and we hope to continue our winning streak. All of the players are enjoying the training, games and comraderie.

- Congratulations to Sarah Mulvihill and Shannon Bourke who won All Ireland medals as members of the Mayo Ladies under 14 GAA team. The team defeated Kerry and the girls received their medals last week!



First Year students on the new Astro Turf Pitch at St. Joseph's with PE Teacher Mrs. McHale.

First Year Boys GAA

The First Year Boys have made a fantastic start to their football careers at St. Joseph's. They commenced their campaign with a great win over Charlestown in a challenge match.

Their first competition game was against Gortnor Abbey and again a great display resulted in a fine victory.

Next for the boys was a home game against Balla Secondary School, where another emphatic victory was achieved.

The recent bad weather has interrupted the training sessions but hopefully we will be able to resume shortly with the Connaught League Semi Finals after Christmas as well as the eagerly awaited championship first round against Scoil Muire agus Pdraig, Swinford.