



St. Vincent's



MÉANSKOIL SAN UINSINN, BÓTHAR MUIRE NA OFA, CORCAIGH

DECEMBER 2007

NEWSLETTER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SCHOOL
CLOSES FOR
CHRISTMAS
HOLIDAYS ON
FRIDAY
DEC. 21 AND
REOPENS ON
MONDAY
JAN. 7, 2008.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

6TH YEAR—
MONDAY
JAN 14 2008

1ST YEAR—
FRIDAY
FEB 1 2008

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Principal's Desk

Welcome to our first newsletter of the school year. It is our aim to keep you up to date with all the exciting academic and sporting events taking place in St. Vincent's.

To begin a few words on attendance and punctuality.

Your daughter's **attendance** is most important if progress is desired, parents should ensure that students attend school every day unless there is a valid reason not to do so.

Punctuality is the keystone to success and all students should be in school by 8.40 and ready for class by 8.45. Failure to do so is punishable by after school detention.

Thank you for your help and cooperation in these matters.

As we celebrate Advent and prepare for the feast of Christmas our school community is preparing for this great event by participating in the Concern Fast, celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation and holding our Annual Carol Service.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody associated with the school a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. *Beannachtaí na Féile.*

Donnchadh Ó Briain

Principal

Special Olympics

The students of Ide Naofa were privileged to have been invited to the send off of Mr. Pat Dorgan, one of Ireland's Special Olympians in the recent Games in Shanghai. The girls wished Pat luck as he left his home near the school. The St. Vincent's school bus transported his supporters to the train station along with a Garda escort to give Pat the send-off he deserved.



Kilfinane

The annual trip to Kilfinane was a huge success. This year saw the introduction of a new activity which is set to be a favourite in years to come. The students engaged in the usual activities of orienteering, kayaking, rock wall and the ever-popular river walk. This year the highlight was an over night 'bivvy' in the woods. This involved the students making their own shelters from forest materials during the day and returning in the dark to build a campfire and spend the night there. The girls did an amazing job on their shelters and while they got very little sleep they did spend the night in the forest. Watch this space for news of the release of the St. Vincent's Blair Witch remake!





SIMON COMMUNITY

Ide Naofa have just begun work on a project on homelessness in collaboration with the Simon Community in Cork. Mr. Paul Sheehan has been coming to the school to meet with the students for the past few weeks to work on creating a research survey to assess student's attitudes towards and knowledge of homelessness.

TRANSITION YEAR SHOW

The teachers involved in the school show were delighted to hold auditions for TY students for this year's school show. All the students are to be congratulated on the work they put into creating entertaining audition pieces. Work on the show has just begun and will be coming to a stage near you in February 2008

ENABLE IRELAND FLAG DAY

Throughout the year Transition Year students do much work for local charities. As part of this work TYs regularly take part in flag days. The first of these was for Enable Ireland. The students collected throughout the city for the day, they were very successful in their fundraising endeavour.

RTE 2fm TY Radio

Transition year students got the chance to take part in an exciting project, 2FM TY Radio. Out of 300 schools who applied nationwide, 26 schools were hand-picked by a panel of judges. Our school being one of the 26 who got chosen, a huge achievement, got the opportunity to work with 2FM on a one day-workshop. This workshop gave the TY students an insight to how a Radio programme is put together, covering the areas of Production, Script-Writing and Copyright Law. Students also got the chance to record their own scripts using today's technology. We have now put an exciting one-hour programme together which has been submitted to RTE for further judging. Out of the 26 schools, 6 will then be granted further training and the ability to broadcast their programme over 2FM airwaves. Announcement of these 6 schools will be made in January 2008.



Freshers Sportathon

Well done to the students of Emer and Eoghan Naofa who recently took part in the Sportathon in the Glen resource and sports centre. Development officers from the FAI, Munster rugby and camogie associations were all present. We were particularly proud to have a past pupil Ms. Teresa Nolan coaching our students as a Munster rugby development officer. Thank you to all of the organisers and development officers involved. All students received a cert for their participation on the day.



OUR NEWSLETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

WWW.STVINCENTSCORK.COM/NEWSLETTER





As part of their C.S.P.E. Action Project, 2nd Year Clíodhna Class organised Operation Christmas Child within the school.

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes.

Started in North Wales in the early 1990's Operation Christmas Child has

now grown to be **the world's largest children's Christmas project.**

Last year over seven and a half million needy children, in almost one hundred countries received a love-filled Operation Christmas Child shoebox, and 271,067 of these boxes came from Ireland!

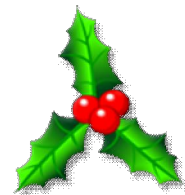
Many of these children are in orphanages, street-kid shelters, hospitals or in families stuck in the poverty trap. Their Christmas day is just like any other day, and for many their shoebox is the only present they receive.

Operation Christmas Child is more than a shoebox, it means so much to the boy or girl to know that someone, far away, whom they will never meet, is thinking of them. *It brings joy, hope and a little of God's love into desperate*

situations, focusing on the true meaning of Christmas

Many thanks to all those who contributed. We collected 104 boxes within the school. These have now been collected by Operation Christmas Child and are on their way to children who otherwise would receive nothing for Christmas!

Well done to Helen Rose Barrett, Niamh Drummond, Eleanor Leahy and Nicole Desmond who also organized a raffle within the school for some lovely Cuddly Toys. They put a lot of time and effort into this and raised €185 which will be sent to Operation Christmas Child to help with all their good work.



“Nollaig

faoi

shéan is

faoi

mhaise”

The **Beginning of Year School Mass** was held in the North Cathedral on Wed. Oct 3rd. The theme of our Mass this year was **“Unity”**. All members of the school community were invited to attend. A special welcome was extended to our new First Years. The celebration of the Eucharist was presided over by our school chaplain Fr. Christy Harrington.

6th Year Retreat

This year our Leaving Cert. students had their retreat in Bessboro on Sept. 17th. and

18th. This was part of a two day pastoral care event organised by the R.E. department the school pastoral care team.

A Remembrance Mass

was held on Wed. 21st. November in the school Library. Thanks to Fr. Christy, Mrs. Duggan and Sr. Ann Curry for organising the event and creating a lovely prayerful atmosphere.

Concern Fast

This year the annual Concern Fast took place on Nov. 29th. We thank all the

students who participated. We encourage you girls, to make a big effort to collect your sponsorship money as soon as possible so that the proceeds can be put to good use by Concern in saving the lives of children in many of the famine-stricken areas of our world.

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol service took place this year on Thursday Dec. 6th. in the North Cathedral at 2.00 p.m. It was a joyous occasion enhanced by the beautiful carol singing of the choir.

German Debating

On the 25th of October four Senior students of German set off to debate in German that the Summer Holidays in Ireland are not too long. Ms. O'Connell and a group of supporting 6th years were very proud to accompany our team; Emma Egan (the Captain) 6th Year, Sarah O'Sullivan and Niamh Peilow (5th Year) and Megan O'Reilly (4th Year) to Christ King Secondary School in our fabulous new bus. Mr. O'Donovan drove

us and we arrived safe and sound. The girls were nervous but had worked hard and debated well. However the opposing team were keen debaters in English also and had the edge on the day. Next year we will debate again and hopefully enjoy it as much as this year. Our thanks to all the German classes who helped in the preparation of our arguments. **Bis zum naechsten Mal!**



GRAFFITI

Students from Ide and Iosaef recently attended a drama performance and workshop held by Graffiti theatre company in their premises. This was the first year where all TY students were able to see the performance. The feedback was very positive from all students and teachers who attended the performance.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **Chloe Griffin** in Clodhna on her performance in the All Ireland disco dancing championships where she took 4th in the hip hop solos and 5th in her doubles.

Well done to **Niamh and Orla Pielow** who competed in the Celtic Championship sin dance recently. This is a combined Irish and Scottish competition. Both girls took part in the Kerry Championships recently With both sisters taking a 1st and a 4th place.

Congratulations to **Sinead Miloudi** 5th year who won a bronze medal in the team patterns in the World Taekwondo Championships in Canada during the Summer.

AQUA AEROBICS

Students of 4th, 5th and 6th year have in recent weeks started an aqua aerobics course run by past pupil Ms. Jackie Wood. The classes have been a great success with a good take-up in each year group. Aqua aerobics involves exercising to music in water which takes the strain off the joints but creates extra resistance while doing the exercise. It is very beneficial exercise.

BOXERCISE

5th and 6th year students have just begun Boxercise classes in school with Ms. Jackie Wood. The P.E department have made a considerable investment in this equipment and look forward to seeing students benefit from it.

Well done to **Ciara Neville** 1st year who came third in the Acrobatics trio qualifiers on 17th November in Ballincollig.

Congratulations to **Fiaah Heffernan** 5th year who came 2nd in the pairs Acrobatics qualifiers on the same date. Fiaah came 4th in the trampolining qualifiers in Athy the following day. We would like to wish Fiaah the best of luck in the Acrobatics finals in Dublin on December 16th.

Congratulations to **Charlene Warmby** who came 2nd in freestyle and 3rd in slow dance in the Munster disco dance finals. Well done to Charlene, **Jennifer O'Flaherty**, **Amanda Mostyn** and **Sinead Philpott** who competed in the All-Ireland disco dancing competition earlier in the year. Amanda took 4th place in hip hop, Sinead 5th and Amanda and Jennifer came 5th in the doubles competition.



CAMOGIE

The Camogie club which is in it's infancy is going from strength to strength. The players travel on the school bus to the Glen field for training every Wednesday at 1p.m. They hope

to play their first match in the near future. Well Done to all the girls for the huge effort they are making at training. Congratulations to **Nicole Crean** (1st Year) who has been selected for the Under 14 Cork Camogie panel.



DRIVE FOR LIFE

This is our third year running the very successful drive for life. The programme was presented by Mr. Kieran McNeely on Sept. 10th. Students were shown presentations and videos on safe driving. In the afternoon session they were given the opportunity to sit the driver theory test.



S t. Vincent's are going from strength to strength on the basketball court this year. We have students competing in the minor, junior, cadette and senior A leagues. This year we also have a second senior team competing in the B league. In addition we have an U 19 and U 16 team competing in the cup competition.

The teams are coached by Mr. Dommie Mullins with his assistant coach Janice Dupuy (past pupil). The minor and junior competitions have not begun yet, the results of the other competitions to date are as follows; Senior As had three wins over Ballincollig, Carrigtwohill and Skibbereen in the first term. The now progress to the play-offs in a very strong position. Senior B's had one win against St. Angelas, they also progress to the play-offs. The Cadette team beat both Carrigtwohill and Skibbereen and they too progress to the play-offs in November.

In the cup competition both the U19 and U 16 teams beat Loreto, St. Stephen's Green and Mount Temple, Dublin also. The under 16 team were beaten by Our Lady's Bower over the mid term break. The U19 team had a great win over a strong and skilful team from Oughterard, Galway in our School hall on Thursday November 22nd. The final score was 62 points to 58.