



Tiernan Tribune

— ST TIERNAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2013

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and prosperous year ahead. Everyone seems to remark on how quickly the first half of this year has gone which is a testament, I think, to how busy the school has been. I am indebted to the continued support and commitment of our Parents' Council who have refurbished our First Aid room and financed our Remembrance Garden. Its official opening was a moving ceremony which took place at our commencement of year service. The Parents' Council involvement in the *Tús Program* (a community employment scheme) has provided staff to assist with school maintenance and this has done much to enhance and improve our students' learning environment.

We began the academic year 2012/13 in an optimistic and positive manner, inspired by the excellent results in the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations and also those of our Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) class. A number of our PLC students received the maximum CAO points available. This, combined with other factors, has led to a 10% increase in our numbers going on to third level.

Our students returned on 27 August in full uniform, equipped with all the essentials for school. They are a credit to you, their parents and guardians and families, and are an asset to our school.

Our first years have made an admirable and confident transition to secondary school due in no small way to the carefully planned Transfer Programme designed by Ms Flannery, Home School Liaison Teacher, and by Mr Peter Lennon, Coordinator of the School Completion Programme, and sensitively supported by members of our teaching staff. Their welfare is now in the assured hands of an excellent Pastoral Care team of Year Head, Tutors and Special Needs Assistants.

I am very happy to report a successful first term for our academic year 2012/13. It is nothing new to be able to mention that we have had a great variety of extra and co-curricular activities which have enhanced the learning experience of our students.

A wide range of student creativity, artistry and flair was showcased in Ms Martin's production of *"St Tiernan's Got Talent"* which has been lauded by all who were privileged to be in the audience and received fantastic reviews in the Dundrum Gazette and on radio.

We now eagerly anticipate our school musical, *"Sisters Actin' Up"*, in March.

Our fifth and sixth year students continue the Mentoring Programme with Microsoft as part of our links with the Business Community. Recently students from Mr Curry's Biology class represented the school with distinction in the *BT Young Scientist* competition in the RDS.

In late October, we had the best attendance ever at our Open Evening, where prospective Parents and Guardians viewed our facilities and met with the teaching staff and students who had volunteered to assist for the evening. Our numbers for first year 2013/14 have increased significantly and we predict a substantial increase in enrolment over the next few years.

We are joined this year on campus by the Ballinteer Educate Together Primary School which uses four of our classrooms, while their school is being built. We have already established close links with the new school through choirs, the study of science, and a shared commitment to excellence. We wish them every success in their developing years.

For the second half of this year our teachers will endeavour to maintain the enthusiasm and momentum of the first term and build on the Christmas examination results for which academic awards have already been presented. We encourage you, parents and guardians, to check that your son/daughter is recording homework/revision work in the school journal. We ask that you support them in carefully completing assignments to the best of their ability. I would like to draw your attention to the various supports on offer in the school after formal classes have finished – Maths Club, Supervised Evening Study and the Homework Club where students are assisted in completing their homework assignments.

My wish for every student for the second half of this year is to achieve academically by actively committing to their education, and socially by participation in sports and extra curricular activities.

Declan Hughes, Principal



MICROSOFT MENTORING PROGRAMME

On 19 January, the staff in Microsoft who are mentoring 5th and 6th year students, invited them to participate in an afternoon of activities in the Dundrum Town Centre. Students and adults alike spent an hour ice skating, which was then followed by a meal in Milano's. It proved to be a warm, friendly outing, further developing the relationship between students and mentors. We are very appreciative to Microsoft for their continued support and enthusiasm.





Prefects 2012-13



Student Council 2012-13

HOME/SCHOOL LIAISON



As the Home-School Liaison Co-ordinator in St Tiernan's I would like to thank all the parents who are always so welcoming when I visit.

Your support throughout the school year is invaluable in encouraging the academic success of your sons and daughters and making St Tiernan's a place where our students can thrive and develop in a happy school environment.

We were delighted to welcome parents of our new first year students to an induction meeting, where they were familiarised with the ethos and the procedures practised in St Tiernan's. This gave parents a chance to meet with teachers and support staff that their children will interact with on a daily basis.

Parents participated in a craft class before Christmas. We are planning further activities for parents, who will be notified in advance by text message.

The Local Education Committee is a gathering of all voluntary and statutory agencies working in the Dundrum/Sandyford area. Representatives from the resource centres, youth and social workers, the Gardai, health board, Southside Partnership, Vincent de Paul, School Completion Co-ordinator, principals, parents, students and Home School Liaison Co-ordinators from the five local schools

meet together so that we can have an integrated and co-operative approach to the education and welfare of the communities we serve. The support and contribution of parents at Local Committee is hugely valued and I would like to thank the parents who attend. If you would like to come please get in touch.

The fifth and third year girls have completed a programme called The Real Deal, facilitated by two peer educators. This programme covers self-esteem, sex education and goal-setting. A visit from Team Theatre was the final module of this programme, which was a very enjoyable and beneficial experience according to all involved.

If you are in need of support, please do not hesitate to contact me at 01-2061554.

Patricia Flannery

Home/School Liaison

ST TIERNAN'S REMEMBRANCE GARDEN



On Wednesday 14 November St Tiernan's Community School held a Remembrance Mass and officially opened our new Remembrance Garden. The Mass was celebrated by Fr O'Doherty from Dundrum Parish, who acknowledged the vibrant spirit of the students and pleasant, friendly atmosphere in our school.

The Remembrance Garden is the result of whole school and

local community involvement in the project. Funding was supplied by the Parents' Council. The local granite was donated by Mr Tommy Murphy of Murphy Stone, Sandyford. Mr Paudge McHugh and Mr Rory Mulhall designed the memorial stone and laid the granite pathways. The beautiful seating bench was made and donated by Mr Edward O'Connor, Glencullen. Three of our Junior Certificate students planted the flowers and shrubs, under the supervision of Mrs Hazel Lennon.

Representatives from the Board of Management and the Parents' Council, together with relatives of those who have died since the school was founded in 1980, attended the opening of the Garden. Sr Eileen, our school chaplain, together with Alan McHugh, Colin Deane and our caretakers were thanked for their hard work and commitment in creating this beautiful and reflective space.

The Remembrance Garden is a testimony of the skill, talent and workmanship of the school and local community and will honour the memory of those who have passed away for years to come.

"TIERNAN'S GOT TALENT"

The Grand Final of "Tiernan's Got Talent" took place in St Tiernan's Community School, Parkvale, Balally on Wednesday, October 17th. The show was produced by Catherine Mar-

tin, a music teacher in St Tiernan's, who auditioned over thirty five acts in September.

Twelve acts were successful in securing their place in the Final.

St Tiernan's Community School has a strong and vibrant tradition in music. Students take part in choral groups, guitar and drumming clubs, dance classes, musicals and international school musical exchanges.

The finalists included a classical guitarist, a gymnast, a footballer performing skills to music, a drum solo, a violin and guitar duet, dance acts, solo singers and a rock band. The adjudicators were bestselling author and award winning journalist with The Irish Independent, Martina Devlin, renowned composer and music lecturer in NUI Maynooth, Dr Martin O'Leary and RTE reporter Emma McNamara. They were highly impressed with the quality and variety of talent of the contestants and by the warm

welcome they received from St Tiernan's Student Council and Prefects.

During the interval, while the judges deliberated, the audience was entertained by St Tiernan's School Choir.

First place was awarded to "A Scene", a highly entertaining dance act, totally planned and choreographed by the students themselves. They received the "Tiernan's Got Talent" trophy and a €100 voucher for HMV. Second place went to the "Tiernan's Rock Band", a 4 piece band, who performed the Nirvana number "Smells like Teen Spirit".

They received a €50 voucher. Third place went to Maxwell Nkwocha who performed a beautiful soulful rendition of the Beatles classic "Let it Be". He was presented with a €25 voucher.

The following morning the finalists put on a special performance for 4th and 5th class students from local Primary schools including Queen of Angels, St Olaf's, Good Shepherd, Holy Cross and Our Lady of the Wayside, Kilternan.



JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS



It was worth the wait! St Tiernan's 5th year students had an anxious day on Wednesday 12 September waiting for their Junior Certificate results.

As our photo shows, it was smiles all around when tutors, Mr Reilly and Mr Conneely, presented students with their certificates. Our school Principal, Mr Declan Hughes, congratulated the students on their excellent results. Anxious parents, waiting outside the school, were greeted with hugs and, in some cases, tears of joy.

As is our tradition on St Tiernan's we celebrated the success of our students in a special way. A sports day and barbeque was organised for the 80 students in 5th year in the grounds of Wayside Celtic FC.

Activities ranged from rounders and soccer to individual athletics events and the day also included a very energetic

Zumba dance class. Following all these exertions, a well deserved burger and hot-dog was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Peter Lennon and of course the 5th year Tutors and Special Needs Assistants for making this special day possible.

LCA Outing to Belfast—November 2012



In November the students of both Leaving Certificate Applied years 1 and 2 organised a trip to Belfast. The students spent the morning in Belfast's Titanic quarter. They visited the Titanic exhibition. The students were led by a guide who explained the rise of Belfast to the status of the British Empire's most important ship building centre. They also appreciated the interactive features that make the visit such an enjoyable experience for young people. The students learnt about the Titanic's construction and the events of that fateful night in 1912.

After lunch the students went on a tour to see the magnificent and famous murals that adorn the walls of Belfast. After their tour the students were given a chance to enjoy a spot of Christmas shopping in Belfast City centre.

LCA1 TRIP to CARLINGFORD

The Fifth Year Leaving Certificate Applied class spent two days in the picturesque village of Carlingford, Co. Louth as an important part of the L.C.A. programme with credits awarded to Students for attendance and participation.

During their stay students were introduced to many outdoor adventure pursuits, such as archery, zorbin, hill-walking, pier jump, low ropes, Canadian canoeing, night-walk and many other team building activities. The instructors at the Centre were excellent and ensured that the health and safety of the students was a priority.

The trip was organized by the students themselves, who raised the necessary costs by organising three very successful fundraisers. The first task began in September when students organised the Car Wash where they raised €225. They greatly appreciate the support and generosity from all the staff involved. Following this, the students held a "breakfast roll sale" where they raised another €150. Many thanks to Peter Lennon for his continuing generosity. To reduce the cost further, students organised a Sponsored Walk on Wednesday, 26th September to Marley Park and they did an amazing job. They managed to fundraise over €1500 – a great credit to all.

A special word of thanks to Marion and Alan for all their support and assistance.

LCA2 at ECO ADVENTURE CENTRE



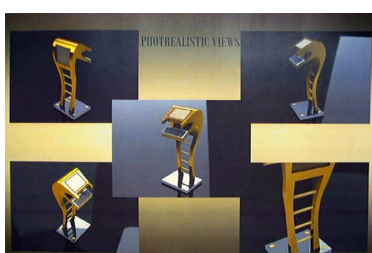
The Sixth Year Leaving Certificate Applied class had a day trip to the ECO Adventure Centre on a team building exercise. Due to a very successful fundraiser last year as part of their Recreation and Leisure module there was no extra cost for the students.

They participated in group activities such as Paintball Target Shooting, Orienteering and various team games. Students also experienced Survival Training where acquired important survival skills, such as building a shelter and starting a fire in



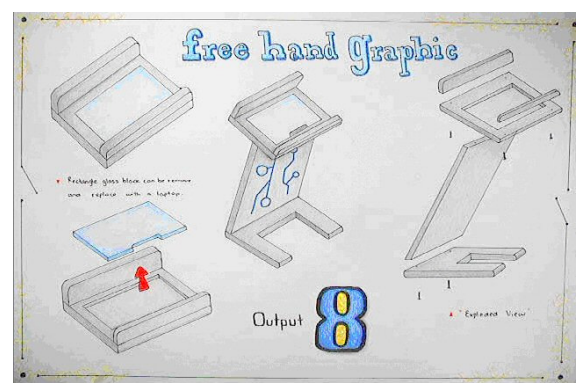
case of emergency. All activities were taught and supervised by qualified coaches. Everybody voted the day a great success.

Design and Communication Graphics



Cobra Lectern

It has been a very busy term for 6th year Design and Communication Graphics students. They have been working on their Leaving certificate project since September. The students were given the task of designing a lectern at Higher level and a clock at Ordinary level. The projects are now finished and completed to a very high standard. Shown here are some pictures of the students' work.



Futuristic Lectern

SCIENCE WEEK



Hair Raising!

Our Science week was held from 11 - 18 of November. The aim of Science Week is to promote the relevance of science, technology, engineering and maths in our everyday lives and to demonstrate their importance to the future development of Irish society and to the economy. Students of Junior Certificate Science engaged in a range of activities. Experiments and investigations from outside of the curriculum of interest to students were fully explored. Students investigated how and why it is possible to balance six nails on one. Other students were able to prove that acceleration due to gravity is independent of the mass of an object using a syringe and tennis ball. Other investigations included the elephant toothpaste experiment, the phoenix snake, milk powder, fire clouds and modelling planetary motion.



Primary School guests

Primary School Science Initiative

Once again St Tiernan's Science Department rolled out its Science Initiative to Primary Schools in the local area. This programme aims to link both the Primary and Secondary Curriculums. The initiative also aims to give Primary school students an insight into what it is like to work in a Science laboratory and to give students a feel for investigative work in Science. In one of the investigations students learned how to use various salts to grow crystal gardens. In another investigation students learned about electrostatics and all students had a shocking experience with the Van de Graaf generator! This programme has been a great success and has been very well received by the local community.

LIAM ENGLISH PLAYS U16 HANDBALL FOR IRELAND



During the summer I went to Sweden to play handball for Ireland. Ireland's U-16 Boys and Girls Squads were guests of the Irish Handball Federation Olympic Solidarity Program.

The Program is a joint initiative between the International Olympic Committee and the International Handball Federation. The purpose of this project is to give emerging handball nations a real chance to get a platform for handball. The IHF and the IOC want to create a lifelong interest for sport and handball in particular. They also want to give leaders and players a basic education of handball in both theory and practice. The program aims to inspire players not only in their role as players, but also to be future leaders inspiring schools and teachers/adults/leaders to set up clubs and competitions.

We worked on several different aspects of the game with some of the best coaches in Sweden.

Other countries taking part in the program were England, Scotland, the USA, Chile, Zimbabwe and China. The players and coaches from all nations had plenty of time to socialise once the day's handball activities were over.

During the second week the teams participated in the *Partille Cup*, the largest youth handball tournament in the world, with over 1,100 teams and 12,000 players involved! We made the last 32 of the B play-off. We had time for sight-seeing and shopping. It was one of the best experiences of my life and was amazing to represent Ireland.

In April we are playing in DCU against England, Scotland, Belgium, Estonia, and Spain in a tournament. Hopefully we will return to Sweden in the summer.

Liam English



Irish Handball Federation Group



*Mr T Geraghty, Mr P Byrne,
Mr D Hughes*

On Wednesday 16 January a very special guest, Mr Paddy Byrne, was introduced to the students at our school assembly.

Mr Byrne, who is celebrating his 80th birthday this year, is the founding Principal of St Tiernan's.

PRESENTATION TO OUR FOUNDING PRINCIPAL

The school was established in 1980 to serve the parishes and surrounds of Clonskeagh, Dundrum, Sandyford, Ballyogan, Stepside and Glencullen, continuing up to Enniskerry. He was instrumental in setting up the structures and strategies, many of which we still operate today.

If the school needed something Mr Byrne researched and sourced it and then he probably made it himself usually over a weekend – an example of this would be the railings around our school hall, which were put in place over a weekend. Possibly his most important

legacy to our school is the characteristic spirit and ethos of our school which is one of inclusiveness, care, and respect for each other.

He designed the school crest and motto, *Coigil Aithne d'Aislinge*, which translates "to be inspired by your dreams", an encouragement to us to have ambitions and be determined in life. The symbol of the pathway and tree indicates the many roads and branches in life which represents the many opportunities in school and life that we can avail of. We thank Mr Byrne for his work and commitment to St Tiernan's and wish him well in the years ahead.



6TH YEAR GEOGRAPHICAL INVESTIGATION



The Sixth Year Geography class, together with their teachers, Mr Gilgan and Mrs O'Reilly, visited Glendalough to carry out the compulsory Fieldwork Study for the Leaving Certificate exams. The topic of the investigation was "A comparative study of erosional processes at two sites along Lugduff Brook, Glendalough".

It proved to be a most enjoyable and valuable experience. The weather was mild and dry and all students participated with great enthusiasm. Over the following weeks, the students wrote up on the investigation and completed the final draft after Christmas.

POST LEAVING CERTIFICATE AT ST TIERNAN'S

Post Leaving Certificate courses at St Tiernan's have gained an enviable reputation over the years. Our students work with up-to-date technology and have achieved outstanding results. A number of our past students have progressed to further study at diploma and degree level, while others are employed in areas where the skills acquired on the course are relevant and fully utilised in key financial commercial and IT areas. All our courses are certified by FETAC at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications. As FETAC certification is taken into account by third level institutes under the Higher Education Links Scheme, students are awarded points from the course which may bring them up to the required level for progression to a related course at Levels 6, 7 or 8.

Application Forms for places, including new courses due to begin in September 2013, are available from the School Secretary and should be returned as soon as possible.



A group of our Post Leaving Certificate students, pictured at their Presentation of Awards

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



On Wednesday 19 December, St Tiernan's Community School held our annual Carol Service. A beautiful pageant on the Birth of Jesus was performed on stage by the 1C Class.

The School Choir sang many and varied Christmas Carols. As is the tradition in St Tiernan's,

the Sixth Years entertained us with their version of 'Let it Snow' and finished the Service by wishing us all a very happy Christmas in their own unique way.

Mrs Anne Whealans from Sandyford Society of St Vincent de Paul attended the Service and was presented with a cheque for €2,000 by Laura Jane Dean. The money was raised by the students and teachers of St Tiernan's and will be given to those less well off than ourselves.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL



Every year, the First Year students of St Tiernan's Community School take part in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. This year was no exception and almost thirty boxes were collected and sent to small children all over the world. These boxes were filled with toys, colouring books and practical items such as toothbrushes and face cloths. They reached children who would not have received any Christmas presents ordinarily. We highly commend all those students who took part and thank all the parents who donated very generously.

TRANSITION YEAR MINI-COMPANY



Our Transition Year students set up their mini-company 'Festive Friends', a culinary business associated with traditional festival events. Students put into practice the valuable business lessons they have learned since the beginning of the year.

After conducting market research the events chosen to focus on were Halloween and Easter. A



marketing campaign was undertaken for their first event – Halloween treats. This was a huge success. Products such as chocolate apples and fairy cakes decorated with spiders, webs, ghosts and ghouls proved very popular among the student and staff population.

The group also had a stand on display at the 'Tiernan's Got Talent' show where audience members could enjoy these culinary delights.

The students, who are currently preparing for the Easter event would like to take this opportunity to thank all who supported our mini-company in the past and look forward to your continued support.



Pictured here are students taking part in St Tiernan's Green Schools Day of Action. This was organised by the St Tiernan's Green Schools Committee in association with *An Taisce Spring Clean* month. Students cleaned up the school grounds and also worked on parts of Ardglas and Parkvale estates.

We are working on getting our first Green Flag. The Green Code for the school is "Our future is ours to lose, so Reduce, Recycle and Reuse".



Members of our Green Schools Committee



ART DEPARTMENT

6th Year students visit Alice Maher's Retrospective Exhibition as part of their Art History & Appreciation Course



At work in the Art Department



SPORTS ROUNDUP

TABLE TENNIS AT ST TIERNAN'S



Under 15 boys TT Team



Senior A Team

Pictured above are our Under 15 Boys Table Tennis team, who are competing in the League and Cup and our Senior A Girls who are competing in the Under 18 League this year.

Sports Marathon

Our 5th Year students took part in a sponsored Sports Marathon to raise funds for the Society of St Vincent de Paul before Christmas. The girls took part in a 2-hour Zumba class and the boys had a 2-hour Soccer Blitz.



On Tuesdays during their PE Class, class 2C had tag rugby training under the supervision of John English. John is a fully qualified rugby coach in association with Leinster Rugby.

After seven weeks of hard training, boys and girls competed against BCS in a Tag Rugby Blitz. John Knokwa was one of the outstanding players of the match, and we hope that John, as well as everybody else, who participated in the course, will continue developing the new rugby skills. Congratulations to all participants, who showed great enthusiasm and spirit in spite of terrible weather conditions, and we look forward to having similar events in future.

BASKETBALL



It has been a very successful season for our U16 Basketball boys team to date, with outstanding success against St Finian's College in the school finals held in the Oblate Hall, Inchicore, on Tuesday 13 December.

The match finished with a fantastic results — 40 points to 13 — and our team won handsome and well-deserved silverware and medals.

The team are commended for showing great enthusiasm and team spirit in every match.

Players: Chen Zheng, Joel Ong, Erick Benas, Ryan Benas, Tony Skranc, Laszlo Hancz, Michael Angeles, Dzuigas Neviera, Juan Pablo, Jan Stingl, Justin Mykaliatis, Cian Ball, Leigh Killeen, Mohamed Alakari
Coach: Mayowa Adeniray

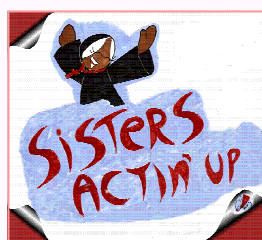


St Tiernan's Debs



Pictured at the St Tiernan's Debs, which was held in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth

Sisters Actin' Up



St Tiernan's Community School presents
"Sisters Actin' Up"
- a divine musical comedy based on the 1992 film 'Sister Act'

Performance is on Thursday 14 March 2013 at 7.30 pm with a special extra matinee performance for students only.

Tickets at €5 each will be available from the school from the first week after mid-term break.

Please book early to avoid disappointment, as places are strictly limited.