

SUMMER NEWSLETTER.

June 2009.

Farewell 6th class.

By the time you read this the boys will have had a wonderful Graduation Night, Thursday June 25th and a marathon School Tour to Dublin on Friday, June 21st.

It is with a sense of sadness and nostalgia that I pen these last few notes knowing that this wonderful group of young men are leaving Ss. Peter & Paul's for the very last time.

Talking to all the teachers they have had up along all were agreed that it was a pleasure to teach this class such was the range of characters and talents within the group. We had scholars, musicians, singers, artists, painters, craftsmen, scientists, footballers, hurlers, athletes, writers, book lovers, story tellers, comedians, poets, stunt men and hit men. They were wonderful Ambassadors for Ss. Peter & Paul's and they always represented their school with pride, honour and distinction.

As they depart it is wonderful and amazing to see lifes progression and development from their baby photo montage to their most recent confirmation photograph. As they progress through second and third level they will come more and more to realise and value the rich variety and wonderful diversity of educational experience they received in Ss. Peter & Paul's. Above all they will look back on the happy days they had the friends they made and reflect on that unique, happy atmosphere that exists in Ss. Peter & Paul's.

As you depart on the next stage of your educational lives we hope we have equipped you with the necessary skills to face a more difficult challenging and unstable world where confidence, positivity and self assurance will be the road map to success.

Go n'eiri a bother libh go léir.

W.S.E.

As we arrive exhausted towards the end of June we say sincere thanks to everybody for the massive support, help and encouragement , we the teaching staff received during the W.S.E. – Whole School Evaluation. Thank you, the parents, the students, the boys, the S.N.A.'s, the staff, the B.O.M., the Parent's Council and especially Valerie, Oliver and our esteemed principal, Mr. Hickey.

As a team we played a blinder and all I wish to say is to quote you the first line and comment from the Senior Inspector at the post W.S.E. evaluation meeting.

“The first thing I would like to say is that this is indeed an excellent school”. Máire Bn. Uí Shé. Need I say any more.

Parents' Council.

Thanks once more for your trojan work. Sports Day, Graduation, Book Rental, Quizzes, Information Meetings, Fund Raising, Equipment provision, Church Gate Collection, Cake Sale, Easter Draw and Christmas Decorations.

Inspectors were lavish in their praise for your unique contribution to the educational experience that is Ss. Peter & Paul's.

B.O.M.

Again sincere thanks for your continuous, whole hearted, total support for all educational endeavours in the school.

Educational Comment.

On a daily basis we hear of the savage cutbacks in education by the government. This has led to unprecedented anger, frustration and destruction of morale amongst many teachers.

Central government and department policy makers seem totally bankrupt of ideas in formulating sound long term education policy. Without the continuous fundraising, lobbying and support of local communities and parents the educational system would be in total chaos. Local Education Boards who support education in times of financial crises and when central government abdicates its responsibility

– should have more autonomy in deciding local educational issues that have by tradition been established as best practice.

With government departments expected to take the axe once more to education, it is necessary for schools to look at their own educational needs and priorities and adopt the partnership principle where everybody works together in mutual support to deliver the best education possible for their local school and students. Parents and teachers are no longer prepared to accept the dictats from those who adopt the “willow approach” and blow according to the prevailing winds of the day.

Local people using local knowledge to formulate local education policy seems to me the best way to serve the best interests of the local community.

Cyril Darmody.

After a career spanning 37 years and all served in Ss. Peter & Paul's Cyril Darmody has decided to retire.

Where does one start to write a few words of tribute to this most unique, interesting, multitalented and gifted gentleman.

As one who toiled at the chalk face for over 30 years with Cyril I came to admire his many gifts talents and attributes. He brought to education a wonderful range of interests, knowledge and insights that enriched the thousands of lives he touched and moulded. True to the best traditions and philosophy of classical education he gave his students a flavour and taste of so much more beyond the confines of curriculum education. He could philosophise, theorise and argue about any subject with the best.

An avid reader with a sharp intellect he had an unrivalled grasp of current affairs, general knowledge and the topics of life, such was the depth and range of his reading. His athletic prowess is such that it is almost a contradiction in terms to be writing a retirement tribute to a man who is still a competitive marathon runner never mind a serious Golfer with an enviable handicap. He is also a fanatical Man U supporter and a Tipp fundamentalist ever true to the Blue & Gold.

Years before it was fashionable to do so he initiated many innovative extra curricular activities to Ss. Peter & Paul's. He ran a bicycle test

project, a school warden scheme, organised science events, went on field trips, coached hurling and football teams and gave his life to Athletics – his great passion in life.

In SPHE and the whole area of health education, diet, aerobic fitness and exercise he is surely a pioneer of our times. I never saw a morsel of Junk Food, sweet or biscuit pass his lips and he walked the yard during all breaks rather than indulge in caffeine or tea consumption.

Cyril has a tremendous mathematical, political and literary mind, is an intrepid traveller, a meticulous methodical planner, a disciple of routine and a person of genuine integrity and honesty. He always told you what he thought of you and if you were in the wrong he gave you the works. Then with an engaging smile and a twinkle of the eye the healing process and reconciliation was begun immediately.

He was a great man at meetings as he had a unique ability to disseminate ideas and information. He would cut through the waffle and quickly arrive at the core of the issue.

I know the whole school community will sadly miss him, his humour, wit and tremendously engaging character and personality.

On a personal level I want to thank him for mentoring me throughout my career and many's the sound word of advice and guidance he gave to all his colleagues. It is true to say that there has rarely been a more interesting, entertaining, enlightened individual to stand in front of a class than C. J.

It is also true to say that ní bheidh a leitheid ann arís sa seomra ranga.

5th Class – Mr. Ring.

Mr. Ring's class had a wonderful day surfing and Beach exploring in Tramore recently. They saw many seaside animals such as crabs, jelly fish, seals and Irelands only lizard. They went to Doeraile Wildlife Park also and learned much about plants and trees. They also enjoyed their sports day, class Mass, and reading their Tom Crean novel "The Ice Man". They made a wonderful artistic display based on their class novel. The fifth class boys have worked really hard and are looking forward to being in 6th class in September.

Mr. Darmody's – Fifth Class.

These boys also greatly enjoyed their trip to Tramore on what was one of the most beautiful days of the year with glorious sunshine. Last week they climbed Slievenamon and while many Tipp people sing about it, I wonder how many have done as Mr. Darmody's boys did. The highlight of the day was a mock battle with improvised weapons at the foothills on the way back – good old fashioned fun is still alive and well given the chance.

Congratulations to Alex Doyle and David Roberts who won County Medals in Football with Moyle Rovers recently. David Roberts, Raymond Conlin, Alex Doyle, Ross Lyons, Barry Sullivan, Con Bartels and Matthew Caulfield won Mr. Darmody's 5th class indoor soccer league in the High School gym recently.

These boys have the unique distinction of being the last group that Mr. Darmody taught and I'm sure there will be mutual fond memories.

Mr. Fenlon's – 4th Class.

Mr. Fenlon's class have been very involved in creating Art for the Junction Festival which is now displayed in O'Connell St. They helped Mr. Ryan grow all the vegetables in the raised beds of the organic garden at the front of the school.

They had a very enjoyable hike to the Cross and Glenary village. With the harvesting of the timber and the felling of the trees Glenary Village is now accessible and is well worth a visit I'm told. They also travelled to Kilfinnane in Co. Limerick where they sampled wall climbing, canoeing, Kayaking and orienteering.

Mrs. Darmody's – 3rd Class.

Mrs Darmody's class had an extremely busy, enjoyable and interesting year and want to thank SNA Therese and all the support teachers for their help and assistance.

They welcomed many visitors to their class this last term including Olympian Thomas Chamney, Water Safety Instructor Michael Kelleher, – Fire Officer Frances Keogh, Curriculum Support Facilitator Triona Carroll and Australian Humanist Dale Richards.

These boys made rain gauges and recorded the monthly rainfall as well as working in the organic garden with Mr. Ryan.

For St. Patrick's Day they mounted a seasonal display which was wonderfully artistic and colourful not forgetting the umbrellas, amazing triangles and dangerous dinosaur displays. They went on numerous field trips as part of their science programme and had other field trips for hurling, football and athletics.

They danced with Maura, played in the school band and sang with the choir. The school tour to Splashworld was probably the highlight of the year.

CONOR MURPHY - All Ireland Medal Winner.

Congratulation to Conor Murphy who won an All Ireland Medal in the U10 500m race in Templemore last Saturday. Conor is a member of Clonmel AC and is also a county winner in the 100 m in the community games. He will represent Tipperary in the All Ireland Community Games over the Summer. Well done Conor!!!

Ms. Cooney's – Second Class.

Second class had a very enjoyable school tour to Bunratty Folk Park where they learned a lot about ancient life in Ireland. They were brilliant on their First Holy Communion Day on May, 16th.

Their Art work is very colourful and artistic especially the Giant wall Frieze featuring sea creatures etc. They really enjoy playing "Games from the Past" as part of their History Programme especially Giant steps, Queenie, 4-corners and skipping. The highlight of all their extra creative work has been the designing of very impressive Tourist Brochures on Clonmel which are really eye catching.

Mrs Power's – 2nd Class.

Mrs Power's class had a very enjoyable day in Bunratty Folk Park also on their joint school tour with Ms. Conney's second class. They were engrossed in the castle, the folk park and all the old ancient displays and exhibits.

They are to be congratulated on all the work they got through for their First Holy Communion and like their friends in the other second class are

to be praised on the excellent way they represented themselves, their families and their school. The Art display boards were a sight to behold with the sheep portraying the Communion Theme of the “Lord is my Shepherd”.

They had great fun at the Sports Day and their wonderful interest in reading means that some boys have reached the magic figure of 100 books. As part of Science their highlight of the year was launching the balloon rocket. Out in the organic garden they loved learning about how to sow plants and grow your own food.

First Class.

These wonderful boys have just returned from a fantastic school tour to Suir Valley Railway in Kilmeaden and Copper Coast Farm in Fenor, Co. Waterford. Due to a slight navigational error they also enjoyed an unexpected view of miles of the Waterford coast line and some very interesting country roads.

When the boys thought that it could not get any better a surprise knock and a visitor arrived at the door of Room 3 on Thursday. The boys were stunned, awe struck and stopped eating their lunches when the unexpected visitor happened to be none other than No 1 teacher, Mr. Littleton. Mr Littleton as you all will be glad to know is home from hospital after all those months in St. James in Dublin and is back in Clare where he making an excellent recovery.

Senior Infants – Ms. Lawlors.

Ms. Lawlor’s class also returned from a trip to Copper Coast farm and with a Deises woman on board they did not get lost. The highlight of their school trip was playing in the sand driving the toy tractors and watching the baby rabbits and little chicks. They had a very exciting day out at Kickham Barracks. They say a big thank you to the soldiers who showed them all their weapons and equipment and gave them lovely treats to eat. At the sports day the tug of war was the most popular event and everybody was a winner – as all received medals.

Their room is always a rainbow of colourful art work.

Mrs Donnelly’s – Junior Infants.

On Wednesday, 10th June these boys enjoyed a wonderful trip to Parsons Green. The highlight of this outing was a pony ride and a boat trip where they spotted crocodiles.

On Monday, 22nd they had a fun filled sports day in the Highschool gym. They wish to thank Karen and Niall of Kool Kids for a fantastic day of fun and sport. Congratulations to Helen and the Bears for beating teacher and Seals in the Tug of War.

Over the holidays the boys will be busy gardening – watching their pea plants grow and hopefully harvesting a bumper crop.

Again their room is always a kaleidoscope of colourful art work, beautiful artistic displays and the walls drip with knowledge, words, sounds and numbers.

School Band.

Our Senior Band members performed at Cór Fhéile in City Hall Cork on Thursday, April 2nd. The boys played 3 pieces:

Ten Masters in Two Minutes

Rocky

Raider's March

They also played at the end of year concert in the school hall, along with the junior band on May 28th. This was a first recital for the junior boys & they gave an impressive performance. Well done to all the senior players especially the "Trumpets with Attitude". Thanks to Peter Taylor from Banna Chluain Meala and our tutors Darragh Phelan, Andrew O'Keeffe, Jamie Concannon, Christopher Britton, Darren Fehilly, Evan Murray, Matthew Caulfield & Darragh Johnson for all their work with the juniors. Thanks also to Edmond Morrissey for his work with the Senior Band.

We bid a fond farewell to our 6th class members – Darren Fehilly, Liam Ryan, Robert Acheson, Jack Binchy, Jamie Concannon, Eoin O'Donnell, Mark O'Reilly, Michael Murphy, Niall Barrett, Charlie Millea who have played with us for many years and also to Eanna Grogan & Steven Ryan our drummers. We wish them well for the future and hope they will continue their musical studies. Bon voyage to all those travelling with Banna to Chicago next week.

Choir.

Our school choir gave a marvellous performance at the Cór Fhéile in City hall on April 2nd. They performed:

Amhrán na Gealaí
May the Road Rise to meet you.
Bohemian Rhapsody.

The audience in City Hall was particularly impressed with their rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody. Perhaps some rock stars of the future!!!!
Congrats to our two soloists Joe Sheehan & Eanna Grogan. Thanks to Veronica Horgan who accompanied us on the night.

The boys also sang at the First Communion ceremony on May, 16th.

Mrs Browne - H.S.C.L.

The first year of the Home School Community Liaison Scheme has been a wonderful success. The aim of this project is to promote co-operation between the home, school and community and to recognise the fundamental role of parents as the Primary Educators of their children.

The parents room is a hive of activity with classes and courses taking place on a daily basis. Courses covered included Irish Dancing, Christmas Decorations, Flower Arranging, Pilates, maths, Computers, Painting, English for the International Community, Knitting, Drug Awareness, Diet, Nutrition and a cultural morning to promote integration.

Anybody wishing to avail of this service or seeking information on this very exciting new initiative in Ss. Peter & Paul's can call any day to the Parents Room and talk to Mrs Browne. (for a fuller report on this project see South Tipp Today Edition Wednesday, June 24 – Page 4).

Mrs. Kearney.

Congratulations to Mrs Kearney on her first year in Learning Support. You have adapted brilliantly to your new role in this very important, specialised area of support education. Thank you for your support to me, the students and other colleagues **over the last year.**

Mrs. Condon, Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Senior continue to do trojan work in Resource. Your students and colleagues appreciate all the help and support you give over the year.

