



Saint Aloysius' Secondary School  
Sharman Crawford Street, Cork  
Summer Newsletter 2016



## WELCOME NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL MS. RICHEL LONG

As 2015-16 draws to a close, we reflect on a positive and eventful year for the students of St. Aloysius. As a Mercy school, we are proud of our ethos and work hard to ensure that it is reflected in the lives of our students. We aspire to ensure that our students reach their academic potential whilst also developing as a caring individual.

As a school we are fortunate to witness a growth in our student population. Due to the rise in student numbers, St Aloysius will have an additional first year class in September 2016. We thank our primary school partners for their collaboration with us in St. Aloysius as we strive to ensure a positive transition from primary to post primary school.

This year, St Aloysius was selected by the Department of Education and Skills to undergo a Whole School Evaluation (WSE). As part of the WSE inspectors engaged with the Board of Management, Parents Association representatives, student representatives and teaching and non-teaching staff. I invite you to our school website to read our full WSE report under the Information for Parents tab.

The inspectorate noted our growth in student numbers *“The school community is now looking forward to a period of sustained growth and stability into the future...”* Our deep commitment to student learning was acknowledged in the WSE report; *“High academic expectations are part of the learning climate in the school”*. Student welfare and mutually respectful relationships were acknowledged and praised by the inspectorate, *“The very positive teacher-student relationships observed contribute greatly to the students’ sense of being cared for and supported.”* The whole school community is delighted by the recognition and appreciation by the inspectorate of what we aspire to deliver to our students, their parents and the wider society of Cork City.

I wish to acknowledge the immense support demonstrated to the school by all of our partners, our Trustees CEIST, our Board of Management, our Parent’s Association, our teaching and non-teaching staff and of course by our wonderful students. Together, I hope we take pride in a caring, learning and growing school. We are extremely proud of our school and of our students and we wish everyone an enjoyable and safe summer break.

LEAVING CERT CLASS DEAGLAN



LEAVING CERT CLASS IOSEF



HEAD GIRL ANGELA JOHNSON



SR. MERCEDES HONOURARY DOCTORATE FROM UCC



## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE



D'éirigh thar barr le Seachtain na Gaeilge arís i mblíana. Thaitin na himeachtaí éagsúla (comórtas postaeir, tóraíocht taisce, biongó as Gaeilge, &rl.) leis na daltaí. B'é an céilí, faoi stiúir Bhean Uí Dhonnabháin, buaicphointe na seachtaine. Bhain gach éinne an-taitneamh as an rince, an amhránaíocht agus na taispeántais rince. Chuaigh gach éinne abhaile ina dhiaidh turseach traochta ach sona sásta.



## ENTERPRISE EDUCATION



The 5<sup>th</sup> year LCVP class has had a very busy year fulfilling their programme requirements. In the first term they were involved in setting up two enterprises. They sold jewellery in aid of St Vincent de Paul and then went on to set up a mini company "The Sugar Plum Fairies". In both these endeavours they put into practice what they had learned in their enterprise module and were very successful. In the last term they went on a visit out to Ballymaloe Cookery School and Gardens and also visited the craft centre in Shanagarry. On the visit out they got the chance to speak to entrepreneurs about the realities of running their own business and found the experience to be very rewarding. They finished off the year on May 20<sup>th</sup> last when they organised a visit in from past pupil Sandra Murphy, owner of the Rising Tide pub and restaurant in Glounthaune. Sandra spoke to them about her career path to date, the skills needed in business and gave them some excellent advice in the area of interview preparation and job seeking skills. Well done to all involved.

## LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT....ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS!



TY students took part in the All Ireland 15 minute Light Entertainment Festival, which took place in The Briery Gap Cultural Centre, Macroom on the 26<sup>th</sup> February, and were well-deserved winners! TY students first competed against 7 schools in early February, where they were successful in reaching the All Ireland Finals. On the qualifying day, the students entertained the audience with “All that Jazz” from the musical “Chicago”, a light comedy sketch, an S Club 7 dance, an Irish song, Mo Ghile Mear, and a modern dance to popular song “Shut Up and Dance”.

Students were well prepared and confident for their performance on stage at the All Irelands. TY students were ably accompanied by Lauren O’Hora (5<sup>th</sup> year) playing tin whistle, Diamond Nzekwe (1<sup>st</sup> year) playing trumpet, and two second year students Niamh Courtney and Faye O Donoghue, who did a fantastic job on sound and lights. Students once again performed “All That Jazz”, as well as a spectacular rendition of “Cell Block Tango” from Chicago. Sinead O’Sullivan and Karena Walsh danced a lively Irish slip jig, which certainly impressed both the audience and the judges. Students sang Mo Ghile Mear, and finished up with their dance to “Shut up and dance”.

In addition to winning the Donal Buckley Perpetual Trophy, students were also successful in winning the “Best Costume” prize on the night. A big thanks to Karena Walsh and the Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance for their support in providing the wonderful costumes.

## DEERPARK DRAMAFEST

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of March a Transition Year group of pupils, along with second year student Maeve O Rourke entered into the Deerpark Dramafest Competition. Laura O’Sullivan, Aoife O’Sullivan, Jess O’Mahony, Caoibhne Mc Sweeney, Salome Gverdcitely, Nicole Power and Emma O’Donnell performed an original script, “Out”, written by Laura O’Sullivan. The girls won the best Social Drama award and The Original Script award. Maeve O’ Rourke, second year, performed in the festival for her second year in a row. Last year Maeve and her group won The Original Script award and The Social Drama award. This year Maeve performed a monologue and won an adjudicator’s award. All the girls did a fantastic job on the night and proudly represented St. Aloysius.



## ST. ALOYSIUS WINS ECO UNESCO AWARD



A team of three First Year girls won the Junior Eco Enterprise Award, at the ECO UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards, which took place at the Mansion House, Dublin on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. Sarah Lane (13), Rameen Siddique (12) and Saoirse Brazil Kearney (13), under the guidance of their teacher, Ms. Sarah O'Donovan, won this award with their project, "Coconut Oil Deodorant", which is made of entirely natural ingredients found in any kitchen store-cupboard.

The girls became finalists after a regional ECO-DEN event at UCC in April, a Dragons' Den style heat where they successfully pitched their project. Qualifying criteria included a viable, saleable product, making a positive environmental impact and creating community awareness. Their project was shortlisted by a panel of judges and they secured their place among eighty groups at the Showcase and Awards Ceremony, which is one of the largest celebrations of youth eco-action in Ireland. The winning projects will be on display in Dublin over the summer.

## PROCLAMATION DAY

Proclamation Day was Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup> 2016. A short fáilte was followed by an explanation of the National Flag, followed by the flag being raised by the youngest and eldest students. Amhrán na bhFianna was sung to conclude the ceremony.



## VARIETY SHOW 2015

All music students took part in this years Variety Show, which was a huge success. There was great excitement around the school for the matinee show, which the local primary schools attended. First and second years students entertained the audience with songs from the musical "Grease", including Summer Lovin, Sandra Dee, and We Go Together.



The Junior Cert Music class performed a wonderful selection of songs from "Mamma Mia", including Slipping Through My Fingers, Dancing Queen, and Mamma Mia.

The TY year group presented an outstanding display of song and dance, featuring songs from the hit musical "Chicago", including All That Jazz, Cell Block Tango, and Razzle Dazzle.



Other acts on the night included solo singing, solo performing, Irish dancing, Indian dancing, an S Club 7 dance, and gymnastics. A great night was had by all.



## B.T. YOUNG SCIENTIST



St. Als had great success in the Young Scientist in January. Three projects were accepted to the final in the RDS this year. The projects were as follows:

*“Variables for Resonance for Glasses with stems”* by Jasmine Odabi & Diamond Nzekwe. This project looked at different sized wine glasses and through a lot of experimentation and data collection they developed a formula that will find the frequency of the glass when you know the volume and density of the liquid. We want to congratulate Jasmine and Diamond, both 1st years, who were awarded **2<sup>nd</sup> place** in the Junior Chemical Physical and Mathematical category for their project.

The second project was titled: *“Comparative study of blue light and UV light for inhibiting microorganism development”* by Caoimhne McSweeney & Emma Jane O'Donnell. These two Transition Years investigated if food such as strawberries and bread put under blue or UV light helped keep the food for longer. The girls were awarded a display award for their project.

The third project was *“Coconut Oil Deodorant”* by Sarah Lane, Rameen Siddique & Saoirse Brazil Kearney. These first year students developed a healthy alternative deodorant (that you could actually eat) and investigated how effective it was in inhibiting the growth of bacteria from perspiration. They found that it was a very good substitute for mass produced chemical laden deodorants and were invited to bring their project to the Young Environmentalist Awards.

The girls represented the school exceptionally and were incredibly articulate when presenting their projects to the judges and other interested people.

# STUDENT COUNCIL



## Context

To put our work in context, the Student Council is made up of 24 members; two students are elected per class grouping in early September. We meet every Monday at 12.20 pm in the library and we try when possible to conclude meetings by 1.00pm to allow members time for a snack before their afternoon classes. Our motto is a simple one –

“Ask not what your School can do for you but rather what you can do for your School”.

We are always mindful of our mission statement and where possible, we do our best to make a positive contribution to our school community and beyond. Student Council is often a spring board for Aloysians to become active citizens in the world beyond our school.

## Inaugural Meeting

At our first meeting of the year on the 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015, we read correspondence from two of our past pupils who are now involved with the Students Union in Trinity College Dublin.

Angela Johnson, following a successful interview in September, had the great honour of taking over as leader of our Student Council, a daunting but a very rewarding role.

## Open Night

One of the most important dates in the school calendar is our “Open Night”.

As always the Student Council co-operated with the “Meitheal” team and did us proud. Students benefited greatly from playing host to strangers and putting them at ease. The girls worked in teams, each team responsible for a particular route

## Leadership

A most beneficial day long course covering issues such as “effective leadership”, “personality types” etc. was conducted for Student Council members by an external trainer who was very impressed by all attendees.

## Civic Interaction

In the month of October, we welcomed, prepared and delivered a speech on the occasion of the visit of Councillor Chris O’Leary, Lord Mayor of Cork to the school.

A month later, another speech was prepared to welcome Deirdre Clune M.E.P. to St. Als. It was fascinating to hear first hand what life was like for an M.E.P. – the successes, the challenges and the sacrifices involved in leadership.

We organised a delegation from Council to participate in “Comhairle na nOg’s” A.G.M on the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct..

4 girls participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Competition. It was great that our Head Girl, Angela qualified for the next round of the competition.

## Charitable Activities

Student Council staged our “Annual Giving Tree” event. This initiative runs in conjunction with the Christmas Hamper food appeal. 200 gift tags were put on the tree, which was erected on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Our job was to encourage everybody to take a name tag and provide a gift for that child. Student Council members decorated boxes for the hamper appeal which were collected ultimately by St. Vincent De Paul.

## Whole School Evaluation

3 of our Council members, Ruth, Angela and Amber performed meet and greet duties for the B.O.M. meeting with the inspectors. The conclusions of the inspector was very positive with regard to the Council:-

*“School leadership is effectively and actively promoted in the school and is structured around a student council, prefect and class representative system. Student Council meetings attract very high numbers of participants and the link teacher ensures that student voice is nurtured and articulated on all school-related issues. The student survey explored the sense of students having a say in the school and responses attest to the positive impression among students that their ideas and concerns are being noted and listened to by all stakeholders.”*

## Student Survey

As a follow on from an idea that was floated during the W.S.E. we began surveying students on the viability of having a school scarf and we presented our findings to school management and school scarves are currently on order.

## Deputy Principals Regional Meeting

Our school hosted a Deputy Principals Regional meeting and the Council members acted as fáilteoirí and helped with the cleanup afterwards..

## Ceist Youth Leadership Conference

3 Student Council members Angela, Amber and Kinga attended the CEIST Youth Leadership Conference in Dublin and participated in the workshops that were held.

## Awards Day

At our Awards Day Student Council Members did all they could to support Ms. Butler and her team. 10 of the Council Members met the invited guests and escorted them to their seats. They later helped with refreshments. The Council, as always, sponsored an award in recognition of “Outstanding School Spirit” won by Jiang O’Neill.

## Fund Raising

This year we organised 8 “no uniform days” on a regular basis. At Halloween, Christmas and Seachtain na Gaeilge we had a themed “no uniform event” where staff and students dressed for the occasion and there were prizes for the most imaginative costumes. These days not only raise valuable funds but some staff commented that they raise spirits also. Overall, these “no uniform days” have, by our calculations netted approx. €3,639. The Council has purchased 2 visualisers for the school and this year will see hand dryers being introduced on a phased basis.

## Principal Interaction

Ms. Long has liaised closely with our Council and often pops into our meetings to discuss ideas or to help with problem solving. Our contribution to policy formulation has always been encouraged in areas such as uniform policy, critical incident policies and this year Ms. Long invited the Council to work with her on foreign travel policy.

The Student Council wishes everybody a happy and safe Summer.  
Enjoy the Hols!!