

St. Aloysius' Secondary School

Sharmon Crawford St , Cork



As the school year draws to a close we reflect on another busy and fruitful year. This edition of the newsletter gives a taste of the many and varied activities in which our pupils engaged throughout the latter half of the school year. All in the St. Aloysius Secondary School community have had an extremely active year and my sincere gratitude goes to staff, students, parents, to the Board of Management and to the wider community for continued commitment, support and dedication throughout the year.

It is also a time for nostalgia as we bid a fond farewell to the Class of 2014, students who have remained in our care for the past five or six years and now embark upon the next chapter and challenge in life. May the light of Christ show them the best way through the twists and turns of the road ahead and may they be the people they were born to be and match the destiny for which they were created. May God always keep them safe. Go dté siad slán agus go n-éirí go geal leo!

Finally to all who are part of the St. Aloysius community, I wish a safe and happy summer.



Ms. Richel Long
Principal

St Aloysius' Annual Awards Day



600 points and J.P. MacManus Scholarship for Elisabeth O'Flaherty

Congratulations to Elisabeth O'Flaherty who obtained 600 points in her Leaving Certificate and was also a winner of a J.P. MacManus Scholarship. Elisabeth is studying Biochemistry in Edinburgh.

Edel Kavanagh - Head Girl





Revival of the Library

"Books are a uniquely portable image" Stephen King.

It has been a very successful year for our school library. Thanks to the Past pupils Union's (PPU) generous contribution, new books were purchased during the summer. The recent "Book Drive", which was organised by the English department and superbly supported by the Student Council, has greatly increased our stock with the addition of 300 new titles. During the past academic year, students have availed of many new exciting titles. Our Read walls show the wide range of novels that interest our students. Reading for enjoyment has been part of the Literacy target this year- our aim is to foster a love of reading.



Literacy wall

Jazz Festival



Musician A.J. Brown with Ms. O'Callaghan and students when he gave a lunchtime performance in school during the Jazz Festival.



TY Trip to West Kerry 2013

Healthy Eating and Fitness Week

The Home-Economics and P.E Department ran a Healthy Eating and Fitness Week in March. A variety of activities took place emphasising the importance of local and healthy foods, in addition to exercise and fitness. We had visits from Arbutus Bread, Rawbina and Ballycotton Seafood. The highlight of the week was a visit from the TV Chef Rachel Allen.



Rachel Allen with our Home Economics teachers

Roinn na Gaeilge: Cúpla buaicphointe 2013-14

D'éirigh thar barr le seachtain na Gaeilge arís i mbliana. Bhain gach éinne spraoi as an gcéilí mór tráthnóna Aoine, 14 Márta. Tá caighdeán an rince ag dul i bhfeabhas ó bhliain go bliain, gan trácht ar an amhránaíocht! Bhí na hiontrálacha don chomórtas postaeir a reachtaíodh le linn na seachtaine sin ar ardchaighdeán chomh maith.

Chuaigh lucht idirbhliana siar go Corca Dhuibhne ar an 16 Bealtaine. Stop siad sa Daingean chun féachaint ar fhuinneoga daite Harry Clarke sa séipéal ansan, agus chun cuairt a thabhairt ar an uisceadán, Saol Fo Thoinn. Ar na suíomhanna eile ar thug siad cuairt orthu bhí Séipéilín Galarus agus Ionad an Bhlascáoid. Bhí gach éinne an-sásta leis an lá.

Iarracht eile gur éirigh go maith leis i mbliana ná comórtas a reachtaíodh sa chéad bhliain do 'Gaeilgeoir na Míosa'. Tuigtear dúinn gur deineadh an-iarrachtaí ar fad – go háirithe i dtreo dheireadh na míosa – le go mbuafaí an duais bheag agus an teastas a bhí ann don bhuaitheoir.



Seachtain na Gaeilge



St. Aloysius School of Excellence: Young Scientist

This year St. Aloysius were incredibly successful at the Young Scientist competition. Five projects were accepted to compete at the RDS in January with one being awarded highly commended. The titles are as follows:

1. Wind vs. Stringed Instruments and the Gabor Limit
2. How fresh are your eggs?
3. Reverse Engineering a Domino Fall
4. Facial recognition and the Cross Race Effect
5. A mathematical analysis of the lute of Pythagoras

In summary the projects discovered that: the limit to the human ear distinguishing between two distinct notes is reliant on a whole wave at the frequency being formed; eggs lose less mass when kept in the fridge and thus stay fresher; mathematically engineering a fallen object to standing requires some seriously difficult mathematics; we can identify faces from our own race better than faces from other races and finally fine art and perspective can be aligned to the geometric shape called the lute of Pythagoras which is laden with golden ratios.



Alexsandra susan serena Gabor limit



Samitia, Amy Benu How fresh are your eggs



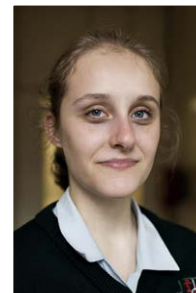
Laura coleman and Amber Harrington Cross race effect



Dominos and lute Maria, Shauna, Aisling, Molly

German Scholarship winner

Aleksandra Migliaccio has been awarded a full scholarship by the German government for 4 weeks commencing this summer. The basis of this scholarship is on her excellent results in her Junior Certificate. She will have the opportunity to visit various parts of Germany and also experience family life in Germany. Wir wünschen ihr gute Reise und viel Spaß.



Short Story Competition



Shauna Williams entered a short story competition this Easter held by the Cork City Library. This was the 7th year of the competition and Shauna's entry was shortlisted in the top 20.

Debating

The St. Aloysius Debating Society had a very successful year. The Society, under the guidance of their Senior Chairs, had very strong teams composed predominantly of 1st and 3rd year students. St. Als hosted two major debates including the annual first year Easter Mace which had a record attendance compared with previous years. St. Als' teams also entered numerous debates throughout the year with St. Als' speakers being placed in the top 10 in most debates. The Debating Society hopes to have an even more successful year in 2015.



St. Al's Debating Group

Hot Press Competition

Megan Dollery entered a competition run by Hot Press magazine entitled "My first Green Day concert". Her entry was shortlisted. Subsequently, she was invited to a reception in Dublin with the judges and the editor of Hot Press.



Texaco Art competition

Siming Wang, highly commended in Texaco Art Competition



High achievement in Maths and Science

Susan Lagli qualified for the Irish European Union Science Olympiad (IrEUSO) in 2014. Finalists are chosen on the basis of their Junior Certificate Examinations in Maths and Science. Susan attended the annual competition held annually in Dublin City University (DCU).



Karate European Championships

Ciara Wyse (6th year) took part in the European Karate Championships in Sheffield in October. She did exceptionally well representing Ireland and obtained 3 bronze medals for Fighting, Kata and Team Fighting. Congratulations to Ciara for this huge achievement.

Enterprise

Congratulations to both Transition year classes on their prizes in Enterprise this year. "L'Écharpe" put a twist on the traditional scarf by using unique wool and won "Best Display" prize at the Blackpool Trade fair. They also went on to be selected for the Munster Finals run by the Junior Achievement team and held in the County Hall. "Nailed It" based their product on a practical need they saw from their own experience in nail painting. "Nailed It" won the "Best report" prize in the U.C.C. finals of the Cork Enterprise Board. They were also selected to be in the Munster Finals run by the Junior Achievement team. Only 6 teams in Munster were invited to finals and we are very proud of both teams for achieving so much. Well done to both groups!



TY Enterprise

Sports



Members of the St Aloysius Junior Football and Camogie teams in their newly sponsored jerseys kindly donated by Mr Brian Lennox from Jackie Lennox's Takeaway

Camogie

This year saw the re-establishment of the Junior Camogie team. The coaching squad included: Aisling Slattery; Owen O'Sullivan



and Louise O'Reilly. Training took place every Tuesday at lunchtime. The girls competed in the Cork Camogie Colleges championship and showed great dedication throughout the year. We would extend our thanks to St. Finbarrs Hurling and Camogie club for their donation of hurleys and the use of their facilities.

Ladies Football

Training for the Junior Ladies Football team took place every Friday at lunchtime. St. Als were entered into the Post-Primary Ladies Football Championship. The girls gave a great display of teamwork and football skills and fought hard against any team they faced. Trainers: Aoife Coughlan and Louise O'Reilly

Basketball

Congratulations to the Junior 2nd year team who made it to the quarter finals of the schools competition. Well done to all girls involved and we hope that they will continue to show great enthusiasm and develop their skills over the summer in preparation for next term.



1st and 2nd year Basketball teams



Maths Circle

The Maths Circle is an initiative from the School of Mathematical Sciences in U.C.C. aimed at students who are above average and gifted at maths. This was the third year of Maths Circles in St. Aloysius. Students from 1st and 2nd year were invited to attend on Thursday afternoons after school from February to April, a total of 6 weeks. A record number of students participated this year. Thanks to our tutors Grace and David from U.C.C. who encouraged students to keep coming back each week for more mathematical mysteries and puzzles.



St. Aloysius Maths Circle

Applied Maths

St. Aloysius has always had a strong tradition in Mathematics and Science. A number of fifth year students and one Leaving Certificate student have taken up the challenge of studying Applied Maths to enrich their Leaving Certificate programme. We are thrilled to see this subject again being offered in St. Aloysius.

Variety Show



Transition year production of Beauty and the Beast

Amber Flag / Mental Health

Students from a number of Cork city and county schools were awarded the first Amber Flags to be rolled out nationwide in a ceremony on 8th May at Rochestown Park Hotel hosted by Suicide Aware. Students were awarded the flag based on their tireless and enthusiastic work to promote positive mental health in the school community over the past year. St Aloysius will now proudly fly the Amber Flag outside the school to show it's commitment to students' wellbeing, and to encourage awareness of all issues which may impact on students' mental health.



Amber Flag

Heritage Field Trip

The Transition module in heritage went on a number of field trips throughout the year including: Local heritage tour by councillor Kieran McCarthy; Trip to Cobh Titanic centre; St Finbarr's cathedral and The English market.



Heritage Trip - Titanic Experience

Student Council News 2014: Students Are Doing It For Themselves

From the very first meeting of the year, our Student Council has been highly productive in its efforts to improve our school community. In September 2013, our members had the great honour of welcoming Lord Mayor, Councillor Catherine Clancy, to St. Als. On this special occasion, Edel Kavanagh, our Head Girl and Council Chairperson, ably delivered an introductory speech on behalf of the Council.

In October, the Council organised and ran a successful "red and white no uniform day" to raise funds for our school basketball team. The proceeds of this enjoyable occasion contributed to the selection of a stylish new kit. Next on the agenda was the planning of Open Night 2013. Our members undertook meet & greet duties for the occasion, guiding our visitors around the school and providing an insight into the history and tradition of St. Als. We were delighted to hear that the Principal received several letters of thanks and praise from visiting parents with whom we liaised on the night.

The Student Council rounded off the month of October by welcoming representatives from the Cork Rotary Club to St. Als. These guests attended our school to interview three of our members, fifth year students Maria Cordero, Angeline Lagali and Shauna Williams, who participated in Rotary's Youth Leadership Competition. These students were also among those to attend U.C.C. for a weekend conference, hosted by

the International Relations Society, to discuss issues of global concern. The girls thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from this event, and the award for best speaker was won by Edel Kavanagh.

The first term ended on a high note with singer John Spillane formally launching our annual St. Vincent de Paul "Giving Tree" campaign. On the 2nd of December, the guitar man with the great voice and big personality entertained us, while Christmas gifts and food hampers poured in for disadvantaged children and families.

We began 2014 by welcoming to St. Als our new principal, Ms. Long. Ms. Long has liaised closely with our Council members and welcomed our contributions to policy formation in areas such as Fire Safety, Uniform, and Critical Incident Policy.

In conjunction with the Parents Association, the Council is also heavily involved in the coordination of a clothing recycling drive. The proceeds of this will go towards the further improvement of school facilities and we have high hopes that it will be a fruitful venture.

The Student Council will conclude this academic year by meeting with the Board of Management. We were delighted to accept this invitation and are looking forward to discussing our future plans and projects with the Board.



Student Council 2013 -14



Rotary Youth Leadership Competition - 2013



Giving Tree with John Spillane