

# CBC NEWSLETTER, December 2013



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## A Message from the Principal

As we come to the end of our first term, I would like to update you on a number of items. The building is progressing to plan and it is expected to be completed at the end of February 2014 when we will be delighted to finally use this new resource.

Many positive comments have been coming into the school from parents and past pupils in relation to the school's position in the Irish Times League Table this year. Although it is nice to be at the top of the League Table in County Dublin, I would like to point out that although academics are very important, we in CBC Monkstown are very conscious of our Mission Statement; *"to provide a Catholic Education for boys in a caring and Christian atmosphere in the pursuit of all-round character development and academic excellence"*.

The school Calendar of Events from January to May, included with this newsletter, may be revised in the future as we await the outcome of the latest ballot from the ASTI. We shall do our utmost to keep you informed of any changes in dates/times or events.

Finally, may I wish you a very restful and Happy Christmas and I look forward to welcoming back all our students in the New Year.

Dr. Gerry Berry

## CBC Students receive Scholarships to UCD and Trinity



UCD Entrance Scholarship Recipients

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**Back row:** Seán Drummond, Conor Mullally, James Keating, Peter Fay, Chris Daly

**Middle row:** Mark Hanlon, Conor Daly, Rory Murphy, Dan Jordan, Barry Kane

**Front row:** Rory Conlon, Niall Quinn, Morgan Morris, Andrew Brennan



TCD Scholarship Recipients

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**Left to right:** John Sullivan, Robbie Flanagan, Brian McNestry

## Junior Certificate Award

Congratulations also to Patrick Jennings who, as a result of an upgrade, shares the position of Best Junior Certificate results 2013 with Tom Wall.



Dr. Berry presents Patrick Jennings with the Br. Columba Normoyle Memorial Prize

## The Zambian Immersion Project 2013



On November 7<sup>th</sup> the group returned after two weeks in Zambia. Having spent the previous year fundraising, the group had raised approximately €45,000, packed and sent out a container to Zambia and secured donations of computers for the school there as well as donations of new clothes and teddies for the children. The students threw themselves into the work, teaching, helping to feed the children and setting up a sports day for all. They also unpacked the container and set up the computers so we could have a computer workshop during our time there for the teachers and carers in Lusaka. For some it was their first time ever to work a computer!



ZIP Group 2013

The group of sixteen students and five leaders had an amazing experience and for many it was life changing. The support of their parents and the school community ensured the continued success of the project and strengthened our ties with the people of the N'Gombe compound in Lusaka. Thank you so much to all who supported us. Students have applied for the next trip already! A date for applications and how to apply will be announced soon.

## Reaching out this Christmas – Mr. Tom Farrell

A huge thank you to all involved in the big push for the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper collection. In total, we have managed to assemble and deliver twenty Christmas Hampers to local families. On behalf of the Board of Management and the staff, I would like to personally thank the tutors, students and families who have contributed to this fantastic cause.

Our guest speaker at the Advent Service was Katie Hoben from Aware. Katie spoke very eloquently about reaching out to friends and family who may experience Christmas as a difficult time.

## November



Mr. O'Donovan, Mr. Nulty, Mr. Doody, Mr. Farrell, Mr. O'Herlihy and Mr. Fay before the Movember shave-off

2013 is officially 'The Year of the Mo-Bros' as eight members of staff decided to put the razors down and grow a facial piece of artwork for charity. As a result of braving the Mo, over €900 was donated to the Irish Cancer Society, who are raising awareness of prostate cancer.



First Year Soccer Blitz

## Concern Fast and First Year Soccer Blitz

Well done to our First Years who took part in the Concern Fast on November 28<sup>th</sup> and the Soccer Blitz in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust.

## BEO-LIVE-ALIVE

Comhghairdeas leis an ngrúpa ALP a bhuaigh €300 sa chomórtas BEO: LIVE-ALIVE a bhí ar siúl i gCill Áirne an mhí seo chaite. Congratulations to the group ALP who won €300 in the BEO:LIVE-ALIVE competition in Killarney last month. Their original, Irish song is called Éist Anois. Special thanks to Mr. Rooney for all his help on the musical front.



ALP competing in Killarney



Fame at Last!

## Daidí na Nollag

Don't forget to check out our Christmas Song Daidí na Nollag and the musical talents of both staff and students on YouTube@ Gaelgory. The song will also be aired on Christmas FM.

## Oisín i dTír na nÓg

Mr. Finnegan's fifth year Irish class, with the help of Mr. Rooney, also brought the story of Oisín i dTír na nÓg to life with a rap song and video. The story is on the Leaving Certificate syllabus and the video will be released after Christmas.



What Does The Horse Say?



**The Learning Revolution** continues to grow! A group of interested teachers meets weekly to present and discuss innovative ideas in education. These new ideas and learnings are being implemented inside and outside our classrooms to enhance the holistic development of our students. This term the use of placemats in the classroom, Quizlet as an online learning tool and techniques to encourage intrinsic motivation of our students have been adopted.

## Biology – It's a Bee's Life

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, 4POT went to the RDS Library to see an exhibition on bees with Mrs. Morgan and to learn about why they are so important in our environment. There are about 20,000 different types of bees in the world. They are the most important pollinators in Ireland, even though there are no more wild honey bees left and so all our flowers are pollinated by bees kept by beekeepers. The students learned about the bee's life cycle and how bees cope with the changing seasons.



Busy Bees

## Debating

Congratulations to sixth years Myles Kelly and Carl Whelan, who finished runners-up in the recent final of the Trinity Schools' Debating Competition. They narrowly lost out to a team from our old adversaries in St. Conleth's. We had further successes in the competition with sixth year Oisín McNeill and transition year Adam Tuck reaching the semifinals. Adam is the first ever CBC TY student to reach the knockout stages in a debating competition.



Myles Kelly speaking in the Trinity Schools' Debating Final



At the National Gallery of Ireland

## Art

Fifth and sixth year art students took a trip to the National Gallery, the National Museum and the Municipal Art Gallery with Mr. O'Farrell and Mr. Maher.

## SPORT

**Rugby:** Congratulations to the Junior and Senior teams on their qualification for the Leinster Junior and Senior Cups. Both teams meet Blackrock in the next round of the Cup. This great result is because of all the hard work the players on both teams have put in since September. A special word of thanks, from the Sports Department, to all those involved in coaching the teams.

**Sports Scholarship:** Congratulations to past pupil Michael Courtney, who received a Sports Scholarship from Trinity College Dublin.



**Cross-Country:** The season is up-and-running and training takes place every Tuesday and Thursday at lunchtime. There were some fine performances at the Rice Cross-Country event in ALSAA, notably Joey O'Connor, who came eight in the U13s and Harry Wall who came tenth. There were well over one hundred athletes in each race, so well done lads!

## American Tea Party

A great night was had by all at the American Tea Party on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of November. This annual event is a very enjoyable fundraiser for the Junior and Senior Cup Teams.

## TRANSITION YEAR

**TY Challenges:** The TY students continue to take up Mr Ferguson's fitness challenges, 'virtually' rowing the Irish Sea every day in the school gym. They can also complete some of the independent living challenges; maybe even cook the turkey on Christmas day!

**Talks:** Every TY class has visited St Vincent's Hospital attending talks on health concerns about alcohol, mental health, smoking and testicular cancer.

**Work Experience:** The lads have been getting ready for work experience with Ms. Fitzpatrick covering topics such as dress code, personal confidence, initiative and social skills. We wish the lads the best of luck when they start their two weeks of work experience on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2014.

**Charity Work:** The TYs have bag-packed for St. Vincent De Paul, Santa-dashed and serenaded commuters with Christmas carols at Connolly Station to raise money for the Make A Wish Foundation. Keep up the good work!

**Writing:** TY students have been working with Mr. Nulty on their latent journalistic talent through the Press Pass programme. A number of students have also been lucky enough to benefit from working with the team at Roddy Doyle's Fighting Words initiative.

**Representation:** A number of TY students joined with some fifth years and headed into the Department of Education and Skills to participate in the ISSU consultation on the TY programme, ensuring that TY programmes nationwide continue to develop. Meanwhile a number of other TY students got great enjoyment out of representing CBC at the Schools' Bowling Championships recently. We hear the opposition was 'bowled' over!

**Musical:** Grease is the word on everyone's lips at the moment and over two hundred students are taking part in this year's musical. After three rounds of auditions, the extremely difficult decision was made; Danny and Sandy have been cast. Congratulations to Patrick Rogers and Sarah Golden who were chosen for the lead roles. Chorus rehearsals start after Christmas and the countdown begins.



**Opening Night is Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to seeing you all there for a bit of Summer Lovin'!**