



# ST. DAVID'S C.B.S.

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

ST. DAVID'S C.B.S, MALAHIDE ROAD, DUBLIN 5

PH: 01 8315322

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am delighted to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and Good Health for 2012. I hope you enjoy reading the current edition of our Newsletter. There has been lots happening in the school since September and we hope you will get a flavour of it all from the newsletter.

It has been a really busy year so far with renovations to the Science labs, works to the boys' toilets and the new entrance arrangements being completed. We still, of course, continue to have a huge range of top class facilities. I am also delighted that so many of our teachers continue to volunteer their time so that we continue to offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities. I would like to thank all of you who paid your contribution to the school promptly this year. Just like all of you the school is experiencing cuts to our budgets. We could not survive without parent contributions. We believe that we offer good value to our students and parents also. Our school continues to grow and a lot of new parents are impressed by what the school has to offer. Indeed I am glad to say that we have a waiting list of applications for next year's First Year.

**Leaving Cert Results**As a staff we are very proud of the Leaving Certificate results 2011. We had a smaller class than normal doing the Leaving Cert. I am delighted to say that the results continued the trend of previous years by being, perhaps, the best ever. According to the Irish Times 80% of our students went on to 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses which is fantastic. Ultimately that is what our school is about, helping our students reach their full potential. It is important in the smart economy that more of our students go on to third level. Our results, especially in the Sciences, continue to impress.

### **Eportal – What is eportal?**

We have begun giving eportal access codes to parents. Parents can use internet access to examine their son's eportal page. This page contains their attendance and punctuality details, as well as all exam results. The information on the page is constantly updating as teachers enter attendance or exam information. This means that a parent can check at any time if his/her son is in school or if he was late. The code can be used by students to access exam results but the important access is for parents.

### **New Toilets**

There have been complaints over the years about the toilet facilities for the students. Part of the problem was the unsuitability of the room being used, etc. There are now new arrangements and they are working out very well. The boys have hot water and soap, as well as a fresh drinking water machine.

### **New Students Council**

Mrs Flanagan has re-organised the Students Council and elections were held in each class for a class representative. They will meet together regularly and will meet with me occasionally. Students may raise matters of concern with the Students Council and the SC can raise the matter with me.

### New Roundabout

I have always been very worried for the safety of students who have weaved in and out through the traffic as they walked or cycled in to or out of the school each day. At last we have devised a solution which guarantees their safety. We have a new roundabout system which is working very well. Parents who drive their sons to school should ensure that they do not block traffic on the roundabout. They should drive completely around before stopping. They should pull in to the set down positions rather than stopping on the roundabout. The most important thing is that students should never be on the road inside the school. There are pedestrian walkways and cycleways for students and these should always be used.

### Death of Mr Seamus Reilly

The whole school community was deeply shocked and saddened by the death of Mr Seamus Reilly in October. Seamus was a great colleague, an extraordinarily talented teacher and an inspirational leader. He led the team of students and teachers who visited Nairobi on 4 occasions over the last few years. He co-ordinated a huge fund-raising effort for Nairobi. He also trained football teams throughout the more than 20 years he taught in St David's. He will be deeply missed in our school. I know that all the parents and students along with the Board of Management and the teachers, want to express our sympathy to his wife, Ms Geraldine Kenny and his children, twins Thomas and Petra. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

### Christmas & New Year

As usual we will be having formal exams during the last week before Christmas. You will already have seen your son's October Assessments and the Christmas results should give a good idea of the pattern of your son's performance from September. Don't forget that the results will begin to appear on eportal from early in January. Again I would like to wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2012.

*Padraic Kavanagh*

Principal



**Pictured are Sean Mc Grath, Sean Moran and Eoin Brunton who received the highest Junior Certificate results in 2011. Well done to all three!**

## 'Sam' comes to David's



After Dublin's magnificent performance in the All Ireland Final students and teachers alike were very excited to welcome Sam back to David's. The school community was especially proud of past pupil and teacher Stephen Cluxton on his homecoming with the Sam Maguire. St. David's is very proud of our tradition of supporting and promoting the G.A.A. We hope that in years to come some of our present students will bring the Sam back for another special homecoming.

## Darragh Cormack – Our Racing Champion



I am racing go-karts for seven years and I was eight years old when I started. This year I won the National Championships and I qualified to represent Ireland at the world Championships in Dubai. I finished fourteenth in the World Finals out of eighty two contestants. My racing ambition is to continue winning races. I would like to thank my parents, my mechanic Misty, my engine builder Supertune and to Brennan Tech for all their support.

*Darragh Cormack*

## Transition Year

### ROSTREVOR

On Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, the Transition Year students went on a class trip to the East Coast Adventure Centre in Rostrevor, County Down. At 8.30 a.m, we had to be present at the school, where we would be departing from. We boarded the bus, left the school grounds and headed for Rostrevor.

Ms. Mullins and Mr. Nally were the teachers that accompanied us on the trip. We arrived there in what seemed like no time at all because the atmosphere on the bus was great. When we arrived we planned out what groups were doing what activities which included bouldering, canoeing, pier jumping, zip-lining, archery and more. Groups of five or six were assigned to each room. We would be staying there for three days, and the atmosphere in the rooms was great, and the overall experience was fun and one to remember. Everyone enjoyed the trip, we had many, many laughs and I would definitely do it again.

*Dylan Campbell TYO*



**Fantastic Flowers** is a small business set up as part of the NFTE project in transition year. They sell hanging baskets and pots full of flowers at reasonable prices. The flowers used for the winter season can survive the cold weather. Special requests can also be made. To place an order, contact Luke Tallon at [luke\\_tallon@yahoo.ie](mailto:luke_tallon@yahoo.ie) or call 0876751883



### **Grease!**

This year the St David's Show will happen just before the February Midterm. The students will be performing the popular musical "Grease". Auditions are taking place in the coming weeks. We will be looking out for cast and crew, actors, dancers, singers, musicians, writers, show producers, lighting, sound and costumes. Ms. Dixon will be directing the show alongside guest actors and producers who'll be coming in to make this show a must see event!

## Science



Pictured are Cathal Fagan, Carl Burke, Shane Boylan, Principal Padraic Kavanagh and teacher Ms. Dixon after the SciFest Final.

### INTEL SciFest Grand Final:

After winning Intel SciFest Project of the Year Award in April in Kevin's Street our students were invited to compete against the top 14 teams in the country. The prize was to represent Ireland in America at the SciFest world final. The students' project investigated the correlation between brain size and memory function to validate the use of stem cells in the treatment of Alzheimer's. Our team narrowly missed out on going onto the US for the final but they were highly successful and won an Intel Medal of Excellence.

### BT Young Scientist RDS:

1,743 ideas were entered into the BT Young Scientist by 3,842 students from 32 counties. 550 of the best ideas were picked for the exhibition. Three teams from St David's qualified for the grand final in the RDS. Well done to all the St David's teams who completed the application process and project proposal essays. A special congratulations to the chosen finalists for January 2012; Rohith Roy Philip (Using Mathematics to devise a formula for the Perfect Soccer Player), David & Ahmar (Gender Differences in Multi tasking abilities), Carl Burke, Cathal Fagan & Shane Boylan (Correlation of Brain Size & Memory Function to validate the use of Stem Cells in the Treatment of Alzheimer's) and Aaron Dunne (Easy Access, devising a chip to facilitate lodging cash at any point of sale).

### St. David's pupils to star on top RTE programme

All eyes will be glued to RTE's Nationwide on Monday the 19<sup>TH</sup> of December at 7pm when St. David's C.B.S will be featured on the popular programme. Mary Kennedy and the RTE crew visited St David's to interview three of the school's science teams who have qualified for the BT Young Scientist. She was highly impressed by our students' innovative projects. Well done to all the finalists involved Shane Boylan, Carl Burke, Cathal Fagan, Rohith Roy Philip, David Mulcahy and Ahmar Nawaz. A special congratulation to their mentor Ms Dixon.



## **Sport**

### **G.A.A. ST. DAVID'S C.B.S. vs TRALEE C.B.S.**

Last Wednesday the 30th of November, was truly a battle of wits as St.Davids C.B.S Artane and Tralee C.B.S. fought tooth and nail to be the first team to clutch the Seamus Reilly Memorial Cup. The cup meant a great deal more to the Artane side so it was only fitting for them to be the first to put their name on the trophy. It was a compelling triumph for the Artane crowd as Tralee's 1-1 was no match for the huge tally that St. David's accumulated. There was a



presentation in the gym after the game. Ms. Kenny presented the captain Ciaran Roche with the cup. Then the two schools were presented with medals. After the presentation the both teams proceeded to the Carlton Hotel at the airport for dinner. St. David's plan on going down to Tralee next year for a return game.

### **U14 Football**

Well done to the u14 Football team who reached the quarter finals of the league this year. The boys worked very hard at training and matches and showed great team spirit throughout. The boys have great talent and skill; hopefully we'll be the team to beat next year!!!

The panel: Aaron Leonard, Josh Kearney, Dean Glinn, Leon Young, Harry Durran, Mark Hayes, Adam Murphy, Jordan Robinson, Tomas Sheridan, Nathan Cullen, Adam Fay, Ryan Groves, Gavin Hand, Gareth Hogan, Cillian Kavanagh, Cian Lumsden, Alex O' Neill, Evin Walsh, Seán Rossiter, Patrick Leonard, Jamie Gray, Eric Donoghue, Kyran Keeley, Daniel Griffin, Ryan O' Shea and James Finn.

### **Climbing**

Congratulations to the following Students who competed in the Irish Bouldering League, Round 3 at the Gravity Climbing centre in Inchicore. They all represented the school excellently in a very tough competition.

Congratulation to James Rowan who came first in the recent league competition held over 4 weeks in St David's .

Congratulation also to Vitalie Chebac who finished first in the Junior Competition. There was

fierce competition provided by fellow team members who made it a memorable event.



### NFTE

Five Transition Year NFTE (Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship) students went to the National Craft and Design Fair in the RDS on Friday 2nd December with Ms Hussey. The students had an opportunity to experience selling their hand crafted products as part of their Business course. An enjoyable and successful day had by all.



### Gaeltacht

Daltaí a chuaigh go dtí an nGaeltacht ó Meánscoil Dháibhéid i Samhradh 2011: (Ar chúl, ó chlé) Colm Costello, Niall O' Connor, Seán Moran, Ciarán Woods, Paul Gilligan, Matthew Sheppard, David O' Brien. (Chun tosaigh) Alex O' Neill, Aaron McCabe, Adam Halion, Keelan Moran, Nathan Cullen, Aaron Dunne, Evin Walsh.

### Religion Guest Speakers

Senior students have been welcoming guest speakers to their religion classes since September.

Guests have included

Amen- a support group for men suffering from domestic violence.

Trocaire- Shane from Trocaire spoke about the relationship between Ireland and the third world countries.

Samaritans came in to raise awareness about the work they do and the different problems faced by teenagers.

Garda Barron came in to talk about Road safety with the presentation "It won't happen to me".

Narcotics Anonymous came in to raise awareness about their organisation.

Students were all well behaved and enjoyed the talks and presentations. They will be welcoming more speakers in the new year.

RE Dept

**TROCAIRE**  
Working for a Just World

**SAMARITANS**



# *Special Tributes from students past and present for Seamus Reilly*

**1967**



**2011**

“The seventh of October was a bad day and a good day; it’s bad because you were taken from us, it was good because heaven has another legend up there.”

*Stephen Fleming*

“You’re an everyday hero to many Seamus, Take care up there because you will always shine down here.”

*Barry Whelan*

“Mr. Reilly was an inspiration to everyone who knew him. He was and always will be my everyday hero.

I miss him more and more everyday. He was more than a teacher he was my friend.”

*Declan O Farrell*

“The world hasn’t just lost a great teacher they have also lost a great man. He is one in a million, a perfect example of a person to aspire to be like.”

*Luke O Brien*

“You were the best teacher, friend, role model and many more to us. You taught me the value and satisfaction of helping people. You were a legend and one of a kind sir!! You are sadly missed and never forgotten.”

*Vishnu Kumar*

“Seamus was an inspiring genius, a great teacher and an absolute gent.”

*Sean Earley*



