

Art and music Transition Year project

This year we collaborated our music and art classes. We decided to record a music video of Michael Jackson's song 'Thriller'.

To prepare for this we went to the Grand Canal Theatre and saw the play 'Thriller Live'. It was a tribute to Michael Jackson's life and his songs. We also went to the 'Terror Theatre' in the Youth Club. We were inspired by the props and costumes used in the theatre.

In music class we learned the 'Thriller' dance and preformed it in the market square for 'The Carers Association'. In art class we designed and made zombie puppets for the video.

Overall, I found the project on a whole, very enjoyable. I would highly recommend it for other Transition Year classes.

John Lalor



2nd Year Music Group make it to the final of the Westmeath Amateur Talent Contest

On December 10th Ronan Bell, Chinnie Izuchukwu, Thomas Digan, Liam Og O hOistin and Cian Dully performed in the final of one of the region's biggest talent contests. They made it through three qualifier rounds, consisting of over 70 acts before they took to the stage in the Dean Crowe Theatre in Athlone. They impressed judges with their ability to harmonise and their obvious musicianship with Chinnie on lead guitar, Ronan on keyboards, Cian playing acoustic guitar and Liam Og and Thomas singing lead vocals. Despite not being placed in the top five at the final, their interpretations of songs such as Coldplay's 'Viva la Vida' and Snow Patrol's 'Chasing Cars' have meant that they now have the opportunity to record a song along with other finalists from the competition.



6th Year Art students with Michael Chester, President of the Press Photographers Association of Ireland, in the Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore, in October 2011.

The students attended a Photography Workshop organised by Mr. Chester.

Calendar 11/12

Christmas:	
Reopen:	Mon 09th Jan. 2012
Midterm:	
Close:	Fri 10th Feb.
Reopen:	Mon 20th Feb.
Bank holiday:	19th March
Easter:	
Close:	Fri 30th March
Reopen:	Mon 16th April
Bank Holiday:	Mon 7th May
Summer:	Thurs 31st May



We wish all our students and their families a very happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and at this time we especially remember our loved ones who are no longer with us.

Colaiste Choilm



Issue 2 Newsletter Christmas 2011



"But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."
[\(Luke 1:30-33\)](#)

Literacy & Numeracy



Recently there has been a lot of concern in relation to Numeracy and Literacy standards of students in both Primary & Post Primary school. Evidence has been gathered from various national and international assessments/reports, such as the PISA programme, DES subject inspections and other in school DEIS programmes.

This evidence is telling us that:

1. Standards of 15-year olds in reading literacy and mathematics have been declining since 2000.
2. 15-year old students read significantly less as a leisure time activity in 2009 than in 2000.
3. The gender gap in reading literacy is widening worldwide.
4. Nearly one quarter of Irish boys have low literacy levels.

In response to these findings the Department of Education and Skills has launched a national strategy entitled **Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life**.

Schools will be evaluating their own levels of Literacy and Numeracy and putting policies and strategies in place to support their students. These will be cross curricular, in other words teachers of all subjects will have to take literacy and numeracy into account when devising subject plans and class material.

Schools are encouraged to create a **Literacy Rich Environment** placing value on reading, whether it is books, magazines, comics or newspapers. Also to create a **Numerate Rich Environment** encouraging number games, puzzles, quizzes and number challenges. Teachers will be receiving in-service to assist them in building this into their planning and teaching.

The overall aim is to raise the Literacy and Numeracy levels and thus help to improve the **Life Chances** of our students.

As parents/guardians you too have a very important role to play in the process by monitoring your sons progress, bringing concerns to our attention, encouraging completion of homework to a high standard, encouraging reading, going to the library, encouraging your son to do crosswords, puzzles, word and number games.

We know that parents make a real difference and that you shouldn't underestimate the influence that you have on your children. Young people achieve better when their parents/guardians take an active interest in their education.

It is important to start the process at as early a stage as possible. Home and school have to work together to ensure that we attain better Literacy and Numeracy levels among our students.



Forensics Day

On the 21-10-11, all second year students participated in the C.S.I. Workshop for Maths Week. Over the course of the day, all the second year class groups got an introduction to Forensic Science. We worked on fingerprinting and problem solving. First we took our own fingerprints and tried to figure out if they were an arch, tented arch, a loop or a whorl! We compiled a small fingerprint database of four students in our workbook. We then took a fingerprint again, mixed them up and tried to figure out whose fingerprint we had. For the next activity, we had to pick a team leader called Grissom for each group of four students. We were given a page of puzzles to solve and Grissom had to assign different puzzles to each person. The puzzles included matching up bar-codes, number and letter patterns (These were quite difficult!). We were also given a fragment of a bigger picture and we had to figure out what the full picture was. The team with the highest points won the smarties ("Only the smarties get the smarties"). Thank you to Ms.Carroll, for organising this excellent and fun Workshop.

Conor Walsh 2W

U 19 Basketball

We'll done to the U 19 Basketball team who won the Midland League and have qualified for the All-Ireland Playoffs. They did this in style winning all of their matches along the way and have the medals to prove it. We'll done to Ms. Hogan & Ms. Naughton who train and manage the team. We look forward to the New Year and hopefully further success.



History Trip to Dublin

On Friday 09th Dec the students from 3E & 3N went on a History Trip to Dublin. Our trip consisted of a workshop in Collins Barracks during which we were divided into groups and had to give a presentation on an object from history. Then we went to the National Museum which houses old objects such as the Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch and Bog Bodies. Finally we went to the Natural Museum which had skeletons of extinct and living animals. I greatly enjoyed the trip and learned a lot.

David Mullery 3E

L/R: Conor Finlay, Joseph Masterson, Moize Haidir and David Mullery



Kearney Awards 2011

Leaving Cert:

Gold: Gavin Clarke
Silver: John Brophy
Wynters Award: Ciarán Sheridan
Anne Ryan: John Brophy
Conradh na Gaeilge: Bobby O' Dea
Pat Carty: Cian Farrelly



Junior Cert:

Gold: James Lalor
Silver: Stephen Norton.



Congratulations to all of our Award Winners

Table Quiz

Well done to Jamie and Robbie Kennedy and Cillian Whittle who won the student section of the Annual Parents Association Table Quiz which was held in the Bridge House on Thurs 24th Nov last. To add to their joy they also won a spot prize of a box of chocolates. Thanks to every one who turned up.



Reminder

Parents/Guardians are asked to please check and sign the School Journal on a regular basis and use the Journal to notify us of appointments, absences or lateness. There are specific pages for these in the Journal.

St. Vincent de Paul

As part of their community/social work the TY's helped the SVDP to raise €5000 through bag packing at Dunnes Stores outlets in Tullamore. Doing their bit to help those in need this Christmas.



L/R: Maura Adams, SVDP, Mariú Fitzpatrick, Patrick Murphy, Niall Lynch, Daniel Kelly, Stephen Norton, Eamonn Murphy SVDP and Aine McCormack