

HILL TOP NEWS

## 3rd Edition February 2007

# A Newsletter from St John's Business & Enterprise College

# PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECTS

Key Stage 2 students from Knocknagor Primary School, Trillick proudly display their completed Conservation projects.



This six week programme allowed students from Magheralough and Knocknagor to come to St John's Business & Enterprise College for one session every week to the Design & Technology Department. They were accompanied by their own teachers and taught the basic woodworking skills by Mr S Nugent. This successful link with primary schools is scheduled to be repeated with all the local primary schools who are currently allocated time from now to June in Technology & Design, Home Economics and Gymnastics.

### Jump Rope for Heart

Congratulations to all students who took part in the **Jump Rope for Heart** skipping event on Friday 2nd February 2007. A fantastic sum of £1,218.94 was raised for the British Heart Foundation. Well done especially to Declan McGurren who raised almost £300, and also to Lauren Donnelly, Corey Slevin, Megan Mullan and Rory McCusker who all raised over £50 each.



SCHOOL DETAILS ACTING PRINCIPAL: Ms C Doherty SCHOOL ADDRESS: 37 Omagh Road Dromore Co Tyrone BT 78 3AL Telephone: 02882 898284

#### SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Mid-Term Break Thursday 15th February -Tuesday 20th February '07 (inclusive) Exceptional Closure Monday 26th February '07 St Patrick's Day Friday 16th March -

Monday 19th March '07 (inclusive)



### Gaelic Football Final

Good luck to Year 12 boys who are taking part in the Tyrone B final on Wednesday 28th February at Youth Sport grounds in Omagh at 10.30am. Their opponents are St Joseph's, Plumbridge.

Supporters welcome

### **OPEN NIGHT 2007**

St John's held their Open Night on 23rd January 2007 and there was a large turn out of prospective students and their parents. The school looked its best, with new display cabinets on the corridors showing a myriad of colourful and educational work, produced by our students.

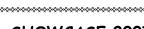
Miss Doherty, Acting Principal addressed the group and explained how the staff here at St John's enjoy opening students' eyes to the many possibilities that exist out there for them. "This is what we are truly about here in St John's giving our students the chance to flex their wings and fly as high as they dare to. Letting them see that there is life after the transfer test. Life does not end at 11 but only starts"

Year 11 and Year 12 students acted as guides and impressed us with their social skills. Each group stayed in each classroom for 10 minutes and were entertained by drama productions, power point presentations, scientific experiments and cookery demonstrations. When the classrooms had been visited everyone went to the hall for a cuppa, a scone and a chat. All agreed that it was a very enjoyable night.

### L.E.T. PROGRAMME

The Let Programme is an Enterprise and Adventure Programme for Year 9 students. This programme consists of a total of 3 residentials each lasting 3 days. 10 students from year 9 have the opportunity to get involved in activities like: Gorge Walking, Raft building, Archery, Wall Climbing & Canoeing.

One Student's highlights of the residentials to date was the wall climbing and she also said she enjoyed meeting the other students from the different schools.



SHOWCASE 2007

On Monday 29th January 6 students from St John's took part in Showcase 2007 Drama and Visual Arts held in the Island Arts Centre in Lisburn. St Conor's Deaf Unit from Omagh travelled with St John's. Twelve schools throughout Northern Ireland took part and our students did us proud. Led by adviser Jim McKeown, who led six workshops, the students devised their own 10 minute mime depicting different scenarios and activities. Their act was much appreciated by the organisers and audience. Some parents travelled to Lisburn to see the show and all agreed that it was a great day.

#### The following students took part:

Dean Wells Doherty, Lauren Donnelly, Amy McGirr, Michael McGrath, James McDonagh & Megan Campbell



#### ..... **Open Night and the History Department**

On Open Night the History Department invited some famous historical characters to the college. We had the lovely, but unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots along with her cousin Elizabeth I. Her executioner also made his presence felt, axe in hand.

We were honoured to have two Irish women from the 19th century. One, a poor Irish peasant from the time of the famine, and the other was the elegant wife of a landlord.

From the 20th century we had the pleasure of an American soldier dressed in Khaki uniform. Finally and by no means least, Anne Frank graced us with her presence clutching her precious diary.

A big thank you to all 9A1 students who took part! .....

# OPEN DAY

On the 1st February '07 117 Primary 7 students were welcomed to St John's Business & Enterprise College. They had the opportunity to sample a range of practical activities in a number of subjects including Home Economics, Physical Education, Technology & Design, Art & Design, Science and Information Technology. They also had the opportunity to visit the college canteen at morning break and lunchtime. From the photographs you can see they all had a most enjoyable day.



### REVOLVING DOORS DRAMA PRODUCTION

As part of the Religious Education programme the Year 12 students attended a drama in Omagh Leisure Centre on the 1st February. This drama was performed by a specialist health promotion theatre company HeARTH. The play sensitively explored the subject of teen suicide. The play is also part of the Re think mental illiness anti-stigma campaign, Jan—Feb 2007 which is widely advertised at present.

After the performance there was a short workshop led by the actors to help students address some of the issues and questions posed by the play. The workshop provided excellent opportunity for discussion and students were provided with helpful contact names and telephone numbers if ever in need of someone to talk to for example: The Samaritans. It was an excellent visit and most beneficial.

#### NEW SPORTS CENTRE

Work is continuing at a rapid pace on the new sports centre with the site works and painting almost complete. The new sports floor which is the final piece of the jigsaw will be laid as soon as the concrete floor has dried out sufficiently. New lighting which is to be fitted on the driveways approaching the centre has just been approved and will be installed shortly.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECTS HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

St Macartans Primary School, Dullaghan have just completed their 6 week session in the Home Economics Department. They enjoyed an array of practical activities and they developed their hygiene, health & safety and cooking skills. The students also increased their knowledge about healthy eating and leading a healthy lifestyle.

A great 6 weeks was had by all students.



### A geography/literacy project for Year 8 students

Year 8 geography class are involved with Belfast Telegraph in an Education Geography Literacy project which has been designed specifically for Year 8. This resource is packed full of geographical stimuli to improve literacy, numeracy and geographical skills. It is a 5-week project which began on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2007.



### <u>Ski Trip</u>

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2007, 15 students from St John's headed off on a week long skiing trip to Switzerland. The students stayed at Haut Lac International centre which was excellent in providing Skiing Lessons and a range of evening activities such as ten pin bowling, casino night, a range of games and a disco. The students spent their first two days skiing on the Diablerets glacier which was 3000 metres high and the remainder of the trip skiing at the resort of Saananmosa. All students were assessed on their skiing at the end of the week and also took part in a Slalom race on the final day. All students were presented with a Snowsports award indicating the level of skiing they achieved at a special awards ceremony on the last night. The holiday was thoroughly enjoyed by all students and staff.

