



# HILL TOP NEWS



10th Edition  
March 2008

A Newsletter from St John's Business & Enterprise College

## St Johns' receive 2nd place in Northern Ireland in Young Consumer Competition 2008



All Year ten students travelled to Lisburn to attend an award ceremony organised by the Consumer council for Northern Ireland. All pupils participated in designing a newsletter for a teenager highlighting consumer issues such as fraud, environmental issues, consumer rights and responsibilities and how shops treat young people.

James Mc Donagh, Clare Mc Manus, Arlene Anthony and Arnoldas Sileikis achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of all the schools in Northern Ireland. Also individual prizes were awarded to Katherine Irvine, Megan Campbell and Roisin Mc Grade for their unique contribution to the newsletter.

The school was awarded £200 and the pupils received a plaque, individual certificates and vouchers for HMV. A very exciting and eventful day had by all. Miss Ormsby would like to thank all year 10 students for their participation in this competition.

### *SCHOOL DETAILS*

#### PRINCIPAL:

Ms C Doherty

#### SCHOOL ADDRESS:

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Dromore

Co Tyrone

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Telephone: 02882 898284

### *SCHOOL CLOSINGS*

#### St Patrick's Day

Monday 17th March 2008

#### Easter Holidays—

Friday 21st March -

Friday 28th March '08

(inclusive)

#### Staff Development Day

Monday 31st March 2008

### *ST JOHN'S WEBSITE*

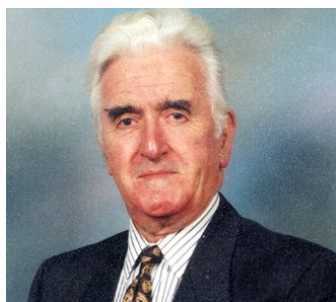
St John's College website is now online including the latest news, information and school pictures from the past and the present. You can visit it at:

[www.stjohnsdromore.com](http://www.stjohnsdromore.com)

## ST JOHN'S MOURNES THE PASSING OF ITS FIRST PRINCIPAL

**Hugh James Colton RIP**

**Principal 1965—1986**



Hugh James Colton was the first principal of St John's High school. He was a native of Dromore and a man of intellect and integrity. He earned the respect of students and teachers alike with his easy and gracious manner. Our condolences to his wife Margie, and his four sons Joseph, Adrian, Stephen and Edwin.

## Organised Crime task force

Year 11 students attended a seminar in the Killyhevlin Hotel in Enniskillen hosted by the Organised Crime task force. This event was specifically set up for pupils who are completing GCSE Learning for life and work. The OCFT includes the PSNI, ARA, serious crime officers and HM revenue and customs. During the day students were able to view stalls and talk to experts about anti-fuel laundering, illegal drugs, counterfeit CD, s and DVD's, counterfeit money, the role of the Assets Recovery Agency and counterfeit clothes. They stressed that organised crime is increasing in Northern Ireland and is having an adverse affect on the community.

At the end of the seminar students had an opportunity to ask the experts question. All students enjoyed the workshops and learned a lot about organised crime in their community.

## Just Doodle It!

Over 100 students and staff members participated in our first National Doodle Day on Friday 7th March 2008. Pupils from St Dymphna's PS, Dromore Controlled PS and St John's College gathered in the new Sports Complex to draw and raise money for Epilepsy Action and Neurofibromatosis Association. The total amount raised was £155. A huge thanks to everyone who was involved and keep on doodling!!!!!!!!!!!!



## ACTION CANCER VISIT THE SCHOOL



The action cancer support group visited the school to provide a talk to all year 11 students about having a healthy diet, how smoking causes many types of cancers, how alcohol contributes to poor health and how to reduce the risk of getting cancer. The year 11 students donated £100 to the Charity.

Miss L Ormsby with the students presenting the cheque to a representative from Action Cancer

## Cross Border Day 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Year 9 students took part in a youth Sport Cross Community / Cross Border Day on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The other schools involved were Lisnaskea High School, Ballinode College and Grange Vocational school both from Sligo. The activities took place in the new sports complex at St John's and these included boxercise, kwik cricket, tag rugby and Volley ball. The day proved to be a tremendous success with many new friendships formed. A follow up residential course has been arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April in Bundoran Activity centre where activities will include absailing, surfing and horse riding.



## Pottery Night Class Great Success

Fergus Cleary, Belleek Pottery, recently ran a pottery night class in St John's College. Members of the community took the opportunity to make a range of clay pots and fire and glaze them. They also had a go at making model figures. They all thoroughly enjoyed the course.



## Valentines Day: Healthy Eating Competition



A healthy eating competition was designed by the Home Economics Department and the school canteen. Children were asked to design a special menu for Valentines Day which incorporated fruit and vegetables, meat and potatoes. Year 8 and 9 students participated in this competition and the winner which was Leona Bradley received a meal for four people in the canteen on Valentine's Day. Congratulations to all students who took part.



## HAIR RAISING TIME AT W5



Sinead Marlow trying out one of the many attractions at the W5

On 6<sup>th</sup> February, all Year 8 students were taken to W5 in the Odyssey, Belfast, accompanied by Ms McLaughlin, Ms Bradley and Ms Grogan. Bombardier Aerospace, Belfast provided an interactive show on flight introducing the forces involved in flight. The show also illustrated the challenges facing engineers when designing passenger aircrafts. Pupils were then able to browse the many interactive exhibits around W5 that covered many curriculum areas such as Science, Technology, Art and Design, Mathematics, ICT, and English. A fun day was had by all pupils and was a great insight into the uses of Science and Maths in the real world.

## ST JOHN'S STUDENTS WORK TOWARDS GAINING THE PRESIDENTS AWARD

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of February Michael Collins from the Presidents Award Scheme came to talk to the Year 11 students. The President's Award is Ireland's National Challenge Award, the country's most prestigious and respected individual award programme, and a challenge from the President of Ireland, to young people between 15 and 25 years of age. There are four different areas of activities in the Award Programme and you must participate in each section. They are personal skill, community involvement, physical recreation and venture activities. The year 11 students are signing up and will begin their challenge this week.

## ORIENTEERING

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008 Year 11 GCSE P.E students took part in an inter schools Orienteering competition in Drum Manor Forest Park, Cookstown. This was a new experience for the pupils who did exceptionally well for their first time in such a competition. Outstanding performances came from Steven Mc Cann, who completed the course in the fastest time (13.01), Cathal Teague, Declan Mc Kenna and Turlough Mc Dermott.

The class will complete an 8 week orienteering course after the Easter holidays with an experienced coach coming into the school to take the class.

## BONE FUN DAY

On 6<sup>th</sup> February a number of Year 10 students accompanied by Mrs Nugent were invited to Omagh Leisure Centre for the Bone Fun Day. This was organised by Sperrin Lakeland Trust to promote health and well being among teenagers. Congratulations to the 'Banjo boys' who won the quiz in the afternoon, Sean Muldoon 10A2, Rory McCusker 10A2, Declan McGurran 10A2, Corey Slevin 10A1, Paul McGrath 10A1 and Michael McGrath 10A1. A great day was had by all.



Turlough and Steven studying their maps

# CAREERS PAGE

As it nears to our Year 12 students sitting their summer examinations, the school invited in various organisations to talk to them to help them make decisions and help them to choose their prospective career paths after they leave in June.

## Career talks for Year 12



On the **21<sup>st</sup> of February** a **CITB bus** visited St. John's to inform the students of what is available to students interested in working in the world of construction. They represent every part of the construction industry, from architects to bricklayers, in every part of the UK. And they cover every part of the skills agenda - from grants to college places. As CITB say "We understand what the industry wants and needs; we tell that directly to government, and we have the power to get things done".

## South West College - Omagh Campus presentation to Year 12



On the **21<sup>st</sup> of February** Michelle from the careers office gave a presentation to our Year 12 students on the range of Full-Time, Training for Success programmes and Higher Education which are available at Omagh. It was very informative and she was very pleased at the number of relevant questions that she fielded.

## Craft Recruitment & Training



On the **6<sup>th</sup> of March**, **Julie Mc Gonigle** gave a presentation on how C.R.A.F.T. Recruitment & Training gives the pupils the tools they need to get a job or get ahead in their career. C·R·A·F·T recruitment and training are one of the largest providers for construction and furniture qualifications throughout Ireland. They deliver (NVQs) National Vocational Qualifications at levels 2 and 3 under the job-skills Training Programme for both Traineeship and Modern Apprenticeships.



## Year 11 and 12 students experience a spiritual retreat on Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday a Catholic Charity team from Canada came to spend the day delivering a spiritual retreat to all year 11 and year 12 students.

The charity team were vibrant young people who want to share their faith with our students. The day was filled with fun activities, incorporated with teachings about Jesus, prayer service, the receiving of Ashes, and finished with receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation. The Priests in attendance were Fr. Mc Entee, Fr Mc Kenna & Fr. Mc Gourty. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by the students and below are some of their comments.

"I think the net team was good craic and a good experience. The people were young and we could relate to them easily. The team did a drama. I enjoyed the day and I would like them to visit again."

"I thought the Net team was great! It was so exciting and while craic! The mass was really nice and had lovely music. I loved the way the small group leader said a little prayer for me at Mass. I would love them to come back next year before I leave the school. It was a fabulous experience"

"All day we had different activities which were really enjoyable. What I liked most was the girly chats we had when all the girls were brought together. It was an amazing day and I really learned a lot from them."

"I really enjoyed the retreat. It was fun but I learned a lot. The small prayer service I thought was good and the personal time for prayer gave you a chance to think about your connection with God".

## **LET PROGRAMME (Feb 08)**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February, the Year 9s set off with Jimmy and Miss Kennedy for their third and final Residential for the Let Programme. It was held again in Portneal Lodge in Kilrea and despite some terrible weather a great time was had by everyone.

The students all had the chance to go canoeing and attend a fabulous gala night dinner and disco. During their enterprise training they all designed, made and marketed their own product. Ciara Teague, Amy McGirr and Dale Healy were all part of the winning team. All the products made were fantastic, well done to everyone!



# Young Enterprise Year 10

Young Enterprise ran a **Project Business Day** with all of Year 10 students on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2008. The students were asked what they liked about the day. Among the responses were: "I liked everything about today.... Working in the groups.... Discussing what we want to be when we are older..... Making, designing and advertising a product...".



Declan and Aine receiving a prize from Lorna Mc Manus of "Young Enterprise" for their great efforts and leadership throughout the programme.



The lads won a prize for the best promotional and marketing ideas from Lorna



The girls presenting their "Time to Play"



The girls won a prize for the best business idea - "The Crazy Baby" from Lorna

"RC Cars" produced a nifty car and promised you could go "drifting for free"





## YEAR II VIST TO GREENMOUNT COLLEGE, CO ANTRIM

11v students along with their science teacher Mr Mc Carron attended the CAFRE open day at Greenmount College. Students attended a total of five workshops where they learned about every thing from animal husbandary, horticulture, food production to eco fuels. They also received a certificate on completion of the workshops.



## YEAR 8 LIBRARY COMPETITION

Congratulations to all Year 8 students for participating in the recent Library competition. 1st place went to Chloe McCaffrey, 2nd Hayley Slevin and 3rd was Melissa McCann. Well done to all students who entered the competition.



Pictured are Chloe, Hayley and Melissa receiving their prizes from Ms Clare-Kelly

## U16 Vocational Schools Hurling



The St Johns U16 team which took part in the Ulster Vocational schools blitz held at the mid Ulster sports arena Cookstown on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March.