



# HILL TOP NEWS



16th Edition  
April 2009

A Newsletter from St John's Business & Enterprise College

## TWO TOP AWARDS FOR ST JOHN'S THROUGH THE EXTENDED SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March was the celebration of achievements made possible by Extended Schools Funding. The Extended Schools' Programme was introduced by the Department of Education three years ago to support underachievement, improve the life chances of young people and promote health and well-being through an integrated delivery model. 96 people representing a wide number of primary and second level schools from the WELB came together in the Silver Birch Hotel. Each school had the opportunity to nominate people for awards. The awards categories included Reducing Underachievement, Improving Life Chances, Fostering Help Wellbeing and Social Inclusion and Integrating Delivery and Service.



Paula Bresnahan, who teaches the students for hairdressing and Bernie McDermott, who teaches beauty techniques both won awards which were richly deserved and have made an impact on the lives of the pupils and the community. St John's staff were delighted when the first award was announced and amazed at the second one as St John's was the only school with a double celebration. Well done girls!

Paula & Bernie pictured with Ms Doherty, Principal

### *SCHOOL DETAILS*

#### PRINCIPAL:

Ms C Doherty

#### SCHOOL ADDRESS:

37 Omagh Road

Dromore

Co Tyrone

BT 78 3AL

Telephone: 02882 898284

### *SCHOOL CLOSINGS*

#### Easter Holidays -

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 09 –

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 09

(inclusive).

#### Bank Holiday -

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009

#### School Website

<http://stjohnsdromore.com>

## ~ St Johns Home Economics pupils cook up a storm ~

### ~ Students reach final of national cookery competition~



Seven students from St Johns are celebrating after reaching the finals of a national healthy fast food cookery competition. The students beat off stiff competition from across the UK to make the grand final of the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) 'Fast Food from Scratch' challenge.

The BHF challenged young people to devise a healthy fast food recipe which could be cooked from scratch in fifteen minutes using only raw ingredients. Seven of the finalists all attend St. John's B & E College, Dromore.

This was a nationwide competition and St Johns were awarded the top seven places. This was a fantastic honour both for the pupils, the Home Economics department and St Johns. To have seven prizes given to one school is a brilliant achievement, especially as it was a nationwide competition.

The students aged between 12 and 14 years of age created dishes such as 'Short n Sweet Spicy Chicken' and 'Fruity Attack'. Their recipes were tasted by a panel of judges in London and the winner in 1<sup>st</sup> place with her recipe for 'Mexican Attack,' was Natalie Pearson. Her prize was a £100 voucher for Topshop.

Coming in at second place was Mary McGowan and Melissa McCann with their recipe, Short n Sweet, Sweet and Sour Chicken and they both won a £40 sports voucher. Keeley Wilson and Sinead Marlow were joint 3<sup>rd</sup>. Leona Bradley 5<sup>th</sup> and Naomi McManus coming in at 7<sup>th</sup> position.

"The 'Fast Food from Scratch' competition is a fantastic way for young people to create healthy dishes which they enjoy cooking. The finalist's recipes are available on [www.yheart.net](http://www.yheart.net) and a 'How to cook film' illustrates how easy it is to create simple dishes which are good for you. We had many fantastic entries for the competition and it was hard to cut them down to this final group."

## French Breakfast (Le petit déjeuner français)

On the morning of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March the Year 8's enjoyed a fantastic French Breakfast organised by Miss Kennedy and Miss Bogue. All the pupils got the chance to experience a typical French breakfast with croissants, pain au chocolat and brioche. They also had the chance to taste some lovely French cheeses. The morning ended with a fun French quiz. A great time was had by all. Thanks to Veronica McCanny, Deirdre McCusker and Miss Doherty who all helped out.



## PRIMARY SCHOOLS HOME ECONOMICS PROGRAMME

St Joseph's Primary School, Drumquin and Magherlough Primary School, Trillick have just finished their six week block in Home Economics. During their time in Home Economics they made dishes e.g. mini pizzas, cupcakes and Easter nests. Well done to them for all their hard work!! As you can see from the photographs below everyone really enjoyed the experience.



## Spring Concert



Students from St Johns will be taking part in a Spring Concert which will take place in early May. Preparation is already underway and you will be guaranteed a great nights entertainment. We hope to have great support from the community and we look forward to seeing you on the night.



## New cross- community facility opens in Dromore

A new Community Room attached to Dromore Sports Complex, was officially opened on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The Community Room, which was developed at a cost of approximately £118,000 is part of a £1.4 million development to enhance the overall provision of Recreation facilities in Dromore. The new Community Room will provide a modern facility for a wide range of cross community events including meetings, workshops, training and social activities.

Speaking at the opening ceremony Brian Mc Carron on behalf of Dromore Education & Community Partnership said “ This facility opens the doors to an new era of cross community activity in the Dromore area” He continued

“This facility has come about after many years of hard work on behalf of all concerned and I would like to publicly acknowledge the initial work of Diane Forysthe through the Vibrant Villages Programme, the guidance offered by the RDC's project officer Eamonn Mc Mullen and the assistance of Omagh District Council.”

This truly community resource is available for use by both Controlled and Maintained schools during the day and by all people throughout the village and surrounding area in the evening.



L to R Harold Stewart (Holy Trinity Church), Martin McColgan (Chairman ODC), Rev Fr McEntee(St Davogs), Joy Hadden (RDC), Christine Doherty (St John's B & E College) and Robert Thompson (Holy Trinity Church)



Martin McColgan, Chairman of Omagh District Council addressing the audience



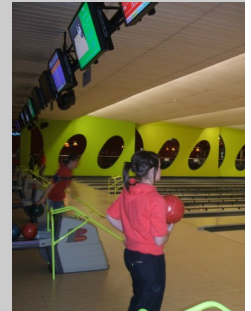
Ms Joy Hadden from RDC unveiling the commemorative plaque with Mr Brian McCarron from DECP



The Cross Community Choir consisting of students from Dromore PS, St Dymrna's PS and St John's B & E College

## Quinn House Trip

Quinn House were the winners of the school's house points system and 32 members of this house both students and staff enjoyed a fun day out in Derry on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. The day began with a game of bowls and a chance to play on the arcade games. The students then spent the rest of the afternoon shopping in Foyleside in Derry. Well done to all members who gained points for the team. The race is on again for all the other houses (Branson, Cowell, Gates and Quinn) to see who will win the summer outing. Keep those points coming in!!! Below are some of the photographs from the Quinn trip.



## 8A2 students visit The Strule Arts Centre

On 25th February our class 8A2 went to the Strule Arts Centre. The purpose of our visit was to find out about our different cultures. There were representatives from: the GAA, the Orange Order, Ulster Scots Society and there was also a man speaking about the Irish language. It was interesting and gave our class an insight into the different cultures that are in our community.

Written by Conor McGurren - 8A2

## BEST KEPT SCHOOL AWARD COMPETITION

St John's have decided this year to enter the above competition. Everyone must agree that the grounds around the school are so well kept and maintained. This year the grounds to the front of the Sports Complex have been landscaped, wooden garden benches have been placed around the school, new planted permanent wooden containers constructed at the rear of the school and an array of potted containers on windows etc. We are currently reconstructing the pond and garden area behind the Science Block.

In the greenhouse we are growing tomatoes, lettuce, chives, parsley etc. We are also using recycled materials such as old sinks to put flowers in, old bins to grow potatoes in. We still have a long way to go, as you can see from the photographs below, but we know that this will be well worth it in the long term. Help us in this competition by keeping all areas of the school clean, tidy and litter free.



## FUNDRAISING - MAD HAIR DAY

Friday 3rd April saw St John's students transforming themselves into characters from the Rocky Horror picture show. Students showed their artistic flair through innovative and colourful hairstyles or by wearing their pyjamas, some even both! The day was organised by Miss Anita McKenna, a student teacher who had been completing her 8 week teacher placement in St John's. Students and staff, yes staff, both took part to raise money in aid of Autism Northern Ireland. As you can see from the photographs below a great day was had by all at the school.



Mary McGowan & Niamh Rafferty dressed for the day!!



Shannon Slevin & Maurice McCloughan present Miss McKenna with flowers on the day as she had completed her placement and her time in St John's. We wish her all the best



Chelsea McKenna, Ciara McCarney, Niamh Campbell and Eimear Curran enjoying the days fun.

## HEARTSTART LIFE SAVING TRAINING

Years 9, 10 & 11 students are embarking on a Heart Start course which involves training in emergency life support. Students learn about the chain of survival needed to recognise an emergency such as a heart attack and getting help early to prevent cardiac arrest. They also will help to keep the casualty alive by providing CPR until the ambulance arrives with a defibrillator. They will receive valuable training and experience using the twelve resuscitation mannequins and one Baby mannequin. After 6 weeks all students will be tested and receive a Heart start certificate.

The Heart Start Programme is a partnership between Western Health & Social Care Trust, WELB, and the British Heart Foundation. All equipment and teacher training has been provided free of charge by the British Heart Foundation who is dedicated to educating children in the importance of healthy hearts. Five of the staff at St. John's have been trained to teach the programme to the students.

Flo Harper, a Cardiac Nurse in Tyrone County Hospital, was a recent guest speaker in the school for Year 9 students. Flo discussed the importance of looking after the heart and adopting a healthier lifestyle.



## KEY PROGRAMME COMES TO AN END FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR

Congratulations to the Year 11 students who completed Residential 4 of the KEY Programme at the Share Centre in Lisnaskea.

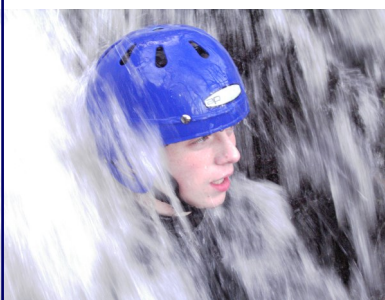
The students were: Shauna McNabb, Ciara McNabb, Katherine Irvine, Mairead McGoldrick, Fiona McAleer, Sean Muldoon, Jimmy McDonagh, Paul McGrath, Barry Skelton, Corey Slevin and Deividas Paliokas.

On KEY Camp 4 the pupils were put into business groups with students from other schools and had to design and make a product, and then sell it to the public in Armagh Shopping Centre.

### Achievements on Key Camp

“Ebony” was the name of the business group who won “Best Overall Business” and Ciara McNabb and Deividas Paliokas were part of that group who designed and made Dome boxes. A big congratulations to Jimmy McDonagh who was voted “personality of Key Camp” – voted by the KEY Camp leaders Jimmy was also voted “King of Camp” by the other students on the programme.

Mairead McGoldrick was given the prize for the “most hands on” students for always giving an extra helping hand to the leaders.



## Performing arts at St John's

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February we went to the Strule Arts Centre in Omagh. We took part in three workshops which included animation, drumming and stage combat.

The first workshop we went to was Stage Combat. The class was taken by Colin Ashe. We learnt how to give a stage punch, slap, kick, strangle, neck break and hair pull which was really good craic.

The next workshop was called Different Drums. We saw lots of different drums from around the world and we got to play along and move to the beat. We got to see and play different drums from Ireland such as the Lambeg, Bodhran and a variety of African drums as well.

In the Animation workshop we got to make our own characters from plasticine and then make films using them. This was very detailed and we had to concentrate very hard.

I enjoyed the stage fighting the best because I think I could use it in the future.

Written by Sinead Marlow

## Year 8 students visit library to meet famous author Joe Craig

(Sorcha McGrade tells below of their visit)

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March myself and 16 other 8A2 students went to the Strabane Library. We went there to meet the author Joe Craig. He explained to us how to plan out a story. Also, he was promoting his own novels. Joe's books are called the Jimmy Coates series. Jimmy Coates is part robot part boy and a hundred percent deadly. He was entertaining especially when he read from his books. We all had a great morning and enjoyed meeting him.

## World Book Day 5<sup>th</sup> March

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March in collaboration with other schools in the WELB St John's took part in silent reading for fifteen minutes. The suggested time was from 1.45 to 2pm. The aim was for everyone working in schools to read at the same time to celebrate World Book Day. The origins of this day come from Catalonia in Spain.



## LITERACY LEAPS

9 pupils from Year 8 received certificates after completing a 10 week programme on reading under the guidance of the Reading Partnership Programme. The tutors, Helena Kelly, Una Callaghan and Aisling Doherty share credit with the pupils who all gained in Reading Ages from 6 months to 2 years.

## CAREERS TRAINING WITHIN ST JOHN'S

This term as part of the Careers programme we had two seminars.

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April Roisin McFeeley delivered a superb revision seminar to Year 11 & 12 pupils in preparation for exam time. Students were given an opportunity to discover their individual learning styles: kinaesthetic, auditory or visual. Study skills, timetabling and motivational factors were other beneficial learning areas delivered to the students. This was a highly beneficial programme, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April Sentinus ran an Interview Skills Day, which gave the pupils a chance to be interviewed by employers from the local community. Thanks to Pat Jamieson (Sentinus), Debbie Deans (First Trust Bank), Heather McCormack (Leckpatrick), Sean Connelly (Allied Irish Bank), James Rooney (Deni Careers Service) Ronan McAteer (Deni Careers Service).



Students all suitably dressed for their interviews on the day

## STUDENTS VISIT LOUGH DERG

While Lough Derg has been renowned as a place of pilgrimage for thousands of years, and is more commonly associated with penance and purgatory, pilgrims are more conscious these days of the spiritual atmosphere of the Island. In today's noisy and hectic world, people appreciate a haven of peace.

Years 9 and 11 students were given the opportunity to attend a spiritual retreat in Lough Derg on Ash Wednesday. Students were given an opportunity to reflect and prepare for Lent. They also attended a cross-community service in the Basilica. It was an enjoyable experience for all who attended.



## "WIGS ON THE GREEN"

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the Dromore players presented their version of the comedy "Wigs on the Green" in the school Gym. It was wonderful to see such a large turn out especially as on this occasion the proceeds were to be equally divided between The Fields of Life and The Spirit of Paul McGirr fund. This light hearted comedy was well received by the appreciative audience and we are delighted to report that the grand sum of £3000 was raised. Congratulations and well done to all. Mr C Kenwell on behalf of Dromore Players wished to thank all the staff at St John's for their hospitality in preparation for the play.



## VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS U16 BOYS B FINAL

The team who were unlucky to be defeated in the final by 1 point. On the day we were missing a few regular good players due to injury and failed a physically bigger and stronger Castlederg team. Playing with a strong breeze St John's dominated the 1st half but did not get the scores that their approach play deserved. Castlederg landed a killer punch with a goal on the stroke of half time. This meant that playing against the breeze in the second half St John's were constantly under pressure. After missing a penalty they finally were caught by another goal from Castlederg who went on to win by the slimmest of margins. Commiserations to the team and their coach Jimmy McCloughan.



## LET PROGRAMME (MARCH 09)

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

The students had the chance to go canoeing and attend a fabulous gala night dinner and disco. During their enterprise training they designed, made and marketed their own product. Cora Mc Kenna and Donna Mc Nabb were part of the winning team. All the products made were fantastic and everyone's presentations were brilliant. Well done to everyone!

