



Christmas Newsletter; December 2007, Volume 1, Issue 5.

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Concern Christmas 24hr. Fast: There has been an outstanding response to the Concern 24hr. Fast from all our students. We have collected over €800 to date and we expect this sum to rise over the coming weeks. The money will be used in the construction of schools and hospitals and to develop farming projects in the Third World. Thanks to everyone who took part and donated money.

Masonite Visit: A few weeks ago, LCVP students went on a factory visit to Masonite. The visit allowed students to investigate the importance of health and safety in the workplace and to learn about the highly automated process Masonite use to produce their award-winning door skins. Thanks to Ms. Weir, Ms. Burke and Mrs. Scanlon for arranging the trip.

French Film: The 4th Year French students went to a screening of the French film "Comme une Image" at Carrick Cineplex last Wednesday. The film was enjoyed by all.

Retreat: Last week 1st year students took part in a 3 day retreat in the medieval setting of Ballintubber Abbey in Mayo. Students took part in music, art and drama activities. The students were complimented for their exemplary behaviour and they found the trip really beneficial. Thanks to Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Lynch for organising everything .

Boys U-16 Soccer: The U-16 squad had a comprehensive win over Ballinode in their final group game in Connacht 'B' competition. With a very strong squad performance that saw goals from David Murphy, Gerard Kelly, Keith McGrath, Drew Maitland, Hughie McGowan and Mickey O'Rourke, the team advanced to the quarter-finals after Christmas.

L.C.A. Day of Reflection: LCAs enjoyed a day of reflection at Holy Hill Carmelite Hermitage on Dec. 5th. They enjoyed walks, talks and art work and claim to have returned truly enlightened!

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!



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CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Our annual Christmas Carol Service will be held on Tuesday 18th December from 7:30 to 8:30pm. The music will be performed by the music students accompanied by Ms. Gardiner and Mr. Rooney and will be followed by light refreshments provided by the Parents' Association.

All members of the community are welcome—parents, students, neighbours, and friends. See you there!

IN THIS ISSUE

- Carol Service
- Transition Year
- A Word from the Principal
- Careers Evening
- Reflection
- Public Speaking
- Diary Dates
- Defibrillator
- Christmas Crib
- Concern 24hr. Fast
- Masonite Trip
- French Film
- Retreat
- U-16 Soccer
- LCA Reflection

TRANSITION YEAR

The school recently announced that it was looking at introducing the Transition Year Program (TYP) in Sept. 2008.

After detailed consultation between staff, the Board of Management and the Parent's Association it was decided that the TYP would be a worthwhile and beneficial addition to the school's existing academic programs.

Our TYP will be unique to the school and will be designed by the teachers to cater for the needs of our students. Is a one year program that will be offered to the current Third Years. It will be optional and will only commence if there is sufficient interest amongst students. Those students who take part will, after one year, start the Leaving Cert cycle as normal. As well as studying the core subjects—English, Irish, Maths etc., TY students will have an opportunity to sample a range of other subjects (Technology, Music, Science, Home Ec. etc.) which will help in their subject choice for the Leaving Cert. Project work, work experience, guest speakers and educational trips will be an integral part of the program also. The staff were recently briefed on the benefits of the program by Michael O'Leary, the National TY Coordinator. An information evening for parents will be held on February 4th where the TYP will be explained in more detail. We would ask everyone to attend to discover what our TYP will have to offer.

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The first term has been a very busy and productive one.

I want to thank everyone who took part in the non-uniform day which raised funds for a new defibrillator. Some weeks ago we identified a real need for this piece of life-saving equipment considering our rural location. A word of thanks too goes to the Parents' Association without whose help the defibrillator could not have been purchased.

The recent announcement that we are hoping to introduce Transition Year next September is a new and exciting step for the school. The more options we can create for our students the better our school will be. There has been a lot of work done behind the scenes and I'd like to acknowledge everyone's input to date.

I would also like to encourage all the parents of 3rd Years and the students themselves to attend the



information night on February 4th to find out more about this new program.

Finally I want to congratulate the Public Speakers and to thank everyone for their continued hard work and dedication this term

Happy Christmas and all the best for 2008.

CAREERS EVENING

A careers evening was held on December 5th with nearly thirty occupations being represented.

Third, Fourth and Fifth year students had the opportunity

to meet people from a wide variety of career areas, gain an insight into the reality of the workplace and to check out what career areas may suit them.

We would like to thank everyone who generously gave up their time to come and chat to students about their jobs. Their cooperation is very much appreciated and valued by the students.



Parent's Assoc. members Vincent Carty and Teresa O'Rourke presenting the defibrillator to members of the student body, Sinead Kearns and Michael Byrne.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"May the forgiving spirit of Him to whom we dedicate this season prevail again on earth.

May hunger disappear and terrorists cease their senseless acts.

May the sanctity of the

home be ever preserved.

May peace, everlasting peace reign supreme."

(Soundings, Vol. 2, no. 12)

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Congratulations to the Public Speaking team who won the Sligo Mental Health Association Public Speaking Competition recently. The team spoke on the topic of "To live without hope is to cease to live" and faced tough opposition from Summer Hill and the Ursline Convent. The team now goes on to the North West Regional Final at the end of January. Best of luck!



Mental Health Public Speaking Winners Cian Harte, Carmel Geithin, Colin Hamilton and Annemarie Kelly pictured with Ms. Acheson, Ms. Davey and family members.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Christmas Hols: School closing at 1p.m. 21st Dec; reopens 7th Jan.

2nd Yr. Parent/Teacher Meeting: Tuesday 29th Jan. (4—6.45pm)

CAO/CAS Applications by 1st Feb

Transition Year Info. Evening: February 4th

Mocks: 6th-8th and 18th-22nd Feb.

Mid-Term: 11th –15th February

Easter Hols: 17th-28th March

Christmas Fundraising Raffle

Tickets are on sale for the raffle which will take place on Thursday 20th December.

With many good prizes on offer, including two nights B&B in the Silver Tassel Hotel in Letterkenny, we would ask everyone to support. Tickets cost €2 each or a book of 10 for €15.

NEW DEFIBRILLATOR PURCHASED

The school recently purchased a defibrillator with saving device was given by the help and support of the Parents' Association.

As part of a First-Aid course Afterwards, the principal undertaken by staff, a demonstration as to the purpose of this life saving device was given by local cardiac nurse, Michael McDonagh.

The funds were raised by a non-uniform day held on December 7th with the balance generously covered by the Parents' Association.

Cribs: Well done to Mr. Ryan and the 3rd years who worked hard on Friday morning on the crib and the Christmas Tree. The main hall looks great especially with the fairy on top of the tree. Anyone with a donkey is asskded to tie him to the front gate!