



Dear Parent/Guardians,

Welcome to our Easter Newsletter. We have had a very busy time this term and we are delighted to share with you some of the highlights of the last few months. Our girls have been active in lots of different areas and engaged in many new and exciting experiences. Well done to them. For further information and photos from some of these events, please visit our website [www.holyfaith.ie](http://www.holyfaith.ie).

### **Emmanuel 2013**

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 80 students from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year attended the Emanuel Concert in the Helix, D.C.U. Emmanuel is an initiative, run by the Dublin Diocese to promote the performance of quality liturgical music in our post-primary schools. This is St. Mary's 3<sup>rd</sup> year involved and the concert was a huge success. The students had an enjoyable experience and inspired all present with their energetic and joyful performance. Thanks are also due to the Music and Religion Departments, who worked hard to prepare the students for the concert and Ms. Harrington who organised our participation in the event. Particular praise is due to two of our students who played a very important role in the concert. Gemma Lambe and Nicole O' Connor led a prayer for Pope Benedict to mark the occasion of his retirement. They were assisted by Ms. Noone, who prepared them for their part and they did St Mary's proud! Well done to all involved.

### **Biology Trip**

Ms. Horrigan and Ms. Dempsey's Biology classes recently attended a practical workshop on genetics and forensic science in Coláiste Dhúlaigh. This is an annual event which students attend and reports from Coláiste Dhúlaigh have been very positive regarding the participation and courtesy of our students attending. Students carried out a range of experimental activities ranging from DNA extraction, to making bacteria glow in the dark. Student feedback following the event was very positive. These are just some of the comments students made: "I found the experience very worthwhile", "I now have a greater insight about what it would be like to study forensics in science", "It gave me a feel for college life".

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Bhí seachtain deas againn anseo i Meánscoil an Chreidimh Naofa do Sheachtain na Gaeilge. Bhí a lán imeachtaí ar siúl agus Gaeilge á labhairt timpeall na scoile. Rinne an Chéad Bhliain suaitheantais iontacha agus bhuaigh roinnt daltaí duaiseanna don obair ealaíonta. Bhí fógraí ildaite crochta ar na ballaí ag an Dara Bliain agus Tráth na gCeist taitneamhach ag an gCúigiú Bliain. Bhain gach duine taitneamh mór as Seachtain na Gaeilge.

### **Sports' Department News**

- ✚ The basketball leagues are all now complete with the 1st year team taking pride of place having won their league without losing a game. Well done girls. Unfortunately, our senior team lost out in their semi-final match.
- ✚ Our GAA team recently played Baldoyle in a league match and put on a great display to win the game comfortably. Best on the day were Claire Murray, Sarah Kearney, Kayleigh Clarke, Sarah Murray and Gemma Russell. In the summer term there will be more GAA matches as the league is due to be completed in April and May.
- ✚ In addition, our senior soccer team qualified out of their league group in 2nd position having recently played out a scoreless draw with Gaelscoil Reachrann and beating St. Oliver's, Drogheda by 3 goals to 2. They lost out on the top spot on goal difference and this meant a tough trip to tournament favourites St. Raphael's in the quarter-finals. On the day, the Stillorgan school were too strong and ran out 5-1 winners. Best for the soccer team this year were Sarah Kearney, Sarah

Murray, Nicole Burnett, Chloe Flynn, Gemma Russell and Suzanne O' Leary with Lauryn Fitzgerald from 1st year also making a good contribution.

- ✚ The gym is open every day after school for all students to use. It is great to see students using this facility every day but it would be even better to see it packed out every day after school. An inter-school basketball league will start on Friday 15th March for all years and will continue every Friday, with the emphasis being on enjoyment and playing basketball.

### **The Debating Society**

A new initiative to St. Mary's is the Debating Society which started in January and is coordinated by Ms. Martin and Ms. Hughes. Students who joined us have embraced the art of debating with great enthusiasm. We meet every Monday from 3.35-4.30pm in the school library. So far the students have debated on issues such as 'One Direction is the best boy band in the world', 'The Death Penalty' and 'Irish should be compulsory for the Leaving Certificate'. We are hoping that before long the students will be able to compete against other schools and display their wonderful newly-acquired debating skills. All students are welcome to attend.

### **T.Y. News**

- ✚ Congratulations to Joanna Siewierska, Sylvia Wan and Alicia Kavanagh who were the best speakers in the Glasnevin TY History Tour Guiding Project. On Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> they will conduct a tour of Glasnevin Cemetery along with the best speakers from other schools. We wish them luck.
- ✚ Congratulations to the T.Y. students on their recent successful variety show. Everyone that attended was treated to an extravaganza of song and dance as well as drama and comedy routines. This proved to be a very enjoyable experience for all involved.
- ✚ On Thursday 21st of February Joanna Siewierska, Clara Barry, Danielle Dowling and Shauna Weldridge attended Dáil Éireann for the "Convention in the Classroom". This was a forum for young people to express their views on the constitutional reform. The girls from St. Mary's were intelligent and lively debaters. They made strong points which will hopefully be taken on board by the six politicians present.
- ✚ Our Transition Year students joined forces with Chanel College to stage High School Musical on February 26<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. Chanel College hosted this sold-out event and a brilliant night was had by all who attended. The girls and boys put on a fabulous show and we are very proud of them for their commitment and hard work.
- ✚ Transition year students are participating in a six week paired-reading programme commencing on March 22<sup>nd</sup> with a number of our feeder primary schools. This year four primary schools are participating; St. Brigid's Girls National school in Killester, Scoil Caitriona in Coolock, St. Francis Senior National School in Priorswood and St. Francis of Assisi National School in Belmayne. Over 100 primary school pupils will benefit from this positive reading experience. Transition Year students gain valuable experience working with these students as mentors, acting as role models of education in our local schools and communities. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them well in the coming weeks as ambassadors for reading and know that they will make us all proud of them here in St. Marys. Good luck girls and enjoy the experience.

### **The Guidance Department**

- ✚ DCU Access Scheme: Ten students were chosen to take part in the Dublin City University initiative, DCU Student Shadowing. Each student got to shadow a DCU student in a course of their choice for the day. Any fifth year student was able to apply for this DCU initiative in writing to Ms. Kealy and there were a high number of applications. Well done to the girls chosen.
- ✚ Ten students also took part in Discover DCU on March 13<sup>th</sup>, a separate initiative aimed at helping fifth year students learn more about college and careers at third level.
- ✚ Rainbows' Groups - Two Rainbows' groups are in progress. The first year Rainbows' group takes place on Tuesday mornings. Our second year Rainbows' group has recently begun on Thursday mornings. We sincerely thank the facilitators for their significant support in facilitating the groups. Any parent who would like to facilitate a group next year please contact Ms. Kealy at the school. Full training will be provided. The time commitment is one morning or lunchtime per week for twelve weeks.

- ✚ Leaving Certificate Guidance - All the CAO applications to Third Level are now complete and students are in the process of submitting their documents for the HEAR scheme. Any parent who has difficulty in deciding what documents they need to submit, please feel free to contact Ms. Kealy at the school.
- ✚ Transition Year and Fifth Year Guidance - Transition Years and Fifth Years are currently completing a comprehensive career investigation into a career of their choice. Each Fifth Year student must complete a goal setting form by setting goals for all their subjects in the summer exams. Transition Years are also expected to interview a person in a career of their choice.

### Literacy Week

Literacy week took place here St. Mary's from February 5<sup>th</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup>. Our teachers and students worked tirelessly to revise key language associated with each subject area. A poetry writing/design-a-bookmark competition was also held for all students. We were delighted with the huge number of entries across the different year groups and the high quality of the entries. The winners of the competitions are listed below. Congratulations to all entrants and winners.

#### Poetry Competition Winners:

First Year: Katie O' Connor, Abbie Shelley and Chloe Clarke  
 Second Year: Alanna Lawlor, Megan Delaney, Aimee Clarke, Ellie Rowan & Sasha Woodlock  
 Fifth & Sixth Year: Kate Clarke & Claire Cassidy

#### Design-a-Bookmark Competition Winners:

First Year: Vivian Chan and Erin Burke  
 Second Year: Aimee Clarke and Megan Dempsey  
 Third Year: Karen Nangle and Michelle Masterson  
 Fifth & Sixth Year: Nathalya Alencar and Christine O'Connor

### Student Council

Our Student Council is a group of enthusiastic and energetic students who meet every Thursday at 8:20a.m. with Ms. Noone. They are the voice of the students whose aim is to play an active role in continuing to help St. Mary's to be the best possible school. The suggestions from the students are very important as they make the work of the Council more effective and therefore, all suggestions are very welcome.

### State Examinations' News

- ✚ **Home Economics - Practical Cookery Examination 2013:** Our Third Year students will be doing their Practical Cookery Examination between Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Each student has a chosen dish(es) and it is advisable that they practice over the Easter Holidays. Fresh ingredients will need to be purchased the day before each student's Practical Cookery Examination. This examination constitutes 45% at Ordinary Level and 35% at Higher Level of the overall marks for the Home Economics Examination.
- ✚ Leaving Certificate Oral Irish Examinations: take place during the week of Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>
- ✚ Leaving Certificate Oral French Examinations: take place on Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ✚ Leaving Certificate Practical Music Examinations: take place on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>
- ✚ Leaving Certificate Oral Russian Examinations: take place on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>
- ✚ Leaving Certificate Oral German Examinations: take place on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>
- ✚ L.C.V.P. Links Modules' Written Examination is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

Any Junior or Leaving Certificate student, who has any queries relating to her state examinations, should make contact with Ms. Williams, our Examinations' Secretary. We wish all of our students sitting their State Examinations this summer the very best of luck. We ask that parents ensure that each girl is following a structured study and revision plan.

### **Drama Club**

The Drama Club, conducted by Ms. Noone, includes many different activities such as improvisation, plays, mime and games. The club is open to every student and the club meets at 8:20am every Wednesday morning. It's a fun and a great way to build confidence and a fantastic way to start the day!

### **Catholic Schools' Week**

Catholic Schools week was celebrated in our school from January 28<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>. Monsignor Alex Stenson helped us with a number of initiatives; these included visiting the 5th year Religion classes and discussing their beliefs and practices with them, as well as talking to them about his experience of being a priest in the Dublin Diocese. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> years visited the Holy Faith Sisters in the convent in Killester. The sisters asked the girls about being teenagers in the 21st century, while the girls were very curious about religious life, both now and in the past. On Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> (St Brigid's Day) our 1<sup>st</sup> years visited Killester Church where Fr. Alex gave us a wonderful welcome, tour and blessing. They even got to see the famous relic of St Brigid!

### **Le Chéile Conference**

Our school is a member of the Le Chéile Trust. The aim of the Trust is to carry on the legal, financial and inspirational role of trusteeship that has, up to now, been done by individual congregations. The annual Le Chéile Conference recently took place from January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme of this year's conference was 'Educating the Soul'. Two of our Transition Year students, Linda Chubb and Grace O'Shea represented our school. Both girls participated in a series of workshops for young people and represented our school with great pride.

### **Re-enrolment Forms**

In order to facilitate our school planning process for the 2013/2014 academic year, we will be issuing our Re-enrolment forms to our First, Second, Third, Transition and Fifth Year students on **Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**. All Re-enrolment forms must be returned to each student's Year Head on or before **Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

Friday March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fundraising Walk
Friday March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School Closes for Easter Break
Monday April 8 <sup>th</sup>	School re-opens for all students
Friday April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Student Council Seminar
Wednesday May 1 <sup>st</sup>	L.C.V.P. Link Modules (6 <sup>th</sup> Year) – State Examination
Monday May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday – School closed
Tuesday May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Occasional Holiday
Thursday May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Merit Award Ceremony
Friday May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sports' Day
Tuesday May 21 <sup>st</sup>	LC2 Graduation
Monday May 27 <sup>th</sup>	House Examinations commence
Monday May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Transition Year Graduation Ceremony
Friday May 31 <sup>st</sup>	School closes for Summer Break
Wednesday June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Junior & Leaving Certificate Examinations commence
Thursday June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Induction Evening for 2013 First Years

*Wishing all of our girls and parents a peaceful Easter.*

*Ms. Ada Broderick,  
Principal.*

*Ms. Evelyn McLoughlin,  
Deputy Principal.*