

St. Mary's Academy

C.B.S. Carlow, Christmas Newsletter...2008.

Soccer: Great success has been had by both the under 14 and under 16 soccer teams after both teams won their finals of the Carlow/Kilkenny league sections with wins over Borris and St. Kieran's. Both teams now advance to the Leinster section, which will be a further test of the players. Well done lads!

International Athlete, Simon Doyle from third year represented Ireland lately in Glasgow in the multievents section which included long jump, hurdles and sprint. Simon was competing against Scotland, England and Wales. Well done Simon! A great achievement to represent your country!

Handball: Well done to all of our handballers who represented the school in the recently held 40 by 20 Leinster Championships. Kevin Barrett, Cian Lawler, Evan O'Carroll, Martin Casey and Daniel O'Leary played their hearts out.

Gaelic Football: The senior team now plays in the qualifiers in the Leinster 'A' championship against St. Benildus from Dublin on either January 8th or 9th. The game will be played in Dr. Cullen Park. The team lost to Moate in the first round. The under 16 footballers play in the Leinster Quarter finals after beating Good Counsel and drawing with Knockbeg. They play on Jan 12th. away to Clane. The under 14 team lost to Newbridge but fought very well and have a bright future ahead of them.

Squash News: The school squash team are in full swing with 2 superb victories over the Blackrock teams from Dublin. Shaun and Cathal Hennessey and David Smyth have been in almost unbeatable form as they have played excellent squash to defeat one of the countries top squash nurseries. The three players have yet to drop a set such has been their dominance of Blackrock in both matches. So over the 2 games the team has won all 6 games and not dropped a set, excellent play.

Mr. Oliver Feighan: Oliver passed away recently and was very closely associated with our school serving as chairman of the Board of Management. Oliver worked tirelessly with the Board to aid the education of students in the school. Oliver was a tremendous supporter of all initiatives taken in the school. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

TY News: All the TY students have been very busy with a number of tasks being undertaken. Recently the students had the opportunity to test out their level of fitness in a mobile unit in St. Leo's gym. All aspects of fitness were tested including measuring their height! The students also learned a lot about car maintenance and car safety when they received a thorough practical course in car maintenance. Recently the students have been carol singing in the Fairgreen Centre. The proceeds of their singing is going to Calcutta Immersion fund.

Kevin Threadgold: Kevin has achieved the unique distinction of gaining maximum marks of 100 per cent in his maths examination in the Junior Cert. Kevin achieved the maximum 11 straight 'A's which is testament to Kevin's talent and also his work ethic. As a result of his maths result, Kevin has been invited to a course especially adapted for talented students in Dublin to challenge students with a proficiency in maths. Well done Kevin.

Peace and Justice Group: The school's Justice and Peace Group have recently been busy selling delicious mince pies to staff and students. All monies are being given to the

local St. Vincent de Paul who do such great work helping people in need all year but especially at Christmas.

School Immersion Programme: In recent days a number of students have been running a raffle, the first fundraising event for the school's Immersion Project to Calcutta in India that will take place in 2010. Mrs O'Neill has been the key person in the project and this will be the third visit to Calcutta. This is a very demanding and enriching experience for senior students who visit Calcutta. This is far from a holiday as the students get fully involved in helping those in real need in this vast city where poverty is very obvious. Previous groups have been involved in working in a school and in Mother Teresa's hospital for the dying.

European Parliamentarians: Gavin Coleman and Fintan Phelan from 6th year have recently returned from a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels. Both students asked M.E.P'S hard questions regarding commitments made to Millennium goals for Development Aid made in 2000. Both students found the experience very challenging and on their return have been to Maynooth where they spoke about Development Education to third level students. Future politicians? Very likely...

Anne Brennan: Best wishes to Anne Brennan who retires soon after over 30 years as a member of support staff in the school. Anne has been a very valuable member of staff and her cheerful and welcoming manner will be remembered by all of the staff and students. Enjoy your retirement Anne.

Concener Fast: Mr. Storey and a large number of students have recently completed a 24 hour fast in aid of Concern, the Irish aid agency that works in developing countries. The money is still pouring and Mr. Storey would like to thank all the students who took part in the fast and all those who supported them.

Martin Power: Welcome home to Martin who has returned after spending 2 weeks in Capetown, South Africa where he was involved in giving his enormous skills and energies to the Niall Mellon Project. This involved Martin plus over 2000 volunteers working hard everyday in building houses for families who live in shanty towns.

Carol Service: On Thursday the Carol Service was held in the gym. This was a lovely experience for the entire school community where Fr. Shelley, our school chaplain was leader of the service. A lot of work from a lot of teachers was evident with the excellent singing from the choir and thought provoking readings particularly nice.

The X Factor: On Thursday last the school community had its own 'X' Factor competition. This is the third year of this event and is now firmly established as one of the highlights of the year for all in school. The talent on show is superb with the Band Section prize being a particularly coveted award.

Green Schools: Thanks to the hard work of the Green Schools Committee, a 30 unit bicycle shelter has been installed in the school by An Taisce. The committee and the coordinator Mrs Ahern carried out a detailed survey on the transport habits of all members of the school community and submitted it with an application which resulted in the school receiving 3 bicycle shelters which can accommodate a total of 30 bicycles. The Green Schools Committee would also like to remind everyone to recycle as much packaging as possible over Christmas. After Christmas the committee will put in place a collection box for all unwanted mobile phones. If over 200 phones are collected, there will be a draw for an iPod touch.

A very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year in 2009!