

# Our Lady Of Mercy, Mourne Road

## Newsletter

Issue 1. January 2010



*A New Year message to parents, students and friends of Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Mourne Road.*

Dear Friends,

The school year 2009-2010 began with much the same routine and welcoming back of students as usual, but for myself taking over from Mr. Collings it marked a new beginning in my working life and as such, I wondered how I would fill those much loved and respected shoes which my predecessor had filled, how I would settle into a new community and how I would find the learning community which is your local secondary school, established for over 70 years.

Now at the end of a busy term I am getting to know you all and welcome the opportunity to work with you and meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The first term has been busy and we enjoyed successes on many fronts. Our under 16 basketball team have just won the Dublin Final and reached the quarter finals of the National Cup and our fifth year debating team have recently defeated St Colmcille.

Our first year students are settling in to secondary school and the sixth year prefects have been a great support to first year students in particular. The prefects enjoyed a half day training workshop with Michael Daly at the beginning of term which helped to equip them for their role as prefects. I have no doubt that this experience will stand them well in the years ahead.

Students are also busy working on the Student Council, the Green Committee, Gaisce The Presidents Award to mention but a few school extra curricular activities.

Students collected over €2,000 in the first term for various charities which is a wonderful achievement and shows that the real spirit of Jesus is alive and well in our young people. Some of the charities which benefited were GOAL, Make a Wish Foundation, the Central Remedial Clinic and the Simon Community.

So as we recover from the busy Christmas period, sit back with a cup of tea and enjoy reading our first newsletter of the year.

We cannot prepare or know the future but we can prepare young people to meet the challenges and opportunities which will be the future.

Kind regards and God's Blessing

Ms. Maher  
Principal

### **Rewarding Good Attendance**

Students who have had excellent attendance in first term will be rewarded with a trip out of school for an afternoon as part of our School Completion Programme. Students who attend school regularly and who come on time each day are much more likely to succeed in their examinations and feel a sense of belonging in school.

## Junior Achievement Ireland



Third year class Senan received certificates from Junior Achievement Ireland having completed a six week course in “The Economics of Staying in School”. Facilitator Rona French from Royal Bank of Scotland is pictured here on the extreme right having delivered the course & Ms. Ryan on the left.

All Third Year classes participated in this programme.

*“The programme really helped us to understand why we should stay on in school & go to college”*

*“You make more money & get a better job if you stay in school”*

### **Are you interested in joining a Parents Committee?**

We need your help and support to organise a fund raising event to help put down a new floor in our PE hall. Do you have a few hours to spare ? If so give your name to Eileen O’Riordan or give your name and contact details in to the main office. We will call a meeting of our renewed committee in the coming weeks.

## Boys Football

First and second year boys have, since September, participated in two Futsok five a side competitions. Second year participated in a blitz at Irishtown Stadium. They played several teams and did well to reach the finals.

The competition was organised as an anti -racism awareness initiative sponsored by the F.A.I. As a result of the team’s skill and good behaviour, Our Lady of Mercy was subsequently invited to represent Dublin 12 in Corduff at the First year Futsol Schools Dublin finals. In the New Year first year will continue to train and prepare for the First year cup in Brickfield Park.

Mr. A. Gibbs

## Students Council

Twelve students have been elected from first to sixth year to work with school staff and management on behalf of all students in Our Lady of Mercy. The council organised a Christmas raffle and raised almost €200 for the Trinity Access Programme, a project which supports our students who go on to Trinity College.

J. Wade

**Did you know** that we have 12 past pupils currently studying in TCD for their degrees! For more information on the Trinity Access Programme contact Ms Ryan in Careers Dept.

There are many pathways to college & it’s worth exploring all the possibilities. “Never say Never”

## Get Reading!

Fantastic Progress has been recorded with many of our students who were a little bit behind with their reading. Some of the best progress was made where parents were involved in their child’s reading at home. Spending ten to fifteen minutes every evening listening to your child’s reading is worth the effort. A number of parents were also involved in a paired reading programme every Tuesday morning. Well done to all who participated.

P. Kirwan



## ***Skin & Blister - Team Theatre Production***

Team theatre visited the school on 18th November. The Skin and Blister programme was presented to first and second year girls and it proved to be a great success. The drama tackles issues of self identity, body image and eating disorders among young women. A powerful and effective performance was given, followed by a workshop for students. Some parents attended a workshop in advance of the performance. Material was left for the SPHE department for follow up work on the topic.

Students who attended said afterwards that

*"It was so real... The discussion after the play was very good...boys should see it ...*

*Pity all the girls in the other classes didnt see it"*

Ms. O' Riordan



## ***News from Leaving Cert Applied Course.***



Aaron Lynch Leaving Cert Applied 6th year is pictured receiving his reward for coming second in the National Careers Skills Competition from Junior Minister Dara Callealy in the Department of Education and Science last September. Well done to Aaron who also got a gift voucher from the Board of Management for his successful careers project.

The fifth year LCA students prepared delicious home-made mince pies for The Board of Management & staff in December. The Board sent a big "Thank You" to the Home Economics students for their excellent work & to their teacher Ms. Mulchrone.

5th year LCA students did 2 weeks of work placement in November and received excellent reports from employers.

Ms. Ryan

*Could you help in anyway to provide work placements for our students?  
If so call Ms. Ryan on  
01-4554691.*

## ***64% of our Leaving Cert Students went on to Third Level or Further Education in 2009...***

Where our Leaving Cert Student of June 2009 are:

- 61 - Students completed the Leaving Cert
- 12 - Students are now in Third Level Universities doing Accounting, Business Studies, Arts, Retail Management.
- 27 - in Further Education doing Childcare, Engineering Technology, Office Admin, Advertising
- 3 - are working.
- 2 - are repeating the Leaving Cert.
- 3 - are in Fás.

We wish these students every success & look forward to keeping in contact.

## ***U16 Girls Basketball - Champions!***

Our U16 Basketball team were recently victorious in the Leinster Finals.

They will now move on to the All Ireland Playoffs on the 5th February in Thurles.

Thanks to coach Gerry

Farrell for all his hard work.

*School Team*



Thanks to Jennifer Taffe and Linda Hall for all their hard work and support for an excellent team.

**THEY ARE THE CHAMPIONS!!**

## **“Taster Workshop”**

In November we welcomed some 60 6th Class students to “taster workshops” for an afternoon.



Students got to try out some new subjects like science, technical graphics, home economics as well as art.

These student completed their entrance test this December.



**We look forward to registration day on Tuesday 26th January.**

## **Scientists in the Making**

Discover Science Award Winners at the Scifest Exhibition Tallaght IT, Friday 8th May 2009.



Left to Right: Peter Brabagon (Programme Director, Discover Science and Engineering) Grenna Joyce Mirabel, Jennifer Marie Seery, Shauna McKay and Shelia Porter (Scifest National Co-ordinator).

Their Project was “The Heat of Neutralisation”. Students mixed a strong acid and a strong base together and this produced heat as we as a neutral substance. Datalogging equipment was used to measure the reaction and readings were taken on the attached computer where a visual record of the reaction was produced.

This was a major achievement at a national level for our science students and one we can be proud of. Well done to all involved.

**Ms. Walsh**

## **Under 14 Leinster Schools Badminton Competition**

Our school is taking part in the U14 Leinster schools Badminton competition. Students practice every Monday and Wednesday. Below are some pictures of our recent match with Ternure College.



U14 Girls were also playing in competition recently. Here are some pictures of their game against Mount Sackville convent school.

**Mr. Ryan**

## **Home School News**

*The following courses will commence in January 2010:*

- First Aid
- Drugs Awareness
- Computers
- Parenting Awareness
- Stay Safe
- Irish Book Club

Parents are invited to sign up and if interested contact Eileen in Parent Room.

**(087) 2852865**