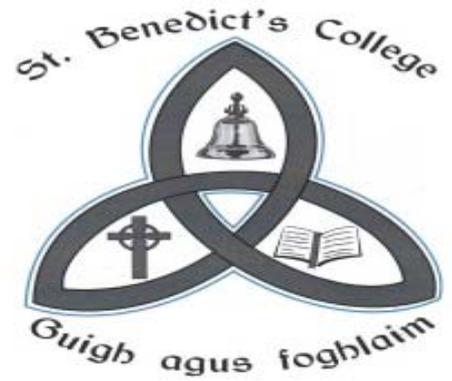


ISSUE 5

JUNE 2008

THE BELL

The Newsletter of St. Benedict's College, Randalstown



Catriona Ruane Visits St. Benedict's

St. Benedict's played host on Wednesday 11th June to the Minister for Education, Ms Catriona Ruane and the MLA for the area, Mr Mitchell McLaughlin. It was a very positive visit during which future developments on the St. Benedict's site were discussed. We look forward to hearing some encouraging news in the not too distant future. Pictured with our visitors from left, Mr Seamus Berry, Mr Sean McAuley, Mrs Ethna Kelly and Fr Con Boyle.



Kerry Parkhill, Board Dietician, Mrs Kelly, Natasha McMahon and Fionnuala Close, EHO

Healthy Eating In St. Benedict's College

A School Nutrition Action Group (SNAG) has been set up to look at eating habits in St. Benedict's College and to encourage healthy eating. The SNAG represents the entire school community, made up of pupils, student council, teachers, catering and support staff, parents and also external agencies such as the school nurse, health promotion agencies and dieticians.

At St. Benedict's College we recognise that good nutrition is essential if our pupils are to achieve their potential in life. It is the aim of the school to assist our pupils in making informed choices about what they eat and drink and help them to improve their health and fitness by adopting a healthy diet. The school aims to develop a positive attitude to healthier eating through the curriculum, food provision and links with families and the community.

St. Benedict's Welcomes New Teaching Staff



We welcome Miss P. O'Neill (Art), Miss M. O'Boyle (Learning for Life and Work), Mrs S. O'Doherty (Technology and Design) and Miss C. McGoldrick (English) to our teaching staff and we wish Mr Rafferty and Miss Casey all the very best in their future careers at St. Patrick's, Dungiven and St. Louis, Ballymena.

Tribute to Louise McLernon

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden deaths of Louise and her mother Martina on the 24th of May.

Louise will be greatly missed by pupils and staff alike. Ciara McElroy, Rebekah Quinn and Louise Bradley said, "She was our best friend and we will never forget her smile."

Our thoughts and prayers are with the McLernon family.



Year 8 - Monday 1st September 2008

Years 9, 10, 11 and Year 12
Tuesday 2nd September 2008

All Years - Wednesday 3rd September 2008

Sport in St. Benedict's College

Development Blitz



Kevin Sheerin and Miss Pickering presenting Captain Marie McLoughlin with the trophy.

Ulster Colleges

Hurling and Gaelic Football Presentation

On Wednesday 7th May, St Benedict's College celebrated its outstanding achievements in Ulster College competitions in 2007/08. In November, the Year 12 boys were victorious in capturing the Ulster Colleges BT Faul Cup in a tremendous victory over hot favourites Castleblaney. On the night, medals were presented to the team by special guest Kevin McGuckin (Former Derry Captain). A set of special jerseys to mark the occasion were presented and sponsored by Thornton Roofing. Special presentations were made to Mr McIver and Mr Gilligan on behalf of the team by Jamie Kennedy and Captain, Donagh McKeever.

The night also highlighted the achievements of the Year 12 hurling team who also won the Ulster Colleges BT Maguire Cup. Ulster medals were presented by Antrim Dual star Micheal Magill. A special award was presented by team captain Christy Sheerin on behalf of the team to Mr N. Bonnes for his outstanding contribution to hurling in the school.

The night was a tremendous success and special thanks must go to the school principal, Mr McAuley, for hosting the event and Fr. Boyle for his continued support.



Hurling All-Star Award

Martin Johnston receiving his All-Star Award at a presentation evening held in St. Mary's C.B.S, Belfast.

Well done to Martin for receiving a Year 12 Allstar whilst still in Year 11.

A very successful development Blitz was held on Monday 31st March, 2008 at Tir Na nOg GAC, Randalstown, with an aim to promote U16 Camogie. The sponsor of the event was Sportsworld, Magherafelt.

A very competitive tournament showed that Camogie is still very much alive within the participating schools. St Benedict's College, Randalstown, and Sperrin Integrated, Magherafelt stepped up for the first match of the day, with a very hard hitting first half. Both teams battled hard and St Benedict's came away with a win, on a score line of 1-03 to 0-00.

St Benedict's continued its winning ways, when defeating St Patricks, Ballymena in their second game. This was a very closely contested encounter with a score line of 2-00 to 1-01 in St Benedict's favour.

In the third game, the result came as bit of a surprise as a strong St Pat's side was defeated by an inspirational Sperrin team. After this win, Sperrin Integrated secured its place in the final. A keenly contested final was won by St Benedict's College, Randalstown on a score line of 3-02 to 0-01.



Basketball

St. Benedict's College Year 9 boys won the 2008 N.E.E.L.B. Basketball tournament. Hosted by St. Pius X in Magherafelt the St. Benedict's boys secured the trophy in a very tight competition. At the end of a hectic day's basketball, St. Benedict's just pipped St. Mary's Grammar School by virtue of a better scoring average. The boys showed great determination throughout the day, losing only one match by the narrowest of margins. The squad was C. Allen, B. Dineen, S. Martin, M. Kobiere, G. McCarron, M. Bradley, M. O'Neill, C. McCormick, K. McCann, K. McCann, S. Conway, C. McKee.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

N.I. CCEA G.C.S.E. and English Board G.C.S.E. results will be available in the school from 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 21st August 2008.

NO RESULTS WILL BE GIVEN OUT OVER THE TELEPHONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

'The Bell' is a production of the English and Media Department of St. Benedict's College. All material is copyright and may not be used without the permission of the College.

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FRENCH TRIP - JUNE 2008



On the 1st of June, thirty-three pupils from St Benedict's accompanied by four teachers left Belfast International airport for five days of sight-seeing, fun activities and a cultural insight into the history of Paris, the French capital.

On the first night, pupils enjoyed cruising on the River Seine meandering below the beautiful bridges of the city, enjoying a clear view of Paris's most beautiful buildings. The following day, it was a guided tour of the city by coach stopping at Montmartre, the Sacré-Coeur and finishing off this cultural feast with an evening of fun in the wonderful Aquapark on the outskirts of Paris. All of Tuesday was spent in Eurodisney. Pupils experienced the thrills and tested their fears on the scariest of rides, Space Mountain was especially a favourite, not least with two of our accompanying teachers!

Pupils were able to witness at first hand the grandeur and luxury of the Palace of Versailles, and the Louvre Museum with its glass pyramid. Yet, by all accounts, the icing on the cake was climbing up to the top of the Eiffel Tower for those pupils brave enough to conquer its dazzling height, whilst the Tower shone and glittered in the evening sky, covered in thousands of scintillating lights. Paris by night is a wonderful sight!

Before heading back to the airport there was a final visit to La Défense, the business quarter, with its huge underground shopping mall where pupils spent their last euros buying souvenirs to bring home.

Feis na nGleann 2008

Ceramic Work	-	1st Connor Reeves
Mixed Media	-	1st Danielle McErlain 2nd Christopher Mackel 3rd Roisin Harkin
Textiles	-	1st Eimear Kelly
Painting of a Building	-	1st Brian Sheehy
Drawing of a Building	-	1st Kyron Muckian
Study of an Animal	-	2nd Maria Moodie
Figurative Painting	-	1st Martin Cameron
Figurative Drawing	-	1st Terry McAllister

THE RAINFOREST

If beauty is in the eye of the beholder,
Why can't you see?
The world that's just ahead,
Is more than I can see.
Why say the world is beautiful,
When you can't see how chaotic it is?

The rainforest is dying,
But how are we surviving?
Without it oxygen may decrease,
Why not save it?
And make oxygen increase.

The nature all around us,
Is why the world spins,
Why go to a mall?
When you can have it all
In one special view,
And light the rainforest anew.

Samantha Ndebele, 8G

Celebrating World Environment Day



Numeracy Skills

Four Year 8 pupils represented the College in a competition called the '24 Game.' The pupils performed well against a number of grammar and secondary schools and thoroughly enjoyed their experience. They each received a certificate. Pupils who participated were: Laura Robinson, Raymond Quinn, Ryan Devlin and Conor Young (pictured below.)

The second competition was a team competition which involved two Year 9 pupils and two Year 10 pupils. The team had to complete a number of activities which involved problem solving techniques and working together. Each team member also received a certificate. Pupils were: Cara Martin, Natasha McMahon, Year 9 and Megan Brady, Shauneen O'Neill, Year 10.





Trip to Carrickfergus Castle

On Friday 9th May, Year 8 went on a trip to Carrickfergus Castle. On the buses there were two classes, 8F and 8I.

When we got there, my group went to the museum. The lady who took us for our tour was called Jackie; she was very nice but very nervous. She told us some interesting facts about what it was like in Norman times in Carrickfergus. The only thing that wasn't pleasant was that they ate dogs when they were near starvation, and we were shown the full skeleton of a dog!

After the museum we went to the castle. It was fantastic! Our tour guide was called Jacky. The first part of the tour was the old yard and then we went to the keep and to the cellar - they were dark but cool. After that we went back to the bus for a bite to eat.

On the way home everyone started to clap and sing and I really enjoyed this trip to Carrickfergus and I wish I could go back again!

Laura Robinson, 8F

PUSHKIN PROJECT 2008

Over the last few months 10I have been working on the 'Pushkin Project' which is a combination of Literacy and Art. We have had a lot of help from Miss O'Neill and Miss Casey and have been working after school at Art Club.

The theme this year is 'Blowing In The Wind' and in English we have been learning about the famous Bob Dylan song. We listened to the song and we have written poems and stories.

In Art we made a beautiful kite, bunting, t-shirts and many other things. I think that everyone has enjoyed working on the Pushkin Project and we enjoyed displaying our work on 23rd May along with other schools from the North-Eastern Education and Library Board Area.

Chelsea Stewart, 10I



**Year 11
Media
Studies
visit to
BBC
Broadcasting
House,
Belfast in June**



Celebrating Achievement Winners 2008 Congratulations to Connor McCann

Northern Ireland awarding body CCEA, (Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment) have celebrated local learners who completed some of its skills based, work related and lifelong learning qualifications. Connor McCann represented St. Benedict's College as the winner of the Occupational Studies Learner of the Year for Construction.

The special award ceremony 'Celebrating Achievement' held at CCEA's headquarters in Belfast recognised not only the outstanding achievement of the learners but also the commitment of individual teachers and centres for skills' development in Northern Ireland.



Pictured above are finalists in the St. Benedict's Got Talent Competition which was held in the school recently. Back row, C. McGivern, R. McKillen, E. McManus, S. O'Neill, G. O'Neill, S. Conway.

Front row, R. Courtney, K. Waldron, A. Currie, M. Brady, F. Whinnery.

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY
Summer HOLIDAY**