

Issue 6

December 2008

# THE BELL

The Newsletter of St. Benedict's College, Randalstown



## High Achievers in London

Year 11 G.C.S.E. Art and Design pupils at St. Benedict's College recently participated in a European Union competition to design a poster aimed at children on the theme, "I Have A Right To Protection." They worked in groups of four and they chose to illustrate a particular aspect of Children's Rights. Each group researched, debated and negotiated a particular aspect of the theme. They produced an A2 poster for the UK section of the competition.



On the 'London Eye'

The group consisting of Kerry Clarke, Danielle O' Kane, Sean O' Hare and Rimvydas Urbonas, achieved third place in this highly prestigious national competition. They received an all expenses paid trip to London to receive their award. They also had the opportunity to sight-see in London and visited the London Eye, Buckingham Palace and the Tate Modern.

Head of Art and Design in St. Benedict's, Michelle McElhone, is delighted for the pupils, "The Year 11 Art groups have seen first hand that endeavour is rewarded and this has had a positive impact within not only the Art and Design Department but the whole school."

## Words of Wisdom from St. Benedict

Your way of acting should be different from the world's way; the love of Christ should come before all else.

*The Rule of St. Benedict 4: 20-21*



Rachel McAlpine, Ashley Dineen, Orla Liddy, Aimee Heatley, Frances Cooke, Roisin Harkin with Mr Richard Moore

## PRIZE NIGHT 2008

St. Benedict's College had the great pleasure to welcome back former pupils for prize night. It was great to witness the joy and delight as each recipient received his or her award.



Edel Neeson

What made the night even more special was the guest speaker, Richard Moore. It is a testament to the charity work carried out by Mr Moore that he is now widely known by the title 'Richard Moore, Children in Crossfire'. People can immediately identify with the charity and know his life story. Mr Moore insists that

although he was robbed of sight, his vision to help children across the war-torn countries of the world is now reality.

## Credit Union Poster Competition Winners



A. McDonnell, S. Magill, S. Conway, D. O'Kane, M. O'Neill, B. McLernon, S. Gribbon, P. Valliday

## Year 9 Visit to Navan Fort

Navan Fort, Emain Macha, just outside the city of Armagh, is the ancient capital of Ulster. All of the pupils in Year Nine, accompanied by their teachers, visited this site of national importance on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. This visit had been organised by the English, Environment and Society, and Art Departments in order to facilitate connected learning between these departments

On arrival at Navan Fort, the pupils were able to learn about the ancient legends of Ireland, like the stories of Cuchulainn and Deirdre of the Sorrows, to visit the mound that is 3,500 years old, to handle and be taught about archaeological finds at Navan, to visit a Bronze Age settlement and to see replicas of the ancient artworks that were discovered in Loughnashade that is beside Emain Macha.

In the weeks following this visit, the pupils have been involved in their own archaeological studies as they have investigated the Tollund Man. They have also read Irish legends, and they have written their own, culminating in an impressive display of work.



**Year 9 pupils being introduced to Irish legends and storytelling at Navan Fort**

## Science Highflyers

Six of our Year 9 pupils, Samantha Ndebele, Ryan Devlin, Gary O'Neill, Laura Robinson, Raymond Quinn and Paul McAuley-Hughes participated in a 'Science Challenge Day', organised by the Institution of Engineering and Technology in Belfast. The theme of the day was 'Engineering in Sport'. After defeating stiff opposition such as Cambridge House, Antrim Grammar, Parkhall College and Crumlin Integrated College, St. Benedict's were narrowly defeated by a strong team from Royal Belfast Academical Institute to come in second.



## SENTINUS VISIT

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, P7 pupils from Mount St. Michael's PS, were invited to a Science and Technology Roadshow hosted by St. Benedict's College.

This programme is designed to support the development of team working, problem solving, creative thinking and skills in children. Pupils worked in teams throughout the day, supported by our host, Mr. Frank McCann (Sentinus), our Head of Science, Mr. Paul O'Neill and Year 12 Mentors.



The theme of the session was 'Lost in Space,' where pupils had to make contact with the 'Mother Spaceship!' The tasks involved generating electricity with sunlight and making gears to produce light and sound signals. The challenge of constructing a space buggy came next, followed by firing messages using 'motors.'

A most enjoyable day was had by all. Thanks to Mr. Frank McCann, Sentinus who put on a splendid show and our audience, the P7 pupils from Mount St. Michael's. The skills shown by the pupils on the day are a credit to the Mount St. Michael's teachers and to their families.

## National Poetry Day

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October was National Poetry Day. The theme this year was Work. National Poetry Day was celebrated in St. Benedict's College by the pupils in Years 8 and 9 who, guided by the Librarian and the English Department, wrote poems about work.

### United in Work

There was a magician that everyone knew,  
his cloak was long and light, light blue.  
His wand was black, his rabbit white,  
to see him perform was an amazing sight.  
Of all of his tricks, I must confess,  
there is one I liked the best.  
To see him cut his assistant in half,  
oh the sound of the audience as they start to gasp.  
When his show comes to the end,  
the clapping, the cheering of kids, women and men.  
Then one night he did not show,  
but where he was, I do not know.  
Nobody knows what happened that night,  
but with a wave of his wand he was out of sight.

**Jason Braniff 9G**

## Visit to Parliament Buildings

As part of the Citizenship Key Stage 3 programme, visits to Parliament Buildings, Stormont were scheduled for Year 10. The first educational visit took place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November and the second visit is planned for the 7<sup>th</sup> January next year.

During a very enjoyable and interesting morning session, about thirty-five pupils from St. Benedict's were given a presentation on the Northern Ireland Assembly, a guided tour and the opportunity to meet several of our Assembly Members. However, the high point of the visit was the opportunity to sit in the Gallery while a meeting took place in the Debating Chamber. Senior politicians, TV cameras and reporters were all present as our visit coincided with an imminent announcement from the First and Deputy First Ministers. A most enjoyable and interesting day was had by all!



## Woodhall Visit

Our trip to Woodhall was great fun, all of Year Eight went. The purpose of going to Woodhall was to make friends out of different classes and to bond with other people. There were different instructors who helped us and made it fun for the group. In my group, the first activity we did involved a plastic crate, a piece of wood and two cones. There was a long path covered with stones and on the stones there was a wooden ledge and hanging from a tree above was a piece of rope. Our task was to get over to the ledge without touching the stones. My group was successful when we got the rope, put our foot into it and swung across to the ledge to get to the other side.



Keenan McStravick, Tomas Baltmiskis and Ezerkis Mindaugus

After that we moved to another two tasks then we had lunch. After lunch we did another three tasks, they were so much fun and the day was brilliant!! I think it was a fun and successful day, as we had good weather and good activities and made new friends.

Shauna O'Connell 8G

## School Formal 2008

The School Formal was a successful event, enjoyed by all the Year 12's and teachers who attended. The Formal, this year, was held in Ross Park Hotel, Kells and preparations began early in the school year.

On arrival, we were met with a red carpet and non alcoholic cocktails, along with our photographer, John Taggart, who has taken great pictures every year.

The meal was superb and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the disco afterwards. We particularly enjoyed the dance moves of the teachers and the dance floor never emptied. Everyone had a great night and one particular highlight was 'Rock the Boat.'

This was undoubtedly a night to remember and we will look back on it in future years with fond memories.

Amy Green and Aisling McCloskey, 12F



## Christmas Card Design

The winner of the Christmas Card design competition was won by Colleen McGivern 11F.



# Amie

in the School Assembly Hall

Friday 9th January at 8.00pm

Saturday 10th January at 8.00pm

Sunday 11th January at 4.00pm

Tickets: Adults £5.00 Children & Senior Citizens £3.00

**BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!!!**

# Sport in St. Benedict's College



*Christy Sheerin and Donagh McKeever at the Ulster Colleges Presentation Night*

## St. Benedict's Relinquish Title

**Corpus Christi, Belfast 4-12**

**St. Benedict's College 1-7**

The writing was on the wall for St. Benedict's Randalstown as early as the second minute of this BT Faul Cup final, in Casement Park, when Karl Winchester rifled the ball to the back of the net.

It put Corpus Christi ahead in the game and they never lost that lead, although it took a goal on the stroke of half-time from Ryan Burns to open a real gap between the sides at 2-6 to 0-6.

Thomas McCaffrey dropped in a '45' within minutes of the restart and although captain, Martin Johnston, who scored all St. Benedict's 1-7, pulled a goal back, the city side was not going to be caught. Burns added his second goal before two Corpus Christi players - Templeton and McGreevey - each picked up a second yellow card.

The scoreline somewhat flatters the winners, as St. Benedict's played some good football at times, especially after the introduction of Lithuanian, Julius Kanceliskis to midfield at half-time.

**St. Benedict's:** P. Marron, N. Devlin, D. Rice, S. Webb, N. Boyd, G. McAuley, O. McCann, D. Carey, R. McGreevy, S. Toal, S. Walsh, E. Kennedy, F. Burke, C. Ewart, M Johnston (Capt.) 1-7.



*Dean Carey 'on the ball'!*

## Matthew McCoy Lifts Record To New Heights

Matthew McCoy has added new accolades to his already growing reputation. According to the Irish Amateur Weightlifting Association Matthew set three new Irish Under 18 records while competing for N. Ireland in Cork, on 12 October 2008.

## YEAR 9 ULSTER HURLING FINAL

On a cold November day in Cookstown, the year nine team was narrowly defeated by a strong St. McCartan's, Monaghan, in the Ulster 'C' Hurling Final. Both teams had qualified for the final after finishing top of their respective groups in an earlier blitz. Conditions were poor for both teams; however the standard of hurling was surprisingly good. St. Benedict's had led throughout the game after fine scoring from Tiernan Burke, Ciaran Loughran, Jake McAteer and James Martin.

After half time, the St. Benedict's team were struggling to hold onto a five point lead, using the wind and the strong running from the Monaghan midfield. Under severe pressure, the strong St. Benedict's defence, led by Christopher McGreevy and captain Tiernan Burke, finally yielded two goals in quick succession near the end of the game. Many of the St. Benedict's players can be proud of their efforts, especially Jervis Weir, who performed admirably in goals and kept his side in the game with several superb saves.

The team should take pride from this defeat as most of the players were from Year 8 and this will prove to be a valuable learning experience.

## Ladies' Sport

The girls have been busy this term participating in the U16 Camogie and Gaelic Leagues. They have put up formidable challenges against bigger and stronger schools. Next term we will be holding a blitz for the smaller schools in the area and intend to win the trophy to follow last year's success! Sara Redmond, Emma O'Neill and Shauna O'Neill have had an exceptional season in the football matches. Dervla O'Neill and Hannah Robinson have excelled at Camogie.

The U14 Gaelic football team commenced its challenge in the league against St Malachy's, Co. Down with strong performances from Laura McCann, Lucia McKeown and Jade Devlin. They will play their remaining matches after Christmas and we are extremely hopeful.

The Netball Blitz for Year 12 and Year 8 will be held in Maghera during term two and the girls are in training already on Thursday afternoons with Mrs Glavin. So, watch this space!



'The Bell' is produced by Mr N. Bonnes for the English and Media Department of St. Benedict's College.

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