

COMING IN 2008 - ST. BENEDICT'S COLLEGE WEBSITE!

ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2007

THE BELL

The Newsletter of St. Benedict's College, Randalstown



Famous win for St. Benedict's in BT Faul Final.



St. Benedict's: C. Ewart, N. Devlin, M. McCorley, M. Carey, O. McCann, D. McKeever (captain), F. McCoy, M. Fitzgerald, M. Duffin, J. Kennedy 0-1, A. Coleman 0-1, E. Kennedy 0-1, M. Johnston 0-4, C. Sheerin 0-2, A. Swann 0-1.
Subs: G. Cooke for E. Kennedy, F. McCann, R. Kelly, F. Burke, T. McLarnon, R. Kelly, R. McGreevey, P. Sheerin, C. Reeves, D. McGuckin, N. Boyd.

St Benedict's, Randalstown 0-10 Our Lady's, Castleblaney 1-5

St. Benedict's, Randalstown overturned a comprehensive defeat in their opening league game with Our Lady's Castleblaney to claim their first ever Ulster Colleges' title in Pomeroy.

A good start is often half the battle and the St. Benedict's Randalstown side took advantage of the breeze to shoot seven unanswered points in the opening half, corner-forward Martin Johnston finding the target four times from frees. The highlights of a very entertaining half of football were the strong defensive play by the winners and a spectacular point from Aidan Swann.

With captain Donagh McKeever continuing to dominate at centre-half back, St Benedict's added two more points in the opening ten minutes of the second half from Christy Sheerin and Jamie Kennedy before the Monaghan boys found their feet through the efforts of Fergal Mulligan and Padhraic Graham.

Graham hit three of their points in the last twenty minutes, but a well taken point from Aaron Coleman put the Randalstown school well in control. A goal for Castleblaney from Mulligan who had moved up from defence came in the fourth minute of extra time – too late to halt the Antrim side's celebrations.

On the day, St Benedict's were well served by corner backs Niall Devlin and Michael T. Carey and an inspirational performance by team captain Donagh McKeever. Midfielders Matthew Fitzgerald and Malachy Duffin covered every blade of grass and were ably assisted by some stunning high-fielding from Martin Johnston. Up front the Kennedy brothers, Enda and Jamie, won vital balls and full forward Christy Sheerin continuously tormented his markers.

Principal's Note

On behalf of myself, the Staff and the Pupils of St. Benedict's College, we wish all our readers a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Sean McAuley

St. Benedict's Pupils Cultural Visits

Pupils from St. Benedict's have been given the opportunity to experience the arts this term. Visits were arranged for Year 8 pupils to visit the Lyric Theatre to see 'The Wizard Of Oz' where Liam Neeson provided the voice of Oz. Year 10 pupils witnessed a production of 'Oliver' in the Grand Opera House, which was staged by St. Mary's, Magherafelt and the Year 11 Performing Arts group went to Ballymena Arts centre to see a production of 'Aladdin' and to meet the backstage technical staff to discuss sound and lighting strategies.

POCAHONTAS

Preparations are at a very advanced stage for this year's production of 'Pocahontas'. Rehearsals have been taking place after school and will continue on Saturdays and during the Christmas Holidays. There are over eighty pupils involved and of these thirty-six are preparing for their G.C.S.E. Performing Arts examination in June.

We hope that everyone will enjoy this year's performance and make sure to get tickets early to avoid disappointment. Tickets will be available from the General Office in the school from 10.00am on Monday 7th January. The dates for the show are:

Friday 11th January at 8.00pm

Saturday 12th January at 8.00pm

Sunday 13th January at 4.00pm

Admission: Adults £5.00, Children & Senior Citizens £3.00

Christmas Card Design



Michelle Darby, Year 10

The Art and Design Department ran a competition in November to design a Christmas card. The response to the competition was excellent. A Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 winner was selected after much deliberation. The winners were Michelle Darby, Year 10 and Danielle McErlain, Year 12. They both received £10 vouchers. Their designs have been used to create the annual school Christmas card and will be distributed throughout the local community.



Danielle McErlain, Year 12

Credit Union Poster Competition Winners 2007/2008

11-13 Years

1st - Kamila Kobiera

3rd - Alexandra McDonnell

11-13 Years - Open/Special Categories

1st - Jonathan Corr

3rd - Danielle Hughes

14-17 Years

1st - Shelley Martin

3rd - Rebekah Quinn

14-17 Years - Open/Special Categories

1st - Christina Swann

2nd - Caoilshionn Woods

3rd - Ciara Graham



Year 9 Home Economics and French

Pupils in Year 9 studying French, worked on a cross-curricular project with the Home Economics Department last month. Pupils were asked to write and word process in French, the recipe for 'Croque Monsieur'. With the help of Mrs. B. Kelly, our Head of Home Economics, they cooked the Croque Monsieur before eating their way through their work! Well done Year 9 French and thank you to the Home Economics Department.



Welcome



We welcome Mr. Paul Melver (PE), Miss Michaela O'Boyle (Geography and Learning for Life and Work), Miss Fionnuala Casey (English) and Miss Catherine Pickering who is substituting for Mrs McCann while she is on maternity leave. We wish each one a fulfilling experience in St. Benedict's College.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Meeting Declan Carville

On the 23rd November 2007, Nicole and I went to the Antrim Board Centre. We were going to listen to a talk by the author Declan Carville. He has written twelve books in total, which all revolve around Ireland. He has been writing since the age of seven, which I thought was incredible.

I really like the illustrations in Declan's books. Declan employs other people to do his illustrations and most of these people he meets by luck. Declan read an extract to us from one of his books which we all really enjoyed. Nicole and I had a great time meeting Declan Carville.

By Daire McGivern, Year 8



St. Benedict's College, Randalstown, Co. Antrim Library Fundraising Initiative 2007

Paula Agnew, the College Librarian, aims to raise the profile of the library in St. Benedict's College and to bring authors, poets, storytellers and illustrators to entertain the pupils.

Since March 2007 she has been contacting various Irish sports teams, individual sports stars and Irish celebrities from the world of entertainment asking them to donate a signed item to help raise funds for our college library.

To fully explain the initiative Paula explained, "Everyone who has helped to date has been very generous and has taken a lot of time to provide us with worthwhile fundraising items. They have also been very complimentary about the fundraising idea for the library. Due to the wonderful response, we decided not to hold the event in the college but to approach the local media and GAA websites with the story and to obtain some useful coverage. The idea is to accept telephone and email bids from the public for the items."

If you are interested in any of the items (see insert) and would like to place a bid, contact Paula at the following:

Email:- pagnew1@hotmail.com or
Tel:- Paula Agnew at St. Benedict's College 029 94472411.

Year 8 Trip To Woodhall



On the 5th October we went to Woodhall. I wanted to get there as soon as possible because I had heard there was a lot to do and see. We started with the wall climbing instead of the leap of faith.

I liked the wheel because you had to do team work and the person at the top of the wheel tells you how quickly or how slowly to go.

I really enjoyed the parachute game and the skipping game because they also encouraged team work. It was great fun.

Lee Stewart, Year 8



Sean Og O'hAlpin (Cork All-Star) with Mr S. McAuley, Owen Neeson (Captain of Ulster 'B' Champions 2007) and Christy Sheerin at the Vocational Schools Presentation Night

St. Benedict's Year 9 Hurling Team

Back row: (l to r) M. Bradley, S. Cameron, D. Murdoch, C. Allen, D. Kerr, S. Martin, T. Burke, C. Murray, Mr. N. Bonnas (Coach)

Front row: (l to r) M. O'Neill, K. Mc Cann, N. Murray, J. Devlin, C. Neeson, M. Kelly, J. Martin.

Hurling at St. Benedict's continues to develop. For the first time the school has entered the Colleges competitions. After entering the 'C' Blitz in September they qualified for the 'B' competition, The BT McGreevy Cup. After a narrow win over St. Patrick's Academy, Dungannon (4-8 to 4-7) and a defeat to Knock (4-9 to 3-3) the Year 9 hurling team was desperately unlucky to lose by two points in the quarter final to St. Patrick's, Beamagecha. Most notable players during the campaign have been C. Allen, D. Kerr, K. Mc Cann, N. Murray, J. Devlin and T. Burke.

U16 LADIES FOOTBALL

On Monday 19th November, St. Benedict's played Our Lady and St. Patrick's, Knock, Belfast. It was a storming match against both teams.

It was a very cold morning, but it wasn't long until the team warmed up. Not long into the game, there was a goal scored by Brónagh Loughran, which made the team even more eager to win this match. You could instantly see more fight for the ball.

By the end of the first half the score was 1-2 to 2-5, which meant Our Lady and St. Patrick's was ahead by six points. St. Benedict's knew they had to keep their heads up, and give it their all in the second half. During the half time, Miss Pickering and Kevin Sheerin gave the girls an inspiring team talk which made them more determined to win the game.

The second half was brilliant to watch, the determination on all their faces! It was a big come back compared to the first half.



Eimear Kelly came along from the back line and scored a point, followed by three points scored by Sally Scullion. This was a big incentive, and the team got anxious as the time was coming to an end. Our Lady and St. Patrick's, Knock scored another point, this made them two points ahead. Sara Redmond scored two points, which made a draw. The final whistle blew and the match was over. St. Benedict's left with smiles on their faces, because they gave their best the whole match and kept their heads up.

By Bronagh Loughran and Sally Scullion, Year 11



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

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ROTARY CLUB AWARDS

Orla Liddy, Year 12, is pictured below with Mr McAuley receiving her certificate awarded by the Rotary Club of Antrim for outstanding leadership skills. Orla, who was a runner-up, also received £50 for herself and the same amount for her school.



Traditional Music Group

Congratulations to the Traditional Group who played so beautifully on Prize Night in November. The group also gave a Christmas concert at Drummaul House in Randalstown to the delight of the residents.

Pupil interest in the group is growing continually and in January 2008 there will be 25 members.



PUPIL OF THE MONTH AWARDS



Year 10 pupils receiving their Pupil of the Month Certificates for October.

School Formal 2007



College Ramble Raises £6,500

On the 19th October all our pupils and staff travelled to various parts of the country for the annual school ramble. Building on last year's success the pupils raised £6,500 and enjoyed the glorious weather in Portstewart, Glenariffe, Draperstown and Castlerock. The pupil who raised the most money overall was Jordan Mc Laughlin, Year 8 who collected the grand sum of £375 and is pictured below.



Jarlath Burns signs the Visitor's Book at Prize Night 2007