



Autumn 2006

Clonkeen Chronicle

Parents' Council

Just when the dying embers of the Halloween fireworks are smouldering, there is something alight in Clonkeen College. It is the advent of the Xmas variety show. All hands will be on deck for this year's extravaganza. Rumour has it that a VIP, a very important person will attend this year's Clonkeen fest. Who will it be? Come and find out on the 7th and 8th December. Could it be Simon Cowell. Sorry, he wouldn't pass the dress code. Parents' Council will of course be on hand to sell the tickets; at €8 it is less than the price of an evening cinema ticket and you can even meet the cast. Ciara Phelan will be producing this year's event. Parents' Council will have a "tuck shop" on the night. We will also be guarding the premises. We will be decorating the lobby. We will be "bouncing" at the door. We will be keeping the peace. Roll on Xmas.

Parents' council also hosted the annual "Table Quiz" night on November 16th at 8 pm in the Rochestown Lodge in aid of the Ethiopia Fund. A total of €1045.00 was raised. A great night was had by all with teachers liberally spread among the top 4 teams. 2nd place saw the meeting of the old (*experienced -D. Ed.*) and the new with Mr Sheehan and Mr McMahon joining forces for the silver medal spot.

Big thanks to all those parents (63% of you) who contributed to the Parent's Council fund for 2006/2007. We need all the help we can get. €12 is a small sum that will go a long way. Contributions may still be made. Contact Teresa or Sandra at the office.

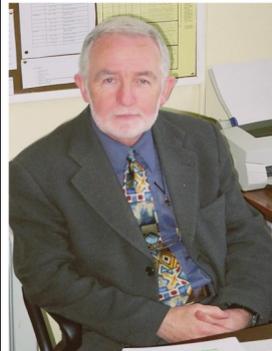
Paula McCarthy recently Chairperson of the Parents' Council has moved on to the dizzying heights of the Board of Management. Good luck Paula, and thanks for all your support over the years. Maybe now we'll get that new extension block we all dreamt about?

I must mention a sincere thanks to Pádraig Walsh, Adrienne Comiskey, Eilish Mc Neill, Rosemary Carvill and Yvonne Barry who stood down from Parent's Council this year. You leave a big footprint. And a warm welcome to the new blood to the Parents' Council, our new members, Michael O Beirne, Ann Lehane, Yvonne O'Regan, Brian Eustace and Assumpta Dunne.

Active citizens wanted. If you feel that you could contribute your talents to assisting in Clonkeen College affairs please contact the Parent's Council volunteer hotline @ 0872314549.

Clonkeen College will be facing some challenging times in the few years ahead, what with the new building project and all. Parents' Council will be there to support their endeavours. Bring it on.

Mick Dolan



Principal's Foreword.

The first Clonkeen Chronicle is a landmark in every school year. It allows all members of the school community a glimpse into the many layers that make up the living fabric of this school. The Chronicle bears witness to the wide range of people involved in so many school activities and our thanks are due to one and all, staff, parents and students.

This year sees a new Board of Management begin its term of office. The level of personal commitment required to serve on the Board of any voluntary school is extremely daunting. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to express my gratitude to, and admiration for, everyone concerned. In particular, thanks are due to Chairman, Maurice Hedderman, and to David Doody who are continuing for a third and second term respectively. We welcome new board members, John Flynn, Michael Salley and David Megan. Michael and David are both past pupils who have been very supportive of recent developments in the school. Paula McCarthy, the outgoing Chairperson of the Parent Council, who has had such tremendous input into the development of the school over the past five years, also joins the Board this year along with staff members Ciarán Collins and Mary Ryan. They have a very busy schedule ahead as they undertake the building of the new extension and PE hall and we wish them every success in their work.

We are all aware of, and grateful for, the rapid improvement in the school infrastructure during the term of the outgoing Board whose members were Maurice Hedderman, John O'Callaghan, David Doody, Clare Kelly, Emer Gibson, Billy Noonan, Joan Curran and Eddie Gough. They have overseen the extension of the car park, the installation of the security fence and bicycle racks, the addition of the Transition Year block and, this year, the re-roofing of the school and P.E. Hall. Internally the heating system has been upgraded, the school has been rewired, new computers have been installed throughout the school as well as broadband access in all rooms. A continuous program of investment has seen great improvement in the equipping of all the science laboratories. Despite the costs involved in the re-roofing the Infinity Project was also purchased and installed for Transition Year students. I wish to thank each and every one of them for their continuous personal support to me at all times and wish those who have retired the very best for more restful times ahead.

SUCCESS!!!

Leaving Certificate Successes.

Based on their Leaving Certificate results, **Pádraic Coughlan, Pádraig Farrell, Pádraic Lamb and Richard Nestor** have been granted Entrance Exhibition Awards by T.C.D., while **Colin Casey (L.C.2004)** has been awarded an entrance scholarship by U.C.D. Congratulations to these five talented young men, and to their teachers, on their achievements.

N O'Toole

Young Scientist of the year award.

I am delighted to say that two groups this year have qualified to enter their projects in the young scientists exhibition in January!! Both groups are from Room 1 in second year: Group one – Jamie Whitehouse, Stephen Lehane and Marcus O'Byrne and group two – Robert Carr and Evan Burke.

Jamie's group are carrying out an investigation to find the percentage of supertasters in the area. This is related to the density of taste buds on your tongue and how you perceive the flavour of food. They are also researching to see if being a supertaster or a non-taster affects your overall health.

Robert's group are investigating optical illusions to see if they trick one side of the brain more than the other. They will have to test people to see if they use the left side of their brain more than the right side and then if they see the illusions faster or differently.

Both groups will be testing people here in the school and in a girls' school to get a wide range of results. The staff wishes them the best of luck with their projects!

Maire Duffy

It is great to see an interest being revived in this very worthwhile competition.. Matthew Davey won the competition in 1991. We wish the current students every success D. Ed

Cross country.

Cross country season just beginning. First league race at Benildus in Oct. Next league race at St. Gerard's 22nd. Nov. CBS All-Ireland follows at ALSAA, Dublin Airport Nov 29th. Looking forward to seeing the 1st year team in action. As well as the schools' leading runners Eoin Healy, Oran Colhoun, winners of titles last year and all the other cross country runners. Happy running.

Br. Kelly

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE

An Evening of Comedy and Music

Thursday 7th & Friday 8th December at 8pm

Produced and Directed by Ciara Phelan for Clonkeen College.

On Thursday 7th & Friday 8th December, Clonkeen's finest talent will take to the stage in a fast and furious celebration of Comedy and Music. Established bands The Suspects and Killer Indian, together with some great new talent will provide the music, which will act as a backdrop to our hilarious programme of comedy sketches. From the sublime to the ridiculous, you will encounter all sorts of weird and wonderful characters, including the murderous Headmaster, Santa Claus, Gerald the Gorilla, Simon Cowell, and the lovely ladies who make the tea!! There's something for everyone in this show. Don't miss this great night out. Tickets are available at €8.00 from the school office – get em while they're hot!!

School tours.

Once again the students will have opportunities to travel at home and abroad. The school tours cater for all tastes and ages. The first, a trip to the home grounds of many a schoolboy's (and adult's) dream team, has already taken place. Later in the year we will have the Easter school tour to Venice, and the outdoor pursuit tours to Connemara and the Ardeche region in the South of France.

MANCHESTER UNITED TOUR 2006

On Saturday, 30th September, 48 students and 5 teachers met at the school at 6.30 a.m. to start the annual trip to Manchester. We took the ferry from Dublin Port and arrived at the 'Theatre of Dreams'-Old Trafford at 3 p.m. We had a very interesting guided tour and experienced the press box, dressing-room, tunnel, pitch sideline, and substitutes area. The Trafford Centre was our venue for evening meal and shopping and plenty of bargains were found.

Sunday was the highlight of our trip. We started with a visit to the Science & History museum and were treated to an excellent demonstration of the cotton industry. From there it was on to Old Trafford for lunch, shopping in the Megastore and generally soaking up the pre-match atmosphere. Newcastle were the opponents and even though their supporters were in form on the day, Manchester United won the match 2-0. We were treated to a fantastic display of footwork and skill from Ronaldo, Rooney, and Solskjaer. After the match we returned to the Trafford Centre for dinner and bowling.

We returned home on Monday stopping off en route in the Welsh village with the longest name!

Looking forward to next year already!

C.McGauley, P.Murray, O.Brougham, K.O'Donoghue, M.Brennan

(can anyone actually remember the name of the village with the longest name?)

South of France

This year there will be a total of 30 students and staff travelling to the south of France for a week of outdoor pursuits. The students will get a chance to try their hand at climbing, caving, abseiling, canoeing, hill walking, an assault course, mountain biking etc. The centre is located at the entrance to the gorges of the Chazzazac, a tributary of the Ardeche river. The scenery is spectacular and the terrain challenging, not for the faint hearted. The students are immersed in French culture and language for the week, all round a most worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

O. Daly

Easter school tour

A group of 36 students and 5 teachers will travel to Italy during the Easter holidays. Leaving on Monday of Holy Week the group will fly to Treviso for a 3 day stay in Venice, at Lido di Jesolo. This will be followed by a further 2 days at lake Garda. The students will return on Holy Saturday from Bergamo.

J Byrne

Music and Musicianship in Transition Year.

For the first time in Clonkeen College a year long programme of Music and Musicianship has been offered as an optional subject in Transition Year. This course involves both the study and practical application of areas of Musicianship such as The Theory of music. Students study the main aspects of music - Melody, Harmony and Rhythm as well as developing Song writing skills. Other aspects covered are copyright/album sleeve design. Students are also encouraged to develop their self-confidence via performance and vocal techniques.

Once an overall understanding is gained of these musical elements, students working in groups or individually, can begin to create their own songs and instrumental music. The current TY group will soon begin the writing and recording of their own CD.

J.Clarke

More Success!!!!

On October the 19th 66 senior and junior students from the college took part in the "Prism" test. – a preliminary maths for students wishing to compete in the **International Maths Olympiad**. University College Galway sets and corrects the test. We await results with great interest. good luck to everyone who participated.

M. Somers

It is great to see such interest in maths in the school but then the number of students taking maths at higher level has always been above the national average.

An Post essay writing Competition.

Last year while, still in first year, Stephen Lehane (R1) entered the essay writing competition run by An Post. The competition is open to all second level students in Ireland. The theme of the competition was "Let's change the way we look at healthy eating and fitness". Entries were in the form of a poster or an essay. Stephen came second in the category of essay writing for 15 and under. The prize was an Ipod shuffle and a Galway crystal vase.

Well done to Stephen but then his brother Simon could talk for Ireland. Simon represented the school in Ethiopia last year. Now Stephen can say he can write for the Country -D. Ed

Handball

Saran Greene continues to make an impact on the Handball scene. Despite picking up an injury before the summer, he competed in the U15 Leinster Championship, narrowly losing out to a Kilkenny man. In early July, still suffering from the torn ligament picked up in May, he was in a play-off between 2 other Dublin players. The injury and subsequent lack of training were to prove costly, losing both matches.

Back on form he can look forward to playing in the Dublin Championships in late December. We expect him to retain the title.

U-18 Gaelic

The first game of the season will be played against Ard Scoil Ris on Friday the 17th November. As part of the preparations for this challenge matches have been played against Oatlands and Old Bawn

Eoghan Dalton 5th Year.

Compromise rules

Preparations began for the big test series in Clonkeen College 1 month beforehand, with people volunteering to take in the Australian boys for the weekend. There were 3 training sessions organised for the match and it was the tackling which we concentrated on the most. A legal tackle is between the hips and the shoulders where a man could be dragged to the ground. This was easier said than done and it proved to be a tough rough and physical game. Everyone adapted well to the new game and it proved to be quite a show.

When the lads arrived they were collected from Clonkeen and brought to the host houses. They were brought out to socialise with the Irish boys. For the day of the match the weather proved to be miserable Irish weather! It was windy and rainy throughout the match but that did not put off the spectators as large numbers arrived to watch the match! The match got off to a flying start as both teams were well prepared for the match! There were some outstanding performances from the Clonkeen side especially from Kevin Nolan, Alex Brock and David Treacy who made some excellent marks and good scores too.

The first 2 quarters flew by and Clonkeen were leading at half time. The second half of the game proved to be quite different as the rough side of the game began to show. Some of the lads were involved in a game of fist-cuffs and the game ended with 2 of the home side being sent off. In the end the Clonkeen side ran out the winners

The evening came to an end after the match with both teams gathered in the hall for some refreshments and a presentation of awards. Some speeches were made from both schools and the lads parted for their last night in Ireland before returning home.

Eoghan Dalton 5th Year.

Many thanks must go to the staff involved in organizing this event Mr Sheehy, Mr McBride Mr Twomey and Mr Brennan who showed us how a match should be refereed and who could give lessons in time keeping. -D.Ed



Fundraising

As usual, the Third World Support Group has been busy. Mr. Daly and some 20 students took part in the "Women's" Mini-marathon in June and raised €2,134. a great achievement.

In October the group organized a non-uniform day which raised €850.00. At the end of December we will launch our Christmas fast –our biggest fund raiser of the year. In early December a charity calendar in aid of our Ethiopian Charity will go on sale, price €10. The calendar contains photos taken during the visit by Simon Lehane and Michael O'Sullivan to Ethiopia last Easter. Each month has been sponsored by a different company. We are grateful to the companies who support us in so many different ways. Recently a company provided 900 shirts which are on the way to the schools we work with in the Gurage region of Ethiopia. The students commitment to the projects is to be commended.

C McGauley

Public Speaking

Clonkeen's finest four Barry O'Shaughnessy, Liam O'Dowd, James Heron and Chris Day are representing Clonkeen College in this years annual 'National Public Speaking Competition' organised by Mental Health Ireland. With the amount of time and effort the boys have put in I have no doubt they will fly through the first rounds of competitions in December. In fact I would not be at all surprised if they flew through all the rounds to become this years winners and then.....fly off to Belgium to enjoy the rewards of their hard work! Only problem is boys, there are only four tickets and myself and Fiona have already bagged two.....

Only messing, wishing you the very best of success in the first rounds. Whatever the outcome you have already done us proud!!!! Carina McEvoy & Fiona Lester

Hurling

This year the U16 and U18 hurlers were victims of their own success. Due to their success in the last few years the hurlers were promoted to a higher grade. While we held our own in most positions it was obvious that many opposition teams had a higher number of club hurlers on their panels and therefore had greater strength in depth.

The U16s beat St. Colmcille's and lost to St. MacDara's in the first round, before losing to St. Aidan's in the Quarter-Final. Kevin O'Shea was outstanding and is turning into a hurler of the highest calibre. Rory Cole and Paul Butler stood out also. Another name to watch out for in the future is mercurial forward Conor O'Brien, as well as the hard-working Adam Hudson.

The U18s beat St. Benildus College and lost to St. Colmcille's in the first round, before losing to Coolmine Community School in the Semi-final. This is a team-full of stalwarts, and probably the most successful hurling team in the school's history. They won the U14 title, were promoted a grade for the U16 competition two years later and won that too. For this year's U18 championship they were promoted a grade again, and this time it was slightly a bridge too far. Two of our best were out through injury, namely Robert Walshe and Adam Cole. Even so, the team held their own and who knows what might have been had they been available for selection. Marksmen David Treacy and Conor Gough were excellent as always. Alex Brock, Adam Cole, Oisín Gough and Conor Brennan have come to the end of their hurling career in Clonkeen College and we commend them on their outstanding service and leadership on the playing field over the years. Well done lads.

Early next spring the younger lads will get their chance as the U14 competition will get under way then.

C. Collins (Manager)

U-14 Soccer

The U14 soccer team are into the 2nd round of the Cup and this match will be played on Tuesday 14th against Templeogue College. Hopefully this will be another win for the lads. We are also involved in the league, having secured a point from our first match against Greenhills College. Our next match is a home game against our local rivals St. Laurence's college. Nice to win this one which would leave us leading the group

D O'Hora G. Monnelly

U-14 GAELIC FOOTBALL

We qualified in fine style for the Dublin quarter-final with a comprehensive win over **St. Colmcille's** in October. This maintained our 100% home record following victories over **St. MacDara's** and **Coláiste Eoin**, the latter being a challenge. Our final league win also illustrated the fine strength in depth of the panel as we took to the field with no less than 11 potential first teamers unavailable to us. However having welcomed more than 70 students to training in 16 sessions since September 4th we always have committed players to step up to the breach.

Special mention to our Top Trainers so far this season: **Luke Foy, Seán O'Connor, Cian Taylor, Niall O'Dowd, Conor Lehane** (1st Year), **Oran Colhoun, Olan Coyle, Michael Curtin** and **Joe O'Sullivan** (2nd Year). Our two trips away from Clonkeen have resulted in defeat, but hopefully that luck will change with our quarter-final in **Portmarnock C.S.** later this month.

In the last Chronicle our Certificate winners and Top Trainers were omitted. The following were our **certificate winners** for full involvement in **U-14 and 1st Year Gaelic Football for 2005/06**: **S1** – Colin Brock, Thomas Carrigg, Niall Carvill, Oran Colhoun, Olan Coyle, Seán Geraghty, Luke Hedderman, Adam Hudson, Daniel Keane, Donal Magee, Darragh McGrath, Jason Mooney; **S2** – Greg Clarke, Shane Errity, Jamie Farrell, Conor Hearn, Dylan Johnston, Roger Kelly, Brian Lavelle, James Lee, Daragh Mooney, Steve Neary, Paul O'Reilly-Heron; **S3** – Garry Curran, Michael Curtin, Dylan Delaney, Andrew Ennis-McLoughlin, Conor Grehan, Aaron Leonard, Andrew Lynch, Kevin Mooney, Jack Nicholls, Joe O'Sullivan, Eric Redmond, Michael Whelan; **R.1** – Hugh O'Connor, Seán O'Sullivan, Conor Quinn, James Toner; **R.2** – Cillian Casey, Adam Curtis, Des Cryan, Denis Dowling, Robert Doyle,

Under 16 Soccer

The Under 16 soccer team began with a great start beating Cabra in a comfortable 2-0 win in the cup, Gareth Fitzsimons scoring both Goals with two free kicks. Philip Nolan came off early with a bad injury.

The following match was against Columcilles in the league, winning by a nail-biting 1-0, Simon Grehan getting the goal. Philip Higgins picked up a bad knee injury and is still out injured.

Our next game was also a league game finishing at a 4-1 win against Firhouse. Garreth Fitzsimons opened the tally with an easy tap in. The second goal came from Simon Grehan with a quality pass from Philip Nolan. The third goal was also slotted away by Gareth Fitzsimons beating 4 players to score. Conor O'Brien then nearly broke the cross bar with a screaming shot from outside the box. Firhouse then pulled one back, but Dillon Foley scored to finish the game off. There is still a long way to go, with an away match against Marian College in the League and Greenhills at home in the Cup.

Team; Philip Higgins, Philip Nolan, Alan Merriman, Conor O'Brien, Kevin Walshe, Robert Doyle, Phipip Knight, Niall King, Tom McGovern, Gareth Fitzsimons, Conor Quinn, Barry McDonald, Conor McCarthy, Chris Campbell, Dillon Foley, Denis Dowling, Hugh O'onnor, Ronan Holand, Simon Grehan, Frank Ryan.

(A Merriman R6)

Stephen Dunne, Adam Finnerty, Oisín McGovern; **R.3** – Karl Kohlmann, Cillian McGuirk, Alan Merriman, David Nolan, Philip Nolan, Ben Nugent, Conor O'Brien, Kevin Walsh; **R.4** – Craig Cullen; **R.5** – Simon Grehan.

And we awarded 5 Top Trainer awards – all 1st Years, now 2nd Years of course! They were **Oran Colhoun, Greg Clarke, Dylan Johnston, James Lee** and **Michael Curtin**. Well done lads!

Pauline Murray and Jim Lynch

Golf

The first main competition of the year was the Irish Schools Stroke-play Championship. The qualifying round was played in the Castle on Thursday the 26th October. On a testing course the harsh weather prevailed as the team of David Greene, Brian McCarthy and Colm Condon could only manage 83, 87 and 91 respectively to finish a disappointing 19th out of the 27 schools competing.

Next was the Irish Schools Matchplay Championship. This time the team of David Greene, Conor McCarthy and Colm Condon posted scores of 78, 78 and 80 respectively, still not enough to qualify.

At the moment, the Inter Schools League Matchplay Championship is under way, unfortunately the luck was against us as we were defeated by an aggregate score of 3 down against an on-form Colaiste Eanna. This was a four man team consisting of David Greene, Brian McCarthy, Conor McCarthy and Colm Condon.

Hopefully we can put things right over the next few weeks as we continue to play the Matchplay League.

David Greene
B Noonan –team manager