



# Clonkeen Chronicle

## Autumn 2007

### Principal's Foreword

#### November 2007.

The new school year is well under way and the level of enthusiasm and commitment from all sections of the school community is not only at its usual intensity but seems to be at an even higher pitch! Thanks to everyone for what has been a fantastic start.

The fine weather has facilitated a tremendous amount of sporting activity with the pitches and the gym crowded every lunch time. It's wonderful to see so many members of the teaching staff giving of their time and so many of our boys enthusiastically enjoying the opportunities offered.

#### Examinations.

Congratulations to our Junior and Leaving Certificate students on their excellent results. The latter, looking suitably dashing and accompanied by glamorous young ladies, thoroughly enjoyed their Debs on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> last in the Old Darnley Hotel, Athboy, following a reception in the school hosted, as ever by the Parent Council Social Committee. Several teachers attended the dinner and we would like to thank the students' organising committee for their kind invitations.

Two students, Michael O'Sullivan and Joshua Lernihan, deserve particular congratulations on being awarded Trinity Entrance Exhibition Awards for their out-

standing Leaving Certificate results. The awards will be presented on November 26<sup>th</sup> in Trinity College.

#### Who wants to be a millionaire table quiz

As you are already aware, Clonkeen College is holding a charity quiz in order to raise funds for our Ethiopian projects. The quiz will take place on the 22nd of November at 7.30 in Cuala GAA Club. Clonkeen College has over the years played a major role in raising funds for Ethiopia and this would be an impossible task without the support of our school community. As part of our school community I would ask once again for your support to help us raise these funds!

**Tickets are €15 each, €60 per table of four. It will be a great night out and there are fantastic prizes to be won. So come on everybody and buy a ticket!!**



Thanks, Mrs McEvoy

### Panto news

Tuesday nights are proving to be very interesting here in Clonkeen as our 60-strong cast of boys and girls (yes, real girls!) immerse themselves in rehearsals for this year's Panto, Jack and the Beanstalk. Our hapless Principal, Cornelius O Fool (played by Barry Lenihan) has landed himself a plum role in the show this year, and will oversee the proceedings as Auntie Freeze and Auntie Septic, and their unfortunate nephew Jack and niece Goldilocks try to get

out of the poverty-trap! Lurking in the background is the ubiquitous Count Olive, master of disguise and all-round baddy (or is he?) Join our heroes and heroines for a madcap adventure, which takes us up and down the beanstalk, into RTE for the 'Lovely Girls Pageant', up to the Ogre's Castle in the clouds, and home in time for a bowl of porridge and a cup of



tea. This year's Panto is a (not so) traditional affair, with loads of action, boys dressed as girls.....and bears....and cows.....and even as beanstalks, and of course, with REAL GIRLS!!!! What more could you want?? The Panto is on in the school hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm and there is a matinee on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 3pm. Don't miss it!!

**Ciara Phelan** (Producer director)

### Parents Council 2007

Clonkeen College will be presenting the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary production of "Jack and the Beanstalk".

On the 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December. First created in 1807 by Benjamin Tabart, but it was Joseph Jacobs who popularized it in *English Fairy Tales* (1890). (ref: WIKIPEDIA). Ciara Phelan will be producing and there will be cast & crew of 100's. Come and join us on the night to watch history in the making by the boys and girls of Clonkeen and Cluny. You will not be disappointed.

Talking about climbing. Careers Night will be also be organised by the Parent's Council after the Christmas festivities on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 2008, which will give our students an insight into ascending the social ladder.

A BIG thanks to all those parents who contributed to the Parent's Council fund for 2007/2008. We need all the help we can get

I must mention our sincere thanks to Suzanne O'Toole who stood down from Parent's Council this year after many loyal years of service. And a warm welcome to the new members of the Parent's Council; Ciara Phelan, Bernadette Hussey, Bridgit Coughlan, Bryan Clery, Donna Hogan, Lesley Sullivan, Mary Spain, Raul Labastida and John Kelly.

If you are interested in sponsoring a raffle prize or advertising in the Pantomime promo please call **M i c k D o l a n @ 0872314549**. We need your support.

## Music

The Transition Year music course is well under way. The first term saw students learn a variety of skills including Music Theory, Writing Song lyrics and Vocal lessons. The main aim of this year's course is to produce an album on CD which will reflect a variety of musical styles. The 'real' work begins next term when students return from work experience. Groups, individuals and combos in between will begin the more serious task of writing and recording demos. More news in the next issue. J Clarke (music man)

## \* Guitar Lessons \*

Weekly Guitar Lessons begin Thursday November 15th. They will be held from 10'clock - 1.40 in Room 18. These lessons are for both beginners and improvers. See Mr Clarke for further details.

## Third World Fundraising

Fancy doing a sponsored camel ride in Egypt? That's just what Stephen Byrne did this summer and raised €150.00 for EPEC. An equally risqué adventure occurred in June when Mr Daly and 14 students took part in the "womens mini marathon" great fun was had by all and €554 was raised. In October the prefects raised €656.38 through a non uniform day. A big thanks to all the prefects for their help. Our bicycle raffle raised €699.88 also.

Still to come is our piece de resistance, namely the "Who wants to be a millionaire" table quiz on Thursday the 22nd November in Cuala GAA Club, Dalkey. This has been organized by Ms McEvoy and we still have plenty of tickets left. These can be purchased through the school or you can just show up on the night.

Finally thanks for all your support it is much appreciated.

**C McGauley (third world coordinator)**

## U-14 GAELIC FOOTBALL

We almost made it to the quarter-finals of the Dublin Championship with an improbable victory in our last league game. With the mammoth task of having to defeat **St.Colmcille's C.S.** by 22 points our 5-11 to 4-1 victory was still pretty heroic, especially since our final opponents had beaten **Oatlands** by 5, a team that we had lost to by 13 points in our first outing! Even that performance showed great character and progress, as did our unlucky 7 point loss to champions **Coláiste Éanna** – a match we could easily have won. Did the ref cost us the match? (Ask the lads, they'll explain...). Despite elimination, the panel can take great pride from their efforts and near-miss.

Our results:

**Oatlands C.B.S., 4-9; Clonkeen College, 1-5.  
Coláiste Éanna, 4-9; Clonkeen College, 2-8.  
Clonkeen College, 5-11; St. Colmcille's C.S., 4-1.**

As usual we started our campaign on the first Monday in September, going all the way to the last school day of the term with a **1st Year** challenge versus **Johnstown N.S.** The latter played manfully against their older opponents, gaining good match practice for their upcoming Cumann na mBunscoil semi-final. It was a good way to end our season and kick-start the **1st Year campaign**. Lots of those in action that day will be playing together next year for the U-14s!

We had **18** lunch-time sessions including a highly successful league, which included over-age 2<sup>nd</sup> years to aid our training. All students were offered 5 matches. In the last round Munster were finally eliminated, but their most dedicated players were distributed amongst the 4 semi-finalists. Leinster beat league winners, New York-London, Ulster defeated Connacht. After Halloween, **Leinster** came out on top. Winners and runners-up medals to be presented in May. With the excellent weather it was great to see most lunch-times a hive of activity. We always encourage 1<sup>st</sup> Years to make the trip out to us as it can be an ideal way to start off their tenure in their new school. Over 60 players made an effort – a healthy number being 1<sup>st</sup> Years. With the success of the U-14 League we have continued straight into the 1<sup>st</sup> Year season. Competition starts in February, but we say to **ALL** 1<sup>st</sup> Years to come out and join us for our Monday sessions before Christmas. Last year we inaugurated our **All-Star Awards** rewarding our **Top Trainers** for the season. Special mention to **Ciarán McCarthy [R.2]**, **Conor Lehane [R.3]**, **Michael Curtin [R.6]** and **Ciarán McDermott [S2]** who missed 2 sessions between them due to illness! This was **Michael's** 3<sup>rd</sup> year involved with the U-14's. It'll be strange next September to have a training session without him! Good luck to him and the other 2<sup>nd</sup> Years in the U-16 grade.

## U-14 ALL-STARS 2007/08

**Aidan Quinn [S2]**

**Aaron McDonnell [S2] Jack Butler [R.2] Shane Sexton [S2]  
Daniel Hussey [S1] Ciarán McDermott [S2] Tom Toner [S2]**

**Ryan Matthews [R.1] Cormac McDermott [R.1]**

**Michael Curtin [R.6] Stephen Moroney [R.1] Cian Taylor [R.1]**

**Conor Lehane [R.3] Ciarán McCarthy [R.2] Sean Gibney [S3]**

The following were amongst the Top Trainers too: Dáibhéid Corish, Adam Mooney [R.1], Scott Curtis, Aaron Murphy, Corry Nicholls, Aaron O'Flaherty, Carl Wallace [S2], Emmet Deeney, Gavin Nolan, Alex O'Neill [S3], Luke Foy, Denis Vavasour [R.1], Scott Mahony, Paul Moffatt, Dean O'Donnell, Cian O'Hara [R.2], Brian Allen, Jamie Keenan and Conor McLoughlin [R.3].

**All the above, plus a few others, will get Certs in May. Well done to all!**

**J Lynch, P Murray (managers)**

## E.C.D.L. Reminder.

students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year who have passed 6 modules and have not taken or repeated the 7<sup>th</sup> test. You **must complete** all 7 modules within a three-year time frame to be awarded the ECDL Cert. **G.Monnelly.**

## Student Council.

The Council has been working hard through the school year. New topics are hitting our agenda every week. From our first major project, the First Year Social, through to our most recent success of purchasing new jerseys for the Gaelic football, soccer, hurling and basketball teams we've been very busy.

This year saw the first ever policy to be drawn up by the Student Council, the lost property policy. Behind the scenes the Council has consulted the staff and Parent Council on issues of uniform, discipline, 5<sup>th</sup> Year subject change policy and the format of new school journals.

Looking forward the prefects will be working even harder on the football pitch next Monday when we take on the teachers in a charity match. Hopefully as many students as possible will all show their support. Also the Council will be involved in the production of this year's Christmas Panto.

Finally, as our term comes to an end we would like to thank Mr Noonan and all the staff for their support and guidance and to wish the incoming Council the best of luck.

**Eoghan Shanky-Smith**

## **Past Pupils Golf Classic.**

The tenth annual golf classic took place this year in Druid's Glen and was a resounding success with all the available team slots filled and a contribution to the school building fund of €12,500.00. The group of past pupils who organise the day has remained virtually unchanged over the years and their commitment to the school is a source both of inspiration and gratification to us all. The monies raised through their efforts have often been vital to facilitating projects in the school. On all our behalves I'd like to say a huge "thank you" to Peter Fry, Paul Conalty, Ray O'Connor, Barry Morgan, Greg Clarke.

**Paula Fry (coordinator)**

## *...The puzzle master....*

See if you can find the hidden country in the following sentence.

**"In December mud and slush are a peril on the roads."**

## MANCHESTER UNITED TOUR 2007

On Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 49 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 limited tour of the stadium due to the early kick-off the following day. The Trafford Centre was our venue for evening meal and shopping and plenty of bargains were found.

Saturday was the highlight of our trip. We headed straight to Old Trafford to soak up the pre-match atmosphere and for some shopping in the Megastore. Wigan were the opponents and even though their supporters were in form on the day, Manchester United won the match 4-0. We were treated to a fantastic display of footwork and skill from Ronaldo, Rooney, and Anderson. After the match we visited the Science & Industry museum where the lads had the opportunity to experience science 'hands on' and to catch a glimpse of Coronation Street. We then travelled to the Trafford Centre for dinner and more shopping.

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

Looking forward to next year already!

**C.McGauley, P.Murray, O.Brougham, J.Clark, T.Ford**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Year Basketball

This year's new students entered the school enthusiastic and exuberant and quickly settled themselves down, on the sporting side of things at least, participating in Gaelic Football and Cross Country, as well as everything else in between. But one sport that was called for was Basketball. So David Brandon in 4<sup>th</sup> year took it upon himself to coach and train an u14 Basketball team to compete in an inter-schools league and cup in the new year.

To help him with his goal I helped to run a 1<sup>st</sup> year basketball league to spot the fresh talent, and it was clear straight away that this year's first years were brimming over with the stuff. It's plain to see that the strong Clonkeen College sporting tradition will be carried on. Nearly three months later and the league is fast approaching the semi-finals. Let's hope we have a good final! I wish David and his team the best of luck in the new year. Many thanks to Mr. Twomey for his help and support and to Mr. Keogh for his expertise and help.

**Barry O'Shaughnessy**

## S2 2007/8

There are 31 students in S2 and what an active group they are!

They play gaelic football for Geraldines and Cuala and some also play hurling for Cuala. They play soccer for Park Celtic, Cabinteely, St.Joseph's and Wayside

Celtic and one guy coaches Carriglea U/8 soccer team.

They play Tennis, Golf, Badminton, Cricket and Rugby.

There are athletes and swimmers and one guy is also a life-saver in swimming. There is a kick-boxer and a brown belt in Karate.

There is a sailor who also does break-dancing. Lots of them are scouts and they go to their local youth clubs. There is a member of St.John's Ambulance.

And to finish off there are musicians who play guitar, drums, fiddle, tin-whistle, bodhran and the tenor(which I am reliably informed is like a giant recorder!) and one guy is a DJ waiting for his first gig!

It is great to see such involvement and I hope that they can be as involved in the life of Clonkeen during their time with us.

**Pauline Murray (Class Tutor)**

## Art

The leaves are turning to gold and russet with the advent of Autumn. Fifth year art students are busy working on turning over a new leaf, in the form of **Jack and the beanstalk** a forthcoming school production. Conor Horgan Gaul is the artistic director with his creative team of Keith Byrne, Colm Condon, Adam Hogan, Edmond and Frank Ryan, Ethan Walshe, Stephen Byrne and our consultant from Canada Ross Taylor.Well worth seeing this production.

**K O'Donoghue (artist)**

## Under 18 Gaelic Football.

Following on from a highly successful inter school Gaelic league this years senior gaelic team are very well prepared for the challenge of Oatlands in the first round on november 16. We have played one challenge game against Colaiste Eanna which ended in a narrow one point defeat 1-16 to 3-9. Great performances came from David Greene who kicked an impressive 6 points, Daragh Lyons 2 points, Eoin Gallagher, David Treacy and Eoghan Shankey-Smith. This team has plenty of experience and great character with a great team spirit. We are very hopeful that some silverware will arrive in Clonkeen this year. We still have Pres Bray and Old Bawn to play in preparation for Oatlands.

**E.Sheehy, M. Brennan**

## Golf

A number of competitions were held in the first term and the number of golfers is increasing all the time.

On Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> October we had the qualifying round of the Irish Schools Strokeplay Championship in Baltinglass Golf Club. This was a difficult start to the season with two teams to qualify from 21. the boys (David Green, Conor McCarthy and Shane O'Rourke) can be proud of their achievement on the day, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> just missing out on a place but still a great start on what was a tough day with very windy conditions.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> November we were back in action for the Irish School's Matchplay Championship this time played in Wicklow Golf Club. This time 4 were to qualify out of 25 on what was a great day for golf. While not making the cut the boys did not disgrace themselves finishing comfortably in the middle of the pack

The Interschools League (Group B) Matchplay is the next big event. The team comprises David Green and Conor McCarthy, Colm Condon and Shane O'Rourke Fixtures are Oct 26<sup>th</sup> -vs Blackrock College, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> -vs CCB Monkstown, Nov 12 -vs Benildus.

In the Leinster Schools Junior Golf Competition the team of Ciaran Feeney, James Lee and Shane Errity put in a great effort and show great promise but unfortunately didn't get through to the second round. **B. Noonan (golf coordinator)**

## TY Update

Transition year students have just returned to the college after a period of work experience. The minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, has asked to speak to all TY students on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. She has also kindly arranged for each TY class to visit Leinster House during March and April. Mr. O'Hara has organized the annual TY Christmas collection for the ISPC. This takes place on the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov in Dublin City centre (Grafton Street area.. Tourism trips for the 2<sup>nd</sup> TY term (19Nov - 8 Feb.) will include Trinity College and the Book of Kells, Kilmainham Jail and Dublin Castle and the State Appartements. **J. Byrne (TY coordinator)**

## ECDL.

This year, there has been a major change in the method of teaching the ECDL programme. First years now have a C.D which covers the entire course content. This has many advantages. There is no need to purchase the Microsoft Office suite of Applications as the C.D. will work entirely on its own. The learning is done by means of simulations. A student can go over it as many times as he needs to. A student can progress at his own pace. The software records progress, and highlights areas of weakness. There is a test at the end of each section. The whole family can use the same disk. Most importantly, we have moved to automated testing. The questions on the CD mirror those which will be given in the actual ECDL test.

## Good News!!!

We have completed our first official ECDL test under the automated system, and the results are most encouraging. Congratulations to Chris Campbell, Conor Hayes, Barry Lenihan and Patrick McRedmond who achieved the perfect score (100%), in their Module 5 (Database) test

Well done also to Matthew Murphy who is the first student in First year to have successfully completed the eleven tests in the Word Processing Module. Watch this space!! **G.Monnolly.**

## Rugby

Yes you did read it right. Rugby has its place in the chronicle thanks to **Andrew Boyle** 5<sup>th</sup> year. Andrew is currently playing for the U18 Leinster Youth Team. He was selected through a series of regional matches and competitions, and a summer training camp.

The team has had a very successful season to date securing second place in the U18 Inter-provincial Group stages with victories over Ulster and Munster and narrowly losing out to Connaught in a highly competitive encounter.

He has a call up for the Irish U18 Youths squad which is still in the selection process.

*Ross O'Carroll Kelly move over, there is a new kid in town. (D. Ed)*

## Soccer

Each to his own and not to be outdone in the high achievers **Philip Knight** also in 5<sup>th</sup> year was selected to represent the Leinster Under 18 Soccer team. Considering Philip is still under 17 he is more than holding his own (he captained the side in a game in Monaghan).

Philip went through a rigorous process over the 9 months to be selected

## Dublin Minor Hurling Triumph and Clonkeen

It was a great year for Dublin Minor Hurling. (U-18). They won the Leinster Championship and were unlucky losers to Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final. Two Clonkeen students and Cuala players, David Treacy and Oisín Gough figured prominently on the the Dublin team, David at centre forward and Oisín at corner back. Against Wexford at Carlow, Dublin won 1-13 to 0-6, with David scoring 7 points, no less, and Oisín holding his man scoreless. Then to Croke Park and the Leinster Final against top cats, Kilkenny. A great win for Dublin with David scoring 3 points. On to the All-Ireland semi-final, on an appalling evening in Portlaoise. By now a carefully marked man, David contributed 4 points to the Dublin score and Oisín played very well on a top corner forward. But Dublin lost, rather unluckily, to Cork 2-10 to 0-13. Congratulations to David and Oisín on a great year.

## Downhill Mountain Biking.

In the individual sports we must pay tribute to David Keenan who is into extreme sports in the form of downhill mountain biking.

In the pursuit of the sport he has this summer traveled to Portugal, Scotland (where he broke his ankle) and France (for a training camp).

In Sept he had the opportunity to compete in the last round of the world cup in Slovenia but a broken collar bone in a practice run put him out of the competition.

Ever up beat he reckons his bad luck has run out and is training hard for the next season.

*There are many other students involved in all kinds of sports and activities and we would like to hear about them. They are an inspiration to us all D. Ed*

## Heroic Hurlers

Clonkeen surprised many by reaching their first ever Senior B Hurling final this year. Losing heavily to Oatlands in their first game, they faced Benildus and St. Colmcilles in the next games. They beat both with great displays. In the quarter-final they beat defending champions Scoil Aodháin of Whitehall with another much improved display.

They defeated Coolmine in the Semi-Final at O'Toole Park, thanks in no small way to a superb performance by Conor Gough at centre back and a staggering display by Captain David Treacy. Having lost to Oatlands earlier in the year 6:19 to 3:11 Clonkeen knew they would have to play exceptionally well to stand a chance. That they did, serving up a classic, pulsating and ultimately heartbreaking match against their rivals at Parnell Park.

Despite being the better of the two sides in this contest and fully deserving of their 2-8 to 1-1 lead at half time, Oatlands were unable to shake off the challenge of their dogged neighbours who came back strongly after the restart.

Liam O'Dowd scored first in the game – a beautiful point on the 30 second mark. However Clonkeen found the going tough and conceded two quality goals before David Treacy broke through for a goal after 23 minutes. In the second half and playing with the strong wind, Clonkeen really came to life. It was Treacy who led the charge with a point and a superb rocket of a goal to the top corner from 20 yards out. Treacy's 43<sup>rd</sup> minute penalty was well saved and Robert Walshe goaled brilliantly just after Oatlands had rattled the net for a third time. A minute later Paul Butler followed Rory Cole's superb point with a ground stroke to the net. Unbelievably, for the first time in the match since the very first minute Clonkeen were leading. However Mulligan won the puck-out and scored an excellent point to equalise for the favourites.

In extra-time Oatland's physical strength and the athleticism of their key players proved too much for tenacious Clonkeen. Despite a great goal from Rory Cole in the dying minutes Oatlands won 5-15 to 5-11. Other players who performed heroically for Clonkeen and need to be mentioned were the full-back line of Eoghan Dalton, the brilliant Kevin O'Shea and John Murphy who all withstood intense pressure. Wing-backs Daniel Spillane and impressive youngster Adam Hudson as well as Conor O'Brien and Conor Gough impressed also.

**SCORERS:** D.Treacy 2-7, R.Cole, R.Walshe 1-1 each, P.Butler 1-0, L.O'Dowd 0-2.

**TEAM & PANEL:** Frank Ryan, Eoghan Dalton, Conor Gough, John Murphy, Daniel Spillane, Kevin O'Shea, Adam Hudson, Conor O'Brien, Cillian Casey, Liam O'Dowd, Seán Lehane, Paul Butler, David Treacy, Rory Cole, Neil Kelly, Robert Walshe, Greg Clarke, Marc Campbell, Shane Errity, Conor Hearn, Eoghan Keegan, Robert Farrelly.

**TRAINERS:** C.Collins, M.Ryan, F.Hayes.

*A big thanks to all the supporters their number and enthusiasm made all the difference to the team*

## Under 16 Soccer

The under 16 season started well with a comfortable win at home against Donahies in the leinster Cup. This was followed by a much tougher game at home to Chanel College. We fell behind after a minute but fought back against a stiff enough breeze. At half time it was 2 all. We battled hard throughout the game and kept our discipline. The second half performance was better, we moved the ball more quickly and Chanel could not live with us. We ended up winning 5-2. In the next round we are drawn away to Selesian's Celebridge, another tough game but there is no doubt this squad has potential. The under 16 team is also in the League Tournament with qualification nearly secured from our group after a walk over in Firhouse.

## Under 18 Soccer.

After a comfortable enough win in a friendly against Oatlands the under 18's traveled to Dundalk to play

against Marist College. We started fast and were 3-1 up at half time. We took the lead thanks to Jordan Williams. This was followed by 2 goals from Philip Knight including a cracking overhead.

In the second half Marist College fought back. We defended well with big performances from Paul Metcalf, Shane Cryan, Eoin Gallagher and Philip Higgins. In the next round we were drawn against St Brendans Bray at home. I a thrilling game we lost 3-2. St Brendan's took an early lead but we hit back and led 2-1 at half time with goals from Simon Grehan and Philip Higgins. St Brendan's came back to win 3-2. This year we also entered the League. We've played one game –away to St. McDara's. It was a comfortable victory. Since the beginning of the year the the U-18 panel have a great attitude towards training and in matches. Best of luck in the coming games.

**A McBride**

