



CLONKEEN CHRONICLE

SPRING 08

Clonkeen College Students' Council

Recently, the new Clonkeen College Students' Council was elected comprising of students from fifth year. Elections took place during the month of January when eighteen prefects were elected by their peers and by staff members to comprise the new students' council for this year.

During the introduction day, held in IADT at Bakers Corner, further elections took place to decide on which prefects should fill the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, along with Secretary and Deputy Secretary (the deputies both taking the place of the present chairperson and secretary after half a year in office).

Since the allocations of these positions the students' council has had two meetings so far, the first taking place at the end of January along with the most recent taking place on the 25th of February.

The council will meet continuously throughout the school year along with visiting classes and meeting with class representatives, and will discuss a wide array of topics, all for the benefit of the students of Clonkeen College.

The topics most at discussion at present time are the possible inclusion of soccer leagues for different years, also the ever-present lost property issue and, of course, the highly popular first year social – all issues that will all be tackled with grace by this year's Students' Council.

Mark Malone (Secretary)

Puzzle Which country in the western hemisphere can be named using the following numbers and letter?

1000 E 10 1 100 0

Principal's Foreword

Welcome to the second Clonkeen Chronicle of this school year. This second term is unusually short with Easter falling so early. As a result our third and sixth years are facing into their mock exams exceptionally early and we were unable to facilitate the same mid-exam break as last year. However there is a great air of seriousness about and, I'm pleased to report, mostly happy faces emerging from the exam hall.

In the context of exams I'm delighted to congratulate Alex Brock from last year's class who has been awarded an entrance scholarship award in UCD. Alex contributed to very many areas of school life during his time here and we are delighted with his success.

While there is a full account elsewhere in this publication of the school's participation in the St. Andrew's one-act drama festival, I am delighted to congratulate Barry Lenihan on his best actor award. Barry has been the star of many productions in the school which called on his excellent comedic talents, but the role he played in Yeat's "On Baile's Strand" showed the real breadth and depth of his potential. The whole cast performed excellently and, with Tom McGovern being awarded a commendation, it must rank as another significant success for Fiona Lester. Fiona's absolute love of theatre and the high standards she demands of everyone under her tutelage, have enriched the lives of many of our students since she first arrived in 2002.

The new members of the Student Council have been

Clonkeen College Past Pupils.

In the past few years, in addition to the annual Golf Classic, our past pupils are finding new ways of rekindling old friendships and, in so doing, supporting the school, a development for which we are very grateful. This year will see our second **Gala Function in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry on Friday, April 4th 2008**. The class of 1987-1988 will use the occasion to mark the twentieth year since they graduated from the school and we look forward to a large representation from that group. We hope this occasion will be as memorable as our last event in April 2005 when many "old" friendships were rekindled, past glories relived and €60,000.00 contributed to the development of the school car park, bicycle compounds, security fencing and other projects under way at that time! Past pupils and friends of the school are supporting this year's event by sponsoring a table of 10 people for €1,600.00, buying individual tickets at €160.00 or making a personal donation. Thanks to everyone for your support, especially those people behind the scenes, past pupils, friends and parents of our present students, who so generously give of that most valuable commodity, their time, again and again. (D. Twomey)



elected and undergone their induction. They have established formal contact with the Board of Management and the Parent Council and will be working with both bodies on behalf of the school. Their first task was to represent the school at the unveiling of the new Edmund Rice centre at Mount Sion in Waterford, accompanied by Mr Noonan. They will now set about completing the review of the Code of Behaviour with the staff and Parent Council and contributing to the design of the new student journal to be introduced next year. I know they will serve the school community well and I hope they have a fulfilling and productive year.

In the last two years our aspiring writers have begun to make their mark with awards won by Stephen Lehane and Eoghan Carrick. On Wednesday, 20th February past pupil, Colum McCann, one of the most highly acclaimed Irish writers of his generation, paid a visit to the school and shared the secrets of his craft with a very keen audience of aspiring writers. Colum was in Dublin to perform a reading from his work and very kindly made himself available, despite his busy schedule. He was delighted with his second such visit to the school and impressed by the incisive nature of the students' questions.

Finally I would like to congratulate all concerned on the very successful Careers Night in the school on February 7th last, especially the main organisers, Brigid McKeever of the Parent Council and Mr O' Hora. It was particularly gratifying to hear the presenters, many of whom were past pupils, speak so highly of the interest and courtesy shown by all of the students present. A night for the school to be proud of!

Transition Year Music

The current transition year students are working very steadily on their music/ song writing skills. The album they are currently making promises to showcase some great talent here in Clonkeen. Many of these students were involved in the CD project two years ago and it is great to witness the development in their musical creativity. Others are new to this and they are showing great promise also. We now have our own mini- studio on which some songs have already been recorded as well as a very promising 'blues' guitar solo. Watch this space! (J Clarke)

Trip to Ethiopia 07/08

Last year's representatives from Clonkeen College's Third world support Group (Mrs. McEvoy, Mr McGauley and myself) left Dublin on the 26th of December 2007 at 4am. We flew to Addis, Ethiopia, Where we were met by Ms. Agnes Daly, a former teacher in Clonkeen and who now heads up operations for the charity EPEC, with which Clonkeen has been working for the past 12 years.

We stayed in a Franciscan mission right in the centre of Addis, poverty was everywhere, with some living in plastic bags on the divide between two lanes of traffic! The city was a wakeup call, but it was nothing compared to what we experienced when we travelled further down south in to the Gurage region. This area was in the heart of the Ethiopian Countryside and people here were really living in poverty! The lucky kids went to school and the really lucky ones went to school with shoes. While in Gurage we visited various water projects and clinics which Clonkeen and its students had helped to

finance, but the thing which had made a huge impact on the people and the communities were the school projects. Schools mean education, and to those people that meant being able to get a job and hope for a better quality of life.



Seeing the clinics, the old women filling water barrels from a pump and the kids in

the schools hit home to me that what Clonkeen College and its Students does for these families is so valuable. The Third World Support Group and Mr. McGauley in particular, should be commended for their enthusiasm and determination in fundraising, both inside and outside the school community. Believe me our little efforts make such a huge difference to those people who have nothing!

Barry O'Shaughnessy.

Third World Fundraising

In December 2007 the Third World Support Group and the Students' Council came up with an innovative fundraising idea, namely a student-teacher football match. It was anticipated by students that the score line would read 10 to 1 in favour of the students but, as it turned out, they only won 2 to 1. Of more importance was the fact that 1,816.40 was raised for Students Council funds and for a school project in Ethiopia. Consequently, the Third World Support Group was able to send 908.20 off to Ethiopia before Christmas. Our sincerest thanks to the Student Council for all their efforts. The Christmas collection in Grafton Street and Dun Laoghaire raised 3,446 in total. Well done to all who helped out.

Another active source of fundraising has been the O'Shaughnessy family who raised 1,560 over the Christmas period likewise the McCarthy family also raised €1500 Our warmest thanks for all their efforts.

The Christmas fast is the biggest fundraiser of the year. This year we set a target of 10,000 to support water projects in Ethiopia, Malawi, Eritrea, Uganda and Kenya. To date we have raised 7,600. Given the large amount of cards still outstanding, there is every possibility that we might make our target, if a generous response is forthcoming. **Clem McGauley**, Third World Support Group

ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE ONE ACT DRAMA FESTIVAL 2008

Clonkeen College took part in the Festival for the second year in Feb 2008. Our Production this year was On Baile's Strand by W.B Yeats. Using Yeat's symbolic style, our interpretation found meaning in modern day Dublin and examined the themes of power, loyalty, friendship, violence and fear. The cast took on the characters of the drug lords with gusto and conviction.

The adjudicator Dara Carolan congratulated us on our production. He said in 2004 the Abbey Theatre commissioned groups to perform On Baile's Strand for the plays centenary, but not one group brought the play into the 21st century. He was very impressed with the creative way we managed to do this and awarded us a merit for re-imagining the play. Barry Lenihan was awarded the

much sought after cup for Best Actor. Barry gave a totally three dimensional performance as the Blind man, as did Tom Mc Govern as The Fool.



Tom was awarded an acting Merit for the second year running.

The other adjudicator Chrissie Poulter commented on how well the cast dealt with the difficult verse in the play and how well they made it sound in the modern context.

Athletics Track and Field.

Training has now begun for the Track and Field season. Runners, jumpers and throwers needed. How much athletic talent is there in first year?

There are 4 age groups : U- 14, U – 15, U – 17 , Senior There are a few events U – 16 at East Leinster.

U- 14 events :

CBS sports : 80m , 800m, 11000m ,Medley relay , Sprint relay ,long jump , high jump,javelin,shot ,

East Leinster events: 80m, 75m hurdles, 500m , 800m , 1100m , sprint relay ,LJ , HJ , Triple Jump, shot, javelin, discus,

The big dates

April 23rd: CBS Championships. Santry May 5th, 6th and 7th East Leinster Championships at Ringsend.

Qualification from these to Leinster finals at Santry

Br Kelly

NATIONAL FORUM ON EUROPE PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Clonkeen College Transition year students entered the competition for the first time this year. The overall Theme was The Four Freedoms, The European Union at work. The team took the topic of people - Should the European Union do more to tackle cross border crime.

The Standard was very high on the night and only one team out of the four schools went on to the next round. The team received certificates and prizes for their efforts and very favourable comments from the judging panel.

The Team Colin Egan, Barry Lenihan, Colin O'Shaughnessy.

Our production was greatly enhanced with an original song, Aoife's Song, with music by John Clarke and beautiful vocals by Chloe Giacometti. (cd available) Marcus Dalton was our " Sound Man" giving us sound effects and sound tracks bang on cue!

We all enjoyed breathing new life in to this old play, the team members were very proud of themselves and the hard work and commitment paid off . Well done lads!

The Team: Fiona Lester, Marcus Dalton. Tom McGovern, Barry Lenihan, Gary Carvill ,Frank Ryan, Stephen Byrne,David Nolan, Ciaran Carrick, Original Music John Clarke,singer Chloe Giacometti.

Fiona Lester.

Student Council of 2007

The year has ended and so has the tenure of another student council. Looking back the council can be content with its contribution to the school. New Gaelic Football, Hurling, Basketball and soccer jerseys bought and fundraised by the council with thanks to Mr Twomey and the parent's council. The council's most overt work would obviously be the Prefect vs Student fundraising Soccer match. The prefects won out easy winners despite the efforts of the teachers who were conspicuous for their cheating on the day. Thanks is due to Michael Breathnach for organizing the successful event.

On other fronts the incoming council will be continuing the uniform reforms we have gotten the ball rolling on. Best of luck to them on that. Summing up our term as prefects could be considered productive and enjoyable for us. Thanks to all the staff of the college and best of luck to the new prefects.

Eoghan Shanky Smith (chair)

*I am disappointed at their lack of understanding of the laws of association football. The intervention of a medic on the pitch is not considered unlawful and any chance encounter with a ball while on the pitch must be considered as incidental. I am also disappointed with their lack of understanding of maths. To describe the slimmest of margins as an easy victory shows there is still work to be done. Despite my reservations I would like to thank them al for their work throughout the year. The greatest compliment I can pay them is to say **you made a difference.** D.Ed*

CSPE Project Room 4.

Room 4 chose the topic of "Juvenile Crime" for their junior cert action project as part of their junior cert exam. They invited two junior Liaison Officers from Dun Laoghaire to come to the school to talk to them on this topic.

They learned that the most common crimes are –underage drinking, smoking, graffiti and vandalism. They also learned that for a juvenile to be eligible for a caution they must be under 18, there must be adult involvement in the crime, they must not already have received a "caution), the parents or guardians must agree to the terms of the caution **M O'Keeffe**

Ardeche 08

Once again the staff have organized an outdoor pursuit trip to the south of France. This trip introduces outdoor adventure sports such as rock-climbing, canoeing, caving mountain biking and assault course. Ceven Aventure located in a valley just outside the town of Les Vans. All activities are through the medium of French where possible.

Over the years this trip has proved to be great fun for both students and staff. This year the group will be heading out on the 13th of March and comprises students from 2nd, 4th, and 5th years.

Karl Gill

If im not mistaken it is Karl's 3rd trip to France. They must be doing something right

1st YEAR GAELIC FOOTBALL

Let's hear it for Global Warming! There was a time when the end of the U-14 campaign ushered in Winter. Then, St. Brigid's Day brought the opening training session for the First Years. Not any more! By the time we had made our crosses we had already clocked up 9 sessions from November. These lads know that there'll be fine footballers joining us from **Holly Park and Johnstown National Schools** – well done to both and congratulations to **Holly Park** - who played each other in their **Cumann na mBunscol Final in Croke Park** in December. Competition for U-14 places is already hotting up!

Our campaign got under way after the mid-term break. Despite a heavy defeat to **Coláiste Eoin**, we go into our next match against **Outlands** with confidence. A win should see us into the knockout stages of the **Dublin "A" First Year Championship**.

The **Top Trainers** so far are: **Seán Gibney, Ciarán McDermott, Aidan Quinn, Shane Sexton, Tom Toner and Carl Wallace** [S2] and **Emmet Deeney, Gavin Nolan and Alex O'Neill** [S3]. Well done to them and the rest of the 30-odd panel for their enthusiasm and commitment. Our **All-Star Team** will be announced in May when we will present **Top Trainer Awards and Certificates**.

P. Murray J. Lynch

Under 14 hurling

The Under 14 hurling season got under way. The team is keen to follow in the footsteps of the successful Under 18 team who were the first to contest in the Dublin final at that level. Training has begun in earnest since the mid-term and the first match against Blackrock took place on Mon, 25 Feb. Clonkeen started well with Scott

Mahoney scoring a goal and Ben Errity getting a point in the first ten minutes. Blackrock came back and managed to put two balls in the net and score four points. With only two points between the teams at half time, Clonkeen had it all to play for. Unfortunately, in spite of great efforts from Clonkeen, Blackrock took full advantage of a strong wind and put themselves out of reach. Ben Errity scored another great point but the match ended in favour of Blackrock. Clonkeen Under-14 Hurling Team and panel: G. Nolan, D. Corish, J. Butler, C. Taylor, J. Keenan, A. Quinn, B. Eerity, Cormac McDermott, S. Gibney, Ciarán McDermott, C. Spain, S. Mahoney, C. Lehane, D. Lavelle, M. Hayward, A. McDonald, H. Kennedy, A. O'Neill, H. Maguire, C. McCarthy, S. Kelly.

M. Ryan C Collins managers

Golf

The last match of the senior golf year was a tough match away to St. Andrews in Elm Park Golf Club in the Golf Works Inter-Schools League Match play, 2007/2008. The team played extremely well on the day and emerged victorious in a tight match by a combined score of 1 up. This was a great win against a team who have had the upper hand in previous years. The team on the day was David Greene, Conor McCarthy, Shane O'Rourke and Colum Condon.

The junior (1st-3rd year) and the senior (4th-6th year) match play competitions will be starting up shortly, and participation in both is greatly encouraged.

Conor McCarthy, B Noonan

Athletics Cross-country.

Richard Shiggins qualified for the Leinster Inter final at Avondale, Co. Wicklow after fine run. Younger teams were affected by illness and injury.

U.C.D Drama - Othello

On the 21st of January this year, fifty Leaving Certificate students attended a production of William Shakespeare's 'Othello' in U.C.D.

The production by Dramsoc was a credible one with a particularly fine performance of Iago's character. The group was pleased to see Eoghan Carrick (who left Clonkeen last year) take his place on the stage, while another past pupil, Jason Masterson, is currently the treasurer of Dramsoc. There were a number of other past pupils of the college in the audience on the night also.

It was a worthwhile experience for the students as the play is one of the more challenging texts on the Leaving Certificate syllabus.

O. Brougham

Trip to the Mosque.

On the 15th of December my class Room 6 visited the Mosque in Clonskeagh. We left the school at 9:45 accompanied by Miss Hough and Mr McGauley. When we arrived at the Mosque we saw a square building with red, gold and silver coloured bricks. After we went inside we were greeted by our tour guide, Patel who is a Muslim. She invited us to take off our shoes and enter the main area of prayer in the Mosque. My classmates and I found this a very worthwhile experience. She told us lots of information about the Quran, the Mosque and in particular the importance of Prayer in the religion of Islam. This was very beneficial to us as we are doing our Junior Cert Religion project on Prayer in Islam. She also told us about the main Muslim beliefs. We returned back to the school at 12:15 following a very worthwhile and educational experience.

Room 6 Student.

Tennis: Mr Keogh and Mr Clarke will soon be selecting players in the various age categories for the Leinster Cups.

Transition Year Report

The transition year students are just completing their second period of work experience. Then it's back to the college for the third and final term. The second term included a visit to the students by Mary Hanafin TD, the Minister for Education and Science and a trip to Rome by nearly 50 boys (see details elsewhere in this newsletter).

The minister spoke to the TY students in the college hall. She went through a typical week in the life of a Dail deputy and minister. So busy was her schedule that one student was prompted to ask "Do you have a life?" She answered various student questions and queries willingly and in a friendly manner. Her visit was followed up by invitations to each of the three TY groups to visit Leinster House during the third term.

With a hopeful improvement in weather conditions after Easter, the students will embark on a series of visits to the River Barrow for a canoeing course. Among the places due to be visited as part of the tourism programme are Croke Park, The Guinness Storehouse and the National Stud. This follows on from visits in the second term to the National Gallery, Kilmainham Jail and Dublin Castle.

Visit of Colum McCann

Colum McCann is one of the best young novelists Ireland has produced in the last 20 years. He has received numerous national and international prizes and awards for his short stories and novels like *This Side of Brightness*, *Dancer and Zoli*. He is one of the college's most illustrious past pupils and is also a very nice fellow. Whenever he is home from New York, where he lives with his American wife and three children, Colum always calls in to say hello. Recently he spoke to a group of fifth year and junior students about the process of writing. As always on these occasions, Colum has an easy manner and communicates wonderfully with teenagers. He elicited many questions from the lads as he talked his way through his literary career. Stories of his research among the "tunnel people" of New York, for the novel *This Side of Brightness*, fascinated the students. A loyal former student, a writer of genius and a role model for all aspiring young writers, Colum is always a welcome visitor to the college. We look forward to his next book....

J. Byrne TY Co-ordinator

Careers Night

A wonderful night was had by all at our careers evening for 4th, 5th and 6th year students on the Thursday night before the mid term.

There was a huge attendance on the night. They all seemed to have enjoyed the whole experience. The speakers on the night commented on how relevant the questions being asked were and how motivated the students were.

A night to be remembered and an experience to be repeated.

D O'Hora Careers and guidance Counsellor.

QUIZZES

The 1st Years had their **Annual Table Quiz** on September 28th. The main aim was to get our new arrivals together, making sure they were from different Primary schools, to enable them meet each other (if they hadn't already done so!). **Winners** were S2 who had 2 teams in the top 4. Taking 1st place were **Mark Hayward, Darragh Plunkett, Douglas Bell and Daniel Grassick**; in 2nd were S1's top finishers **Darren Coughlan, Ryan O'Daly, Jacob Brennan and Daniel Baker**; in 3rd, copper-fastening S2's team victory, were **Martin O'Donoghue, Bobby Garvey, James Casey, Ciarán McDermott and Corry Nicholls**. Top finishers from S3 were 4th placed **James Burke, Shane Irwin, Jamie Gallagher and Adam Cantwell**. Under Ms. Murray's watchful eye the whole afternoon was ably supervised and organised by **Barry O'Shaughnessy** and the students of **Room 5**. Well done and thanks lads! **Mr. Twomey** had a significant part to play in the proceedings acting as an early Santa bringing in the after quiz sweets. He also cropped up in the picture round appearing alongside **Mary McAleese** and **Declan O'Sullivan** in the international media at the All-Ireland Football Final. Nice ticket, Mr. Twomey!

Since Hallowe'en we've been holding quiz trials for the

Irish Examiner All-Ireland Quiz, the biggest of its kind on the island. We've managed to make it through three tough rounds and now find ourselves amongst the final 48 schools of the competition. Our panel of experts who have got us this far are: **Ciarán Hickey, John Murphy, Tom Clarke, Karl O'Sullivan** (all 6th Year) and **Colin Egan** (TY0). And for the two Junior places we have chosen from **Darragh Nolan, Robert Browne** (R.5), **Darragh McGrath** (R.4) and **Conor Scanlan** (R.6). A dramatic final question success from John Murphy gained our passage through to the final rounds.

We completed our trials before Christmas with a tension-filled finale: a double-points Christmas round complete with selection boxes for each year's winners. And the champions were: **Karl O'Sullivan** (6th), **Eduard Byrne** (5th), **Colin Egan** (TY), **Darragh Nolan** (3rd), **Niall Harney** (2nd) and **Aidan Quinn** (1st). We will have a Clonkeen 15-to-1 Championship in the Spring to round off the season.

In the History Quiz **Ciarán Hickey** and **Tom Clarke** also starred alongside **Eoghan Harney** and **Eoghan Carrigg** to narrowly miss out on victory, eventually finishing third. Well done to all!

J. Lynch J. Byrne

We are used to hearing of the successes of our students on and off the field on organised school activities but there are many students involved in activities outside of the school. We are not always aware of what is going on in their lives outside school. It gives me great pleasure to highlight their achievements whenever possible; they are an inspiration to us all.

Hurling Heroes

David Treacy (6th) and Conor Gough (6th) are part of the Dublin Colleges Hurling team which has qualified for the Leister Final. David is captain of the team and has been leading by example in the matches heretofore. In the quarter final they defeated famed St. Kieran's Kilkenny by 4 points on a bitterly cold day in Carlow. David contributed 6 points to the Dublin total. In the semi-final they defeated favourites Good Counsel, New Ross by 2 ? 15 to 3-8 in an exciting match ,again in Carlow . David hit 5 points this time.

The final sees Kilkenny CBS as opposition on March 8th Conor has been a valued member of the subs bench. His major opportunity this year is as a member of the Dublin minor team for which David is overage. They are in heavy training for the coming championship. Best of luck to both in coming matches. **Br Kelly**

Sailing

Gary Carvill started sailing only 3-4 years ago, but things really took off for him in transition when away from the pressures of exams he took part organised sessions as part of the TY programme. In April of his transition year he had the chance of a lifetime when he went on the Asgard II, which he describes as the best week of his life (bar the week he spent on the 4th year trip to Italy..he says tongue in cheek). He spent the summer of 07 sailing and was offered an instructors position in an outdoor pursuit centre. This meant travelling to Cork every weekend for a few months. Tough times but worth it as Gary is now qualified as an instructor in sailing (level 1+2), Kayaking (level 1+2) and windsurfing. He now has a position on the instructor's panel for summer 08.

Anyone interested in getting into sailing or continuing from where they left off in TY should contact the INSS (Irish National Sailing School in Dunlaire 01. 2844195)

There may be more of you out there; I know we were all surprised to discover that in 5th year there were a few who had a strong interest in the sport.

Rugby

This is another one which may come as a surprise, but not to those of you who know Andrew Boyle. Andrew has just completed a very successful season with the Leinster Youths U18. They finished 2nd in the Inter provincial Championship after back to back wins over Munster. The final day of the season saw them go out in a blaze of glory enjoying a 24-14 win over the Portugal U18 side.

Preparation for next year's cup will begin in the summer. On the other hand the Ireland U18 season is starting to gather momentum the team has just returned from a 6day tour to France, playing highly physical French Regional sides in preparation for the European championship in Italy on the 16th March. Last year they were narrowly defeated by France in the final after a drop goal shootout.

Enjoy life to the MAX

Extreme sports are something most of just dream about but some of the guys actually go out and do it. Downhill Mountain biking is one of those things and students of the college are represented at the highest levels. It is not all fun with intense training - 6 days a week, in the gym, on the roads, in the UK in the Lake District and in Kerry for some cross country training. The first race of the season was in Newry on the 10th February Daniel Wolfe was the overall winner while David Kennan came in forth

with only a second and a half separating 2nd 3rd and 4th places. More overseas training and another race in Portugal at the end of March they are going to be busy. **D. Kennan 6th year**

So what are the rest of you doing over the summer, a week in the sun and then moaning that there is nothing to do? Get out there and get a life. (D. Ed)

Transition Year allows students to explore other avenues and indeed set the foundations for a future career. One such student is **Conor Horgan Gaul**. During his transition year Conor decided to get a Level 5 FETAC Cert in Photography. He devoted his Monday evenings to classes in the Dun Laoighre College of Further Education. Over the year he learnt how to develop and print his own Black and White photos. He Graduated with a Distinction setting the foundations for a future career. The possibilities are endless for students with a bit of imagination and get up and go.

Parents should take the opportunity to discuss with their sons what extra curricular activities they can get involved in while they don't have the pressures of exams. The exams and the pressures they bring come around all too soon. D. Ed

Public speaking

Congratulations and commiserations to this year's public speaking competitors, Luigi Puzzuoli, Niall O'Mahoney and Stephen Byrne. They made their way through to the regional finals of this year's mental health public speaking competition and were unfortunately knocked out by Sandford Park. However their speeches were excellent and their performance on the night was exceptional so all in all I think they are coming out of this experience as winners anyway! The annual mental health public speaking competition is all about raising awareness around good mental health among young people, and putting the competition part of it aside for a minute, I have to say the lads certainly did a good job on that! They have helped to raise awareness in a few of my own classes as they delivered their excellent speeches and discussed their chosen topics on the issue with the student's and for me that is what the competition is all about! So thank you for that guys and well done!!! You have not only done yourselves, myself and Ms Lester proud...but also the whole school!!!! Big cheer to the three of you!!!!!! **Mrs McEvoy**

Comhairle na nOg

Well done to Darragh Nolan and Kellan Scott in third year, who are making their mark in the political work! These young future politicians are representing the youth of today in Comhairle na nOg! They recently took part in an Active Citizenship Conference held in the Radisson Hotel and both posed interesting and challenging questions to members of the political committee on the day. Darragh also had an article published in the Comhairle na nOg news edition which followed the conference! So well done lads you are doing great.

Mrs McEvoy

The **Comhairle na nOg** is an organisation set up by Community and Enterprise Departments all over the country. The purpose of the Comhairle na nOg is to give young people a voice in the day to day running of the country. The Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Comhairle na nOg have several projects running at the moment. These include: organising a public transport conference, setting up of a website and organising several competitions. Recently, the Comhairle na nOg was involved in the Active Citizenship Conference. The Comhairle took part in a questions and answers session with some local political representatives. This was a good opportunity for the Comhairle na nOg to make connections with the Politicians in our area and we made the most of it.

Darragh Nolan & Kellan Scott

Maths

The process for choosing the Irish team for the International Mathematical Olympiad is well underway with training sessions taking place up and down the country. Clonkeen College is well represented at the regional level by Colin Egan (TY) and Eoghan Harney (5th) both of whom performed well in the qualifying exam.. We wish them the best of luck.

Philip Knight Soccer legend.

After winning the U18 Inter Provincial Tournament with the Leinster schools Philip Knight was selected for trials for the Irish U18 Schools team. After several weeks of trials he was selected for the team of an 18 man squad. He played the Australian Schools team in an international friendly where they won 4-2. The competitive matches take place in the Century Shield where he is due to play in the Wales on the 29th Feb, and against Scotland, N. Ireland and England in March and April.

Philip has recently been selected for the under 18 Irish team.

Robert Maloney

Another Clonkeen Student who is making a name for himself at home and abroad is Robert Maloney in 2nd Year. Over the mid term break Robert was capped for Ireland U-15 against Latvia, Belgium and Turkey playing at left back. Robert is on international duty once again on the 23rd Feb and 1st of march in Qatar. With many clubs, across the water, chasing his services he is a name to look out for in the future. **T. McGovern**

Gaisce – The President's Award

Congratulations to Michael O'Connor who is to be the first recipient, from Clonkeen College, of the Gold Gaisce Award. Michael has shown two years commitment in his endeavour for the Gold Award. His activities included weekly voluntary work with his local Credit Union in Sallynoggin, learning and becoming skilled in carpentry (he made a locker & coffee table in the process). For his area of sport, he trained & played with his local soccer team throughout the 2year period. Finally, he set off to Wales for a gruelling, yet enjoyable, 3-day adventure of hill-walking. His dedication, commitment & enthusiasm has been encouraging & inspiring.

During the 2 year period, Michael also completed a 4yr Business degree course. He commenced an Officer Cadetship in the army in October last in the Curragh, Co. Kildare, of which he successfully secured one of 32 places out of over 1200 applicants .

Michael received confirmation in January of his fantastic achievement & forthcoming Gaisce Award. He will receive his medal from an t-Uachtarán, Mary McAleese, on 7th March 2008 in Dublin Castle. Well done Michael!

This year sees nearly 30 TY & 5th yr students strive to receive the Bronze & Silver Gaisce Awards. As usual, the students will take part in 4 areas of activity. This year, we hope to organise a 'Group Gaisce' adventure activity in April or May, involving hikes in the Wicklow Mountains.

Emer Gibson (PAL).

French Quiz

Mr Lynch and Mr Clarke brought four students to The Senior French Quiz this term. It was a tough quiz and the four students managed well. All questions were in French and they were difficult enough questions even when they were easy to understand/ translate into English. Mr Lynch ran a class quiz to select the competitors for the quiz-so well done to everyone who participated. In the end the following students qualified with impressive general knowledge; Abdul Marrar/ Ross Taylor/ (5th) Mark Forsyth/ Eoin Shankey-Smith (6th).