



February 2008, No 8

Newsletter Nuachtiris

Scoil Chumsitheach na Pairce Nua

Data protection initiative launched in Newpark



On Monday, 28th January, the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD, and the Data Protection Commissioner, Mr Billy Hawkes joined class 2CFG and their CSPE teacher, Gearoidín O'Dwyer, to launch a new resource for second level students on the right to privacy, entitled '*Sign Up, Log In, Opt Out*'. The guests were welcomed to the school by the Principal, Derek Lowry, who presided over the launch in the school library. Minister Hanafin and Mr Hawkes took their places amongst the second year students as they studied the impact of the misuse of information by the Nazi regime which ultimately led to the horror of the Holocaust. The students then looked at the amount of information legally held on each one of us through medical records, banking details, government

departments, supermarket loyalty cards, DVD stores and on and on! Particularly of interest to the Minister and Mr Hawkes was the amount of information young people today display on sites such as Bebo, My Space, and You Tube, much of which could be used to their detriment...or at least their embarrassment in years to come.

The right to privacy may not be the first human right that jumps to mind when thinking about the UN Declaration of Human Rights or indeed when looking around the world today. However, some interesting facts were discovered. Did you know, for example, that An Garda Síochána can request access to all your telephone records if they suspect criminality on your part or on the part of someone who has spoken to you by telephone? Or any time you send money to someone by SWIFT money transfer, the details can be

accessed by the US Government as part of the 'war on terror'!

The occasion also saw the launch of a YouTube competition for young people, entitled 'Privacy in the 21st century'. Students over 15 years of age are invited to post a video clip on YouTube to promote awareness of the question of privacy amongst young people. The first prize is €5,000—not to be scoffed at! All details are available from Miss O'Dwyer or log on to www.youtube.com/privacycom. The best of luck to all who enter.

Gearóidín O'Dwyer



Holocaust Memorial Day



Alice Horan, Anais Delmonte and Aisling Langran Byrne represented Newpark as one of four schools chosen to read out the names of some of the victims of the Holocaust at the recent Holocaust Memorial Day held on January 27 at the Mansion House. It was a thought provoking evening for all.

Ireland's four Holocaust survivors, politicians, academics, poets, musicians, religious leaders, international diplomats, educators and representatives of anti-racist and ecumenical organisations came together to lead the remembrance of the Holocaust. At the end, candles were lit to represent the lost lives of six million Jewish people and also the victims from other

groups targeted by the Nazis.

Tomi Reichental, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen, will give a lecture hosted by Newpark's Amnesty International group in the near future.

'Drug-proofing' your kids

Drug-Proof Your Kids is a parenting course being offered for any interested parents. Developed in Australia, the course has a proven track record in several countries and has been successfully used by Strathclyde Police in the West of Scotland. It provides tools to assist parents, carers and young people to make better choices regarding drugs and alcohol. It is a practical, interactive course dealing with communication, boundaries, drug awareness and related issues.

The six-week course will be taught by two parents of Newpark students: Marilyn Nyquist is a mother of three, a qualified life and business coach and has extensive experience leading seminars and in providing training to groups of all sorts. Karen Shaw is a mother of four with a background in special educational/behavioural needs. She is currently a full-time homemaker and has substituted as a special needs assistant at Newpark.

The course will take place in Newpark's library over six sessions beginning at 8pm: 21 & 28 February; 6 & 13 March and 3 & 10 April. The cost is €65 per individual or €95 per couple. All proceeds contribute to Newpark's PTA fund raising efforts. For more information visit www.dpyk.org or text Karen on 086-341-7409 or Marilyn on 087-676-1229.

Ag sciáil sna Stáit Aontaithe

Is olc an ghaoth nach séideann do dhuine éigin, ach is deas an ghaoth a bhí ag séideadh do lucht na ceathrú bliana i rith na Nollag nuair a thaistead siad ar thuras scoile go New Hampshire. Bhí an sneachta thar barr agus bhí muintir na háite ar bís le caighdeán an sneachta "The best snow in a long time buddy" a déarfadh muintir na háite, agus mar sin bhí na coinniollacha sciála den chéad scoth.

Lá na Cinnbliana chruinnigh slua thart ar caoga dalta ag aerfort Ath Cliath. Bhí na daltaí ar chipiní, cuid acu ag sciáil agus ag dul go Méiriceá don chéad uair riamh. Bhí an turas de 7 n-uair an-fhada agus bhíomar traochta nuair a shroicheadar an t-óstán. Is ar éigean a bhíomar in ann Oíche na Cinnbliana a cheiliúradh agus bhíomar sna leapacha go luath. Bhí ár gceannaire an t-Uasal Mac Suibhne (Mr Sweeney) ag tabhairt treoir agus moladh dúinn, mar is iomaí turas sciála atá feicthe aige. Bhí na háiseanna san óstán ar fheabhas le togha bia i seomra deas compórdach, seomraí codalta d'ard caighdeán. An rud b'iontaí ar fad ná an Jacuzzi agus linn snámha taobh amuigh. Bhí an sneachta ag titim ar chinn na ndaltaí fada is a bhí siad ag snámh, agus thug cuid de na daltaí iarracht léim sa sneachta Brrrrrrrr. Fair play doibh!!!

Bhí seacláid te agus ceirtlis te ar fail gach lá tar éis lá sciáil, agus bhí sé ag teastáil mar bhí an teocht idir 5 agus 10 céim F. Bhí orainn teitheadh óna fánaí lá amháin mar bhí sé chomh fuar sin - bhíomar reoite agus bhí na cosa agus na méaranna ag fulaingt. Chaitheamar dhá lá i gCranmóire (ón bhfocal crann mór) ar ndóigh. Bhain na daltaí an taitneamh as agus bhí na teagasóirí ar fheabhas.

Tháinig feabhas mór ar na daltaí an thapaidh agus d'éirigh le formhór dul síos gan morán stró "ar nós na gaoithe". Ar ndóigh tá sé scanrúil i slí féachaint síos an fána agus é sciáil ach níor chuir sé sin stop lenár ndaltaí cróga. Agus buíochas le Dia níor gortaíodh éinne. Tar éis dhá lá d'ionsaíomar Attiash agus ba mhór an dushlán é mar bhí i bhfad níos mó fánaí agus bhí siad níos airde.

Bhí páistí Uí Cheallaigh (Mr Kelly) linn agus bhí cumas sciála iontach acu agus bhí siad ag tabhairt ceachtanna do na múinteoirí! Bhí mac Suibhne óg in ann dul síos na fánaí ag deireadh na seachtaine agus níl sé ach 5 bliain d'aois! Fuair Iníon Uí Coisteala agus Iníon Meredith duais as a gcumas siopadóireachta agus sciála! Bhí an tsiopadóireacht den chéad scoth mar bhí na siopaí in aice láimhe—Nike, Timberland, Tommy Hilfiger—ar leathphraghas agus tá an Euro láidir i gcomparáid leis an ndollar. "Happy shopping holiday". Gan dabht bhí am iontach againn go léir agus ní bheidh ár leithéidí ann arís.

Ar ndóigh bhí an chraic go maith.

Seán MacCarthaigh

Dramatic success for the 'Bathroom'

Our fourth year drama class reunited in order to enter their fabulous production of *The Bathroom Door* into the St Andrews One Act Drama Festival. I went to see the show on Thursday 7 February and was blown away by their professional performance.

The actors threw themselves head first into their roles, portraying a clear sense of their characters' individual comic traits. As the young man, Riyadh Khalaf's refined accent and saucy facial expressions enhanced the humorous script, while Sarah Cullen's drama-queen behaviour as the Primadonna gave the play the element of high tension and excitement. Jordan Comaskey as the grumpy old man and Meg Murphy as the scatty, nervous old lady contrasted with the calm young girl played by Dorothy Nicholson. The 'Bell-boy' Lucy McEvoy brilliantly delivered the final punch line of the performance.

The set was beautifully crafted and the costumes were carefully chosen, combining with the consistent accents to win them a Merit Award for 'capturing the period style'. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance, they certainly did us proud!

Alice Goodbody, Fifth Year

Thinking back to last year, putting on *The Bathroom Door* for the 4th year Graduation Night, I

never would have guessed that in February of 2008 we would be bringing it to the St Andrews One Act Drama Festival.

After the positive feedback to our show, the cast and crew were keen to show other schools what Newpark had to offer on stage! Everything from set to costumes and accents had to be revived for the single performance at St Andrew's. The problems which cropped up were handled professionally and with ease by our wonderful director Ms. Devis (and her excellent backstage team Jessie Doyle and Jamie Herron) who showed no worry or fear about our competing—until 3 minutes before we were to go on! The performance went perfectly and our thanks go to the large number of Newpark supporters that came to cheer us on (it really helped) and our excellent make-up team Aoife Rooney and Audrey Doyle.

The adjudicators had very positive things to say—including calling it a 'rollercoaster ride to watch'. They praised our brilliant set (made by Sam Mulcahy, Martin Byford and Mr John O'Neill) and were impressed by our strong well-practiced 1920s English accents. The cast and crew were extremely warm and enthusiastic to work with and it really was a group effort that pulled it all together and made it such a buzzing success the second time round.

Riyadh Khalaf, Fifth Year

First day of School

All is calm.

We are learning to swim

The waves come.

They get bigger and louder as they come closer.

You duck for cover, behind a rock

And stay there for as long as the waves continue to come.

When the roaring tide has passed

You creep out of your hiding place

Trying not to step on anything sharp,

Washed up by the waves.

You find your treasure chest

And rummage in your shorts' pocket

For the key given to you by kindly pirate Bobby-boot-leg.

Wiggling the key

You coax open the lock and reveal

Numerous scrolls, old rags, perhaps, or an empty bottle.

As you grab what looks useful

That bell goes again.

And you hurry aboard

Praying the sea will not turn

Your stomach as it swirls.

The captain sets you to work

Along with the others

Who are on their first voyage at sea

And you know that it will get easier

And you will stop getting seasick.

Róisín Burrington (1JRY)

Transition Year Art Exhibition



A selection of tonal pencil sketches by Ms Cronin and Mr Sweeney's art classes



Swimming

Newpark is holding its very own inter-schools swimming gala on Tuesday 11 March 2008 at 11am. We are inviting four other schools and are looking forward to a great morning. There will be four events per age group (front-crawl, backstroke, breaststroke and relays). The age categories are 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year and Senior (4th to 6th). To qualify for the events, students must attend swimming training at least twice a week. All those wanting to compete see Ms Devis. Any parents or teachers who would like to help please contact Ms Devis.

Cathy Devis



Hockey

On the 28th February the Senior Girls hockey team will head to Cork for the weekend to celebrate a tough but successful season. They will play two matches, one against Ashton College and the other against Bandon College. The team has had a great season. They moved up two levels to Senior I this year and made it as far as the quarter finals. Hopefully they will continue their winning ways in Cork!

Vicky Meredith

PTA Table Quiz

Tuesday March 11 at 8 pm

Wishing Well

€10 per person, tables of 4

Tickets available from the school office

or Ms Devis from March 3

Please support your PTA

Everyone welcome



Congratulations to Simon Lowry (3CK) who played for Ireland's U16 Hockey side against England during the mid-term break.

The Irish team drew 2-2 in the first game and lost 4-2 in the second.

The editors sincerely apologise for erroneously attributing the article 'Made with love not labour' in the January newsletter to Gearóidín O'Dwyer rather than its author Cat Gundry-Beck (3CK).

Compiled and edited by Mary Kennedy and Anna Johnston

Contributions for the March newsletter will be gratefully accepted by email from all members of the school community.

Please forward your piece to Ms Kennedy (mk@newparkschool.ie).

Deadline for contributions for the next issue is March 11, 2008.