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March 2008, No 9

# Newsletter Nuachtiris

Scoil Chumsitheach na Páirce Nua

## Pléaráca na Páirce Nua



Bhí seachtain iontach d'imeachtaí éagsúla do sheachtain na Gaeilge i mbliana. Tháinig Kila isteach ar an Aoine 7 ú lá de Márta. Sheinn Ronán Ó Snodaigh roinnt amhráin agus chaith sé am ag múineadh scileanna an bhodhráin do roinnt de na daltaí. Bhí Brian O' Connor go hiontach ar na píopaí uillinn agus bhí Cormac Moore Murphy agus Simon Conroy an-mhaith ar an mbodhrán. Arís bhí Sam Comerford ar fheabhas ar an bhfeadóg stáin. Bhí slua mór ann ar ndóigh agus bhí an leabharlann lán.

Ar an Luan 10 ú lá Márta bhí an t-uasal Chambers agus a deirfiúr ag soláthar ceoil dúinn sa leabharlann agus bhaineamar an taitneamh as. Fiú sa seomra foirne bhí Gaelachas ag forbairt le Ms Fitzgerald, Ms Cronin agus Mr Armstrong ag canadh amhráin den scoth.

Bhí peil Gaelach ar siúl ar an bpáirc haca tar éis na scoile an Chéadaoin seo caite ar an 12ú lá de Márta. D'éirigh thar barr leis an geluiche agus bhí daltaí ó gach bliain pairteach ann.

Bhí an t-ádh ag an 4ú agus 5ú bhliain ar an gCéadaoin 12 ú lá Márta nuair a chuaigh roinnt mhaith acu go dtí an phluchtúrlann chun féachaint ar an scannán *Kings* sa IFI, agus Colm Meaney mar phríomh aisteoir. Gan dabht bhí Ms O Dwyer fíor ghníomhach lena t-léinte speisialta don tseachtain agus bhí siad greannmhar agus suimiúil.

Beidh ceilí ar an Aoine, tar éis na scoile agus tá suil againn go mbeidh tinreamh mhaith ann don ócáid seo. A bhuíochas do na muinteoirí Gaeilge uilig a d'éagraigh seachtain na Gaeilge

*Seán MacCarthaigh*



Brian O'Connor agus Rónán Ó Snodaigh sa leabharlann

### Cúpla Seanfhocail

*Ní bhíonn in aon rud ach seal - life is short*

*Bíonn blás ar an mbeagan - a little tastes nice*

*Ar mhúin na muice - on the pig's back*

*An rud is annamh is iontach - what's rare is wonderful*

*Cothrom na féinne - fair play*

*Ní mar a shíltear a bítear - things aren't always what they seem*

*Is í aois na hóige aois na glóire - youth is the best time of your life*

*Is minic ciúin ciontach - the silent are often guilty*

*Tír gan teanga tír gan anam - a country without its own language is like a country without a soul*

*Filleann an feall ar an bhfeallaire - a person's bad deeds will rebound on them*

*Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine - people survive by helping one another*

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## Gaeilge Bheo

Achoimre gear a thabhairt ar tábhacht na Gaeilge i stair na tíre agus tábhacht na Gaeilge sa lá atá inniu ann? Dúshlán ceart ar ndóigh!

Bhí ról ar leith ag an theanga Ghaeilge sa tstreacht do neamhspleáchas na tíre. Ba shiombal í an theanga d'oidhreacht agus de chultúr sainiúil na hÉireann, a thug cáilíocht áirithe don éileamh ar neamhspleáchas polaitíochta na stáit. D'úsáidíodh an theanga chun spiorad tírghrách a spreagadh agus oidhreacht cheilteach na tíre a léiriú.

Níl amhras ar bith faoi thábhacht na Gaeilge mar shiombal phaolaitiúil ach tá luach níos mó ag an Ghaeilge ná mar shonóg pholaitíochta. Is cúis mórtais í an Ghaeilge ina seilbh dílis féin. Léirítear áilleacht na teanga sna dánta, scéalta agus amhráin ón am a chuaigh thart mar aon le saothair níos nua-aimsearaí le Sheán Ó Ríordáin, Mháirtín Ó Chadhain, Mháire Mhac an tSaoi agus a leithéid.

Sa tír nua-aoiseach atá á forbairt againn, ní folóir dúinn cultúr an domhain a chéiliúradh gan bheith ag déanamh dearmaid ar ár gcultúr náisiúnta féin. Tá ról na scoileanna, na coláistí agus na ranganna do dhaoine fásta imholta agus thar a beith ríachtanach do mhúinteoireacht na teanga. An céad chéim eile don Ghaeilge mar theanga bheo, áfach ná éalú ó shuíomhanna bhréagach, taobh thiar doirse na tseomraí ranga agus bheith amuigh faoin aer i mbéal an phobail mar theanga laethúil, mar aon leis an Bhéarla. Tá éacht déanta ag ma meáin chumarsáide agus eagraithe mar Conradh na Gaeilge, Gael Linn agus Gaelchultúr an phonal a spreagadh is a thacú, ach i ndáiríre is tasc don phobal é. Is ár dteanga í agus ba choir dúinn í a chothú agus a labhairt.

Achoimre ar tábhacht na Gaeilge, b'fhéidir gur cheart mé bheith níos cruinne: tír gan teanga, tír gan anam.

Roslyn Steer

## Agallamh leis na múinteoirí

Iníon ní Chróinín is ainm di. Muineann sí ealainn. Is as Corcaigh í. Tá sí ina cónaí i mBaile Átha Cliath, i nDumhach Thrá. Is breá léi a h-áit chónaithe. Tá sí ina aice leis an trá agus is breá léi siúl ar an trá. Tá clann mhór aici. Tá triúr deartháireacha agus beirt deirfiúracha aici. Is Donncha an deartháir is sine aici agus is Áine an deirfiúr is óige aici. Tá sise ocht mbliana déag d'aois. Níl aon pheata aici mar níl an t-am aici. Tá suim dá laghad aici sa spórt. Is maith léi a lán saghasanna ceoil. Is breá léi Tom Waits agus Jeff Buckley. Ní fhéachann sí ar a lán teilifíse ach is maith léi an X Factor. Níl sí pósta – fós. Is breá léi léamh, dul go dtí an gym, siopadóireacht, an phictiúrlann, dul ag rince agus dul ag súil in aice an chósta.

Iníon ní Carthaigh is ainm di. Is as Corcaigh í. Níl páistí aici. Tá sí ina cónaí sa chathair. Déanann sí

obair an tí gach lá. Níl sí pósta. Tagann sí ar scoil sa charr. Seo an dara bhliain atá sí ag obair anseo. Bíonn seacht rang aici gach lá. Muineann sí bitheolaíocht. Níl peata aici.

### Anois is arís ...

*Tabhair dom an cáca milis! - Give me the cake!*

*Ciúnas bóthar cailín bainne - Quiet road girl milk!*

*Ná leag lámh air! - Hands off!*

*Déan laithreach é! - Do it at once!*

*Tá an t-uabhar dulta in ainseal air! - He's got a swollen head!*

*Ná déan trillin de thribliob! - Don't get your knickers in a twist!*

*Ná leag lámh ar mo cháca milis! - Hands off my cake!*

*Tá nimh san fheoil aige dom!! - He has his knife in me!!*



## Success for TY & Fifth Year students in the DELF exam

As part of the European Section, Fourth and Fifth Year students were awarded diplomas for completing the DELF exam. DELF stands for Diplôme d' Etudes en Langue Française and is delivered by the Ministry for Education in France. It is recognised worldwide and allows you to have your level in French acknowledged wherever you are. It is a huge bonus within the European Union and beyond in terms of career opportunities.

It is standardised with the Cadre Européen Commun de Référence, which is a European Council linguistic benchmark in all languages. Congratulations to everyone for working so hard to achieve the diploma.

Sandrine Laffitte

## The Principal Word

We have reached the end of a relatively short but busy term. At this stage all the students involved have received their Mock Leaving and Junior Certificate results and need to review their papers carefully to identify areas of strength and weakness so that they can prioritise their work over the coming months. Students (and their parents) need to think carefully about choice of levels based on performance in the Mock exams. It is important for students to try to reach their potential but not to take unnecessary risks of failure. Students and parents should heed the considered advice of their teachers. Improvement is possible for all students in the time remaining but there is no easy option for doing well. Hard work focused on the past papers is the only way to improve grades. The teaching staff and the pastoral care team are there to assist and support students and parents in the run-up to the exams.

There has been much activity in other areas of

school life. The school has received the Department of Education and Science (DES) report for the German inspection carried out last October. After consultation with the school, the DES will publish the report on their website. The report is very positive about our German department and we look forward to its publication in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to all students representing Newpark in rugby, hockey, basketball and swimming: this has been a very successful term for our dynamic and dedicated teams. Basketball has expanded to include First Year team matches and we hosted a very successful inter-schools swimming gala this week. There has been great excitement about both Junior and Senior rugby as both teams reached the finals of three competitions. The Senior Boys' hockey team are also joint top of their league. We wish all our teams the best of luck in their final important games.

Last Wednesday evening saw the launch at the Royal Irish Academy of the fourth novel by Newpark teacher James Ryan. The book is called *South of the Border* and is set in a small midlands town at the time of 'the Emergency' in 1942. Ciaran Benson, Professor of Psychology at UCD (and a parent of two former students), launched the book—whetting the appetites of those present to read it at the first opportunity. We wish James every success.

In the October newsletter Emma Doherty of 6<sup>th</sup> year wrote a moving and uplifting piece about her battle with Cystic Fibrosis. Emma has now been chosen for a prize for community spirit as part of the Bank of Ireland Millennium Trust Awards. She is truly deserving of this accolade which she will receive at a ceremony at the former House of Lords' chamber in Bank of Ireland, College Green.

*Derek Lowry*

## Rugby

The short Spring term and our continuing success have led to a packed schedule of matches. Congratulations to the Senior team who won the Leinster 'A' Schools Shield competition this week by defeating Wilsons Hospital 8 – 3: Eoin Gorman's impressive try was the difference between the sides. The Seniors also reached the final of the Foster's Cup for the first time in ten years when they beat Castleknock College 17 – 10 on Monday ; the final will be held after Easter. In their third competition final (Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup>) they play St Columbas in Kiltarnan (DLSP Palmerstown RFC) for the Leinster 'A' Schools League.

The Juniors are matching these exploits: they beat Good Counsel School in New Ross 15 – 5 to reach the Leinster 'A' Schools Junior Shield final against Naas CBS. They also drew 5-5 in a gruelling match against St Patrick's Navan in the Junior 'A' Schools League final on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March and will battle it out with Sandford Park School on Friday for a place in the Junior 2nds League final. We need lots of student, staff and parent support at the remaining finals after Easter.



Muddy Newpark Juniors put it up to St Patrick's, Navan in the Final

*Morgan Lennon*

## Basketball

Second Year boys are through to the semi finals of the South Dublin League and the Dublin's Schools League. Second Year Girls are through to the quarter finals of the South Dublin League after an impressive undefeated round. First Year Boys had a tremendous 28—6 win last week against St David's, Greystones. They now await the final League standings to see if they progress to the playoffs. There has been awesome effort and attitude shown from the huge squad this season. Well done to all the teams.

*Ms Rawan, Ms McCarthy & Ms Costello*

## Hockey

To wrap up their season, the Senior Girls' hockey team were rewarded with a weekend trip to Cork to face the stick-bearers outside of the Pale. It resulted in a fantastic few days ... twelve friends, two nights, one match, several packs of cards, a big goalie bag ... and a lot of laughter! In true Newpark style, the season is drawing to a close with smiles all around and a good sense of team spirit for this group of seniors. Without Ms



Senior Girls' Hockey Team and Ms V Meredith

# THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Meredith and Ms Rowan our trip would not have been possible and certainly would not have been as much fun. A big hockey thank you from all the girls!

*Fiona Orr Senior Girls' Captain*

## Swimming



Newpark hosted a swimming gala on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of March, and our swim team dipped their toes in competitive water for the first time this year. Would all the early morning training pay off? Just how dashing would our swimmers look in their new togs and hats emblazoned with the Newpark livery? Our esteemed competition, in the shape of High School, St. Andrew's and King's Hospital looked positively like our poor country cousins in comparison.

Our First and Second Years swam brilliantly to put Newpark in the lead after 10 of 34 events. *Let's go Newpark!* Alas, without casting aspersions on the Seniors, by event 20 we had fallen to third place. Was there too much for the third years to pull back? Erm, in a word, yes. But, to the battle cry of 'pain is temporary, quitting lasts forever', they swam bravely! Come the close of the penultimate race, the tension was palpable. After much shuffling of papers and whispered consultation the score keepers re-



Newpark's Swim Team

ported that High School led with King's Hospital a mere 4 points behind and Newpark hot on both teams' heels! The man with the microphone decided that the 'canon relay' (8 swimmers per school - a girl and boy from each category) previously billed as a fun closing event, would now count for competitive points! King's Hospital needed to win the canon relay and hope that High School was disqualified in order to force a tie. Unlikely? Outrageous? But that's exactly what happened! Joint first place! Newpark came second and all swimmers had a competitive yet fun day.

Thanks to Ms Devis (organiser), Ms Ormond, John Mullins, Teresa, Ms Brennan & Ms Cooper and the excellent 5<sup>th</sup> Year race officials. Ms Devis, your team did you proud.

*Eric Norton*

## Student Council takes a hard line

On Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr. Lowry addressed the council regarding the issue of toilets. We recognised smoking in the toilets as one of the main problems. The upgrade a few years ago (installation of soap dispensers and mirrors) was appreciated for a while, but the toilets are in as bad a state as ever. Smoke alarms in the cubicles were constantly disarmed and so seem futile.

We reached some conclusions together with the Principal. We suggest that a new rule be added to the code of behaviour that two people cannot be in a cubicle together. To try to deal with the situation, we agreed that the main doors to the toilets would be left open permanently to allow for easier supervision and detection of smoking. Finally, mirrors and soap dispensers are to be removed for a time and the students will be allowed to earn them back.

## Dreamtime ...

April 18<sup>th</sup> - when dreams come true! Please mark this date in your diary for the PTA Dream Auction. Come along to support your PTA and have an evening of fun in the sports hall. We'll be auctioning the "Four Ts": time, tasks, talent and things! You can bid for dreams, or find someone else to do that job you hate. When you combine the talents of the Newpark community, you're sure to end up with a great mix of dreams! Do you have a "dream" to donate to the auction? Then we'd love to hear from you. See more details in the letter sent to all parents via reports and students.

*Mary-Kate Halpin*

## Mallacht ort

*Go dtachta an t-im thú- May you choke on butter*  
*Go mbáitear i bpoll portaigh thú- May you drown in a bog hole*  
*Eolaí reabhradh is aineolaí réire agat- May your spouse be good at sport but inept at duty*  
*Geanc ar do gharlach mar atá ar a mháthair- May the child inherit his mother's crooked nose*  
*Gur giob geab do bhean- May your wife be a prattler*

Compiled and edited by Mary Kennedy and Anna Johnston

Contributions for the April 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 April 15, 2008.