



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE  
LOUISBURGH, CO. MAYO



Pictured are the 1st year students from Sancta Maria College



### 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR SURF

Pictured left to right are Stephanie O'Malley, Andrew Cosgrove, Anna O'Toole, Stephanie Nicholson, Finnian Rogers, Lauren Walsh, Megan O'Brien and Ciara O'Grady.

Pictured above are the 1st year students on an outing to Carrwniskey Beach where they participated in surfing lessons organised by the Mayo Surf School. The trip was organised as part of an induction day in September for all incoming 1st year students at the College.

### HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Paul O'Brian a lifestyle coach gave a very interactive presentation to our 1st year students on exercise, food and health. The presentation focussed on the importance and benefits of regular exercise and explained why exercise & good nutritional habits are important for a balanced lifestyle.

### MENTORS

At the beginning of the school year each first year pupil was assigned a fifth year student who befriends and takes a special interest in them. It is a help in initiating the first year students into a new school environment and gives first years a sense of security. This mentoring continues as necessary in second year.



Pictured are the First Year Boys Soccer Team who competed in the National Futsal Competition held in Castlebar recently.



The 1st year students were the first to enjoy the schools newly purchased recreational facilities. Watch out for the up-coming table-tennis and pool tournaments!!

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



# A NEW LOOK SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE



## MISSION STATEMENT

Sancta Maria College is a voluntary Catholic secondary school under the trusteeship of CEIST whose core values are inclusive of the Mercy philosophy of education. We welcome, care for and support all within the school community through the promotion of

- Respect • Being just & responsible • Quality teaching and learning
- An inclusive community • Life-long learning

### Blessing of the Mission Statement

The School's Mission statement was blessed by Fr Mattie Long P.P accompanied by Principal Pauline Moran and Deputy Principal Michael Davitt.

## WEBSITE

This year also saw the creation of our new modern school website with a variety of links and useful information along with up to date news and events. Please visit our newly designed website at [www.sanctamaria.ie](http://www.sanctamaria.ie)

## TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year commenced with the annual bonding over-night trip to Little Killary Adventure Centre in September where they participated in various challenging activities.



Pictured are Louise O' Toole, Orla McEvoy and Kate Duffy enjoying the Little Killary activities.



Pictured are Finnian Kelly and Darragh Connolly attempting the high ropes challenge at the Little Killary Adventure Centre.

## M.S READATHON

Some of the first year students took part in the M.S Readathon to raise money for multiple sclerosis. They raised a total of €400 and in one month read 86 books between them.



## ICE-SKATING

The TY students took part in an ice-skating session on Monday the 20th December as part of 'Galway on Ice' which was held in Salthill, Co. Galway.

## MANCHESTER TRIP



On October 16th 2010 a group of Transition Year students accompanied by some teachers and parents travelled to Old Trafford to watch Manchester Utd play West Bromwich Albion in the English Premier League. The match ended in a 2-2 draw.



Pictured at Old Trafford are Darek Broda and Christopher Gibbons



Pictured are Mary O'Malley, Louise O'Toole and Orla McEvoy on the recent Manchester trip.

## PURE SKILLS TRAINING



Pictured at the Pure Skills indoor sports centre in Galway are Laura Kerrigan and Meadhb Kenny. The TY students participated in a range of sports throughout the day which really improved their own sporting skills.

## TRIP TO STRASBOURG

Kate Duffy a Transition Year student won a 4 day trip to Strasbourg which is taking place in spring 2011. She will spend one full day at The European Parliament, where she will have the opportunity to participate in Euroscola, which is a youth parliament. She will be accompanied by 25 other students from around the country who have also won this prize. This prize has been sponsored by the Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly.



Pictured are the Transition Year students from Sancta Maria College.



## SUMMER SUCCESS FOR SANCTA MARIA STUDENTS



Pictured from left Padraic O'Malley, Cathal Moran, Padraic Prendergast, Tomas Kelly and James Gibbons who won the National P.T.A.A 5-aside GAA competition recently.



Pictured is Matthew Cabot, a 1st year student who won the Scór Na bPáiste competition with his Sean nós dancing.



Pictured are Lorraine Gibbons and Lisa Needham who were part of the Mayo Ladies Team that won the Under 14 All Ireland Gaelic Football title.



Pictured is Michael Lynch who was a member of the U18 Mayo Darts Team who won the All-Ireland Darts Competition this year. Michael was also named 'player of the year'.



Pictured is Jillian O'Malley who claimed 1st prize in the Under 18 Concert Flute in the Fleadh Ceoil Na hEireann.



Pictured is Paul McDonald who finished 3rd in the all Ireland under 18 button accordion competition.



Pictured is Áine O'Reilly who was a member of the Mayo Ladies Team that captured the Under 16 All Ireland title this year.



Pictured are Maureen Corrigan, captain of the under 16 Louisburgh Ladies team and Emma Needham, captain of the under 14 Ladies team who led their respective teams to victory in the County League Final.

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Congratulation to Sarah Noonan, Teresa Burke and Des Fetherston who gained Entrance Scholarships to University this year. Well done to all our past pupils who were awarded scholarships this year.



Congratulations to Teresa Burke who received an entrance scholarship to NUI Maynooth. Teresa was one of two Mayo students to receive the award, for achieving a Leaving Cert within the top 15% in Ireland.

Pictured is our School Principal Ms. Pauline Moran with Sarah Noonan, who received an entrance scholarship to UCD!

## WILLIAM MCNAMARA AWARD

Congratulations to John McDonnell who achieved the highest Leaving Certificate result in Sancta Maria College. Pictured are Ms. Pauline Moran, Principal, Ms. Ann McNamara, John McDonnell and his mother Ms. Monica McDonnell. Congratulations to all our Junior and Leaving Certificate students on their achievements.



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARD

The students of the month for the year so far were

<b>Emmet Morahan</b>	Leaving Cert	September
<b>Maureen Corrigan</b>	5th Year	October
<b>Laura Fitzgerald</b>	Transition Year	November

## PREFECTS



This year the school has decided to set up a prefect system in which a group of our transition year students have been chosen to act as role models and leaders for our junior classes. Two prefects have been assigned to each class from 1st year to TY.

Pictured are back row left to right; Kate Duffy, Louise O'Toole, Aoife Gibbons and Gary McHugh. Middle Row left to right; Darragh Connolly, Cathal Moran, Robert Maxwell, Orla McEvoy and Tomas Kelly. Front row left to right; Laura Kerrigan, Orla McHugh, Emma O'Malley and Jack Lewis.

## STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP

A very informative study skills workshop was provided for all Leaving Certificate students and an information evening was also provided for all parents. We hope they will benefit from this as they prepare for their examinations in June.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY



On December 14th Sancta Maria Collage played host to a very successful international day where international students get the opportunity to represent their country

## OUR SCHOOLS GOT TALENT

At the beginning of the year the TY students hosted a talent competition as a fundraiser in aid of the Special Olympics. We sent forward four acts to the first heat in the T.F Royal Theatre in Castlebar. A 2nd year band called Driftwood comprising of Aimee Walsh, Brendan McGuinness, Jenny Ferson and Jack McEvoy have qualified for the Regional Finals of the competition which will be staged in early spring 2011. Well done to all involved!

## CAKE SALE

The prefects held a cake sale to raise money for the Special Olympics. The money was used to buy votes for our acts in our Schools Got Talent. All money raised is forwarded to Special Olympics Ireland. In total we raised upwards of €1,000.

## IRISH CLUB

This year Sancta Maria Collage has decided to start an Irish club, the aim of which is to enhance students oral Irish, in particular for the leaving cert students as 40% of the leaving certificate exam in 2012 will be allowed for oral Irish. Sincere thanks to our Irish teachers for facilitating this club.

## CHESS AND CARD CLUBS

The successful chess club returns again this year. It is held in room 11 each Friday during lunchtimes. All players are welcome from novice to advanced. Also this year the school has introduced a 25 card club which is held on a Thursday at lunchtime in room 11. We'd like to extend a big thanks to Mr. Freeman and Ms. Donnelly for organising and supervising these clubs.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Pictured are some of our international students enjoying some of their home cooked scones in cookery class. Pictured left to right are Nikoleta Petrus, Veronika Krajcova, Barbora Vaterkova, Sonja Brede and Christoph Heinz .

Our School's Got  
**T★LENT**  
Connacht  
2010 - 2011

get involved it could be you

**PRIZE FUND €20,000**

Royal Castlebar Theatre & P1 Youth Centre  
midwest radio 96.1fm  
oceanfm

## FUN RUN

Ms. McDermott organised a 'Christmas Relay Fun Run' this year in which teams comprised of two junior students and two senior students ran a total of 8 kms between them (2kms each of the Bunowen Loop!). Two teams of teachers also participated. The relay took place on Friday the 17th of December.

## DANCING AT LUGHNASA

Recently the Leaving Certificate students travelled to the Town Hall Theatre in Galway to watch Brian Friel's play 'Dancing At Lughnasa'. This will benefit them in their Leaving Cert as the play is part of their English studies.

## GREEN SCHOOL PROJECT

We are continuing to achieve great success on saving energy in our school and we hope to raise our second green flag in the spring time.

As part of our campaign to encourage all students to be litter-aware at all times, the Green Committee organised a "Bin Rubbish" concert before Christmas. The concert raised funds to improve our litter and waste management in and around the school. Students from various classes participated in the concert.

After participating in the WEEE battery project Sancta Maria Collage was awarded one of three prizes in the province. Pictured below are the Green School Team who were presented with 3 computers for the school.

### Green School Committee 2010-2011

A1 Aisling Duffy/Donal Moran

B1 Maura Gibbons/Lisa O' Toole

C1 Katie Cox/Adrian Larkin

TY1 Tomás Kelly/ Kirsty Walsh

E1 George Hynes/ Deborah Bennett

A2 Alex Wynne / Matthew Cabot

B2 Jenny Ferson/ Neasen McManamon

C2 Christy Taylor/ David Noonan

TY2 Orla McEvoy/ Laura Fitzgerald

E2 Jake Staunton/ Shane McGreevy



## THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association is a way of representing the parents in the dealings of the school. Representatives are elected by other parents and meet around once a month. They are involved in activities such as fundraising for the school and supervising at events. They provide a link between the school and the parents. The current Chairperson of the council is Mrs. Carmel Groden. The Secretary is Mrs. Ann Lally and the Treasurer is Mrs. Maureen Scott.

## CHRISTMAS TREATS MORNING

On 21st of December, the Student Council held a Christmas treats sale at the 11a.m. break. These treats consisted of mince pies as well as other delicious Christmas favourites. Tea, coffee and festive homemade hot chocolate were also served.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council began the year by electing a representative from each class. The Council meets once a week to discuss matters that may have arisen. The student council acts as a voice for the students in their school, by bringing their intentions to the attention of the staff. It strives to make school life easier for the students by taking their opinions into consideration when discussing school matters.

### Student Council Members

A1 Raymond Sammon

B1 Lisa O'Toole

C1 Áine O'Reilly (Treasurer)

Ty1 Aoife Gibbons

E1 Niamh Hastings (P.R.O)

F2 Molly O'Toole

A2 Andrew Cosgrove

B2 Harry Lewis

C2 Lisa Needham (Secretary)

Ty2 Amy Chambers

E2 Maureen Corrigan (Chair-Person)

F2 Nicola Maxwell

## CROÍ

TY students were trained in the basic skills of CPR and how to deal with choking. On completion each student received a Croi certificate of attendance.

The course is as follows

Adult CPR

Child CPR

Adult and Child Management of Choking

The Ambulance Call

Scenarios and Practice

## LOUISBURGH PANTOMIME

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the recent Louisburgh Pantomime 'Robin Hood'. In particular we would like to congratulate our 11 students who made up part of the cast as well as other students both past and present who were involved and helped out. It's great to see so many pupils involved in activities outside of school hours. Keep up the good work!!

Students involved were:

Orla McEvoy- Robin Hood  
Robert Maxwell- Murrisk (Merry Man)  
Jack McEvoy- Alan A'Dale  
Jenny Ferson- Phillippe Fallop  
Emma Maxwell- Guy de Tours  
Saoirse Collins- Jerry The Mouse!

Joanne O'Leary- Maid Marion  
Conor Neuhaus- Little John (Merry Man)  
Nicola O'Leary- Maid Lucy of Lecanvey  
Rosa Gavin- Potty Pat  
Jennifer Prendergast- Hugo de Rongway

Also:

Heather Billington  
May Billington  
Sarah Mawhinney  
Louise O'Toole

Past Pupils:  
Des Grealis  
Matthew Moran

## SCHOOL MUSICAL

Preparations are in full swing for this year's School Musical 'Little Shop of Horrors' which will be staged in early February 2011. The principal cast members have been selected following a number of auditions.



## REMEMBRANCE TREE

This year the school had a November Remembrance Tree. The month of November can be a difficult time for many students and staff alike who have experienced the death of a loved one. November is a month when even Mother Nature appears to be touched by the cold hand of death. When we look around we find that the trees are gradually losing all their leaves and the evenings are becoming darker. A Remembrance Tree can act as an effective symbol for addressing the issue of personal grief. For this reason we placed a Remembrance Tree in the circulating area. Students and staff were invited to write the names of any loved ones that have passed on, onto a piece of paper and place them on the tree. We did this to encourage everyone to pray for these people and ensure they would never be forgotten and live on in our hearts.

## CONDOLENCES

We extend sympathy to those of our school community who have been bereaved this year. May 2011 be good to all of us.

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

On 12th October first years enjoyed a "positive relationships" work shop. This highlighted the importance of respect for each person and the effects of bullying.

On 12th November second years were treated to a friendship building workshop. The emphasis here was on building self esteem and self confidence.

On 15th December Leaving Certs had a de-stressing afternoon. They enjoyed salsa dancing and different techniques to help relax. We are very grateful to Catherine Mc Cluskey and Mary Jo McHugh who ran first and second year workshops and to Marie McHale Louisburgh Community Project for her help with the de-stressing workshop.

## RETREATS

Second years enjoyed a pleasant and worthwhile day in Ballintubber. Here they were taken through a programme dealing with their relationship with themselves and God. Later in the year Transition years will attend Esker retreat centre. Retreats are also planned for fifth and leaving certificate students.

## CAROL SERVICE

On 21st December a carol service took place in the parish church attended by all the school community as part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas.

## SPIRITUAL EVENTS

In late September we had the opening of our new school year mass. Our mission statement was blessed by our parish priest. In early December a number of students took part in the traditional Concern fast. We commend them for their concern for the third world.

## HSCCL

Sr. Marie King as home school community links person would like to thank all the parents who welcomed her into their homes. The exchange of information on the educational aspect of their son/daughter life is very valuable and worthwhile. She looks forward to meeting more parents in the New Year. Here in Sancta Maria College we strongly encourage parents to work in partnership with the school for the welfare of all our students.

## CHRISTMAS WISHES

Thank you for taking the time to read our Christmas newsletter. I am sure you agree that the wide variety of activities both academic and extra-curricular is very evident. Thanks to staff and students who provide the energy and enthusiasm to take part in so many worthwhile activities.

We welcome new members of the Board of Management, Parents Association and Student Council who already have provided valuable support and ideas to the school community.

This term proved difficult from a weather point of view. I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your patience. I also wish to thank the bus drivers who were flexible as it allowed us to start at a later time in order to ensure the safety of all. We had over 90% attendance daily during that time.

Thanks to those who helped compile this newsletter especially our Transition Years Robert, Jack, Laura and Kate who compiled a large quantity of this newsletter. Well done to all. Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas season.

*Pauline and Staff*

# SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE

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