

Sancta Maria College Newsletter

December 2016



Seasons Greetings

Our newsletter as always allows the opportunity to showcase what we encourage and promote. This year we have invested in further means of communication with our App, Facebook and twitter. We hope you take the time to view our up to the minute news on these social media sites as well as our website www.sanctamaria.ie.

Congratulations to all our students on their achievements in various areas of school life. It is always nice to see new and exciting activities undertaken in the school and this year we are delighted with our Coding, Sign language, Spanish and Italian and our new equestrian team. The holistic education of our students remains at the heart of all our work.

We also congratulate our students on their results, both in school and the State examinations.

A word of thanks to our out-going Board of Management on all their support and work in helping us achieve our long awaited school extension. The Parents Association are also newly appointed as is the Student Council. Good luck to all and thank you for taking on these important roles.


Our staff continue to provide quality teaching and learning in our school and I take this opportunity to thank them for their energy and enthusiasm in all areas of school life.

Finally we wish each of you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Pauline



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Download our new school App



Study Skills

Second and fifth year students attended the annual “Amazing Brains” study skills workshops in September. This workshop stressed the importance of a growth rather than a fixed mindset, where ability can be cultivated and developed through dedication, effort and hard work. A very enjoyable evening on this topic was held for all parents who, together with teachers and students, can engender the growth mindset, thus helping students to develop their talent and potential.



Welcome to all our new First Year Students

We welcome all our new First Years to Sancta Maria College.

We hope your years at Sancta Maria College are both rewarding and enjoyable.





Shoe Box Appeal

As part of the SPHE & RE programmes, TYs have taken part in the Team Hope Shoebox appeal this year. This involves filling a shoebox with little gifts and supplies for children in developing countries in areas such as Africa and Eastern Europe. Boxes are filled with writing materials, hygiene products, items of clothing & some toys and treats.



This year 75 boxes were filled by students from all year groups in the school and the boxes were collected and sorted by the TYs. We would like to thank all students who took part and filled a shoebox. Your effort and gifts will make a huge difference and make Christmas a very special and magical time for lots of children! Thank You



Mid West Radio

Well done to Grainne Fahy, Shonagh Bowe and Ellen Power on representing Sancta Maria on Mid West Radio recently

The girls gave an account of their involvement and achievements in the Gaisce Awards. Gaisce, The Presidents Award is a self development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25.



Ear to the Ground

Watch out for Sancta Maria students who were filmed for RTE's Ear To The Ground at BOOKS at ONE recently. The show will be broadcast in a few weeks time!



Awards and Achievements



Congratulations to Sorcha MacAilister on receiving the highest results in the Leaving Cert Exams 2016.

Sorcha, pictured with her parents, was presented with the William McNamara Memorial Award by Mrs Moran, School Principal and Ann McNamara, wife of the late Mr. William McNamara.

We wish Sorcha all the best with her future studies.



Congratulations to Aoife Duffy and Shauna Cave on receiving their JohnPaul II awards.

The Pope John Paul II Award was created to commemorate the late Pope John Paul II who was so committed to young people and who had such belief and confidence in them.

The Award enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church, their community and society.

The Award is committed to helping young people enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development through participation in school, parish and community activities. As well as the feeling of personal

achievement that a participant will gain from taking part in the Award, participation will help to show future employers and educators that an Award participant demonstrates they can make an ongoing commitment to a task and goal.

Congratulation to Students Sean A Bourke (5th Year), David Carroll (TY) and Sam Denty (2nd Year) who represented Sancta Maria College at the government's Digital Champion Program training event at NUI Galway last month.

The program includes a training day, visits to industry partners and a showcase of completed projects at the EXCITED Digital Learning Festival.

The students study coding and web development at Sancta Maria College.



Congratulations to Rachael O'Malley and Dylan O'Toole on receiving their Business Awards at NUIG.

Professor John McHale, Dean of the College of Business Public Policy and Law, NUI Galway, who presented the certificates to each individual winner, congratulated all of the students on their wonderful success. Recipients of this award place amongst the top 9% of students who sat the Business examination, an achievement to be most definitely proud of.

NUI Galway believes that it is important to recognise the achievements of our potential future business leaders.

Music

Well done to the Sancta Maria Choir on producing a beautiful carol service on December 20th

The Choir also had the pleasure of a most enjoyable one day workshop with Veronica McCarron last month. Veronica wowed the judges on Britain's Got Talent earlier this year with The Presentation Kilkenny Secondary School choir. Veronica coached the 140 member choir throughout the day ending with a performance for the school. Well done everyone on a fabulous performance.

The music class also enjoyed a trip to Dublin to see the musical "Sister Act" last month



New Student Council Members 2015/2016

- A1 Jose Silva
- A2 Odhran McCarney
- B1 Aoibhinn Needham
- B2 Brianna Bruton
- B3 Alfie Morrison
- C1 David Needham
- C2 Mike Dawson
- C3 Dylan Nicholson
- TY 1 Jack Pinder
- TY 2 Peter Carty
- E1 Robert Reaney
- E2 Alex Farrell
- F1 Kevin O Malley
- F2 Laura McCabe

In November we remember... The month of November can be a difficult time for many 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, 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. We extend our condolences to families in our school community who have been bereaved this year and are experiencing sadness at this time.

SPORTS



GAA Congratulations to our Junior Boys GAA team who recorded another comprehensive victory against Colaiste Pobail Acla and finished top of the Junior D League this year.

Congratulations and Good Luck to our two Leaving Cert Students, Natalie Prendergast and Elaine Needham who are currently involved with the Connacht Post Primary Womens Team



Volleyball
Well done to our Senior Volleyball team who were narrowly defeated (25, 24) (25, 23) by ArdScoil Na Mara Tramore in the National Semi-finals held in UL sports campus recently.



Junior Camogie Team

Girls GaelicFootball

We currently have three girls teams at Sancta Maria College: under 14's, under 16s and seniors. We are also looking forward to our first year blitz held later in the year. U14 girls are still competing in their competition. They have played three games to date with more to come after the Christmas. We are very hopeful that we will continue to progress further in the competition. U16 girls remain unbeaten this year in their competition and will progress to the next stage after Christmas. Senior girls are through to the Connacht Quarter -Final in their competition which will be held early next year. Best of luck!



Best of luck to Lana, Megan and Kyra in their upcoming competitions.



Matches and Training in all kinds of weather! (Thanks to Noel Billington for all the photos)

Transition Year

Once again Transition year is proving to be a very busy year with students involved in a wide range of activities,

Outings to date include an overnight trip to Delphi, Ice skating and Pure Skills in Galway, climbing the reek and the opportunity to go to musicals in Dublin.

Students are currently involved in the Junk Couture Art competition , Build a Bank Challenge, Science projects, Enterprise projects and community work. They are also preparing for their musical in January “All Shook Up” which promises to be another sell out show.



They also had very interesting talks during the term from John O’Shea from Goal, Mindout, AidsWest and the Drugs Task Force.

Gaisce, The President’s Award, is a self development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25. TY’s and 5th Years in Sancta Maria College have the opportunity to take part in the award and this year Ms. Moyles is the President’s Award Leader (PAL). There are four different challenge areas in the Award Programme and students participate in each challenge area for at least one hour per week to earn an Award. The four challenge areas are as follows: Community Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Recreation and Adventure Journey



They have taken part in coaching skills and have taken up new subjects this year—Spanish, Italian, Sign

Language and Coding.

Transition year Students have also organised the shoe box appeal and are currently fundraising towards a Positive Mental Health week.

After all that we think they deserve a well earned break at Christmas!!



Science Projects



Build a Bank Challenge

Our finances are in safe hands with our Transition Years busily serving the financial needs of the school community, as part of the Build a Bank Challenge schools competition. All Transition Years had the opportunity to interview for a team position. Well done to all and congratulations to the team selected:

Paul Janas, David Moran,
Diarmaid Lally, Beibhinn Askin,
Rachal O'Malley and Croia McDermott



Ice skating and Pure Skills trip—Galway - December 2016



Thanks to Mr O Flynn for the photos

International Students at Sancta Maria College



We welcome our international students to Sancta Maria College. Students from Spain, Germany and France joined Sancta Maria for a term, semester or full year. Students take part in class work, sports and all extra curricular activities.

Certificates were presented to our Spanish students who are leaving at Christmas after a very successful semester at Sancta Maria, pictured with their coordinator Mr John Paul Tiernan and Ms. Moran (Principal).



Geography Field Trip



As part of their Geography Leaving Cert course, a hardy group of students ventured down to Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh to complete their fieldwork. Well done to Ewan Foy for braving the cold Atlantic



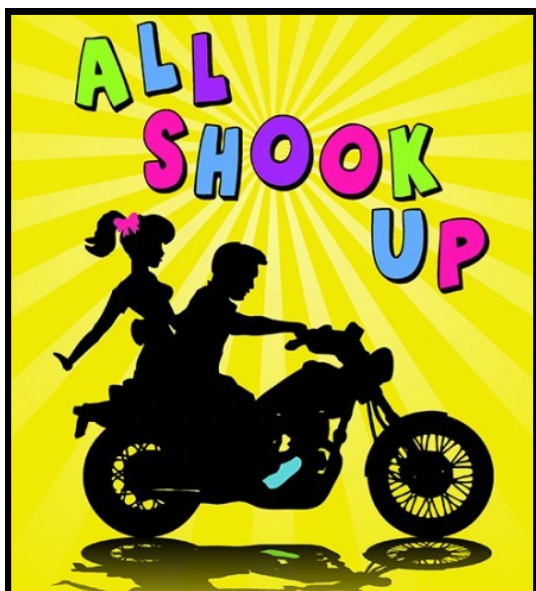
Green Schools

The Green Schools Committee exploring BIODIVERSITY at Sancta Maria College



Irish Sign Language (ISL)

First year students participation in a sign language class with Mr Freeman



Sancta Maria College are pleased to announce the talented cast of this year's musical production "All Shook Up", an upbeat show featuring the music of Elvis Presley.

Set in America in the 1950s, it features Chad, a hip-swivelling, guitar-playing roustabout who arrives in a dreary little town and shakes this conservative town up! Natalie, a young mechanic, is dreaming of love and adventure while she yearns for one true love to take her away, but she doesn't realize that her best friend Dennis has a secret crush on her. When Chad arrives Natalie is instantly smitten, and will go to extreme lengths to make him hers.

Natalie's widowed father Jim catches the love bug when the elegant Ms Sandra arrives in town to run the museum. But he is not the only one....! With love in the air, Sylvia, the tough-talking owner of the local Honky Tonk bar, realises she has a secret

crush on Jim. Meanwhile, her teenage daughter Lorraine falls for soldier Dean. He just happens to be the son of the local "dictator-like" Mayor Matilda Hyde who disapproves of this relationship, and who is supported by her ever-loyal (yet silent!) Sheriff Earl.

All of these blossoming (or doomed!) relationships make for an hilarious plot, which is sure to keep the audience laughing. Add in some of Elvis' most famous hits including "Jailhouse Rock", "Blue Suede Shoes", "Can't Help Falling in Love" and "Burning Love", and you are guaranteed a great night's entertainment. Congratulations to the talented cast, and to all who auditioned this year to such an incredibly high standard. The show takes place in the Town Hall on February 2nd, 3rd and 4th 2017 with tickets available in the New Year.

Cast of "All Shook Up"

Chad- Archie Hadden

Natalie- Shona Gill

Sylvia- Sarah O Malley

Jim- Sean Bourke

Dennis- David Moran

Ms Sandra- Rachel Reed

Dean- Luke Power

Lorraine- Bebhinn Askin

Mayor Matilda- Rosa Kinsella

Sheriff Earl- Jim Power

Warden- Dylan Neahaus

Henrietta- Shonagh Bowe

Barflies- Eimear McDonnell, Emily Morrison, Ela Cohen Murray, Sadhbh Hanks, Shauna Cave

Jailbirds- Saul Sherrard, Jason O Malley, Peter Carty, Finn Costello, Ellen Power, Anna Bourke, Amy Hastings, Croia McDermott

Female Townsperson- Hannah Reed

Male Townsperson- Peter Carty

Sancta Maria Staff 2016

We welcome our new staff members

JohnPaul Tiernan to the Spanish,
Science and IT Departments

Martha Halpin to the Business/Maths
Departments

Norma Keane to the Geogrpahy/Maths
Departments

Jane Hanley to the French Department

