

# *Ennis Parish Link*

*Issue 42 June 2011*



## Colaiste Muire

Hi, we are from Colaiste Muire in Ennis and our project is called C The Bright side. In May of last year our friend Ciara passed away from cancer at the age of sixteen. All through her treatment she inspired us with her bravery and strength – her beauty shone through in spite of her difficult circumstances. Her motto was “C the bright side” which we have adapted to SFC for Smile for Ciara. When she died we were all overwhelmed by darkness, we felt empty. Her memory was tainted with sadness and anger that her time here with us would be so short. It was the first time anything like this had ever happened in our school community.

But instead of mourning that she was gone, we decided to focus on the positive - the fact that we were lucky enough to have known her, even if it was for a short length of time. We decided to help other teenagers like Ciara through CanTeen Ireland, CanTeen is an organisation which was very close to her heart. It gave her a great support system. It receives no government funding and yet it provides invaluable care. In CanTeen, teenagers who have been affected by cancer can be themselves; they are no longer ‘the kid with cancer’. CanTeen allows them to just be regular teenagers.

To start off our project we designed and sold Christmas cards on behalf of CanTeen in the school and wider community. Evelyn Griffin from CanTeen Ireland came to our school. We had an informative talk for our year group and Ciara’s close friends. We then created a Powerpoint presentation to help educate the other members of our school community.

We also transformed a courtyard in our school into a memorial garden. We felt like we needed a peaceful space that would allow people to be able to feel her presence in the school, to solidify her memory. The memorial garden’s was officially opened in May. All her close friends (including ones she made in CanTeen) and her family will attend. In March we held a colossal fashion show in the school to raise much-needed funds for CanTeen and to celebrate Ciara with an event we know she would have enjoyed. The whole staff and student body were involved with over 300 people involved and an audience of 1,500. Earlier this month we compiled a



collection of creative poetry and anecdotes from Ciara’s closest friends as well as photographs capturing all of our achievements throughout the project. We have emerged out of a time of tragedy and darkness and bit by bit through this project we have turned the emptiness into celebration and turned peoples lack of knowledge into awareness and in the process helping brave teenager cancer patients like Ciara. We have reached over 80,000 people and the number is ever-growing. We did this through news articles, radio and other forms of publicity. We hope we’ve educated people about teenage cancer. We hope that we have made Ciara proud and that she is smiling down at us from above. We hope that by doing this project you will help us on our mission to help these teenagers. We hope that you can open your eyes. We hope that you CAN SEE THE BRIGHT SIDE!



## Ennis Community College



Things have been very busy and fun this term in our school, students were happy to go on their Easter holidays fresh from their television appearance on Nationwide. The programme is to feature students from first and second year who with James Madigan built a currach ‘The Pride of ECC’ . The group with Ms Ní Dheargáin and Ms Grogan built the currach in the school hall and with Clarecastle rowing club took to the water with television cameras trained on them just before the Easter break.

It was then the turn of TY and fifth year students to have some fun as over the Easter holiday they visited Rome the eternal city with some of our staff.

We were barely back into school when sporting glory called the Gaelcholáiste an Chlair hurling team. Gaelcholáiste an Chláir had a



## Faith in Action at Rice College Secondary School



Following in the tradition of Edmund Rice. Each year students are encouraged to be involved in social justice Projects.

Last year, fifth year and transition year students raised over €1,073.00 for Clare Haven; €1,073.00 for S.O.F.T (support organisation for Trisomy—non profit volunteer organisation offering support for parents who have had or are expecting a child with chromosome disorder. [www.softireland.com](http://www.softireland.com)) and €6,000.00 for Fr. John Molloy who is currently working in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Fr. John Molloy was chaplain in Rice College for many years. His work now involves helping in the building of schools in Ecuador. Last year we

saw the completion of a playing pitch for the students in Ecuador paid for by the students of Rice College.

This year transition and fifth year students have also raised money for Fr. John's Ecuador fund €3,240.00 and also for Cystic Fibrosis Ireland €855.00. This money will help to put further structures in place for the educational needs of the children of Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Each week transition year students are also involved with the St. Clare's school Ennis which is a national school catering for children with special educational needs. On every Monday, Transition Year students from Rice College go the local swimming pool and are actively involved in helping these children to swim.

Before Christmas a number of students from various years with Ms. Condon, Ms. Hanrahan and Fr. Fergal, went carol singing in Cahercalla Nursing Home and St. Joseph's Hospital, bringing the spirit of Christmas to the patients and staff.

A visit to the Poor Clare Convent here in Ennis enabled the students to question the sisters on their vocation and their way of life, as part of a school project they are doing for their Junior Cert. The students then joined the sisters for prayer.

Transition year students also took part in a pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick with all forty students reaching the summit. Earlier this year we celebrated Catholic Schools Week while students gave a wonderful display of their talents by providing music and dance at the 10.30am on St Patrick's Day Mass in Ennis Cathedral and also at one of the Advent Sunday Masses before Christmas.



Edmund Rice Day which is organised by Edmund Rice School's Trust to keep the spirit of Edmund Rice alive within the school, was also celebrated.

Fr. Fergal O' Neill our chaplain has also given a huge amount of his time to the faith and development of the Catholic ethos within Rice College. He offered masses before school during the season of Lent, reconciliation services were held through out the year, with personal spiritual and emotional guidance available to students during lunchtime on a weekly basis. He also undertook a staff reflection session based on the Edmund Rice Charter. It is hoped that the spirit and meaning of Edmund Rice will continue to live on in the school of Rice College for many years to come.

## e Gaelcholáiste an Chlair



convincing win over Ennistymon CBS in the Div II U15 schools final. The final was held in Gorteen on Friday May 6th. Then the Munster Athletics qualifier took their interested with some of our students progressing to the final.

Academic innovation continued in this term with a pilot project between the Education and English departments of University of Limerick being tested with junior cycle classes in the school and the cooperation of Mr. Eoin Murphy. The idea is to create an IT learning platform that

can help students tackle the difficult terminology they face in study with biology being used as the initial subject to investigate the possibilities this might create.

The term is continuing with many events to help our team- of ECC and GC staff and students, who hoped to climb Kilimanjaro in aid of local autism groups.



## Lough Derg



### Time For Body & Soul

3 day Parish Pilgrimage to Lough Derg on Monday 1st August to Wednesday 3rd August. Booking & details from Parish Office 6824043.

## Summer Blessing for Pre-Schools



Special Summer Blessing will take place here in the Cathedral on Saturday 11th June 2011 at 12 noon. All children, families and extended families from the parish and surrounds are invited.

## St Anthony Novena



led by

**Fr. Pius McLaughlin, OFM**

**Sun 5th to Mon 13th June**

Mornings Sessions 10am.

Sunday Morning 12noon.

Evening Sessions 7.30pm.

**Sunday 12th:** Healing Service with Sacramental Anointing of the Sick at 7.30pm (no Mass);

**Feast of St. Anthony 13th June:**

Blessing of Children at 4pm;

Blessing of Lilies at all Masses

## St. Flannan's College



As part of our Transition Year Course in St. Flannan's College we go to different community centres around the town and lend a hand at whatever is going on at the time. There are three places that we visit: Kilmaley Day Care Centre, Clarecastle Daycare Centre for the elderly and St. Clare's School for students with disabilities. Students in the class get to go to each and every placement so we alternate. Every Thursday morning from ten o'clock we take the bus to our placements.

The programme is mutually beneficial to us. It gives each student a chance to meet people and make acquaintance with elderly people in our community. Many of the students don't meet elderly people and have a stereotypical idea in their heads, but after our time spent in Clarecastle and Kilmaley Daycare Centres these ideas are definitely gone from our heads. Also a lot of the students don't know many people with disabilities. It was a really good experience to, meet and hang out with people our own age with disabilities in St. Clare's School and see that we may have common interests and that they are no different than any of our other peers.

My first placement was Clarecastle Daycare Centre. Every Thursday morning we couldn't wait to get to Clarecastle to meet all our new acquaintances and share the amazing scones they have out there. Without fail we would get a cup of tea and a scone before we began the morning's activities. In the centre on Thursdays they have art and bingo. We were regulars at the art class. The atmosphere in the art room was light-hearted and some craic was had trying to master some of the harder pieces and the competition was on with some of the highly talented artists of Clarecastle.

My second placement was St. Clare's School, while it is a very different experience to Clarecastle it was just as enjoyable. All of the students both of St. Flannan's and of St. Clare's had a great time together. We had music, painted windows, dabbled at a bit of baking and did all sorts of things. All the students got on well together and as we got to know each other, it began to feel like it was our own class instead of just visiting the school.

Last but not least we went to Kilmaley Daycare Centre. We did everything from attending mass to playing charades, whatever took their fancy. The residents of Kilmaley are definitely up for trying new things and love to watch us Flannan's students make poor attempts at dancing and charades. Each and every one of our placements was enjoyed and we never came away without learning something new from our acquaintances. We would hope that we have benefited the people we met on our visits even half as much as they did us.

**Gráinne Maher, Transition Year Student**