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The Venue Theatre
Ratoath Community Centre
Ratoath, Co. Meath
Box Office: 01-6895600
Book online: www.ratoathcc.ie

***Wishing Ratoath College
every success from all at
The Venue Theatre Ratoath***

The best entertainment in Co. Meath:

TOMMY FLEMING (sold out)
THE THREE TENORS - Friday 27th April
FINBAR FUREY - Saturday 28th April
LIAM LAWTON - Friday 25th May
DAVID KITT - Saturday 26th May

plus the best theatre in Co. Meath:

Don't Dress for Dinner (3-5 May)
Da (11-12 May) - The Tinkers Curse (15 May)
Frank Pig Says Hello (19 May)

Editorial

Ratoath College

The Man. U. of Irish education

Ratoath College is magic-and fortunate. Magic because of the mix of energy, talent, enthusiasm and excellence which jumbled together, staff and students, create an exciting dynamic and exceptional school. Fortunate, well, from the beginning an incredible gathering of good people have poured their time, energy, dedication and skill into this vibrant centre of educational excellence. On my own behalf and on behalf of County Meath VEC I want to say well done and thank you one and all.

In congratulating Ratoath College on its transition from Fairyhouse and on its great success to date I want to recall those people who by being in the right place and doing the right thing have made it a unique college. I do not know of another setting where the school has been completed to meet the need, it's usually years behind the demand. Take a bow then Mary Wallace for moving big wheels in high places. And just for luck, who was Chairman of Co Meath VEC at that time? Our own Mr. Ratoath, Nick Killian. Nick has created the template for community development in new residential settings. Nick made the site happen at a very reasonable price. Add in an exceptional Parish Priest Fr. Gerry devoted to community and to education. Gerry put his faith and energy into this school and brought church and state together in the hospitality of the parochial house. You cannot buy good fortune such as this. Dick Shields manager in Fairyhouse had a vision beyond the race course, there would be no start-up without him. Dick and all the staff at Fairyhouse gave us every support possible.

Bhí Rath Dé fós ar ar saothar. Next up Máire, a gift to start-up schools, a principal in a million, who put heart and soul into creating an ethos of care, compassion and educational excellence as well as putting Ratoath College on the map. Then Anthony, the Ronaldo of Deputy Principals turning RC into the Man U of Irish education.

I cannot praise enough the Board of Management for your maturity and wisdom, the Parents Council for your time, support and work and most of all, the band of parents who put your faith in this new school sight unseen. I hope your confidence has been repaid. Your sons and daughters have done you and us proud. Well done students and teachers.

I wish students, parents and teachers good health and good fortune as you set out for the fabulous new campus at Jamestown. Slán agus beannacht.

Peter Kavanagh

Chief Executive Officer
County Meath VEC

With a lot of work and pleasure this yearbook has come to fruition. As our year ends we acknowledge what a wonderful time we have all had. We wish to share this time with you and we hope we have managed to relive many wonderful moments of our school's year for you within the covers of this book. As you browse through the pages I'm sure you'll be surprised at the wide range of activities and interests here in Ratoath College. We have articles for everyone's interest from school news, sports, health, fashion, and games and much more! So put on those specs and start reading!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in helping us put the yearbook together, especially our media teachers Ms. Hitillambeau, Ms. Hynes and Mr. Ball who gave us support and help. Thanks to our other teachers who volunteered to be interviewed and lent us personal photographs. Thanks to our fellow students who shared memories and provided articles. A special thanks to our committee (pictured below) who did Trojan work and were a great group to work with. Without you all this yearbook would not be possible.

We hope you find great entertainment within the covers of our Yearbook!!



By Amy Brady & Aoife Tomkins.



The Media club

Máire Ní Bhróithe



"A word from
the Principal"

I am delighted to be associated with this wonderful production. Well done to our first year media group who have been directly involved all year. Thank you to the second years who have contributed to the magazine. You are an excellent group of students and I am very proud of you all.

A special word of thanks also to the teachers involved. Ms. Híllambeau, Mr. Ball, Ms. Hynes and Ms. Mc Neillis. This could not have been achieved without you. Míle Buíochas.

The magazine gives you a flavour of all the activities which has gone on in Fairyhouse in the past year. It will always be a memory for us of our time here on the racecourse. This is a fitting item to be included in our Time Capsule, to be buried in Jamestown and to be opened in 2028! In years to come your work will be really appreciated.

Maith Sibh!

Le gach dea-ghuí



Máire Ní Bhróithe
Principal

ANTHONY MALONE



"A word from our
Deputy Principal"

Being asked to write a piece for such an outstanding publication is truly a great pleasure. "66" represents the number of students who first entered Ratoath College on 29 August 2005 and, for me, no publication could be more aptly titled. It recognises our very starting point – the very beginning of our journey together. Indeed as I write this piece I too have just completed my first year as Deputy Principal.

The pages of this work quite brilliantly and imaginatively chart this exceptional time together! I am more and more convinced that as you read through this, that you, like me, will be amazed at just how much ground we have covered in those first two years. This publication is truly a living testament – an important record - to show just how much we have achieved and indeed just how much we all continue to achieve in this school. I congratulate you all for your very hard work.

This publication is truly an outstanding advertisement for our school and great credit is due to those students, teachers and parents who have worked so tirelessly to bring it to fruition. Can I take this opportunity to genuinely compliment and congratulate everyone for this hard work. You have much to be proud of.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Anthony Malone.

Chaplain

Parents' Association Approaches Second Birthday

At the first meeting of the Ratoath College Parents' Association, in May, 2005, we came to the view that we should be an active partner within our new school. Now what does this mean? Very simply, it means that we enthusiastically and wholeheartedly support the VEC and the Board but especially the Principal, Deputy Principal, teaching and professional staff in ensuring Ratoath College is a learning institution of excellence and distinction. It means that we have a realistic and intelligent view as to when and where we should become involved in helping move forward the educational, social and sporting life of the school. Most of the time this happens by way of being invited to help on specific projects and initiatives or through us offering to help the excellent work that is usually underway. This works really well and we have a strong collaborative, 'working together' relationship with Maire Ní Bhróithe, our Principal, Anthony Malone, our Deputy Principal and the rest of the staff in the college.

With this in mind we came up with and decided to set down an overall aim and set of objectives for the Parents Association, which we hope will be adopted at our forthcoming AGM as part of a new constitution to guide our contribution and effort, these are:

The overall aim of the Association (Parents') will be to work in partnership with all other Ratoath College stakeholders including the Board of Management, principal, deputy principal, teachers and professional staff in furthering the education, learning and development of all our children;

The objectives can be summarised as follows:

* Actively supporting and assisting Ratoath College to become a centre of academic excellence by involving the full parent grouping as well as recognising special and particular academic achievement within the student body;

* Fully encouraging and championing the wider development of our children through an extensive use of sports, social, cultural and leisure activities. We will support the involvement of all children including those with minority interests and special needs;

* Sponsoring specific professional development and learning initiatives to facilitate the role of Association members, i.e. all parents, in developing and growing in their role having regard to the challenges that present themselves to adults and children alike in our modern society;

* Ensuring the best possible facilities, support systems and learning environment is available for our children, in this regard, we will fundraise to supplement existing revenue streams available to Ratoath College.

As I said at last year's AGM, on Ratoath College to date, 'we couldn't have written a more positive script with so much wonderful detail including great successes and achievements'. The first two years have been a helter skelter of excitement and hard work, for the Parent's Association as well as everybody else, but all in a fantastic cause – our children and their development, learning and growth. I have also said several times that our role in many ways has been to hang onto the coat tails of our fantastic Principal, Deputy Principal and teaching staff. We haven't done badly but phew! What an act that has been to try and follow.

Donie Wiley,
Chairperson, Ratoath College Parents' Association.
April, 2007

Father PJ



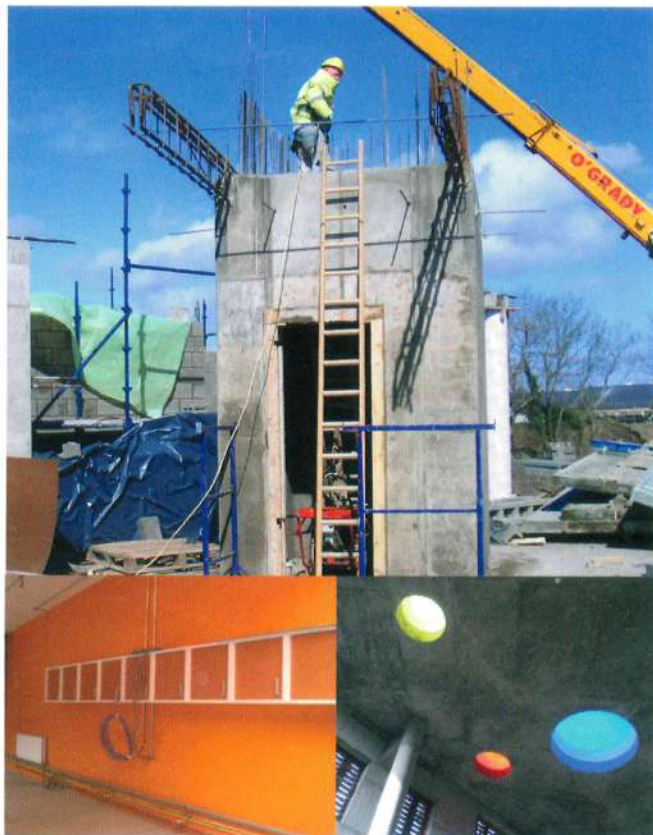
It's with the greatest of pleasure that I welcome the Ratoath College magazine. Such a publication is of the utmost importance as it provides a forum for many of our students to express their obvious literary and artistic talent.

As you browse through the pages of our book, you will become aware that this is a dynamic time in our school. Along with their academic pursuits our students have been involved in a myriad of extra curricular activities from talent shows, sporting activities and artistic competitions. All of our students have raised much needed funds for numerous charities including Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Trocaire, The Ethiopian Lenten Project and the Shoe Box Toy appeal. This testifies to the unquestioning generosity and civic spirit of the students of our school. It is good and proper in such competitive times to see Christian and humanitarian values cherished and fostered.

The Chaplain, as a faith presence, committed to the values of Christ, and on behalf of the Church and school communities, accompanies each person on the journey through life. As chaplain, I have listened as students shared their anxieties and worries with me, sometimes longing for some magic formulae that would relieve the stress, confusion and turmoil from their young lives. I am forever grateful to all who have trusted me with their story and am very much aware that we have walked on "holy ground". In society today there is the assumption, the attitude, that all pain and discomfort should be instantly curable, that self-fulfilment is the only goal, that we should live in a perfect world. We don't live in such a world nor was it God's plan that we should. His vision is much broader. It allows us to live in a world where we can grow and develop in faith, hope and love through adversity and difficulty, as well as through giftedness and blessing, as caring brothers and sisters.

I hope you enjoy reading our school magazine and I wish you all good luck and happiness now and always.

Our new school



A small step for the staff but a big one for the community

Every pupil in Ratoath College is looking forward to our move to a new state of the art school in Jamestown. The new school will be able to cater for 850 pupils. It will have brand new science labs, a gym, great computer facilities and the most modern school equipment. Our new school will be a lot bigger than Fairyhouse, so we might even get lost! The architect designing our new school has tried to keep it bright and has used lots of colours in the class rooms...very funky!

However, we will all miss Fairyhouse. We will miss the luxury boxes, running around the racecourse and getting days off for race meetings. I will always look back at my first year at secondary school in Fairyhouse with great fondness.

By Ciarán O'Connor

Top Left: The first part of the new building in Jamestown. The orange coloured science lab & the skylight ceiling.

The building will be massive, fun & colourfull. We'll be looking at a state of the art in architecture.



Some of the teachers on site... All smiles! They used their imagination to picture the school.

O MEMORIES

There are good memories that we, the pupils, and teachers of Ratoath College fondly remember. Some of us share the same happy memories and some have their own special moments that reminds them of good times.

A memory that the first and second years have in common are the fun trips to Paris and Carlingford. Many others say it was the snow day we had earlier this year that filled us with joy but mainly soaked us to the skin.

Others have more special moments to themselves like for Amy Brady her favourite moment was *"when I had completed my banner that I had made for the school. It took a whole weekend but I loved it!"* Others like James McCormack said that *"making his first project in woodwork" was the highlight of his time here.* Aisling Farrell said that *"Carlingford" was the best moment for her.* Rebecca Scott said the *"Ceili"* that was held by the school was her favourite moment so far in Ratoath College.

Some of the memories are more special than others - *"making friends with Rachel Kinlan"* was said by Katie King. Some of the memories were scary at first - *"getting stuck in the elevator in Paris"* was scary for Ross Gillan.

Another popular memory was the school trip to the ice rink in Liffey Valley Shopping Centre which was organised for the students and teachers after the Christmas Exams.

A very big memory for the boys was *"getting their best time on the racecourse"*. Other students had memories based on their school work. Shaun Cullen said that his favourite memory was when he won *"Student of the Month!"*.

Our teachers also have memories that they will never forget. Ms. Brennan had many memories of the school. *"I will never forget the Paris Trip"* she also said one of her most treasured memories was *"looking out on Fairyhouse Racecourse when we had our first day of snow, it was a really magical sight"*. *"Meeting Rang Brennan on their first day of school"* was another fond memory *"for what is a teacher without her class!"*

Our Principal Ms. Ní Bhróithe said that her favourite moments were *"when the porta cabin arrived as it really felt like a school then"*. *"The Visitors Programme when Mary Davies and Gay Byrne came to visit our school"*. Another one of her memories she said would have to be when *"the boys under 14 soccer team reached the semi-final"*.

We have all gone through good times and bad times but from our year at Ratoath College it has been nothing but good memories that will last a life time.

Jordan Doody & Katie O'Reilly

opening night

The opening night for the first years who are coming into the school in September 2007 was on the 22nd of January 2007. It was a brilliant night and a great success.

We displayed each subject in different rooms showing off our work that we have done so far this year. We gave the parents and future students a tour of the school going into each subject room and getting a summary of what we have done.

We had a power-point presentation showing slides of the Paris tour, events this year and school tours such as ice-sking. We gave them a quiz to complete so they could be in with a chance to win a great prize.

We also had entertainment such as an Irish dancing display.

In the end it was great fun for everyone.

By Darragh and Ciarán O'Connor



The view from our classrooms ... we will sure miss this

MEET THE DESIGNER



that we have made it a house style for every season designed in a variety of satins and leathers.

How would you describe your work?

Taking a brand forward and maintaining a global business whilst collaborating on the creative in the process. The product is very important to me and I like to be involved with every aspect of the design process.

What's your ultimate goal?

Health and Happiness

Who inspires you?

Travelling to exotic countries and observing different cultures

What are your signature designs?

Very strappy stiletto knee high boots, courts and jewelled shoes.

What is your favourite piece from any of your collections?

My all time favourite is called "smooth". We introduced it in autumn/winter 2002 and it was so popular

Is the idea of creative collaboration important to you? It can be fun and inspiring to get creative minds together.

Who has been the greatest influence on your career?

My father has been the greatest influence in my life. He had amazing strength of character and was a continuous guiding light in my personal and professional life.

How has your own experiences affected you as a designer?

The way I live my life certainly influences the product.

What is more important in your work, the process or the product?

Both but at the end of the day the product is what really matters.

Is designing difficult to you?

No, it's the part I enjoy the most. I am constantly inspired by things around me

Have you ever been influenced or moved by the reaction to your designs?

Every time I see someone wearing Jimmy Choo I still feel overwhelmed with excitement

What's your definition of beauty?

I find beauty in many places- it's all around us and more to the point how you look at something.

JIMMY CHOO

Can fashion still have a political ambition?

Personally, I don't think fashion should have a political statement. It can evoke a trend or a general mood but not a political statement as such.

Who do you have in mind when you design?

A sophisticated & stylish woman – yet determined.

What's your philosophy?

To always live to a clear conscience

What is the most important lesson you have learned?

Always follow your intuition.

By Amy Brady

Charm school



RE-DEFINE ART

As part of the Re-define art group we are doing a painting for our new school in Jamestown.

Ms. Hynes and Ms. Hitillambeau are the teachers involved with our group. We meet with them twice a week so that we can show them our new designs and organise what we are going to do next with our project. We first looked at the history of Art!



The Re-define Art Group with Ms. Hynes & Ms. Hitillambeau

Mona Lisa

The Mona Lisa was painted by Italian artist Leonardo Da Vinci. The woman's mysterious smile has made the painting one of the most famous pieces of art in the world.

Vincent Van Gogh

A famous Dutch painter who worked in a style called expressionism. He did not paint things exactly as they are in real life. Instead, he painted to express emotions and feelings. His paintings come alive with bright colors, swirling lines, and thick brushstrokes.

Portrait Art

Before cameras were invented, people often had their portraits painted. If not for paintings of famous early Americans, like one of George Washington, we wouldn't know what they looked like!

Aztec

They ruled what is now Mexico in the 1400s, produced beautiful works of art. The Aztec mask, made of wood and covered with turquoise, was probably used for religious rituals.

Once we looked at the different types of art, we concentrated on paintings. We wanted our painting to be colourful, vibrant and striking. Our second year students, Seán and Grace were a great addition to our group as they suggested some great ideas. We all spent three weeks coming up with

It doesn't hurt! Have you ever wondered or thought if it would be nice to make people feel good? It's easy, a bit of charm goes a long way, and it also can make you feel better. Charm also has the strange quality of making people like and respect you if you respect them.

Smile!!! Like your life depended on it! Can't think of anything to say? Nothing at all? Really just smile! No forced smiles please, I'm talking a genuine one. A pharaoh can smile! And that's over thousands of years!!! Sure, you can smile for a few minutes!!! It's going to brighten somebody's day if you just...

People will respect you, if you listen to what they have to say! If you seem genuinely interested it can make anyone's day! You'll be more respected, trusted and thought more focused. If you are not interested listen up anyway, you might learn something new!

Go ahead! Wave your hands in the air! Not really wildly- you don't want to seem weird or smack someone in the eye! But a small gesture can go a long way to showing enthusiasm.

This one is important for one very good reason! Life is not a competition, so try to give others their own time in the limelight. Hear everyone out, even if you aren't all that interested. It may mean a lot to the other person so don't let yourself be distracted. It's only fair!!!

EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT!!

We should all try to treat people with respect. No matter the differences we all have different situations and different directions. In the end we are all unique but the same.

Self Confidence is the Key!!!

different sketches and outlines of what we thought our painting should look like. We wanted to incorporate the idea of our big move from Fairyhouse Racecourse to our new school in Jamestown.

We really hope our painting will be a beautiful piece of art and hopefully it will take centre stage on a wall of our new school in Jamestown!!!!

Special thanks to Ms. Hynes, Ms. Hitillambeau, Jordan Rogers, Katie Kelly, Shannon McDonnell, Shannon McConway, Ciara Egan, Christina Strujevica, Seán Cooling, and Grace Randles.

By Emma Costigan.

DIY DIVA

Why be normal when you can be Oh! So Different!

Low on pocket money... Oh! Did I hear a *yes?*

“Well you’re in luck!!!”

Can you possibly guess why?

Because the **DIY DIVA** is here to help!

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO A MORE DIFFERENT YOU!

1. Being a DIY DIVA means looking after number one... Because everyone is truly one in a million.

2. The main point to this of course is to show you how to convert your old junk to new and useful (Hint : we all love it) stuff.

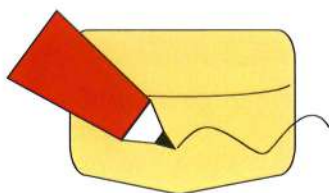
Old Junk such as old bathroom mirrors, care worn jeans, lifeless handbags, drab lampshades, plain bracelets (that have gone down the road to nowhere!) and so much more!

YOU WILL NEED:

A bangle

Silver Cern’ or silver outliner (available from inspiring ideas)

1. Take a bangle, wipe clean and dry.



2. Plan the design you want for the bangle, Take example from the one below



By Amy Brady

☆☆HOW TO BE AN☆☆ ACTOR☆ACTRESS

Always wanted to star in movies or musicals?? Well get your head out of the clouds and read on

STEP 1

Decide whether you want to be a professional actor or an amateur.

STEP 2

Enrol in an acting class. Choose singing and dancing as this will help. But only go if you’re willing to work.

STEP 3

Check out if your acting class has an agency. If so, join and get a headshot of yourself.

STEP 4

Accept all the work you are offered even if it is a low budget film.

STEP 5

Search Internet, magazines and newspapers for castings.



☆☆TIPS AND WARNINGS☆☆

1. Acting is a tough business. Make sure you are suited for its ups and downs.

2. Remember you won’t get a callback on every audition so don’t be too disappointed.

3. Bear in mind that there are a lot of fake agents out there trying to ruin your dream.

Niamh Mc Cormack

MOVIE REVIEW

"Becoming Jane" Review

The life of the young Jane Austen is the inspiration for this romance starring Anne Hathaway.

Much like Miss Potter, "Becoming Jane" examines the life of one of Britain's best-loved female authors. But if this film is to be believed Jane Austen's life had a much more direct influence on her work. This semi-speculative biographical drama sees young sharp Jane pen poetry to recite at parties that is until dashing young lawyer Thomas Lefroy strides in and starts sniggering. Like Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" character Mr Darcy, Lefroy is arrogant but attractive, and so the scene is set for a will-they-won't-they love/hate romance. As Lefroy and Jane's paths cross at local functions, they enjoy much sparkling banter, in which he tries to introduce her to such scandalous literature as 'Tom Jones'. While there's a sense that some of Jane's rebellious touches are wishful modern interpretations, her prim reaction to Lefroy's choice of reading does at least ring true. 🦋

Despite being American, Hathaway is a good choice for the role, having portrayed outspoken - yet - proper characters in the *Princess Diaries* and *The Devil Wears Prada*. Luckily, her English accent is up to the job, and James McAvoy is as capable as ever.

By Niamh McCormack

Textile & design

The Textile and Design group started in January 2007 and was set up by Ms. McNeilis and Ms. Judge. The group is for all those budding designers, those interested in textiles, needlework, (both hand and sewing machine) and applied design.

The group members are Amy Brady, Sarah Healy, Niamh McCormack, Jqiao Wei Chen, Aoife Tomkins.

As its first project the group decided to design and make a banner for the school (showing the link from Fairhouse to Jamestown). It will be used for the walk on June 1 from Fairhouse to Jamestown. The pupils all came up with their own designs and slogans. The final design is a mixture of all of their ideas and is looking great. Well done girls!

By Lisa McNeilis and Gretta Judge

FASHION TIMELINE

Fashion has evolved through out the ages... Or has it really! We have seen in the past few years some vintage clothing coming back to life. Re-vamped or adapted to our era. We've seen boots, short pants and old style belts, even hats. It is a very good thing to look back to what fashion used to be to be able to forecast the future trends. Scary for boys as they use to wear dresses. Fashion is timeless. So beware your grandma or pa may have stuff in the attic worth it's weight in gold.



Pamper Your Skin

Everyone loves that fresh, clean, tingly feeling after a facial cleanse. Here's how.

1. Cleanse your face using a mild soap. Rinse with warm water. Massage your cheeks to get rid of dirt and dead skin.

2. Hold a hot, damp flannel against your face for a few seconds. This will remove any grease, while your pores are open.



Next splash cold water on your face, then dry with a clean fluffy towel.

3. Rub a chunk of cucumber along your cheeks and forehead to refresh your skin.

4. Lie back with some cucumber on your eyes this will refresh tired eyes. If you don't have any cucumber try a used tea-bag.

5. Finally smooth some cooling moisturiser gently into your face and neck.

Drink at least 1-2 litres of water a day.
Eat loads of fruit and vegetables.
Get heaps of sleep.

Aoife Tomkins



1. Crack two eggs into a bowl. Add two large spoonfuls of olive oil, then squeeze in the juice of half a lemon. Whisk together well.
2. Rinse your hair with warm water and towel dry. Stroke the mixture through your hair evenly.
3. Massage your scalp for a few minutes. This will encourage the mixture to soak in.
4. Sit down and relax for about ten minutes. Rinse very, very well.
5. Rub your hair gently using a clean towel. Squirt a little styling mouse /gel into your hand.
6. Blow dry your hair in sections using a hair brush to give a smooth sleek look.

Banana mega moisturiser

Mash up one large ripe banana with a large spoonful of olive oil and a small teaspoonful of lime. Leave for 30 minutes. This reveals natural oils to leave hair smooth and sleek.

Avocado rich conditioner



Mash together a ripe avocado, 1 small spoon of lemon juice and 2 large spoonfuls of olive oil. Apply for a really deep hair and scalp conditioner.

By Aoife Tomkins



D r u g s

Drugs are a chemical substance which alters the way the body works. All drugs can be harmful or deadly if they are misused.

You are bound to be offered drugs at some stage in your life. The best way to avoid any problems is simply not to take them.

DRUGS CAN *(the not so good side)*

Change how the body works.
How you think (damage the brain cells).
How you feel.
How you think and behave.

DRUGS CAN *(the good side)*

Cure people of diseases
Ease pain

SOME TYPES OF DRUGS

Different types of drugs are taken in different ways: swallowed, sniffed, smoked or injected, and they all have different effects.

1. Stimulants - speed up people's bodies and make them feel energetic and excited. Examples of stimulants include cocaine, crack, ecstasy, poppers, speed and tobacco.
2. Depressants - slow people's bodies down and make them feel relaxed and drowsy. Alcohol, glues, gases, aerosols and heroin are examples of downers.
3. Hallucinogens or psychedelics-send people on a 'trip'. Changing the way things normally appear. LSD and magic mushrooms are both hallucinogens.

GLUE, GAS AND AEROSOLS.

Breathing in the chemicals from glue act as a similar effect on the body as alcohol but is much more dangerous. This can damage the brain, liver or kidneys.

CANNABIS

Cannabis is usually made into a joint or a spiff. It looks very like a cigarette and is smoked. Other names for cannabis are dope, ganja, grass, hash, marijuana, pot, skunk and weed.

By Aoife Tomkins

A N O R E X I A

You hear that word and you wonder to yourself what that actually means:

Well anorexia is an eating disorder where people **STARVE** themselves thin!

Anorexia is a cruel illness that can actually **KILL** them. You wonder how anorexia can kill. When you become too thin and your body has lost all its fat and is just living on water your body starts to eat itself up!! Anorexics have an intense fear of becoming fat. Anorexia mainly occurs in teenage girls. Weight loss is achieved in many ways. The person may be taking laxatives, excessive exercise or not eating. If you know someone who is anorexic do **NOT** let them suffer in silence. They need lots of support and love. Suggest seeing a doctor or counsellor but be prepared for denial, resistance and even anger. **What are the symptoms of anorexia?** Not wanting or refusing to eat in public. Anxiety, weakness, brittle skin, shortness of breath and obsessiveness about calories intake. The good news about anorexia is you can overcome it.

By Aoife Tomkins

Healthy Eating

It is a school policy here at Ratoath College that unhealthy foods are not allowed to be brought onto the school premises. In recent times vending machines and tuck shops have become part of secondary school life and seem to be on every corridor. This has no doubt contributed to the serious increase in obesity amongst Irish children. In Ratoath College, parents and staff did not want this to happen to their students, so they came up with a healthy eating policy to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

An element of school life which helps the Ratoath College students keep fit is the treble class of PE. Some may think that the long runs are too hard and students may not wish to do them, but we all admit that it helps us get fit. ☺

So, let's not complain about having to eat healthy lunches and keep fit. Let us make it part of our everyday lives!!

By Roisin Murray

PALMISTRY

Palmistry is a long-standing tool for divination that spans a wide variety of cultures. Its origins have been traced back to India to times before Christ. Palmistry became more refined during the 12th century when it spread to China and Japan. During this time it was the Arabic traders who brought it over from India to Europe where it became even more popular.

All hands are as different as fingerprints. So what is in your future?

Line quality:

Good quality lines- is clear deep and without breaks. Indicating strength and endurance.

Poor quality lines-that get crossed with other lines or lose their depth and become less grooved signify the lack of good flow and well being in a particular area.

Major lines

A) The life line

The lifeline symbolises the quality of a person's life force energy. The length of the line is not an indicator of age; it indicates enthusiasm for life. A line that travels out onto the palm (centre of the palm) means possible travel in the future. A line that leans toward the thumb suggests that a person will be less adventurous.

B) The head line

The headline is an indicator of how a person uses his/her intelligence.

A good quality line - implies that a person puts thinking before action. That he /she is patient.

A poor quality line - implies nervousness.

A short line - indicates a person with good instincts who is likely to take action.

A long line - a person is more mentally orientated, who has good focus and determination.

A straight line - good logic, reasoning.

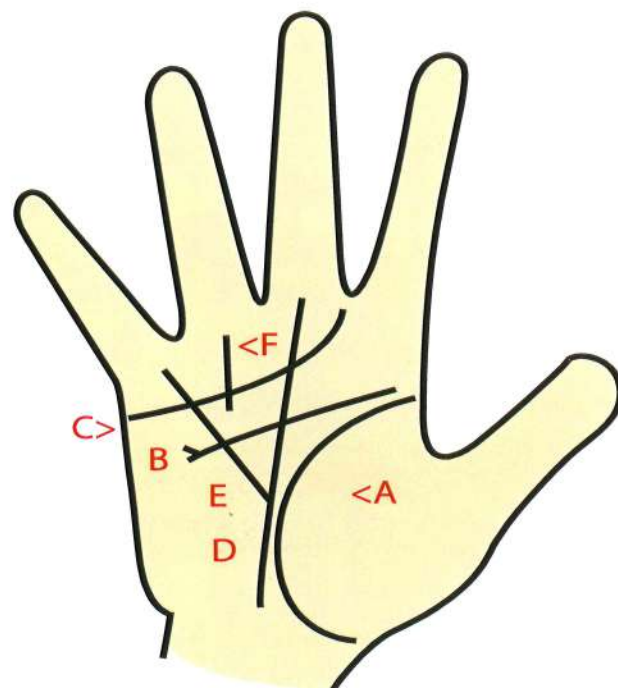
A sloped line - imaginative, creative, sensitive.

C) The heart line

This line rules our emotions and our health. The length of the line indicates the height of emotion.

A good quality line- indicates a person who is in touch with their thoughts and emotions.

A poor quality - line indicates a stressed mood person.



A straight line - a person's emotions that are ruled by their head.

A curved line - sentimental with good instincts.

Minor lines

D) The fate line

When this line is present it can be a time indicator. If this line is not present it may mean that a person's life is ruled by circumstances or is pushed by others.

A good quality line - initiates balance and inner strength.

A broken line - indicates major life changes like a career change.

E) The line of Mercury

This line may not be present on hand. When it is it may mean that a person is naturally intuitive.

F) The line of Apollo

This line suggests great talent or luck. It starts at the base of the hand and travels up and under the ring finger.

Good quality line - indicates creative success or fame.

Poor quality line - when the line is short and located in the upper part of the palm it indicates success or fame later in life.

By Amy Brady

Doodle dandy

COLOUR MOODS

Orange - Gives you a glowing defence against tiredness. Wear it to boost your confidence and give you extra energy.

Pink - If you are tired/bored wear pink. It'll bring a rosy colour to your cheeks.

Blue - Means honesty, generosity and inspiration

Yellow - A feel good colour, wear it to lift a mood.

Purple - Helps you tune into your spiritual side. Wear if you're stuck in a rut and need a change.

Red - A pick me up colour. If you're drawn to red then you need cheering up.

Green - For growth and creativity. Wear if you need inspiration or energy.

DREAMS

Many people don't understand dreams they just think that they are some kind of night time joke. If you think about it how many times a friend or someone at work comes over to you and said I had the weirdest, funniest dream last night?

This usually turns out to be the start of a good story, usually a jumble of strange ideas perhaps involving a mutual friend, set in the most unlikely circumstances, or filled with such terror and fear that no can understand the reason for it. But then what are dreams exactly? There are loads of theories about the meaning of dreams but everyone mostly agrees that dreams are a product of the unconscious mind. Dreams happen entirely of their own accord, we cannot make them happen or control them. But then what do dreams do?

Dreams are a method by which the unconscious mind sifts and sorts experiences. The unconscious mind draws up emotions from the deepest recesses of the mind, the new information which the conscious mind receives then communicates in its own weird image to you - which you call a dream.



By Zoe Lynch

How many of you doodle during class? If so this article can help you analyse your doodles.

Flowers - you're always positive and prefer the pretty side of life. You're great fun and have loads of mates.

Boxes - You're an organised person and you like to plan in advance.

Faces - The expression of the face reflects your feelings.

Hearts - You're very romantic. Very soft and big heart-ed. The bigger the heart the more attention you need.

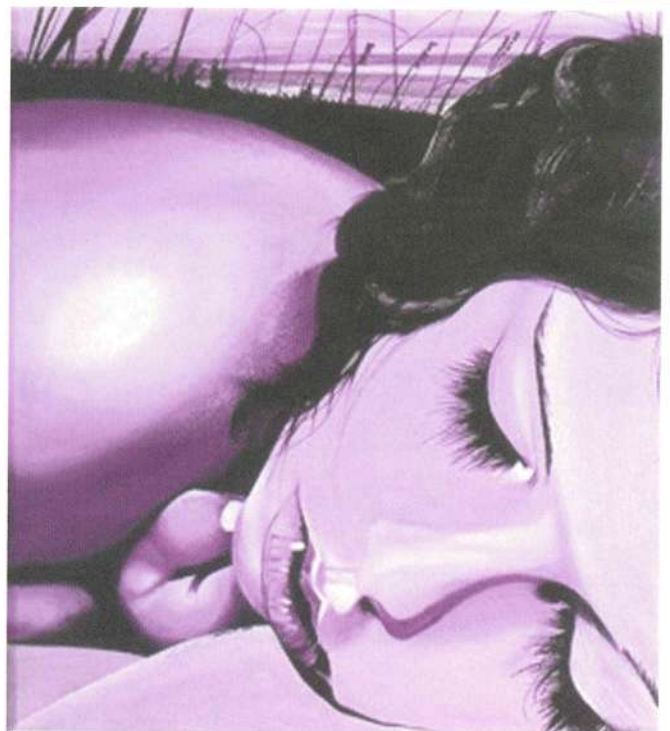
Star - Ambitious and have big dreams. You're very optimistic.

Arrow/lines - An arrow means a decision is to be made. Lines mean you're going through a stressful patch.

Triangles/thick patterned

Borders - Means you have difficulty concentrating. A shape with a filled area means patience.

By Aoife Tomkins



友 CHINESE HOROSCOPE



1985 Ox

You are dependable, calm and a good listener, but you can be a bit stubborn.

1986 Tiger

Tigers are powerful and rebellious. You like having lots of fun.

1987 Rabbit

You are kind and good mannered. You have a sensitive character and are also artistic.

1988 Dragon

You have high standards of behaviour, very strong views and have lots of energy.

1989 Snakes

Snakes love books and music and are very thoughtful. You don't like being told what to do.

1990 Horse

You are cheerful and friendly. You can also be very talkative.

1991 Sheep

Sheep are artistic and creative. You may be shy and love animals.

1992 Monkey

Monkeys are very clever. You are inventive and like new things.

1993 Rooster

You take great pride in your appearance. You love clothes and being the centre of attention.

1994 Dog

You are the best friend anyone could have. You are very loyal, fair and super popular.

1995 Pig

Pigs are very sensitive and make really good friends. You have a lucky streak.

1996 Rat

The rat looks after its money carefully. You are hard working and loyal.

By Rachel Walshe



lower magic



Certain flowers are linked with the months of the year. Look for flowers that go with your birthday.

JANUARY: Carnation and the snowdrop.

FEBRUARY: Crocus and a primrose.

MARCH: Violet and a daffodil.

APRIL: Sweet pea and a daisy.

MAY: Lily of the valley and a hawthorn.

JUNE: Honeysuckle and a rose.

JULY: Larkspur and a water lily.

AUGUST: Gladiolus and a poppy.

SEPTEMBER: Aster and a morning glory.

OCTOBER: Cosmo and a consensual.

NOVEMBER: Chrysanthemum and heather.

DECEMBER: Poinsettia and holly.

Some flowers have meanings. What does your favourite flower mean?

Bluebell - Endurance

Geranium - Comfort

Carnation - Beauty

Poppy - Extravagance

Rose - Love

Daffodil - Admiration

Forget me not - Everlasting love

By Aoife Tomkins



Study Style

Dear Agony Aunt!

I'm really worried about my boyfriend. He keeps coming home with black eyes and cut lips. I don't know what to do. Please help me.

From Troubled Girlfriend.

Dear Troubled Girlfriend.

Sit down with him and talk to him, don't be afraid to ask.

Dear Agony Aunt.

My girlfriend is cheating on me with my best mate and I want to still be able to go out with her. My best mate is the closest friend I've got. What should I do?

From Confused Boy

Dear Confused Boy.

That was a hard one to figure out but I pulled it off. If you really think that this is your best mate would he really go out with your girlfriend?

Dear Agony Aunt.

I'm so confused. There's this boy that likes me and asked me out but I don't know whether I like him or not. Please help me?

From Stuck Between Two.

Dear Stuck Between Two.

Dating is a major thing. Don't rush into anything because if it doesn't work you won't be able to tell him no.

Dear Agony Aunt.

I fancy this guy but I don't think he likes me. I'm so scared. My friends think I'm stupid. What do I do?

From Stupid Girl!!

Dear Stupid Girl

Don't worry if your friends think you're stupid. They're wrong about you. Maybe they're just jealous of you or they fancy him as well and they don't want you to get too close to their one true love. Ask them why they don't want you to get too close to him and if they reply "because we don't want you to get hurt!" ask why and see what happens.

What do you need to read?

- a Total peace and quiet.
- b Bit of background music.
- c Reading it out loud.

What's the most comfy place to swot?

- a A big desk.
- b Slouched on a big desk or sofa.
- c Anywhere.

You get a free period in school do you ...?

- a Do your homework.
- b Study.
- c Chat to your mates.

How do you feel about studying in a group?

- a I hate it-way too much distraction.
- b It's okay - every now and then.
- c It rocks! that's how I get such good results.

You're revising for a test you ...

- a Take your time - so you can remember it all.
- b Cram the night before.
- c Team up with a mate - then you can help each other.

If you got mostly:

A: Calm and quiet is your style. The library is Your place for you to study. Don't forget for Some chill time too.

B: You prefer to learn from life, as not everything is in a book. Try the internet sometimes

C: You learn loads from your friends. Working in a group is great for you – don't get sidetracked though!

By Aoife Tomkins

Carlingford

Carlingford lies between Slieve Foy, Carlingford Lough and the Mourne mountains. It offers a rare blend of natural beauty, spectacular panoramas, and many myths & legends. When you walk the medieval streets of Carlingford and you can still see most of the original ancient buildings.

The History

Carlingford was raided by the Vikings in the 8th & 9th centuries and then the Normans in the 12th century. It is now a listed Medieval Heritage Town. It has more historical buildings than

- The Mint was established in 1467 and still stands today.

- The Tholsel or gate tower remains in fine condition. The ruins of Carlingford Friary, a Dominican Friary was founded by Richard de Burgo, Earl of Ulster in 1305. Carlingford lies on the Cooley Peninsula with woodland, forests, mountains, rivers and varied coastline. It is a land steeped in myth & legend, once occupied by the great giant, Fionn MacCumhail. He once roamed the land and on his last day he gathered a large piece of earth



As always our students were smiling their heads off any similar sized town in the whole of Ireland for example:

- King John's Castle lies on a high rock guarding the entrance to the harbour.

- Taaffe's Castle is a fine example of a castle-related town house.

and threw it out to sea. He laid down to rest and ended his great life on Slieve Foy, Carlingford Mountain!! The shape of his body can be seen in the shape of the Mountain. The earth he threw became known as Isle of Man.



Our Day in Carlingford Adventure Centre !!!

On Friday the 23rd of March over 30 students of Ratoath College went on a trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre in Co. Louth. At eight o'clock in the morning we met at the Ratoath Inn and began our one and a half hour journey. The bus journey did not feel that long because we were all having fun talking and having fun!

When we got there we were told what activities we would be doing. In the morning we would be doing Canadian Canoeing, then we would have our lunch and then the last activity would be climbing the High Ropes.

We got changed into wet-suits and headed out into the water. In our canoes we played games like moving from one canoe to another and on land we played a game with our paddles. The water was cold but it was still a lot of fun.

For lunch we had a hot meal

Some of the kids ready for action and adventure.

which was sausage, chips, beans and salad and it was lovely.

To get to the high ropes it would be a 15 minute walk so we opted for our bus! Up the road the Guards stopped us, we were stopped for over 5 minutes and then we made our way up to the high ropes (*No one was arrested!!!*).

The high ropes were unbelievably high! We had to put on a special safety harness and helmet. There were three types of high rope, all very high and difficult. After hours of climbing we had to go! We got on the bus once more and headed home. On the bus they played 'Shrek' the movie. We arrived back at the Ratoath Inn at 5:30. A really fantastic day was had by all.

We would like to say a special thank you to our teachers for their help and encouragement on our great trip!

By Ciaran O'Connor

Eamon Wallace

HOT NEWS

Congratulations to James Scully



James proudly showing off his well deserved medals

Our first year student James Scully won three gold medals in the U.K Swimming Competition in Sheffield recently.

He won a silver medal for the (under 17) 100m freestyle and a bronze for the (under 17) 50 metre freestyle. He was swimming against other athletes from England, Scotland, Wales, Greece and Hungary. James is not 14 yet. His swimming career to date has been fantastic.

Since September he has made huge progress in his swimming times. We are told that his continuous hard work and training may win him a place in the Olympics of the future. We wish him the very best and look forward to seeing him swim for Ireland one day.

Watch this space!

Eamon Wallace of Class Cullen, the famous athlete in Ratoath College started athletics at the age of 7 and has received many awards since then including a silver medal in Mosney. He has also achieved a huge amount of success for the school and community such as being a major contributor to the school's football, Gaelic and running teams.

In one of the previous football matches he scored an amazing four goals which insured another great victory for Ratoath College. But this is not the only amazing achievement for Eamon. He also smashed the school record for running the racecourse which was set by the present second years last year with a brilliant time of nine minutes and forty three seconds. Eamon's trainer is called Dermot Rooney and Eamon's thoughts about him are "He pushes me a lot and sets high standards". But Eamon, The Great, is not at all afraid of being pushed to his limits. His future hopes are to play for his county and most people in the school are pretty sure he will achieve this. He supports his home county which is of course "Meath" in the Gaelic, and "Wigan" in the Premier League (*We won't hold that against him!!!!*).

He and his brother Joseph live with their parents at their home in Meadow Hill, Ratoath. He also enjoys playing with his friends and is rarely seen without a football. He is related to Mary Wallace TD (Junior Minister in Fianna Fail) who represents Ratoath in the Dail and who has helped the school and the community greatly. But it is not just this year that Eamon has excelled in sports. Last year he led the school team to the finals but sadly they were beaten by John Paul's of Malahide who also beat them the year before. Eamon was always one of the top runners in his year. Another great quality about Eamon is that he doesn't seem to be in bad humour very often and is always up for a laugh with everyone. This year he travelled with the school cross country team and won plenty of medals.

By James Scully

TAEKWONDO



Here in Ratoath College our students have a wide range of talents. From singers to dancers, artists to footballers, we have it all!. We even have our own photographer on site everywhere we go! One of our 'unknown' talents is Taekwondo!.

Taekwondo (also spelled tae kwon do or taekwon-do) is a martial art originating in Korea. Having become one of the most widely practised martial arts in the world, it is the national sport of Korea. We have about seven students doing taekwondo out of school. Keith and Jessica Cooley are two students in our school who are very involved in this interesting sport. Their father came and gave a module to the first years for a couple of weeks and it was greatly enjoyed by all who took part. Taekwondo is an art of fighting. Mr. Cooley is a 5th black belt and his children are just as good!.

So Keith, How long have you been interested in taekwondo?

Since I was about three! Which was

eleven years ago!

How many trophies have you won?

About 55 or more! But no two trophies are the same!

Does all your family take part in taekwondo?

Yes, except my mam!

Do you want to be like your dad?

Yes, I want to continue on and then we will see what happens in the future!

Have you any titles?

I have been the British Champion, the Dutch Champion, the Polish Champion and I was champion in Spain and Belgium as well!

Have you any favourite moments?

Yes, when I was seven we went to Poland and I won competitor of the competition! It was cool because I really didn't expect to get anywhere!

What was your worst injury?

I hurt my nose, and even though it wasn't broken it still really hurt!!

How many countries have you been in so far?

I have been in Holland, Poland, Spain, England, Scotland, Belgium, Sweden and the list goes on...!

What countries would you like to visit again?

I would like to go back to Spain and Poland again, it was really cool there!!

And finally Keith, who is better you or your sister??

Me!! I hope, but my sister is very good too!

Well thanks for your time Keith!! We all wish you luck and keep up the great work!

Aimee King and Mark Farrington

Ireland Shines AFTER BEING LEFT IN DARK

Cliftonville vs Freebooters in the 1901 Irish Cup Final. This was the last game of soccer played in Croke Park before Saturday, March the 24th's Euro 2008 qualifying match between the Republic of Ireland and Wales.

The sun was shining all throughout the match as Ireland were looking to go joint second of Group D and Wales were desperate to get at least a point to get them out of the reach of bottom of the group San Marino. Four points separated these two teams before the match started. Nine minutes of soccer later, there was seven points between them after a 36th minute strike from Stephen Ireland. Good passing from the home team left Ireland through on goal, and after taking it around the Wales goalkeeper, he slotted the ball into the back of the net from a difficult angle.

One fan who was at the match thought Ireland were "brutal" and also said that "The most exciting part of the match was when the fans started a Mexican wave". He had a ticket for Ireland's next match against Slovakia but sold it, saying "I'm not going back to see another rubbish performance like that."

On Monday, March the 26th, two days after beating the Welsh, Steve Staunton delivered a thirty two second speech to the media from Ireland's training session in Malahide. The speech, in full, was "Afternoon. Just to let you know Shay Given did not train. He's a wee bit sore but will have no problems for the game on Wednesday night. Stevie Ireland trained so we'll wait to see in the next couple of hours if there's any reaction. Hopefully not. He trained well. We're delighted. But, as I say, we won't know until we get back to the hotel. You'd probably love me to go into the strategy for the game on Wednesday night but you can understand why I can't do that now. Thanks." The Louth man then turned and headed for the team bus much to the bewilderment of the media.

By Michael O'Brien

The Match

2nd year girls' basketball

The girls' basketball team has been really busy this year. They have played a total of six matches, one of them being a semi-final. The players are, Aoife Kavanagh, Laura Stockwell, Laura Wall, Lorna Osborne, Ryan, Claire Lawless, Charlotte Hayes, Grace Randles, Grace O' Connor, Seoirse Mc Donnell, Orla Mc Donnell, Aisling Farrell, Sinéad Makk, Maria Johnson, Ariana Costello, Emma Grall and Natalie Cunningham. They have won 4 out of 6 matches which is extremely good considering the team has only started up this year and the fact that they don't even have a court to practise on! Our lead scorer of the league was Orla Mc Donnell, and in defence we had Grace Randles, Laura Stockwell, Aoife Kavanagh and Lorna Osborne Ryan. Our ball carriers were Claire Lawless, Laura Wall, Charlotte Hayes and Grace O' Connor. We could tell you our winning secret...but it worked so well we will be using it lots more in the future!

The semi final was an interesting match as the girls only lost by 3 points which is only a basket and a point. They wouldn't have gotten this far without the help of their wonderful and dedicated coach Ms. Sweeney.

The girls are disappointed about the defeat, but can't wait to play more matches! They are going to try ten times harder next year...and who knows? Maybe they will get to the final!

They have loads of potential to achieve very highly in the future. Good luck girls!

By Laura Stockwell & Aoife Kavanagh

2nd year boys' basketball

The second year basketball team is coached by Mr. Malone. The team has played two matches. They won their first match against Skerries, the key players in the match being Luke Burke Walsh who scored an amazing "ally-ooop", (which was set up by Cathal Donnelly), Kevin Gorman, Josh Byrne Burke and Darren Cummins. In the second game against Ashbourne, Ratoath were sadly defeated but played strongly and didn't give up during the game. The key players in the match were Luke Burke Walsh, Cathal Donnelly, Colin Fennisey and Josh Byrne Burke.

By Matthew Forde- Connolly and Josh Byrne Burke.

Hello. Micheal Ó Muircheartaigh here and live commentating on his gaelic match at five. In the throw-up, Ryan Tubridy and Gerry Ryan. Ryan hits Tubridy and he starts crying. "You'll be sorry you left RTE 2 and in a second, your face will get a footful of shoe!"

Eddie Hobs gets the ball and runs to the goal. He starts to shout "No more toll". Hector intercepts and Hobbes says "I lost the ball!" "I got a word for you" says Hector "Rip off my"

HECTOR! "Oh sorry Micheal"

Eamonn Barry's runnin' around like a white haired yeti. "If I don't win, you're dropped Graham Geraghty!" Hector is on the phone instead of playin'. "Ta me ag imirt peil." I don't know what he's sayin'. Tubridy has the ball and Bertie goes long. Big Bad Bertie's hit on the head. The bleedin' ding dong. Brian McFadden gets the ball, but, Oh No! His Wife! Brian, it's Kerry! Run! Run for your life! Bertie hits Hector straight to the ground. "I'll sue you" says Bertie "if you make a sound."

Colin Farrell and Tabby, one on one. Until Westlife come with a hot cross bun. "You raise me up..." But then they got hit. "Shut up you bleedin' babies" says Tabby "And Mark, you're a Muppet." But Roy Keane is one on one with Pat Kenny in goal. "Come on you useless talk show host, you're gettin' old." "I may be old ya Cork Bogger ya Roy. Parading in your shorts like a young Cork Boy!" Tommy Tiernan gets the ball past Des Bishop. He holds out the ball and kicks up, up, up... And over the bar for the only score of the game.

I'm Micheal Ó Muircheartaigh and remember don't be Taoiseach!

Could you live with the shame?!

By Conor Hughes



The second year girls' basketball team

FOOTBALL

U-13 Soccer

The U-13 soccer team got the Leinster U-13 School's Cup off to a flying start when they beat St. Joseph's of Fairview in Fairview Park. Ratoath probably weren't the favourites as the home team had so much support. The home team got the first goal with a fluke penalty but Ratoath didn't sit back. They fought and fought until a great cross from Ryan Mc Cue found Hugh Maloney at the back post to send a crashing volley home. The game was tied at 1 all just before half-time, but then, out of nowhere the St. Joseph's side scored again so it was 2-1 to the home team at half-time. Ratoath started the second half brilliantly and some great individual skill and a great goal from Aaron Mc Donnell saw Ratoath draw level. Then about ten minutes later Jack Dunphy picked the ball up on the half way line and put Eamonn Wallace through on goal and he slotted it home, 3-2 then to the Ratoath side. With about thirty seconds left the St. Joseph's side scored a long range effort from the half way line over Mark Farrington in the Ratoath goal. It then went into extra time and then penalties. Mark Farrington was the hero in the shootout though, with a wonderful save and then it was all up to Aaron Mc Donnell who scored with a lovely placed shot into the top corner of the St. Joseph's net. The Ratoath side had won. The next round of the cup will be against Kilcoole C.S. from Wicklow.

By Jack Dunphy



Our Team: Mark Farrington, Cormac Glynn, Keith Cooley, Brian O' Connor, Robert Kavanagh, Ryan McCue, Aaron Mc Donnell (1 goal), Karl Hynes, Hugh Maloney (1 goal), Jack Dunphy & Eamonn Wallace (1 goal) SUBS: Enda Mc Fadden & Ross Gillen.

U14 Soccer season

The U14 soccer team enjoyed another successful season in the Leinster schoolboys' soccer cup. On the way we were drawn against our old rivals Clonkeen College and beat Dunshaughlin in a friendly match. But our toughest challenge came against St Benildas. They started off strongly and had a goal disallowed for offside. But our ever steady defense consisting of Paddy Flood, Cian O Brian, Eoin O' Connor and Stephen Keogh kept them at bay. The centre midfield partnership of Paddy Haslam and Bobby O' Brian kept their markers out while brilliant running from Sean Kennedy and Keith Cooley kept the attacks going with support from attackers Brian Mc Mahon and Barry Carr. The two teams went into the break all square. But St. Benildas came out of the blocks quickest and scored a well worked goal. A change was on the cards and Mr. O' Hare threw Bobby O' Brian up front. Unfortunately it was to no avail and Benildas scored another goal. This was the beginning of the end and the game ended 2-0. It was another successful year for our school and we hope to be back again next year.



By Patrick Haslam



Our Team Eric Lawless, Paddy Flood, Cian O'Brien, Eoin O'Connor, Stephen Keogh, Keith Cooley, Bobby O'Brien, Paddy Haslam, Sean Kennedy, Brian Mc Mahon & Barry Carr.

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Camogie final



*Ciarán O'Hare
One of our Physical
Education Gurus.
He holds the record
for the lap around
the race course... in
his car ha! ha!*

Physical Education.

In every school there is P.E but no school does it like our one. First and second years participate in all of the different activities during our three classes. Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Nelson and Miss Sweeny all make sure that we reach our potential both running the racecourse and the activities after.

So first we all waddle out tired but are soon awakened by the giant racetrack that stretches for miles. We all line up while Mr O'Hare gives us our pep talk, then when he shouts go all of the girls go first. Then the boys go so that it gives them something to run to even though they all say it's because we're slow. We finally make it back around where we then hear the good or bad news of what time we got but most of us are happy and are eager to beat that the next time.

We then move onto the activities after which we can choose what to do. There is basketball, soccer and rugby but in the summer rounders and many more are available to play. Basketball is one of the girl's favourites where Miss Sweeny shows off her skills to the team and we then can play matches and use all the techniques. We then have soccer where the fantastic talent is shown and improved. As a soccer team Ratoath College are able to take on any team and win with no problems. We then have rugby which is only new to our school but has become very popular and there is great enthusiasm shown.

Every student really enjoys P.E and we all get a huge benefit from the lovely days out on the racecourse.

By Lorna Osborne-Ryan

On the 8th of October 21 girls got on a bus and headed for Kilmessan football pitch for their under 14 camogie final. They have worked very hard and haven't been beaten so far because of the help of their two trainers Peter Dowd and Anne Mc Donnell.

The match was Ratoath against Blackhall Gaels and Ratoath won with their captain Shona Dowd.

At the end of the first half the score was 1-3 to Ratoath and 1-1 to Blackhall Gaels but both teams were still determined to win. Neither teams were generous and the match went on. There was great support from the side line, banging their hurls cheering and singing to the top of their voices! Ratoath kept on fighting therefore they got a brilliant goal. The tackling, hooking, whipping, soloing and catching was out standing by all the super players. Every one knew exactly what they were doing.



Katie King, Niamh Leonard, Orla Mc Donnell, Aoife Kavanagh, Lorna Osbourne, Grace Cunningham, Rebecca Scott, Seoirse Mc Donnell & Grace Randels

Our wonderful scores were by;

Shona Dowd (captain) with 1 brilliant goal.

Katie King with a wonderful point

Aisling O'Reilly with a super 1 goal and 5 pions.

Sari Coakley an excellent goal

The (Wo) Man of the match was Aisling O'Reilly who played an incredible match.

So well done girls on bringing home the cup!

By Grace Cunningham

TALENT SHOW

On the 15th February, Ratoath College staged its first talent show in the Ratoath Community Centre. For weeks prior to the event students had to audition in front of a panel of judges in order to qualify through the stages and perform on the night, eventually a selection of 20 acts were selected, consisting of singing, dancing, keyboard playing, drama and comedy etc. All students involved spent weeks practicing whenever they could steal a few minutes during breaks and classes under the guidance of Ms. Cullen.

The night turned out to be an amazing night of entertainment, even better than 'Pop Idol'!! All of the acts were excellent and had a packed house clapping, dancing and laughing. Entertainment was provided during the break by the school choir and the school traditional Irish group.

After much deliberation, the judging panel finally chose Kevin Hartnett as the overall winner, everyone was delighted for Kevin, and he sang an amazing version of 'The River' by Garth Brooks. Kevin was presented with the beautiful perpetual glass trophy by our very special guest Alan Kavanagh (You're a Star), who also performed a few songs.



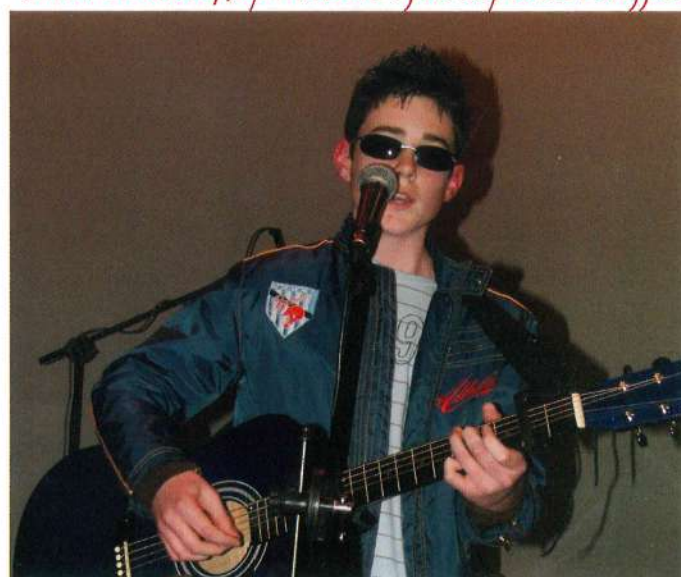
Laura Stockwell & Grace O'Connor



Donal O'Connor & Ryan McCue's first step to the box office

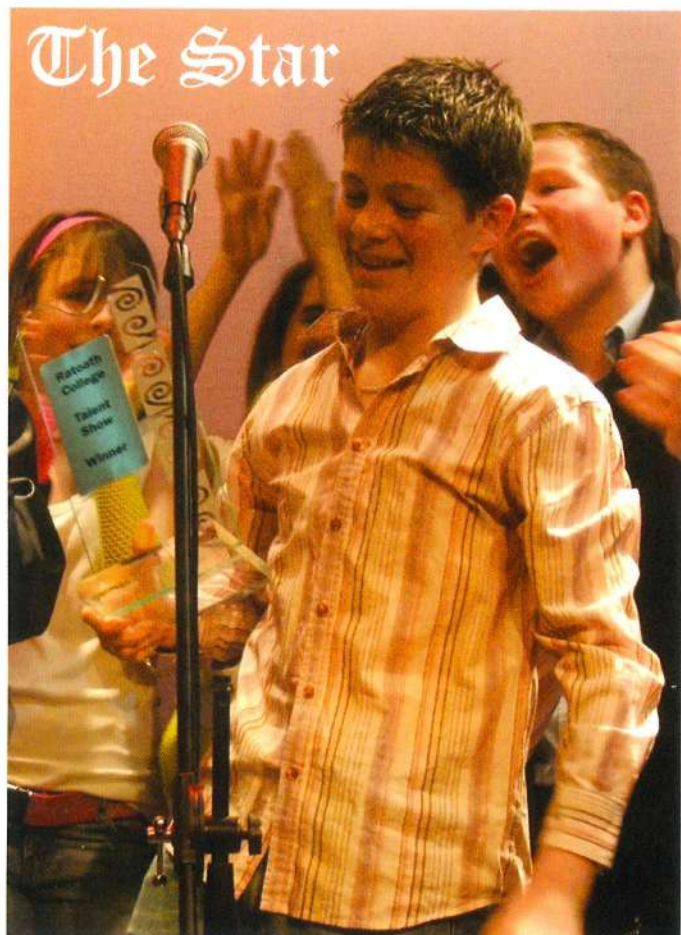


You're a Star Alan Kavanagh in action for our delight

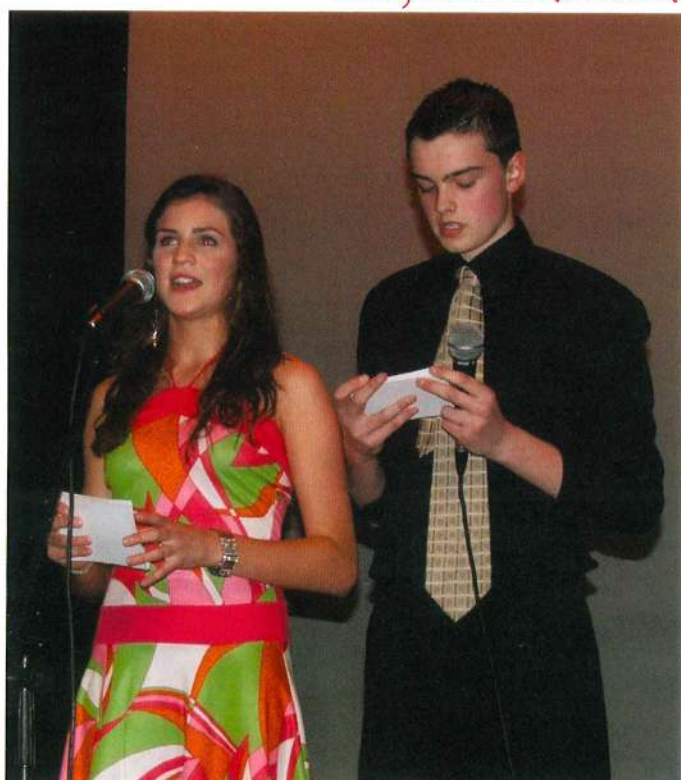


Darragh O'Connor on an Oasis tune

Kevin Hartnett



The big winner and his awards



Ours hosts for the night Lorna Orsborne & Eric Lawless

So Kevin, how do you feel about winning the talent show?

It was an amazing feeling, brilliant. I am still on a high.

Who do you think was your biggest competition?

There were some really great acts, but I think the biggest competition I had was Martha Hayes. She was brilliant! Others were Grace O'Connor and Laura Stockwell, and then Donal O'Connor, Ryan McCue and Tuan O'Carroll who sang 'Jumbo Breakfast Roll'.

What was the first prize?

The first prize was singing lessons in The School of Music in Ratoath and a beautiful glass trophy.

Have you ever written a song?

Well, I have just finished my first song last weekend! It's called "I hope you know".

Great, Will you ever sing it for us?

No!!

Please?

Okay, maybe at the prize giving night, Maybe!!!!

Is this a once off or will there be more songs to follow this one?

Yeah, hopefully, I want to keep writing.

On that subject of writing, you won the prize for the essay competition in second year, what was the essay about?

Well, the title was 'Trouble', so I decided to write about a guy called Marvin who has a great life, until he has a bad streak of luck and then loses everything he had. He gets it back in the end though!!

Cool! What other hobbies do you have?

Football and singing, that's about it.

And finally, what do you plan to do after you leave school?

Well (he starts laughing), I always wanted to be a journalist but now, I'm thinking about being a singer.

We agree Kevin, Go for it! Thanks for your time!

By Aimee King



Ryan McCue, Jake Colfer, Tuan O'Carroll & Bobby O'Brian

LEARN GUITAR



Hello, my name is Darragh O' Connor and if you're thinking about starting guitar lessons or maybe just want to learn a bit of guitar then this is your article.

I'm going to teach you five basic chords on the guitar, which are played in nearly every song. They are, C, D, G, Am (A minor) and E. If you can grasp these 5 chords you'll be playing guitar in no time. I'm also going to give you advice on what guitars to buy when starting off, where a good place to get lessons are, how to take good care of your guitar and good shops to buy electric guitars.

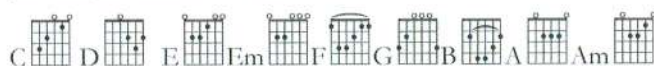
A good and local place to get guitar lessons is Ratoath School of Music. It is situated just beside Ratoath Post Office. The guitar lessons are split up into beginner classes and advanced classes. There is around six in a class. The teachers up there are brilliant and have been playing for years. They give advice about buying guitars and they also sell good guitars themselves. The prices of lessons are around 150 euro a term. A term is usually 10 weeks.

If you are just starting guitar you are better off buying an acoustic guitar with nylon strings. It's much better to use nylon string guitars when starting off because they are much easier to play if your fingers aren't use to holding down on metal strings. You are able to buy good starting guitars in Argos and in guitar shops like Waltons. If you feel like you're good enough to buy an electric guitar you should go to either Waltons or The Sound Shop in Drogheda. Both shops have a brilliant selection of guitars. When buying an electric guitar don't buy one just because it looks good, pick one and play it in the shop first, get a good feel of the guitar and make sure it has a good sound.

Taking care of your guitar is very easy and it doesn't take long either. After use you should wipe down your guitar strings with a soft cloth. You should also change your strings every few months. If you see your strings getting rusty you should bring your guitar to a guitar shop and ask them to change your strings, it usually costs in between 10 and 20 euro. It's very easy to learn how to change your strings. You can ask your guitar teacher to change them or you can learn from a book. You should also wipe your

guitar whenever there's dust on it.

Here are some chords to practice, they cover enough for you to get started. Enjoy!



By Darragh O' Connor



Our choir performing at the community centre

OUR CHOIR

On Sunday the 15th of December 2006 Ms Cullen and the choir went to sing in the Community Centre to raise money for the Independant Living Centre. They sang a few Christmas songs such as Jingle bells, Jingle Bell Rock and Rocking Around the Christmas Tree. They really enjoyed it and got into the Christmas spirit.

There were other acts such as Alan Kavanagh from "You're a Star", the Centre Singers, Ratoath School of Music rock band, Irish dancing, a salsa group and lots more. They were all excellent and displayed great skills.

It was a terrific night and every one who went had a great time.



By Rebecca Scott

Rap



Our lovely Ms. Cullen music teacher who organised the talent show

THE NATIONAL CONCERT HALL CHRISTMAS CRACKERS 2006

On December the 7th Ms. Cullen Mr. Nelson, Ms. Der-
vlin Ms. O'Dwyer the choir Trad group and the music
class went down to the National Concert Hall!!

It was a fabulous night with such kind teachers bring-
ing us out. Of course we went down in our full uniforms
including ties. When we got there we were very differ-
ent. We were the only school. There alot of well dressed
people. We waited patiently while we got our tickets. We
were all very excited. The night started out with legendary
singer Dickie Rock.



There was also the very lovely Niamh Kavanagh singing
and a fantastic choir. We were given sheets so we could
join in with the songs. We all knew the words because
most of them we were going to be singing in the Com-
munity centre!

The presentation was excellent because they told you
about the song and about the songwriter before they sang.
We were admired by everyone with our good behaviour
and smart uniform. The teachers were very proud of us.
When coming home everybody was tired and ready for
their beds. Unfortunately we had Christmas exams. But
luckily we were given a study period. Over all it was a bril-
liant night. Everybody enjoyed themselves singing all the
songs. It was a great night and we hope to go again. Thank
you Ms. Cullen and all the teachers who took us out for a
trip we will never forget!!!

By Niamh McCormack

Song Rap!!!
Luke Bourke Walsh.

Not many players get offers like me back and front
Are likely
Shake the cheques off your nikes
They almost got me wearing a suit at the draft
Cause it looks like a free throw
and I'd be shooting from half

Finish it up like Ivenson
Blow past you
leave nothing net, but I can go past you
I leave the defence so shoot up
Dishing for one look
See my game consists of a whole lotta
Moves you think I learned from the Harlon Globb-
Trotters
Bow wow Big doggs the only player who makes
Cheerleaders wanna sing.

Who would of thought he'd be the one to set the west
In flames
Then I heard him sneaking the game
C mak brought him man
Took him to the church
Im like preach man why you have a stupidish purce
Im giving him guest spa
Socks through the roof
I heard he did it with s-saw.

TRAD GROUP



Ratoath College Trad Group
was formed in October 2006 and was
set up by myself, Ms. O' Dwyer. The
group attend a weekly lunchtime practice session and
perform at school events such as the Talent Show and
the Céilí Mór. The musicians from both 1st and 2nd
Year play a variety of instruments including flute, fid-
dle, tin whistle, guitar and uilleann pipes. They are a
very talented young group and have been a pleasure to
work with. What is more they love to play...the most
important thing in music. I am very proud of you all
and hope this is just the beginning of our big adven-
ture.

By Aoife O' Dwyer



Visitors' Programme

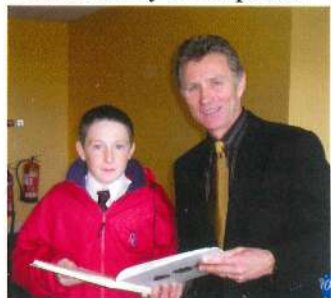
Our visitors' programme was set up so that we, students, could invite people we find inspiring in the fields of sports, writing, media or in the local area, to talk to us. To offer inspiration because we have no older students to look up to.

We have been very lucky as we have had the chance to meet some great and very inspiring people; Bill Cullen (voted the best for this year!) former Taoiseach, Garrett Fitzgerald, Gay Byrne, Charlie Bird and a list of other people who we found interesting (the list goes on and on!)

Everyone gets a chance to partake in the visitors programme. We have had replies from people such as J.K. Rowling and Jim Carey.

Eamon Coughlan

Eamon Coughlan came to visit Ratoath College in 2006. He was invited by me as part of



Eoin O'Connor & Eamon Coughlan

the visitors programme. The programme allows us to invite people who we feel are inspirational to us, to come to the school and tell us their story. Mr. Coughlan replied very quickly, stating that he would be delighted to come and visit us. For those of you who are unaware of Eamon Coughlan's achievements, he is a former world champion, and agonisingly came fourth in two Olympics in a row. He has since retired from running races, but he still runs on a regular basis

for pleasure. I invited him to the school because he is a great role model for me and my family. I was really interested in what he had to say about going from an "Average Dub" to becoming a world champion. He failed to disappoint me and the rest of the school as he told his story to us in funny accents about how he went to America to train on a scholarship and about the mile in less than five minutes aged 40. It was a great day for me and my classmates as we will remember his stories and jokes for years to come. We were all amazed by his determination throughout his running career and hopefully some of this will rub off on us.

By Eoin O'Connor

Derek Mooney

As part of the Visitors programme I was allowed to invite someone famous to come and visit our school. I had to invite someone who I found inspirational and who would

share their story with us and hopefully give us some advice. Derek Mooney is a very well respected entertainer, hosting TV programmes, a radio show, pageants and making celebrity appearances. He is probably best known for presenting RTE's 'Winning Streak' on a Saturday night. During this show he is always lively, funny and great with the contestants and audience, whilst giving away thousands of Euros!! Mr. Mooney was born and reared in the Dublin area. Derek's radio presenting partner Brenda O'Donoghue came into the school whilst Derek was broadcasting his live daily radio show. It was amazing to see the radio crew come into our classroom and set up a mini studio. Brenda was great fun and never stopped cracking jokes with the students; she interviewed us all for the show and explained all about our school to the public, how we were located in the corporate boxes of Fairyhouse racecourse and how we had to pack up everything for the races. I was delighted to have my first interview on Radio. I would like to say a special thank you to Brenda and Derek for a great afternoon.



By Ian Conlan

Mr. Anthony Malone

I invited our new Deputy Principal Anthony Malone to come in and talk to our school as part of our visitors programme. I chose Mr. Malone because the whole school were dying to see him and meet the school's new Deputy Principal. When Mr. Malone replied to me letter he said he would be

delighted to come in and talk to the students. On the day he was very nice and the whole school liked him. He gave us a great speech, telling us where he was from and all about his previous jobs and the schools he had worked in. It was great to finally put a face to the name we had all been hearing. The whole school was really impressed with Mr. Malone and we were all looking forward to having him in the school. I was glad that I invited Mr. Malone to come in and talk to us. Thank you Mr. Malone.

By Luke Ennis

John Lonergan

On the 24th of November 2006, Ratoath College was visited by probably one of the most important men in Dublin. This man was of course John Lonergan, the governor of Mountjoy prison. Many students thought Mr. Lonergan would be a hulking, 6ft giant, but instead they were greeted by a kind, gentle man who believes that the best way to deal with criminals is not with harsh punishment, but with respect and kindness. Mr. Lonergan was greeted in the Members' bar by the student who invited him in, John Crofton, and Ms. Ní Mhurchú, who co-ordinates the programme along with Ms. Hitillambeau. Mr. Lonergan then introduced himself to the students, who were seated in The Members' bar eagerly awaiting his arrival (And not because they got to miss a few classes!!). Mr. Lonergan then told the students about his line of work, what he does, and the types of things you would expect to find in Mountjoy. But not only did he give a talk about his job, he also gave a talk about drugs

Bill Cullen

From Rags to Riches

Bill Cullen started life as Liam Cullen in Summerhill terraces selling apples, flowers, toys, oranges and even pigs. From a very young age he learned how to deal with people from his heroines, his mother and grandmother. He found that you can do anything if you have ambition, courage and put your mind to it.

Bill Cullen came to Ratoath College as part of the visitors' programme, invited by Ciaran O'Connor on the 16th November 06 to tell us about himself and how to achieve our own goals today using six simple steps:

Attitude for achieving,

Plan of action,

People power,

Learn to be lucky,

Energy to excel,

Sell with a smile.

Bill Cullen took five lucky students with him in his spectacular helicopter. Here is an interview with one of the lucky five, Amy Brady.

What did you have to do to get on the helicopter?

We had to name twelve cities in Kildare, but in the end, we didn't have to!

Who's "we"?

Sarah Healey and me

How did the other three have to do to get on?

Well, Shaun Cullen knew Clinton's opposition, Ciaran O'Connor wrote to him and Shane Williams did fifty press-ups.

So how was it?

It was amazing!!

How far did you go?

We went as far as Navan and past over the Boyne River. The scenery was amazing and I must say Bill sure knows how to travel in style! Leather seat and a TV screen but we didn't get to watch it though! Oh and there was loads of watereverywhere.

Bill Cullen's top tips:

1: Use 11811 for all telephone problems .i.e. Want to meet your idol or the person you wrote to in the visitor's programme just wont write back .

2: Charity events are great as they

A) Raise money for good causes and

B) Help you to meet people.



Sarah Healy one of the lucky ones who went for a ride on the Helicopter



Joshua Byrne, Luke & Leon Ennis with Bill Cullen who was voted by the kids as best visitor. Sorry Mr Malone...who came on foot!!

and alcohol. He said they seem to be your friend in your darkest hours, but in fact they are your worst enemies and are to be avoided at all costs. He also said that many people think that people in prison are 'thugs' and 'knackers', but in fact that they are just people that were given up on by society. He said that people are made to look like scumbags just because they happen to live in certain areas that might have a bad reputation. After his talk, he was bombarded by hundreds of questions regarding the prison. He was asked if there has been riots, if there was any breakouts, if any prison officers were attacked. Mr. Loneragan then concluded

the visit by signing the visitor's book, which contains the signatures of other men and women who have visited the school, such as Gay Byrne. And just before he left, a photograph was taken of Mr. Loneragan standing with all of the 1st years, which can be seen on the school website (www.ratoathcollege.ie), along with photos of his, and other peoples' visits, such as Bill Cullen, the head man over Renault Ireland, Michael Carruth, an Irish world champion in boxing, and Janet Cahill, the author of 'I Swear' which is a massive success. Mr. Loneragan then said that it was an honour to be invited to a school with such an incredible reputation.

By Derry Walsh



John Loneragan well surrounded by our joyful students & Miss. Ni Mhurchú

Visitors' Programme

Janet Cahill

Janet Cahill was born in North inner city Dublin. She grew up in St Joseph's Mansions. This area was known as the slums of Dublin and her family was very poor. She always had dreams of making money and escaping the inner city. When she was a teenager her family moved to Baldoyle. As an adult she went to live in Boston and got married and had one son. She returned to live in Dublin a few years ago and decided to write a book about her childhood in Dublin. Her book 'I Swear' captures her time spent in the strong and loving community of the inner-city. It was fascinating to talk to a living author and we all really enjoyed her visit.

By Shaun Cullen

Tony Darby

I invited Tony Darby to our school because he is the local butcher and a local historian. He knows a lot about Ratoath's history and geography. He told us about Streamstown, Steeplechase and how there was only a field and trees where Supervalu now is. At the en-



Tony Darby & Hugh Moloney

trance to Steeplechase there is a tree where a man was once hung! He has a computer with hundreds of images and his stories date back to the time of the high kings of Ireland. Hopefully Tony will be able to come back and talk to us again some day.

By Hugh Moloney

Eamonn Barry

Eamonn Barry was the second visitor we had to our school. He had just been appointed as Meath Senior Football Manager when he came to visit us. He talked about how he felt when he got the job. He very generously donated some GAA equipment to the school which was much appreciated and which we still use today.

By Bobby O'Brien

Noel Conroy

Garda Commissioner

I invited the Garda Commissioner because my Dad works in the Gardaí and I knew he would be an interesting person to talk to. There was also a chance that he might come in a helicopter!! When he arrived he spoke about himself for a while and then we had a question and answer session. Most of the questions were about the use of arms and about joining the Gardaí. At the end he gave us all a pen and book about joining the Gardaí. We enjoyed his visit very much because it gave us a lot of use-

ful information for the future.

By Seoirse McDonnell

Charlie Bird

I invited Charlie Bird to our school because he is very intelligent and his job on television is very interesting. When he came to our school he was very lively. Everyone enjoyed his talk. He talked to us about his job as a news reporter and about the recent earthquake in Pakistan – he told us that he had been sleeping on the side of the road. We all enjoyed his visit and

Dublin. She told us inspirational stories about the people involved in the games. She made a speech at the Opening Ceremony. Everyone had questions to ask her and she explained how the games are organised. I invited her to our school because I thought she would be a great role model and she is!!

By Kiera Judge

Paddy Kerr

Paddy Kerr a coach from my soccer academy came to visit us. I invited Paddy because



Kerry Brian & Charlie Bird

when his book was published he sent us a signed copy for our school library.

By Kerry O'Brien

Mary Davis

Last year as part of the Visitors' Programme I invited Mary Davis to our school. She was CEO of the Special Olympics when it was held in

I find him so inspirational. Paddy is my coach at Brenfer Soccer Academy. I think he is brilliant and I wanted to share his expertise with the other students. When Paddy came to the school he took a group of 24 students for a training session and talked about how he got interested in football and coaching.

By Eric Lawless

Rose of Tralee



Stephanie Barry & Dr. Garret Fitzgerald

Dr Garret Fitzgerald

I invited Dr Fitzgerald to Ratoath College on January 29th 2007. The former Taoiseach had lots to say and was very witty and had a good sense of humour. He is currently a journalist and has a regular column in The Irish Times. He is the chancellor for the National University of Ireland. He also has a PHD. His list of achievements goes on and on. Our teachers and students were very excited and happy to have him visit our unique school. He was very interesting and it was an honour to welcome him to our school.

By Stephanie Barry

Roddy Doyle

I invited Roddy Doyle. I think the whole school enjoyed his visit. He was a very good speaker and everyone was very fond of his books, especially The Giggler Treatment and The Commitments. He signed our Visitors' Book and we took some photographs.

By Aisling Farrell

Our C.E.O - Peter Kierans

Mr. Peter Kierans, the C.E.O

of Meath V.E.C organised for Ratoath College to open 2 years ahead of schedule, and for it to start in temporary accommodation in Fairyhouse Racecourse. It was also acknowledged that there were no senior pupils for the new first years to look up to. This problem was soon solved with the smart idea of having a Visitors' Programme. This is a programme where we, the pupils, invite role models who come to the school and share their stories of success with us and answer any questions the students may have. The school decided that as Mr. Peter Kierans was the key to our school, he should be the first visitor in our programme.

By Liam Hayes

On Monday 12th February 2007 The Rose of Tralee, Kathryn Feeney came to Ratoath College. She launched straight into a question and answer session



The Rose of Tralee and Martha Hayes

and answered questions on the Rose of Tralee festival, and her hometown Queensland, Australia. For me the highlight was when I got to try on Kathryn's tiara!! Kathryn was energetic, fun and interesting. She was definitely able to laugh at herself because she told us many funny and embarrassing stories of the contest events. We all learned a lot and Kathryn was great to listen too.

By Martha Hayes



Roddy Doyle, a very well appreciated writer. His visit was a high light

Visitors' Programme

Colm O'Rourke

I invited Colm O'Rourke who was one of Meath's best ever players. He now teaches in St Pats' in Navan. He is often to be seen on "The Sunday Game" giving his analysis on the matches. He also writes newspaper articles about matches. When he came in he talked to us about playing for Meath and what he does now. I thought his talk was very interesting.

By Gavin Eiffe

Mr. Carruth visited he told us some interesting stories about his career. He told us all about his rigorous training schedules and about the special diets he had to go on. He spoke of the people that inspired him and why he wanted to become a boxer in the first place. We also learned an interesting fact, that I was amazed by; Mr. Carruth has broken both hands a total of 12 times! Strangely, he has never had his nose broken. Everyone enjoyed Michael Carruth's visit and talk, he

showed us all his winning belt, and we got to have our photograph taken with it. I would like to thank Michael Carruth for coming to our school and for his words of wisdom.

By Katie Kelly

Frank Browne

As part of our schools visitors programme I was given the opportunity to invite someone famous and inspirational to come into our school and talk to us. I decided to invite Mr. Frank Browne, the head of Monetary Policy and Financial Stability, I wrote to Mr. Browne and he replied that he would be delighted to come and talk to all the students. Mr. Browne spoke to us about his career to date, how he qualified to be an economist and the different jobs he has held. He told us all about the central bank and explained the concept of economics that we were about to cover in Business Studies. The reason I invited Mr. Browne to our school is because I had met him before and always felt that he was a very interesting man to listen to and of course he is also my Uncle! Mr. Browne was heavily involved in bring-

ing the Euro to Ireland and its implementation. He spoke to us about inflation and the 'Celtic Tiger' and how they have both affected our country over the last 10 years. We then had a long question and answer session, during which Mr. Browne answered all our questions to do with money, Europe and the Celtic tiger. Thanks Uncle Frank!!!

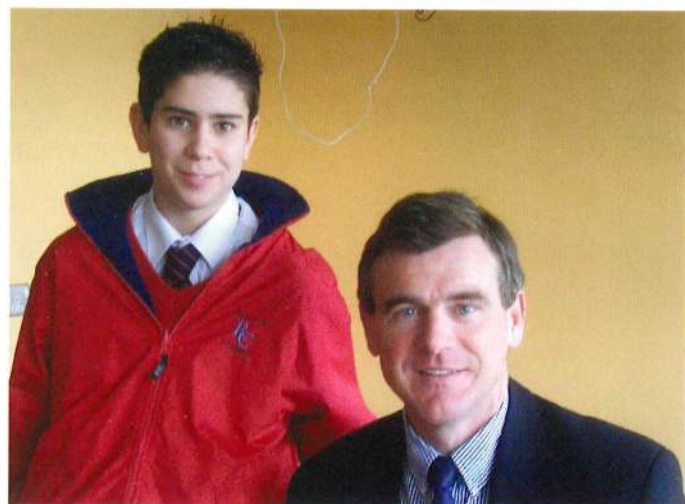
By James Scully



Gay Byrne

He visited our school on 26th November 2005. He worked on the Late Late Show from 1962 to 1999. It was the world's longest running chat show. On his final show he was presented with a Harley Davidson Motorbike. We learnt a lot about his extremely interesting career. After the questions and answers he gave us autographs and signed our visitors' book. He was very interesting and entertaining and talked to us for two and a half hours. We really enjoyed his visit and he even wrote an article about his visit to our school in the "Sunday Independent".

By Sinead Makk



Gavin Eiffe & Colm O'Rourke

Michael Carruth

My name is Katie Kelly and I had the pleasure of inviting the famous boxer, Michael Carruth to visit our school. The reason I invited him was because as part of our English class we have a Visitors' Programme, which allows us invite somebody famous to come to our school and talk to the students. As I'm sure you all know Mr. Carruth is an Olympic champion boxer. He won his title in the 1992 Olympics. When



Anthony Malone, Katie Kelly & Michael Carruth

Andy Cramond

On the 8th February I invited Andy Cramond to our school. He talked to us about his trip to the Antarctic a few years ago. It was a perfect day for this talk as it was snowing! He showed us a slide show of the Antarctic and gave a speech as well. The pictures showed us the baby penguins, icebergs, the clothes the explorers had to wear, the vehicles they used and much more. He lived there for around two years. It was inspiring for any student who wishes to explore or push the boundaries in the future ...

By Rachel Stowe

Dissolving boundaries



Amy Brady & Aubrey Flegg winner of the Bisto Book award in 2004

Aubrey Flegg

He came to visit our school early this year as part of our 'Visitors Programme'. Aubrey talked to us about his latest book 'Wings over Delft', which is a book of trilogy and won the 'Bisto Book of the Year Award 2004' and 'Reading Association of Ireland Award 2005'. Aubrey Flegg was born in Dublin and spent his early childhood on a farm in Co. Sligo. He went to school in Dublin and later in England. After a spell with a mountain rescue team in Scotland he returned to Dublin to study geology at Trinity. Mr. Flegg worked as a Geologist in Kenya before joining the Geological survey of Ireland. He has since re

tired. He has published many books for young people, one of these books 'Katie's War' won the IBBY Sweden Peter Pan award in 2000.

By Amy Brady

Pat McDonagh

I invited Mr Pat McDonagh to Ratoath College for our Visitor's Programme in 2005/06. Mr McDonagh has a business in America. He owns a maths centre called River Rock. He was a very nice man and all the students really enjoyed his visit. He talked to us about his life, setting up his successful business and the secrets to achieving success. He gave us some good advice for the future. I really enjoyed his visit.



By Aisling Farrell



Andy Cramond & Rachel Stowe

The Dissolving Boundaries Programme uses Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to facilitate cross-cultural educational linkages between schools in the North and South of Ireland.



Derek Ball & Lisa McNeilis on their trip to Paris

Partnerships work by collaborating on a project centered on an aspect of the curriculum agreed upon by the teachers and students. Currently Ms. McNeilis is working with a group of first year Home-Economic students on a project titled 'Meal Planning for Elderly People' (Nutrition, Cooking Methods, and Dietary Requirements); they have been twinned with St. Gabriel's College in Belfast.

Mr. Ball is working with Rang Hitillambeau on a project based on 'Energy Resources' (Recycling, Energy Guzzlers, and Energy Conservation), they are linked with The Royal Belfast Academical Institution. Pupils use a range of information and communications technologies including video-conferencing, online discussion and collaboration through applications such as Moodle, MS Word or PowerPoint.

They begin by exchanging personal profiles to build the groups' interpersonal relationships and to develop their familiarity with the technology. The Programme also funds a face-to-face meeting between the participating pupils. Working together pupils create such outcomes as collections of illustrated stories and poems; research findings on historical periods; citizenship and human rights issues.

By Derek Ball

SCHOOL IN AMERICA

American schools are very different than Irish schools. There are many differences between the school I went to in America, Chatham Middle School, and the school I am going to now, Ratoath College.

Obviously we didn't learn Irish, but we did learn German, Spanish and French. We had the same classes at the same time everyday. Our school day began at 8.00am and ended at 2.36pm. We had three minutes between classes to get our books from our lockers. Instead of choosing two option classes, we tried all of them in six week cycles. Lunch time was at 11.50am, and we had 20 minutes to eat. The other 20 minutes was spent with our tutor except they were called homeroom teachers. We had P.E. last class everyday. We didn't learn religion in school, instead we learned it once a week in the church.



Grace O'Connor with her pals Niamh Leonard, Lorna Osbourne & Aisling Farrell.

In America there is no Junior Cert or Leaving Cert, and lessons aren't carried over from one year to the next. Something you learned last year wouldn't be revised this year because you wouldn't be tested on it. We didn't have Christmas or summer exams either, but we did have tests after each chapter that we learned. In High School you have to do the Standard Aptitude Tests and colleges that you apply to get these results. Colleges also got your Grade Point Averages which were the averages of all the end of term tests for all of the four years in High School.

In my school they had clubs and programmes that took place after school such as the student council, drama club, school newspaper, homework club, and school rock band. In our school we only had a hockey team and an American football team. All other sports were organized by the town recreation department. In High School, they played all sports in the school.

Junior infants up to 4th class (kindergarten-5th grade) went to Elementary School. Middle School/Junior High had students from 5th class until 1st year (6th-8th grade) and High School was for 2nd years to 6th years (9th-12th grade).

We didn't wear uniforms which put a lot of pressure on people to wear certain brand names. I prefer uniforms because it is easier than wearing your own clothes. Some people might think that uniforms stop you from being unique, but they don't because everyone wore the same type of clothes as their friends anyway, so they weren't being unique.

Going to school in America is certainly different from Ireland but I am glad to have had the opportunity to experience both.

By Grace O'Connor

Maths Club

The Maths club first began last September and now have over 50 active members.

The Maths Club meets on a Friday at lunchtime and are currently involved in the "Hamilton Maths Challenge" organised by N.U.I Maynooth. This is an on-line competition based on the concept of thinking outside the box. So far Tuan O Carroll a First Year Student has won a €50 voucher for excellent work submitted. The same student has also won a video ipod for his outstanding work and outright winner within the school.

Peter Clifford a Post PHD student gave an excellent presentation to the students on "The Importance and Rewards of Maths".

Student Council



Our Student Council

Ratoath College Anti-Bullying Slogan Competition

The Ratoath College Anti-Bullying task force held a very successful slogan competition in March 2007. We asked students to write a slogan giving a clear message that bullying is not tolerated in our college. There were some fantastic entries and we decided to hold a whole school vote to choose the winning entry. The Student Council did a great job in gathering all the votes from each member of the college. The winning entry was entitled 'Ratoath College is a Bully Free Zone-If you bully you're on your own'. This was written by David Campbell O'Connor from Rang Ball. Well done Dáithí! The second (a very close second) was won by Briain Ó Conchúir also from Rang Ball. His slogan said 'If you bully, you're a fool and you're in the wrong school'. We look forward to seeing our students' slogans on display in our new school in September. Comhghairdeas de gach dalta a ghlac páirt. Congratulations to all students who took part. The standard was excellent.

Well done. Ar fheabhas.

Aine Ní Bhrolcháin

The student council is a group of students who come together to represent only one thing "The Students". We act as a link between teachers and students and express the voice of the students to make sure their needs are fulfilled. As our school is progressing and increasing in size we become more and more active and involved in important decisions on topics that have arisen within the school such as: Drugs policy, Uniform policy, Anti-bullying policy, Healthy eating policy, The senior cycle uniform, Visitors' programme, Going home for lunch in the new school, Compulsory transition year and Make-up policy.

Why have a student council?

Student councils give students the opportunity to be actively involved in the school. This is of benefit to the whole school community.

There are many advantages for having a student council: It creates a positive school atmosphere and a caring school environment which is supportive and inclusive. It is a vehicle for student participation. It has a beneficial impact on issues such as discipline, bullying and staff student relations. It creates educational opportunities for students and provides an interactive learning environment. Students can develop communication and leadership skills, responsibility and accountability. It is a valuable resource to management, teachers and other students.

Elections for the student council

Class elections take place every January and in these elections the class vote to decide who they feel will represent them the best and who will be a great voice for other students in the school. After this the students elected decide on roles or jobs within the student council.

This year the student council has six representatives from second year and five from first year and they are:

Chairperson: Eric Lawless

Vice chairperson: Shane Williams

Treasurer: William Ross

Vice treasurer: Conor Hughes

Secretary: Laura Wall

Vice secretary: Amanda O'Reilly

P.R.O: Bobby O'Brien

Vice P.R.O: Darragh O'Connor

Fundraising officers: Claire Keenan and Raymond Allen

Liaison officer (anti-bullying committee): Ethan Barker

We would like to thank Ms. Ní Bhrolcháin who created the Student Council.

By Eric Lawless & Shane Williams



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

An Comórtas Cainte

Bhí an t-seachtain again I mbliana I gColáiste Ráth Tó. Thosaigh an tSeachtain le Comórtas Cainte a bhí tosaithe ag Iníon Uí Muruchú anuraidh.

Fuair gach múinteoir billeoga goirme agus nuair a chuala múinteoirí dalta ag labhairt as Gaeilge thug sé nó sí billeog don dalta. Bhí an chuid cainte le cloistéail ag gach dalta timpeall na scoile, fiú amháin na daltaí nach ndéanann Gaeilge ar nós Christina agus Leon agus daltaí eile. Bhí duais €50 buaite ag Derec Ó Cíagáin ag deireadh na seachtaine agus bhí sé tuillte go maith aige.



'Drámaí na Síoga 2007'

Bhí an chéad fhéile drámaíochta ar siúl againn sa choláiste imbliana ar an 30 Márta 2007. B'shin an chéad uair dúinn é seo á reachtáil agus d'éirigh go hiontach leis. Chaith na daltaí an chuid ama ag ullmhú don dráma ranga a bhí ar siúl acu. Is aoibhinn linn a rá go raibh gach dalta páirteach ann fiú amháin na daltaí nach ndéanann Gaeilge. Bhí 8 ndrámáí ar an stáitse sa seomra Arkle an lá sin agus dhein gach rang an iarracht. B'iad Iníon Ní Chuilín, an tAth-air P.J agus Bean Hitillambeau na moltóirí den scoth a bhí againn. Bhuaigh Rang Bál an chéad duais don dráma 'An Chéad Fhaoistín', agus bhuaigh Laura Ní Ghribín agus Colm Mac Conchoille na duaiseanna do na haisteoirí is fearr. Ach mar sin ráite bhí rud speisialta ag baint le gach dráma, maidir le greann, feistis agus cur i láthair. B'iontach an rud é an Ghaeilge Bheo a chloisteáil ó thus go deireadh an lae. Míle buíochas a dhaltaí agus a mhúinteoirí. Táimid an mhóralach asaibh go léir. Maith sibh go léir. Míle buíochas leis do Mháistir de Bhál agus Máistir Ó Heihir a rinne na fir an tí ag an bhféile. Is Gaeilgeoirí den scoth sibh a mháistrí.

By Aine Ní Bhrolcháin

Slán de Sabna Sabu



Bhí an bhrón orainn go léir ar an 30 lá de Mhárta 2007. D'fhág Sabna Sabu chun filleadh ar an Índ. B'iontach an scolaire í Sabna agus bhí sí i gcónaí an díograiseach agus deá mhúinte ina pearsantacht agus ina cuid oibre. Rinne na daltaí go léir sa choláiste an iarracht brontannas álainn a fháil di. Bhailigh Rang Uí Bhrolcháin an t-airgead agus cheannaigh siad slabhra ó Bhriain de Staic di. Rinne siad slabhra ón áibtír ogham di agus scríobhadh 'Coláiste Ráth Tó 07' ar cúl. Ina theannta san bhronn Máistir Ó Maoileoin plaic di a léirigh a haimn agus an teachtaireacht 'Sabna, go n-éirí leat i gCónaí Coláiste Ráth Tó 2007'. Sa deireadh thug Rang Uí Bhrolcháin leabhair speisialta le teachtaireacht phearsanta ó dhaltaí an ranga di. Beidh an uaigneas orainn sa Choláiste ina diaidh agus gúimíd go dtabharfaidh sí cuairt orainn nuair a thagann sí thar nais mar dhochtúir I gceann 10 mbliana.

Slán go fóill a Shabna.

Comórtas Drámaíochta 2007



Rang Ball with Ms. Ní Bhrolcháin proud winners of the competition Cumann Scoil Drámaíochta 2007

We are delighted at the success of Rang Ball in the first round of the competition Cumann Scoil Drámaíochta 2007. They won our College's first cup and we look forward to seeing it displayed in Jamestown. The drama 'An Chéad Fhaoistín' is based on the original story by Frank O Connor. Colm Mac Coincille and Laura Ní Ghribín were a fantastic duo in the roles of Jackie and Nóra. Rang Ball made a huge effort all round. We would like to thank Dónal O Connor, Jack Scroope and Shauntelle Cooper Grant who worked back stage. We look forward to reaching the final next year.



Irish Drama



Céilí



Ar óiche Dheardoin a bhí An Céilí Mór ar siúl againn san Ionad Pobail i Ráth Tó. Táimid mar fhoireann an-bhúioch de mhuintir an ionaid an deis a thabhairt dúinn dul ann. Cómórtas Gléasta a bhí ann agus bhí dáthanna i ngach áit. Bhuaigh Gráinne Ní Chuinneagáin an chéad duais mar aon le Doire Breathnach agus Seaghan Ó Griffin. Ach ní mór dúinn a ádhmháil gurb é an taispeántáis an River Dance' le 'Jean Dervan de Buitléir agus Míchéal Bál de Flatelý an eachtra is fearr linn go léir ag an gcéilí. Táimid mar fhoireann na Gaeilge an bhúioch de na múinteoirí ar fad a dhein iarracht den scoth I rith na seachtaine dúinn. Míle buíochas a chairde.



Derek Ball & Grace Cunningham at the Céilí

Our Irish class decided to play the Irish Drama named 'An Mhaistreas'. An Mhaistreas is an Irish drama written by Re O'Laighleis. Re O'Laighleis is an Irish author who prefers to write stories based on realities.

Character List:

Eoin O'Faoileain:	Eric Lawless
Maistreas:	Laura Wall
An Mhaistir:	Mark Whiley
Diarmuid:	Cian O'Brien
Alan:	Graham Jordan
An Tathair O'Gabhain:	Jack McGowan
Maire Ní Chathasaigh:	Sabna Sabu
Maistir Og:	Matthew Ford-Connolly

The story is based on a cheeky boy named Eoin O'Faoiteain and the new teacher in his school. Due to his carelessness and over confidence Eoin accidentally kills the teacher almost at the very end of the drama. We have been doing rehearsals in almost all of the Irish classes under Ms. Ní Bhrolacháin. We have also used the method of the soliloquy in this drama, where Eoin talks about his feelings and thoughts to the audience.

By Kiera Judge

Irish Dancing



My name is Seoirse McDonnell and I am a keen Irish Dancer. Colm Woods and I danced together on the opening night for all the new first year students and their parents. Preparing for this was hard as we had never danced together before and we had to design a new dance. But with the help of Ms. Hynes it was a great success.

Then we decided to dance together again for the talent show and we were delighted to come third. We also had Ceilí night, were all students took part in Irish Dancing and Colm and I danced for everyone again.

We go to different schools of dance but we are on the same level of dance. When we are dancing together there is a great atmosphere and we really enjoy ourselves. Dancing is an important part of our lives and we work well as part of a team.

La semaine Française

We were feeling as if we were in France... French breakfast with croissants, french music, students speaking French, bonjour, ça va, French movies, French drama, French posters everywhere. Even assembly was through French! It was wonderful. "J'adore la France!"



To our great pleasure the students all showed great enthusiasm.



When we walked into school on Monday 16 April we were met with red, blue and white balloons and French posters everywhere. "Allez les Bleus, Vive la France, le Moulin Rouge, les Champs Elyses, la fête de la musique"... Grace Randles, Sabna Sabu, Jordan Rogers, Aoife Tomkins, John Crofton, Laura Gribben and Emily Clarke all did a great job on making them. Amy Brady did a fantastic banner for the festival. So many French projects were there to read on fashion, sports, food that we were bound to learn something new on France and its culture. We had French breakfast with "croissants" and pain au chocolat and it was "delicieux"! Class Hitillambeau were the "serveurs". Mme. Hitillambeau, Mlle Cullen and Mme O' Dwyer were speaking nothing but French to us! Throughout the week we watched French movies and it was so good for our French. We were thinking French.

What is more every morning at assembly "le comité organisateur" announced the events that would take place every day. All the teachers made a great effort at speaking French. Our daily prayer was through French. On our final day we sang "C'est écrit" by Francis Cabrel. We had all learned this song

with both Mme. Hitillambeau and Mlle Cullen. It was nice to sing in French. We really enjoyed singing this.

We also discovered that education can be fun! Or at least funny! We had a special treat when a French play came to the school to entertain us. The play was called "Le Porte-Bonheur" (A Lucky Charm). There were French actors and nine second year student who got involved and put on a wonderful and funny display for us. The story was about a young French man who bought a lucky charm which was magique and from that time every wish he made came through. Well done to Calum O'Brien, Aoife Kavanagh, Sinead Makk, Bryan McMahon, Barry Carr, Kevin Hartnett, Phillip Costigan, Lorna Osborne, Micheal O'Neill who each played a role in the play. The audience got



Our Chef Keith Cooley with Ms. O'Dwyer, Ms. Hitillambeau & Ms. Cullen, our French teachers involved and there was singing and dancing. It was great fun. We also had a quiz "Questions pour Champion" and had great fun with the questions which were on every aspect of France. Off course we were rewarded for our efforts for speaking french and many prizes were won. Patrick Eiffe won "Le prix pour le plus beau parleur" and he was very "heureux". Everyone had a wonderful time and we can't wait for our next French week!

By Seoirse McDonell & Charlotte Hayes




Winner of the Best Actor award Michael O'neil. Displayed great dancing and acting skills during the drama "le porte bonheur"

Penpal from France



Mme. Esther Plouchart & our French exchange friends

Echange Français

Chers amis lecteurs we are very happy to announce our upcoming French exchange. We leave Dublin on the 2nd June to stay for a whole week in beautiful France with Ms. Hitillambeau and Ms Cullen. Our exchange is with François Villion school in Walincourt. North of France. It is a small village where we hope to experience the real French culture and it is only an hour's drive from Belgium and from Lille! 

Last September when Ms. Hitillambeau told us she was hoping to do an exchange with us. We were all very excited. A little apprehensive but so enthusiastic about meeting French people our age! So we filled out forms about our interests and the type of person we were in the hope we would be paired with. Quite quickly afterwards our teacher and Ms. Plouchart (the teacher in France) had us paired with our penpal. Since then we have been in touch with our penpals through letter writing and email. We have written to them about our school, our family, our village, our pastimes and lots more. Just recently Ms. Hitillambeau showed us photos she had received from Ms. Plouchart and we now are so excited!

During our stay we will be staying in our penpals. We will attend school most days. We will see how a schoolday in France goes. We have organised to play football and basketball matches against them and we must win! Our reputation is at stake! We hope to go on trips to a sweet factory and a coal mine and lots of other things. We will bring our pen pals with us. We will all be staying near each other in the village and we all hope to speak nothing but French. This is really going to help us improve in our language skills and especially help with our oral exam. We will receive our penpals in our home in March 2008.

Ms. Hitillambeau has told us that Walincourt is not twinned with an Irish village and they are very interested in twinning with Ratoath. She hopes to meet the mayor of Walincourt while we are there. So as you can see this could be the first exchange of many and we are sure it will! The nineteen of us who are going are going to do Ratoath College proud!

By Mark Wiley and William Ross

Class Hitillambeau have received pen pals from two regions in France, Normandy and Alsace.

The first pen pals we received are from Normandy in the North West of France. They put a lot of effort into their correspondence as both letters and envelopes, were beautifully hand decorated. We got to choose our penpals from Normandy. We all chose a person we had a common interest with. We have been writing to them ever since the start of term in September.

Our second group of pen friends are from the Alsace region in the East of France. This time we had to fill out a personal information chart and they chose each of us. We write to them in English and they write back to us in French. We are both learning a lot from this.

Our Alsatien friends are coming to Ireland in July 2007. Mrs. Hitillambeau is hopeful that a date can be arranged to meet up with our pen friends during the summer holidays.

I think my fellow class mates would agree with me when I say that there is a lot to be gained by correspondence with penpals in France. It will certainly benefit our French lessons, both written and oral. We learn of their traditions and culture and most importantly that teenagers worldwide have very similar interest and hobbies.

By Darragh O'Connor



Ms. Hitillambeau & our proud 1st exchange students

PARIS DIARY



This is a complete record of the first year trip to Paris 2007. I hope that you enjoy reading it!
Amy Brady

Day one

4:30am

I'm on the bus, it is 4:30 in the morning and we're going down the motorway, I'm really excited! Everyone is. Here's what some people have to say so far:

Grace Cunningham: *"Its quiet so far, but it will be hectic later"*

Aoife Tomkins: *"I'm nervous but very excited! Rachel told me about duty free, it sounds good. I'm kind of excited and nervous about going on a plane for the first time, I'm also very tired!"*

7:20am

On plane. I didn't buy anything in duty free. I bought a smoothie. We get to fly over Fairyhouse! How great/weird is that?

7:50am

Taken off and now in the air!

8:35am

We're going to land soon, Aoife and hopefully all others who have flown for the first time have enjoyed the flight.

11:15am (French Time)

Arrived at air museum.



Can you see where the teacher is in that group pic!??



*Sam Quinlan, Jonathan Fagan, Ross Gillen, Rob Kavanagh & Killan Mc Guinness...
...looking French is easier when you wear a beret*

1:20pm

Left air museum, got to see Concorde, a plane that was in D-Day, the Buzz Bunny and some satellites.

We're now going to "Mr. Burger" and then to the science museum. "Mr Burger" I think is a funny name for a restaurant.

9:15 pm

By now we've been to the science museum, which was interesting, but was sometimes hard to follow for being in French. We went up the Eiffel Tower, the view was amazing! Some people didn't like being at such a height and went down. It was also quite cold so high up. After going to the Eiffel tower we went to Mc Donalds and then to the hotel.

Day two

I've had breakfast and am now waiting to go on a guided tour of Paris. I really want to go see Le Sacre Coeur, which is a church on a hill with a view of Paris. There is also shopping.

9:20 am

Some people have got caught in the lift! They'll catch up with us later though.

10:00pm

Went to Flunch for dinner. However the electricity blew! We left soon after to go on a boat trip along the River Seine.

11:00 pm

Today we've had a guided tour of Paris, went to the Louvre and had a boat tour along the River Seine. The boat trip was beautiful! We got to see the Eiffel Tower sparkle! We went by night so we got to see all of Paris lit up! We also went to the Louvre. Which is one of the largest art museums in the world as it is in fact a mile long. My friends and I got lost in the Louvre! We got lost and in an attempt to find our way back we left the galleries and could not get in! We were all stressed out! We had given up when I spotted Mr. Malone who was kind enough to get us in to see the Mona Lisa.

Alsace France

Day three

We spent all day in Disneyland Paris! Favourite rides include: Space Mountain and Thunder Mountain. People also liked to shop! Ms. Ní Mhurchú in my opinion was the best shopper!

Day four

Going home today. We went to the Stade de France. We were given a guided tour and walked out the player's tunnel where the guide put on some music and we out of the tunnel like one of the teams. After that we went to the rather expensive gift shop.

THE RATOATH COLLEGE OSCARS

The winners were given certain titles. The Access All Areas person was awarded to Me, The Super Trooper - Ethan Barker, The Rocky Ballboa - James Scully, The Culture Vulture - Rachel Walshe - the person who summed up the trip in all areas for the girls - Laura Gribben - the person who summarised the trip in all areas for the boys. There were also many others.

Ms. Dervan got the best SNA on the trip prize, after this she got Mr. Nelson to give her a kiss on the cheek! Then she got Mr. Ball to kiss her on the cheek! Not once but twice! At Charles de Gaulle airport we checked in and did a small bit of duty free shopping, I bought four Toblerones! However, they're not just for me! They're for my family too.

We will be landing in Dublin soon, from where we'll take a bus back to Ratoath. Some parents might be at the airport though.

This has been an amazing trip and I would definitely recommend it to any incoming first years. I would like to say a final thanks to all the teachers who gave up their time to come on this trip.

By Amy Brady



Alsace is where our French penpals live. We will be going on a French exchange with them next year !! Alsace is in Eastern France bordering Germany. The regional capital is Strasbourg. The region has excellent wines and a renowned cuisine. There is a strong local dialect which is still spoken, a mixture of French and German.

Wines

Alsace enjoys exceptional soils and a generous climate which helps to produce remarkable wines. Protected from oceanic influence by the Vosges mountains, Alsace enjoys the lowest rainfall in France (400mm-500mm per year) and is blessed with a semi-continental climate, sunny, hot and dry. This climate is ideal for slow extended ripening of grapes, giving wines elegant, complex aromas.

Cuisine

Alsacian cuisine is strongly influenced by the Germanic culinary traditions. It is marked by the use of pork in various forms. Traditional dishes include baeckeoffe, tarts flambees, choucroute and fleischnacka. The festivities of the year's end involve the production of a great variety of biscuits and small cakes called bredalas as well as pain depice.

Religion

Most of the Alsatian population is Roman Catholic, but largely because of the region's German influence, a significant Protestant community exists.



Et Voila!!!! we had such a great time in Paris

The three little Vegetarian Wolves & the Big Bad Pig

Once upon a time there lived a colony of wolves. Now, wolves are usually carnivorous brutes, but these wolves were different they were vegetarian! Yes, I know that it may sound strange, but do believe me, it is very, very, true. Their motto was 'pigs are friends, not food!' The pigs tried to live peacefully in the woods near 'Piggaway'. They usually never stirred away from being in the woods.

Sadly, all societies have their problems. In this case the peaceful colony were under threat from a wild, barbarian, wolf-eating pig! This big bad pig just could not leave those poor little wolves alone!

So one day three brave little wolves said "We have definitely had enough of this! We should make some houses to protect our selves!" The others agreed. The first little wolf announced, "I'm going to make my house of stone". The second little wolf said "I'm going to make my house of steel" and the third little wolf said defiantly "I'm going to make my house of veg, it's what I've got handy!" The other two laughed at his idea and exclaimed "A house made of vegetables? You must be joking! Good luck being eaten alive!" With these words they parted. They went away, each with their own ideas on what makes a pig-proof dream home.

When the time came for the killer pig to come again, the three little wolves fled to their houses and hid. The pig came to the first house and roared "Open up! Or I'll snort your house down!" Little wolf one replied "Not by the tips of my hairy little ears!" At this the pig was outraged! He gave a large snort... and threw a bomb right on through wolf one's window! Little wolf one narrowly escaped, avoiding a piece of his house hitting him in the head. Little wolf one ran on through the trees to little pig two's house, which he had called ironically 'Steelington way'. The two little wolves hid inside the house made of sturdy steel. Feeling very sure of themselves. What on earth could the big bad pig do to a house made of steel?

Then suddenly, they heard the big bad pig roar, "Open up! Or I'll snort your house down!" The two little wolves replied confidently "Not by the tips of our hairy little ears!" This really infuriated the big bad pig. He gave a snort and



*Box set of the 3 little vegetarian wolves...
produced by Grace Cunningham and Amy Brady*

used a flamethrower to melt the little house of steel! As the little house started to capsize and close in on them from the heat, the smarter of the two grabbed the other and they leaped threw a melting window escaping with only slightly singed tails. Thanks to the fact that that the big bad pig, was still to busy melting the house, they were able to run on to little wolf three's vegetable house!

Once there, little wolf three gave a defiant laugh and an "I told you so" to the other two little wolves and to their relief he let them take shelter in what he called "his healthy house." So once the big bad pig arrived on the scene, the first thought that came to mind was "This is going to be dead easy" and with those thoughts in his mind, he took one big bite...out of the house! "YUK" he cried. The pig went green saying "DISGUSTING! BROCOLI AND CABBAGE? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME! I'M NEVER GOING TO COME BACK HERE AGAIN!"

The big bad pig never did come back again. He became a lecturer on how bad wolves are! That is probably why there are no wolves left in Ireland today. So he won in that sense. He did still try to catch little wolves in his spare time though! Gladly he never succeeded.

So now the story sadly must come to an end. But believe me my friend the three little wolves lived happily ever after in their very healthily home!

By Grace Cunningham and Amy Brady

Creative writing

GHOST STORY

The Californian gold – mining town of Bodie

The gold-mining ghost town of Bodie, in California, is probably the finest preserved ghost town in the US, being neither altered nor improved since it was deserted. Gold discovered there in 1859 by waterman s. body (also known as William s. bodey) and as a result had become home to around ten thousand people by 1879. The town was considered the worst of its kind for robberies, killings, stage hold-ups and godlessness - the reverend FM Warrington labelled it in 1881 as “a sea of sin, lashed by the tempests of lust and passion”.

The town stands now just as the last miners and townspeople left it abandoned in the 1930s, and was designated a state historic park in 1962. In its state of “arrested decay” the town attracts many visitors and some have been privy to more than a simple insight into the way of life of the former gold-seekers.

On one occasion two photographers were photographing wallpaper in an upstairs room in the international order of odd fellows building, which had been used as the theatre, the catholic church, the protestant church and the general meeting hall during the 1880s. One photographer remarked, “Oh, isn’t this the building that is haunted?” whereupon there was a loud bang, and the floor began to vibrate. She quite spontaneously exclaimed, “Excuse me, no offence mean’t!” and the floor stopped shaking. Her companion had heard and felt nothing. Later they were both in an adjacent room photographing on different sides of a room, when something strange happened to their camera equipment. They found they could not photograph one side of the room; hence one photographer’s camera stopped working when she tried to photograph some old wallpaper, but worked when she wanted to photograph the opposite wall, whereas her companion’s camera would only shoot the wallpaper. The ghosts were playing games with them.

Another strange incident involving photograph concerns the Cain family house, which is now the park headquarters. The house has a glass front enclosure and, as glass was hard to come by at the time the house was built, it naturally attracts many photographers. As the story goes, a

Creative writing has taken it’s grip on us. Many of our students showed how creative they could be. We had adaptations of Aladin, Little Red Hood and The big winner was the one of the Three Little Vegetarian Wolves and the Big Bad Pig. Every story was set in a carton box, decorated accordingly to their story. There again we had amazing display of different skills and approaches.

While Ms. Hitillambeau’s class produced sets for the adaptations of various fairy tales, Ms. Ní Mhurchú’s class produced sets for various scenes out of our drama “KES”. Again there students surpassed themselves even so by adding lighting effect in their presentations.

We will surely has some other amazing stories to come as all student responded positively to the experience to the great enjoyment and pride of their teacher.

Every student has a gift to be creative they just have to believe in themselves.



Laura Mc Quaid, Sam Quinlan, Sean Cullen & Terriana Brady. Presenting Cinderella

photography class was taking pictures of the Cain house, but when the films were developed they all turned out black! None of the photographs had developed. This is still unexplained.

On another occasion two people were throwing stones down an old mine pit when they heard the words “stop that!” but they were not sure if they had heard correctly, they continued tossing stones. Again they were loudly reprimanded with an angry “stop that!” suitably unnerved, they promptly did just that, and they are now firm believers in ghosts!

By Amy Brady

Short story Trouble

Trouble
By Rachel Walshe

Ok, ok I know what you're thinking. You're thinking this is going to be another story about a tortured teenage soul who's unpopular, no boyfriend, no breasts, spots, braces, who can't get a date to the prom. Well if that's what you're thinking you would becorrect!

Hi, my name is Gabby Brown a total teenage outcast and this is MY story. You see the trouble started at lunch, I was queuing when I turned and out of nowhere she appeared! The Ice princess, Brigit Crawford. You know when they say some people are born lucky? This girl hit the jackpot! Well I spilled noodle soup all over her pure white top. 'Oh my god I am so so sorry Brigit I just...' I tailed off helplessly at the look she gave me. Her famous icy stare she reserved for people she hated or was going to get her own back on! Either way I was going to have to watch my back. I was screwed because she wasn't called the ice princess for nothing! I swear she is the only living heart donor!

She turned on her heel with her pals all round her, fussing over her. It's kind of pathetic actually. Feeling totally down hearted I went to my usual table to sit with the gang a.k.a. Jenna and Phoebe. 'What's up, you look like you've seen a ghost?' asked Jenna in a concerned voice. 'Well Ice is see-through' I said dejected. 'What happened now' Phoebe said, her mouth full of sandwich. Just as I was about to tell them, the bell rang, signaling after lunch class and there was no time to talk.

On Saturday and Sunday I didn't really have much time to think about it because I had some serious socializing to do, but on Monday it all came back to me. Every time I went in and out of class I felt queasy. Phoebe and Jenna tried to cheer me up but nothing worked. I was unable to concentrate all day and after the bell sounded for lunch Mrs Anderson, the stout, short tempered but loveable maths teacher called me aside, 'Gabrielle you seem distracted, you didn't answer one question and you seem so withdrawn. Is something the matter?' I should have told her. I don't know why I didn't. Maybe at the time it seemed scarier than it actually was. All I said was 'Nothing's the matter miss' and then turned on my heel and strode out to lunch, feeling like my insides had turned into lead.

The next day, I told my mom I felt sick. I made sure I felt hot by putting a torch under my pillow, turning up the heating to boiling point in my room then turning it down before my mom came in and sleeping under the covers all night. I know you think that this is a little over the top but you don't know the Ice princess! One time, there was this guy she was dating and he dumped her. The next day he was found handcuffed to the pole outside the school wearing a Speedo. A WOMEN'S SPEEDO!!!!!! And we all know she did it because number 1: She told us 2: He told

us and 3: Written inside was 'This is what you get! Kiss kiss T.I.P.' Actually no one knows how she managed it. Do you understand NOW!!!!

I managed to stay off school for two days before my mom caught on. It was Thursday and by now the entire school knew about the "incident" between Brigit and me. Every time I saw her in the hall she flashed me an icy smile and turned away with a smirk. Naturally most of the school thought I had dumped the soup on her on purpose and only the people who knew me well (which by the way is not many) knew that the only thing that comes between me and noodle soup is death! 🦋

On Friday I had made up my mind, I was going to face her. At lunch I waited until she had ordered her food then approached her cautiously. 'Brigit' I said 'Whatever you are going to do to me just do it!' I quickly braced myself for the worst. Then I heard something very strange, Laughter. The Ice Princess was laughing.... AT ME!!! 'What?' I said. 'You don't get it do you?' she crowed. I stared at her bewildered. 'I got what I wanted. You were so scared I was going to do something like handcuff you to the pole!!!' Then I understood her game...she made me so paranoid for a whole week. It was pretty clever. Then out of nowhere she dumped a bowl of noodle soup all over me...

Trouble
By Kevin Hartnett

It was the first day of summer. The sun was shining in Kingston, the capital of Jamaica and there wasn't a cloud in the bright blue sky. The grass was green and the birds were singing in the trees. There was a group of young boys playing football, using jumpers for goalposts and a group of girls and one or two boys skipping with an extremely large skipping rope. The older generation of men were playing chess in the park, while the women of the same age were walking around the park chatting.

Marvin Bartlett Jr. was in his restaurant 'Starvin' Marvin's', greeting people as they came in. 'Hello Mrs Greening, how are you today?' Marvin asked, with a great big smile on his face. 'When I'm around you Marvin, I always feel fantastic!' she replied and then walked in to take a seat. Mrs Greening was an elderly woman. Her husband died in a bombing, which also killed Marvin's father and nine other working men. Mrs Greening loved to be around Marvin because he always tried to cheer her up after her husband died and was very helpful.

The day ended and Marvin locked up the restaurant. He went home to his house to get ready to go out with his friend Shaun. Shaun and Marvin had been friends since the very beginning of school and they had never let anything come between them. They were going to 'Club Flamengo' as they did every other Friday night. Little did Marvin know that this Friday would be different to the others. Marvin and Shaun pulled up outside the club in Marvin's Aston Martin Vanquish. They went in and sat at the bar. Shaun left to go to the bathroom. After he left, a beautiful woman walked up to

Poem



Seán ...

Happy, kind, friendly, "not a bother",
 Brother of Dean and four others,
 Lover of chocolate, food and music,
 Who feels happy most days, loves the weekend and
 dislikes running the racecourse,
 Who needs friends, clothes and fun,
 Who fears spiders, pain and Freddie Kruger,
 Who would like to see a clean environment, new friends
 and our new school,
 Who lives in a small apartment with Mam and Dean which
 is small but is ours

... Cooling.

the bar and sat on a stool about three feet away from Marvin. He waited a few minutes to make sure she was alone and then he walked over to her and said 'Did it hurt?' She looked puzzled - 'Excuse me, what do you mean?' 'When you fell from heaven!' The two of them smiled and began chatting. When Shaun got back, he saw that Marvin was with a girl so he winked, turned around and hit the dance floor. Marvin and his new friend talked and danced all night. At about two in the morning, Marvin drove her home, said goodnight and went home to bed.

The next day Shaun called over to Marvin's at about noon. He let himself in, as he had a key, and went into Marvin's room to wake him up. As Marvin dressed, Shaun made some breakfast. When they were eating, they began to talk about the night before. 'Well, who was she then?' 'Her name is Cynthia. Wasn't she beautiful! I really liked her' Marvin replied. They continued talking about the night and after a while the phone rang. It was the local chief of police. 'Hello Marvin. I have some news for you. We found Jeremy.' Jeremy was Marvin's brother who had skipped bail after a murder charge and had been on the run for six months. Marvin was relieved as he had wanted to see his brother to see if there was anything he could do to help, but had heard nothing from him since he had gone into hiding. 'Its bad news I'm afraid, they've just fished his body out of Montego Bay. I'm so sorry Marvin'.

Days passed and Marvin became more and more depressed. Cynthia and Shaun tried to cheer him up but they couldn't. Marvin was heart broken, but knew that he couldn't stay like that forever. The people around the village didn't like to see the way he was. They all did their bit, trying to make him feel better and gradually, he did. Things were finally getting back to normal and the sun was shining every day. Marvin and Cynthia were getting closer and closer and everyone in Kingston was delighted that Marvin had found true happiness. He began greeting people at the door of Starvin' Marvin's again. One day Mrs Greening was on her way into the restaurant and she stopped to say hello. 'I hear there's a new woman in you life Marvin' she said. 'Yes, I was holding out for you, but Cynthia just wouldn't take no for an answer.' 'Oh Marvin, you're such a charmer. If you were fifty years older, I'd be first in line to be your girlfriend'. Just then, a cloud of smoke came from the storage room. Marvin ordered everyone out just as the flames engulfed the room. Everyone got out and watched their favourite restaurant go up in smoke. Marvin fell to the ground in tears.

The next few days were very hard for Marvin. The restaurant that his father had built from nothing, was destroyed. Marvin had become a nervous wreck and it seemed like his whole life was falling apart. Every day he promised himself that he was going to rebuild it, but somehow he just didn't have the energy. One night, while he was sleeping, he had a dream. In it, his father told him that he wanted him to rebuild Starvin' Marvin's for the sake of the people of Kingston. The next morning he decided he was going to do just that. Weeks passed and the building was progressing really well. The workmen were drilling on site

when they suddenly hit something hard. From nowhere, oil started pumping from the ground. At first Marvin was ecstatic, he knew, or at least he thought, that his bad luck was coming to an end. He was already planning on buying some nice things for Cynthia and maybe doing something different, in the new Starvin' Marvin's, but when he got a call from the manager of Kingston Oil Inc., he knew something was wrong. He was told that the pipe they had hit belonged to the oil company and he was now being sued.

Marvin couldn't understand why everything was going wrong. He knew that the only thing keeping a smile on his face was the fact that he had Cynthia by his side. Even though the building of the restaurant had been stopped, he got on with his life. Several months rolled by and he was still with Cynthia. He knew that he wanted to stay with her for the rest of his life so he decided to propose. He invited her to his house for dinner. When they were finished dessert, Marvin said 'Cynthia can I ask you something?' 'Me first' she replied. 'I need to get something off my chest. Marvin, I'm sorry, but I don't think that we should see each other any more'. Marvin put the ring that was in his closed fist, back into his pocket. A tear fell from his eye and rolled down his cheek. He did not say anything but goodbye and Cynthia walked out the door and out of his life forever. Marvin was distraught and once again his life turned direction and sent him into a depression again.

Over time, Marvin did get his life back on track. He went through a lot but he still kept a smile on his face. He finally met a woman a few years later and they married and had three lovely children, Cassie, Junior and Shaun. And as for Starvin' Marvin's, Marvin and Shaun are the proud co-owners of the newly refurbished restaurant and it's everyone's favourite place to eat, especially Mrs Greening!

Marvin's story shows us how bad things can happen to good people and trouble has a way of following you around, some days are up, some days are down, but at the end of the day - life is what you make it - you can't just sit back and let things get worse. You've got to do something about it. Just like Marvin!

BRAVE TEACHERS REVEAL ALL!!

We all know Ms. Dervan as a lively fun member of staff! What we don't know is that between the years of 1991 and 1994 she went out to Nicoresti (a town in Romania) and cared for babies, children and teenagers. She cared for children from young babies to up to about the age of 17 years old. Here she answers some interesting but also embarrassing questions!

- Q. What age are you?**
A. I'm over 21!!!
- Q. What was your favourite memory from last year?**
A. When Mr.O'Hare 'called' the bell!!
- Q. What annoys you most in life?**
A. War and when people don't clean up after their dogs on the streets
- Q. Have you ever two-timed someone?**
A. Yes! All the time!
- Q. Are you married, single or in a relationship?**
A. I think I'm single, I am married and I'm still looking for a perfect relationship!!
- Q. Who is the best looking fella in the staff room?**
A. Oh definitely a tie between Mr.O'Hare, Mr.Nelson and Mr.Ball !!!
- Q. What is your ambition in life ?**
A. To grow up and become sensible
- Q. Who or what is your biggest obsession?**
A. Weight, Food and Gay Byrne !!
- Q. What colour underwear do you wear?!**
A. All the colours of the rainbow!
- Q. Who was your favourite in 'You're a star'?**
A. Alan Kavanagh
- Q. What's your deepest darkest secret??**
A. Have none. You can read me like a book!
- Q. Do you have any recurring dreams?**
A. Yes that I'd win lots of money but I don't know how to spend it!!!



By Bronagh Donnelly & Martha Hayes

Ms. Hynes

- Q. What age are you?**
A. 25ish.....
- Q. What did Santa bring you for Christmas?**
A. Diamonds!
- Q. What's your wildest fantasy?**
A. To own a Aston Martin DB9, but I'm sure it will never happen.
- Q. What is your favourite car?**
A. An Opel Astra sports hatch.....hehe!
- Q. Are you single, married or in a relationship?**
A. In a relationship of course, who wouldn't have me!
- Q. What do you do on weekends?**
A. Go to see chick flicks with my boyfriend.
- Q. If you were granted two wishes, what would they be?**
A. (1) Get rich
(2) Learn how to swim so I can go on a cruise ship!
- Q. What's your deepest, darkest secret?**
A. You would have to pay me to tell you that one.
- Q. What's your best experience in life?**
A. Spending two years living in New York City.
- Q. How do you eat your cream egg?**
A. Very slowly with a top of a tea spoon.
- Q. Have you ever two timed anyone?**
A. NO and I intend to keep it that way!

By Jordan Rogers

Mr. Nelson

- Q. What age are you?**
A. Almost 16
- Q. What do you do at weekends?**
A. Play football and rugby and watch soccer am and American chopper box set
- Q. If you had two wishes what would they be?**
A. to get the new school open as soon as possible and to get an Aston Martin DB9
- Q. What annoys you most in life?**
A. Bad drivers and people with no homework

Jokes

Q. Was Santa good to you this year?

A. Yes he gave me American chopper and family guy box sets

Q. What has been your most embarrassing moment?

A. Getting sent off in the minor county final

Q. If you won the lotto what would you buy?

A. A Villa in the Costa Del Sol and bring all the teachers there for three months

Q. If you could be any one who would you be?

A. Mr.Malone

By Jake Colfer

Who is Who?



A woman woke her husband in the middle of the night.

'There's a burglar in the kitchen eating the cake

I made this morning morning!' she said.

'Who should I call?' asked her husband.

'The police or an ambulance?'

Three guys, Shutup, Manners and Poop, drove too fast and poop fell out of the car. Shutup went to the police station, where the policeman asked,

'What's your name?'

'Shutup,' he answered.

'Hey – where are your manners!'

the policeman exclaimed.

Shutup replied, 'Outside on the road, scrapin' up Poop!'

Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs.

That's because I had to amputate your arms.

Doctor, doctor, I think I'm becoming blind.

Yes I can see that because you're at the post office.

Every year Johnny 1, Johnny 2 and Johnny 3 have a swimming race.

Johnny 1 has no arms, Johnny 2 has no legs and Johnny 3 has no arms or legs.

Johnny 3 wins every year. This year Johnny 2 came 1st, Johnny 1 came 2nd and Johnny 3 came last.

After the race he was interviewed.

'What went wrong', asked the woman.

'For fifty years I've been learning how to swim with my ears and some ejit comes and puts a swimming cap on me'.

Darragh O'Connor

Who is who?

Can you find out or recognise your teachers as kids? Well here is your chance to **win** a prize.

Send your replies to Ms. Hitillambeau before the summer holidays. This is only for our students! No parents nor teachers. Good luck to all and have fun!

Were you Born 4 Fame

Q 1. Who are your closest friends ?

- a Too many to name. It's pretty much every one at school!
- b I've had the same BFF since 5th class
- c My family! Honest were super tight

Q2. You get invited to the biggest party of the year what do you wear ?

- a A baby doll dress that does'nt break the bank
- b The same black dress you were to every formal
- c A Marc Jacobs dress you first spotted on Lindsay Lohan

Q3. You make your grand entrance at the party what happens ?

- a Five people run up to you and say hi and someone else asks to take your picture.
- b You wave to the host and then go find your girls to gossip.
- c You go straight to the bathroom and check your lip-stick.

Q4. Which celebrity do you most identify with ?

- a Resse Witherspoon, she's an amazing actress but still seems devoted to her family
- b Paris Hilton, she's everywhere and she's having more fun than anyone else.
- c JD Sallinger the Catcher in the Rye author is a true hermit.

Q5. It's the spring musical .What's your role in the production?

- a I'm in the costume department .
- b I chicken out from auditioning so I have a small part.
- c I'm the lead! After all I can sing ,dance and act !

Q6. C'mon you can tell us what is your worst fear ?

- a That people won't know who I am .
- b That people will think I'm fake.
- c That people won't take me seriously


Q7. Hey over here! You were daydreaming again what were you thinking of ?

- a Writing a book that get's picked for Oprah's book club.
- b Getting a star on the walk of fame.
- c Deciding if I want to rent Mean girls tonight.

Answer bottom of next page

RAZORLIGHT

A music review by Adam Puszezewicz

These days it seems acceptable to slate those bands whose first appearances in the music industry caused great waves of excitement purely because the band have enjoyed success and have members who believe in what they are doing. I like **RAZORLIGHT**. I like Johnny's arrogant attitude. I like Up All Night. And I like "RAZORLIGHT" the album. 

They plays rock 'n' roll music. Remember rock 'n' roll? It's fast, loud, raw and fueled by a bravado. With Johnny Borrell's Jagger swagger and Lou Reed vocal stylings, he's sure to grab all the attention. But this isn't a singer and backing band; every member of **RAZORLIGHT** pulls his weight. Their songs are raw, powerful and inspiring, and nearly all of them are potential hit singles.

They released their second album **RAZORLIGHT** in July, 2006. It's the kind of album that could make a teenager fall in love with rock music for the first time. "Rock 'n' Roll Lies," "Up All Night," "Rip It Up," - the titles alone make up the set list for a night at a stadium rock show in 1975. Each song on the album is of high quality and I would recommend it to anyone. I know that some people have complained about the relatively short length of this album, however, sometimes exactly what you want is a short, sharp dose of perfectly formed, singalong pop songs, which is exactly what this is. You'll have heard the singles by now - if you like them, you will like the rest of the album. It is a very good album that I would recommend to those of you, unfortunate enough not to have it.

It's in your eyes...



Hey! they look at you every day. Yes they keep an eye on you. But did you ever really look at their eyes? One may say eyes are the door to one's soul Who are they? Have a guess!!!

Did you know!

WHAT TEACHER ARE YOU!!!

Is science one of your strong subjects? **Yes** = A **No** = D

Do you do athletics in or out of school? **Yes** = B **No** = C

Do you like basketball? **Yes** = C **No** = D

Is history one of your strong subjects?
Yes = C **No** = A

Do you like sport?
Yes = A **No** = D

Do you like everything to be easy and explained well?
Yes = B **No** = A

Do you play an instrument?
Yes = D **No** = B

Is math one of your strong subjects?
Yes = B **No** = C

Do you like to sing?
Yes = D **No** = A

Are you a chilled and easy going?
Yes = C **No** = A

Mostly C's = Mr Malone
Mostly D's = Ms Cullen

Mostly B's = Ms Brennan
Mostly A's = Mr O' Hare

By Darragh O'Connor

Were you Born

answers **4** Fame



Mostly a

The Understudy: Sure you love a little attention. Who doesn't like the spotlight now and then? If a perfect stranger stops you in the hall and compliments your performance it might make your day, but it's not the only thing you care about. You will never lose a sense of what's important because you know there's a whole lot more in life than getting your name in the lights?

Mostly b

The Costume designer: You've never craved attention. You much prefer being with your family and a sewing machine. When any musical comes up your always the first to help. All your friends are begging for you to design some outfits for them!

Mostly c

The Lead: You live for attention!! Every time a musical comes up you're the first to sign up for the lead of course!! You could definitely win an Oscar with your acting performance! Keep up the good work and soon we could see your name on Hollywood's walk of fame!!

By Niamh McCormack

1. Lake Storsjon in Sweden is said to be the home of a monster that has a small head on a three meter -long (9.8ft) neck. Its body is covered in dark grey spots.
2. Most fish will die if they are taken out of water. Yet the lung fish of Africa, Australia and South America often spends long periods out of water. It's body is adapted to breath air and in a drought it digs a hole in the mud then slime from its body forms a cocoon until the water returns.
3. The largest eggs ever found were those of the Hypselosaurus, which lived about 80 million years ago. The eggs measured up to 11 by 10 inches and were discovered in the south of France 1961.
4. There are three main types of clouds cumulus, stratus and cirrus. Cumulus are fluffy. Stratus are long and flat. Cirrus are wispy or hazy.
5. According to tradition if it rains on saint Swithins day it will rain for forty days.
6. The word checkmate in chess comes from the Persian phrase 'shah mat' which means 'the king is dead'.
7. The oscars during World War 2 were made from plaster as metal was scarce.
8. Laughter can improve health and fight disease.
9. Four is the only word in the English language that has the same number letters in it's name as its meaning.
10. The first Christmas card was made 162 years ago.
11. The EU was founded in 1957.
12. The first triangular stamp was issued by the Cape of Good Hope in 1853.
13. Johann Vaaler of Norway invented the paper clip around the 1900.
14. Thanks to John Logie Baird, a Scottish engineer, who invented the tv.
15. The world cup was started by Jules Rimet in 1930.
16. The world cup was stolen in 1966. A dog called Pickles found it soon after it was stolen.
17. A chameleon tongue can be twice the length of its body.
18. Underground is the only word in the English language that begins and ends with und.
19. Rhinology is the study of noses.
20. When walking, each time your heel lifts off the ground it forces the toes to carry one half of your body weight.



1st year Rang Cullen



1st year Rang Ball



1st year Rang Hitillambeau



1st year Rang Brennan



1st year Rang Mc Nally



2nd year Rang Ní Bhrolacháin



2nd year Rang Ní Mhurchú



2nd year Rang O'Hare



Our teaching staff 06/07




Karen Haslam our lovely secretary

Far left a group photo of our Staff: Front row from left to right- Ms. Hynes, Ms. Dervan, Ms. Ní Bhrolacháin, Ms. Ní Bhroíthe, Mr. Malone, Ms. Ní Mhurchú, Ms. Cullen, Ms. Wilson. Top: Mr. Ball, Ms. Cooke, Ms. Sweeney, Ms. McNellis, Fr. Pj, Ms. Judge, Ms. Brennan, Mr O'Hare, Mr. Nelson, Ms. Hitillambeau, Ms. Mc Nally, Ms. Kiernans.

A friend is one who's always there, to lend a hand. Who simply understands.

... O'Brien Michael
... Chen Aigao W
... Ryan McConway Sh
... Ryan Sophie Scally L
... Philip Doyle, Nathan Ennis
... Graham Kennedy Sean Lawle
... Carl Baker Evan Brown Ji
... ew Gorman Andrew Gorman
... wan Jack McIntyre Glen McMe
... Luke Carr Barry Costello Arian
... Johnson Kyle Johnson Manie
... er Sabu Sabna Wall Laura Aller
... on Fagan Jonathan Finnegan
... iness Kilian McKay Sarah Loui
... Amy Brady Terrina Cullen She
... onathan Hynes Karl King Katie
... idam Quinlan Samuel Reilly Gi
... Sarah Keenan Claire Kelly Che
... y Samantha O'Connor Caran
... Dooley Keith Daly Mark Doyle
... ey Hugh Mulveyey Darran Mi
... Tonkins Aoife Elizabeth Walls
... Cormac Hughes Conor Lanig
... Darran Turlough O'Carroll Tia
... nling Sean Costigan Philip
... n Patrick Jordan Graham
... Grace Simpson, Carl I
... Hew Gorman, J
... n Jack Mc
... Barry Stephanie Carr
... auntelle Gribben Lau
... nifer O'Connor Brian Scroope Jack
... Grace Dolan Flachra Donnelly
... McCormack James McQuaid La
... Conlon Ian Crosbie Aaron Doyle
... adness Rebecca Lynch Zoe Magi
... Peter Stoyce Luke Wallace Eam
... Pearl Fanning Mark Greer Ric
... tzen Michael O'Connor Darragh
... Aigao Wei Conlan Daniel Conne
... way Shannon McCue Ryan Mc
... Scally Lisa Scott Rebecca Staun
... Ennis Luke Farrell Aiding Faugh
... Lawless Eric Leonard Niamh Lyor
... an Jessica Byrne Burke Joshua Co
... n, Kevin Graft, Emma Hayes, Char
... an McMahon Bryan O'Brien Calum
... Ariana Cummins Darran Darcy
... Maria Judge Kiera Keogh Ste
... Allen Raymond Barry Stephe
... negan Kevin Grant Shauentel
... arah Louise Mooney Jennifer
... Julien Shain Cunningham Gir
... g Katie Rinken Rachel McCor
... Glen Scully James Conlon Is
... Cheryl Kelly, Katie Lawless
... aran O'Riordan Colin Peti
... Wayne Fanning Pearl
... Roisin O'Brien Mli
... Chen Aigao W
... Shannon Ryan Mc
... Patrick Flangan Gary Geragi
... McDonnell Shannon McLough
... Adam Caprant Rachel Colfer Jab
... Aineea Kinsella Katie McCor
... Sabu Sumit John
... Ruggert Colin O'Connor
... Tunningham Natalie Du
... am Kavanagh, Aoife Keeg
... William Stockwell Laura Wilk
... Jarmody Mark Donnelly, Cath
... ad McDonald Mark McDonnell
... Connor David Clarke Emily Cr
... Hayes Martha Margaret Kava
... Scroope Jack Walthe Derry W
... ra Donnelly Bronagh Doody Je
... Quaid Laura Moyler Gracine O
... n Doyle Adam Effie Patrick Fi
... ls, Zoe Maguire, Lauren Mc
... Wallace Eamon Walsh Adam
... k Greer Richard King Air
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Thanks to

I'll Be There For You

So no one told you life was gonna be this way
Your jobs a joke, you're broke, your love life's D.O.A.

It's like you're always stuck in second gear
And it hasn't been your day, your week, your month,
or even your year
but...

I'll be there for you
When the rain starts to pour
I'll be there for you
Like I've been there before
I'll be there for you
'Cuz you're there for me too...

You're still in bed at ten
And work began at eight
You've burned your breakfast
So far... things are goin' great

Your mother warned you there'd be days like these
Oh but she didn't tell you when the world has brought
You down to your knees that...

I'll be there for you
When the rain starts to pour
I'll be there for you
Like I've been there before
I'll be there for you
'Cuz you're there for me too...

No one could ever know me
No one could ever see me
Seems you're the only one who knows
What it's like to be me
Someone to face the day with
Make it through all the rest with
Someone I'll always laugh with
Even at my worst I'm best with you, yeah

It's like you're always stuck in second gear
And it hasn't been your day, your week, your month,
or even your year...

I'll be there for you
When the rain starts to pour
I'll be there for you
Like I've been there before
I'll be there for you
'Cuz you're there for me too...

I'll be there for you
I'll be there for you
I'll be there for you
'Cuz you're there for me too...

Butterfly Competition

Can you say how many butterflies have been printed in this magazine???

Well here is your chance to **win** a prize.
Send your replies to Ms. Hitillambeau before the summer holidays. This is only for our students! No parents or teachers. Good luck to all and have fun.



Our Media Club on their outstanding work!

Amy Brady (Editor & photographer)
Aoife Tomkins (Editor)
Darragh O' Connor
Jake Colfer
Niamh McCormack
Grace Cunningham
Rachel Walshe
Rebecca Scott
Ethan Barker
Jack Dunphy
Luke Stowe
Rachel Stowe
Ciarán O' Connor
Michael Santillian
Connie Crowe
Shannon McDonnell
Claire Keenan
Katie Kinsella

To all the students, without whom we would have no story and those who provided us with great articles.

Ratoath College Staff:

Mr. Ball, for the financial part
Ms. Hynes, for Photography
Ms. Ní Bhróithe, Mr. Malone and all the teachers who gave up their time for the success of this project.

Fairyhouse

For their support in accomodating our school for the past two years.

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Our Graphic Designer

Stephan Hitillambeau

Our Printer

3rebble

Apologies to all the ones I forgot to mention. This was a really enriching experience for both students and myself. We hope you appreciate this issue of our mag "66".



Thanks
Alma Hitillambeau
66 Co-ordinator



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