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**WE ARE ALL-IRELAND BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS!**

Thursday, January 26th 2012, is a day that will long be remembered as a momentous sporting occasion for St. Angela’s College. On this day our Senior Basketball Team claimed the Under 19 Girls’ Schools’ All-Ireland Trophy. Our team played a valiant game against a praise-worthy Coláiste Iosagáin side from Dublin. An early departure from Cork City for our supporters on the morning of the final reaped its rewards for all of those who made the journey to the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght. It was a proud moment for all of those supporters as our girls were decisive in their actions and hustled their way to victory, eventually lifting the much sought after trophy. Our youngest player Kelly Diggin took the title of MVP after the match following her impressive play which contributed to the equally impressive score line of 46-29. This would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication and commitment from the basketball coaches Ger Noonan and Stacy Brosnan. Combined with this the ambition, self- belief, skill and determination displayed by our players ensured that our girls were victorious and that the Trophy was brought back to Cork.

Congratulations and well done to all of those who worked so hard to make this a celebratory and historical occasion for St. Angela’s College.

**The Feast of St. Angela**

The whole school community of St. Angela’s College marked the Feast Day of our Patron Saint in St. Patrick’s Church on Friday the 27th January. Father Cormac Breathnach who was our celebrant on the day ensured that this mass was an inspiring celebration for us all. With special thanks to all of those who helped to make this, as always, a special day in the School Calendar of events.

**Internet safety issues are addressed**

On January 12th Dr Maureen Griffin addressed the serious issue of Internet Safety as part of a whole school assembly throughout the day.

*Three of our first year students, Orlaith Cahill, Margaret Cremen and Madelaine Kearney have written the following account based on what Dr. Griffin had discussed.*

Dr Maureen Griffin is a Forensic Psychologist who visited the school to talk to us about Internet Safety. A lot of the material she discussed shocked us. She warned us about the dangers of Social networking sites. As soon as we went home we ensured that our profiles were on private. We thought that the talk was very beneficial and it made us think about the dangers of posting personal information on line. It was a really valuable session and it opened our eyes to the importance of Internet Safety.

**Claire O’Leary will represent her country in the World Schools Championships**

Claire O’Leary, 3A, has been selected by the Irish Sports Council to take part in the World Schools’ Championships in Italy from the 5th to the 10th of March. Claire is one of a team of five girls and the only representative from outside of Dublin. Claire has been skiing since she was five years of age and racing since she was seven when she lived in Germany. She is a member of the ‘Ski Club of Ireland’ Race Squad and trains frequently with racing clubs in both France and Austria. To date, Claire has represented Ireland in the Children’s Category on numerous occasions-always coming in the top thirty internationally.

Claire has recently received her FIS (International Ski Federation) licence and now competes as an adult. Claire had to submit coaches’ reports, video analysis and race results in order to be granted the licence. She is now eligible to represent Ireland in competitions anywhere in the world. She made her FIS debut in races in Switzerland in January where she received her first FIS points. She hopes to get enough points to represent Ireland at the Winter Olympics in Russia in 2014. The long road to the Olympics has only just begun.

Claire is now delighted to be on the chosen team to represent her country at the Worlds Schools’ Championships.

*Go n-éirí an t-ádh léi.*

**Isabel O’Leary leaps ahead in the rankings in the Giant Slalom in Andorra**

Isabel O’Leary 1A has returned home following a hugely successful eight day trip to Andorra where she represented Ireland internationally for the first time in Downhill Skiing at the prestigious children’s competition, the “Borrufa Cup” in Andorra. Isabel competed against athletes from all over the world. Over two hundred children from thirty countries attended the races. Isabel competed in four categories which included the Slalom, the Giant Slalom, the Super G and the Combi. She came in the top twenty in all of her races. She was also placed in the top fifteen in the Giant Slalom. This was undoubtedly a great achievement for Isabel where her skill and expertise in her sport helped her to beat some of the best participants from countries such as Spain, France, Italy and other well- known ski nations.

She attended the opening and closing ceremonies proud to wear her team Ireland jacket. The large pockets in the jacket served their purpose on the day as they held all of the lollipops which had been rained down on the children by the Andorran Ski Federation. Isabel collected 210 lollipops and her classmates in 1A were delighted to welcome her back with these treats.

Her website olearyskiracing.org is currently being up dated and videos of Isabel competing in her races courtesy of Andorra TV will be available for viewing shortly.

*Comhghairdeas léi.*

 **Young Scientist of the Year Competition**

Well done to our two Fourth Year students who participated in the Young Scientist of the Year Competition in Dublin recently. The girls showed great talent and promise as they presented their project on the amount of plastic waste strewn along our coastline. All of our Transition Year students were also present on the day to offer their support and encouragement. Competition was stiff from all of the budding scientists who availed of the opportunity to display their work at this annual event. An educational, enjoyable and informative day was had by all.

**A Royal Performance fit for a King**

“Oedipus: The King” took to the stage of St.Angela’s College on Friday the 27th January. It was the day in which the culmination of months of hard work, huge effort and determination from our Fourth Years and some of their teachers finally paid off with great dividends. Two performances on the day ensured that teachers, students and parents were afforded the opportunity of viewing the girls’ impressive interpretation of this great play.

Those present at each of the performances were treated to a professional production of this classic play. The acting, back stage organisation, costumes, dress design, the energy from the entire production team as well as the music, lighting, props and sound effects were all of the highest standard.

Great praise is due to the Ms Chambers, Ms O’Keefe, and the students who endeavoured to ensure that this performance was a memorable occasion for all.

**Debating News/Cύrsaí Díospóireachta**

January has seen a bright start to the New Year for St. Angela’s debating society, with both Junior and Senior debaters having enjoyed success. On the senior front, three teams, comprised of Charlotte Smith and Catherine Noonan, Clíodhna Ní Ghadhra and Emer O’Connell,and Louise Coleman and Kelly Doherty competed in the semi-finals of UCC Philosoph Debating Competition on Monday 30th January. After two highly contested debates, Charlotte and Catherine, and Louise and Kelly have advanced to the Grand Final which is scheduled to take place on Saturday 25th February.

The juniors have also enjoyed success this month. Ciara Desmond, Jenny Bruton, Caitríona Meehan, Siύn Mannion and Maeve Wrixon participated in the City Schools Debating Competition recently. Ciara Desmond and Jenny Bruton saw success on the night, and are eagerly awaiting the Grand Final.

**Workshop in Irish Traditional Music for our Transition Years**

On Wednesday the 18th of January our Transition Year Irish classes were treated to a feast of traditional music from Cork’s own, Mr Jimmy Crowley. The students enjoyed the performance immensely as this talented singer songwriter and musician gave his own rendition of some of the best known traditional songs of our time. His love for his native tongue as well as his proficiency in the language was evident throughout this memorable morning as he introduced many of the songs and their backgrounds in Irish. Three of our own very talented musicians also took to the stage on the morning as they performed musical pieces for the captivated audience. Well done to Martha Campbell, Caoimhe Shanahan and Niamh Shanahan. It was great to see that all of our students enjoyed a morning in which some of our most talented musicians worked together to celebrate our language, culture and heritage.

*Beatha teanga í a labhairt.*

**Fundraising**

In recent weeks our second years have been very busy in their quest to raise funds for various charities as part of their C.S.P.E. project work. Cake sales, civilian days and raffles for numerous prizes have been part of the fundraising initiatives which have helped charities such as Barnardos and the I.S.P.C.C.

Well done to all of those students who organised and supported these fundraising events.

**Sport**

**Gaelic Football**

 Ms.Mackey and Mr.Murray have recently helped to set up a St. Angela’s College Gaelic Football team. All students who are interested in being members of this team will be most welcome and are asked to attend training sessions at the following times:

Junior training

Monday: 4.00p.m. - 5.30p.m.

Senior training

Friday: 4.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.

**The end of an era**

The end of February sees the retirement of another one of the long serving teachers at St. Angela’s College – Mr Krasa. Sadly Mr Krasa will shortly end his thirty year teaching career here in St. Angela’s as he embarks on the next phase of his life. For many of these years his name has been synonymous with the soaring success of the Transition year programme. He adapted to his role as Transition year Co-ordinator with great ease from the very beginning and he has been eager in his approach to the research and development of the programme. He has been ever-conscious of the ever–changing educational needs of twenty-first century students in the classroom. He has always tried to instil an appreciation and understanding of different countries and their cultures in the students through the numerous school tours which he has organised over the years. His commitment and dedication to the job have always been to the fore, and the affection and regard in which he is held by all his students is evident in every Transition Year graduation night.

We wish him continued success in the future. We hope that his retirement will be as fulfilling and rewarding as his teaching career has been.

*Guímis gach rath is séan air sa todhchaí.*

**Seanfhocal na Míosa**

*“ Is binn béal ina thost”. Silence is Golden*

**Dates for the Diary**

**Mid-term break**

Monday February 13th to Friday 16th February.

**Transition Year School Tour**

Wednesday February 22nd to Sunday February 26th.

**Transition Year Parent Teacher Meeting**

Tuesday 6th March: 4.15p.m. - 6.45 p.m.

**Public Holiday**

Monday March 19th.

