



MENTAL HEALTH PUBLIC SPEAKING

Yesterday afternoon (Thurs.) Mary Cleary, Niall O'Meara and Ciara Kennedy took to the podium yet again for the Western Regional Finals of the Mental Health Ireland Public Speaking competition. They were up against Elphin Community College of Roscommon and Scoil Muire agus Padraig of Swinford, Co. Mayo. Portumna's topic was "Children have more need of models than critics". The other teams presented the topic, "A roadmap for contented living – what is it?". They made a good effort at delivering their speeches, but there was no doubt that Portumna C.S. were better. They delivered each of their speeches with ease and without a fault. In the end, no surprise, our team came out on top and are now through to the All-Ireland Semi Finals. This will take place during the week beginning 22nd March. Each speaker received a medal and a plaque for the school was also awarded. The speakers were accompanied by fellow TY students along with their teachers, Ms. Skelly and Ms. Hough. Well done and good luck in the next round.



Aoife O'Hara, TY

SEACHTAIN NÁISIÚNTA NA GCRANN

As mentioned in last week's Eolas, National Tree Week takes place from 7th to 13th March. The theme is 'Twenty Ten – Plant Again'. The Tree Council of Ireland is asking people to make a renewed effort to go out and plant more trees during the week.

In the year 2000 a group of First years were invited to help plant hundreds of trees in a field in Gurtaha for the new millennium. It's 2010 and time to plant again. This year, for National Tree week, An Gairdin is inviting anyone who would like to plant a tree for a loved one who has passed away or indeed a new birth in the family to go and meet in An Gairdin at 2 pm on Sunday, 7th March. The cost of each tree is €10.



LOURDES ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

On Friday, 2nd April, there will be a non-uniform day to sponsor a senior student from Portumna C.S. to travel as a helper to Lourdes (August 23rd – 28th incl.). This opportunity is open to all senior students and is a wonderful chance to experience a unique and very worthwhile trip. If you are interested please note that names should be submitted before Easter break.

PREPARATION FOR EASTER

As we begin our 3rd week of Lent we continue to have Mass each Thursday and Friday at 9am in Suaimhneas. All welcome.

TROCAIRE 24 HR FAST

Well done and thanks very much to all the students who took part in the Trocaire/Today FM 24 hr Fast. The cards and sponsorship can be returned from next week.

Fr. Abe

OLD/BROKEN TOYS WANTED

In the metalwork and engineering classes in school we frequently make use of small electric motors, gearboxes, pulleys etc, the kind that are usually found in kids toy trucks, cars etc. We are also aware that many homes have quite a lot of these items that are no longer required - and we would love to have them! We will be able to take them apart to look at their design and construction and also reuse some of the parts. A collection box will be placed inside the front door of the school (office end) for any student who would like to bring in any of the aforementioned items

FOLLOW US ON

Now you can keep in touch with the goings on in our school on **Twitter**. We generally update this on a daily basis with information on current events.

Also the **calendar**, on the school website, has all the important dates relating to the school year. For both of these log on to www.portumnacs.com and follow the link.

ATTENDANCE

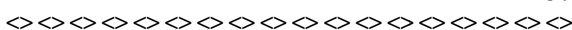
Students! If you are not in Tutor Class each morning you will be marked **Absent** on the system. When anyone comes in Late you must go to the Office **FIRST** and **sign in**. If this is not done I have no way of knowing you are in (*I'm not psychic!*) so you stay marked Absent and a text is sent to your parents.

Anne



INFORMATION EVENING

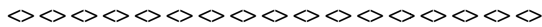
for Parents of current First Year students re. Subject Choice for 2nd year will take place on Tuesday, 9th March, at 8.30 pm.



CAMOGIE

Yesterday the 1st year camogie girls took on the 2nd year girls. It was a great game and the 1st years put up a great fight but unfortunately the 2nd year girls came out on top. Although they didn't win, the 1st years played a good game and will be ready for the next match. Congratulations to the 2nd year camogie panel and 'woman of the match', Caoimhe Horan – she showed great integrity throughout the game.

Megan O'Meara & Sarah Clarke (TY).



ATHLETICS Training Wednesdays : 4 – 5 pm.

Take up an event and get fit, healthy and active.

Come along and be part of the action.

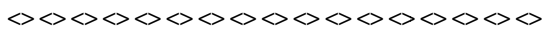
L. O'Sullivan.



FIT FOR LIFE

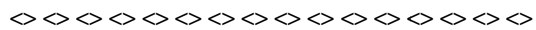
For those who don't want to take part in Track & Field competitively but would still like to get fit there will be Running Training for Senior students starting on Monday.

It will take place every Monday and Thursday from 4 pm to 4.45 pm. If interested please give your name to Ms. Lohan.



1ST YEAR SOCCER

The First Year Soccer teams A and B will be playing on Monday so if you're on these teams bring your runners! The game will take place on the Basketball court at 1.30pm.



FREE NIGHT @ SIGN OUT

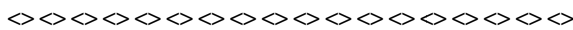
On Tuesday, 9th March, there is an Open Night for anyone interested in joining the Youth Cafe. All games, pool table, ping pong, soccer pitch, etc. will be free on the night so come along and experience what's on offer. All are welcome (1st - 6th yrs.) Any queries? Contact Oisin on 087 2396605.

Thank you for your support.

Garry & Mark.

SIGN OUT FILM CLUB is screening

Surrogates (an ingenious edge of your seat thriller, set in a futuristic world where humans interact through surrogate robots) next Monday 8th @7.45pm sharp. All Welcome.



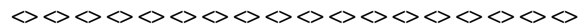
Did you Know? Trees are generally regarded as being the largest land living organisms on earth.

DEBATING

Last Tuesday a group of TY student's competed in a Model Council of the EU debate in Dublin Castle. Each team acted as the Minister for transport of an EU member state. Our school represented France in the debate. The event was chaired by Ruairi Quinn T.D. With 29 schools taking part speaking time was at a premium. Due to the number of teams competing, each school was only judged on 2 short speeches. The topic was whether a directive on alternative fuels should be accepted by the EU. In the end the judges had a difficult task in picking a winner.

Despite an excellent performance by our team they did not choose Portumna. Congratulations the team (Fiona Hyland, Conor O'Meara and Sarah Larkin) who did themselves proud. Also thanks to Mr. Coughlan who travelled with them on the day.

Donal Flynn, TY.



TY MINI COMPANIES

Best of luck to the TY students and their Mini Companies who are participating in competitions on Sunday and Thursday (see below in Events Diary):

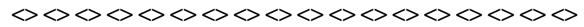
'Fire Fuel' - Donal Flynn, Micheál Lambe & Conor O'Meara;

'Emminence' - Niamh Bergin & Sarah Larkin;

'Hoofy Holders' - Brid McClearn & Aoife O'Hara;

'Crafty Creations' - Mary Cleary, Ciara Kennedy & Caoimhe Ní Laoi.

Hoofy Holders is Aoife O'Hara and Brid McClearn's mini company. They sell horse shoe candle holders and have come up with some new designs which will be on show at break time on Monday so go and take a look.



PORTUMNA GAA

The 'Croke Park Ticket Office' will be in the Shannon Oaks Hotel on Monday, 8th March, from 6pm to 8.30pm, for anyone wanting to purchase tickets for the All Ireland Club Final.

Anyone interested in travelling on the Supporters' Bus to the Final are asked to contact D. Lynch & Sons as soon as possible. Payment of €15 with booking.

Registration Night for all Adult and Juvenile players will take place in the Clubhouse tonight (Fri. 5th) from 7.30 to 9pm. It is important that you pay your membership to be covered by insurance.

Under 16s: €20. Students €30.



Events Diary: (6th – 17th March)

- Mon. 8th : C.S.P.E. (2nd yr) – Oireachtas Education Programme : 9.30am – 12.30pm.
- Tues. 9th : 1st & 2nd year Camogie match Vs Gort C.S. at 11am in Gort.
- Tues. 9th : First year Parents Talk re Subject choice for 2nd year @ 8pm.
- Wed. 10th : L.C.V.P. Recorded Interviews for 6th years.
- Sun. 7th : Galway Co. Final of Student Enterprise Awards in Ardilaun House Hotel.
- Tues. 9th : Meeting for Parents of current First Yrs re subject choice for next year @ 8pm.
- Thurs. 11th : TY – Get Up and Go Mini Company Regional Finals in Athlone Springs Hotel.
- Thurs. 11th : Final Talk for Parents on Drugs.

