



CONNACHT SENIOR 'A' CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

Portumna C.S. 2-05 St. Brigid's V.S., Loughrea 0-08

Portumna C.S. annexed their seventh Connacht Senior 'A' Camogie title with this win in Killimor on Wednesday. In truth, for most of the game, this result looked extremely unlikely, but a "never say die" attitude is an important attribute and this Portumna team has that in abundance.

Loughrea started brightly and their greater hunger and determination was giving them the edge in almost every position. Rachel Monaghan, for Loughrea, opened the scoring with a pointed free on four minutes and it is to the credit of the Portumna defence that, for all their possession, Loughrea had only added two points from Aoife Donohue and Monaghan by the 15th minute.

On 18 minutes Portumna finally got off the mark with a well struck Niamh McClearn point. Nicola Muldoon added a point with Monaghan replying for Loughrea, before Anna Maria Lagana landed a long range free to leave Loughrea ahead by four points to three at half-time.

The Portumna backs were under major pressure again early in the second half and when Ruth Kilkenny had to retire with a dislocated finger on five minutes the odds seemed to favour a Loughrea win.

Rachel Monaghan added another point for them before Anna Maria Lagana pointed a 45 as Portumna got more into the game. The scores still wouldn't come and as two Anna Maria Lagana frees drifted narrowly wide, Rachel added two more points to leave a three point gap with ten minutes remaining. With time running out, Karen Brien was moved forward and she quickly made a difference with a driven shot that went narrowly over the bar. A minute later she robbed possession from Loughrea goalkeeper, Caitriona Daly, and goaled from close range to put Portumna ahead for the first time. Loughrea rallied and were rewarded with a 45 which Monaghan again pointed. With barely a minute left, extra time loomed, but when Katie O'Brien caught Helen Campbell's long puck out winning was the only thing on her mind.

She passed to Maria Brehony who quickly moved the ball on to Karen Brien. An easy point was on, but Karen went for the killer punch, rifling the ball to the roof of the net.

The final whistle sounded to herald a sweet victory for Portumna who now face an All-Ireland Quarter Final against the Dublin Champions at home on 23rd January.

P. Kelly

Team: Helen Campbell (Capt.), Ruth Kilkenny, Marie Duane, Laura Shiel, Niamh Briscoe, Karen Brien (2-1), Anna Marie Lagana (0-2), Catherine O'Meara, Nicola Muldoon (0-1), Louise Loughnane, Niamh McClearn (0-1), Katie O'Brien, Helen Quinn, Lorraine Donnellan, Maria Brehony.

Subs.: Edel Cunningham, Áine Dervan, Niamh Molloy, Laura Loughnane, Megan O'Meara, Sinead O'Hara, Aoife Burke, Aisling Egan, Niamh Bergin, Donna Larkin, Kim Mannion.

ADVENT

Christmas Liturgies for all classes will begin on Monday, 14th December. Each class will be invited to Suaimhneas during one of their R.E. class periods during that week.



1st YEAR RETREAT

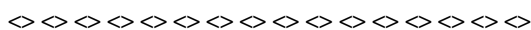
All First Years will be taking part in their annual retreat on Tuesday, 15th December. One group (surnames A to H) will be travelling to Esker Monastery, Athenry, leaving at 8.45 am while the rest will be travelling to Castletown Retreat Centre in Laois, leaving at 8.30 am. Please note that all 1st yrs are asked to be at the school at least 10 mins. before their bus leaves.

Fr. Abe

CONGRATULATIONS to Niall McIntyre, one of our First Years, who won an All-Ireland Cross Country Medal in Colrairie last Saturday.

Niall runs for Nenagh Olympic Athletic Club and is U13. He is sure to have a bright future in Athletics!

L. O'Sullivan

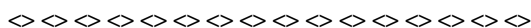


SCHOOL CALENDAR

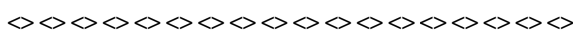
Tues. 15th Dec. : First Yr Retreat.

Wed. 23rd Dec. - 6th Jan. (incl.) : Christmas Hols (School finishes on Tues. 22nd at 1.25pm).

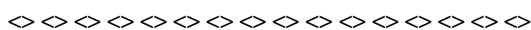
School reopens Thursday, 7th January 2010.



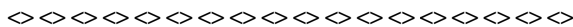
The countdown to our **XMAS FACTOR** has begun! Good luck to all the Finalists and Special Guests on Wed.!!



The **PORTUMNA PLAYERS** are staging Marina Carr's play, **THE MAI**, on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th December and also the following weekend – Friday 18th and Sunday 20th.



Former student, Tom Gleeson, is a contestant in RTE2's 'THE GUITAR' on Two Tube (before Home and Away) tonight – they are looking for Ireland's best young guitarist and the winner will get a Rory Gallagher's Fender tribute Stratocaster guitar. Voting starts on Friday 18th, and concludes on Tuesday, 22nd Dec. Log onto www.rte.ie/theguitar for further details and don't forget to vote. We wish Tom the best of luck.



CALLING ALL PAST PUPILS

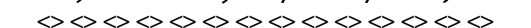
We are calling on all of our past pupils to help us provide information and advice for our Senior Students as they arrive at a significant juncture in their lives. Through our School Website, www.portumnacs.com, we would like you to take part in a short survey which will provide career information and/or study advice to our current students.



You are the people in the 'marketplace' – your advice could make a difference!



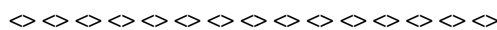
"Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to be put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself..."



MENTAL HEALTH PUBLIC SPEAKING

Yesterday afternoon, Thursday 10th, the TY Public Speaking team went to Loughrea to participate in the first round of the M.H.A. Public Speaking Competition. The team consisted of Mary Cleary, Ciara Kennedy and super-sub, Donal Flynn, who had to stand in at the last minute (literally!). Portumna Community School emerged victorious and will now go on to the next round which takes place on January 14th.

Well done team and a special well done to Ciara Kennedy who won the 'Best Speaker' award on the day.
L. Skelly & A. Hough.



The Rotary Clubs of Ireland have held their YOUNG LEADERSHIP

DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION.

Yesterday, Transition Year student, Conor O'Meara, was awarded one of twenty-four places, to go to the European Parliament in Strasburg. The competition was based on interviews regarding Leadership, Europe as well as personal qualifications. Well done to Conor, we wish him all the best.



FOOD APPEAL

Following a discussion in a 3rd year Religion class it was suggested that we should arrange a Food Appeal like we did last year and donate it to a local charity. So we are preparing a food hamper here in the school to give to the Portumna & District Lions Club before Christmas to distribute.

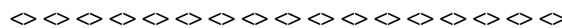


We are asking the students and staff to please support this worthy cause by bringing in non-perishable foodstuffs and placing them in the trolley located in the Social Area by the main entrance to the school. "Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid."

C. Burke



Students, please collect all bags, coats, etc. from around the school before you leave each Friday. All unclaimed property will be gathered and disposed of at Christmas. Make sure you collect your belongings and take them home.



If anyone tells you that you shouldn't use the word 'Xmas' when writing about Christmas just point out the following: The common abbreviation for Christmas to Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet!

Events Diary: (12th – 18th December)

- Mon. 14th : Senior Hurling Training on the Astroturf at 4.15pm.
- Tues. 15th : First Year Retreat.
- Wed. 16th : Xmas Factor Final in the Gym.

