



MINI COMPANY SUCCESS

Yesterday (11th) the TY students travelled to Athlone for the Transition Year Get Up & Go Mini Company Exhibition.

There was a total of 32 mini companies present, four of which were from Portumna C.S.:

‘**CRAFTY CREATIONS**’ – Mary Cleary, Ciara Kennedy & Caoimhe Ní Laoi;

‘**EMINENCE**’ – Niamh Bergin & Sarah Larkin; ‘**FIRE FUEL**’ – Donal Flynn, Micheál Lambe & Conor O’Meara;

‘**HOOFY HOLDERS**’ – Brid McClearn & Aoife O’Hara;

The other companies all had products/services ranging from home-made candles to fantasy league soccer games. A total of 4 awards were given to Portumna – 3 to ‘Fire Fuel’ and 1 to ‘Hoofy Holders’.

‘Fire Fuel’ received second place in both the ‘Presentation’ and ‘Accounts’ categories, and Conor O’Meara won a special award for his “ability to communicate and sell” within the company. ‘Hoofy Holders’ was awarded first place for their stand presentation. ‘Eminence’ and ‘Crafty Creations’ were not awarded any prizes by the judges but they had an excellent presentation and a lots of work done. Unluckily, none of Portumna’s companies made it through to the next round but still came out with a great result.

It was a great day overall and an experience we won’t forget.

On behalf of the mini companies, I would like to thank our fellow TYs for coming with us yesterday and offering their help and support. Also thanks to Mr. Fallon and John O’Toole for their production of the stands. But huge thanks must go to our Business teacher, Mrs. Cahalan, who helped us greatly throughout the process of competition. Plus congratulations and good luck to the ‘Fire Fuel’ team who won the Galway County Enterprise competition last week and are now through to the All-Ireland Finals which are taking place on 27th April in Croke Park.

Aoife O’Hara.

TROCAIRE 24 HR FAST

There has been a tremendous response so far to the Trocaire Fast. We have close to €2,000 collected to date. Well done and thanks to all who have returned their cards already.

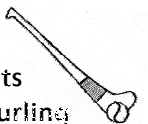
*For those of you that have not done so yet please note that **all** cards and sponsorship **must** be returned by **Friday, 26th March**.*



GOOD LUCK

Portumna Community School extends its very best wishes to the Portumna Senior Hurling team and its captain, Leo Smith, in their quest for further All-Ireland glory on St. Patrick’s Day in Croke Park against Kilkenny’s Ballyhale Shamrocks.

It has been a monumental period of time for Portumna and we really appreciate the enjoyment and pride that this team has given to us all. We are especially proud of the fact that thirteen of the starting fifteen on Wednesday, and most of the large panel, are past pupils of the school. It was an honour and privilege to have worked with these young warriors in recent years. History is in the making and we wish them well.



LOURDES ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

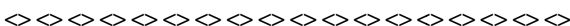
Five senior students have put their names forward to travel as helpers for the Summer trip to Lourdes. Friday, 26th March, will be a non-uniform day and each student who wants to participate is asked to bring in €2. The proceeds will go towards the ticket for the lucky winner who will be drawn after Easter break. Still room for more volunteers!

EASTER LITURGIES

Our Easter Liturgies will take place in Suaimhneas during the week March 22nd – 26th. These will commence during R.E. class times throughout the school. There will be Mass each Thursday and Friday in Suaimhneas at 9am in preparation for this great event.

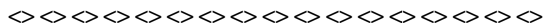
Fr. Abe

Galway Bay FM are broadcasting a special one hour preview of the All Ireland Club Hurling Final between Portumna and Ballyhale on Sunday (14th) live from O’Mearas SuperValu Bar and Restaurant – 9pm to 10pm. Sean Walsh will host a discussion on where the biggest Club Hurling Final Showdown ever will be won and lost. They will chat to players, management, officials and supporters of both clubs as well as expert opinion from a team of analysts.



CONNACHT COLLEGES CAMOGIE

Congratulations to the following girls who have been selected to represent Connacht in the Interprovincial competition to be played in Dublin on March 31st:
Helen Campbell, Ruth Kilkenny, Nicola Muldoon, Karen Brien, Katie O'Brien and Anna Maria Lagana.



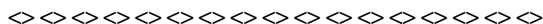
FLORA'S WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON

Ms. O'Sullivan and Ms. Lohan are looking for any TY or 5th year girls who will take up the challenge of walking or running 10k whilst fundraising for charity. You don't have to be super-fit, you just need determination to do something challenging that will make a difference to many lives. Plus, there will be training after school on a Monday and Thursday.



Enter online at <http://www.womensminimarathon.ie> or on the official Entry Form which will appear in the Evening Herald every Wed. and Saturday. However, do so quickly as once a certain number is reached the entries are closed and you won't be able to take part.

The Flora Women's Mini Marathon is the biggest all women's event of its kind in the world. Since it has started some 600,000 women have entered the event. Charities are the big winners and many local causes gain vital revenue from the event. It is now the biggest single day charity event in the country. Every finisher is a winner - and receives a commemorative medal and ribbon to mark the achievement.

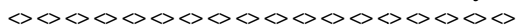


DÁIL NA NÓG – IRELAND'S YOUTH PARLIAMENT

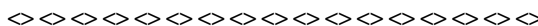
Dáil na nÓg is the annual national parliament for young people aged 12-18 years and gives young people the opportunity to discuss issues of concern to them and to influence public policy.

On Friday, 5th March, myself and other elected delegates from all over Galway went to Croke park to meet the Minister for Children, Barry Andrews, to talk about things that affect us at a National level. I was elected through the Sign Out Youth Cafe. My themes for the day were Mental Health and the Cost of 2nd and 3rd Level Education. I met with twenty-one other delegates to talk about these issues, after which we gave our recommendations to the Minister to bring them up at the Dáil. Later in the afternoon we had a questions & answers session where we all got the chance to ask the Minister questions. I asked about the quality of the ambulance service in Ireland as I am a member of the Red Cross. There were also other officials on the Board such as the Chief Medical Officer and a Department of Education representative. The overall day at Dáil na nÓg was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone to get involved as it gives us (young people) the opportunity to talk about things that affect us and get things done.

Keith Flynn (LCA2).



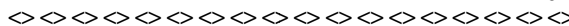
The **COMPUTER** in the social area, provided by funds raised within the school earlier this year, is proving to be of great benefit to many students. In particular it has helped with research, using the school's high speed broadband network, in a manner that may be otherwise difficult or indeed impossible. A reminder, however, that use of this facility must be in keeping with the strict policy already outlined and clearly visible on the notice board at the computer. Permission for the use must be got from a staff member each time you wish to use the PC - the form on the notice board must also be signed, indicating both your own name and the staff member who granted permission.



BANK OF IRELAND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to Brid McClearn, Mary Cleary, Ciara Kennedy and Aoife Kennedy who were the Regional Winners of the Bank of Ireland awards and now go forward to the All Ireland Finals. Their project was based on the work that the Transition years do with St. Dymnys Centre. They have won a €150 voucher and will receive their Regional Certs at a special function in the Ardillaun House Hotel in Galway on Tuesday, 23rd March.

J. Coughlan.



LEO CLUB



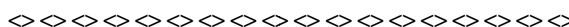
Efforts are currently underway to determine if there is an interest in the Portumna & District area regarding the setting up of a Leo Club. The Lions Club is a vibrant organisation in the area for many years. It focuses on enhancing the community through fundraisers, events and raising awareness. In essence, a Leo Club is the equivalent for young people.

Leadership - Experience - Opportunity

Those are just a few of the rewards young people gain from participating in Leos. They also happen to be the values that create the acronym of the club name.

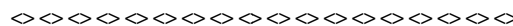
If you have already given your name or are interested in getting involved, please come along to a meeting planned for next Monday at Break time in room 'K'. This is open to 6th yrs., 5th yrs. And T.Y.s initially.

Daniel Eames



JUNIOR & LEAVING CERT. EXAM DATES IN APRIL:

Tues. 13th : LC French Oral begins.
Wed. 14th : LC German Oral.
Thurs. 15th : Junior Cert Music Practicals.
Tues. 20th : Leaving Cert Music Practicals.
Wed. 21st : Leaving Cert Oral Irish begins.



Events Diary: (13th – 19th March)

- Tues. 16th : No school. Parent Teacher meetings. 2nd yr. 9.30 – 12; 1st yr. 1.00 – 3.30.
- Tues. 17th : No school – Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- Fri. 19th : Lollipop Day – National Fundraiser for Cancer research.
- Tues. 23rd March @ 8pm : Parents of 3rd yrs & TYs re subjects & courses for next year.

