



HURLING FEVER CONTINUES UNABATED

What a roller coaster of emotions it's been on the sports field with Portumna teams in the last 6 days! In the All Ireland Senior Camogie final on Saturday last our girls put in what was surely one of the finest performances ever from a school team.

Leading by two points at half time but facing into a gale force wind the girls had a massive battle on their hands.

But battle they did and matched indeed outplayed their opponents, the reigning All Ireland champions, for long passages. It was only in the final few minutes that Callan edged in front and the scenes at the end were a testament to the tightness of the game right up to the final whistle. Sincere congratulations to the girls and their management on representing the school at such a high level and giving us all something to be genuinely proud of. Losing a final is never easy but doing so with your heads held high and giving your all is the next best thing! Well done to all of you.

On Tuesday last the attention turned to Croke Park and what a performance from Portumna! It is interesting to note that many seasoned journalists this week have rated this as one of the greatest ever club teams!

We are very proud that 13 of the starting fifteen are past pupils of our school and offer all our congratulations. A special mention must go, however, to the outstanding right corner back, leaving cert student, Martin Dolphin. This was yet another outstanding display from a young man who displayed a maturity and experience beyond his 18 years. Well done Martin.

Tomorrow our focus switches to Ballinasloe and the Connacht Schools Senior Hurling Final at 1.30pm.

This team have prepared exceptionally well in recent weeks with many early morning (8am) training sessions.

There is genuine optimism that tomorrow could be the day that has eluded us so many times in the past.

We had superb support at the Camogie All Ireland on Saturday last and there is no doubt that this gave an extra boost to the team. We appeal to everyone to do the same tomorrow and make the shorter trip to Ballinasloe to support the lads and manager, Mr. Fallon, and coaches, Tom Breheny & Damian Hayes.



For those of us that love sport – what an afternoon we have in store tomorrow! After the game in Ballinasloe there will be plenty of time to get home to see the Rugby on television!

Maybe even having time to cut the grass in this wonderful early spring weather! Bliss!



Seachtain na Gaeilge

*Bhí seachtain iontach spraoiúil againn i bPobal Scoil Phort Omna ag ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge. Rinne rang na hidirbhliana sár-obair ag reachtáil **Tráth na gCeist** don Chéad bhliain tráthnóna de Máirt. Bhí aoi-speisialta againn ar an gCeadaoin. Thug **Daithí Ó Dronaí** cuairt ar an scoil agus bhain na scoláirí an-taitneamh as an cheolchoirm a chuir sé ar fáil dúinn sa halla. Is tallann iontach é agus bhíomar go léir faoi dhraoíocht lena chuid cheoil. Ba iomaitheoir é Daithí ar an gclár The All Ireland Talent Show. D'eagraigh Iníon Ní Shuilleabháin **Cluiche Peil Gaelach** ar an Máirt don dara bliain agus bhí na scoláirí go léir ag labhaint Gaeilge!! Bhí na múinteoirí agus na daltaí ag cleachtadh andian ar na rincí agus ar na hamhráin don cheolchoirm mhór. Tráthnóna Dé hAoine, ghlac thart ar 200 daltá pant sa **Cheolchoirm Tradisiúnta**. Bhí amhránaíocht, rincí aonair, ceol agus seiteanna iontacha ar siúl sa halla agus bhain gach duine an-taitnimh as an seó speisialta seo. Mile buíochas le gach duine a chabhraigh ar aon slí i rith na seachtaine. Buíochas speisialta le Iníon Ní Cheilleachair, Iníon Ní Shuilleabháin agus an banna cheoil as an sár-obair a rinne siad. Buíochas mór leis an*



bpriomhoide An tUasal Ó Longáin, an leas-priomhoide, an tUasal Mac Giolla Chainnigh as a gcuid tacaíochta i gcónaí.

Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís.

O am go-h-am we experience events here in Portumna Community School which make an indelible mark in our memory and are filed away under the heading of "Uplifting Moments".

Last Friday afternoon the Lá Fhéile Padraig Ceolchoirm was one such occasion.



The standard of music and dancing from the students (and staff!) was superb but the well-mannered and enthusiastic atmosphere throughout the afternoon was equally uplifting. For two and a half hours all present were engrossed in and engaged with the outstanding displays of all that is good about our national and indeed our school culture. Well done to all concerned - students & staff. Sincere congratulations and indeed, thanks, to Bean De Burca, for working so hard in recent weeks to prepare the participants for this wonderful occasion.



Performances like this do not just happen, but the manner in which each performance was prepared in such an efficient manner is testament to both her passion and organisational skills. 'Mile buíochas' also to her daughter, Rosemarie, and her son, Michael, for pulling the whole event together by linking and supporting many of the singers, musicians and dancers. Their musical talent was a joy to behold and we very much appreciated the manner in which they integrated with and supported our performers.



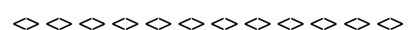
SENIOR CAMOGIE

The dream of All-Ireland glory ended on Saturday, but hopefully the disappointment will fade and the girls will look back on a year when they regained the Connacht title after a gap of four years, and a year where the good days outnumbered the bad.

On behalf of myself and the girls I would like to thank all the staff and students who gave tremendous support before, during and after the game.

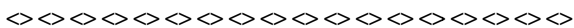
We would also like to thank our generous sponsors. Finally we wish our Senior Hurlers and Mr. Fallon the best of luck tomorrow in the Connacht Final.

P. Kelly



TRÁTH NA GCEIST BOIRD

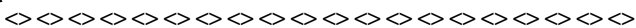
D'eagraigh grúpa scoláirí ón idirbhliain tráth na gceist boird don chéad bhliain de Máirt. Bhí na ceisteanna deacair go leor ach rinne na scoláiré máistreacht orthu. Rinne Amanda Gohery, Maria Dervan, Louise Loughnane, Anna Marie Lagana, Cassandra Dervan agus Niamh Briscoe an-job ar na ceisteanna agus leis an halla a ullmhú agus a ghlanadh l ndiaidh na n-imeachtaí go leir.



Last Wednesday, Daithí O Drónaí (one of the finalists in the All Ireland Talent Show) paid a visit to the school as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge and put on an amazing performance for a large group of students. He played five tunes on the electric fiddle which included the one he would be performing for the final that Sunday. We would like to say a big Thank You to Daithi for taking the time to visit the school and we would like to say an even bigger 'Thanks' to Mrs. Burke and all the teachers who organised the entertaining show. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.



Caoimhe Ní Laoi & Niamh Molloy (3rd yrs.)



The next meeting of the **SIGN OUT YOUTH READERS GROUP** will be on Monday, 6th April, in the Youth Cafe at 7pm. Some suggested reading material from the last meeting were - *The Kite Runner, the Book Thief, Stormbreaker* and *A Little Piece of Ground*. Books can be sourced in the Library. New members always welcome. For further information contact 086 2051346.

DRUG AWARENESS FOR PARENTS by the WESTERN DRUGS TASK FORCE in Mercy College, Woodford.

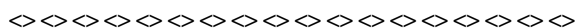
7.30pm – 9.30pm. Mon. 23rd March, Mon. 30th March & Thurs. 2nd April. All are welcome.

A NO-BRAINER!

The Jack and Jill foundation provides home respite for sick children up to 4 years of age; provide direct funding to parents to purchase care and they also provide home nursing which has made a significant difference in the lives of many families coping on a daily basis with the needs of their sick child. To help raise funds the Foundation has recently forged a link with leading Irish waste recyclers Folamh and are collecting old and redundant mobile phones, redundant digital paraphernalia and empty inkjet, laser and fax toner cartridges (except Epson). For every empty cartridge sent in, Folamh will contribute a significant fund back to the foundation. For more information check out www.jackandjill.ie To do your bit for the charity, the environment and to help your school get the green flag, the **Green Flag Committee** wants you to start collecting old phones and ink cartridges. Collection boxes will be set up over the coming weeks around the school.



Niamh Houlihan & Emma Hanley



SENIOR CYCLE OPTIONS

Notice to 3rd year students re Senior Cycle Options (TY, LCVP, LCA). In the forthcoming weeks the 3rd year students will be asked to make an important decision about their Senior Cycle options. For some this may be an easy decision but for others it may prove to be a challenge. Any student who would like to discuss their options please make an appointment with Ms. Lyons.



TROCAIRE 24 HOUR FAST

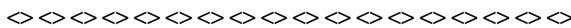
Another fantastic response to the Trocaire campaign. We have once again **passed** the **€4,000** mark to date. Thanks a million to all who supported the work of Trocaire during these particularly difficult times.

All of the remaining cards must be returned by Monday, 23rd March – **Final Call !!**

TRIP TO LOURDES

Senior students who would like an opportunity to experience helping sick pilgrims in Lourdes this August should give their names to me next week. The names of all interested students will be put into a hat and the lucky winner will receive a flight ticket (return) along with full hotel accommodation worth €700. Money for the ticket was raised during a non-uniform day last October.

Fr. Abe



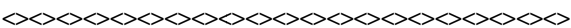
ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Congrats to the following students who attended the TY "Get Up & Go" Mini Company Trade Exhibition Regional Final on Thursday (19th) in the Athlone Springs Hotel – *Maria Whelan, Joanne Lyons, Heather Starr, Amanda Gohery, Anna Maria Lagana, Niamh Briscoe, David Burke, Cassandra Dervan, Grace Duffy, Louise Loughnane, Lara Summers & Maria Dervan*. All twenty-two mini companies were judged in the following five areas:

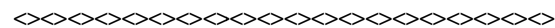
Stand Presentation, Innovation, Marketing, Originality of Idea and Accounts.

Our group were awarded a First place in 'Marketing' and a Third place in 'Originality of Idea'! They will now go on to the National Finals that will be held in Naas on April 28th. Well done!

K. Cahalan



"The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people." (Theodore Roosevelt)



PUZZLE: A certain five letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it. What is the word? *Answer : SHORT !!*

Events Diary: (21st – 27th Mar.)



- Sat. 21st : Connacht Senior Hurling 'A' Final Vs Gort C.S. in Ballinasloe at 1.30pm.
- Sun. 22nd : TYs depart for Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre @ 7.15 am.
- Mon. 23rd : Junior Certificate Exam - Music Practical from 2.00 pm.
- Tues. 24th : 5th yr. Agric. Science fieldwork trip to Gurteen College @ 9.35am.
- Tues. 24th : Leaving Cert : French Oral Exam from 11am. German Oral Exam from 12 noon.
- Tues. 24th : Leaving Certificate Exam – Musical Practical from 11am.
- Tues. 24th : Parents' Council meeting @ 8.30 pm in the school.
- Wed. 25th : Staff Meeting 3 – 5pm. School finishes @ 2.45pm.
- Thurs. 26th & Fri. 27th : Junior Certificate Exam – Home Economics Practical.

