



## OPEN EVENING IS A GREAT SUCCESS

On Wednesday evening last we played host to in excess of 100 sixth class pupils and their parents from the surrounding schools for our annual Open Evening.

Well done to all staff members and students who put in such a great effort to have the school presented at its best. A number of parents commented on how well the school looked, something which we perhaps take for granted from time to time, but are nevertheless very proud of.

We were also represented exceptionally well by the prefects and many students who helped out by giving demonstrations in various classrooms and assisting in a variety of ways. It was, yet again, one of those occasions when one felt very proud to be part of Portumna Community School.



The annual **Trocaire/Today FM 24 hr Fast** takes place on **4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March**. This year, **what you give up is up to you** - food, your phone, coffee, TV or even a bad habit. Whatever it is, give something up for the day and raise essential funds for life-changing projects in some of the world's poorest countries. The focus this year is on hunger and poverty in Bolivia. The money raised will provide families with the means to grow food, to earn an income and to look forward to a brighter future.

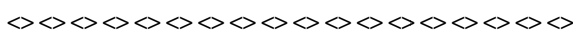
Many thanks to the students who have taken sponsorship cards. Please keep them in a safe place as **all** cards have to be returned and collect as much as you can over the next week.

If you would like to take part in the fast, Sponsorship Cards are available from Fr. Abe.

**BOLIVIA** is the world's 28<sup>th</sup> largest country (twice the size of Spain) and has a population of 9.8 million, 62% of whom live in urban areas and 38% in rural areas. More than 95% of the population are Catholic. A landlocked country, Bolivia is characterised by diverse geography, sharing borders with Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile and Peru.

**Key challenges** : 64% of Bolivia's population live in poverty, a figure which rises to 70% in rural areas. In a country where the population is dispersed over one million square miles of rugged terrain, reaching Bolivia's rural poor continues to be a major challenge for Trócaire.

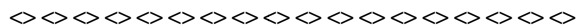
**Food Crisis** : The United Nations have warned of an oncoming acute food crisis affecting Bolivia. This situation has come about as a result of a shortage of agricultural products due to crop loss experienced in the aftermath of natural disasters (floods & droughts). For examples of how your money can help families in Bolivia check out the Trocaire website.




## BUSINESS STUDIES AWARDS

*Congratulations to Julie Otto and Conor O'Meara who have been awarded prizes by Athlone Institute of Technology in recognition of their Junior Certificate results in Business Studies. They have been invited to AIT on Wed., 3<sup>rd</sup> March for an awards ceremony. This will be especially pleasing to the Business teachers who have seen continued success in the AIT scheme and have seen the growth of a real entrepreneurial spirit among senior students in the school with the thriving mini companies established this year.*

*D. Long.*



## 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. From Monday next 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.

A reminder also that 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](http://www.portumnacs.com)** and follow the link.

## ATHLETICS

The Cross Country season is now finished for the year and preparations will begin for the Track & Field season.



Next week Ms. O'Sullivan, Mr. Coughlan and Ms. O'Meara will start training for students who would like to learn any of the following: Long Jump, High Jump, Hurdles, Shot Putt, Javelin, Discus and the Triple Jump.

So students come along on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, from 4 to 5 pm and take up a new and exciting challenge!

L. O'Sullivan.

## SEACHTAIN NÁISIÚNTA NA GCRANN 7 - 13 Márta 2010

'Fiche is a Deich - Cuir Crainn Arís'



**National Tree Week** will take place from 7-13 March.

The theme is **'Twenty Ten – Plant Again'**.

We are asking people to make a renewed effort to go out and plant more trees during the week. The aim of National Tree Week is to raise awareness about trees and encourage local communities and local authorities to participate in over 300 events which will take place around the country during the week e.g. forest walks, tree planting ceremonies, workshops and even tree plantathons! This year 15,000 trees, sponsored by Coillte will be distributed to community groups by local authorities all over the country – contact your local council for a supply of trees.



Despite the great advances in the past 100 years, Ireland remains one of the least wooded countries in Europe with only 10% of our land planted with trees compared to the European average of 40%. approx. This initiative will provide thousands of new jobs build our forestry industry and help improve our environment.

Do not despair, even if you have very little space to plant. By doing something as simple as planting one tree, you can play your part in helping the environment. By thinking locally, we can act globally!



*Trees take in carbon dioxide from the air and convert much of it into wood, and also produce oxygen. Every year, each hectare of Ireland's forests takes in 3.4 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere, which helps in the battle against climate change.*

The tallest tree in Ireland is a Douglas fir at the Powerscourt Estate in Co. Wicklow. This tree measures 56 metres in height.

The tallest native tree in Ireland is an ash near Clonmel, Co Tipperary - 40 metres tall.

The tree with the largest girth is another exotic, a Monterey cypress, commonly known as Macrocarpa. This tree is growing at Killyleigh, Co. Down, and is over 12 metres in diameter.

*The oldest tree in Ireland? Well, this is debatable, but a yew tree in Co. Wexford is said to be over 1,000 years. Of course, the Brian Boru Oak in Co Clare is also said to be over 1,000 years.*

## TABLE QUIZ in aid of Portumna

Rugby Club is taking place **tonight**,

**Fri. 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. @ 8 pm sharp** in the Shannon Oaks Hotel. Adult & Student Prizes. All welcome.

Tables of 4 : Adults €60 - Students €30.

## STUDENT BANKING

**Get €10 free Vodafone credit a month**

when you open and use your 2<sup>nd</sup> level student Current Account in Bank of Ireland.

To qualify you must: use your account 5+ times every month and top up your mobile phone by €10 every month.

*Talk to Catherine, Marie or Mary at Bank of Ireland, Portumna. Offer ends 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010.*

## FREE NIGHT @ SIGN OUT

On Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> yrs.)

Any queries? Contact Oisin on 087 2396605.

Thank you for your support.

Garry & Mark.

## DEBS DEPOSIT

6<sup>th</sup> Yrs. & LCA's take note: Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, is the last day to pay your €20 deposit. It will be collected in Tutor class. If the hotel deposit is not paid by next week, the hotel will not be secured. Thank You.

Debs Committee

## 6<sup>TH</sup> YR. L.C.V.P. PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The **completed LCVP Portfolios** must be handed into your teachers by **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> March.**

Also your Recorded Interviews takes place on **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March.**

## Events Diary: (27<sup>th</sup> Feb. – 11<sup>th</sup> Mar.)

- Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> – Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> : P.L.C. students on Work Experience.
- Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> & Tues. 2<sup>nd</sup> : T.Y. Irish Drama Workshop (1½ hrs).
- Tues. 2<sup>nd</sup> : Model Council Debate in Dublin Castle @ 9 a.m. (3 TYs involved)
- Thurs. 4<sup>th</sup> : TY - Mental Health Public Speaking Regional Final in Tuam at 2 pm.
- Thurs. 11<sup>th</sup> : Final Talk for Parents on Drugs.

