



*It was with profound sadness and regret that news reached us on Tuesday afternoon of the sad passing of **Amber Aldous**, the nine year old daughter of our colleague, Hayley. Today we said goodbye to Amber at a funeral ceremony in St. Brigid's church at 1pm. The staff, students and extended school community wish to extend our deepest condolences to Hayley, Amber's sister, Ruby, her dad Mark, Hayley's partner, Des, the extended family, relations and friends. We extend our sympathies also to Amber's classmates, many friends, and teachers in St. Brendan's National School.*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Next week, 29th Jan. – 4th Feb., is Catholic Schools Week 2012. The Theme is 'Christ's living Body active in our world'. While Portumna Community School is not strictly a Catholic School it has at its heart the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ,

which endeavours to build an environment of care and concern for others; creates a safe and happy learning environment where every child is encouraged and enabled to develop to their full potential as human beings, and is an inclusive and respectful community, welcoming children of all denominations and none. Fr. Abe

JUNIOR A CONNACHT CAMOGIE FINAL

Portumna Community School: 2-4

Gort Community School: 2-4

Our Junior girls delivered a gallant display to force a replay in a thrilling Junior A Connacht Final in Mullagh last Saturday. Up against a very strong Gort side the Portumna girls knew that an enormous effort would be required to take the silverware. After a nervous start by both sides Gort opened the scoring with a well taken goal. Ten minutes later Taragh Moloney got Portumna's first score from a free after some great work by Sinead Fahy. Shortly afterwards Gort added their second goal to give them a four point lead. Eventually the goal which Portumna needed to stay in contention came from the stick of Ruth Fahy to leave a two point margin between the sides at the break. Gort began the second half brightly with well taken early points. However, the Portumna girls kept in touch with excellent defensive play and good scores from Taragh Moloney and Hazel Tracey. In the game's final minute the goal which Portumna so desperately needed to draw level came from Monica Daly after tremendous play by the Portumna forwards. Well done to the girls on such a brilliant display of skill, spirit and sheer determination to send the game to a replay. The very best of luck to the team and panel in the replay this Saturday (28th) in Ardahan pitch at 1pm.

Team & Panel: Kate Moran, Serena Brehony, Chloe O'Brien, Aimee Devery, Aisling Downey, Shauna Broderick (Capt.), Ruth Jordan, Laura Loughnane, Antonella Lagana, Monica Daly (1:0), Taragh Moloney (0:3), Tara Harte, Sinead Fahy, Ruth Fahy (1:0), Hazel Tracey (0:1), Eimear McEvoy, Melissa Maloney, Rachel Dolan, Lisa Hanrahan, Emma Hodgins, Ciara Robinson, Ciara Fahy, Mairead Burke, Laoise Larkin, Elizabeth Burke

A. Hough

SENIOR HURLING SEMI-FINAL

On Thursday, 26th, the Portumna C.S. Senior Hurling Panel travelled to Castlegar to take on Gort C.S. in the Connaught Semi-Final. Despite poor playing conditions, Portumna got off to a great start with Aaron Hogan having a hand in 3 goals, finished expertly by Ronan O'Meara (2) and Owen Treacy (1). The half-time score was 3-5 to 0-6 in Portumna's favour. Gort rallied in the second half with the aid of a stiff breeze but the Portumna defence countered the onslaught with Pdraig Muldoon and Paul Killeen to the fore. Gort threatened till the end but it was a magnificent display of hard work and commitment by the Portumna team so they held onto the lead. Portumna C.S. now progress onto the Connaught Final. Well done to all involved.

Panel: Colin Burke, Sean Neylon, Pdraig Muldoon, Sean Tuohy, Con Kelly, Paul Killeen, Oisín Royston, Joe Starr, Conor Barry, David Daly, Owen Treacy, Ronan O'Meara, Niall Moloney, Aaron Hogan, James Downey. *Subs:* Eamonn Larkin, Michael Fahy, Liam Fahy, Eoin Downey, Gavin Ryan, Shane Donnellan, Conor Mullins, Pdraig Mitchell, Eoin McIntyre, James Coughlan.

CAO APPLICATION DEADLINE – 1ST FEB.



★ **Reminder to all Leaving Cert students to submit a copy of your CAO application to Ms. Lyons.**

Please adhere to the following guidelines: **HEAR APPLICANTS** (application is made up of 3 parts)

1. Apply online to CAO by 17:15 on **1st Feb. 2012.**
 2. No later than 17:15 on **1st March 2012**, you must indicate in your CAO application that you wish to apply for the HEAR scheme and you must fully and correctly complete all elements of the HEAR form (part of CAO application).
 3. Submit relevant evidence in support of your application to arrive at CAO no later than 17:15 on **1st April, 2012.**
- To complete your online HEAR application you must get assistance from your parents/guardians. Download Application Guide & Workbook to help you answer all relevant questions. www.access.college.ie

DARE APPLICANTS **Step 1** : Apply to CAO www.cao.ie by 17:15 on **1st Feb. 2012.**

Step 2 : No later than 17:15 on **1st March 2012**, you must disclose your disability and/or specific learning difficulty in your CAO application and fully and correctly complete Section A of the Supplementary Information Form (SIF is a part of your CAO application). If you wish to be considered for the DARE scheme, you must indicate this on Section A of the fully completed SIF by ticking "Yes" to Question 5 by 17:15 on **1st March 2012.** **Step 3** : You must return the fully completed Second Level Academic Reference (Section B) and Evidence of Disability (Section C) to the CAO by 17:15 on **1st April 2012.**

SLIGO I.T. : Offer a separate ACCESS Programme to school leavers – Closing date **1st Feb. 2012.**
Students apply directly to the college and should contact Ms. Lyons if interested in applying.



CROSS COUNTRY

26 athletes from P.C.S. travelled to Loughrea Athletic Club for the South Connaught Cross Country Schools Championships. The Minor Girls team were first to race 1500m over a very hilly course. Michaela Hogan (1st yr) placed in the top 20 home with Michelle Mitchell, Anna Kelly, Clodagh McDonagh, Sabhbh Murray and Emer Donnellan (1st yrs) closely behind. The Minor Boys race was next and Jack Canning ran a terrific race leading throughout but was unlucky not to finish in the top twenty. Joseph Jennings placed 16th and Anthony Callagy also finishing well. The Junior races for both boys and girls were run at a very fast pace in difficult conditions but both teams did well. Ciara Fahy and Eon McEvoy (2nd yrs) stood out for both teams. The Intermediate Girls team had two top twenty finishes with Aoife Mounsey and Aoife McDonagh (2nd yrs). Also to finish well for the team were Hannah Cunniffe (2nd yr) and Maria Kelly (3rd yr). In the most challenging race of the day, the Intermediate Boys had to run 4000m at top pace. Niall McIntyre (3rd yr) came home in 18th place and Emilio Burke (2nd yr) 38th place. Well done to all students. Results of those who qualified will be posted on the Sports Noticeboard next week.

TRAINING : *Tuesday after school as normal.*

FITNESS FOR ALL – in the gym after school on Wednesday (teachers & students welcome).



BEEP TEST CHALLENGE

Next week during P.E. class First years will be challenged to undertake the 'Beep Test'. This is a multi-stage fitness test that calculates a person's VO2 max. this is the amount of oxygen used during exercise. The fitter a person is the more oxygen they can take in while exercising thus being able to run/play for longer too! Recently on the RTE programme 'Operation Transformation' Athlone V.S. tested its T.Y. students and disappointingly found that they were quite unfit. The programme then offered the class €1000 if they could improve their fitness in 6 weeks! The John Murray RTE Radio show are now running a similar competition for First Years and schools will be selected after the Beep Test results have been submitted. So, First Years be ready for the challenge.

L. O'Sullivan



ART TOUR

On Wednesday (25th) the 5th and 6th year Art classes travelled to Dublin on an Art Tour. We visited four galleries and went to the sites of eleven sculptures which are scattered around the city centre. The galleries we got to visit were the National History Museum (Merrion Sq.), the National Museum of Ireland (Kildare St.), the Douglas Hyde Gallery (TCD) and the Hugh Lane Gallery of Modern Art (Parnell Sq.).

Most of us would say the day was "class" because it was very interesting and varied. Speaking for myself, I preferred the visit to the Natural History Museum because it was very unexpected with very unusual animals exhibited there. It was like walking onto the set of 'Night at the Museum'. All in all it was a very enjoyable day and we gained very much from it. We happily missed all of the rain in Portumna.

On behalf of the group, I would like to thank Mr. Connaire and Ms. Cunningham for organising the trip and bringing us around Dublin.

Lorraine Donnellan, 6th yr.

SEANFHOCAL NA SEACHTAINE

"Cleachtadh a dhéanann máistreacht" – Practice makes perfect.

Helena Horrigan & Louise Kelly.

EVENTS DIARY: (28th Jan. – 3rd Feb.)

- Sat. 28th : Junior A Connacht Camogie Final Replay Vs Gort CS
- Tues. 31st : 2nd year Study Skills Day.



Students: bring your belongings home each day and do not leave books on bag racks!