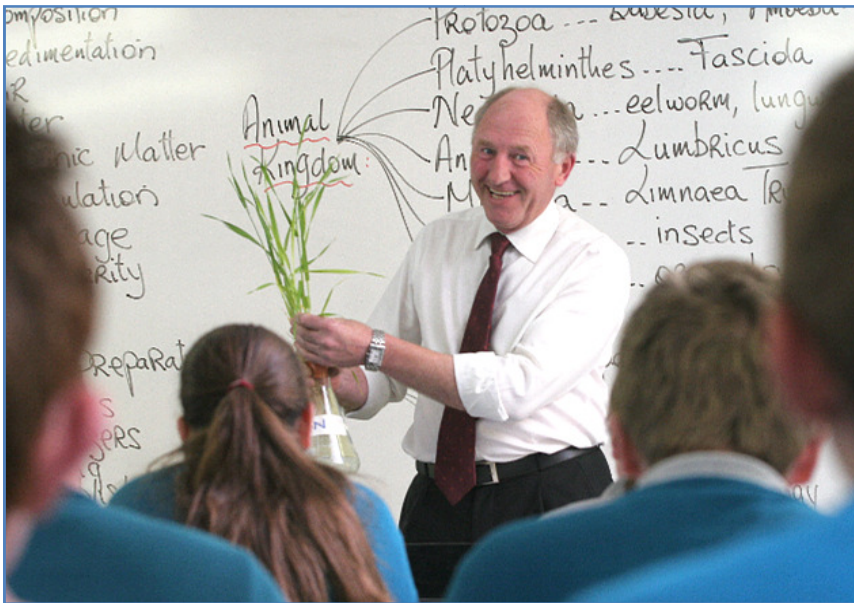




RETIREMENT OF MR. FRANK KILKENNY, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



On Thursday afternoon a special whole school assembly took place to pay tribute to our soon to retire Deputy Principal, Mr. Frank Kilkenney. The wonderfully warm reception from all present as he entered the school gym was a fitting testament to the esteem in which Mr. Kilkenney is held. Welcoming the packed attendance, school Principal, Mr. Long, noted that “on previous occasions we gathered for the visit of the then Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, for the visit of the All-Ireland Club champions, Portumna, and today to pay tribute to a man who has been at the very heart of education in Portumna for 37 years”.

Frank Kilkenney started as a science teacher in Portumna Vocational School in 1973 and became Principal of the school in 1983. In the late eighties along with Sean O’ Dwyer he was one of the founding members of Portumna Community School, where he has been Deputy Principal since its establishment in 1990. Describing the foundation of the school Mr. Long said “there are, in my view, two founding fathers of this institution and today we have gathered to mark not just the retirement of a staff member, or a teacher, or a Deputy Principal but one of the educational architects of our school. It is entirely appropriate that we gather to mark this moment.”

Taking to the microphone in his own inimitable style Mr. Kilkenney expressed gratitude for the warm welcome afforded by everyone and said he was deeply touched and honoured to be treated in this way. In a moving speech he outlined both the highs and lows of his time in the school. He outlined the satisfaction gained from dealing with students on a daily basis and witnessing their successes, both academic and sporting, and in their chosen careers on leaving school. The loss of a teaching colleague, the late Robbie Treacy and students, Colm Casey and Joe O’Meara, will also leave an indelible memory.

On behalf of the students, outgoing prefect, Michéal Dervan, described Mr. Kilkenney as a friend as well as a teacher and a man who always had the best interest of all students at heart. The ceremony concluded with the presentation by the students of a beautiful piece of work by past pupil Brian Murray, hand sculpted from native timbers.

On behalf of everyone in Portumna Community School we would like to wish Frank and Mary a long and happy retirement together. It is often said that in relation to our work, we are easily replaced, in Frank Kilkenney’s case this is the exception to that theory. *Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann .*



WE WILL LEAVE THE FINAL WORDS TO THE MAN HIMSELF....

“I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Principal teachers and especially the students for the wonderful reception that I received at the whole school assembly in the gym on Thursday evening.

It was an amazing experience for me and one that I will cherish for a long, long time.

As this is the final Eolas in my school time I wish to say a huge thanks to the generations of students and parents that I worked with over the past thirty-seven years in Portumna.

It has been a most rewarding journey and I wish you all well into the future. Míle Buíochas.”

Frank Kilkenney.



The Summer Exams start on Monday, 31st May, for 5th Years and run until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 1st June .
5th Years Summer Holidays begin at 4 p.m. on Tues. 1st .

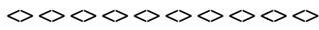
1st and 2nd Years' summer exams start on Tuesday 1st June and conclude on Thursday 3rd June at 3.50 p.m.
Summer Holidays begin at 3.50 p.m. on Thurs. 3rd June .

Class and revision continues for 3rd Years until 3.50 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd June .

Parents / Guardians are asked to ensure that all students go directly home if they live locally;
bus students will be supervised each evening until the bus arrives.

STUDENTS TAKE NOTE:

Remaining 5th and 6th year lockers will be taken back on Monday. All other students should empty their lockers over the course of the week and remove their keys and lock on their final day of term. Refunds will be made on that day.

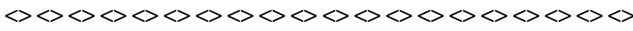


★ **First Year Students** : the following **Rented TEXT BOOKS** must be returned before the Summer holidays (3rd June) : Only Irish, English, French & any subject being dropped for 2nd Yr.

●* **Junior & Leaving Certs. take note:** All rented books must be returned in good condition before 30th June



All books must be placed in a **bag** with **your name** clearly marked on the **outside!!**



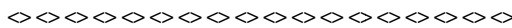
PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Gaisce is the one and only National Award for young people in Ireland and coming from the President it is, of course, the most prestigious award. The award 'Gaisce' is about personal endeavours, goal setting and the ultimate challenge of competing against oneself. Students must undertake challenges – Community Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Recreation, Adventure Journey. Those doing the Bronze award are required to complete a 25km hike and for the Silver it's a 50km hike. During their graduation night on Wednesday Transition Years Paul Killeen, Fiona Hyland, Oisín Royston, Mary Cleary, Micheál Lambe, Brid McClearn, Aoife Kennedy, Sarah Larkin, Aoife O'Hara and Niamh Bergin were presented with their **BRONZE** Award.

Today (28th) Daniel Eames, Maria Whelan, Maria Dervan, David Burke and Conor O'Meara achieved their **SILVER** award. They did a 50km hike at Killary Adventure Centre and completed their 26 weeks of work in their skill, community and recreation section amounting to one hour per week.

I would like to commend these students for their good work in the community and in time they will become model citizens in their own respective communities.

J. Coughlan



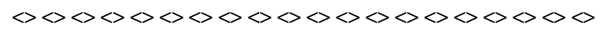
GIRLS 'N GOLF

Every Tuesday afternoon Ms. Leyden and Mrs. Cunningham brought 1st and 2nd year girls out to the Portumna Golf Course to learn the skills of Golf. On Friday, 14th May, we went to Oldthort Pitch & Putt representing Portumna C.S. for the Gala Day. There was students from different schools and we were all put into different groups. While playing the 18 holes we made many new friends. There was a presentation of prizes at the end of the competition and a few of our girls won prizes. We also treated to tea and sandwiches. It was a very enjoyable day and all of the girls who took part would like to thank Ms. Leyden, Mrs. Cunningham and Junior Golf Ireland for everything they did for us.

Annie Larkin & Tara Harte, 1st yrs.

IRISH DANCING STARS

Yesterday 1st year, Maria Kelly, and eleven other girls from the Mary Fraughen Barrett School of Irish Dancing, went to the RTE studios in Donnybrook to record an episode of the dancing show 'An Jig Gig'. They called themselves the 'Galway Girls' and were up against a number of other acts. Maria said that they all had a brilliant day and the show will be shown on TG4 in the Autumn.



FIELD OF DREAMS

As you may know Kellogg's are offering communities the chance to win a Field of Dreams... a complete makeover for a needy sports field.

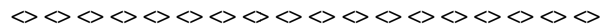
Many thanks to the students who have already donated their tokens from Kellogg's Corn Flakes. The collection box will remain in the Social Area all next week so please collect as many tokens as you can in the meantime. If we collect 700 tokens we can put in an application and have a 33/1 chance of winning €100,000 for further development of the Soccer facilities in Marian Park. So stay collecting.

There are other collection boxes in SuperValu (Portumna), Sweeney's Service Station and the Library.

LADIES SOCCER

Well done to all the Junior and Senior girls Soccer panels for their commitment to training throughout the year.

Fr. Abe



TIMETABLE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011

STANDARD HOLIDAYS:

October Break : Mon. 25th to Fri. 29th inclusive
Christmas : Fri. 24th Dec. to Fri. 7th Jan. inclusive
February Mid Term : Mon. 21st to Fri. 25th inclusive
Easter : Mon. 18th March to Fri. 29th April inclusive
Bank Holiday : Mon. 2nd May
(Further details in September)



2009-2010 will live long in my memory. It was the year of the floods, the year of the school closure due to snow and, as always, a year when the students benefitted from the enormous energy and commitment of the hard working and dedicated staff of the school. My thanks to parents / guardians, staff and students for the year and its work and its achievements. But 2009-2010 will be the year that will always be marked by the retirement of Mr. Frank Kilkenny. I have spoken publicly on three occasions on his role and the thanks due to him; here, in this final Eolas of the year, I state my personal thanks to him for an abiding wisdom which was always available to me and which will be sorely missed. I wish him and his wife Mary every happiness and joy in their retirement. To our exam classes I wish every success and to all in the school community I wish a happy and peaceful Summer.

Derry Long