



RECORD TICKET SALES FOR SCHOOL MUSICAL

The sale of Tickets on Tuesday for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat beat all previous opening day sales with over 350 changing hands in the first 20 mins!!

A great indication of the enthusiasm of the school students for such a production.

At the time of writing there are only a handful of tickets remaining for the Friday performance while Thursday also looks like being close to a full house. If you haven't yet booked your ticket you should contact the school office as soon as possible: (090) 9741053.

What a week it will be for everyone involved in the show – dress rehearsal on Tuesday night, Matinee for all the local primary schools on Wednesday and full shows on Thursday and Friday night.

Good luck to all, we have no doubt it will be a great week.

 It may be a little soon to turn our thoughts to spring but with the days lengthening a little and after all the bad weather of the last few months maybe we need to do just this. With this in mind we think the following lines from the old favourite "Anois Teacht an Earraigh" are particularly appropriate:

'Anois teacht an Earraigh beidh an lá dúl chun shíneadh, Is tar eis na féil Bhríde ardóigh mé mo sheol.' translated as...
 "Now with the coming of Spring the days will be getting longer, and after St. Brigid's Day I will lift up my sail".

SENIOR CAMOGIE

Portumna C.S. 5-07 St. Dominic's College 1-02

Portumna C.S. advanced to the All-Ireland Senior 'A' Semi-Final with a straightforward victory in a foggy Portumna on Saturday over St. Dominic's College, Cabra. With Catherine O'Meara and Nicola Muldoon in fine form at midfield, the forwards had plenty of possession.

Katie O'Brien opened with a point, Maria Brehony added a goal and a point before goals from Niamh McClearn and Louise Loughnane left the Dubliners with a mountain to climb. Two more Maria Brehony points followed before she expertly volleyed a high Katie O'Brien delivery to the net to effectively end the contest at half time.

Scores were fewer in the second half with Niamh McClearn and Katie O'Brien adding points by the tenth minute.

St. Dominic's finally got off the mark with two pointed frees before adding a close range goal. Karen Brien, now operating at full forward, finished the scoring with a goal and a point to seal a win that sets up a home Semi-Final on 6th February against Munster Champions, Blackwater C.S., from Lismore, Co. Waterford.

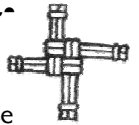
This will be a tough assignment but the girls are putting in a big effort on the training field where the assistance of Galway All-Stars, Ann Marie Hayes and Sinead Cahalan, is proving invaluable.



P. Kelly

Team: Helen Campbell, Ruth Kilkenny, Marie Duane, Laura Shiel, Niamh Briscoe, Karen Brien (1-1), Aine Dervan, Catherine O'Meara, Nicola Muldoon, Katie O'Brien (0-2), Niamh McClearn (1-1), Anna Marie Lagana, Helen Quinn, Louise Loughnane (1-0), Maria Brehony (2-3).
Subs: Niamh Molloy, Laura Loughnane, Lorraine Donnellan, Niamh Bergin, Megan O'Meara, Sinead O'Hara, Kim Mannion.

ST. BRIGID



Next Monday, 1st Feb., is of course

St. Brigid's Day – a day which has a special significance for us here in Portumna (St. Brigid's Church, St. Brigid's Road, St. Brigid's Voc. School). The iconic St. Brigid's Cross is also an integral part of our school crest.

Brigid, the most celebrated Irish woman of all time was born c. 454. She was renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick.

BLESSING OF THROATS

Wednesday, 3rd Feb., is the Feast of St. Blaise. Blessing of the Throats will take place in Suaimhneas at 9 am, 11.20 am and lunch time if necessary.

HAITI RELIEF FUND

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the students and staff of Portumna Community School we have reached a tally of €2,000 from our recent collection. Thanks also to the Xmas Factor committee who contributed to this worthy cause. Added to this the school's Belarus Fund is contributing a further €2,000 so the final total from the school will therefore be a wonderful **€4,000**.

Instead of dividing the money between a few charities we decided to choose just one - **UNICEF**.

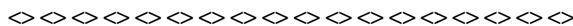


Fr. Abe.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 31st to February 6th is Catholic Schools Week and is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the tremendous contribution that Catholic primary and secondary schools make, not just to Irish society, but to the mission of the Church. The theme this year is 'Catholic schools – a light for every generation'. It also allows us to remember with great gratitude all those who through their work in establishing schools and places of education brought the light of Christ to many generations of Irish people in the past.

Fr. Abe.



ATHLETICS

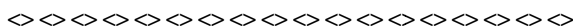


Well done to all Portumna C.S. athletes who travelled to Galway City to represent the school in the South Connaught Cross Country Finals on Wednesday. It proved to be a very competitive event with teams from as far away as Athlone, Roscommon and Mayo trying to reach the Regional finals. The course itself was also difficult with many hills and an extra 500m added to the already long distances students were required to run. The Minor Girls team were first to race 1500m (that's 1 mile!) with well over 120 runners competing. Aoife McDonagh (1st yr.) ran an excellent race to take 6th place and qualify for the Regionals. A wonderful achievement for someone new to the sport! Her team mates Tara Harte, Annie Larkin and Maria Kelly also ran well and finished in good time. The Minor Boys were next to race and our team finished very strongly. Niall McIntyre (1st yr.) had an excellent start and maintained his pace all throughout the 2000m course. He came 2nd overall in a race that had over 130 runners! Ruairi Cunningham (1st yr.) finished in 6th with a fine performance and his teammate, Padraig Corcoran (2nd yr.), finished in 15th place. All three boys qualified individually for the next round. Ross O'Meara, Dale Flanagan and Dean Madden all finished well ensuring the Minor Boys team are now in the running for a team medal.

In the Junior Girls, Siobhan Flynn and Emma Hodgins (1st yr.) both ran well. In the Intermediate category, third years, Naomi Burke and Eoin McIntyre, both qualified in 9th and 11th place respectively. This was a marvellous achievement over distances of 3000m and 4000m.

The next round is the Connaught Finals on the 11th of February in St. Mary's Secondary School, Galway. Training for everyone resumes again on Wednesday from 4 to 5 pm. All welcome.

L. O'Sullivan



SIGN OUT YOUTH CAFE will be closed next Friday, 5th February.

MUSIC SESSIONS: Sign Out Youth Project is running a workshop for all budding musicians/singers who enjoy music, want to improve their skills, learn about recording, copyrights, management, gigs, P.A.'s, instruments etc.

If you are over 13 why not pop along to Sign Out Youth Café tomorrow, Sat. 30th Jan. from 2pm and let's get rocking. A timesheet will be available on the day for practice sessions.



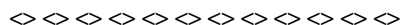
Events Diary: (30th Jan. – 5th Feb.)

- Mon. 1st : Senior Hurling Vs Pres. Athenry (Semi Final) @ 12.45 in Duggan Park.
- Tues. 2nd : Junior Girls Soccer Vs Scoil Mhuire Ballinasloe @ 12 noon in Marian Park
- Thurs. 4th & Fri. 5th : School Musical @ 8 pm.



MOCK EXAMS

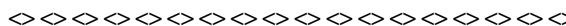
Exam Students please note: the Trial Examinations timetable is now available for download from the school website.



SCIFEST 2010 (www.scifest.ie)

There will be a short meeting at 1.25pm in Room T, on Monday, 1st Feb. to discuss projects and proposal forms.

M. Nagle



HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS ROUTE

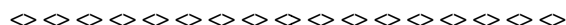
The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds and has been established by a number of higher education institutions as clear evidence shows that socio-economic disadvantage has a negative impact on educational attainment at school and on progression to higher education.

Leaving cert students have been repeatedly informed about this important scheme, which is national for the first time this year. More importantly, **it is an online application this year as part of their CAO application.** www.cao.ie. **Interested students must fill out the HEAR Application form online before the normal closing date of 5.15pm on February 1st.**

This form has nine sections, some of which are interactive, e.g. if either parent or guardian is ticked as being as receiving a social welfare payment, then a further drop down option appears for downloading. **This form needs time and careful consideration and should be filled along with the parents/guardians.**

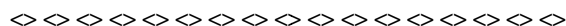
If the form is completed online before 1st Feb., the supporting documentation can be assembled and submitted before 1st April.

Forms (Application Guide & Workbook) have been distributed to all interested students and are available online on the CAO site.



SCHOOL SERVER

Over the mid-term the "Common" folder on the School Server will be **deleted** in order to increase the efficiencies of all our work practices. Following this students will only be able to save information using their own space on the server. If you have any difficulty logging in using your own username/password please inform your Computer Studies teacher next week.



SOCCER LEAGUE

The First year Soccer League will take place next Monday, 1st Feb., at lunch (1.25 pm) outside in the Basketball courts (weather permitting).

Please see board for list of teams and dates.

N. Murtagh

