

OLIVER

What a week it has been here in school for all involved in this year's school musical, 'Oliver'. On Tuesday we played host to over 500 primary school students who were both enthusiastic and appreciative of the performances. The cabaret night was a huge success with once again a full house in attendance. Thanks to the huge efforts of the staff and students the school gym was transformed into an atmospheric candle lit auditorium where those present were able to enjoy the show in a very relaxed setting. Thursday night was our third full house of the week with many of our own students as well as a healthy sprinkling of the extended community in attendance. So tonight the curtain will fall for the last time on what has been a marvellous production. By the time it does the cast will have performed to over 1500 people, who have according to the feedback received to date relished the spectacle that we have become accustomed to here in the school.

Great credit is due to all who worked so tirelessly to bring this small group to such a high standard. In particular, the show's producer, Mr. Coughlan, musical director, Ms. Kelleher and Choreographer, Ms. Keena, deserve particular credit for getting the students to this level. A particular mention also must be made of the spectacular set which effortlessly transported the audience to London of the 19th century. Well done also to all those who put in such a huge effort behind the scenes in so many ways to maintain the fine tradition of musicals here in Portumna Community School. While we have been pretty much sold out for all performances so far, due to a number of parallel events running this evening – we still have tickets available for tonight. Cash will be accepted at the door.



PAST PUPILS IN THE NEWS:

Sincere congratulations to, past pupil, **Brenda Shanahan** (Moore) who by now, most people will be aware was the winner of the TV3 series, **The Apprentice**, on Monday night last. This was a phenomenal achievement given the standard of the competition and sheer variety of tasks which the participants had to undertake. As the programme developed Brenda increasingly became many people's favourite through her assured, mature no-no-nonsense approach to each challenge.

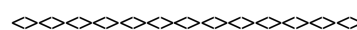
We here at Portumna Community School offer our heartfelt good wishes as she now moves on to take up the new position as Bill Cullen's apprentice in the New Year. Well done Brenda.

GALWAY TO GAMBIA

Best wishes also to past pupils Deirdre Kenny and Adrian Cummins who will embark

tomorrow on the **Galway to Gambia** challenge – a marathon round the world charity adventure to drive in a beat up **25 year old Volkswagen van** (bought for €140) from Galway to Gambia! There are teams from all around the world taking part, mainly for charity – Deirdre and Adrian will be raising funds for **One in Four**. The couple will be leaving Eyre Square tomorrow, between 2 and 4 pm.

There is a send off from St Stephen's Green in Dublin on the 14th, at 2pm and 4pm and there will be street collections at both events to raise money for their cause. We wish them well in their challenge.



ADVENT



Our Christmas Liturgies will begin on Monday, 15th and throughout the week each class will be invited to Suaimhneas to enter into the spiritual atmosphere in preparation for Christmas.

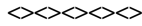
Fr. Abe



ATTENTION FIRST YEARS

To raise funds for this year's Leaving Cert Debs, our committee have organised a Table Quiz for all First year students. The quiz will take place on Monday, 15th December, from 2.45 pm to 4.00 pm. Any First Year Student interested in taking part must bring in €3 which will be collected during Tutor class on Monday morning. Prizes will be rewarded to the winning teams and a raffle will also be held, so please bring money if you wish to buy raffle tickets.

Debs Committee.



SCHOOL CALENDAR



Please note the following dates:

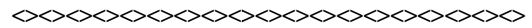
- Wed. 17th – Non Uniform Day.
School finishes @ 2.45 pm for Staff meeting.
 - Thurs. 18th – DATS for Fifth Years and TYs.
 - Fri. 19th – House Exams – 3rd yrs @ 9.30 am and 6th yrs @ 2.05 pm.
 - Mon. 22nd & Tues. 23rd – House Exams for 3rd and 6th years. School closes @ 12.30 pm.
 - Wed. 24th – Christmas Holidays.
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- School reopens Wednesday, 7th January 2009.
 - Thurs. 29th Jan. : Parent/Teacher meeting for parents of TY and 5th year students @ 4.15 pm.
 - Tues. 3rd Feb. : Open Night for incoming students.
 - Mon. 16th – Fri. 20th Feb. : Mid Term Break
 - Mon. 23rd : Mock Exams begin for 3rd & 6th yrs.
 - Mon. 23rd – Fri. 27th Feb. : Work Experience for 5th year students.
 - Mon. 16th Mar. (full day) : Parent/Teacher meeting for parents of 1st and 2nd year students. No school.
 - Tues. 17th Mar. – St. Patrick's Day – No school.
 - Mon. 6th – Fri. 17th April (incl.) : Easter Holidays.
 - Mon. 4th May : Bank Holiday.
 - Thurs. 28th May @ 3.50 pm : Summer Holidays begin.
 - Wed. 3rd – Fri. 19th June : State Examinations.

CANTEEN IRELAND



In need of some Christmas Cards?

The CanTeen Ireland Christmas Cards are on sale in the Social Area. The cards cost only €5 for a pack of 5 large or a pack of 8 small cards. Please note that another batch of the popular small cards have arrived and are on sale!



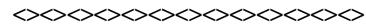
Training for **CROSS COUNTRY** resumes after school on Tuesday. Meet at the gym and please make sure to bring football boots or spikes as the pitches are quite muddy! Training finishes at 4.45 pm - ensure arrangements are made for lifts home at this time.



NON UNIFORM DAY

Ms. Noreen Killeen will be travelling to Africa, as a helper, for the last week of March 2009. She is going to be working as a Nurse on a building site but her duties will also include painting and plastering the houses being built. These houses are funded by the Niall Mellon Township Trust Fund and each helper that wishes to go out must raise €5,000 first.

To help with fundraising there will be a Non Uniform Day on Wednesday, 17th December. All students are requested to bring €2.

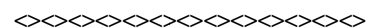


CSPE TRIP

On Tuesday, the Third Year Civics classes went to the Dáil in Dublin as part of our Junior Certificate Action Project. When we arrived in Dublin we had time to do some Christmas shopping in Grafton Street before travelling to the Dáil. There we were greeted by TDs, Niall Coonan and Ulick Burke, who we were very eager to meet. We learned a lot about the history of the Dail and the importance of politics in people's lives. Our group also got to see all the TDs debating about the pork and meat crisis which was of great interest to everyone.

All of the Third Years would like to say a big Thanks to our teachers Ms. Skelly and Ms. O'Sullivan.

Yvonne Connors, Sarah Clarke,
Timmy Ryan, Christopher Treacy



Students, collect all bags, coats, etc. from around the school before you leave each Friday. All unclaimed property will be gathered and disposed of at Christmas. Make sure you collect your belongings and take them home.