



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

The holidays are fast approaching with a great deal of excitement! The end of the school year always seems to arrive so quickly once the last term arrives after the Easter break. This time of year, means different things to each of us. So, whether summer finds us working, resting or travelling, it brings an ending and a new beginning.

Both pupils and staff alike have worked exceptionally hard. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our all pupils on their great achievements this year – from our school leavers who were awarded their President's Bronze Gaisce Award, to the success of our fourth Green Schools' Flag, for all certification accomplishments for our Senior pupils, to our Texaco Art Competition winners and for all the wonderful and enthusiastic participation in the Creative Schools Initiative and with our 'Restorative Practice' relational school culture journey and all our sporting achievements etc. We have enjoyed and celebrated many successes during this school year. I invite you to visit our website, www.stmichaelsholyangels.com, regularly for updated information on events and activities.

I would like to thank the In School Management Team, all staff, members of the Board of Management, parents/guardians and bus escorts for the commitment to the pupils of St. Michael's School. This was a very busy year and you played a big role in making it a success.

At this time, we think of our School Leavers and wish them every success and happiness as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We also wish the very best to staff members who will not be returning to us in September.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer full of excitement with relaxation and time to spend with families and friends. Enjoy the well-deserved rest and I look forward to seeing you all back again on Thursday, 29 th August.

Sharon Gorevan
School Principal

Summertime Greetings from the Editors Desk

*Time goes on far too fast,
And we wish these days would always last,
There comes a time, and here we are
It's time to go and chase that star,
But together or apart, you are always in my heart,
When I sing.....*

As the summer term here at St Michael's draws to a close there is a palpable sense of the swift passing of time. At our leavers celebration I was strongly reminded of this fact by the Dad of girl enrolled with us 14 years ago- it seems like just yesterday. I have a clear image of the pupils younger self in my mind..... can it really be 14 years ago? The months and years do indeed fly swiftly by. All too soon and with sadness we are saying our goodbyes to some until next year, to others a sadder longer goodbye.

The days have melted into weeks months and years- we share but part a of your journey. This is our privilege our pride and our joy. As I state each year -I /we hope the skills acquired lessons learnt , sense of self and collection of memories of school days spent here in St. Michael's are carried forward and sustain and support our pupils where ever they go. Each year an unique group of young men and women set forth for the next part of their journey in education. We hope they leave us appreciative of the wonderful young people they have grown into, appreciative of their many talents and abilities and aware of the power they have to plan and live the lives they wish for themselves. We wish the best for them.

Here in St. Michael's the work of all of our pupils is constantly celebrated it's what we're here for! Each achievement is named and honoured.

On sports day the whole school community participated in a range of activities carefully curated by Mr Jones and Ms Heffernan. Each individual pupil competed, participated and enjoyed a range of events planned to maximise engagement. Each pupil received a certificate confirming their active participation.

The whole school community has recently celebrated the many achievements and accomplishments of our wonderful pupils on School Awards Day. It's another opportunity to take stock and celebrate our pupils and their accomplishments across the entirety of school life. Academic, sporting and personal developments are celebrated. Outstanding progress

across the entire curriculum is acknowledged and publicly recognised. Personality traits and social skills which create a warm and caring school community are identified, acknowledged and rewarded. For each individual pupil it can be a story of hard work determination and struggle. For parents, teachers and SNA's it can be the culmination of much belief, hard work and commitment.

The wonderful performing talents of pupils have also been celebrated. They have been displayed to wonderful effect during the summer songs organised in the junior school this month to celebrate the magic of summer. It's a joy to see pupils sing with such confidence and skill. Similarly our school choir has excelled this year performing at masses, school leaver's celebration and in the choir completion. We have also enjoyed the individual performances and talents of pupils in dance song and musicianship.

The creative and artistic talents of our pupils have also been celebrated this year. Creative school's has given a wonderful boost to efforts in this area. Our pupils never cease to impress with their broad range of artistic talents. This year extending to the wonderful world of dance!! Working in a range of media, pupils have submitted beautiful work for our school exhibition and the Texaco National Art Competition. Congratulations to one and all.

We also have numbers of pupils in our senior school working towards and completing certification in the JC2 and QQI level 3. For the pupils, teachers and SNAs involved this marks the culmination of 2/3 years of commitment and hard work. This certification will form part of their CV's and will provide the basis for their next step in their life-long learning journey

Within classrooms the years' work has been completed and reviewed and school reports reflecting lots of hard work and a wonderful range of learning are written and ready to be posted. Teachers take time to reflect and share pupils' progress affirming the day to day learning that takes place, and the significant milestones reached.

The shared responsibility for educating and supporting our pupils each day involves a diverse team of highly committed adults: bus drivers, escorts, SNA's Ancillary staff, teachers and post holders. I am proud and happy to be part of this team.

Back to our school leavers.....

As we say our good byes to another group of young men and young women who are the school leavers of 2024. Our hopes for them are high. We have strived to provide an education which is so much more than lessons, academic subjects and tests. We hope that it is more "the lighting of a fire" (WB Yeats). For our pupils we hope that we have sparked an interest to always improve; to strive; to be the best that they can be; to never be afraid of new things, to learn; to have fun; to co-operate, to collaborate; to be kind and generous; to respect others; to share interests; to enjoy music; to enjoy sports; to be creative, to try out new things, to be part not apart. We hope that over their years in St. Michael's they've made great memories and great friendships.

As always at this time of year there is a palpable sadness at the imminent departure of our school leavers. With them in mind I've included a poem -an anonymous poem for parents which I think fairly represents our feelings here in St. Michael's.

A Poem for Parents

We give you back your children,

The same children you confidently entrusted to our care many years ago.

*We give them back pounds heavier, inches taller, years wiser,
more responsible and more mature than they were back then.
Although they would have attained this growth in spite of us,
It has been our pleasure and privilege to watch their personality unfold day by day and
marvel at this splendid miracle of development.
We give them back reluctantly,
For having spent years together in the
Narrow confines of our classrooms
We have grown close, become a part of each other,
And we shall always retain a little of each other.
Ten years from now if we meet on the street with your child,
A light will shine in our eyes, a smile will come to our lips
And we shall feel the bond of understanding once more,
This bond we feel today.
We have lived, laughed, played, studied, shouted, argued, sang, danced,
Hugged, tested, chatted and enriched each other's lives
We wish it could go on indefinitely, but give them back we must.
Take care of them, for they are precious.
Remember that we will always be interested in your children and their destiny,
Wherever they go, whatever they do, whoever they become.
Their joys and sorrows, we'll be happy to share.
We shall always be their friends.*

Wishing each member of our school community a rest filled, happy, peace filled sunny
Summer,
Kind Regards
Margaret O'Riordan

St. Patrick

Our class has had a very successful term. After months of hard work, good effort and a few bumps in the road, we have finally finished our Junior Certificate. Our JC2 folders are looking fabulous and are a true reflection of all our skills and knowledge.

To celebrate the end of our Junior Certificate, we made sure to pack lots of nice trips into June. We went to Dun Laoghaire to do water sports and have a barbecue. We visited the Ballyfermot Garda Station. We met lovely guards who even handcuffed us and put us in their Garda car and van! We also went to Blanchardstown for bowling and arcade games. It's been a great term.

We hope everyone enjoys their summer holidays after such a productive few months.

Ciara Murphy, Samantha & Angela

Green-Schools' Committee

After a busy two years, our hard work has paid off. In June, we received our new Green Flag for Biodiversity. We've planted trees, we've collected bins, we've upcycled old containers, we've created a classroom garden, we learned about the most important creature on our planet....the bee and so much more.

It's been a busy year and we're grateful for all the support we've received. A special thanks to the class of St. Vincent for helping us to collect the bins when we were unable to.

Thank you and enjoy your summer holidays!

The Green-Schools' Committee
Summer Term Newsletter

St. Mark's Class

We cannot believe the year has flown by so quickly in St. Mark's Class. Every day is busy with lots of teaching and learning taking place but most importantly there have been many moments filled with displays of friendship and kindness. The whole class has gelled together so well and they have enjoyed spending their spare time chatting about their interests and by playing games such as UNO, Jenga, magnets and sketching.

Some of our favourite things have been: - discussions in our Connect circle, enjoyment of the sensory bus visit, sports events in and out of school, making a personalized piece of bunting, the photography workshop, Seesaw on the iPads and, of course, school dinners!

Lisa, Shaun and myself are honoured to have witnessed the growing independence, strength and maturity of each pupil in St. Mark's Class this year. We have laughed and cried together through the year and have come out smiling. Well done Team St. Mark's!

Mrs Feeney

Croke Park Training Day

We are very excited to be heading to Croke Park on Monday 24th June with a group of pupils to attend a GAA training day. Senior classes have been working on their GAA skills in P.E lessons for the past few weeks and we can't wait to take part in what should be a great day.

Mr Jones

Sports Teams

I would like to thank all the pupils who have represented our school and turned up to training for our various events this year. Thank you to all staff who have accompanied the team to the matches, tournaments and training days. I would like to especially thank Leona and Jessie for their help in running the team sports training every Friday afternoon, we have had a large group of girls and boys each week and it's been great to see the progress everyone has made.

Finally, on behalf of myself and everyone involved with our various school teams we would like to thank the school leavers for their dedication and effort over the past years in representing St. Michaels School at our various events. You did yourselves and our school proud! We wish you the very best for the future and hope that you continue to stay involved with sport and activities in the future.

Mr Jones

St. Benedict's

We said goodbye to Ms. Naughton in November and welcomed Mr. O'Connell to the class.

We had a busy year and here are some of the highlights!

We began the Restorative Practice where we spoke about our feelings and more. Whoever had the giraffe (who we called Joan) could speak and everyone else listened.

We went to Farmleigh and had tea and a treat.

We took the bus to Liffey Valley and saw the movie *Wonka* at the cinema and we had food at McDonald's upstairs afterwards.

Another day we went to a *Simulated Driving School* and that was great fun. It really did feel like we were driving a real car.

We had lots of walks in the Phoenix Park, usually as an afternoon treat. We did a lots of great work with Mr. Jones and finished all our PE, Horticulture & Computer QQI work with him, Home EC with Ms. Mullan, Art with Ms. Collins and PE with Ms. Heffernan.

Mr. O'Connell's brother was recently made a Judge and he came to the school to tell us all about how the system works and told us about some of the sad cases he has had to deal with already.

We visited the *Criminal Court of Justice* in town and actually saw Judge Mark O'Connell working in the court and herdsman more sad real-life stories.

Ms. O'Riordan organised a great Music & Dance Week and we designed the posters for it. We also made Thank You cars for the musicians and had a lot of fun singing and dancing. It was a great week.

Creative Schools Week was great, too. We made brilliant art pieces in Felting - poppies in a green field and a big blue sky with fluffy white clouds like candyfloss. Ms. Farnan & Mary & Joan framed them for us and they look really beautiful.

Mr. O'Connell did Photography with us in St. Catherine's room. We took photos of glass and other things using a real camera and a big light and we took portraits of each other. Everyone will have a print to take home with them before we leave school.

As part of our Gaisce journey, we went into town on a Scavenger Hunt. We had to walk around and find 16 different locations around the city and we finished up with brilliant lunch at Captain America's restaurant on Grafton Street.

For our school trip, we went into town visit the *Jeanie Johnston* famine ship moored at Custom House Quay. The guide was really good and it was really interesting. Afterwards we walked across the Sam Beckett Bridge to see the *Diving Bell* and then we had lunch at a place called O'Neill's. It was a great day.

Months ago, teacher brought in an old brown locker and we spent a few months fixing it up. This involved sanding it, undercoating, more sanding, then two coats of two different colours of paint. Then, we ordered little mosaic tiles and carefully filled the top of the locker with them. The last things we needed to do were to do touch up, varnish it, line the 3 drawers and finally, fit the fancy new ceramic knobs we bought for the drawers.

We made a 10 foot long piece of art called *Wheels & Windows*, based on this big question Mr. O'Connell asked us: 'IN THE WORLD, ARE THERE MORE WINDOWS OR DOORS?' We never really found an accurate answer!

The finale of our year was our big *Graduation*. First we had a Mass in the hall and our families were invited and later that night, we all met at the Clayton Hotel in Liffey Valley where we had a great meal, danced and took lots of photographs. Thank you Ms. Quinn for organising such a wonderful day for us. It was the best event of our lives - so far! Our days in S. Michael's wind down over the next two weeks with Awards Ceremony, our Sports Day, Gaisce Awards and a special end of year Assembly. Then, we leave this great school and head on into the next exciting part of our lives.

Thank you everyone in St. Michael's for making our time here so much fun!

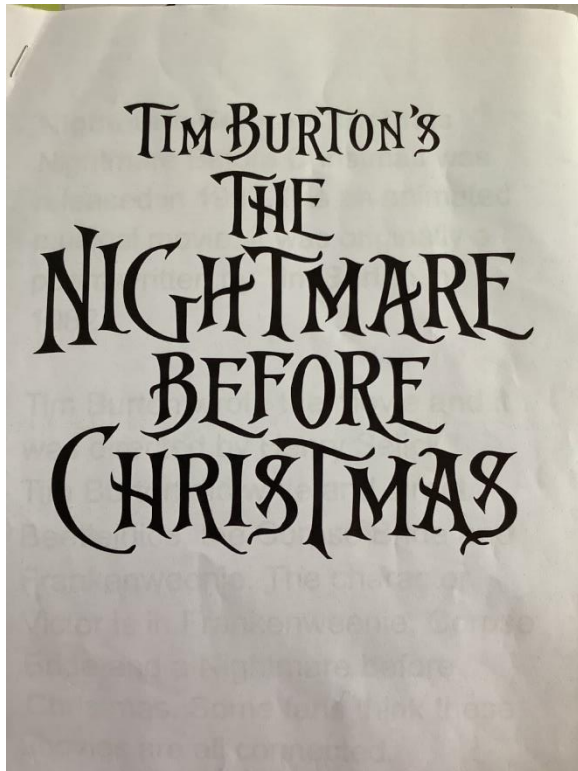
St. Benedict's

My experience of the Junior Cycle CBA in Oral Language

By Sophie Bourke

I did my oral language CBA on Tim Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas*. I carried out some research because I had to find out when it was released, who created it, directed it and produced it. I made a PowerPoint presentation and I spoke about 3 of the characters and then explained the story line. I brought in my popheads and the book that I have as props. I really like the movie so much and that's why I chose this topic. I practised at home and was very excited to do it on the day. I would recommend all 2nd years to do this.

Sophie



St Louise

The end of another school year for all the students in the class of St. Louise. It began with two classes, St Catherine's and St. Louise's and by October some students from St. Catherine's joined with St. Louise's class and it was a very successful merger!

We had a very busy year preparing our evidence for the Junior Cycle and learning lots of new skills. It was a wonderful experience for all the students who took part in the Junior Cycle CBA's in Oral Language at either level 2 or 3. Every single student put in a tremendous effort and with wonderful results. We had presentations on various topics: My Friends, Skylarks Rugby Club, The Travelling Community, Horses, German Shepherds, The Met Gala, St. Patrick's Athletic football club, Taylor Swift, A nightmare before Christmas, Alicia's Sports Activities and the famous Dance Moms. We are now all very tired and in need of a good rest over the summer. Wishing you all a wonderful and safe summer.

P. Muldoon, Leona, Mary and Siobhán

Junior Cycle

Last year's Students all received their Department of Education Junior Cycle profile of achievement certificates (Junior Certs) a number of months ago. I am sure they are very proud of themselves and the wonderful achievements in their completed Priority Learning Units as well as the short courses and the English CBA's. Congratulations to all.

Indeed well done to all the Junior Cycle students for their work this year. We are especially thrilled with all the 2nd year students who have completed their CBA's in English and their CSPE short courses and the third years who have finished the 3 year cycle. They can look forward to receiving their results in the new school year and certificates in early 2025.

News from St Francis Class

As June 2024 proceeds and another school year draws to a close we are reflecting on our time in St Francis Class. Pupils are busy completing QQI Modules, sticking photographs into memory scrapbooks, talking constantly about their wonderful Graduation celebrations (thank you Miss K Quinn – they had a fantastic time) and desperately trying to squeeze in more fun activities. In the midst of the fun we are feeling sad to say goodbye to eleven wonderful young people whose company we have had the pleasure of for the past two years. We have watched them grow in confidence with smiles on their faces and always a willing helping hand. We will miss them but are very proud of the strong young men and women they have become. We wish them all a lovely summer break and look forward to hearing how they are getting on when they visit us in the Autumn term.

Mrs Farnan and Mary Joyce

Pupils have reflected also and would like to share the following thoughts:

- Alex is going to miss refereeing the football with the juniors. His favourite memory is going out to football with Mr. Jones.
 - Roslyn is going to miss her choir gang. Her favourite memory was singing at Communion.
 - Devon is going to miss the Active School's Committee. His favourite memory is practising catching the ball with Simone.
 - Kate is going to miss doing the Student Council. Her favourite memory is going to the Choir Competition in Mullingar.
 - Saoirse is going to miss the staff. Her favourite memory is refereeing football with the juniors along with Alex.
 - Dylan is going to miss the staff. His favourite memory is doing the music speaker at lunchtime.
 - Patrick is going to miss the school dinners. His favourite memory is when he went to the Bike Workshop with Dylan.
 - Derek is going to miss going out on football trips with Mr. Jones. His favourite memory is when he was the alter server at the Confirmation with Saoirse.
 - Lan Anh is going to miss Art. Her favourite memory was the Gaisce Adventure Journey.
 - Simone is going to miss the staff. Her favourite memory is when she went to the Criminal Courts of Justice.
 - Darragh is going to miss his friends. He will always remember the Graduation.
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St Brendan

Congratulations St Brendan's Class on completing the JC2 programme. Everybody has worked so hard over 3 years and their folders are FULL of amazing evidence. It has been a lot of hard work but lots of fun too. New skills have been learned and new lifelong friendships have been made. This group of pupils have matured into kind and helpful young men and women, who are the best kind of role models to younger pupils in our school community. Good luck next year to you all and wishing everybody a safe and happy summer.



Carlos and Ms Hogg

Home Economics

We had a busy but very productive year in the Home Economics kitchen. During the year pupils worked on developing their organisational and independent living skills by planning, preparing and cooking a range of dishes. Some of the favourites included – chicken spice bags, chicken fillet rolls, homemade chicken goujons, berry smoothies, cupcakes, chocolate cookies, chicken and vegetable curry, chicken/vegetable stir fry. It would be great if pupils could find time to practice these skills over the summer. I would recommend the following website as it has tasty easy to follow recipes-

cookeryfundays.ie 

Also well done to the 22 pupils who completed the Home Economics Short Course as part of their Level 2 Junior Cycle and to the 15 pupils who completed the Level 3 QQI Nutrition and Healthy Eating Module.

Ms Mullen



St. Vincents Class

St. Vincent's class have had a great final term. They have been working really hard on some QQI modules and enjoyed a very interesting trip to the Central Criminal Court where they had the privilege to have a talk about the work of the Courts and saw a court in action. We finished off our term with a fun trip to footgolf and lunch in Liffey Valley. Well done to the whole class and we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.



Ms K. Quinn, Jackie and Amy

News from St. Gertrude's Class

St. Gertrude's Class have come to the end of their first year of Junior Cycle, for some they moved from blue jumpers to the senior section of the school, for five others it was their first year in a new school. It was a year of change for everyone and the students in St. Gertrude's Class embraced it with enthusiasm, maturity and enjoyment.

Pupils worked hard in all areas and particularly enjoyed some outings and opportunities offered to us. We loved visiting the Ark Theatre, The Draiocht Theatre, Photography Workshops, Active Schools Week, Sports Day, Horse Riding, to name but a few! Is it any wonder we are tired and in need of a rest during the summer.

We leave you with some of our 'Summer Flower' artwork and wish you all a happy and safe summer break.

Ciara Wilkinson, Siobhan & Anne



News from the Student Council



There were 16 pupils on the student council this year who worked together to fundraise and organise events in the school.

Fundraising

Pupils wore Christmas Jumpers to raise money for Barretstown, everyone wore green to raise money for Trocaire and we wore bright colours to raise money for Pieta House. We made posters and put them up around the school to let everyone know what the fundraising was for. On the day Student Council members went around to collect the money and then counted it.

Fun Activities

On International Student's Day the Student Council organised hot dogs and burgers and we had a little treat of ice cream afterwards. At Christmas we contacted the North Pole to bring the magic of Santa Claus into St. Michael's for a visit. He visited all of the classes to give them selection boxes. In February for Wellbeing Week we organized Yoga classes and the Half Term Disco. We reminded everyone about the importance of kindness in assembly.

We are getting ready for our Fun day on June 27th.

We are sorry to be leaving school. We enjoyed being part of a team on the Student Council and developing our leadership skills. We would encourage new people to stand for election for the Student Council next year.

Kate Dervan & Patrick Brady (Student Council members & school leavers 2024)