



3rd February 2012

RED SOKZ

Volume XI, issue IV

Hi Readers,

With a new term comes a new Redsokz team, which we hope will be as successful as the last! Some of this issues articles include Lough Derg Way part 2, interview with the new students, a review of the Christmas Carol Service, a sports section and as always, What's hot and what's not.

Everyone in 3rd and 6th year is stressed and nervous as they do the mocks, but we're sure they'll all do well. Good luck to all! At least we have the mid-term to look forward to, especially with the MUN trip to Denmark and the ski trip to Andalo in Italy.

We hope you all enjoy this issue, feedback is always appreciated and don't be afraid to give us a shout in our box in the duty room.

Emily and Emma.

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RED SOKZ

JOEL SIGNS FOR SHEFFIELD UNITED

Fourth year soccer whizz, Joel Coustrain, has just recently signed a three year soccer academy contract with Sheffield United.

Joel, lives in Ardnacrusha, Co. Clare and has put in his formative soccer years at Corbally United. He was 16 on Sunday 22nd January and celebrated this birthday by signing on the dotted line for Sheffield United.

He is staying at Villiers until the end of this academic year and then in July he will head across the water to train and compete with the Sheffield Youth team.

Joel has been propositioned by a number of English teams and made

the decision to sign for Sheffield after a brief stay there. His decision was based on the fact that he considers the academy to be the best and that the educational opportunities and facilities will ensure that he receives an education in addition to fulfilling his sporting dream.

Corbally United are sad to say Goodbye to Joel and will miss his soccer skills and scoring ability which he has demonstrated since he joined the club at the age of six. In fact this year Joel scored 27 goals in 17 matches while playing with the under 16's and 18's.

He also demonstrated his skill as a member of the Irish squad and reaffirmed the reason for the UK's

interest in him by scoring in all of his trial matches.

Villiers shall miss Joel greatly but we wish him sincere good wishes and know that he will one day return as a guest of honour.



FAREWELL TO MRS McDONNELL

With great sadness, but with sincere good wishes, we acknowledge the retirement of Maths and Irish teacher Ms. Eilish McDonnell from Villiers School and Family. She has given over 10 years of professionalism to the school and will be sadly missed.

As an Irish and Maths teacher she has ensured that the Irish and Maths department is a positive one and contributed to the achievement of high

grades in both these subjects. She will be missed by the Irish debating team and the various quiz teams that have been involved in interschools competitions down through the years.

Many students have benefited greatly from her help and will miss her in the classroom.

Ms. McDonnell's youngest son Brian also attended Villiers for his secondary education and in so doing continued the successful

'teacher-parent' trend that exists here.

As teacher representative on the PTA and as Form 5 Year Head her presence in the school will be missed.

Sincere Good Wishes from all of The Villiers Family, as you embark on the next adventure of travel beyond these shores.

Go n-éirí an bóthar leat!

So, just how do new students to our school become acclimatised and make new friends?

NEW STUDENTS, NEW ENVIRONMENT

Since Christmas, you may have noticed that we have gained a few extra slightly bewildered and lost looking students. These new attendees of Villiers School may feel a little out of place, but we rest assured that they have settled in and are enjoying themselves.

We talked to a few to find out how they were getting on, and received wonderful feedback. "At first, I felt daunted by the whole ordeal, but everyone was really friendly and now I feel right at home", one student commented. An-

other said that they didn't really know what to expect when they came here, but that they were welcomed with open arms.

When asked how they were getting on, one replied that they were "fitting in really well. I've made some new friends and it's going great".

Our new students are also embracing the after school activities, as one of our new girls has joined the Senior Girls Hockey team. We welcome her and hope she enjoys all the running that comes with it!

We realise how daunting it must be to join a school mid-way through the academic year and also how unnerving it can be trying to find your place amongst a class group who have had two, three, four or five years to get to know each other.

We are confident that all the students gave our new people a warm, hearty welcome and we hope that they enjoy their new school experience.

Sarah Winterburn & Joelle Fitzgibbon

ENTERPRISE MARKET DAY

On the 16th of January there was a market day for the TY Enterprise class. This class comprises of a project which take place over the whole school year. It involves students coming up with a business idea and setting up a company to turn the idea into a reality.

The students then run their business for the school year, hoping to make a profit and gain invaluable business experience. The students also take part in the competition Student Enterprise Awards.

The market day was held

for the first round of the competition. Two companies will be picked from Villiers to go on to the next stage and compete against other Limerick schools.

On the day, each business set up a stall and displayed their product. A judge came around to each group to talk to them about their company. He asked questions about how they thought of the idea for their business, who held which roles in the company and what the selling price for the product would be.

The class brought many business ideas to the competition such as a company who created a DVD for children with speech difficulties and a board game. Other companies set up a shop selling sweets.

The students don't know who has gotten through or not yet. Each company now has to write their business plan over the next few weeks for submission when they return to school in February. Good luck to everyone and well done on your enterprising ideas.

Ali Guinane





AGONY AUNT & UNCLE

Dear **Agony Aunt**, I'm upset about my social life because I don't have many friends. I really only have the one friend. For us it's not a problem we love it but we feel people judge us for being socially awkward. When people do try and talk to me I get really nervous and have to walk away. It is becoming a big problem and I could really do with your advice.

Dear Student, I'm sorry to hear you are having trouble making friends. Many people have this problem,

so don't feel alone. Getting involved in after school activities can help you make friends who have the same interests as you and your friend. It might seem daunting just approaching someone and starting to talk to them but they might be more nervous than you! You could simply ask them what the time is and what class do we have next. I'm sure many people would like to be friends with you and your friend but maybe think that you and your friend would just prefer to be on your own. Be more confi-

dent in yourself and you will have no trouble making friends in the future, I hope this advice is helpful to you.

Hi everyone, please feel free to drop your issues or problems, confidentially and anonymously, into our box in the Duty room. We will try our best to help you. However, we also want to point you in the direction of your class prefect, Form Tutor or Mr. McNair....these are always willing to offer advice and just be a listening ear.



YSI

For our YSI project, the social project that we are exploring is building bridges with another school in Limerick called St. Augustines.

We visit them in pairs each week and then they come and visit us. We also fundraised for a trip that we are planning to do with St. Augustines.

Last Wednesday a student and a member of staff came for a visit and spent the afternoon with us. We asked a couple of questions about what they thought of the school: "How was your day?" "We had a great day, we really enjoyed the day". "Was your experience here different to what you

thought it would be?" "No it wasn't, we thought that it would be a big school and the people are really friendly". "Did you like the food?" "Yes, it was really tasty". "What are the big differences between our school and your school?" "Well this school is massive compared to ours. Your school has loads more subject choice to do and has a lot more facilities than ours".

It was a great day overall for them to spend a day in our school and to see what it is like and it reminded us how lucky we are with the facilities we have here at Villiers.

Caomhe and Molly.

BAWNMORE

In Transition Year, every year two groups go to the Bawnmore centre in Limerick.

This took place every Tuesday when a group of ten TY students went to Bawnmore during triple PE. Each student was paired with candidate who they had to help take part in the games and challenges that were set up for them.

Halfway through the course the students were paired with a different candidate and at Christmas there was a special fun day with dancing and fun games.

Bawnmore was very much enjoyed by everyone and on

the last day there was a competition consisting of two teams. Everyone wanted their team to win. In the end the yellow team won.

Each student made their candidate a certificate for taking part. Everyone was sad at the end and everyone will be missed, especially Joey. Regretfully this was the only group going to Bawnmore this academic year. *Aaron Browne*



SPORTING

REVIEW

BOYS RUGBY

In early January, the minor boys played against St. Nessans and Villiers Darragh Oxley, Daniel Keely and Mervyn Hayes scored a try each. Darragh Oxley also converted one of the tries and scored a penalty. Villiers won by 20-12, which was a great victory. Under 16 Boys played C.B.S in a warm up game

for the upcoming shield game. According to team captain Mark Armitage 'we went out not expecting to win. We set the game tempo and got over for an early try which Stephen Atkinson scored from the back of the ruck. Darragh Oxley converted. Shortly after Glenn Morrow used his upper body strength to

drive over another try. Darragh Oxley missed the conversion but kicked a penalty later in the half. Mark Armitage, the captain, got a try by taking on half the C.B.S pack. The final score was 22-8. It was a great game in which Villiers dominated every scrum, ruck and play.' Well done guys. Similar results expected in all future games.

Sarah, Lucy & Sara

GIRLS HOCKEY

On Friday last the senior girls hockey team left school at half nine and headed out to Rosbrien to face Laurel Hill English in the first round of the Cup. Tip-off started at eleven with Villiers taking possession first. Villiers put up a strong opposition to Laurel Hill who had previously beaten us this year in the league. Unfortunately ten minutes in, Laurel Hill were awarded a short cor-

ner and managed to slip the ball past our keen defence. Motivated by this first goal, Villiers fought back strongly and fiercely. Just before the whistle was blown for half time a skilful ball was passed to Rachel Brickenden at the top of the circle who, without hesitation, shot it into the backboard making the score even. The following half was tense as each team tried to gain an advantage

over the other. Again an unfortunate goal was scored as a result of a Laurel Hill short corner. As hard as Villiers fought back, they could not achieve that equalizing goal as when full time was blown the score stood at 2-1 to Laurel Hill. This was a crushing blow to Villiers as this result means they will not continue in the Cup. Unlucky girls, hopefully next year!

Andrea Brislane

BOYS HOCKEY

Wednesday, 18th January, saw the junior boys play against Newtown in Waterford. They won 5-2, a great result and a great start to 2012. Jonathan Powell, Thomas Joyce and Aran Duffy scored a goal apiece, while Alan Sheahan got two past the Newtown defence.

thought they were well and truly beaten. According to Johnathan, "we were losing 2-1 at half-time and it looked like there was no way back."

However great team play ensured many plays like the one described by Aran and Jonathan; "At the start of the second half, Alan takes a tip, passes to Johnny who then plays a square ball to Duffy. Duffy quickly flicks out to Powell through two

opposing players, who in turn passes it to Adrian who sees Alan across the D, so takes his opportunity and passes to Alan who sends it unstoppable in the net." *Molly & Caoimbe*



Villiers dominating at Minor and U.16 level



Sheahan is unstoppable in front of the net



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ATHLETICS—CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

It was back to the good old days of ‘muck to the eyeballs’ in Salesians, Pallaskenry last Thursday, 26th Jan as the wet and mucky fields were turned by feet of enthusiastic participants.

Wintry showers punctuated the morning of the event but the races themselves were held in bright conditions. Underfoot, however, the damage had already been done and surface water pools and muddy patches made the flat really testing while the soaked topsoil offered little grip for the hilly sections.

Villiers entry this year was

smaller than in recent years and Tanya Cox was the sole school representative in the Minor Girls event. Tanya ran well and showed great staying power but unfortunately, didn’t make the qualifying places for the Munster Championships next month.

Luke Devine proved himself a tough competitor in the Minor Boys’ race, running into a place in the Munster’s with grit and determination. It might have been even better for him if he hadn’t had to rescue one of his runners from a patch of mud on the homeward turn but ‘one shoe on and one shoe off

he battled to the end for a deserved qualifiers’ place. James Howard ran impressively also but did not make the cut mark.

Things were about to get even better. Never headed in her race, Alice Sparks was more than impressive as she followed up her success in the Minor event of last year by claiming the Junior Girls’ title in some style. This was made richer again when Laura Cooke followed her home in a really brave third place. To have two runners in the medals in the one event is a first for Villiers, at least in my experience.

Three boys ran in the Junior Boys event and acquitted themselves well without making the qualifying places. Paul Lillis McMahon, Andrew Tutty and Enda Russell all did themselves proud.

In the Senior ranks, only Juliana Gleeson represented the school in the Inter Girls’ event. As the race distances lengthened the demands became greater for all the athletes, so great credit due to Juliana as she put in a qualifying performance for the Munster’s to join our previous qualifiers, Alice, Laura and Luke.

Mike Sutton

SPIKEBALL

Each year a group of 12 TY girls get the opportunity to take part in a Spike ball Leaders Award Programme. As there was a great interest in it this year, the girls’ names we put into a draw to determine who would do the course. The course ran for one and a half days at Scoil Carmel. The girls learned what the game of Spike ball was,

how to play it and how to teach it.

As part of the course the girls learned a lot about leadership skills. When the course finished they had to contact primary schools to see if they would be interested in learning how to play Spike ball. They then had to organise and hold a blitz in the sports hall. The

girls went to teach each primary school in groups of three every week and taught them for six weeks. As there was such a great interest from the primary schools, each group of three had two schools to go to.

Once every school has completed the six weeks, they will attend the blitz.

The girls have already had some experience with organizing a blitz, as they held a mini one on 23rd of January.

In total roughly 28 teams took part and the girls experienced what it is like to referee a Spike ball match, to keep the score and how to run a Spike ball blitz.

Emily, Emma & Ali

BASKETBALL

On the 16th of January, the senior and U16 girls basketball teams played Casteltroy College in our sports hall. Both teams put up a good fight, but were beaten in the end.

Our new scoreboards were used for the first time, along with the new nets, and they impressed everyone.

A big well done to all the players, including the cap-

tains Alex Molyneaux and Roisin Harrison. The next match will be against Gaelcolaiste Luimnigh in the school. Good luck to all the players!

Emily, Emma & Ali



What's Hot

1. Ski trip! ☺
2. Suits
3. Desperate Housewives
4. 60's Music 🎵
5. Lynx Africa

What's Not

1. Dubstep
2. Tracksuit tucked into your socks
3. Mocks ☹
4. Being forever alone
5. Mahoosive hoop Earrings!

Emma & Emily

Guess Who

She has an Australian passport.

She once jumped off a plane of 16000 feet.

She is a fluent French speaker and yet doesn't teach French.

She is a fantastic photographer.

She is always will to face a challenge and step out of her comfort zone.

Her mother would run rings around her in the computer department.

She started school when she was three and a half.

Happy guessing!

Sarah Howard and Caoimhe Gleeson.

OPERATION TRANSFORMATION KAYLEIGH

Congratulations to last years 6th former, Kayleigh Yeoman on her participation in Operation Transformation. Her courage and honesty is much admired and appreciated by all of her 'followers.'

To embark on a public acknowledgement of what has now become the 'norm' in modern day Ireland demonstrates great strength of character and no doubt this will stand her in good stead as she embraces the future with a new sense of awareness and positivity. We salute you!

SPANISH EXCHANGE

After the success of last year's Spanish exchange, on Saturday 28th of January, 15 students from the second year Spanish class travelled along with Mr. McCrohan and Ms. Sexton to Almería. This exchange will help them with their exam for the Junior Cert and will also give the students an insight into what Spanish culture is like for people their age.

Each student will stay for a week in a Spanish person's house. They will experience what kind of a culture their exchange partner lives in, what their school is like, what food they eat and what they do in their spare time. The Irish students will get a chance to see each other during the day at school and will also participate in activities together with the Spanish pupils and their families during their stay.

In March the Spanish pupils will travel to Ireland and will stay for a week with the Irish students. As the Irish students did, they will experience Irish culture and hopefully improve their English. The students are looking forward to the exchange and we hope it is as successful as it was last year. We are also looking forward to publishing the diary of the trip in the next edition of Redsokz.

Ali Guinane

ANNOUNCEMENTS/DIARY DATES

PRIZE DAY—Wednesday February 22nd
Breakfast Reception for Parents at 8.30am
Ceremony begins at 9.00am

PTA—Family Fun Quiz—Tuesday March 6th
School Sports Hall. All welcome and invited to participate.

Junior & Leaving Certificate Mock Orals:
Irish, French, German & Spanish

Irish—Monday 20th to Friday 24th
French—Wednesday 7th March to Friday 9th

Please consult your diary, teacher & noticeboard

Please refer to our website [villiers-school.com](http://Villiers-school.com) and our google calendar for further details on any of the above.