



Red Sokz



Volume I, Issue VIII

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Red Sokz is packed with:

- News
- Sports fixtures & reports
- Entertainment

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Christmas is here...



This is our last issue before Christmas. We have plenty of sports news for you and some announcements as usual. Our feature this week is a special interview with the former fifth year Rafael Maggion from Brazil about the role of foreign students in the school. As everyone is getting ready for Christmas we are very pleased that Red Sokz has managed to survive its first term of existence. This is a good sign for the future. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to Red Sokz articles and hope that we will get even more input in the new year. It is also the end of our Wonders of the Web article; however, it will be replaced by a new feature in the coming year. We would especially like to thank our very eager proof readers, Mrs. O'Sullivan and Ms. Storey, and not forgetting Mr. McCrohan for his help, while he was still busy setting up the ICT Suite. From everyone in Red Sokz, enjoy the read, good luck with the exams and have a very Happy Christmas!!



Features...

Interview

Two days ago Red Sokz interviewed Rafael Maggion in 5th Year on his views and experiences on being a foreign student in Villiers School. This was what we found out:

Rafael Maggion came to Villiers from Sao Paulo on the third of September 2001. He decided to come for the experience of living in a foreign country.

He had already studied English extensively in Brazil so improving his language skills was just a secondary reason. He feels that since he came he has matured a lot and that he has broadened the scope of his ideals. He says that he learned how to be more independent by learning how to look after himself. In his home in Brazil, like others in that country, he had maids, an example of how different Brazil is to Ireland, and he told me that he was very pleased that he had learned the practicalities of

living on his own. He enjoyed meeting new people and studying different subjects, such as Economics, which he said was a benefit of going to small schools here. Incidentally, Rafael thinks that he will probably become an economist when choosing a career.

I also asked him about the disadvantages of living in a foreign country. He said that it was difficult at the start as he was confronted by a number of problems which he had to overcome. The biggest of these, I think, was home sickness which he found, as others have, hit him in the evenings in particular. He found it was made easier because there were other foreign students in Villiers to share the problem with. He found the different culture difficult to get used to at the start, particularly the different school practices, with people moving from class to class rather than staying in the one room, and the "ways of living" as he described them, referring to staying with a house family. He found the food

different but said that he liked it. In Brazil, they eat with a number of different dishes placed on the table and everyone taking a little from each, whereas here we just have one plate of food from which to eat off. He said that in Brazil people are quite heavily influenced by American culture and a lot of the goods available here are available there as well. While they speak Portuguese in Brazil it is quite different to the language spoken in Portugal.

Finally, Rafael commented on how he was really surprised that he had encountered no racial or prejudicial friction in Villiers and paid many compliments to both the students and staff. He credited Villiers by describing it as 'relaxed', 'friendly' and 'a great school'. He enjoyed the extra curricular activities available in Villiers, particularly the tennis.

Red Sokz would like to thank him for allowing us to interview him and we wish him the very best luck for the future as he leaves for Italy and then home to Brazil.

By Shane Sibbel 4N



Sports News

Hockey Results

Senior Boys played a friendly match against Newtown yesterday . They won 5-1 with Eric Duignan scoring a goal off the post, Craig Cullen scoring another and Alan Delahunt scoring three spectacular goals for a 'lucky' hatrick!! All in all, we annihilated Newtown. The under 14 boys also travelled to Newtown with a large squad and also came away with a victory (2-1).

Good luck to Andrew Gray and Alan Milne who have made it to the next stage of trials for the Munster u/16 team. This team will compete in the Interprovincials in February on our one and only new astro pitch.

Both minor girls teams played Laurel Hill last week to carry on with their league championship. The minor A team won 7-0. Well done to Ashling Ryan and Gillian Lyttle, the goal scorers. The minor B team, however, put up a good fight but unfortunately Laurel Hill managed to slip one past our goalkeeper. This, however, did not diminish our sense of pride after the A team's extermination of Laurel Hill.

The Senior girls played Presentation, Thurles in another league match on Monday . They won 2-1.

The Minor A team also played Presentation, Thurles on Monday beating them 2-1 in a close match. Well done girls!

The Junior girls played their first cup match against St. Annes, Tipperary on Monday. Even after an intensive extra time the match came to a scoreless draw. It was moved to Wednesday where both teams met again, but this time on astro-turf. The match ended with a great victory of 2-1, Niki Sterritt scoring both goals.

Tennis

Jason Sibbel in second year played three tennis matches over the weekend in the u/14 Munster rankings. We are delighted to announce that he came out on top, winning all three matches to become Munster's no.1 in tennis. He will represent Ireland's best province as one of twelve people from the 32 counties in the National rankings next weekend. We wish him good luck.

Bouldering

Nigel Calender is now number 1 in Ireland at this sport. He competed in the first round of the Irish bouldering league to achieve this great honour. Last Sunday he came 2nd in an *International* bouldering Competition in Birmingham. Congratulations on behalf of the school.

Many of you probably don't know what this sport actually is and neither did I until I decided to find out more

Bouldering is climbing on rocks, indoors. There are set competition routes and the person who completes the course in the least amount of time wins !!!

Swimming

Villiers sent a number of our best to Bishopstown in Cork to compete in the Munster Schools Swimming Championship on 9th December. Sabrina King took 5 seconds off her previous best time in 100 metres Breast Stroke. Kevin McNamara competed in the 100 metres Back Crawl and the 100 metres front crawl against stiff opposition. John McCall put in a brave performance, reaching the finals of the 100 metres Butterfly and also doing well in the 200 metres Individual Medley and will now participate in the Irish Schools Swimming Championships. Ciara Hareward-Ryan has also reached the Irish Schools finals by coming 3rd in the 100 metres Breast Stroke and received a trophy. She also competed in the 200 metres Individual Medley. Well done to everyone who participated.

The finals will take place the Leisure World Bishopstown, Cork on the 8th and 9th of February 2002. We'd like to wish both Ciara and John the best of luck on the 8th and 9th .

By Nicola Sterritt, 4N

Rugby News

Two matches were played this week. Our under 15 cup squad assembled for the first time and travelled to the Abbey School in Tipperary town where they came up against formidable opposition and after a commendable effort were beaten 24-12.

On Wednesday our under 14s travelled to St. Enda's where they were convincingly beaten by a stronger all-round team.



Announcements The weeks ahead

Student Council News

The Student Council would like to thank everyone who gave money for Colours Day, it was a tremendous success. We raised approximately £430, half of which goes to Focus Ireland, the rest goes to the Student Council. This way we can maintain funds separate from the school's, so that the council can be independent from the administration in order to properly protect your interests.

The Student Council is in the process of drawing up a draft constitution and when this is ready (sometime early next year), we will have year representative elections for years 1-4. Then the provisional Council that now stands will be replaced with one that will last for a year and we can really begin representing you.

Lost Property

Mrs. Breen wishes to let you all know that there are "tonnes of stuff" in lost property. Check the notice opposite Reception. If your name appears, go to Lost Property. Due to the Christmas exams, opening times are changed to 13:20 on Monday, Wednesday & Friday for next week only.

Fashion Show

The fashion show was a great success on Wednesday night. This was the biggest fashion show ever with 43 models. It raised a lot of money which all goes to Self-Help. Mr. Penny would like to thank Laurie Bird, Jackie Hodgins, the 4th Boarder Boys, Gordon Ellerker and his team. Also, thanks to the Shimmer Band who provided the interval entertainment plus thanks to Hilary Thompson and Ann-Marie for all their hard work which paid off in the end and a big thank you to Mr. Penny.

Disco

The Christmas Disco was held last night. The Disco raised £825. The money raised also goes to Self-Help. Mr. Penny would like to thank Patrick Bird for his contribution.

Carol Service

Every student must attend the Carol Service on Friday 21st December at St. Mary's Cathedral. Remember to bring your blazers.