



# Red Sokz

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## Editorial ... Art

Three cheers for the Sixth and Third Forms who have just finished their mocks; lets hope they learn valuable, but not too harsh, lessons from the experience.

The revamped web site has been functional for a while now. We are constantly thinking of new and interesting content and features to add, so expect the site to get bigger and better. On the down side, few people are contributing to the message forum. Don't just sign up and never use it, get posting about anything related to the topics, unless you're afraid of criticism and other's view points.



From IV have been working very diligently under Ms. Kingston's guiding supervision in order to enter The Coca-Cola Form and Fusion Design Awards.

This is a visually exciting and highly educational competition. It first started out in a small classroom in 1998 and has now grown to attract over 200 students. It is open to 15-18 year old students.

The students have to group together to fuse ideas, materials, techniques and talents to create wild and wonderful costumes from waste materials.

Villiers has three groups going to Kilkenny on Saturday February 16th to present their costumes in a two minute performance to a piece of music which

the groups choose themselves. If they do well enough then they will be heading down to Millstreet Town, Co. Cork for the final.

Out of about 500 costumes only 30 will be chosen to go to Millstreet. It will be very difficult to get through to the final but Form IV have been working very hard on the costumes so we are all hoping that the hard work will pay off!

For pictures of the costumes, check out: <http://www.villiers-school.com/art>

Good luck to all involved!

*By Jane Hedigan, Form IV*



## Features

### Me and My Girl

Last Thursday and Friday night, the annual Transition Year Musical Production took place in the Sports Hall. The atmosphere was terrific as the crowds sat in their seats to watch the show. After months of preparation it was a huge success and I believe everyone who took part in it or watched it thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Transition Year once again would like to thank everyone who helped us put on the show, particularly Ms. S. O'Sullivan, Geraldine Mc Glynn and May O'Halloran.

Richard White filmed the production and we should be able to get videos out on sale at some stage, so anyone interested in watching Sir John and I drunk again, or any other of your favourite bits, keep reading Red Sokz to find out when they are on sale. It is always sad when good things come to an end, and Transition Year are temporarily under a cloud of anti-climax. However we all look forward to seeing more school shows and trying new activities in the future. From all the cast, thanks for your support!

*Shane Sibbel, 4N*

### The History of Valentine's Day

Every February, across the world, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday?

The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men -- his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice

of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl -- who may have been his jailor's daughter -- who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.





## Sports

### Hockey

After very successful half term we are looking forward to resuming outstanding Cup, League and Friendly Matches at all levels.

### Six Nations Rugby

*PREVIEW:* One weekend gone, and already it looks certain that this year's Six Nations contest is going to be between last year's champs England and their conquerers, Ireland.

Ireland showed Wales no mercy in their opening match this season with a rampant performance in Dublin. It puts them on top of the table, ahead of England and France who also opened with emphatic victories. It was England, aided by two first-half tries from former Rugby League star Jason Robinson, who looked the business with a record Murrayfield victory over the Scottish.

Saturday's showdown between England and Ireland promises to be a crucial game in this year's contest.

Check out our Features section for the remainder Sir David's Preview, his Review and his match predictions

<http://www.villiers-school.com/features>

*Sir David Clancy*

### GAA Skills

As part of the "Bright Young Thing" initiative we have something very exciting to report on, thanks to Bean Uí Riain and her team of enthusiastic Transition Years. They have successfully completed a seminar where they are learning about the workings of a committee system - no doubt a very useful life skill - combined with an area in which they have shown huge interest. The practical follow-up element is a skills session in ground hurling. A key element of this endeavour is to look at how they cope in a group situation and where they are learning a new skill. This is a three weeks skills development course leading to a Foundation Certificate in Coaching.

One of the main stars is Colin Worrell Form IV, who hails from Whitegate, Co. Clare and has played for his county at under 16 level. He is seen as Whitegate's answer to Kilkenny's D.J. Carey - with all their rivalry did Tipp. or Clare ever have anybody outstanding? We would like to thank the coach, Mr. Séan Herbert (Ahane GAA Club) and Mr. Gerry Bennis of Limerick County Board for their work with Bean Uí Riain. And a special mention goes to Philp Stokes Form IV, who has been elected Chairperson and has filled the role admirably.



## Announcements ..... The weeks ahead

### Villiers School - Our Community Online

The school website has been fully revamped. We hope you will notice the change! We now have some new features, including a message forum, where you can discuss school topics, also soon we will have Red Sokz online, so you can view it whenever you want to. The website is being maintained very regularly and we are looking for anybody with ideas or articles to be included in the website. We will soon have a collection of photos, from the recent Transition Year Musical, *Me and My Girl*.

### Debating Team - success!

On Tuesday 12 February, the Debating Team participated in a debate organized by the Revenue Commissioners. The motion was "The advertising of alcohol should be banned" and our guys were proposing. It was held in the lecture theatre against Salesians. Victory was ours. Congratulations to Sarah Holmes, Shane Sibbel, Sarah Hammersly and David Clancy. A draw was held afterwards for the next round and the team are against St. John Baptist on 4<sup>th</sup> March in Villiers. A big thanks to supporters and Mr. Rusk for all their encouragement and help.

### Chaplaincy Room

Students are invited to call in to the Chaplaincy room for coffee or tea and have a well earned break from all the books. The room is open most days at break time (11.10-11.30) and after school (until 4.20).

### Mountain Race

Congratulations to Colm Turner who won the Runners Association U17 mountain race on Mount Clara in Cork.

### Lost Property

Ms. Breen has informed us that there is far too much lost property. So please check the lists posted all over the school for your name and get down to lost property and collect it!

### Want To Be A Thousandaire?

Villiers Parent Teacher Association - PTA - presents "Want to be a Thousandaire?" in Jury's Hotel, Ennis Road on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm sharp.

Answer 14 questions and you could win €1,000. It will be a fully computerized version of the quiz show with multiple choice questions and help options. The event is in aid of Villiers Sports Pavilion Fund. Tickets are priced at €12.50 and will be available from any committee member or a member at the door. It is guaranteed to be an excellent night. We would like to thank the parent representatives (too many to mention) and teacher representatives Ms. Quinn and Mr. Jones for their dedicated work in the PTA. For more details on the Villiers PTA, events keep an eye on: <http://www.villiers-school.com/pta>

### Romeo & Juliet

On Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, the 2<sup>ND</sup> year forms 2P, 2M and 2Q went to see the Romeo and Juliet in the Belltable. To please our age group they added in modern props and sound effects and some of the costumes were modern. There were only six actors so everyone except for Romeo and Juliet played more than one part. They added in humor by having a male actor playing Juliet's nurse. Although they left out a few scenes and a character or two, it was good to see a Shakespearian play with a modern twist (and to get out of class!!)

*By Hollie Lawlor, Claire Grace, Rosemarie Keane and Pream Neote,  
Form II P*