



# Red Sokz

Volume III, Issue XII

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## Editorial

Welcome to the last issue of Vol. III of Red Sokz. We hope you've enjoyed reading the newsletter during the year; we'll see you around.

*By Barry Kennedy IVN*

### Goodbyes...

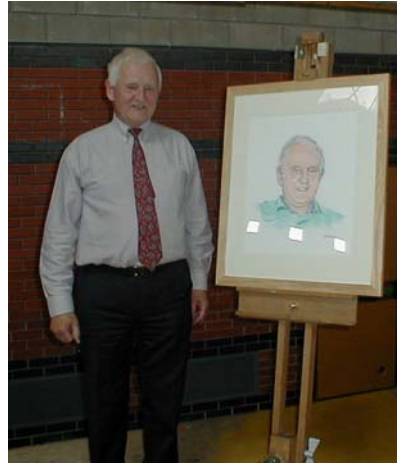
They're going, going, and soon to be gone. We speak of the Form VI students who got this started up this newsletter, believe it or not, three years ago. Through their hard work we've seen Red Sokz establish itself and we hope it will continue on into the future. We want to acknowledge their pioneering work and we wish them well in the future. Goodbye, Lads! We hope to bring you new volumes in the years to come; keep an eye on the website; keep in touch.

Today we're saying goodbye to some and gladly only *Au Revoir* to others; we think in particular of our International Students be from Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain etc. who have long journeys home.

We wish to thank this year's Red Sokz for XIII issues and in particular Barry and Jade for their tireless commitment to right through the year; they didn't miss a Tuesday or Thursday after School session.

*By John McCroban*

## Mr. Griffin.....



On Friday 14th of May, approximately 500 students filed into the Hall to surprise Mr. Griffin with a celebratory "This is Your Life" for his 40 years in Villiers, as he is retiring this year. Getting as many chairs into the Hall, and the stage set up without the ever watchful and observant Mr. Griffin knowing was no mean feat, but somehow the Student Council, greatly helped by the prefects and staff, managed to keep the surprise.

Mr. Griffin entered the hall to the tumultuous clapping and cheering of both pupils and staff, much to his astonishment, as he revealed later on, but we could tell from the surprise on his face

anyway!!

Shane Sibbel (Head Boy) and Sarah Holmes (Head Girl) hosted the event, introducing the guest speakers who were there to honour the occasion and share their memories of Mr. Griffin, from the time he started in Villiers in 1962, to more recent occurrences and acquaintances. These speakers included Jan O'Sullivan TD, Barbara Hartigan, Mr. Prestige, and some staff of the School, who were Janet Stokes (or Janet Bray as we all know her by now), Mr. Whisker, Dr. Johnston and Mr. Hardy.

Duncan Brickenden (chairperson of the Student Council) then directed a presentation of gifts to Mr. Griffin. There was one from every year: from Form I: a crate of coke, Form II: a box of fruit pastilles, Form III: 2 bags of coffee, Form IV: a mug, Form V: Solpadine and a key-ring and Form VI: a Homer Simpson tie, the latter being presented by Andrew Gray along with a truly remarkable speech. Then Duncan himself presented a rather more significant gift of a cheque for \$1,000, a heartfelt gift from all the students of Villiers for all the time, effort and love that Mr. Griffin put into his work throughout his time in Villiers.

Thank You again, Mr. Griffin.

*By Jade O'Mahony IVN*

## Features

### New Trees

The Red Sokz Team would like to welcome the seven new trees that were planted in the Villiers grounds on Action Day. The trees were planted for a project which is part of an attempt by the Green School's Committee to obtain a green flag for the School. Some weeks ago, the students all voted for the tree that they would like their year to have, and as a result of that vote the trees planted were:

- Form I – Beech
- Form II – Copper Beech
- Form III – Chestnut
- Form IV – Lilac
- Form V – Oak
- Form VI – Monkey Puzzle
- Staff – Red Chestnut

Four people from each year were as-

signed to planting their tree. Photos from this event should be on the intranet when we return to the School next year (it may be hard to remember then I'll grant you that! But when next you're on the intranet maybe seeing the Environment tab may refresh your memory.)

Sadly, the Form VI tree was a replacement for one of the Monkey Puzzle trees which stretch way back into the history of the School. The Monkey Puzzle that was pulled down must have a mention as it was a part of Villiers School, and the demolition of this dead tree is not without worth of some sort of recognition. It was knocked on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, during what was to become, for once, a very eventful prep.

A tree was also dedicated to Mr. Grif-

fin, he rescued it from its certain death some years ago. This tree is the silver perch tree that can be found in the middle of the circular bench in the Courtyard.

*By Jade O'Mahony IVN*

### Music Exams

If you saw a few nervous or uneasy people waking around the school last week, it was because the music exams took place. All day students were putting a year of hard work to the test. We should all hope and pray that they did well. The results will be out soon enough, hopefully.

*By Alannah King IVQ*

### ACCA Schools Business Challenge

The winners, today, awarding their winnings, €500, to Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin.



## Sport & Fun

### Action Day

Action Day this year was a huge success, with plenty of variety in sports to keep even the people with more unusual tastes happy. There were the usual running and jumping competitions, as well as the crazy obstacle course which has come to be known as a regular of Action Day, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Jones. Many had to watch their heads as over-enthusiastic partakers of Frisbee golf, mini golf and archery took aim. We noticed that the Seniors were conveniently forgotten from the archery list - apparently Mr. Lillis must have heard the false rumours that some of them were planning on using people as targets as they thought it would make the day more interesting!

Other attractions that were to be found on Action Day were stalls such as: the "Chubby Bunny" stall (where the contestant was obliged to fit as many marshmallows into their mouth while still being able to say the words "Chubby Bunny"); a Photo Trail stall; a cake sale and various stalls for charities; the animal welfare stall where you could either give money to the charity or adopt a puppy; the Chernobyl Burren Project where you could buy a paper nappy or banana, to be placed on the fence behind the stall with your name on it, for €3 which went towards this very worthy cause; and Dr. Johnson's annual tarot card readings.

Congratulations to the Green Team, who under the stern leadership of Ms Sexton, won the overall team competition on Action Day. Thanks to the Staff Committee and Student Organisers who worked very hard to once more bring us a

great day to remember. Thanks to everybody who took part for being such a great sport.

### Good Luck

Good Luck to Sarah and Roger Gray who are playing for Ireland in Bristol, England in July.

### North Munsters Athletics

Congratulations to all Villiers competitors who took part in the North Munster Athletics. The following people were those who qualified for Round two, the Munster Athletics:

Roger Gray .....	1st 800m
Paul Murphy .....	1st 2000m walk
Margaret Gleeson.....	1st 100m
Colm Turner .....	1st 5000m walk

Well done also to The Minor Girls who won the Best Overall Relay Team.

### Munster Athletics

On Saturday May 22nd, the second round took place in Cork. Of the students from Villiers, the results were as follows:

Roger Gray .....	5th 800m
Paul Murphy .....	1st 2000m walk
Margaret Gleeson.....	2nd 100m
Colm Turner .....	1st 5000m

Paul and Colm will go forward to the National Schools Saturday 5th June

By Jade O'Mahony & Barry Kennedy IVN



## Announcements ..... The weeks ahead

### Charities

Congratulations to Students and Staff on a very successful Action Day, Bands Night and Colours Day 2004. The nominated charities have received the following amounts:

Chernobyl Kids	€500
Animal Welfare	€400
Self Help	€500
Tree Planting	€500
Interact Radios	€500

*Student Council*

### ECDL

Congratulations to all the Form IV students who recently passed all their ECDL (European Computer Driver Licence) Exams. You worked very hard and will receive your well-earned Certificates in September.

*By John McCrohan*

### Scholarship Exams

Villiers offers three scholarships to incoming Form I students. Eighty young intelligent students, from primary schools around the country recently took these exams.

This year the Scholarships go to: Sarah Mooney, from Cloughjordan and sister of Llewellyn in Form II; Liam Jewitt from Feakle National School and Thomas Corrigan from Adare. Well done to those three and to all who we look forward to meeting next year.

### Exams

The Red Sokz team would like to wish well to all the students who have just finished their summer exams and Good Luck to all the Junior and Leaving Cert. students who are about to start their exams.

*By Barry Kennedy IVN*

### Classical Concert

The classical concert which we mentioned last issue has come and gone, and been a great success. It was a very professional and entertaining performance, with all musicians and dancers doing their best - and their best was great. Students from every year took part, and teachers had their own solos and duets as well.

The evening was rounded off with a finale of the Music Staffs version of "Summertime", with all of them taking part in it, and it was an amazing piece of work, with Ms. O'Sullivan really getting into character as she sang. Well done to all performers.

### Promotion!

It has recently been officially announced that the new Vice - Principal is to be none other than our own Ms. Quinn. Congratulations Ms. Quinn, and best of luck looking after "that lot" (ahem.. us..).

### Dastardly Deeds

On Monday 17th May, a murder was attempted in this very School, in broad daylight, by an evil scheming fiend.

Ms. Byrne (Room 9) of Home Ec and Biology was unconcernedly descending from the heights of the staff room when a vicious and uncontrollable plastic bottle jumped down from above her, with intent to kill. Its motives are as yet unclear, although authorities may have sourced that it was a hired assassin on the part of Ms. Lynch.

Fortunately, no permanent harm has come to Ms. Byrne and she returned to her classroom minutes later, apparently none the worse for her experience.

*By Jade O'Mahony IVN*