



Red Sokz

Volume IV, Issue XI

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Editorial

Welcome to Issue XI, our first issue in 2005. We would like to wish you all the very best for the New Year and we hope you had a great Christmas.

Things got a bit hectic here in Villiers in the last weeks in the run-up to Christmas. There was so much going on and we didn't get a chance to write about it, a good sign you will agree. Some of the stories in this issue are a little old as a consequence. However, given their importance, we felt that they still merited publication. We hope you will enjoy these stories and other newer news and features.

Plans for the Portuguese visit are well under way. The co-ordinating staff and student team are working on a press release and will get this news to you shortly. Keep your eyes peeled for out next issue. Suffice it to say, we will give our Portuguese visitors a huge Céad Míle Fáilte.

Main Stories

Tsunami Appeal

On Friday the 21st of January, the Student Council will be holding a Colours Day in order to raise money for this worthy cause. A fee of at least €2 must be paid by all wishing to avail of the offer to go uniform-free for the day. Student Council members will be around collecting next week – remember to pay early, as those who leave it until the Wednesday may have to pay double!

The S.C. will be holding a cake sale on the same day, so please don't be afraid to pig out on all the food you can buy! For those of you who can bake, donations of cakes and biscuits etc. would be gratefully accepted for sale on the day.

You may have already spotted the collection jars which have been strategically placed in both the café and the tuck shop for your convenience. You should be well able to lighten your purse whenever you feel it may be putting a strain on your pockets.

Every cent of the proceeds from the

above will be going to Christian Aid's Tsunami appeal. Christian Aid is responsible for distributing emergency packs to 50,000 families in the worst-hit coastal region so far while cyclone shelters which they built in the 1990s have also been the cause of many lives being saved. They are still providing shelter for thousands.

With the money raised from these events, we should be able to give Christian Aid enough to provide emergency shelter and food for a further 200 people at least, all going well. Please give generously so that we can achieve, or even exceed, this goal.

Jade O'Mahony VN

Language Corner!

How much of this can you make out?

Het gelukkige Nieuwjaar! Feliz Ano Novo! ; Feliz año nuevo! С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ. Glückliches Neujahr! Nous vous souhaitons à tous une excellente année 2005, beaucoup de bonheur et de travail. Bliain nua faoi mhaise agus faoi shean agat!

First right answer to Mr. McCrohan gets a prize.

Features

Prize Day

Prize Day was held on Friday, 3rd of December. The guest speakers were the Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Michael Hourigan, a local artist, Barbara Hartigan, Chairperson of the School Board of Governors Rev. J.M.G. Sirr, Barbara Schutz, former member of the Board. The special guest of the day was Mr. Michael Galwey former Irish and Munster rugby Captain. The Day was entertaining with short and memorable speeches. Michael Galwey then made a speech and quoted Declan Kidney's advice to the Munster squad: "Amateurs train until they get it right. Professionals train so that they don't get it wrong".

The Mayor that he "will support the new planning in anyway that he can". Michael Galwey presented the prizes to the students. Barbara Hartigan told us she "was not up on this stage for many, many years". She said that she used to always be at the back of the hall on Prize Days when she was a student, always polishing her shoes and taking out her

blazer the night before to make sure that everything was in order.

Kieran Sheahan & Brian Lillis

Learning Through Drama

On Friday Nov. 12th the Covenant Players gave an interactive drama presentation to all of Form 2 on the subject of **peer pressure & bullying**. Students joined in enthusiastically. Special thanks to Lydia Payne & Aisling McMahon for their help - they made excellent babysitters.

Mr. J. Lawes

Christmas Disco

The annual Christmas disco took place in the dining hall on December 8th and proved to be a great success as always. Despite the fact that Forms V & VI were not present, there still managed to be a great turnout on the night.

Paddy Bird or known to some as Patrick Birdthisle from the class of 2003 assisted the DJ who was brilliant as usual. Paddy proved very popular amongst the

younger female generation.

We would like to thank Mr. Penney for organising the whole event, the member of the PTA who and staff who pitched in to help supervise on the night; without their giving up of their free time there wouldn't have been a disco.

All involved had a great night. The cover charge of €5 has been donated to the well-known Childline, a very worthy cause.

Vance Power, Simon Brickenden, & Annalise Hurley

Inter School Show Jumping

Three students representing Villiers came in the top 10 in a show jumping competition on Sunday 14th November.

Jason Enright VQ and Jade Moore IIN took 6th & 3rd place and were very pleased with their medals, but Lorraine Quinn IVQ galloped away with 1st place. Villiers is proud to have such competitive riders. Well done!

Jason Enright VQ



Sport

Munster Senior Schools 2004 Report

On Saturday 11th December 2004, Villiers fielded a squad of swimmers who took part in the Munster Senior Schools Gala in Douglas, Cork. The swimmers were Anita Williamson from Form II, Danil Soloyev and Peter Shone Form IV, John McCall Form V and Ciara Hereward-Ryan and Kevin MacNamara, both Form VI.

The Villiers team met at the pool in time for the morning warm up at 9 o'clock sharp, looking very good in their team t-shirts.

The first swim of the day for Villiers was the men's 100m backstroke. Kevin quite comfortably qualified for the finals later in the day, in which he came 4th overall. After that it was the 100m Breaststroke. Anita, Ciara and Peter were all competing in this and all 3 of them swam Personal Bests with Ciara coming 5th and Peter getting Villiers' first medal by coming 2nd.

The morning session concluded with the 200m Individual Medley. Ciara and John entered into this event and Ciara came in with another 5th place whilst John got 4th. There races were followed by a short lunch break and then we were away into the heats for the 100m Butterfly. John took part and managed to win comfortably and get himself a gold medal.

Hopes were high for Anita, Peter and Kevin when they got ready to swim their 100m freestyle races with Peter eventually getting Villiers third medal of the day by coming 3rd.

The senior boys had been hard pushed to find a swimmer so that they have a relay team and Danil stepped in to fill the

gap. Danil, from Kazakhstan, is originally a triathlete, and his dad is the Kazakhstan national triathlon coach. So naturally, he seemed a good choice. In the medley relay they were second for most of the race, or until the last 5 metres where they were pipped down to 4th. It didn't really matter though, because they learned afterwards that they had been disqualified.

They couldn't dwell on that for long though with the freestyle relay coming up shortly afterwards. This time they managed to finish a strong 7th, ahead of rivals Árd Scoil Rís.

Overall, a good day was had by all swimmers with some brilliant times and a few medals too. Now we all look forward to the Irish Schools Championships which will be held in Abbotstown on the 5th February 2005. The qualifying times for this gala had to be reached in Douglas and our swimmers reached them comfortably.

Eric Callender IVQ, Peter Shone IVQ and Brian Lillis IVM

Hockey

Congratulations to the U15 team who played brilliantly on the 09-11-04, against Presentation Thurles School.

After arriving they played a very tiring match but they pulled through with a 3-0 win. Edel Martin had an excellent game and topped off this marvellous match with a beautiful 2 goals and not to mention Chloe Fanning who played superbly and scored 1 of the deciding goals.

Well done and good luck to them in their next match sometime next week we hope you will perform a stunning match like yesterday.

Naomi O'Neil 4N, Carmen Ramos 4M, Eamonn Fitzgerald 4Q



Announcements The weeks ahead

Laboratories

All the benches have been varnished and de-graftified. Please do not write on the benches and do not bring tippex into the labs.

Thanks for all your support last year in keeping the labs tidy and clean.

Ms. A. Mahon

Villiers Chess Club

The Chess Club meets on Wednesdays from 16:00 to 17:30 in Room 11. Beginners are welcome.

Last year two of our members played on Irish Teams, namely Emily Alfred in Form V and John Perrott in Form II.

This session, we are entering three teams in the Limerick League - Championship Section, Novices Section and Girls Only Section. Team members to be selected by early January.

Chess coaching at each session by Mr. John Alfred.

Christmas Dinner

We would like to thank the kitchen staff for the exquisite food. It was a big success and a great night was had by all that attended. The dinner was a three course meal starting with a mouth watering fruit cocktail. For the main course there was a plump turkey breast and ham. To top the meal off there was a delicious plum pudding.

Portugal Meeting

A meeting for all students and parents involved in the trip to Portugal took place on Sunday 12th of December. Pictures and information were displayed on a multimedia projector. The plans for the trip were explained, and dates have been set. They expect to arrive in Ireland on the Saturday 29th January and depart on Friday 11th February.

The Portugal committee wish to inform parents that a detailed letter and the proposed schedule for the visit will be posted next week.

Musical - DVD & Video

Could anyone who purchased a DVD or Video of the Transition Year Show please come and collect same from Mr. McCrohan in the ICT Suite.

Mrs. O'Sullivan's Form IV English Class

M.C.U

The Music Christian Union continues to meet on Tuesday lunchtimes in Room 26. All are welcome - especially those that can sing or play instruments. We hope to organise a Youth service this Year. Christian Union continues to meet on Thursdays - same time, same place. All are welcome.

Mr. J. Lawes

Fashion Show

This years annual transition year fashion show will take place on Wednesday March 2nd 2005.

There are well over 50 models taking part in the show this year and Hilary Thompson is doing great tutoring in preparation for the catwalk, as always.

Rehearsals are well underway and will take place on Mondays and Thursday at 13:30 to 15:30. As there is a huge number of people in the show this year Hilary is under a great amount of pressure and so we wish to ask all Form IV students to do their best in cooperating with her these next few weeks.

We're sure it will all be worth it on the night and we wish everyone taking part the best of luck and to "break a leg".

Nigel Drew & Analise Hurley