



Red Sokz

Volume IV, Issue XII

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

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Editorial

Welcome to Issue XII, it's the third week back from the holidays and already we are in the full swing of things. Forms III and VI are busy preparing for their mock exams which are coming very near. Teachers are busy finishing off corrections and yes, report writing in preparation for the up-coming Parent-Teacher meetings.

Form IV chose their sample subjects last week for this term. Lets hope that they have an idea of what they want to do in Form V.

Last Friday was Colours Day and we must spare a thought for the victims in the disaster zones in Asia. In the next issue we will bring you a full report on events here.

This issue speaks quite a bit on the Portugal project where we prepare for our Portuguese visitors, arriving on Saturday - Céad Míle Fáilte !

A well deserved thanks to Ms. M. O'Sullivan's Form IV English class for this issue of Red Sokz.

Main Stories

Portugal Project

In just one week's time, the Portuguese will arrive in Dublin Airport; they are getting a bus down to Villiers School. On their arrival they will be greeted by the sixteen Irish students and their parents. That weekend, the Portuguese students will spend their time with their hosts. Even though there is a lot of work still to do, we feel that it will be a huge success. During the past week a compost bin has been built, it is located near the small gate in the school, two more compost bins are going to be built while they are here. The projects are well under way.

During their stay here in Ireland, they will take part in various activities, including a historical walk of Limerick with Mr. Lillis and a trip to Bunratty Castle. We wish the Portuguese a very pleasant stay, and we hope that the Irish students will keep them alive for the two weeks!

Kieran Sheahan, Brian Lillis & Vance Power

Portugal Project - what's it all about?

The Portuguese exchange project is a language project funded by Leargas through the EU programme Comenius 1. Comenius 1 is open to all members of the education community, teachers, education staff and pupils. It tries to involve other organisations outside of school such as PTAs, NGOs and local authorities. The project is basically about:

- Promoting the use of information and communication technology in school education.
- Giving the opportunity to schools to learn a language through foreign exchange, promoting the learning of languages, and the standard to which they are learned, improving the quality of European languages as foreign languages, developing skills of less widely used and taught languages, encouraging people to be multi- linguistic.

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Features

Christmas Holidays

All overseas students have come back from their countries (Russia, Germany, Spain...). They spent wonderful holidays with their families and friends. Christmas is important in all our countries as it is in Ireland.

There are some differences, however. On the 24th of December in Spain we exchange presents. Another important day is December 25th, the tradition of 31st December is have a big dinner with the family and at one minute before 12 o'clock we eat 12 grapes. After 12 o'clock around 1.00 am everybody goes to parties as in the others countries. We also have The Three Wise Men where we get our presents on 6th of January in the morning.

In Russia and Kazakhstan they don't have presents on 24th of December. It is a normal day and they celebrate Christmas on the 31st of December where after midnight people get their

presents and they go to celebrate the New Year.

In Germany the tradition is to eat sausages and mashed potatoes, fish or goose on the 24th of December. They also get presents from Santa Claus as in Ireland.

So, as you can see, traditions are very similar in all our countries. Happy New Year to everybody!

Andres Arriaga Perez, Carmen Ramos Perez, Danil Solovoyev & Nacho Gonzalez

The Bottle Top Lie

Hoaxes such as collecting ring pulls, bottle tops and crisp packets known as "cash for trash", are set up to put people through pointless efforts and precious time in collecting light weight and worthless items for nothing.

In the 1950s/1960s foil milk bottle tops were collected from schools, sold by weight for a guide dog or a wheelchair. In the UK the hoax of "plastic bottle caps for wheelchairs" started in 2003

when schools, churches, clubs, websites and well-meaning people appealed for bottle tops. They were struggling to find a company to exchange the tops for this disability equipment. If the child, the disability, the company and the weight could not be identified it is a hoax.

The recycling industry runs on a tonnage basis. You would need something like 100,000 bottle tops to make a tonne. If they could be all got together in one place, they might be worth €50.

Even we "Villiers School" have been tricked by this unbelievably horrid scam. We wrote in an earlier issue and asked you to collect plastic bottle tops. Lucozade read our article and let us know this was a scam. They are not providing wheelchairs in exchange for bottle tops, and so we apologise to all concerned.

Naomi O'Neil, Catherine Manning, & Max Boblender Form IV



Sport

Horse Jumping

Congratulation to John O'Mahony IN who came 2nd in the under-14 Equitation Jumping and 4th in the Equitation Flatwork events in the National Pony Society's National Awards 2004. We wish John all the best in the future.

Basketball

There will be a Minor girl's basketball match against Scoil Carmel 'B' on Tuesday at 2pm in the school. The girls have been training hard and playing very well this season and we hope to be reporting a win next week. Best of luck, girls!

Hockey

There is a minor girl's cup match on the 26th of January. We wish them all the best of luck and we hope they will go far in this competition.

Congratulations to Simon Brickenden, Edmond Gleeson and Roger Gray who have reached the last 20 of the U16 Munster team. We would like to wish them best of luck and we hope they make it to the Inter-provincials on the 26th and 27th of February.

You might have noticed a bit of a tidy-up around the School during the week. It is to prepare for the girls U16 Inter-

provincials which are being held in Villiers this weekend. We are honoured to be hosting this great event and hope the weekend will be a success. Clare Conboy-Stephenson is part of the Munster squad and of course, we will be supporting her and the team over the weekend. Many thanks to Mr. Sutton for all his hard work.

Rugby

Villiers U-14 Rugby Team was narrowly defeated on Wednesday last against Crescent A.

In a very good game Villiers retained a large amount of the possession. Crescent were first on the score board with a well deserved try as a ring rusty Villiers side got to their feet to watch a fantastic conversion in the swirling breeze. A spirited display saw Villiers get one back through a powerful drive with Henry O'Grady at the front. Villiers failed to convert in the poor weather conditions.

Many newcomers played very well in particular James McMahan and some old reliables also played well on the day in particular Stephen Harvey, Chris O'Shea and the fiery John Perrot. The Final score was 7-5.

Colin Doherty & Simon Brickenden



Announcements

Swimming

There will be a group from the school going swimming every Wednesday afternoon. At Corbally Leisure Centre and costs €3 each time you go. A bus will depart at 15:30 on Wednesday and arrive back at 17:00. All are welcome.

Trad Group

Ms. Lynch is looking at setting up a Trad Group in the School. Anybody that can play an Irish traditional musical instrument is invited to attend a meeting this Friday at 13:05 in Room 23.

Date Change

Following last week's article, we would like to inform you that the date for this years annual fashion show has been changed from the 2nd to the **1st March 2005**.

Congratulations!

We are delighted to inform you all that Mrs. Gwen Carr recently gave birth to a beautiful young boy, Nathan James. We would like to wish her & her husband the best of luck as they get used to the coming months.

Form and fusion

As you know Villiers has taken part in the Form and Fusion competition in the last few years. This year is no different. We are sending off one group to the first heats on the 2nd February. The group consists of Rebecca Milne, Molly O'Connell, Carmen Ramos, Andrew Jones, Brían Lillis and Hetty Sanders. Good luck to them and we hope they get through to the next round.

International Time-Zone Clocks

The Form IV Enterprise group would like to notify all students that there are selling their International Time-Zone clocks which are part of the Young Entrepreneurs Projects and would be very grateful to anyone who may wish to purchase them! Those interested may contact Nathan Cardy, Annalise Hurley, Jonathon Cardy Angela Bird or Nigel Drew.

Annalise Hurley & Hetty Sanders IVM

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- Enhancing awareness of different cultures, supporting the fight against racism improving the education of migrant cultures, occupational travellers, gypsies and travellers.
- Enhancing European dimension of education, by promoting transitional corporation, between schools. The projects give pupils and teachers an opportunity to work together within the regular class activities on one or more topics of mutual interest.

Optional **project themes** are science, environmental education, cultural heritage, sport, racism, European citizenship or the use of Information Technology. The theme picked in Villiers is the **environment**, primarily because of the excellent whole-School involvement it offers. As you are aware considerable work has been done and success has been achieved through the work of Ms. Gowing and the Green School's committee where Villiers has achieved that programme's Green Flag.

All this however must be integrated with **language** as this is first and foremost a language project. We are very fortunate in Villiers to have a number of overseas students and might we add staff. These members of our community help make Villiers a very cosmopolitan one indeed. The project has actively encouraged the participation of speakers of Dutch, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, with of course Irish and English thrown in for good measure. There are speakers of other languages out there, if you'd like to get involved and bring a *cépla focail* from your language, we would be delighted to hear from you, and tell you more about how to get involved.

There are so many dimensions to this project. We hope the above has served to give you some idea of what the project is about. Our committee is busy working on the various elements of the project. We hope to bring you more information on this over the next few issues of Red Sokz. Meanwhile we eagerly await our guests next week.

Clodagh Meany, Molly O'Connell & Aine Pennello