



Red Sokz

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Editorial

Welcome to another, long awaited, issue of Redsozkz where you can find the latest Villiers news.

You will note that this is a slightly larger issue than those produced previously. This is partly because we have had a hiatus of almost seven months and because so much has happened during that time.

We have two pages of features, on a wide variety of topics, supplied by both teachers and students. In addition our sports department has been very busy so we also have almost two pages of sports.

So sit back, relax and catch up with the 'Villiers Family'. *J. Woods*

GREETINGS FROM HEADBOY & HEADGIRL

Allow us to briefly introduce ourselves to you. We are Matt and Edel, Head Boy and Head Girl, respectively. Being elected to these prestigious roles and representing the student body is a great honour and one that we intend to uphold to the best of our ability.

In these roles we have been given an opportunity to interact with staff on a non-academic level and this is quite a change for us. Furthermore, we have gotten to know many of the junior students and reacquainted ourselves with issues that face this section of the student body. This has been a challenge for us as we have tried and succeeded in many cases to put them at their ease and solve the 'major' issues, which we as senior students, on the final rung of the Villiers ladder, would normally have brushed aside as trivia.

We hope that we do you proud and promise that as the year progresses and we gain experience that you will note the improvement in our negotiating and speech-making skills.

Thank you for your support and we wish you a very Happy Christmas and look forward to working with and for you in 2008. *Edel & Matt*

Features

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK: A VISIT FROM iTHEMBA

In the last week of November Villiers hosted a group of young people in their twenties from South Africa. The team was called iThemba – a Zulu word meaning 'hope'. They were in school from Tuesday to Thursday, performing some dance, music and drama as well as leading a range of workshops. These dealt with the issues racism, relationships, AIDS awareness and attitudes towards drugs and alcohol.

Each day of iThemba's visit began with an assembly and a presentation, full of energy and vitality. It was intriguing to hear the hall and surrounding corridors resounding to the beat of Zulu drums. The sight of 300 students swaying to that beat certainly brightened up a few dull-looking November mornings. The warmth, good humour, joy of life and strong Christian faith that emanated from the group was felt by staff and students alike.

Their stay was rounded off with an enjoyable concert on both Thursday afternoon and evening, which included, musical and dance items from both Villiers students and the iThemba team. School on Friday seemed much quieter without them – we hope that they can come again and wish them well in their vision of spreading the message of hope and togetherness. *Mr J. Lawes*

GREETINGS FROM AN OLD-TIMER

You finish your Leaving, Certificate, get your offer and suddenly the world is at your feet, but you're facing it alone. No-one there to hold your hand, no teachers to chase you for the work. It's just you. A very daunting time, but not one to shy away from. You begin 6th year thinking 'I'm doing my Leaving', however by May that becomes 'I'm shaping the path for the rest of my life'. What you put into it, you'll get out of it.

By the time you get to first year at college you are well prepared because of what you take with you from Villiers. I went through a stage of questioning whether or not I had made the right decision because I found the whole experience quite different. It is fear of the unknown, time management, responsibility for my own actions, my own assignments, etc. but after awhile I settled down, found my feet and now feel quite at home.

My feelings are no different to any other first year student, but we have all worked hard and it takes time to settle to a new way of behaving. It is relaxed, laid back and funnily enough no-where near the amount of work or stress of 6th year.

My advice is to keep your options open, your feet on the ground, your study focused and listen to the advice of those older, and sometimes wiser, people who you meet on a daily basis.

While I was sad to leave Villiers and apprehensive about my future, I am forever grateful for my time there and will take many of the lessons I learned into my future. *Vicki Martin*



Features Continued

ENTERPRISE

This year, 4th year enterprise students have been participating in two competitions, run by the Limerick City Enterprise Board and Junior Achievement Ireland. A total of 47 4th year students have set up 10 companies providing a wide variety of products and services from cook books to electronic and fabric safety products.

These students have worked extremely hard for the past few months to come up with an idea, sell a product or service and produce a 20 page business plan. The fruits of their labour were assessed during a market day presentation on Monday 10th December to members of the Limerick City Enterprise Board.

Due to the high quality of the product ideas this year, we are hopeful that more than two companies will be selected to go forward to the City Schools Final in February. Well done to all involved. *Ms M. O'Brien*

FRENCH QUIZ

On 30th November, the Limerick Branch of the French Teachers' Association hosted a French table quiz in our school. The sports hall was transformed into a hive of activity for the morning as over 60 teams from schools in the Limerick, Clare and Tipperary areas assembled to compete.

Students competed in 10 rounds testing their general knowledge in addition to their knowledge of French Culture, French Film and French Music.

A team from Ard Scoil Rís was the ultimate winners on the day. Prizes were presented to the teams in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and each student was presented with a small token to acknowledge their participation.

The Limerick Branch of the French Teachers' Association would like to thank Mr. Hardy, Ms. Quinn and all the teachers and students who helped out on the day. *Ms M. O'Brien*

NIALL MELLON SOUTH AFRICA TOWNSHIP CHALLENGE

Mr. Kearsley and I, Mr. Jones, have just participated in our third township challenge with the Niall Mellon Township Trust. 1,300 volunteers travelled to Freedom Park, outside Capetown where 203 houses were successfully completed for families who were living in shack accommodation. Up to recently, these families survived without proper water and sanitation facilities.

We feel very privileged to have been granted the opportunity by the school to participate and have an impact in changing the lives of these people for the better. This would have been difficult to achieve without the continued verbal and financial support that we have received from the school staff, students and parents.

We would also like to thank Mr. Lawes for allowing us to make a presentation relating to the work done by the Irish volunteers during iThemba week. *Mr. T. Jones*

BUSINESS STUDIES QUIZ

On Wednesday November 21st twenty second-year Business Studies students travelled to Thurles to partake in a Quiz organised by the BSTAI in conjunction with The Irish Times. Over seventy-two teams took part and a most enjoyable day was had by all.

Thirty percent of the questions focussed on Junior Certificate Business Studies material and this proved a fun way to revise and check ones knowledge.

A team from Clongowes College was victorious on the day but that did not take from our students who acquitted themselves very well, with our five teams featuring in the top fifteen. *Ms J. Woods*

RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

The Resource Teaching Department are delighted with our new suite of purpose designed rooms, on the third floor of the new building. Each room is currently being equipped with a networked computer which will allow students to access their files just as they could in the ICT suite. We would like to thank the PTA for their generous funding which has allowed this to happen. Now that one term is almost completed both the students and Resource Teaching staff are assessing with contentment the benefits of this new development. *Ms. J. Storey*



Sport

BASKETBALL

Basketball is an exciting game allowing for maximum participation and fun. It is very much a growing game in Villiers and the future looks bright for future senior girls and boys teams. We are very privileged to have the assistance of Waterford Wildcats player Kristin, who shares her vast knowledge with us. We hope to put this knowledge into play when we partake in the Southwest Schoolboys Basketball League & Cup in 2008. *Ms T. Ryan*

ATHLETICS

The Limerick Cross-Country competition was held in St. Endas in early December and Villiers students acquitted themselves exceptionally. Mention must be made of Amy O'Donoghue, who won Gold in the minor girls, Luke Gardiner, 3rd in minor boys and Maurice Bryson, 5th place in intermediate boys. *Ms T. Ryan*

VOLLEYBALL

We have been taking part in 'Spike' volleyball, which is a four-sided version of the game. We have successfully hosted competitions in the school gym and it is a wonderful opportunity for our 1st and 2nd years to compete and learn in a competitive and skillful manner. *Ms T. Ryan*



Sport Continued

VILLIER GIRLS SOCCER

The Girls soccer season in Villiers school has started with great enthusiasm and commitment.. With both a 1st form and Junior team. The junior team are very excited at the prospect of opening a new chapter in the school's commitment to sport: for the first time ever they are heading to Newburyport, near Boston, for an international tournament.

Villiers played host to the Newburyport girls in May 2007. This was a very positive experience for the girls and the whole school community, involving matches and social events.

Villiers' squad of 17 girls, accompanied by coaches Emily Sexton and Ellen Dillon Devine, will be undertaking the return leg in March 2008. While in Newburyport, the girls will stay with host families, experience traditional American Easter celebrations and attend classes at a high school, as well as their sporting commitments.

The parents and students involved have been outstanding in their fundraising efforts, and they organized a table quiz in Villiers School on Wednesday December 5th and also a bag packing in Dunnes Stores in the Jetland Centre on the 9th of December. A sincere thank you to all who supported us.

Ms E. Sexton

GIRLS MINOR HOCKEY

After an unlucky start to the Minor Girls League, both of our minor hockey teams have made serious ground since returning after mid-term break.

Our Minor 1 team stormed to victory against Limerick Hockey Club Monday December 10th (4-0) and also had a convincing win against Laurel Hill Secondary School earlier in the month.

Congratulations is also due to our Minor 2 team, made up entirely of first years who are new to hockey. In spite of a lengthy warm-up period they too secured a smashing 3-0 victory against Laurel Hill Secondary School. They also showed fine form against Gael Cholaiste and Laurel Hill Cholaiste early on this term.

Looking forward to more successes for both teams in 2008.

Ms K. Crowley

BOYS HOCKEY

First Year training is going very well and we have competed, with great success, in several blitz competitions thus far. We have an excellent bunch of players coming through and the makings of a very good team for the future. We would encourage everyone to keep up their good attendance after the Christmas period.

The minor team are delighted to welcome George Blackwell back to the coaching staff for the second year running. He puts in tremendous work and continues to groom a minor squad who have had their highs and lows throughout the early part of the season.

We have a large overlap of players between junior and senior level who continue to give of their best. A mixed set of results thus far...they continue to improve and greater successes lie ahead.

Our annual tour took our minor and senior squads to Liverpool. Once again this proved to be a huge success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned. Six matches were played and a special word of thanks to Alan Whisker who was responsible for much of the organisation. Also to John McCrohan and George Blackwell for all their help.

Special mention must go to Roy Harvey who was selected to play for the Munster U16's and Roger Clarke for the U18's at the recent Interprovincial tournament.

Mr N. Atkinson

VILLIERS RUGBY: THE SEASON SO FAR

This season began with an amazing high with three senior students gaining full caps on the Munster 'A' Schools team. Trials began in late September in Glenstal and continued in Middleton over the next number of weeks. When the team to play Leinster was announced Rob O'Donoghue, Casper Lilburn and Steven Harvey found that they had made the cut. The lads acquitted themselves very well in the inter-pro match against Leinster which resulted in a victory for Munster.

All our teams made a good start to the season with friendly wins for the senior team against St. Clements and for the junior team against St. Nessans. The first year boys competed in a blitz competition which was held in Crescent College with two of our teams making it to their respective finals.

The cup campaigns this year unfortunately have not gone according to plan. The junior team traveled down to Cashel to take on St. Josephs of Borrisoleigh. The forward packs were evenly matched but Borrisoleigh had a back line that was very difficult to defend against and in the end we were defeated 24 - 5. The senior team started with a flourish traveling to Tralee to take on the lads from The C.B.S. It was a closely fought contest with both teams evenly matched and we secured victory with an impossible penalty kick from the half way line to secure to match 10-9.

Lets hope the New Year will bring all our teams more success.

Mr T. Fennell

GIRLS HOCKEY

The senior team has had a very busy season, with some narrow, dramatic wins and some decisive victories. In the New Year they head into their final league game against Laurel Hill Cholaiste.

The junior team has lost some fantastic players, such as Katie Campbell, Clare Casey, who have moved to the senior level. However, the junior squad is performing extremely well, with impressive wins over Presentation and Ursulines. In the New Year they will also head into the final stages of the league and the future looks promising.

The U 15 team has also played well but league honours look in doubt after a well fought defeat by Laurel Hill Cholaiste. Nevertheless, they now face the Crescent in the New Year in what promises to be a competitive game.

Mr M. Sutton



Transition Year

17TH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

The annual fashion show was held in October 2007 and featured many shy and not-so shy Transition Year students. The theme for this year was 'Old Hollywood' and under the guidance of Eva Byrne and Sarah Mooney the transition year team created an awe-inspiring set. The committee of Rebecca Coady, Fergal Moore, Sarah Carroll and Lainey Sheahan worked tirelessly to ensure that it was a flawless production.

A sincere thank-you is owed to Mr. Penny, our amazing compere, whose knowledge of style and fashion is amazing. Once the models were on the catwalk he took over and ensured that entertainment was at the highest level possible.

Thanks must also be made to our main sponsor Adeela Fashions, of William Street, and to Hillary Thompson and her models who taught us how to glide gracefully in high heels and tight skirts.

The fashion show was a fantastic success not just because of the great level of camaraderie that it inspired but also because of the fact that it raised over €7,000 for Self Help, a 3rd World Charity. Many thanks to all who attended and who helped out in anyway.

Rebecca Coady & Sarah Mooney

SCHOOL MUSICAL

For the last few weeks the fourth year students have been working really hard in preparation for this year's musical which is called "The Magic of the Musicals"

This, our tenth anniversary show, will take place on the 23rd and 24th of January and is expected to be a spectacular event. Excerpts from various show will be performed, including Blood Brothers, Hair-spray, Ms Saigon and Chicago.

Musical direction is again by the very talented Ms Sinead O'Sullivan. Choreography is by Gerdi McGlynn and Producer is May O'Halloran.

Seating is reserved and students, family and friends are advised to book their tickets in advance from Janets office.

Poppy Copland

EUROPEAN TY PROJECT

Congratulations and best of luck to Markus Benson, Poppy Copeland, Stephen Henihan & Kevin Real. They have got to the final round of this year's Understanding Europe TY project. Amongst other things they are producing a DVD which already has some very interesting content. Through their own efforts they managed to set up an interview with a member of the European Parliament. More will be revealed when the project is completed; we wouldn't want to give away any of their great idea. Best of luck guys.

Mr J. McCrohan

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The Gáisce award www.p-award.net is growing from strength to strength in the school. Senior students throughout the school are working on developing the four skills: personal, physical, community and venture. Only today we have had two Form V students complete their Bronze Awards. We look forward to the presentation of certificates on Prize Day. We encourage all participants to progress onto the next level of the award. With this in mind we plan to meet with Silver and Gold participants regarding possible venture activities early next term.

Mr J. McCrohan



Announcements

SPORTS TRAINING SCHEDULES

Please refer to sports notice-board for all training schedules. Full attendance is expected at training.

STUDY SKILLS SEMINAR

The PTA, have very kindly, in conjunction with the school agreed to sponsor a Study Skills Seminar for the 5th years.

This will take place on Tuesday January 8th and will be an invaluable asset to all students concerned.

DAVID COLEMAN— PARENTING & THE ADOLESCENT

Yet again the PTA have assessed current day needs and trends in relation to the secondary school student and have organised to bring well known and respected psychologist, David Coleman, to Villiers School.

He will give a lecture in the school on Thursday January 17th at 8pm. A large attendance is expected.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

January 30th Form 1

February 7th Form 2

JUNIOR & LEAVING MOCKS

The mock or pre junior and leaving certificate exams will take place from January 28th to February 8th.

**Remember to book your tickets for 'The Magic Of Musicals'
January 23rd & 24th**

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