



Red Sokz

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Editorial

Welcome back to Red Sokz. We hope that you will find time over the mid-term break to catch up with what has been happening over the past four weeks.

We are currently looking for budding journalists to augment the editorial staff , so please don't hesitate to apply for one of the many positions available.

Sam Ryan is currently our Acting Assistant Editor, but with the pressure of fifth form both Sam and I would be more than happy to have a few more hands on deck.

Also we would encourage anyone interested in having an article published to contact me at jwoods@villiers-school.com.

Thank you for supporting our newsletter and enjoy the break.

J. Woods (Ed.)

S. Ryan (Assit Ed)

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

It is with sadness that we offer our condolences to the families of former Principal Canon Gerard Magahy (1953-1961) and former Head of Boarding Mrs Doreen Ruddock (1963-1986).

Canon Magahy is hailed as the 'headmaster [who] brought change to out-dated schools that had no future'. In fact we at Villiers' owe a debt of gratitude to him as shortly after assuming the mantle of Principal he was instrumental in moving the small, 50 student, city-centre school to its' current site on the NCR. He had a vision at a time in the 1960's when secondary education was severely under-funded which saw him work closely with the Department of Education to ensure a review of a stagnant secondary school system and in no minimal way lay the foundations for the Villiers' of 2008.

Mrs Doreen Ruddock, former Head of Boarding and wife of former Principal Mr John Ruddock was an instrumental figure in bringing a wide variety of music to Limerick and to Villiers' in particular. The wonderful standard and wide variety of music that is heard throughout the current school campus is testament to the unstinting work and continuous encouragement engendered by Mrs Ruddock during her tenure here.

In extending our sincere condolences to the Magahy and Ruddock families, we remember both the Canon and Doreen with a huge sense of gratitude and thank them for laying the foundations for the wonderful school that we have today.

Villiers Students & Staff

Features

HIDDEN TALENT

Time to profile one of our new, young teachers, Yvonne Conaty. In addition to teaching Gaeilge at Villiers she is a member of popular Limerick band SENECA. Described as a 'propulsive, exhilarating, melodic, anthemic and energetic' band they have had many successes including winning the **2006 University of Limerick Battle of the Bands**.

2007 has already been successful for them with their song 'So Beautiful' being included on the Ceol '07 album which is a compilation of popular Irish artists.

In addition to touring around Ireland their debut single **SMILE** entered the Irish Charts in its first week at 33 climbing to 27 in its second week. The song is available for download from **i-tunes** via the usual methods OR by texting: **music 6 to 57501**

In November they travelled to the US to perform a double showcase at the [Colorado Music Summit](#) in Denver, Colorado. Much is yet to come from this band so keep your ears open for this popular band and their debut album due for release this year.

Ms J. Woods

MAGIC OF THE MUSICALS

So the Magic of the Musicals production has finally come to an end, cue much sadness from the 4th years and much relief from the teachers, who'll finally get us back to class!

This years show, as everyone who saw it will agree, was undoubtedly one of the best yet, with magnificent performances from all sixty-seven students involved. While we cannot mention everyone involved Vivienne Crowley, Gillian Hunt, David Howes, Sharon Leahy, Jesse Power, Josh Copage, Sarah Carroll, Lainey Sheahan and Sam Ryan have to be applauded.

Three shows were performed in total, one matinee and two evening shows, both of which were fully packed—much to our delight. The best loved songs from eight different musicals were staged including 'Blood Brothers', 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and Chicago, with stellar performances from Lainey Sheehan with Marilyn Monroe and Zoe McGaley Towle as Mama.

However, there would have been no show at all if it wasn't for the combined efforts of Gerdi McGlynn, May O'Halloran and of course Ms S. O' Sullivan, who collectively taught us all how to sing, dance and act—which I might add took several months and was no easy task!

So finally a huge 'Thank You' to everyone who attended and we lay down the gauntlet for the current third formers to match our performance.

Niamh Murphy & Anna Cottiss



Features Continued

LENT 2008

The word 'Lent' means Spring, a time of the year when new life becomes so obvious. At this time of the year, grass begins to grow again; buds appear on the plants and trees, and the evenings are getting longer. Lent is an opportunity to see how we are growing as Christians. For Christians, Lent is a period of 40 days during which we get ready to celebrate the great events of Easter Week. It is a period of preparation. It reminds us of the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert after his Baptism by John in the River Jordan. It has been part of the year in the Christian Church since about the fourth century.

During Lent we can think about what is really important in our lives, our relationship with God, our relationship with those we love, our relationship with all people, especially the poor and vulnerable and with the world around us. We might spend some time thinking about what may draw us away from God or even those who love us. We can also make sacrifices during Lent to help us to remember that Jesus made a great sacrifice for us.

In Lent we are called to give God his rightful place in our lives, at the centre. Lent is a time for all of us, no matter what age we are to become more mature and responsible in our dealings with others.

Ms. E. Sexton

FORMULA 1 TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Villiers has signed up 'Team Nebula' to participate in the Honda F1 Schools Technology Challenge. Team members Robert O'Donoghue, William Leech, Marion Carey, Matthew Pereira and Ciaran Castles are currently designing and manufacturing a model F1 racing car which will be raced against other participating schools in March.

This is an international competition which attracts over 45,000 students worldwide. The winning car will be judged on speed, design and presentation. Fifth year students taking part in this competition have been exposed to 3D modeling, virtual wind tunnels, graphic design, project management, and computer aided manufacturing, sponsorship and team work. Best of luck Team Nebula!

Mr J. Brown

TALLAGHT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

€270 was raised for Tallaght Children's Hospital by Ms Byrne and her 5th year volunteers, Alex, Anita, Aoife, Katie, Orna, Emma, Sarah and Raina. Students and teachers alike enjoyed the culinary delights prepared by the above team. A big Thank You to all who supported the cause and of course to our own 'Nigella', Ms Byrne.

Orna Daly & Emma Doherty

DEB'S DRESSES & JEWELLERY

Talented dress-designer within the school is available to make and design occasionwear/ partywear/informal-wear to suit all occasions. All designs are one-off pieces tailored to suit individual tastes. Sarah's designs have been seen recently on the catwalk at Villiers' Fashion Show. Please contact Sarah Hayes (5P).

Custom-made jewellery is available from Lisa Kelleher at 086-8118819. Why not choose something to match that 'once-in-a-lifetime' dress.

Sarah Hayes

CAVING

To all you uninitiated out there please come along and join us with Mr. Lillis on the next Villiers Caving Trip. Caving is a very good experience and you get to do all sorts of things, from climbing up and down waterfalls to crawling underground.

For those of you worried about getting wet or going into dark spaces do not worry as every caver is provided with waterproof gear and a helmet with a light. Keep an eye on the notice board for our next caving experience.

Kaelen Hanrahan, Steven Young & Rosanne Collins

FROM CALANSESCO TO VILLIERS

It was with apprehension that I walked in the gates of Villiers School on Wednesday 29th September. Would I be able to make friends? Would I be able to understand? Would they be able to understand me? All those thoughts went through my mind and the feeling in my tummy was not good.

My fears were unnecessary...I settled into life at Villiers and had made friends in a very quick time. The teachers were understanding and allowed me concessions when it came to expressing myself. This is sometimes quite difficult as I know what I want to say but can not do it properly.

The only negative thing is the weather and the amount of chocolate I eat. I link the two of them together as the rain, cold and dark of the Irish weather can be very depressing and chocolate is very, very good to lift the gloom.

Going home for Christmas was wonderful and gave me a chance to catch up with all my friends from home and to spend quality time with my family. Despite loving being at home, I looked forward to coming back to Villiers for the next term and to catching up with all my new friends over here.

Despite the weather in Ireland, especially all the rain that has fallen since I returned in January, I would recommend Villiers and Ireland to my friends at home and look forward to the rest of my time here.

Beatrice Lopez



Sport

JENNIFER LYTLE & KATIE CAMPBELL

A special word for some notable achievements from two exceptional players: Katie Campbell was selected for Irish U16 trials. Sadly, she missed the cut for the final places but nevertheless a notable achievement for this wonderful sports kid!! Katie, remember this is just the beginning, not the end.

Jenny Lyttle follows in the footsteps of very few previous Villiers pupils as she prepares to represent her country at U18 level. A wonderful, well deserved achievement. Congratulations and Best of Luck.
Mr. M. Sutton

BOYS HOCKEY

The boys hockey fraternity has been relatively quiet of late due to Pre's and TY activities. Nevertheless, two Borriskane men came to the fore with Llewellyn Mooney and Colin Crawford scoring our 2 goals in our recent 2-1 victory over Bandon Senior side. A famous scalp!

First year and minors travelled to Ashton last week for a friendly blitz. Both teams performed extremely well, narrowly losing and drawing their matches.

A special request to all players to make a huge effort to attend training over the coming weeks as our Cup Competitions are beginning.
Mr. N. Atkinson

GIRLS MINOR HOCKEY

So far so good for the new term. The minor 2 team were successful in their final league match of the season, securing a 2-0 victory against the newly established Gaelcholaiste.

In the past fortnight, the minor 1 team had two storming games against Crescent College and Laurel Hill Colaiste. They proved their obvious skill and talent in a 5-0 victory over the Colaiste girls on Tuesday February 5th. There's no doubt that next year will be a big one for these minor girls as they progress to U15. Well done to all involved.

Ms. K. Crowley

GIRLS HOCKEY

The **Senior Girls** have continued their winning habits. A narrow 3-2 victory of Ursulines, Thurles was followed by a more convincing 3-0 defeat of Crescent to bring the girls to the semi-final stage of the cup. They await news of who they are to play. More recently, a 2-0 win over Laurel Hill Colaiste means that Villiers complete their league programme with a 100% record, a great achievement which means they contest the Senior 'B' league final again this year. The Laurel Hill match was most notable for the return of captain, Edel Martin, who has been out for a considerable part of the season through illness. Welcome back Edel!

The **Junior Girls** have progressed in their cup competition with a home win against St. Anne's, Tipperary which sets up a match with Presentation, Thurles in the next round. Having dropped only one point in their league campaign the juniors are waiting to play Rockwell in their final pool games. A win will mean at least a play-off place but a defeat will spell the end of a brave effort all season.

The **Under 15's** have finished their league schedule with a defeat to a strong Crescent side. They have no cup competition at this level so competition hockey is over at this stage. These girls will form the main the part of next years Junior team so more friendly activity during the remainder of the season will be valuable to them.
Mr. M. Sutton

BASKETBALL

The Basketball leagues are up and running, with a number of boys and girls from first and second year participating in the South-West Basketball league. The first few matches have already been played and both teams did us proud, with the girls losing a well fought match to Caherconlish and the boys being just denied victory by just one basket.
Sam Ryan

ATHLETICS

All of our budding athletes should start preparing for the annual inter-schools competition. So, 'get your spikes on' and we hope to see you competing in Waterford next term.
Sam Ryan

VOLLEYBALL

First and Second years have been very busy developing their volleyball skills in preparation for the Villiers Volleyball Competition which will take place on February 28th. Hopefully, we will then send some teams to the Inter-Schools Competition which is taking place on March 4th.
Sam Ryan

SWIMMING

Calling all great Villiers swimmers: it is time to start preparing for the swimming gala which is taking place over the coming weeks. Check out your local swimming pools for lessons, as this is a great way to improve your technique/ skill. We hope to get all TY's out to Grove Island, during PE class, next term.
Sam Ryan

CHESS

Three teams have been entered in the Clare-Limerick Secondary Schools Leagues.

In both the Champions Title and the Girls-only Title the best Limerick teams shall go forward to the Irish Finals. This is nothing new to Villiers' teams as in the past we have been successful in taking the All Ireland Girls Title.

Forthcoming matches include Castletroy College, Ard Scoil Mhuire Bruff., Colaiste Chiaran, Croom, Crescent College, Limerick and Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh. We wish all competitors the best of luck and encourage them to emulate past successes.

Anyone interested in taking part should contact Mrs. Kearney, Room 23. Information is also posted on the Extra-Curricular notice-board.
Mrs. Kearney



Transition Year

TRANSITION YEAR - ACADEMIC

Students have completed the first sampling session of **academic subjects** in November. They started work a second subject in November and took a break for Musical rehearsals in December and January. Sampling for the second session will resume after the mid-term break and continue until the end of March. We would like to remind one and all that these sampling sessions play an important part in facilitating students' decision making re Leaving Cert. subject choice and their career aspirations.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME - LCVP

Through the title of **LCVP** we bring together many features of our TY programme. **LCVP** is an option we encourage students to seriously consider for the Leaving Cert (see more in <http://lcvp.slss.ie/>). In terms of TY, there is a pretty substantial **portfolio** of work due for submission on Wednesday April 9th 9:30 am - marks will be deducted for each day late; good practise for Leaving Cert. and beyond. **LCVP Portfolio** items include: Curriculum Vitae; Letters of Application & Formal Letters; Work Experience (Daily Diary, Final Report, Company Profile, Employers' Reports, Copies of 'Thank You' letters, PowerPoint Presentation - handout copy); Career Investigations; Junior Achievement - Success Skills; Appendix: all handouts during year, notes taken in all classes / LCVP assemblies. Please note this is home work that has been set from the start of the year.

CAREERS

Mrs. Sirr our **Career Guidance** Counsellor will see TY students individually for a slot beginning in March. If parents/ guardians wish to talk to Mrs. Sirr, at any stage, they are more than welcome to make an appointment through Janet. Three useful web sites regarding **Careers Investigation** and Careers Guidance in general are <http://www.qualifax.ie/>, <http://www.careerdirections.ie/>, <http://www.cao.ie> and the *Career Matters* section in <http://www.skool.ie>. We would strongly encourage students along with a parent/ guardian to look at these resources together.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD – GAISCE

Save for a handful of students, most of TY have signed up to do a President's Award <http://www.p-award.net>. The vast majority of students are set to complete their award this year; some exceptional work has been achieved thus far for which we must congratulate one and all. We wish all participants the very best and ask parents/ guardians to encourage their sons/ daughters along the way. These awards speak volumes about a person on a CV not to mention the boost to self-esteem gained by working towards and receiving such an award. A President's Award can be very valuable in terms of gaining entry into universities in the UK. The €5 entry fee is due from students before March.

ECDL

ECDL preparation is provided by Mr. Flanagan and all exam students are progressing well in their exams which are on-going. The ECDL qualification is an invaluable tool in the current world of work and we encourage all students to aim to complete a portion of the modules during TY.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Preparations for and the organisation of work experience may have been over shadowed by the musical. We must acknowledge the students' hard work in the preparation for their time experiencing the world of work: writing formal letter, compiling CVs, developing job-hunting skills and finally going out to work each day. Reports so far are A1 and we look forward to the return of our students to school and seeing their presentations on their experience of the world of work. These presentations will take place in the Lecture Theatre after Easter where students will present, using PowerPoint, to staff and their peers.

TY TEAM



Announcements

SPORTS TRAINING SCHEDULES

Please refer to sports notice-board for all training schedules.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE ORALS

Please note that Irish, French, German, Spanish, Russian and Japanese Orals are taking place from April 7th to 18th.

MUSIC PRACTICALS

Please note that both Junior and Leaving Certificate practicals will take place from April 7th to 18th.

FORM 3 TRIP

Form 3 trip to see The Merchant of Venice will take place on Thursday March 13th

STEER CLEAR

Due to the growing trend amongst our young people in owning and driving their own cars, our ever-mindful PTA have scheduled a 'Steer Clear' talk aimed towards students and parents of forms 4, 5 & 6. This programme provides specific modules to secondary school students and aims to ensure a safer driving experience for all.

We would urge all concerned to join us on Monday 25th February, at 8pm in the Lecture Theatre.

COUNSELLING/LIFE-SKILLS COACH

Please note that from Tuesday 4th March the services of a confidential Counselling/Life-Skills Coach will be available from 4 - 6pm. Students are encouraged to avail of this service. Further information, if required, is available from respective Form Tutors.

INTERNET ACCESS

We are delighted to announce that Wi-Fi hotspots are now available to staff at the Café, Sports Hall and Lecture Theatre and surrounding area.

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