



Red Sokz

Volume VIII, Issue I

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

3rd October 2008



Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of this academic year, where we hope to bring you up to date with what has happened over the past few weeks and what will happen in the forthcoming weeks.

It is our intention to publish a monthly issue, so please don't hesitate to contact the editorial team with gossip, features, etc. Additionally, anyone wishing to become involved in the publication would be more than welcome.

I would like to introduce our readers to two new reporters and editors, Rebecca Byrne & Claire Casey.

R. Byrne (Ed)

C. Casey (Ed)

GREETINGS FROM HEADBOY & HEADGIRL

Welcome to what is to be our last year at Villiers. It is a great honour to have been elected Headboy and Headgirl and one we hope to uphold to the best of our ability.

We hope to have a successful year and would like to offer our help to anyone who needs or wants it. We are here as a connection between staff and students, representing the student body in all areas concerning student life.

Furthermore, we will facilitate the transfer of information from the student body to prefects and vice-versa. 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. Our experience of school life over the past 5 years, and that of all Prefects, is invaluable when helping junior students solve issues and answer questions. As 'captains' of the prefect group we aim to ensure that each student is represented and treated fairly.

We promise that as the year progresses we will gain additional experience and that there will be an improvement in our negotiating and speechmaking skills.

J. Lyttle

D. Murphy

Features

MS SEXTON IN BRAZIL

Ms Sexton traveled to Brazil with SERVE during the summer along with 20 other Irish volunteers. She spent almost six-months working on raising funds to get there; from the school disco to selling flip-flops.

Not one to do things by half-measures, Ms Sexton spent a lot of money in the €2 shop picking up knick-knacks for the people she was going to encounter. Apparently, summer in Brazil actually produces heat and that bright yellow ball in the sky which is but a distant memory to the Irish encouraged her to purchase some summer clothes.

With clothes, gifts and sponsorship she headed off and learned how to measure, dig, lay bricks and plaster. In all, her group erected 25 houses replacing the mud houses that the families were living in. She was overjoyed at the happiness on families faces when they received a brick house as brick structures reduce the frequency of illness and disease.

House building was not the only task, as she got plenty of time to chat with the families, play with the children and experience Brazilian life. Overall it was a truly brilliant experience, which she would recommend to anyone.

Rebecca Byrne

SENIOR GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM TRAVEL TO SANDANDER

Following our successful, if at times frustrating, 07/08 season the senior girls hockey team traveled to sunnier climes in September to start off what promises to be great 08/09 season.

We had a very enjoyable hockey trip to Santander, Spain, early in September. Accompanied by Mr. & Mrs. Gray, aka Daddy and Mammy, we had a very enjoyable hockey trip.

We had no sooner landed, in sunny Spain when training got into full swing at Santander's sports complex.

Our first test was on the Saturday when we played Sandinero. The jetlag seemed to have an effect on our game and our Irish skin didn't seem to react well with the heat of Spain. We relaxed on Sunday with a lovely day on the beach and got to know a few local Spaniards.

On Monday we pulled ourselves together and put up a better fight against Racing Club de Tennis. Eventually with two matches under our belt and a few days of getting used to the sun we gave our best performance of the week in our final match.

The trip was even more special as two of last years sixth form players accompanied us. We had a very memorable week in Santander and extend a big and sincere 'Thank You' to Mr. & Mrs. Gray for taking such good care of us for the week.

Claire Casey & Sarah Condren



Features Continued

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

There are a variety of clubs operating in school each day of the week, outside of school hours. These vary from drama to language and from various debating clubs to chess. Over the next few issues we shall bring you information on each of them. In the meantime, should you wish to find out details relating to specific dates and times please consult the notice-boards opposite M1.

Furthermore, should you wish to set up a club please contact Ms. Sinead O'Sullivan who will be only happy to introduce new ideas to the extra-curricular avenue of the school. In this issue, Ms Mahon has provided us with information on the Craft Club, so please read on.....

Craft Club will be recommencing in October. It is open to boys and girls of any age. A wide variety of crafts are made, from badges to Christmas/ Birthday cards and jewellery and pendants to sweets and cookies.

Craft club is a great way to meet people and it also provides a great opportunity to create handmade Christmas and Birthday presents. The skills learned at craft club are ones that will be so handy when you are trying to get a personalized gift for someone special. Also club members are encouraged to come up with new ideas and crafts.

Please keep an eye on the notice-board for the start date.

C. Casey

ALISHA McMAHON

Villiers is renowned for its music tradition and not a term goes by without some development in the music department.

Alisha is flying the flag for traditional music and has made quite a name for herself as a harpist and fiddle player. In fact last year Villiers students were privileged to hear her as she gave some fine performances on the harp displaying her talent.

During the Summer of 2008 she competed successfully in the Clare and Munster fleadh. She then went onto represent Munster in the All-Ireland Fleadh where she was awarded 2nd place in the U15 Fiddle and U15 Accompaniment competitions. Much more will be heard from this fine musician.

R. Byrne

ABANDONED

I've been abandoned and you don't seem to care. You left me in the café and walked by me as you ran to get your lunch.

Your mother asked if you remembered when you'd last seen me and you shrugged your shoulders as if you didn't care.

I feel so alone, discarded and forgotten. Some people even describe me as lost.

Once I'm discarded I'm relegated to the LOST PROPERTY room on the 1st floor of the New Block.

Please come and visit me on Tuesdays at break-time and Wednesdays at lunch time. You might even take me home again.

ANON

NIALL MELLON SOUTH AFRICA TOWNSHIP CHALLENGE

Once again Mr Jones & Mr Kersley are preparing to participate in another township challenge with the Niall Mellon Township Trust. Along with 2,000 other volunteers they will travel to Freedom Park, outside Capetown and continue the project of improving the standard of living for some of its inhabitants.

This well established charity not only builds houses but ensures that local labour forces can continue the development once the volunteers have returned home. This venture brings together people from all walks of life, with a wide selection of skills and abilities. The sense of camaraderie and humility that one feels when taking part in this project is unrivalled.

Both pay tribute to the continued verbal and financial support that they have received from the school staff, students and parents.

T. Jones



Sport

BASKETBALL

Practice evenings have commenced for 1st & 2nd year boys and girls, as well as for U16's & over 16's. These take place every Tuesday & Wednesday. A new, very experienced and seemingly 'very good looking' coach has been signed up, so please watch this space or go to the Gym on relevant days!

The 1st yr boys are playing St. Nessans on October 9th and the U16 boys are playing Clements on October 22nd.

ATHLETICS

We have a very strong athletics team, with Irish Schools and European Champions.

If you are new to the school and are interested in athletics please make yourself known to Ms T. Ryan and Mr Sutton. It is also a good idea to take a look at the sports notice-board every so often.

VOLLEYBALL

Training has not yet started but keep an eye of the noticeboard for details on this fun, energetic sport.



Sport Continued

SPORTS TIMETABLE

Boys Hockey:	Mon & Wed 3.40- 5.00
Girls Hockey:	Tues & Thur 3.45– 5.00
Boys Rugby:	Tues & Thur - leaving school at 3.35 and returning at 5.15
Girls Rugby:	Wed - leaving school at 3.35 and returning at 5.15
Boys Soccer:	Fri - 3.15—4.00
Girls Soccer:	Mon - leaving school 3.35 and returning at 5.15
Badminton:	Thur - 3.45 - 5.00
Basketball:	Boys: Tues - 3.45 - 5.00 Girls: Wed - 3.45 - 5.00

Please keep an eye to the Sports notice-board for any changes to the above.

BOYS HOCKEY

This coming season promises to be a busy one starting with the annual hockey tour to Edinburgh which takes place from Wednesday October 8th to Saturday 11th.

This tour includes both U14's and Seniors matches will be played against George Watson's School, Inverleith Hockey Club & Stuart Melville College.

Edinburgh will be followed, on October 22nd, by the All Ireland Boys School Tour. After a 22 year sojourn, Villiers' is proud to host this 3-day event.

In what promises to be a spectacular display, schools from all over Ireland will compete for the coveted title. Matches will be played at Villiers, UL, Catholic Institute and Crescent College Comprehensive, with one of the semi's and the final being played at the hosts home pitch.

Closer to home the minors had a triumphant friendly against Kilkenny, while the Seniors, also playing Kilkenny were unlucky with the final result.

The Junior League began on a positive note on Wednesday 24th September and the minors started off the season with a friendly against Bandon.

Looking forward to a successful season.

All Sports articles edited by Rebecca and Claire after consultation with sports department

VILLIERS GIRLS SOCCER

As expected following a very successful last season the Girls soccer season has started with great enthusiasm and commitment. All teams are looking forward to continuing and maintaining the form of last season.

VILLIERS BOYS SOCCER

As you will note from the sports timetable Villiers' boys have begun a soccer team and intend to attempt to reach a standard similar to the one set by the Girls last season. This is going to be a tough goal to achieve but the boys at Villiers' are never ones to shirk at a challenge, so watch this space for news of their progress.

VILLIERS RUGBY: HOPES FOR 08/09 SEASON

Mr. Fennell, ever the optimist, hopes to achieve 'world domination' this coming season, citing an aspiration for the team to bring home the O'Brien Cup.

Meanwhile on Wednesday 24th September the juniors traveled to Middleton to play a friendly. They acquitted themselves very well and the score-line did not reflect the ability of the team. Much is expected from this very capable squad.

Denis Murphy and Cathal Reynolds did themselves and Villiers school proud when he gave a sterling performances as a members of the Munster A Schools squad against Connacht & Leinster.

GIRLS HOCKEY

SENIORS

The senior girls hockey team had a great season last year, qualifying and playing superbly in two finals. Despite not bringing home the silverware these girls deserve huge applause and encouragement for the forthcoming season.

This year there is a new face on the Villiers hockey scene, with former student and player Nicky Sterritt, taking up the position of Senior hockey coach.

Also, all the team send Best Wishes to Jenni, Ciara and Katie as they face the Munster U18 trials.

MINORS

There has been great participation by the minor girls at the start of a new season. On Wednesday 22nd September some very talented and committed Villiers teams took part in the annual blitz hosted this year by Crescent College Comprehensive.

While our division 3 team acquitted themselves admirable, our division 2 team were unlucky to have to miss out on the toss of a coin. Luck certainly wasn't on our side as our division 1 team narrowly missed out on a place in the final.



Transition Year

TY 2008/2009

Transition year aims to broaden the horizons of all students and this year the transition year team of Mr. Whisker, Mr. McCrohan, Ms. O' Sullivan, Ms. McQuade and Mr. Atkinson have worked extremely hard to come up with interesting and innovative modules.

In addition to providing ECDL preparation, Driving Instruction, Green Schools Committees, Enterprise, YSI, etc the team has included a variety of other module options. We shall bring you information on these over the coming publications.

18TH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

The TY's are currently 'strutting their stuff' for the forthcoming annual fashion show, to be held on October 22nd. This year's theme is Moulin Rouge and the organising committee are working very hard with Mr Penny and Hillary Thompson who are putting the reluctant and not so reluctant models through their paces.

The organising committee which includes Cian, Stephanie, Sarah, Kayleigh, Aisling, Robyn & Roisin advise you to please book your seat early for one of the schools most entertaining events while at the same time supporting the 3rd world charity Self Help.

MUSIC WORKSHOP

Over 50 TY students are currently preparing for the annual school musical, *Anything Goes*, which will take place in January 2009.

Students are being put through their paces in dance, movement, drama and music by Gerdi McGlynn, May O'Halloran and Sinead O'Sullivan. Casting has taken place and now the task of developing and becoming a new character is underway.

CRAFTMETAL WORK

The purpose of this module is to teach students the very ancient craft skills in metal. The technique goes back to the bronze age and has not changed since that period. Even the tools and punches being used today originate from that time.

The metal we use is copper. Samples of this work are on display in the metalwork section of the art room.

ARTS & CRAFTS

The TY's experience both 2D & 3D art and drawing and painting skills are improved upon. The class aims to expose students to a wide variety of world famous artists and make them aware that art can be seen in everything and everywhere.

MOTOR MECHANICS

This is a new module for TY students and creates the opportunity for TY's to learn the basics of car/vehicle mechanics.

Students learn how to change a wheel, jump start, change light bulbs, check oil and water, tyre threads, etc. These are skills that are vital for anyone driving any type of motor vehicle and are skills that are not readily available in any other setting.

Furthermore, these are skills that are required for the Driving Test.



Announcements

TEXT ALERT MESSAGING

Please note that the school will commence contacting families via text message in relation to event dates, etc. This facility is being funded in co-operation with the PTA and helps in creating a greener environment.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 7th	Form 2 Trip
October 14th	Form 1 Parents Evening
October 16th	TY Trip
October 25th	Midterm Break

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Once again Ms Sexton is organising Villiers contribution to Operation Christmas Child. Boxes are to be in no later than Thursday November 6th.

LIONS CLUB OLD GLASSES APPEAL

The Lions Clubs are collecting old pairs of discarded glasses on behalf of Vision Aid Charity. This charity helps the visually impaired in developing countries.

Please deposit old glasses in box in duty room by Friday October 17th.

**Remember to book your tickets for 'The TY Fashion Show'
October 22nd**