



# Red Sokz

Volume VIII, Issue 2

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

3rd December 2008



## Editorial

Greetings on this wet, windy, cold, slippery, icy, miserable, catastrophic, foggy and at times sunny December...wouldn't it be a wonderful country if we could roof it!

Once again, we are bringing you up to date with news of Villiers students and staff and their various exploits.

As an anecdote on how the recession works: I went to the ATM to withdraw some much needed cash & it spat back my card saying "insufficient funds". I left wondering were they referring to me or them! Can you answer that one? **Rebecca & Claire (Eds)**

### NEVER GIVE UP!

After three years of trying and almost getting there it's finally happened: 2006 saw Jenni Lytle reach the last 22 for the U15 International Soccer team, 2007 saw her reach the last 20 of the U16 International Hockey team and finally in 2008 she achieved the ultimate success and has earned herself a well deserved place on the U18 International Hockey Team. The moral of Jennies' story is to never give up trying - just take the knocks and use them to improve yourself and become a better player.

Jenni has acquitted herself at many sports at many levels, recently captaining the Munster Hockey U18 team for the Interprovincials and being awarded the Golden Boot Award for her performance with Limerick 37 Ladies soccer team.

So when and where did it all begin? She started playing hockey with Limerick Hockey Club when she was seven years of age and credits her skill in no small part to the highly talented coaches at that club. When she arrived at Villiers five years later she demonstrated her talents and is one of the finest players that the school has had. Her commitment to teamwork, both on and off the ball, is second to none and the pride and commitment she takes when playing with a Villiers team, which so far this season has a 100% success rate, is one that she intends to take with her when representing her country. *C. Casey*

## Features

### I'M A TEACHER GET ME OUT OF HERE

Our own Mr Lillis achieved celebrity status for a brief period on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Appearances on all television stations and articles, including flattering photographs, dominated the Irish media for approximately 24hours.

All jokes aside, Mr Lillis is one brave man...the likes of which we are proud to know. How many of us, trapped under ground for over 20 hours, would emerge smiling and planning our next trip?

Not one to be put off, four days later Mr Lillis embarked undeterred, with a group of enthusiastic cavers on one of his school-caving trips. This time there were no sudden tidal changes or major mishaps but the words on every ones lips were "I'm a Teacher, Get me out of Here".

Glad that you got out safely and are back with us at school!

### ALL IRELAND HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Villiers' was proud to host the All Ireland Schools Hockey Tournament from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of October. Mr Whisker, Mr Gray & Mr Atkinson were heavily involved in the organisation of the tournament, from sourcing hotels for the 16 teams to providing repast.

Four Munster teams, including Villiers, five Leinster and seven Ulster teams took part divided into four groups, playing at Villiers, U.L., Catholic Institute and Crescent College. Each team played three matches with the team with the most points from each group going forward to the semis.

Regretfully, Villiers did not get out of their group and the semis were played out between Bandon v Wesley and Ashton v St. Andrews. Two very tight semis resulted in a final showdown between St. Andrews and Wesley, with a finishing score of 2-1 to St. Andrews. Ms. Doreen Howe, the I.H.A. President, presented the cup and medals to the winning team. *R. Byrne*

### IRISH GUIDE DOGS

The Irish Guide Dogs Charity is based in Cork. Guide dogs offer a new lease of life to the visually impaired, providing them with a companion as well as a method of partaking fully in society. This charity relies heavily on voluntary donations.

In an attempt to raise awareness and funds for this worthwhile cause the IGDO are currently selling Cards and Calendars. These are currently available at Janets' office. *R. Byrne*



## Features Continued

### VILLIERS & THE ENVIRONMENT

We at Villiers are very conscious of the environment and on how our actions impact on it. With this in mind, TY's are involved in a Green Schools module. The Green Schools programme is about making schools more environmentally friendly and receives help from the Department of Education and the Department of the Environment.

Under the tutelage of Mr. Atkinson Villiers TY students are working towards achieving Green Flag status and in so doing making the school more eco friendly. Some of the activities the Green Schools students are involved in are designing bird-tables with recycled wood and also designing a bench with recycled wood.

Furthermore, we purchasing new bins to place around the school and are painting the bins currently in situ in order to try and raise awareness of them and to reduce the impact of rubbish on the environment. While the school currently houses compost bins, situated by the old pavilions the Spanish students are in the process of designing a wormery to placed over these bins.

Funding for some of the above will come from an indoor soccer tournament we are organizing for first & second year boys. Also the group are running a competition for the design of a Green Schools Logo. Closing date is 16th December. Contact Mr Atkinson or the TY's involved for more information. Excellent prizes are on offer.

*Niall Fitzgerald & Changwan Kim*

### YVONNE CONATY, SENECA, USA & THE WORLD

Lucky old Ms Conaty is touring the USA while the rest of Villiers are struggling under the weight of an economic crisis and bad weather. She gets to live the dream that maybe someday some of us will emulate.

The latest new from across the ocean is that Seneca have settled into their 'van-cum-home' and are travelling across the states gigging and making contacts with as many music 'bods' as possible.

They have had very positive responses in places like Eureka, Northern Carolina and Arizona, having the privilege of playing support to Bernie Worrell (Who? I hear you ask). For the uninformed he is ex-keyboard player with Parliament Funkadelic & Talking Heads. Watch this space for further updates.

*C. Casey*

### PAST PUPILS HONOURS

Many of the 2008 Leaving Cert students are well settled into life at 3rd level, both throughout Ireland and the UK. To date, word has filtered back to Villiers about three students who have been granted awards to help their further studies:

**Kevin Neville** received an entrance scholarship from Trinity after gaining 590 points in the L.C. exam. Well done Kevin.

**Diarmuid Quinlivan** was awarded the Irish Taxation Institute scholarship towards his studies. Well done Diarmuid.

**April Birdthistle** was awarded the Caherdavin Credit Union Bursary to help fund her 3rd level course.

*Rebecca & Claire*

### DYLAN MURPHY

TY student, Dylan has been selected as starting goalie for the Munster U16's hockey team. This is a great honour and one which is duly deserved.

Dylan began hockey when he came to Villiers in 2005 and has proven himself to be a fine, focused and intelligent player. He says that he always gets nervous before a game and this is probably what helps him to perform so well.

Dylan is also a member of Limerick Hockey Clubs Senior Team and Villiers U16 & U18. He is joined on the Munster team by 2<sup>nd</sup> year student Nathan Eacrett-Long and both follow in the footsteps of 5<sup>th</sup> year student Roy Harvey, who plays with the Munster U18's.

*R. Byrne*

### IRISH LIFEBOATS

The Irish Lifeboats organisation is a very valuable service for our island.

Volunteers from all walks of life help the RNLI to save lives at sea. Thousands of volunteers and staff give their time, skill and commitment, readily exchanging leisure, comfort and sleep for cold, wet and fatigue. Their lifesaving work is essential, often difficult and sometimes dangerous

Christmas Cards and Calendars to raise funds for the charity will be on sale in Dunnes Stores, Jetland on the weekends of 28th of November and 5th December.

*C. Casey*

### TY'S FUNDRAISE FOR ADAPT HOUSE

Located in Rosbrien, Adapt House is a women's refuge & support service providing safe, emergency shelter and support to women and their children who are subjected to domestic abuse.

Open all year round it provides a 24 hour helpline service, counselling for women and ongoing outreach support, information and help in relation to housing, legal aid, education, money matters, etc.

A group of TY's, guided by Mary Coll, member of board of Adapt, embarked on a fundraising event at Thomond Park during the Munster v All Blacks Game. They also took part in the launch of the '16 Days of Action' programme to raise awareness and funds.

Please see notice board if you wish to get involved in the '16 Days of Action'

*Ellen Battles*



## Sport

### BASKETBALL

The Basketball teams are in the midst of a very busy season, attempting to complete all their league matches before Christmas. The first and second year girls are involved in the Limerick League which consist of 18 teams. The teams in our pool include Newcastle West, Laurel Hill, Salesians, Desmond College & S.M.I. The teams are coached by Bean Ui Riain and by Stephen King of Limerick Lions.

The second years, under the captaincy of Lizzy Hegarty, were unsuccessful against Laurel Hill but played very well which gave them confidence for their victory over S.M.I on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The first years, led by Annie O’Gorman, also played a team from S.M.I. and while they were unlucky to be beaten they are developing a good team ethic and should find their form over the coming games.

The U16’s boys played in the Limerick Schools Tournament in early November and acquitted themselves well, taking third place, with Gael Cholaiste taking the silverware. They had a brilliant win over C.C.C. on November the 20<sup>th</sup>

#### TRAINING:

Mon & Tues: 3.30 – 5.00 (**Girls**)

Tues: 4.45 – 6.00 (**Boys**)

*Extra training can be organized on Wednesdays if significant numbers are interested.*

### SPIKEBALL

Spike ball, for those uninitiated, is similar to Volleyball but is geared toward a younger age-group. 20 TY students under the guidance of Bean Ui Riain and under the auspices of Volleyball Ireland are currently involved in providing coaching to students in six local primary schools: Meelick, Cratloe, Caherdavin Girls School, Scoil Ide, St. Nicholas’ Adare and St. Michael’s.

Volleyball Ireland aim to increase the number of women in coaching positions throughout Ireland and this is one of the methods they are using to achieve their aim.

A Spike ball Blitz will be held in Villiers on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January and Villiers TY girls will coordinate the event. They wish to thank everyone who supported their recent Bake-Sale

### VILLIERS RUGBY

This season has not had the start that we would have hoped for, nor is it reflective of our teams capabilities and heads now need to be lifted and a renewed spirit found if we are to perform well against Askeaton in the Kings Cup.

A disappointing loss by the Juniors against Glenstal Abbey was followed by a 12-13 defeat to St. Caimins in the Mungret Shield. Nevertheless, much was learned from these matches and rather than focus on the score-lines the team shall focus on the positives of their game and bring these to their upcoming games.

### BOYS HOCKEY

Villiers hosted a 1st yr Boys Hockey Blitz on Wed 12th Nov, which Kilkenny, Ashton, Middleton and Newtown attended. A very successful day’s hockey was enjoyed by all.

Villiers also hosted a junior boys blitz on Wednesday 19th November, which both Newtown and Ashton attended. A very successful day with many of our U14’s being ‘blooded’ on the juniors for the first time. They equipped themselves admirably and with commitment—definite success lies ahead.

The Senior boys were unlucky to be beaten by Ashton on Wednesday 26th November.

Representative honours: Congratulations to Roy Harvey, Dylan Murphy (GK) and Nathan Eacrett who were selected to represent Munster at the interprovincial Tournament at u16 & u18 level. Much more will be heard of these talented players.

### GIRLS HOCKEY

The Juniors played Ursulines and were unlucky to be defeated after putting up a brave fight. This disappointment was followed by a 2-0 win over Presentation, Tipperary. The girls are out again on December 4th, against Laurel Hill.

The Minors played three league matches over the past few weeks, and were unlucky to lose one. They are in the uncontrollable situation of relying on Castletroy being defeated in order to regain league position.

The Minors II lost to Presentation but are playing extremely well and developing as a cohesive unit, so successes will follow.

The Seniors had a significant victory over Crescent Comprehensive on Friday 28th November, with a final score-line of 6-0.

The U15 & Minor III play Ursulines in early December and all grades are due to play Laurel Hill before Christmas.

Under the guidance of M. Sutton, B. Gray, K. Crowley, B. Ryan & N. Sterritt all of the girls teams are committed to their training schedules and games.

**All Sports articles written by Rebecca & Claire after consultation with various sporting coaches.**



## Transition Year

### THE LIFESAVER PROJECT

This project focuses on the problems of Road Safety. Many schools attended the demonstration in The South Court on Tuesday 25th November. This involved a reconstruction of a fatal car accident. After watching the rescue services attempt to take control of the situation students were asked to watch a power point presentation on road safety.

It included hard hitting images of people affected by car accidents, which impacted on both themselves, their families and friends. Many students got upset while watching the graphic images. It was an eye-opening experience which will ensure that we all wear seatbelts in order not to become another statistic, similar to the ones we were shown on the presentation.

*Ashley, Nikolas & Graham*

### BAWNMORE

It's come to the end of our ten weeks with the special-needs athletes at Bawnmore. Each TY had been paired off with an athlete in order to work on various activities, such as balance, colours, numbers and senses. We even got to help them with their dance moves!

Bawnmore, while a serious challenge provides much fun and laughter. It was rewarding to see a smile on the athletes face and we learned many new skills, including patience, understanding and responsibility. Bawnmore is definitely a worthwhile and rewarding TY module.

*Clodagh H. & Ciara C.*

### TY FASHION SHOW

This years fashion show was a great success, with tickets being sold out well in advance of the show. Moulin Rouge was the chosen theme and the backdrop was adorned with eye-catching can-can dancers.

With over twenty boutiques displaying their wares and some great sponsors fashion show 2009 was the biggest one to date.

The finale was spectacular, with over 70 students, models, on the catwalk. A sincere thank-you goes out to Hillary Thompson and her excellent models. A special thank-you to Mr Penney & David Howes who put an awful lot of time and effort into making the show a success.

All monies raised were donated to Self-Help, a charity close to Mr. Penney's heart.

*Sophie Dalton & Peter Borland*

### YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS

YSI is a programme to promote social awareness issues within our society and to make a difference in the community. This years' TYs' are taking four projects to Dublin; Changing the Face of Limerick, Be Original, Be Individual and two, as yet, unnamed!

Under the watchful eye of Ms Sexton & Ms Dillon-Devine we have prepared our projects for presentation in the 'Speak Outs' in March. This will determine whether these projects will go ahead to the showcase in Dublin in May. Each project has a unique topic to discuss.

Changing the Face of Limerick hopes to give Limerick a better reputation. Be Original, Be Individual aims to encourage the junior cycle of Secondary schools to change the way they feel about their image.

One of the 'unnamed' projects is focussing on how individuals deal with the emotional side of self-image and self-efficacy while the other focuses on the issues surrounding underage sexual activity. The latter aims to change the mentality of teenagers and on how they think about safe sexual activity.

We would like to thank Ms Sexton & Ms Dillon-Devine for all their hard work.

*Alisha McMahon & Sarah Condren*



## Announcements

### CHRISTMAS EXAMS

Exams for Forms 1, 2 & 5 commence on December 17th. It's not too late to start studying, so put those heads into some of your books, please.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR PARENTS

**Dec 11th** Parent Teacher Meetings Forms 3, 4 & 6 (3.45-6.45)  
**Dec 16th** Christmas Dinner—Boarders  
**Dec 18th** Mock Interviews—Form 4  
**Dec 19th** Career Aptitude Tests—Form 4  
**Dec 22nd** Orienteering—Form 4

### SENIOR CHOIR PERFORMANCES

**Dec 14th** Thomond Park—12am

**Dec 21st** Thomond Park—12am

**Dec 21st** Banagher, Co. Offaly—6pm

**Dec 23rd** St. Mary's Cathedral 12am

### 3Q CSPE CLASS—BAKE SALE

Our innovative 3Q are attempting to adopt a penguin from Dublin Zoo. Please support their Bake sale on Thursday December 11th

**Remember to book your tickets for 'Anything Goes'  
January 28 & 29th**