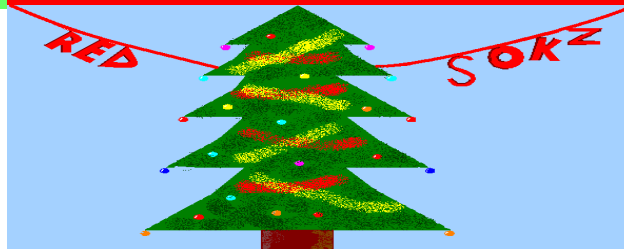


Redsokz



22nd December 2011

RED SOKZ

Volume XI, issue iii

We are sorry to say that this is our last issue as next term there will be a new group of TYs working on Redsokz. We have thoroughly enjoyed our experiences working on this Redsokz and we hope you enjoyed reading it!

For the final time, we have the reporters: Firinne Guerin, Mathew Browne, Caelan Verdakel, Katie Johnston, Emer Hayes, Claire Gunn, Graham Sturdy, Edel Forde, Alejandro Diaz, Jose Munoz, Emma White, Kate Healy, Annie O'Gorman and Sibeal Weatley. We would like to thank Ms. Woods for all of her help. We take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We urge you to be safe on the roads & we say a fond farewell to Mr. Lillis, who is retiring after 32 years of teaching.

School resumes on the 9th of January, so until then Seasons Greetings from all of the 4th Year Redsokz Team.

Credits:

Graphic Design: Caelan & Simon
 Editing: Firine, Caelan & Simon, Annie
 Publication layout: Firinne & Matthew
 Photography: Kate & Annie

<http://Villiers-school.com>

SANTA RETURNS TO VILLIERS



It has been fifteen long years since the man himself, Mr. Claus, has visited Villiers. This year is different though thanks to our new principal Ms. Storey and her three children Jessica, Luke and Kate.

We know that they have been very good as they can be seen around the place on their bikes and scooters, playing happily and helping their Mom & Dad in the evenings.

We've heard that they've written their letters and are hopeful that Santa can deliver what they've asked for.

The decorations are up and the long wait is nearly over. We remind Jessica, Luke and Kate to leave out plenty of food, including cookies, milk and mince pies for Santa and of course a carrot for Rudolph.

We would like to say a massive Merry Christmas to Ms. Storey and her family and hope that she enjoys her first Christmas in Villiers House. We hope that there are many more to come.

Kate & Annie

A Christmas Prayer

By Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving father,
 Help us remember the birth
 of Jesus,
 That we may share in the
 song of angels,
 The gladness of the shep-
 herds,
 And worship of the wise men.

Close the door of the hate,
 And open the door of love all
 over the world,
 Let kindness come with every
 gift,
 And good desires with every
 greeting.
 Deliver us from evil by the
 blessing
 Which Christ brings,
 And teach us to be merry
 with clean hearts.

May the Christmas morning
 Make us happy to be your
 children,
 And Christmas evening bring
 us to our beds
 With grateful thoughts,
 Forgiving and forgiven,
 for Jesus' sake.

Amen



RED SOKZ

Redsokz

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RED SOKZ

Limerick Lions

Thanks again to everyone who brought in food for the Limerick Lions Club food appeal. Just like last year it was a huge success. Students brought in tins of fruit and vegetables, pasta, rice, chocolate bars, biscuits, fizzy drinks etc.

Recently Mr. Noel Sexton (President of Limerick Lions Club) and Mr. Sean Murphy collected the food and they were delighted with the huge amount donated.

Mr. Noel Sexton 'on behalf of the Limerick Lions club

we would like to thank the students, staff and parents/ guardians of Villiers school for their generosity in the food appeal. This food will go to very deserving families in the immediate area which hopefully will bring some cheer to 17 families this Christmas.

We would especially like to thank the 6th year students for their help with organising the food and packing it into boxes and Ms. Storey and Ms. Sexton for their continued support.'

Food Appeal

Thanks again to everyone for their generosity. Happy Christmas to you and yours.

Ms. Sexton



The Great Debate

Monday 28th November saw Villiers host one of the heats of The British Historical Society's Great Debate. This competition, open to leaving certificate students encourages students to choose topics of historical significance to them and to argue their case. It takes history off the text book and encourages students to make connections with past, present and future events.

Schools in attendance, apart from Villiers, included Scoil Bheara Phobail and Castletroy College and topics varied from 'Why women of historical significance are absent from historical texts' to 'How we can prevent future famine in 'third world' countries by looking at Irelands Great Famine.'

Adjudicators on the night were MIC Head of His-

tory, Dr. Liam Chambers & his colleague, Dr. Clodagh Tait. Their task was a difficult one and finally Niall Mills of Castletroy College was selected to represent Ireland in the finals at Cambridge.

This was a successful night for all concerned and there is no doubt that the History departments at both Villiers and MIC will collaborate on similar events in the future.

Spanish students thoughts on life at Villiers

In the time we have been in this school we learned a lot and discovered a new country, another religion, culture, people, food. We are very pleased with the classes that we have in 4th year because the teachers get to be very entertaining.

The food is different, and we don't like it as much as the Spanish food because it is cooked differently. In Spain we cook more with oil so this gives a different flavour.

We did not know the sport of rugby, and we really like

it. We think it is quite dangerous but it is something new that we have learned.

We are really happy here and the people are very friendly generally very nice.

Jose & Alejandro





A Tribute to Mr Lillis

We will miss you.

LILLIS LOVES

Travelling
 All music (jazz, trad)
 Caving
 Farming
 History documentaries
 (wife gets annoyed as she would prefer to watch 'Antique Roadshow')

TEENAGE LILLIS

Brian Lillis was born in 1950 in Limerick and went to school on Sexton Street. He played hurling and still has a Munster medal for the under 16's. He was a rebellious teenager and was in a rock band called 'The Unknown'. He played lead guitar. He told us that one time, he was in a bands competition, and when he went out his guitar was out of tune, and he was very embarrassed! His favourite band growing up was the backing band of Cliff Richard, called 'The Shadows'. He wasn't really academic and he sometimes got beaten by the 'bloody leathers' by the Christian brothers at his school. After his leaving cert, he went off to university in Galway. It was there that he got into caving. He toured around the caves of county Clare, and even wrote a chapter of a book on the caves of the Burren.

IN HIS 20'S

Then, he decided to go off to America! He worked as a busboy in a hotel and when he had saved up enough money, he went on a road trip to Mexico. But just after they had crossed the border, the car

broke down, so he hitched 3000 miles back to Nashville, Tennessee.

He stayed a while there, but then made his way back to his old job in the hotel. This time he used the money to go on a trip to South America. He went to Panama, Jamaica, Negril and then Columbia. In Columbia he found a girlfriend and this is where he learnt Spanish. He left again after 4 months leaving his girlfriend behind as from his point of view 'it wasn't that serious' and travelled to the Amazon Rainforest. He travelled using the river in a small dugout canoe the locals sold to him. One night he stayed in a small village where the people were all wearing loin-cloths. They were all having a good time and gave Lillis 'a drink that must have been spiked'. He woke up the next day lying in a hammock in the neighbouring village, with a group of people staring at him.

After touring the Amazon and learning fluent Spanish, he went to stay with his cousin who was a Brazilian priest and who lived in the Rio Favaldas. The Favaldas are the very poor slums on the outskirts of Rio. He enjoyed Brazil and the beaches, and his cousin told him the priests had contacts in Gambia, Africa that he could stay with. He had heard it was 'the white man's grave' and he had to go. He didn't like Gambia that much as it was very diseased. He was supposed to have his first teaching job here, but the offer fell through and he was glad! So

he came back to Ireland and got his first teaching job in Villiers as a geography and history teacher in 1974.

LILLIS AT VILLIERS

He started work here in 1974 getting Jan O'Sullivan's job. In 1978, he started up the caving club and they did 'some pretty hairy stuff!'. They got an old van and fixed it up, and went on a caving trip to Northern Ireland, letting the students drive. On the way back to Limerick, the clutch on the van broke and they had to push it back home. There is currently a board up outside Ms.Storey's office with pictures from Villiers caving expeditions.

He married his wife in 1980 in Adare. She had picked Lillis over a different boy at the time. Lillis says he was 'the more serious type' and that 'she would have had a different and more organised life' if she hadn't gone for him. They went on their honeymoon to the Aran Islands and they had 'a great time'. He has five children, 3 boys and 2 girls. All the boys went to Villiers. He told us about the time he left his daughter in the car by accident when she was 3. We then asked him about the time he got stuck in Doolin Caves. When we asked him he laughed and said 'Just go YouTube'. He went down with two slightly younger men in their forties at around 4pm one day. It was an ordinary trip for the experienced cavers. But the tide backed up on two entrances and they got trapped. There was heavy

water against them and they knew time was limited. The other two left him to try a different route out but he stayed behind because he knew it was impossible. They left him alone on a ledge for the whole night and he kept pacing around to keep warm and he was thinking 'is this it?'. At 7am the next morning the guys came back to him. Outside the caves, somebody had seen the van, and called the guards who called the rescue team that they were all supposed to be on, and then civil defence came down with a helicopter from the North. The rescuers came down at 1pm the next day with food and water and medicine for pneumonia. The civil defence pumped out water and one by one they were hauled out. Mr. Lillis climbed out and saw all the TV and radio stations around him asking for an interview.

We asked him what he wants to do when he retires, and he told us about his dream of going to Papa New Guinea to go caving in an uninhabited area!

Mr. Lillis, you will be missed by everyone!

Sibeal & Edel





Road Safety Lifesaver Course for TY students



On December 1st Villiers TY students joined other TY groups at the South Court hotel for a presentation on Road Safety. On arrival we were presented with a fake car crash, involving two cars and actors. There was a woman stuck in the car and two men in the other. One of the men was dead and lying on the road while his drunken friend shouted for help and called 999. The ambulance arrived on the scene and pronounced the man on the ground dead. The Gardaí came next and arrested the man for drink-driving. He was distraught and was claiming he only had two pints. The mood among the crowd was tense and the scene shocked everyone. The fire brigade came, and cut off the top of the woman's car because that was the only way to get her out. The paramedics put her on a stretcher and her head in a brace and wheeled her onto the ambulance. The

forensic team came out next and looked at the scene, treating it exactly as a crime or murder scene would be treated.

The display was shocking and realistic and showed us exactly what would happen in the event of a serious crash. Following that, we quietly went inside. The mood had completely changed. A guard got up on stage, with a serious tone of voice. He had everyone's attention. He showed statistics on crashes and road accidents in Ireland, showing how often this tragedy occurs. He said it was more than likely that someone in the room would be involved in a fatal car crash. He was angry at the attitudes of people to road safety 'it won't happen to me'. He showed tragic videos of people who'd lost friends; family and partners to crashes, showing that it not only affected your life but everyone who surrounds

you. The videos were very upsetting, and a few people got emotional.

A paramedic gave an emotional speech, about how he has to break the tragic news to families and how the first reaction of car crash victims is disbelief, and if they survive, regret.

There was a chilling video of a girl whose face had been burnt because a drunk driver had crashed into her car, and it showed the man, now in prison, and how he is consumed with grief and regret.

At the end, somebody who had been in a car crash gave a speech; he described the toll the crash had had on his life.

It was a real wake-up call for everyone in the audience and we think the course changed a lot of attitudes that day. Funnily enough, not one person didn't have their seatbelt on on the way back to school.

Sibeal and Edel



School in France

I spent six weeks studying in a French coastal town called 'Saint Nazaire.' It was a rewarding experience. From the first day of boarding school, the people were very welcoming. The French school system is very different to the Irish one: we started at 8am every morning. Some mornings we even had an hour of study before class started! It was so tiring. Secondly, the classes were an hour long each. It was too hard to concentrate for

that long in a different language. The schools in France are also much larger, there were over 700 students in my school and it was considered a small school!! Also, different years didn't mix. For example, in Ireland the fourth years would be friends with some of the fifth years and would know most people. However in France the years are separated for the day. We had different lunch, class and break times. In

the French school we didn't move from class to class, the teachers moved for us. It was a weird experience. The French people are very different from the Irish, they give kisses and handshakes every morning, they don't play many sports and more than 85% of students in my school smoked. Overall it was a really enjoyable experience and I hope that we are as welcoming to the Spanish as the French were to me.

Annie



" THIS BUSINESS OF ENTERING PEOPLE'S HOUSES THROUGH THE CHIMNEY HAS GOT TO STOP! "



RED SOKZ

AGONY AUNT



Dear agony aunt,

I've had this girlfriend for the past seven days. I think I'm starting to love her. Should I tell her or will I wait longer? What if she doesn't love me back? I'm really worried about this coz I'm afraid I might just blurt it out and she wouldn't return my feelings. I'm so scared of getting hurt again. PLEASE HELP ME. From lovesick second year

Mock Interviews

In Transition Year we are introduced to a TY specific subject, W.S.C. or Work, School, Careers. This class prepares us for our future in the world of work. Recently we have been working on writing up good C.Vs and preparing for our very important mock interviews. These mock interviews are to help prepare us for what is to come

Spanish Quiz

On November 21st, Mr. McCrohan, on behalf of Villiers hosted a quiz for senior Spanish students. Schools from all around the region came to participate. A representative from the Association of Spanish Teachers acted as Quiz Master.

All questions were asked in Spanish and the teams of four had to answer questions on music, sport, famous places, fiestas, geography, history and people.

The quiz was won by a team from Castletroy College and one of the Villiers teams came third.

Katie

Dear lovesick second year,

You have only been going out with this girl for a week! It's very soon to be thinking that you love this girl. I'd say wait a while longer until your 100% sure you love her, as you might scare her away. You're only in second year and saying I love you may only be three words but can mean a lot and this girl may not want to be in such a serious relationship. Agony Aunt

Dear Agony aunt,

I'm really embarrassed at the moment, I've made friends with this other girl

in my year and we said we'd get Christmas presents for each other, She has already given me mine and its expensive benefit makeup and it cost around 30 euro. I've gotten her a scarf, and I feel so bad because it's so little. But I really can't afford anything else and mum and dad won't give me money to buy something more expensive. I'm too embarrassed to give it to her and I think she'll think I'm really scabby. What will I do? From embarrassed

Dear embarrassed,

It's the thought that

counts! We are in a recession and money is tight if this girl really is your friends just tell her that you're tight for money and that you can't afford to buy her anything more expensive, I'm sure she'll understand. Christmas is not all about the presents make her a nice card with some pictures and private jokes and I'm sure she will love it! Don't worry! Happy Christmas Agony Aunt

Remember, I'm here every edition so continue to leave your letters in the duty room.

when we start applying for jobs.

We have been learning all about what to expect in an interview and have practiced answering questions and what our body language should portray.

We've even practiced how to close the door of the interview room behind ourselves! Having done all

this preparation the day of the mock interviews came up on us fast. Last Monday four parents gave up their day to come in to do the interviews with us. We all had to look our best and even brought out the school blazers!

We went in four by four and we were interviewed for about four or five min-

utes each. We were all pretty nervous going in but soon found the interviewers to be pleasant and friendly.

I think everyone felt that it went very well. All in all it was a beneficial experience for us and one that will stand to us as we embark on our career paths.

Claire Gunn



Redsokz

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RED SOKZ

RED SOKZ

Girls Hockey

We are in the middle of another busy season, with 9 school teams involved in Munster League Competition. It is fantastic to see the enthusiasm and the levels of participation that is shown by our girls in Villiers.

The Senior team had a big clear out last year with the departing Form VI so this year's team is quite young in profile. They have had an unlucky start to their league programme having been beaten 2-1 in two well contested games against Laurel Hill Secondary and Rockwell. A December trip to Ursuline's in Thurles will prove a tough examination before the Christmas break. The Senior league format this year means return matches against the same three schools next term with a cup draw against the same Laurel Hill opposition in February.

The Junior girls have 2 teams in competition with the Junior '1' side starting with a convincing 6-2 win over Presentation, Thurles. Laurel Hill Colaiste visited N.C.R. on Friday for the team's second competitive fixture and another win set them up well for a push for honours after the break. Ursulines, Thurles and Rockwell await.

The Junior '2' side has won one and lost one thus far in their league programme, losing narrowly in their opener against Laurel Hill Secondary and winning 3-1 against Castletroy a few weeks later. Loreto, Clonmel and St. Anne's, Tipperary complete this league group.

3 second year teams are involved in competition with the 'A' team playing a grade higher than our teams have experi-

enced before. Home and away fixtures against Crescent, Ursuline, Thurles and Laurel Hill Colaiste is a tough programme. They played a strong Crescent team first in November and Crescent deserved their win but were flattered by a 5-0 scoreline against a courageous Villiers team. Playing with more confidence the girls beat Laurel Hill Colaiste 3-1 in their next engagement and, like the Seniors, face a tough pre-xmas assignment in Thurles.

The 'B' teams have played more competitive matches with the B '1' side losing narrowly to Rockwell (2-1) and Crescent (2-0) while beating Presentation, Thurles 4-1 and earning a scoreless draw with Ursuline most recently. The B '2's have enjoyed a 2-0 win over Gaelcholaiste, drew with Castletroy 0-0 and suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat to Ursuline, Thurles. Loreto, Clonmel provide the opposition next week and a match next term with Laurel Hill Secondary will complete their programme.

The 1st year girls also field 3 teams. The A team found the going tough against Crescent, going down 5-0 while they fared better against the two Laurel Hill teams, drawing 0-0 with one and winning 3-0 against the other. The B team had a tough assignment with Crescent and suffered single goal defeats against Presentation and Ursuline, from Thurles. A scoreless draw with Laurel Hill Colaiste has given them their only point but the group is developing fast. The B'2' side has played two league fixtures losing out 3-1 to Castletroy and 2-0 to Gaelcholaiste. All the 1st year teams have also enjoyed an early season blitz in Crescent and a mini blitz more

recently against Newbridge College, Kildare.

All in all, a mixture of victories draws and defeats all of which make up the sporting experience. Every team has represented the school with dignity and pride and their efforts, whatever the outcome, are to be admired. They can look forward to next term with optimism and in the knowledge that they are doing Villiers proud.

There is a core strength to this hockey playing cohort which will stand us in good stead over the coming years. As coaches, our hope is that everyone playing the game is enjoying the experience and we encourage each individual to aspire to good standards in skills, sportsmanship and team endeavour.

Mention should be made of our Munster representative, Holly Redden, who played a strong role for her province in the recent Junior (u16) Interpro tournament in Belfast. Holly was seen favourably enough in this level of competition to earn a call for an Irish trial subsequently. Congratulations Holly, we're proud of you!

On a different level, congrats to all involved in a successful weekend trip to Dublin, squeezed into a hectic term with matches at Senior and Junior levels with Kings Hospital, High School and Mount Anville with enough time left for a fun dinner on Friday and an assault on Dundrum Town Centre on Saturday before a sleepy return home on Saturday evening.




 RED SOKZ

Basketball & Spikeball

BASKETBALL

Things are all quiet in the area of basketball now, but in the New Year things will be picking up. We currently have two girls basketball teams, the cadets who are captained by Roisin Harrison and the Senior Team which is captained by Alex Molyneux.

Matches are starting up on the 16th of January, which will be held in the school gym against Castletroy College, where hopefully we will get to use our new high-tech score boards and basketball nets. Basketball is slowly but surely becoming a popular sport in Villiers. Watch this space!

Equestrian News

The Equestrian team at Villiers is expanding day by day, with now over four teams to choose from for each competition. Equestrian events are very social occasions, with great comradeship and indeed rivalry being built up between the various schools. There have been some great successes this year and the last two outings, both in Co. Clare, saw the teams bring home some silverware.

The most recent event saw Orla Shiel, Becky Davis, Laura O'Connor & Della Daly being knocked out of poll position by rival Villiers team, made up of Peter Howard, Robert Cunningham, Olivia Gurnett and Ciara Frawley. This was Ciara's first time to represent the school and her very confident double clear ensured that her team got successfully through to the jump-offs. These eight riders are making a name for themselves in the inter

SPIKEBALL

On the last two Fridays in November, 12 of the TY girls attended a spikeball coaching session with 12 Scoil Carmel girls in their gym. Before this all 12 of us had to undertake a test to make sure we knew the basics of the game, and if we passed (which thankfully all of us did!) we were allowed to attend the sessions.

We were taught by Graham and Ciara who are members of the Volleyball Association of Ireland. We learned every element of the game of Spikeball and all the rules and regulations associated with it. It was a very intense two days but

it was well worth it. At one of the sessions we had to coach our fellow classmates on different aspects of the game. This was quite nerve-racking for some of us but we got through it and it prepared us well.

After Christmas all 12 of us will be going out to the different primary schools across the city including; St. Michael's, Salesians and Mungret to teach the children how to play spikeball. Towards the end of the school year we will hold the annual spikeball competition in the gym and it will hopefully be a great event, as always, and all the schools we coach will attend.

Emma & Emily

schools circuit and we expect similar results in 2012.

As an aside, we are anxious that anyone who has an interest in joining the equestrian team makes contact with Ms. Woods, who has been chef-d'equipe for this semester. Please also note that you do not have to own your own pony in order to ride for the school as most venues offer a very competitive rental system.

There have been rumours of fierce rows in the staffroom over a proposal to give the rugby pitch to the equestrian team for stabling and an arena, particularly after the two most recent successes over our closest rival school.

In the meantime, the team are planning a training day, where all riders will be brought together to assess strengths and weaknesses

and to set out our goals for the next semester.

Well done to all riders and we look forward to seeing new riders in the New Year.

Firinne



Boys Rugby—Summary of the season so far!



The season began with great promise and great things expected from our senior team. They got a new coach, Mr. Kevin King and began their preparation for the O'Brien Cup competition with a series of good wins against St. Calisactus College in Oranmore and Limerick schools, St. Clements and C.B.S. Sexton St.,

The cup campaign itself began with a stumble of sorts as our opposition gave us a walkover as they could not field a team that week. The following week we went on to win a hard fought victory against Roscrea, with 10-6 being the final score.

The next round saw the lads travel to the wilds of the

Limerick/Kerry border to take on Abbeyfeale. They beat us 48-20 and they had two Irish internationals on their team. It was a mighty fight!

Also in September and October, our under 15s took part in the McCarthy Cup competition and the under 17s took part in the Bowen Shield. These are A school competitions, so Villiers teams had the opportunity to play against the best schools in Munster.

Both competitions were run on a league basis with a match every Wednesday. We used the opportunity to improve our skills and gave a good account of ourselves in all of the matches even

though, regretfully, we lost every one.

On a more positive note our under 14s have shown great promise clocking up a number of good wins against St. Flannan's, Ennis, and St. Nessans, Limerick, under the guidance of their coach George Guilfoyle. They are a bunch of really talented players and have been augmented with the inclusion of some new talented first year

We wish our rugby teams the best of luck in the New Year. We are sure that things will improve!

Annie & Kate

Boys Hockey



Another successful year has passed with ever increasing numbers of students becoming involved—especially in the junior end of the school. We have represented the school at A & B levels in the U13's, minors, juniors and seniors.

We have participated in a 1st year blitz, the minor, junior and senior league and cup competitions. Outside of this we continue to arrange many friendly matches and have travelled to Liverpool on with the minors, juniors and seniors.

Our new first years are very enthusiastic and are showing huge improvement.

Our minors were unfortunate to be knocked out of the cup at the semi-final stages early in the year, despite having played remarkably well under the guidance of Mr. Hanna.

Our juniors have also put in some great performances and are working well and showing huge improvement under the guidance of Mr. Whisker.

The seniors are under the watchful eye of George Blackwell and although they are a young side they have performed extremely well, showing true promise. George's energy and enthusiasm is paying dividends.

We look forward to 2012 and are hopeful that the silver cabinet will again be overflowing.

We plan to travel to Edinburgh next October and to compete in our Cup competitions early in 2012.

Congratulations to Nathan Eacrett who represented Villiers at Senior level for Munster U18 and to David Cardy and Andrew Tutty who represented us at U16 level in the recent interprovincials.

Lets look forward to more success in 2012.



Green Schools Initiative—The Drive for our Energy Flag

This year we plan to earn our energy flag in the green schools programme. As many of you know we have already gotten our litter and waste flag – we are due a recheck so please continue to segregate your waste. In Villiers we have reduced skip collection from once every week to one every 60 days with the litter and waste scheme which proves that we can do it for the energy scheme.

So far we have we have installed new lights and insulation all around the school. Outside we have changed the old lights from looking like fish bowls and 400 watt lights to new energy efficient 70 watt lights that are more strategically placed. As well as this we are planning on installing new LED ground lights at the drop pipes of the gutters just like the

pipes outside the new changing rooms.

Indoors we have installed sensors in every classroom and most bathrooms. Classrooms in the Old Block have got new energy efficient lights installed; the ICT Lab has had LED lights installed. These lights use 20 watts per unit as per the 80 watts that the old florescent tubes use. There are no more tungsten light bulbs in the school. In the dorms, lights have been changed to more energy efficient bulbs.

With these changes we are sure we will get our green flag, we estimate up to 70% reduction of energy usage in school. This will help the schools environmental outlook and give students a sense of appreciation and knowledge on energy in

terms of environmental matters. Note for teachers – in the new block the light switches are set up with the sensors.

1. If you **flick** the switch it will turn onto automatic which mean that when the sensors sense movement the lights turn on.
2. When the lights are on and you want to keep them off **hold** the switch down for **three seconds**.
3. It is important that when leaving the classroom you flick the switch to put it into automatic and not kept on all the time.

Mark Armitage

Before & After Pictures



GREEN DAY—Thursday 15th December

Last week we had our annual Green Day. This day was organised by the Transition Year Environment class. In 2010, we as a school, were awarded our Litter and Waste Flag, and as a follow on from that we are now trying to get our Energy Flag.

One of the things we had to do to get this was to have an Energy Awareness Day. We took 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th years from 9:00 until Lunchtime and made an interesting program of things to show them to make them more energy aware.

We had a guest speaker in from Cloughjordan Eco Village, Duncan Martin, to speak to us about how we can practically save energy and he told us some interesting things about the Eco Village.

We as the TY environment class also had a number of PowerPoint presentations to give about the changes we have made around the school to help save energy and what we can all do to make our school more energy efficient. We placed a particular emphasis on lighting, heat and insulation changes that are currently being completed.

Ms. Nolan then came in to speak to us about the different types environmental courses and careers that are available.

Also throughout the day we showed videos from the Eco-Eye Series relating to energy. All in all it was a great success and many thanks to all students, staff and guest speakers.

Claire





Christmas Recipies

Katie Johnston

Christmas Biscuits Makes 24

Ingredients

- 100g/3½oz unsalted butter, softened at room temperature
- 100g/3½oz caster sugar
- 1 free-range egg, lightly beaten
- 275g/10oz plain flour
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 400g/14oz icing sugar
- 3-4 tbsp water
- 2-3 drops food colourings
- Edible glitter

Preparation method

1. Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas5.
2. Line a baking tray with grease-proof paper.
2. Cream the butter and sugar in a bowl until pale, light and fluffy.
3. Beat in the egg and vanilla extract, until well combined.
4. Stir in the flour until the mixture comes together as a dough.

Yule Logs

Ingredients

- 75g/3oz Cream Plain Flour
- 3 Eggs (separated)
- Pinch of Salt
- 75g/3oz Caster Sugar
- 2 tablespoons Cocoa
- 1 level teaspoon Baking Powder

Filling & Icing

- 50g/2oz Butter
- 150g/5oz Dark Chocolate (broken into pieces)
- 1 tablespoon Golden Syrup
- 250ml carton of Cream
- 225g/8oz Icing Sugar (sieved)

To Decorate

Icing Sugar and Holly Sprigs

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Line a swiss roll tin 28cm x 18cm.
2. Beat egg whites with a pinch of salt until mixture is stiff and dry looking. Add the sugar and continue beating until thick and shiny. Beat in egg yolks until thick. Sieve the flour, cocoa and baking powder together and gradually fold into the egg mixture with a metal spoon.

5. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured work surface to a thickness of 1cm/½in.
6. Using biscuit cutters or a glass, cut biscuits out of the dough and carefully place onto the baking tray. To make into Christmas tree decorations, carefully make a hole in the top of the biscuit.
7. Bake the biscuits for 8-10 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to harden for 5 minutes, and then cool.
8. For the icing, sift the icing sugar into a large mixing bowl and stir in enough water to create a smooth mixture. Stir in the food colouring.
9. Carefully spread the icing onto the biscuits using a knife and sprinkle over the glitter. Set aside until the icing hardens.

3. Transfer to the prepared tin and bake for 10 minutes. When the cake is baked, turn it onto a dusted sheet of greaseproof paper. Roll the cake up from its longest edge with the paper inside. Leave to cool.
4. **Make the icing:** Melt the chocolate and butter in a bowl over a pan of hot water. Remove from the heat and stir in the syrup and 5 tbsps. of cream. Beat in the icing sugar until smooth.
5. Whisk the remaining cream until stiff. Remove the paper from the cake, spread the cream and carefully roll up again into a log.
6. Cut a thick diagonal slice from one end of the log. Lift the log onto a plate, then arrange the slice on the side with the diagonal cut against the cake to make a "branch".
7. Spread the icing over the "log" and the "branch"
8. Use a fork to mark the icing to give the effect of tree bark. Dust with icing sugar to resemble snow and decorate with holly leaves.





Christmas Tips 'N' Tricks

Are you all set up for Christmas yet? If not then we have some great ideas on how to skim by the holiday season with as much of a physiologically hedonistic feel as possible! On the other hand, if you are organised and have everything sorted; then read on anyway, there will be no harm done if you do... Anyway, the first problem you might have once you have the present is the wrapping, many people frustrate in the frenzy of trying to wrap a gift presentably, and most people at least achieve a huge messy ball of cello-tape and paper. here is a good web-page that explains (in detail) how to NOT end up with a mess "<http://www.wikihow.com/Wrap-a-Present>". Something else many

people find difficult is writing and sending Christmas cards, which is a necessity if you want to retain the same amount of friends before and after the festive season. One trick is to just print of the holiday greetings, just change the name and a few other personal details, and voila, just stick the sheet into the card and it looks like you have made an effort! Another way to cheat - I mean surpass time consuming occupations is to make a stamp, you can get these in art shops. All you need to do is slide in and out the letters, however, this is more suited to short greetings like "Merry Christmas" , "Happy Hanukah" and similar sayings. Lengthy messages are not advised using this method. Nowadays

many people buy synthetically fabricated Christmas trees, so one way to make the tree seem a little more extravagant is to place pine scented candles around the house, or pine scented potpourri. This method can also be used for general Christmasification e.g. one could use cinnamon, star anise or clove scented potpourri or candles to spice things up (Pardon the pun). Just as an ending tip, please do not burn down the house (seriously, it doesn't look as Christmassy as you might think) , do not leave candles unattended when lit, and make sure that all Christmas lights are working, Christmas trees are the best firefighters around! That was all I've got for you for now, and have a Happy Christmas! *Simon*

Christmas Saver Guide

Everyone is spending their money carefully this Christmas and with Christmas around the corner it can be hard to find nice presents at affordable prices. So here are a few tips:

For friends:

Girls: you can't go wrong with Penney's!! Set a price limit and pick up a few nice bits at affordable prices!

Boys: lynx sets can be picked up cheaply in most pharmacies and are also on sale in Dunnes

For family:

Moms: dove pampering sets can be snapped up for just €7 in Dunnes!

Dads: Dunnes and Penney's do great deals on Christmas socks!

Sisters: sets or make-up are usually the best way to go with sisters!!

Brothers: Games, DVD or lynx sets can all be bought without breaking the bank! *Firinne*

Villiers Night Classes

Every Thursday night for the past 25 years night classes have been running in Villiers. Each year the number and variety of courses on offer gets bigger and better. Currently classes are offered in a range of twenty different subjects. These classes strongly encourage adult learning and enable Villiers to contribute to the local community, and with so many subjects there's something for everyone.

Subjects on offer include Literary Studies and Creative Writing, Philosophy, Yoga and Tai Chi. Both Spanish and French are taught by native speakers and the emphasis is on acquiring conversational skills.

Creative subjects include Metalwork, Quilting and Embroidery Design, Watercolor and Mixed-media painting. Other favourites include Digital Photography, Computers

and Bridge.

With an eye to the recession and peoples need to cut down on beauty and exercise costs, some new and exciting courses have been added to encourage people to be more self-sufficient. These include Sculptured Gel Nails, 'Healthier You'- a cookery and nutritional class that focuses on promoting wellbeing through diet and lifestyle, Taekwondo and Aerobics.

Other new classes include Gardening Design and Flower Arranging.

The TY students have become involved in the hosting of the students and ensuring that their time in Villiers is relaxed and comfortable. They do this by running a café and managing the car park.

Firinne



What's Hot

1. **Chinos**
2. **XMAS!** ☺
3. **Shiftin and Driftin**
4. **New Year's Eve**
5. **Double filled Oreos**

What's Not

1. **No proper snow yet** ☹
2. **Christmas Tests**
3. **Being cold...**
4. **When people think they're Bebo Stunnahs but they're really not.**
5. **Abbreviating every single word you use which is totes awks.**

Guess Who

- 1) Shaved their head as a teenager for a dare, and then kept the style as it was easier.
- 2) Hates maggots!
- 3) Surprisingly good cook.
- 4) Portsmouth soccer fan (I don't know why!)
- 5) This person met Richard Gere.
- 6) Cannot live without coffee and banter.
- 7) The sound of Ukulele's is their idea of torture.
- 8) Used to work in a call centre and hated it.
- 9) Favourite country is Italy.

If you know who this teacher is please go to Ms Woods, and the first student to guess correctly will receive a prize. Good luck!

Last months winner was Sinead Mulcahy, who correctly identified Ms. Janet Bray. Well done Sinead.

TY DRAMA REVIEW

This year's transition year drama was Philip Ridley's Brokenville. It ran for two nights, to packed houses on the 7th and the 8th of December at the Belltable Arts centre in Limerick.

Brokenville is about a group of people who came together after a terrible accident. Amongst the group is a child who is alone and scared so the rest of the group, made up of four old women and a group of young adults and teenagers, tell fairytales, with a difference, to comfort the child.

The play had its sad moments but also a lot of comic relief, particularly that provided by Kate Healy who played one of the four old women. Kate, much to the audiences delight,

got a little too friendly with some of the male cast. Another audience favourite was Henry Cooke and the plays group of dancer's dancing to 'Im Sexy and I know it'

The main cast members were: Holly Kenny, Aidan O'Gorman, Joelle Fitzgibbon, Juliana Gleeson, Henry Cooke, Caoimhe Gleeson, Aran Duffy, Senan Moore, Glenn Morrow, Alli Guinane, Sarah Winterburn, Emma Gardiner and Kate Healy.

A massive thanks to Ann, Maeve and Sinead for the amazing dedication and work they put in to the show. They believed in us to put on a good show and I'd say we definitely did our best.

Also a big thanks to Kerrie Ahern, Paul Burn and Aaron Brown who did a massive amount of work behind the scenes. Everyone gave it 100% and really enjoyed the two nights. We wont be forgetting it anytime soon!

Firinne

