

## Student Council Report

A student Council Training Day was held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>. May. The students reviewed the functions of a Student Council and evaluated the roles of the officers and committee members. The students reviewed the events of the year and planned for the next academic year.

We are happy to report that the goals we set ourselves were reached. These included extra seating in the quad, healthy options in the canteen, a clock in the quad, the establishment of a Junior Council and the development of a web-link to the school website.

We had a very successful No-smoking Campaign. A survey was undertaken in September. Another survey was taken in April. We hope to compare the results and assess the effectiveness of the campaign.

The efforts of the council members, and the SC Liaison Teachers, **Ms Farrell** and **Mr Ronan Doyle**, were enhanced by the co-operation of the students, the Principal, **Mr Sweetman**, the Deputy Principals **Ms Kehoe** and **Mr Duke**. The SC really appreciates the generosity of the Parents' Association in supporting our No-smoking Campaign and the financing of extra seating in the quad.

In the coming weeks, officers will be elected, and some year group elections will be held, so that the SC can commence activities in September, le cúnamh Dé.

### LCVP

Before Christmas 5th Year LCVP students from Gorey Community School held a raffle in aid of the North Wexford Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, raising 226 euros for this worthy appeal.

As part of their Link Modules course LCVP students are required to gain an understanding of, and to carry out an enterprise plan on, voluntary organisations. The class generously received six scuba diving vouchers from a very obliging **Colin McBride, proprietor of "First for Scuba", Paramount Arcade, in Arklow** who had previously come into to talk to the class about setting up a business.

In consultation with their teacher, **Ms. Whelan**, it was decided that this kind donation should be put to further good use. Unanimously the students voted for NWSPCA as the charity of their choice. Consequently, a raffle was held in Gorey Community School before the Christmas holidays.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009 LCVP students invited **Colin Webb**, a key person within the NWSPCA, in to talk to them about voluntary organisations in general and to hand over the monies raised in the raffle. Accompanied by a furry friend from the pound, aka "Trigger", **Mr. Webb** was extremely informative and all students agreed that it was a significant learning experience.

LCVP students from GCS would like to sincerely thank **Colin McBride** for his very generous donation and **Colin Webb** for his recent visit to the school.

### The School Orchestra

The school orchestra and music students had a very successful trip to see the National Symphony Orchestra in Waterford on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> March. The group were accompanied by **Ms. O Cosgrave, Ms O Malley Moore** and **Ms Cadigan**. The National Symphony Orchestra put on a wonderful performance and it was enjoyed by all. The School Orchestra also made their debut at the opening of the Ward Rice building on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> May, providing entertainment for the arrival and departure of guests. Included in our programme was Handel's March from Scipio, Hornpipe by Purcell and The Duke of Cumberland's March. The orchestra were conducted under the baton of Ms O Cosgrave.

### Rhythm and Shakes

Since Easter Ms Cosgrave's 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year music classes took part in percussion workshops where they proved to be very musical and creative students. The students played African rhythms on djembes, djun djuns and various percussion instruments.

### TY NEWS

#### Modules

**Mask Making:** In this module we designed masks and then made a mask out of plaster of Paris. It can be very messy. You have to cover your whole face with Vaseline so as the plaster Paris comes off easily. The module was fun and a good opportunity to do some hands-on-art.

**Law module:** In this module we covered mock trials. Students were given different roles for example a lawyer for the defence and you had to try and win your case. We also went to the four courts. A barrister spoke to us about the court system and we had a question and answer session. We saw a man on trial for possession of drugs. It was very interesting. In class we also learnt about laws in other countries and about the death penalty in America.

**Self defence:** This module was fantastic. We got to learn a lot of useful self defence moves such as using pressure points to disable your attacker. How to avoid a fight, effective strikes to use. We learnt about a new self defence form called '**Spear**' which is used by the S.W.A.T team in America. It's a very natural form of self defence which utilises your body's natural reactions in a fight.

**Film Studies:** In the film studies module we watched a number of different film which were all very different. We learnt a lot about what makes a movie good and the different techniques that a director can use. I think this module is very useful for anyone who is into films or think they might pursue a career in Film making industry.

#### TY Ceili

After much practicing in Irish class the TYS went up to Naomh Eanna for a Ceili and anti-fashion show. Between each dance we were entertained by fellow class mates. First was the fashion show where representatives from each class tutor group dressed up as tastelessly as possible. Some of the TY students sang while we rested after some ceili dancing. We spoke Irish as much as possible during the afternoon. A great day was had by all. A big thank you to all the Irish teachers for organising the Ceili for us.



ジェーミーさん、おめでとう！

Congratulations to **Jamie Cullen** on his selection as the Irish representative on the **The Japan-Europe High School Student Exchange Programme**, a 5 month study programme in Japan. What an incredible achievement!

Jamie will leave for Japan on 16 August 2009. He will spend the first approximately 10 days in Tokyo on an intensive Japanese language training programme. There he will meet participants from 15 other European countries. After this, he will attend a Japanese high school and homestay with a Japanese family. Before his return to Ireland on 6 January 2010, he will return to Tokyo for a wrap-up session and sightseeing trips. We look forward to Jamie's visits to our Japanese classes when he comes back to Ireland in January and to hear about his great adventures.

Commiserations to **Brian Nixon** who was short-listed for the programme. Both Brian and Jamie attended an interview at the Japanese embassy in March. Brian's enthusiasm for Japan and the Japanese language is unparalleled, and we hope that he will get the opportunity to travel to Japan in the near future. Commiserations to the other 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year enthusiasts who submitted interesting and lengthy essays for the Short-Term Japan Exchange Programme and the Long Term Japan Exchange programme. They are: **Alana Dooley, Fiona Hill, Colin Stephens, Vicki Kinsella, Evin Fitzpatrick, Ciara Doyle, David Farrell, Stephen Foster, Hugh O'Gorman, Conor Nolan, Zoe Nolan and Paul Nugent.**



## TY Glendalough Presidents Award Walk.

63 Transition year students headed to Glenmalur on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> April. They started the steep climb and with aching bones and tired legs they reached their destination four hours later in the valley of Glendalough. They stopped to have lunch and rejuvenate the body and continued on the path to Glengalough. They stayed in the glendalough hostel Sunday night and entertainment for the night was the students themselves who put on a cracking talent show. With tired eyes they retired to bed at 11.30 and were up for breakfast the next morning and out by 9.30 to complete the 25km adventure walk which is compulsory for them to do to receive their Presidents award certificates. We did the spink walk around the lower lake which is 15km. Everyone enjoyed the experience and enjoyed especially the jam sandwiches provided by Mr. Hegarty!!!!

**Transition Year Awards** ceremony will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of May at 7.30pm. Students will exhibit their years work in Gorey Community school gym. Light refreshments will be served on the night and everyone will be seated by 8.00pm for the awards ceremony. All are welcome.

## Agri- Aware Competition

The following students achieved high acclaim in this year's agri award competition. **Blathnaid McCauley, Megan McEvoy, Grainne Phelan, Rachel Clyne.** Well done girls and a big thank you to your teacher **Ms Meehan.**

## Mr. Traynor - interviewed by Amy McPartlan

Retirement? I think not. Mr. Traynor, a loyal teacher to this school for the past 11 years is leaving at the end of this term but he would argue that it's going to be retirement. He's moving on to bigger and better things with plans including trips to Australia, Europe and South America. After spending 21 years in St. John's School, Ballyfermot, he graced Gorey with his presence and feels although he enjoyed his time in Ballyfermot, G.C.S. renewed his love for teaching. One thing you can guarantee is, he will miss G.C.S. and the students here, that "always keep you on your toes, forgive easily, haven't become cynical and have a much brighter outlook on the world." He sneakily has had his retirement planned for the last six years, so that he can leave with his year group, that he has mentored since day one of their schooling. He also feels that the other teachers retiring are "stealing his thunder", and you'll be glad to know he doesn't believe we can survive without him. Mr. Traynor, a talented teacher, lovely man and brilliant year head will be leaving very big shoes to fill and a room that will forever be known as 'Mr. Traynor's Room'.



## Fionán Ó Cathasaigh

Mar a deir an seanfhocal "Ní bhíonn in aon rud ach seal", agus i mo chás féin tá sé sin fíor mar tá mo ré mhuinteoireachta caite i mbliana. Thosag mé ag muineadh i 1973 leis na Braithre Chríostáí i nGuaire. Scoil bheag a bhí ann i gcomparáid leis an scoil seo – idir trí agus ceithre cheád daltaí ann. Chaith mé fiche bliana ann (nach sleamhnaíonn an t-am thart go tapaídh) agus sa bhliain 1993 d'aistríomar go dtí an scoil seo – Pobalscoil Ghuairé. Bhain mé an-taitneamh as an múinteoireacht agus ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil do gach duine a chabhraigh liom – An Priomh-Oide, múinteoirí agus mo chairde. Tá súil agam go rachaidh an scoil seo ó neart ge neart ins na blianta atá romhainn agus tá sé ar intinn agam leanúint ar aghaidh le forbairt Club na Gaeilge san am sin.



## Ms. Avril Forrest

Avril came to the school in September in 1995 to fill a gap for a few months, and stayed 14 years. During that time she taught Irish, English and R.E to church of Ireland students. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to her commitment and contribution to school life. Her council in the staff room and her involvement in the religion department were always appreciated. With our kindest wishes Avril, we hope you will enjoy your years of health and wealth.



Busy, making plans for their retirement (with a firm eye on things maritime) are **Mr. Kenneth Ward** and **Mr. Patrick Cleary.**



# MR. SWEETMAN.....UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL!

**Patrick Kavanagh says as a poet that he was born on the banks of the Grand Canal....Where were you born?**

In a field in Enniscorthy....looking up at the stars!

**Were you ever in trouble as a secondary school student?**

Always....well frequently. I can remember escaping one night to a disco....and of course we were caught breaking back into school in the early hours of the morning.

**What would you have become had you not become a teacher?**

A farmer.....or a rugby player.....or a world class athlete.

**Is it ever too late to be what you might have been?**

Well I could do the farming but not the Olympics!!!!

**What is your first memory?**

I claim to remember being in a cot surrounded by people discussing my height.

**What has been your long range objective in GCS?**

To establish the school as a centre of excellence which will allow the talented staff to serve the community of Gorey well into the future.

**How has teaching changed over the course of your career?**

In essence it has not changed. The methods we use have developed but the core idea that the teacher facilitates the student's learning remains the same. Society has changed greatly and also society's attitude to schooling. In general I find it is a healthy development and one that educationalists should welcome.

**What was your funniest moment in school?**

Far too many to pick just one. Mama Mia.. did you not see Grease? Actually most of my funniest moments are provided by the students' inspiration and their teachers' reactions.

**What was your scariest moment?**

This moment...being interviewed by Ms. O'Reilly in her pink shoes!

**Have you changed over the years?**

Many times.....I'm more relaxed now....and better at this job.

**What happens when you wake up and just don't feel like going to work?**

I go anyway. I have always found it easier not to put off the inevitable and like most things you usually find it easier once you get started. I do tend to be a procrastinator in my domestic life and I am often very happy to have the structure of the school year to keep me from dossing.

**Describe your ideal job?**

In lots of ways I think my current job is ideal. Overall I consider I have been very lucky in life career wise.

**Which historical figure would you have been?**

Leonardo da Vinci.

**What makes you angry?**

As I get older, although being frequently annoyed, I am rarely very angry. I usually only get angry with adults when I think they are being totally self-centred and engaging in some misguided course of action which I know I won't be able to change by argument.

**What is your greatest weakness?**

I am a very bad time manager and often quite inefficient. Most other people say that my greatest weakness is my arrogance, but they are wrong!!!!

**What is your greatest strength?**

Not sure that I have any particularly great strengths but I would like to think that I am very open minded on most matters.

**If you had to live life all over again, what one thing would you change?**

I am sure I would change a number of things. I would definitely change the amount of time I wasted in my late teens and early twenties and I would *probably* spend more time developing the sports talents I had at that stage.

**Given one wish....what would it be?**

To be 30 years younger.

**What will you miss about GCS?**

Without doubt I will miss witnessing the students' achievements and above all I will miss the people.

**Where do you see yourself 3 years from now?**

I have no real idea.... I might even be back in the classroom, but I think I will be exploring somewhere warm and generally wasting time!

**What is your favourite book?**

That is a question I find very hard to answer. I went through a period of liking authors like Herman Hess, Milan Kundera, Kurt Vonnegut and I like Irish authors William Trevor, Colm Toibin, John Banville, John McGahern and of course, Joyce, but I suppose if I had to pick a single book to bring to a desert island it would probably be "A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole.

**And who would you like to be stranded on the island with?**

Well obviously somebody who would wait on me hand and foot!

**Who are your heroes?**

Any teacher who goes the extra mile for a student.

**Who is your favourite cartoon character?**

Lisa Simpson

**In one sentence can you outline your philosophy on life?**

I am absolutely hopeless on sound bites. However, I think "Life is as good as you believe it to be" and exactly what I mean by that I am not really sure myself.

**What advice would you give to your successor?**

Surprisingly, I am not arrogant enough to think that I have any great wisdom to hand on. However, if asked for advice by whoever the incumbent is at the time I will be more than happy to give it.

**Where you always so tall?**

Some days I'm even taller!!

**Are you ever wrong?**

Never!.....All the time actually, but don't tell anyone!



## Gambia 09

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of February twenty TY students along with their teachers and two past pupils headed off to the Gambia in West Africa. This was our ninth trip to the Gambia and the students this year raised € 55.000. Over the years our students –with your help- have sponsored many projects, incl. the building of five schools, a pig-farm, a garden project, a teacher training program, teacher salaries, giving the children a meal in the schools each day, and many other smaller initiatives which are really helping to change lives.

May I take this opportunity to thank all who support this project and assure you that our Transition Years are using your money to bring hope and joy to many, but especially to the children of the Gambia. With many thanks, *Fr. Tommy Conroy*

## Spanish Exchange

The return leg of the Spanish exchange took place from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. 15 Spanish students and their 2 teachers spent 6 days here. We had a busy schedule with trips to Kilkenny and to Dublin planned and also many activities within the school. All those involved really enjoyed the trip and a lot of Spanish was learned.

## THE ODYSSEY — Greek Tour 09

*Tell me, Muse, the story of those intrepid adventurers who were driven from Gorey to wander far and wide in search of Ancient Lands.....*

### BOOK1

53 Classical Studies students and 6 heroic teachers recently embarked upon an epic journey taking them to Istanbul, to Athens, to Delphi, to Mycenae, to Epidarius, to Corinth and beyond, into the heart of the ancient world.

### BOOK2

The hungry explorers saw the archaeological sites of these classical cities and walked in the footsteps of Agamemnon, Pericles, Hercules, Alexander, Oedipus, Socrates, Aristotle-to name but a few!

### BOOK3

They studied the Parthenon with delight.

They entered the Tomb of Agamemnon with caution.

They climbed the cyclopean walls of Mycenae with enthusiasm.

They discovered the oracle of Apollo at Delphi with wonder.

They viewed the theatre of Asclepius with joy.

They looked across from Europe into Asia with amazement.

They shopped in the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul with discernment.

They ate constantly.

They slept occasionally.

They almost broke their teachers!

### BOOK24

These courageous warriors had many adventures along the way....encountering sirens, fighting off suitors, tormented by gods and goddesses, but 4 flights, 4 hotels, 390,000 photographs, 98 museums, 250 temples, 17,000,000 statues later, the crew, tired and weary, finally returned to their homeland!

This Homeric quest was the stuff of legend!!!!

**Ms. E. O'Reilly**



## ITALIAN EXCHANGE ... Eight Years

Twenty three students and three teachers have just returned from a highly successful visit to our friends in Castiglion Fiorentino, Tuscany, Italy. The students enjoyed and experienced life with an Italian family, spent time in school and visited many places of historical interest.

This is the eight year of this highly successful exchange and we hope that with the continued support of students, parents and teachers that it can continue to develop.



# Good Luck In The Exams, & Have a Great Summer !



## Calling Time



At the end of the academic year, Gorey Community School will say Good Bye to quite a number of esteemed members of staff and employees. Teachers **Ms. Avril Forrest**, **Mr. Fionan Casey**, **Mr. Patrick Cleary**, **Mr. Fran Traynor**, caretaker **Mr. Ken Ward** as well as Principal **Mr. Nicholas Sweetman** will open a new chapter in their lives and move on to "bigger and better things." Their loyalty, kindness, commitment to their work and their wonderful personalities won't be forgotten. We would like to thank them for their time in G.C.S. and wish them all a long and happy retirement, in the best of their health.....We'll miss you!

## Gorey Community School's Ward-Rice Building

Gorey Community School is the largest second level school in Ireland and we have a policy of including pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). To ensure that we could meet the needs of pupils with S.E.N, the trustees have donated the voluntary contribution, originally collected by the parents of Gorey, to help build a state of the art Special Needs Suite in the Ward- Rice Building. The building was completed in September 2008.

The Suite includes a Life Skills Room, an Art Therapy Room, Computer Room, Multi-Sensory Room, dedicated Subject Rooms, a Library Area, Offices and Withdrawal Rooms for working with pupils on a one to one basis or in small groups.

The Ward- Rice building facilitates students with Special Educational Needs to access the curriculum and enables them to be included in mainstream education so that they may develop to their full potential.

The Ward Rice building in its entirety was opened on the fifth of May by **Ms. Marie**

**Maguire** and **Mr. Joe Funge**, representatives of the Loreto and CBS Trustees. The official opening was a huge success, thanks to the outstanding work of coordinator **Ms. Linda McEvoy** and her numerous helpers.



## Green Schools

T.Y. have been very busy with their Green Schools Transport and Travel projects.

On April 30th, twenty five students from **Ms. Byrne's** Maths class had a very successful Cycle Training day when an instructor from "Safer Cycling" covered safer use of bikes on the road as well as a session in bicycle maintenance. Many thanks to An Taisce for their part-sponsorship of the day.

**Ms. Russell's** History class finished their "History of Transport in Gorey" projects. **Ms. Redmond's** Geography class also completed their "Study of transport used in the school and to offer proposals for improvements in the use of more sustainable and more environmentally friendly means of transport." **Ms. Fairweather's** class ran a very colourful "Walk On Wednesday" poster campaign. All of these will be on display during the T.Y. Awards Ceremony and Exhibition Night on May 20th.

In the meantime we can all contribute to the Travel and Transport theme by using our cars less and either walk or cycle to school.

A reduction in our collective Carbon Footprint is the way to get our 5th Green Flag!

## A I B – Build A Bank

Congratulations to the 'Smart-€ Bank' who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the National Final of the A I B Build a Bank challenge. The bank team included **Ellen Reid** (Bank Manager), **Bláthnaid McCauley** (Assistant Manager), **Tara Lenihan** (Auditor), **Clare Martin** (Sales and Marketing Ex.) and **James Porter** (Teller). The team enjoyed a day out in Croke Park on the day of the final and each received ipod nanos.

## Seachtain na Gaeilge 2009

A great success this year with very interesting competitions. Raidio Phobalscoil Ghuaire created a great atmosphere before school each morning and during lunchtime.

**1<sup>st</sup> year's** poster competition was won by Stephen Doyle, with Gary Breen taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Jared McGirr in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year's poster competition** was won by Shannon de Souza, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Sarah Augustt and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Michelle Pierce.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year project** was on 'M'áit Dhúchais' and the best project was by Anna McLoughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> was Larry Miley and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aoife Brown, with John Bass being highly recommended.

**Tráth na gCeist Craobh na bliana** finals took place recently and the results are; **1<sup>st</sup> year winners**; Eanna Crowe, Caleb Dowdall, Lachlann Phelan, Thomas Leeson, **2<sup>nd</sup>** Stephen Doyle, Stephen Maguire and Stephen MacDonald, **3<sup>rd</sup> place** Laura Whitty, Amy Hurley, Kate Stanley and Ailis Brennan.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year winners** Clodagh Dunne, Ciara Roche, Conor Kinsella, Jamie Heffernan and Leanne Smyth. **2<sup>nd</sup> place** went to Katriona Kinsella, Eoin Whelan, Shauna Bolger, Kim Larkin and Sean O Connor, **3<sup>rd</sup> place** Deenagh Chambers, Laura Alford, Ethan Edwards, Sean Mahon and Nicole Murphy.

**3<sup>rd</sup> year winners** Caitlin Crowe, Aoife O'Donnell, Jamie Finn and Ciara McGlenn, **2<sup>nd</sup> place** Lauren Siggins, Stephen Duke, Pdraig MacFhionnbhairr and Ciarán Gartland. **3<sup>rd</sup> place** Aoibheann Schwartz, David Spencer, Philip Doran and Bríd Kavanagh.

*Prizes for Seachtain na Gaeilge activities will be presented at the awards ceremonies during the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.*

## Bene Merenti

This year's Bene Merenti was held in Gorey Little Theatre on March 18th and 19th, and played to packed houses both nights. Over one hundred "Acts" auditioned with thirty five chosen for the concerts themselves.

The array of talent was second to none and included scenes from musicals, modern dance, solo singing, gymnastics, rock groups to name a few, and a

very professional adaptation of Mamma Mia starring *The Teachers*. The Bene Merenti awards are given to students who have contributed to the performing arts over their time in GCS, the concert being just a showcase of this talent. This year's deserving students were **Louise Feaheny** and **Jack Longmire** (2nd runners up), **Jamie Cullen** and **Ruari O'Donoghue** (1st runners up) with **Colin Stephens** receiving the overall prize.

Special thanks to all the students and teachers who made the nights so memorable. **Mrs. Mary Condrón** and **Mr. Michael Wall** compèred on the nights. **Ms Eileen Tummilty** produced the shows assisted by **Ms Roisin Dempsey** and **Ms Sara Clancy**.



## Arts Week 2009

Arts Week, this year, ran from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April. Two groups of transition year students had great fun making short films – "Viva" by **Tommy Flavin** and "Chairs" by **Kevin O'Regan** and **Jim Comerford**, which will be shown at the TY Awards on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. **Ms Lenihan** made her acting debut in "Viva" and we hope to see her on the red carpet at the Oscars next year.

We were extremely lucky this year to have two very special guests – one of which, **Jon Kenny** (organised completely by Mr Kenny), performed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> years in the gym on Thursday – free of charge! He insisted his fee be donated to arts in the school, huge thank you to Jon. Our second guest was **Steve Walters**, a professional musician, who has played on tour with artists such as George Michael, Kylie and Mariah Carey – to name a few. Steve took a group of 5<sup>th</sup> year students for a song writing workshop on Thursday and then performed the song they wrote for the 1<sup>st</sup> years in the gym on Friday – we were all very impressed. He has agreed to come back and perform the song with the students at the 5<sup>th</sup> year awards next week, thanks a million, Steve.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students attended workshops of their choice on Thursday and Friday, some of which were taught by our own Teachers, TY and 5<sup>th</sup> year students who did an incredible job! Many students, from all years, were involved in painting the mural in the Canteen which was organised by **Ms McCorry** – it's looking great. A group of transition year students did an amazing job of both organising and participating in the entertainment for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years in the gym on both Thursday and Friday – massive thank you to them.

The Arts Week committee would like to thank everyone who helped make Arts Week 2009 a success.

## Celtic Enterprises

Congratulations to all TY students who took part in the Celtic Enterprise competition in the school over the past year. The competition involved students forming their own companies and coming up with a service or a product to market. The school final took place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Seven different companies took part selling products such as personalised jerseys, keyrings and mirrors for lockers. On the day **Strong Fire** won the first prize. **Strong Fire** sells kindling for fires at competitive prices to the Gorey area and also offers delivery of their product. Company members are **Pierce Maxwell**, **Tara Lenihan** and **Pdraig Byrne**. They also won the environmental award as they have a policy of planting trees in the grounds of the school based on the amount of kindling they have sold. Runner up was **Iryna Kononenko** with her company **Pictures 4U**. Iryna ran the company by herself, and sells frames pictures of nature scenes taken predominantly in the Ukraine, where she is from. Pictures 4U also won the award for best display. The merit award went to Gorey Wood Products who sold name plaques and key rings.

All award winners represented the school in the county final, with **Strong Fire** winning first prize in the Environmental Award category.

Well done to all who took part.

## Florence Art Tour 2009

3.30 Am on Monday morning the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, 40 tired but excited 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students met at Gorey Community School car park to depart on their 6 day journey to Florence to sample the magnificent artistic and architectural delights of one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Tour Leader **Mr. McCloskey** was accompanied by 4 equally tired but excited teachers, **Ms. O'Loughlin, Ms. Moran, Ms. O'Neill and Mr. Browne**. Arriving in **Bologna** airport they were met by a beautiful sunny day, with a couple of hours to spare an outdoor lunch in a beautiful Italian restaurant was the order of the day. Later arriving at **Montecatini** a lovely spa town just 45 mins from Florence, students were allocated their rooms and settled in. That evening after their dinner, all headed out to **Monsummano Terme** for bowling and pool. The next day the tour arrived in Florence a spectacularly beautiful city with a long and colourful history. During the 300-year period the wealthy Medici family ruled the city; Florence flourished under the influence of the Italian Renaissance and quickly became the artistic and cultural centre of Europe. Artists such as Donatello, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci lived and worked here and their masterpieces now adorn the city in unashamed brilliance. After a



walking tour of Florence Students and Teachers visited the following over the six days. **Santa Maria del Fiore** (also known as the **Duomo**). It is the cathedral of Florence, Italy, noted for its distinctive dome. Its name ("Saint Mary of the Flower") refers to the lily, the symbol of Florence. The cathedral complex includes the **Duomo, Baptistery**, and the campanile (bell tower) also known as the **Giotto tower**. **Museo dell'Opera**, di S.Maria del Fiore to see 3rd Pieta By Michelangelo, The original Baptistery Panels by Ghiberti and Mary Magdalene sculpture by Donatello among other works. **Bargello Musuem**. has a remarkable collection of sculpture and works of art. It occupies an impressive building built for the Capitano del Popolo in the mid-13th century, which later became the seat of the Podestà and Council of Justice. Since 1865 the palazzo houses the National Museum, bringing together many important Renaissance sculptures, including masterpieces by **Donatello, Luca della Robbia, Verrocchio, Michelangelo** and **Cellini**. The museum was subsequently enriched with splendid collections of bronzes, majolica, waxes, enamels, medals, seals, ivories, amber, tapestries, furniture and textiles from the Medici collections and those of private donors. **Accademia Gallery** is probably most famous for housing the original sculpture of 'David' by Michelangelo. 'David' is considered by many to be the greatest sculptor's greatest work; most students were in disbelief at the sheer scale of this magnificent sculpture. The museum also houses seven other pieces by Michelangelo, including 'The Prisoners' and the second of his four versions of 'La Pieta'. **Uffizi Gallery** Designed by Vasari in 1560, the Uffizi contains one of Italy's greatest art collections. Amongst the most famous are Michelangelo's 'Holy Family' and Botticelli's 'Birth of Venus' and 'Primavera' as well as works by Leonardo da Vinci. **Brancacci chapel**. The chapel is in the **Church of Santa Maria del Carmine** in Florence. The construction was commissioned by Pietro Brancacci and begun in 1386. The patron of the pictorial decoration was Felice Brancacci, descendant of Pietro, who had served as the Florentine ambassador to Cairo until 1423. Upon his return to Florence, he hired **Masolino** da Panicale to paint his chapel. Masolino's associate, 21 year old **Masaccio** (The Tribute Money) 18 years younger than Masolino, assisted, but did so well that Masolino ultimately left, and the commission was given to Masaccio. However, Masaccio was called to Rome before he could finish the chapel, and died in Rome at the age of 27. Portions of the chapel were completed later by Filippino Lippi. **Pitti Palace** is a vast mainly Renaissance palace in Florence. It is situated on the south side of the River Arno, a short distance from the Ponte Vecchio. Containing a magnificent collection of Renaissance, Baroque and 19<sup>th</sup> century paintings, with a stunning collection of work by Rubens including the famous 'horrors of war'. The Students also visited Florence's largest open market. Lots of bargaining for handbags, sunglasses, and jewellery as well as character portraits and sampling of the Italian cuisine (Mostly Pizza and icecream!) was a pleasant break from so much stunning art. **Returning on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April** a visit to **Pisa**, to see the famous quadrilateral landmarks: The Cathedral, Baptistery, Cemetery and Leaning Tower.

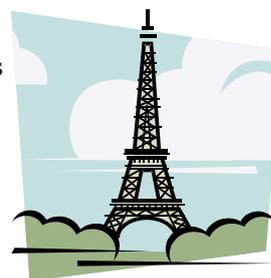
Arriving back in Dublin at 7.30 PM exhausted but artistically and culturally enriched, 40 students were much more prepared for their Leaving Cert' Art History than before, most didn't want to leave with much excitement about seeing the real works, they had only previously viewed in books. It was a fantastic trip with all students getting the most from it; the students were just so well behaved and supportive of each other with students and Teachers getting along famously. This was undoubtedly the tour for lovers of art.

## **Transition Year Trip to Paris**

During the second week of the Easter holidays, twenty five enthusiastic TY students of French, accompanied by three world-weary teachers, left the wet weather of Gorey behind them to explore the treasures of Paris and enjoy some French sunshine. Following a night of travel and, for the students, an unexpectedly long and difficult journey to the hotel on Paris' first class public transport system, the group finally arrived at the hotel and the fun began. Over the four days the 25 students managed to learn to navigate the public transport system, ferret out the best eateries, hunt down the bargain shops, discover the sights, savour the Parisian atmosphere, get to know each other, and they even had a good old sing song on the metro with a 'dude with a guitar'. On the Monday the group explored the sights of the city by foot. Tuesday we all headed out to Versailles, did a spot of shopping and went up the Eiffel Tower. Wednesday, we all packed our bags and headed off to the world according to Walt Disney to enjoy the characters and rides at Disneyland Paris. Thursday, we visited the Louvre to have a nose at the Mona Lisa, which turned out to be a glimpse from the back of a very aggressive crowd of photo-happy oriental tourists. We then headed up the Champs-Elysees to see the Arc de Triomphe, grab a bit of lunch and enjoy a spot of retail therapy (the ladies' request of course). We then headed back to the Hotel to liberate our bags and head for the airport, again on public transport of course.

The highlights of the trip, I am led to believe, were boating on the lake at Versailles, the rides at Disneyland, Pierce's ability to navigate the metro, and, of course, the twenty minute sing-song with the guitar-dude on the metro.

Well done TY – an amazing trip!!



## Athletics News

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 the school Athletics Club had a very successful start to the 2009 Track and Field session.

Greystones was the venue for the County Wicklow Schools Track and Field Championships as Gorey Community School returned triumphant with a grand total of 20 medals.

On the track powerful performances from **Jack McEvoy** and **Dylan Moore** took gold and silver respectively in the 800 metres race, while **Molly McGuckian's** excellent finish in the same event claimed bronze.

The same high standard for racing continued in the 100 metres with

**Orla Furney** decisively leading the field and ultimately gaining gold while the ever improving **Lizzie Nolan** was awarded bronze for her performance in the Under 20 100 metres. **Richard O'Neill's** dedication to training was evident in his 100 metres bronze medal performance.

In the field events **Ciara Roche's** excellent talent in the Long Jump gave her a silver medal and **Dylan Moore's** powerful jump resulted in bronze in the boys Long Jump.

**Clodagh Dunne** showed her talent for the High Jump by gaining 3<sup>rd</sup> place bronze medal.

The girls showed their strength in the Tug of War event when both the U15 and U17 teams were awarded gold medals.

**U.15 - Lauren McCabe, Molly McGuckan, Ciara Roche, Aoife Redmond, Orla Furney, Clodagh Dunne.**

**U.17 - Ashling Twamley, Shannon Byrne, Clodagh Dunne, Molly McGuckian, Aoife Redmond, Lauren McCabe**

An enthusiastic team effort from the U20 boys relay team consisting of **Mircea Rus, Conor Nolan, Myles Redmond** and **Richard O'Neill** earned them 4<sup>th</sup> place in the event.

Other exceptional performances on the day were **Robert Thompson** and **Larry Miley** both came 3<sup>rd</sup> in their 100 m heats with **Dermott Wildes** getting 2<sup>nd</sup> place in his heat, while **Robert Harrington** and **Kevin O'Connor** both gave their best in the 800m. The experience of this event will be very useful in our preparation for the south leinster Track and Field competition. Many thanks to **Mr. Hayes, Ms. O'Leary, Ms. Codd** and **Mr. Finn** for their time and encouragement.

## Night Classes

We are currently organising the night class schedule for September. Classes will run on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and also on Saturday mornings. A full listing of our courses is available on our website [www.goreyadulthood.ie](http://www.goreyadulthood.ie). This will be updated in May to display our full schedule. From this September a deposit is required when registering for any of our classes. All deposits and fees can be paid using our online registration system. We are always looking for new Tutors and additional classes for our programme so if you wish to get involved in teaching a night class, look at the recruitment section on our website.

**Fintan Kemple - Director of Adult Education**

*To our Leaving- and Junior Certificate students we wish the 'Best of Luck' in your exams, as well as 'Happy Holidays' to you and everybody else in G.C.S.*

## Badminton Results for Awards Day May 2009

2<sup>nd</sup>. Year

**Boys under 14**

Singles:

Winner: **John Bass**

Runner-up: **Simon Dowling**

Doubles:

Winners: **Ailill Bergin** and **John Bass**

Runners-up: **Karl Lawlor** and **Séan Mahon**

**3<sup>rd</sup>. Year Boys**

Singles:

Winner: **Greg Klassen**

Runner-up: **Brian D'Arcy**

Doubles:

Winners: **Greg Klassen** and **Patrick Poole**

Runners-up: **Brian D'Arcy** and **Fergus Dixon**

Most Improved Player: **Noel Kinsella**

**Seniors**

Singles:

Winner: **Ann Kirwan**

Runner-up: **Sarah Walsh**

Doubles:

Winners: **Ann Kirwan** and **Tracy O'Brien**

Runners-up: **Sarah Walsh** and **Hollie Davies**

Most improved Senior Player: **Garreth Kinsella**



## U-14 Hurling

Gorey C.S. U-14 hurlers reached the semi-final of the South-Leinster championship by recording comprehensive victories over the Combined Wicklow Schools at home and F.C.J. Bunclody away. In the semi-final they faced St.Fergal's, Rathdowney, Co.Laois---

a "Laois" team but with almost half their starting line-up from nearby Co.Kilkenny. Gorey C.S. did well for the first half but their opponents' sheer physical strength told in the second half. Best on the day for Gorey were **Sean O'Brien** at full back, **Conor Devitt** in midfield and **Conor McDonald** in the forwards.

Since Easter the U-14s have been taking part in the Wexford Flogas competition, in Division 'A.' An excellent display against a very strong Good Council, New Ross team resulted in a narrow defeat by a one-point margin – a heartbreaking result as Gorey C.S. led for much of the game. Best for Gorey were **Fionn Doyle, Conor Devitt, David Kennedy, Kevin Molloy** and **Tomás Morris**. Gorey C.S. gained the points off Enniscorthy C.B.S. and have yet to play St.Peter's Wexford to decide who meets Good Council in the final. This promises to be an exciting game, as two previous challenge matches earlier this season have seen one victory for each school.

*Best of luck, boys!*

*This Newsletter and other  
useful information is also  
available on our website  
[www.goreycs.ie](http://www.goreycs.ie)*