



Happy St. Patrick's Day & Happy Easter

Principal on Education-Cutbacks

Next year's teacher allocation was announced in February and unfortunately, as expected, our school will lose between 7 and 8 teachers. This will obviously have huge implications for students as it effectively means that between seven and eight thousand fewer lessons will be taught in the school next year. Although every school in the country is faced with similar cuts it is strange that educational cut backs have received such poor media attention. It seems that the educational future of the next generation is to be sacrificed in order to pay for the financial ineptitude of those who have been in control of our national finances for the past decade. In addition to the loss of teachers our school will suffer further from the loss of grants for Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Applied, the Junior Certificate Schools Programme as well as subject specific grants such as the Physics/Chemistry Initiative. These grant losses will amount to between €20,000 and €30,000. There will of course be no school book grant which will cost the parents of our students in the region of €25,000 additionally. Whereas there must be recognition that the state of the country's finances is indeed perilous, it needs to be stated that our financial masters are still insisting that the way out of this mess is to promote Ireland as a knowledge economy. We also hear them repeatedly talking about the need for policy makers to ensure that infrastructure is not damaged by whatever savings are made. Clearly there is no understanding that the infrastructure for a knowledge based economy is the education system and that by removing teachers from the classroom at first and second level you are effectively having a disastrous effect on that infrastructure. Inevitably these cut backs will result in more students leaving school and adding themselves to the ever increasing dole queues. It is incumbent on us all to fight these cuts at all levels both local and national, and I urge parents to lobby everyone in public office so that this economic and educational folly is halted.



Green Schools Travel and Transport

Work is well underway in our 5th Green Flag application. *Ms. A. Byrne's* T.Y. maths class has done fantastic work on the statistics for the travel survey. Well done to all involved. Also in T.Y., *Ms. Redmond's* class is doing a feasibility study for a cycle pathway in Gorey, *Ms. Russell's* class is studying the history of Transport in Gorey and *Ms. Fairweather's* class is busy coming up with slogans and designing posters to encourage us all to get walking and cycling to school. What can you do to help us get our fifth Green Flag?

- If you live within 2 kilometres of the school - walk!
- If you live further away and come by car - share lifts and get the driver to drop you 1km away from the school so that you can walk the rest of the way.
- Come to school by bus instead of by car if you can.
- Get on your bike - the bicycle park is outside Area 5.



When more of us walk to school we will have less congestion at the school gates, get more exercise, reduce our carbon footprint and be more alert in school!

The Loreto Sisters are Trustees of Gorey Community School, together with the CBS and the VEC.

To celebrate the 400th. Anniversary, The Principal, staff members, Student Council members and Ms. Sara Clancy's Gospel Choir attended a Celebratory Mass in Mullingar Cathedral on Saturday 24th. January 2009. The mass was co-celebrated by Cardinal Séan Brady and the Bishop of Meath, Dr. Michael Smyth. Three students had the opportunity to be actively involved in the mass. *Emma Cahill* sang in the main choir on the altar, *Garret Kinsella* walked in procession carrying the specially commissioned tapestry and *Ashling Twamley* accepted a candle on behalf of the school as a memento of the occasion. The temporal needs of the students were addressed too as the Loreto Order provided a packed lunch for all participants. Some of the girls even got a chance to engage in some retail therapy! On the way to Mullingar we stopped off in St. Patrick's College Maynooth where we saw the Pugin designed buildings. This was particularly interesting because Pugin also designed St. Michael's Church in Gorey and the old Loreto Convent. We also visited the Gunn Chapel and availed of the opportunity to sing in the carved wooden choir stalls. The acoustics in the chapel were superb as were the murals and the stained glass windows. The students were very impressed by the specially designed gardens in St. Mary's Square. The ice on the water held a special attraction for the students and some even tried skating on it! We felt that the trip to Mullingar would not be complete without a visit to the Joe Dolan statue in the square. The students and staff took photographs and even sang a number of Joe's songs to the amusement of the public.



5th Year Music Trip to New York City

5th Year Music Students returned following the February mid-term break from an unforgettable trip to New York City organised by their Music Teacher, **Ms Clancy**. Students engaged in a once in a lifetime experience which included almost everything the Big Apple has to offer. From hailing yellow cabs, cheering with foam fingers at the Knicks Game at Madison Square Gardens, and tapping their feet to the Broadway Musical "Chicago", to ice-skating in Central Park, looking at the sky-scraping views of Manhattan from the Empire State Building and researching relatives on Ellis Island, there was no sight left unseen. Pizza slices, pancakes with maple syrup and hot-dogs were consumed in copious amounts with no-one forgetting the ENORMOUS scoops of ice-cream dished out at Jekyll & Hyde!!



The group, who were also accompanied by **Ms Keegan** and **Ms O Shea**, also travelled at dizzying heights across the Brooklyn Bridge into the Borough of Brooklyn giving them the opportunity to gaze back at the spectacularly familiar Manhattan Skyline by night. Needless to say some shopping was featured on the agenda, with "Abercrombie and Fitch" and Chinatown's "Canal Street" being amongst the most popular haunts.

Ms Clancy would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved, both students and teachers alike, for making this trip such a wonderful experience for all. **GO TEAM GOREY!!!**

School Orchestra

The School Orchestra will travel to Waterford on the 27th March to see the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra perform in the W.I.T. College Street Chapel. The programme will include Haydn's Symphony No. 94 in G major, Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E flat major and Brahms Symphony No. 4 in E minor.

ITALIAN EXCHANGE 2009

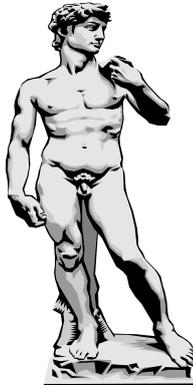
Students involved in this exchange are busily putting the finishing touches to their projects. Each student has particular aspect of Italian life or history to research and present to their fellow students. The exchange to Italy will take place in early May.

Senior Art History Tour To Florence

Ms Moran, Ms O'Neill, Ms O'Loughlin, Mr Browne and Mr McCloskey will accompany and guide a group of 5th and 6th year Art History students on a trip to **Florence**. The group will leave Gorey on the 6th of April and they will return on the 11th.

En route they will stop for lunch in the beautiful city of **Bologna**, which has remained one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe.

Once in **Florence** – undoubtedly the city for lovers of art – the students and teachers will visit such sights as the cathedral **Santa Maria del Fiore**, the **Bargello Museum** as well as some of the famous art galleries.



French Trip

Ms O'Neill, Ms Hamilton and Mr Kavanagh, together with 25 students of French are going to Paris over the Easter holidays. The group is leaving on the 13th of April and is returning on the 16th. Over the few days the group will visit the sights of Paris, experience French culture, get in a little practice speaking French and spend a day enjoying the diversions offered by Euro-Disney. Students and teachers alike are looking forward to the trip.

"Japanese Speech Contest"

Congratulations to **Colin Stephens, Paul Nugent and Daniel Whitty** for participating in the 7th National Japanese Speech Contest held in in the Clock Tower in Marlborough Street, Dublin on Saturday February 21st. GCS was represented at the contest for the first time, and the boys performed superbly, a result of many hours of practice and hard work. Paul and Daniel participated in the TY/ 5th year category, while Colin participated in the 6th year category. The boys were outperformed by the manga-like delivery of the Cork participants, but will be back to impress the judges next year!"



Spanish Exchange

The first leg of the Spanish exchange took place from the 26th February to the 3rd March. The students from 5th Year and TY were accompanied by **Ms Yagüe and Ms Lenihan**. It was a very successful trip, the students stayed with the host families and were given a real taste of Spanish life and culture. We enjoyed trips to Alcalá, Guadalajara and Madrid. Students also attended classes and an orienteering event on the Saturday. There was some time left over for shopping, bowling and fiesta! The Spanish students will travel to Gorey on April 22nd.

The 'Doodle 4 Google' Art Competition

This competition aims to reflect the ever changing world of internet users through the logo designs on the Google homepage. These "doodles" celebrate different people, events or special dates and, until now, have been designed by the original Doodler, **Dennis Hwang**. The 'Doodle 4 Google' competition asked young people across Ireland to design their own doodle, and the winning doodle will be displayed on the Google homepage in the UK, US, Canada and, of course, Ireland on St. Patrick's Day 2009.

Pupils were asked to create a doodle around the idea of 'My Ireland' and describe what Ireland means to them. Ireland has a strong heritage of art, literature, architecture and music which provided inspiration for their doodle. Pupils also drew on Ireland's history, current events or everyday things like our food, weather and lifestyle. Pupils were also encouraged to be as creative as possible, and to come up with images which best sum up Ireland.

Both **Barry McCabe of 5th year** and **JJ Doyle of 2nd yr** were chosen as county finalists. These students will receive a Doodle 4 Google 'My Ireland' Certificate. Each county finalist went forward to the next round of judging. The judges determined the winners from each county and had their doodle appear on the website for a public vote.

The public has now decided on their favourite doodle from each class group and the overall winner will be selected by **Dennis Hwang** the chief doodler and revealed at a prize-giving event on March 2nd 2009.

Student Council

Emma Sinnott and *Amy McPartlan* attended the Parents' Association Meeting on Monday 2nd March to keep parents updated on the activities of the Student Council.

The Junior and Senior Council members completed a survey on what they want to see in the new library. All students are excited about the provision of the up-to-date library facilities and encourage all teenagers to avail of their books, DVDs, free internet PCs, Manga and Graphic novels.

Council members encourage all students to contribute €5 to the CD for Nicole Cahill. The CD will be available at reception after St. Patrick's Day.

Money raised from the Jersey /Non-uniform Day to be donated to the RNLi Courtown, Special Olympics (Gorey Branch) and the Red Cross (Gorey Branch).

The Council is in the process of organising a non-smoking campaign. Posters and pictures will be placed throughout the school encouraging students to stop smoking. All students are encouraged to ask a friend to stop smoking.

History News

Congratulations to the 6th Year History Quiz team from *Ms Russell's* class who performed well at the recent All-Ireland Inter-Schools History Quiz. The team put on a gutsy effort but were outdone in the final few rounds. Well done to the team members

Cora Breen, Alex O'Connor-Lynch, Chris Rawlings and Stephen Tighe.

Chris bravely stepped in, as star quizzier *Niall Halpenny* was ill. You may see the members on "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" yet!!

In other History news, the Transition Year History classes will have a wonderful opportunity in March to hear a Holocaust survivor speak about his life. Mr Tomi Reichental, born in Slovakia, was captured and sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1944 when he was 9 years old. He and his mother, aunt and brother survived but 35 members of his family perished. The Transition Year students have been studying the Holocaust and are looking forward to meeting Mr Reichental.

Finally for now, the 1st year History classes will be having a quiz this term – the best from each class will have a play-off in late spring. More details to follow.

Gambia 2009

On February the 26th, 20 students headed off to Gambia with *Fr Tommy, Mr Bonner, Ms Moran* and 2 past pupils. The students raised €55,000 and they would like to thank all who supported them. It was a fabulous trip and within the next week a full financial report will be published – but most of the money is going to the funding of a new Primary School.

3rd Year Student Wins Readathon Prize

Ronan Bradbury, 3rd Maple was selected in a draw to receive an MS READATHON open prize award. He attended a prize giving ceremony in Dundrum Shopping Centre on the 4th of March with his mum and his teacher *Ms O'Keefe* and received a book pack and a goody bag, followed by seeing a film. All students who participated in the READATHON received their prizes during February

Traffic Congestion

Some parents are dropping students off right at the school entrance or at the pedestrian crossing. Apart from the obvious danger of this, it is leading to severe backing-up of traffic and causing delays for other road users. We recommend that parents who must drive their children to school should locate a convenient drop off point, preferably at some distance, and allow the student to walk in to school. The 'drop and walk' concept is also encouraged from a **health and fitness** perspective.

TY News

Ski Trip 2009

Transition Year students left Gorey on Friday the 13th of February. Unlucky for some but lucky for the 53 Transition Year students who were embarking on an adventure of a lifetime. The majority of the students hadn't skied before so it was a new experience. They travelled to the historical heritage site of Hallstatt in the Salzgammert region of Austria. arriving to snow conditions the best in ten years according to the locals. The first morning started of course with a snowball fight the likes you'd never see in Ireland! *Killian Breen* came equipped with his own snowball hand kit which won him the title of best snowball thrower in Hallstatt.

Students were in ski school in the morning and after noon and by the end of the week the beginners were skiing down red slopes at their ease. The advanced skiers skied down all the slopes in the resort from the easy greens to the steepest black. Evening activities included ice curling, ice skating, swimming, bowling and fun awards evening. Students and teachers had a fantastic trip with a lifetime of fun memories to cherish.

TY Volleyball Coaching Course.

14 Female Transition Year Students completed a spike ball coaching course held in Gorey Community school gym. Mary Lawlor and Graham from the volleyball association of Ireland put the students through their paces. The students will now coach primary school students in Loreto Primary and Gorey Central in the basics of spike ball for 6 weeks. They will then organise a spike ball blitz for the participating primary school

Students interested in doing a Post Leaving Certificate Course should apply directly to the college in which they are interested.

Electrical Apprenticeships in the ESB closing date 12th March 2009

Students who are interested see a guidance Counsellor

Change of Mind CAO Facility will re-open on the 1st May. Students may change their minds up to July 1st 2009.

1st yr. assessment 26th and 27th March. Schools will be informed. Open Day for in-coming first years in May.

Mock Examinations

Congratulations to *Ms O'Gorman, Ms M.Bolger, Mr Duke* and everybody else involved in this year's "Mocks", on a job well done. Students and teachers alike were extremely pleased with the well structured timetable, block-supervision and the absence of any un-necessary disruptions. "ROLL ON, HOUSE-EXAMS!"

PLC COURSES 2009-2010

Applications are now being accepted for the following PLC Courses:

Office Technology/Admin – FETAC Level 5

- Childcare – FETAC Level 5

- Art – FETAC Level 5

- Art – FETAC Level 6

MATURE STUDENTS ESPECIALLY WELCOME

If you're thinking of retraining/returning to work, let this be your first step!!!!

No Tuition Fees

Maintenance Grants Available

For further information/Application Form contact:

GOREY FETAC EDUCATION CENTRE

053 9421000

SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE 2009

A bheidh ar siúl ón **9-13 Márta**

Beidh comórtais agus eachtraí éagsúla do gach bliain

Beidh duaiseanna ann do gach comórtas.

An Chéad Duais; éarlais leabhar/ceirmíní €25

An Dara Duais; éarlais leabhar/ceirmíní €15

An Tríú Duais; éarlais leabhar/ceirmíní €10

Spríodhata do na comórtais go léir, Déardaoin 5ú Márta

Comórtas na céad bliana

- Pictiúr/Grianghraf agus cur síos a dhéanamh air (ábhar ar bith)
- Suíomh idirlíon do roinn na Gaeilge sa scoil
- Clúdach album

Comórtas na dara bliana

- Ardléibhéal; Tionscnamh ar d'áit dhúchais sa leabhar scrap
- Gnáthléibhéal; Sliocht gairid a scríobh ar dhuine cáiliúil

An Tríú Bliain

- Céilí nó tráth na gceist
- Cluichí mar shampla; Cé hé mise agus Biongó

Idirbhliain

- Céilí mór
- Scoraíocht
- Seó Faisin
- Caint faoi logainmneacha

An Cúigiú bhliain

- Raidió na scoile ar maidin
- Fógraí as Gaeilge i rith an lae
- Díospóireacht idir na ranganna onóracha
- Caint faoi logainmneacha

An Séú Bhliain

- Tráth na gceist



First Year Boys Basketball:

An enthusiastic and skilful first year boy's team started their basketball season favourably. A basketball blitz was held in Gorey Community School playing host to De la Salle Wicklow, Arklow and Bridgetown. Gorey Boys won the majority of their matches, losing only to Arklow VEC. They are due to play Rathdrum Community College and if they win will be through to the regional play-offs. We wish them the best of luck .

U-14 Hurling

The Leinster Schools U-14 Competition does not begin until mid-March, when Gorey C.S. are in a qualification group with F.C.J. Bunclody and Wicklow Schools. However, the U-14 hurlers have already shown great enthusiasm and potential in training. They have also played two challenge matches, both against St.Peter's College Wexford; winning one by a large margin while narrowly losing the return fixture. In both matches the entire panel of 29 players was involved. It is hoped to play at least one further challenge match before official competition begins.



Senior Boys Gaelic Football

The senior gaelic footballers of Gorey Community School has qualified for their first ever senior colleges Leinster football final. The squad have trained at least twice a week since last September even during School holidays. Several training sessions with former student and All Star **Matty Forde** were also had. Former Wexford football manager **Paul Bealin** also took several training sessions and offered great words of encouragement to the players. To qualify for the final the Gorey lads defeated Enniscorthy CBS, Portlaoise CBS (after extra time), FCJ Bunclody in the south Leinster Final and St Josephs of Drogheda in the Leinster semi final. The final will be played against Maynooth PP on Sat 7th of March.

The panel members are **Niall Hemenstall, Conor Carty, Richard Farrell, Joe Aherne, Johnathan Bealin, Brendan Halpin, Donnacha Holmes, Tom O'Neill, Pierce Maxwell (All castletown), Aaron McCann, Simon Doran, Colm O'Leary, Willy Doyle, Eoin Kinsella, John Lillis, Sam Doran, Dara McDonald (All Naomh Eanna) Danny Boland, Reece Brady, Michael Quigley (Tara Rocks) Denis Jones, Stephen Hughes, Edward Hughes (Killinerin) Jack Hobbs, Isaac Porter and Eddie Doyle (Realt Na Mara).**

The management team consists of **Mr. C. Wickham, Mr L. Doyle and Mr. P. Kinsella.**

The entire squad and management team would like to thank the entire staff of Gorey Community School for their kind words of encouragement and support throughout the campaign.

The entire squad would also like to wish **Dara (Micky Harte) McDonald** a speedy recovery from his injury.

Leinster Final

Maynooth P.P. 1 – 8 Gorey C.S. 1 – 7

Gorey suffered a heartbreaking defeat in their Leinster Final vs. Maynooth P.P., played on Saturday, March 7th in O'Moore Park Portlaoise. Gorey trailed by one point at half time, 1-5 to 1-4 and faced a stiff breeze in the second half. A pointed free in the 6th minute of injury time proved to be the winner for Maynooth. Best on the day for Gorey were: **Conor Carty, Richard Farrell, Jonathan Bealin** and **Isaac Porter.**

Gorey CS at South Leinster Cross Country Races

Gorey Community School had a great day at the South Leinster Schools Cross Country Championships in Tineryland, Co. Carlow on February 4th. It was a brisk winter's day with snow on the surrounding Carlow hills. 28 students braved these elements in the Junior Boys, Junior Girls, Intermediate Boys, Intermediate Girls, Senior Boys and Senior Girls Races.

The GCS Junior Girls Team finished 4th in their 2km race. The team was made up of **Orla Furney, Ciara Roche, Molly McGuickin, Lauren Farrell-McCabe and Eileen Byrne.**

Kevin O'Connor was the first of our Junior Boys past the line in a tough 3km race followed by **Dillon Moore, Dermot Wildes, Mark Berney, Robert Harrington, Jamie Kelly and Sean Wall.**

Of the Senior Boys, **Myles Redmond, Richard O'Neill and Evin Fitzpatrick** competed in a very strong field over a gruelling 4.5km and had very respectable finishes all within the top 30s.

Well done to all GCS students who participated and their coaches, **Ms O'Leary, Ms Codd, Mr Finn and Mr Hayes.**

Parents/ Guardians of students currently attending

GCS, who are interested in receiving information about the school – incl. the Newsletter – via the internet, are asked to help us to update our e-mail address book in order to facilitate them. Please, write your e-mail address plus your name and postal address on a piece of paper for your son/daughter to hand in to his/her class tutor. We are trying to have the new service up and running a.s.a.p. In the meantime you are welcome to continue to visit our website www.gorevcs.ie for any information on school-related activities, subject choices, etc.

