



# Gorey Community School May Newsletter



## Bene Merenti

The Annual Bene Merenti Concert which celebrates the school's talent in Music Song and Dance took place over two nights in Gorey Little Theatre where students amazed, dazzled and impressed appreciative audiences

Hosted by **Mr. Cassidy** and **Ms. Browne**, who introduced a variety of hip hop, modern and Irish dancers and rock, folk and choral singers. The feel good factor prevailed throughout.

Bene Merenti means 'most

deserved' and each year students are awarded for their contribution to music and the performing arts throughout their time in GCS.

The excitement was palpable as audience responded in rapturous applause and reached a crescendo in the moments leading up to the announcement of the winners of the overall Bene Merenti Award: **Eiriu** a group comprising of **Deirdre Hogan, Laura McEvoy, Emma Cahill,**

**Deirdre Keogh, Megan McEvoy** and **Eimear Hogan**.

Runners-up were **Kenneth Browne** and **Susie Griffiths**. Additional awards were bestowed for justifiable achievements in a range of categories.

**Mr. Finn** paid tribute to the performers and the organisers **Ms. Tumulty** and **Ms. Clancy** who along with their team of student and teacher volunteers ensured that the annual event was a resounding success.

### Important Dates

Parents Association Meeting	10/5
TV Awards Ceremony	19/5
Incoming First Years Open Day	19/5
3rd/6th Awards	26/5
2nd/5th Awards	27/5
1st Year Awards	28/5
House Exams	1/6-4/6
State Exams	9/6

## The Big Heart of GCS by David Spencer

Throughout the year we have seen Gorey Community School students fundraising and collecting for all kinds of charities.

Even in the times of economic crisis, people are still showing generosity and good will by donating their hard earned money to people in need.

One of the main fundraising events was the Gambia Dance which raised over €10,000!

The Galway flood victims street collecting, organised by Mr. O'Toole also raised about €5000!

There was also the national lollipop fundraiser organised by **Ms. Martin** which was in aid of esophageal cancer.

LCA 5th year Easter raffle for the Irish Cancer Society and the Remember Us Foundation with the help of **Ms. Fennel** raised a considerable sum.

Moved by the suffering

caused by the Haiti earthquake., **Ms. Doyle's** CSPE 3rd Year CSPE class raised 1400 euro.

Overall the gallant efforts of our fundraisers raised almost €20,000!



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# Gambia Trip 2010

## DIT & DCU hits GCS

On the 12th and 22nd of April speakers from DIT and DCU, visited the school to give talks to TY and LC students about the courses & facilities on offer in these institutions. Speakers from WIT and NUIM (Maynooth) visited classes on May 10th.



On the 8th of February 2010, I was one of the group of 22 Transition year students who set off on the journey of a life time- a trip that would change how we viewed the world.

We spent the first night in an airport hotel near Gatwick. There we had our last hot shower for the next 8 days!

Early the next morning we set off our 6 hour flight to The Gambia. We finally arrived in The Gambia where we were greeted by 35 degree sunshine!

We arrived at our accommodation at the GPI (which was a local religious hostel which previous groups had stayed in) and got settled in!

The following morning we visited a primary school which had been funded by previous groups from Gorey! The children we met were extremely welcoming and happy. We went into their classrooms where they entertained us with lively song and dance. They greeted us with warm handshakes and learned how to use our cameras! An afternoon swim at the beautiful "Senegambia" beach resort was wonderful.

The following morning we went to visit an orphanage for young children. This was very sad as all of the children there are below 5. We presented the orphanage with medical supplies which we had brought from home.

That night we went to the Senegambia restaurant where we all went dancing with the Africans! The next morning we left on the long journey to Kuntahr. This was an eight hour bus journey in searing heat and along the way the wheel

got a puncture. Eventually we arrived in Kuntahr where we were welcomed by kids running alongside the bus, dancing and singing. That evening we had a delicious meal of crackers and cheese. The following morning we visited an old slave house. We then returned to the G.P.I. We also visited a crocodile park and the local craft market where we had great fun haggling with the shopkeepers. As we said our last good-byes on departure we all realised we had lived through a life changing experience.

By Stephen Duke



## Florence Trip

A group of 4th, 5th and 6th year Art students recently embarked on a trip to Florence (Firenze), the Renaissance Art capital of the world. They spent 6 days in this beautiful city and visited the world renowned Medici churches, galleries and museums.

The beautiful and evocative city of Florence and the rolling landscape of Tuscany captivated the hearts of the students. Students visited the Sculptural gem known as Michelangelo's David and numerous artistic and architectural treasures including



Brunelleschi's Dome. "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci housed in Milan, was also viewed followed by their very own last supper before departing. The inspirational trip is an invaluable aid to their appreciation of Art & Sculpture and some may study there in future years.

## College Trip



Recently a group of TY students travelled to UCD for an open day in the university. The day began with a lecture about the college and reasons for choosing UCD -the broad range of courses being the main attraction, student ambassadors from the university then took us on a tour of the vast campus. UCD is the biggest campus in the country and many past pupils from GCS pursue their third level education there. Paying a visit to third a level campus is of great importance to Senior Cycle students alongside working to one's potential in order to get that course which is perfect for you.

## Build a Bank

THE AIB  
**Build  
a Bank**  
CHALLENGE

Six students from Gorey Community School have met the challenge of setting up and running a bank within their school. **Sean Barry** (Manager), **Hayley Godkin** (Assistant Manager), **Meave Bolger** (Auditor), **Eimear Hogan** (Teller), **Caitlín Crowe** (Teller) and **Niamh Walsh** (Sales & Marketing Executive) have been awarded a €150 voucher for the school after being ranked in the top ten in the country for their business plan. The aim of the competition was to reduce financial pressures from parents by encouraging students to save in their school. And we must not forget the teams mentors, **Ms. Lenihan** and AIB bank official, **Catriona Leacy**. As this was a nationwide competition their accomplishment is very impressive.

### 1st Year

#### Treasure Hunt

On the Friday before Easter a group of talented 1st Year students competed in a Maths treasure hunt around the school. This was all organised by **Ms. O'Mahony** and her TY Maths class. Congratulations to the winners **Eoin McGuckian** and **Amy O'Shaughnessy**, they received Easter eggs as their prizes and all participants were given Cadburys cream eggs.

### Texaco Art

Gorey Community School had three successes in the annual Texaco Art competition. They are, **Liam Keighley** who won 3rd prize in the 14-15 category, **Celine Earle** who won 3rd prize in the category C award and **Mairead Cunningham** also won a special merit award.



## Students Council Notice

The Student Council meets every Tuesday. The Chairperson is **Hollie Davies** and the Secretary is **Michael Dwyer**.

The SC invited Malcolm Byrne and Colin Webb in to speak to the LC students about engagement in the democratic process. We believe that young people should have an interest in the political process as politics influences many aspects of our lives. Members of the SC and other students visited Saint Aidan's Centre on

March 16<sup>th</sup>. Music was provided by a local group and the students took part in the ceilí. **Caolan Kelly** and **Brian Kidd** did some Irish dancing and **Chris Gethings** played the guitar and sang a selection of Johnny Cash songs. Everyone had a really enjoyable time.

A Healthy Lifestyle Poster Campaign has been running since October. Students are encouraged to eat healthy food such as fruit, vegetables and fish. They are also encour-

aged to eat a good breakfast and take regular exercise. The Jedward posters are a real incentive to having a healthy lifestyle!!

A non-uniform *Bríste* Day is being organised. The money raised will be shared among The Gorey Branch of the Special Olympics, Kay Kavanagh's Chernobyl Aid Ireland and The Irish Cancer Society.

## Make a Book Exhibition

On Wednesday the 21st of April students from Junior Cycle went to the **Make a Book** exhibition in the Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin. Some of them had written books that were displayed in the exhibition, as the others prepare their manuscripts for next year.

The students whose books were displayed were **Emma Cody** and **Joseph Moffatt** 3rd year, and **Darragh Lenehan** and **Shane Kinsella** 1st year. They wrote about

their Halloween project, and Emma wrote books on her trips to America, as well as a flower Calendar and a book of dried flowers.

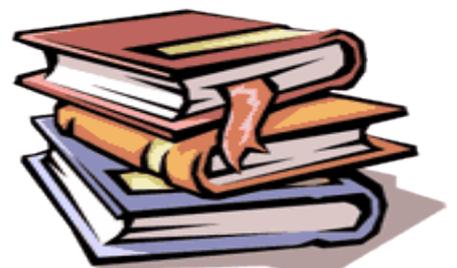
The first years wrote about their outings.

About 50 schools had book displays. Our students got to fill in a quiz, and got special pens. Their quiz was entered in a draw for an i-Pod. The displays included Romeo and Juliet, the Vikings, CSI, cook-books and adventure books about people and places.

The day was rounded off by a visit to the new **Wax Museum**.

The students rated the day four stars out of five!

Thank you **Ms. M. O'Keefe!**



## THE AENEID (ROME 2010) - MS O'REILLY

*I sing of students and of the teachers, fated to take another tour, who not so long since left the outer car park in search of Italy and the shores of Lavinium; a great adventure they had on land, on sea.....*

BOOK 1 'THE WANDERINGS': 47 classical studies students and six heroic teachers recently embarked upon an epic journey taking them to Rome, to Pompeii, to Herculaneum, to Mount Vesuvius, to Capri and beyond, into the heart of the ancient world.

Mr. Hegarty wore his cap!

BOOK 2 'THE VOLCANO': The exhausted explorers marched to the summit of Mount Vesuvius and saw the hot gases of the crater where Spartacus and his band of rebels had taken refuge. They remembered Pliny and his account of the eruption.

Mr. O'Brien was the first to the top!

BOOK 3 'ANCIENT CITIES': The scholars walked through the streets of Pompeii and marvelled at the ancient city. They saw the theatres, the amphitheatre, the Bars, the Brothels, the fullonica, the forum, the Villas, the Gymnasium and the plaster casts of those who had perished. They visited the lost city of Herculaneum and saw the paintings, frescos, mosaics, public baths and bathhouses.

Mr. Cassidy formulated another new theory!

BOOK 4 'THE ISLAND': They sailed across to the Island of Capri, the Summer residence of emperors like Tiberius and Caligula. And a great pounding they took by sea....was this the anger of Juno or just too many sweets and too many waves? An admirable group took the cable car ride to the highest point on the Island....the others had Ice cream!..

Mr. Burke did see the Liverpool match!

BOOK 3 'WAR IN LATIUM': They threw coins into the Trevvi fountain with delight. They discovered the Roman forum with sleep still upon them. They strolled through the coliseum with wonder. They photographed the art of Titus with joy. They studied Trajan's column with enthusiasm. They gazed at the Pantheon with wide eyes. They saw The Ara Pacis of Augustus with rumbling tummies. They refused to go on.....We feared a mutiny.....We found a McDonalds.....MS. O'Reilly bought clothes!

BOOK 24 'THE HOMECOMING': These courageous warriors had many adventures along the way....encountering sirens, fighting off suitors, tormented by God's and Goddesses but six days, five nights, 678,390,003 photos, 15 triumphal arches, 367 mosaics, 256 temples, 17,000,013 statues later the crew, tired and weary, finally returned their homeland.....Ms. O'Grady slept all the way home! And this was how we 'found' Rome!!!!

## West Side Story

Auditions for the upcoming School musical "West Side Story" took place recently under the watchful eye of Ms. Dempsey, Ms Frances Ryan and Ms.Cecil. A huge number of students auditioned and they displayed their entire musical, dancing and acting talents. This show promises to be a huge hit and will be performed early next year.

## Ecology Trip

On Thursday the 28th of April Ms. Steacy's and Ms. Wilde's classes travelled to the Phoenix Park to investigate/ identify plants and animals as part of their Leaving Cert, and as a treat they headed to the Zoo afterwards.

## Sports

### Girls U-19 Rugby

The Gorey Girls Rugby team ended this season very successfully with wins in both their blitzes last weekend. On Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, they travelled to Clonmel for a tag tournament because of the ground conditions. The girls played very well and came away with a win. The team travelled to Naas on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April for the National Blitz. Teams from Leinster and Munster travelled to the blitz and each team played four games. The Gorey girls played brilliantly, winning three of their four games and were overall winners of the Blitz.

By India McGirr

### U 16's Football

This year's under 16 football team have had a very successful second half to their season having won their last 4 games in a row. On Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April the team beat local rivals Enniscorthy by a margin of over 20 points. Mr. O'Sullivan and Mr. Casey have been training this team and the team is led by their captain, Joseph O'Connor. Last Friday they played the County Final against Good Counsel but unfortunately they lost out by two points.

### U-13

### Soccer



Recently the U-13 soccer team played a match against Wexford CBS for a place in the semi-final of the cup. The match was a very close encounter and the teams couldn't be separated with normal or even extra time, the game eventually ended up with Gorey. winning 5-4 on penalties!

