



Rockford News

Newsletter

December 2011

ROCKFORD MANOR, Secondary School, Stradbroom Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Telephone: 280 1522 E-mail: rockfordmanor@eircom.net Website: www.rockfordmanor.ie

"A Christian environment where teaching and learning nurture the personal development of every student"

Привет!

Do you speak Russian? No ? Well, about 143 million Russians do!

Russia is the largest country in the world. It has a fascinating history and world-famous literature.

This year TY students are taking Russian classes. Currently they are getting to grips with the Cyrillic alphabet. The first phrases they learn are how to greet people and how to introduce themselves .

Why not try some of these phrases yourself?

Здравствуй! (Zdravstvuite) Hello!

Привет! (Privet) Hi!

Как дела? (Kak dela?) How are you?

До свидания. (Do svidaniya) Bye!

(C.Roe)

From Renaissance to Contemporary Music

Our Rockford choir continues to expand its repertoire. This year's chosen pieces are the madrigal "How merrily we live" by Michael East, "Enchanting Song" by Bela Bartok, "Deus Meus" arranged by Michael Holohan and "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen.



Rockford Manor Choir

The girls can already be heard lifting the roof off the hall every Tuesday afternoon!

Bravo girls!

(B.Keane)

Bach, Tchaikovsky, Barry

5th and 6th year music students have attended live performances of their set works in the National Concert Hall. Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Overture was performed by the National Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday 18th October. They also enjoyed Bach's Cantata BWV 78 and Barry's Quartet No 1 on November 28 in the NCH.

(B.Keane)

Measuring the Wave Frequency in Dublin Bay



Geography Field Trip

On Thursday October 13th Geography Leaving Cert students met on Killiney beach to carry out their field study investigation. They were accompanied by Ms. O' Hagan and Mr Porter. Weather conditions were perfect.

They completed their two tasks, namely to

measure the wave frequency and to measure the direction and the rate of longshore drift on the beach. Their report accounts for 20% of their Leaving Cert marks.
(N.O'Hagan)

Congratulations

We congratulate

Joanne Murray on the arrival of her baby son,
Ana Kehoe for completing the Dublin City Marathon,
Naomh Daly on the arrival of her baby daughter.

Thanks

We thank **Carmel Malone, Anne Clarke, Anne Doran and Susan Cahill**, retiring members of the Parents Council, for all of their work over the past several years.

Thanks also to **Anne Doran** for all of her work on the Board of Management.

Principals' Message



Welcome to the first newsletter for the 2011/2012 school year. The school year got off to a great start on August 29th with the arrival of three class groups of new First Years. We extend a very warm welcome to them, to new members of staff and to students from abroad.

We thank Fr. Bill Fortune for saying a votive mass on September 23rd to celebrate the opening of the school year. This is an extremely exciting time in our school. All of the places in First Year 2012 /2013 have been filled and there is now a waiting list. Along with this increase in student numbers there have been many other developments in the school. During the summer a programme of electrical refurbishment took place. The school was rewired and new fuse boards were installed. Over the midterm break, every classroom in the school had state of the art ICT equipment installed.

We are delighted to welcome Ms Claire Costigan to the staff of Rockford Manor. Claire will be working with Ms Patricia Barry to set up the new school library. Special thanks to the Parents Council who kindly provided the funding to purchase 3 library trolleys and to Ms Marian Keyes, Senior Librarian in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown for all of her invaluable advice and very generous donation of books.

All of these developments are vital to the creation of an up to date vibrant learning environment for our students. However, it is the combination of a variety of activities- educational trips, sporting events, cultural visits and charitable activities which give the school the positive, lively atmosphere so necessary for success in a variety of areas. This newsletter highlights many of these events. We would like to thank all who contributed to this newsletter as well as the editor Ms. Mc Ardle.

We hope that you enjoy reading it and we look forward to meeting you at school events throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support.

On a final note, don't forget to visit the school website for updates on school events / news.

Liz Caffrey

Tony Collison

Students Council

Elections were held in September 2011, organised by the Deans and three students from each year group were elected by their classmates.



Students Council

Members of the Students Council for 2011-2012 are

1st yrs	Imane Hachadi (1D), Niamh Owens (1D), Sophie Mason (1D)
2nd yrs	Dawn Mc Cormack (2O), Nikita Doyle (2R), Normajean O' Brien (2R)
3rd yrs	Hannah Byrne (3C), Amy Johnson (3C), Asia Kirwan (3C)
4th yr	Nora Doorley, Jenny Robinson, Dominique Daly
5th yr	Meadhbh Dunne (L1D), Jane Dunne (L1A), Megan Allen (L1A)
6th yr	Ciara Mc Connell (L2K), Naomi Clarke (L2N), Leonie Kane (L2A)

In our first meeting, we as a council elected Ciara Mc Connell as Chairperson with Leonie Kane as Deputy Chairperson. Meadhbh Dunne was elected Treasurer, Jenny Robinson was appointed Secretary and Asia Kirwan Public Relations Officer.

We have researched student needs through a questionnaire distributed to all classes. New seats for the old Science lab and improved facilities in the student washrooms were seen as the most urgent needs. We have met with the Principal regarding these needs and expect an announcement shortly.

Our non-uniform day raised €401.80 which will help fund the above.

(Ciara Mc Connell and Naomi Clarke)



Sophie Byrne (Senior Prefect), Alison Cleary (Senior Prefect), Samantha Durning (Senior Prefect), Steffi Phillips (Head Girl), Louise Cooper (Senior Prefect), Ciara Turner (Senior Prefect), Ciara Kavanagh (Senior Prefect).
Not in Picture: Laura Fitzsimons (Senior Prefect).

Parents Council

A Parents Association, as defined by the National Parents Council, is a group of parents whose main concern is the educational development of their children. All parents/

guardians who have daughters attending the school are members of the Parents Association, they elect the Parents Council.

The Rockford Manor Parents Association **AGM** was held on the 12th October 2011. Norman Phillips was elected

Chairperson, Patricia O'Farrell remains as Secretary and Eimear Dunster was elected as Treasurer.

Activities of the Council this year included hosting a tea reception on the Open Night in September for prospective parents, hosting refreshments on the Graduation Night and on Debs night for 6th years.

Last year's sponsored walk for **Fundraising** raised €1,372.40. €30 phone credit vouchers were given to the students who collected



Transition Years In Croke Park

the highest amounts. Funds were used to provide a new burco and new cups (€505.69), shrubs for the school grounds (€436.98), frames for art students' paintings (€465.10), a contribution to the cost of the Year Book (€250). A contribution of €100 was made to the Community Awareness of Drugs organisation. Other expenditure included vouchers for retiring members of the council and refreshments for the graduation and Debs night.

If parents would like to contact us please ring Norman Phillips 087 145 86 76 or Patricia O'Farrell 086 343 10 13.

(Norman Phillips, Chairperson)

Transition Year Activities

It has been a hectic term for transition years - some are stressed out with the amount of work! Here are some of their activities:

Yes! Typ's are studying the basics of the

Russian language (more on page 1)

A visit to "**Mountains to the sea festival**", organised by Mrs Doorley, where authors May Roscott and Patrick Ness read from their recent novels,

A Visit to the "**See the World Through Different Eyes**" Exhibition at the Hugh Lane Art Gallery,

Participation in a **Music workshop** for students of German at the Goethe Institut, Merrion Square. Song published on 1st Dec on www.invasion-der-stimme.de

Attending the performance of a **French theatre group**.

Participation in external workshops offered by various institutions, amongst others "**Generating Ideas**" (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Enterprise Board), **EcoDiscovery** (Eco-Unesco), "**The 7 habits of an effective teenager**" (St Anne's Programme),

A visit to the Garden of Remembrance, the Hugh Lane Gallery and Croke Park,

Participation in **The Junior Achievement Company Programme**, as part of the Enterprise Module with Ms Mooney and Julie Collison (Vodafone),

A 25 km **hike in the Wicklow Mountains** to complete the Adventure Section of The An Gaisce,

A **UCD Tour and Fitness Programme**, which includes trampoline, rock climbing zumba, tag rugby, yoga, pilates,

And many more

(K O'Toole / TYP-Coordinator)

...plein d'humour, d'action et de chanson...

French Theatre for Schools (F.T.F.S.) visited Rockford Manor to perform their latest play, '**Le Paysan Médecin**'. It took place in the school hall on Monday 24th October from 2.15- 3.30 pm. Transition Year, 5th Year and 6th Year students attended.

The plot centred around a rich peasant in search of a wife. The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance. There was plenty of audience participation with great performances from seven sixth year students, namely Ciara Doran, Laura Cunningham, Alison Cleary, Laura Fitzsimons, Vivien Bunda, Micaela Cullen and Leah Fitzgerald.

Nous avons tous apprécié la représentation. C'était un vrai régal, plein d'humour, d'action et de chanson avec beaucoup de participation des spectateurs.

(P. Barry)

“Jammies” For Charity

As part of their CSPE PROJECT Class 3C provided a splash of colour not to mention a dash of curiosity when they held a sponsored fun walk on Friday October 14th. Venturing out in public in their ‘jammies’ the students were walking to raise much needed funds for the charity ALONE. Even Mr Collison was



Class 3C

persuaded to pull on his tracksuit for an hour and walk with them for this worthy cause. The class raised € 350 which they presented to two representatives from ALONE when they visited the class on November 14th. Students were reminded of the importance of being aware of the aged and lonely in our community and to remember ‘A little offering never ends.’ Many thanks to all contributors for their support. (L.Young)

AIB Build a Bank Challenge

Six students will set up and run a school bank under supervision of AIB staff. They will learn money management skills, key business skills, marketing techniques, literacy skills, interpersonal skills, customer service skills, leadership and teamwork skills.

All Transition Year students attended an interview for the six positions available in this AIB Build a Bank Challenge 2011/2012. The successful students are Thelma Dunster (Manager), Bronagh Kinsella (Assistant Manager), Rachel Guerins (Marketing) Catriona Mc Garry (Auditor), Emily Johnson and Maeve Mac Namara (Tellers).

For the winning school there is a top prize of €10,000.

Best of luck!

(F.Mooney)

SPHE

On Tuesday October 11th two speakers from **Accord** addressed all 5th Years on Relationships and Sexuality.

On Tuesday October 25th Patrick Mc Kenna from **Childwatch** gave a talk to all 1st Years. The aim of the talk was to educate the students about threats to their personal safety posed through means of the computer, the internet and mobile phones etc.

Students responded very positively to the presentations.

(L. Hennigan / SPHE Coordinator)

Leaving Certificate Applied 2011/12

This term has been extremely busy for Leaving Certificate Applied students. They have been working on **three tasks** since September: 1 **IT task** - based on Claymation and movie making. The students made clay figures of Alice in Wonderland, took digital photos of the scenes and have made movies of the story using movie maker.

2. **Contemporary Issues:** students studied and researched topics such as prison life, child abuse, drugs, alcohol and did posters, leaflets, surveys etc on the topics.

3. **Practical Achievement Task:** students chose a skill they wanted to learn e.g. learning to drive, gel nail, first aid, dancing etc and attended classes for a number of weeks.

They are writing up a report on the skill and what they learned. They present their reports to an examiner in January 2012.

Other activities were:

A photographic trip around Dublin with Ms Cheevers which produced fabulous work.

A trip to Baltinglass on October 24th and 25th, they had fun learning to abseil, rock climb, canoe, climb high ropes and do night walks through the forest.

Two weeks Work Experience in various institutions and businesses: the Rehab Hospital, the Credit Union, Sunbeam House, Ballyfermot College, FM 104, local hairdressers and local crèches.

Reports from employers were excellent and said the students were extremely hard working, had



Baltinglass Trip

excellent manners, great communication skills and were very responsible and conscientious in their work.

Well done, girls! Congratulations!

(S. Joyce / LCA -Coordinator)

Public Speaking

Congrats to Jenny Robinson (Chairwoman), Nora Doorley (Speaker) and Christal D’Souza (Vote of Thanks) for their participation in the regional finals of the Business & Professional Women’s Association public speaking competition in the Marine Hotel in Sutton on Monday 14th November. Nora gave a very interesting speech

entitled “The contribution women have made to society”. The Rockford TYP supporters who made their way to Sutton (Catriona, Iryna, Aoife & Lesley) helped make the evening memorable indeed! Well done again!

Saturday 19th November saw the participation of Lesley Naughton, Catriona Mc Garry & Iryna Zubatawi in the Soroptimist public speaking competition in the Mansion House. Iryna Zubatawi won third prize! An impressive achievement!.

Congratulations, Iryna!

(J Knowles)

Log on Learn



Public Speaking Team

This year’s Log on Learn computer course offered by TYP students to senior citizens started on October 13th - and here is a first reaction:

I attended a computer course today - given by the students of Rockford Manor School - and found it very interesting. The students are very good teachers as they explain all matters in plain simple English. I would recommend this course to all senior citizens.

Michael Naughton

(F. Mooney)

Fasting for Charity

Our class 3M did a sponsored fast in aid of St Vincent de Paul. In the beginning most of us were dreading it and were convinced we wouldn’t “survive”. But in the end we didn’t give in to temptation and we pulled through! We raised € 790 for the St Vincent de Paul Society and Mr Cyril Cuffe, the president of the South Dublin Area of St Vincent de Paul came in and gave us a very interesting talk on the work of the society.

(Fran Labastida (3M))

Congratulations, girls. Well done!



Class 3M

PE / Sports



Mini - Marathon

A new large **trampoline** has been purchased - we all may look forward to exciting action! To raise funds for Special Olympics Ireland Laura Fagan, Laura Kavanagh, Anna Blake, Alison Cleary, Karen O' Sullivan and Ms Kehoe took part in the **Womens' Mini Marathon** 1st and 3rd Years collected for the **Christmas Shoe Box Appeal**

1st and 2nd years took part in an **Orienteering trip** on 19th October in Santry.

And here some **sports news**:

Congratulations to our basketball teams: Our Senior team beat Cabinteely and Newpark, the Cadette team beat Mount Anville 25 - 32. Hard luck to the Hockey team who lost to Sion Hill and to the Badminton team who lost to Holy Child.

(A. Kehoe)



Hockey Team

History Trip to The Heritage Park

On Monday October 17th classes 1D, 1N and 1F enjoyed a memorable trip to the Heritage Park, Ferrycarraig, Co Wexford. The trip was organised by the History Department to help the students' understanding of their 1st Year History course. They saw many valuable exhibits ranging from the Megalithic Age through to the Age of the Vikings. The day also afforded the students an opportunity to get to know other members of their year group. A great day was had by all.

Many thanks to all who helped make it happen!

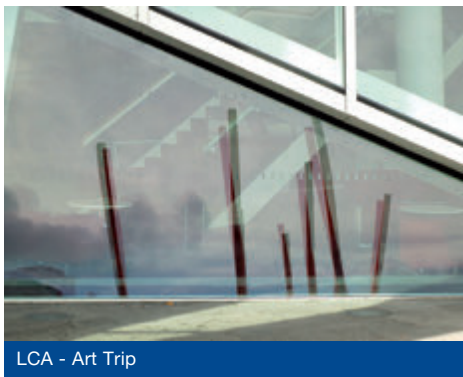
(L. Young)

LCA Art Trip

Our class went on a trip to Trinity College to see the Alice Neel painting exhibition. Many of her paintings reminded us of cartoons, a lot of them looked like they were unfinished. They were slightly scary because it looked like the people

in the photos were frightened. We could tell this from their facial expressions. I really like this style because it is different and interesting. We also went to the Grand Canal Theatre. Outside the theatre was really interesting because of the shape of the building and the art pieces outside. We took pictures of the building, the art pieces and docks from different angles. I really enjoyed this because of the different types of photos we got just by moving the camera to a different angle or zooming in and out.

(Carissa Smith / photograph by Suzanne Fahy)



LCA - Art Trip

Dublin Contemporary Exhibition

On Friday 7th October 2011 all 4th and 5th Year art students went on a trip to the Dublin



Dublin Contemporary Exhibition

Contemporary Exhibition.

A guide welcomed us and showed us around. All the exhibits were very different : while in some rooms you could watch films, in others there were empty bottles flying through the air. My favourite one was a room with big flowers

made of aluminium which made ticking noises. It kind of reminded me of Alice in Wonderland..... Other pieces I did not like at all. But all in all, I really enjoyed the trip. Some pieces were really fascinating and the hours passed so quickly that my friends and I were the last people to leave.

(Charlotte Zorn)

Barrie Cooke Exhibition

On the 7th of September 2011 the Leaving Cert students visited IMMA, the Irish Museum of Modern Art. Barrie Cooke's work was being exhibited.

Barrie Cooke was born in Cheshire, but spent most of his life working in Ireland. He is known for his nature paintings such as "The Elk" and for his many paintings of women.

As we entered the building there was information about the artist. We walked through the numerous rooms .

One of the most unusual aspects of the exhibition concerned Cooke's paintings of

women. Almost all of these paintings show the nude figure. They were painted on small scale canvases, in contrast to his other large paintings.

I think this trip to the Irish Museum of Modern Art was highly enjoyable, and we learned a lot. (Rachel Morris)

Delicious Cakes !

After their week long work experience at Ballymaloe cookery school Jenny Robinson and Lesley Naughton shared tips of successful baking with us - the chocolate cake and the Victorian sponge with raspberry jam and fresh cream filling were absolutely delicious! We all enjoyed their demonstration of making cakes very much.

(K.O' Toole)



Happy Bakers

Artist's Talk

5th and 6th year students had the unique opportunity to talk to artist **Anna Boyle** on her work and her experience as an artist.

Anna Boyle studied at the National College of Art and Design, she lives and works in Dublin. Her works are very colourful mixed media creations. Students enjoyed talking to Anna Boyle. What they learned will be an inspiration for their next projects.

Upcoming Events

7th Dec	E-portal training for staff 2.30-5.30pm
22nd Dec	Carol Service
23 Dec - 6 Jan12	Christmas Holidays
9th Jan	School reopens
18th Jan	Information night for 3rd & 4th yr parents regarding TYP,LCA, 5th yr programmes
26th Jan	Parent Teacher meeting -2nd & 5th yrs. 4.15-6.45pm
1st Feb-10th Feb	Mock Exams (3rd & 6th yr)
2nd Feb	Information night for parents of incoming 1st yrs sept 2012
23rd Feb	5th yr theatre visit to Macbeth
27/28 Feb	TYP social placement