



Rockford News

Newsletter

December 2012

ROCKFORD MANOR, Secondary School, Stradbroom Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
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"A Christian environment where teaching and learning nurture the personal development of every student"

Recognition for outstanding achievement



Ciara Doran and the Principal



Senator Quinn and Emma Fitzsimons



Laura Cunningham



Siobhan O'Farrell

Thanks and Farewell

Roisin Mc Donnell / Guidance Counsellor and **Ana Kehoe** / PE teacher left Rockford Manor to take up new positions in other schools. We would like to thank them both very much for all of their work. We also thank **Mary Power** and **Laurence Cleary**, job bridge interns who spent nine months with us. We wish them all success and happiness in the future !

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome some new staff members: **Claire Fealy** joined the Irish department, **Miriam Howlin** took over PE, **Wanda Scarff** is the new Guidance Counsellor, **Tina Bambrick** is our new school secretary, **Rodney Gilbert** is our new assistant caretaker.

Christmas raffle

The LCA Class along with Ms. Murray are going to run a Christmas raffle to raise funds for charity. **The draw will take place on Friday, December 21.**

Winter message



Welcome to the Winter 2012 newsletter! Time has simply flown past since the school reopened after the summer break on 26th August. We warmly welcome all of our new students, teachers, staff and parents to the Rockford Manor community.

Special congratulations to Laura Cunningham, Ciara Doran, Siobhan O'Farrell (Leaving Cert 2012) and Emma Fitzsimons (Leaving Cert Applied 2012) who received awards for the exceptionally high results they achieved in their exams

Our academic focus this year is on improving literacy. The work done last year setting up a school library continues. The new Junior Certificate programme and School Self Evaluation are two other areas which we are currently working on.

An initiative to build links with the three other Presentation schools in the Dublin area got off to a great start with Rockford girls visiting St. Joseph's Lucan, Coláiste Bríde Clondalkin and Presentation Warrenmount while their students spent a day in Rockford Manor shadowing our 5th years. Ms. Cathy Keane arranged a residential leadership programme in the Nano Nagle Centre in Cork which representatives from each of the four schools attended.

This newsletter gives you a flavour of the many activities which have taken place in the school over the past four months. We hope that you enjoy reading about them. Many thanks to Ms. McArdle, editor and to all of the contributors. Best wishes to all for a Happy, Peaceful Christmas and New Year!

Liz Caffrey
Principal

Tony Collison
Deputy Principal

There are several highly esteemed awards for outstanding academic achievement at secondary level. Rockford Manor has the honour and privilege to announce that four of last year's students have been chosen for such awards:

On November 15, 2012 **Laura Cunningham** received a **UCD Entrance Scholars Award**.

On November 21, 2012 **Ciara Doran** received an **Entrance Exhibition Award** from **Trinity College Dublin**.

In February 2013 **Siobhan O'Farrell** will be awarded an **Academic Scholarship** from **Dublin City University**.

On December 1, 2012 **Emma Fitzsimons** received a **Feargal Quinn Leaving Certificate Applied Award** as she attained 197 credits out of a total of 200 credits.

Congratulations, girls! We are proud of you. We wish you all the best for the future!

Ms. Mc Ardle

Student Council

Elected Student Council Officers for the school year 2012/13:

Chairperson: Olga Leonova

Deputy Chairperson: Nikita Boyce



Student Council

Secretary: Amy Johnston

Assistant Secretary: Hannah Allen

Treasurer: Aoife Lang

P.R. Committee: Adrienne Bordonada, Orla Kinsella

Attendance Officer: Shannon Johnston Byrne

Members: Natasha Garton, Nora Doorley, Jessica Poleon, Susan Shortall, Jessica Kelly Redmond, Nicole Duffin, April Mooney, Shannon Johnston, Holly Naylor, Dionne Baker, Torilee Brown Ms. O' Toole



Senior Prefects

Senior Prefects' bonding evening

In October the Senior Prefects organized a film evening for themselves in the school.

The ladies took over the Home Economics kitchen and baked their goodies: pizzas, chocolate brownies, cup cakes etc. The preparation and sharing of food was an important part of the ritual as was all "the chat" that the girls engaged in - the film was secondary!

The occasion was a success. Spending time together in a relaxed fashion was what was called for and this worked.

Ms Keane (6th yr Dean)

Parents Council

The Executive Committee of the Parents' Association meet on the first Wednesday of each month. There were nine meetings during the past school year September 2011 to May

2012. The **AGM** was held in October 2012, eleven parents turned up from a base of 303 students. A tea / coffee refreshment room was organised and staffed by the Parents' Executive Committee for the

Open Night in September 2012 for prospective students and for the **graduation and debs night** for the outgoing 6th years.

Members of the Parents Executive Committee welcomed the new first year parents to the school at their 1st year meeting.

The committee is also involved in the **development or revision of school policies**.

Again **fundraising** events will be organised over the year; funds raised will be channelled back into the school for the benefit of the students.

If you are interested in joining the Parents Association please contact

Norman Phillips/
Chairperson
087 1458678

Patricia O'Farrell/
Secretary
086 3431013
ofarrelltrish@gmail.com

A Fancy Dress Day

*"Dear Ms.Caffrey,
Rockford Manor is a school set up by an Order that believed years ago and still believes girls should get an education like their male peers. Nano Nagle opened the first schools for young females in Ireland all these years ago. Yet in some countries girls are still considered as "only housewives" and don't go to school to get the education that could change their future. I would like to suggest a non-uniform day on October 26. Each student could bring in €2. With this money, we can help girls in third-world countries receive an education . (...)
I think this would be a great way of continuing Nano Nagle's work .(.....)*

*Yours sincerely,
Julia Machaj."*

Julia's letter was so thought provoking that the Student Council decided to organise a fundraising "Non-uniform/Fancy Dress Day" on October 26 with the proceeds being divided between the Charity and Student Council funds. Some students brought in more than €2 and this money was donated directly to the charity. Ms.Caffrey

Nano Nagle trip to Ballygriffin

On November 13 we travelled by train to the Nano Nagle Centre in Ballygriffin Co. Cork. We met seven girls from Coláiste Bríde (Clondalkin), Warrenmount and St Joseph's (Lucan). The aim of the trip was to introduce all the head girls and prefects of the different Presentation schools in the Dublin area to each other.

During our stay we took part in a number of activities such as tai chi, games, a walk in the dark and a leadership course. As the trip was an overnight stay we had the opportunity to get to know the girls from the other schools. We all got on really well and worked as a team to cook dinner that evening.

The trip was really enjoyable and helped us to discover a lot about ourselves as leaders in our schools and of course about Nano Nagle who founded the Presentation sisters.

Ashling Johnson, Megan Allen



Students from other Presentation schools visit Rockford Manor

TYP: Start with a bang !

Transition Year started with a bang – literally ! The students began the year with an induction workshop on “**samba drumming**” where they learnt to use different percussion instruments and complex rhythm patterns, culminating with a performance for the first years. They also did a workshop called “**Gold in the Desert**” – to help them focus themselves and to set goals for the year.

The students have had **talks** by speakers from An Gaisce, Focus Ireland, Sports Partnership and the Arch Club.

They went on **trips** to Croke Park, to the Garden of Remembrance, to Collins Barracks and to UCD. The two highlights were the overnight trip to Lough Dan, where the students had to brave the elements to complete a 25km hike, and the visit to the chocolate factory, where they became “**umpa lumpas**” creating their own chocolate bears!



TYP outing

The students are now more aware of nutrition. Their fitness levels improved with modules in Zumba, Frisbee, Irish Dancing and Salsa.

Communication skills have been a focus of the first term with students preparing and doing interviews with AIB personnel and getting involved in the ‘Build a Bank’ competition and the “log on learn” programme.

K. O’Toole (TYP Coordinator)

Choir news

The 43 strong choir is working hard on its 2012/2013 repertoire. The core pieces are “This Little Babe” – Benjamin Britten
“A Cheann Dubh DÍlis” – Oliver Hynes
“Steal Away” arr Brian Trant.

In keeping with the strong choral tradition the first years are making a great start with their pieces:

“The Little Spanish Town” – Peter Jenkyns
“Suo - Gan”, a Welsh lullaby, arr A Rowley.
Ms B Keane

LCA activities

The 18 students in the Leaving Certificate Applied class 2012/2013 come from four different groups: Junior Cert, TYP, 5th Year and from other schools.

As a **group bonding exercise** students went bowling in Leisureplex Stillorgan on September 11 - they had a very enjoyable afternoon.

As part of the **Leisure and Recreation Programme** the group completed the General Education Task on a trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre on October 22 and October 23. The girls, Ms Joyce, Christine and Barbara had a wonderful time doing Canoeing, High Ropes, Zorb-Balling, Laser Combat and Murder Hunt.

The girls learned new skills and a lot about themselves!

The students were on **work experience** from November 5 to 16 in various companies and institutions such as the ESB, Fitzpatrick’s Hotel, The Red Door (Autistic School), Creches, Diabetes Ireland, “Fighting Words” (Russell St), primary schools and bakeries.

As part of their **English and Communications Course** the class visited Dun Laoghaire Library and the cinema on September 21. Liza, the chief librarian gave them a very useful tour of the library. Later the girls viewed Woody Allen’s latest release “To Rome with Love”. This meant they were able to complete two of their four key assignments for this module.

Ms Joyce (LCA Coordinator)



Third Year yoga workshop

SPHE

This year again **talks** were organised for the students during the first term.

On November 7 a representative of Accord talked to all 5th years on the subject “**Relationships and Sexuality**”.

On November 12 all 3rd Years participated in a **Yoga and Nutrition** workshop.

The Rape Crisis Centre is making a concerted effort to reach as many schools as possible this year with their **Outreach Programme**. Talks were given in November to 6th Years, 5th Years, LCAs and TYPs. The prefect of each class collected money from the students and made a donation to the Rape Crisis Centre as funding is badly needed.

Next term 2nd years will receive a talk on Sex Education. A series of talks is also planned for next term on the area of Cyber Bullying.

Ms Hennigan (SPHE Coordinator)



Fifth Year ecology trip

PE / Sport

Sports Captain 2012/13: Aoife Lang

Deputy Captain: Ciara Winstanley.

The Cadette / 3rd year **basketball** team is through to the semi final in the South Dublin Basketball League. The senior basketball team is through to the quarter final.

Well done! Congratulations!

The first year **volleyball** games start shortly.

There will be three teams so all girls should train hard to make a place on a team.

Best of luck to all!

For details regarding training times please see PE noticeboard.

Ms Howlin

Sportsperson of the month award

This new award has been introduced to **honour outstanding achievements** in the various sports.

Winners in October nominated by their trainers were:

Basketball: Lia Vinod Jr / Aoife Lang Sr

Badminton: Lia Vinod Jr / ShonaDoran Sr

Soccer: Robin Flynn Jr / Nora Doorley Sr

Ms. Howlin



Debs 2012

First Year liturgy

This years' first year liturgy was held on October 24 in the Oratory. The first years, their parents and their teachers were greeted by the sixth year senior prefects who had prepared the prayer service. The theme of friendship was celebrated with various students participating through prayer, word, song and gesture.

Following the prayer service all guests were invited



First Year Liturgy

Venice and Lake Garda

Preparations are in place for this school year's trip to Italy, during the Easter holidays. Thirty five 4th and 5th years will depart on March 22 for a **four day tour of Northern Italy**. During their visit they will experience the floating city of Venice where they can take a trip in the iconic gondolas. Also planned is a visit to the stunning region of Lake Garda.

This trip promises four days of great art, food, scenery, culture and fun!

Ms Behan

Geography field trip

On October 22 the Leaving Cert Geography students carried out their **field study investigation on Killiney beach**. Conditions were ideal as it was sunny and dry. The topic concerned the evidence of **erosion** on the beach. On the section of the beach studied there was indeed evidence of erosion taking place. Mr Collison accompanied the group and helped out with the various tasks. This study is worth 20% of their overall marks.

Ms. O'Hagan



First Year trip to Heritage Park

to refreshments prepared by the TYP catering group. This was an opportunity for everyone to mingle and socialize. Each of the first years had received a letter from their 6th Year Buddies; judging by their chatter and the expressions on their faces, the 1st yrs were delighted to open and share their letters with one another.

Senior Prefects

First Year trip to Heritage Park

On October 11 the first year classes 1D, 1F and 1R visited the Heritage Park, Co. Wexford. Braving wet and windy conditions the girls donned their wellies and rain jackets to enjoy a guided tour of the many **exhibits of Pre-Christian and Christian Ireland**. Added excitement was injected into the tour with the unexpected appearance of a rooster newly adopted by the Heritage staff. He was more than happy to showcase his talents much to the girls' delight.

A great day was had by all !

Sincere thanks to Ms Daly, Ms Barnes, Ms Cummins and Ms Monaghan for all their help.

Ms Young

Upcoming Events

Tues 11th Dec 3-5pm.	Staff inservice: School Self Evaluation
Fri 21st Dec	Christmas Carol Service
Mon 7th Jan	School reopens
Thurs 17th Jan 4.15 – 6.45pm	2nd year Parent/Teacher meeting
Wed 23rd Jan 7.30pm	Information night for 3rd & 4th yr parents re TYP & 5th yr 2013/2014
Fri 31st Jan	2nd & 3rd yr students: Romeo & Juliet
Thurs 7th Feb	Information night for Incoming First Year students (2013/2014)
Mon 4th Feb - Fri 8th Feb	Mock Exams for 3rd & 6th years
Mon 25th Feb & Tues 26th Feb	TYP Social Placement
Wed 27th Feb 4.15- 6.45pm	1st Year Parent/Teacher meeting
Thurs 7th March 4.15- 6.45pm	TYP Parent/Teacher meeting
Mon 18th March	Bank Holiday