



Rockford News

Newsletter

May 2014

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

La Visite Merveilleuse des Étudiants Français



Ms Barry with Eva and her students

For the academic year September 2007 - June 2008 **Eva Souali** came to Rockford Manor as an **'Assistante'** for French. She was a very popular young lady with the students and a terrific help in the classroom. Eva and I have maintained contact since then and thus it was with much delight that we at Rockford Manor received Eva accompanied by two colleagues and seventeen French students for a visit to our school.

The students attend **Lycée Providence Miséricorde** in Rouen. They came to Dublin on a school trip for four days. They spent the morning of the 28th March in classes here at Rockford Manor mixing with the students of 5th and 6th Year and participating in class activities.

Great fun was had by all and many friendships were established. The 5th Years have continued to maintain much contact with these French students on Facebook. This visit was a wonderful experience.

Ms Barry

Choir wins 3rd Place at Navan Choral Festival

Congratulations to the school choir for coming 3rd in the **National Choir of the Year Competition** at the Navan Choral Festival on Friday 9th May. The girls competed against 11 schools from all over the country and received a mark of 90%. The girls attended extra rehearsals for the competition. *I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their participation and hard work since September.* As the academic year comes to a close the choir says goodbye to the 6th year members. They were exemplary and will be greatly missed. *We wish Nora Doorley, Bronagh Dunne, Maeve Mac Namara, Caitriona Mc Garry, Miriam Smolenski, Lesley Naughton and Jenny Robinson the best of luck with all their endeavours in the future.*

Ms Whyte



Choir wins 3rd Place

Summer Message



Welcome to our Summer Newsletter 2014. The 2013/2014 academic year has flown by and the State Examinations are looming. It has been a busy year with many successes in the sporting, academic and cultural fields.

Now, we bid farewell to the Leaving Certificate Class of 2014 and wish them success in their exams and every blessing as they continue on their journey to 3rd level education.

We bid farewell too, to the international students who spent this academic year in Rockford Manor. We hope that they enjoyed their stay in Ireland as much as we enjoyed having them in the school.

The photographs and articles reflect the many wonderful events which took place this term. A wide variety of extra-curricular activities is available to the students. We sincerely thank the staff who continue to provide great support, encouragement and inspiration on a daily basis.

In spite of the many challenges being faced by all schools at present, Rockford Manor continues to thrive. Student numbers are growing and our facilities are improving all the time. During the summer holiday break, the heating system in the school will be upgraded under the Schools Summer Works Scheme.

In every organisation, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes – much of it is invisible but all of it is vital so we would particularly like to thank Tina, Mary, Brendan and Helen for ensuring that the office runs like clockwork; Barbara and Christine who as well as their SNA duties, are always willing to help; Susan, Pat, Dermot, Eamonn and Tomasz for their work keeping the buildings and grounds in good order.

During the past year we have had the support and encouragement of the Board of Management and Parents' Council. They are all volunteers who give up their time to serve the school. Many thanks for your energy and commitment.

Finally, best wishes to all for an enjoyable summer break. We look forward to the students returning in late August with energy and enthusiasm to meet the challenges of the next academic year.

Liz Caffrey
Principal

Tony Collison
Deputy Principal

Rockford Manor Parents Association

The Parents' Executive Committee (PEC) held their last meeting of the year on 7th May 2014. At this meeting the need for possibly two new parent representatives on the Board of Management (BOM) was raised.

One of the representatives is due to retire from the BOM as her daughter is sitting her Leaving Certificate Examination in June. The other representative's position may also have to be filled. It should be noted that the representatives on the BOM report back to the Parents' Executive Committee at our monthly meetings.

If any parent would like to go forward for a position on the BOM please contact either:

Norman Phillips Chairperson
087 1458676

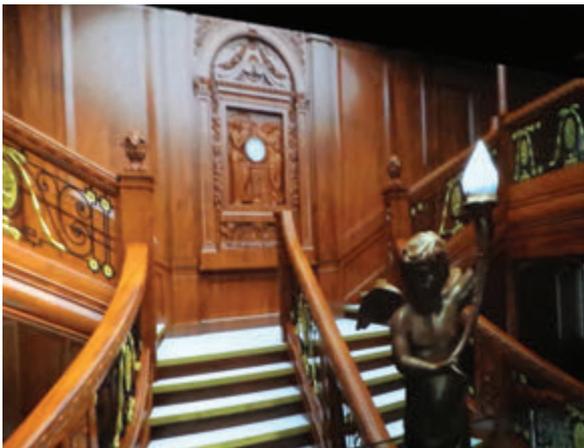
Patricia O' Farrell Secretary
086 3431013 (afternoons)

Belfast Trip

After a very long bus journey we finally arrived at the enormous building known as the **Titanic Belfast** museum.

It is a beautiful building on the outside and on the inside. First of all we saw what it would have been like to have worked on the building of the "unsinkable" ship

known as the Titanic. We learned that you had to be on very high scaffolding working on these ships. We also learned that it was very hard working on the ship and that you would have been deaf by the age of thirty. Then we saw how the Titanic would have looked like on the inside. The interior of the ship was very structured and beautifully crafted.



A glimpse of the past

Next we went into the discovery theatre and saw what the Titanic looks like today lying on the sea bed of the Atlantic Ocean.

After visiting the museum we did a **bus tour of Belfast** city. A lovely tour guide came onto our bus and told us many interesting facts about the city of Belfast. We stopped to take in the artwork on the walls of Belfast such as the 'Peace Wall'. Also we stopped at Queen's University Belfast which is where former President Mary McAleese studied Law. After finding out many interesting facts about Belfast and the Titanic, it was time to give our brains a rest and head home. All and all we really enjoyed our experience in Belfast city.

Special thanks to Ms Hennigan and Ms Barry for organising the trip. Also thank you to all the teachers who came along.

Hannah O'Sullivan & Chelsea Timmons (2nd Yr)



Outside the Titanic Belfast

Titanic Review

On May 2nd all second and third year students went on a highly anticipated school trip to the **Titanic Belfast** museum. The drive up was a long one and everyone was relieved when the tour bus finally pulled up outside the massive replica of the Titanic. Plenty of photos were taken at this stage. Once inside the separate groups were mostly free to wander around. The highlight of the trip was the tour around the city of Belfast and learning about the long history between the Catholic and Protestant areas. There was a long wall with many

murals and signatures on it called **The Peace Wall**. We discovered that Belfast city is very similar to Dublin city, at times it was hard to distinguish between the two. The return journey was long and everybody

was hungry. A pit stop in Castlebellingham fixed that problem! We all really enjoyed the trip and everybody should pay the Titanic museum a visit. Niamh Cassidy (3N)

Royal Irish Academy of Music Exams

Dec 2013	Miriam Smolenski	Honours Grade 7	piano
Mar 2014	Nora Doorley	Merit Grade 7	piano
Mar 2014	Lesley Naughton	Honours Grade 5	Music Theatre / Popular Singing
Mar 2014	Shona Doran	Merit Grade 5	Music Theatre / Popular Singing

3rd Year CSPE Action Projects

The students from the three **3rd year** CSPE classes raised over **€1,500** recently for a variety of causes. 3D had by far the dirtiest job when they undertook to **wash the cars** of the staff members. Their work earned the **Marie Keating Foundation** over €200. The girls in 3F also raised over €200 for the **Jack and Jill Foundation**, the charity that provides support for very sick children and their families. The girls ran a very successful **cake sale** and **raffle** in the school. 3N students were very successful in running a **sponsored walk** in conjunction with the Parents' Council. The total amount collected was in excess of €1,200. These funds will go towards improving the school environment for all the students.

In addition to all the great fundraising their efforts comprise of 60% of their Junior Certificate mark in their CSPE exam.

A big thank you to all the third year girls who made these projects such a success! Special thanks also to all who supported these worthy causes.

Mr Collison



Students from 3D proudly present cheque to Linda Keating

Leaving Certificate Applied

The LCA class returned to school on April 28th to a very busy term. On Thursday May 1st the girls went on their **tourism trip** to the **Guinness Hopstore**. They completed questionnaires on all aspects of the Guinness experience – how Guinness is made, transported, distributed and advertised. They also had an opportunity to enjoy the views from the glass tower on top of the Hopstore. The class later went to the **Dublin Main Tourist Office** on Suffolk Street where the girls did research on Dublin Bus Tours, Dublin Entertainment and Accommodation in Dublin. A planned visit to Dublin Castle had to be abandoned due to the lashing rain.

On May 12th the girls had their two hour Leaving Certificate Applied Cookery Examination which is worth 50% of their Hotel, Catering and Tourism Exam. Each girl had to complete a different task eg catering for a buffet, a birthday party, a sports day or an ethnic meal. The girls had their English Oral Exam on Monday 19th May, their Information Technology Exam on Wednesday 21st May and their French Oral Exam on Thursday 22nd May.

Wishing all the girls the very best of luck in their remaining exams on June 4th!

Ms Joyce



LCA students at Guinness Hopstore

Build a Bank

On Wednesday March 5th we went to the **Build a Bank** competition in Leopardstown race course. Sarah, Paula, Isabel, Rachel and I had an amazing time. We got food and drinks there and we played a lot of games. We went with our teacher Mr Glynn and we had a lot of fun.

Hazel O' Farrell (TY)

Student Enterprise Awards

On Thursday March 13th two groups from transition year went to the **Student Enterprise Awards**. Erica, Nikita, Cristina and Orla sold iPhone accessories and Judith, Yasmin and I sold handmade hairbows. We went with Christine and Mr Glynn came later on in the day. We had a great day.

Hazel O' Farrell (TY)

Cloughjordan House, Co Tipperary

Transition Years recently spent two days in **Cloughjordan House Cookery School**, Co. Tipperary. We stayed overnight in Django's Hostel, Cloughjordan eco-village. We went with great excitement in anticipation of all the cookery skills we were going to learn. We started with the



Hats off to the cooks!

basics. We visited the garden to see how easy it is to grow vegetables like leek, chard, lettuce, parsley, potatoes and we later learned how to use them in the kitchen. We were split into groups; group 1 toured the farm and gathered fresh eggs, pulled vegetables and got up close to the farm animals - pigs, horses, sheep and cattle while group 2

were in the kitchen cooking a delicious lunch of vegetable soup, yeast bread and homemade butter for everyone – all fresh farm produce. All organic waste from the kitchen and leftovers went to feed the farm pet pigs. In the afternoon the groups swapped roles. The dinner was prepared this time by group 1 who portioned and marinated chicken and made chocolate brownies ready for a BBQ that evening. We had a great feast topped off with toasted marshmallows. Later we returned to the hostel for tea and toast before collapsing into bed around midnight. Following wake up

calls by Ms Behan, Ms Brophy and Ms Murphy at 8am we had a quick breakfast before returning to the cookery school to learn more cooking skills. We prepared lunch – sticky toffee pudding, pasta carbonara and foccacia made with buttermilk from the previous day. Each group also had an hour long **forest walk** guided by Sarah Baker, the Cookery School owner. The trip was funded by the money raised at the **Transition Years' Bingo Night**. *A huge thanks to all involved. Many thanks also to all the teachers who came with us on the trip.* We had a memorable trip and the best of fun. Really fab!

April, Cliodhna, Holly & Shauna (TY)

Basketball Fun

On Thursday 8th May, in the afternoon, the Rockford Manor sports hall filled with expectant students and teachers for the annual **student/teacher** basketball fundraiser. The atmosphere was electric as students and teachers battled for the ball to a chorus of chants from the crowd. After an intense hour, the teachers won the day, but they had been challenged to the final whistle by the dynamic 6th Year team. All entered into the spirit of the occasion!

Congrats to all participants on and off the court!

Ms Knowles

La Vidéo Incroyable des Étudiantes de cinquième

Our fifth year French class decided to make a music video for **Stromae's** song '**Papaoutai**' having watched his videos on youtube. We planned out in French class the scenes we would shoot, the clothes we would wear and what roles people would play.



Teachers participating in the video

We involved a lot of teachers and had a great time filming it. The song by **Stromae** is about a boy looking for his father. Our interpretation showed our fifth year French class searching for a bunny who at the end of the video is revealed to be Mr Collison, our Deputy Principal. *We would like to thank all the teachers involved.* We are very happy with how the video turned out and very proud of our production. It has gotten over 2350 views on youtube to date. The video was directed, recorded and edited by **Hannah Byrne** and **Sara Taleghani**.

Amy Johnston (5thYr)



Go teachers go!

Active Schools Week

Active Schools Week which took place from May 12th – May 15th was a great success. Every year group got really involved and it was a fun filled and active week. *Thanks to the following teachers who helped out with Active Schools Week: Ms Behan, Ms Ni Mháthuna, Ms Scarff, Ms Corrigan, Ms Whyte, Mr Glynn, Ms Rogers, Ms Murphy, Mr McCue, Mr Williams and Ms Nolan.* The 5th Year girls won the dancing competition that was held at the morning assemblies. *Well done girls!*

Ms Howlin



Lunchtime on the court!

Sport

Volleyball – The First Year A volleyball team won the Dublin Final on May 9th. The following girls were involved. **Aisling Keating, Faye O’Connell Bell, Michelle Khong, Emma Hughes, Alicia Kosek,** and **Klaudia Krasowska.**

Congratulations girls!

The First Year B volleyball team got through to the Dublin Finals. The team played exceptionally well. The girls involved were **Holly Bracken, Erin Higgins, Sarah Ann Mullane, Veda Chidara, Hannah Clarke, April Bordonada, Laura Harper, Kate Doran, Emma Norton, Roisin Lynch** and **Lauren Dunne.**

Well done girls!

Athletics – **Aoife Lang** and **Sarah Jane Doyle** got through to the Leinster Athletics competition. *Well done girls!*

Special thanks to Ciara Winstanley, our outgoing Sports Captain and Aoife Lang, our outgoing Deputy Sports Captain, for all their hard work during the year. Our Sports Captain for next year will be **Rebecca Patton** and our Deputy Sports Captain will be **Sinead Lang.** *Congratulations, girls!*

Ms Howlin

Art Trips

6th Year art students with some of our international students went on a trip recently to **Newgrange** in Co. Meath. On the trip students had an opportunity to learn all about the history of Newgrange and to see inside the famous **passage grave.**



A visit to Newgrange

Newgrange is over 5000 years old and is the finest example of a passage grave in Europe. On December 21st every year the light shines through the entrance lighting up the passageway. 2nd Year art students went on a recent trip to the **Botanic Gardens** in Glasnevin. Students had the opportunity to photograph the unusual and beautiful plants in the Botanic Gardens and to listen to a talk about the history of the Botanic Gardens and some of the rare plants that are grown there.

Ms Cheevers

Artist in Residence

Chen Yi, one of our past pupils recently spent two weeks in the art department working as an **artist in residence.** She is seen pictured with a piece of artwork she created during her residency. This artwork was made up of thousands of dots made with a pen. This was a great opportunity for current students to see a piece of artwork being made from start to finish and to discuss the process with our artist in residence. We were delighted that Chen Yi came back to us for a couple of weeks and very proud to learn that she has just been accepted into the **National College of Art and Design** to do her degree. *Congratulations, Chen Yi!*

Ms Cheevers



A talented artist

Student Awards 2014

The **Annual Student Awards** ceremony took place on Friday May 16. The ceremony acknowledged the academic and sporting achievements of our students during the year and also the invaluable voluntary work done by many of our pupils all year. This work contributed greatly to school life.

Among the major awards were:

Best Overall 6th Year Student
Thelma Dunster

Best Leaving Certificate
Mock Results
Nora Doorley

6th Yr Personal
Achievement Award
Bronagh Kinsella

LCA Endeavour Award
Shannen Mc Grane

English Essay Competition
Nora Doorley

Rockford Spirit Award
Ainah Balili

Senior Sportsgirl
Rebecca Patton

Junior Sportsgirl
Faye O’Connell Bell

Congratulations to all!

Ms Mc Ardle



Thelma receives top award

Upcoming Events

4th June	State Exams begin
9th June	Board of Management meeting
25th August	School reopens for First Year students
26th August	2nd - 5th yr students return to school
27th August	All students have classes until 12.30pm