



# Rockford News

## Newsletter

## March 2014

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

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

### Post Primary Spikeball National Finals



Spikeball National Finals

Huge congratulations to our First Year and Second Year volleyball teams that took part in the **Post Primary Spikeball National Finals** in UCD on 27th February 2014.



1st year team

The First Years won the **1st Year Girls National Final** and our Second Years were runners up in the **National Final of the 2nd Year Girls** competition on the same day.



2nd year team

Both teams played extremely well and wore the Rockford Jersey with pride. Spikeball is an adapted 4-player v 4-player volleyball game that was introduced to Ireland in the last three years. It is an initiative developed by the Volleyball Association of Ireland.

*Well done to both teams!*

Ms Howlin

### Emmanuel 2014

Rockford Manor Secondary school was one of approximately 60 schools that took part in the **Emmanuel Concert Series** in the Helix this March. The concerts took place on the 4th, 5th and 6th March. Emmanuel is a project of the Dublin Diocesan Liturgy Resource Centre with approximately 700 students singing each night. The concerts are unique in Ireland with many students between the ages of 12 and 17 singing Church music live with a full orchestra. There was strong competition for the positions of soloists with 300 boys and girls competing for a coveted solo position on the Helix stage. We are delighted to announce that four Rockford Manor students (**Adrienne Bordonada, Megan Keane, Lesley Naughton and Cara Sutherland**) were chosen as soloists. This was a great achievement.

*Congratulations girls!*

Ms Whyte & Ms Keane



Soloists at the concert

### Spring Message



Welcome to the 2014 March newsletter. The second term has been a very lively, busy one with wonderful achievements in many areas.

The student council is doing a great job representing the student body.

The corridor walls are covered with an ever changing display of gorgeous, thought provoking artwork and projects.

A group of students from Korea spent a month in Rockford Manor this term and helped to add to the cultural diversity of the school.

The Volleyball teams were very successful with the First Year team winning the All Ireland Spikeball Final and the Second Years finishing runners up in their competition.

The school choir took part in the Emmanuel Concert on Tuesday 4th March in the Helix Theatre along with 22 other schools in the Dublin Diocese.

On the academic front, a recent follow up inspection of Science was conducted by the Department Inspectorate in February. The inspector was very complimentary to both staff and students on their work. The State Oral and Practical Examinations will take place before Easter.

We would like to thank all of the teachers involved in providing our students with so many opportunities to participate in such a wide range of activities. Please encourage your daughter to participate in as many as possible.

Thank you to all parents who returned the School Uniform Survey. Ninety seven per cent of respondents wished to have a school uniform.

Best wishes to all for a very Happy Easter 2014.

Liz Caffrey  
Principal

Tony Collison  
Deputy Principal

## Students' Council



Student Council at work

Elected student council officers for the school year 2013/2014:

**Chairperson:** Nora Doorley

**Vice Chairperson:** Dominique Daly

**Secretary (1st term):** Judith Smolenski

**Secretary (2nd term):** Orla Kinsella

**Treasurer:** Lauren Watson

**Members:** Thelma Dunster, Jessica Poleon, Brid Nolan, Susan Shortall, Normajean O' Brien, Sinead Lang, Imane Hachadi, Jewel Orido, Ainah Bailli, Lauren Cleary, Chloe Askin, Aoife O'Brien, Jessica Walsh.

Ms Whyte

## Student Council Activities

The Student Council is a vital feature of school life. It gives all students a voice as well as an opportunity to participate in the affairs of the school. The Student Council of 2013/2014 has been very busy this term. From the 3rd-7th March we had the **Student Council Awareness** week. The main aim was to show students the importance of the Council and how we can all play a crucial role in the running of our school! One lasting feature of the week was the introduction of a permanent **suggestion box** in the school.



Suggestion Box

We also promoted **National Tree Week** by planting seven trees behind the school. One tree represents the staff and the remaining six represent the students – a tree for each year group. As well as being beneficial for the environment the trees will also act as a reminder to future class groups of the classes that have

gone before them. The Student Council will also be responsible for the infamous **Student –Teacher basketball match** which will take place before the Easter holidays.

We have lots of other plans in store and we hope to include the whole school in these activities, so feel free to get in touch with one of our committee members if you have any contributions to make!

To conclude, the Council is looking forward to getting your feedback in the weeks to come so do let us know your views!

Nora Doorley (Chairperson)

## Romeo and Juliet



Romeo and Juliet

On Monday 3rd March, the acting troop, 'Boil in the Bag Productions' came into the school to regale the first and second years with an exploration of the Shakespearean play 'Romeo and Juliet'. This play will be studied by both groups as part of their Junior Certificate English Curriculum. With the troop's use of audio-visuals, rap and projection, along with their traditional portrayal of key scenes, there will certainly be plenty to discuss in class over the coming days.

Ms Knowles

## Parents' Association

The Parents' Executive Committee meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

We recently held a **raffle** for 2 XFactor tickets and other prizes. Tickets were €2 each or 3 for €5. The Raffle was held on 14th February, 2014 and the tickets were won by Jessica Butler, a transition year student. We hope Jessica had a very enjoyable evening. Unfortunately the raffle was not very well supported and

we only made €35 profit.

Our main fundraiser, the **sponsored walk**, will be held on 1st April. All proceeds from the walk go towards helping the school with items which are not covered by the Department of Education and Skills grants. As we were unable to organise it last year due to other fundraisers being held, our funds are quite low so it is hoped this year's walk will be well supported.

Our next meeting will be held on the 2nd April 2014 at 8pm in Room 29 if anyone would like to come and see what is involved.

Anyone wanting to contact the Parents' Executive Committee:

**Norman Phillips 087 1458676**

**Patricia O'Farrell 086 3431013**

## Honours in Piano Examination

**Miriam Smolenski** a Sixth Year student, got Honours (83%) in the Grade 7 Piano Examination which she did in the Royal Irish Academy of Music on December 4th, 2013.

*Congratulations, Miriam!*

M Timoney

## €708 for a Charity

From October 11th until November 11th Ms Roger's First Year English class read books to help raise money for **MS READ a THON**. MS (Multiple Sclerosis) is a disease of the spinal cord and brain and it can seriously affect people's mobility and memory also. The money raised for the MS READ a THON is put towards helping people with MS. By November 11th, the First Year students had read over 62 books in total and raised **€708** which was a fantastic achievement. This was a massive success and huge congratulations to everyone involved. Not only did the students help to raise a large amount of money for the charity but 10 % of the total amount was given to the school to spend on books for the school library. The First Year students chose some of their favourite books for the library and these brand-new books are now available for borrowing. The students who raised €10 or more were also sent prizes from the charity, including a roll-up dartboard and a Jenga bomb. *Congratulations to all the students who took part and keep reading!*

Ms Rogers



Class 10



TY rugby 7's team

## Transition Year Activities

Transition Year students have been very busy so far this term. In January they visited the RDS to see the **Young Scientist Exhibition**. They completed the third of their full day workshops with each student experiencing training in first aid, theatrical make up and photography. The end of January saw them complete a **self defence workshop** held over a day and a half where they learned the basic techniques in self defence safety.

In February the students began their Thursday afternoon **rugby 7's training**. They attended a Roddy Doyle's Fighting Words workshop and also spent a very exciting day at Microsoft head offices.

**Orla Kinsella**, a TYP1 student, was selected by Trinity College to attend the **Transition Year Physics Experience** in Trinity College on February 27th where Transition Year students gained hands on experience in studying physics at Trinity College.

March began with a drama workshop from **Boolabus Youth Theatre** and a talk from the Killary Adventure Company on their recent trip to the Arctic Circle. Students also began their weekly computer classes with 4th class students from Johnstown Girls' National School. The TY students train the primary school students in Microsoft Powerpoint. Five Transition Year students (**Sarah O' Farrell, Hazel O' Farrell, Rachel Dunster, Paula Notivoli, Isabelle Abad**) also took part in the **AIB Build a Bank Competition** in March where they presented their project having set up a school bank in Rockford Manor this year in partnership with AIB. Transition Years are also continuing with their Tuesday afternoon Social Placement where they spend an hour or two helping out with families, children and in senior citizen homes..

Ms Behan (TYP Co-ordinator)

## Transition Year Microsoft Trip

On Friday 28th February Transition Year students attended an event organised by Microsoft and Junior Achievement in honour of **International Women's Day**. The aim of the day was to celebrate women in work especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering and maths and to encourage girls to think about a career in these areas.

The day began with a beautiful breakfast in Microsoft head office in Sandyford, after which

students attended a question and answer session where Colette Fitzpatrick of TV3 interviewed fashion designer Natalie B Coleman and Katie Cantwell, founder of KC Peaches restaurant, about their careers and roads to success.

Following this a workshop was held where students worked with Microsoft volunteers to explore their own skills and possible future career areas. Once this was complete an amazing competition was held where a student from each participating school had a chance to win an incredible prize. The very lucky **Martina Herrera** from TY Rockford Manor won a Windows Surface 2 tablet.

*Congratulations Martina!* A fantastic, inspiring day was had by all with thanks to Junior Achievement and Microsoft.

Ms Behan (TYP Co-ordinator)

## Leaving Certificate Applied

The LCA class has had a very busy term since Christmas. Each student had to complete by the end of January her **Practical Achievement Task**, her **Contemporary Issues Task** and her **IT Task**. External examiners appointed by The Department of Education and Skills assessed the student tasks the first week in February. The examiners seemed very impressed by the high standard of work produced by the students.

On February 12th the LCA group took part in

a **volunteer day** in the **Richmond Cheshire House** in Monkstown. Some girls were involved in painting the dayroom and dining room in the centre and the rest of the class, Ms Joyce, Barbara, Christine and Aoife made lunch for the residents and all the volunteers. Everyone enjoyed a wide variety of sandwiches, homemade soup, scones and chocolate fudge cake. Two students, **Fiona**



Task completed!

**Murdiff** and **Yasmine Matthews**, will return to Cheshire House to do their final two weeks of work experience there. The LCA **Mock Exams** will be held on March 26th and 27th. The girls are on **work experience** from March 31st - April 11th.

Ms Joyce



Admiring the work!



Busy in the kitchen in Richmond Cheshire House

## Basketball

Well done to the **Cadette Basketball team** who reached the **Dublin Finals** in the Basketball Ireland League. The U 16 girls played Mount Temple in a nail biting final in the packed Oblate Basketball Arena, Inchicore back in December. Supporters from both schools attended. Rockford Manor came within 2 baskets of winning. Both teams went on to the **All- Ireland Quarter Final play-offs**. The play-offs were held in Dromiskin, Co. Louth. There was tough competition from the top four schools in Leinster with only one team going through to the next stage. Unfortunately our team did not qualify on this occasion.

*Well done to all the girls for all their hard work and dedication this season!*

Ms Whyte

The First and Second Year basketball teams have finished their matches.

*Congratulations to **Zana Leigh, Leah Malone, Emma Hughes, Faye O' Connell, Michelle Khong** and **Caitlin Dunne** who were nominated for the trials for the Dublin basketball team.*

*Well done girls!*

Ms Howlin



Cadette Basketball Team

## Friends Youth Programme

First Year students started the "Friends Youth" programme on Thursday 6th March. The programme will run for ten weeks for a double class each week. It is a well researched, early intervention programme designed to help students develop coping skills for the challenges life brings.

"Friends Youth" teaches skills such as:

- Relaxation techniques
- How to challenge and balance one's negative thoughts
- How to recognise the link between thoughts, feelings and behaviour
- Awareness of how we focus our attention
- "Step Plans" for stressful times.
- The programme was developed in Australia and is acknowledged by the World Health Organisation.

Ms Scarff & Ms Mooney (Course Co-ordinators)

## Art Department Update



Ciara's marionette puppet

6th years are doing some wonderful work at the moment in preparation for their exams.

**Ciara Matthew's** marionette puppet is a great example of this. *Congratulations girls on the great mock results, keep up the good work!*



Sample of 3rd year art

3rd year art students continue to work really hard on their Junior Certificate projects and are producing some amazing work. *Keep up the good work girls.*

2nd year art students have finished another fabulous art project. The students were asked to create a self portrait using still life objects that had meaning to them and were reflective of their personality. *Well done girls!*

*Congratulations also* to the TYP 2 class on their land art exhibition, now on display in the school. Transition years were asked to make a piece of land art when on a trip to the Botanic gardens.

Ms Cheevers



Sample of 2nd year art

## Attendance

An increasing number of students are seeking permission to leave school during the day due to illness. While some cases are genuine, there are a number that are not. Students may only contact their parents from the office. Please do not allow your daughter home for minor ailments. If in doubt as to the seriousness of the illness, ask the secretary for an honest opinion. She will not offer it unless asked! It is essential for the effective management of the school that parents support our attendance policy and only permit absences for illness.

Ms Caffrey (Principal)

## Upcoming Events March – June 2014

24th March	Lunch for Principals from our Primary feeder schools @ 12.30pm
25th March	Cervical Cancer Vaccine (3rd dose) 1st & 6th Yrs
27th March	Junior Cert Science Practicals write up day
31st March -11th April	LCA Work Experience
31st March -11th April	Oral & Practical Exams for Junior & Leaving Cert students
11th April	Easter Holidays begin
28th April	Summer term begins
5th May	Bank Holiday
16th May	Student Awards Ceremony
16th May	Sixth Year Graduation Mass @7.30 pm
21st May	Transition Year Exhibition Night @ 7.30 pm
23rd May -30th May	House Exams 1st, 2nd & 5th yrs
2nd June	Bank Holiday
4th June	Junior & Leaving Certificate State Exams begin