



# Stratford College Newsletter

## From the Principal's Desk

We are once again coming to the end of a very busy academic year which saw much hard work and enthusiasm from teachers and students alike.

**Physical Education** has been enhanced by the appointment of Ms. Linda Finnegan to the position of PE teacher and Sports Co-ordinator, a joint position with Stratford National School. As well as the usual **PE programme** which includes timetabled classes, **basketball and tennis**, we are delighted with the inclusion this year of **swimming, golf and athletics** classes after school. The junior classes have also benefited by an introduction to **outdoor pursuits** with a visit to Kippure Adventure Centre. These activities have been supported by the additional equipment that we have been able to provide this year.

Debating has flourished with junior and senior teams entering the competitions run by **Concern and the Trinity Literary and Historical Society**.

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*"These activities have been supported by the additional equipment that we have been able to provide this year."*

Our musical, '**Rydell High**' was a great success and there are pictures around the school and in this edition of the school newsletter of some of those who took part. May I thank the **Parents' Association** for all their hard work in raising so much sponsorship for the two night production. Indeed, the PA had a successful year during which it held a very enjoyable **social evening** earlier in the year. As is tradition, the PA will be preparing the **6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation** at the end of term.

1<sup>st</sup> Year students again participated in the **Dublin City Youth Entrepreneurs Competition** and TY students organised several successful mini-companies.

**Transition Year** also had a very busy year and the students are marking their move into senior cycle with a graduation ceremony which will showcase the success of their programme to junior cycle students.

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All of this, as well as participation in subject competitions, a very successful **Arts Week** which included visits from make-up and graphic artists, film makers, writers and musicians; **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, which allowed students and teachers to enjoy Irish speaking clowns, an Irish Army Officer and some of our own talents; enjoyable arts trips to **London and Barcelona** and a trip to the Holocaust Exhibition in the **Imperial War Museum** in London.

As we look towards the end of this busy year the focus is on our Leaving and Junior Certificate students who have already completed some parts of the oral and practical parts of their exams. We will also be celebrating **Israel's Independence Day** with some traditional middle eastern food, and **Sports' Day** is being arranged.

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My thanks to all the staff for their hard work throughout the year.

*Ms. Patricia Gordon*

## TY— Battle of the Bands

On the 20<sup>th</sup> February, myself and seven other individuals held the nearly annual Battle of the Bands in Stratford College for our TY business project. When we set up the mini company we developed our team work skills, hoping to make a profit. Little did we know how much fun we were going to have. From roaming the roads of Rathgar asking for sponsorship to chasing away the people trying to sneak in the back, all of it was pure gold.

The night itself couldn't have gone better, despite some undesirable feedback at the start.

How could it fail with the likes of **Dain Bramage**, **The Jackson 3**, **Left Foot Lucy**, **Zylo**, **DJ Pu-tang** and of

course the very deserving winners of the **Ukulele** stuffed with cash, **The Sparks**. With everyone giving an electrifying performance it would have been hard for the night to have failed.

When I asked an attending student what he thought of the night, he replied "a great night's entertainment well worth coming back after school to watch." That about sums it up I think.

*Finn O'Connor, TY  
Student Council Representative*



# Seachtain na Gaeilge

**Seachtain na Gaeilge** was hugely successful. The Franzini brothers provoked lots of laughter with their seó sorchais. They were popular with all ages especially the children from the primary school.

John O' Reilly explained the role of the Irish Army overseas.

TY's entertained us with a variety of jigs, reels, & hornpipes. Emma & her ballroom dancing partner brought a touch of elegance & star quality to the show.

Just to prove their versatility the TY's took to the pitch in what could only be described as an enthusiastic display of Gaelic footwork. Teams from Mayo, Donegal, Dublin & Louth tackled, defended, attacked, & saved. In

what was a tight performance the Louth team amid cries of 'fix' snatched victory.

With supreme confidence the children from the primary school group Córphéile performed to a delighted audience.

To close the week's activities shy 5th Year cowboys thrilled the packed hall.

Photos are now on the notice boards throughout the school.

Well done to Ms. Ivers & her team.

*Ms. M.Carr*



## “Rydell High” - Musical April 2008



*Back Row: Left to right*

Joshua Brady-Arnold 2nd Year, Karen Gallagher TY, Sasha Woodhouse 3rd Year, Lucy Murphy 2nd Year, Ailbhe MacMahon 2nd Year, Olivia Bagnall 2nd Year, Michael Lysaght 2nd Year

*Middle Row:*

Sian Colman-Black 5th Year, Colm McGuckin-Dowling 6th Year, Eoin Kearns 3rd Year, Emma West TY, Adam Henderson 3rd Year, Irena Williams 1st Year

*Front Row:*

Ashley Grey TY, Robert Downes 2nd Year, Cathy Dunne 2nd Year, David Carroll 6th Year



## “Rydell High” - Musical April 2008

Since October, the Rydell High cast have been rehearsing for the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April, which was a night enjoyed by all. The atmosphere was amazing and everyone was excited. Though the show had a few minor problems, it ran smoothly and was worth all the work involved. Best of all was the car, sprayed by the set of designers! Everyone’s costumes and hair looked great, thanks to Matthew Feeney, and Vincent Murray and Mark MacRedmond made sure everything onstage and off, was perfect. Most of our thanks go out to Ms. Conlon and Ms. Oman, who made it all possible. We would do it all again if we could!

*Ailbhe Mac Mahon,  
2nd Year Student Council Representative*



A big thank you to our very talented cast. Hoping you have as many happy memories as I do, working on our production of “Rydell High”. Wishing you all the best in your future musical endeavours.

*Ms.C.Conlon*

## Barcelona and Nimes - TY Trip

As a part of our Transition Year Classical Studies and Art course, we went on a five-day trip to Barcelona and Nimes. We visited an art museum in Barcelona, which started our café hunt. Our tour guide then gave our class a very detailed tour of Barcelona city.

That afternoon we took a tour of Barcelona stadium and went to visit Gaudi's church, which is an incredible piece of architecture. For our evening activity, we went bowling then back to the hotel where we ended up joining in a disco for the retired.

The third day into the holidays, we travelled to the south of France; Nimes. We visited the temple of Nimes, amphitheatre, and statue of Augustus and ended up having another night of bowling!

While still in Nimes, we visited the 'Pont du Gard', the famous amphitheatre at Orange and enjoyed another night of bowling! On our way to the airport, we stopped at a medieval town to enjoy the last bit of Nimes before we returned home. We had a fantastic time and wish we could do it all again.

*Ashley Grey, TY*



Photo: Shark Attack! The Aquarium, Nimes



## Classics Quiz For 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Years



On Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007, a Classics Quiz took place between teams from 2<sup>nd</sup> Year and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year. The quiz was based on two key topics from the Junior Cert course, the *Illiad* and *Roman Comedy*. The mood started off light-hearted and developed into a very “typically ancient Greek” competitive zone. It was a very close competition, but 2<sup>nd</sup> Years won by half a point. While it was a victory on the narrowest of margins, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Years were delighted that they won.

*Afric Dennison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year and Matthew Feeney, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year*

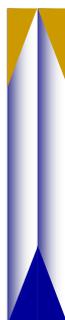
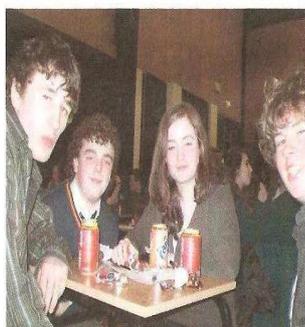
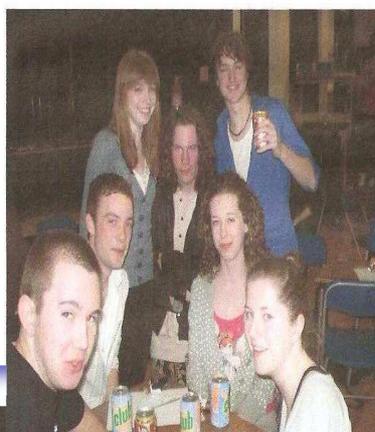


Photo:  
Left and  
Right  
Students  
at the  
“Ides of  
March”  
Quiz



Left: Teams

6<sup>th</sup> Years: David Carroll, Karena Walshe, Leon O' Neill

5<sup>th</sup> Years: Eithne Madden, Sean Nixon, Donagh MacMahon, Niall Spain

3<sup>rd</sup> Years: Tadhg Charles, Holly Furey, Killian McLoughlin



Photo: Left

“The mood started off light-hearted and developed into a very “typically ancient Greek” competitive zone.”

## “Ides of March” Classics Table Quiz

On the 11<sup>th</sup> March, 16 classical studies students represented the school in the annual “Ides of March” Classics Table Quiz in St. Andrews College. Ms. Donohoe accompanied us on the bus to St. Andrews (which got lost!) and was extremely enthusiastic about the evening. She wasn't disappointed. Four teams represented Stratford College comprising of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year students who faced off against 35 other teams from various schools. Overall we came 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> with Gonzaga coming 3<sup>rd</sup> and the quizmaster's teams from Drogheda (suspiciously) coming 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The excitement and tension at the event was palpable, there was much fun to be had and next time 1<sup>st</sup> place will be ours.

*Killian McLoughlin,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year Student Council Representative*

## Swimming

Swimming was a huge success with pupils of all different abilities participating. Each ability group were given different workouts and lessons. We worked on all four strokes and stamina. Pupils also worked on their dives and tumble turns.

## Golf

We were very lucky to have the chance to avail of the Leopardstown golf course facilities. We had two excellent instructors Heather and David who gave individual lessons and used video analysis to improve our swings. We used video cameras to film our swings then played it back slowly to see what we needed to do to improve technique. There were huge improvements over the 6 weeks across the group.

Well done to all the pupils involved for their dedication and enthusiasm, I hope you keep up the sports over the summer.

## Future after school activities

With the run up to the summer holidays we will be focusing on tennis and athletics.

On Tuesday from 4-5 pm we will have tennis at Rathgar tennis club.

On Wednesday and Thursday we will have athletics. We will focus on the field events; high jump, javelin, shot putt, hurdles and discus.

On Thursdays we will be working on the fitness components needed for all the running events. The athletic competition starts on the 29<sup>th</sup> April.

*Ms. L. Finnegan*

## Notice Board

- **TY Graduation**  
1st May, 11.30am
- **Sports Day**  
8th May
- **Israel's Independence Day**  
8th May
- **Annual School Walk in aid of Barretstown**  
15th May
- **Leaving Certificate student Graduation**  
**Parents and students**  
16th May, 11am
- **House Exams**  
20th May
- **Junior Certificate Exams commence**  
4th June
- **Leaving Certificate Exams commence**  
4th June

**Remember we are on the web**  
[www.stratford college.ie](http://www.stratford college.ie)

## Kippure Adventure Centre

On the 28<sup>th</sup> April the 1st and 2nd Years went to Kippure Adventure Centre in the Wicklow mountains. When we got to the adventure centre we were split into two groups, a mixture of 1st and 2nd Years in each group. The first activity consisted of walking across a log that was suspended 15ft above the ground before going rock climbing, although not for long as it was then lunchtime.

After lunch we did two more activities, one of which involved standing on a high platform, which was very shaky, and having to jump from this, and grab a zip line in mid-air! All in all it was a wonderful day; the outdoor activities, although scary, were fun and really pushed us to our limits. It was deeply enjoyed by all.

*Conor Allen,  
1st Year Student Council  
Representative*

## Mentor Programme

As this year is coming to a close, we need new mentors for the incoming 1st Years! Over the past few weeks, the Senior Prefects have begun the selection process. For the next week, the current TY students will be handing in their letters of application to Ms.Gordon and me. Then there will be a meeting held involving all teachers and Ms.Gordon to decide who is suitable to fill the role of a mentor. We will hopefully be announcing the new mentors by the end of May. Good luck TY's!

*Carolyn Murphy,  
5<sup>th</sup> Year Student Council  
Representative*