



SPIORAD SIGNALS

N E W S L E T T E R

DECEMBER 2017

TEACHTAIREACTHÓN ARDMHÁISTIR *From the Principal's Desk*

As I write this on the first day of December, we are into the last part of the term – Christmas Food Appeal time, Carol Service time, Christmas Exam time. It is a lovely time of the year, but a busy one for teachers, students and parents alike.

It has been a busy term also, with much going on and much to be satisfied with. You will have a better understanding of what has been happening in the school by reading this edition of Spiorad Signals. It reflects the rich tapestry of achievement and endeavour that is the hallmark of CSN. There is a great number of students competing for the school in a broad array of activities. It adds a rich connection between students and their school and validates some of their many talents in so doing. It is only possible because of the generosity with which teachers give of their time and expertise to coach students across the wide range of activities that occur in CSN. In an era of the ever-continuing capitalisation of sport and mentoring in general, it is heartening to see that there is still a place for the volunteerism that is the essence of extra-curricular activities in Spiorad Naomh. So, my thanks go to the students who give their all and the teachers who prepare and guide them to do that.

Our certificate classes should now be focussed on their academic progress. I am impressed by the way this year's Leaving Cert group settled so quickly and began the arduous task of preparing for next June. In this they are assisted by their mentors, made up of staff, who are focussed on guiding a small group of LC students each through this challenging time. Both Leaving and Junior Cert. groups are also supported by their class teachers, their year heads and subject teachers, the Guidance counsellors, the Deputy Principals and myself.

We celebrated Presentation Day a day early on Monday 20th November. Special guests included Brothers Martin and Ray, Father Bertie and Mr. Seán Culhane, chairman of the Board of Management. It was a lovely event, complete with readings and

reflections from students, an address from Br. Martin and music from the Trad. band.

At the end of the same week, we celebrated the Academic Awards. The guest speaker was past-pupil Colm Ó Cinnéide, now a professor of Law in UCL (London). He spoke with great humour and wisdom about his time in Spiorad Naomh and imparted the advice garnered from his life journey so far. In addition to honouring the high achievers in individual subjects and the Junior Cert. high achievers, we honoured three of our Third level scholarship winners, Joseph Dilworth, Cathal Murphy and David O'Sullivan. Later we were informed that there were another three to join that list – Nathaniel Grant, Conor McKeown and Dylan Morley. Congratulations to all our recipients. It is great to be able to celebrate academic excellence because it is at the heart of what we do here.

Finally, to reflect on the season we are entering, Christmas is a time of great contradictions. It is the season that, more than any other, points to the great disparities of life – a Christmas of family togetherness for some, a time of loneliness for others, a time of spiritual celebration and a time of material excess, a time of plenty and a time of want. Let us try and address some of the deprivation by giving generously to the Christmas Food Appeal on behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Let us look out for those who are less fortunate than us, be it a poverty of the material kind or one of the spirit.

Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise don uile dhuine.

Mike Foley



ACADEMIC AWARDS 2017

Our Academic awards Ceremony was held on Friday 24th November to acknowledge the superb achievements of Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students in the 2017 State Examinations.

This year's Gold Medal recipients were:

Nathaniel Grant (*Applied Mathematics*)

Cillian Mitchell (*Art, Design and Communication Graphics*)

Liam Coughlan (*Geography*)

Joseph Dilworth (*Mathematics*)

Colm Maye (*Music*)

Aaron Davin (*Business*)

Kevin Lynch (*Accounting*)

Cathal Murphy (*Economics and Irish*)

Ronan Deasy (*French*)

Dylan Kierans and Colm Maye (*Chemistry*)

Daniel O'Mahony (*Construction Studies*)

Cormac Larkin (*English*)

Kieran O' Mahony (*History*)

Dylan Morley (*German*)

Dylan Foley (*Physics*)

Alex Black (*Biology*)

Top awards in Junior Cert went to: **John Greally, Joey Harrington, Patrick O'Neill, David Harris, Aidan Mamo Cooney** and **Wymin Sivakumar**.

At an evening of celebration in the library our students and their families, staff and past staff gathered and were addressed by past pupil Professor Colm Ó Cinnéide. He impressed on the students present that what they got from their time in Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh would give them a good foundation with which to face the world and their future. He acknowledged the breadth of education offered in our school which continues today. He emphasised that the friendships developed over the six years in the school would last and be an important resource and comfort into the future. He encouraged all of us present to stop chasing what we perceive as the 'real' world but rather to live in the reality we experience now. He said we should strive to do the best we can and not be continuously chasing the future. Colm spoke with great clarity and sincerity and his words were powerful and greatly appreciated.

Colm showed a keen interest in debating during his six years in Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh. He represented the school in the Philosoph debates and won an All-Ireland title in 1991. On the night he paid tribute to his mentors Mr Kennedy and Mr Foley. He was also involved in the Justice and Peace group and competed in the Concern debates with the guidance of Mr Roche and Ms Cleary. Colm said that in many ways the nurturing and developing of his debating skills during his secondary school years prepared him for his journey into law as a career.

Colm O'Cinnéide is Professor of Constitutional and Human Rights Law at UCL and has published widely in the fields of constitutional and public law, discrimination law, human rights law and EU law. He is a member of the European Committee of Social Rights (having served as Vice-President of the Committee from 2008-12 and its General Rapporteur from 2012-4) and a member of the Blackstone Chambers Academic Panel since 2006. Colm has also acted as an expert legal consultant for a range of organisations, including the European Commission, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the UK Equality and Human Rights



Commission, and served as specialist legal adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights of the UK Parliament (2007-10). He is a member of the editorial boards of *Current Legal Problems*, the *International Journal of Law in Context*, *Race and Social Problems* and the *Irish Jurist*, among other publications: he has also acted as an assessor for the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) and as external examiner for a range of institutions.

We also celebrated the achievement of three students who gained University Scholarships this year. Joseph Dilworth, Cathal Murphy and David O'Sullivan (class 2011) joined the elite list of Spioraid Naoimh students to achieve so highly and gain such recognition. We marked these fantastic academic successes by presenting the past pupils with specially engraved plaques.

The event concluded with a reception in the GP room where we had the opportunity to mingle and catch up. It was a wonderful evening and a fitting tribute to our fantastic students.

Congratulations to one and all.

Brenda Moriarty



TOP ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

2017 was another outstanding year for our Leaving Cert students. Congratulations to:

Joseph Dilworth who received a UCC Quercus Entrance Scholarship in Medicine

Nathaniel Grant who received a UCC Quercus B.T. Young Scientist Scholarship in the area of Mathematical Sciences

Conor McKeown who received a UCC Quercus B.T. Young Scientist Scholarship in the area of Industrial Physics

Dylan Morley who received a UCC Quercus B.T. Young Scientist Scholarship in the area of Mathematical Science

Cathal Murphy who received a UCD Entrance Scholars Award to the College of Veterinary Science

David O'Sullivan who received a UCC Quercus Academic Award in the area of Post Graduate Medicine.

We wish you all every success in the future.



ACADEMIC MENTORING FOR LEAVING CERT STUDENTS

The purpose of Academic Mentoring in Coláiste an Spioraid Naomh is to promote academic excellence, to proactively assist and direct our Leaving Certs and to support each student so he can reach his full potential.

The programme was piloted during the last term for class 2016-2017. The feedback from staff and students was very positive and encouraging.

Kevin Lynch, class 2107 said: 'As a student who went through the pressures of 6th year, I found the Academic Mentoring programme to be beneficial from both an academic and an advisory perspective. I knew I had support from someone who understood the day to day struggles that I faced. Having a teacher who could advise and guide me was extremely helpful.'

David McGregor, class 2017 said: 'The Academic Mentoring programme was a great way to guide students in the right direction in the months leading up to the Leaving Cert. During this stressful period in any student's life it is essential that there's someone to talk to and get help from. With the vast resources teachers have at hand in relation to study guides, worksheets and extra notes it is no surprise that they can be the most helpful people during this stressful time. Having a designated teacher who is willing to give up his/her time was a great help to me when sitting my Leaving Cert.'

Evan O'Broin, class 2017 said: 'I thought it was important to know your mentor and be comfortable talking to him about any issues or difficulties you may have during the year. Personally I was able to talk to my mentor about difficulties I had and he provided me with a lot of advice about college courses. He encouraged me to have a number of back-up plans in case my first choice didn't work out. In my case it didn't. With his advice I selected other possible courses and I am currently doing one that I thoroughly enjoy'

A decision was taken at our end of year staff meeting to run the programme for the full year 2017-2018.

This year 27 teachers volunteered to be academic mentors to our current cohort of Leaving Certificate students. We are very appreciative to staff for giving time during their busy schedule to make this programme a success. It is a testimony to the level of commitment and dedication that our teachers continue to show to their students here in Coláiste an Spioraid Naomh.

We hope that our Leaving Certs will use the opportunity provided by this mentoring programme to connect with their mentor and seek guidance and encouragement when needed or simply just let us know all is going well if that is the case. We wish all our Leaving Certs the very best of luck with their studies in the coming months as they prepare for Leaving Cert.

B. Moriarty

LEGO ROBOTICS

1st and 2nd year students are involved in First LEGO League Robotics Competition. This year, the theme of the competition is 'The Water Cycle'. The competition involves the students building a LEGO obstacle course and programming a LEGO robot to carry out specific tasks on the obstacle course. They also have to design and present a poster based on solving a problem within the water cycle. The students have built their obstacle course and are now busy programming their robot and working on their project poster. The LEGO league final will take place on Saturday December 2nd in UCC. We wish the students involved every success in the competition.

Jack Kelleher 2nd yr, Robert Palmer 2nd yr, Owen Mamo-Cooney 2nd yr
Christian Gowan 1st yr, Rian Conway 1st yr, Kevin Delage 1st yr
Calvin Hayes 1st yr, Evan Flynn 1st yr



BASKETBALL

The U16 and U19 leagues are well underway and so far both CSN teams have sailed through their pool games with the odd stern test. In our pools we had Christians, Colaiste An Phiarsaigh and at U 19 we also played against Douglas C.S.

Both age groups are now through to the Cork Semi-finals and we are hopeful about our prospects!!



U16 Cup

After a bye in Round 1, on the 10th October, CSN were due to travel to play Presentation College, Athenry - however because of Storm Ophelia the game was postponed until the following Tuesday.

The opening quarter ended on the very close and uncomfortable score of 8 - 7. Spiorad Naomh held the narrowest of leads. We were the better team but nerves and careless passing in the first quarter gave breathing space to Pres College, Athenry.

In the second quarter, Spiorad Naomh calmed and took control of the game with some magnificent rebounding and passing. The final score was CSN 66 Pres College Athenry 19

Top scorers for CSN were *A.J. Garrucho* (15 points) and *Patrick Reidy* (12 points)

Round 3 saw us travel to St. Paul's, Monasterevin.

This was an easy victory for Spiorad Naomh. The final score was 61 - 44.

Unfortunately during this game *Gavin Malone* broke his elbow and will now be out for a few weeks. The break was a bad break and necessitated an operation. This is a bad blow for Gavin himself and a bad blow too for the U16



team who are now through to the All-Ireland semi-finals in January. We wish Gavin a speedy recovery. (Very speedy!!)

U19 Cup

In Round 1 CSN met with St. David's, Artane.

At the end of the first quarter Spiorad Naomh led 17 - 12. We extended the gap by a few more points and held the lead in each quarter.

The game finished with a victory to CSN on a scoreline of 58 - 50.

The top scorer for CSN was AJ Caballero on 14 points - scoring 2 three pointers. Another player who deserves special mention is Brian McCarthy, Brian was a great presence in defence and very strong under the boards.

We were at home and playing in Neptune for Round 2. Our opposition on the day was a Limerick school, St. Clement's. They were a very tough and skillful opposition and they led by 18 - 15 at the end of the first quarter.

The CSN team played out of their skins on the day and each player really raised their game to match a strong Limerick team - a team who couldn't miss on the day and sank every basket!

A.J. Caballero was superb on the day and covered every inch of the court - he led by example and really demonstrated great defence and great shooting, scoring 29 points. It was probably his best match for the school to date - a standout performance!

We lost the game on a final scoreline of 89 - 75.

The Second Year Class Leagues are now in the quarter final stages and will hopefully be completed before the start of the Christmas exams.

CSPE PROJECT: The Irish Guide Dogs

Our class, Naomh Michéal (Third Year) carried out our Junior Certificate CSPE Action Project during September and October. We decided to concentrate on human dignity and the rights of others. In our project we learned about the Irish Guide Dogs and the work they do for the dignity of the blind. Our class held a fundraiser on 5th of October. We ran a cake sale in the GP Room. Parents and students of Naomh Michéal baked brownies, cookies, cakes, and much more. Students and teachers all showed support, buying products from the fundraiser. It was a huge success; €250 was raised for a worthy cause.



On 10th October, our class visited the Irish Guide Dogs. We were welcomed by the volunteers in the facility. We learned about the history of the charity, the work they do with dogs and people today and the difference they make in people's lives. This was thanks to the volunteers who facilitated us on the day. We saw the training facilities, as well as where the dogs sleep and play. Throughout our visit, we were accompanied by an ambassador dog called Jody. We all enjoyed the Golden Labrador's company.

Our trip came to an end with the class presenting the Irish Guide Dogs CEO Pádraig Mallon with a cheque, thanks to the money raised from the cake sale. Thank you to all of those students, parents, and teachers who supported us during our Action Project. Thank you to Ms Dorgan, our CSPE teacher, who organised and helped us throughout the project.

Josh Lyne (N. Mícheál)



DEBATING

The debating year has got off to a great start and we have already had a number of successes. Junior debaters Michael Keohane, David Cronin, Ian Kenny and Brian Donnelly recently competed in the first round of the Cork City Schools competition. All students represented the school admirably, and Michael and David are headed to the second round early next year.

Both juniors and seniors competed in the Munster Schools Integrated Oratory Competition, with three of our seniors in the final. CSN were the highest-scoring school in the competition as a whole. Cian Morey won Runner-Up Best Speaker, and Ciarán Meers was on the Runner-Up Best Junior-Senior team.

Three senior teams - Aaron McGee and Cian Morey, Aidan Mamo and Ciarán Meers, and Tony Gleeson and Tony O'Halloran - debated with a very high standard in the first and second rounds of the UCC Philosophers prepared debating competition, with four out of the six advancing to the quarter-finals.



Seniors students Victor Jean, Cian Morey, Aaron McGee, Ciarán Meers, Alan O'Sullivan and Aidan Mamo Cooney competed in the National Model United Nations competition in UCC. During the

opening ceremony, delegates were addressed to by Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney. Representing a variety of countries from Nepal to Norway, they debated issues including the Paris Agreement and Women's Healthcare, as well as issues posed before the UN Security and Historical Council, before reaching innovative resolutions. Five of our students won a variety of awards, including best delegate (Aaron McGee), distinguished delegate (Aidan Mamo Cooney and Alan O'Sullivan), and honourable mention (Ciarán Meers and Cian Morey).

Thank you to former student Seán Layzell who delivered a very insightful workshop to the Debating Society at the beginning of the year. A special word of thanks to Ms Shanahan, Ms Gary, Ms O'Keeffe, Ms Fallon and Ms. McGee who are currently mentoring the senior debaters.

TRANSITION YEAR

Chinese Studies

The Chinese Studies teacher this year is Leo Ying who is spending the 3rd year of her 4 year course from Shanghai University, in Cork. As Cork is twinned with Shanghai, there are links between our two cities at various levels and education is a very strong one. The role of Confucius Institute in UCC is to promote knowledge of, and interest in China, its language, arts, history, geography, politics, etc. It continues to prove to be a very worthwhile and popular module with the TY students.



A martial arts class is offered to all TY students taking Chinese as a rotating module. Mr. Schuh from the Confucius Institute in UCC demonstrates the finer skills of Tai Chi. This is quite popular with the students as it combines Chinese philosophy, physical strength and self-defence. At all times the students carefully follow the guidance and instruction of Mr. Schuh as he demonstrates various steps and movements which the boys find challenging and worthwhile.



ART

‘UNFINISHED’ ON-GOING WORK,
WITHIN THE NEW REVISED LC ART.



WORDS FROM PAST PUPIL

DAVID O’SULLIVAN

CLASS OF 2011

It’s a great honour to be asked to write a piece for Spiorad Signals about my journey thus far and I hope some of what I say will possibility resonate with a few students that are now in a similar place to where I was 7 years ago. The latter years of secondary school can become quite intimidating with a lot of study to be done and big decisions to be made at a time when there is a lot going on in your personal lives. At this time, I still wasn’t sure where my interests lay and the scope and selection of courses at third level seemed quite daunting. For me, medicine always seemed to be a thought in the background which was hard to shake but one which also had an associated anxiety attached to it. The anxiety stemmed from trying to make a decision so early on without any real experience of the implications it would have. It was this that pushed me in the direction of the sciences. I chose a broad course and as the years progressed I found my own area of special interest.

The Biological and Chemical Sciences course in University College Cork seemed to be a perfect fit. The first year provided me with a substantial grounding in the basic sciences which evolved to a more in-depth level in second year after I chose to pursue the Biological Sciences route. The Biochemistry modules I studied here really sparked my interest giving me an insight into the chemical processes within the cell and the complexity of the human body. At the end of second year I decided to do a Bachelor’s Degree in Biochemistry.

At this stage in my degree, however, the ‘background’ thoughts had not gone away and I came to the conclusion that I wanted to pursue a career in Medicine. This conviction was further compounded by studying final year modules such as “Cancer Biology” and “Advanced Metabolism in Health, Disease and Cancer”. Thus, after graduating in Biochemistry, I began my study of postgraduate medicine in UCC.

Now in the third and penultimate year of my medical studies, I can already see the importance of the education I received in Coláiste. It was not only the expansive foundations in Science but the learning in critical and analytical thinking, presentation skills, and also the maturity I gained from my involvement in the school events and extra-curricular activities.

We all have our own journeys to make. I hope the message students take from this is that the route to achieve your goals doesn’t always have to be a straight forward one. Finding your general area of interest is the important thing. The specific details will work themselves out as your path evolves.

Although it is over 7 years since I left the classrooms of Coláiste behind me, the memories, life lessons and friendships I formed there have really sculpted the values I am bringing into later life. An aspect that I am truly grateful to Coláiste for is the incredibly dedicated teachers who helped me grow up during my time there. A fact that seems to resonate among most Coláiste graduates, compared to past pupils from other schools, is that given the chance we would love to go back. This is truly a testament to the wholesome all round experience of being a Coláiste boy.

GAELIC FOOTBALL

U15 FOOTBALL

Our U15 football team had one of its more successful years in recent times making it all the way to the Munster Semi Final. Here they met a stronger and fitter Midleton CBS team at the top of their game on the day.

In the lead up to this game our lads put in fantastic displays of football and team work against Colaiste Choilm, Glanmire Community School and one of the competition favourites Skibbereen Community School. They entered the semi final full of confidence but on this day it wasn't to be. This team possesses great talent and enthusiasm to play and hopefully there will be better days to come in the Red and Black of Colaiste An Spioraid Naoimh. Congratulations to all members of this panel who have also represented their divisional Rebel Og squads this year.



The Panel:

*Ian Kearney,
Joseph Enright,
Charlie Harkin,*

*Ruairi Fitzpatrick, Brian Lynch, Ivan Quirke, Patrick Buckley,
Andrew O'Connell, Eoghan Hallahan, Callum O'Leary, Conor
Hegarty, Michael Quirke, David Burke, Mark Dineen, Shane
Kingston, Colin O'Flynn, Conor Dunne, Rian Foley, Niall O'Hara,
Eoghan Ahern, Dylan McSweeney, Jimmy O'Rourke, Liam Lyons,
Sean Connolly, Ronan Casey, Billy Sheehan, David Murray, Rory O'
Sullivan, Andrew McElligott, Harry Ahearne, Cian Barry-Murphy,*

SENIOR FOOTBALL



Unfortunately this year proved difficult for our Senior Football team. After encouraging displays last year this year struggled to get going because of club games and other out of school activities limiting training times together. The desire and willingness of our lads to

ULTIMATE LIFE HACK – YOGA CSN Yogis

The CSN yoga community continues to grow. Every Thursday we take to our mats in the G.P. Room. This class is open to the entire student body so all are welcome. I am always amazed how quickly the students settle and get 'into the zone'. Some come for a stretch and to build physical strength, others find themselves coming to their mats for the quiet time. The yoga class provides a non-competitive space where students can take time out to focus on their own wellbeing.

Our 4th year students are also given the opportunity to explore yoga as one of their rotating modules. It really is such a pleasure to teach this class. We practice breathing techniques which help to focus and settle the mind as well as physical postures which improve flexibility, muscle tone, balance and memory as well as helping to improve the function of the different systems in the body. In fairness to the lads they approach the class with a positive and open mind. They are always willing to give it a go whether it's a arm balance (which can sometimes end in a faceplant!), a shoulder stand or a meditation. They have even been known to join in for an 'Om' or two!

Namaste, K. Barry



play when on the field was unquestionable and they put everything into their two games this year. They lost out to Clonakilty Community School in the Simcox while in a tight and sometimes scrappy affair they came up short against last years All Ireland semi-finalists, Coachford Community School in the Munster Championship. A huge positive with this team was the youthfulness of the team and some young players gained valuable experiences for the coming years. Thank you to all the panel but especially those who played their final game for the school.

The Panel: *Dara O'Sullivan, Jack Dunne, Joseph Higgins, Sean Dillon, Shane Minihane, Cathal Hynes, Adam Bruton, Ian Barrett, Liam O'Driscoll, Patrick O'Neill, Cian Morgan, Simon Collins, Sean Murphy, Jack Murphy, Dan Barry-Murphy, Ciaran Foley, Tom Buckley, Cian Murphy, Ciarán Twomey, Matt Brady, Cathal Buckley, Jamie O'Sullivan, Conor McGoldrick, Bill O'Connell, Eoin Dorgan, Cian O'Rourke, Luke Lordan, Daire Cullinane, Ciarán Cullinane, Jonathan Keffe and Ger Collins.*

CSN Trad Group

The CSN Trad Group has had its fair share of events since the beginning of the school year, and we're only half-way through it. Playing for the opening of the year Mass, coffee mornings, the Lord Mayor's visit and Presentation Day, we have been very busy!

In October, senior students Tadgh Connery, Conor Moore and John Greally played at the teachers' coffee morning. These students played for the Lord Mayor of Cork, Tony Fitzgerald, when he came on his annual visit to CSN.

Also in October, the Trad Group took a trip to the City Hall, along with the music classes, to see the Cork Pops orchestra perform. As always, it was a great concert and a very enjoyable day out. In early November, we played a selection of tunes for the Presentation Day Ceremony. This was a very special occasion for the school and the group was well received. We are also in rehearsals for a Christmas Carol service in December.

Finally, it is only fair that our new First Year members are given a special mention. This year, a great number of First Years showed interest in the Trad Group. They are very talented, and are incredibly hard-working. Our group is growing week by week and new members are always welcome. To date we have students from first to fifth year and a large range of instruments from fiddles, concertina, accordions, to tin whistle, recorder, bodhrán and guitars. All standards of musicians and instruments are welcome. We rehearse with Ms Dorgan every Tuesday lunchtime in the Music Room. We look forward to another musical year ahead.

Tadgh Connery, 5A2



FILM CLUB

The Film Club meets every Friday at 1 pm in the Media Room and is open to all first year students. The club is run by fifth year students Tadgh Connery, Eoin Lyne and Tony O'Halloran. This term we watched "Dumb and Dumber" and "The Dark Knight" as voted for by the members. We will continue to meet in the New Year and hope that many more students will join us.

Tadgh Connery, 5A2

NEW FIRST YEARS 2017 – 2018



CHESS

The Chess Club at CSN meets on a Tuesday and Friday at Lunchtime. We will enter for the Secondary Checkmate and for ChessZ by the end of this school term. The various competitions will begin early in January 2018.

If you would like to be part of our Chess Club then you will be very welcome to come along twice a week and play for your school!



CLOUDOFTHINK.IE

The website is over five years old now and there are literally hundreds of posts on everything from short stories to poems, from dramatic monologues to "Full Circle," book reviews and computer game reviews, comedy, features on current affairs, politics and history. It caters for all interests. We are always eager to recruit new writers and have our meetings every Tuesday at 1.15 pm in Room 2. Anyone who likes to read and write should check us out.

R.C.

CELEBRATING PRESENTATION DAY

A number of events took place in the school to celebrate Presentation Day. Br. Martin was the keynote speaker at an event on Monday, November 20th.

The Living Spirit: Celebrating Presentation Day at Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh Br. Martin Kenneally

The American short story writer O. Henry has a story called 'The Gift of the Magi'.

It is the story of a young couple, Della and Jim, madly in love but very poor. They desperately want to buy each other presents for Christmas but they have no money.

Unknown to Jim, Della sells her most valuable possession – her beautiful long hair – in order to buy a platinum chain for Jim's watch. Meanwhile, unknown to Della, Jim sells his most valuable possession – his watch – in order to buy an expensive set of jewelled combs for Della's lovely hair.

When they meet on Christmas Eve to exchange their gifts – Della without hair, Jim without watch – they are both shocked and surprised – but ever more deeply convinced of their love for each other.

Christmas is about the ultimate gift of love. Through Mary's 'Yes' to God's plan, Jesus is gifted to the world. God enters into the human condition in the person of a tiny baby. And God continues to enter human history today in the person of each man, woman and child.

This is a particularly important point for all those who form the community of Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh – that Christians believe the presence of God is in each person through the power of the Holy Spirit.

I was reminded of this very strongly recently when I visited C.S.N. on November 20th, the gift of Mary's presentation was beautifully celebrated in prayer, reflection, story and music. I was struck by the rich

and varied gifts of students and staff which are generously being made available for the service of people today. Students spoke of their involvement in Edmund Rice Action Camps, P.B.Y.M. Retreats, Lourdes pilgrimages and with many other groups and local charities. This is the living embodiment of the Presentation and the Edmund Rice spirit today. Indeed this is the Spiorad Naoimh – the Holy Spirit at work in our world!

I want to thank students and staff for the warm welcome I received and for the privilege of being part of such a special occasion.

A particular word of thanks to Mr. Foley, Ms. Moriarty, Ms. Cleary and the other staff members whom I met. Your dedications and commitment to C.S.N. are truly inspiring!

On the day, Fr. Bertie O'Mahony led us in prayer and linked the celebration of Presentation Day to the parish and wider community of which C.S.N. is a part.

The Indian poet Tagore says: "Each child comes with the promise that God has not yet despaired of mankind". What I experienced in C.S.N. at the Presentation Day celebration was a real source of hope. At Christmas, we celebrate the light of Christ coming into the world. You, students of C.S.N., are that light today. My final words to you, as young people, are from the pen of the Nigerian writer, Ben Okri:

Every day is a new day, a new calendar.

*You must begin today to remake
your mental and spiritual world...*

Only free people can make a free world.

Infect the world with your light.

Don't be afraid to love or be loved.

As within, so without.

Wishing the entire C.S.N. community a happy and holy Christmas and every blessing in 2018!

LORD MAYOR'S VISIT



On Wednesday 11th of October, the Lord Mayor of Cork City Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald made his official visit to Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh. The Lord Mayor and his wife were welcomed to the school by the Senior Prefects. The First Year music class sang "Amhrán na bhFiann" as they made their way to the library.

The function was attended by the Deputy Principals, teachers, senior prefects and representatives of each year group. At the beginning of the ceremony, Tadgh Connery, Conor Moore and John Grealley played some lively tunes. Alan O'Sullivan welcomed the Lord Mayor and gave him an insight into life in Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh. The Lord Mayor then addressed the gathering. He said he was very aware of the outstanding reputation of the



school and encouraged the students to value the education they are receiving here.

He spoke at length about the importance of the extra-curricular involvements. Shane Cahill responded to the Lord Mayor on behalf of the students. Ms Moriarty thanked the Lord Mayor and invited him to return to the school in May to accept a cheque on behalf of the Marymount Hospice.

Shane Cahill, 6th Year

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR TRUSTEES

On behalf of the directors and members of the Presentation Brothers Schools Trust (PBST), I wish all in the Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh community – student, teachers, support staff and parents – a very happy and peaceful Christmas and continued success in the year ahead. While my work as CEO of the Trust means that my focus is dispersed among all the schools in the PBST family, I don't think anyone minds that I continue to take more than a passing interest in one particular school – the one which will always be closest to my heart: Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh.

I keep in regular contact with Mr Foley, Ms Moriarty and Mr O'Reilly and, indeed, with many of the other teachers and I am fortunate that my new position allows me to make reasonably regular visits to the school. It is, of course, a time of great change in Irish education and the introduction of the new Junior Cycle programme and the school self-evaluation process, in particular, will present schools, CSN included, with many challenges. I am fully confident that CSN will embrace these challenges as it has every other challenge in the past and will continue to be one of the leading schools in the city.

Government policy on faith-based schools

This is also a time of significant change in faith-based education more generally. Our government continues to under-fund voluntary secondary schools such as CSN by a factor of 30% when compared to 'secular' schools in the ETB and Community and Comprehensive sectors. The irony of this is that study after study has shown that the Catholic school sector is by far and away the most inclusive sector in Irish education. Even though almost all of our schools are significantly over-subscribed, not one of the schools in our Trust body offers preferential treatment to applicants from Catholic backgrounds. Furthermore, even though faith-based schools are quite entitled to offer preferential treatment to applicants of their own faith (a provision that was inserted into the legislation to protect the position of minority faith schools), the fact is that only in about 5% of Catholic schools is religious affiliation taken into account in allocating places – and almost all of these schools are located in south Dublin where these schools are grossly over-subscribed. It is also a fact that faith-based schools continue to attract large numbers of applicants, Catholic and non-Catholic, because parents see the worth of the values-based education and the high quality teaching and learning environment that these schools offer. To sum up, the solution to the problem would be for the government to provide more 'secular' schools where a demand for such schools exists rather than subtly pressurise Catholic school to give up the ideals of their founders.

Further, it might review the policy of under-funding faith-based schools to the extent that parental contributions finance up to 30% of the running costs. Parents of children in voluntary secondary schools are tax-payers too!!

Getting to know your Trust

As you probably know, the Trust is the legal owner of all the PBST (formerly Presentation Brothers) schools and has ultimate responsibility for their good governance. The Trust also has a responsibility to ensure that the characteristic spirit or ethos of each school as lived in the Edmund Rice tradition is upheld for future generations of students. Parents and students are invited to engage with the Trust and, as CEO, I am always available to speak to Boards of Management or Parents' Associations or Students' Councils about the work of the Trust. *I may be contacted at 021 2417144 or at michaelsexton@eircom.net. See also www.pbst.ie*

Mar fhocal scoir

It would be entirely remiss of me to sign off without commenting on the recent retirement of one of Spiorad Naomh's longest-serving and most highly regarded teachers, Mr Ger O'Kelly. Mr O'Kelly was, without doubt, one of the most skilled teachers to have ever walked the corridors of our school. He could teach just about anything to anyone. It made no difference whether you were a student heading for straight As in the Leaving Cert or a student just struggling to get by; Mr O'Kelly had the gift of enabling each of his students to optimise his talents and fulfil his potential. He understood the way the adolescent mind worked and, as a class teacher and year head, he had few equals. I don't think any of us have ever met anyone with the work ethic of Ger O'Kelly. Beyond the classroom, he invested countless hours coaching generations of hurlers and, while fiercely competitive, never lost sight of the Corinthian ideal where success was secondary to the joy and honour of participation and where the lessons learned on the hurling field would inform the manner in which we would lead our lives. As a colleague, he was the epitome of wisdom, never brash or self-serving, but generous to a fault with his time and vast experience. He was the one we all looked up to: the voice of reason and common sense, and the soother of enflamed passions or dented egos. And, my God, did we have some laughs! Ger, you are just a class act and your retirement leaves a void at the heart of our school. We wish you and Doreen nothing but happiness in the years ahead.

Michael Sexton, Chief Executive Officer

NEW FIRST YEARS 2017 – 2018



READATHON

Our school holds many fundraising events for good causes, the most recent of which was the Readathon. It was held on the 22nd of November. It was organised by the Transition Years for the students of first and second year and they encouraged us to read. We read for all six periods that day and it was fun to have such a break from normal subjects. Sponsorship cards were given out to the first and second years and the money raised was given to good causes such as Pieta House, Cork Simon Community, Marymount Hospice and Presentation Brothers projects in Africa.



'During the Readathon I read 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.' As we had a few hours to read, I got a sense of satisfaction from reading an engaging story with almost no interruption. I really felt like I was following the characters because I had nothing else going on. It also helped to relax and forget about upcoming exams. I enjoyed the Readathon and I wish I could do it again.'

R. Palmer, 2nd Year

A. Khan, 1st Year



I really enjoyed the Readathon. I think it's a great way to get people to engage in reading, especially those who don't read so often. Reading is a great way of educating people and I would encourage more people to take part.

'The Readathon was hugely successful as it gave all first and second years a chance to read all day. I chose to read 'To Kill a Mockingbird.' This is a very interesting book and I am glad I had a chance to read it during school.'

N. O'Flynn, 2nd Year

D. Burke, 2nd Year



I liked the Readathon because it gave me a chance to finish my book Magnus Chase. I always want to read when I get home but don't usually have time between homework and other responsibilities. The Readathon was fun in general and, of course, it was all for a great cause. I hope we raised a lot of money for the four charities!

'The Readathon was a great experience as I was able to read for a whole Wednesday in school. It was also for charity, which is important. We supported Marymount, Pieta House, Cork Simon Community as well as the Presentation Brothers who work abroad. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and would love to do it again!'

F. McEniry, 2nd Year

F. White, 2nd Year

'I read the first book in the 'Wheel of Time' series during the Readathon and I absolutely loved it. I was able to immerse myself into the story and forget that I was even still in school.'

A. Kuruppa, 2nd



VEX ROBOTICS CLUB



The Vex team is back to work after their recent successes in the U.S. competition. It's a new year and a whole new game. This year instead of stars we're playing with interestingly shaped cones. This has given us a whole new set of challenges to work with and our design team is hard at work prototyping and building the new mechanisms for our robot.

We've been sorry to see some old faces go. The older members of the team have left to concentrate on their Leaving Cert and we wish them the best of luck in their studies. Thankfully they are still on hand to give us advice and criticism when we need it. We're also excited to welcome new faces to the team. They are very quickly picking up the different aspects of VEX. We know they will make an invaluable addition to this year's team and in years to come. We're very grateful to have Mr. Kerins on hand to keep us to schedule and ensure the operation runs smoothly.

Apart from designing the robot this year's PR and design teams have been planning and designing new updates to our website and social media. Be sure to check out our social media especially our twitter @CSN_Robotics to see all of our progress and new developments for us.

*Aaron McGee
(Team Captain 5th year)*

FIRST AID November 2017



THE ANNUAL GARDA SIOCHÁNA TRANSITION YEAR SCHOOLS' QUIZ



The second annual Cork Garda schools quiz for Transition Year students took place on Tuesday 14th November in Douglas G.A.A. club.

Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh came first with the highest ever score on record!!!

Congratulations to Joey Harrington, Aidan Mamo Cooney, David Harris and Ciarán Meers.

TRANSITION YEAR RETREAT

On the 28th of September our class, 4A, went on retreat to the Presentation Brother's Youth Ministry at Mardyke House. We were guided through the day by our leader, Ms Jemma Halpin. We participated in many team building activities. These games and activities brought us closer together as a group and created a positive atmosphere. We spent time reflecting in which we used pictures to represent a moment in our lives.

We also had a guided meditation with Ms. Dorgan. It was very relaxing.

Everyone had a great day on retreat. Thanks to our leader Jemma and Ms. Dorgan for accompanying us.

*Calvin Doherty, Stephen Phelan, Alex Carey,
Kevin Delaney, Jordan Martin (4A)*



ISTA SENIOR SCIENCE

On the 16th of November the ISTA Senior Science Quiz Regional Rounds were held in UCC. 39 teams from across Cork competed in 8 rounds of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and general scientific knowledge questions. Two 6th year teams from CSN consisting of Alen Baby, Ruslan Lashkul and Victor Jean on team 1 and Ben Smith, Seán Cronin and Matthew Cronin on team 2 competed.

The competition was fierce and the questions were very challenging. Both teams did exceptionally well with team 1 just losing out on a place in the National Finals by one point. Congratulations to all members involved.

COLLEGE AWARENESS WEEK

Awareness Week took place from the 20th to the 26th of November. Guidance Counsellors Ms Evans and Ms Downes organised a number of 'Imagining Your Future' workshops with 2nd and 3rd year students. Guest speakers from UCC & CIT spoke to 5th and 6th year students about their CAO courses. Also a number of 5th & 6th year students attended the Cork Training Centre Open Day on the 23rd.



TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMMING MODULE

As part of transition year all students chose a fixed module which is a class taken throughout the year on a subject from a choice of six. Twenty five other students and I have chosen Programming and it has been very educational so far. We have been given the opportunity to learn HTML as part of the module. Two students from UCC, **Ciarán Coughlan** (past pupil) and **Daniel Carroll** who are studying Business Information Systems have offered to teach us this programming language. They both visit once a month for a double period and teach us HTML.

We have been using notepad++ to code our own website and have added lists, images, links and fonts to the website. Each month we are taught new skills in programming and are given sections of code as templates to use and learn for our own website. Eventually we will learn enough code to make a fully functioning website, and we will then learn CSS which will improve the visual aesthetic of our websites. Ciarán and Daniel showed us examples of websites they have created as part of their own programming course in UCC, which has shown us what our finished product will look like. Programming is definitely a module I would recommend to anyone interested in IT or computers.

Matthew Harte (Transition Year)

HURLING



TRANSITION YEAR MINI COMPANIES

Excl

In our company called 'Excl', we have developed a product idea of a boot bag that removes the moisture and smell typically associated with your average sports player's boot bag, especially just after a match where the teenager's boot bag is left thrown on his bedroom floor. This smell will linger in the boots and the gear. The idea came about after a brainstorming session we concluded that a boot bag with the necessary components would be most convenient and cost effective as a way to solve this problem.

On our team are:-

Guillherme Ventura-Patricio (dep C.E.O.), Tighernan O'Sullivan (H. R. Manager), Raymond Cotter (Finance manager), Majin Manoj (Legal manager), Philip O'Sullivan (I. T. Manager), Kevin Delaney (Market Research manager), Rory O'Broin and Oisín Nagle (Marketing).

Joey Harrington (C.E.O)

Flashback

Our mini company is developing a business idea which is a gift item for various events in the year, birthdays, Christmas, etc. A front page is chosen from a paper published on that date. The gift connects the past with your special occasion. It will be framed and sold in gift format which will make the product look unique and specific for that individual.

Our team are:-

Ciarán Meers (dep C.E.O.), Dara Cahill ((Finance manager), Robert McStay (Marketing manager), Dylan Bairamgulov (Production manager), Joshua Ababon (Design manager), David Yoannu (Design), Yousif Haidaran (Marketing manager) and Luke Tobin (Market Research manager).

Aidan Mamo Cooney (C.E.O)

Get Healthy

Our idea is a health board game concerning obesity. We are aware that this is a sensitive topic but has to be addressed as Ireland is on course to have the highest amount of obese people in Europe in the next twenty years. Our idea is not just to stop these habits which lead to obesity but prevent them from occurring. By the end of 2017 we aim to have our board game up and running as we are currently dealing with prototypes.

The rest of my team are :-

Peter O'Connor (Deputy C.E.O), David Harris (Finance Officer), Ruairi O'Sullivan (Art and Design), Stephen Phelan (Legal Officer), Darragh O'Donoghue (Marketing manager), Ruairi Moriarty (Social Media manager), Luke Murphy (Sales manager) and Olan Barrett (Human Resources).

Peter Kelleher (C.E.O)

TREND MICRO

On the 24th October 2017 I went to visit the internet security company Trend Micro with ten other TY students. Here we attended a workshop on Internet safety, and we will be using the skills we learned to give our own presentation to the First Year Students later on this year. For the first half of the morning, we were introduced to some Trend Micro staff who told us what they do in the company. After a quick break, we were split into groups to do the workshop. During the workshop we discussed the dangers associated with connecting to public Wi-Fi, and we learned that you must be very careful when inputting passwords or using a credit card online.



We were given time to discuss and answer the questions on these topics such as cyberbullying and cyber-safety in our groups and then we shared our opinions with the others. This allowed us to discuss these serious issues and also think of some practical solutions. For example: the more time you spend doing things you enjoy, like sports, the less significant cyberbullying will be in your life.

The Be-Smart Internet Safety Program was an eye opening experience and changed my outlook on the Internet and Social Media.

Mannan Nazar (Transition Year)

FOOD APPEAL LAUNCH



ATHLETICS

Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh athletic students have had a successful start to the New Year with provincial, national and international medals to date. On the 6th of October we had two participants in the Munster schools combined events with **Brian Lynch** securing 1st place, **Wymin Sivakumar** securing 2nd place in the inter boys competition and both progressing to the nationals.

On the 28th of October both Wymin and Brian represented the school in a very close competition. Wymin placed 6th and Brian placed 3rd which meant Brian progressed to represent Ireland in Glasgow in the schools competition on November 10th. Brian accomplished 6th overall and 3rd as a team. Congratulations to both Transition Year Students on their outstanding achievements.



CORK POPS ORCHESTRA

This review is based on the Cork Pops Orchestra Concert in City Hall on the 8th of November 2017. It isn't every day that you get to go to a big orchestral concert. I would certainly give the orchestra five stars out of five because they had an amazing sound which drew you in. The concert included classical pieces such as 'The Flute and Harp Concerto' by Mozart and 'The Dance of The Sugar Plum Fairy' by Tchaikovsky as well as Disney songs and popular music. The instruments included strings, percussion, brass, harp as well as a synthesiser. My favourite part of the concert was the film music or the compilation of themes from movies such as E.T., Harry Potter and Star Wars because the sound was fabulous. Overall the concert was amazing and I really enjoyed it.

Timothy O'Riordan (N. Fionbarra)

ROTARY

Every year Rotary organise a youth leadership competition highlighting the work of young people acting as community leaders. All 5th year students had the opportunity to enter by completing an application form. Of the students that applied six were selected to be interviewed by Rotary Bishopstown. They were Eoin Murphy, Tadhg Connery, Aaron McGee, Cian Morey, Cian Ahern and I. We participated in a unique interview process which has helped us to sharpen our interview skills. From this group I was lucky enough to be chosen to represent the school at the next round. The regional round consisted of representatives from schools in the local area. It was an excellent opportunity for me to meet some amazing young people from all around Cork. The worthy winner was from Mount Mercy but the experience has taught me that the future is well and truly bright.

Tony O'Halloran

ART

CURRENT
EXAMPLES OF
'UNFINISHED'
ON-GOING WORK,
WITHIN THE NEW
REVISED LC ART.



UCC INNOVATION DAY



SCIENCE WEEK 2017



FIRST YEAR CLASS LEAGUES

This year, the first year leagues were a great success. A number of fourth years and I were given the opportunity to coach the first year hurling & football teams. Over the course of both leagues, we had great fun amongst the managers and especially with the first years. Naoimh Breandán and Naoimh Antóin were the finalists of this year's hurling league final. Both teams showed great heart and in the end N.Breandán came out on top on the day.

Thank you to Ms. O'Connor for making the fixtures and for helping us throughout these leagues and thank you to all the teachers who gave up their lunchtimes to referee the matches.

Aaron Buckley (4A)



Winners of the football league – Naoimh Fionnbarra with their captain Christian Hurley and fourth year managers, Wymin Sivakumar, Jason Riordan, Seán Faby and Aaron Buckley

1st Year Leagues

Once again the first year leagues were a huge success in CSN this year. We saw a very competitive hurling league which provided a lot of excitement for spectators and fourth year managers. Three teams were neck in neck after the last round of fixtures. With Naoimh Breandán already through to the final, a penalty shoot-out took place on the school pitch to see who would join them. Naoimh Antóin took on Naoimh Breandán in the final. This was a special occasion for all first years but when the final whistle blew it was a stronger Naoimh Breandán team that won out on the day.

Simon Collins (4A2)



Winners of the Hurling League Naoimh Breandán with their captain Kieran McFadden and fourth year managers John Greally, Nathan Collins, Euan Coughlan and Cathal Hynes.

U16 HURLING 17th NOVEMBER 2017



MARA SPORTS 2017



Mr. Ger O'Kelly

We had to part company with one of our best teachers during the summer. We had hoped that he could continue doing what he does best – Mr. O'Kelly hoped so too. It was not to be. In late August it was strange to have the staff gather without his familiar presence. Mr. O'Kelly had put the cap on his marking pen, given back the last bunch of copies (at least we think he did!) and withdrawn from the fray.

Ger O'Kelly was in the first class that entered Spiorad Naomh, left briefly to get a degree in UCC and returned as a "Dip." and became a fulltime teacher here. He is, in a very real sense, a thread of continuity in our history from the school's very first days to now. But the thread is more than a marking of time. Ger represents the best that CSN stands for – unshakable honour, a huge commitment to his students, an impossible work-ethic, a belief in education in the broadest sense and, most of all, a profound faith in the value of what Spiorad Naomh does and stands for. I believe that it is from such attributes and such conviction is the essence of CSN made – created from the values articulated by Ger and so many more of the staff, present and past, who have contributed to making this college what it is. The school as it is today only exists because of the foundations laid by those who taught here in the past and enhanced by the vision of those of us who teach here now.

Ger O'Kelly is a superb teacher. The breadth of his knowledge is outstanding. His students knew that the preparation they would get in his class would always be of the highest quality. In pastoral terms, he was always very interested and protective of his students.

Ger's contributions to staff deliberations were always considered and wise. To his colleagues, he was always sensitive and supportive. He also espoused an almost old-fashioned belief in the value of good manners – something the school also believes in. He has, I believe, a sense of people, an empathy, which few possess – something he used to the full in his interactions in Spiorad Naomh and beyond.

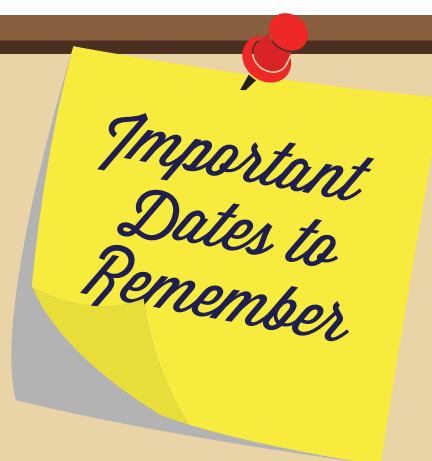
Ger believed that extra-curricular activities bring an enhancement to education that is an intrinsic part of what we do. He trained hurling teams for all of his time as a teacher in Spiorad Naomh – even when the pressure of time bore heavily upon him, he never reduced his commitment to training, recognising its value to students and to the school. I know that students were very appreciative of that commitment.

Ger's four sons came to Spiorad Naomh, followed a generation later by his grandson. Another grandson will begin in CSN in 2018. The wheel turns but the connection endures.

Personally, I value Ger for his guidance and his insight. I admire his wit – he is one of the funniest people you could hope to meet. Mostly, I value him as a very dear friend.

On behalf of the staff and students, I wish Ger and Doreen and the O'Kelly family good health and happiness as you begin the next chapter.

Mike Foley



**SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK ON
DECEMBER 22ND 2017**

**SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS ON
JANUARY 8TH 2018 FOR STAFF
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER
CHRISTMAS BREAK ON JANUARY 9TH 2018**

**SCHOOL CLOSED JANUARY 16TH 2018
FOR SUBJECT SPECIFIC IN-SERVICE**

**5TH YEAR PARENT TEACHER MEETING
TUESDAY JANUARY 23RD 2018.
CLASSES FINISH AT 3.30**

**OUR BT YOUNG SCIENTIST COMPETITORS
ARE IN DUBLIN FOR THE EXHIBITION
JANUARY 10TH-13TH 2018**

**GROUP OF STUDENTS TRAVEL TO DUBLIN TO BT
YOUNG SCIENTIST EXHIBITION JANUARY 11TH
2018**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK TAKES PLACE
JANUARY 28TH – FEBRUARY 3RD 2018**

**INTERNET SAFETY WEEK BEGINS
FEBRUARY 5TH 2018 IN CSN**

**SECOND YEAR PARENT TEACHER MEETING
FEBRUARY 8TH 2018. CLASSES FINISH AT 3.30.**

**MID-TERM BREAK BEGINS
MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2018**



Thank you to all students, teachers and friends who contributed to our newsletter. We hope you enjoyed this edition of Spiorad Signals and that it has helped give a good flavour of the wide variety of activities and achievements that have happened so far this year.

A special word of thanks to Ms Cleary, Ms Hazel and Mr Kerins who helped collate this work.

We wish the whole school community a very happy Christmas and a wonderful 2018.

*Brenda Moriarty
Deputy Principal.*