



Education and Culture

COMENIUS



## Comenius

St. Mary's N.S. has recently been accepted to take part in a Comenius 1 Project. Comenius is part of the European Community's Socrates action programme in the field of education. Socrates was first launched in 1995 to promote cooperation and mobility to strengthen the European dimension in the field of education. This is done by encouraging transnational co-operation between schools and contributing to improved professional development between schools and contributing to improved professional development of staff directly involved in the school education sector, and to improve intercultural awareness.

It also promotes the use of information and communication technology in school education and the training of staff working in this sector of education. Children will communicate with partner schools in Europe using modern technology therefore making great use of our fantastic computer suite and interactive board. They will be able to use the webcam and mike to communicate with each other and see each other on the interactive board. Some children will also have an opportunity to act as ambassadors for our school by attending a project meeting in early 2011.

This is the school's second Comenius project, the first one having been a great experience for everyone involved.

The Comenius Project entitled "A Healthy Europe" will run for 2 years. Six countries in total are taking part in the project. There are primary schools from Wales, Northern Ireland, Spain, Turkey, Poland and Ireland.

St. Mary's will be hosting pupils and teachers from Wales, Spain, Turkey, Poland and Northern Ireland for one week from 26th-30th April 2010.

This visit entails a week long schedule of events and activities for our visitors all centred on our project theme: A Healthy Europe. This involves hosting a Civic Reception, a Traditional Night, ICT Session on 'Lifestyle Study', Sporting Events, Activity Days and Cultural Events and relating all this to "A Healthy Europe".

This visit is a fantastic opportunity for the school and an exceptional learning experience for the participating children. It gives a medium for the exchange of learning experiences and building of lifelong friendships hence enabling the breaking down of prejudices and creating one single European Identity.

5th and 6th class pupils have been involved in the Comenius project, and so far, have been very creative!

The children have chosen a traditional healthy Irish recipe and e-mailed this to all our partners. They have then looked at the recipes we received from the other countries and had brilliant fun trying out these recipes! The CPI Centre kindly gave us the use of their kitchen for our fabulous cookery!

We also have a very artistic display of maps of the countries involved in the Computer Suite, made

by Kyle Gallagher. Our Assembly Hall displays also show lots of interesting facts and information relating to our project.

**Please support our Comenius Fundraiser!**

On Wednesday 28th April, we will be holding a 'Stars in their Eyes' Night involving our incredible local talent from St. Mary's and our guests from Poland, Turkey, Spain, Wales and Northern Ireland. We will also have some special guests performing on the night. It promises to be a night to remember and we encourage all children, parents, grandparents and relatives to come and support our event!

## *"Alco-Y" Programme*



6th class will have the opportunity to take part in a 9 week programme this term with the Balor Developmental Community Arts Group entitled 'Alco-Y'. This will be a very beneficial scheme of work that will be delivered using the arts as a creative and engaging method of delivery. The programme covers the issue of alcohol misuse and includes such topics as 'how to say no' and 'alco-dangers' along with a Garda presentation on alcohol legislation. This will all be covered using poetry, story-writing, and design. The programme promises to be enjoyable and informative.

## *Eclipse Cinema Awards*

St. Mary's has had great success in the recent competition held by Eclipse Cinemas in Lifford to celebrate the launch of the new Disney film: 'The Princess and the Frog.' The younger children entered a colouring competition and the senior children composed stories in which they starred as a Prince or Princess.

All of our entries were displayed in the Cinema and looked fantastic on the walls! Well done to everyone who entered!

The lucky winners were:

Hannah Murray, J.I.

Nicole Bryson, S.I.

Darren Mc Colgan, 1st

Susan Coleman, 5th

Adam Hughes, 5th

Congratulations!

## *Food Dudes!*



Our school has been chosen to participate in the Food Dudes Healthy Eating Programme developed by An Bord Bia. We are nearing the end of Phase 1, which has been a great success. A portion of both fruit and vegetables has been provided for each child with a wonderful prize every day if they ate the required amount.

Phase 2 will begin on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April. In Phase 2, children will be encouraged to bring in their own fruit and vegetables to school in special food dudes containers (these will be given out on day 16). Classroom Wall Charts will be used to record progress and children will receive certificates and further rewards upon reaching goals. The aim of this phase is to maintain fruit and veg. consumption in the longer term.

Don't forget that children need to return their completed Fruit & Veg. Home Diaries on Day 16 (23rd March). There is an additional award for the home diary to be given to the children who have made a good effort to eat extra fruit and veg. at home.

Here are some ideas on lunchbox fillers for Phase 2:

Good Luck!

Fruit

*Apple*

*Raisins*

*Strawberries*

*Grapes*

*Kiwi*

*Melon*

*Orange*

*Banana*

*Pineapple*

Vegetables

*Cucumber*

*Carrots*

*Swede (turnip)*

*Peppers*

*Beetroot*

*Sweetcorn*

*Baby corn*

*Broccoli*

Stars in their eyes  
Extravaganza!!

See our talented pupils perform along with our European partner schools and many special guests!!

xxx

*A night not to be missed!*

xxx

Villa Rose Hotel

Wednesday 28th April

7.30 pm

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## *North West Garden Show and Allotments*

St. Mary's is really looking forward to the North West Garden Show coming up in the CPI Centre on May 29th and 30th.

1st/2nd Class completed a wonderfully muddy and enjoyable gardening course in our Allotment Garden at the CPI in Winter and another class will have the opportunity to participate in the Spring Term.

Some classes are going to take part in the Pallet Garden Challenge for the Show in May., growing themed 1m square pallet gardens which will be on display at the show.

Good luck to all our budding horticulturalists!!

Check out [www.northwestgardenshow.ie](http://www.northwestgardenshow.ie) for details on how you can take part!

### *'Sonas' Success for 5th class pupil!*

Emma Chaney (5th) has written a superb story entitled 'Coloured Snow' which is on a shortlist to be included in 'Funtastic Sonas' Annual 2010.

Folens Publishers have praised Emma's work, saying that she uses "great descriptions and imagery" and that her ideas are "original and witty" (Donna Garvin, Sonas Editor)

Well done Emma and we hope to see 'Coloured Snow' published this Winter!

