



Presentation Secondary School  
Galway.

# NEWSLETTER

## Summer 2007

### ECDL Certificates for PLC graduates



Pictured with Ms. Colette McWalter, Co-ordinator of the PLC programme in the Presentation Secondary School, are some of the graduates who received their ECDL certificates on 10th May 2007. Congratulations to all!

### Home/School/Community Liaison News

Congratulations to the many parents who attended the various courses held during the school year. The Computer Course, which took place during the winter months, was facilitated by Ms. Caroline Rochford, a member of the teaching staff of the Presentation Secondary School.

Thanks also to Mr. Brendan Smith (Digital Enterprise Research Institute, NUIG), who facilitated the very interesting workshops on "Internet Awareness" during the month of March 2007. Pictured (right) are some of the parents who attended this workshop.



On **Tuesday, 29th May at 8pm** Brendan will facilitate a workshop for parents of teenagers in the city schools on "**Safe Internet Use**" in the DERI Institute, Dangan Business Park (opposite the Westwood Hotel). Using practical strategies, Brendan will introduce parents to the "world of the young person on-line" and will suggest guidelines around the management of same. It promises to be a most informative and helpful opportunity. If you are free on Tuesday, 29th May, please feel welcome to attend this workshop.

The course on "Positive Communication Skills around Relationships and Sexuality" was a very helpful and insightful experience for all those involved. The evenings were facilitated by the SPHE National Co-ordinator, Martha Sweeney. The feedback from parents who completed the course was very positive. As a result a similar course will be organised in September/October for the parents of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students.

Thanks to Mr. Lol Hardiman (Galway Artist in Residence) for facilitating a number of workshops on Still Life Drawing. Congratulations to all parents who attended the four-week course on Friday mornings in the Parents' Room.

Congratulations to the 2nd Year students who completed the "Maths-4-Fun" programme. Many thanks to the parents who acted as facilitators every Friday afternoon for the duration of the programme.

Finally, sincere thanks to Senior Librarian, Cora Gunther, and her team in Westside Library for their help during the year with the Second Year Literature programme. The excellent facilities in the Library and the friendliness of the staff added hugely to the experience.

*Netta Kennedy*

# TY NEWS

## TY MINI-COMPANY

This year, as part of the Junior Achievement programme, the TY class set up a mini-company. We decided to set up a lunchroom service for the school. The name we chose for the company is "Presilicious!", combining the words "Presentation" and "delicious". Our main aim was to provide healthy, tasty food to the students and staff in a comfortable environment. It has been a great success. We have expanded our stock and we now have three different suppliers.



In March we travelled to Sligo to take part in the Junior Achievement competition and won the Regional Championships. This was very exciting as we were the first TY group from the school to win this stage of the competition. Later in March five of our directors travelled to the RDS in Dublin to take part in the All-Ireland Championships. Unfortunately, we didn't win but we are still very proud of what we have achieved.

We are very grateful to Ms. Lynch, our Business teacher, for her help and support in setting up the mini-company.

*Niamh Connell TY*



More photos on page 4

## Green Schools' Programme

The Green Schools' Committee of 2006/2007 successfully retained the Green Flag for the Presentation Secondary School. This was achieved by conserving energy within the school, e.g. turning off light switches when a classroom is not in use.

Recycling continued to play a major part in the efforts to retain the Green Flag. The Transition Year students helped in maintaining the "Go Green!" and "Red Rotten!" system of managing the waste bins in the school.

We are very proud that our school has achieved and retained the Green Flag status. Long may it continue!

*Sarah Tighe TY*

## LIVING SCENES

The Living Scenes programme, which involves the TY class and members of the Active Retired Associations in Galway, has had another successful year in the Pres. For the first time, the Living Scenes group staged a Christmas celebration in the Church of St. Columbanus in NUIG. This was a most enjoyable evening.

On Friday, 20th April, the group put on a performance of drama, song and dance in the Taibhdhearc Theatre. The facilitators who worked with the group to prepare this performance were Paddy Henry (drama), Claire Power (drama), Eamon Brett (music) and Genevieve Ryan (choreography). The evening was a great success and congratulations to all who were involved.

For the final term the group took part in a writing module facilitated by the writer and broadcaster, John Quinn. Both young and old enjoyed this module very much.

Our sincere thanks to all our facilitators who work with us each year. We look forward to another successful year for 2007/2008.

## Young Social Innovators Showcase

Transition Year students have been involved in a project called "In Aetate Veritas", which means "In age there is truth". With this project we entered the Young Social Innovators competition. We designed a website where members of the public can view older people telling their stories about growing up in Galway. Their stories focus on life in the past, taking in subjects such as the War of Independence, education in times past and life in general as it was lived then.

On 9th and 10th May we attended the YSI National Showcase in the RDS, Dublin. We enjoyed the experience and had great fun.

This project is run in conjunction with the Education Department and the Digital Enterprise Research Institute, both in NUIG.

As a result of our involvement in the project, the TY class were contacted by the team of the "Nationwide" programme on RTE1. They visited the school to film the TY class working on our project. We spent the day filming both in the school and at the DERI Institute in the university. This featured on "Nationwide" on RTE1 on Wednesday, 2nd May. We were very proud to be on national television!

Following this feature, we were contacted by "The Irish Times" requesting an interview about our YSI project as part of a feature they were producing in their magazine about the Young Social Innovators programme. This was published on Saturday, 5th May.

*Leanne Moran & Rachel Coleman TY*



## Bill Cullen Visit

On Friday, 2nd March, Bill Cullen, chairman of Renault Ireland, arrived at the Presentation Secondary School to give a talk to the senior students of the school. He arrived in his characteristically flamboyant style by helicopter! This caused quite a stir and quite a lot of noise!!



The main emphasis of his talk was motivation, encouraging young people to have ambition and to aim to realise their potential. Mr. Cullen is well known for his work with the Irish Youth Foundation and is experienced in speaking to young people. His audience on the day was very impressed by his energy and enthusiasm. He spoke of his childhood when he experienced great poverty and how he overcame the obstacles in his life.

Towards the end of his talk, Mr. Cullen set the students a challenge, to name fourteen towns in County Mayo. The first four students to rise to the challenge were rewarded with a trip in the helicopter!

If there is a secret to his success, Bill Cullen would say that he has seized every opportunity and has always been prepared to work harder, faster and longer than anyone else. Many thanks to him for taking the time to visit our school.

## Congratulations!!

Two Transition Year students from the Pres have distinguished themselves this year by winning major prizes.

Congratulations to **Máire Heneghan** who won a four day trip to Strasbourg with The Graduate Online Civic Awareness Quiz. The aim of the quiz is to increase students' civic, social and political awareness in an innovative, fun and engaging manner. It encourages students to develop an understanding of how various public institutions work, how they interact with young people and how they impact upon their everyday lives, as well as developing their Internet and computer skills.

Máire, along with twenty-nine other students from all over Ireland, and three supervising teachers, travelled to Strasbourg from 25th April to 28th April. One full day was spent at the European Parliament where they took part in Euro-scola, which is a youth parliament. This involved them taking part in discussions on a number of topics about the E.U. with students from other member states.

The prize was sponsored by the National Forum on Europe. Well done, Máire!

Congratulations also to **Rebecca Maher**, who has won an essay competition run by the United States Institute of Peace. Rebecca will represent overseas American students in the State finals in Washington DC this summer. The theme of Rebecca's essay is "The use of children in armed conflicts throughout the world". Well done, Rebecca, and we wish you every success in this competition.



## Leaving Cert Class of 2007.



The staff and students of the Pres would like to wish the Leaving Cert class of 2007 the very best of luck in the State exams which begin on Wednesday, 6th June. We hope that they enjoy great success and happiness in their future careers.

Good luck, girls!

## School Magazine

This year a committee was formed with the aim of publishing a school magazine. After much hard work and many long hours of preparation, the magazine finally went on sale in the school in recent weeks. Students from different year groups were involved on the committee, under the direction of their teacher, Ms. Stenson.

Special features include interviews from Lucia Evans, Kevin Higgins, a well known Galway poet, and several from our very own past pupils. The magazine also features articles regarding problems that young people encounter, book reviews, creative writing, class photos, and advice on how to look fashionable with the latest summer trends.

Thank you, girls, for all your hard work and congratulations on producing an excellent magazine.

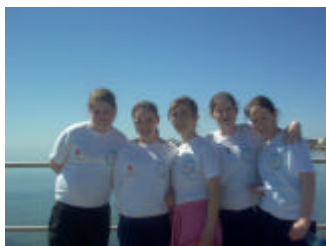
**Don't forget!**  
You can always visit us on our website:  
[www.presgalway.ie](http://www.presgalway.ie)

## Fundraising for the Special Olympics

On Thursday, 26th May, the students from the 1A1 class completed a five mile sponsored walk in aid of the Special Olympics. They raised a total of €1,450 in aid of this very worthy cause. Well done, girls!



*The 1A1 class with their teacher, Ms. Stokes.*



*Hard at work but enjoying the sunshine!!!*



*Presentation at the RDS*

**Presilicious!**



*Yummy!!!*

**Why not check out our website for all the latest news at the Pres:**

[www.presgalway.ie](http://www.presgalway.ie)

## French Exchange Programme

Thank you and “merci” to the families who hosted sixteen French girls from the 21st—28th April, as part of our continuing exchange programme with College des Muriers in Le Mans. It was an action-packed week which included trips to the Burren and Connemara, a cruise on the Corrib Princess, a tour of Galway City, Irish classes for eager French students and teachers, and an afternoon of Irish dancing.

Sincere thanks to Ms. Flannery and Ms. Joyce who organised the visit.

## German Exchange Programme

From 18th-25th May, students from the Pres, accompanied by Ms. Nolan, together with some students from the Mercy, are taking part in a German exchange programme with a school in Emden, in the north of Germany. A return visit from the German exchange partners is planned for the next school year.

## Good luck to all Exam Students!



It is not just the Leaving Cert classes who are facing exams in June. The Junior Cert classes will also begin their State exams on Wednesday, 6th June.

We wish them the very best of luck!