

Portmarnock Community School Newsletter Nuachtlitir na Scoile

www.portmarnockcommunityschool.ie

Issue 7, January 2011

Best Wishes for the New Year



In this issue...

South African Project	3
Art	6
School Blog Wins Award.	10
An cultúr Gaelach bríomhar beomhar	11
Grease is the Word...	12
New Home Economics Room.	13
Minister visits Portmarnock Community School.	15
Ski Trip 2011	16
Éacht David Rooney	17
The Student-Teacher Turnover Day.	18
Volleyball	19
Principals Message.	21



South African Project

Each February Portmarnock Community School sends more than 50 transition year students, parents, teachers and friends with a cross section of skills in construction, health and education to continue a program of work in the Lusikisiki community in The Eastern Cape, South Africa. This area has been devastated by the HIV virus in recent years. The project supports the work of the charities, 'Friends In Ireland' and 'Amawele'.

Below is an account from a student who took part last year.

To sum up a brief account of how South Africa went has been quite difficult, simply because of the fact that I personally don't think there are enough words in the English language to capture the experience I had over what was a blissful two weeks. From the beautiful scenery to the even more beautiful people, the town of Lusikisiki

was filled with a love you couldn't bypass. From the moment we drove into Sacred Heart School and were greeted by so many children wanting so





eagerly to say hello and know our names, was the moment that I knew this was going to be the best two weeks of my life.

I couldn't but admire how wonderful these kids were with their everlasting smiles, warm hospitality and marvellous talents for song and dance. To see a group of young teenage girls sing in such perfect unison and harmony and not to mention unaccompanied and sound better than anything I've ever heard, brought tears to many of our eyes.

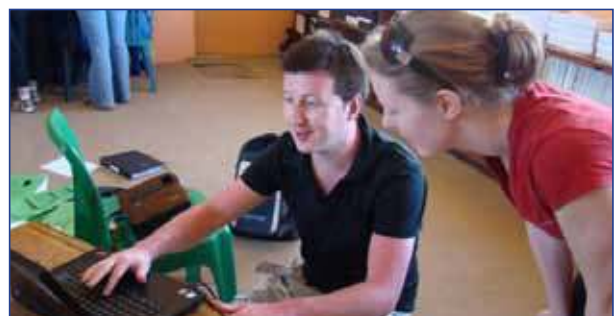
Each morning, whilst driving to school we would receive endless smiles and waves from each person we passed. I was overwhelmed by how kind hearted and generous the people of Lusikisiki were. What I found so hard to grasp was the hardship in some of the towns we drove through but nevertheless the high spirits of the people that filled them was inspiring.

There was a system set up each night where every one of us could choose which area we would like to work in the following day. This included jobs such as, Medical, Construction, Art, Science and Music. The structure we had

in place worked well as everyone got to try out a variety of different areas. Most of the time, I worked with anything relating to art. There were a few classrooms that we transformed from dull, bleak rooms to cheerful learning environments filled with mesmerising colours and vivid images. The children and teachers were in a state of awe at the bright pictures strewn across their normally bare classroom walls.

On our eighth day, there was a slight bit of confusion about a mass being held in a town not too far from where Sacred Heart School was situated, because no one really knew whether it was still on or not, this resulted in only a small number of us attending it. It was easily the most fantastic mass I've ever had the privilege to be at. We entered the small, cosy church to an extraordinary sound of beautifully harmonised voices and contagious rhythmic clapping. Their devotion and strong belief in God was amazing. They welcomed us in with open arms and sang their way through the whole length of the mass. At the end they thanked us for coming, and for our efforts in helping South Africa in the tough struggle it faced and asked would we be able to share with them some of our own music. We were slightly apprehensive to follow, considering their remarkable performance but decided to sing a few songs we had prepared before coming out. One of them being, A Song For Africa, which was written by Paul Redmond, a man who helped out hugely with all the aspects of music and was assisted by Aisling Glover, a student on the trip.

After a breathtaking twelve days in Sacred Heart School, we were invited to a going away party where the children presented us with a spectacular show of song and dance after which we were served a lovely meal. The local bishop (Bishop William Slattery) who happened to be from Co. Tipperary and the principal both gave lovely speeches filled with gratitude. One of the most interesting things of that day though, that





I will never, ever forget, was a Tipperary man speaking one of Africa's native languages called Xhosa, fluently. An experience, certainly needing to be witnessed to be believed.

Moving onto our journey to Cape Town, unlike last year's group, who went to Cape Town at the beginning of the trip, we left it until last. It was an extreme culture shock after flying from Durban into Cape Town. Just outside the town there were fields filled with shacks for houses. It was unreal to think that shanty towns could exist straight outside such a modern, wealthy City. We got a boat out to Robben Island where the great Nelson Mandela served a gruelling twenty seven year term of imprisonment due to his membership of the ANC (African National Congress) a rival banned political party where the Africans sought to abolish the apartheid. We also got to visit the wonderful, Table Top Mountain and its fascinating views.

South Africa '09 was most definitely the best experience in the World, and I'm almost positive I can speak on behalf of everyone else when saying so. We all know though that it would not have been the same or even happened without the fantastic Mr. Fitzgerald, a big, big thank you for all your efforts and hard work to make this trip an experience of a life time for all of us. I'd also

like to thank all the teachers, builders, doctors and parents who accompanied and helped us throughout the two weeks. We couldn't have done it without you.

<http://www.pcs-southafrica.com/p/home>

KATIE KEEGAN

The following students are travelling to South Africa next month.

Jack Morison
Sam Boland
Rachel Boyle
Harry Bradshaw
Siobhain Brady
Ian Briody
Jennifer Byrne
Lauren Daly
Emma Deegan
Sinead Deegan
Samuel Earlwood
Darren Flynn
Kelly Forde
Rachel Gallagher
Holly Herbert
Jamie Johnston
Emma Kiely
Sean Mangan

Sam McCabe
Conor McLoughlin
Niall Murphy
Kate Murran
Luke Nangle
Conor Nolan
Roisin O'Donovan
Mark O'Hare
Shane O'Reilly
Fiona Peppard
Dylan Potter
Maloney Rachel
Keane Robin
Molloy Ruth
Rea Daniel
Gillian Spollen
Kate Whyte

Art



Daisy Golding, 2nd Year.



Johanna Purdy, 2nd Year.



Niamh O'Brien, 2nd Year.



Aidan Forde, 2nd Year.



Nicholas O'Brien, 2nd Year.

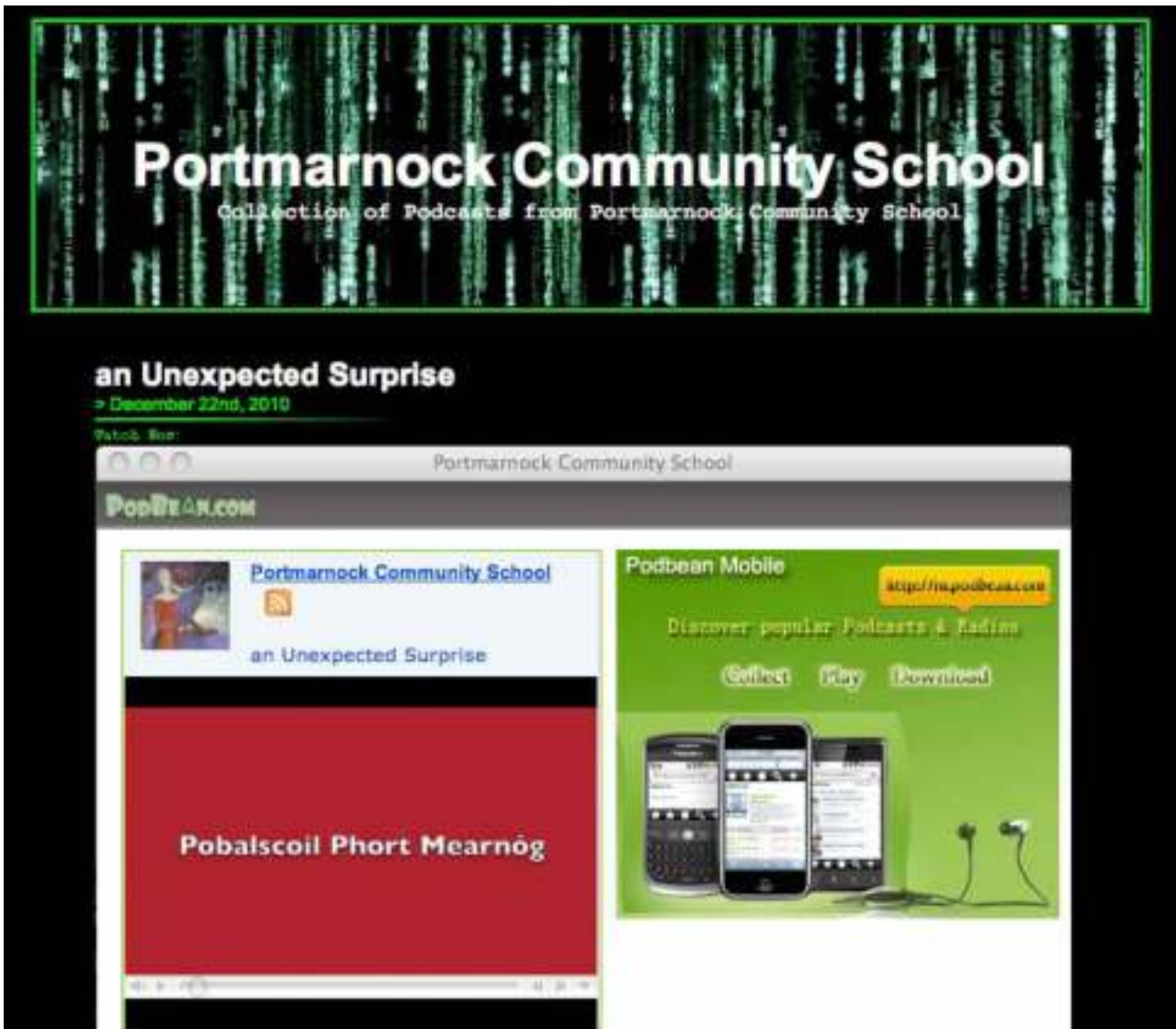


Megan Kenny, 3rd Year.



Sophie Lane, 2nd Year.

An cultúr Gaelach bríomhar beomhar



Féadaim a rá gan aon bhréag ná magadh go raibh lucht na Gaeilge thar a bheith gníomhach sa scoil arís i mbliana. Tugadh faoin teanga Gaeilge a chur i lár an aonaigh, le fuinneamh agus le díograis. Bhí paidreacha dúchais na nGael le cloisteáil le giolcadh an ghealbhain a bhuíochas do Ms. Dolan. Tháinig an blag ar fhód na scoile i Mí Mheán an Fhómhair agus táimid ag súil go ndéanfar tuilleadh forbartha air an bhliain seo chugainn. Bhí ár gcuid filí agus scríbhneoirí óga i mbun pinn arís i mbliana agus bhí ár gcuid aisteoirí óga ar an ardán faoi stiúir Ms O Reilly mar ar léirigh siad prós agus filíocht na hArdeiste le beocht agus le spiorad.

Bhí an ceol tradisiúnta beo sa scoil a bhuíochas do Ms. Mc Glynn agus tugaimid buíochas dár gceoltoirí óga a sheas go beomhar bródúil os comhair an tsaoil le sé bliana anuas. Tá mé cinnte go mbeidh an cultúr gaelach beo cibé áit a mbíonn siad. Go gcúitítear a saothar leo.

Agus ar ndóigh, na beochain ar cuireadh tús leo i mbliana. Bheadh siad le moladh dá mbeinn i mo thost. Bígí ag súil le tuilleadh i mbliana.

Go gcuire Dia rí agus rath ar achan duine a raibh baint nó páirt aige i gcur chun cinn na teanga Gaeilge agus an chultúir Ghaelaigh i bPobalscoil Phort Mearnóg i rith na bliana.

Féach <http://portmarnockcommunityschool.podbean.com/>

Grease is the Word...

Downloadable from: www.portmarnockcommunityschool.ie



Last year's PCS musical was Grease. Set in the 1950's, "Grease" is the story of the students of Rydell High in their senior year. The story revolves around the "good girl", Sandy Dumbrowski, who is a new student and her relationship with Danny Zuko, the leader of the coolest gang in school the T-Birds. In the end which will win out True Love or peer pressure – as they graduate there can be only one answer!!



The show was a massive success with fantastic performances from all the cast, especially our leads Colin Dunne as Danny and Shauna Melvin as Sandy, and the ensemble including Kenickie-Niall O'Brien; Rizzo - Amy Shannon; Doody - Phillip Mariotti; Roger - Andrew Maher; Sonny - Alan Griffin; Frenchie - Susan Deane; Jan - Laura Byrne; Marty- Katie Keegan; Vince Fontaine - James Fagan; Teen Angel - Jack Fitzsimons; Eugene - John Breen; Patty - Jenny Creaby; and Miss Lynch - Laura Whelan. There were of course far too many members of the cast to mention.

The orchestra under the leadership of Peter Morgan added another dimension, and we are very lucky to be able to rely on such talented musicians to provide us with the music.

Once again the back stage and front of house teams were amazing and the show could not have gone on without them. One of the factors we are most proud of is the work of so many students making costumes, props, the sets, the tickets, programmes and our new addition, a very successful raffle.

We would like to thank everyone involved especially Ms. Maher; Ms. Doherty and Ms. Molamphy for directing, Ms. Angela Bury for directing the music, Ms. Costello for costume design, Ms O'Reilly for front of house, Mr. Higgins and Mr Greene for the stage and props, and everyone else involved.

Ms. Deirdre O'Brien

New Home Economics Room

Our Home Economics Room, H1, was refurbished under the *Summer Works Scheme*. A completely new kitchen was installed, the new room is brighter and feels larger due to the new

layout of units. The room now has eight cookers, an increase of one. A new air extraction system has improved ventilation in the room.



The Finished Home Economics Room



Minister visits Portmarnock Community School



The Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Mary Coughlan TD, visited Portmarnock Community School on Wednesday 18th. August to congratulate students, on their Leaving Certificate results. She met with students receiving their results and thanked teachers and parents for

their commitment to their children's education.

The Minister congratulated John Lenihan on his seven A1's in the Leaving Certificate Examination 2010.



Ski Trip 2011

Downloadable from: www.portmarnockcommunityschool.ie



Portmarnock Community School Ski Trip 2011 are heading to Andalo Italy during February Mid Term. They depart on 19th February and return on the 26th February.

Teachers

Mr Conroy
Mr Dempsey
Mr Clarke
Mr McGovern
Ms Bolger
Ms McGlynn
Ms Hughes

Yvonne Gangel
Adam Mccabe
Ciaran O Reilly
Sarah Rowe
Adam Fox
Robert Fox
Megan Fenelon
Shane Mckenna
Sinead Fagan

Gabriel Dennehy
Ruth Devlin
Glen Tighe
David Gray
Katie Healy
Caoifhionn Crowley
Leo Mcguinn
Luke Dowd
Fiona Mcguinness

Students

Jamie Mullins
Shane Carthy
James Kinsella
Sean O Brien
Ross Donnelly-Lawlor
Klara Stejskalova
Sean Colgan

Tom Riordan
Paul Scully
Suzanne Jameson
Sean Gibbs
Stephen O Shea
Benjamin O Toole
Conor Grant

Sarah Hawkins
Kim White
Luke Kavanagh
Niall Weldon
Laura O Leary
Darragh Mulligan
David Stuart

Éacht David Rooney



Rinnefoireann na hÉireann éacht ag Comórtaisí Trastíre na hEorpa in Albufeira sa bPortaingéil i mí na Nollag seo caite nuair a bhuaigh seisear óg fhear an comórtas faoi 23 bliain. B'iad an seisear laoch ná David Mc Carthy, Brendan O'Neill, Michael Mulhare, David Rooney agus John Coghlan. Táimid bródúil astu ar fad ach tá gean speisialta againn ar David Rooney mar gur iarscoláire é do Phobalscoil Phort Mearnóg agus is minic a rinne David ionadaíocht ar son na scoile

i gcomórtaisí lúthchleasaíochta. Tá buóchas mór ag dul do Ms. Malone na scoile seo as a hoideacht agus a comhairle i gcleasalúth fad a bhí David ag freastal ar an scoil seo, ba mhínic David ag cleachtadh faoina stiúir chomh moch le 8 a chlog maidineacha crua Aoine geimhridh. Tá mórtas mór ar a mhuintir freisin as David agus muintir a pharóiste dúchais i nDomhnach Bat.

Mr. Pádraic Ó Cearra



The Student-Teacher Turnover Day

On Wednesday the 15th December 2010, 40 teachers and all of the students in PCS took part in the student-teacher turnover day that the prefects organised. The event was organised to raise money for the local charity, St. Vincent de Paul and, for the school day, teachers wore the school uniform and students wore their own clothes. The whole day was a success and the school raised 2,200 euro between the student-teacher turnover day and the cake sale that was organised earlier in the year by some of the prefects. The money went towards an amazing cause which the school raises money for every year and we raised a lot more money than was expected.

The event brought a great cheerful atmosphere to the entire student body and was talked about for days after by everyone. Students waited

outside the staff room in the morning to see what teachers were wearing uniforms for the day and assemblies that were on during the day were interrupted by laughter as different teachers strolled by in uniforms. Some teachers brought in funny notes excusing excessive make up and tracksuit bottoms while others wore pyjamas underneath their skirts. All of the teachers that participated and wore a uniform put in a great effort for the day and brought a sense of community and togetherness to the school. The day was greatly enjoyed by all students and teachers and on behalf of the prefects, I would like to thank everyone who donated money and who took part in the fun.

Laoise Hamill



Volleyball



The school volleyball teams have been busy training and competing in senior competitions.

This year a boys team was entered in the competition for the first time in many years. The boys trained over a number of weeks and tried to develop their skills and tactical knowledge of the game as quickly as possible. The team played 3 games on their first day out and, although they lost all three games, they learned a lot and developed as a team. As they finished bottom of their round 1 group, the boys faced a tough draw for the next round. They travelled to Westmeath to face Elphin Community College, who had topped their first round group. The PCS boys fought well during this game but eventually lost. Well done to all involved. The team consisted of Ronan Harvey, Darren Ryan, Darren Greene, Daniel Oso, Darragh Reynolds, David Lacey, Vladimir Bolestsky, Ian Briody, Jack Morrison, Marcel Wasko.

The Senior Girls Team have had a very successful year this year. They will be playing in the All Ireland Final (Div C) on Thursday 20th January, where they will face COLAISTE CHATHAIL NAOFA from Dungarvan. The team have made a serious commitment to developing their skills and tactics and all the hard work during training sessions at lunchtime, after school and early Wednesday mornings has paid

off with a place in the final. The team have only lost one set so far in the competition, and will hope to come home with gold medals from the final, which will take place in UCD.

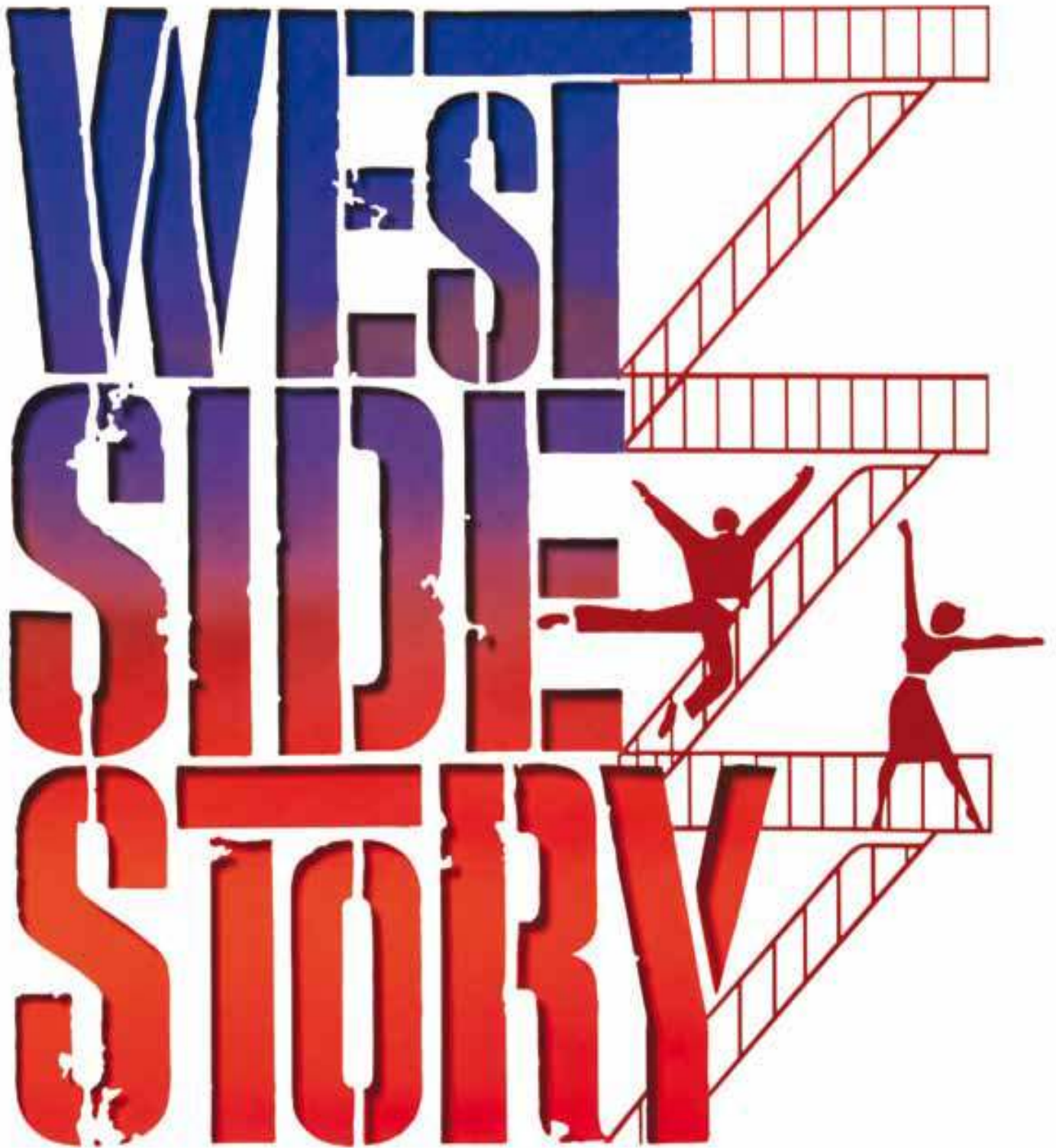
However, two members of the team, Laura Verde and Hannah Neurimier, were international students who were in 5th year until Christmas, so the team will be missing two players for the final. The girls are confident that they can step up to the mark and win. The members of the team are Kim White (captain), Fiona McGuinness, Emma Deegan, Sinead Deegan, Klara Stejskalova, Rachel Boyle, Fiona Peppard, Ruth Molloy, Ailbhe Twomey, Leah Newport, Jane Boland and Rachel Conroy. Best of luck to the girls.

In the Cadette (U-16) girls volleyball competition, two teams have been entered in the competition, the team which consists of most of the senior team, and the B team which consists of the TY girls who are completing a course in spikeball coaching, and some second year students. Both teams have played their first round matches, with the A team winning all their matches and finishing first in the group, and the B team finishing third out of six teams.

The 1st and 2nd year spikeball teams will begin their competition this Tuesday.

Mr. Michael Mc Neive

Downloadable from: www.portmarnockcommunityschool.ie



...coming in 2011...

Principals Message

*New years are a chance for a beginning
Even when there hasn't been an end.
Wheels turn in an interminable bend,
Yet, marked in one spot, seem to wobble spinning.
Each year we hope to do a little better
Although we know that really nothing's changed.
Reason thinks that everything's arranged,
So we must dream if we would fate unfetter.*



Another bright New Year begins and may I take this opportunity to wish each student and his/her family every blessing and good fortune in 2011. As I write we are mid way through a visit from a team of inspectors as part of a Whole School Evaluation. It is a chance for me, as Principal, to have a very close look at all that is going on in the school and I have to say that it is a most gratifying experience. We have so much of which to be proud.

Last term brought great teaching, learning, fun and frolics! It also brought the challenge of heavy snow and its pursuant inconvenience. Our advances in technology served us well and thanks to all the work posted on the website your daughter/son should have been at her/his desk for several hours over the holidays, making up for lost teaching time.

A busy term lies ahead with orals, practicals, field trip reports, project work and 'mock' exams. We also have the musical to look forward to and if previous years are anything to go by that will be a real treat.

My thanks to Ms Freeman for all the work that went into bringing you this newsletter. I hope the term goes well for everyone and that any student who has been floundering a little will take on board the poem above and will seize the opportunity for a new beginning.

Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís

Pat O'Riordan