



SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGES

APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE

Seachtain na Gaeilge	2
Shimna Ski Trip	3
St Patrick's Service	4
Integrated Education Week	4
Fundraising News	4
Sports	5
Toni Represents NI	5
ECO News	6
Shimna's Got Talent	6
Schools show jumping challenge 2012	7
Careers Week	8
International Women's Day	8
News	9
Parents' Council	10

Shimna's Double Triumph

Two teams from Shimna Integrated College won the Dermot Curran Award in their respective



Award at a ceremony in Downpatrick. Our Prince's Trust xl group won the Business and Enterprise section and our Amnesty International group won the Culture and Citizenship section. Joan McAllister, who travelled with the students, was absolutely delighted with their success, and pointed out that both Awards represented hours



of work and commitment over and above the school curriculum.

The xl group organised Fair Trade awareness raising, and also ran a one off Fair Trade tuckshop, at break and then at the Hallow E'en disco. Our Amnesty International had worked tirelessly in support of people across the world who have been imprisoned for their beliefs or their ideas. The also rallied the rest of us in mass petitioning against the International Arms Trade.

Congratulations to both!



*Schools Awards
Outstanding Community
Partnership Award
2011*



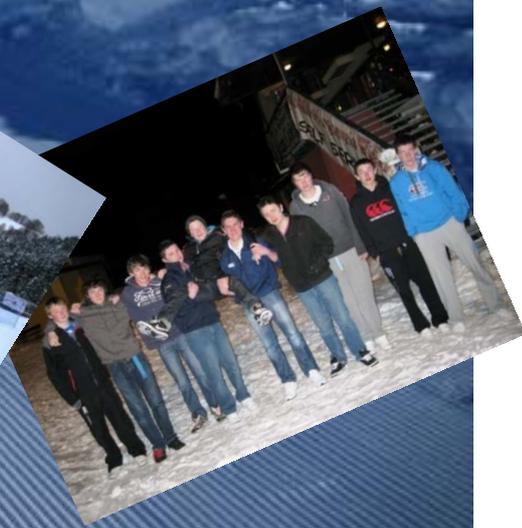
**Sign up to
Parentmail via
our website!
Check out our
blogs!**

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Our Irish week saw our students ceiliing, quizzing, playing, singing and dancing. Only the gaelic football got rained off, and we will go back to that on a better day. The culmination of the week was the wonderful St Patrick's assembly. First up we had to the magician McMillan on flute. Then we had Amy Donald and Megan Simpso who combined Scottish and Irish dance. Then we had Blathnaid Ni Hir, Dearbhail Brogan and Rachel Robinson who sang Taibhse mo Laoch by the Coronas. Then we had Lauren Sloan who danced St Patrick's jig. Finally had the Year 8 Irish class production of Tain Bo Chuailgne, or The Cattle Raid of Cooley. Prizes go leor for all the competitions which had been going on in Irish class throughout the week.



Shimna Ski Trip



Irish Medium Methodist St Patrick's Service



Newcastle Methodist Church has hosted Shimna Integrated College's annual Irish-language service for Saint Patrick's Day. For the first time, Shimna's Irish department welcomed Castlewellan's Irish-medium primary school, Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche to take part in the service. Methodist minister, Rev. Ross Harte, extended a warm welcome to all the young people. Prayers were led by Ian McMillan, head of German at Shimna. Special guest was the Rev. Clodagh Yambasu, minister of Bray Methodist Church in County Wicklow. Clodagh, who speaks the

Connemara dialect of Irish, said it was fascinating for her to hear the students speaking the Ulster dialect. She preached in Irish about the difference between knowing about God, and actually growing to know him in one's life, something the young Patrick experienced as a slave in Ireland. She said, "It was a pleasure and indeed a privilege to speak to the students and to chat to them afterwards. I was very impressed by them and the niceness that I could sense from them."

Robbie Keenan, head of Irish at Shimna Integrated College, expressed his thanks to Clodagh for travelling so far to lead the service, to the children of Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche for their singing and musical contribution, and to the Methodist Church for the warm welcome.

Integrated Education Week

This year, Kevin himself was the main protagonist. He was invited to address the inaugural international conference on Integration, and spoke to an audience of Croatians, Macedonians, Israelis, Palestinians and many others. All the participants working towards Integration within divided societies. You may have seen on the news people from Northern Ireland from police and from paramilitary backgrounds heading to South Africa for a very worthwhile visit to learn from the Peace Commission there. It is a very promising sign for Northern Ireland that people come here too to learn from our experience, just as we have learnt from the experience of others.



Fundraising News

Our industrious ICT a level classes have yet again worked hard to raise money for their chosen charities. This year, over £1,000 has been raised for Lighthouse and for CLIC Sargent, two charities with clear local significance. The groups baked and organised and raffled etc. to meet their total.



Soccer Triumph



Our U14 squad triumphed at the soccer blitz in Dromore. On their way to the trophy they defeated Newry, Dromore and St Malachy' HS. Team captain Alistair Baron presented principal Kevin Lambe with the shield. Brilliant result, or results rather.

Champions' League

Our interform league got off to a great start in the Spring sunshine, and every Wednesday since, teams from years 8, 9 and 10 have battled it out, aiming for a triumphant final. Don Miguel runs the league and student teams are very grateful to staff and student volunteers who have provided the refereeing service. Onwards and upwards!

Orienteering

Our year 11 and 12 orienteering candidates for GCSE PE spent an exacting day on their assessment run at Tollymore Forest Park.



Toni Represents NI

Toni Quail of our year 9 and the East Down Branch of the Pony Club, has been selected as a member of the Pony Club Mounted Games Team and will represent Northern Ireland at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. This is a very special year as the team will be part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

The team will leave on 7th May to be presented with their team colours, and will play in front of her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip, taking part in other aspects of the show until the evening of Sunday 13th May. This is a wonderful never to be forgotten experience for a young person and Toni has earned her place on the team through real dedication.



ECO News

Eco Action



Throughout the term, 10 Bearnagh have been working hard raising our awareness of the eco actions which save energy, increase bio-diversity within our grounds, decrease our litter and research what happens to our waste.

The Eco Police have inspected the classrooms after 4.00pm to check up that everyone is switching off before they head home. Teachers have received Achievement Slips to mark best practice, and a very few have received Concern Slips, just to remind them of what we all need to be doing.

Outside, the litter group have carried out litter picks outside our back and our front gate, and have made a particular study of what gets left on the pitch at the end of lunchtime.

The waste group has written to McNabb's who take away our bins. The theory is that McNabb's separate our waste and maximise the recycling. Our students were delighted to be invited to McNabb's recycling plant to find out for themselves how our waste is managed. They'll be reporting back on their visit in next month's newsletter.

Our bio-diversity group has been mapping out a vegetable patch, which will be enriched by compost from our own wormery. You may have read about our near disaster when a certain person forgot to feed the worms. However, since 10 Bearnagh has taken over, the worms are thriving and the composting is churning out of the bottom drawer.



Another sub-group has been ordering up butterfly friendly plants, after a great deal of research as to which varieties are native to our area, but also loved by butterflies.



Shimna's Got Talent

Hour after hour of auditions have produced a fantastic line-up, and tickets are on sale. Get yours to get out of class on the last day of term to bask in a vast array of Shimna talent, and get to place your vote for the very best. Funds raised will go to the Students' Council who have organised the whole event. Their current fundraising project is for solar panels to raise even further our Eco profile.



Tickets on sale now

for 30th March – don't miss it! Be there

Schools show jumping challenge 2012



The schools show jumping challenge was held in Portmore equestrian centre on Monday 19th March, this was a charity event in aid of 'make a wish, uk'. For the first time ever Shimna College had three teams competing and two individuals. The Mini team was made up of: Emma Holmes, Lauren Davis, Aoife Rooney and Amy Hamilton. They jumped a course of 70cm and all did very well especially since three of the team were new to schools show jumping. The Midi team jumped the 80cm track and included: Emma, Lauren, Aoife and Chloe Rooney, again they all jumped well over a challenging course. The final team competed in the Maxi class over a 90cm track : Ciara Collins, Toni Quail, Chloe Rooney and Primrose Dillon. This was their first time competing at this level, they had a zero score first round but 4 faults in the speed left them out of the rosettes. Ciara and Toni also bravely competed in the 1m class which was at 11pm. There were no rosettes this time but none the less all were very well turned out in their school colours with immaculately groomed ponies (thanks also to the mums for helping!!) and were a credit to the school, well done girls. They also obtained sponsorship for their efforts and a total of £165 was raised, £100 of which Chloe raised and earned herself a free photograph. The next event is on 2nd April at the Meadows equestrian centre in Lurgan, anyone interested in being part of the school team please contact Chloe or Ciara in year 9. The classes will be Novice 80/85cm and open 90/1m.

Careers Week



Careers Week turned into a fortnight, as students, particularly those in the decision making years, 10 and 12, took part in a whole range of activities. Speakers from the University of Ulster made two visits, one to year 10 and one to year 12. A STEM workshop from W5 enthused year 10s, who were also treated to enthusiastic presentations on languages and careers. The winners of the year 10 careers leaflet competition were rewarded with gorgeous Easter eggs.

All of our year 13 A level students visited the UCAS fair in the King's Hall in Belfast, and came home inspired by the range of courses. We hope they are also inspired to knuckle down and achieve the grades those wonderful courses require!

International Women's Day

Four of our year 13 A level students represented the college at an International Women's Day event organised by Down District Council. The purpose of the day was to encourage more young women into local government in the future, and our four were certainly inspired by the speakers they heard from.



The Russian club also celebrated International Women's Day with flowers and a cake for their A level student tutor, Gemma Crane.

We are collecting Tesco Vouchers again this year
Collection boxes are located in the Main Office and in
the Resource Base



GCSE Moderation Season

Our GCSE drama class gave their best ever performance in front of the examiner. The set was spookily fabulous, and it was very strange to meet those white clad figures padding about. Very well done to everyone.



Equally well done to the GCSE PE students who strutted their stuff for their moderator.

Don't forget the GCSE art students who are already working away at their exam pieces. Examination time comes sooner for some than for others!

Chemistry Day Out



Our A level chemists headed off to Craigavon to visit the fabulous laboratory facilities at ALMAC. It is always inspirational to science students to see a fully operational, commercial and research laboratory.

Spanish Exchange Visitors



Following our students' very successful visit to Madrid in February, the return visit brought the Spanish students to visit us. They have a packed programme of visits to the Giant's Causeway, shopping and sight-seeing in Belfast and of course some hill walking in the Mourne. The students will brush up their English during their homestays with their Shimna partner students, and our students will hope to snatch a bit of practice in Spanish before their GCSE and AS examinations.

Dramatic Day Out

Year 10 students headed to Downpatrick Arts Centre to a performance of Marianne Dreams, a very weird and scary play based on a very weird and scary novel by Catherine Storr. I hope they survive! I remember being terrified by that book when I was wee.



Most families have now supplied us with their email address and mobile number and are receiving regular updates and reminders. They are also receiving this newsletter by email. Please do get in touch if you are not yet signed on.



Parents' Council

**CAR BOOT SALE
DONARD PARK
EASTER MONDAY
9am TO 1pm
£5 PER CAR**



Shimna Integrated College
Specialist School
The Lawnfield
King Street
Newcastle
BT330HD

Phone: 02843726107

Fax: 02843726109

E-mail: info@shimna.newcastle.ni.sch.uk



The Month Ahead

- 30.3.12 Last day of term, which is a normal school day, but with Shimna's Got Talent in the afternoon. In order to leave class to attend, get your ticket in advance, £2.50 towards the Students' Council solar panel fund.
- 9.4.12 Donard Park, car boot sale in aid of Shimna Parents' Council.
- 16.4.12 SafeTALK training for 6th form students and for staff.
- 17.4.12 First day back.
Next round of the Darren Clarke golf tournament.
- 18.4.12 Parents' Council meeting. Your help will be very welcome in helping organise the barbecue for new year 8s in June.
- 20.4.12 GCSE geography field trip to Shimna River.
Year 14 A level politics students at Queens University.
- 23.4.12 PSNI knife crime event for all year 10 students.
- 25.4.12 Key Stage 3 science exam for year 10 – the real thing!
Key Stage 3 science exam for year 10 – the real thing!
Key Stage 3 Irish exam for year 10 – the real thing!
- 28.4.12 Twelve French exchange students arrive with us.

NB Please check out the calendar on the website for an important change of dates.
Our assessment week for years 8-11 will now be on 29th May until 1st June. Dates of the Duke of Edinburgh expedition remain unchanged.

The next term is the summer term, and the last one. Please make a point of checking out your uniform and making sure it is going to last the term.

Please remember if we get April showers that the only coat to be worn is the Shimna coat. Please make sure that you have black school shoes which are comfortable and which will last until June.

Thanks a million for your support in this

'Learning from each other'