

5TH YEAR MURAL FOR MIDLETON GAELSCOIL

Picture this: A lightning bolt flashes in the distance, lighting up the uncannily disturbing purple night sky. The ancient ruins of a Gaelic castle can be distinguished upon a hilltop and the spec-like foam of breaking waves is vaguely in view at the brim of a sandy beach nearby. You observe a vast horde of barbaric warriors bearing massive, flaming torches heading rapidly in your direction from the distant fields. And in the centre of it all you see a valiant but elderly hero saddled upon a large white horse battling to protect you. He is Brian Boru.

Of course this is not at all possible because you and I are living in the here and now of 2005 but a painting of such an event is probably the next best thing. In the final months of last year, Rochestown College pupils Gavin Boland, William Ashman and myself Seán Murphy were informed by the schools art teacher, Mr. Barrett that we were to begin work on a mural (a large painting) and its theme was to be an event in Irish history. After much debate it was decided that the battle of Clontarf would be an interesting topic.



5th Year Mural For Midleton Gaelscoil
L-R: William Ashman, Sean Murphy, Gavin Boland

And so in November 2004 we commenced work by sketching out preparational drawings at first, then moved on to the large sheet of wood that would become the mural. To begin with, we painted the entire sheet in magnolia. A wash of deep purple was applied as a ground. The drawings were enlarged by hand directly onto the ground using pastel and pencil. With impasto acrylic paint mixed from primary colours, we sketched in the basic forms of the main participants in muted flesh tones and greys. These were developed gradually and settings and buildings were added to the piece. Every day the mural became increasingly more detailed. Strong shades of green and purple, proved to be the stand out colours in the painting. Now all that was left were the finishing touches. We began to fill in details on armour and buildings yet it seemed to us like the painting would never be completed.

But finally in early March of 2005 we concluded our work on the piece. And to really make it look complete the schools caretaker, multi-purposed Trevor McCarthy agreed to build a frame for the painting. It looks magnificent and we had a great time making it!

So next time you feel the need to defend yourself from invading Vikings, fight alongside Roman soldiers, or maybe even battle an army of crazy Japanese Samurai, you could always pick up a paintbrush and go paint a mural.

Sean Murphy 5th Year



ROCO REPORT

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Editorial by Fr. Bryan, Chaplain.

Each of the seasons of the church, which parallels with the school year, can challenge us if we are open to being challenged. Our focal point soon after we return in September is on the patron of our school, St. Francis of Assisi, on October 4th. We remember our loved ones, deceased past staff and pupils during the month of November. Advent and Christmas invite us to focus in on a time when we see God coming into our human story because he loves us. We see the baby Jesus being born in great poverty and simplicity because no one had any room for him.

In our time we are invited to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves. By charitable donations and in particular in St. Francis College, by the huge donations of non-perishable foodstuffs given to the SVP, we are in a profound way welcoming Jesus into our lives at Christmas, and making room for him. The Liturgical time after Christmas is there to remind us that Christ is our Saviour in season and out of season.

At the moment, we are coming to the end of Lent where we try again to focus in on what it means to be good Christian people. The focal point of these days is Jesus' Last Supper on Holy Thursday, where he gives us his body and blood and we celebrate this at every Mass today. On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' suffering abuse, scourging, and a horrific crucifixion and death to prove to us that our sins are forgiven and that God loves us. Also on Good Friday, we keep vigil with the Lord at the Altar of Repose in all our Churches after the celebration of the passion at 3.00 p.m., until just before the celebration of the Easter Vigil. This is to symbolize Jesus' three days in the tomb, when the entire world should be silent. With the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening, we light the Easter Fire and the Paschal Candle to symbolize Jesus' resurrection and the beautiful liturgy of the dawn of Easter Sunday symbolizes Jesus' triumph over sin and death.

We Christians are Easter people, people of the resurrection, and therefore we believe that where Jesus has gone, we hope to follow. Why else do we frequently remember to pray for all who have died? Because by the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, he has promised us all a place in his Kingdom in heaven.

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Tour of the Lee 2005

On the 8th of February of this year Mr McDonnell, Mr Keane and Mr Connors parted from their gruelling class work and test corrections to bring the students from Felix 1b and half of Pio 1C, on a day full of interesting facts and knowledge of Cork's main river, the Lee.

We, as the students, were well pleased when we found out we were going to forfeit our mind-bending schoolwork and actually have fun on a school day.

On a mild Tuesday morning we packed our bags and headed off to Iniscarra to their water treatment plant, which provides the greater Cork area with clean safe water for factories and homes. We got to the location at around 10am and were shown to the meeting room. There we watched a lengthy video on the history of the Lee and all about the functions of the treatment plant.



1st Year Harbour Tour - The dam

When the video finished we were given a tour of the facilities, shown where the water was cleaned and told how the cleaning process worked. After the interesting stay at the plant we then travelled for about 5 minutes to the dam. The dam was fierce impressive. With 40 metre high walls it towered between the steep cliffs at either side in which it was constructed. We were met by two mechanics who gave us dopey looking helmets and brought us to a large open area and introduced us to two massive generators which produced over 20 mega watts between them, which powers only one tenth of Cork's needs.

We then were lead out onto the roof of the dam, and it was here that the views were most spectacular. We were then given cans of Coke and sweets as we made our way to our plush Mercedes bus. Our last location to go to was the Naval Base at Haulbowline Island. There we were greeted by two Cadets and were given a tour of the island. We were shown the decompression chambers and their watchtower from which you could see a large area of the mouth of the Lee. Finally we were brought onto the Aisling, one of their naval ships.



1st Year Harbour Tour

On the way home we were wrecked and reached the gates of Rochestown College at twenty-five to four, just in time for the bus. Everyone agreed that going to the back of beyond to miss school and to get homework off was well worth it and we all hope to get future tours like it.

By Richard Magee Felix 1B

Cork Pops Orchestra Review

The Cork Pops Orchestra started the concert with the Virginbus. This is a fast and jazzy song.

section, 'I want to be in America' is a fat and energetic song.

Next up was the waltz from sleeping beauty. This song kicks off with a dramatic opening with members from the woodwind, brass and percussion family getting louder and louder until it reached its climax, then slowing down and becoming a gentle, dreamlike melody. This went on, with fast bursts from the violins from time to time, and finishes off with another dramatic section.

Up next was a Brazilian samba section, which, although was interesting, I found it dragged on a bit too long. In this, members of the Cork school of music showed us call and response rhythms and let us join in after a while. This, as I said, was interesting, but I feel that it was a bit too long.

Up next was the trumpeters' lullaby by Leroy Anderson. This song starts out a slow, mellow song that certainly lives up to its name as a lullaby. A little while into the song, the pace picks up and it becomes quite lively, until it reverts to its slow and mellow pace again.

After this the conductor showed us sound beam, which is movement-to-music technology. The conductor then brought up one of the members of the Brazilian and samba section and, with the orchestra, played the dramatic music that you would expect to hear before and during a space shuttle take off in a Hollywood blockbuster.

After this was fantasia on Greensleeves by Vaughan Williams. In this song, both the flutes and the violins play a major part.

Up next was Unsquare dance by Brubeck. This is a jazzy song that has an uneven time signature, hence the name of the song. In this song, there is a major emphasis on the piano, with it playing the solos with the double bass in the background.

Next up was Scherzade by Rimsky Korsakoff. This song is very soothing and mellow at the beginning, but as it progresses, the tempo speeds up.

After this was the Wedding March from a Midsummer's Night Dream by Mendelssohn. This is the same theme that you at weddings traditionally in western civilisation. It is a very upbeat and joyful song.

After this was an extract from Nutcracker Suite. This extract was the Sugar Plum Fairy section. In this extract, the Glockenspiel plays a major role. The tempo of this song changes, going from slow to fast to slow and back to fast again.

Finally the Cork Pops orchestra played Farandole by Bizet. This is a traditional sounding song with an abrupt intro.

After Sugar Plum Fairy was Packerbelle Cannon, a song that is based around 8 notes. The string section of the orchestra plays a major part in this song. This song is a favourite among classical music lovers.

In between all of these songs, the conductor, Evelyn Grant, gave us bits of information to do with the time signatures and some other music related things, such as Soundbeam-movement-to-music technology.

After this was a mixture of Westside story songs by Berstein. These songs 'I feel pretty', 'Somewhere' and 'I want to be in America'. The first part, 'I feel pretty' is fast and has a dance-like quality. The second section, 'somewhere' is a slower song with great importance on the woodwind and stringed instruments. The final

Overall I found the concert quite interesting and enjoyable and well worth seeing, as the band played all of the music very well and made few or no noticeable mistakes.

Michael Glover 1st Year

U16 & U16½ FOOTBALL 2004/2005

Unfortunately, football in these age groups has been disappointing this year. In the under 16 we played in the Cork colleges competition. Our first match was against Blarney. It was a tough game. From the start of the match we were fairly even. The conditions were appalling, with heavy rain and mud up past our ankles. At half time we were up by a few points. We took the lead in the second half, with scores from Dara Harrington and Eoghan Buckley. It seemed to be our day because we came out on top. We ended up winning by about 7 points in the end and we advanced to the next round of the tournament to face Mitchelstown.

The game against Mitchelstown proved to be a tough one. In the first half Mitchelstown looked to be the better side on the day but we played our hearts out and brought them back to only a 3 point lead at half time. We continued to play to our best and we got our chance to take the game when Mitchelstown gave away a penalty. It was Eoghan Buckley who took it, but unfortunately he slipped and put the ball wide of the goal. Straight away after this, Mitchelstown scored a goal and it clenched the match for them. The whole team played well in particular David Carroll, Chris Daly, Ian Giltinan, and Declan Kelleher, who

had his first game since he put his back out. Mitchelstown won in the end beating us by 3 points. Mitchelstown knocked us out of that competition but there still was the Munster Colleges competition.

Our first game in the under 16 _ Munster Colleges Competition was against Hamilton High School, Bandon. We went in to the competition with high hopes but on the day Bandon were the better team. In the first half we played to the best of our abilities some notable players were Mark Jordan, Patrick Boyle and Colm Barry. We were down at half time but we kept our chins up for the second half. We were unlucky in the end as Bandon came out victorious. We were knocked out of that competition as well.

We have been unlucky this year, as we have not won anything so far. We are still training because we have the Lord Mayor's Cup Competition coming up. Mr. Ó Murchú is trying his best to get us ready for that competition. We are looking forward to that competition, as it is our last chance to win something for the school this year.

Eoin Breen 3B

U 16½ SOCCER

Our first match was against Fermoy. The match was played in Fermoy. We started the game well and took a well deserved lead midway through the first half. Eoin Stuart got the goal. Then they scored twice and they were 2 - 1 up at half - time. The second half didn't go our way. We had two goals disallowed and lost the game 3 - 1.

After the disappointment of the Fermoy game, we turned our attentions to a crucial match against St. Peters. They missed a few chances early in the game. We then hit them with a swift counter attack and took the lead. We went in one goal to the good at half time. The second half began just like the first half, consisting of St. Peters pressure. They scored two quick goals. Then our goalkeeper Cathal Fitzpatrick made some outstanding saves to keep us in the game. We knew we were up against it. A superb individual run from Eoin Buckley earned us a penalty. Buckley took the penalty and scored. Then St. Peters scored a soft goal. As the game was coming to a close we earned a corner. They failed to deal with the corner and Ian Giltinan was there to smash the ball into the back of the net. We got a well deserved 3 - 3 draw.

Our last game was against Cobh. We had to win by two clear goals to advance to the next stage of the competition. Our preparations didn't go well. We just arrived before kick

off. We had no time to warm up. As a result we gave away two sloppy early goals. We then hit back with a goal from Gavin Boland. Then we conceded two more goals. We looked down and out. Just before half time Cobh failed to clear a corner and Eoin Buckley pounced to pull a goal back for us. We went in at the break 4 - 2 down. The second half began with both sides matching each other. We then took the game to them and Eoin Stuart was there to put the ball in the net. Cobh were under severe pressure from us. We came close on numerous occasions to scoring. Some outstanding saves from their goalkeeper won them the game.

D.H. 3rd Year



Speakers Corner

They say that St. Patrick driving out the snakes was the greatest Irish myth ever devised. I, however, believe that it has to be the "Neutrality" codology put out by successive Irish Governments. The question of Neutrality arose, believe it or not, less than 70 years ago, at the outbreak of World War 2. A still angry young Irish semi-state refused to fight on the same side of the war as their oppressors for the last several hundred years, and could not for reasons of conscience and the practicality of Partition fight with the Germans. They therefore took the only viable remaining option - to declare our Neutrality.

This perfectly reasonable (or at least understandable) position, a declaration in it's own right fuelled by our desire to mark our independence from Britain is absolutely unnecessary in Europe today. Ireland is it's own nation, relatively more economically and agriculturally prosperous than Britain and highly respected in international politics (the EU Constitutional talks...) We now stand "Neutral" on high moral principles, which I would equate to moral cowardice.

This procrastination has to stop. We have 3 choices:

1. Stay, as we are, theoretically non-aligned
2. Become part of an EU common defence
3. On the slightly more extreme side, join NATO

I do not include adopting interventionist tactics as a lone nation, not least because I do not agree with them but also because as a small country we could do very little outside of an alliance. (I would also doubt the present Government would have the courage to send the Irish Army into a small African nation without international backing.)

Failing this we are left with our present cop-out policies and once again, the present untenable position of all the rules being written by others. In my view we should not take this approach. While accepting that on our own we cannot (and should not) try to solve all of the world's problems on our own,

as part of the EU we have responsibilities and commitments, which we are just not living up to.

We cannot continue to be part of the European family, and draw large sums from Belgian banks to pay for roundabouts and commissioners and then be unwilling to help defend the ethos and institutions of that family.

It was interesting to note the response of the Green Party to the request of the UN for Irish troops to join Battle Groups for the reconstruction of Iraq: we should not send our boys out to get killed cleaning up someone else's mess. Would someone remind Deputy Sargeant how that particular "mess" occurred: a despotic tyrannical dictator overthrows the elected leaders of the country, murders and tortures his own people and invades and annexes whoever he wants. Then a misguided foreign leader, who fervently believed in the morality of what he was doing, destroying this regime, and trying to impose some semblance of order on the country. I wonder how Deputy Sargeant can subscribe to the EU, UN or indeed any other organisation promoting peace, equality and justice and then be unwilling to defend its ideals beyond the Dáil chamber? He is quick to evoke these same ideals when he suspects the Government has put an electoral foot wrong.

It is time to stop making foreign policy by stealth and to do so in an open, integrated and constructive fashion. Hating to sound clichéd, public debate on this issue needs to be fully facilitated before we can decide how to progress.

The sacred cow of Neutrality has confined us for too long - we must move on. So Taoiseach, the climate demands it, the people deserve it. So move on. Please.

C.M. 3rd Year

(Replies gratefully accepted from any and all readers, addressed to Speakers Corner at the school)

Transition year quiz.

In December Rochestown college Transition years came together and decided to set up a quiz for the school in aid of charity. All profit made from the quiz went to Simon.

A massive effort was put in by all the transition years to make the quiz a success. Everyone was separated into different teams and assigned specific jobs to ensure everything ran properly and on time. There were teams involved in the composing of the questions and teams in charge of notifying people of the quiz and telling the students which teams and seating arrangements they would be put in.

Instead of asking the students to bring in money to participate we changed it around and asked them to bring in some non perishable foods. On behalf of transition years and staff involved I would like to thank everyone for their support it is much appreciated. Of course none of this would have been possible if it wasn't for the experience and guidance of Mr McDonnell who put in an amazing amount of effort into the whole project right across the board, making sure that everything was spot on and perfect for the day.

At the same time there was a volley ball tournament being run as part of the whole project to help Simon. It was run by Rochestown college's very own Mr O' Murchu who's expertise was greatly appreciated. In conclusion I'd like to thank everyone involved in making the event successful.

Mark O' Driscoll T.Y.



Roco Christmas Quiz - Mr Kenefick lends a hand



Mr. O'Regan - Up for anything!



Mark O'Driscoll - Quizmaster

Beat Box Day

The fourth and fifth years had a beat box day on the 10th of March. Claus, the instructor who runs Beat box, specialises in percussion instruments and the aim of Beat box is to give students a sample of what music from different parts of the world is like and to experience different styles of music making.

We started off the day with a little introduction of what the format of the day was going to be like and spent about forty minutes going over body percussion and how to make a hip hop style beat simply by hitting your chest, legs and arms. We then moved on to boom-wackers, which are types of plastic tubes when hit off your legs produce a hollow sound. Different sizes of boom-wackers make different sounds and we then learned a samba beat, which involved everyone playing the different boom-wackers.

After lunch, Claus showed us how to play the jembay's (bongo like instruments which originated in Ethiopia). He taught us a samba beat and West African dance style beat, which could be mixed together with the boom-wackers. Some of us also learned how to play other instruments including the tambourine and bass drums.

After second break we had only a couple of minutes to mix the jembay and boom-wacker beats together to get an African and Brazilian style dance beat. I thought that it was a lot of fun and enjoyed the entire experience. At about three o'clock, the second years gathered to watch our performance. At first we were a bit nervous and forgot our different parts but soon it all blended together. The whole experience was a lot of fun and a welcome change from classes.

By Alan Coughlan

CHESS CLUB REPORT

The Chess Club has been real fun since last Christmas. There were more chess matches played between the schools than last year. There is going to be one on Monday against Sprid Naomh and another one in April. There was a match between Christian Brothers, Mitchelstown and St. Francis, Rochestown. Myself, Eoin Phillpot, Edmond O Halloran and Fergus Fawsitt were on the team. I won mine, Eoin lost his, Edmund won his and Fergus lost his. St. Francis were knocked out because the school who had 2-1 (in wins) first goes through. Also, St. Francis have qualified for the county competition and we will be playing in April. To get on the teams, the player has to play against another player and win to qualify for the team for St. Francis College against another school. The participation for the school Chess Club has been quite good. A lot of first years have joined and also, a good number of second years have joined.

The first years have come in as a big surprise to us. They have beaten people who we call "good chess players", but people who were in first year last year are now in second year and have improved.

The second years are now giving the third years a run for their money, even the first years have beaten some third years. I am in second year and was not so good last year, but I have really improved. I am winning a lot more. Some people who I could not defeat last year, can not defeat me this year. I am enjoying the improvement in my game.

Of course, Joshua Byrne, Fergus Fawcitt, Killian Whyte and Lauchlan Gannon are quite (especially Fergus and Joshua) good chess players.



The competitions in the Chess Club are quite good. The people you are against can get you thinking, so you could get a lot of pressure on you if you need to win to get through to the next round, but it is only for fun and enjoyable.

So far there have been three competitions and each one was quite hard, so the people in primary school going to St. Francis and thinking of joining the Chess Club, it is going to be very hard but a lot of fun.

That is it for now, so have a nice Easter,

Daniel Morrissey, 2A

The Law Day

On the 2nd of December 2004, Karen Mc Carthy spent a day at our school teaching us about the law system in Ireland. She is a Practising Barrister on the Cork Circuit and a part time lecturer in C.I.T.

In the Course Karen discussed various topics including the various Third Level education options available, an introduction to the Law Structures, Civil and Criminal Law, the role of Judges. Near the end of the day we got ready for a mock court, in which all the students were given a role to play, from being the barrister to the jury. The aim of the course was to De-Mystify the Law. The course is aimed at all young people who may be interested in a law course after school. We also watched a short film that helped with the acting out the roles in the mock court.

The mock court scene was the best part of the day, although some of the witnesses might have been bribed in the lunch break before. Karen was the judge who kept order over court. David Humpreys, Damien Ashman and Richard Barry were the Prosecution, while myself, David Delaney and Dominic McHale were the defence team against the charges of Theft and Assault. She had all the evidence typed out, with speeches that were needed. Mark O' Driscoll was the registrar and the O Byrne Brothers were newspaper reporters, who had to take of notes of what happened and give a report at the end of the trial.

David Stevenson, Neal Hooper, Dayne O Leary were all witnesses, Hugh Cox was the Garda, and Paul Stuart was the court usher.

Every one else was in the jury. It was a case of mistaken identity, in which Dayne was threatened with a syringe and had his phone stolen, he thought David Stevenson the accused had threatened him, but had been unable to see their faces during the incident and couldn't positively identify them. It was great fun for everybody involved and we learnt a lot about the Irish Law system.

Conal Thomson

THE BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP

This year Rochestown College entered the All-Ireland Badminton schools league. We had two under 14's teams-A and B. Unfortunately the B team lost in the county semi-finals but The A team went on to beat Douglas A in the finals and the County championship. This team consisted of- Manav Ghai (captain), James Cantwell, David Hayes and Eoin McAndrew.

The next step was the Munster championship, which was held in the University of Limerick. Three senior Carrigaline Community school teams joined us on the trip to Limerick. We started from Cork at about 8 o'clock and reached Limerick at 10:15. We practised for about 45 minutes and then we had our first match against Co. Clare. We won 3 singles matches and 1 doubles match. I won my singles match 21-5. James Cantwell followed by beating his opponent 21-6. We were hoping for another win but unfortunately David Hayes lost his match 21-18. In the next match though, Eoin got us another win (21-13). Next were the doubles matches. James Cantwell and me beat our opponents 21-14. Even though Eoin and David lost their match, it didn't matter. We had won the overall match 4-2 knocking Clare out of the competition.

After some rest our coach brought us some good and bad news. The good news was that the 3rd team in



Roco's victorious Badminton team

L-R: David Hayes, James Cantwell, Mahav Ahai, Eoin McAndriú

the competition had pulled out making us the new Munster champions and we had made it to the All-Irelands, but the bad news was that we had also finished 5 hours early and so were going to sit there for about 5 hours and wait for Carrigaline teams to finish. Two of the Carrigaline teams also won the Munster league. We saw their matches, which were very good. One match lasted for about 20 minutes. We got medals in a presentation and wishes of good luck from the other teams in the All-Irelands championship.

It was a long wait but finally we started back at about 5 o'clock and after a long and tiring trip we reached Cork at about 7:30. We are going to the All-Irelands in Dublin on the 16th of April, and hope to do well.

Manav Ghai, 2-A