

## Fundraising For Goal



Congratulations to the students of the college who raised €250 for GOAL through the Jersey Day earlier this year. And to receive the money on behalf of GOAL was Karen O'Shea, a name synonymous with the charity. Karen spoke to the students about the work of the organisation and where the donation would be used.

## Christmas Celebrations



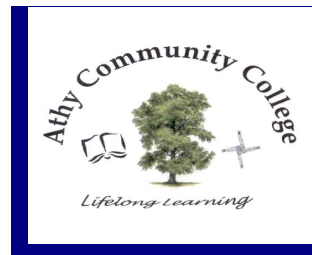
All JCSP classes hosted their annual Christmas Celebration for their families and teachers on Thursday, December 11th. The atmosphere was happy, the decorations were seasonal, the food was scrumptious and the work on display was excellent!

## Construction commences

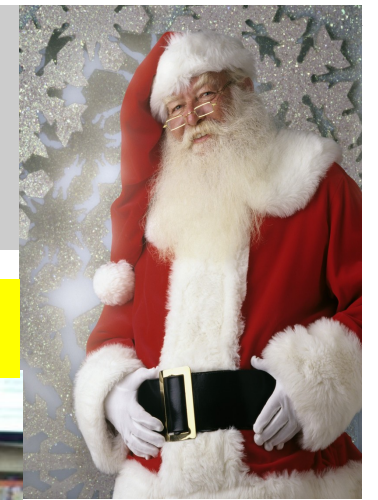


Work commenced on 24th Nov. on the construction of Athy College on the education campus on the Monasterevin Road. The construction company is JSL Construction Ltd. and the building should take 15 – 18 months to complete. The college was originally sanctioned in November 1999 and will initially accommodate 400 pupils. Students and staff at the College are delighted that the project is now underway and are looking forward to working in a modern building with every possible resource to aid the teaching of students.

“Mooney” show on RTE1 included a phone in with Principal Richard Daly talking about the commencement of the school building. The Mooney show had referred to the delay in the construction of the college on several occasions, following Derek Mooney’s visit to the school last Feb, and were delighted to be involved in announcing the commencement of building.



## Athy Community College Christmas 2008



## Operation Christmas Child



Well done to all of the students who helped make Christmas special for children around the world, by filling shoe boxes with gifts. Also, many thanks to those outside the school, who dropped off parcels for collection at the college. Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world, through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Operation Christmas Child is more than a shoebox, it means so much to the boy or girl to know that someone, far away, whom they will never meet, is thinking of them. It brings joy, hope and a little of God's love.

A very happy Christmas to one and all

### College News

- Operation Christmas Child gets underway way.
- Athy College Graduation
- Athy College teaching leads the field
- College students represent Kildare at Dail na nÓg.
- Students enjoy Book Club at The College
- JCSP students enjoy Christmas celebrations
- Construction of new Community College commenced on Nov 24th.
- Students present cheque to Goal

## Athy College Students Graduate



Left to right Graduate - Hanna Mustapha, Business and Secretarial Studies Coordinator - Ms. Noreen Tyrrell, Graduate - Jamie Kelly, Teacher- Ms. Marion Dunne, and Graduates - Louise Beckett, Mary Owens, Pauline Byrne, Breda Delaney and Helen Walsh. Over one hundred students, who completed FETAC and SkillVec courses at Athy Community College received their certificates recently at a graduation ceremony held in the Clanard Court Hotel. Looking resplendent in their graduation gowns, the adult students, who had returned to further education, had completed a range of courses in modules such as, Communications, Food and Cookery, Art, French, Secretarial and Business Studies.

**Next Parent Teacher Meeting**  
Thurs 31 Jan at 4.15 pm  
All parents welcome to attend

## Athy College Teaching leads the field



Yet again, Athy Community College is at the cutting edge of exciting innovations in education. Trinity graduate, Natalie O'Neill, a teacher at the College has been invited to speak before world renowned educational thinkers in Toronto later this month. A teacher of science and biology for the past 10 years, Natalie will attend *The Quest for Increased Student Achievement* from November 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> at the invitation of the York District School Board. Natalie along with fellow teacher Karen McLaughlin from St. Brigid's in Callan, will be showcasing an innovative project which both have been working on in their schools in conjunction with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. Coincidentally, Karen is a past pupil of Athy Community College, and a graduate of NUI Maynooth.

With the help of her students, Natalie has been working on integrating the key skills of information processing; critical and creative thinking; communicating; working with others and being personally effective into the teaching and learning in her classroom. Natalie will be part of a team travelling from Ireland including Anne Looney, CEO of the NCCA who is a keynote speaker, Majella Dempsey, Key Skills Project leader and Karen McLaughlin. Natalie and Karen will tell their stories of developing key skills in the Irish classroom. Students have not been forgotten! Their views on the project have already been captured on an exciting DVD to show to the 1000 delegates expected to attend the conference.

The NCCA key skills project has been running in 9 schools across Ireland with 30 teachers involved. The project is looking at how key skills can be developed in different subject areas and to date all schools have reported that students are more engaged in the learning process as a result of participating in the project. One of the aims of the project is to help senior cycle students become effective learners in a world where the important skill is not how to memorise, but how to analyse and find the essentials in vast amounts of information coming at them at breakneck speed. The Canadians first came across the project when Anne Looney of NCCA spoke about it in Toronto last year. They were so impressed they wanted to learn more, and invited and paid for the teachers to tell their story. Principal Richard Daly, who was at the forefront of developing the Leaving Cert Applied Programme when it was initiated, said that he was delighted that the innovative work being developed in Athy Community College was getting global attention! He noted the honour that both Natalie, a ground-breaking and gifted teacher, and Karen, a past-pupil, are bringing not only to the school but to their country.

Natalie and a teaching colleague, Deirdre Murphy has also been working with the NCCA in further innovative curriculum development at Leaving Certificate level. The Flexible Learning Programme which they will help to develop and pilot will look at expanding the width and depth of the traditional Leaving Certificate nationally.

Keep up-to-date with college developments, new day courses, evening courses and more by visiting: [www.athycollege.ie](http://www.athycollege.ie)

## Dail na nÓg



Congratulations to Daisy Delany and Joshua Adido who were elected as two of six students from the county to represent Kildare at Dail na nÓg on Feb 20th 2009. Athy College having two out of a total of six representatives from the county is a wonderful achievement and they deserve our congratulations. Dáil na nÓg means "youth parliament". It is an annual event where the children and young people of Ireland meet on a national level to discuss issues that are important to them. Each young person represents their local authority area. It is an opportunity where the views of all Irish children can be heard.

Dáil na nÓg meets once a year under the auspices of the [Minister of State with Special Responsibility for Children and Youth Affairs](#). A report of the outcome will be published and submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Children.

The objectives of Dáil na nÓg are to:

Provide a place where children, who are representative of the average Irish Child, can raise and debate issues of concern to them:

- Act as a tool for children's concerns to be fed into the development of public policy making;
- Provide a model for children's participation which can be developed at local level with links to the national Dáil;
- Support civic, social and personal development in children;
- Provide a centre for children to hear and learn about the experiences of other children growing up in Ireland.

## The Book Club



The Book Club for first and second years is a new departure and is proving to be lots of fun! We're already reviewing our third novel. Thanks to Co Kildare Library for supplying the books and to all students for their enthusiasm. We're looking forward to our Christmas meeting - treats guaranteed! (There's a waiting list of interested students - now that's a measure of success!)

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