

Athy College

School and Community News

Dec 2011
Free Publication

Sadly Missed



Nora O'Connor RIP, who retired from The College just 14 months ago sadly passed away on 6th July last. As a teacher, as a friend, and as a colleague, Nora was unforgettable and irreplaceable. In her death we have all lost a truly great soul. In the classroom, Nora was inspiring, funny, and profound, and the depth of her knowledge was breath-taking. Nora loved learning and, in the classroom, she was uniquely able to communicate that love to students. She changed the thinking and indeed the lives of so many of the students she touched with her inspired teaching. Nora gave fully of her time, resources, and skill to any student who wanted help. She was the backbone of the Religious Education department and was involved in every aspect of religion in Athy College, be it the "Sacred Space", Graduation Liturgies, Penitential Rites, Operation Christmas Child, Trocaire campaigns, school masses, to name but a few. Gratitude, humility, courage, fair-mindedness, humour, intelligence, generosity and an enduring personal honesty were the hallmarks of her professional life. Nora is survived by her daughters Joan, Aileen and Olivia and her sisters and brother, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy. Nora is deeply missed in Athy College by staff, students and parents alike.

Recent Retirements

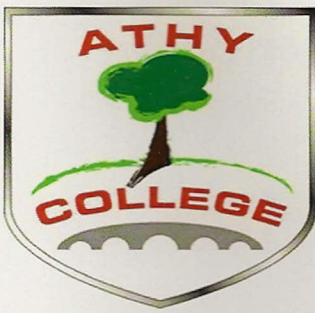
Congratulations to John O'Dwyer, teacher of DCG, and Computers; Shirley Butler, Home, School and Community Liaison Officer; John Clooney teacher of MTW and Engineering and Micheline Purcell, teacher of Mathematics and Science, all of whom recently retired from their teaching posts at Athy College. Their retirements are a great loss to the College, as these staff members contributed so much with their talents and expertise over a wide area of subjects. These dedicated teachers gave selflessly of their time and will be missed by staff and students alike. Their retirements were celebrated at a function attended by staff, family and friends and a presentation was made to them on behalf of their colleagues.

Below, left to right;- Dr Breda Sunderland, Deputy Principal, Mr Richard Daly, Principal, Mr Sean Ashe, C.E.O. Kildare V.E.C., Mr John Doyle, former Principal, Mrs Shirley Butler, Mr John O'Dwyer and Mr John Clooney.



On left Mrs. Micheline Purcell who recently retired from the college, where she taught Mathematics and Science.

The staff and students at the college wish to congratulate all of them and wish them long and happy retirements.



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Athy College Science Week



The Athy College Science Department ran a number of events in conjunction with National Science Week to promote the use and importance of science in every day life. The first event on the calendar took place on Monday of that week when 4th class from Scoil Phadraig Naofa Primary School were invited to Athy College to watch and participate in a "Science Show" organised by science teachers Ms. Mulvihill and Mrs. Brennan. These enthusiastic students were delighted with the opportunity to experience the excellent science lab facilities at Athy College and to take part in fun science experiments.

5th and 6th year students of Biology and Chemistry attended a lecture at National University of Ireland, Maynooth during Science Week 2011. This lecture was entitled: Chemical Weapons on the War on Disease and was given by the charismatic NUIM lecturer Malachy McCann. This fascinating lecture delved into the discovery of the chemicals used to fight disease. Also during the week students were asked to carry out their own science experiments. With great enthusiasm shown by all, students quickly set about researching and conducting their chosen experiment.



Fundraising for Goal

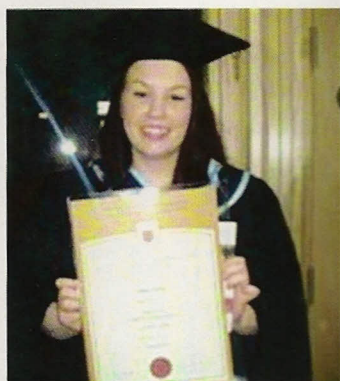


Athy College Fifth year LCVP (Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme) students with Karen O'Shea of the 'Goal' Charity Organisation. Karen visited the students on Tuesday 25th Oct., to speak on the work that Goal do around the world. The students raised a total of €317 as part of Goal Jersey day, held recently in the school. The LCVP class presented Karen with a cheque on behalf of the students of Athy College.

Congratulations

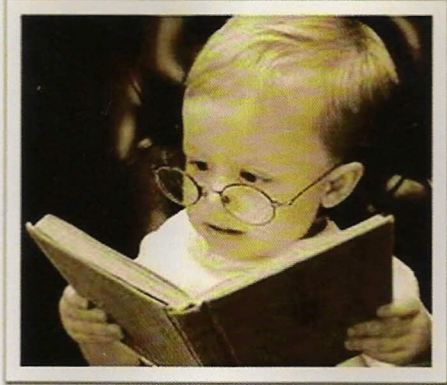


Congratulations to two very happy past pupils, Rachel Whelan and Stacey Lawler who recently graduated. Rachel seen here on left graduated with a Bachelors Degree (Honours) in Business Management from The Institute of Technology Carlow. Rachel is currently studying for a Masters in Business Management in Waterford Institute of Technology.



Stacey Lawler below, left graduated with Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Social Studies from The Institute of Technology, Carlow. We wish them both well in their future studies and careers

After School Study



Supervised after school study is available to all students at the College. It takes place from Monday to Thursday from 4.15pm - 5.45pm. There is no charge. Teachers give their time voluntarily to supervise evening study. Thank you to Miss C. O'Connor for organising the rota.

Operation Christmas Child



Athy College has once again taken part in Operation Christmas Child. Our students have donated dozens of shoe boxes containing gifts, for dispatch to children in countries ravaged by war and poverty. Well done to all for your generosity.

Visit to NCAD



Above, 5th year students, accompanied by their Art teacher, Ms Mary Cunningham enjoying a trip to The National College of Art and Design, where they took part in a portfolio brief discussion and a tour of 1st year Art students studios. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Third year Trip to Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre



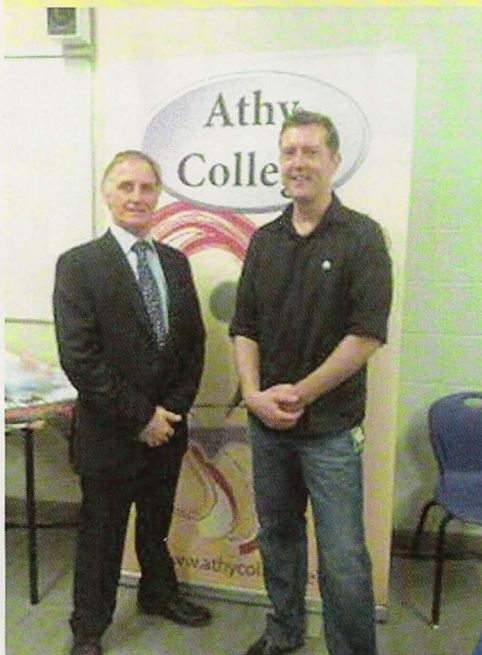
A rainy start didn't dampen spirits of the third year students on their recent trip to Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre accompanied by their teacher Ms Deirdre Murphy. A fantastic day was had by all. Students took part in wall climbing, abseiling, canoeing, archery and orienteering. Thanks to the SCP for its support.

Gum Free Litter Campaign

On Thursday, 17th November two actors came to talk to us about not littering with our gum. They acted the role of a reporter from the "Nationalist" and the man acted as a street cleaner. The "street cleaner" told us he was "the invisible man" because when he was cleaning nobody sees him and they just spit out their gum onto the ground.

Then the two actors acted a drama with some students about Eminem and chewing gum. We learned that spitting gum onto the ground is wrong, especially as the people cleaning it spend so much time cleaning it up. People may not realise it costs thousands of euro each year just to clean chewing gum from the streets of our towns.

Animation Lecture



Great excitement as past pupil Seamus Malone, famous for his work on Chicken Run, Wallace and Grommit, Shaun the Sheep, gave a lecture and workshop on animation to a capacity crowd in the college recently. Seamus received an Emmy for his direction of Shaun the Sheep last year and gave the audience a great insight into how animation really works.

Sports Programme

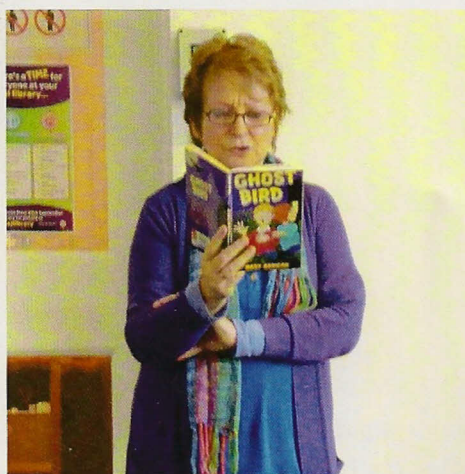


Above the Athy College Junior Ladies Gaelic team. Congratulations also to Athy College u15 boys soccer team for their great win over the Curragh Post primary School. The girls volleyball team is also doing us proud with recent games against Holy Family College, Newbridge and St. Mary's College Naas. The school table tennis champion is also due to be announced in the coming week.

Library News

We are delighted that our school library is now stocked with new books and is open for borrowing each day at lunchtime.

First and second year Book Clubs are meeting regularly and are currently reading novels by Kate Thompson and Mary Arrigan. Twenty-four first years met Mary Arrigan at Athy Town Library recently and enjoyed listening to her reading extracts from her work.



Mary Arrigan reading to First Years at Athy Town Library.

Ladies Gaelic team

For the first time ever in Athy College the Ladies Gaelic team took part in the Junior Competition this year. Their first game was against Tullow Community School and the Athy College girls showed fantastic skill, perseverance and teamwork in atrocious weather conditions. Unfortunately they were narrowly beaten by a more experienced side. Despite this, the weather and defeat did not dampen their spirits. Our second game against Gaelscoil Carlow, in Castlemitchell GAA pitch was a truly nail biting experience. Athy showed an outstanding display of grit and determination, where at one stage these amazing girls were 13 points down but worked tirelessly to regain a lead of 5 points. Credit must be given to Gaelscoil Carlow who persevered and brought the game level. This game was certainly not for the faint hearted as both teams matched each other score for score. With 7 minutes to go, Gaelscoil Carlow scored a goal. Athy narrowed the gap with an immediate response and scored a great point. The Carlow girls then scored another goal in the dying minutes of the game. Unfortunately time ran out for the Athy girls. The final score was 5-5 to Athy College and 7-4 to Gaelscoil Carlow.

Each member of the Athy team gave a great performance and no one player could be singled out. Well done to all students involved, they were absolutely amazing and a special thank you to the sixth year LCA Students, Daniell Moore, Laura Furlong and Melissa O Neill who were involved in the training of the team. In the words of LCA student Melissa O Neill, "The girls did us proud".