

## RETIREMENT PARTY



Above, on left, some Community College staff members attending the retirement party, held recently in Kilkea Castle, to celebrate the retirement of Ms. Moira Finnegan. On right some previous staff members who attended the function.

## FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME AT CHRISTMAS

**At Christmas, people should guard against the dangers posed by alcohol. National Safety Council research indicates that alcohol was a pre-fire factor in almost 40% of fire deaths in the last two years. Practicing good fire prevention habits will also reduce the risk of fire in the home."... Advice from Pat Costello, Chief Executive, National Safety Council.:**

### Christmas Trees

- ✦ Place real Christmas trees securely in a sturdy base filled with water – metal stands cause trees to dry out and become flammable.
- ✦ Artificial trees – ensure it has been pre-treated to increase flame resistance.
- ✦ Keep tree away from candles, heaters, fireplaces or other heat sources.

### Christmas Lights

#### Indoors :

- ✦ Only buy Christmas lights marked with a safety standard.
- ✦ Make sure a competent person checks all connections and examines the wiring for fraying.
- ✦ If in doubt, throw them out.
- ✦ Don't overload sockets.

Unplug all Christmas lights and electrical appliances before leaving your home or going to bed.

#### Outdoors:

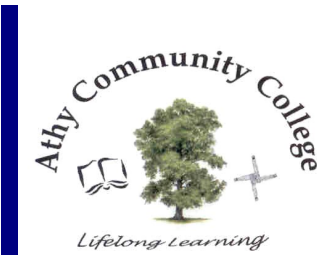
- ✦ Ensure they are suitable for outdoor use
- ✦ Check all wiring and follow manufacturers instructions.
- ✦ Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture building up.
- ✦ Never use indoor extension leads outside.
- ✦ Keep outdoor electrical connections above ground and out of puddles and snow.

### Candles

- ✦ Keep them out of reach of children and pets
  - ✦ Trim the wick to 6mm (1/4 inch) each time before burning
  - ✦ Always use an appropriate candleholder placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface
  - ✦ Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents and air currents
  - ✦ Extinguish a candle if it smokes or flickers repeatedly or if the flame becomes too high
  - ✦ Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, matches and debris at all times
  - ✦ Do not burn a candle for longer than manufacturer recommends
  - ✦ Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container
  - ✦ Place lighted candles at least 75mm apart from one another
  - ✦ Never place a candle on top of a TV set and keep well away from curtains
  - ✦ Always extinguish candles before leaving the house or going to bed
- Never use candles on Christmas trees, even artificial ones. Remember hot wax burns

### Other Christmas Fire Safety Tips

- ✦ Never burn wrapping paper in your fireplace
  - ✦ Keep strings of Christmas cards away from candles and open fires
  - ✦ Fit a spark guard in front of open fires
  - ✦ Extinguish cigarettes properly and do not let ashtrays get overfilled
  - ✦ Check that your smoke alarms are in perfect working order
  - ✦ NEVER remove batteries from smoke alarm to use in children's toys
- Clean out the oven and stove prior to Christmas.



# Athy Community College

Christmas 2007

*School and Community News*



A very happy Christmas to one and all

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



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.

This program of Samaritan's Purse provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ.

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 into desperate situations, focusing on the true meaning of Christmas – Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift.

Students at the College donated a record number of filled shoe boxes this year.

## HAPPY RETIREMENT MOIRA



Mr. Sean Ashe, C.E.O. Kildare V.E.C., Ms. Moira Finnegan and Mr. Richard Daly, Principal, photographed at a gathering of family, friends and colleagues of Moira Finnegan, to mark the occasion of her retirement from teaching in Athy College. The function was recently held in Kilkea Castle Hotel, and a presentation was made to her on behalf of staff and friends. Moira first joined the staff of Athy College in 1969, to teach English, Irish and Economics. A devoted teacher who took a keen interest in her students, Moira was highly respected by all who worked with her. She was held in high esteem by students, to whom she gave selflessly of her time, both inside and outside of school. She also served on the Board of Management of the College for many years. She will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. We all wish to extend our good wishes to you Moira for a happy and healthy retirement.

## College News

- **Operation Christmas Child** gets underway with a record number of shoe boxes this year
- **Ms. Moira Finnegan** retires from teaching at the College
- **NUI Maynooth** awards For Athy College students
- **Members of the HSE** staff undertake FETAC courses at Athy Community College.
- **New Laptops** for Teachers at the College.
- **Abbey Theatre** programme comes to the school to show a few pointers.
- **Athy Community College** has been selected as one of the second level schools nationally to work on investigating change in the Leaving Certificate programme.
- **School Tour** to France takes place next March.
- **Fire Safety tips** for Christmas

**Next Parent Teacher Meeting**  
Thurs 31 Jan at 4.15 pm

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

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## ABBEY COMES TO SCHOOL



Great to see some of our students taking to the "stage" as Abbey theatre programme comes to the school to show a few pointers. Senior students also attended the Abbey to watch a modern adaptation of 'The Playboy of The Western World'

## ROWING CHAMPIONS



**Congratulations** to our Rowing Champions, students Olivia Daly and Melissa Glancy, who won their race in the Athy Head of River regatta. Well done to Melissa and Olivia.

## SCHOOL TOUR TO PARIS

**This years School Tour** will take place to France and is offering three options to the students involved. A student exchange return visit to the town of Grandvilliers may or may not be added to the regular tour meaning that twinning visit, tour or twinning and tour are the three options. The tour will take in a visit to Eurodisney as well as the sights of the beautiful city of Paris. The tour takes place next March and is being organised by Mrs Murphy.



## MELISSA DOWLING B.SC.



**Congratulations** to Melissa Dowling, past pupil of the college, who graduated from Maynooth recently with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Always keen on Science Melissa has now secured a career in the area. Melissa is pictured here with Ann O'Brien of NUI Maynooth.

Be safe this Christmas.  
Install smoke alarms

## NUI MAYNOOTH PRESENTS AWARDS TO ATHY COLLEGE STUDENTS



**Congratulations** to the many Athy College students who recently received achievement awards at National University of Ireland, Maynooth. The awards were the result of project work submitted by students in the arts, engineering and science categories. Students pictured here with College Principal, Mr. Richard Daly and Deputy Principal Mrs. Breda Sunderland.

## GAELIC FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



Athy Community College students Jamie Flynn, Chris Fennell, Tommy Brennan, Paul Potts & Glen Maher celebrate after winning the county final recently with Castlemitchell GFC.

## NEW LAPTOPS FOR TEACHERS



In a very far sighted move Co. Kildare VEC has implemented an initiative which sees all permanent staff members of the college being supplied with laptop computers.

Using today's technology in the classroom requires the right equipment and college teachers have access to internet technology throughout the building.

## HSE TRAINING AT THE COLLEGE



**It's back to school** for members of the HSE staff as they undertake FETAC courses at Athy Community College. Athy College is providing a wide range of courses which are specially commissioned for the HSE staff. Fiona Murtagh is co-ordinating the range of courses. Courses will continue to run throughout the year.