



## Dominican College Celebrates Successes in the Performing Arts.

**M**y name is **Etain Mulvenna** and I dance for the Mulvenna Academy of Irish Dancing in Belfast. I started Irish dancing at the age of 3 as my mum Deborah and my auntie Brenda are the dancing teachers. I won my first Ulster medal aged 4. The first major title that I won was the All-Scotland's at the age of five. By the time I was 12 I had won two All-Scotland's , 2 Great Britain's , 3 British Nationals, 3 Ulsters, 1 North American National's and finally the World Irish Dancing Championships. All together, from my very first féis , I have only been out of the top five rankings twice. I have appeared on GMTV and danced live on American and Canadian television for St. Patrick's Day. I danced my first World Championships at the age of 4 taking part in the Dance Drama competition. I go to class five times a week and if I am away at féisanna I don't go to the Saturday class. I have to practise in the house as I have my own dance studio. I have performed with the lead dancers from Lord of the Dance and Riverdance and have represented as far away as San Diego. For the past year and a half I have been playing the accordion for The Francis McPeake School of Music and now play for Irish Dancing féisanna with more experienced musicians. There is a great buzz participating!



Etain Mulvenna: World Champion.

**M**y name is **Ciara Livingstone** (15) and I learned my first Irish Dancing steps aged 2. This is my third year as the Ulster champion. I have travelled to Spain, Portugal, the Canary Islands and Dublin on numerous occasions. I'm hoping to go to Italy later in the year. All my victories in dancing have come with the Royal Tara Dance Academy in Whitehead and Larne. There are preliminary heats in different féiseanna beginning in Dublin this weekend, leading to the world qualifiers in Germany. Already excitement, interest and enthusiasm for Irish Dancing is sweeping our neighbourhood. I cannot wait!



Ciara Livingstone: Provincial Irish Dancing Champion.

### Current Adventures Underway:-

- Cultural Visit to Santander.....
- Geographers safari to The Marble Arch Caves in Fermanagh....
- Year 11s walk Derry's Walls!
- Reports pending in the autumn.....

**Dramatic Art,** Theatre Studies and acting prowess have always been strong points in Dominican College. This year has seen an excellent overall display from our girls.



The AS/A2 practical took place recently in the school Drama Suite. The girls enjoyed their experiences and covered all the



key areas on the new specification with aplomb. The pupils were outstanding.

# Providing Help -

An article on a very worthwhile cause currently underway within the school by Miss F.Valley.

## Where it is needed most!



Father Frank Diamond working with his community to good effect. His spiritual journey has taken him to Tanzania, Africa, to help the poor, the needy and those folks less fortunate than ourselves.

Fr. Frank Diamond is a missionary priest from Bellaghy parish in County Derry. He returned to Tanzania in October of last year and has embarked on a programme of bringing not only the Catholic faith to the local people, but also improving the lives of those around him. He is helping to provide teachers for the children and fresh water for all. His accounts of his time in Tanzania do not only bring to life the extreme hardship and poverty which the people endure, but also the warmth of the communities. To date the staff of Dominican College has raised in excess of £1,000 and we hope to continue to support his efforts in the coming year. Fr. Diamond has been posted indefinitely to Tanzania, but will be home for a visit in October, during which time he intends to visit the pupils of Dominican College, Fortwilliam.



Mr. Seamus and Mrs Anne McLean receiving their £1,000 cheque from Mrs. M.Kane (VP)

The Dominican College, Fortwilliam, PTA, would really like to thank all those who took part in the recent 200 club prize draw. It was an exciting and very successful end to a busy year of events and fundraising for school projects. The PTA would also like to announce their proposals for a special "Night at the Races" event due to be held in the autumn term.

The lucky winners in the recent 200 Club draw were:

1st prize (£1,000) - Mr.& Mrs. S. McLean; 2nd prize (£100) - Catherine Molloy; 3rd prize (£50) - Patricia Gormley; 4th prize (£25) - Mairead Rice and 5th prize (£10) Clare Jondeh.

<<<A huge 'Thank You' to all the ladies and gentlemen on the PTA who give so generously of their time for our school.>>>

## "The Canterbury Tales"

(by Grainne O'Hare, 12B) [Performed at the Waterfront Hall ]

In mid-September of last year, to quote Mr Chaucer himself; "There came at nightfall to that hostelry/ Some nine-and-twenty in a company". So began the tidal wave of Youth Lyric rehearsals for 'The Canterbury Tales'; the nine-and-twenty being we merry cast members, and the hostelry being Stramillis College (and, from there, the Waterfront Hall).

Dramatized (and, in places, modernized) by Philip Orr, directed by Jenny Long, and with music by Garth McConaghie, 'The Canterbury Tales' brought to life five of Geoffrey Chaucer's most memorable stories. The show was presented by three actors posing as modern-day commentators, explaining life in the Middle Ages and discussing each of the stories, while the rest of the cast illustrated various scenes, including a haunting Kyrie at the beginning, not to mention our own medieval Take That (complete with organized underwear throwing).

'The Pardoner's Tale' ensued, with the lecherous Pardoner and a tale of deceit and murder, followed by a cat rendition of 'The Pardoner's Paradise' (as opposed to the Gangster's). 'The Nun's Priest's Tale' featured two charming chickens and a sly fox, a typically moral fable. The bawdy Wife of Bath never failed to impress with her hilarious monologue, and the ensuing tale of an incredibly dashing knight - a caricatured King Arthur - and an old woman who is more than she seems. The jazzy Wife of Bath's song brought an incomparable close to the first half.

Post-interval came 'The Knight's Tale' (sadly, no Heath Ledger in sight), in which there appear five main protagonists. Four were male characters, three of whom were played by girls (yours truly being one of them). This told the tale of Palamon and Arcite battling to win the beautiful Emily's heart, under the imprisonment of the masterful Theseus. An epic joust occurs (mops making effective weapons), to the accompaniment of 'Eye of the Tiger', the outcome of which is irrelevant, it seems, as Arcite is untimely struck by lightning (dashed painful, no joke), and Palamon wins his Emily.

The concluding scenes composed the gem of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales; 'The Miller's Tale'. This was vastly amusing with its crude humour and relentless innuendo. It entertained the audience no end. The finalé consisted of 'Time', a song loathed and abused in rehearsals, but strongly comforting at the end of each show.

Though rehearsals and performance were arduous, the period was not without its benefits; the cast was given the chance to meet the Lord Mayor, showcase in front of casting directors Ros and John Hubbard as well as attending the Youth Lyric VIP night, which was held after Friday's performance.

When all was said and done, however (and this will sound so very High School Musical-ish), the most important aspect of 'The Canterbury Tales', for us, at least, was the plethora of friends we made, amongst the cast, the staff, the dancers, and the band, (And, truly, living practically on top of each other during production week in the diminutive Waterfront dressing rooms is a serious test of character!) The cast will verify that all the hard work was worth it, and the audiences (12B included) will (hopefully) confirm that the result was highly entertaining.



The Lord Mayor Joins The Cast for the show.



Quite an amazing finale

## Our Contributions to Battle the Scourge of Cancer.

Miss M. Donaghy would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone for supporting occasion cards this year. Your kindness and generosity (as always) have been fantastic. This year we all raised £625.50 which will be divided up between Macmillan Cancer Care and the PTA. In the last two academic years we have raised over £1,100 for Macmillan Cancer Care and over £550 for the PTA. Again, this would not have been achieved without your support. Someone's life will have been touched or comforted through your kindness. Thank you all so much again. (Miss M. Donaghy)



Emma from MacMillan Cancer Care accepts two sums of £625.50 & £1,100 from fundraising activities in DCF. Miss M. Donaghy and Mrs. M. Kane hand over the money raised through occasion cards and the P.T.A.



**Tanzania Here We Come!**

**A Reflection from Miss R. Dowds.**

For three years I have been a member of the T.A.P. project team raising funds for and supporting the parish mission of Moita Bwawani

The Mission, operated by the S.M.A. missionaries Fr. John and Fr. Aro, is located 30 km from the city of Arusha, in Tanzania, Eastern Africa. Despite this close proximity to a large city it may as well be 300 km - given the infrastructure, particularly road access, supply of water etc.

Moita Bwawani serves a population of around 100,000, generally located around 12 villages. The furthest village (group of bomas) North from our mission is 55 km (Lemoti), furthest south is 35km (Ndukusi) – and all only accessible by bush track, rain permitting. It is therefore a very rural parish, only blessed with rain for 4 months of the year. Normally the climate is arid and drought-like, but virtually impass-

able during the rainy season.

In 2006 an action plan was formulated with local builder and a team of fundraisers from

**Water:**

A bore hole was commissioned and hand-very expensive hole in the ground marks the the construction of water tanks adjacent to



the input of the Maasai elders, Fr. John, a the East Belfast parish of St. Colmille's.

somely paid for but ... failed to find water (a spot of this first frustrated venture! Plan B was buildings to harvest rain water - thankfully a



much more successful endeavour.

**Education:**

Next on the project list was the Pre-School. Having talked with the teachers of the primary school, Fr. John highlighted an



equally pressing need – education!

The Maasai are semi-nomadic and they find it very hard to learn Kiswahili (the language of the school system). By the time they get to learn it, they have missed out on the basics of their early learning. After 4 years in primary school they do a state exam and 50% of the kids fail it, because they still haven't learnt Kiswahili. Our Pre-school built in 2007 offers these children two years preparation and foundation in Kiswahili and increases their potential to succeed in school.

A multi-educational centre was also built as well as accommodation for the teachers and visitors. A scheme was also established to sponsor young people to further education and the pre-school and primary school have been equipped with locally sourced desks and supplies and teachers' salaries are covered for a number of years.

**Why a mobile clinic?** Maasai girls are married off very young (fourteen or fifteen years old). There is no pre-natal or ante-natal care and tragically too many young girls and their infants die in childbirth. A Health Committee was established and it was suggested that we fund a rural mobile clinic. In 2008 we funded an ambulance and support medical equipment and



this summer (2009) an extension will be built to house the two nursing sisters who run the clinic.

**Church Extension:**

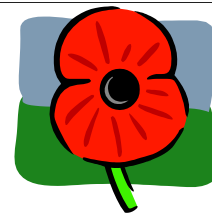
With so much activity and development a new need has been created – more space in the church. A number of Catechists have been trained to assist Fathers John and Aro but the existing church at Moita Bwawani is not large enough to hold this enthusiastic and growing parish. So in July a team of nine will don their boots and gloves and become "brickies" and general gofers for the professional builders in the extension project.

A fundraising coffee morning among the staff raised over £500 and these generous donations contribute to a very energetic programme of fundraising before the team travels to Moita Bwawani on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Our team is a diverse one including 3 teachers, a civil servant, a cardio-physiologist, a priest, a pharmacist and 2 students; the ages range from 18 to 62! We are all looking forward to the experience – particularly those of us who are returning for the second, third or even fourth time! Equipped with funds, injections, prayers and boots we aim to complete our project and enjoy it!



## OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR!

Edel McCormick, 13F



On Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> March this year, my fellow English Literature pupils and I gathered in the café on the ground floor of Belfast's 'Old Museum Arts Centre,' more commonly known as the O.M.A.C. This year at AS level English Literature, we have been studying the Great War poet, Wilfred Owen, and studied the poetry being produced at that time.



Owen had been one of many poets who, in the chaos of trench warfare, had forsaken the popular outlook of poets such as Rupert Brooke and had written something a little closer to the truth.

Bruiser, as a theatre company is renowned for military precision on stage and has helped elevate the role of theatre in education within the North to a whole new platform. We were therefore certain that the performance would not only help our understanding of the time and period, but also provide a few laughs at the expense of the establishment.

The whole play was a resounding success; the entire cast was dressed as a troupe of Pierrot clowns and - throughout the play - highlighted the sheer absurdity of war. This concurred with Owen's own poetry, in 'Apologia Pro Peomate Meo' he described the surrealism and futility of war:

*"Where death seemed absurd, and life absurder."*

Commandingly directed by Lisa May, the play evokes strong emotional responses from all present, without drifting into the expected patriotic sentimentality. The potent mix of facts and photographs addressed the scale of the horror of World War One, whilst dramatic moments like the exchange of gifts and songs across no man's land at Christmas 1914 provided haunting, poignant reminders of the humanity within the trenches.

However, humour and satirical comedy were a constant; comic sketches of the jingoistic leaders of the main powers, and exaggerated musical numbers ensured that the pace of the play kept moving. We are indebted to Miss R. Dowds and Mrs. C. Boyle for organizing and supporting the event respectively. All in all, the night was a true success, and one to be remembered by all.



Faith Journey: (l to r) Miss A. Hagan, Sr. Marie Duddy, Mrs. S. Appleton, Miss S. McGahan and Miss K. Breen.

## Visit of Mrs. Shoshana Appleton to Fortwilliam

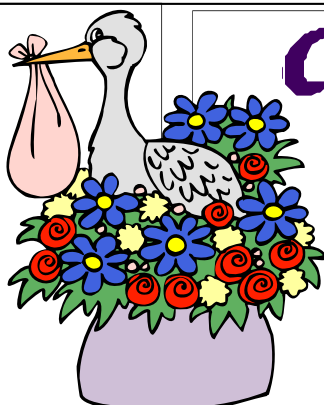
By Caitlin Cameron and Kirstine Martin (9C)

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Mrs Shoshana Appleton, from the local Jewish community, visited Dominican College. Mrs Appleton, a member of the NI Faith Forum, was accompanied by Sr. Marie Duddy, from the Council of Christians and Jews. Mrs Appleton centred her talk around her role as a Jewish woman and mother.

She spoke about her memories of celebrating the Jewish festivals, the role of the rabbi and the importance of the Sabbath celebrations for the family. Mrs Appleton was happy to answer our many questions and was very impressed with our knowledge of Judaism. She has invited us to visit the Somerton Road Synagogue next year.



Many, many congratulations to Mrs. C. Mazs and her husband on the birth of their little princess, **Trudy Alexandra Mazs**, 13/04/09, weighing 7lbs 4 ozs.



## Congratulations!

Hip-Hip Hooray! to Mr. & Mrs. J. Connolly on the birth of their precious little daughter, **Caoimhe Grace Connolly**, who was born in the middle of May. She arrived by special delivery, weighing in at 8lbs. 2oz.

## **The President's Award /Gaisce—Update**

**O**n Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June a coach load of year eleven pupils from Dominican College invaded the Mourne Mountains, (a forerunner of the later *Prodigy* incursion of June 19<sup>th</sup>). There to be assessed for their Bronze Award as part of the GAISCE President's Award scheme, they had practised one week previously. Undeterred by the dark clouds shadowing the car park they patched their blisters and adjusted their heavily laden but well-packed rucksacks ready for the "hike". Feeling confident, fully equipped and energetic they set off determinedly, guided by their meticulously plotted maps and route cards!



Two hours (and a few heavy showers) later the five groups, faithfully shadowed by their assessors and teachers, had lunched and were well on

their way to the camp site. They were easily tracked courtesy of their rucksacks donned with luminous orange waterproof covers! The camp site was a little village with eighteen tents. After their Trangia cooked meals were consumed (some of three courses!) and various musical renditions were enjoyed the girls settled in to sleep – knowing what lay ahead, the site was quieter, earlier than the previous week.

Bright and early the 'phone alarms started sounding – tents were packed, the site was cleared and the river crossed (with some fine examples of teamwork and only a few wet feet) by the last group before 9:15am. The mist hovered and the rain mizzled and drizzled intermittently but there were still smiles, particularly when the bedraggled groups were reminded that they were "nearly there" and had a meal and a real toilet to look forward to at Brennan's on the way home!

Thirty-nine girls were successful in completing their Bronze Award expedition and combined with their project work and service module, are now ready to embark on the Silver Award:

**The Pupils:** A.Logan, C.Reid, C.Montgomery, C.McCracken, L.Kavanagh, M.Corry, M.O'Neill and P.Kane (11a); A.Magee, I.McGowan, C.Mckillop, D.Madden, D.Daly, F.Millar, K.McGuigan and S.Garland (11b); A.O'Brien, A.Sands, G.Falconitin, M.Fanning, M.McKillen, N.Beatty, S.(P) O'Neill and T.Loughran (11c); A-R.Dunlop, C.McCusker, C.O'Hare, E.Rosato, M.Bailie, N.Carmichael, R.Sowney, R.Copeland and S.Magee (11d) B.McHugh-Hill, C.McVeigh, C.Lynch, K.Hughes and S.Morgan (11e); F.Sloan and G.McCorry (11f). **The Teachers:** **Mr. J. Connolly, Mr. C. Devlin, Miss M. Donaghy, Miss R. Dowds, Miss A. Hagan, Mr. S. Mailey, Miss M. Monahan and Mr. P. O'Loan.**

## **Year 8/9 success in Belfast heat CARNEGIE CUP - BELFAST HEAT**

**By Jessica McQuiston 12B** Twenty schools from throughout Belfast went to the Billy Neill Soccer Centre of Excellence on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May to battle it out in the Belfast section of the Carnegie Schools' Cup.

In the Year 8/9 section St Joseph's College and Dominican College came through tough semi-final games against Girls' Model and Wellington College to secure a place in the final.

In the final, St Joseph's and Fortwilliam played some excellent football with both sides going close to opening the scoring. In the dying seconds of the game, with penalty kicks looming, it was Catherine McCloskey who managed to score the winning goal for us. Well done!

In the Year 10/11 section our Year 10/11 team played well but were unlucky not to get to the final. Our Lady and St Patrick's won the Year 10/11 Final.

Our Year 8/9 Team along with Our Lady and St Patrick's will now go to the Carnegie Cup National Finals on Monday 22 June at Oakgrove Integrated College, Derry. Good Luck for the final girls!

Also both Junior and Senior teams would like to say a big thank you to Mr. Donnelly for yet another fun filled year of football. Thanks Sir!





Wed	26 Aug	Year 14
Thurs	27 Aug	Year 12
Tues	1 Sept	Year 9
Wed	2 Sept	Year 10
Thurs	3 Sept	Year 8
Fri	4 Sept	Year 11
Mon	7 Sept	Year 13

**Term 1**

26 August - 23 December (inclusive)

Staff Days: 24 & 25 August

7 December

Holidays: 31<sup>st</sup> August

26 Oct – 30 Oct (incl) Mid Term

8th December

24 Dec – 4 Jan (incl) Christmas

**Term 2**

5 January – 1 April (incl)

Staff Days: 5 & 6 January 2010,

18 & 19 March

Holidays: 15 - 19 February (incl) Mid Term

17 March

2 – 9 April (incl.) Easter

**Term 3**

12 April – 30 June (incl)

Staff Days: 12 April, 31 May, 21 June

Holiday: 3 May

**School closes Tuesday 30 June 2010**

**The New Teacher Slot: Miss N.McAreavey**

**Last Teaching Post:**

St. Louise's Comprehensive

**Old School:** St. Dominic's

**Favourite Music:** Anything you can dance to.

**Favourite country visited:** Spain (especially Ibiza)

**Favourite Food:** Pizza or chocolate

**Personal likes:** Buying shoes; spending quality time with my family.

**Personal Dislikes:** Rudeness; spiders.

**The best advice I ever heard:** "It takes more of an effort to be nasty than pleasant".

**Who in the world would you most like to meet?**

President Barack Obama.



**TNSBI Photo of the Year:** The team that got the cream; The Dale Farm League Champions! DCF!

The Final total for **Trócaire 2009:**

**£8745.70**

**& £1,100 for the Titanic Quarter Event.**

**Well Done Everyone!**

"The Not-So-Big Issue" is now into its tenth year in Dominican College. This year's editorial team comprises the following contributors at present: [year14] Ann Marie Patton, Deirdra McAllister, Sophie McAuley, Marie-Clare McCabe, Natasha McCullough, Jordan Lavery, Sophie L.Kerr, Rebecca Curran, Catherine Latimer, Gemma Hamill, Claire Louise Wilkinson, Niamh Logan [year 13] Ciara-Louise Crowder, Edel McGruille, Sinead McLernon, Joanna Dillon, Zara Tahir [year 12] Alisha Watters, Maria Vize, Sarah McGuigan, Jessica McQuiston, Grainne O'Hare, Naomi Loonam. [Thanks to Mrs.D.Kane and Mrs.G.McGarry]

The editorial team welcomes correspondence from the wider Fortwilliam community and we are always ready, willing and delighted to have new members join the team. Meetings are held in classroom B.9 on Tuesday lunchtime at about one o'clock during the senior lunchtime. Contributions are welcomed from everyone and we are particularly keen to see a major contribution/input come from the Junior end of the school. Helpful articles, suggestions and feedback can be sent to the editorial team:

**editortnsbi@hotmail.com**

Teacher-in-charge = Mr. M.P.McKenna.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of**

**Mr. Paul McKibben, R.I.P.,**

father of Cliodhna McKillop, (11b),

**Michael Gribben, R.I.P.,** (father of Laura, 13e)

who died suddenly on Sunday May 17th, 2009.

May their souls rest in peace.

**Please keep the following recently deceased in your thoughts.**

**Sister M. Bernard O'Reilly O.P., R.I.P.,**

who died in June 2009. She was the sister of our former headmistress and current member of the school's Board of Governors, Sister Jacqueline.

**Michael James Hildebrand, R.I.P.,**

Infant son of Mr.& Mrs. B. Hildebrand, who died earlier this year.

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen.*