

THE BEAUMONT NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Beaumont Residents Association

*Delivered Free to All Homes, Schools, Hospitals and
Commercial Premises in the greater Beaumont Area*

Volume 3, Issue 9

SEPT/OCT/NOV 2007

Mercy College Celebrates its Golden Jubilee



Established in 1957 as a private, fee-paying Junior and Voluntary Catholic Secondary School with 80 students. Today it is in the Free Education Scheme and catering for almost 500 students. The school has had a number of extensions, refurbishments and upgrades over the years.

Mercy College will celebrate "50 years of education excellence" with two major events over two days. On Thursday 4th October, President Mary McAleese will visit the school to lend her support to the celebrations and launch a book to mark the 50th anniversary. On Sunday 7th October, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will celebrate Mass at 3.30 pm in Beaumont Church and afterwards, back to the Mercy College for refreshments and tour of the classrooms. This is an 'open day' and all pass pupils, parents and friends are welcome.



Christmas Party Time For Our Senior Members

**on Saturday, December 1st 2007
in Artane Beaumont Recreation Centre.
at 7.30 pm.**

Free Party + Free transport

Dance the night away!

Party is for Beaumont Residents Association Members only.
If you would like tickets for the Party, please submit your request
to any BRA Committee Member or drop your name and phone number
into the BRA Post Boxes in the Shell Shop and in the Post Office.

Numbers are limited and allocation of tickets is on a 'first come first served' basis.
Your request should arrive not later than Friday 16th November.

Fifty Years On

By Fr. Frank O'Gara

Bill Gutterie, the chief clerk in the Bank of Ireland, Donegal Place, Belfast, looked very serious the day I told him in April 1956, of my intention to join the Carmelites. This decision was made after much thought as I knew my job would not be easy to reclaim in the event of things not working out. His serious expression made me think he had a problem and so I asked him was something wrong? He first congratulated me and then added his problem was how to keep my decision secret to other staff. Bill was being nice to me as he knew such news would cause a stir. I told him not to worry as I would tell the staff myself. When I did I received great support and encouragement.



My decision was not an impetuous one. I was twenty three at the time and I had a lot to loose. When I left school I entered the Bank of Ireland. Imagine my surprise as a Dubliner to end up in Belfast for five years. There I made great friends so I really had qualms about leaving. I remember one embarrassing occasion at a dance at the Mecca ballroom before I left, it was announced over the public address that Frank O Gara was about to leave Belfast to storm heaven. Slightly embarrassing I thought, though my pals considered it a great laugh.

The Carmelites had just given a parish retreat in Holy Rosary Parish, Ormeau Road and I had met with Fr Eltin Griffin for advice. I asked him what might be causing my recurring thoughts of the priesthood. He answered it might be the Lord who put them there and added I would never know till I gave it a try. From there I had an interview with some very wise looking priests in Whitefriar St and was told that twelve other young men were to enter that year. A leaflet, explaining the history of the Carmelites, referred to the accommodation the Friars lived in as 'cells.' That really rang alarm bells as I associated cells with prison life. Imagine my relief when I arrived to find very comfortable living quarters in Kinsale.

The Novitiate year was really enjoyable. It was totally different to what I had expected. I liked the atmosphere, the camaraderie, and the pace of life. The day was broken into prayer, work and some study. You grew into the life presented and if it was not for you it became apparent. The summer weather permitted daily swimming. During the winter months we played football or went walking. At Christmas time we performed a pantomime for the community. In September '57 we made a promise to live out the Carmelite life (profession) and left for studies in Gort Muire, Dundrum. September '07 marks my fiftieth year as a Carmelite.

This June Frs. Langan, Kelly, O Regan and self gathered in Dundrum to celebrate our golden jubilee of profession along with other Jubilarians. I have been blessed in my Carmelite life in so many ways. All my appointments were equally blessed. My ministries included retreat work, parish work, and hospital chaplaincy. I know now that the inner inspiration all those years ago came from the Holy Spirit. The last three years I have spent in Beaumont Parish. The people here are great to work with. It's an active and caring community. Our masses are well attended, joyful, and reflect the living faith of the people. I pray now the Lord will bless us all in times ahead as in the past.

BRA COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ROAD REPS. 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Name	Address	Tel. No.
Noreen Maher Chairperson.	26 Coolgreena Road.	Tel: 087-9569626
Des Maguire, Vice Chair.	101 Coolgreena Road.	Tel: 086-8575814
Deirdre Higgins, Secretary	11 Beaumont Crescent.	Tel: 087-6398816
Bernie Bolger, Treasurer.	62 Coolrua Drive.	Tel: 8371270
Anne Maher,	52 Coolrua Drive.	Tel: 8373616
Chris Foy,	56 Coolrua Drive.	Tel: 8375301
Phyllis Redmond,	49 Coolrua Drive.	Tel: 8375857
Samuel Bolton,	19 Coolrua Drive.	Tel: 8374293
Joan Ennis,	47 Beaumont Crescent.	Tel: 8371396
Frank O'Driscoll,	67 Dromawling Road.	Tel: 8375919
Tony King,	36 Coolatree Park.	Tel: 8378436
Sean Mullen,	13 Shantalla Drive.	Tel: 087-9409652

ROAD REPS. 2006

Marcella O'Donohoe,	33 Shantalla Avenue.	Tel: 8420029
Margaret Doyle,	64 Coolrua Drive.	Tel: 8373058
Aidan Buckley	31 Shantalla Road	Tel: 8372269
Roger Farrell	29 Dromawling Road	Tel:
Laura Ennis	47 Beaumont Crescent	Tel:
Lorraine O'Toole	Cooleen Avenue	Tel: 8368868
Frank Gurry	51 Cooleen Avenue	Tel: 8377822
Bobby Ennis	47 Beaumont Crescent	Tel:
Roi Lacy	1 Coolgreena Close	Tel: 8370200
Sharon Earley	56 Cooleen Avenue	Tel: 6589206
Kay Maguire	101 Coolgreena Road	Tel: 8379453

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City Neighbourhoods Competition 2007.

by : Tony King



Tony King accepts an Award for Coolatree Park and Coolgarriif Road from the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Paddy Bourke

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Beaumont Residents Association have again gained two 'Merit Awards' in their respective categories of the City Neighbourhoods Competition, run by Dublin City Council. Des Maguire and neighbours won an Award for Coolgreena Road and 'yours truly' for Coolatree Park and Coolgarriif Road. St.

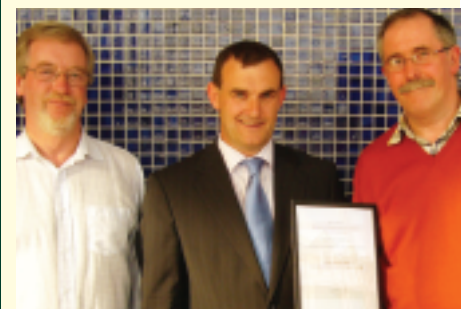
by keeping the footpaths clear of leaves this autumn and cutting back any hedges that overhangs the footpaths as they can be a hazard to pedestrians.

There are still people amongst us who continue to throw plastic bottles, bags and other wrappers on the street. I would ask these people to refrain from their dirty habit –it's just not acceptable anymore. Some dog owners continue to allow their dogs to foul the footpaths, walk away and leave the 'poo' for their neighbours to step into. It's no joke anymore, it's not fair to your neighbours and it's breaking the law. If you bring your

dog for a walk on the footpath or in the park, be prepared and bring the necessary equipment to clean up after the event.

On a positive note; I invite you to take a walk around your area and admire the many lovely gardens as you go –you might be inspired to join the competition next year.

In the meantime, Happy Tidying!



Aidan Buckley, Cllr. John Paul Mahon & Tony King with his Award



Lady accepts an Award on behalf of St. Fiachra's School, from the Lord Mayor Cllr. Paddy Bourke

Fiachra's School also picked up an Award. In addition to the Awards, we both received a cheque for €100. I would like to acknowledge the efforts put in by all concerned. Well done! Let's keep it going



Jo Buggy and Lord Mayor Paddy Bourke with her Award for Coolgreena Road.

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THE CALL OF KENYA

By: Sr. Kathleen O'Keefe

Four years ago Elaine Bannon was busy with her job in management. She decided to take a good holiday and she set out for Kenya. Little did she know how life changing this decision would be for herself, her family and the Maasai people of East Africa.

Elaine was shocked when she saw the ravages of A.I.D.S. on the orphaned children of Mombasa as they wandered the streets trying to survive on their wits. She felt that she had to do something about it. She came home, gave up her job, sold her car, and went back to help them.

In true management fashion Elaine did a social analysis, and as a result made it her aim to work with three Maasai men to provide clean water and education, not only for the children but also for young adults, who had been deprived of any schooling.

As we are coming to realise in our own country, the problem of water pollution is an enormous health hazard. However, in Kenya the onset of the desert as a result of global warming often makes it impossible to find any water. In the past three years, with the help of family and friends and working with the Maasai people, Elaine has had seven wells sunk and two more are in process. Fifteen and a half kilometres of pipes have been laid so that two and a half thousand people who were without clean water now have a reasonable supply. Up to this they were often forced to drink cow's urine to avoid death by dehydration.

The Maasai people are nomadic. They have always survived by following their herds from one pasture ground to the next. Due to global warming, the desert is advancing at the rate of thirty miles a year, so their way of life is under huge threat. As we in Ireland have found out, the way out of poverty is education, and Elaine has focussed on this. There is no such thing as free education in Kenya but Elaine has set up a loan system for the women, whereby they can get a loan for materials for making beaded jewellery and the profit goes to school fees. Up to recently the children of Rombo, where Elaine lives, had to walk fifteen kilometres to school, and run the gauntlet of wild animals en route. When a hyena killed a little boy, the people appealed to Elaine to build a school, and with help from home and the hard work of the Maasai people there are now two schools. One has solar panels so that there can be adult education classes by night. Elaine's concern now is to get sponsorship for the children to send them to second and third level education, so that they will be able to come back as educators to their own people. If anybody, family or group would like to sponsor a child then they would be helping not just an individual child but a whole tribe and country – call me on 8377023 with your donation.

The parish of Beaumont is extremely lucky in so many ways. Not only do we have a Sunday mass but also we have a choice of masses on Sunday and on weekdays. The parish of Rombo is almost the size of Ireland. Their church has neither doors, windows nor seats. The two priests try to bring the sacraments to out-stations as often as possible, but they are seriously in need of a four-wheel drive to cope with the terrible roads. The availability of the sacraments to the Maasai people depends on our generosity – an enormous challenge and responsibility for us all.

A recent appeal for Elaine's project; "St. Joseph's House of Hope" realised almost six thousand euro. Did you know that you lived among such generous people? At all times in the Old and New Testaments we are encouraged to give alms, and all the major religions in the world have concern for the poor as a foundational part of their belief systems. Shakespeare tells us "It blesseth him that gives and him that takes". The atmosphere around Beaumont church on the weekend of August 11th and 12th proved this true. People were happy to have stretched beyond themselves to something bigger and everlasting.

If you would like to donate towards school fees for a child or just like more details, please contact Sr. Kathleen 14 Coolatree Close. Tel: 8377023.

Donations by cheque payable to: St. Joseph's House of Hope. Thank you.

BRIGINS INVITE NEW MEMBERS

Brigins are back after their summer break and are seeking new members.

The Brigins cater for girls between 7 and 11 years of age.

We meet at 11.30 am. to 1.00 pm. on Sunday Mornings. Every 3rd Sunday of the month we attend 11.30 a.m. mass (unless we have a planned activity).

Weekly subs payable are €2.00.

Parents are welcome to assist at meetings.

There is an annual Membership/Registration Fee payable at the end of October. This fee includes a portion for administration costs and group insurance, unfortunately if your child is not registered, we cannot allow her to join the group as we cannot assume such a personal risk.

New members are eligible to be enrolled after they attend the Brigin meetings for 3 months. So there is no rush to run out and buy Brigin uniforms. Uniforms can be purchased from The Scout Shop located in the Outdoor Centre on Upper Liffey Street. New combat type trousers are being introduced this year.

The Brigins are organised into small groups within the company called patrols in which there is a leader and an assistant (these are girls which have been in the group for a few years).

WINNERS OF OUR QUIZ COMPETITION IN LAST ISSUE

Jo Buggy, Coolgreena Road won: Dinner + B&B for two in the Carlton Hotel, Dublin Airport.

Barry Doyle, Cooleen Avenus won: Two tickets to "Des Bishop" in the Iveagh Theatre

Mary Burke, Coolatree Park won: Four tickets to "Annie -the Musical" in the Olympia Theatre.

Ronnie Burke, Coolatree Park won: Two tickets to "Celtic Storm -the Show + Dinner" 57 Middle Abbey Street.

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Put some Sunshine into your life

By: Susie Boland

Here we are, winter is nearly here and we have had very little sunshine so how are we going to cheer ourselves up?

By eating healthy!

Why not start today and change a few bad eating habits that were all guilty of.

As we get older we lose the elasticity in our skin and it starts to look dry and wrinkled so try adding fresh (organic if you can) lemon and limes to water or your favorite drink as these citrus fruits are a rich source of vitamin c (ascorbic acid) which helps to rebuild the collagen in your skin.!

Vit. C also strengthens the immune system which fights infections and colds.

How about a smoothie, make your own, you can use a blender. Choose from fruits that are in season, local, fresh and organic, these are a great source of antioxidants (anti cancer) which are free from harmful sprays such as pesticides and herbicides (banned in parts of Australia).

Vit. C helps to keep bones and joints strong too!

Fancy an apple? Boring?

No taste? Why not try your local organic market, they're popping up everywhere and experience the taste of a local apple! To make fruit more appetizing, you can chop it up into a bowl and add some raisins, this can be eaten instead of salted nuts and crisps. These healthy choices can rid you of old habits and avoid ill health.

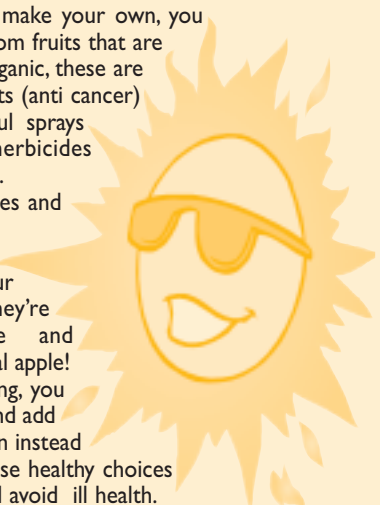
Fruit is also packed with a natural sugar called fructose, vitamins and minerals which not only give you instant energy but also feed your digestive enzymes which are very important for us to digest and absorb our food as it neutralises acid in the stomach.

As winter sets in you will naturally want to eat more to keep you warm. This can cause weight gain. One of my favourite ways of avoiding this is stewing fruit. For example, rhubarb is in season during the summer months. This is easily grown in your garden, stew it with some organic sugar or honey and freeze it for the winter months. You can heat it and add some bio (live) yogurt instead of probiotic drinks and fruit yogurts that can contain up to 6 teaspoons of sugar.

If you keep catching colds, infections, bruise easily, red pimples on your skin, nose bleeds, bleeding gums or low in energy, add some fruit and feel that glow of sunshine right through the winter.

For more details on healthy eating and fitness call Susie

Susie Boland is a qualified and accredited Fitness and Nutrition Consultant with over 25 years experience. Susie works as a Personal Trainer from her studio in Beaumont or in your home, contact no. 086-8580500 or 01-8318011



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To advertise your free items for Free, post the details into the BRA Post Box in the Shell Shop or in the Post Office. You can also give the details to any BRA Committee Member or Road Rep or email us: news@thebeaumontnews.com. You must supply your name, full address and telephone number. Only your telephone number will be published. We now have a new section on our website "Free Items". Please state if you wish to post your free items on our website and you may also wish to give an email address.

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ADVERTISING NOTICE

**To Advertise in
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news@thebeaumontnews.com.
The Christmas Issue and will be
published on 8th December.**

Copy deadline 16th November.

St. Fiachra's School Appoints New Principal

Mr Kieran Creaner is the new Principal of St Fiachra's senior school. I barge in on him as he is in the middle of a major 'clean out' of Mr Barrett's old office.

He intends to revamp the space and give it a 'new look', a choir he appears very energised and enthused about. Mr Creaner is no 'new comer' to St Fiachra's and no 'blow in' to Beaumont. A native of Celtic Park Avenue, Beaumont and a Teacher in the school since 1999 and the Vice Principal for the last number of years, he knows the territory very well.

I identify myself and he smiles and invites me to sit down. The floor is covered with 'storage boxes' which are at various stages of fullness. I could see he was busy and a man with a mission, I assure him I would keep him only a few minutes, he smiles again, sits down relaxes a little and inquires how he can assist me.

I'm here to meet the new Principal, learn a bit about his background and find out if he has any major plans for the school.

He proceeds to roll off his academic qualifications and credentials like any good student and they are impressive: B (Ed), MSc. (Bachelor of Education from Trinity and Masters in Computer Applications)

I'm married to another member of staff; Ms Ryan is a Teacher in the school. Both are well known for their involvement and teaching of 'Speech & Drama' and for putting on Drama shows in the school. Mr Creaner no longer has time to be involved in this activity. I'm a keen golfer. I have two children (Stephanie and Killian) both came through St Fiachra's school and currently in secondary school (Loretto and Belvedere). Stephanie is an International Athlete and represented



Mr. Kieran Creaner

Ireland a number of times. Killian plays soccer with St. Kevin's Boys Club, I played with Kevin's myself in my youth.

Do you have any plans for the school? We were extremely busy this summer installing two new Prefabs and they are now up and running. We have extended the 'office yard' and we have redecorated the foyer. I intend to revamp this office and he laughs loudly. We appointed four new members of staff this year and we have one new class. We now have twenty four mainstream classes and we have seven Resource Teachers. The numbers of Pupils are growing, next year we will have an extra class and the year after we will have another extra class. We will have to get additional Prefabs to cater for the

expansion. It's all very positive.

Do you find this role to be much different from Teaching? I'm so busy in this job, my first week has been hectic, I don't have five minutes to myself but it's great and very dynamic. It's very different to Teaching, where the Teacher sets the pace, in this job the pace is set by whoever walks through the door and you don't know who is going to walk through that door –just like yourself coming in now, you know what I mean; the best laid plans... it changes from moment to moment. It's very different but I'm thoroughly enjoying it.

Kieran Creaner is very experienced, well qualified and more than capable of stamping his own style of regime. His energy is palpable and one can feel his overflowing enthusiasm and almost impatience to get stuck in to his new job. He knows he has challenges ahead not least of which, will be his being compared with the ex Principal.

Will you do things differently? Yes, he says with almost defiant certainty.



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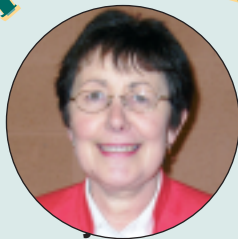
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Noreen's News



2007

ST. FRANCIS HOSPICE RAHENY

Watch out for a New Clothes Sale at Connie Butler's House, Cootatree Park in the next few months in aid of St. Francis Hospice. As we all know Connie has done tremendous work in raising money for the Hospice over the past sixteen years running coffee mornings, raffles, sale of new clothes toys plants home baking etc. in the past. This year will mainly be donations and the New Clothes Sale.

Shoe Boxes for orphaned children in 3rd world countries. Connie Butler will be doing the Shoe Boxes again this year. The Closing date will be around early November.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

The Committee wish Peggy Nolan a very happy 90th Birthday. Hope she has a memorable day and celebrates it with her family, friends and neighbours.

DOHERTY'S PHARMACY

Congratulations to Doherty's Pharmacy on their newly extended and refurbished pharmacy. The shop has taken on a complete new look- that is bright, cheerful and trendy. The staffs are always so helpful and friendly. SMASH BOX Cosmetics is a very exciting and new line. It is used by models and is great for that girl or lady who likes to have that perfect look all day and evening. Smash Box is offering a make over for €15 which is redeemable against any purchase of smash box. Please book for this special offer for Debs, Weddings or any special events.

They now stock Daves Silver Jewellery, Gift Range i.e. Boss, Lacoste etc. A Large Baby Section and Maxi Muscle.

Coming very soon Road to Health in association with Visas. Full Health screen €65 and if you are a member of Vivas its €45. More news in our next issue.

SINCERE SYMPATHY RIP

Fr. P. Staunton O.Carm
on the death of his brother Tommy.
Jimmy Lesley and his family Dromlee Crescent
on the death of his wife Kathleen.
Maureen Mernagh Coolatree Park,
who was a very close sister of Kathleen.
Annie Burke on the death of her sister Ellen.
Beatrice Flanagan Coolgreena Road
on the death of her Mother Rita Tierney.
Jason of Doherty's Pharmacy, Shantalla Road, on the
sudden death of his Father Harry Doherty.
May they all Rest In Peace

Mercy College. Congratulations to the Mercy Convent on their 50th Anniversary. The school and the grounds look very attractive and are well maintained.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Our regular meetings are to start back next week after our summer break. Congratulations to our new Sergeant Stephen Daly who it to replace Sergeant John O'Driscoll who retired last year. We wish to thank Sergeant Margaret O'Rourke and Sergeant Seamus Treacy for their help and support at various times and at our meetings. We were kept well informed and enriched by their knowledge. Thanks to also to all the Community Gardai who do a great job and are always willing to help and give us so much support when needed. If any one has a problem with anti social behaviour and or worried about burglaries, etc. please do not hesitate to contact the Gardai or any of the neighbourhood watch Reps. Noreen 087 9569626..... Deirdre 087 6398816 Phyllis 087 6474479



History of Beaumont

The original 'Beaumont House' in Beaumont Woods was the country residence of the Guinness family and was built in 1764. Arthur Guinness founder of the brewery died in Beaumont in 1803 at the age of seventy-eight.

For many years the question of after care of discharged patients troubled the superiors of the Mater Hospital. Money was collected and it was decided to purchase a property to serve as a convalescent home. Beaumont House was purchased because the driver of the sisters who were to view a property in Finglas lost his way and ended up a leafy lane with an "Up for Sale" sign post at the entrance to Beaumont House. This property was purchased in 1900. Following renovations it opened as a convalescent home in 1902. The new home was situated in a 100 or more acres on a high plain and in the centre of

a sparsely populated district. The reception room now a dining room was the first chapel, the library across the hall being the sacristy. There was accommodation for 40 public patients and 15 private patients. Over the years some well-known patients lived there. James Joyce's father John Joyce, James Stephen's the writer, Dermot Tomhy an actor who recalled his boyhood convalescence on a Sunday Miscellany programme, Micheal Breathnach Secondary School Inspector and Irish writer celebrated his 100th birthday there and Micheal O'Hehir died there some years ago.

By 1928 a new Convent adjoining the Home was ready for occupation. The chapel was blessed and the Sisters took up residence in the Convent releasing additional accommodation for patients. In 1928 Saint Anne's for female public patients was opened, providing 28 beds, 2 sitting rooms and 2 dining rooms. The beautiful surroundings, green fields fresh air, excellent food all combined to made the patients relax and hastened their recovery.

In 1954 Marion House was opened to provide temporary care for healthy children of mothers in need of hospital treatment.

St. Paul's Hospital and School for autistic children was opened on the grounds of the House in 1970 in conjunction with the Child Guidance Clinic of the Mater Hospital.

The demand for convalescent beds in the 1960's and early 1970's declined. There was an increase in patients remaining indefinitely in the Home. In 1973 it became officially what it had developed into over the years a Home for the Elderly. However it was still called a Convalescent Home and if a bed was available a patient was welcome for convalescence. By this time some sections were replaced or renovated and an extension was built increasing the bed complement to 78. Facilities provided included three lounges, shop treatment, bingo and simple P.E. Many voluntary groups provided concerts, particularly at Christmas time and members of the Legion of Mary and others came to visit the old people. Mrs. Barron came regularly to entertain them with singing and the accordion. This was written and given to me by a Sister about seven years ago.

Congratulations to Fr. O'Gara on his 50th Anniversary. May God bless him and keep him healthy.

Window Cleaner recommended. A local neighbour wants to recommend a very good window cleaner to other elderly residents. Please contact Joe McGrath at 087 6599496 for window cleaning.

Grass Cutters Required. A few local elderly neighbours are looking for a reliable honest person to cut their grass. If you know someone please contact Noreen at 087 9569626.

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More News in Our Next Newsletter

New Principal in Mercy College

By: Des Maguire

Rose Mary Lynch, the recently appointed Principal of Mercy College looks forward with enthusiasm to the Celebrations and the Challenges that lie ahead. In the immediate term, celebrating the school's "50 years of Education Excellence" is her main project and preoccupation. She is proud to be Principal at a time of great honor for the school. President Mary McAleese and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin



Rose Mary Lynch

are among the dignitaries who will visit and take part in the school's Golden Jubilee celebrations. The school, which was established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1957, is today and for the first time without a Religious Principal. Ms Lynch is the first lay Principal of Mercy College and she is still finding her feet after being only a few months in the job and during one of the busiest years for the school. She appears to be well aware of the demands and challenges of her new role. A Principal's job in any second-level school is daunting at the best of times but the role of Principal in a Catholic Order school brings many additional responsibilities and associated challenges. She is ably assisted by George O'Leary Deputy Principal, a position Rose Mary herself occupied until January of this year when she took over the top job from Sr. Bonaventure Higgins.

I arrive at the Principals office at the appointed time –I made sure I was not late. Standing outside I take a deep breath before knocking on the big brown well-worn shiny door. In an instant, I get a 'flash back' to a time when I was an involuntary visitor to a Principal's office; I feel butterflies in my tummy and hairs standing on the back of my neck –my nightmare! I don't remember actually knocking but the door opens and a man invites me in. Ms Lynch is at her desk; she stands, smiles, greets me warmly and introduces Mr. O'Leary as the new Deputy Principal. I'm back in the present again and I am delighted to see a friendly Principal this time. The office reminds me of my Auntie's sitting room, everything is brown or beige with a soft couch and armchairs. I sit, I relax and we chat.

Can you give me a bit of Background on Ms Lynch? I came here in 1999 as Deputy Principal and I am a Business Teacher. I came from Co. Dublin VEC, Swords and I live locally, I am from outside of Dublin originally. I am Principal since last January.

You are taking over as Principal of a Religious School; do feel this presents extra challenges? Well it is obviously a challenge for all of us to keep the ethos of the school, it is a Catholic school but we do welcome students of all denominations, it will always continue to be a Mercy School. It conforms to the Mercy ethos and that underpins everything we do. It is a challenge starting as a lay Principal after fifty years of Religious Principals but it won't change how the school operates. It is a challenge in the light of education changing, the demands on the school and on students, dealing with those, being innovative, developing curriculum and we must evolve with that and plan accordingly on a yearly basis.

What do you bring to the job? Do you have plans you wish to implement? In the short-term, we are spending money on IT. We have broadband in the school and we recently upgraded the Computer room but we don't have computers in every room yet. We are always looking at how we can best serve the needs of our students. The Teachers are looking for ways to tap into what the students want which is IT.

I would like to see more students taking up Transition Year (TY) because I see a benefit for the students in doing it. I want to improve 'community links'. This year our TY are doing a project with the Parish but also I want to develop our LCVP, Community and Businesses links.

I want to work with local Primary schools, build relationships with the Principals and Teachers. I also want to work with Parents to expand and develop this college.

The 50th Anniversary is a big event and I am delighted to have a school to celebrate it. However, what is most important for me is to look forward to the next 50 years, developing this school and keeping a breast of what's needed.



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Photocall



Congratulations to Deirdre O'Toole, Cooleen Avenue who celebrated her 21st Birthday recently. The large attendance at her Birthday-bash held in the 'East Point Cafe Bar', included her family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. A great night was enjoyed by all and the style was described as stunning



Peggy Nolan, the well known and respected senior citizen from Coolatree Park, celebrated her 90th Birthday recently. The celebrations kicked off with 3 o'clock Mass in the Church of the Holy Child, Whitehall followed by a reception, afternoon tea and a sing-along in the adjacent community hall. The very large attendance included her immediate and extended family, friends and neighbours. Peggy, a devout Catholic, chose the hymns for the Mass which was celebrated specially in her honor and included; 'Bring flowers of the rarest', 'I'll sing a hymn to Mary' and 'Lady of Knock'. Peggy dressed in a navy costume a navy and white hat to match, looked like a Queen and she really enjoyed the congratulations and celebrations. Everyone enjoyed the fantastic party and danced the afternoon away



Paul Moore, Coolgreena Road, celebrated his 21st Birthday recently. Paul was joined by his family, many friends and neighbours for his party bash in the Ivy House. A keen footballer, the sport was well represented and a number of senior committee members from St. Kevin's Boys Club (of which Paul is a long time member) came along to partake in the celebrations



Jason Carraher leads the singing at a Mass in St. Paul's Special school, to mark the beginning of a new academic year. Jason is supported on guitar by music teacher Peter Morrow



Diny Boyle (Pottery Teacher, St Paul's) presents Fiona Boyle (Teacher in Ard Scoil Ris) with a Pottery Presentation, at Mass in St. Paul's Special school



Rose Mary Lynch Principal and George O'Leary Vice Principal of Mercy College. Both were recently appointed to their respective posts



Angela Leonard (Principal, St Paul's School) and Fr Staunton, chat with guests over coffee, after Mass in St. Paul's Special school



St Pauls Day Out. 'Taxi Day Out' for the children of St. Paul's Special School and Hospital. A great free day out to Leopardstown Racecourse was organised by the Taxi Federation. Cars were specially decorated for the occasion and created a fantastic fun atmosphere



Mary Jeffers, Director of Nursing St. Paul's Hospital, gives last minute instructions to Taxi Driver before heading off on the 'Fun Day Out' to Leopardstown

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Concerts in the rain, the mud, the blood and the beer!

In the cold dark wet days of last January it was nice to think about the long summer evenings ahead and dream about what nice things could be done during those balmy evenings.

It also seemed like a good idea at the time to book tickets for a variety of outdoor concerts taking place over the summer. On a cold January night it was nice to dream about wearing floaty dresses and pretty sandals while listening to good music in an outdoor setting any maybe even enjoying a picnic of champagne and strawberries!!!!

So off I went and got tickets for three outdoor events and so my adventure unfolds.

The May Bank Holiday came around and off we went to the first concert. Sinead O'Connor in the beautiful setting of the courtyard in Dublin Castle. I had never been to Dublin Castle before. In common with a lot of Dublin people I am ashamed to say there are a lot of places in my native city I have never been. The history of the place surrounds you as soon as you walk in and it is a lovely place but I digress from my story. It was a cold breezy evening and when the support act were finished there was an interval of more than an hour before Sinead herself took to the stage. Afterwards someone more worldly than myself explained that this length of time is left so people will buy more food and drink as they get bored and there is nothing else to do. The strangest thing I found was the security staff wouldn't let anyone sit down either on the ground or on any little steps around the place. I still haven't figured what that was all about. By the time Sinead O'Connor took to the stage, I was so cold and tired (and yes I was dressed appropriately). I didn't actually care what she sang.

My next adventure in the minefield that is outdoor concerting in a wet Ireland was on a Sunday evening in June to see Joe Cocker and Al Green in Malahide Castle. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon in Dublin City Centre when we made our way to the shuttle bus on Burgh Quay. When the driver told us the weather was so bad in Malahide that there was doubt as to whether the concert would go ahead or not, my first thought was that he had spent the afternoon in Mulligans pub in Poolbeg St. But no he was serious. There was torrential rain, thunder and lightning all over North County Dublin and the chairs at the concert venue in Malahide were literally sinking in the mud. Eventually the concert got the go ahead and off we went to Malahide. I have NEVER seen anything like the mud out there. The place was covered in it and in a couple of minutes so were we. The upside was that there were so few people there that there were no queues for the loos or the bar. When Joe Cocker came on stage his powerful voice more than made up for the weather and you could see that had the weather been good it would have been one of the most memorable concerts seen in a long time. The less said about Al Green's performance the better.

By now I was thinking the weather couldn't get any worse for the next concert but guess what, it did. Moving on to Friday 13th July and some of the heaviest rain Dublin had seen this Summer and that is saying something. This time the concert was Rod Stewart in the RDS. All that day I prayed that the concert would be called off. I just couldn't face another evening sitting in the rain trying to be positive about the whole thing. We left Santry at 5pm and arrived at the RDS at 7.30 just as the rain was stopping. Except for one or two light showers the rain held off for the whole concert. Now this was the concert to end all concerts. If anyone had told me that the best concert of the year would be given by a 62 year old man how made his first album in 1968 I would have laughed at them. They don't call this guy "Rod the Bod" for nothing. Even with the rain and the cold the temperature certainly soared at the RDS that night. He actually appeared to be enjoying what he was doing and he doesn't take himself too seriously. I lot of upcoming singers and bands could learn a lot from Mr Stewart.

So in darkest January next year will I be buying tickets for outdoor concerts for Summer 2008. Probably because this is Ireland and we cant depend on the weather and its all part of the adventure.... But then again theres always CD's!!!!

BRA Member. Name with Editor.

RACISM WORKS BOTH WAYS!

I am writing this letter in response to both the initial article and the letters to the editor in relation to the interview with Sheelan Yousufizadeh that was published in the March instalment of the Beaumont News. I am a student attending Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont and I am also in Sheelans class, so if anyone was to ensure you an accurate and sincere account of exactly what "this poor girl goes through" then it would be me. On reading the initial article I was unquestionably outraged at what had been published and how it portrayed the students of the school to be hurtful and racist people. The residents from Beaumont and quite possibly their friends and family who may have also read the article were given an unfair, one-sided and biased image of the school but more so its students. Why should one girl's opinion mark the students as being racist, discriminating and hurtful? Each day I see Sheelan in school and in my opinion not once have I seen or heard anyone make racist or harassing comments towards her or any other foreign national girl attending the school. In relation to Sheelan stating that the "Irish girls" seem to discard her and make no effort to engage in conversation, I would like to say that I have always made an effort to talk to Sheelan but I feel like I am the one being discarded as she and her other foreign national friends are not interested in talking to the Irish students. It is the Irish girls that are cast aside despite their efforts to talk to Sheelan and her friends. All the foreign nationals have banded together with one another from every year in the school, 1st year up to 6th year and it is their decision to do so that causes that divide Sheelan talked about in her interview, as they choose not to admit the Irish girls into their company. Racism works both ways! I am aware that the foreign national girls that are in my class have been receiving preferential treatment from the teachers for quite some time. By this I mean they are exempt from their physical education classes to attend extra English classes instead, even though they are already in the honours English class and in my opinion are achieving extremely well as I am also in the honours class along side them. They are also receiving extra history and geography lessons and to my knowledge there were no Irish students invited to attend these extra classes. I have talked about this particular issue with my friends and we were all equally disgruntled at the favouritism being shown. These girls are getting some of the highest grades in all the classes yet are being given more attention and encouragement than the rest of us. I was strongly angered by the interview with Sheelan in the March issue of the Beaumont news, but it was the responses that it got in the following bulletin that prompted and influenced me to write a reply. In one response the person was furious at how Sheelan was being treated and made accusations based purely on what he/she had read and did not take into account that there is always another side to every story. I feel the input from a student is necessary to give readers a different view so that they might think differently about the students.

Mercy College Student (aged 15)

MR BARRETT'S LEGACY

Thank you for the lovely article about Mr Tom Barrett in your last newsletter. Mr Barrett was always a gentleman and St Fiacras is a better place because of his input and influence all down through the years. There are many successful young men and women making their way in the world today who would not be where they are if it wasn't for the guidance of Mr Barrett and his dedicated team of teachers. He has the most amazing memory for faces and names I have ever come across. It is 8 years since my last child left St Fiacras and the odd time I would bump into Mr Barrett he remembers my name instantly. I wish him a long and healthy retirement and I hope he gets to fulfill any dreams he may have had to put on the long finger during his busy time in St Fiacras.

THE HARVEST IS GREAT BUT THE LABOURERS ARE FEW.

I just wondered about this for a while. I have lived in elm mount and Beaumont Woods for nearly forty years as a child and an adult as well as a sister and her family and my elderly parents.

However it just seems that a large area of Beaumont also Montrose and Collinswood are excluded from participating in your newsletter and/or other issues unless they pick it up in local shop.

In this day and age there is less of a community feel in Beaumont and other areas of Sublin especially in newer housing estates like Collinswood and Beaumont Woods because of the larger number of rented houses.

However I totally understand your point regarding the lack of manpower. Maybe it would be a good idea to deliver one lot of newsletters to the above housing estates, maybe you would get people interested in joining the Beaumont Residents Association and/or committee.

There hasnt been a residents association in Beaumont Woods for nearly three years. maybe you might get new volunteers for your committee about issues that affect us all in the Beaumont area. Many thanks for your assistance.

Breda Monks, Beaumont Woods.

THE WOMENS MINI MARATHON

After all the training and collecting sponsorship money, the big day finally arrived. It was time to do the mini marathon. I set off quite nervous, would I be able to complete it, would the faith all my sponsors had in me be justified, would it stop raining before the 3pm start? Well thankfully the answer to all three questions was YES. It was such a great moment starting off and heading down towards Holles St where all the patients shouted encouragement as we passed by. As we walked, it very quickly became apparent that the mini marathon is not about physical fitness or stamina but is much more a spiritual thing. Every single one of the 40,000 women there was there for a purpose and all had their own personal stories to tell. The t-shirts alone told their own stories. Every charity you have ever heard of was represented on a t-shirt. People wore t-shirts with photos of loved ones they had lost printed on them. People wore t-shirts that simply said "in memory of my cousin" and so many more heartbreaking ones. I got talking to three total strangers who told me why they were walking. One had lost her 26 year old daughter to Sudden Adult Death Syndrome, one has a 4 year old Autistic Son, and the third one's husband had been recently diagnosed with Lung Cancer. We all walked along united with one another and in solidarity with the people we were representing. When we got to the 8km mark and were starting to get tired, it was like our loved ones we were walking for or in memory of were all urging us on and that long walk down Leeson St became just a few footsteps. There is no way to describe the feeling when we were handed our medals at the finish line. People walked over the finish line arm in arm with their friends, some cried, some cheered and we all knew we had been part of something special. It wasn't 10km that we walked it was 40,000 times 10km.

Amazing Facts

In the 1400's a law was set forth that a man was not allowed to beat his wife with a stick any thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'.

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled Gentlemen Only Ladies Forbidden' And thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone. Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.

Men can read smaller print than women can - women can hear better.

Coca-Cola was originally green.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The average number of people airborne over the US any given hour is 61,000.

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

The first novel ever written on a typewriter was Tom Sawyer.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history.

Spades - King David; Hearts - Charlemagne; Clubs - Alexander the Great; Diamonds - Julius Caesar.

111,111,111x111,111,111=
12,345,678,987,654,321

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.

If the horse has one front leg in the air the

person died as a result of wounds received in battle.

If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Q: If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'?

A: One thousand.

Q: What do bullet-proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers all have in common?

A: They were all invented by women.

Q: What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A: Honey.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase - 'Goodnight, sleep tight'.

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

In English pubs, ale was traditionally ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yet at them 'Mind your pints and quarts and settle down!' This is where we get the phrase 'mind your p's and q's'.



Parking on Shantalla Road continues to pose problems for Customers and Businesses



Graffiti is raising its head again. It is an offence - so please call the Gardai if you see people defacing walls and other surfaces

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. 'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

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