

2010 has been a year of change for Melview

Melview National School

2010 has been a year of change for Melview. Christine Treacy retired in June after teaching for 35 years in Melview and is greatly missed. We wish her all the best in the future. Melview has welcomed two new staff members – Ms. Laura Sorohan and Ms. Carmel Farrell. Other good news is that Melview has been given the green light for a large extension and refurbishment of the existing building. This will hopefully be finished by September 2011.

Melview would like to thank Ulster Bank who sponsored 6th class's participation in "Up Tempo" which culminated in a memorable day for parents and children in the National Concert Hall. 5th and 6th classes participated in many quizzes throughout the year with good success.

On the sporting front Melview had a very successful year. The Annual Basketball tournament took place in the Mall in May 2010. Melview girls took the trophy completing a double having also won the Basketball Championship. Melview

boys reached the final but were pipped at the post by St. Emers.

In June Melview reached the Gaelic final in Division 1B, where they met St. Michaels in Pearse Park. It was a very hard fought battle but in the end Melview came out on top, winning by two points.

Melview partook in Cross Country Trials for the first time in 2010 and have discovered an up and coming star Mary Sloane. Mary came third in the Connacht School Trials and has since qualified for the Under 13 and Under 14 All Ireland Finals which will take place later this year. Mary has also been picked for the Connacht Regional Development Squad.

Melview N.S. took part in the 2010 Xtravision 5 a side Final in Flancare Park last January. Melview won the final and went on to play in Leinster but unfortunately our winning streak stopped here. Melview retained the Raymond Hewitt Trophy for Under11 Soccer by winning the final in Abbeycartron in June.

The boys and girls competed



Melview Gaelic team who won the Division 1B final.

in the Indoor Hurling Finals in Newtownforbes. The girls won Division 2 while the boys were narrowly defeated in their final.

Pupils from Melview did very well in the Connacht Schools Gala. Aine Mcweeney won gold in the Under 11 backstroke. Mark O'Boyle won silver in the Under 10 backstroke and Kate Sweeney also qualified for the All Ireland Schools Final. Melview will also be entering an Under 10 Relay team.



Teacher Anne Casey pictured with the Melview Basketball team.



Foireann Basketball, Gaelscoil.

Gaelscoil Longfoirt

Beannachtaí ó Gaelscoil Longfoirt

Beannachtaí ó Gaelscoil Longfoirt! Tá breis is 200 dalta ag foghlaim trí mheán na Gaeilge i dtimpeallacht spreagúil thaitneamhach ar imeall bhaile Longfoirt. Tá an Ghaeilge mar theanga phobail na scoile idir pháistí, múinteoirí, bainistíocht agus tuismitheoirí. Gaelscoil Longfoirt continues to go from strength to strength with an enrolment of over 200 students, nine mainstream teachers, a Learning Support Teacher and a Resource Teacher. Gaelscoil Longfoirt is part of the Gaelscoileanna movement and follows successfully in the path of all other gaelscoileanna throughout the country as more parents opt for Irish-medium education. We offer a choice to the parents of Longford as regards the education of their children.

Tá curaclam leathan ar fáil do pháistí na gaelscoile. The gaelscoil continues to offer a broad all-round education for children including Art, Crafts, P.E., Football, Basketball, Hurling and Handball. The children in Rang a ceathair, cúig agus a sé enjoy Oral French Classes. Swimming and Drama are offered to all classes including infants. Gaelscoil Longfoirt continue to enjoy the benefits of up-to-date ICT equipment. With the help of a grant from the Department of Education and Skills and generous fundraising by Cairde na Scoile we were able to furnish each classroom with short-throw projectors, visualisers, digital cameras and camcorders.

Tá Gaelscoil Longfoirt an-bhródúil as a gcuid sár-éachtaí le roinnt mhaith blianta anuas. The highlight of the year was that Gaelscoil Longfoirt were the gallant winners of the Cumann na mBunscol Division 2, B Final. Another honour bestowed on Gaelscoil Longfoirt last year was the winning of the Co. Longford School's Basketball League B Final, by both cailíní and buachaillí. The Under 9 and Under 11 soccer teams are training hard each week in the mall and are participating in FAI Longford Soccer Schoolboy/girl League each weekend. The Under 9 team narrowly missed out in a place in last year's final and both teams are hoping to build on last year's hard work! Foireann Snámha Gaelscoil Longfoirt continue to find their place in the All-Ireland Schools Finals – we are very proud of them also.

Parental participation is appreciated and facilitated at all levels in Gaelscoil Longfoirt. All of us at Gaelscoil Longfoirt appreciate their efforts with fundraising, raising awareness, organising parties for First Communion and Confirmation among a wide range of other activities. Gaelscoil Longfoirt maintains strong links with other organisations in the local community thus promoting the Irish Language and culture. Cumann na bhFiann, Longfort le Chéile, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann agus Spleodar are a few of the Irish Language organisations Gaelscoil Longfoirt are involved with.

Tá Gaelscoil Longfoirt ag súil le bliain eile den scoth. As we look forward to Christmas and the New Year, guimíd Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Dissolving boundaries in Scoil Eimear

Scoil Eimear

Scoil Eimear first became involved in the Dissolving Boundaries in the 2008-2009 school year when one of our classroom teachers, Miss Baxter, introduced it to her 5th Class pupils. It has continued successfully since then and is now facilitated by our 5th Class Teacher, Mr. Dolan.

Dissolving Boundaries is a North-South schools-based project that brings pupils together using technology. The initiative has been running since 1999 and is funded by the two Departments of Education and managed by the University of Ulster and National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

Pupils use a range of Information and Communications Technologies including video-conferencing and online discussion and collaboration through applications such as Moodle, Word Processing and Presentation programmes. They begin by exchanging personal profiles to build the groups'

interpersonal relationships and to develop their familiarity with the technology. The Programme also funds a face-to-face meeting between the participating pupils.

Our partner school for the current school year is the same as for 2008-2009 – Holy Child Primary School, Belfast. This School is situated in the Andersontown area of Belfast- <http://holychildps.com/> and has an enrolment of over 700 pupils.

Correspondence between our two schools takes place through a protected website that is monitored by the participating teachers in the schools and by the programme organizers based in the two universities.

Pupils have also made contact with each other using video-conferencing in the classroom. We had our first video conference of the year at the end of October. Members of our local Garda Síochána visited Scoil Eimear to raise



Students from Scoil Eimear who took part in the 'Dissolving Boundaries' project.

awareness regarding safety at Halloween. Using an Interactive Whiteboard our colleagues in Holy Child Primary School were enabled to participate in the activities and communicate with our pupils and with the Gardaí. This proved to be

a very interesting and worthwhile initiative and we look forward to more conferences as the year goes on. Participating pupils will have the opportunity to meet face-to-face when our 5th Class pupils and pupils from Holy Child Primary

School meet at Tanagh Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Monaghan next May.

For further information about the Programme visit: www.dissolvingboundaries.org

St. Christopher's Special School

Great year at St. Christopher's

We had a great year here at St. Christopher's Special School. Pupils are actively encouraged to participate in local and national competitions.

We started off the New Year with the good news that one of our students won a prize in a poster competition. Students entered the INTO handwriting competition in February and we were delighted to hear that two of our pupils received prizes and one pupil reached the regional final. We had a visit from Longford Fire Station on 11th March.

We held a celebration day for the "Pushkin Project" on May 26th in the newly opened Sylvia Dawson Hall. We were joined by pupils from Stonepark National School and St. Fintan's, Lismacaffrey. The Duchess of Abercorn, Sacha Abercorn attended the event. It was a fantastic day and was enjoyed by all.

The Agri Aware Mobile farm visited the school on Friday 28th May. The visit was a

prize for the Agri Aware Incredible Edibles competition which we won in June 2009. The mobile farm is a specifically designed unit that safely and humanely transports animals to any school or venue. The children were allowed to hold and feel the animals and learn about their role on the farm.

Our school tour to the Galway Aquarium and Salthill beach took place on June 18th. Our Sports day was held on Tuesday 22nd June 2010. We were greatly honored to be visited by President Mary McAleese on Thursday 4th November. There was great excitement preparing for her visit. We got to sing a song and introduce ourselves to the President.

One of our pupils is participating in the President's Award this year and hopes to receive a bronze award in 2011. We are looking forward to our Christmas Play - "A Present for the Baby" in December which is taking place in the Sylvia Dawson Hall.



President Mary McAleese and her husband Martin received a warm welcome at St. Christopher's.



President Mary McAleese is presented with a bouquet of flowers.