



From the Principal's Desk

The year has got off to a flying start! We have already had several meetings for parents/guardians including an Information Evening for Incoming Parents of 1st Year students, our Annual Awards Ceremony, The Parents' Association AGM and a Careers Information Meeting for 5th and 6th Year Parents/Guardians and students.

The School Assembly to Open the New School Year was attended by representatives of Barretstown Camp who were delighted to receive a cheque for €4,700, the proceeds of our annual school walk. This brings the total raised by our students to nearly €9,000 over the last year. A considerable feat for a small school.

Prof. Sheelagh Drudy of the Education Department, UCD was our Guest of Honour at our Awards Ceremony in September and she gave a heart warming speech to our students which our student representative, Caroline O'Loughlin has an account of below.

Leaving Certificate, 2004

Congratulations to all our Leaving Certificate students 2004 who did so well in their Leaving Certificate particularly Jennifer Twyford, Cillian Murphy and Alan Deely who all scored over 500 points with Alan achieving an outstanding 590 points! The results and placements of the class are published on page 2. Well done also to our Junior Certificate students in particular Lee Caplin and Ruth Hunter.

Many Congratulations to the following past pupils who notified the school of their recent graduation:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Simon Harrison BSc | (TCD) |
| Alison Gilbert M Phil | (Cambridge) |
| Ashley Baum BSc | (MMU) |
| Eoghan Daly BSc | (UCD) |
| Barry Murphy BBS | (TCD) |
| Ilan Shulman BSc | (UL) |
| Clionadh Murphy LLB | (TCD) |

*Patricia Gordon
Principal, Stratford College*

Enrolment 2006

Enrolment for 1st Year 2006 has begun. Letters asking applicants to confirm their application have been sent to all those on our waiting list. Any student from 5th class in Stratford National School who has not applied will also be circulated. Offers will begin in the Spring of next year.

Leaving Certificate Placements 2004

| Degree | | Degree cont'd | |
|--|---|--|--------------|
| DCU Journalism | 1 | UCD Arts | 3 |
| NUI Galway Science | 1 | DBS Business Management | 1 |
| NUI MAYNOOTH European Studies | 1 | OXFORD BROOKES Architecture | 1 |
| Psychology | 1 | MANCHESTER MET. UNIVERSITY Biology/Psychology | 1 (deferred) |
| TCD BESS | 1 | BRUNEL COLLEGE Occupational Therapy | 1 |
| TCD Classical Studies and French | 1 | PLC | |
| TCD Nursing | 2 | BALLYFERMOT COLLEGE National Diploma Popular Music | 1 |
| Science | 1 | RATHMINES COLLEGE Retail Management | 1 |
| Psychology | 1 | Sports Journalism | 1 |
| UCD Science | 1 | | |

Junior Certificate 2004

| Honours | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
|---------------------------|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| No. of students attaining | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

| Numbers of A Grades | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Numbers Attaining | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 |

Leaving Certificate 2004

| Points | 550+ | 500-550 | 450-500 | 400-450 | 350-400 | 300-350 | 100-150 | <100 |
|-----------------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| No. of Students | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 |

Student Council News

Since returning to school the Student Council have been very busy organising a range of events. The School Assembly to start the year was addressed by Helen and Aisling, two representatives from Barretstown who gave us an insight in to the work that goes in to creating an atmosphere of “serious fun” (to use Barretstown’s own phrase) for seriously ill children. The children come not just from Ireland but also from all over Europe. As Ms.Gordon wrote above we had the privilege, on behalf of the entire student community of Stratford, of giving something back in the form of a cheque for €4700, the proceeds of last May’s sponsored walk.

The Mentor Programme is developing well. The First Years visited Dublin Zoo in September and this was both a valuable bonding exercise and indeed an enjoyable day for all concerned.

The Student Council also paid their respects at the Embassy of the Russian Federation on Orwell Road by signing the book of condolences for the tragic victims of the Beslan siege.

We continue to address issues of concern at our fortnightly meetings and look forward to articulating the student viewpoint in the year ahead.

*Caroline O’ Loughlin,
Student Council P.R.O.
& Mentor Liaison*

Flying Dutchwoman

On February 27th of this year, I took a 9 hour course on parachute jumping at the Irish Parachute Club (IPC) in Co. Offaly. I completed my first solo

static line jump the next day which involved a 3,500 feet jump from a Cessna plane! Initially I wasn’t sure whether I wanted to pursue this high risk sport as I felt very nervous. However the excitement, the adrenalin rush and the sheer thrill of the jump made me want to continue. Safety is naturally a prime consideration at the IPC especially with regard to packing a parachute. I am currently learning how to pack a parachute. So far I have completed 5 solo jumps. Recently I completed my DRP (Dummy Rip-chord pull) training in preparation for the more advanced Skydiving course (from 10,000 feet!). I am really enjoying the new horizons which parachuting has opened up for me.

*Karen van den Ancker,
Transition Year*

The New Europe

On May 10th last year we were very privileged to have as the Guest of Honour at the last School Assembly of the school year Her Excellency Mrs. Helena Drnovshek Zorko, the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia. This was both an historic and a poignant occasion as Slovenia was one of the 10 new accession states who formally joined the E.U. on May 1st. It also marked the culmination of a lot of cross-curricular work through Geography, Business, C.S.P.E. and English on issues of citizenship, identity as well as possible social and economic outcomes for member states, new and old. Mrs. Zorko was also the parent of children in both Stratford National School and in Stratford College who have since returned to Slovenia after what we hope were two happy and successful years here in Dublin. The

First Year Viewpoint

We invited our new First Years to let us know how they are settling in at Stratford College, which is a new and different environment for many of them. There were many excellent and informative comments. Here is a “snapshot” of some of their views:

Tom Koren: “*Basically you have to be VERY organised...but Stratford College is very cool!*”

Mary-Ann Matthews: “*Walking up the steps on the first day in my new school I felt butterflies in my stomach...we were shown to our class room by our very friendly Class Tutor, Ms. Gillan....So far my conclusion is that I really like Stratford College*”

Finn O’Connor: “*Student-teacher interaction is very evident and there is in general a very welcoming atmosphere*”

James O’Kane: “*I can’t believe I’m in secondary school, there are a lot of new and very interesting subjects...the teachers are nice and bring a lot of humour and personality to their lessons.*”

Mandy Stein: “*Since I started in Stratford College I have made a lot of new friends...I came from Stratford National School so I knew the secondary school fairly well. My class are really nice and I can’t wait for the next few years here with them*”

Fergal Wallace: “*On the first day I said to myself ‘Get through this day o.k and everything will start falling into place piece by piece’...Once our class tutor introduced herself and told us what we needed to know I knew I could survive!*”

The editor would like to thank Ms. Dorman-Kade and the First years of 2004-05 for their help in compiling this article.

following is an extract from a speech delivered by me on that occasion:

“May 1st 2004 certainly was a momentous day in the E.U’s history. On that date it grew from 15 to 25 states to comprise a family of nations of some 450 million people stretching from the Arctic to the Adriatic and from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. On behalf of everybody associated with Stratford Schools I extend a sincere Céad Míle Fáilte to our Guest of Honour and to the Slovenian people in particular. We Irish are justifiably proud that this is taking place during our country’s Presidency. Your country and ours have much in common – we are both small, we have both been colonised yet we see neither our size nor our past as obstacles, we are dynamic and forward looking. At today’s ceremony we will listen to a bilingual presentation from Jennifer Twyford and Sunita Jeawon on the foundation and recent expansion of the E.U. John Cunniffe will recite Seamus Heaney’s specially written poem *Beacons at Bealtaine*. Bealtaine, the Irish word for May, was the Celtic festival of bright fire, the first day of

summer. This will be followed by the pupils of the 5th & 6th Class from the National School with their teacher Mr. Hanley who will make a presentation to us on the recent history of Slovenia.”

Mrs. Zorko then gave us a very informative and informal address about Slovenia and the many welcome developments associated with E.U. membership.

We were privileged to have Chief Rabbi of Ireland, Dr. Yaakov Pearlman in attendance.

This assembly was formally concluded by the Principal, Ms. Gordon.

*Tom Giblin,
Editor*

Stratford College Parents’ Association

The A.G.M. was held on Tuesday 5th October, 2004. The attendance was quite low. Ms. Gordon spoke and gave an overview of the previous school year that included mention of the very creative and diverse Transition Year programme as well as sharing news of

the excellent exam results for both Leaving and Junior Certificate candidates in 2004. The P.A. is hoping to organise some social gatherings during the coming year. We will keep you posted. Anybody who could not make the A.G.M. but who would like to join or help the committee may contact Dorothy in the school office. In order to continue to work effectively we need the support and input of as many parents as possible.

The meeting thanked Miriam Murphy for her hard work and dedication over the last four years and hoped she could continue to play an advisory role for the new committee for the next few months. The P.A. would also like to thank the other members of the outgoing committee. The new committee are as follows:

Pat Newman, Ger Grehan, Olive Miggan, Barbara Conheady, Sharlette Caplin, Moira Whelan, Rosie Stein, Anne Buckley, Pádraig O’Driscoll and Patricia Flannery.

*Barbara Conheady,
Secretary*

Sports Desk

The sporting season is back in full swing. Tennis is back on with Rachel McDonogh coaching 3rd, 4th and 5th Years on Tuesdays and 1st and 2nd Years on Fridays in Rathgar Tennis Club. Basketball is maintaining its high profile thanks in no small measure to the coaching of Mr. Cullen and the involvement of the new P.E. teacher, Mrs. Ivers. We are again using facilities at Mount Argus for training purposes. The Girls’ Under 16s basketball team put in a tremendous performance beating Colaiste Chiarain with Katherine McVeigh particularly impressive. The Boys also recently beat St. MacDaras of Templeogue. Boys football is also being revived and credit must go to the indefatigable Ian Grant (6th Year), who acts as Player-Coach, and Ivan Moriarty (5th Year) for their work in organising this. In a recent match against John Scottus the boys lost 2-0, conceding two late goals, and were also decidedly unlucky to hit the woodwork on a number of occasions. Perhaps Ian would like to impart some of Shelbourne’s silken skills to the Stratford XI! There are also upcoming fixtures against Crumlin and Rockbrook.

Editor