

The St. Mary's Chronicle

07.02.2024

St.Mary's Secondary School Macroom.

2nd Edition

We're here for more in 2024

An Exclusive Article:
History and Horticulture
with Mr.Galvin! : Insight
into events of the past and
the ways of the future

Featured on page 6 and 10.



Lights, Camera,
Action. Take a
Peek Inside This
Year's TV Show.



See page 3 for more



**MERRY
TRISHMAS
EVERYONE!**



See page 5

Meet the Team

The St Marys Chronicle Team is made up of eight transition year students and, following the suggestion of our English teacher and year head Ms Murnane, we have decided to publish a "Meet the Team" section to our paper. Each edition we will have two members of our paper write a piece about who the other is, starting with this edition. This edition's article will feature Claire Dromey and Ella Healy.

Meet Ella H

Ella Healy was the student who came up with the ingenious idea of starting a school newspaper because, unbelievably, this school has never had one in its whole one hundred and fifty nine years. She then came to me to ask if I would like to get involved and then we asked around and ended up with a team of eight. Ella, being one of the more tech savvy out of the group, also edits most of the newspaper to make sure it's presented well and not a complete disaster.

Not only did she start St Mary's Chronicle, she also played Mary, Erin's mother, in our production of "Derry Girls, the Experience", has won a Catherine McAuley award, was involved in organising the school's Breast Cancer Awareness Day and is also one of the teams who got through to the BT Young Scientist Competition with her project "Only Child or Lonely Child". This definitely proves that she is a dedicated and ambitious person and also very naturally talented.

Although she can write about anything and everything, Ella's main role in article writing is writing about the school's current events like year group trips and the school's Open Night. If you want to read her current articles, "History and Horticulture with Mr Galvin" and "BT Young Scientist Trip Review", I would highly recommend.

Written by Claire Dromey

Meet Claire

I am delighted to introduce my extremely humble wing woman Claire Dromey. An extremely talented and clever friend of mine who cannot be phased. She responded with pure joy to the idea of starting this newspaper. Claire has been a savior in writing carefully curated articles for this newspaper. Not only is Claire one of the most humble and relaxed people I've ever met, she is nothing short of a genius, Claire recently won a grand award for her exceptional Junior Cycle results she received. Claire racked up a whopping six distinctions. I think it's fair to say she's a pretty talented lady. Oh but the talent doesn't stop there, it also flows out of Claire in the form of music. Claire stole the show when she performed multiple Cranberries' hits such as "Dreams' ", "Zombie' " and "When You're Gone' " at our recent play, "The Derry Girl's Experience ". And once again at the school's Christmas concert held in St.Colman's Church. Claire currently has multiple articles in the works, such articles include "History and Horticulture with Mr.Galvin " and a useful list of study tips. All of which are excellent reads.

Written by Ella Healy. p2

Christmas Concert



On the 12th of December, in St Colmans Church, there was a night of Christmas magic as the senior and junior choir, trad group, other musicians and storytellers stepped forward to spread Christmas joy that everyone will cherish for years to come.

This night was organised by our own Ms Donavan, who coordinated both choirs and also the musicians. Elaine, who took care of all of the organising, Ms Dineen, who is in charge of the trad group and Mr Owens, who helped organise the musicians.

Every student and teacher who took part in this night was completely dedicated to making this night a success and were very successful, with the church being full to the brim with an eager audience.

In the true Christmas spirit, the entry for the service was an optional donation to the Marymount Hospital and Hospice to aid a wonderful place that has always helped those in our community, no matter what.

The night featured many classic carols performed by our two choirs, such as 'Silent night 'and 'Carol of the Bells', a true show stopper. Our amazingly talented sixth years performed many a song, including a John Lewis advertisement medley, solos, duets and even an original song just for the occasion. We had two different groups of very talented sisters perform together. A huge thanks to everyone who helped organise such a memorable and festive night this Christmas.

Aisling Twomey.

The Derry Girl's Experience.



St. Mary's TY's performed Derry Girls the musical featuring songs by The Cranberries. This show took place in Crookstown hall from 6-8pm on Wednesday the 29th and Thursday the 30th.

This show followed the lives of “The Derry Girls” - Erin, Orla, Michelle, Claire and James. This amazing show featured iconic songs by The Cranberries such as Zombie and Dreams. This was such an amazing play with lots of comedy. This audience particularly loved Father Peter who brought so many laughs and comedy to this play.

Finally a very special thanks from all TY’s to Angela Doherty, our amazing director, who we could not have possibly done this show without. Thanks to our TY coordinator Mr. Quill and our year head Ms. Murnane. Finally we would like to thank Ms. Dineen for helping us with all the music and songs. We could not have possibly had this play ready to perform without all these people.

Claire Dromey

Study skills.

‘Tis the season to start suffering in silence as you start studying for the dreaded Christmas tests. Of course no one likes studying for tests, especially so close to holidays, but there are ways to study efficiently while studying as little as possible so you can enjoy the leadup to the most wonderful time of the year. I know everyone is probably sick of hearing about all the different study methods and about all the different types of learners there are, so I’ll keep this short and sweet.

For me, the thing I struggle most with is time. Not starting to study early enough, being too fickle to stay studying for long periods of time, study methods like mind maps or blurting taking so long to do yet barely learning anything from them, wasting time. But there are ways to use your time efficiently. What I think has always helped me is not starting to study really, really early, but just always trying to learn the material we get as soon as possible so as to avoid a ridiculous amount of work near to the exams. This way, it is so much less stressful. What else is helpful is when teachers tell you to learn something, LEARN IT. If you’re told to learn it, it must be important for exams. Keeping up with classwork is the best thing to do in school.

I personally am terrible at studying for long. I get bored nearly straight away and give up. What I find is always helpful is timing. For example, study for fifteen minutes, five minute break. Study for fifteen minutes, take another five minute break. Making a schedule for what subjects you’re going to study helps too so you can keep on task and be focused on finishing your study goals for the day.

Merry Trishmas!



We at St Mary's celebrated Christmas with our very own Trishmas Day on the 7th of December.

We started off the day with a beautiful Christmas Mass followed by a wonderful Carol service where the choir sang traditional Christmas songs. We then made our way back to the school, where the Student Council shared with us the Christmas quiz with their classes with a prize of a box of Heroes for the winning team in each class.

While waiting for our delicious Christmas Dinner cooked by Trish! Later, we all tucked into our feast which was followed by some jelly and ice cream for dessert. Timmy had set up the canteen and classrooms so we could all eat together. It's fair to say the holiday spirit was prevalent as the whole school sang and danced with the sound of popping Christmas crackers in the background. Before the festivities were over we had a talent show, showcasing a variety of different skills, while also providing great fun and entertainment for everybody.

A number of highly talented students participated in a talent show. We had many different groups singing and playing Christmas songs, we had some people tell hilarious Christmas jokes and dancing! A number of talented sixth year students serenaded us all with their musical abilities for the last time.

After the talent show, some students helped Timmy clear up the canteen and everyone returned to their classroom for the last 30 minutes of the day and watched movies, sang songs or played games!

Without Trish this simply wouldn't be possible, so as we like to say in St Mary's, Merry Trishmas!

The Christmas Lights Ceremony Macroom.

On the 1st of December, the Christmas lights in Macroom were turned on at 9 o'clock. There was a massive turn out to enjoy the festive atmosphere. There were many food vans there, such as a doughnut, churros, waffles and many more! There were also many craft stalls including a stall set up by Macroom's Girls Guides. Thankfully they remembered to count down to the lights turning on this year and fortunately no lights went on fire!(this year).

Ella Healy.

History and Horticulture; An Exclusive Interview with Mr. Galvin. Interview Part 1: Galvin's Garden.

Recently, we had the pleasure of interviewing our school's accounting teacher, Mr. Shane Galvin, who told us all about his and English teacher Ms de la Cour's new garden, made to promote wellbeing through gardening and to promote growing our own food. He also shared his favourite local history stories, as well as his own family connections with the Kilmichael ambush of 1920.

From the moment Mr Galvin began to tell us about his achievements and plans for the garden, we were enthralled. Mr. Galvin has a burning ambition for this garden to be a haven for the students of St.Mary's. It is a place where both people and plants are nourished and grow. We began by asking Mr Galvin where this brilliant idea originated from, "In my previous job in Beara Community School on the Beara Peninsula, I was the S.P.H.E. co-ordinator.



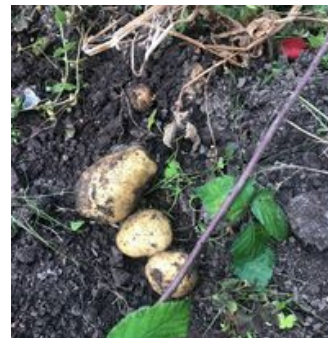
I attended several courses about the teaching of s.p.h.e and wellbeing, , it was mentioned at the course by a teacher from Tralee that they had built a polytunnel as part of their S.P.H.E. and wellbeing programme. Of course, in S.P.H.E. you teach the elements of good food, healthy eating, sourcing good food and being active outdoors." Mr Galvin went on to very successfully build a polytunnel through funds raised by the parents association, while materials were sponsored and provided free of charge by local businesses. " I brought this idea to St. Mary's when I moved closer to home and it was welcomed here as well. I feel students are showing positive feedback so far."

We were very fortunate that Mr Galvin dedicated boundless time and energy to turn this concept from a dream to a reality. There is an abundance of delicious, wholesome vegetables growing in the St.Mary's garden come spring and summer, delights such as potatoes, beetroot, carrots, lettuce and coriander. In collaboration with our Home economics department, students now harvest their produce and create a nutritious meal during their Home economics classes, in a farm-to-fork-like scheme. Mr.Galvin feels particularly proud of this endeavour. “ Ms.Linehan has joined us this year, she has a passion for sports and nutrition, as well as growing food from sustainable, chemical-free sources. Students can see the process from tiling the soil, and digging up an old bed that was used by the nuns; it was not used for upwards of thirty years. We sourced seed from Frank Twomey's Hardware downtown and I donated some seed potatoes.

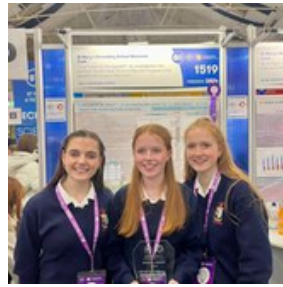
After we harvested the potatoes in September, we brought the potatoes into the Home Economics room and made enough soup for every student.” Wholesome food, however, is not the only impressive initiative taking place on the grounds of St. Mary's, “We acquired twenty-five free native trees from Future Forests, they're a garden centre in West Cork. I designed a class on our native trees, their importance to us, how to identify them, their benefits and how to grow them. We planted a line of trees by the pitch and we gave the rest of them (to students) going home.”

Plans are also already in the works, Mr.Galvin has applied for a scheme named Trees on the Land. This scheme “gives two hundred native trees to schools, when we get the trees we hope that anyone that would like a tree in junior cycle would be able to plant a tree at home. I got that opportunity when I was in national school and those five oak trees are growing at home still to this day.” It is not just a lovely idea, but an educational experience for the students to extend their knowledge to their homes. The plans do not stop there as Mr. Galvin tells us “ We have plans to expand it(the garden), Joe in the School of Art wants to put in a greenhouse, he has windows acquired for it and by convent one he would like to make more raised beds there.”

Mr Galvin is an excellent example of how if we have an initiative and the determination to see it through all the way, we can be of benefit to others and in some cases, the planet too. In a world where the future of our planet is in jeopardy and climate change is an ever-growing, grave issue, Mr Galvin is a beacon of hope to current and future generations. Mr.Galvin teaches students the key skills needed to grow their natural produce, whilst giving them a sanctuary to take time out of their busy schedules for their wellbeing.



A look at this year's BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition.



It was a mesmerising experience, if you were fortunate enough to be in attendance at this year's BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition and St.Mary's Secondary School was to the fore. An astounding eleven projects from St.Marys were chosen to compete in this year's competition. An assortment of impressive and intriguing projects made the cut this year, with projects spanning across a vast array of topics. Such topics included The Macroom Bypass, Artificial intelligence, Rewilding and Reforestation of farmland, Supports for carers of children with disabilities, Phobias among certain age and genders, Equine therapy, The Danger of Snapchat, The younger generation's awareness of autism, Only children, Social media's impact on mental health and People's attitudes towards electric cars.

On the 10th of January 2024, it was an early start for all the girls, as we all made our way to our train which was leaving from Kent Station at seven o'clock. Not even the biting cold and early start could dampen our enthusiasm. A palpable energy could be felt on the train as everyone eagerly awaited the electrifying trip ahead. Once we arrived at our quaint boutique hotel, situated in the idyllic, leafy suburbs of Dublin 4, it was straight over to The R.D.S. to register for the competition. An impressive opening display and ceremony at which the president of Ireland gave a moving speech was the dawning of a very special, sixtieth BT Exhibition. It was a day filled with fun and relief as the day drew to a close and the first round of judging came to an end. An evening disco was the icing on the cake after a fabulous first day.

Everyday brought more unique and special experiences, with many of the projects receiving media coverage across the country and pictures with special people, the latter included everyone from An Táiniste Micheál Martin to M.E.P. Billy Kelleher. An evening spent in Dundrum Town Centre was also eagerly anticipated and didn't disappoint. It's fair to say there may be a small dent in the Christmas money stash. However nobody could have anticipated the success that lay ahead at The Award Ceremony on Friday evening. The first award was collected by Eugenie Kelleher, in the Intermediate Social and Behavioural Sciences Category. Eugenie placed third for her project titled, "An investigation into the effect of Artificial Intelligence Aids on learning achievements, creativity, and innovative thinking in Irish secondary school students". The triumph was far from over though, a project titled, "I can't wait for the bypass!"- An investigation into whether the N22 Baile Bhuirne-Macroom bypass really benefits the locals of Macroom. " by Leah Bradley, Tara Lane and Ellie Walsh, scooped a special award. The Eflow S.T.A.R. award.

Last but certainly not least, Amy McCullagh and Ella White brought home a highly commended award for their project, “Wilder farms-An investigation into farmers attitudes towards rewilding and reforestation of farmland in Ireland”.

On Saturday evening, as we made our way home via train, high spirits flooded the carriage. There is no doubt that all the girls have made life long memories to sustain us for a long time to come. The future of Ireland is very bright with such vivacious young minds among us and St.Mary’s fate is glistening as radiant as ever. Who knows what lies ahead next year? Till then!

Ella Healy.

The Results are in; The Election of This Year’s Student Council 23/24.

As a new academic school semester dawned, the students of St.Mary’s Secondary School Macroom took to the polls to elect this year’s Student Council Representatives. The role of Student Council Representative, is a prestigious and diligent role. Electives represent their class group in Weekly meetings held every Tuesday in the Kitchen. Student Council members generously donate their time and energy to collaborate with St.Mary’s Staff and Parent’s Association to produce innovative new ideas and plans to benefit all of the St.Mary’s School community.



The Council’s hardwork and dedication can already be seen throughout the school, they organised a very successful Christmas quiz and entertainment acts for Trishmas Day and collected a generous sum to donate to the highly deserving charity, Cork Penny Dinners. If that amount of work did not already make you tired by the sound of it, third year member Kayla Casey attended a Comhairle Na Nóg meeting; the theme of which was “ The Empowerment of Women”. The Student Council have also bravely taken on the task of designing a new school jacket, much to the delight of students. A questionnaire has been distributed to all parents and students, to gather their views and opinions on design features. We hope the Council enjoys the fruits of their labour and wish the girls the best of luck with all their future endeavours. We would also like to express our gratitude to all representatives for their hard work, especially to Ms. O’Donovan, who mentors and works alongside the girls each week, it would not be possible without her support. Congratulations to all the girls who were elected, they will be listed below:

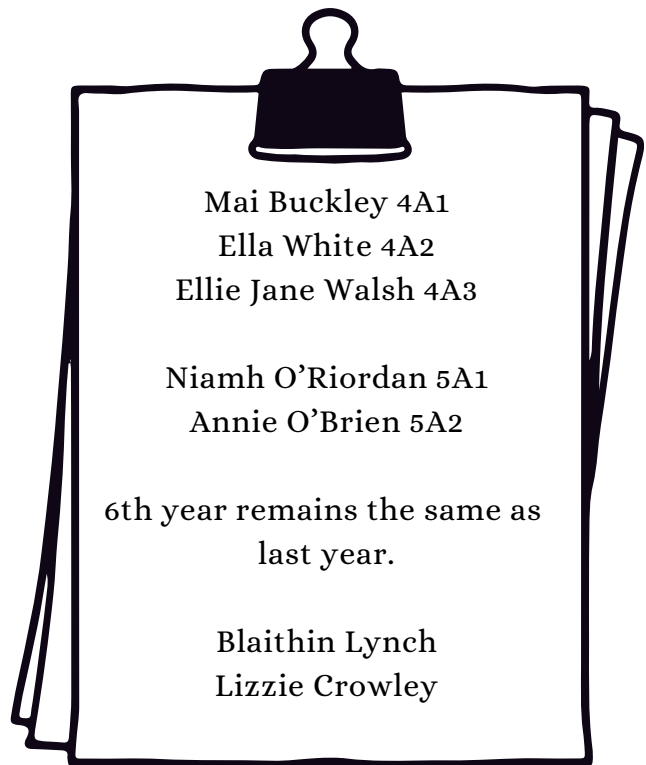


Student Council- 2023/2024

Niamh Lehane 1A1
Chloe O'Shea 1A2
Aoife O'Connor 1A3

Chloe Galvin 2A1
Ruby Prendeville 2A2
Realtin Walsh 2A3

Kayla Casey 3A1
Emily Mehigan 3A2
Ellen O'Shea 3A3



Mai Buckley 4A1
Ella White 4A2
Ellie Jane Walsh 4A3

Niamh O'Riordan 5A1
Annie O'Brien 5A2

6th year remains the same as
last year.

Blaithin Lynch
Lizzie Crowley

Claire Dromey

History and Horticulture; An Exclusive Interview with Mr. Galvin. Interview Part 2: Mr. Galvin's Memoirs.

Mr Galvin has a big interest in and a lot of knowledge of Irish history. He especially knows local history from Co.Cork, which there is an abundance of, and has even written an article for a local historical society. When we asked Mr Galvin to share his favourite local history story, he found it impossible to choose one, telling us about the rogue English soldier who escaped the ambush site and got as far as Annahala before being found and shot, the two Hills brothers turned enemies during the Civil War,

the founding of the West Cork Flying Columns in Kilnadur National School. As well as the two school girls who heard about the Kilmichael ambush so went up above Haremount and saw Tom Barry throw the bomb at the English crossley tenders and of sixteen year old Pat Deasy who had followed the IRB without permission and was shot by the Tans. It seemed that the stories he found the most fascinating were those of the background of major historical events like the Kilmichael Ambush, of the aftermath, and of all the stories of unimaginable events from locals that surfaced and were a result of these events.



Photo Credit: RTÉ

Although all the stories were interesting, especially for someone who lives so close to the Kilmichael Ambush site, the story we found most interesting was the one that concerned Mr Galvin's very own grandfather, Timmy Murray, who was only a small boy when the Kilmichael ambush took place.

The Kilmichael ambush took place on the 28th of November, 1920, where members of the West Cork Flying Columns ambushed the Black and Tans as they were driving from Macroom town to Kilmichael. Tom Barry, wearing an old British military uniform, stopped the trucks before throwing the bomb he had behind his back at the first truck. What followed was also not very pretty as three Irish soldiers died that day, along with seventeen English. From this event came an abundance of tales from all the residents of Kilmichael, including Mr Galvin's very own grandfather, who lived very close to the ambush site at the time.

On the day of the ambush, all the locals who lived nearby had been told of the events about to take place beforehand and warned to stay away from the scene for the day.

But Timmy decided to, in the aftermath, go to the site to try to catch rabbits. There, he found the deceased English soldiers as well as the bullet casings from the bullets shot, which he put in his pocket. A strange keepsake in my opinion, but why not. Later on, the English came back to get their revenge for their fallen soldiers through the people surrounding the ambush site. First, they burnt down the Kelly house. Then, the Donoghue house. Lastly, they came to Murray's own house. His grandmother, recently a widow, begged the Black and Tans not to burn down the house. Eventually, the men gave in and left them in peace. All the while, Timmy was standing there, hands in pockets, rattling the very bullet casings he took from the ambush. To think of what might have happened if a singular casing fell on the ground, or if one of the soldiers told him to turn out his pockets. If he had been found out who knows what could have happened to him and his grandmother.

This is just one example of the inconceivable stories that are all from our own community that we just don't know about. It is so important to keep these stories alive and to pass them down to the next generation, so they're not forgotten in fifty years. This is a sentiment Mr Galvin shares and he is forever telling students about fascinating stories so as to keep these stories alive and to make sure memories are not forgotten. He strongly believes that all these stories should be written down and recorded, sooner rather than later, to avoid them fading from memory forever.

Breast Cancer Awareness Day at St.Mary's Macroom.

On the 24th of October all TY students participated in a Breast Cancer Awareness Day. This day was organised by the TY Breast Cancer Committee. All students wore pink bringing colour to the hallways of St. Mary's. This day started with Juliette O' Connell, an amazing guest speaker giving all TY students so much more awareness.



The TY Breast Cancer Committee held a bake sale at both break and lunch time selling homemade pink treats, of course to all students. This day raised a large sum for Breast Cancer Ireland. Thanks to all the people who made this day possible.

Maeve Twohig.

Congratulations to the Intermediate Camogie Champions.



Overall, it has to be said, our camogie team led quite a successful season this term. Our first match, part of the Junior (U16.5) category, was at home, against Castleroy. Showcasing the training the girls had done prior to the game, it was certainly a great success, finishing with 4:15 to 1:05, so congratulations girls!

However in our second match, which was a semi-final (at home) , we were not as lucky and unfortunately lost to St Als. It was a very close game that went to extra time, sadly ending in a 2 goal defeat. The final score being 3:8 to 5:8.

This resulted in our junior team's journey coming to an end this year.

Thankfully we had more luck in the intermediate competition, and came out of it with a trophy in hand. We played the final in Bishopstown against Coláiste Mhuire Buttevant on the eleventh of December 2023. After a tremendous battle in a game that had many twists and turns, St Mary's came out on top by a single score. Topping off a memorable season for the intermediate camogie team.

Although there is not much to say about our senior competition, as we were knocked out after our first match which was away to Glanmire Community College, it was still a big achievement for our girls to be playing in this category for the first time, so well done cailíní.

St.Mary's Fancy Footwork.



We would like to wish a huge congratulations to St.Mary's Football team, who booked their spot in the Junior Munster South Final. After beating St. Aloysius' College in a thrilling match. Well done to the girls for all their hardwork and thank you to all the coaches for their dedication to the team.

Ella Healy.

Enchanting, Edgy and Enigmatic: Ireland's Eurovision Hopeful is a St.Mary's Past Pupil.

It is not everyday of the week that a former student is crowned the country's Eurovision hopeful for 2024. Past pupil Bambie Thug participated in The Late Late Show's national competition in which the public, both a national and international jury selected this year's Irish Eurovision representative. As the clear winner of this competition, Bambie will go on to perform in Malmo, Sweden in May.



Mind Puzzle of the Edition

Can you list all the previous Irish Eurovision winners?

