

a multilateral school project
about

SUSTAINABLE
development
&
climate **CHANGE**
in our surroundings

Newsletter

Geschwister Scholl Gymnasium (Waldkirch, Germany)
St Aidans School (Cork, Ireland)
Colegiul Thecnic "Henri Coanda" (Tulcea, Romania)
IES Val Miñor (Nigrán, Spain)

Learning and understanding the cultural heritage
of one's own world and partners', and developing
respect for it by means of presenting the social and
school life of students

Newsletter

GSG-Waldkirch

Carnival at our school

On the February 11th a Carnival-Party took place in our school. Like every year, teachers and pupils celebrate together the famous „Fasnet“ on the „Schmutzige Dunnschdig“, the „Dirty Thursday“, the first day of the Carnival in Waldkirch. The Big Band from our school walks through the classrooms to rescue the pupils from the lessons, playing the traditional carnival-music. After that all the pupils and teachers meet in the assembly-hall and celebrate together. But this year it was different in comparison to the last years. This year the organisers decorated different rooms according to different topics and music styles, like beat-music. There also made some students of our school music in a band, you could get something to eat and drink and just spend a few hours in a carnivalesque atmosphere.



The Geschwister-Scholl-days

(Geschwister-Scholl-Days)

Sophie Scholl, Hans and Sophie Scholl, the namesake of our school, were on 22 February 1943 sentenced to death, along with Christoph Probst. They were members of the White Rose, a resistance movement against the Nazis in the Third Reich. They were caught as a tract against the Nazis in the University of Munich distributed.



Therefore, they were sentenced to death, so on 22 February 2010 at our school for all students and teachers, a memorial service was held. All gathered in the schoolyard and Mr. Brown made a short speech in which he conveyed that the Scholl siblings have shown us that we should do something rather than ignoring it, even if you're not successful.

As part of the Geschwister-Scholl-day it was in our school and an exhibition about resistant fighters in our region. The students learned how resistant has been done and there were people present who had suffered under the Nazis too.

ST AIDAN'S CORK COMENIUS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009/2010



November /December is always a busy time in St. Aidans. This November / December was no exception. All 750 students sat house exams the 1st week of December. This means no classes but full days of exams. Everyone was working and studying hard to get the best results.



Doodle for Google Competition:

Both Megan Punch and Veronika Hornowska first year students at St. Aidan's Community College, have made it to the regional finals of the Doodle4Google art competition. The two budding artists have received certificates of achievement. This prestigious art competition asks students to create their own doodle logo for the google search engine page. This year's theme was 'My Future' and students were asked to think big and dream big with their designs. The winning student will have their doodle appear on the Google Ireland homepage for 24 hours and will receive a €10,000 technology grant for their school. The finalists designs will go to a public vote soon. St. Aidan's want to wish the girls the best of luck with the finals of the competition!



Above: Eimear and Alison with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at the SHARE Christmas collection which takes place this time every year to raise funds to build homes for the elderly. Eimear was in Romania and stayed with Laura whom she also hosted in Ireland.

Its not all hard work though as our final day of the school term sees the students entertain the teaching staff with a traditional Christmas Variety Concert. This is a much anticipated event and this years concert was no exception. Pictured on the right is Andrew (a keen guitar player) who went to Romania on the Comenius trip last May .

My name is Andrew Horgan and I'm in Third-Year. I was in Romania with Comenius and stayed with Serin Fora. Back home in Ireland, I hosted the same boy. I've been involved with the Guitar Club every Friday after school and we have played in many of the school concerts. Right now, I'm busy with my studies as I am preparing for a state exam called the Junior Certificate which students in Ireland sit around the age of fifteen. I have many hobbies and interests including playing tennis and soccer, playing rugby, playing guitar, listening to music and reading. I really enjoyed being part of the Project as it was a great experience and visiting Romania was a once in a lifetime opportunity.



Hello! My name Is Aine O'Donnell and I hosted Marta Canella from Spain when the Comenius project came to Ireland. I am going to stay with Marta when we travel to Spain in May. Over the past few weeks, I have been on work experience. This is when we, in Transition Year, go out to work in different places to know how it feels to work. I went to my Karate club for the two weeks. While there, I helped to train the classes, visited schools to tell them about the club and even made two short films. The Club is now on Youtube for the whole world to see. What I liked best about the work experience was making the films; that was really fun. I got to do some stunts and some new tricks I can't wait to see everybody



ST. AIDANS PRESTIGIOUS PARTNERSHIP WITH WORLD RENOWNED COMPANY

Transition year students from Class Brid had several days to remember these past weeks thanks to their involvement in the Schools Business Partnership (SBP) programme. The programme matches a school with a large local business and facilitates various work and career related activities throughout the academic year. These include; a site visit, 'A Day in the Life' talk by employees of the company, CV workshops, practice interviews and advice on interview skills. St. Aidans' highly prestigious partnership with IBM Tivoli is now in its second year and is proving to be a tremendous learning experience for the thirty students of Class Brid who are enthusiastically participating in the project. The class paid a special visit to IBM facility at the Cork Airport Business Park some weeks back to gain an insight into the workings of this world class company and were treated to a wonderfully enriching and educational programme of events. Members of the IBM HR department visited St. Aidans in early March to provide advice on interview preparation and job search skills and practice interviews with the students will be conducted shortly. such a success.

Hi, I'm Claire Twohig and, like Andrew, I'm in Junior Cert Year. I also went to Romania and stayed with Alexandra Neidy. During this school year, I have been involved with the Basketball team. We won many matches and made it all the way to an All-Ireland Semi-Final. Sadly, we lost, but we had put in a supreme effort. I love Basketball and swimming. I also like to watch rugby and soccer. I play the violin and attend weekly lessons. I have often played violin with Edel on school occasions. I really enjoyed going to Romania because I learned a lot about a different culture and lifestyle.



SCHOOL NEWS

Our theatre troupe presented another play, "With the Gypsy Girls", after a short story written by Mircea Eliade.



*Christmas is coming, gifts were gathered in the school for the orphans from Sambata Noua Day C



* Our football team won the schools' championship. So, we have the best footb



ST. NICHOLAS

In the night of 5 / 6 December St. Nicholas is coming through the window and, if the sleeping children had a good behaviour, he let them in the boots sweets and other gifts. But also he punishes the lazy and disobedient. In the morning of St. Nicholas, children find gifts in their boots. It's a habit, not only in Romania, to make gifts in this day.

Unlike Santa Clause, St. Nicholas does not show his face and nobody can see him...

IGNAT

On December 20, we celebrate Ignat, the sacrifice of the pigs.

It is an old Roman habit which proves the origin of name Ignat: derived from *ignis*, meaning fire. Pig is an embodiment of the spirit of harvest and the sacrifice had at origins a fertilization function, the enhancement of plenty.

At the Roman *Saturnalia*, the pig was dedicated to goddess Ops, wife of Saturn. An antique wrote: "This pig, feed with acorns between feral pigs will make you spend good Saturnalia".

After the slaughter, a cross is made on the pig's head, because it's the only way for the soul to leave the body. The ritual cutting must be done with no mercy, otherwise the pig will die hard and the meat won't have a good taste.



New Year: Beliefs and Superstitions

The last night of the year... It's a magic night, a mystery time with powerful implications in our lives. Like any other important event in everyone's life, the last night of the year is associated with a big number of beliefs and superstitions. Here are some of them:

- * empty pockets and empty cups of the New Year will bring a poor year;
- * first person who comes into your house can still influence the following year. Ideal is that first came to be dark-haired, tall, handsome and would be good to bring small gifts such as a penny silver, a bit of bread, a green sprig and some salt. Blonde and redhead bring bad luck and women should dispel before she brings bad luck in the house.
- * it is bad luck to let a fire lit out for New Year's Eve;
- * if you make as much noise in the passage of years scare evil spirits to be removed from your house;
- * children born in the New Year bring good luck and prosperity in the house;
- * as for money, it is not good to give money in the first day of the year because it will ensure that you do the same for the next 12 months;
- * it is recommended to wear new clothes from January 1 to get more clothes next year;
- * better to not throw away anything from the house in the first day of the year, not even garbage. If you make gifts, make sure they leave in the day of December 31;
- * at midnight all the doors should be left open to let the old year leave the place.

New Year's Eve

"Plugusorul" ("The Plough") and "Sorcova" (bunches of artificial flowers that children hold

while they make greetings for the New Year), dances of anthropomorphous and zoomorphous masks are the most widely spread popular traditions for the New Year. Gathered together

in processions of goats, dears, horses, bears, etc., people wearing these masks walk the village paths in the sound of bells, whistles and drums, in the eve of the New Year and remind of the Bacchus festivals in antiquity.



