



The Belvedere News



John Lane R.I.P.



“What life means to us is determined not so much by what life brings us as by the attitude we bring to life; not so much by what happens to us as by our reaction to what happens.” *(Lewis Dunnington)*

We mourn with John's family, Mairéad, Padraic, Ciarán, Eoghan, Áine and Donal. They have shown remarkable fortitude and faith in the face of such tragedy. John's reaction to life was inspirational, entertaining, engaging and memorable. Fr. Culliton's S.J. funeral homily captured John's joy, his playfulness, his sheer enthusiasm for life, and yet it did not shirk the profound sense of grief. The mixture of laughter and tears in the church was a reflection of a whole community shocked by John's sudden death, hardly able to believe that our friend and colleague, this big man and larger than life character, had left us. A full obituary will feature in the Belvederian. May he rest in peace.

The Francis Xavier Mass on Thursday November 30th was dedicated to John. It was a fitting tribute, with music that helped all to enter the sacred space. The day that followed, celebrating the college as a Jesuit centre of learning 500 years after the birth of Francis Xavier, was an event towards which John made a significant contribution as a member of the planning committee. Art work, including John's, gave expression to not only talent, but faith, finding new

expression in contemporary iconography.

There were many workshops, as well as some fun events, which were presented by students for the student body. In addition to the familiar, Taize, Calcutta, Sleep-Out, Camino and Lourdes presentations, there were new experiences like Salsa, Inter-Jesuit College debates, French & Maths Quiz, an Irish Treasure Trail, Joyce Tour, Joint Choir with Stanhope Street, and much more. (Details and photographs on the website) Mr. Finegan did an excellent job of managing the logistics of organising over thirty workshops of varying lengths for a student body of 870. There will no doubt be a feature on it in the future, but it was a fantastic day and the students and staff deserve great praise for the quality and variety of activities. The core purpose was to reflect on the many different social justice and faith development opportunities in the college.

The vibrancy of the parent body and Past Pupil Association is also evident and contributes greatly to the life of the Belvedere family. The opening of the new extension to Belvedere Social Services, the Parents' talks, Careers Evening,



John Lane R.I.P.

Carol Service, the Ball and Past Pupil Union Dinner, all show outstanding dedication to furthering the college mission.

Christmas is wonderful. Rather than obsess about materialism, do something about it and celebrate. It can also be a very difficult time and a time for our active support of the vulnerable. The young men on the Sleep-Out and Fast will hopefully take the experience with them throughout their life and be men for others. Our prayers are also with Donal O' Flynn, Stephen Clusky and Geoff Harte, all living with the daily challenge of disability.

This Newsletter is a wonderful example of parental commitment to the college. The Parents' Association and the editors, Tom Shanahan and Feargal Kinsella, are to be congratulated for all their hard work. I hope you enjoy this and take time to peruse it in the busy time over Christmas.

*Gerry Foley, Headmaster.
A.M.D.G.*

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Belvedere Beat

What's happening in Great Denmark Street?

Athletics & Cross Country Report – Oct. 2006

Over the Summer months, Laughlin Campion, Luke Mangan and C.J. Barry had the honour of competing for Ireland in the under age Internationals. Congratulations are due to them. In September, Ben Geraghty (1SA) won the Leinster Schools Junior multi-event championship (Mini Decathlon). Cormac Ryan (P.A.) won two silver medals in field events at the All Ireland C.P.I. games in Irishtown.

At the one and half mile time trials held in Irishtown in early October we had very good runs from Declan D. Moran and Paul Breslin. So far two Leinster league races have been held in St. Benildas College (Kilmacud) and the Phoenix Park (remember the very wet Wednesday!!). The Minors are finding their feet with Jack McCaffrey (IGL) finishing fifteenth, to be our top man so far. In the Junior age group, Conor

Cavanagh (3SF), Peter Kane (3SA) and Robert Ranson (3SF) were very consistent. With our 1S pupils out on work experience it was up to the 2S boys to fly the flag in the Intermediate age group. Jayne Rossiter (2SA), Cian Shanahan (2SL) Conor White-Gibson (2SL) and David Murphy are doing just that, learning and improving with each race. I am confident that after mid-term the Intermediate team will be a good squad with the older boys

coming back into it. Competitions which took place during the first term were:

- 15th November – Irishtown
- 22nd November – Gormanstown College
- 6th December – St Paul's Raheny.

Congratulations are in order to members of staff who ran the Dublin City Marathon for various charities; Fionbarr O'Brien, Andrew Wood and Jan Weheymer.

Philip Conway

Outstanding play by Belvedere basketball teams

What a start to the basketball season! We've won 2 out of 4 of the U19 games and 1 from 1 of the U16s. Phenomenal when you consider that we're competing in the top division against other schools.

The season tipped off with the u19s in an away cup match to a very strong Dungannon side. The game was tight throughout with Belvedere working hard to maintain a 4 to 5 point lead for most of the game. Adam Flynn had a fantastic game scoring some vital baskets and helping our stand-in coach Ms. Dolan with the coaching of the team. Cian Quinn was in fine form all day and racked up a nice tally in the first half of the game before the Dungannon lads put the squeeze on him. With the shot clock running down, we were forced to go for a long 3-pointer and, with the ball in the air their coach exclaimed "well if *that* goes in" – well it did and then we began to believe! Flynn deserves huge credit for winning the MVP (Most Valuable Player) award – that's a fantastic achievement for a 15 year old in a 19s game. David Dolan gets the "Trinny and Suzanna award" for wearing two different Gaelic football socks – a deliberate ploy no doubt to distract the opposition!

Game number 2 was another 19s cup game – this time the opposition was provided by St Fintan's of Sutton. Fintans are a vastly experienced side boasting 3 Irish u18 internationals with Keith Anderton being the youngest player currently in the National SuperLeague. This game received a full page write-up in the Evening Herald and although the game finished 42-79 to Fintans the reporter was very complimentary to an outclassed Belvedere team who fought bravely and maintained their discipline until the end. Top scorers for Belvo were David Rennie on 12, Adam Flynn with 9 and Yevgeney Abramov on 7. To paraphrase Sean Boylan, a former Belvederian from a different code, "there's no shame in defeat but there is shame in not fighting until the end".

The third game of the season for the 19s was a league fixture against a strong Kings Hospital. Belvedere, to their great credit, used some of the lessons learned in the cup exit to Fintans and we won this game by a slim margin of 5 points.

The first game of the season for the u16s was against St. Benildus College and went right down to the wire, with Belvedere emerging triumphant. Hard working coach Debbie Flynn

(who was celebrating her birthday) was thrilled with the performance and the outcome of this game - "This was a very hard fought game. The A league is a much tougher league to compete in than we've been used to. This was a great match to win, a great achievement by the lads, even if it was only one game. It will give us great encouragement for the upcoming games". A nice birthday present for Debbie too!

The 19s game against St. Benildus was a bit of a come down for the squad. Belvedere, drawing on smaller player numbers, were missing one or two important players and have



a few of the U16s in the 19s squad. Playing two games back-to-back turned out to be too big a demand on the dual players. It was a pity we weren't in a position to be more competitive as there is a good rivalry between opposing coaches who are clubmates in St. Vincent's Glasnevin. A win here would have been the icing on Debbie's birthday cake but hey, at least we got the cake and I for one, am not that fond of icing!!

Richard Quinn

Table Tennis

This year there has been a big attendance every week at the Table Tennis Club. This takes place every Monday after school. We now have four top-quality tables and three passable ones - thanks to the generosity of families who have donated tables to us.

We have entered four teams in the national Table Tennis leagues and cups. We wish them all good luck. We will keep you posted about their progress. But

the club is really for the many students who turn up every Monday to play singles and doubles just for fun. It's a growing sport in the college with a bright future.

Congratulations to Andy Holohan and his team who made it to the Under 18 Leinster League final last season - only to lose to St John's of Ballyfermot. Maybe they'll win this year!

Lifesaving

We're delighted to report that over 40 1st years are doing Lifesaving this term and they are all enjoying the experience. So far we have had 5 Distinctions this year which is the highest award in Lifesaving.

In the All Ireland in Belfast this October Kevin Mulhair and Killian Spain were 1st in the Senior Boys and James Dempsey and Conor Saunders were third. In the Junior Boys, Ronan Spain and Johnathan Butler were 1st, while Daniel Murphy and Rory Nevin came in 4th. There was a super result also for Stefan Reid who was placed 5th in the Men's Singles.

Bro Eamonn Davis also accompanied 10 of Belvedere's best to the British Open Championships in Sheffield on 11th November. A whopping 4 gold medals each was won by Kevin Mulhair, Cillian Spain, Ronan Spain and Jonathan Butler. This was an unbelievable result and we are overjoyed for their success.

Well done also to James Dempsey and Stefan Reid who won a gold and a bronze each. Who would believe that Ireland would win overall Gold for the second year running? We must congratulate everyone involved and keep up the good work for next year.

Weekly training for Lifesaving takes place every Monday and Wednesday after school. The best thing of all is the number of older boys teaching at these sessions. It is very encouraging and great to watch our students giving something back to the sport and also to the younger kids. The atmosphere is terrific each week, with a great buzz in the air.

Results in the Irish Regional Lifesaving Championships

Competition held on the 8th October 2006 at the Grove Swim Centre, Belfast

- Junior Boys: 1st Jonathan Butler, Ronán Spain
- 4th Daniel Murphy, Rory Nevin

- Senior Boys: 1st Kevin Mulhair, Cillian Spain
- 3rd James Dempsey, Conor Saunders
- Individual Men: 4th Stefan Reid

Congratulations and well done to all our swimmers. The winners represented Ireland at the British RLSS Lifesavers Championships at Pond's Forge, Sheffield, on the 11th Nov. 2006

Mountbatten and Paddy O'Byrne Open Water Competitions

Open Water Competition held on the 10th September on Claremont beach, Howth involving teams from 32 Counties of Ireland, involving the Howth Coast Guard and sponsored by Coca Cola

The winning team included Kevin Mulhair, (Poetry Loyola), and Eamonn O' Brien, (OB '99), seen here being presented with both the Mountbatten & the Paddy O'Byrne trophies by Margaret Caulfield, President of "Lifesavers" Ireland Belvedere 'A' (Stefan Reid, Conor Saunders, & James Dempsey) finished in second place. On behalf of all the boys we would like to extend a special word of thanks to Bro. Eamonn Davis who works tirelessly with the boys training them to a very high standard for Competition and Lifesavers Awards. and without whom all of this would not be possible. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Contributed by Noel and Sheila Mulhair (parents)



Rugby Report

On behalf of all involved in games and sports in the school we extend our deepest condolences to the family of our colleague and friend John Lane, who has contributed mightily in so many areas and had a huge impact on Rugby in the school. A minute's silence was observed before the most recent matches played by the school, at under 13, Junior and Senior Level.

• **Under 13:** The coaches are pleased with the efforts being put in by all the players this year. HUGE numbers means that we can field up to 7 teams! Whilst only one school can match us with these numbers every player has experienced match play against other school teams or through practice matches. Participation has been massive, with large numbers out for training or practice matches every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Most recently there were 5 teams fielded against Blackrock. Before these matches a minute's silence was observed out of respect for John Lane who was involved with coaching in the school for 29 years. All players wore black armbands. It was a moving sight seeing five teams from both schools observing the silence.

• **Under 14:** A large number of players came through from last year's under 13s and have proved to be a very successful group. Participation remains high and the skill levels are improving through practice. Four teams were recently fielded against Blackrock.

• **Under 15 (Juniors):** These players have gelled together very well and are putting together a successful and enjoyable season. Coaches are delighted with the progress made by all squad members. We recently fielded 4 teams away to Clongowes.

• **Under 16:** This group have been continuing their development through varied clinics and squad sessions. Teams are currently involved in Under 16 A and B competitions.

• **Seniors:** Panel 1 and Panel 2 are in great shape with large numbers turning out for every session. Panel 1 is taking shape with the squad starting to take on a settled and productive look. A tough match against RBAI resulted in a convincing win followed with equally rewarding results against Blackrock (1st team result 18:18, 2nd team result 32:0)

Contributed by Andy Woods



South African Trip – Restoring Hope



Less than 48 hours after the issuing of the 2006 Leaving Cert results, 18 fellow ex-Belvederians and I were gathered in the departure hall of Dublin airport, en route to South Africa. 30 hours later we arrived in Matatiele, 240 km south west of Durban – our home for the following two weeks.

Why? Our quest, working as volunteers with the charity 'Friends of Ireland', was to convert a rundown religious

mission site into an orphanage for local children suffering from HIV/AIDS. The project entailed the construction of shower/washing facilities, replacement of existing clay floors with cement and, finally, the repainting of all internal and external walls.

Day 1: We travelled nearly 40km to the project site and were treated to an incredibly warm Mass and celebration, followed by our initial site inspection.

Daily routine: For the next two weeks we woke up not long after sunrise. The morning temperatures were surprisingly low, the electrical heater my best friend! We arrived on site usually before 9am and began work right away. There, to help and direct us, were skilled locals with whom we made great friends. Local people often stopped by either to help or simply to watch.

From Day 1, when foreman Robert allocated us to specific jobs, I was officially made 'a painter'. However, throughout the time on site, I got involved in every aspect of work, including thatching a hut, digging a run-off hole for the septic tank, chopping trees and mixing cement. The latter process required about ten lads with shovels, wheelbarrows of rocks and sand, cement mix and countless buckets of water. Seriously tough work! This might give you an idea of the effort that all nineteen lads gladly undertook.

I am exceptionally proud to say that not only did we meet our target, but as a result of the determined, spirited and selfless work put in by every member of the group, we surpassed it.

People always say that there is no greater satisfaction than seeing your own work develop from nothing into something. As noted by the American psychiatrist, Theodore L. Rubin, '*Happiness does not come from doing easy work but from the afterglow of satisfaction that comes after the achievement of a difficult task that demanded our best*'. Each day went by so quickly that it was difficult to fully appreciate the progress we'd made. Only on the final day, when it was hard to believe it was all over, could we step back and observe the product of our hours of diligent work.

I realised that we had built not only a home for orphans but also their hopes of a better future.

David Sheridan

Drama

Aladdin

Based on the screenplay by Walt Disney

One of the most eagerly anticipated events in the Belvedere calendar is the junior musical production held over the October Bank Holiday weekend. This is the first occasion on which the new 1st years get the opportunity to show off their musical and dramatic talents to public display, assisted by their more experienced 2nd year colleagues.

Once again, this production of "Aladdin" enthralled the audiences over the 3 nights it was played. In conjunction with the girls from Loreto College, the boys put on a dazzling display of song, dance and convincing acting. Based on the Walt Disney screenplay of Aladdin and featuring some of the songs made well known by the movie, the production was energetic, colourful and snappy.

All of the leads were top class. Aladdin was played by Rob Malone and Kitty McDonagh was a very convincing Princess Jasmine. All of the other leads, too numerous to mention here, were excellent, displaying great musical talent and no little humour throughout their performances.

Congratulations to Gerry Haugh and his production team of Catherine Keogh and Louise Curtin who were responsible for this wonderful production. Special praise also goes to the stage managers, supervisors, and crew and the boys who worked on lighting and props. Their great efforts behind the scenes ensured that we were convincingly transported to the kingdom of Agrabah-flying carpets and all!

Tom Shanahan – On behalf of the Belvedere Parents' Association



Maths Contests



Belvedere College is the only school in Ireland which offers to its students the opportunity to take part in seven national and international Mathematics contests. They are:

AMC 8 (American Maths Contest): Tuesday 14 November 2006

This is for students up to Grade 8 (Second Year). First & 2nd Year students have been training early every Monday morning to prepare for this contest. 200 Belvedere students will be offered the opportunity to take

part. They joined a quarter of a million students around the world who participated that day.

Irish Junior Maths Contest: February 2007

This is for any students in First Year in Ireland. Up to 10,000 students take part. Those who do well qualify for the final to be held later in St Andrew's College. Three Belvederians, Tommy McGimpsey, Michael O'Rourke and Paul Coughlan, have been winners of the final in previous years. All Belvedere students in first year will take part.

AMC 12: Tuesday 6 February 2007

This is for students up to Grade 12 (Sixth Year). 60 Belvedere students will be offered the opportunity to take part from all years. The 'School Score' is the sum of the scores of the top three students. Students who score over 100 points (out of a maximum 150) qualify for the AIME (American Invitational Maths Exam).

AIME: Tuesday 13 March 2007

This is for students who get a

score of 100 or more in the AMC 12. Usually only two or three students get through. It is a gruelling three-hour test with some really testing questions.

Cayley Contest: February 2007

This is for students up to Grade 10 (Fourth Year). All TY Belvedere students will be offered the opportunity to take part. The contest is part of the TY Maths programme. There are prizes for winners on Graduation Day.

Gauss Contest: 16 May 2007

This is for students up to Grade 7 (First Year) and Grade 8 (Second Year). All second year students and about 50 first year students from Belvedere take part. As in all competitions, the school will hold a prize-giving ceremony for those who do well.

International Maths Olympics: Summer 2007 in Vietnam (2008 in Spain and 2009 in Germany)

This is for the top six students in Ireland. Training takes place in Maynooth University and in UCD after Christmas. So far, four Belvedere students have

represented Ireland:

- Finian Raftery (1988)
- Simon O'Callaghan (1993)
- Kevin Colgan (2005)
- Stephen Ryan (2005 and 2006)

Students who wish to prepare for contests can take the following steps:

- Visit the school library where there is a special section dedicated to Maths contest books.
- Go to Mr Murphy's training sessions or the Olympic Training sessions in Maynooth
- Get past papers from your teacher and try them out
- Visit the website www.unl.edu which is for the AMC
- Visit the website www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca which is for the Cayley and Gauss contests
- Visit Oliver Murphy's website www.discoveringmaths.com which has information on maths contests and how Belvedere students have done in the past.

Oliver Murphy

Peer Alcohol Educators' Report

This initiative, led by Mr. Gerard O'Sullivan, was first started in Belvedere College last year as a Transition Year project. We were one of the few schools chosen by the Dublin Lions Club to participate in a pilot project, which was aimed at teaching young Dublin teenagers to develop responsible attitudes towards alcohol, taught to them by their peers. All interested TY students were asked to write an application letter and from the responses a team of ten was chosen (Kevin Mulhair, Francis Keeling, Jack Sheehan, Cathal J. Barry, Micheal Murphy, Conor Hussy, Kevin Phelan, Tom Sexton and myself, Dónal Murphy). We attended six training sessions after school in preparation for our role as peer educators. During these sessions we completed some team bonding exercises, learnt about being a peer educator and finally prepared to teach our lessons. Ms. Broderick allowed us to work with her first year class for two periods over

consecutive weeks. During these class sessions we taught the younger boys about the dangers of alcohol and the responsibilities that come with it. We found this to be extremely successful, with the first years giving us some exceptionally positive feedback. We drafted a questionnaire and from the boys' responses we discovered how the lessons went and what we could do in the future to improve. The project was extremely good fun to participate in and at the same time allowed us to give something back to the school. We also learnt a lot ourselves. Recently we were invited to a reception in the Mansion House hosted by the Lord Mayor in order to formally recognise our participation in the project. To mark the occasion we were presented with a certificate for the school. The ceremony was followed by a very enjoyable dinner in Milanos restaurant with the other participating schools and senior members of

the Dublin and Irish Lions Club. The Peer-Alcohol Educator programme is a very worthwhile initiative, from which we all benefited enormously, and I would encourage any student to get involved if possible. The Peer Alcohol Educators team would like to thank most sincerely Mr O' Sullivan and all other staff



members who supported us and contributed to the success of this project.

Dónal Murphy Poetry Kenny



The college will present
A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM
 by Stephen Sondheim

In the O'Reilly Theatre from
Wednesday 3rd to Monday 8th January 2007.
Admission €10

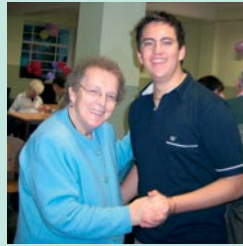
A downloadable Booking Form is available on the "College Productions" section of the College Website.

...Something Appealing, something appalling, something for everyone...

St Vincent de Paul



Once again October was a very busy month for all our volunteers. On Saturday 21st October we had our annual party for the elderly and lonely in the local area with full Christmas dinner in the Belvedere Ref followed by music, dancing and singing.



It was the highlight of the year for many local residents who look forward to the day with great anticipation. Many of them now know the boys quite well as they receive weekly visits from them and they love the chance to chat and spend time in the company of others.

The flat decoration weekend started on the 28th October and finished 31st October. Many flats were given a refurbishment and thanks to all those who gave up their weekend to get involved.



In keeping with last year's pattern a soccer mini marathon took place on 1st November. Despite a smaller than expected attendance the day was a good success.

For the first time, a disco was organised on behalf of the V de P. It was specifically for 2nd years and took place on 27th October in Angelsea Road. Everyone had a super night. It was supervised by 10 parents and 10 6th years whose supervision on the night was invaluable.

Special Bumper Collection

This year's President of the Vincent de Paul, Manuel Cornejo, and Br Eamonn Davis S.J. would like to thank all of those who contributed to our special bumper collection, which was held on the 7th of December.

John O'Connor & Guests Piano Recital!



O'Reilly Theatre Belvedere College
10th May 2007, 8 pm

We are delighted to announce that the world renowned pianist John O'Connor (OB 1966) will be performing in the O'Reilly Hall on the above date.

John needs no introduction to music lovers and has promised a varied and entertaining musical evening.

It is hoped that he will be joined by some musical friends who will perform some pieces on their own as well as joining John in what we assure you will be a memorable occasion.

Tickets will be on sale at €40 from the Parents Association or through the College outlets and will be limited to 450 people. Make sure you are there

Diary of A Transition year student

Vienna 6th-20th October 2006

Introduction

Surprisingly, despite Austria being a European country, I found it very different from Ireland. The family I stayed with, for example, often paid visits to the art gallery and the opera, which we also did during our visit. Austrians are more organised than the Irish and maybe a little more punctual too. For example the transport we used ran on time and the buses and trains were clean even though animals were allowed onto them. People were trusted to pay their fare and they did. We covered a lot in our two weeks. Here are some of the highlights...

The Opera

Prior to attending the opera, we had a tour of the opera house. Although the Opera was quite a regular outing for my host family, it was my first trip to the opera and a brand new cultural experience for me. I found it interesting and enjoyed the music but found it quite long drawn out. It was incredibly formal, any moving of your chair, for example, was considered very bad manners. There was a big difference in the cost of going to an Opera, it cost a mere €2 for standing room, whereas seats started at €150.

The Prater

We'd great fun on the rides at this fun park. We played some pitch and putt and couldn't resist a go on the bumper cars. Nothing cultural about it, but it was good Austrian fun!

School

I enjoyed the school. I thought it would be harder to make friends because of the language barrier but in fact it was the opposite, the language barrier was a novelty. The school was much bigger than Belvedere and their teaching styles differed from our own, for example, in the English classes the teacher only spoke in English. They were also taught phrases and idioms that native

English speakers would use rather than concentrating on the formal language.

Speaking German

I found it easier than anticipated to talk in German all the time. I had a chance to practice it in shops, with the other students or when ordering food.

Art Gallery

A visit to Belvedere House inspired me to visit the Picasso exhibition in Albertina. To be honest I found it hard work trying to figure out the messages in these abstract paintings, but it was an enjoyable experience all the same.

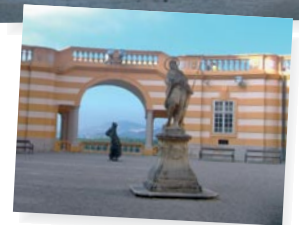
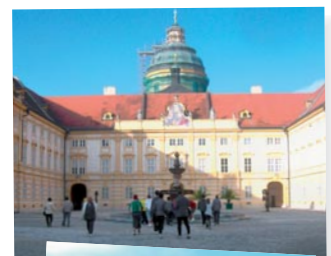
The Cycling Trip

Cycling along the Danube and down past fields, castles, vineyards and small villages was very special. It was a fitness test too because the cycling was tough going although we were pampered at night in the lovely hotels we stayed in. It was also a bit of a break from our host families, nice as they were, it is strange to be with an unfamiliar family 24/7.

Would I recommend the trip?

Yes, definitely. One of the added benefits was that I got to know fellow Belvederians from my own year so much better because we were in each others company so much. So as well as making Austrian friends, I made some Irish ones too!

Cian Quinn



BELVEDERE UNION

REPORT

A Special Year

The year 2006 is a special year for the Jesuits as it marks not only the 450th anniversary of the death of the founder of the Jesuit order - St. Ignatius Loyola but it also marks the 500th year of the birth of St Francis Xavier. He is the patron saint of Belvedere College, so it is also a very special year for the school. A daylong celebration to commemorate his birth was held in the College on 1st Dec 2006 near his feast day, the Union sponsoring some awards on the day.

In addition, a past pupil and former President of the Union, Ivan Hammond has generously donated ground lights to permanently illuminate Belvedere House to mark the occasion and also to mark the departure of the Jesuits from its residence there. The lights will be installed shortly and allow everyone to enjoy the frontage of this fine building.

The Jesuits community moved from Belvedere House at the end of 2005 to take up residence in nearby parish of Gardiner St - St Francis Xavier Church.

A beautiful bound book –containing the Roll of all Jesuits who ever resided in the House – was presented at a special Mass on 19th May, 2006 to the Jesuit Provincial, Fr John Dardis, S.J. by Chairman of the College Board of Management, Paddy McEvoy, in recognition of the Jesuits' contribution since taking up residence in 1847. A special subcommittee has been set up, involving all stakeholders, to decide the future use of Belvedere House, and a Jesuit Identity Committee has been formed to ensure that the Jesuit ethos of “preparing

men for others” will continue in the College even though the Jesuits no longer live “on site”.

I am delighted to congratulate my colleague and outgoing Union President Gerry Walsh on recently being awarded the Papal Knighthood of St Gregory by his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for services over 50 years to Youth work and St Vincent de Paul (Sunshine House).

Cardinal Des Connell, DD – former past pupil and past Union President – presided at the formal investiture in Gerry's local parish church in Foxrock on 4 November in a unique ceremony concelebrated by Bishop Eamonn Walsh, DD and 15 priests in the presence of an attendance of 500, including representatives from Belvedere Youth Club. It was a well-deserved award and brings great honour on Gerry and his former school. The Belvedere Youth Club, itself, continues to thrive and will soon be celebrating its 90th year.

The Annual Summer block pull, Christmas Sleep-out and Graduation Ball continue to raise much needed funds and are worthy of your ongoing support. Without these funds the involvement in social justice and the Union's coordinating role would be seriously curtailed.

Record funding was raised last year and I really admire the pupils who gave up the traditional summer “booze-cruise” to work on various social justice projects, e.g. 15 boys went to South Africa to help build much needed housing. Others joined the Sli Eile Jesuit outreach programme on projects in Zambia and Bogota.

The Union Annual Retreat took place on 10 & 11 March, 2006 in Manresa House under the direction of Fr Colm Lavelle, S.J. who brought his artistic talents to bear in an innovative way of communicating God's message. Next year's retreat is scheduled for the same venue on 2 and 3 March 2007. Places are limited, therefore application forms are only sent to those on the Retreat Mailing List – if you want to be included contact Frank Young – **e-mail: fyoung@iol.ie** – who continues to work hard in organising this popular event.

The Belvedere Social Services continues to provide help for homeless men. In testament to the success of their work, a ceremony will be held on 27th Nov 2006 to mark the opening of the extension to their house for the homeless in 62 Botanic Road. Congratulations to Ivan Hammond and all his team on achieving this landmark.

Members of the Union are also actively involved in St Vincent de Paul work in the area around the College (Brendan Heneghan), in the Lourdes Society (P.J. O'Brien) – sending pupils to help with sick on the Dublin & Oblate September trips to Lourdes, in the Belvedere Benevolent Association (Martin Ryan) helping the past and their families who have fallen on hard times.

The Union also encourages active participation in sport through its associate bodies the Old Belvedere Rugby Football Club, Old Belvedere Cricket Club, and the Old Belvedere Golf Society.

As I write, many congratulations are due to Rugby Club president, Mark Feely, who has just seen his 1st XV win the Leinster Senior Cup for the first time since 1968 by beating much a fancied



Clontarf side by 19 to 16 in Donnybrook on Sunday 12 Nov last. The other sides in the club are also doing well and I wish him well in his ambition to get the Club promoted to the Premier Section of the All Ireland League by the end of this season.

Fintan Synnott reports that as a result of the “Celtic Tiger”, the cricket club is getting many enthusiastic and experienced young Indian recruits. He hopes this will soon be manifested in improved results at all levels. Congratulations to past pupils Tom Prior and David Williams on their election to President and Chairman-Elect of the Irish Cricket Union. Tom's classmate, Kevin O'Riordan, deceased, previously held the office of President but when David takes over the chair in 2008 and 2009 he will be the first Old Belvederian to have held this office.

The Old Belvedere Golfing Society finished an enjoyable year with its Annual Charity Outing at the Royal Dublin Club on Fri 24 November.

The Annual Dinner returned to the Burlington Hotel venue on the earlier date of Fri 13th October, 2006 to avoid the mid

term break – superstitious Friday 13th did not materialise as it was an enjoyable night, if somewhat muted by the absence of some regulars.

Congratulations to Seamus Fearon on winning the Annual Justice award for his long association with St Vincent de Paul and Sunshine House and on his excellent acceptance speech. The Jesuit ethos of being “men for others” is still very much alive among our past. Thanks to Gerard Long and the hard working dinner sub committee for organising the event. Thanks to Gerard also for representing the Union at the recent meeting of Jesuit Alumni in Madrid, Spain. We look forward to his report in due course.

The Ladies committee, under new president, Morna Wilson, continues to provide a much appreciated role in assisting the College and Union at various

events – the most recent being the reception after Annual Mass for deceased on 15 Oct 2006 and that after the Annual Debate on Friday, 10 Nov 2006. The Present team, represented by Liam Murphy/Shane Doherty/Sean Cronin/Ross O'Mahony - in the opinion of the adjudicators – Paddy McEvoy/Tony Prendergast/Philip Hogan - narrowly defeated the Past team, represented by John Fitzgerald/Darragh McGinley/Oran Doyle/Philip Andrews - by opposing the motion “that this house believes war on terrorism will make us safer”. Ronnie O'Callaghan presented his trophy to the winners and congratulated the best speaker on the night, Sean Cronin. Thanks to Vinny Duffy for co-ordinating the Past and to patron Joe Thullier for again organising this most enjoyable evening.

The Ball committee chaired by Mary Duffy are busy making preparations for the Annual Graduation Ball to be held in the Burlington Hotel on Friday, 29th Dec 2006

Put it in your diary - it promises to be a great night!

My colleague, Kevin McGoran, Union President Elect has taken over the chair of the Belvedere Benevolent Association and is preparing for their AGM in late January, 2007. This event is their main source of funds. Please try to attend - (bookings to Martin Ryan) - if you are unavailable perhaps you would consider sending them a donation.

The various activities throughout the year keep the Union President very busy but it does have its rewards – I met Bertie Ahern and Michael McDowell recently at the Gonzaga PPU Annual Dinner although they had more to talk

about than Union affairs!

I look forward to shortly attending the St Mary's, St Michael's and Belfast Royal Academy PPU Annual Dinners and those of Blackrock & Terenure after Christmas

Thank you for electing me as your President for 2006/07 at the AGM on 25th Sept 2006. I am very honoured particularly in light of the calibre of previous holders of the office.

I am very grateful to Kevin McGoran for taking on the role of President Elect.

Finally and most importantly, if anyone has ideas how the Union should proceed particularly how to attract younger people in this age when “volunteer-ism” is dying, I would very much welcome your views

*Pat Feenan,
President, 2006-07*

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E mail pfeenan@eircom.net*

Past v Present DEBATE

The Annual debate between the Past and the Present took place in the lecture hall in the Dargan Moloney Building on Friday November 10th. The motion was; THAT THIS HOUSE BELIEVES WAR ON TERROR WILL MAKE US SAFER.

The President of the College Union, Mr. Pat Feenan, Chaired the debate.

The Past Team spoke in favour of the motion and the speakers were: John Fitzgerald, Oran Doyle, Daragh McGinley and Philip Andrews.

The motion was opposed by the Present and their speakers were; Liam Murphy, Sean Cronin, Shane Doherty and Ross O'Mahony.

As expected a lively debate followed with each side skilfully putting their points forward. The content and the humour made for a very entertaining evening.

The adjudicators, led by Mr. Paddy McEvoy, Chairman of the Board of Management, Mr. Tony Prendergast and Mr. Philip Hogan retired to consider their findings. After some time, Mr. McEvoy announced that the result was very close but the motion was lost and the Present emerged as the victors.

The winning team was presented with the Ronnie O'Callaghan Cup by the donor himself. He complimented both teams on a very enjoyable debate and paid tribute to Mr. Joe Thullier, Patron of the College Debating Society, who for so many years has been an inspiration in organising this annual debate with such dedication and enthusiasm.

All then retired to Belvedere House to enjoy the refreshments kindly provided by the Ladies' Committee.

Annual General Meeting of Belvedere College Union

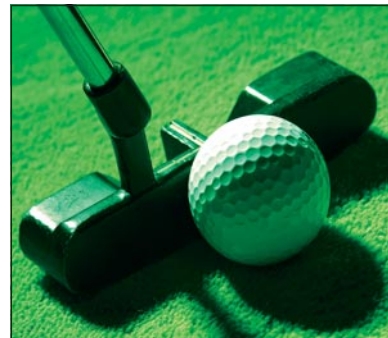
The 103rd Annual General Meeting of Belvedere College Union took place in the College on Monday 25 September 2006. Mr. Patrick Feenan (1964) was unanimously elected as the 78th President and received his Chain of Office from the outgoing President, Mr. Gerard Walsh. Mr. Kevin McGoran (1953) was appointed President-Elect.

The following were also elected:

- Hon. Secretary – Gavin Butler
- Hon. Treasurer – Liam Boggan
- Asst. Hon. Treasurer – Gerard Long
- Public Relations Officer – Don Larkin
- Committee – Vincent Duffy, Ken Doyle, Cillian Murphy
- Hon. Auditors – Stephen Brennan, Patrick Butler

The Union is open for membership to all Old Belvederians and is particularly anxious to increase the membership of those who have left within the last ten years. There are many exciting plans in train to extend the activities of the Union but this is entirely dependent on the ability of the Union to attract new members. Existing members are asked to consider joining the Committee, even for a short time, to help implement new ideas and activities which will expand the scope of the Union.

Information on Union activities and membership may be obtained from Gerard Long, phone 01-2850806 or Pat Feenan, phone 01-2886891.



Old Belvedere Golfing Society

The competition for the President, Gerry Walsh's Prize was held on Friday August 25th at Castle Golf Club. There was a good attendance and the legendary hospitality of Castle Golf Club was enjoyed by all.

The President's Prize and the Cruise Cup was deservedly won by Diarmuid O'Siochain.



Annual Dinner and Justice Award

The Annual Dinner of the Union was held this year on Friday 13 October, somewhat earlier than usual. It was historic in that it was the one hundredth occasion on which the Annual Dinner was held. It also marked a return to the Burlington Hotel after an absence of six years. The general feedback was favourable and the surroundings were found to be both familiar and relaxing.

As usual, the first event of the evening was the presentation of the Union Justice Award. This year it went to one of our own – Seamus Fearon of the Class of '84. The citation was given by the immediate Past President of the Union, Gerry Walsh, who spoke of the tremendous contribution of Seamus to the Sunshine Fund Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. His name has become synonymous with Sunshine House in Balbriggan, which is a magnificent custom built holiday centre for underprivileged children from the Dublin diocese. Seamus continues to serve on the Management Committee after a period of almost twenty years, during which time he has been involved in arranging holidays for at least twenty thousand children. For the past ten years he has also been Editor of 'The Advocate', the annual newspaper which is distributed outside the Churches on Palm Sunday. This year the sum raised in this collection was over €280,000.

The parents who send their children on holiday trust

Seamus and it is this interpersonal bond that he develops with parents that has allowed Sunshine House to be recognised for its qualities of care, attention and fun. Many of the recent developments in the house have been the result of his input, his attention to detail and his child perspective. Among his many strengths is his gift of friendship. It is probably the one most appreciated by children, parents and fellow volunteers.

The Justice Award was then presented to Seamus by the President of the Union, Pat Feenan.

Following an enjoyable meal, the toast to the College was proposed by the President who referred to this year as a year of anniversaries. It marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of the College patron, St. Francis Xavier, and the 450th anniversary of the death of St. Ignatius Loyola. It also marks the 100th Dinner of the Union. Although the Union celebrated its centenary in 2002, a number of Dinners were not held during the second World War. Because of this special year, the President, on behalf of the Union, made the following presentations

To the editorial board of the Belvederian, Ger Conran, Louise Curtin and Fr. Jim Culliton S.J., for all their hard work in the production of the 100th edition

To Fr. James Smyth, S.J. of Gardiner St. who is celebrating his 60th year in the Jesuits

And lastly to one of the most popular individuals in

Belvedere, Fr. Michael Reidy S.J., who is celebrating 70 years as a Jesuit.

The President then recalled his own schooldays in Belvedere which spanned the decade from 1955 to 1964. When he arrived in Belvedere electricity had just arrived in rural Co. Dublin and in the city the rooftops of the wealthier homes had black and white TV aerials in abundance. In the Junior School we wore the 'green slices' cap and looked forward to the day when we would enter the Senior House to gain the circular ring cap. In 1958 there were 36 Jesuits and 15 male lay teachers in Belvedere. Last year we had 3 Jesuits, 48 male lay teachers and 22 female teachers. In 1962 the school reached the Senior and Junior Rugby Cup Finals, winning the Junior Cup. The Captain of the winning team was Gerry Lynch, who also figured in Old Belvedere RFC, where the President spent 30 happy years after leaving school.

The President then referred to the work of the pupils themselves who raise major funds for charity through projects such as the Summer Block Pull, the Christmas Sleep Out and Fast and the Maracycle to Spain. The Jesuit spirit of Men For Others is alive and well in the school.

In conclusion he paid tribute to the enormous contribution of the Rector, Fr. Derek Cassidy S.J., and the Headmaster, Mr. Gerard Foley, and his team. The College is in good hands as it faces the challenges of the next millennium.

In his reply to the toast the Rector, Fr. Derek Cassidy S.J., mentioned the honour it was both to the school and the Union that the immediate Past President of the Union, Gerry Walsh, had recently been appointed a Papal Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great. Gerry Walsh was then given the second standing ovation of the evening, one having been given



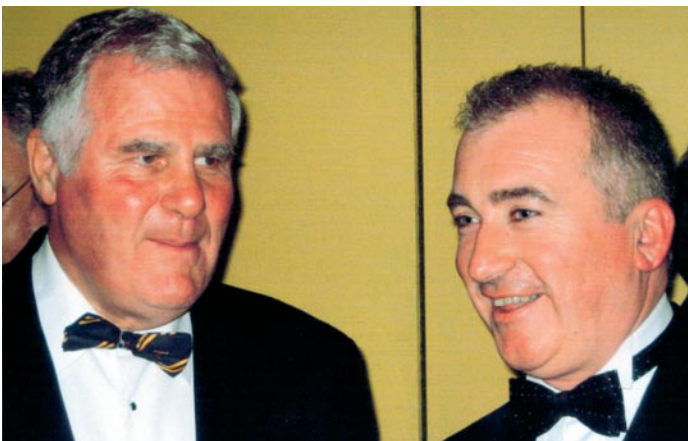
Above: Seamus Fearon receives the Justice Award 2006 from the President Pat Feenan. Gerry Walsh delivered the citation.

previously to Fr. Michael Reidy S.J. during the address of the President. Fr. Rector said he was delighted to report that the College has gone from strength to strength during the two years that have passed since the withdrawal of the Jesuit community from Belvedere. Students from Belvedere qualified to teach English as a foreign language to residents of Dublin's inner city as part of their social commitment to the local community. This commitment is a long tradition for the College. The difference from 1832 is simply that there are new inhabitants with new needs.

Fr. Rector then posed the question - what single item would St. Ignatius pick out in the Belvedere of 2006? He believed it would be the Social Integration Scheme. St. Ignatius would appreciate this as a fitting memorial to his work. What would St. Francis Xavier do? He would point to the boys back from Calcutta, who were privileged to be given permission by the poor of Calcutta to look into their eyes and help them. At Class Liturgy Fr. Rector experiences the faith of the boys most vividly. This gives them the strength to move out into the world as Men for Others. The College is not just surviving but thriving.

Thus ended the formal proceedings of our 100th Dinner, but the enjoyment and celebration of the evening continued until well after midnight.

Gerard Long.



PJ. McAllister and Headmaster Gerard Foley at the Annual Dinner

Union Past President Gerry Walsh, receives Papal Knighthood

At an impressive ceremony attended by over five hundred family, friends and parishioners, in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Foxrock on November 4th last, Gerry Walsh was invested into the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great by His Eminence Desmond Cardinal Connell, Archbishop Emeritus of Dublin, assisted by Most Reverend Eamonn Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, both fellow Belvederians.

The Cardinal was chief celebrant at the Mass assisted by Bishop Eamonn Walsh, Fr. Derek Cassidy S.J., Rector of Belvedere College, Fr. Kevin Laheen S.J., KCHS, KSOG.- another eminent Belvederian, and Fr. Ciaran Holohan P.P., Foxrock.

Joining in concelebrating Mass were eleven Jesuit Fathers from Belvedere College, Gonzaga College, Manresa and Fr. Leonard Moloney and Fr. Bruce Bradley from Clongowes Wood College. Amongst the nine Diocesan Clergy were Right Rev. Monsignor John Dolan, Chancellor, and Right Rev. Monsignor Thomas Fehily, P.E. Dun Laoghaire.

Gerry was sponsored by Niall Kennedy KCSG and Professor Vincent McBrierty KSG who were among a group of uniformed Knights and Dames of the Order of St. Gregory. Also present were some Knights of the Order of St. Columbanus in full appropriate regalia. Gerry's family and friends participated

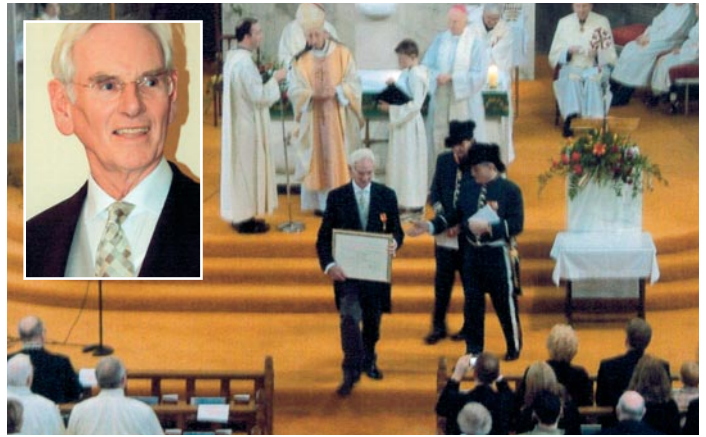
as Readers, Gift Bearers and Ministers of the Eucharist.

A particularly relevant factor was the involvement of Andy Gunnery, now in his ninety-fourth year, and the oldest surviving Old Boy of the original Belvedere Newsboys' Club, and young members of the Belvedere Youth Club, who took part in the Offertory procession.

Gerry has dedicated the past fifty-six years doing voluntary work in the Youth Club. As well as this praiseworthy work he has been involved in the St. Vincent de Paul Sunshine House and it was fitting that the President of the Sunshine Fund, T.J. Fleming took part in the Prayer of the Faithful. The other prayers were read by Sr. Valerie Walsh, I.B.V.M., Paul Brady, Director of the Youth Club, Liam Clare of the Parish Pastoral Council and by David and Barbara Walsh

During the Investiture ceremony Cardinal Connell gave an outline of the Order of St. Gregory as follows;

"The Pontifical Order of St. Gregory was founded in 1831 by Pope Gregory XVI. It is conferred as a reward for services to the Holy See and the Church on persons of proved loyalty who must maintain unswerving fidelity to God, the Supreme Pontiff, the Holy See and the Church. The Papal Secretary of State Emeritus, has defined the role of a Papal Knight; 'Becoming a Knight does not mean receiving a title of honour even though it is well



deserved – but fighting evil, promoting good, and defending the weak and oppressed against injustice".

Bishop Eamonn Walsh then announced; "The Papal Brief which creates you a Knight of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great translates as follows. Benedictus XVI Pontifex Maximus, Benedict XVI, Supreme Pontiff. Gladly acceding to a request made to Us from which we have gathered that you are most deserving for what you have done for the Holy Catholic Church and its affairs, and in order that We might give a clear sign of Our pleasure and appreciation, We choose, make and declare Gerry Walsh of the Diocese of Ferns and Dublin a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great. We bestow on you the right to use and enjoy all the privileges which go with this high dignity.

Given at St. Peter's in Rome 10th July 2006.

Signed and sealed by the Cardinal Secretary of State, Angelo Cardinal Sodano".

Gerry was then duly invested and towards the end of Mass addressed the congregation and said that the honour was a recognition of volunteerism and he accepted it on behalf of all volunteers and shared it with them. He thanked all who made this great day possible.

The Foxrock Parish Choir supplied the beautiful singing and the soloist was Emma O'Connor. Fr. John Bracken C.C. Foxrock was the ever present Master of Ceremonies.

It was a very happy, dignified and joyful occasion and a very proud day for Gerry and his family, for the Youth Club, Sunshine House, Belvedere College and all Belvederians, and the parish of Foxrock.

Gerry becomes the fourth Belvederian Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great after Sir Francis Cruise, first President of the Union in 1902, Des Carroll (O.B. '43) and John Morgan (O.B. '57).

The ceremonies concluded with a very enjoyable reception in the adjoining Community Centre.

VPD.

Raging Bull

Alan Flanagan, Class of 93, has already played in the official Rugby World Cup 2007 competition. Alan represented the Cayman Islands in their quest to win the Caribbean Championships, which is used as backstage to qualification for the World Cup Finals for that region. The tournament was played in the Bahamas in June 2005. Cayman narrowly lost their opening game against the host nation Bahamas, and then went on to secure comfortable wins over Jamaica and Bermuda. The tournament finished with Cayman and Bahamas on equal points, but having lost the opening game to the Bahamas, Cayman failed to secure a place in the next stage of qualification.

Alan played on the 1993 senior cup team and went on to captain the Belvedere under-19 team in 1994. He also captained Old Belvedere to a 3A League title in 1995. Alan currently lives and works in Grand Cayman with his wife Brona and daughter Sally.



Alan Flanagan in action against Jamaica

Old Belvedere RFC tour to Argentina 2006

On August 21st 2006 the Old Belvedere RFC Official Tour Party departed Dublin for the Club's first tour to South America, Buenos Aires to be precise. The Party included 25 players, 4 Team Management, 3 Club Officers, and 24 supporters. In total 56 travelled, probably a record touring party for the Club.

From the Club's perspective this was an important tour looking to the year ahead. As President Mark Feely said before the tour, "This tour is a crucial part of the build-up to the season ahead. It gives us the opportunity to integrate the new additions to our Senior squad, and also the U20's who have been brought into the squad. Our aim this season is promotion and this tour is one step along the way"

TOUR FACTFILE

Match 1 v Curupayti Rugby Club, Buenos Aires.

Score: CURUPAYTI 7
OLD BELVEDERE 61

Tries: K.Barden(2), D.Keogh(2),D.Gavin(2)T.Tierney, A.Pinto, F.Megan, **Cons:** R.Murphy (5) P.Casey (3)

Man of the Match: Kevin Bardon

This was clearly an end of season outing for the home team who looked tired from early on, but despite their best efforts they could not contain a sharp Old Belvedere side playing their first game of the season and keen to impress. This was a free flowing game with scores coming frequently. The nature of the game gave the

management the opportunity to give all players a run. An interesting experiment was Richie Murphy giving himself a run at scrum half

Incidentally, Curupayti, located on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, is the club where the Irish team trained when Paddy Madigan, former Old Belvedere player and President of the IRFU, toured with Ireland in 1970.

TOUR FACTFILE

Match 2 v Club San Luis, La plata, Buenos Aires

Score: SAN LUIS 20
OLD BELVEDERE 31

Tries: A.Pinto, D.Gavin, D.Sharkey, R.Keane, D.Keogh, **Cons:** R.Murphy(2), P.Casey(1)

Man of the Match: Paddy O'Meara

This game was a much tougher affair than the first game and some local interpretations of the Laws, particularly at the ruck, unfortunately lead to several unnecessary early scuffles. However good discipline from the Old Belvedere team allowed them to get on with the rugby, scoring two tries in the dying moments of the game to secure a well deserved win.

Thankfully, in true rugby tradition, the emotions of the game were soon forgotten after the final whistle and both teams, and alicadoos, enjoyed the post match hospitality and festivities.

PLAYER OF THE TOUR:

PADDY O'MEARA



Old Belvederians win Rally Ireland

Many of you may have seen or heard the news of Ireland's recently successful bid to host a round of the World Rally Championship (WRC). However, perhaps what many of you don't know is that two Old Belvederians, John Bristow OB88 and Gavin McAllister OB95, were instrumental in this success.

Having successfully run a pilot event in October 2005 and a candidate event in March 2006, Rally Ireland was subsequently awarded a place in the WRC 2007 calendar following an FIA (sports governing body) meeting in Paris, July 5th 2006. The cross-

border nature of the event made it particularly interesting to the FIA and WRC community. John's role as General Manager was to tie all parts of the bid together and ensure nothing was left to chance. Gavin, as the Marketing Manager, was highly involved in all marketing, PR and communication associated with the bid.

The WRC itself is a motorsport event run on all types of surfaces - snow, gravel, tarmac and ice. The season has 16 rounds and begins with the historic Monte Carlo rally. The championship visits countries as diverse as Argentina, New Zealand, Japan and Sweden. The

current world champion is Frenchman Sebastien Loeb who drives a Citroen Xsara.

In addition, the WRC has one of the fastest growing TV audiences, with an annual viewership of more than 800 million in almost 200 countries, and live spectator numbers of more than 11 million per annum. Unlike other major sporting events like the Ryder Cup, the WRC is an annual series. Therefore, having secured WRC status, Ireland will host a Championship round on an annual basis for the foreseeable future.

John Bristow holds a BComm from UCD and MSc Finance from the University of Strathclyde. Previous to joining Rally Ireland, he worked for ten

years as a business consultant for Deloitte Consulting and Arthur Andersen.

Gavin McAllister holds a BSc Mgmt from Trinity College and MPhil from DIT. Since his graduation in 2004, he has held various roles in Event and Sport Marketing.

Rally Ireland will be the 15th round of the World Rally Championship (WRC) in 2007. For more information, visit www.rallyireland.org.



Old Belvedere Cricket Club

November 2006

Old Belvedere Cricket Club enjoyed a positive season in 2006, as all four teams made progress. The First XI, captained most impressively by Peter O'Donnell, produced much improved performances compared with the previous year, and the highlights of the summer included victories against Rush (who later in the season reached the final of the Irish Senior Cup) in the 45 Overs League, against Trinity and Leinster in the LHW Twenty 20 Tournament, and against CYM in the Leinster Senior League. The club's Indian professional, Yogesh, scored a powerful century in the victory over Trinity. Yogesh was injured

in mid-season, and although he stayed in Dublin to help the team, he was replaced on the field by Steve Richards from England, who batted most impressively in the time that he was with us. Another new member, Carlo Rendell, formed a highly effective opening bowling partnership with Richie O'Donnell. The all-round performer of the year on the Firsts was Sameer Dutt, who scored runs and took wickets regularly, and also found time to captain the Second XI.

Sameer led the Seconds to a reasonably successful season, as they finished fifth in the league and reached the semi-final of the cup. The highest individual score was by Monty Singh, who hit 119 not out in

the match away to Sandyford in August. The Thirds were skippered by Mateen Aafaq, and also finished in fifth place in their league, while their cup campaign got as far as the quarter-final.

The Fourths saved their best form for the Intermediate Cup, where they reached the final before losing a high-scoring game to Merrion in the batsman's paradise of Rush. Darren Quinlan played a masterful innings to lead the run-chase in the final, as he made 118 not out. Indeed, despite only returning to regular cricket in July after a lengthy absence from the game, Darren was comfortably the best batsman on the side. He was joined on the Fourths by

his brothers Stephen, Ray and Derek, with all four taking the field in the end of season match in YMCA. The most encouraging young player in the club was undoubtedly 14 year-old Emmet Bowes, who batted, kept wicket, and even bowled with great flair throughout the season.

The club staged a very successful golf classic on the Montgomerie Course at Carton House in early June, just two weeks after the Irish Open was played at the same venue. Our annual dinner took place on 1 December, and the AGM will follow in mid-December when Bill Cunningham will hand over the Presidency to Owen McAlinden for next year.

Conor Verdon – Honorary Secretary

News from the Development Team

Introduction

We live in an age of huge advancements in communication technology. Yet students need to learn very advanced information processing skills so that they can determine the usefulness and reliability of the information they have selected from the internet. It is clear also that future scientists will engage with neuro-scientists, economists, psychologists, and biotechnologists. They will have to explain their work clearly in language the wider public can understand. They will work in multi disciplinary teams, using technology that links them to a global community, working with people in different parts of the developed and developing world.

Therefore it is very appropriate that the new Science Building provides facilities for communication in the broadest sense. Whether students engage in debates, drama, science or I.T. projects, they are learning to ask the right questions and through reflection find the best way forward. Their self confidence in articulating both their questions

and understanding is critical in developing as life long learners.

Yet, the proportion of students going on to the highly specialised sciences will remain the minority so that the first purpose of scientific study at the college remains to educate non scientists as to how science affects everyday life and give the students the confidence to form their own opinions on science and technology issues. The application of science to global issues of environmental destruction, famine and disease, lies at the heart of seeing science as the use of God given talent for the benefit of humanity. Hopefully future graduates will continue a long tradition of contributing their talent to social justice programmes.

I hope you enjoy this article written by two of our students who have been awarded the opportunity to go on a placement to America. Their pursuit of excellence is further evidence of the huge potential of the student body.

Gerry Foley. Headmaster. A.M.D.G.

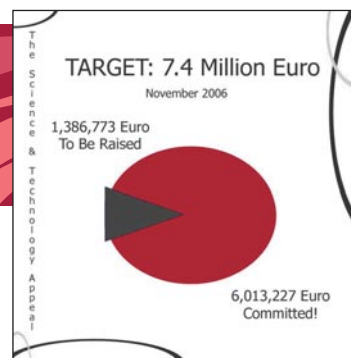
Penn State Science Scholarship

This year at Belvedere College SJ saw the start of a new and extremely exciting programme in the school's science department, aimed at promoting interest in the Life Sciences among students.

It was announced early last year to the incoming Transition Years that in the summer of 2006 a five-week science scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, USA was to be awarded to two students of TY science. The University of Pennsylvania is an Ivy League University founded by Benjamin Franklin prior to the American Revolution, and is now a world-renowned research institution.

The two students to be awarded this scholarship would be selected on an evaluation of their term work in TY Chemistry, and especially on the quality of their experimental notebooks. Students in fourth year made huge efforts after this announcement to achieve their potential in science. The science department then deliberated and announced its choices at a school assembly.

Stephen Duff and Declan M. Moran, two Aylmer students,



Declan (left) and Stephen with Dr. FitzGerald and Dr. Emer Smyth, Research Assistant Professor.

were chosen for an outstanding effort in Chemistry, and began preparing, under the guidance of Mr. Bernard Fenton, by studying chemical techniques such as mass spectrometry and different chromatographic methods. This helped to ready them for the cutting-edge experiments that they would witness and partake in at Penn.

They left Ireland to participate in this scholarship at the beginning of the summer holidays, after their graduation from Transition Year. The boys were attached to the University's Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics



Mr Peter Burke, Declan Moran, Stephen Duff, Mr Gerard Foley, Dr G. Fitzgerald and Bernard Fenton

(ITMAT), under the supervision of its director, Dr Garret A. FitzGerald, M.D., who is himself a Belvederian, graduating from the class of 1968.

Dr. FitzGerald is one of Ireland's most distinguished scientists. Graduating UCD with a degree in medicine in 1974, he continued his studies with an M.Sc. in Statistics at the School of Hygiene, University of London. He is now professor of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania. He has had a distinguished career in pharmacological research, and is particularly renowned for his research into Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs, including low-dose aspirin and COX-2 inhibitors. Dr. FitzGerald's achievements in pharmacology were recognized by the Royal Dublin Society in 2005, when it awarded him its Boyle Medal for scientific excellence. This prestigious award is judged by an international panel and is awarded every second year alternately to an Irish researcher working at home or abroad. Members of Belvedere's science department were present at Dr. FitzGerald's acceptance lecture, as were Stephen and Declan.

The University of Pennsylvania is a vibrant research environment involved in the final stage of pharmacological research, which is the continuous monitoring of drugs in the clinical environment, for hitherto unknown side-effects. During his tenure at Penn, Dr. FitzGerald has been responsible for the discovery of the dangers associated with the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like Vioxx (rofecoxib), which carry a "small but absolute risk" of heart attack.

Another key area of inquiry under the guidance of Dr Fitzgerald was the investigation into circadian rhythms, which are molecular clocks governing the body's daily cycles. Dr. FitzGerald's research concerns

the cardiovascular effects of these clocks, with a view to discovering whether there is a time of day when heart attacks are more likely. During their time at the labs, the boys witnessed one experiment which investigated whether the circadian rhythms of mice affected their susceptibility to thrombosis.

The boys found the experience extremely informative and very enjoyable. The lab's research staff were tremendously welcoming and enthusiastic, and always willing to share their knowledge. Both of the boys are considering careers in science, and found it very invigorating to be on the scene of such research. "I was glad to find out that a lot of the scientists we met at Penn were Irish," Declan says, "and others came from countries such as China, Switzerland, Denmark, Britain and Italy. There are definitely a lot of prospects for careers in science research internationally." "Not only was I able to experience biomedical research at its highest level but I also enjoyed a huge range of activities both inside and out of the labs," said Stephen.

After their busy day at the University was over, the boys returned home to the host families who had generously offered to accommodate them. To arrange this accommodation, the local Jesuit secondary school, St. Joseph's Preparatory School was contacted. The school's president, the Rev. Bruce M. Bidingger, S.J. was extremely important and very helpful here in finding two suitable families from the school community who were willing to kindly take care of the boys. Hopefully this will pave the way for future co-operation between these Jesuit schools.

Both the boys are enormously grateful to the generosity of the families who hosted them in the USA; the Koehls and the McGlones.

Declan stayed with the Koehl family of Shamong, New Jersey. "I felt really welcome staying with the Koehls. Mr. and Mrs. Koehl, and their children Frank, Heather and Patrick were incredibly friendly and couldn't do enough for me. Not only was I housed and fed, but I also made some great friends in them and was taken to lots of fantastic events, not least the Philadelphia Phillies getting slaughtered! I really had a wonderful time and I am in debt to them for it."

Stephen says of his stay with the McGlone family of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania; "I immediately felt part of the family, and I was overwhelmed by the generosity shown to me. I truly felt at home away from home. I would like to thank Jim, Sheila, James, and Patrick for taking me into their family and making my stay in America such an unforgettable experience."

This was not only an educational five weeks and a valuable exposure to a possible future career, but it was an enjoyable experience of American culture. Between attending baseball games and Ivy League regattas, and visiting Washington DC and New York, Declan and Stephen gained an invaluable insight into the American way of life. Quite apart from the research that they were privy to, both students recommend this experience as a great opportunity to visit a very exciting and varied country.

Of course, none of this would be possible had it not been for the tireless efforts of the boys' science teacher, Mr. Bernard Fenton, who organized this programme in co-



At work in the lab.

operation with Dr. Fitzgerald, and who provided the boys with ceaseless encouragement as well as preparing them academically for the experience. Headmaster Mr. Gerry Foley played a pivotal role by liaising with St. Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia and with the families concerned, as well as giving up time for meetings with the families of the two students. The boys would also like to thank Mr. Peter Burke, Head of Science, and Ms. Yvonne O'Brien, for their help in organizing the trip.

The school would also like to thank all our sponsors who made this trip possible.

Science Writers' Competition

At this year's Science Writers' Award Ceremony 2006, held in the RDS, two Belvedere students were rewarded with high honours by Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Education.

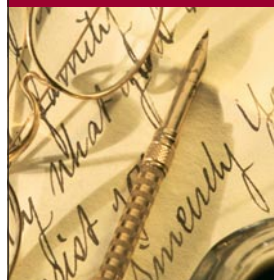
Sam Ford, 2SX, won second place in the Junior fiction writing section.

Sean Cronin, RX, was highly commended for his entry in the Senior Report Writing section. His piece was called "To Wonder Why; A study of Creativity." This is the second year that Sean has featured on the prizewinners' podium. Congratulations to both students for their excellent achievements.



Sean Cronin, Mary Hanafin TD, Minister for Education and Sam Ford.

Put it in Writing



Adding a codicil to your will with a bequest to Belvedere or its associated charities, would mean a great deal to the College.

For further information, call the Development Office at 8586633

Report on the Dargan Moloney Science and Technology Building

By Stephen Duff and Declan M. Moran



In November 2000, the Board of Management led by Frs Dargan and Moloney S.J. and Chairman, Brian Kearney, re-established the Development Office with the aim of co-ordinating the fundraising appeal for this most ambitious building project. The vision of Board of Management was to respond to a new century. Belvedere College SJ needed to respond to the changing needs of staff and students. The laboratories built in 1970 were not only run-down but unsuited to the new technological age which Ireland was facing and through the mammoth efforts of the Board of Management and the Development Office; Belvedere now boasts one of the most modern school facilities in the country.

However, what difference has this great asset made to the sciences? Firstly, the building inspires interest and all three sciences have seen an increase in their uptake well above national trends. The number of students taking Biology has gone from 20% to 40% since its introduction and the results have seen a similar rise. This is largely due to the potential of teachers to go beyond the “chalk and talk” and to stimulate students using IT. In teaching the sciences, Belvedere has been able to go beyond force feeding knowledge to teaching students to be independent learners and to assimilate information for themselves.

Belvedere has for the first time introduced a Scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania through Dr Garret A. FitzGerald, M.D, an alumnus of the school and a professor of Medicine and Pharmacology. This was the first such programme to occur between Belvedere and a third level institution. The school has seen an average of 9% of students go on to pursue Science and Technology related careers since the advent of the Science and Technology Block which is very impressive considering the national average.

Belvedere has relied solely on the support from our wonderful past families past pupils and current parents of Belvedere students for the development of the Science and Technology

Building. Without such incredible and selfless generosity the College, its students and staff could never have realised the potential of such a centre of excellence as we now boast. It is a symbol for science. We are sending a clear message to students: “This is something that we believe in and this is something that we want you to take seriously.” We cannot thank our donors enough for making embarking on this phase of change and growth with us. We still look forward to your support until this phase ends.

There does remain however, a huge need for our own government to support science at a post-Junior Cert level to a greater degree. After all, this is where the future scientists are making their decisions and many schools are deprived of adequate resources. Belvedere is grateful to these companies for their support but would like to see more direct support from industry for science at second level rather than lobbying of government for more resources.

The US Scholarship to Penn is part of a policy of *differentiation* that is increasingly being pursued in the school. It involves customizing learning to the individual. For example, if a student is very strong at a subject and finds the pace of the class too slow, they should be allowed to challenge themselves with more difficult questions using interactive software while the rest of the class goes at a slower pace. This is equally so for the weakest students who should be allowed to revise previous material that they don't understand. Of course, this involves further training of teachers and IT training should be a more prominent part of the teaching curriculum and teachers should be regularly updated on the latest educational techniques. Seán Cronin, who last year one the Young Science Writer's Competition believes that: “...the new facilities helped greatly with my essay writing. I feel that my interest and science was certainly propagated and supported by Belvedere. We had a much greater scope for practicals in the new environment and my teacher, Ms Brennan was able to do

experiments outside of the core curriculum.”

Headmaster, Mr Gerry Foley, says he is opposed to the concept of streaming as a simple solution to meeting the needs of different learning styles and abilities given the potential of I.C.T. in learning. “In languages we need to face the reality that some students need to be worked at a faster pace. We have to have a system, in terms of grouping by ability, to suit their needs. I'd imagine that the same system works well for honours Maths”.

Teachers' Views

The Dargan Moloney Science and Technology building has made huge changes to the life of the college, bringing to it new science laboratories, an IT suite, a university-style lecture theatre, a new refectory, a greenhouse, science library, project room, and more. Entirely apart from the improved facilities, the Science Block opened up a new entrance to the college. This is especially needed now that the O'Reilly theatre is used as a venue by external theatrical companies which draw large crowds. Outside performances, as well as the college's own drama productions, are also able to make use of the new box office, with the refectory providing a useful interval space.

The new building has thus improved and expanded both science and the arts at Belvedere, in keeping with the college's Jesuit ethos of striving for excellence, and there is no doubt that the changes it makes will be lasting. But what are the particulars of this great innovation? How has it improved the life of the college, and are there improvements still to be made?

It is increasingly important in modern Ireland to promote science and technology at secondary-school level, and the statistics do show an increased uptake of the sciences at Belvedere, which is contrary to the national trend. However, as well as just inspiring interest in these subjects, the period since the introduction of the science block has been marked by an improvement in grades, as mentioned below. Both Mr. Peter Burke and Mr. Stephen Gibbons, when asked if their teaching styles had changed since the new building was opened, cited the use of technology in teaching as a

major and positive adaptation. Agreeing that there has been a change in his teaching style because of this new capability, Mr. Burke stated that the use of applications such as PowerPoint, as well as information from CDs and the internet, have given science in the school “a whole new lease of life”. Mr. Gibbons mentioned in particular the sections of the physics course concerning graphs, as well as the module on nuclear physics, which has been revamped by the use of videos and moving diagrams. The internet also is extremely useful, as the information available here is “changing every day”. However, getting time to find good websites which are relevant to the topic can be a problem.

The school's endeavors in science outside of the curriculum have also fared well. Mr. Burke noted that the new project room is a useful facility for such projects, which have included the Young Scientist Exhibition and the Young Science Writers Competition. He went on to say that though the number of students participating in these activities was small, the work was of good quality, and he said that the college would be pursuing a policy of encouraging students become involved in these activities during the Junior Cycle, so that by the time they reached Transition Year their projects would be well developed. A related topic is the school's activities concerning Green Issues. The Dargan Moloney building makes possible great involvement here, with its built-in greenhouse and rooftop solar panel and windmill. Some work in this area has been undertaken, Mr. Burke says, but not as much as can and should be done. At the moment it is largely confined to second-year level, but there is a great scope for this.

According to these teachers, there is a great appreciation of the new facilities among the student body. Mr. Gibbons said that though students will become used to the new surroundings, they are state of the art, and “bring the best out of the best of students.”

Finally, what about improvements to the new facilities? Are there any still to be made?

Mr. Burke felt that it would be difficult to improve on the new building, but that the usage of it could be better, saying that the potential of the project room and

the greenhouse have not been fully exploited.

In summary

In the first two years of its history, the Dargan Moloney Science and Technology building has had great successes, visible in the marks earned by students, the numbers taking up science subjects, and the quality of extra-curricular scientific

projects. It has clearly had the effect of positively promoting the sciences, which will be essential to the future of Ireland and of the college. During this time, the groundbreaking University of Pennsylvania scholarship has also been established, pointing towards a bright future for science in the school. There is still some way to go, but this is largely in how the new facilities are used, and in exploiting all of their potential for learning and teaching.



Nicholas Bongrand

Born in Chateauroux, central France, Nicholas joins us after years of experience in language education. After completing university in France & London, Nicholas taught business in London. Nicholas is well settled into Dublin life after spending six years teaching with the Alliance Francaise of Dublin and The Education Institute. He is involved in French debate, badminton & table tennis.



Mary Louise Bowe

A graduate of Trinity College, Mary Louise is also a free lance violinist with The Concert Orchestra and various orchestral & chamber groups. She is an accomplished traditional fiddle player and piano accompanist who studied at the Royal Academy of Music. Outside of teaching music at Belvedere, she is working with the College Choir, Orchestra & Traditional Music Group. She is also developing a Belvedere Orchestra for competitions.



Philip Curry

After Graduating from Galway University, Philip began teaching in Dublin. He has authored the book 'Question of Business' which is a leaving certificate text published by Fallon. He is currently teaching business and economics as well as 2nd year maths. Philip is also a senior rugby coach.



Tom Doyle

After teaching in London, Tom returned to Dublin to teach history & geography. Outside of the classroom, Tom has been working with the under 14s rugby and assisting Mr Curry with the under 18s soccer. Tom will also be joining the Barcelona trip.



Stuart Colohan

Stuart has joined the Science & Math Departments with an enthusiasm for teaching through interactive technology. Before joining Belvedere, Stuart spent the last 10 years teaching in London. Stuart also brings experience from his previous career in the corporate world where he was a Health & Safety Officer/ Microbiologist. Stuart is also assisting senior Rugby.



William Flanagan

Originally from Laois, William joins us after graduating with his Masters in Religious Education from Mater Dei University. He will be teaching 1st, 2nd, and 4th year Religion. William is also enthusiastic about sports at the College and is involved in under 13s rugby.



Colin McCarthy

Originally from Leixlip, Colin studied at St. Mary's University in London. He continued on in London for seven years where he taught Physical Education before returning to Ireland. He is currently teaching Sports Science to transition year students and coaching the under 13s rugby.



Susan McNamara

Susan is teaching students with special needs from all years and in all subjects. Before completing her Honours Diploma in Special Needs at UCD, Susan worked with adults with learning disabilities in Prosper Fingal. Susan is also helping out with Table Tennis.



Deirdre O'Donovan

Deirdre has come to introduce Spanish to the 1st year students of Belvedere! She is also teaching French. After finishing her degree in Trinity, her further education and work experience brought her to Spain, Central and South America as well as the French Alps. She will also be taking the 1st years to Barcelona in June! Deirdre is also coaching basketball.



Class Reunions

Over the past couple of months the old and new halls of Belvedere have been filled with familiar friends.

Old Belvederians from 1956 & 1996 kickstarted their evenings with a reception and tour of Belvedere. The highlights of the tour were the rooftop pitch, new science labs and computer suite. However there is nothing more nostalgic than walking into your old classroom. The class of 1956 really enjoyed walking through the Finlay building; most had not walked down those halls in 50 years!

The 1996 class had other surprises in store for them, when they chanced upon their old art work which is still framed and hanging on the walls of the Kerr Wing and the Headmaster's corridor.

The class of 1946 also celebrated their 60th reunion this year and we send our best wishes to them all.

The convenors for the 1956 and 1996 reunions at the school were Frank Kenny OB56 & Daragh McGinley OB96. The school would like to thank them for their efforts and their successful evenings.

If you would like to start your reunion with a reception and a tour of Belvedere College, please contact the Development Office at 01 858 6613.



Class of '46

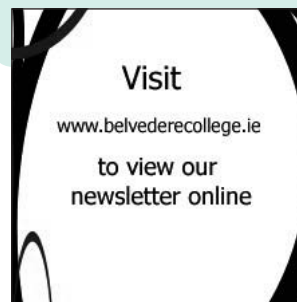


Class of '56



Above: Class of '96

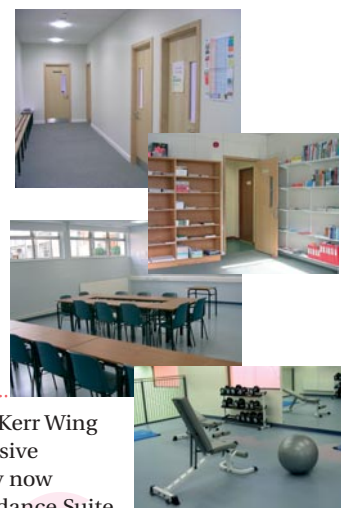
Inset: Class of '96 – Tony Stafford, Daragh McGinley, Colin Keane, Ronan Fitzgerald, John Darby



SUMMER DEVELOPMENTS in the KERR WING

During the summer break the Kerr Wing and the gym underwent a massive refurbishment. The old Library now houses a new Careers and Guidance Suite while new classrooms have replaced the old science laboratory. The gym now has a new mezzanine weights room and showers while the gym court was upgraded. Work was completed just in time for first term and the changes are welcomed by both students and teachers alike.

This redevelopment is just the start of a phased plan of ongoing upgrade and refurbishment throughout the school over the next few years. We expect to begin work on the Junior House next year while a Buildings Committee has been set up to define how best to develop Belvedere House in future years.





From the Chair

Another year, another new committee. Well, not quite! Over half of the members of the Parents Association Committee have been elected for the first time, and as I look forward to my second year I would like to welcome everybody aboard. Already the new committee has been quite busy, as evidenced

by this edition of the Belvedere News. A lot of hard work goes into this production – collating material, proofing, editing and meeting printers' deadlines. Thank you to everybody involved, particularly those who contribute articles and reports on the various activities.

The boys in second year, (3 Syntax), ran a successful disco in October for their own age group, to raise funds for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and it

was great to see so many parents of first and second year boys volunteer to help on the night.

The Social Committee has also been active over the past couple of months ensuring that the October and November talk nights went well. Thank you to all those parents who attended the talk given by Declan Coyle on the Jesuit ethos, and again it was great to see such huge numbers attend our Question

and Answer night, when the theme was 'The Future for our boys – bright or bleak?'

Coming up, we have the 1 Grammar parents' night on 29 January, and our third parental talk with a spiritual theme on 12 March.

I would like to wish all of our readers and volunteers a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Roscoe Briscoe, Chairman.

Living Our Ethos: Men for others

A presentation by Declan Coyle, Andec Communications

Monday October 16 2006

'Living our Ethos: Men for Others' was the theme of Declan Coyle's talk organised by the 2006-2007 Parents Association.

The lecture theatre was packed to capacity with parents, for this uplifting and thought provoking PowerPoint presentation.

Declan encouraged us to look inwards and question whether we truly practice the Jesuit ethos back at base in our own homes, with our own children.

"We have the power to bring the ethos alive", said Declan, "with the decline in numbers of Jesuits teaching in the college the days are over when

the Jesuits alone can do it for us. If we, the parents, don't work at it, it'll slip away.

The ethos is a dream, a vision, an invisible thing that's inside us" Declan explained. "It is very apparent at different times, for example, when you meet the students from Belvedere at rugby matches, it's there and it comes alive".

There was a collective sigh in the theatre when Declan pointed out how we unintentionally speak to our children using negative language 90% of the time.

"You're not going out like that" hit a chord with many parents! The theatre fell silent when we were told that we have passed on approximately 100,000 negative statements to our children by the time they reach 12 years of age.

"As parents we are the main contributors to our children's internal map making process and their construction of self image" Declan told us.

It is a great responsibility to be entrusted with.

We were encouraged to remember back to the day they were born. To recall our delight at their arrival, how everyone congratulated us and how very proud we were.

For their sake and our own, we should hold on to that happiness, hold onto the plans we made for them. Praise them, try to catch them doing something right and not just focus on wrongdoings. Have fun. Laugh a little more. Declan enthusiastically dared us to be happy people, joyful parents, they (our children) will pick up on these feelings of happiness and pride.

Let's face it, life is tough enough and the world is full of bad news. Take a look at any newspaper headline, bad news sells.

So remember "you are the gospel at home your children read everyday. They learn from you. Strive to be happy. Include

God in your day and thank him for the gift of your children.

Tell your children that they can change the world. They can make a difference. As parents, practice what you preach. Be considerate of others, look for the good in others, be respectful, lavish praise".

Remember too that non-verbal communication is as powerful as the spoken word so let them know you approve of them by your actions.

Instead of furrowed brows and throwing your eyes up to heaven, retrain your reflexes to give a wink, a smile, a pat on the back. Be positive, because, as Declan reminded us, "people always remember *how* you made them feel and not always *what* you said".

Our thanks to Declan Coyle for this inspiring talk.

By Fiona Murray – On behalf of The Parents Association.

Belvedere Parents Association 2006/2007

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The future for our Boys: Bright or Bleak

The questions and answers night organised by the Parents Association was a roaring success.



Chaired by Liveline's inimitable Joe Duffy, the distinguished panel consisted of Minister of State for Children Brian Lenihan T.D., Ex-Meath manager Sean Boylan, Fr.Jim Culliton S.J. and Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO) Garda Sergeant Barry Moore.

Questions received by email from parents were put to the panel and covered a wide range of issues relating to the boys,

both specific and general, including social, academic and sporting topics. Problems and pitfalls to look out for with teenage boys, such as unprovoked attacks, were addressed, as well as character development, schoolwork issues and the nurturing of the Jesuit ethos. Joe's professional and entertaining style and modus operandi of mingling with the audience encouraged a spontaneous, interactive and lively debate.

Many thanks to Joe Duffy and the entire panel for participating in this interesting and informative night.

By Fiona Murray – On behalf of The Parents Association.