

With Christmas just around the corner, it's time to bring you up to date on our activities.

On 24<sup>th</sup> October we welcomed Sinead Cusack back to her alma mater for an informal talk with Madeleine Keane. The tone of the evening was set with a glass of wine and canapés in the reading room before we gathered in the candle-lit library. Sinead entertained us with stories of her time in Holy

Child and her life's journey afterwards to become a world-renowned and award winning actress. We all agreed that she was utterly charming, unassuming and refreshingly honest. Madeleine led the interview in her usual skillful and relaxed way and it was a truly memorable evening. The library was filled to capacity and we are very grateful to all the parents, staff and pupils who supported the event.

The new website is up and running and is a vast improvement on the old one in terms of ease of use and attractiveness. We feel that it shows Holy Child School in a very positive way and is a very useful source of information for the present parents and pupils and also for parents who are trying to find the best school for their daughters.

Research is ongoing into the matter of introducing iPads. We are looking at the experience of other schools that have introduced them this year and we are examining different alternatives in terms of notebooks and new products being launched.

Some of the parents have expressed an interest in attending a talk on some of the issues that may affect the girls such as cyber-bullying, nutrition and alcohol abuse. We intend to send a survey to all parents in order to find out which topic is of most interest with a view to inviting a speaker early in the New Year.

The Annual Mass of Remembrance was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November and, as always, was a lovely service with beautiful singing by the choir. Everyone was glad to have a cup of tea and a chat in the library afterwards.

The Carol Service was held in the chapel on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December and the choir had been practicing hard to ensure that the extremely high standard of singing is maintained at this popular event. We served non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pies in the hall afterwards and as is traditional, the choir entertained everyone there with some of the more lively Christmas songs.

There was a Book Fair in the school on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Those who were able to come picked up some very interesting books for a nominal fee but for various reasons there was not a good turnout.

We are delighted to announce that the Yearbook for 2011/2012 has been printed and is available through the school at €25 per copy. It is a wonderful memento for the girls, with lots of photos, and will be published on an annual basis.

Finally we would like to wish all the parents, pupils and staff of Holy Child a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every good wish for 2013.

The KPA Committee



#### **School Self-Evaluation**

From the academic year 2012/13, schools have been requested by the Department of Education and Skills to engage in school self-evaluation on teaching and learning as part of the existing school development planning process. Schools are requested to start with small initiatives and build a self-evaluation process based on discrete aspects of the school's work.

Here in Holy Child Killiney we have began the process through a number of initiatives.

**Literacy:** The revamping of the school Library and the provision of a Library period for all 1<sup>st</sup> Years. All departments are also focusing on key words in their subject areas. We encourage all students to read and

suggested reading material is posted on our website.

**Numeracy:** All departments are focusing on numeracy as related to their subject, in line with the national

Literacy and Numeracy Strategy.

**Teaching & Learning:** Two inservice courses have been provided for all our teachers, one on Differentiation and one on

High Impact Teaching. These courses were delivered by Dragonfly Training.

Teaching Project: Mr Keane, Mrs F. O'Leary, Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Hackett are completing a Management

Programme which requires the school to carry out an action project. This project is exploring the development of an academic tracking system for all students entering Holy Child. This year's study involves a group of 1st Years. We will be writing up our results in May and hope to have

a blueprint for implementation with future year groups.

We will keep parents informed of our progress in all of these initiatives as we move through the school year.

Gerardine Hackett, Principal

Holy Child School

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

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## **SVP Annual Appeal Launch 2012.**

On 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7 members of the Holy Child School Conference went with Mrs Moiselle to the launch of the annual Christmas Appeal in Ozanam Resource Centre, Dublin.

The appeal was launched by broadcaster Ryan Tubridy with the slogan 'Your Help is Vital'. A local primary school sang Christmas songs to get everyone in the mood for the Toy Appeal. Holy Child Killiney and Chanel College represented the secondary schools who are involved.

We met Ryan Tubridy and Dublin GAA Footballer, Ger Brennan, and outlined our SVP activities and initiatives. The SVP National President talked about their new advertising campaign and aims for the coming year. It was really enjoyable and we are committed to continuing our work for SVP.

**Envelope Delivery:** 4<sup>th</sup> Year SVP members were involved in delivering

over 2,000 envelopes in local parishes on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December; well done girls.

Bag Packing: 4<sup>th</sup> Year students bag packed for SVP on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December in Cornelscourt, raising €2,400 - a great success.

Gift Appeal: 32 SVP members from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Year shopped in Dun Laoghaire for 16 deserving families. Gifts to the value of €1,200 were purchased.

*Hamper Day:* Hampers were collected on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December all items were gratefully accepted.

We appreciate the wonderful support of parents and staff. Thank you.

Martha O Beirne, President; Laura Conboy, Secretary.



Aoife Sherlock and Rosie Culhane meet Ryan Tubridy

Congratulations to Sarah Fennelly, Jessica Nolan, Ciara McDermott and Isabelle Sweeney on winning Entrance Scholarships to Trinity College. For more information see our website.

Entrance Scholarships





## From the Chaplain

As we move from November into the month of December with Advent Promise and Christmas Joy, I want to thank the 5<sup>th</sup> Year students who planned the 'In November We Remember' Ceremonies. These girls led the prayers in the Chapel with reverence and dignity, touching the hearts of all who attended.

Advent and Christmas bring many opportunities for celebration and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Years began with an Advent Assembly and blessing of the Advent Wreath. Plans for the annual Carol Services are well underway, as are arrangements for the Peer Ministry Ellen Moiselle, Chaplain.

Hanukkah Party and the Angel celebration with the 1<sup>st</sup> Years - you can read all about these on our website in the New Year.

The SVP Cornelia Connelly Conference have been exceptionally busy and are a pleasure to work with - thank you to Martha, Laura, Katie Louise, Eabha, Rosie, Aislinn, Judy and Aoife for their endless energy and unfailing good humour.

Wishing you and your loved ones every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

#### **Amnesty International Report**

The launch of our Amnesty Group was very successful. Our first event was a surprise kidnapping of the Deputy Head Girl, Laura, to highlight the issue of Prisoners of Conscience. Only the Social Action representatives were informed about the kidnapping before the stunt to give it the shock factor. During one of our regular housekeeping assemblies Laura began telling the story of Malala Yousafzai and expressed her views on the situation. To the schools surprise, the lights were cut and the Amnesty Group kidnapped Laura. After a motivating speech from Elva, our Head Girl, students were urged to show their support to Laura, who vowed to be silent until we got 250 signatures for



Malala by writing letters to the Pakistani President. We would like to thank all the students as we got 300 signatures, which were all forwarded to the President in Pakistan.

Katie Louise Flynn & Éabha O'Sullivan, Social Action Prefects.

#### **Peer Ministering 2nd Years:**

This year a number of 5<sup>th</sup> years became peer ministers. We work alongside Ms Moiselle, and we are all members of the Justice and Peace group in the school. As Peer Ministers, we are appointed three 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students each, with whom we meet up every few weeks to discuss their religion course. Just before our midterm break, all the 2<sup>nd</sup> Years took part in a pumpkin carving competition. Each of the peer ministers helped their 2<sup>nd</sup> Years with their pumpkins. This was a great, informal way of getting to know our second 2<sup>nd</sup> Years. As the Justice and Peace group, it is our job to raise awareness in the school about issues

or topics we feel necessary. On 21st September we decided to raise awareness on Mental Health. We put posters up around the school, handed out leaflets, and each SPHE class focused on mental health issues. It was a great success.

Julie Kealy, 5 Alpha



## From The Principal



Congratulations to Alexandra Cunningham, Madeleine Daly Devereux, Alice Gahan, Dannii Kelly and Catherine Ward who received **UCD Scholarship Awards.** 

Christmas is a time of giving and as you read this newsletter you will see that the girls have embraced every project that seeks to make Christmas special for those less well off than themselves. They have been encouraged and supported by their teachers and parents, and I take this opportunity to thank all those involved for their hard work and commitment to all of these

I hope Christmas 2012 brings joy and peace to all our families and I wish you every blessing for 2013.

"We must never forget it was not in a palace that the Holy Child gave first blessing, but in a stable."

**Cornelia Connelly** 

#### **Advent Crib Visits:**

Each year in Holy Child the 3<sup>rd</sup> Years volunteer to give each class time to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Judith Robinson and I were really excited to find out we would be the first of the 'Advent Angels'. We led a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year group to the Advent Calendar for their crib figure, and then to the Prayer Room for a festive crossword and prayers, with a treat at

It was a lovely way to mark the Advent season.

Sophie Quinlan, Form 3

#### Cross Country Results

Race	Student	Place
1000 metre	Emma Murphy	9 <sup>th</sup>
1000 metre	Iseult Devaney	10 <sup>th</sup>
1000 metre	Kavita Daly Deveraux	14 <sup>th</sup>
1000 metre	Alannah Byrne	17 <sup>th</sup>
1000 metre	Elisha De Alker	18 <sup>th</sup>
1000 metre	Rosa Geoghegan	19 <sup>th</sup>
1000 metre	Sarah Maher	21st
1000 metre	Lucy Hanrahan	24 <sup>th</sup>
1000 metre	Kiara Wigzell	72 <sup>nd</sup>
1000 metre	Leah Morris & Ally Maguire	joint 73 <sup>rd</sup>
1000 metre	Nicole Healy	133 <sup>rd</sup>
1000 metre	Rachel Munelly McCormack	135 <sup>th</sup>
1500 metre	Mia Ivankovic	5 <sup>th</sup>
1500 metre	Amy Graham	18 <sup>th</sup>
1500 metre	Shanley Clancy Molloy	21 <sup>st</sup>
1500 metre	Mia Doherty	45 <sup>th</sup>
1500 metre	Ellen Radford Dodd	48 <sup>th</sup>

Team	Against	Result	MVP
Seniors	Loreto Beaufort	Win	Ali Coleman
Seniors	Rockford	Loss	Ali Coleman
Seniors	Rathdown	Loss	Laura Hunt & Charlie Coffey
Cadette A	Loreto Beaufort	Win	Hannah O'Neill
Cadette A	High School	Loss	Hannah O' Neill & Juliana Shiel
Cadette A	Loreto on the Green	Loss	Sadbh McCaul
Cadette B	Loreto Beaufort	Win	Heather O'Gorman & Katelyn Hallam
Cadette B	High School	Win	Ellen Quigley
Junior A	Loreto Beaufort	Win	Sara Dawson
Junior B	Beaufort	Loss	Eimear O'Sullivan
Junior B	Loreto Beaufort	Win	Hannah Cuffe
Cadette A	Loreto on the Green	Loss	Sadbh McCaul
Cadette A	Cluny	Loss	Megan Kelly
Cadette B	Cluny	Win	Ellen Doherty
Seniors	Mount Anville	Loss	Ali Coleman
Minors	Rockford	Loss	Iseult Devany & Sadhbh Green

Basketball Results

Katelyn Hallam deserves the recognition of being the most improved basketball player at HCK. She set a school record with 14 points and 10 rebounds in a match. December proved to be a tough month for the Cadettes as they approached the final stages of the league. Unfortunately, the Cadette A's fell short losing to Mount Anville and Cluny, and the Cadette B's lost to Mount Anville but beat Cluny. The Cadettes have recorded most of the basketball accolade for HCK in the past.

On 17<sup>th</sup> December the Minors fell short to Rockford by two baskets. The season officially opens in January 2013.

Hockey: Congratulations to Emma Mathews and Abbie Russell who both played in the recent Schoolgirls U16 Interprovincial Tournament. Emma has also received an Irish U16 trial and we wish her every success.

Our Senior A Team have competed well. They are looking forward to the Senior Cup which begins in December. Our Senior B, C and D teams have all enjoyed fantastic success in their leagues with 5 wins and 1 draw.

Our Junior A team have progressed to the semi-finals of the Junior Cup. Our Junior B started with a draw against Raphaela's but a talented Columba's team proved too strong. A superb win against Mt. Anville sees them back in

contention. Junior C's are sitting pretty with a win against Kings Hospital and a fantastic draw against arch rivals St. Gerard's leaving them joint top of the table.



Minor A and B had a difficult start to their Leinster leagues and have both had narrow losses to Wesley, Foxrock and Dalkey. Our Minor C have competed well with a league win against Beaufort and wins against Sion Hill and Loreto, Bray.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Years have been playing non-competitive 8 a-side hockey and have enjoyed good wins against Gerard's High School and a visiting team from the UK, St Hugh's, while also finding time to have fun playing in a fancy dress Halloween Tournament against Dalkey. Two 1<sup>st</sup> year teams will compete in the New Year in the 11 a-side Leinster leagues and we wish them the best of luck.

**Equestrian News:** On 24<sup>th</sup>November 2012 the action moved to Killossery Lodge in Swords. The HCK team consisted of Jessica O'Brien, Caoimhe Durkan, Ellen Radford Dodd and India Ryan. This Saturday delivered a first points finish of the year for HCK with a marvellous 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish after a 3 way jump off against the clock to push highly rated teams from Coláiste Bhride Carnew and St Gerard's Bray down into 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place respectively. We currently have 8 points and lie in a very respectable 11<sup>th</sup> place of 33 schools on the Equestrian Interschool's Ireland League table. Ellen Radford Dodd is our highest placed rider on the individual league table currently standing in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Sailing: Laura Coleman participated in the RSFEVA Southerns at Greystones Sailing Club. Out of a total of 4 races Laura achieved the highest honours with four 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes. Congratulations to Laura.

Fencing: Congratulations to Kiara Wigzell who is currently ranked no. 2 in Ireland in fencing, an incredible feat.

GAA: Hannah O'Neill who has had great success in GAA is currently on trials with the U16 Dublin team. We wish her success and a memorable experience.

## **TY Belfast Trip**

Transition Year students headed to Belfast for the first HCK overnight cross-curricular trip.

chemical reactions could be so been interesting and it definitely made me more interested in the subject.

had a lovely three course meal in the because it was so enjoyable. hotel. Afterwards, we changed into our pyjamas and watched Mean Girls in the Conference Centre which was really fun.

At 7.30am on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012, The next morning we were up and at Transition Year students headed to breakfast by 8.30. Breakfast was so Belfast for the first HCK overnight yummy; we had a big fry! The first cross-curricular trip. We had our part of the History day was an open Science learning day first. We arrived bus tour around the city. The top of at the W5 Interactive Discovery the bus was freezing, but it was a Centre at about 10.30. There were really interesting tour. We went to three different interactive floors with Stormont, the 'Peace Wall', and saw loads of things to do. I really enjoyed lots of murals from the Troubles. We it all but my favourite part by far was got to write our own messages on the the workshop. The scientist did some 'Peace Wall', which I loved. This part really cool experiments with bonbons of the day really put into perspective and liquid nitrogen. I didn't think how hard the Troubles must have

After the tour, the bus dropped us at the Titanic Museum. We had lunch After spending the day in the there and then began exploring the museum, we checked in to the many sections of the museum. It was Holiday Inn. The hotel was so nice and brilliant; the best museum I've ever we were allowed to go swimming been to. We were there at least two before dinner if we wanted to. We hours, but it didn't feel that long at all

> We then boarded our bus for Dublin and arrived back to HCK at about 7pm. It was a super trip!

Rosie Culhane and Camerin O'Connor.





# **Sports News**

Cross Country: On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012, Blackrock opened the 2012 Cross Country season with 21 HCK students competing. HCK students excelled in this 1000 metre event whilst competing against 150 athletes from across the county.

Overall, the 1<sup>st</sup> Years took Silver, being edged out of the Gold medal place by a slight margin to Coláiste Íosagáin. The top six runners from 1st Year got medals. Our Seniors also did HCK proud. Jenny Hughes achieved the Bronze medal and Cathy Caslin finished 12<sup>th</sup> overall.

On 5<sup>th</sup> December at Cowpark, Dunboyne, Co Meath 1<sup>st</sup> Years took gold beating Coláiste Íosagáin for the first time. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Years took bronze on the day. Congratulations to all the

HCK athletes and many thanks to Rosanna Baker and Barbara Hatton for coaching the students.



Basketball: This is the first year in HCK history that we have entered a senior

team into the SDBL. The Senior basketball team has had a terrific season making it to the SDBL quarter finals only to fall short to Mount Anville by a couple of baskets. This team started the basketball campaign as 1<sup>st</sup> Years in HCK. We are very proud of each of them.



### **From Elva and Laura**

#### Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl

Hi all, Elva and Laura here again, after another terrific term! We've been busy as ever here in Holy Child.

Shortly after midterm, we remembered all our beloved dead in our annual "In November We Remember" Mass. The 5<sup>th</sup> Years also organised a touching lunchtime ceremony, which was very well received by the student body.

The prefects have continued working diligently in their respective posts, and we'd like to commend them all on their continual hard work. It is a pleasure to work with girls as enthusiastic and committed as these.

Our clubs and societies have continued to grow and prosper, and lunch time meetings have become second nature to all! We have had a great number of successes, ranging

from debating achievement to sporting triumphs, the latest of which was the Junior A hockey team's success in getting through to the final of the Junior Cup on Wednesday 19th December. Congratulations girls!

Both Katie and Éabha, our Social Action Prefects, have been beavering away at their various projects, ranging from Amnesty International events and meetings to our Saint Vincent de Paul hamper and presents campaigns. As ever, we thank you for all of your generous support with these initiatives.

At the time of going to press, half of the school are in the throes of house exams, and we wish all those involved the best of luck. Down in the depths of the 6<sup>th</sup> Year wing, the Christmas spirit is palpable.

This cheer stemmed from the arrival of our fabulous Christmas tree last Monday, for which we owe thanks to our own Kitty Boyle.

We look forward to the culmination of the exams, and the beginning of the festive celebrations that we have lined up for the final week of term.

These include our multicultural Christmas "buddy" lunch, the annual yuletide feast organised by the Student Council, and our end of year Christmas Assembly.

We hope you all have a very happy and peaceful rest over the Christmas holidays. Looking forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Until next time,

Elva and Laura.



# **GREEN-SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**



"El cambio climático no es importante para los irlandeses."

No estoy de acuerdo con está afirmación. El cambio climático es un problema muy grave para todo el mundo, porque afecta a todos los países. Quizá no tenemos en Irlanda los desastres naturales de gran magnitud, pero tenemos nuestros propios problemas del cambio climático.

Hay prueba que el cambio climático es real, y que el mundo está mas caliente cada año. Muchos dicen que no es un problema para los irlandeses, porque el clima aquí es demasiado frío. Pero hay un problema. Irlanda tiene un clima moderado gracias a una corriente que viene de México; se llame el 'Gulf Stream'. Sin está corriente, Irlanda sería mucho más frío, especialmente en invierno. Más dinero gastaría en la calefacción central, y resultaría en menos combustibles fósiles.

Además, el cambio climático en otros países afecta mucho a los irlandeses. En el tercer mundo por ejemplo, con la desertificación. El cambio climático causa sequía, y muchas familias ya no pueden vivir en sus países. Muchos refugiados podrían venir a Irlanda, y no tenemos trabajos suficientes para

El cambio climático afecta a todo el mundo. Con el efecto invernadero, el riesgo aumenta de las inundaciones. Irlanda es un país rodeado por agua y si hubiera inundaciones, mucha gente perdería su vivienda, sobre todo la gente que vive en las costas del país.

Aunque el cambio climático es importante para los irlandeses, es culpa de ellos, y de la gente en el mundo desarrollado. Son las personas que conducen mucho, que malgastan la energía y que usan mucho los recursos naturales. Es una vergüenza que el gobierno no haga más esfuerzos para reducir la huella de carbono.

Afortunadamente, hay una solución para este problema. Es necesario que andemos o usemos la bicicleta mucho más para reducir el nivel de gases venenosos en la atmosfera. Y es importante que el gobierno ponga en marcha más campañas para minimizar el efecto invernadero.

En conclusión, en mi opinión el cambio climático es importante no sólo para los irlandeses sino también para el resto del mundo. Si no hacemos esfuerzos para proteger el medio ambiente habrá consecuencias negativas.

Kate Cox, 6A





Maths Week Ireland 2012 ran from 13<sup>th</sup> October - 21<sup>st</sup> October and involved schools from all over the country.

During the week we played lots of maths games and took part in the Mangahigh Maths Challenge. This was an online competition to see which school could solve the most maths problems in a week. It was fun competing against the other schools and winning our Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals. To end the week, 1<sup>st</sup> Years got to go on a Maths Treasure Hunt around the school. We were put into groups of three and each group got a 4<sup>th</sup> Year girl to help us in case we got stuck. We were given a piece of paper with a maths problem on it. The solution to this problem was the number of the classroom we had to go to for the next problem. We got to travel around the school to find all the answers and the first group back to Cornelia Connolly Hall won. When we got back, one of the teachers checked our answers and when we were all back we got sweets. The Maths Hunt was brilliant and I thought it was great fun. I really enjoyed Maths Week and I'm looking forward to it again next year.

Sarah McDermott, 1 Alpha.

# READ-a-THON WHO'S HUNGRY FOR OCTOBER 12th - NOVEMBER 12th 2012 FOR READING?

On 12<sup>th</sup> October, students from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year started reading in aid of MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Ireland, to help fund the research into finding a cure for this disease. MS Ireland is an organisation that assists people with Multiple Sclerosis. Two-thirds of the people with MS are women. This disease affects us as a school as there are a number of girls whose parents have MS. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students were lucky enough to have the chance to hear a personal account of what it is like living with MS from one of these parents. This gave us the drive to participate and raise as much money as we could for this great cause. All the girls read for a month, with great encouragement

from our librarian, Valentina, and the English department. We put up posters all over the school to encourage as many girls as possible to join in. On 12<sup>th</sup> November, we put down our books and finished our fundraising. In total, we raised €984.60. We are very pleased with this result as there were only three classes who took part in this project. Everyone who took part in the MS Read-a-thon will be entered into a draw to win one of four great prizes. We would like to thank all the girls who participated and we hope that even more students will take part in this amazing event next year.

Megan Doyle, Caoimhe Dunne and Emily Massey.

#### The Follow up on One Good Idea

After winning the One Good Idea Competition last year , the seven 5<sup>th</sup> Years who took part were invited to attend a photo shoot at Wilton Plaza in Grand Canal. The Dublin Area Recycling Team (DART) consisted of Jenny Hughes, Sally Hanrahan, Emily Daly, Hannah O'Donoghue , Emma Carroll, Ellen Geary and Caoimhe Durkan. Our idea was to raise awareness about the importance of recycling DART tickets and to encourage the use of smart cards. Along with the boys from Chanel College, Coolock, we

were photographed in our One Good Idea t-shirts for the PR launch of the competition for 2013. Afterwards, we had complimentary refreshments. The following day we were delighted to see ourselves in the Irish Times Newspaper and on their website. As an overall experience it has been unforgettable and we would recommend all the 4<sup>th</sup> Years to participate in the competition this year if possible. We would like to thank Ms Greehy for all her help and support during the competition.

Jenny Hughes , 5A and Hannah O'Donoghue, 5 Alpha.



#### Las Chicas de Transition

Spanish Significant Day of Learning

Salimos de casa y cogimos el DART para llegar a Pearse Street para las diez menos veinte.

Primero fuimos a visitar el puente Beckett diseñado por Santiago Calatrava, un arquitecto e ingeniero español. Nos gustó porque fue en forma de arpa.

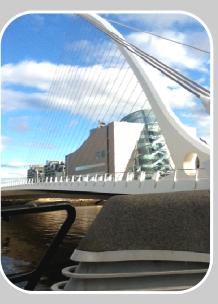
Después fuimos al Instituto Cervantes cerca de Trinity College y vimos la biblioteca y una exposición de postales. Fue muy interesante.

La próxima parada fue la Galería Nacional de Arte. Vimos allí unos cuadros de Goya y Picasso, dos famosos pintores españoles. Pero también en la galería vimos un cuadro de la periodista Maeve Binchey – una ex alumna de HCK que tristemente acabó de morir.

Tomamos el almuerzo en un restaurante de tapas, The Port House.

Las tapas incluyeron calamares, tortilla española, albóndigas, croquetas y chorizo. De postre, había chocolate con churros. Delicioso!

Fue un día inolvidable, lo pasamos genial. Gracias a nuestros profesoras por organizarlo.



#### **Witches Frolic**

The Witches Frolic is a competition for 1<sup>st</sup> Year girls. Each girl has to make a hat made of recycled materials. They can then show off their hats on the runway for the other students and a panel of judges. The judges were made up of teachers, head girls and Green School Committee members. On the panel this year were Ms Cluskey, Ms Moran, Ms McCann, Señora Roset, Elva McCabe, Laura Lambe, Molly Boyne and myself. There were many different things taken into consideration when we were deciding the winners. The hats had to be made of recycled material, had to have a sense of originality, and the model had to have a good attitude on the catwalk. There were many different prizes, including best walk, most detail and of course first, second and third places. It was a great success and all the hats were so creative and colourful. The Witches Frolic is part of our Litter and Waste programme, which we have to maintain while we work towards our next Green Schools Flag for Energy Conservation.

Ali Coleman, 4A.



## **Kung Fu**



I have been doing Kung Fu for a year. I go to YMAA, where we train Shoulin Longfist and Whitecrane style Kung Fu. We also do Sanshou, which is Chinese Kickboxing.

Recently I passed my Green Belt; this belt marks the first stage of training. I train with my brother and for our test we had some sense of distance drills, along with different blocking and punching drills. We also had the first part of a Long-fist sequence called Luan Bu Chuan which took us a while to learn, to say the least! We also had different moving sequences, punches, kicks and we had to make up our own kicking combo which was fun but challenging. I am delighted that I passed my green belt and I am now working on my purple belt, which I hope to pass soon. I am looking forward to the China Trip at Easter and I hope to be a purple if not red belt by then.

Ellen Geary, 5 Alpha