



The 2014-15 academic year in Errigal College sees the college celebrating its centenary year and with it the celebration of a century of vocational education within County Donegal. Honouring the pioneers who paved the way for vocational education within the county, who for many had to conduct instruction in halls and stores throughout the county is something that Errigal College doesn't take lightly. Deciding on how best to honour those who gave so much of themselves to ensure that quality and essential skills were transferred from experts to learners for generations was the first task to beset the committee honoured with the task of overseeing the years celebratory events. The more time passed the more it became evident that this was more about people, than buildings. It became clear that a coming together of the people

who made Letterkenny Technical School later Letterkenny Vocational School and currently Errigal College would be necessary to celebrate the occasion properly. A **Gala Ball** has been organised for the 21st March in the Mount Errigal Hotel, where old friends can come together and spend some time down memory lane, reliving the good old days and remaking old friendships that may have been dormant for anything up to fifty years.

A **centenary book** is also part of the celebrations with photographs and input from some of the people who shaped the history of the College, the book gives life and a place in history to the events and the people that sculpted and steered the College over the past hundred years.

A very successful launch of the centenary celebrations was held in Errigal College at the start of the current academic year, where many of the people responsible for the success of the past came together to give life and purpose to the cause. On the night those gathered had the opportunity to see old roll books, old projects from their time in school and to hear from members of the committee regarding what they had planned for the year. Refreshments were served afterwards in the College canteen where hands were shaken and memories relived.

The theme of all things 'One Hundred' is high on the College agenda this year and this was clearly evident when the challenge of collecting 100 **Christmas hampers** for St. Vincent De Paul was proposed by Ms. McAteer. With the help of the local community and the support of the local media Errigal College collected over 130 hampers and 100 bags of potatoes kindly sponsored by Doherty's of Burt.

This theme was continued into the new year as the college laid down the challenge to its students to work off the Christmas excesses by committing to **the T25 exercise programme** for three lunchtimes per week for six weeks. Again the students and staff united and signed up for the gruelling workout, surpassing the 100 mark with 110 students and 12 staff members signing up to the programme.

With February upon us and St Bridget's Day looming staff and students came together to celebrate the tradition of making **St. Bridget's Crosses** - no need to guess how many were made!

Looking forwards to the remainder of the year, a launch will be organised to officially launch the Centenary book, **St Patrick's Day** saw teachers and students creating a St. Patrick's Day float for the celebration of our national feast day (where at this year's St,Patrick's Day parade in Letterkenny saw the school float win both the Youth Category and Overall Float Awards) (Well done to Janet and all of her team) – Open Days are planned in the school this week Thursday and Friday – with the Book Launch scheduled for Friday evening at the school and then will be quickly followed up by the Gala Dinner Dance in the Mount Errigal Hotel on Saturday night the 21st March 2015.

Finishing the year off will involve the creation of a **Centenary Garden Area** in the wooded area to the rear of the College. Errigal College have teamed up with renowned Horticulturalist Gareth Austin to create an educational garden and wooded area. This project is a combination of the centenary celebrations and co-operation with various departments in the school to support the delivery of certain subjects. As mentioned above having its heritage within the vocational sphere of education, Errigal College believes that not all students are best catered for between four walls and this is an extension of its core belief that every students is unique and learning is unique to the individual. By creating working areas on the school grounds, departments like the science, Art, horticulture, agriculture,Materials Technology/Wood and the Social, Health and Personal Education can offer more variety and quality education to its students.

A Centenary 5k run and walk is also being organised during the last term of the year to finalise the years celebrations. Further details of the 5k will be available soon.