

Scoil Barra
Ballincollig
25th Anniversary Celebrations

We here at Scoil Barra Primary School in Ballincollig celebrated our official 25th Anniversary Commemorative night on Friday May 28th, 2010. Four hundred guests attended the event, including Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation Batt O’Keeffe T.D., who launched the school’s commemorative book “Scoil Barra – A Coming of Age” to celebrate its Silver Jubilee year. The publication is a narrative and photographic celebration (over 800 photos included) of the first 25 years with many golden moments captured for posterity. It looks back and reflects on the school’s journey since 1985 and celebrates the many milestones achieved along the way and the achievements of both past & present pupils and staff members and their immense contribution to the story that is Scoil Barra...

Speakers at the event, held at the Oriel House Hotel, were Peter Sreenan, Chairman of the Board of Management; Donal O’Sullivan, School Principal, Michael Farrell, Past School Principal and current Corporate Secretary of UCC; Bridget Ryan, Parents & Friends Assoc.; Saranna Fanning, Past Pupil; Orla Murphy, Editor of the commemorative book and Manus O’Callaghan acted as M.C., for the evening.

Amongst the guests were Deputy County Mayor Cllr. Pat Burton, Parish Priest Fr. George O’Mahony, School Chaplain Fr. Billy O’Sullivan, Principals of other Ballincollig Schools and many former teachers and ancillary staff, past pupils and members of previous Boards of Management and Parents and Friends’ Association who travelled from all over Ireland to attend the celebrations.

Our school opened on Sept 2nd 1985 at Innishmore with 205 pupils and today we have some 495 students enrolled. Scoil Barra has built a reputation for extra-curricular activities, such as sport, school musicals, music lessons, quiz teams, choirs and volunteerism. Also over recent years, school building extensions and improvements works have been completed at a cost in excess of €1.1 million.

Principal Donal O’Sullivan thanked his team of 33 teaching staff, 13 SNA’s and 5 ancillary staff for their excellent work and commitment to the school. He expressed his particular thanks to the School’s 25th Anniversary Steering Committee of Elaine Gantly, Órla Murphy, Úna Cremins, Michelle McAdoo, Bridget Ryan, Mary Daly, and Gearóid O’Suilleabháin. He also thanked all the voluntary members of the various school committees, the members of the 8 Boards of Management and the many parents and students for their support over the years. This summer (2010) Scoil Barra will upgrade electrical facilities within the school, and undertake conservation measures funded by the Department of Education and Skills under the Summer Works Scheme 2010.

Teacher Órla Murphy, who compiled and edited the school book that was launched on the night, paid tribute to the past pupils of Scoil Barra, over 50 of whom contributed personal profiles to the book depicting a diversity of talents and careers, sporting heroes and stars in the world of the arts and entertainment. She thanked the staff research team of Úna Cremins, Marion Clifford, Michelle McAdoo, Theresa O'Mahony, Orla Lande, Phil Galvin, Carina Burke and Norma Wallace who compiled the database of all 2,468 students who attended the school from 1985-2010 for inclusion in the book. This involved the painstaking work of trawling through the school's Registration Books (Clár Leabhair) over the 25 year period to identify each pupil by name, then translating them from Irish to English. Órla also welcomed members of the families of the eight deceased past pupils of Scoil Barra who are remembered in the book.