Celebrations at Corbally's Scoil Íde for its Golden Jubilee year

■ It opened in 1964 – and now a year of reunions, sport, music and literature is planned to celebrate 50th birthday

BRIAN O'CONNOR

A MASSIVE year of celebrations is being planned for Scoil Íde's Golden Jubilee throughout the next school year.

The school's doors were first opened in 1964 to a rush of children bursting in from the playground, throwing bags under desks and taking their seats in front of the múinteoiri. Since then over 5,000 boys and girls have received their primary education at the Corbally school.

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A past-pupil gathering will be the first major event of the jubilee celebrations taking place on Saturday

have left the school and not been inside the gates for a number of years and we've a lot of requests for people to show us their old classrooms. They want to see the developments since they've gone. It will also give people an opportunity to see what school is like nowadays with interactive white-boards and all the digital apparatus like iPads and other technology."

The popular principal is looking forward to seeing old faces and reminiscing with pupils that he has thought over the previous 35 years and Peter added: "There's a huge amount of people who have come through the school and we want them to come back here for the past pupil open day – a gathering if you want – we are getting huge feedback from our Facebook page and there is

Foley has compiled an informative compendium of the flora and fauna of the school and the surrounding environment. Where Are They Now is the title of the third book and Peter describes it as: "Packed cover to cover with entertaining and inspirational stories of past pupils including their memory of the school, their journey to where they are now and a bit of advice to their 12-year-old self."

Grace outlined some of the sporting events for the current pupils that will take place throughout the year: "To mark the occasion there will be rugby, basketball and hockey tourneys, we'll invite other teams down and we'll make days of it for the kids."

The Jubilee celebrations will culminate in a huge concert on Thursday March 26, 2015 at St Munchin's

In the 1960s a group of Corbally residents formed a committee who worked solidly on the establishment of Scoil Íde. Pictured are committee members, the first pupils and teachers at the official opening in 1964. Since then a great tradition of education surrounds the school with over 5,000 pupils passing through. Today there are 780

In colour and rare for the days is this image of the first pupils forming a guard of honour for the visiting dignitaries at the 1964 official opening

Opening of the second phase of the school in 1975 were: John C Thompson, Bishop Jeremiah Newman, Tom O'Donnell TD, Ted Russell, Tom Barry and Canon Lee

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A past-pupil gathering will be the first major event of the jubilee celebrations taking place on Saturday September 20. Principal Peter Long explains: "We will have an exhibition of old photographs and we've dug out old Super 8's and home movies and we will be playing them throughout the day. People will be able to look back at their roll books, year books, letters and uniforms."

Junior infants teacher Grace Burke added: "We'll give guided tours on the day. Many people would

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At the Absolute Hotel in November three books covering various aspects of the school will be launched. One of the books is a complete history of the school written by former teacher Maureen Hobbins. Teacher Neil

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The Jubilee celebrations will culminate in a huge concert on Thursday March 26, 2015 at St Munchin's College hall. Grace explains: "The school choir and the orchestra will perform in this special concert. A few of our past pupils are involved in music and we'd love if they shared the stage with us like the Murphy brothers from Hermitage Green did a few years ago."

Scoil Íde, Corbally is one of the biggest schools in the city with 780 pupils on the roll books.

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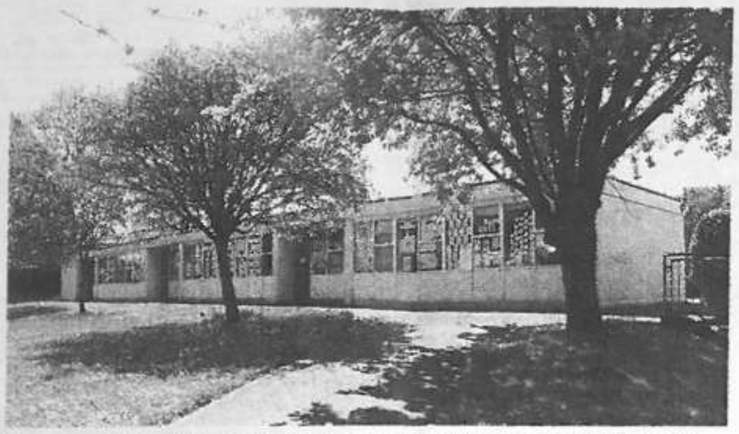
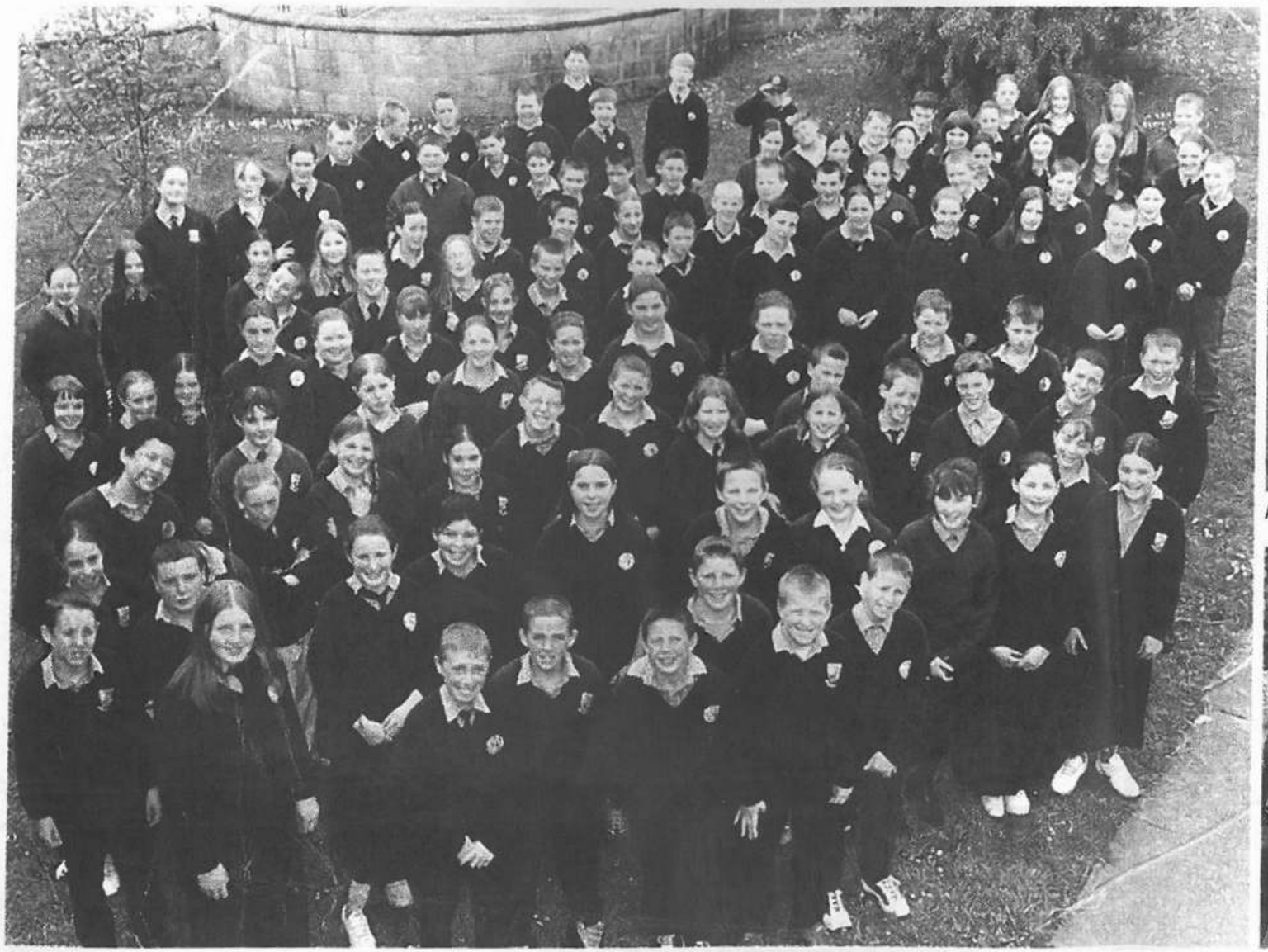
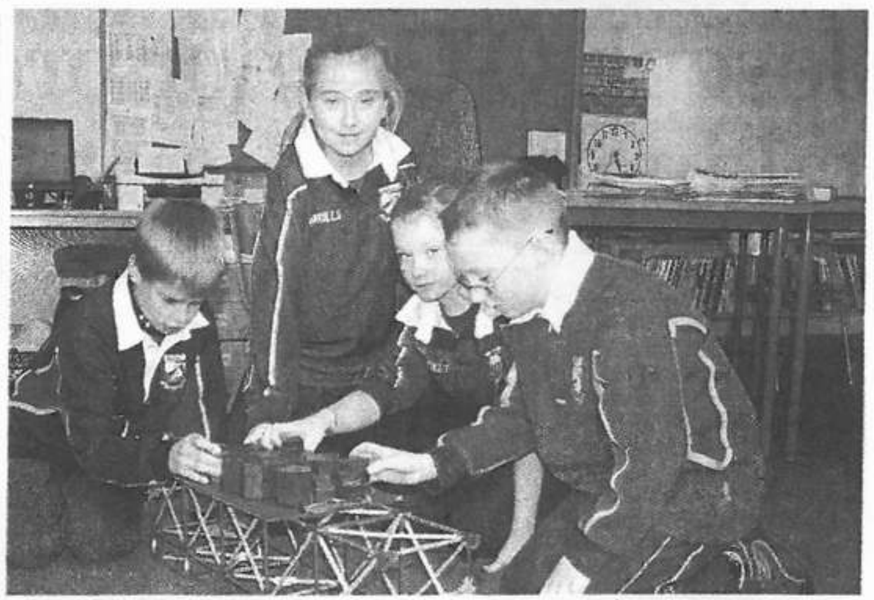


Classrooms 1, 2 and 3. The original school building 50 years on and still in use. If any readers have any old school uniforms from Scoil Íde's past the school would appreciate a loan of such to display throughout their commemorative year

From teacher driven to child-centred and into the digital age, the school keeps abreast with the changing times



The class of 2002: Some eagle-eyed readers may be able to spot current junior infants teacher Grace Burke. Along with teaching she has been extremely busy with the committee who has been organising the Golden Jubilee celebrations including the past-pupil open day on September 20



A Knex bridge being load tested as part of the engineering and robotics classes for today's pupils

The Viking Longboat Challenge: As part of active history learning with the school, pupils design and build their own Viking longships and the final test is to see if they will float and travel in water