

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR MARY

A RATHMORE primary school teacher received a presidential seal of approval direct from Áras an Uachtaráin, when she was officially presented with her Gold Gaisce Medal by Michael D Higgins.

Mary Hickey began her Gaisce programme 10 years ago with a Bronze and later a Silver Award but her journey culminated on February 11 when she received the top award at the Gaisce Gold Award Ceremony in Dublin Castle.

As part of the community involvement aspect of the awards, Mary volunteered with the Rathmore Social Action Group (SAG) as a leader, and her role saw her

involved in almost every aspect of their work.

During her time with the Rathmore group she supervised the youth centre on Friday nights, assisted the elderly and coordinated a number of concerts in St Joseph's Day Care Centre. She also completed the programme's 'Adventure Journey' aspect with three of her closest friends from the SAG completing a hike in Kerry.

Mary has had a lifelong love of traditional Irish music, and her 'Personal Skill' requirement saw her move away from the button accordion to learn the concertina with the help of her friend and

teacher, Ann McAuliffe.

The Rathmore teacher was one of 54 "talented, determined and generous young people" presented with their Gaisce Gold Medal at the gala event in Dublin Castle. Speaking at the presentation President Michael D Higgins paid tribute to the work put in by all the young people involved.

"The award you will receive today crowns your journey of both personal transformation and spirited commitment in the service of your community. It was, for all of you, a journey that involved great perseverance and the surpassing of your own limits," President Higgins said.



■ Mary Hickey



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SCOIL PHOBAIL SLIABH LUACHRA, RATHMORE CHARITY RUN/WALK THAT WILL TAKE PLACE ON ON SATURDAY MARCH 1ST ARE FROM LEFT, CONNIE VAUGHAN, MARIE ANNE FLEMING, NEIL O'RIORDAN PAUDIE O'MAHONEY (OPERATION TRANSFORMATION LEADER), CATHERINE KIELY AND ANTHONY DARMODY. THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL, TRANSITION YEARS AND THE SCHOOL P.E DEPARTMENT AND THE BENEFITING CHARITIES ARE KILLARNEY WATER RESCUE AND KERRY LIFE LINE AT SOUTH WEST COUNSELLING CENTRE. IT WILL START FROM SCOIL PHOBAIL SLIABH LUACHRA AT 12.00 NOON ON MARCH 1ST AND PARTICIPANTS CAN REGISTER FROM 11.00 AM. PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED AFTERWARDS WHILE REFRESHMENTS WILL ALSO BE SERVED. PICTURE: EAMONN KEOGH (MACMONAGLE, KILLARNEY).



MATHS BUFFS: 3rd place Roisin Houston, Shane Buckley, Aoife Hassett and Michael Dillan from Rathmore Secondary at the Irish Maths Association (IMTA) table quiz in the ITT South Campus on Friday.

Kerry's Eye 6/2/2014.