

Dear Ms. Uí Riordáin,

I hope this note finds you and all in Mount Mercy well, I have spent the last few days wondering how to start , finish and indeed wonder what to say.....

So here goes. Although home now nearly three weeks, there isn't a day goes by that thoughts don't wander off to SA and my time spent in Witsand Nov 2011.

In what has been a very trying year for all concerned I have to say, It was an Absolute Honour and Privilege to work along side Niamh, Eimear, Grace and Aoife who accompanied by Alex are credit to the school. I have to say they brought with them to South Africa energy and enthusiasm that was thanks be to god contagious. Where ever the girls went smiles laughter and a renewed willingness to get whatever task completed followed. The sing songs at lunchtime were something to behold and for this group of girls from the Rebel County to stand up introduce, witness and share the talent that is Eimear's voice was the Moment of the Day. Grace sang the last song on the day we left and not a dry eye did she leave after her (there's no one I know would have been able to complete that song). Niamh had a word for everyone and looked after us all, indeed it was she that introduced us all to the treasures from 'Down by the Lee'. As for Farmer Dimples, Dimps or Aoife, now there is a space to watch, she could have ran the whole show.

As Alex I'm sure has told you the Lime Green team was what could only be best described as life in all forms, there were all sorts of characters, smooth, sophisticated and suave are not words that would readily spring to mind. There was one member of the team who had buried a brother and a sister in the latter half of 2011 and to convince Johnny that there was a light on in heaven would have taken some sort of divine intervention. But since SA 2011 and the Girls from Mount Mercy, not alone is Johnny ready for whatever life throws at him but he is there to help and guide anyone he can along the way. Johnny has a heart like no other and The 4 helped him to find it.

I could go on and on but I'll end now by saying to you and Alex, your fellow teachers and staff, the girls parents and families and friends who have shaped them thus far, they are without doubt a credit to all concerned and if life were a battle (which it sometimes is), These are The Four I would like to have in my corner.

Best Wishes
Pat Durkan