

City streets full of razzmatazz and colour to beat the band

By JENNIFER O'CONNOR

SPRINGFEST 2005 went out to the sounds of drums and pipes of the contestants in this year's 35th Limerick International Marching Band Parade and Competition.

Up to 30,000 people from the county and city thronged O'Connell Street as bands from across the country and the United States marched through the streets.

The marching band parade kicked off from Sarsfield Barracks and was led by members from the World Harmony Run.

Cllr Hourigan was presented with the Torch of Peace in front of the grandstand before the run continued onto King John's Castle.

Flame of friendship...



Teacher Declan Fry and the students at All Saint's National School, Mullingar got a chance to be part of the World Harmony Run on Tuesday when it stopped off in Mullingar during its four-day trip across Ireland.

Report: Deirdre

The pupils of All Saint Primary School, Mullingar got the chance to join in the Irish leg of the World Harmony run on Tuesday, March 22, when the torch of friendship stopped at the school, on its fourth day in Ireland.

Having gained national attention after a Westmeath caller to the *Gerry Ryan Show* spotted the torch passing out of Athlone on Tuesday morning, there was much anticipation as the

global running team arrived at the school to promote the issues behind this world torch relay.

The organisers of this World Harmony Run are hoping to promote international friendship and understanding. According to the organisers, the World Harmony Run is a tangible expression of humanity's essential need for friendship and understanding and helps connect grassroots efforts for world harmony.

Since the run started on March 2nd, 2005 in Lisbon in Portugal, it aims to travel to 70 countries and

cover a distance of 24,000km by the time it reaches its final destination in Budapest on October 28th.

Participation is open to athletes and non-athletes, young and old alike, and by the time the run comes to a close in October, it is expected that over 250,000 people will have been involved.

At around 12 noon, the participants took a well-deserved rest at All Saints School, greeted by the pupils, teachers and Cllr. Pat Whelan.

After a question and answer session, the torch was passed among the students in the school, before a spe-

cial Lenten lunch was shared with the runners at the adjacent church.

The team shared their inspiration and enthusiasm for the goal of world harmony, and spoke of their journey to date.

At every stage, the group aim to involve the community, but they do not seek to raise money or promote any political cause.

From All Saints, the team took off again, this time towards Dublin, taking the scenic back roads, via Killucan and Summerhill. The torch left Ireland on Friday, and made its way to Scotland.

Regional media coverage.....

Westmeath Independent, 26 March 2005

World's Harmony Run stops off at Coosan National School

GRACE O'DEA
news correspondent

The children of Coosan National School received special visitors last Tuesday morning as the World Harmony Run stopped off at the school.

The World Harmony Run, a global torch relay that seeks to promote international friendship and understanding, started on 2 March 2005, 10:30 am at Belem Tower in Lisbon.

Several school classes from Lisbon will pass the burning torch from hand to hand at the opening ceremony.

In Europe an international team of runners are carrying the torch through 45 countries.

After the World Harmony Run has covered a distance of 24,000 km, the run will arrive in Budapest at the final ceremony on 28 October 2005. 250,000 runners are expected to participate in Europe.

The run will cover a total of 70 countries.

The world's largest run for international friendship is supported by Carl Lewis, 9-time Olympic Gold Medallist (US), Tegla Loroupe (Kenya), marathon world record-holder in 1999, and Tatyana Lebedeva (Russia), Long Jump Gold Medallist Athens 2004.

The World Harmony Run is founded by the Indian philosopher and athlete Sri Chinmoy (73) and is organised by the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team, the largest ultra-



Claire Hamrock and Nicole Collison, Coosan National School, running with the World Harmony Run torch at Coosan National School

distance running organisation in the world.

The run touches the lives of millions of people along its route and in many cases the runners are joined along the route by the residents of thousands of local communities,

who pass the torch from hand to hand, along with their dreams for a better world.

"Holding the torch, they offer a cherished hope that one day it will light up the entire planet - and the world will truly be a place of one-

ness and harmony," said the organisers of the run.

The runners visit schools, community groups, running clubs, and local and national government organisations.

At these stops they talk about 'life

on the run', and share their inspiration and enthusiasm for the goal of world harmony.

The Run does not seek to raise money or promote any political cause but only to create good will among peoples and nations.

Drogheda Independent 2nd April 2005



Members of the Peace Run in the Drogheda Borough Council with the Mayor Ged Nash and Maria O'Brien Campbell