

Scoil Mhuire Community School, Clane

Christmas Newsletter 2022



It is Christmas time again and I welcome the newsletter which keeps us informed of all the activities going on in Scoil Mhuire during the first term. The school is a very busy place with a huge number of extra-curricular activities happening on a daily basis. I would like to thank all the teachers who give of their free time and motivate and encourage students to take part in the extra-curricular activities.

The Breakfast Club is going from strength to strength and the Learning Hub is a great success. I would like to thank our senior students who are passing on their experiences to the younger students in the school.

May you have a peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Padraig Nolan, Principal.

A round up of activities this term:

Carol Concert

There will be a Christmas Carol Concert on Tuesday 20th December at 8 pm in Clane Parish Church in aid of the Breakfast Club. The Breakfast Club is a free service open to all students every morning. It relies solely on fundraising. All support is appreciated.

Staff and students will join together to celebrate Christmas in music and song.

Tickets are €10 per adult and €5 per student/OAP. Tickets can be purchased from the Office, on the APP or on the night. Thank you to everyone who is participating in and supporting this very worthy school initiative.

John Paul II Awards

Twelve 6th yr students received their John Paul II medals this Sunday in Clane Parish Church, presented by Fr. Paul and Bishop Denis Nulty. The students volunteered in their communities and parishes, some did Eucharistic ministry and Minister of the Word training, helped out with parish work and in school assisted with November & Christmas services and volunteered with the Breakfast Club. They also did the Knock pilgrimage and went to the Donal Walsh Anniversary mass and on retreats to Glendalough and Solas Bride in Kildare town. Congratulations to all who have achieved their award, many of whom will now aim to complete their Papal Cross awards.

Resilience Talks

All second and third year students recently attended workshops on Resilience given by Frank Diamond who has also addressed our 6th yr. students. Frank encourages students to be themselves, not to worry what others think of them and to connect with people in real time - not on phones, as well as encouraging us to be nice to one another.

RTE's EVELYN CUSACK VISITS SCOIL MHUIRE

Our Leaving Certificate Geography classes were treated to an intriguing talk by Met Eireann's senior forecaster Evelyn Cusack last week. Leaving Cert students, Orla Dunphy, Aine Halligan and Alannah Murphy, took the initiative of emailing Ms Cusack and inviting her to address us. We were all thrilled when she agreed to make the journey from Met Eireann HQ in Glasnevin to Scoil Mhuire.

Her talk focused on her personal journey from a Science degree at UCD, on to forecasting with Met Eireann before debuting on television in 1988. She gave some great advice to our students on the opportunities offered by a science degree and the various careers that are open to graduates. She briefly explained the science behind weather forecasting but would not be drawn on whether we will have a white Christmas!!

Orla, Aine and Alannah presented Ms Cusack with flowers and a Scoil Mhuire gift bag, while all Leaving Cert Geography students received a complimentary Met Eireann pen.

Gaisce Medals Presented

Congratulations to all the students who were awarded their Bronze Gaisce – President's Award medals last month. Students were delighted to receive their awards for a variety of achievements and we hope they progress on to complete their silver and gold awards too.

Climate Detectives

TY Young Scientist students are taking part in a new project for ESA (European Space Agency) Climate Detectives. *Climate Detectives* is a European Space Agency school project for students. They are challenged to identify and investigate a local climate problem using real satellite images, historical climate data, or even their own measurements. Based on the conclusions of their investigations, students are called to 'make a difference' and propose a way to monitor, reduce, or raise awareness of the problem.

As part of the project, the group were invited to the Vistamilk / Teagasc research facilities in Cork. Students got to hear about current research that the scientists are carrying

out on ways to reduce the climate impact of agricultural practices and to get guidance on how to carry out their own research.

Past Student receives 'Seiko Just in Time Award'.

Congratulations to past student Mikey O' Siochru who has been awarded with the Seiko 'Just in Time' award by Water Safety Ireland for saving a lady who was in distress when a male seal was grabbing her leg in the sea at Sandycove last August. Mikey was working as a lifeguard at the time. Along with his lifeguard training Mikey has completed workshops and training sessions with both the Red Cross & Water Safety Authority, Ireland. Mikey's future plans are to graduate with his BSc in Environmental Science in TUD and then to pursue a full-time career as a paramedic. We wish Mikey every success and commend his bravery.

Soroptomist Public Speaking Competition

Well done To Niamh Lenihan who won the recent heat of the Soroptomist Public Speaking competition and also to Priya Evans who came third. Performing in Clongowes Wood College, Niamh spoke on 'Prosperity and Health' and Priya spoke on 'Peace and Democracy'. Niamh will now go on to represent Scoil Mhuire in the regional final in January. A wonderful achievement.

Retirement Celebration

Scoil Mhuire staff- past and present gathered in the Osprey Hotel in Naas in October to acknowledge the contribution of a number of retiring staff members to our school. Retirees included; Deputy Principals, Geraldine Brennan and Padraig Brennan, as well as Ann Behan, Pat Breslin, Martha Daly, Breda Dowling and Eileen Cribben all of whom have given great service to the school over a long number of years. It was so nice to be able to meet in person and reminisce on so many events over the years. We thank the retirees for their hard work and dedication to Scoil Mhuire and wish them good health and happiness for their retirement.

Halloween Events

We had a wonderful day of Halloween events on Oct 25th, competitions for fanciest costume, a wonderful display of student talent in the Halloween Concert as well as a number of excellent teacher doubles costumes from 6th yr students.

Trinity College Visit

On Tuesday 8th November TYA and C went to Trinity College to see the Book of Kells and visit the Engineering Department. The tour of the mechanical, manufacturing and biomedical engineering department was very informative as students were given an excellent talk by Mr Michael Reilly about perspective engineering careers, and different pathways into engineering. The students also had a cultural experience when they visited the Book of Kells. All in all a very interesting day.

The Learning Hub

Peer learning and mentoring is at the heart of The Learning Hub where older students share their knowledge and skills with younger students. This initiative is aimed at maximising student potential and achievement. 31 Learners and a team of 6 Leaders were present for the launch of “The Learning Hub” on Tuesday 15th November. Many thanks to the Leaders for their dedication to their duties. Sincere thanks to Alan Condrón, Manager of Super Valu in Clane for his generous sponsorship of the stationary for the launch.

At a recent ‘teach meet session’, Fintan Agnew, a 5th year student and an accomplished soccer player spoke to the learners about balancing his sporting commitments with his studies. 4 weeks after the launch The Leaders of Learning conducted a survey to ascertain the programme’s strengths and what the Learners would like to be delivered in the new year. “Ní neart go cur le chéile”

Student Council

Scoil Mhuire’s student council members were busy and productive this term.

An impressive sum of €3,340 was collected for Team Hope’s shoebox appeal in addition to over 100 gift-filled shoeboxes. The student council members would like to take this opportunity to thank every student and Parent/Guardian who supported this worthy charity.

On Wednesday 19th Oct, Student Council members were invited to attend Kildare’s Comhairle na nÓg AGM. Comhairle na nÓg provides a forum for young people aged 12-17 to identify and work on issues of importance to them before working with key local decision-makers in a bid to achieve their desired outcome, impact or change.

In a recent Student Voice Webinar, our student council members connected with other students from student councils throughout Ireland to discuss initiatives promoting student voice activities.

CAO

A reminder to 6th year students to open their CAO accounts as soon as possible on www.cao.ie and begin to list their courses in order of preference. In preparation, students have attended the Higher Options careers fair and have had numerous college speakers address them in school this term.

PLC

6th year students should also start applying for PLC courses – on-line directly on each PLC college website.

Exam results Awarded - Best Leaving Certificate Applied result in Leinster goes to Ava Thompson

Presentations were recently made in school to students who performed exceptionally well in the 2022 Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied exams. Our past students are

studying a wide variety of disciplines in colleges nationwide and we wish all of them every success. Since the presentations, we have been informed by the Department of Education that Leaving Certificate Applied student Ava Thompson achieved the Fergal Quinn Award for the highest results in Leinster in her exams. What an achievement! Congratulations to Ava and we wish her success in the future.

Congratulations also to all students who received their Junior Cycle results recently. Well done to you all.

A different Transition Year for Grace

Student Grace Gallagher is spending her Transition Year in Cheltenham, England pursuing a college course in dance. Grace is really enjoying her time there, living with a host family and attending college daily and to date has learned a lot and is considering her future dance plans.

6th yr Religion Programme

6th year students have been very lucky to have been addressed by many inspirational guest speakers as part of their Religious Education programme this term including Fr. Peter Mc Verry, Ben Fagen, Barretstown, Frank Diamond, Pat Breslin, The Jack & Jill foundation, Jack Kavanagh and David Malone.

Our most recent speaker, David Malone, is a bi-lateral amputee Paralympian swimmer who competed in four consecutive Paralympics and won Gold for Ireland in Sydney in 2000. He is now a Performance Director for the Paralympics Ireland and the Head coach for the Para swim Team for Paris 2024. David is also High Performance coach for our 6th Year Prefect Matthew Walsh Hussey who also shared his swimming journey with us and how he balances studying for his Leaving Certificate and training throughout his week.

Welcome to our French Language Assistant, Charline.

My name is Charline, and I am the French assistant at Scoil Mhuire Community School teaching this year. I have studied English in college for the past 5 years. I was sent by a teaching program of the French embassy in Ireland to assist the French teachers and share parts of French culture with the students.

I take small groups of about 4-5 students to improve their speaking skills and to practice for the upcoming exams. We also use games to learn new vocabulary and to help students create sentences on the spot, so that they feel more confident in their speaking skills.

For the short time I have been here, I find Ireland to be really welcoming ! The family I am living with is really really nice. Everyone seems so polite and easy-going. Ireland itself is really beautiful and majestic, the landscapes are amazing.

I am really grateful for this experience as a teacher here.

Third Year Christmas Outing

3rd Year students went on their Christmas outing to Jump Zone in Liffey Valley on Thursday 15th December and had a great time – a nice day out after a long term of hard work.

Board Games Club

The Board Games Club – to be held at lunch on Tuesdays had a huge crowd on it's launch day in November. Here's wishing it continued success. All are welcome.

Physics Workshop

Senior Physics students recently participated in the Maynooth University Physics workshop to enhance their studies in this subject.

Geography Trip

Mr Cribbin and Ms Bagnall brought 2A, 2G, 2E and 2H on a Geography trip to Mount Lucas Wind farm. A very informative day was had by all and the weather stayed dry so the group got a great chance to walk around the farm.

T.Y Garda Parade

On the 28th of September, the T.Y students celebrated 100 years of the Gardai being in Clane. They watched as the Gardai paraded the streets, in cars, on bicycles and horseback! Gardai showcased vehicles and equipment, such as an old garda car, a gardai truck, riot gear and tested handcuffs on a couple of students! It was a fun day out and a great opportunity for the T.Y students to interact with the Gardai.

Taekwondo Workshop

On Tuesday the 16th of November, the TY yearbook class took part in a Taekwondo lesson with Garda Shane. They were taught how to present respectfully within the martial art and a variety of self-defence techniques. It was a fun and valuable experience, and they learned some useful skills.

Sports Update

First Year Football

1st Year completed in a Kildare School 'A' Blitz which was aimed at promoting football for all 1st year players. 45 1st years competed in the 7 a side blitz in Hawkfield. The South Leinster Competition starts in January.

U14s made it to the South Leinster Semi Finals where they were defeated by Good Council, Wexford. The lads trained hard this year and were kindly sponsored with new jerseys by Fintan Doran at Fern Lane Timber Frame Garden Homes.

Girls Football

The Junior Ladies have had a very successful year to date winning all of their games. They beat St Fergal's Rathdowney and most recently Árd scoil Chiaráin Naofa to a score of 6:8 to 5:4. St Farnan's Prosperous gave them the points. The girls now advance to the next round in the Leinster Championship. Best of luck girls!

The Senior Ladies are also having an excellent year so far. They have won their games against Confey College (7:13 to 0:4) and Scoil Dara Kilcock (6:18 to 3:10). They drew against Colaiste Chiaráin Leixlip. They now face St Wolstan's Celbridge in the final round. They are in a very good position to advance to the next stage of the competition. Many thanks to Ms Robinson, Ms Kelly & Ms O'Dowd for all their hard work with the girls.

Senior Football

The Senior football championship is at Preliminary quarter final stage. The lads have progressed out of their group to this point. The championship opener ended up all square with a scoreline of 1-10 to 0-13, away in St.Beniludus, Stillorgan. Following this the team suffered a 1-11 to 0-7 defeat to St.Pats Navan with the game being all square with 10 minutes to play.

The captain of the team is DJ Percival (5th Year). Moate await in the next round.

The team would like to thank the Westgrove Hotel for sponsorship of new jerseys. DJ, Enda Keane and Hugh Muldoon recently went down to the hotel for the presentation of the new jerseys. The support is greatly appreciated.

First year Boys Soccer

The first year boys soccer team have made a great start to the season with three wins in their games played to date (two cup wins, one league win and one league draw).

In their first cup game against De Le Salle College in Leicester Town FC they were on fire and won by 11- 0. Goals scored by Noah Mulligan (1), Logan Tennyson (2), Fergus Dunne (2), Ryan Mangan (2) and Devin Gallen(4).

The next round was against Kingswood Community College in Tallagt. They were successful on a 5-0 scoreline. Goals were scored by Logan Tennyson(2), Fergus Dunne, Aidan Tobin, and Calvin Featherstone .

The third game was in the league against Portlaoise CBS. The final score was 6-1 to Clane. Goals scored by: Noah Mulligan, Ryan Mangan, Logan Tennyson, Devin Gallen(3) .

In their most recent game they played out a very exciting draw with Naas CBS on a 2-2 scoreline. Goals scored by Noah Mulligan and Devin Gallen.

Mr Sheridan and TY students Oliver Reilly, Peter Casey and Oisin Hand have been coaching the lads all season in preparation for these games. It looks like our boys have a lot more to come and they are our future upcoming stars for Scoil Mhuire Clane

Our other teams are also going well to date. The Under 15 team defeated Maynooth 5-0 to advance to the knockout stages of the midlands league. Both the Under 17 and Under 19 teams are still in contention in their competitions which will continue in January.

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PICTURES FROM THE FIRST TERM:





















Wishing all staff and students a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

