



Christmas Newsletter 2021

Christmas Greeting from Mr. Nolan

Another Christmas is sneaking up on us very quickly and as always at this time of the year we are asking where did the year go? School has been a busy place. After two interrupted years, it was great to have an open school for the full term. The reintroduction of extra-curricular activities has been very welcome. It is wonderful to see large numbers of students training after school. The home matches have provided a lot of entertainment for us at lunch time. Students have also been very busy fundraising and Christmas jumper day is in aid of our own breakfast club. To keep in the spirit of Christmas our Prefects and Mentors are bringing us a virtual Christmas service and some carol singing on the last day of term.

I would like to thank all the staff who worked so hard in keeping the school open throughout 2021. Your work is much appreciated.

Every morning during Advent we receive an Advent email from Mr Kavanagh, the school chaplain. This morning's email tells us that joy, prayer and gratitude are the three attitudes that prepare us to live Christmas genuinely. A nice thought to finish.

May you have a peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the new year.

Padraig Nolan



Once again our school community is supporting **Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal** for children affected by poverty in Africa or Eastern Europe. You can read their stories

at www.teamhope.ie. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the **Christmas Shoebox Appeal was online**; but it has not hampered the generosity of the Scoil Mhuire community. There has been a fantastic response to our appeal and we have **raised €4780 which equates to 239 shoeboxes - a record for us in Scoil**

Mhuire. Thank you so much to everyone who donated to this very worthwhile cause. A special thank you also to sixth year students **Melissa O Donohoe, Tiernán O' Ruairc, Caoimhe Hughes, Bronwyn Goulding and Ciara Connolly** who have done all the work organising the appeal with **Ms. Bagnall**.





On behalf of the U16 management, the team and the school community we would to **thank Alan Condrón in SuperValu, Clane for his very generous sponsorship of new jerseys for the U16 football team.** SuperValu had previously sponsored tops for our seniors and we are very grateful for the continued sponsorship of Gaelic football in our school from a prominent local business. Pictured are Alan Condrón, SuperValu and Calum Doran, U16 football Captain.



A book and a tree of remembrance were placed outside the main office for the month of November for members of the school community to remember loved ones and to add the names of those they wished to be prayed for.



We marked **College Awareness Week** to celebrate the benefits of going to college, showcasing local role models and helping students to become college ready. Tutors showed clips of college information to students, there were progression talks for Juniors, college talks for Transition Year, 5th and 6th year students and a talk with a group of past students, documenting their experiences of college and offering tips to our Senior students. In addition there were a number of displays around the building offering information on routes to college, universities, colleges of further education, accessing careers, our teaching pathways and STEM careers.

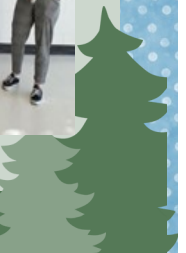
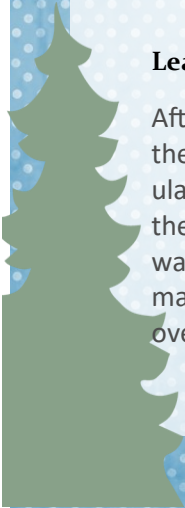


Stand UP week was marked in the school in November as part of the national awareness week to offer support and create awareness to prevent LGBTI+ bullying and to encourage all students to continue to work towards making our school a safe and inclusive community for everyone.



Leaving Certificate Success

After a difficult year, our 6th year students finally received their Leaving Certificate results and did very well. Congratulations to all our graduates and we wish them every success in their chosen pathways. Pictured are some students who made it in to collect trophies for gaining over 600 points .



Godolphin College Bursary

Congratulations to Anna Duffy, 6th year student who is this year's recipient of the Godolphin Bursary. Eighteen students applied this year and Anna's application was successful. Anna will receive €1,500 each year of college and a laptop to assist with her studies. Thank you to Godolphin for their continued sponsorship of this bursary.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is a free service provided to students from 8.30 to 8.45 offering a nutritious warm breakfast on a take-away basis. We have over 25 students volunteering and 10 staff members ensuring that there is a friendly face and warm welcome to greet students. This year the John Paul II Award students have come on board to volunteer. The Covid pandemic has had significant impact on our ability to fundraise this year, but our ever-resourceful students came up with many ways to raise money for Break-

fast club, such as selling hot-chocolate at breaktime, a Christmas jumper day and raffling hampers to the staff. Many thanks from the Breakfast Club committee to all the students, the Parent's Association, parents and staff that have contributed in any way to this service in our school.



Soroptimists Success

Congratulations to Sophie Byrne and Anna Duffy who took part in the local heat of the Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition in Clongowes Wood College in November. Anna spoke about how the Education system inadequately caters for students with Special Needs and Sophie spoke about Greenwashing in the Environmental Movement and how governments and corporations are eschewing their social responsibilities. A special congratulations to Sophie Byrne who won the competition and who will now go on to represent Scoil Mhuire at the regional final in January. Well done girls.

Chess Club

The Chess Club is open for First and Second year students in Lecture Rm 2 at lunch on Wednesdays. About 10 students attend and new members are welcome to join. Thank you to Ms. Robinson for organising the club.



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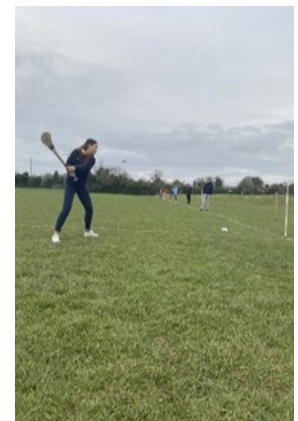
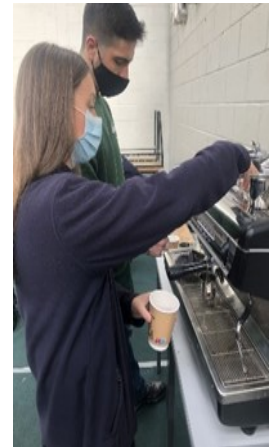
Transition Year Events

Despite Covid restrictions Transition year students have experienced a wide range of workshops and events this term including – Red Barn Activity Day, A Barista Workshop, A First Aid Workshop, A 5 week Mental Health Workshop with AWARE, A Circus Workshop, A Puc Fada Event, A Drugs Awareness Workshop and a Forensics workshoptopped off with an ice skating trip this week.

It is hoped students will surpass the Make A Wish success of last year's group next term with their work for this worthy cause.

Transition Year Work Experience Opportunities – Thank You

A most sincere thank you to these local businesses for taking our Transition Year students for work placements since September – Covid has upset the plans of many students for work placements but our local businesses have been most accommodating in taking our students in - we are most grateful for the opportunities offered to our students by: NCBI, Westgrove Hotel, Granite Concepts, Millicent Golf Club, Palmerstown House, Cribbin's Butchers, Archer Heritage Planning, Hughes Pharmacy, Primecare Program Management, K- Club, Definition Dance, BL Vacations, Byrnes Tiling, Serafac Ltd, Dawn Farm Foods, Early Minds, Larc en Ciel, Faddens Pharmacy, Gill Skip Hire, Envirokids, Trinity College, Maynooth University, Bliss Cuisine, Scoil Bhride, The Coffee Corner, The Hamlet, Renee Hair Studio, Clane Builders Providers, Neumech, Dell Technologies, R. Bracken Solicitors, Elverys, Osprey Hotel, Tesco, Government Buildings, Percival Fencing, Leavy Landscaping, Izubee Gifts, Virgos Hair, GAA, School of Archaeology, SIG, Country Market, Café Grange, MCDonalds, Mondello, Given Opticians, Make a Wish, Mondello, Tech Create, Highfield Vets, Secret Beauty, Flowerz, Bucholz McEvoy Architects, Supervalu, Wild Poppy, Greenlane Nursery, Officecore, ESP Security, Powercomm and others.



Geography Field Trip

Covid restrictions this year meant 6th yr Geography students had to stay local and went to the Liffey stream to complete their Geography field trip with Ms. Callinan.



for the class. Some excellent creations were displayed erupting and some remained dormant!



First Year Geography Students Model Volcanic Activity

Pupils from Ms. Bagnall's Geography class were asked to make a volcano at home and demonstrate volcanic activity

November for Irish Cancer Society

Some of our staff members who did 'Movember' ending the month with a coffee morning raising €2175 for the Irish Cancer Society, well done to all.



Internet Safety & Cyber-Bullying Talk

Junior students participated in a workshop this week on Internet Safety and Awareness of Cyber-bullying – to heighten their awareness of these issues and to encourage vigilance while on the internet.

Our 6th year Prefects for 2021-22





Welcome to our First Year students



Sixth year students are reminded to open their CAO accounts and list their chosen courses in order of preference. All students have had 1-1 guidance meetings and speakers from many colleges addressed the 6th year students virtually this term to assist with their course choice decision-making. PLC college applications can now be done on-line also – apply directly to each individual PLC college.

Maynooth University Prizewinners

Congratulations to 6th year students - Adam Fanning, Katie Hawkins, Adam Mooney and Aoibheann Healy, recipients of the Maynooth University Academic Prizes based on the 5th yr Summer Test results for 2021. Each winner receives a gift voucher. Well done to all four students and we wish them continued academic success.



Scoil Mhuire Orchard begins...

With great pride Scoil Mhuire Green Schools Committee planted their first 5 fruit trees in November as part of the National Pollination Plan and DC for Bees Orchard Initiative. It is also hoped to extend the planting and plant a wildflower meadow and other plants to provide a habitat for our bees and other insects and a plentiful supply of apples, plums and pears for the Home Ec. Department. Thank you to Sophie O’Dea—Environment prefect and her assistants who did the digging and to past student Donal O Donovan, Project Manager with Schneider who was instrumental in facilitating the planting initiative.

SPORTS ROUND UP

Congratulations to our Senior Footballers who progressed to the quarter final of the Br Bosco Cup beating Patricians Secondary School Newbridge 0-11 to 0-10. They also played Kilbeggan in a challenging game but emerged successful.



U17 Soccer

We have played two cup games so far. We beat Colaiste Chiaran of Leixlip 10-0 in the preliminary round and then Colaiste Pobail Setanta Phib-blestown 5-1. We play Salesians College Celbridge in the next round.

In the league, we have played only one game so far, when we travelled to Newbridge to play Patrician SS. On the day we were missing a number of players who were playing with the senior footballers and lost 4-2. In this game we lost two key players to injury in Rhys Vaughan and Andrew Leavy. Rhys has thankfully recovered, and we hope to see Andrew get back from his knee injury in the new year. After Christmas, we still must play St. Marys CBS Portlaoise and Cross & Passion College Kilkullen so we are still in contention to make the semi-finals.

Hurling Update

Senior hurlers have a must win match on Tuesday vs Boyne. If they win they will progress to a Leinster quarter final.

Under 16s have won all their group games and will contest a Leinster quarter final after Christmas.

Under 14s have started training. They have played a Kildare schools blitz in Hawkfield last month and won all of their games.

Future Stars - Leinster Schools Team

We are very proud in Scoil Mhuire of the achievements of some of our players. Fintan Agnew is currently training with the Leinster Schools Team – a huge achievement and we wish him every success.

Ireland U16 & U17 Squads

Ruadhan Kane has featured for Ireland U17s. Another of our students Taylor Mooney has featured and scored for the Ireland U16 team. For his Transition Year, Taylor is participating in the FAI soccer course, and we look forward to seeing him return next year. Well done lads, you have shown great dedication and commitment to get selected for these teams, and we look forward to seeing your continued progression.



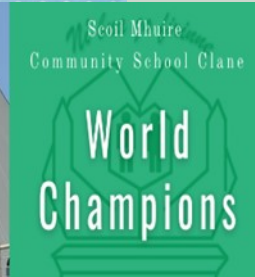
Gaelic Blitz for First Years

First year students took part in a Gaelic blitz in Hawkfield on Monday November 22nd. We had three teams of ten players. Each team played three matches. Each of the teams won all of their matches. There was a great level of skill and no little enthusiasm in evidence on the day. All the players had a very successful and enjoyable day.

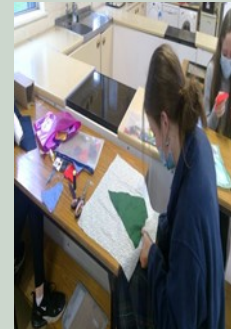


Clane vs St.Farnans Senior Soccer Ladies Match

A tense game of soccer took place at home against Prosperous Secondary School. Despite there being two fantastic Ireland players on the opposing team, our girls raised to the challenge and the final score was 3-2 to Clane. Leah Coulahan scored 2 lovely goals and Holly Tyrell scored the last goal to secure their great win.



Huge congratulations to past students, **James O'Brien and Cormac Browne** who have won the **World Golf Amateur Match Race Final in Dubai**. They represented Team Ireland after winning the All-Ireland Amateur Match Race and then travelled to Dubai to represent Ireland in the final. They have been crowned World Champions, beating teams from all over the world.



Athletics Success

Congratulations to Alex Heaney 2nd year who won 100 metres sprint in the Leinster athletics championship held in Athlone. Alex trains three times a week with Clane Athletics Club and we wish him every success in the future with his athletics career.



Wishing all staff, students and their families a very restful healthy Christmas.

