



Beannachtaí na Nollaig

Parents Association

Again this year, we continue with a programme of activities that promotes student, staff and parents involvement in the school community. We have hosted a very successful 1st year event and also co-funded the excellent speaker for the 6th year CAO information evening, and the new allotment project. Discussions are underway to organise a School Sports day in May. We also continue to support the Muckross Development Fund to promote the provision of a lunchroom/concert hall facility. We need your support so please join the Parents Association at only €30 per family. Contact us at muckrosspa@ireland.com.

Upcoming PA Social events

Dec 21st (Carol Service)

Jan 27th (2nd year)

Feb 17th (3rd year)

March 24th (5th year)

May TBA (4th year)

Advent Message From The Principal



Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to us. Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. How much more exciting it is then to engage in this experience in the company of the pupils of Muckross Park. Their joie de vivre, their exuberance and their boundless energy in this anticipatory season is both infectious and uplifting. They help us to look back, focus and reflect on our own memories and they give us hope for the future. In this spirit then, we the school community in Muckross Park College, pupils, staff and management, wish you our extended Christian family, a joyful Advent and a peaceful and meaningful Christmas.

Teachers News

Congratulations to Bean Uí Dhuill on her retirement. She has taught Irish, French and German for many years. We wish her well in her retirement and thank her for many years of dedicated service to our daughters. Go raibh míle maith agat agus go n-eí rí an bóthar leat. Also congrats to Joanne Egan on the birth of her daughter, Lucy. Another Muckross girl maybe !!!

Muckross Allotment

A site has been chosen and an outline plan is almost ready . We hope to construct our first two raised beds at the end of January. Then we will plant our first crops in March. A big thank you to everyone who offered ideas and help and the Parents Association for providing funds for materials to make the raised beds.

Conor Reidy, age 6, and brother of Maeve (5th year), has battled with liver cancer and a transplant. His parents have written a book 'A lot can happen in a year and a half' to increase awareness of organ donation. The book costs €20 and ALL proceeds go to the Crumlin Hospital Medical & Research Foundation to support childhood cancer research. The book can be ordered through www.originalwriting.ie. Please support this very worthy cause.

1st Year News

The first years are delighted with their first term in Muckcross under the care of Ms Stevenson, the Year Head, and tutors, Ms Sullivan, Ms Walsh, Ms O'Hara and Ms Egan /Mr. Landy. The 1st years were welcomed into the school by the 6th years in September, and were then teamed up with their 5th year buddies to help them find their way around Muckcross' multicoloured corridors and make them feel at home during the first few shaky weeks.

The girls have also enjoyed the pre-Halloween dress-up day, the inter class French quiz, baking for the parents night, afternoon hockey training, Saturday fun for all basketball, Mr. O' Driscoll's morning choir and Mrs. Lucas's hot chocolate book club.

For the parents, the highlight of the term was the Parents Social evening, where they had the opportunity to view the school through the eyes of their daughters as they were escorted around the school. Then the parents were treated to singing by two excellent choirs, speeches by the girls, a warm welcome from Ms Lundy and Ms Stevenson and some gorgeous cupcakes baked by the girls. Thanks to the Parents Association for organising this welcome to the school community.



2nd Year News

Everyone has settled back in and second year has been a fantastic success so far. The Halloween celebration day was brilliant and 2nd year won the overall prize for the best costumes. The hockey teams are doing great in their leagues as well as the basketball teams. The snow added another enjoyable dimension and work is underway for the Christmas tests.

3rd Year News

Third years are now well settled back into the swing of things, preparing for their Junior Cert next June. Submissions for their practical exams are underway as well as Religion Journals and CSPE projects being prepared. After school study has proved popular amongst many of the third years with more taking it up after Christmas. Exams and study aside, the girls are still managing to partake in many other extracurricular activities including book club, choir, chess club, debating and sports.

Student Council



The student council has been very active this year, having already set up the 1st/5th year buddy system, organised the Halloween dress-up day and competition, started a blog on the school's website and put up a notice board to keep the students and staff informed. Their aims for the New Year are to set up a student training day, organise a fun day for the end of the year, continue developing the house system and to introduce monthly open council meetings where all students and staff are welcome to pitch new ideas. Any suggestions can be sent to the student council via the suggestions box.

Transition Year News

The TY students have been kept very busy this year with numerous activities such as first aid, horticulture and international cooking during school and sailing, golf and guitar lessons after school. Guest speakers were organised from Focus Ireland, Autism Ireland, The Sunshine Children's Home and other organisations. All students are currently working to achieve their ECDL certificates and many are working toward the Gaisce President's award. The mini companies are working hard for the Student Enterprise Awards.



The Transition Year charity events such as the Christmas shoeboxes for Team Hope, the Concern Fast and St. Vincent de Paul hampers were a resounding success. Thank you to the whole school for their support.

Unfortunately due to the recent weather, the Muckross/Marian musical has been postponed until the New Year. All students are looking forward to the school trip to Munich in February.

5th Year News

The 5th years have been occupied with everything from debates to musicals along with their studies. The 5th year Gonzaga/ Muckross play is the acclaimed Les Miserables, and it will run from the 19th to the 21st of January. The history class visited both Derry and Belfast in November to learn about the troubles in Northern Ireland. A big thank you to all the teachers involved! A new venture this year is the Science Debating Team, which has had a large amount of interest. Many thanks to Mr. Breslin who is spending endless hours organizing the Class trip to Paris at Easter.

6th Year News

The 6th years are very busy with exam-related activities. Many visits have been made to open days in the various 3rd level colleges. Information is available on www.qualifax.ie, www.cao.ie and www.careersportal.ie. Apart from study, the 6th years are consumed by "THE MODEL SCOUTS" Ellen Flanagan and Lucy Moore (really a Muckross girl although now in Mt Anville) have travelled around the globe and reached the final stages of the competition. Great to see the green MUCKROSS uniform on TV!!!!

Class of 2010

Ms Fitzsimons and Ms McDermott returned to celebrate Muckross Park Debs 2010 in The Shelbourne Hotel. Every year Trinity College and University College Dublin reward first year students who have excelled in the Leaving Certificate examinations with scholarships and exhibition awards. UCD Entrance Scholars Awards: Heidi Brabazon, Aoife Feely and Aine Ryan - College of Life Sciences Scholarship and Kate McErlean-College of Business and Law Scholarship. TCD Entrance Exhibition Awards: Sorcha Ni Dhuill and Sarah O'Neill.



Muckross School Orchestra

This year has seen the introduction of the Muckross School Orchestra, under the direction of Ms. Minnock and Ms. Forde. The orchestra consists of 25 dedicated members who meet every Thursday morning at 8.00 am for a 45 minute rehearsal.

Sports

This year we have 17 hockey teams competing in the Leinster league. Over 100 1st years are training for league and non-league teams. A special word of thanks to the coaches for all their hard work. We currently have 6 basketball teams competing in both league and cup competitions, and our u16s reached the all Ireland quarter finals! Currently we are working on developing basketball in the school with emphasis on the junior years. We have established a relationship with Firhouse Notre Dame Basketball Club. Training for all ages and levels is on Saturday from 10-12 where fun tournaments and games will be run. Cross country training has proved a great success with 20 girls training after school each week. Cross country events will take place after Christmas. Training is open to all ages and abilities. Good luck to the new Muckross Park College Equestrian team who will be competing this year. Congratulations to Sarah Twomey, 4th Year, who won a gold and a silver medal at the World Karate Championships in Cyprus. Congratulations also to Louise McCarthy, 5th Year, who represented Ireland in cricket in South Africa and to Julie Byrne, 1st year, who competed at the recent European Tennis Championships.

Lourdes Trip



Ellen Flanagan, Roisin White, Ellen Cosgrave, Aisling O'Grady, Lorna Gillingham and Ciara McKay were chosen as volunteers with Ms. Hoban on the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. They raised funds for their own trip and also raised enough to sponsor 2 pilgrims. They worked from 7am-10pm everyday as stewards and on ward duty. What a fantastic experience!

Library

When a class were asked how they thought their school could be improved, there were the usual answers of bigger lockers as well as the surprising complaint that the library is too small! Visitors to the library on Scrabble morning, Bookclubs and Chess Club would see the library full to overflowing. The 1st Year students are a particularly keen group of library users and their enthusiasm was reflected in the wonderful response to book sponsorship at the recent Bookfair. A special December event is Derek Landy of 'Skulduggery' fame coming to Muckross.

Comórtas Díospóireachta

Ghlac Jasmin Huysmans, Molly De Búrca agus Danielle De Brún (3ú bliain) páirt i ndíospóireachtaí an Phiarsaigh. Cé go ndearna siad a ndícheall ní raibh an oíche leo. Ghlac Heather Barnes, Louise Flanagan agus Megan Nic Liam (5ú blain) páirt san díospóireacht Gael Linn. Ar an lá níor bhuaigh said. Ba mhaith le gach duine buíochas a ghabháil le gach duine a thug tacaíocht dóibh go háirithe Ms Ní Bhraonáin agus Ms Lyons agus na cailíní eile.

Parents Association 2010/11

Contact us at muckrosspa@ireland.com

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2 nd Year:	Padraic Ferry 086 8142227; Suzanne Hardy Farrell 087 2031714
3 rd Year:	Catherine Crowe 086 1042051; Elayne Brennan 086 8115841
4 th Year:	Mary Pierse 086 3614880; Anne O'Connell 086 8580296
5 th Year:	Fiona Shackleton 086 0890635; Annemarie Kidney 087 8506678
6 th Year:	Geralyn Byrne 086 2554535; Terence McCrann 086 8577098
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