



MUCKROSS PARK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014



From the Principal's Desk

We said 'Goodbye' to the class of 2014 on Friday May 16th at the end of a wonderful, fun-filled and at times emotional day. We wish for them all that is good in life and we hope that they will treasure the friends and memories that they made here in Dominican College Muckross Park.

Another school year has ended successfully and I have many people to thank for that. I would like to thank Sr Nora, our school chaplain, who has been generous with her time and wisdom and is a wonderful representation of all that is good in the Dominican way to God.

I also thank Ms Anne Marie Mee, the Deputy Principal, for all of the work she does in the college. Timetabling, staffing, policy development, restorative practice, health and safety, landscaping of the grounds, the list goes on and on. Her dedication and talent contribute greatly to the success of Dominican

College Muckross Park.

I would like to thank the staff of the college both ancillary and teaching. Our caretaker Tom Kavanagh, our secretaries Mary Verdon, Kris Mc Keever, Jo Connell and our Bursar Phil Power, all of whom work quietly behind the scenes to ensure that the college runs smoothly.

Our librarian Anne O'Grady must be thanked for the book club meetings, the research assistance and guidance to the girls. I thank Kinga Kuczynska our Lab Assistant who works tirelessly to stock the laboratories and to prepare experiments in advance of class.

I thank the teaching staff of Dominican College Muckross Park who are exemplary. They truly care about their students. The dedication and commitment shown is second to none and the genuine desire that our students should do well and be happy, permeates their entire philosophy of education. I am blessed to have such a talented and professional staff.

I would like to thank you, the parents and guardians of our wonderful students. Thank you for entrusting your daughter to our care and for supporting us in the mission of helping to bring out the best in each of them.

A final word of thanks must go to

the members of the Parents' Committee who work tirelessly and continuously throughout the year to maintain the very strong connection between the college and home.

Finally, on behalf of the entire staff of this great college, I would like to wish all of our school community, parents and students a very happy, restful and pleasant summer.

Sincerely,

Caroline Lundy,
Principal.

Muckross Parents' Association Dear Parents / Guardians

It never ceases to amaze us at how quickly the school year can fly!

Here we are again with our daughters light years from where they were in September. To that end we owe a huge thank you to Ms Lundy, Ms Mee and all the staff at Muckross.

We the Parents' Association would also like to thank you, all the parents who have supported us during the year with the high level of subscriptions received and at the cinema fund raiser.

Some particular aims set this year were for the provision of hockey dug-outs and basketball equipment. These have been achieved and will be available next year.

The role of the Parents' Association is to represent the views of the parents to the Principal and Board of Management, to organise events educational and social and to fundraise to improve facilities.

All views to muckrosspa@gmail.com.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, filled with sporting achievements, individual year news, up-dates and dates for your diary....

... have a sunny summer!

Muckross Park College PA Committee



A Youth Forum for Catholic Schools Week was held in Muckross on January 30th. Students from Muckross, Gonzaga, Teresian's and Marian College attended. The Archbishop of Dublin attended an hour long Q&A session with the students and then joined them all for lunch in the canteen.

Since the last Newsletter, sport in Muckross has gone from strength to strength. We have had some epic highs and devastating lows. We have had victory snatched from within our grasp and left opposing teams for dust. Girls have represented Muckross on the international sporting stage and did the school and themselves proud. We also say goodbye to our 6th years who have contributed massively to the sporting life of the school and for that we thank you whole heartedly.

Hockey

The 2013/14 Season will always be remembered as the year of the 1 v 1's (a new penalty system replacing penalty flicks) but we ploughed on to have an excellent hockey season and were in Three Rock for three finals. We also had the Junior A, Junior B and Minor B get to their league semi-finals. The Senior 2s were narrowly defeated by Loreto Beaufort and the Senior 3s were also narrowly defeated by Loreto Dalkey. The First Year 8-a-side leagues ran incredibly well with our As, Bs and Ds making semi-finals with the D team going forward to the final.

In Short we enjoyed a great season with the girls contributing 100% - but where fun was had by all.



Basketball

This has been the best season yet for basketball in Muckross. We have been to Limerick twice for All Ireland semi-finals at both Senior and First year level. The Senior A team were crowned South Dublin League Champions in January and went on to win all their All Ireland qualifiers in February. This was followed by both the First year A team and the Second Year A team winning their respective South Dublin Leagues.



The seniors went to Limerick and were narrowly defeated. The First Year A team were in Limerick on Friday 9th May and held their own until the final quarter. We have 80 incoming first years coming in on Wednesday evenings in May for basketball and bonding. We in the sports department look forward to welcoming the new girls in August.



Tennis

We had an exceptional tennis season with most of our 10 teams progressing to knock out stages. The Minor D and Minor C were in semi and quarter final stages.

The Junior B team got through to their league semi final also. The finals took place in Landsdowne Tennis Club and we had 4 teams in the finals: Senior A, Senior B, Junior A, and Minor B. The Senior B won their league with a close victory over Santa Sabina A.

A huge congratulations to Julie Byrne of Cabra TY who spent most of her year in full-time training with the national tennis squad. Julie also won ITF events in doubles this year and is one of the youngest players to play Irish Federation Cup.

We wish Julie continued success as she competes both at home and abroad this summer.

Frisbee

Congratulations to Aoibhinn Dwan and Sophie Farnan who were selected for the Irish U-20 Frisbee team and will travel to Italy. The Muckross team had a great year, winning a Spirit Award.



Athletics

Congratulations to all the girls who took part in the East Leinster Championships in April. The Muckcross team did the school proud with: **Niamh Foran** : 2nd in minor High Jump. Niamh went on to have a personal best in the Leinster finals. **Clodagh Ferry**: 2nd In Junior Discus **Beth O'Brien**: 2nd in Long Jump. Beth went on to come 4th in the Leinster finals in Santry. **Pauline Lowe**: 2nd in 2000m walk and Pauline will go on to represent Muckcross in the Senior Leinster finals in Tullamore. **Orla Murray**: 3rd in 100m sprint final; **Niamh Henry**, **Ellen O Gorman** and **Louise Mc Grane** all qualified for the 100m final by winning their heat. **Niamh Staunton**: 4th in intermediate 3000m. **Abbie Mc Namara** and **Sarah Dunleavy** qualified for final of 800m. **Grace Lonergan**: 5th in Junior Long Jump; **Ciara Conlon**: 6th in intermediate javelin.

Day 2 brought lots more success to the Muckcross Team with Senior and Junior Relay teams winning Gold medals and the Junior B relay team winning Silver.

Jade Leahy made history as she swept the opposition aside in the Senior 400m final winning her event for the 6th year in a row and will go on to represent Muckcross in the Senior Leinster Finals in Tullamore.

Other notable success were: **Pauline Lowe**: 1st Senior Triple Jump. Pauline will be representing the school in Tullamore at the Senior Finals. **Beth O'Brien**: 2nd Senior Hurdles; **Grainne McGill**: 3rd U17 300m; **Louise McGrane**: 3rd U17 200m; **Roisin Murray**: 3rd Junior Triple Jump; **Rosie Ferry**: 2nd Minor Shot ; **Orla Murray**, **Grainne McGuill**, **Beth O'Brien** and **Jade Leahy** will represent the school in the Senior Leinster Finals in Tullamore in the 4x100 relay event.

Congratulations to all who participated and did an excellent job representing the school.

Sports Day

Sports day was once again a huge success this year with immense competition between all years and classes. Tory 3rd year were crowned over all sporting champions!

The following girls from each year received an award for their overall contribution to Muckcross sporting life :

6th Year
Laura Hanlon

5th Year
Beth O'Brien

4th Year
Laura Shaw

3rd Year
Niamh Staunton

2nd Year
Clodagh Ferry

1st Year
Ellie Fitzgerald

Sports Girl of the Year 2013/14

Claire O'Connor

Congratulations to this year's Muckcross Sport's Girl of the Year 2014, Claire O'Connor of 6th year.

Claire was chosen in recognition for her 6 years of excelling in Muckcross sporting life; having played hockey at Senior 1, and represented the school at tennis, and athletics.

We wish Claire every continued success.



Aisling McCann

5th year student. Aisling McCann Captain Irish U16 Basketball Team 2013 pictured with Devin Toner, of Leinster and Ireland rugby at the recent Evening Herald Sports Star Awards.

Finally ...

A huge thank you to all the teaching and coaching staff and the parents who guided and accommodated sporting life during this academic year!

1st Year News

The girls are now fully established within Muckross and the school's strong ethos continues to assist the development of the 1st year girls whether through academics, the arts or on the sports field.

Outside of academic studies, the girls are involved in a wide range of sports and activities including debating, orchestra, choir, book clubs, chess.

Congratulations to Jane Breathnach who finished 6th in the World Irish Dancing Championships

and to Kate Feely, Derbhla Kernan, Alannah Jennings and Isabella Nolan who are all members of the Dublin Youth Orchestra and played in the National Concert Hall. Anyone who attended the Muckross Spring Concert in March could only have been amazed at the wonderfully talented musicians within the school.

Also thanks to the Parents' Association of St Michael's who invited the 1st years to a table quiz in April where a great night was had by all.

2nd Year News

It's been a great term for the 2nd years as they integrate more fully into Muckross life, enjoying no-longer being the new girls in 1st year, and being thrilled not to have the pressures of 3rd year exams yet!

A very interesting field trip was to the Mosque in Clonskeagh, as part of religious education. The girls were accompanied by Miss

O'Briens, Mr Mul-lanney and Miss Doran.

The Imam met the girls in the foyer, who was very generous with his time – as he explained Islam, the Ka'ba in Mecca and the Temple in Medina.

Also this term there was a very enjoyable day-long retreat with two very interesting leaders. Susie spoke about self-image, body image and self-esteem while Gerry

told stories about his trip to Lourdes and played his guitar. It was a thought-provoking day.

The girls also enjoyed several opportunities to cheer their fellow students success on the sports field – particularly in going to Three Rock for hockey and to the hall to support the 2nd year basketball team for some really thrilling matches.

3rd Year News

Well finally our 3rd years have reached the end of the year, the Junior Cert count down is over! The girls have been very busy studying and preparing for their exams. They have already completed their practicals in Art, Music and Home Economics and everyone was very happy.

Casting for the TY musicals with Marian College have commenced with plenty of competition and talent—it is a time to enjoy.

Well done to Maria O'Sullivan from Achill who raised €350 in a charity bake sale.

Ms. Delaney, the year head deserves special thanks for her wonderful

support and advice to the girls over the past 3 years.

Also a special thanks to the form tutors, Achill- Ms. Prior, Valentia- Ms. Cunneen, Rathlin- Ms. O'Brien & Mr. Mc Carthy, Tory - Ms. Ruanne,

We wish all the 3rd year girls the very best of luck in their exams.



Our Musicians playing at the Spring Concert

TY News

TY proved busy and exciting with all the girls busy with schoolwork and extra-curricular activities.

The girls have enjoyed a huge variety of guest speakers, who enlightened us in many aspects of life and work. Guest speakers ranged from the Irish Film Council to the RLNI to a boot camp for makeup - everyone thoroughly enjoyed the talks and they became the highlight of each week.

We also had an informative journey during Dublin Culture Week last February. This was a week long excursion to get to know our city.

We visited Dublin Zoo, Collins Barracks, the Botanical Gardens, Huge Lane Gallery and many more destinations. During this week

we learned to be independent and to navigate ourselves around the city. It was exciting and full of learning about the present and the past of our proud City. We were also invited to a musical with St. Michael's College.

This musical, Avenue Q, was performed in May and rehearsals were held every day of the week. In the end the musical was a great success and everybody involved really enjoyed the show.

All in all it has been a great year and everyone is looking forward to the Gaisce Hike and the York trip.



5th Year News

As the 2013/14 school year comes to an end, the girls who have just completed 5th Year have matured and are galloping towards their final year in Muckcross. Hard to believe!

The prefects have been selected and congratulations to Rachel Sparrow who will be next year's Head Girl, Laura Crowley Deputy Head Girl, Kate Grennan, Sports Captain and Aoife Daly, Deputy Sports Captain. We wish them well.

The highlight for approximately 60 of the girls was the annual 5th Year ski trip which took place over the February mid-term break. The teachers and girls travelled to San Valentino in Italy.

The Glee Club sang at the Spring Concert and a number of 5th years also participated in the various music groups on the night. A team of girls entered the Inter schools quiz and came 6th in the competition.

Some 5th year girls were involved in the anti-bullying programme set up in the school and attended a fruitful workshop.

The final term was taken up with extensive fundraising to help send 6 girls and a number of sick pilgrims to Lourdes in September.

The girls organised a number of events including a coffee morning for parents, a sponsored cycle, cake sales and Easter raffle.

The Parents' Association also assisted in the fundraising by donating supplies for the coffee morning and also the amount made at the lost property sale.



Girls attending the Workshop for Anti-bullying Programme

6th Year News

Since the start of 2014, the 6th Year girls were busy preparing for their Mock Leaving Cert exams, which were held in February. Career choices were also made with CAO applications early

in the New Year. Around the Easter period, the girls had LC practical exams in Music, having previously showcased their talents at the Spring Concert. LC projects for Geography, Home Economics, History and Religion were also handed in. Oral exams also took

place. There was very little time for socialising!

Their last school day was very enjoyable, which started with breakfast in the Convent with the Nuns. This was followed by fun on bouncy castles with food from a crêpe van.

A poignant part of the afternoon was when the girls planted a tree in the school grounds in memory of their former friend and classmate Aisling Crowe who passed away in 2011.

Highlights of the graduation ceremony that evening, were speeches made by Mrs. Lundy, Jenny Kennedy and Ailbhe Bergin, a poem by Zoë Fitzgerald, and piano playing by Sofia Chow.

A special Mass, held in the Convent Chapel, was said by Fr. Jim, which had music beautifully performed by the girls, and the teachers' choir sang a very moving blessing to them.

The girls sang the Magnificat for their last time to close the ceremony. There wasn't a dry eye to be seen at the end of the evening.

Overall a very talented and well bonded group of girls.

We wish the girls in Einstein, Froebel, Plato and Rousseau the very best in their exams and in the bright futures ahead of them!



Uniform

School Uniform Coat. The current school uniform coat is now available with Hi Vis stripes.

New Warm Sports Jacket

A Sports Jacket with a warm lining is now available for purchase. This is not a compulsory part of the sports uniform. All available from Pat O'Farrell Schoolwear, Stillorgan S.C.



Accident Insurance Cover

Muckross Park's personal accident insurance cover is with Allianz. With this policy there is an option for the School to extend the insurance cover from solely that of school activities cover to 24 hour cover. Muckross pays for 24 hour personal accident insurance cover for each pupil, using funding from each family's voluntary contribution.

The definition of 24 hour cover is: *The pupil is covered 24 hours a day, for School Activities, social, domestic and leisure activities (including during School holidays).* To make a claim parent's need to download a claim form from the Allianz website, fill in the details, then bring the form into the school office – where the school's policy number will be added and the form passed on to the Principal for countersigning.

Subscriptions

The Parents' Association main source of income is subscriptions from parents and this year 216 families subscribed. This money is used to fund speakers for the Parents' evenings, providing refreshments at various events and producing the winter and summer newsletters. Your subscriptions are important and we look forward to as many of you as possible joining next September. The cost is €30 per family per year.

All funds raised from the cinema night are transferred to the BOM and have been used to fund hockey dug outs and basketball equipment.

Parents' Representatives

There are 12 of us on the Parents' Association Committee, comprising two from each year, who represent the members of the Parents' Association (i.e. you the parents who have joined)

5 of us will retire in September and so we need five new members to join the committee at the AGM on Wednesday September 24th 2014. Please consider putting your name forward, it is an interesting and a worthwhile experience.

Dates for your diaries



School re-opens
Monday 25th August 2014

Parents' Association AGM

Wednesday 24th September 2014 at 7.00pm

Parents' Talk

Wednesday October 22nd 2014 at 7pm

Parents' Talk

Wednesday March 4th 2015 at 7pm

Details of our guest speakers will be advised in due course