



MUCKROSS PARK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015



A Letter From the Principal's Desk

The month of December is drawing to a close and with it the end of the first term in school. It has been an eventful term starting with the announcement of the most impressive set of Leaving Certificate results that the school has received in many years.

Hallowe'en saw both students and teachers dress up in themed outfits and raise €1,215 for our Dominican Mission School in Rosario, Argentina. Sporting Teams have gone from strength to strength as have Debating Teams, Book Clubs, Glee Clubs as well as Choir and Orchestra.

As Christmas approaches and we become challenged by decisions about gifts, we might take time to reflect on the season and its true meaning. Giving generously and receiving graciously are important elements of school life here in Muckross. As years go by we begin to realise that the way we spend Christmas is far more important than how much we spend.

As we approach the great Feast of the Incarnation we might reflect on the gift ideas proposed by Oren Arnold: 'To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all,

charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.'

And so, from me:

To the Parents and Guardians of our treasured students: Thank you for gifting your daughter to us for her secondary education.

To the Staff of Muckross, both teaching and ancillary: Thank you for all of the work, commitment and care you give to our students.

To the Parents Association: Thank you for the time and support you freely give to the school.

To the Board of Management: Thank you for the governance that you provide.

To the Dominican Sisters: Thank you for your example and inspiration.

To all: A peaceful and happy Christmas and a special New Year.

Sincerely
Caroline Lundy, Principal

Dear Parents / Guardians

Another Christmas! Where does the time go?

The girls are well settled in to their year now.

We had a very busy start to the year with our "Who wants to be a Thousandaire?" fundraiser. And what fabulous support we had—due to our super team and your fantastic contributions we raised a whopping €42,000!

These funds have been paid over to the school to cover the costs of the new Tennis courts. This will add to the excellent facilities in Muckross which our girls are lucky enough to enjoy. Your support is genuinely appreciated. Thank you!

We hope you have been able to attend

some of the various parent "get-togethers" since September. Keep an eye on the school website to see any upcoming events taking place for your daughter's year.

We have had two talks so far. The first was for 6th year parents, given by Mr. Core, that was an excellent talk on the options available for the girls after their leaving cert.

The second was a super talk given by Mr. Roger Grennan entitled "How to have great career conversations with young people". Both events were very well attended and we received very positive feedback.

Our next talk will be on Wednesday 27th January at 7pm in the school. It will be given by Headstrong (supporting Youth Mental Health) and we hope you will be able to

attend.

For many families this can be a difficult time of year when we remember those that we have lost. We especially hold in our thoughts and prayers the McKeon and Mee families who have suffered bereavement recently. Treasured family and friends that will be missed so much.

We would like to thank Ms. Lundy and her wonderful staff for all their hard work and their commitment to the school and we hope they enjoy their well deserved break over Christmas.

We wish you and your families a very peaceful and happy Christmas and a wonderful 2016.

Muckross Parents' Association

1st Year News

The 1st years are really settling in and have enjoyed their first term in the School.

They had 'Fairy-tales' as their theme for Hallowe'en. Congratulations go to Markievicz who won the competition with their Peter Pan inspired costumes and performance.

Science week was a great success with Jungle Dave being a particular hit. The girls bravely held snakes, crocodiles, lizards and tarantulas!

All of the girls are participating in at least one sport. The great tradition of Muckross on the hockey pitch is in safe hands with the first class teams already doing really well. The basketball teams have enjoyed their 'friendly' matches and are really look-

ing forward to the league in January. Ultimate Frisbee is a big hit at break time. Mr. Farrell's enthusiasm and expertise has encouraged many girls to 'have a go'. Cross Country is also very popular (in spite of the weather conditions !) and the girls have done very well in a number of competitions so far.

Emily Quinn (Casement) won three silver medals at the National U13 gymnastics event held at Limerick University in October. Well done Emily!

The girls are really enjoying the build up to their first Christmas at Muckross.

The girls would like to thank all the teachers and staff and in particular their form teachers, prefects, fifth year



Emily Quinn at
National Gymnastics

'buddies' and Ms. O'Brien for settling them in. They would also like to thank all the other girls in the school for making them feel so welcome and at home.

2nd Year News

What a difference a year makes! Those little nervous girls starting out their Muckross journey last year have metamorphosed into confident, well established 2nd years. All seem quite well settled into secondary school and are making progress in their schoolwork and extra-curricular activities, as well as deepening their friendships.

There were two highlights of the first term, both school trips. The first was the History School trip to Ferrycarrig in Wexford, one great moment being eating meat cooked from a 'fulacht fiadh'. This is a low horseshoe-shaped mound of charcoal-enriched soil and heat shattered stone with a slight depression at its centre, generally found on archaeological sites. The trip, apart from being of historic interest, also included a brief stop to go shopping on the homeward journey!

The other brilliant day, as part of Science Week, was the visit to the W5, Ireland's award-winning Science and Dis-



covery Centre in Belfast, with over 250 interactive exhibits. A super day out from school showing how the simplest science experiments can be the most fun, such as using liquid nitrogen to make ice-cream.

The Hallowe'en dress up was another memorable day in school. The theme for 2nd years was 'Musicals' this year, with the four classes being the Wizard of Oz, Annie, Hair-spray and Grease.

There have been numerous hockey and basketball matches and other sporting events of all kinds over the course of the term. Revision and preparation for the Christmas exams started a little earlier than usual with the exams starting in late November.

A great term over, anticipation now in the air for the coming festive weeks.

3rd Year News

The 3rd years have had a busy but fun year so far, starting with Hallowe'en in October. Elm put on a very entertaining 'Circus' performance that won them a prize! Science week came along in November with Ollie coming to school with the Skydome and all classes got to do lots of experiments during science.

A big thank you to the Religion and SPHE Teachers who organised our Retreat – it was a perfect time for reflection and to take time away from the busy third year life!



Many of the girls in 3rd year are participating in sports in school. The junior hockey teams are doing very well in their league and cup matches and are not only getting great support from each other but from every year in the school. 3rd years are also actively involved in basketball, cross country running and swimming. As well as sport, a lot of our year are involved in the school orchestra and choir and welcomed the girls from Australia who came to Muckross to perform on their visit this month. They did a wonderful job performing for each other and for the whole school.



The Christmas holidays are approaching fast and the atmosphere in school is always so nice at this time of year. We know that once we are back in school after Christmas it will be heads down and all go as we will be preparing for our mock exams in February.

A special thanks to all of the teachers, our form tutors and Ms. Stephenson, our Year Head, who are always there whenever we need them for any help or advice throughout the year.

TY News

This year Muckross Park College took part in the musical 'The Addams Family' by Andrew Lippa in collaboration with Marian College. The musical was a huge success, with great performances from all 36 Muckross girls who took part, with a special mention to Lauren O'Corrui as Morticia, Aoife Mousely as Wednesday, Aoife

Young as Alice and Riona Gavin as Grandma Addams.



Rehearsals took place every Wednesday for two hours but as it got closer to the show we began rehearsing on the weekends as well. All the time put into the musical really paid off in the end as I'm sure many people who saw the show would agree.

The story features a creepy but loveable American family living in a graveyard in Central Park, New York with a spooky and morbid way of life. The Addams family is in a dilemma. Their daughter Wednesday finds herself falling in love.



When the teen invites her new boyfriend, Lucas Beineke, over with his "normal" and upbeat family to get to know the Addams household, all hell breaks loose.

The musical went on for three nights with a standing ovation each night. There was a 12 piece live orchestra and the singing was superb.

A special factor to this particular show was that it was the fortieth anniversary of the Marian Musical, with special recognition going to Ray Ryan who celebrated his fortieth show as musical director as well.



4th Year Outdoor Pursuits to Connemara

5th Year News

A huge welcome to our new classmates Eily, Claire, Lisa and Annabel who joined us this school year. We hope you are all settling in well. After a fun filled transition year, we've certainly hit the ground running in September. Although the heavy workload was a shock to the system in the beginning, we have adjusted well and are enjoying the challenges that this year is so far presenting.

It's not all work and no play though! We had a great trip to the Lighthouse Cinema in November to see "Malala", which was a powerful and moving film. In December we went to see Hamlet, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Some of our 5th years have been doing us proud outside of school. Orla Walsh won the Liffey Swim and camogie players Caroline Gough and Caoimhe Dwan were part of the St. Jude's team that won the Leinster Minor Final.

Well done girls!

Some more of our talented girls are busy rehearsing for the musical "Guys and Dolls" with the boys from Gonzaga. The show will take place in the New Year and we are eagerly awaiting the production, which should be amazing!

Twenty four of our 5th year girls became Ministers of the Eucharist this term, a school record? They would like to thank Sr. Nora for all her hard work in preparing the girls.



With the Christmas exams and the Parent/Teacher meetings already behind us, we are all now really looking forward to Christmas and a well earned rest over the holidays! Nollaig Shona!

6th Year News

While we had been warned, 6th year has been a surprisingly fun year so far!

Throughout our time in Muckcross we are constantly warned of the dreaded 'Big Summer Quiz' aka the Leaving Cert.

However, 6th year isn't as bad as it had seemed. Yes, you end up staying in the school for 12 hours some days trying to catch up in after school study on the mountain of essays that seem to be handed out more frequently than flyers in town.

BUT, 6th year is also a time when the year becomes a lot closer. A well-known example of this is at Hallow-

e'en. This was when every 6th year covered their face in fake scars, ripped up their clothes and even wore white eye contacts just to scare the younger years.

We came together as a year and won the dress up competition with help from Ms Cunningham and her choreography for our spooky dance number.

Although 6th years seem to be always stressed and buying coffee by the bucket-load, the school offers many escapes from this through trips such as



ice skating and mindfulness classes run by Ms. Hoban before school.

My advice to anyone who is entering 6th year next year is to get the project work over in 5th year as it also relieves a lot of stress from the mountain of work ahead of you. 6th year is tough but not the end of the world! ... and hey, it just means you are a year closer to the Debs right?!



Some of our glamorous debutantes from the class of 2015

Sports!

We had hardly begun the school year when Muckross girls were back out there competing and achieving in many sporting areas.

To represent your country is the highest honour an athlete can achieve and we are very proud of the following international athletes.

Julie Byrne continues to play on Irish tennis teams, having just returned from Glasgow and from France; Niamh Henry has been selected on an Irish Sailing team, Emer Muldoon is on the U15 Irish basketball team, and Niamh Shaw is on the U16 Irish hockey squad hoping to make the final squad next spring.

Congratulations to everyone who excelled in major competitions including:

Kate Cassidy who came 2nd in the European kickboxing championships.

Rachel Duggan is the new under 17 world Irish Dance champion.

Orla Walsh won the women's Liffey swim on the 19th September.

Ellen O Gorman was runner-up in the prestigious Sea-point tournament having reduced her handicap to 6 over the past 5 months. Ellen is also in a high performance training squad with the Irish ladies Golfing Union.

Niamh Shaw, Clodagh Ferry and Lelia O'Byrne represented Muckross on the Leinster U16 inter-provincial hockey team and won the competition.

Abbie Clarke 1st year, one of our up and coming sports-stars, captained and lead the Dublin U12 soccer team which went on to win the All-Ireland title.

Hockey

More girls than ever are playing hockey in Muckross and the season started on a frantic note with 19 teams being entered in leagues and over a hundred and two first years turning out on Fridays for their session.

Every team has done their school proud this term. The senior 1 team are in the quarter final of the Claudia Tierney cup. The Junior A team won the final of the Junior Cup played on the 15th December in Three Rock Rovers. The Minor A team are leading their league after having scored 20 in 4 matches. The Junior B team are also unbeaten this season, and all other teams are well placed in their leagues.

We wish all the best to Charlie Browne, Isabelle Maleady, Sarah McAuley, Fiona McNulty and Aobha Russell who



Leinster U16 players
Lelia O'Byrne, Niamh Shaw
And Clodagh Ferry

are in this year's 2nd year Leinster Development Squad and to Abbie Clarke, Emer Crowley, Lucy Crowe, Grace O'Reilly, Caoimhe McNulty and Jennifer Nelson who are our representatives on the 1st year development programme.

The top goal scorer competition is currently being led by Charlie Brown, Kate O'Connor and Kate Feely who have all scored 9 goals for their teams.

Muckross girls are competing week in week out with their clubs and bringing the high standard of Muckross hockey to the Leinster club competitions and we wish them all the best of luck in the various leagues and cups.

Cross Country

We have had teams compete in the Cloncliffe Harriers Invitational Race in Santry, with our senior team placing 2nd, in September and the Blackrock Invitational Race in November. Karen Duddy in third year did us proud coming 4th in the intermediate age group. Orla Walsh also came 1st in the senior race. Well done to the senior team who came 1st overall. Best of luck to all the cross country runners in the DCU invitational and East Leinster competition in the New Year.

Frisbee

Coached by our very own Daniel Farrell, they are starting their league on the 10th December. We currently have 5 teams, 2 junior and 3 senior. It is a growing sport in the school, with over 20 first years joining this year. There are 7-10 players on each of the five teams.

Equestrian

There are two new equestrian teams competing in an inter-school's equestrian league competition on Saturday the 17th January in Killosserry Lodge Stud, Swords. Captained by Zara Kelly in second year and Niamh Grimes Dooley in third year. We are excited for them to do well in all other upcoming events.

Basketball

After the highs of last season it was always going to be a quieter season in 2015/2016 but our basketball teams have competed in their leagues and cups and are all progressing along to the play-off stages.

The Cadette A made it to the Dublin semi-finals but were unlucky not to progress to the finals. We wish Emer Muldoon the best of luck with the Irish U15 squad.



Music

The Christmas Carol service was held on the 17th December and was absolutely wonderful. It was a privilege to be there.

The choir and orchestra, made up of girls from 1st to 6th year, were fantastic and there were some stunning solo performances from Suzanne Flynn, 6th year, Lily Bradley, 2nd year, Aoibhe Walsh, and Alyssa Murphy, 1st year.

Congratulations to girls from the Class of 2015

The bar has certainly been set for our current sixth years with the outstanding results from last year. 8 of our students achieved 600 CAO points or more, with 6 of these getting maximum (625) points. An incredible 43% of the students achieved 500 points or more. 70% achieved 400 points or more. 452 points was the average for the entire student group. 3 students achieved 7 'A1's and a further 3 achieved 6 'A1's. With 13 of our girls achieving entrance scholars awards in Trinity, Maynooth and UCD they have all certainly done brilliantly in their endeavours, no pressure to our current 6th years!



Top: Trinity College Recipients Isabel Brown, Eabha Cronin, Francesca De Brun, Anna Mulligan, Beth O'Brien, Sophia Rosney, Eleanor Windle

Middle: UCD Recipients Laura Crowley, Sophie Behan, Eimear O'Donohoe, Ciara Horan, Niamh Gibbons.

Left: Maynooth Recipient Emma Coleman



Dates for your Diaries!

Our next talk will be on Wednesday 27th January at 7pm in the school. It will be given by Headstrong "Supporting Youth Mental Health"