



MUCKROSS PARK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016

From the Principal

We complete another school year in Muckross and doesn't time fly? We said an official 'goodbye' to our sixth years on May 20th and I wish them all that is good in life. I began my career as principal of Muckross with this special group of girls and I leave with them as I retire this summer. It has been a fantastic six years for me and I will remember with fondness the 1916 commemoration ceremony as a highlight of this year.

The academic year 2015-2016 brought with it many successes for our students, all of which you will read about throughout the rest of this newsletter. Sporting achievement has never been so high and book clubs, science fests, choir, orchestra, school musicals and debating gave an opportunity for those who don't necessarily love or excel at sport to shine in their own light.

The grounds, facilities and external staff for all of these activities are in place due to the support of our parent body. Your generous donations and contributions allow us to fund these events and opportunities which would otherwise simply not happen on D.E.S. funding alone. The major fundraising event last October allowed us to resurface the existing tennis courts to professional standards and the uptake in tennis as a result has been dramatic. We are, as always, truly grateful to the parents of our wonderful students.

As retiring principal of Muckross, I thank Ms Anne Marie Mee, the Deputy Principal for her dedication, hard work and greatly-valued friendship over the past six years. I thank the superb staff, teaching and non-teaching, for their continued professionalism and commitment to educating your daughters to become up-standing citizens with Dominican values and the confidence to praise, to bless and to preach the truth in all situations that arise in their lives.

Thank you all and God Bless you all.

Caroline Lundy

Dear Parents / Guardians

We have had a super year with a very busy start. Thank you again to all of the families and companies who helped us to raise a fantastic €42,000 on our "Who wants to be a 'Thousandaire?'" night in October. Wonderful support and a wonderful organising team meant that we exceeded our target. Thank you!

We held several excellent talks for parents over the year. Thank you for attending in such numbers. I would especially like to thank Margaret Shaw for volunteering her time and expertise to hold an excellent workshop in CPR in May.

The Parents' Association were delighted to be able to contribute €2,500 towards the cost of the TY musical "Hairspray". The TY girls and the production team did an amazing job, definitely some stars for the future there!

The PA attended the wonderful 1916 commemoration in the school hosted by the History Department. It was a moving and informative event. Amazing to see so many of the girls related to people connected with the 1916 Rising - History brought to life.

Of course the April news from Ms. Lundy was a surprise to us all. We wish her all the very best in her retirement and we really appreciate all of her amazing work and tireless dedication over the past 6 years.

We wish our Class of 2016 the best of luck with their leaving cert results and very happy and healthy futures. They are wonderful Muckross girls!

We would like to extend our condolences to the families who have suffered bereavement this year. They are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Thank you to The Board of Management, Ms. Lundy, Ms. Mee, the teachers and the staff for all of their work this year - Muckross has attained wonderful sporting, musical, artistic and academic achievements.

We wish you all a wonderful Summer. Thank you for your support.

Rachelle Nelson

Chairperson Muckross Parents' Association

Academic Year 2016/2017 School reopens Friday 26th August. School AGM Wed. 28th September

1st Year News

As we come to the close of a great first year our daughters are already being transformed into proud Muckross girls. We had an eventful post-Christmas time in the school with the girls competing with lots of success in both hockey and basketball.

The school held a 1916 commemoration day which involved a number of guest speakers and a raising of the flag ceremony. Also, as part of the 1916 events each girl was tasked with the production of a mini project on their 1916 class namesake. (Casement, Plunkett, Markievicz and Kent).

In April the girls were invited to St Michaels School annual first year table quiz. It was a very successful night and the girls enjoyed them-

selves immensely and were a credit to the school.

The TY musical "Hairspray" in May was an excellent production which was a very enjoyable night out for the girls.

The sun was a rare visitor for our recent sports day and all the girls competed in a wide variety of events. Well done to Plunkett who were class champions for 1st Year.

As part of the conclusion of the first year each girl compiled an archive project which provides a history of the key events and memories of their first year in Muckcross which they will treasure.



The Girls would like to thank the principal Miss Lundy, all the staff, form tutors, year head and students for making their first year in the school a memorable one (and look forward to welcoming the 'Freshers' into 1st Year next August).

2nd Year News

The time from January to May has been a very busy time for the second year students.

Second Year student Anna Foster from class Tara Reached the All Ireland Schools Senior Cup Golf Championships in Milltown. This is a remarkable achievement and many congratulations to Anna.

A guest speaker from the Road Safety Authority visited the students. A visit was requested by 2nd Year Cashel who were doing their C.S.P.E. Project on Road Safety.



The girls enjoyed a wonderful day with lots of inspiring ideas and very interesting discussions.

Culture day, hosted by Transition year students was a great success as second years sampled various foods from different countries and learned many new facts from differing cultures.

The Musical Hairspray was a huge success with the majority of second years seeing the show. Some second years helped out at the intervals by selling raffle tickets. Zara Kelly of 2nd Cashel, along with her mum Sharon, and some helpers, applied all the make up for the cast members. They arrived a couple of hours before the show, every evening, and worked very hard to make the girls look amazing. Thank you very much Zara and Sharon.

All in all it has been a busy and exciting time since the last Newsletter. Here's to a great summer.



A highlight of the school year was the 1916 commemorations in the school. The second years very much enjoyed the visit to the school of 2 members of the army and The Lord Mayor.

During May the second year students engaged fully in the Mental Health day.

The second year school Retreat took place in May.

3rd Year News



As we approach the end of 3rd year we are beginning to realise that we are half way through our journey through Muckcross! Our Junior cycle has passed very quickly. As the saying goes “Time flies when you are having fun” and that has been the case most of the time. There have been highs and lows – some of us have lost loved ones, others have had injuries, we survived the mocks and we have had great results and not so good results on the sporting field. There have been stressful times and it has been a bit tiring but all in all we have had a lot of fun together and we have grown close as a year sharing a lot of laughs and a few tears

along the way.

The JC is now fast approaching but that means Summer is too! We can relax then and forget about the books for a while! We will wave goodbye to 3rd year and happily pass the baton on to the 2nd years as we skip ecstatically into TY. We are all looking forward to all that has in store for us with Mr. Breslin taking over as our Year Head. Hairspray was fantastic and has got us very excited. We hope that all going well we will have the opportunity to put on another great Musical next year. We have had a little taste of this recently as the auditions for the Marian College Musical took place – congratulations to all who auditioned and to those who have received parts in it.



We would like to say a big thank you to Ms. Stephenson, our Year Head for the last three years, for all she has done for us over that time, along with our Form Tutors Ms. O’Hara, Ms. O’Brien, Ms. Walsh and Ms. Lawless. Thank you from Ash, Birch, Elm and Oak. We thank Ms. Lundy too and wish her a very happy Retirement. Good luck to all the 6th years in the LC and for the future.

TY News

It's almost over now and the pace has hardly let up from January to June of Transition Year.

Culture Week in February gave the girls a sense of their own city and its many attractions and great history.

The City Sightseeing Bus Tour started off on the first day with a visit to Dublin Zoo, and each subsequent day to Howth Head, Croke Park and GAA Museum, the Jeanie Johnston, the Little Museum of Dublin, Collins Barracks, Botanic Gardens and Glasnevin Cemetery and Museum, with guided tours at each venue.

Work experience continued throughout the year and varied from a week with the Air Corps to block laying in a Cape Town township, in South Africa.



Mr Hodgins' Concern Debating Team, Charlotte, Caroline, Isobel and Sorcha, made it to the Top 8 in the country. Here's wishing them even more success next year!



In May, the TY musical production of HAIRSPRAY had to be the best show in town, with amazingly talented principles and great, supportive main cast. All the weeks of rehearsals for Carly, Roisin, Riona, Avril, Lauren, Becca, Suzy, Amy, the two Aoife’s, Sophie, Clodagh, the Dynamites, and all the cast, under Ms Cunningham's guidance and choreography certainly paid off with great aplomb.

At TY graduation night the Yearbook theme, kept secret all year until then by the team, was revealed, “MUCKFLIX”, as was all the creative hard work put in

by Eva, Roisin and all the Yearbook Team.

It's been a great year, lots of fun and friendship.....and there's still the school trip to Scotland to look forward to!



5th Year News

We can't believe it's the end of another school year and for us marks the end of our time wearing a green Muckross jumper !! While excitement may not describe how we feel as we head into our Leaving Cert year, we are looking forward to all the privileges allowed to 6th years and to taking our place at the top of the school.

We look forward to supporting our new head girl Tullah Green. Together with a very competent deputy, Lara Pairceir, and our great sports captain Katie Fitzgerald and her deputy Amy O'Hara and the group of prefects, we know they all will be great ambassadors for our school.

While we have been busy studying, we had a wonderful break in February on our ski trip to Italy. It was the highlight of the year and of our time in Muckross! We made new friends and got to see a different fun side to our teachers as well as learned to ski! We would do 5th year all over again just for the ski trip !

Lots of fundraising for the trip to Lourdes took place over the last few months - church gate collections, bake sales and bag packing. Everyone from our year got involved. Ruth Anderson, Muireann Neville, Fiona Meehan, Caitriona Petioa and Claire O'Connor will travel to Lourdes in September.

See you in September in our black jumpers!

Congratulations to Ella Thirroueiz (5th Year) on her selection to the Dublin Minor Ladies Football team!



6th Year News

We've come a long way since Christmas. The pre-mock anxiety has long passed and we are now fully ready to get the 'big summer quiz' over and done with. We have survived the mocks and the 3am cram sessions beforehand. We have dealt with the orals and their obscure questions about politics and our school lunches. Thankfully the chips on Fridays are still superb and the adventures to insomnia for a quick coffee to refuel ourselves has been a major help.

It's strange having our 'last Monday morning' or 'last sports day' and some

of us may get upset about this. But what happens after every 'last' has been used up? The beginning of our 'firsts'!

Muckross has prepared us as best as they could for the big wide world out there. Soon we must hang up our beloved black jumpers for good and let the 5th years take the wheel. Although we are ready to leave this facility of learning, we will always miss the fantastic students and staff here, especially Ms. Cooney whom always wished us an enjoyable weekend every Friday. Muckross is a spe-

cial place to be and will always be in



6th Year Group 2016

Sports!

We are just about catching our breath after a phenomenal sporting year. Since Christmas, the hockey, basketball, Frisbee and Athletics seasons have concluded but we're still waiting on the tennis finals. The senior A's are through to the finals in Templeogue Tennis club on May 23rd and the Minor C and senior C were unlucky to lose their respective semi-finals.

Our first year basketball team was the success story of the basketball season winning The South Dublin League and The Dublin League and getting to the semi-final of the Under 14 All-Ireland Cup. We look forward to following them in future years as they are a very talented squad of players.

Congratulations to Emer Muldoon, 3rd year who has been selected on the Irish under 15 panel.

Hockey finals week was our busiest ever in Muckross. With 25 teams competing in Leinster competitions, the winning of 6 cups was a great achievement by our teams.



The Minor A, B and C teams were all successful with the Minor A team winning in the most exciting final all the way to penalties where the goalkeeper, Aobha Russell was

superb and received the Player of the Match award. The Junior A's won the Junior A cup before Christmas and the Junior C's were beaten on penalties by a strong Sion Hill team.

Senior 1's had a great league campaign and were eventual winners of the Claudia Tierney League Cup winning the final 3 nil against Rathdown. Senior 2's overcame Alex in a very exciting final to lift the Senior 2 cup. Congratulations to Niamh Shaw 4th year on being selected on the Irish Under 16 team which will compete in a 6 - nations competition in Belgium in July.

As usual Muckross athletes were successful at the recent East Leinster Championships with 15 athletes qualifying for the Leinster Championships. Congratulations to Hannah Bondzio on winning the Leinster Junior High Jump and Kate Burton Stafford on coming second in the discus.



The numbers participating in Frisbee has increased allowing us to have 5 teams in the Dublin Frisbee leagues. The senior A team won their league

and congratulations to the three U20 internationals on their selection and to Helen Barron on being named captain of the side.



We returned to equestrian competition this year with a team entering a number of school's events. The highlight of the year was the Muckross team receiving "The best turned out team

award" at the Irish Hunter Trials in Carlow.

We continue with success on the golf course with 9 girls taking part in the East Leinster School's championship where our senior A team won the event and went on to represent Muckross in the All-Ireland championships in Milltown Golf Club. Congratulations to Ellen O Gorman and Anna Foster who have made tremendous progress this year reducing their handicaps significantly and competing successfully in top Irish Ladies competitions.

Muckross' sports day was a fun-filled sporting occasion as the sun shone on all the enthusiastic participants. Following sports day, 100 individual awards were presented to the outstanding players in every team across all the disciplines. Julie Byrne 6th year was awarded the 2016 "Sports Girl of the Year Award" based on her contribution to Muckross sport over her 6 years.



As the school year draws to a close, we would like to congratulate all students in Muckross who participated in school sport this year. We would like to wish our sport's captains Julie Byrne and Alison O'Reilly the very best of luck in the future and we wish the students of Muckross continued success and enjoyment in sport.