



MUCKROSS PARK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2016

Principals Report

As Christmas approaches and we reach the end of the 1st term the start of the year seems a long time ago! I would like to thank parents, pupils, past-pupils and staff for their good wishes and support.

This has been a busy term. Pupils with teachers have travelled to Lourdes with the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage, to Glendalough for Biology and a retreat, to the National Ploughing Championships in Stradbally, to Ferrycarrig on a history trip, to Achill for Outdoor Pursuits, to Donabate for geography, to hockey interprovincials in Cork and to W5 in Belfast. They have also visited other schools to play hockey, basketball, frisbee, debate, attend Irish, French and German plays. Maths Week and Science Week were memorable for the fun, inclusive activities that were organised by the teachers in those departments. The Student Council ran a fantastic Halloween Dress-up afternoon in October, the proceeds of which will be sent to our sister school in Argentina. Our TY pupils joined the boys from Marian College and became Popstars in the most enjoyable musical.

In September we celebrated the wonderful Junior Cert results. Well done to seven of our students who were selected to compete in the Irish Junior Science Olympiad as high achievers in Junior Cert Science and Maths. In November, Entrance Scholarships were awarded to a number of last year's 6th years: two in Maynooth, five in UCD and six in TCD.

During the past few weeks we have been preparing for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. At the beginning of December the first candle of the Advent Wreath was lit. We had Mass in the school on the 8th of December. The herbology, art and craft classes made decorations to decorate the school. If you visited the school over the past few weeks you will have seen our new outdoor crib - designed and painted by the 6th year Art class under the guidance of Ms. Sullivan and made by Tom, our Caretaker. The beautiful Carol Service in the convent chapel reminded us of the true meaning of this Christmas season.

Finally, on behalf of Ms. Kelly and myself I would like to wish all of our pupils, their parents/guardians, our staff and their families and the Dominican sisters a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Ms. Mee

Chairpersons Report (Parents Association)

Dear Parents and Guardians

What a jam packed first term your daughters have had. Those of us involved in the PA would like to thank you all for your support so far this year. This enabled us in October, to host a very popular and challenging talk by Dr Harry Barry on "Flagging the Screener?"; We formally welcomed the 1st year Parents to the School in November with a Parents Evening which allowed the girls show off their new school to the parents and to impress us all with their musical talents and confident speaking. Also Mr. Core held a CAO information evening for 6th year parents. Finally, we hosted a reception for those lucky enough to attend the Carol Service who could not but have been blown away by the talent on display.

We hope that you have been able to attend some of the various parents get-together. More will follow in the new year so, please keep your eye on the PA section of the school website for further information. Our next talk on be on 26th January and will be given by Rory Mulvey who will be speaking on "Helping Your Child Achieve Academic Success?".

We congratulate Ms. Mee and Ms. Kelly on an excellent start in their new roles in the school and would like to thank them and all of the wonderful staff in the school for their hard work and commitment. We wish you and your families a peaceful and happy Christmas and a very happy new year.

Muckross Parents' Association

School reopens Monday 9th January

1st Year News

The first years kicked off their venture in Muckcross with a two day sports camp. The camp covered a multitude of sports and allowed the girls to forge new friendships



and was a great way to break the ice and kick off the year.

There was great excitement amongst the first years in November. Dave's Jungle

added a touch of fun and adventure to the normal school day. To quote the girls "it was so much fun to experience what it is like to hold exotic creatures and to see what they can do" There were snakes, tarantulas, scorpions, baby crocodiles, turtles, lizards, chameleons and so much more. "We all had a fantastic time and we would definitely do it all again."

Halloween saw all the girls dressing up aimed towards various themed musicals such as Shrek, & Grease.

2nd Year News

The second years have enjoyed their first term back at school. They had "horror" as their theme for their Halloween dress up day and congratulations to Markievicz who won the competition with their scary costumes and great performance.

In September the girls went with the History department on a field trip to the National Heritage park in Ferrycarrig. The highlight of the trip was getting to taste meat cooked on an old fashioned hot stone called "Fulaith Fiadh". They were also brought on tour by interesting guides dressed in traditional Celtic costume. The day was rounded off with a shopping trip into Wexford.

Science week in November was again a great success. The highlight of the week was a trip to interactive museum W5 in Belfast. The girls enjoyed the day and got to play interactive games with each other.



A second year parent came in and gave the girls a class in sugar craft. They made wonderful, edible Christmas delights!

The girls continue to have success in their various sports at Muckcross including Hockey, basketball, cross country and Ultimate Frisbee.

Now that the exams are over the girls are enjoying the build up to Christmas.

The girls would like to thank all the teachers and staff and in particular their form teachers and year head Ms O'Brien



3rd Year News

As the Christmas holidays approach it's a good time to look back on the busy couple of months for our 3rd years.

The year kicked off with a study skills session for our girls which included practical advice and tips to help them as they head towards the Mock and Junior Cert exams.

In October we had Maths Week, the annual All Ireland celebration of maths which promotes awareness, appreciation and understanding of maths. The girls were involved in daily maths related questions and there were prizes for those with the lucky numbers.

In November the Astrodome visited the school in advance of Science week. The girls really enjoyed this fantastic digital planetarium designed to explore science and astronomy in a fun and interactive way.

In sport, Anna Foster (Tara) (handicap of 6) was selected on the Irish U16 Golf team and competed in the English Girls U16 Open Championship held in Nottingham in July and the Scottish girls U16 Open Championship in August. Congratulations and well done Anna .

4th Year News

The Fourth Years are really enjoying TY. We are having the opportunity to try new Subjects, Modules and Activities.

We love our triple options classes every week which include Avoca Cookery, Craft, Puppeteering, Herbology, Yearbook and Fitness. We get the chance to swap these options after Christmas.

On Fridays, we are having great fun participating in Sailing, Zumba, and Pilates after school.

In September, more than 100 students went by bus to Connemara for 4 days. They cycled The Green Way, completed a 26km Gaisce hike and tried many different sports including Surfing, Kayaking, Abseiling and Orienteering.

In early October, different fundraising days were organised. Some of us went downtown to collect money for the Hope Foundation, Autism Ireland and the Homeless. It was a huge success- we collected lots of money.

The Halloween theme for Fourth Years was "Men"! Everyone put in a lot of effort making costumes and choreographing the dances. We all had so much fun together on Dress Up day.

The first week in November was Work Experience Week, followed by the Marian Musical called "Popstars." Over 40 of us participated in this year's production. It was an amazing experience and the show played for three nights in Marian College. It was a super success.

It is now December and we are looking forward to Christmas



5th Year News

CHOIR

10 girls from 5th year participated in the school carol service which was held in the beautiful setting of the chapel on 14 Dec.

MUSICAL WITH GONZAGA

35 girls from 5th year will join forces with nearby Gonzaga for the production of the classic musical 'Pirates of Penzance'. It will be staged in Gonzaga College on 18, 19 and 20 January 2017.



DEBATING

Huge congratulations to all who took part in the recent Leinster debating competitions. Muckcross had several teams entered across the board and they did extremely well!

English team 1: Caroline Costello, Isobel Curran

English team 2: Charlotte Waldron, Sorcha Fitzgerald

Irish team: Ellen Higgins, Caroline Costello, Sophie O'Rourke

French team: Roisin Murray, Catherine McNulty, Anna Moran Watson, Caroline Costello,

German team: Claire O'Brien, Anna Rogers, Aising Heaslip, Orla Walsh



6th Year News

The sixth Years have had a very busy but enjoyable first term. They got straight into it in August with a study skills seminar and a mindfulness course. On the 7th of September, 6 of the girls went to Lourdes with Ms. O'Brien and the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage. It was a wonderful experience for them all.

The girls had a Biology field trip to Glendalough and a Geography trip to Donabate last month.

Last week, they headed off to Belvedere College to see "An Triail" being performed.

The Higher Options Day in the RDS in September was very interesting and got

them all thinking about the CAO and third level courses. Many weekends have been spent attending the various college open days.

The girls worked alongside the Student Council in organising the Halloween Dress Up Day. It was great fun and a huge success raising funds for our mission school in Argentina.

The Sixth Year retreat took place in Glendalough at the end of November and was a wonderful experience. The girls are really looking forward to their Christmas break and relaxing a little before the serious work begins in the New Year. They would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas especially their year head Ms. Delaney and their form tutors Ms. Doyle, Ms. MacMathuna, Ms. O'Brien

and Ms. McLoughlin.

Nollaig Shona!



Sports

Another year heralded the start of a hectic extra-curricular sporting programme at Muckross Park! Late August had all the hockey teams and the U16 and senior basketball teams back training and selection for teams had to be made by mid-September as the school leagues began. Cross-country and frisbee events also began before we could draw breath. But as usual the Muckross girls settled down to training and were well prepared for the competitive events when they started.

Frisbee:

Under the excellent guidance of our very own frisbee specialist Daniel Farrell both junior and senior teams have participated in school leagues and have won all their games to date. Helen Barron, who graduated in June 2016 was awarded The national Player of the Year award. We are very proud of Helen's achievement.

Cross-country:



We have had teams participate in the Clonliffe Harriers Invitational Race in Santry and the Ballinteer Community School Invitation race. Our senior team did us proud in Santry winning the team event. All teams featured at the Ballinteer event. We now look forward to the East Leinster championships at the end of January.

Basketball:

All teams are working away in their respective leagues and while we haven't had any success in the National U19 and U16 cups with two very tough away draws, our teams are featuring in The Dublin and South Dublin leagues. Our U14 and 1st year teams are preparing for their leagues in January.

Hockey:

With 27 hockey teams competing in Leinster School's competitions it has been a hectic first term but almost half our teams are on track to qualify for quarterfinals or semi-finals. Hard luck to the Junior A team who were defeated narrowly in the Junior A cup semi-final. Good luck to the Senior 1 team as they embark on their senior cup campaign with a home match against Mt Temple before the Christmas break.



Congratulations to Niamh Shaw who played for the Irish U16 Hockey squad last July at a European event and to herself and Sophie Maleady who both played for the

Leinster U18 squad at the recent Interprovincial championships held in Cork.

We look forward to launching The Active School Flag and The

Amber School Flag initiatives in 2017. By achieving these flags we are putting emphasis on improving both the physical and mental wellbeing of all members of the Muckross Park community. This is an exciting venture for the Sport's and Wellness' committees. Both committees have begun working towards achieving these flags.

General News

The school closes Thursday 22nd of December for the Christmas Holidays and reopens Monday, Jan 9th.

Have a very merry Christmas from all at Muckross Park!

