



MUCKROSS PARK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

From the Principal's Desk

We have come to the end of another successful and incredibly busy school year. At the beginning of the year we welcomed our new Deputy Principal, Ms. Siobhán Kelly, and I started in my new role as Principal. At the end of the year we wished our 6th Years well in their exams and in life after Muckross during a fun-filled and emotional graduation day.

Our theme for the students and staff this year was Wellness and Self Care. A myriad of activities have happened during the year – High School Musical, Countdown, Spelling Bee, Maths Week, Catholic Schools Week, Friendship Week, Healthy Schools, debating, Iveagh scholars, retreats, Choirs, etc., etc. Just a few weeks ago this culminated in a very powerful, student-led Achievements Assembly, followed by an Awards and Sports Assembly to celebrate the achievements and involvement in extra-curricular activities of all students and staff. We were also awarded the Green Flag for water and the Amber Flag for Mental Health Awareness.

This year we had the most successful year of competitive sport and involvement in sport that we have had in a long time. Our Senior 1 hockey team are Leinster Champions and All-Ireland bronze medal winners. I was so proud of the school spirit generated by the whole student and staff body of supporters at the hockey finals.

A big 'Thank You' to the Parents' Association Committee who worked tirelessly and continuously throughout the year to maintain the very strong connection between the school and home. They organised meetings, guest speakers, hosted events both social and academic and undertook many other tasks with graciousness and generosity from which the school community greatly benefits.

On behalf of the entire staff of this great school, Dominican College Muckross Park I would like to wish all of our school community, parents and students, a very happy, restful and pleasant Summer.

Chairpersons Report (Parents Association)

Dear Parents and Guardians

What a year and how quickly it has flown by. From the PA perspective it has been very busy since our last newsletter at Christmas. We have had two speakers Rory Mulvey of Student Enrichment Services who provided very worthwhile and practical study tips, we also had Garda Niall Burke of Donnybrook Garda Station who spoke to us about issues of relevance to young people today particularly in relation to drink and drugs.

From a social perspective individual year reps have organised coffee mornings and drinks evenings for parents which hopefully many of you have been able to attend. We also organised a very successful inaugural social event for parents which took place on 1 April in Bective Rugby Football Club – it was a very popular and successful night and we are hopeful that it will become an annual event. We have also provided refreshments for the schools inaugural tennis tournament which took place on 22 May 2017 and provided a financial contribution to TY's excellent 'High School Musical' production and to our Senior 1 Hockey team who as winners of the Leinster Schools Hockey Cup attended the All Irelands.

As some of you may be aware there are big changes underway at the PA for next year. Further information will be circulated to you shortly however in brief the next academic year all parents will automatically become members of the PA and no subscription will be paid. We intend to hold more frequent and varied fund raising events which we hope as many of you as possible will support. We have been asked by the Board and the School to focus our fund raising efforts on the acquisition of a stage for the school which we are grateful for your help in reaching this goal.

I would like to sincerely thank all of the Committee members of the PA for all their hard work and commitment this year. We would also like to thank you, the parents and guardians, who supported us either through payment of subscriptions or attending our events or both. We also thank all of the teaching and other staff of the school who have worked tremendously hard this year to make our daughter's experience in the school a rewarding, enjoyable and memorable one.

Finally a big thank you to Ms Kelly and Ms Mee for a job well done !

We hope you all have a safe and relaxing summer break.

Muckross Parents' Association

1st Year News

Phew, where has the year gone? Since January our girls have been so busy.

A visit to the BT Young Scientists Exhibition proved very popular with the Robotics show a highlight.

In addition to their academic endeavours they have continued to participate in the wide variety of sporting activities that the school offers. Some of our basketballers supplemented the successful 2nd year squad which was a great learning experience for them and one of our tennis players played with Muckcross' senior team. In addition to sports the girls have participated in

various social and religious activities.

In late March the 1st years were invited to a table quiz by their counterparts in St. Michael's College. There was a huge turnout with over 60 of our 1st years attending. Teams were mixed and the standard was high. The girls had a very enjoyable time and were wonderful ambassadors for the school. Pictured below is the winning team alongside with the school reps. from both schools.

More recently 1st year was ably represented at the 150th Anniversary Mass in Donnybrook Church. The choir, made up of two 1st year classes, sang beautifully and there were notable per-

formances by some of our talented musicians supplementing the 5th year players. All in all, a packed and exciting 2017 so far.



2nd Year News

What a great term for the 2nd years as another year in Muckcross has flown by. The girls had an in-house retreat that they really enjoyed. with lots of interesting discussions and interactive game playing.

The girls were whipped up in all the excitement around the Senior Cup hockey final against Wesley College. They all donned their face paint and climbed on board the support bus to Three Rock Rovers to witness their team lift the cup. This is a fantastic memory that will stay with them in the future.



Congratulations to Emily Quinn in Casement on wining a bronze medal at the National All Round Gymnastics Championship in April. Well done Emily!

The transition year musical – High School Musical - was a great success with the majority of the 2nd years getting to see it. They are already dreaming of participating in their own musical when they get to TY.

Sports day took place on a beautiful sunny day in May. The girls competed in lots of events and congratulations to Plunkett on winning the inter-class competition.

The girls would like to thank the principal Ms Mee, vice principal, year head, form tutors and staff for all their help and support throughout the year.

3rd year News

3rd years had a very successful retreat in March held in school. Girls were allowed come in in plain clothes. They spent the day playing games and doing role play to highlight the importance of cooperation, sharing, communication and working as a team. The feedback was very positive.

Ceilí on St Patrick Day where they were all strutting their stuff. There was also a performance from the more experienced Irish Dancers amongst them.

For Maths week a challenging daily question was delivered over the intercom. Whoever had the answer was able to go to office and pick up a prize.

For friendship week in April, the girls all made their own chain paper dolls, wrote their names on it and hung them around the school as a symbol of friendship.

For Sports Day each class in the school completed against each other in a variety of sports including tennis, soccer, frisbee, rounders, athletics and dancing. They had a great day.



Junior Cert quiz winners
2017

TY Year News

Fourth Year has been a lot of fun. We have experienced a lot of new things, seen new places and grown closer as a year!

From Connemara to Dublin Culture Week to the Musical, we've had the best year for sure! Our first overnight trip together was Connemara. We headed off as new and excited fourth years, ready for an adventure. Connemara was better than we could ever have expected from rock climbing to canoeing in the lake, getting lost in the forests while orienteering, bonfires and of course the 27km Gaisce hike in the pouring rain, howling wind and heavy hailstones. We didn't let it affect our moods and our blaring music helped us all the way. We all were shattered after a great week and slept for the whole weekend.

Dublin Culture Week took place in February. Emotions were running high as the week approached, people couldn't wait to have the week off school to tour around Dublin with their friends. Even though many of us were clueless on bus routes, Luas stops and the names of most streets it didn't stop us. It started with the City Sight Seeing Open-Top Bus Tour. Spirits were high and we were ready to go! We were dropped outside Dublin Zoo and everyone turned back into the six year old they once were. The week continued with a tour of UCD, and Croke Park. Both were fascinating in terms of their size and facilities. We then took tours in Epic Ireland, The Print Museum and The Little Museum. They all gave us an insight into Ireland's interesting past. Thursday followed with the "Humans need not apply" exhibition in Trinity College, giving us a glimpse into a future of robots vs. humans. We then visited the GPO and were given a very interesting tour. Finally we finished with the Botanic Gardens and Glasnevin Cemetery where we learned a lot about Irish Historians.

There were lots of extra things that took place during fourth year too. We all completed at least 3 weeks Work Experience, during which we got a flavour for different jobs and types of work. We also took part in Modules during the school year. They included Yearbook, Avoca Cooking, Puppeteering, Herbology, Fitness, Craft and ECDL. We also had the opportunity to try different subjects from Russian to Psychology, Archives, Bridge (which got very competitive), Healthy Eating, Ag Science and many more.

Many of us took part in Gaisce. This allowed us to experience many new activities. There were extra activities that we could take part in on Friday afternoons : Sailing, Pilates and Zumba. And of course the Marion/Muckcross musical 'Popstars', which took place in November.

Fourth Year has certainly been a busy year!! We have to give a massive thank you to Mr. McArdle who organized our whole year of amazing events!

And of course, last but not least, The Muckcross Musical :High School Musical. This was definitely one of the highlights for many of us! It began back in March, everyone very excited and ready to begin. We worked through weekends and holidays trying to perfect every dance routine and scene. The week finally arrived and everyone was nervous but much more excited to hit the stage and wow the crowd. We had so much fun and there was an amazing turn out! Of course none of this would have been possible without Ms. Cunningham. Singlehandedly she was Stage Director, Choreographer, Musical Director, Backstage Manager, Costume Designer and much more!!



**Junior Cert Results
Award Winners 2017**



5th Year News

As our final year in green jumpers comes to a close, the girls look back on yet another great year in Muckross. After a good first term settling into the leaving cert cycle, one of the highlights of the year came with the musical 'The Pirates of Penzance, staged with Gonzaga College in January. The show was brilliant and the girls had a blast. Then in February, the girls headed off to San Valentino in Italy on the annual 5th year ski trip. Led by Ms. Mee, in her Dalmatian patterned helmet, everyone had an amazing time on the slopes, with no casualties.

In March, some of the girls, as members of the school choir, took part in the Wesley Feis. They performed 'Somebody to Love' and did really well.

In the final term, a huge focus was placed on the annual fundraising campaign to support girls going to Lourdes. A long-standing tradition in Muckross, five girls, led by Ms. O'Brien, will represent the school on the Dublin pilgrimage in September. The girls organised a hike to Tibbradden as their main fundraiser, along with church gate collections, and clothes and bake sales. The year worked really well together and all the hard work paid off.

Finally, the prefects were selected along with next year's Head Girl, Sophie Maleady; Deputy Head Girl, Roisin O'Dowd; Sports' Captain, Niamh Shaw; and Deputy Sports' Captain, Niamh Henry. We wish them all the best of luck!



6th Year News

It's hard to believe we have nearly come to the end of our 6 years in Muckross!

6th year has been a tough year, and since Christmas we have survived the big push (and stress!) before the Mocks and are now in the last few weeks of preparation for the final exams. We also got through the oral exams and the wide variety of potential issues we had to able to discuss – ranging from our favourite pets to world economics and Trump and Brexit!

In March we all really enjoyed the fabulous success by the Senior A Hockey team – the semi-final on the 2nd March was so exciting, and there was a fantastic picture of the team celebrating on the front page of the Irish Times which really captured the 'spirit' of Muckross! Then they went on to win the Cup on the 9th which was such a proud moment for the school, and a great moment for us as 6th years, and we are especially proud of the 6th year team members.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Year Head Ms. Delaney, and the form tutors Ms O'Brien, Ms McLoughlin, Ms. Doyle and Ms. Mac Mathuna who have provided us with such support and kindness throughout this year. We are getting ready to put away our green uniforms for good, and to let the 5th years take over the black jumpers. While we are looking forward to the adventures and big changes ahead, we will really miss Muckross - all the students and staff, the comradery, sports and learning, and the strolls to Donnybrook for food and coffee to keep us going through our studies.

Muckross has been a wonderful place to grow up, make friends and learn – and we have wonderful lifelong memories and friends to take with us.



Sports report

Hockey:

What a year for sport in Muckross Park College!

Who will ever forget the wonderful photograph on the cover page of The Irish Times last March when the Muckross Senior Hockey squad got to the Leinster Senior Cup final on penalties. This was followed up a week later when the whole Muckross community past and present came to cheer the squad to victory over St Gerard's School by the score of 2-1 and to see the pride with which Rachel Cuddy 1st team captain lifted the Leinster Senior Cup on behalf of her team. It was twenty years since Muckross last won this prestigious cup.



This wonderful achievement was then matched by the remaining 5 teams who were in finals and one after the other they all won their respective leagues in 3 Rock Rovers. The podium was dominated by Muckross in green! Senior 3, Junior B, Junior C, Junior D, and minor D. The senior 1 squad had already won the Claudia Tierney league cup in January. The following teams were just one step away from the finals losing their semi-final matches, Senior 2, Senior 4A, Senior 4B, Junior A, Minor A, Minor C and First year A.

Following the success in the senior cup the senior 1 team then travelled to Banbridge to represent Leinster in a 5 team competition against the cup winners of the other provinces and came 3rd overall.

Congratulations to the following students who represented Leinster at U18 and U17 level. Niamh Shaw, Sophie Maleady, Charlie Browne, Sarah Mc Auley and Fiona Mc Nulty. Best of luck to Lelia O Byrne, Ellie Fitzgerald, Clodagh Ferry and goalkeeper Aobha Russell who along with the above students are in the current under 18 training squad for next year's interprovincial team. Best of luck also to Isabelle Maleady 3rd year and Lucy Crowe 2nd year who are in the U16 training squad for next year's U16 interprovincial team. Congratulations to Sarah Mc Auley who has been brought into the Irish U16 squad.



Basketball:

The basketball squads did themselves proud also this year with the senior squad getting to the South Dublin final but were unlucky to meet a very strong Loreto Dalkey team. The 2nd year A team were crowned Dublin Champions when they won the Dublin league and went on to play in the All-Ireland semi-final in the National Basketball Arena in early May. However they met the eventual winners, a very strong Cork team and lost narrowly. However this is a very talented group and we look forward to watching them again as they move up to U16 level next season.

Athletics:

Muckross competed with mixed fortunes at the recent East Leinster Track and Field Championships. There were some excellent individual performances with Kate Burton Stafford, winning gold in the junior discus, Hazel Murphy 1st year and Isobel Doyle 3rd year coming 2nd in the 80m and 100m sprints respectively. Abbie Mc Namara came 2nd in the senior triple jump and Clodagh Ferry 2nd in the senior discus. Hannah Rooney 1st yr came 3rd in the minor 500m and Amy O Hora (our assistant sport's captain) came 3rd in the senior 3,000m. These girls will go on to represent Muckross at the Leinster Championships in the coming weeks. A further 10 athletes won bronze medals. Our relay teams performed very well but just missed out on qualification by seconds in most races.

Cross country:

We had teams compete in the Cloncliffe Harriers Invitational Cross country Race in Santry, with our senior team placing 3rd in September and the DCU invitational race in January where once again our seniors of Niamh Staunton, Ella Thirroueiz, Heather Naughton, Niamh Keane and Aoife Mc Crave won bronze. Well done to Millie Hayes 1styr who qualified from The Leinster Cross Country Championships to run in the All-Ireland Cross Country Championships in Belfast in early March. Athletics Ireland ran a talent ID programme during April visiting a number of schools. After taking 50 of our 1st years through a series of speed and power tests the top 10 1st year students in the school were invited to partake in an inter schools competition on May 12th. The Muckross group emerged as the top girl's school and won an l-pad for the school as first prize.

Golf:

Our junior team of Anna Foster and Kate Sheridan once again won the Leinster Junior Golf trophy in Clontarf Golf Club. They went on to the All Irelands and lost out by just the single point to the winners from Naas. This is the 3rd year in a row that Muckcross have won the Leinster trophy in either junior or senior.

Frisbee:

Frisbee continues to grow in popularity in the school with our teams doing well in all leagues. The senior A team won the Dublin school's league and The Murray cup and the Junior B won the Spirit Award in the Dublin championships. Our representation at national level is excellent with 3 past pupils moving up to U21 level and Helen Barron 6th year 2016, captaining the side and being awarded National Player of the Year 2016. A further 2 of our current students are on the Irish U19 squad, Clare Gilheany and Laura Callahan.

Tennis:

As usual the tennis season is short and rather rushed but still doesn't stop Muckcross having 13 different teams and all the 1st years playing in our own internal school championship. Our senior B, senior C, junior B, junior C and minor D's are all through to semi-finals and we wish them luck in the next few weeks. Julianna Carton 1st year is currently ranked no. 1 in Ireland for her age and we look forward to watching her progress over the coming years. Julianna played on the Muckcross senior 1 team this year in the premier league but they just missed out on reaching the final by a single point.

Sailing:

3 Muckcross girls compete at Irish level and are on national training panels. Leah Rikard, Niamh Henry and Kate Fahy and we wish them the best of luck over the summer period.

Rowing:

Eanair Kelleher 3rd year competed for the school at the National Rowing championships and won the Junior U15 Skulls race. Fantastic achievement for Eanair.

Gaelic Football:

We have a number of students representing Dublin at different age groups. Ella Thirroueiz 6th year is on the Dublin minor squad, Aobha Walsh 3rd year is on the U16 squad and Lucy Crowe and Emer Crowley in 2nd year are on the Dublin U14 squad. We wish them the best of luck with their respective campaigns through Leinster and hopefully on to All Ireland finals.

Soccer:

Abbie Clarke continues to impress at Dublin level and was on the Dublin U14 team this year and got selected on the Irish All-star team in her age group.

**Swimming:**

The Leinster School's swimming gala was on in January and the senior Relay team came 2nd in the free style race and 3rd in the medley relay. Kate Morris came 3rd in the senior 100m Backcrawl. This team then took part in the inter-provincials in April. The team members were Kate Morris 6th year, Karen Duddy 4th year, Hannah Inglis 2nd year and Kate Maloney 1st year.

Dominican Cup:

This is one of the most enjoyable competitions of the year where a number of Dominican schools come together to compete in 3 sports in the spirit of participation, friendship and enjoyment. This year it was hosted by Taylors Hill Galway and once again Muckcross won the soccer competition.

