



Beannachtaí na Nollaig

Parents Association



Dear Parents /Guardians,

On behalf of Muckross PA Committee we would like to wish you, your families and the community of Muckross Park College, pupils, staff and management a very Peaceful and Joyful Christmas and A Happy New Year.

We would also like to say a huge thank you for all the help and support given to the PA Committee ensuring that the Muckross 2011km Fun Run was such a great day and a very successful fund raiser. The PA organised two very interesting talks this term on 'Cyber bullying' by Pat McKenna and 'Parenting – Challenges and Rewards' by John Lonergan, as well as funding the 6th year CAO evening and assisting with the 1st year night and the Christmas Carol Evening.

In early December the new floodlights were installed on the smaller sports pitch, funded by the monies raised in previous years by the parents.

The PA AGM on Sept 27th was very well attended and many thanks to Ms Mee for her contribution and for the use of the hall. Parents raised a number of issues at that meeting and the PA has/ is addressing these where possible.

•**Locker Space:** The PA has identified shelves that can be placed in the lockers allowing greater organisational flexibility. The Student Council has now taken on this initiative.

•**Quality of Uniform:** The PA Committee is in the process of identifying a higher quality uniform, particularly coat, bearing in mind quality and cost.

•**6th year common room:** Concern was raised that this room would be lost when the area is remodelled to provide the Multipurpose/lunchroom space. This concern has been brought to the Board of Management and they have assured us that this will be factored into the plans for the new space, that are currently being examined.

•**Hockey participation for 1st years:** We understand that the PE staff has endeavoured to ensure that all 1st years have had the opportunity to play this term.

The PA on your behalf would like to congratulate Ms Lundy and all her staff on the excellent Whole School Evaluation Report issued last term. This report is available to view on the school website. Well done to everyone!

Finally we are very aware that there have been difficulties with the school and PA texting system in the earlier part of this term. We hope this is now rectified and apologise to any parent/guardian who missed the AGM or Talks as a result of this problem. The school website and the PA page are great sources of up to date information about everything that is happening in the school. We would highly recommend that you check these regularly. In order to improve communications and reduce costs the PA intend to compile a database of parent's email addresses, which we have already completed for the 1st years. Should you wish to add your email address to this database, please email your details, including your daughter's name and class to muckrosspa@gmail.com. This address can also be used for any questions or queries you have for the PA.



Conor Reidy, brother of Maeve (6th year) wishes to thank all those who bought his book 'A lot can happen in a year and a half'. All of the proceeds of the book, which tells the story of his battle with liver cancer and transplant, have been donated to 'The Children's Medical and Research Foundation, Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin. Thanks to you the gross contribution to date amounts to €9,520 and this will be specifically allocated to St. John's Cancer Ward. Many thanks and a very happy Christmas from Conor.

1st Year News

The first years received a warm welcome from everyone in Muckcross as they embarked on the first year of secondary school. All this happened under the watchful eye of their year head and their class tutors. Their classes are named after islands of Ireland; Tory, Achill, Rathlin and Valentia.

A Buddy system was set up with the fifth year pupils to assist the girls in their first year and they recently enjoyed lunch and a chat with their buddies. Lots of the girls have joined many of the activities on offer, such as basketball, hockey, cross country running, tennis, book club and choir. They participated in the Mass to celebrate the opening of the school year and they also thoroughly enjoyed the visit of the Garda band, the Fun run, the mock presidential election and the Halloween dress up day.



The social evening for first year parents was organised by the Parents Association was a huge success with the girls giving their parents a tour of the school followed by welcoming words from Ms Mee. The night included subject presentations, beautiful singing, scrumptious goodies baked in the Home Economics class. Overall the first term has been very busy for the girls and at this stage they are taking all their new experiences in their stride. Thank you to all that helped the girls along the way.

2nd Year News

In September, the second years went to Ferrycarrig National Heritage Park in Wexford for a History school trip, it was a lovely day, enjoyed by all and they had a great time shopping in Wexford town afterwards.

On the 24th November all second years went on a trip the Mosque in Clonskeagh as part of our Religion curriculum; the trip gave us a better understanding of Muslims and their religion. It was a very interesting trip as most of us had never been inside a mosque before. Thank you to the Religion teachers for organising the trip.

Recently, all students who study Home Economics had the opportunity to enter a Master Chef cooking competition in the school. We were asked to submit a recipe for a starter/main course or main course/desert meal. It is a great opportunity for the students to display their cooking and presentation skills. 18 students from the Junior Cycle were chosen to compete and they are all looking forward to putting their cooking skills to the test with a prize for the winner.



3rd Year News

The Third Years have been very busy since they came back to school in September. The "mocks" are fast approaching, beginning at the end of January. Submissions for their Home Economics and Music practical exams are well underway. Religion journals and CSPE action projects are being finished. The next step will be the science investigations. The girls are still managing to participate in extracurricular activities including book club, choir, chess club, debating and lots of sports. Best of luck!

Student Council

The student council have been very busy this year. After being elected by fellow students, their first task was to organise the Buddy system with the 1st and 5th years which is proving to be a success. They worked with the prefects to organise the Halloween dress-up day for the whole school and the day was enjoyed by all as well as raising a lot of money for charity. For a fun end to the first term of school, they organised a Christmas quiz over the intercom for the whole school which created a bit of rivalry as well as great Christmas spirit!



Transition Year News

Transition Year is going great and everyone is enjoying all the different modules, such as first aid, jewellery making, bridge, international cooking and dancing, as well as sailing after school.

Every Wednesday, they have a guest speaker and so far this year they've met people from Focus Ireland, LA make up academy, Youth Hostels (An Óige) and Refugee Ireland. The talks are very interesting and raise awareness of important issues.

The TY's are busy studying the ECDL programme and many are doing extra skills to achieve their Gaisce President's award. Most of the girls are also involved in mini companies, working towards the Student Enterprise Award.

In November, the 4th years staged a musical with Marian College. It was called Disco Inferno and it ran for three very successful nights. Also in November the annual TY fashion show with St. Michael's College was held in the Burlington Hotel. This was a charity event and all proceeds went to the Blackrock Hospice and the Lauralynn Foundation. It was an extremely hectic time but both events were great achievements for our year. Many thanks to all who attended and helped make them a success.



Currently the TY students are involved in The Shoe Box Appeal and the Vincent de Paul Hamper Appeal. They're all looking forward to the New Year, particularly to their school trip which will take place in May.

5th Year News

Since the beginning of the school year, 5th years have been working hard for the Christmas exams. We have all been bonding with our first year buddies over the past few weeks and we are really enjoying that. Just before our exams the 6th year prefects planned a pizza and movie day where we watched "Love Actually" and enjoyed Domino's Pizza! We will also be participating in the Christmas quiz organised by the student council. Many of the girls are taking part in the Gonzaga/Muckcross musical; West Side Story which we're all very excited for.

6th Year News



The 6th years have had a very enjoyable term and we hope that the next half will be as enjoyable as the first. They have been busy attending various college open days and trying what to decide what to put in their CAO forms.

Throughout the term, they have been preoccupied with the TY Muckcross and Marian College Musical; Disco Inferno, and the TY Fashion Show with St. Michael's College, both of which were really good. They also worked alongside the student council to organise the Halloween dress up day. Many 6th years have continued playing sports this year and are actively involved in various clubs – well done to all.

They are really looking forward to their cinema outing in December and for the Christmas break for their last time to relax a little before the serious work begins!

Despite the workload, 6th year is being enjoyed by everyone so far.

Class of 2011

Muckross Debs 2011 were held in the Shelbourne Hotel as per tradition and a great night was had by all. Congratulations to Niamh Walsh, who was awarded a scholarship to NUI Maynooth and to Ciara Cosgrave, Ellen Cosgrave, Sarah Lochrin, Olwyn Lynch who received Entrance Exhibition Awards from Trinity College Dublin due to high performance levels in their Leaving Cert exams. A special congratulations to Sorcha Mullen who won the Thomas MacDonagh 1916 Memorial Scholarship for best result in Irish and Languages in the Leaving Cert 2011.



Sports

We have 20 hockey teams this year. The 17 competitive teams have started their league and are working hard. Social hockey for first year non-team players has been introduced on a Friday morning (8-8.40).

We have two new basketball coaches Muckcross this year. There are 2 senior, 1 cadette and 4 minor teams. Extra training sessions have been offered on a Saturday morning for the Minors (10-11). Their league starts next term.

Well done to all swimmers who took part in the Leinster Schools swimming gala on 13th November. The Junior Relay team won two bronze medals (Orla Walsh, Kate Morris, Niamh Staunton and Aoife Cahill) as did the Intermediate Relay team (Isabel Banks, Philippa McDonnell, Eabha Cronin and Eva Twomey).

Good luck to the girls who are competing in their first meet at the Hoofprints Interschool Show Jumping competition in December.

Louise McCarthy played for the Ladies Irish Cricket team in Bangladesh in the World Cup Cricket Qualifiers.

Grainne Young was selected for ISA National Topper Squad.

Isabel Banks and Eva Banks are both members of the Irish Junior water polo squad. Their team won a tournament in Sweden and Isabelle won most valuable player and goalkeeper of the tournament in Wallsall.

Sarah Twomey made it to the last 22 of Leinster U18 hockey team. Emer Clarke, Laura Shaw and Kelsey Clarke (2nd year) have been selected for Leinster U16 development squad.

Aislinn McCann is in the final stages of selections for the Irish U16 Basketball team.



2011 Muckcross Fun Run

The 2011 Muckcross Fun Run was a great success again this year, it was held on 2nd October in the Irish-town Stadium. The girls excelled in raising money through their sponsorship cards and came to the Run wearing their school T-shirts in their house colours.

In addition to the run Transition Year Students set up and manned various stalls, selling cakes, plants, books, handbags and vintage clothes. Parents supervised a giant slide, sumo suits and obstacle course all of which proved very popular. Burgers, ice-cream, teas and coffees were on sale throughout the day.

We are grateful to everyone who helped and contributed on the day, and without the vital support of the teachers, parents and pupils the event would not have been possible. This year the event raised over €25,000.

A Message From The Librarian,

Thank you for the past eight years of being part of this very special School Community. Sadly, I am leaving to go back to New Zealand. This will begin the next chapter in my life, closer to my whole family.

Muckcross has been such an integral part of my Irish Adventure. I am passionate about the importance of school libraries and the relevance of books in this technological age. It has been a pleasure and privilege to see our library grow and develop, becoming more important in the school life of our students.

The book clubs have done much to foster the joy of reading and it is great to see the enthusiasm that is generated at these early morning sessions. This term we have had several guest speakers, competitions, quizzes and of course book sharing. My thanks to the girls who bake for these occasions and parents who encourage their girls to make the 8a.m. start to the school day.

My warmest thanks to all 1st Year parents who contributed so generously at the recent Bookfair. Those books will go onto the library shelves with your daughter's names and along with the donations from previous years and will greatly enhance our book collection.

A library has always been part of the Muckcross Tradition and I look forward to hearing that it has continued to go from strength to strength. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of that Tradition.

We would all like to give our children wings, but they must all learn to fly by themselves. May I in some small way, have helped them to fly.

Slán agus ádh mór oraibh,

Ann Lucas.