



DECEMBER 2014

MERCY COLLEGE **NEWSLETTER**

tel: 848 0014 // 848 0888 // 848 0290 fax: 848 0163 email: info@mercycoolock.ie

www.mercycoolock.ie

MERCY 2014 **ALL THE NEWS & MORE**

INSIDE

**BASKETBALL COURT
RENOVATION PROJECT**

HALLOWEEN

SCHOOL TOURS

**ALL THE LATEST
SPORTS NEWS**

**TRANSITION
YEAR NEWS**

MUSIC NEWS

AWARDS

**AND MUCH,
MUCH MORE.....**



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is that time of year when we get a chance to share with parents and the wider community just what has been happening in Mercy College. The following pages capture a flavour of life in our school on an ongoing basis. We pride ourselves on our relationships, on encouraging each girl to fulfil all of her potential – academically, creatively, in the sporting field and in contributing to life in school and in the wider community. We recognise that our people are our greatest strength and try to ensure that there are opportunities for every one of our over 400 students to develop her skills and strengths.

Well done to all of the girls involved in state exams this year and thanks to all of the teachers involved in helping them achieve such success. Our Leaving Certificate students have headed off to courses as varied as Journalism in DCU and in Rathmines; French and Business in DCU; Business, Economics and Social Science in Trinity College; Midwifery in Trinity; Art in the National College of Art and Design; Biotechnology in DIT; Spanish and Tourism in DIT and a host of other courses such as Accounting Technician, Drama, Beauty Therapy and Social Care, to name a few. At Junior Certificate, we were equally pleased with the achievements of the group. Over 97% of students achieved success in all subjects, with the vast majority taking 11 exam subjects. The percentage of students taking all subjects at Higher level rose to its highest figure ever, mostly at A, B and C grades.

The work of Ms. Scully and the YSI students brought us the prize of a Gavin James concert in school, while the girls and some of the staff have also completed a training video for the PDST – the body which offers Continuing Professional Development for teachers – which is now being shown to all primary and post-primary principals and teachers who attend training on anti-bullying policies for schools.

As well as reflecting on the wonderful work that has taken place over the past number of months, we are also looking to the future. One very exciting development is a request from DCU for Mercy College to become involved in its UniTY programme. Starting with a multi-media module, lecturers from the university will team up with our own teachers to deliver lessons to our Transition Years. This new venture will enhance the existing links we have with DCU, including our involvement in the DCU Achievement Awards, DCU Shadowing Programme, CTYI Summer Scholars Programme and the Google Work Placement Programme among others. We also look forward to this year's SLAM programme in Trinity College. It was a great success last year and those 4th and 5th years who participated found it very worthwhile, helping them build not only their own Maths skills, but also leadership skills and confidence through delivering Maths lessons to younger Mercy students and pupils in local primary schools.

The school's IT rooms were upgraded this term and we will follow this in the coming weeks with a new administrative system called VS-Ware, which will allow parents online access to their daughter's reports and attendance records. We will send you full details on the system in the New Year. Finally, may I take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Anna Dunwoody on her appointment as Acting Deputy Principal and wish herself and Mr. O'Mahony every success in the coming weeks. I wish to thank the staff of Mercy for their wonderful support during my illness. Thank you also to our current students and parents, as well as the many past pupils and others who have been in touch. The good wishes, prayers and positive messages are deeply appreciated.

PATRICIA DWYER

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT NEWS

Recently changes have been made to the personnel on our school's Board of Management as two of our long-serving members, Parents' Rep Mrs. Antoinette Whelan and Chairperson Sr. Moira Lynam, stood down. They have been replaced in their respective roles on the Board by Mrs. Pauline McCabe and Mr. Tom Loughnane. Mr. Loughnane comes to the Mercy Board having recently retired from his position as School Leadership Officer with CEIST.

Below are the tributes paid to both Mrs. Whelan and Sr. Moira by Ms. Dwyer on the occasion of their final Board of Management meeting:

"On behalf of the school community I wish to thank Antoinette Whelan, who is stepping down from the board after 5 years' service as Parents' Rep. Her sensible and caring approach to the variety of issues that the board deals with has been much valued.

I also want to pay tribute to Sr. Moira Lynam, who steps down as Chairperson today. Her 30 year association with Mercy College Coolock has been a hugely positive one. As Principal, she was responsible for introducing choir and basketball. She ensured that every girl was encouraged to achieve her full potential. As Chairperson, she has continued to support the work of the school in all that we do, always keeping the best interests of the students to the fore. Her wealth of experience has proved priceless on innumerable occasions.

On a personal level, I wish to thank her for her support and friendship throughout my tenure as Principal. Since 2003, she has been a font of knowledge and a consistently sensible adviser, always bringing her quick mind and ready wit to every meeting and situation. I sincerely hope she stays involved with Mercy through paired reading and the book club, and wish her ongoing good health and happiness in the years ahead."



SCULPTURE IN CONTEXT 2014

In October, 5th year art students visited the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin where it was hosting this year's "Sculpture in Context" exhibition. The exhibition is one of the most prestigious outdoor sculpture exhibitions in Ireland. It provides the students with the opportunity to view work from some of Ireland's most promising and well established artists. The sculptures were displayed throughout the gardens, ponds and the Great Palm House. Smaller pieces were exhibited in the gallery above the visitors' centre. The work ranged in subject matter, size and material. This is well worth a visit and we hope that it will inspire our students in the future. MS. KEARNS AND MS. CASSIDY

MATHS WEEK 12TH - 19TH OCTOBER

Maths Week came and went in a flurry of numbers again this year, with fun activities for students from every year. We had a host of game shows, with 3rd years competing against each other at Countdown. 2nd years tested their knowledge at Who Wants to be a Millionaire. 5th years tried to beat the banker at Deal or No Deal and Mr. McEvoy gave Davina McCall a run for her money hosting 6th year Mercy Million Pound Drop! We finished the week on a high with first year Bingo. Our whole school quiz continued all week with a new clue in the foyer every day. We had one junior and two senior winners. Lauren Cowap - Míde, Kaitlin Kelly and Louise Sherlock, 5th year.

YOU CAN TEST YOUR MATHEMATICAL SKILLS WITH CLUES BELOW???

- 1 If you remove one from eleven, it becomes ten. If you remove one from nine it becomes ten. How is this possible?
- 2 Can you find out which triangle will have a bigger area, triangle (a) or triangle (b)?
a) A triangle with sides 300, 400 and 500
b) A triangle with sides 300, 400 and 700
- 3 A rubber ball keeps bouncing back to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the height from which it dropped. Can you calculate the fraction of its original height that the ball will bounce after it has dropped and it has bounced four times without any hindrance?
- 4 Consider the situation that there is a pond where some flowers have grown up and some bees are hovering over the flowers. Now read the following carefully:
a) If one of the bees lands on a flower, then one bee does not get a flower.
b) If two bees share each flower, then there is one flower left. Now, can you calculate the number of flowers in the pond and the number of bees hovering over them?



CROCHET CLUB TRIP

On May 7th the crochet club travelled to Aimee Rose Knitting and Crochet Shop in City West Shopping Centre where they were given a demonstration. Many thanks to Anna and Linda in the store for their help and ideas. After a busy morning crocheting we had lunch in Avoca. It was a wonderful day and led to a huge amount of crochet being done over the summer by the group.

A DAY FOR YOU IN GLENDALOUGH

20 parents/guardians travelled to Glendalough on Wednesday 30th April to participate in a day of reflection. The day was sponsored by the Glendalough Hermitage Centre (Sisters of Mercy), they provided transport, lunch and Sister Kathleen led the reflective walk. Despite the rain it was a wonderfully peaceful day, a break from the busy days we all lead. Many thanks to Sister Kathleen and the Hermitage Centre.



As part of YSI the students of 4.1, looked at our school facilities and with the importance of student health and wellbeing in mind, they decided to renovate our old and disused basketball court into a student friendly outdoor lunch and recreational area.

As well as this being a school project at Mercy involving students and teachers, it is also a local community development project as families and companies in the area volunteered their time and support to us on Friday and Saturday 10th and 11th of October to help us remove brambles, briars, bushes and weeds. We are very grateful to all those that assisted us that weekend.

We will be having another Clean-up day soon and we would be very grateful if anyone could sponsor us, donate your time or give us any advice and expertise you may have in this area. We would also be grateful for any gardening equipment (heavy duty gloves, goggles, garden shears, hedge cutters, garden blowers, watering cans), products such as (weed killer, moss cleaner, tarmac protection seal, plant food, pest control) or a variety of plants and flowers.

In return, we will acknowledge your help and support in our school newsletter, website, green notice-board, local newspaper 'The Northside', Eco-Unesco website, An Taisce Green-school website, YSI Speakout, showcase and website.

IRISH WHEELCHAIR ASSOCIATION BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

After the mid term break, 4th year students were invited by the Irish Wheelchair Association to take part in a wheelchair basketball tournament. We were split into four teams, with each team playing three matches of a four minute duration. There were teams from all over Leinster and we had a great time playing against them. It is a very tricky and physical game and needed a lot of skill mastering the wheelchair. We had a great time and would love to do it again.

MERCY COLLEGE - YSI SCHOOL OF INNOVATION & ITS YSI ADVOCATES

At Mercy, the programme is coordinated by a group of young people (Our Advocate team) who select one of four big social "themes" each year. For example 1) Health and Well Being 2) Justice, Democracy & Human Rights 3) Our Community or 4) One World. This year our theme is Health and Wellbeing. Our advocate team want to inspire others at Mercy to get involved in social innovation, civic action and volunteering. The Advocate team will communicate opportunities for involvement and create a platform to engage awareness within the wider community. Please help them succeed by getting involved.....



OUR YSI ADVOCATE TEAM ARE

FOURTH YEARS

Shauna Marshall | Leah Murphy | Sabina Gurjeva | Amy Kavanagh | Kelsey O' Connor | Nadine McNally | Alex McGrath | Carol Whelan | Akville Vosyliute

FIFTH YEARS

Sarah Kennedy | Kaitlin Kelly | Liana Harte | Lisa Gilligan | Robyn Richardson | Kayleigh Tully-Knott

YSI SUPPORTING STAFF

Ms Scully | Ms Harte | Ms Devitt | Ms Traynor | Ms Feighery



WOMEN'S AWARENESS WEEK

As part of our YSI programme 4.2 students chose the topic of Inspiring Women. During November Sophie Spence came to the school to talk to us about her role in the Irish womens rugby team. Sophie played alongside one of our teachers Ms. Feighery and came in 4th in the World cup. Ms. Fitzgerald our PE teacher also talked to us about her 13 years of rowing and representing Ireland, she told us how tough it was and how she had to put in long hours of training including early mornings , late evenings and weekends. To celebrate the week we held lunchtime quizzes, poster competitions etc. We also had a cake sale in aid of Breast cancer and we managed to raise €250. Many thanks to all for their help.

Inspiring woman - Elaine Fitzgerald - Irish Champion Rower who has won many championship competitions in Ireland and

Internationally - in particular Henley International Regatta in 2009.

Inspiring woman - Jeannette Feighery - Irish International Rugby player, representing Ireland at the European Championships. Played for and captained Ireland in the IRB Women's Sevens World Series in 2013.

Inspiring woman - Sophie Spence - Irish International Rugby player. Winner of 6 Nations Trophy in 2013. Reached the semi-finals of the Women's Rugby World Cup in 2014, beating New Zealand along the way and becoming the first ever Irish rugby team to do so. Ireland's Women's rugby Team are now ranked 4th in the world.

JUNIOR CERT RESULTS

Mercy College students achieved wonderful grades at JC 2014. At Higher Level they achieved 100% success in Gaeilge, English, History, Art, Business, Home Economics, Science and RE; 98% in Music and CSPE; 94% in Maths; 93% in Spanish. At Ordinary Level, the girls achieved 100% success in English, Art, Home Economics, Music, Spanish and Geography.; 98% in Maths, 97% in History, 96% in RE and 95% in Science and Gaelge.





GREEN COMMITTEE 2014-2015

For the last four years, our school has been working hard to keep Mercy clean and green. As a result we received our first green flag under the theme Litter and Waste, thanks to students and teachers placing waste in the correct bins. Due to your continued good work on recycling, we will be getting 6 new recycling bins for the hall in the coming weeks.

Also, we are applying for our second green flag this year under the theme Energy. We want to make students more aware of energy waste in our school. This can be done by giving energy saving tips through learning and fun such as poster campaigns, surveys, competitions and much more. We will continue to carry out energy audits on all appliances, to monitor our energy consumption and hopefully reduce it. We would like to remain a green school and achieve the green flag status for Energy.

The green committee visited Turlough Hill Hydro-Electric Power Station in September as it celebrates its 40th birthday this year and invited students to come and take a look at Ireland's first and only Hydro-Electric Pumped Storage station. The station

operates all year round but comes into its own typically at about 5pm every evening when household cookers across the country are switched on, lights come on and home heating fires up. Turlough Hill can deliver its 292 MW of electricity to the national grid, ramping up to full power in just 70 seconds ensuring the State's lights don't even flicker. ESB Turlough Hill Power Station generates its electricity when the water from the upper lake is dropped through turbines (in the tunnel, deep in the mountain) to the bottom lake. During periods of low electricity demand (1am-5am) the water is pumped back to the upper lake ready to be used again. The green committee really enjoyed the experience and visit on the day.

Green committee members will be taking part in environmental workshops from Eco UNESCO, An Taisce as well as going on green school trips during the year.

MS SCULLY



BOTTLE TOP

We had a bottle top competition to promote awareness on recycling in our school. As a result of the competition, we collected 4,000 bottle tops. Many thanks to all who contributed. The green committee with assistance from Mrs Kearns designed a beautiful butterfly mural using the bottle tops and it is now displayed by Mrs Kearns Art room.

MERCY COLLEGE COOLOCK WIN UP2US ANTI-BULLYING COMPETITION



THURSDAY 26TH MAY 2014 - AN EXTRACT FROM THE CEIST WEBSITE

Big Congratulations to transition year students (4.1) at Mercy College Coolock on winning the inaugural Up2Us National Anti-Bullying Contest 2014.

The #Up2Us campaign is all about young people taking the initiative, themselves, to do something about cyber bullying. The main objective of the #Up2Us competition is to reward groups doing the most to make their communities more inclusive places by combating bullying and cyber bullying, in particular.

The standard of entries to the competition was extremely high and judges were very impressed by the multi-faceted approach taken by the students from Mercy College Coolock to raise awareness around the issues of internet safety and bullying.



RAISE AWARENESS AROUND CYBER BULLYING AND INTERNET SAFETY

Not only did the Mercy College girls create a video (Your_Safety_is_ON_the_LINE) on the risk of cyber bullying and on the precautionary steps students should take to avoid being cyber bullied but they also organised a week of exciting awareness raising events to coincide with Safer Internet Day.

From giving presentations at assembly time to running competitions, from conducting a survey to holding a Random Acts of Kindness (RASK) day these girls did it all!

The students beat off some strong competition from another CEIST school, Presentation College Carlow, St Mary's Holy Faith in Killester, Derrinturn Foroige Club and Bishopstown Community School, all of whom were Highly Commended by the judges.

PRIZE IS A MINI MUSIC FESTIVAL

To celebrate winning the #Up2Us Anti-Bullying Contest the Mercy College students had a Mini Music Festival, starring singer songwriter, Gavin James, in their school in September as their prize. The whole school really enjoyed it.

Also, as a result of the competition, webwise and the PDST (Professional Development of Secondary Teachers) are creating a 4 minute video on their cyber-bullying project to be used for educational purposes.



GAVIN JAMES CONCERT

Rachel Gunn transition year student sang on stage before Gavin James at the concert. Gavin James was very impressed by her beautiful voice, her ability to write songs and to perform in front of the whole school. Well done Rachel...we look forward to your album in another few years



Soccer Comes to Mercy



Back L-R; Melanie Wall, Andrea Kelly, Clodagh Hudson, Louise Sherlock, Rachel Douglas, Robyn McCluskey. Front L-R; Niamh Murphy, Jessica Kelly, Kaitlin Kelly, Lauren Walsh (Capt.), Aoife Dillon.

The new season has begun for the Mercy College soccer team. Training takes place every Monday and Wednesday and we have Irish International Kerrie Ryan helping out with the squad and sharing her expertise with us. Kerrie currently plays with U.C.D. and is also a past pupil of Mercy College and we are delighted that she can join us. Our first match was on Tuesday October 14th where the senior ladies played a friendly game against Manor House. Mercy got off to a great start with Rachel Douglas scoring the opening goals after eight and fifteen minutes. Manor House got one goal before Aoife Dillon scored a third for Mercy. Three consecutive goals sealed a win for the Manor House ladies and although we were disappointed with the loss, the ladies can be delighted with the performance and team effort. Well done to all of the girls involved!!

MERCY SPORTS TERM 1: 2014

As usual Mercy College sports department has been a hive of activity. This year the extracurricular sports department has grown and now includes soccer. We have entered the FAI schools senior and U-15 league. The extracurricular sports programme provides ten training sessions a week, with students training before school, at lunch and after school. Volleyball sees our biggest entry ever in the schools competitions, including two senior teams, two cadette teams, junior and minor teams. We have reached the Senior C All-Ireland Final for the first time. In their quarter final they lost the first set but then went on to win the next two with super serving from all the girls. In the semi finals, they beat Colaiste Ide in straight sets. The team is made up of Kaela Hutton, Elijah Mallari, Liana Harte, Nicole Byrne, Angel Lowry, Sarah Luong, Louise Sherlock and Kaitlin Kelly. The final is on the 4th December in Kilkenny. We will let you know how they did in the next news letter.

Senior basketball is up and running and the girls had a great win in their first game over St. Michael's Finglas. This was followed by further wins against Alexandra College, Loreto on the Green and Loreto Balbriggan and as a result of this, we are now through to the Leinster finals. Again, we will let you know how they got on in the next news letter. The first and second year basketball and volleyball girls are up and running and are working well under the watchful eye of staff and senior coaches. I would like to welcome and thank the new staff members who have joined the extracurricular programme: Ms. Feighery and Gráinne Byrne (Basketball) and Mr. McEvoy and Ms. Martin (Soccer).

Finally, congratulations are in order for one of our 5th year basketball students Ta Kelly-Stevens who has been selected to play for Ireland Under-18 basketball team. The best of luck Tia.

MS. FITZGERALD





MERCY SPORTS DAY 2014



MERCY HOSTS CHEERIOS CHILDLINE BREAKFAST

As part of Friendship Week, 6th Years hosted a Cheerios Childline breakfast for 1st years on Friday 17th October. In return for a small donation all 1st year students were given their breakfast, toast, cereal and juice in the hall. They managed to raise €169.

This is a very worthwhile cause as all the money collected goes directly to the ISPCC to fund Childline service. This is the only service available in Ireland which answer calls from children in need on a 24 hour basis. SARAH WHELAN, HEAD GIRL



CONNEMARA HERE WE COME



This summer a number of students went to Colaiste Cholumba, a Gaeltacht in Connemara, Co. Galway. We spent three weeks there and had a fabulous time. Classes were in the morning and there were different activities every afternoon, such as kayaking, rafting, football and basketball. Thankfully, the weather was great and we spent a lot of time on the beach!! Every evening there was a céilí in the hall, where we learnt a lot of Irish dances. There were also two trips - one to Inis Oírr and another to Galway city. They were both very interesting and enjoyable. The whole experience was amazing and we made many new friends. Most importantly our Irish improved a lot!! We would recommend this to anybody thinking of going next summer. MAIREAD MCCABE, 6TH YEAR



FIRST YEAR QUIZ

6th year LCVP students hosted a 1st year quiz on 2nd October in aid of St Francis Hospice. The entry fee was €2 and we managed to raise €110. The 1st prize was fluff socks and head massage, 2nd prize was a nail varnish set and 3rd prize was a bar of galaxy. As you can see it wasn't about the prizes!! The students really enjoyed themselves and had a fun filled morning. NADINE KENNEDY, 6TH YEAR



MCAULEY CSPE ACTION PROJECT

This year in our CSPE class we decided to do our Action Project on homelessness. We contacted the Simon Community to get information about speakers, visits and events coming up. We also asked if they needed any supplies, for example clothes or blankets. They said they would send someone out to speak to us so we could learn more about what they do.

On the 15th of October, a speaker from the Simon Community came into our class. His name was Glen Gannon. He used to live on the street. The Simon community helped him get his life back on track again. He is now an actor and volunteers with the Simon Community. He spoke about his experiences and how it made him a better person. We learned how he came to live on the street and what the turning

point was for him to ask for help again. At the end of the talk we gave Glen a card and small gift to thank him for coming and sharing his story with us. We also gave him a donation for the Simon Community. We learnt a lot from the Glen's speech and have a busy few weeks ahead writing up our Action Project. OLA PADZIAK AND GANA BAKOTO, 2ND YEAR



COLLINS BARRACKS – BEYOND PEBBLEDASH WORKSHOPS

During November we visited Collins Barracks as part of our Technical Graphics course. Collins Barracks was doing a series of workshops based around housing in Dublin and rural areas. During these workshops we thought about design of housing, not only for ourselves but for others as well. We thought about how to design houses to suit the needs of others, to make it into a home and a safe environment. We looked at how the wants of people change in different spaces over time due to new ideas and new ways of living. We also looked at various case studies such as the Ballymun regeneration project. In our final workshop we designed our own high rise and high density city that will be included in an exhibition along with other schools. We will let you know how we got on in our next newsletter. ERICA BARRY AND SHAUNA MARSHALL



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The Music Department will be having a musical evening on the 11th of December. The concert is called Carols by Candlelight. It will include performances from students of all years. We would like to invite all parents and guardians, as well as members of the local community to come along and get us all in the mood for some Christmas cheer.

MERCY MUSIC NEWS



Violins Going Strong

The Violin programme is going strong again in 2nd year. After making a great start and performing at our annual concert Mercy Melodies, the 2nd year music students are working hard under the guidance of Ms Kelly, assisted by Ms Doherty and Ms McQuaid. The first year students who choose music will begin learning violin after Christmas.

CHOIR

The Mercy College Choir is going from strength to strength this year with four teachers involved and approx. 50 students rehearsing at lunchtime on a Monday. We hope to perform at several competitions and events throughout the school year. We encourage all new members to come along.

SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME

SUMMER PROJECT

The Coolock SCP summer project ran from 16th to 20th June in Mercy College. 35 students from 1st and 2nd year registered to take part. This year we had a number of 4th and 5th year students taking part. It was a fun filled week, with outings everyday. Activities included a trip to the Ireland's Eye, a picnic in Dublin Zoo, a day at Causey Farm, sports, cinema and the Extreme High Wire experience in Balbriggan. The participants really enjoyed the summer project and everyone involved commented on the enthusiasm of the students each day. Again this year we were blessed with lovely sunshine each day. We will be running a summer project this year in June. It will be open to all years and costs €50 for the week. If you have any queries please contact Linda, Coolock SCP Co-ordinator.

BREAKFAST CLUB

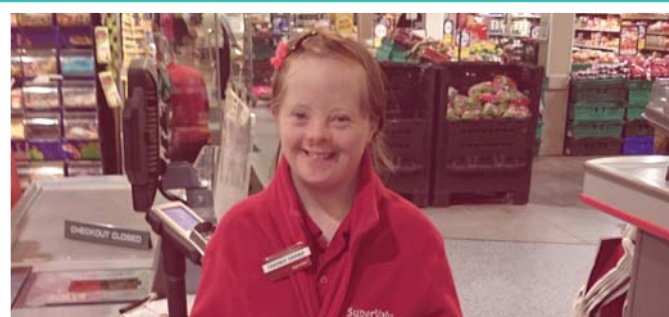
Our Breakfast Club is going very well this year. The Breakfast Club is open to all students. It runs every day from 8.00 to 8.45 in the parent's room. Students can have toast, cereal (Special K, Cheerios, Cornflakes, Rice Crispies etc.), apple juice, orange juice, milk, fruit, yoghurts etc. Regretfully, we no longer provide chocolate spread! However, we do provide healthy alternatives. The Breakfast Club had a visit from Kellogg's Ireland in November. The staff members from Kellogg's were particularly impressed with the large numbers of students using the Breakfast Club and the courtesy and good manners shown by the students. We would like to thank the volunteers who come in each morning (including the cold, frosty mornings in December) to help prepare and serve breakfast to the students. A big thank you to: Una Byrne, Ms Quinn, Ms Keelan, Iris Graham and Monica Heade.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework Club takes place Monday to Thursday from 3.50 to 4.50 in the Study Hall. It is open to all first and second year students. If a student is having difficulty with their homework the teacher can help. For example, we have a maths teacher at the homework club 3 days a week. It also means that students can leave some books in their lockers so the school bag is lighter. New members are always welcome.

DANCE CLUB

We established the dance club this September due to the demand and interest in dance from 1st and 2nd year students. Kenneth Giles, choreographer and manager with Eclipse Dance School teaches the dance class. We have 22 students from all years taking part in the club. It takes place in the study hall every Tuesday from 3.50 to 4.50. At the moment the group is working towards a display in November. It is currently being run on a ten week trial and depending on interest and availability we are hoping to run it after Christmas. A big thank you to Ms Boyle for her continuing support and help with the club. New members are always welcome. If you interested in taking part in these lessons or any of the activities mentioned just pop into Linda, Co-ordinator Coolock SCP, her office is beside the Language lab.
LINDA DEVITT



ASDAN STUDENT WORK EXPERIENCE

Sarah Delahunty is a 5th year student. As part of her school ASDAN programme she takes part in one day of work experience every week. Here is a short account of her work experience so far:

Every Thursday I work in Super Valu in Killester from 9.30 to 3.30. I work with some very nice people and I have a great time there. I always work at the shopping tills packing shopping into bags. I sometimes do messages around the shop, getting things people forget about! I have a Super Valu uniform and a badge with my name on it. I get a tea break upstairs in the staffroom and sometimes I buy my lunch in the shop. My favourite bit about work is packing the bags and having chats with some customers! I will be working in Super Valu every Thursday for the whole year.



FERRYCARRIG HISTORY TRIP

During May the current 2nd year students went to Ferrycarrig. It took two hours for the bus to get to our destination and we had lunch before we visited the National Heritage Park. We then went for a guided walk through the forest that was designed like a Neolithic, Mesolithic and Bronze Age camp site. We visited huts and were shown how food was prepared and cooked. We were shown a crannóg and Viking ship, as well as visiting Viking huts that were made out of wattle and daub. Finally, we visited a monastery. We had an amazing day and would like to thank all our teachers and year head Ms. Finnerty.

ANTI-BULLYING

The school has embarked on a strong anti-bullying campaign since September. Every student in the school has signed a cyber-bullying pledge to keep themselves and everyone else safe on line. The students also pledged to do something positive in the school this year. These pledges were displayed in the foyer. Each class discussed how to report bullying and a reporting tool has now been set up on the school website.

October marked our Friendship Week. All 1st year students had one class per day devoted to the topic. This was to encourage positive behaviour and to educate the students on the importance of having respect for every student. Older classes in the school discussed issues such as identity and homophobic bullying.

MS. DOHERTY

STUDENT COUNCIL

The student council for the 2014-2015 academic year is up and running. Sarah Whelan is Chairperson of the Council and Paige Murtagh is Secretary. Our first event will be our Breakfast for 6th year students. We hope to host this towards the end of November. We will keep you posted in the next news letter.

MS. CONNEELY

BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

For the first time, 1st year students of Business were asked to participate in the Student Enterprise Awards programme. They attended the talks given by Tom with the 4th year students. They have been very inventive and have come up with really good ideas. They will also be exhibiting and selling their products at the Christmas trade fair.

MS MALONEY AND MS HIGGINS

3RD YEAR TAKE TO THE HILLS



What a great day 3rd years had for their annual trip to Wicklow. We took the bus to the Wicklow Mountains National Park and explored this stunning area. We visited the Monastic ruins, walked to the Poulness Waterfall and saw at first hand the power of erosion and how rivers carve the landscape. We had a lovely picnic lunch and observed the beautiful autumn colours. We then walked a 6 km round trip to the Miners Village, the poor teachers were exhausted!! It was a lovely day out.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

TRANSITION YEAR NEWS

FIRST AID

During October we were given a two day introduction course in first aid. We learned about how to put someone in the recovery position and how to administer CPR, among many other areas such as how to deal with minor cuts and fractures. We were each given a red card that gives you a number to call in emergencies or if somebody around you gets into difficulties such as choking or if a person collapses. There are some steps that you need to do:

- Check that the area is safe for you to approach
- Call for help or get someone to do this for you. They can call either 999 or 112
- You introduce yourself to the person in need by saying your name and what you are going to do to them
- Put the person in the recovery position and gently cover them with something warm to stop them going into shock
- When this is done, sit by the person and wait for an ambulance to come

LAUREN ROONEY



WORLD PEACE DAY

On the 22nd of September every student and staff member in the school gathered on the playing field to create a peace symbol to mark world peace day. During our religion classes, we planned and organised the event. We printed names of child victims who died in the Gaza conflict and gave each student in the school a card to hold up. We also held up signs saying "REFUSE TO BE ENEMIES", to raise the awareness of the conflict that is occurring between religions. It was a great success as can be seen in the photo. AMY KAVANAGH



COMMUNITY LAW AND MEDIATION COURSE

TY students have been involved with the Northside Law Centre on an innovative and exciting module, a flavour of which is outlined by one of the students: Two barristers of law visited our school and talked to our class about the law, criminal law, the jury, the courts and various acts. We were then brought to UCD to act out a case. This was really interesting and fun.

CIARA SYMES



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

All students and staff members are participating in the shoebox appeal. We get shoeboxes and put a variety of gifts such as crayons, colouring books, small toys, loom bands, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, sweets (in date until March), underwear, stationery, toothpaste, souvenir items (non breakable), hairbrush or comb. The boxes are wrapped in Christmas paper and sent off to countries in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe to children between the ages of 2 to 14. Out of respect, we cannot put war related items and hazardous materials into the box. We cannot put chocolate, medication, sharp items, large pieces of clothing, scary items (like Halloween items or skull and crossbones), any form of technology and books with words due to health and safety, language and customs issues.

RACHEL CRONIN

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

On the 26th September, we were given a talk by Oliver Smith from AWARE. He visited our class to discuss issues such as depression and mental illness. He spoke to us about how to get help and who to go to for help. His information was very helpful to all of us. He showed us how to turn a negative into a positive. I found this talk very helpful. I now know more about depression and I can tell people who to phone when they are having bad thoughts and going through a hard time. AWARE is a very helpful organisation and you can visit their website for more information. CAITHLIN KEEGAN

KICKBOXING

During October we were given a 6 week course by Martin and Chris showing us the main techniques used in kick boxing such as the four main punches -jab, opposite, huck and uppercut. We also built up our fitness levels. This was very enjoyable.

REBECCA DUNNE

MINI COMPANY

After the success of last year's mini company, the students in 4.1 are currently producing their products for the trade fair that will take place in the school on Friday 5th December. The products range from recycling items and turning them into jewellery, ceramic toadstools (mushrooms), board games, loom bands and much more. We have also had a speaker from the Student Enterprise Awards, giving us three workshops in Identifying Opportunities, Marketing and Finance and presentation skills.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON

It has been a busy term so far. Many thanks to all the new first year parents/guardians for their warm welcome. I have visited many homes to introduce myself and inform parents/guardians about the courses and activities we run in the parents' room. Since mid-September many courses and activities for parents/guardians have started, if any of these are of interest to you, please contact me on 086 0241797 to book a place. Some of the activities are run in conjunction with other local schools, please check the venue, this is where the course takes place. If you have missed the beginning of a course you can still join in.

COURSE	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Arts & Crafts FREE	Scoil Chaitríona	Tuesday 11th Nov 4-5 sessions	9.00 am-10.30am
Home Furnishing FREE	Mercy College	Friday 7th Nov 4-5 sessions	10.15am - 12.15pm
Irish FREE	Scoil Chaitríona	Wed 5th November 2 sessions	12.35pm - 1.25pm
Pottery FREE	Scoil Chaitríona	Thursday 6th Nov 5 sessions	9.15am -11.15am
Book Club	Mercy College	1st Wed of Month	11.00am – 12.00pm
Crochet €2	Mercy College	Every Wednesday 12.15 pm – 2.15pm	
Flower Arranging	Mercy College	Thur 11th December	10.00am – 11.30am
Christmas Cakes €5	Mercy College	4 sessions. Dates to be announced after midterm	To be confirmed
Maths 1st and 2nd year FREE	Mercy College	Monday 4th Nov 5 sessions	9.40am- 10.45am

Answers FOR MATHS QUIZ PAGE 03

1. Answer roman numerals
(1X take away 1)
2. Answer Triangle 1 as
triangle 2 is not a triangle
3. Answer 16/81
4. Answer 4 bees and 3
flowers

HALLOWEEN DRESS UP DAY



6TH YEAR GIRLS
RAISED OVER
€200
FOR
**PIETA
HOUSE
CHARITY**





STUDENT AWARDS 2014

