

Scoil Mhuire Community School Christmas Newsletter 2019

WE WISH ALL STAFF,
STUDENTS AND THEIR
FAMILIES A PEACEFUL
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

Breakfast Club Christmas Concert - A concert of carols will be held in Clane Parish Church this Thursday to raise funds for our Breakfast Club which runs five mornings a week and offers nourishment before the start of a busy school day. A special thank you to the 6th yr. students who help out each morning. Please support our school choir and guests for a very worthy cause. Tickets available at the door.

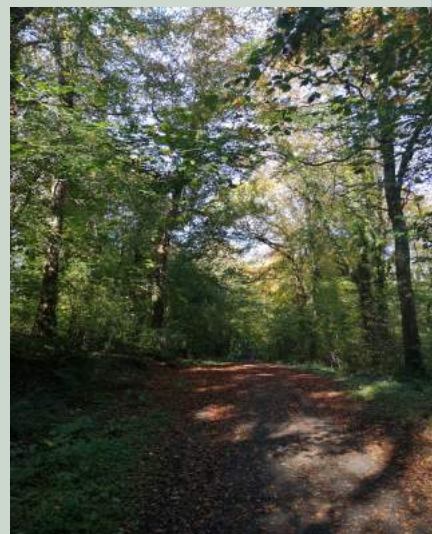
Shoe Box Collection- Well done to the members of the student council who organised a very successful Christmas Shoe Box collection this year for children in Asia.

Choir- The school choir members brought Christmas cheer to the residents of Hazel Hall nursing home last week with some carol singing.

Crib- A big 'Thank You' to the Leaving Certificate Applied 2 group who put up the school crib display.

Fifth Year Christmas Fundraising Campaign- Barretstown Camp and The Little Way Cancer Support Centre in Clane are the chosen recipients of the funds being raised by the 5th year students this Christmas. The committee are busy organising events and to date have held a festive-fun day, bake sale, hot chocolate sale and sold candy canes. The students are enjoying the fundraising and hope the wonderful support continues.

Remembering Ade- The entire school community are remembering our 3rd year student Ade Adeluoke and his family this Christmas. We would like to thank everyone and in particular the wider community who supported Ade's family and the school through a very difficult time. We also acknowledge the respectful manner in which the students conducted themselves over the days of the funeral.



Maynooth University School

Prizes- Our strong links with Maynooth University continue and the Maynooth University school prizes were presented last week by Dr. Laura Creevy to four 6th yr students based on their excellent results in the Summer 5th yr exams. Well done to Ellie Fitzpatrick, Andy Lee Mitchell, Shedrack Ali and Luke Hodgkiss all of whom received vouchers to the value of €150 and university certificates in recognition of their achievements. 49 students from Scoil Mhuire enrolled in Maynooth University this year.

Godolphin Bursary-

Congratulations to Jordan Davies 6th year who is the winner of the Godolphin Bursary which will assist with his journey through college.

The standard of entries was very high again this year and the Godolphin judges had a difficult time choosing a winner.

Leaving Certificate Results- In October we acknowledged the excellent results of our students in Leaving Cert. 2019 and invited students back for a presentation of awards. (pictured)

Junk Kouture - Transition year students are gearing up for Junk Kouture, a fashion competition using recycled materials, which challenges young people to design, create and model high end couture. Students are busy adding the finishing touches to their creations for the January judging. We wish them all well.

Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition - 5th year students Nicoleta Cociug and Dearbhla O' Regan took part in the Soroptimist International Girls Public Speaking Competition in Clane on Nov 7th.

Brandon Blake-- European Jiu-Jitsu Champion- We are all very proud of second year student Brandon Blake who competed in the Ibjjf Jiu-Jitsu European Championship last month. The event was held here in Ireland and brings the highest level of competition in world jiu-jitsu. Brandon won Gold and is now the European Champion for 2019. It's an amazing achievement to hold 1 title never mind 3 consecutively and we are very proud of him. Brandon is Ibjjf European Champion 2019, Irish Open Champion 2019 and Irish leagues Champion 2019.



Aoife Begley Memorial Girls Debating Competition-

A group of eight Transition year and 5th year students have completed the first round of the ABM debating competition in Maynooth University and progressed to round two this week. We wish Holly, Dearbhla, Sophie, Nicola, Anna, Catriona, Joanne and Beverly every success.



6th Year Careers – Don't forget to open your CAO account- 6th year students have had the opportunity to attend talks by UCD, TUD, Maynooth University, NUI Galway, Uni of Limerick, Carlow IT, Carlow College, St. Patricks Maynooth, NCI, DCU, Dunboyne CFE, as well as go to the Higher Options Careers and Colleges exhibition. Guidance Interviews have taken place for this term and **all students are encouraged to open their CAO account before Feb 1st and list their courses in order of preference. Many PLC courses are now open for application also— Apply directly on-line to each PLC college.**

Drama and Musical- Rehearsals for the 1st & 2nd year Musical, The Greatest Showman begin after Christmas. The show will take place in March and the cast are eager to get started. The fifth year play is also in rehearsal

and the cast are getting ready for an end of January production. The talent of our students is amazing as was displayed at our Halloween concert and we look forward to two excellent productions.

Amazing creative talent was also evident in the variety of costumes and make up which staff and students displayed for our Halloween Fun event, the highlight of which was the concert in the assembly. Thank you to everyone who planned, participated and performed during the event.

Toe Tapping Thursday performances are up and running in the canteen again each week with superb performances of song and music from the students.

Work Experience- Both Transition year and Leaving Certificate Applied students have work experience each Friday with some students already having completed six different placements.

Remember to continue filling your work experience calendar for next term as the more variety you experience will help you to choose future careers and subject options.

Getting Started Computer Training- Well done to the Transition year student volunteers who have been working in the Adult Education school with local people over 55, delivering one to one computer training as part of the fight against Digital Exclusion.



Transition Year Workshops- Transition year students have had a very busy year to date with workshops in Hospitality Skills, Self Defence, Entrepreneurial skills, Poetry, Forensics and Interview Skills as well as a Mental Health talk, a visit to the Riverbank Theatre for a comedy show, a trip to Aras an Uachtarain to meet with President Higgins and to see the signing in of new ambassadors, some exercise at the Hell and Back experience, the Go Quest Arena and Carlingford Outdoor Pursuits centre, some agricultural exploration at The Ploughing Championships and finishing off with an Ice Skating trip last week and their end of term interviews this week.



Gaisce – Presidents Awards.

Congratulations to the 5th year students (pictured below) who received their Bronze Gaisce – President Awards in October.

Trips and Tours - The 2019 Scoil Mhuire Soccer Trip to see Manchester City versus Manchester United took place on December 7th. 35 students from 1st to 6th year travelled to the match, accompanied by Mr. Clifford, Miss Clifford, Mr. Scully, Mr. Caulfield and Mr. Dempsey. A wonderful time was had by everyone who travelled.

TY Trip to Krakow- A group of 40 Transition year students and three teachers will travel to Krakow for a cultural tour in February.

Second Year Trip to Delphi Adventure Centre- Ms. Ronan will take a group of 100 2nd year students to Delphi Adventure

Centre for a 4 day action packed trip over Easter.

Mental Health Week and Active week will take place in the new year. The school are seeking to attain the Amber Flag this year. The **Amber Flag** initiative aims to encourage, promote and actively bring about a culture change in the area of positive mental health within the school. It aims to enhance the already good work that is going on where mental health is concerned. A number of events are planned as part of the initiative.



Ryan represents Scoil Mhuire at World Children's Day event in Dublin Castle- Well done to Ryan McKeon who spoke at the 'Child Talks' event last month. Ryan spoke about the difficulties young people face with waiting lists and services for young people with disabilities. He was one of 13 young speakers from around the country to speak at the event in Dublin Castle for World Children's Day.

'Frame of Mind' Film Competition-

Two Transition year groups have entered films in the 'Frame of Mind' Mental Health Awareness competition run by the 'Walk in My Shoes' campaign which aims to improve awareness about mental health and to remove the stigma associated with mental health difficulties. Judging takes place in January.

Dr. Niall Moynagh of Operation Transformation fame spoke to all 3rd year students about resilience, choices and health last week. The students were very impressed with his message about the importance of taking care of ourselves and developing good health habits.

Boxer **Eric Donovan** also addressed 3rd year students on the theme of resilience and positive thinking. Both talks were very well received.



Gaisce Awards for 5th yr. students

Young Scientist 2020- Four projects have been entered in the Young Scientist for January, with biological, environmental and physics themes. Students Adam McNulty, Katie Connolly, Miriam McDermot, Anna Murphy and Priya Evans are currently finishing their projects for presentation at the event. We wish them every success.

6th year Religion Program Guest Speakers- This term guest speakers on the Senior Religion programme included Niall McNamee, Fr. Peter McVerry, Joanne O Riordan, John Loneragan, Eric Donovan, Tony O'Reilly, Kildare Traveller Action Group, speakers from Cuan Mhuire Rehabilitation Centre, Crumlin Children's Hospital (fundraiser) and Nicole Ryan, all of whom offered real, thought- provok-

ing stories to the 6th yr. group. The 6th year students are participating very well with the programme and hopefully will gain some insight into some of lifes' challenges and possibilities.

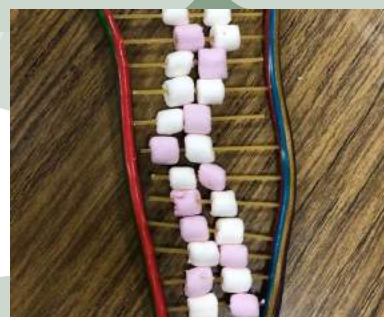
TY Retreats - The annual TY retreat to Glendalough took place over four days in Mid-September and the students engaged very well with the activities of the day. There was plenty of walking, talking and opportunity to reflect and simply spend time together. The weather held up for the most part and the students got the opportunity to experience the beauty of Glendalough.

TY/ KARE Programme - KARE made a welcome return to the school in October and the service users always bring with them a warmth and openness as they meet and spend time with our TY students. Over the last number of weeks we have baked, played games and got involved in arts and crafts. The programme offers our students the opportunity to grow in understanding and awareness about the lives of our friends from KARE.

A very special **Thank You** to everyone who supported our jersey day in October. The whole school took part and donated very generously to the event and it was a very fitting way of paying tribute to Ade and his love of Liverpool. The proceeds of the day have contributed towards funeral expenses and a headstone for Ade's grave.



5th Year Retreat - In October a group of 5th years headed to Donadea forest for a reflective walk. We shared some time with Patricia O' Neill taking in the natural beauty of the forest and stopping along the way to take time to think and pray. We then went back to the Parish centre for some refreshments and met with Fr Paul and he gave the group a guided tour of the church giving us all an insight into the development of the church here in Clane. We concluded the morning with a guided meditation which gave the students an opportunity to take time out to relax and reflect about their lives.



Edible DNA 2nd yr science project for Science Week

Parents Association Report- The parent body continues to support Scoil Mhuire through the Parents' Association. Since September we have fundraised by bag packing and clothes collections. Our AGM took place on 8th October and our guest speaker Kenneth Egan inspired us with his presentation on increasing resilience in young people. We also helped out at the annual Christmas concert on 19th December. The Parents' Association is here to support the school in any way we can, so if you would like to get involved please do get in touch through the school.

Sports Round Up

Equestrian News- The school Equestrian group, a great group of talented riders who are a pleasure to work with have taken part in three competitions

this term, in Newbridge College in September, Jag Equestrian in October and Broadmeadow Equestrian in November. They also participated in a training session in Dunbyrne Stud. Mr. Mooney is looking forward to more events and new riders joining the group for 2020.

Hurling- The U16 and Senior Hurlers participated in the Leinster Colleges Championship but unfortunately did not reach the knockout stage. U 14 Hurling will commence after Christmas.

Ladies Junior and Senior GAA Football- There has been huge enthusiasm for ladies football this term with up to 46 students turning out for training and the trainers are very hopeful for next term judging by the potential that is evident among the group.



Soccer News- Following last year's hugely successful year with the school winning its first ever All Ireland Soccer title, soccer is very popular in the school with all four teams having success to date.

The Senior team under the guidance of Mr E O Connor have reached the semi-final of the Midlands league following a great win over Naas CBS. They also are through two rounds of the Leinster cup following wins over Newbridge PBS and a penalty shootout victory over Tullamore. Conor Comiskey was the hero on the day scoring one goal and earning the penalty which was converted by Eoin Carolan.



The Junior team under the guidance of Mr B Sheridan are through to the semi-final of the Midlands league after good wins over Maynooth and Pipers Hill. They will play Rathangan in the semi-final. They were unlucky to lose in the cup in a controversial game in Portlaoise.

The Minor team under the guidance of Mr L Sheridan are also through to the semi-final of the midlands league following good victories over Pipers Hill and Portlaoise. They will play Naas CBS in the semi-final. They lost their cup game by 2-1 to Tullamore.

The First Year team under the guidance of Mr McAndrew are unbeaten so far and have reached the semi-final of the midlands league and are through to the next round of the cup following impressive wins over Navan, Pipers Hill and Kilcullen.

We look forward to some more exciting days on the soccer pitch in the new year and hopefully a few trophies.

U16 Football- Well done to the U16 Boys Football team who are in the semi-final of the U16 South Leinster League having beaten Naas CBS and PBS Newbridge.

Scoil Mhuire Adult Education

Classes begin Jan 27th. Here is the link to the Spring Brochure <http://bitly.com/smbrochure20>
Details on www.clanesm.com
Graduation was Nov.28th in the Westgrove Hotel.

Pictured graduates of Cert. in Psychology Maynooth University with Adult Education Director Seamus Scully and Dr.Ger Dunne TUD.

