

## Newsletter Christmas 2015

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### Exam Results

Well done to all Leaving Cert and Junior Cert students who had great success in this years' examinations. Special congratulations to Rachel Mulqueen who achieved the best female result in the country in Higher Level Design and Communication Graphics

### All Ireland Scholarship

Massive congratulations to 2015 Scoil Mhuire graduate Zoe Jackson McGrath, who was one of only 125 students from across the island of Ireland chosen to receive the prestigious All Ireland scholarship. Zoe is studying Law at Trinity College having received fantastic grades in her Leaving Certificate. Zoe was presented with her scholarship at a ceremony held in the University of Limerick which was attended by JP McManus, the sponsor of the scholarship, guest of honour AP McCoy and Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan TD.

### Senior Debaters at Maynooth University

Scoil Mhuire enjoyed a successful First Round in the Maynooth University debates on 16th. November. Coached by Mr. Behan, ten of our thirteen speakers were successful in securing a place in Round Two of the competition. The motions debated in Round One included: The objectification of men in popular culture and the Hunger Games as a prediction of the future. Teams were:

**Scoil Mhuire A**

[Oran Harrison & Corrado Fusciardi]

**Scoil Mhuire B**

[Adam Power & Roisin Gorman]

**Scoil Mhuire C**

[Seyi Akinola]

**Scoil Mhuire D**

[Precious Ali & Tami Adeniran]

**Scoil Mhuire E**

[Aran Behan & Harry Kelly]

**Scoil Mhuire F**

[Stephen Duffy & Christopher Ryan]

**Scoil Mhuire G**

[Robyn Clarke & Shane Brady]

**Teams A, D, E, F and G** are currently preparing for their challenging second round motions which include Condemn The War on Drugs, Prepare for Peace by Planning for War and It is Morally Unethical to Genetically Modify Embryos. Other teams in Round 2 include Belvedere College, Castleknock CC, St. Mary's CBS, Marist, and Confey. We wish the speakers every success.

## Fifth Year Play

The 5th Year play this year is John B. Keane's 'The Field'. Set in County Kerry in the 1960's the "Bull" McCabe's family have farmed the field for generations, sacrificing endlessly for the sake of the land. When the widow who owns the field decides to sell it in a public auction, McCabe knows

that he must get it. While no one in the village would dare bid against him, one man William Dee is brave enough and with deep pockets. The Bull and his son decide to 'convince' Dee to give up bidding on the field, but things go horribly wrong. The cast have been chosen and are rehearsing in order to put on a strong production of the play. A great show is in store in the New Year. One not to be missed!

## School Musical

Auditions have been held and parts assigned to first and second year students for this years' musical – Sister Act 2. Rehearsals will begin soon and we look forward to another exciting lively

performance in Spring 2016.

## Scoil Mhuire, Clane - Adult Education

It has been a very busy term for Adult Education in Scoil Mhuire. During the first term the Adult Education tutors, learners and management were the subject of a documentary “Kildare Matters” which was broadcast on Irish TV. This programme gave an insight into the range of classes available in Scoil Mhuire to the greater community. The presenter and his cameraman visited some of the classes running on the night and interviewed tutors, learners and management.

Scoil Mhuire's Adult Education Department celebrated student success at a graduation ceremony in The Westgrove Hotel in Clane on Wednesday 18th November. A total of 429 Adult Learners graduated in the 2014/15 academic year in courses affiliated to QQI (formerly FETAC), ITEC, ACCA and Maynooth University. Seventeen students received QQI Full Major Common Award in areas of Community Health Service, Applied Social Studies, Nursing Studies, Health Care Support and Early Childhood Care & Education. Special guests on the evening were Professor of Finance Brian Lucey, Trinity College Dublin, Dr. Derek Barter, Maynooth University and Treasa Brannick O'Cillín, ETB City of Dublin.

## Parents Association Update

The Parents Association in Scoil Mhuire work closely with the school in building effective partnership between home and school, for the best possible education and good of the students. The committee for 15/16 has been formed. A list of all committee members and the year their child is in will be updated on the School website shortly.

**Chairperson:** John Kevin Flynn ,

**Treasurer:** Helen Lee

**Secretaries:** Frances O'Mahony & Brid Lombard.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the committee and we extend a warm welcome to new members.

### AGM and Parent talks:

There was a large attendance at the AGM on 5th October, with more than 200 parents attending the talk on “Understanding the Emotional Well Being of Teenagers, Children and the Family”, which was delivered by Dr Fergus Heffernan. Dr Heffernan's talk was so heartfelt, thought provoking, inspiring and humorous that he received a standing ovation.

Another parent talk organised by the Parents Association “How Young People Succeed” was delivered on Monday 30th November by Dr Lisa Rutledge. This was another very informative

and worthwhile talk.

### **Fundraising:**

A total of €272 was raised in the used phone and clothes collection in October, while €1,225 was raised through bag packing on Fri 20th and Sat 21st November. Many thanks to Condrón's SuperValu, Clane for their continued support, and to all who contributed to both fundraisers. A special word of thanks to the students who volunteered to pack the bags. They were outstanding in every aspect and a credit to their school and families.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

## **Guidance Update**

Sixth year students have had the opportunity to attend the Higher Options exhibition and talks in school by UCD, DCU, DIT, NUI Galway, Maynooth University, University of Limerick, I.T. Carlow, Carlow College, U.C.Cork, I.T. Blanchardstown and I.T. Tallaght . The CAO is now open for application as are PLC courses and students should be finalizing choices and preferences. Guidance interviews are ongoing and all students are encouraged to attend their timetabled interview.

## **Halloween Walk**

Well done to all those who put huge effort into the Halloween Walk, our annual fundraiser for the school. There were super costumes on display this year again, showing great innovation and creativity. We would like to extend our thanks to all parents and members of the community who supported this vital fundraiser which to date has yielded over €10,000 with money still coming in.

## **Fifth Year Fundraising Campaign**

This year the fifth year students have chosen Pieta House – (Support organization for teenagers at risk) as their charity for the Christmas fundraiser. A number of events will be organized by the fundraising committee in the coming weeks to raise funds for the charity. Please give generously.

## **Transition Year Update**

Transition Year girls are taking part in “Lift Off”, a reading programme with Scoil Bhride Primary School. Transition year students are again participating with great enthusiasm in the KARE programme on Wednesdays with service users from Clane KARE group. Led by Mr. Breslin, the students engage in art and social activities with the KARE visitors.

TY students have been on many outings from the Kilkenny Expo, Glendalough, Carlingford, The Comedy Club in Newbridge Theatre, “Pure Skill” in Galway, The Ploughing Championships and will

be going Ice Skating to Dundrum in December. Students are undertaking a wide range of work experience placements which are proving hugely beneficial in terms of maturity, skills acquisition and future career planning. Four transition year students have been on work experience with Green Isle for November and another 4 will get the opportunity in February.

Ms O'Reillys' LCVP class will visit Green Isle on December 7 for a factory tour and insight into how the business operates.

## **Merits**

Well done to all students who were awarded merits in September and October. In total, 9652 merits and 18 commendations were awarded to students throughout the school. Clearly our students are engaging positively in all aspects of school life. Keep up the great work!

The best tutor groups for September and October were Ms Travers' (1st Year), Ms Nevin's (2nd Year), Ms Padden's (3rd Year), Mr O' Brien's (TY), Ms Carden's (5th Year) and Ms O' Sullivan's (6th Year). Congratulations to all.

## **New First Years**

In September we welcomed over 200 new First Year students from eleven different primary schools in the local area. After a few days of nervousness and anxiety, the students have settled in well.

## **SOCIAL NIGHT**

The social night held in early October was a great success, the students enjoyed themselves partaking in a table quiz, table tennis, Mario Kart and a disco, with former student Craig O'Driscoll acting as DJ. It was a wonderful opportunity for the First Years to get to know each other in a social setting, and to see their tutors on the dance floor. We would like to acknowledge the support of tutors and the sixth year prefects and mentors in ensuring the night

went so well.

## **Green Dragons – Business enterprise Project sponsored by Green Isle**

24 companies from 1st to 6th year have decided to participate in this enterprising competition sponsored and mentored by Green Isle. On Wednesday, 18th November, eight mini companies pitched

their ideas to the three Green Isle Dragons. Both the students and Dragons found this a very interesting and positive experience, the remaining 16 mini companies will pitch their business ideas to the Green Dragons in the coming weeks. Green Isle representatives will give feedback to all

the groups and issue some seed capital (i.e. money) to the most successful and innovative ideas so that they can hopefully bring their products/services to market. Best of luck and a big congratulations to all who have chosen to participate with this new project.

## **Student Council Shoe Box Success**



Once again our student council members have collected more shoeboxes than ever before. The group worked tirelessly encouraging students to bring in boxes and this year sent a record 194 boxes to children in need in Africa and Asia. Thank you to everyone who donated a box.

## **Past Student visits Engineering class**

This year the higher level Engineering project is to 'Design and make a model electric Kart'. Karting is considered the first step in any serious motor racer's career and many Formula One drivers grew up

racing Karts. Ross Hayes, a past student at Scoil Mhuire, races his own Kart and recently represented Ireland in the IAME X30 World Championships at Le Mans, France. He generously offered to bring his Kart to the school so that the students could see a full size racing Kart up close. During his visit he spoke at length about the technical design of the Kart as well as sharing his own Karting experiences. We would like to thank Ross for his time and wish him all the best in his racing career.

## **Science Week**

Science week from the 9th- 13th of November was a busy week with many events taking place. Interesting fun facts were announced each day. Tuesday we had a science magic show. This was a very successful event, students made elephant tooth paste and lit their hands on fire. This was great fun and students learned the science behind many magic tricks. Two further events were the poster competition and a scavenger hunt. Well done to the winners Clodagh Nathan and Veronica Stewart.

Three groups of first year students also visited DIT for an interactive show called the “ The science behind dragons” with some of our students chosen to go on stage and take part.

Well done to the two groups of sixth year students, Harry Quinn, Molly Kelly, Aoife Glynn, Jamie Casey, Paul O’Flaherty and Cathal McLoughlin who took part in a science quiz in Maynooth University. Unfortunately we didn’t win but again we were extremely lucky as two of our students won spot prizes. Students also hung posters around the school letting everyone know about all the events taking place. It was a fun eventful week where many students got involved and made it interesting and fun. A big thank you Harry Quinn, science prefect who put a lot of time and effort into preparing all the events.

## SPORTS NEWS

### Soccer in Scoil Mhuire

The schools soccer season is up and running and the school have entered teams in the boys and girls leagues.

**The boys Under 15 team** have reached the semi finals of the Leinster Midlands league where they will play Pipers Hill College. They played three games winning two and losing one. They defeated Athy 5 - 1, defeated Portlaoise CBS 3 -0, and lost to PBS Newbridge 2-1. A big thank you to 6th Year students **Dylan Brerton** and **David Ennis** who have been training the team every Friday .

**The senior boys** team reached the semifinal of the Leinster Midland League and were very unlucky to lose out in a penalty shoot out to Naas CBS. The team who were coached by

**Ms Piare**

put in a brilliant performance over the ninety minutes of normal time and the twenty minutes of extra time. The game finished 2-2 with the Clane goals being scored by

**Adam Lynch**

and

**Ciaran Kelly**

. This

was the final game for the school for the sixth year students on the team. They have represented the school with distinction over their six years in the school. Well done to all.

**The first year boys team** have been training weekly with **Ms Piare** and **John Noe Crainne** and their matches will start after Christmas.

**Also the U17 panel** have been training with **Mr Ronan** and are about to start their league. The

girls soccer teams are being coached by  
**Ms Falvey**  
and will play their games after Christmas.

## Tag Rugby

To coincide with the Rugby World Cup taking place this year in England, Scoil Mhuire's first years were given the opportunity to play in their own world cup. Around 160 students signed up and were assigned to 16 different teams, each managed by a sixth year mentor.

The finals took place on Wednesday, November 25th in front of a very enthusiastic crowd. In the end Australia proved victorious by one try to nil. Mr. Nolan was on hand to present the medals to the winners.

Well done to all involved. A huge thanks to Sports Prefects, **Rachel Reidy** and **Robbie Phillips** and to First Year Prefects, **Rachel Malone, Cian Boyling** and **Stephen Herring**. Thanks also to the First Year mentors who were a fantastic support.

## Hurling

Our Senior Hurlers set out this year in the hope of silverware once again as they have many times in recent years. They reached the North Leinster Final going unbeaten, after great wins against Boyne of Meath and Tullamore of Offaly in the group games. They then defeated Kilcormac, also from Offaly to progress to the final. Killina awaited them in the final, the third Offaly team to play in the competition. Our boys were unlucky to be beaten by a very strong Killina team with the scoreline of 0-16 to 3-05, but played exceptionally well all year.

They were very dedicated also, with many of them taking off study time to train hard.

## Senior Ladies Gaelic Football

**Scoil Mhuire Senior Ladies Gaelic football team** are having a super run this year due to its exceptionally strong panel. The girls have played two games so far and won both comprehensively.

The team first met Scoil Ddara, Kilcock on home ground on a cold October morning. The match was postponed for almost an hour due to dense fog but despite this the girls pulled through with a fantastic victory of 7-6 to 4-6.

Their next game was against Colaiste Chairain, Leixlip and yet again the girls went out all guns blazing and brought home a victory of 4-13 to two points. **The team is now successfully through to a Leinster quarter final.**

The sports prefect and current panel member **Rachel Reidy** believes the girls have the



capability to go all the way this year and bring home another Leinster title building on the success of 2014.

**The U16 Ladies football team** trained hard this year. They played three group games and won two but unfortunately it wasn't enough to progress from the group stages this year. Many new players joined the squad this year and the team are hoping to build for success for next year.

Both teams would like to welcome their two new trainers to the school, **Ms Falvey and Ms Laffan** who are doing a fantastic job with the girls

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