



MUCKROSS PARK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

From The Principal's Desk

As we come to the end of the 2017/18 academic year, I would like to thank all our students for their commitment to our academic programme and their participation in the many different activities available at Muckross Park. This would not be possible without the constant support of parents and the commitment of the staff to ensuring that all of our students achieve their potential and beyond. This has been a busy year in Muckross, as usual, and you will be able to read about some of the events in this newsletter and on our website.

We said 'Goodbye' to the class of 2018 on Friday May 18th at the end of a wonderful, fun-filled and at times emotional day. We wish for them all that is good in life as they embark on an exciting new phase of their lives and we hope that they will treasure the friends and memories that they made here in Dominican College Muckross Park.

A word of thanks must go to the members of the Parents' Association Committee who work tirelessly and continuously throughout the year to maintain the very strong connection between the school and home from which the school community greatly benefits.

Through the month of June, our thoughts and prayers will be with our Junior and Leaving Cert students who will be sitting exams. I urge them all to get as much rest as they can, eat healthily and take some gentle exercise to keep the body and mind fresh.

On behalf of the entire staff I would like to wish all of our school community, parents and students, a very happy, restful and pleasant summer.

See you all in August.

Anne Marie Mee.

Principal

Chairpersons Report

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of yet another very busy and action-packed school year, the Parents' Association would like to update you on its recent activities and to thank everyone for their continued support. Since Christmas, we have hosted two very interesting talks for parents. Helen Coughlan spoke very informatively about understanding young people's mental health back in February, while in April, Dr Clay Darcy gave a presentation that offered very useful guidelines for talking to young people about drugs. As you know, since the start of this academic year, the Parents Association no longer charges a subscription fee. One consequence of this change is that we have introduced a nominal charge of 5 euro per family to attend Parents Talks so as to cover the cost of bringing in speakers. All of our talks this year were very well received by parents and the unanimous feedback was that they proved to be very good value for money! On the social side, individual year reps have been organising coffee mornings, drinks evenings and dinners throughout the year. These are always very enjoyable events and offer the opportunity for parents to interact and catch up on happenings in and outside of school. In April we organised our second annual Parents Social night in Bective Rugby Club. This was very well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all who came. We hope to organise it again next year. Operationally, the PA has been reviewing its responsibilities in line with the new EU General Data Protection Regulations.

Very recently, the Parents' Association was delighted to make a financial contribution to the Transition Year's very successful production of the musical, Beauty and the Beast. It is currently preparing to support the Student Council's annual second hand book and uniform sale to be held later in the summer. Please see the PA calendar on the website for further updates about this. In all its activities, the Parents' Association endeavours to support the great work being done in the school throughout the year. Sincere thanks are expressed to Ms Mee and the management team, to all of the teachers and indeed to all of the school staff for their committed work this year. We extend our very best wishes to those students facing into exams, especially to the girls in 6th year for whom we wish the very best of luck possible. Finally, we thank all of the parents and guardians for their ongoing support this year and wish everyone a wonderful summer break.

1st Year News

It has been a very busy time for us 1st years since Christmas. We kicked off the New Year with a new Year Head – Ms. Tuite. Welcome to the team Ms Tuite!! The entire year had the opportunity to go to the Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS on Thursday 11th January – it was really interesting and great to see Muckross represented by a TY group.

We've done so much since then – we participated in a 'Safer Internet Day', our 1st year retreat day, and a trip to



Glendalough to name just a few activities we enjoyed this year.

The annual 1st year table quiz in St Michaels College on Friday 20th April was a big success once again and we had a very big turnout. It was also a very fruitful sporting year - with great success for our Basketball, Hockey & Athletic teams. Sports day on Thursday 10th May was brilliant – the sun shined!

Well done to the 1st years who took part in the Irish Heart "CPR4Schools" training programme.



It's great to add to the number of people in Muckross with this increasingly important skill. Roll on Second Year!

2nd Year News

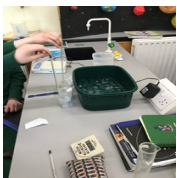
Another year in Muckross has flown by and it's hard to believe that our girls are about to embark on the Junior Cert! After Christmas the girls participated in a retreat that stimulated many pertinent questions and interesting discussions.



Both the 'A' and 'B' Hockey teams won their leagues in memorable games at Three Rock Rovers with

non-players providing vocal and colorful support. Much face paint was applied to help create the atmosphere to support the

team! The conveyor belt of hockey talent in Muckross looks set to continue. Sports day took place on a beautiful sunny day in May. The girls had a great time competing in lots of events including frisbee, tennis, soccer, athletics, basketball and rounders. Congratulations to Corrib on winning a hard-earned inter-class competition.



Also in May the girls commenced Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) in a number of subjects including English and Science.

The Science CBAs produced some exciting and innovative experiments as seen in the accompanying photos.



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

Best of luck to all the students for their Junior Cert.

3rd Year News

The 3rd years kicked off the new year and got straight into it with the completion of their 'Mocks' in late January. In February the 3rd year team was narrowly beaten in the semi-final of the Gael Linn Debates. In March the Business students had a team in the UCD Business quiz and came 4th.



Also in March Julia Dunne was the UCD Junior Debates winner! It was an amazing achievement to be the best of 338 speakers who began the competition.



Ireland in optimist European Sailing championship in Netherlands in June & qualified so best of luck Leah!

The Girls had a chat with 4th years on how

Outside school the girls continue to excel in sports with Abbie Clarke in Ireland U'15 soccer team. Also, Leah Rickard competed to represent

to cope with the Junior Cert and how to make the most out of TY year. After Easter all the practicals were completed for the junior cycle and the CBAs were also finalised. Sports day took place in May and the girls enjoyed a range of sporting competitions in the May sunshine. Well done to Plunkett who took the title again!!

The Auditions for the Marian College musical have taken place. The girls would like to thank the 4 form tutors for the past 3 years of guidance, Ms Holligan, Ms Sullivan, Ms. Quinlan and Ms. O'Connor and also a big thank you to Ms. O'Brien for her care since 1st year.

TY Year News

The girls have continued to keep themselves busy this year. Well done to Rachel Kane, Sameera Smith, and Jennifer Williams who displayed their project entitled "The Dive Response" at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in January.



Dublin Culture week which was held in February helped the girls to get to know their city better with guided tours in Glasnevin Cemetery, The Botanic Gardens, EPIC the Irish Emigration Museum, Jeanie Johnston, Croke Park, The GPO and a trip to the Zoo. This week allowed the girls to get a real sense of their own city and its history. The girls completed their social work experience week in March and are about to undertake their final work experience week.

The long awaited Year Book was revealed with the theme of "Chick Flicks".

Congratulations to Beth Coleman Foy, Aoife Murray, and Sameera Smith who qualified for and participated in the Ireland Microsoft Office Championship held in May.



The highlight of the year has to be the musical "Beauty & the Beast". A roaring success with packed audiences and standing ovations every night! Everyone involved put a lot of hard work and effort in to rehearsals, which started back in January. It was a wonderful production showcasing the wealth of talent among the girls. Of course this would not have been possible without the huge time commitment and effort from Ms Cunningham - well done!

It has been a great year and many thanks to Mr. McArdle who organised the whole year of events and there is still the school trip to Scotland to look forward to!

5th Year News

5th year has flown by, it was a busy year with lots happening.

Our sporting highlights were many, the second term beginning straight away with successful sporting finals, especially in hockey, with the senior 1s, 3s and 4bs winning their leagues.

School Basketball had a great year and as a result has been promoted to the A division which is a great achievement. Well done to Alice Bolger Abud also for coming 4th in the east Leinster athletics in javelin.

The tennis season was a success and all the girls enjoyed competing in their leagues

40 girls took part in the musical "My Fair Lady" in January with Gonzaga College and it was a huge success

6 girls entered the "Masterchef" cooking competition and had a great time cooking and tasting each other's dishes

Congratulations to the 28 prefects selected, to our new head girl Steffi Irvine and deputy head girl Lisa Nolan, and to the Lourdes girls selected to represent Muckross next year.

The main highlight of the year was at spring midterm when over 80 of the year travelled to Italy for the annual 5th year ski trip. It was a huge success, and thankfully the only bruises were egos. Everyone had a fantastic time and the memories we made will be treasured forever..

5th year has been a great year and next time you see us we'll be in black jumpers, ready for our best and final year in Muckross



6th Year News

Sadly, we are coming to the end of 6th year in Muckross Park College and these are the few things that stood out over the past few months. The girls organised a team to help out with The Hope Shoebox appeal before Christmas. They also took part in the Muckross Mental Health Day by wearing funky socks, doing Zumba with Isobel (one of our own), and mindfulness. Having their own Easter treasure hunt during friendship week was a highlight while getting hot water and microwaves made life so much easier for them!! Everyone enjoying ice-lollies in the sun (supplied by Roisin, Deputy Head girl) was a welcome break from the studies. The girls organised a carpool Karaoke with the staff to boost spirit and morale and show that the teachers are up for the Craic also!!



The amazing Caroline Costello and Caoimhe Coolican came 1st and 2nd in the ITIA translation competition doing everyone proud.

The 'Spirit of Muckross Award' is presented annually to a sixth year student by the PPU. This year, Laura Farnan was the worthy winner. Congratulations Laura.

We wish the girls continued success in their futures. Graduation is just around the corner and while many tears will be shed, everyone is looking forward to the big day! Many of the friendships made over the last six years will last a lifetime.

Sports News

On the hockey front, the season ended on many highs:

Our Senior 1s won the Leinster premier league championship, with a fantastic team effort and fabulous support from the school. Big thanks to all the parents and coaches who supported them throughout the season! Our Senior 2 team were sadly beaten by St Andrews in the semi-final on penalties. The Senior 3s left 3Rock Leinster League champions of division 3. After some very successful senior 4 matches, the 4As met the 4Bs in the semi-finals. After an incredible effort from both teams, unfortunately for some the 4Bs came out on top, a stunning 2 goals ahead! They expertly managed to defeat Loreto Foxrock at 3 rock and bring home the division 4 League trophy.

The Junior 1s got into the cup final, but sadly lost to Alexandra College on penalties. Muckross Junior 2s finished the season as Leinster Division 2 champions. The Junior 3s were narrowly beaten in the semi-final. Our fabulous Junior 4s Lost to Mt Anville on penalties in their final. Junior 4b and 4c unfortunately didn't get out of their groups in their respective leagues.

Minor 1s left the season as Leinster league champions after a pulsating final against Loreto Foxrock, which ended 1-1 and went to penalties. Muckross showed they were not going to be beaten and prevailed winning 3-0 in the shoot-out. Minor 2s also came out of 3 Rock as Leinster league champions defeating Loreto Beaufort 2-0. The Minor 3s sadly lost to Mt Anville and the Minor 4As 4Bs and 4Cs didn't get out of their groups despite some cracking matches during the year.

Our first year As were also crowned Leinster Cup winners when they defeated Mt Anville.

Massive congratulations to Isabelle Maleady who has made it on to the U16 Irish team and Sarah McAuley who made it onto the U18 training squad! We wish them the best of luck in any matches and trainings they have up ahead. First up for Isabelle is a trip to Germany where the Irish girls take on Germany and Holland followed by a 6 nations European tournament in July.



Leah Rickard continues to excel on the sailing front. She has been selected to travel to Holland for Ireland in the European Championship in July. She competed in the Hague Cup in The Netherlands recently where she finished 5th overall. She is certainly a sailor of note and we are very proud of her continued success and back all her endeavours throughout the summer and will be excited to hear about it next September. Congratulations to Grace Fahy from 1st Year who was selected to represent Ireland in a sailing event in Spain in January. Grace and Leah also had a notable success in the ISA All Ireland Junior Helmsman Competition being the first girls across the line and finishing in 12th place overall.



In our summer season, we have seen brilliant talent from multiple tennis players, our shining star Juliana Carton is number 1 in her age group in Ireland, and alongside Helen Barr, Sarah McAuley, Eve Bennett, Sofia Deveran and Grace O'Reilly they won the Senior 1 cup on Monday 21st May in Landsdowne Tennis Club. They overcame a strong Santa Sabina side to narrowly shade it 2-1.

Our very own Abbie Clarke continues to play for Ireland in soccer gaining her first cap in February.

Congratulations to Roisin Staunton who is up for selection for the U15 Irish cricket team, we wish her luck throughout the selection process.

With our 2 ultimate Frisbee teams having a fabulous season, led by a wonderful coach- Mr. Farrell we came out of the season having travelled to Cork to play in the All Ireland final, and being narrowly and unfortunately beaten. However we won the Spirit Award.



All of these tremendous achievements led to a fabulous prize giving on Thursday 10th May where every team was awarded a Player of the Year and a most dedicated player award.

Muckross have announced their sports girl of the year, and playing for 86 sports teams throughout her time in the school, being a fabulous sports captain and always having the right attitude towards sport, our sports girl of the year was our very own Niamh Shaw.

The following were also announced as Sports Stars of the Year in their year groups.

1st Year: Elena Quinn

2nd Year: Hannah Rooney

3rd Year: Kate O'Donnell

4th Year: Sarah McAuley

5th Year: Ellie Fitzgerald

6th Year: Sophie Maleady

Muckross P.E. Department is a very busy area and one of the most important jobs to do each year is to find the perfect pair of fifth years to represent our sports for the year. These are the Sport's Captain and Assistant Sport's Captain and they help with organising and promoting Sport in Muckross. The year sports captain for 2017/2018 was Kate Feely, and deputy Sports Captain was Ellie Fitzgerald. These 2 have 720 girls supporting them. Thank you to our very hard working P.E. Department for all their tireless work throughout the year.