



MUCKROSS NEWS

November 2023

Principal's Message

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Colleagues,

We are now at the start of Advent and preparations for the coming of the infant Jesus, the Christmas season, and the last few weeks of term are under way. Our students are organising a number of collections for very deserving causes, people who are less well of than ourselves, among them - female sanitary products, annual Christmas Toy Appeal, Hope Foundation collection. I would encourage you and the students to be as generous as you can.



Well done to our 1st, 2nd and 5th Years who are halfway through their end of Term 1 Exams. Over the next few weeks teachers will provide very valuable feedback to these students. For the rest of December learning and teaching will continue for all. This will include events which are part of our wellbeing programme. Full attendance and good punctuality are expected as this is a very important time for our whole school community to prepare. Since my last email about punctuality there has been a noticeable improvement.

In these busy days before Christmas, take some time to let the Season of Advent bring some light, hope, freedom and peace to you and your family.

Best wishes,

Anne Marie Mee

Vision & Mission Statement

Over the past few years staff, students and parents have been consulted regarding the review of our Mission and Vision. The final version was agreed and adopted by the Board of Management at its last meeting. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this process. Particular thanks to the sub-committee of the Board who composed the final version – Fr. Bernard Treacy O.P., Ms. Breda O'Brien, Mr. Bill Core, Mr. Gareth McArdle, Ms. Anne Marie Mee.

MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire'.

Catherine of Siena

Our Vision

As a school in the Catholic, Dominican tradition, our educational vision as expressed in our motto, Veritas, encompasses the lifelong search for truth, respect for tradition, and commitment to human flourishing.

Our Mission

We are proud of our lived Christian heritage, which inspires us to welcome and respect people of all backgrounds and beliefs. We tailor our educational approach to the needs of each individual student. We aim to excel in teaching and learning and provide an extensive programme of additional activities as we believe that every student deserves the opportunity to flourish.

Sustained by our Dominican tradition, we invite our students to engage with the values of Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Our educational community cultivates care in our students and staff for themselves, their neighbours, and their planet. We aim to strengthen empathy, nurture integrity and discernment, and generate a love of lifelong learning throughout our school community.

In November We Remember

Our November Remembrance Service took place on 24th of November, in school, led by Ms. Breda O'Brien, our Chaplain, with music, reflections and prayers from students and staff. It was a beautiful, dignified and prayerful as we



remembered all our loved ones who have died. Candles were lit in memory of the dead for each class and the staff, as the names of their departed relatives and friends were read out by the class prefects and Ms. O'Reilly. Thanks to Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Lawless, Ms. Hoban, Ms. Maher, Mr. McArdle, Ms. Cunningham and our student readers for a beautiful ceremony.

Second Year Retreat

This took place on 20th November. The feedback from the 2nd Years and the outside facilitators was very positive. The 1st Year Retreat will take place on 11th December after their end of term exams.

Halloween Dress-Up Day

The halloween whole school Wellbeing Dress-Up Day, was organised by the Student Council for the last day of term. The 'fee' collected for wearing non-uniform raised over €1000 for Jigsaw.

Stand Up Awareness Week

A national LGBTQ+ anti-bullying week - Stand Up Awareness Week - took place from November 6-10, 2023. It is a time for post-primary schools, youth services and Youthreach centres in Ireland to take a stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and to celebrate LGBTQ+ youth in all of their diversity and to come together in support for LGBTQ+ young people. This week is an opportunity to take steps to make spaces safe and supportive for LGBTQ+ young people.

Some activities this week included:

- Raising of the Pride Flag. Thank You to 6th Year student Emily Eulitz for her lovely words at this ceremony.
- Showing of Heart Stopper Episode 1
- LGBTQ+ Inclusive Lessons used throughout the day Wednesday
- Pride Cookie Bake Sale
- Rainbow Jumper Day & Rainbow Flag Photo



Science Week

A fun week had by all! Each year had fun activities during the week as you can see from our picture gallery.

Some of the activities included:

- Ms. Shine took a team of 6th years (Amelia O’Doherty, Sarah Flynn and Jane O’Toole) to the ISTA Senior Science Quiz in Trinity, as part of Science Week. They finished 19th out of 43 teams in Dublin.
- Science questions and riddles on entrance flat screen daily during the week
- Class based activities for 1st years “Elements Banners”
- Class based activities for 2nd years “Systems T Shirts”
- 3rd years visit Mobile Planetarium
- Dave’s Jungle 1st Years all day postponed to December because of storm
- TY Forensic Science workshop – solving the JFK murder case
- All 4th year students visited UCD Science Department. Thanks to parent Pat Guiry who facilitated this trip.
- 1st year/5th year Buddy Science Quiz
- 2nd years to complete and wear Systems T Shirts



Thank you to the teachers in the Science Department for organising and creating a fun and educational Science week for our students.

Languages Week

Organised by the languages teachers and helped by Language Senior Prefects -Aimée Fanning & Ella McCarty. Some of the activities included:

- Celebrations of Languages Week begin. Language badges handed out
- AILO (All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad) puzzles around school- Tutor time song and announcement -La vie en rose - Grace Jones; Moon – BTS; 99 Luftballons – Nena; TDME – Antytila; Pepas – Farruko
- Japanese lesson delivered by student Aimée Fanning
- “Lupin” French series
- School-wide quiz

Foreign Language Films

The modern foreign language (MFL) teachers have organised Cultural Cinema trips to the IFI for students from 2nd to 6th Year.

First Year Parent & Student Evening

This evening, organised in collaboration with the PA took place on the 16th November. It started with the students proudly showing their parents around the school and was followed by an introduction to the PA and its committee members by Chairperson, Sandra Maguire. Ms. Mee, Mr. Ward, 1st Yr Year Head and the Head Girl spoke briefly. The highlight of the evening was the presentations by first year students who spoke about the subjects they are studying and how they are getting on with them.

Mr Ward made special reference to the First Year class names. They were chosen to celebrate the Dominican tradition of education and the origins of the Dominican Order in mediaeval Europe, as well as to mark 50 years of Ireland's membership of the EU (or the EEC, as it was in 1973). Each of the classes takes its name from the oldest universities in Spain, Italy, France, and Germany, and each university has links with the Order of Preachers. Additionally, the languages of the four universities are studied in Muckcross: French, German, and Spanish from first year, and Italian as TY module.

The Dominicans - along with the Franciscans - were among the primary educators at the University of Paris (founded c.1150) and are represented by class **Sorbonne**. Likewise, the University of **Heidelberg** (founded 1386) had a strong Dominican presence, and the university church there was under Dominican patronage for some of its history. St Dominic's own alma mater was the University of **Palencia** in Spain (founded c.1210), though it would be superseded by the University of Salamanca later that century. Lastly, Dominic travelled to **Bologna**, site of Europe's oldest university (founded 1088), and established a convent and church there, where he died in 1221. His tomb is to be found today in the Basilica di San Domenico, which grew out of this smaller church.

*I think parents night was a really good idea. My mum and dad got to meet all the other parents, ones they knew from primary school, and the parents of my new friends too. It was really nice to meet up with my friends in school but after school and took a break from homework and enjoyed all the treats. I especially loved listening to all my friends talk about their subjects.
(Reflection on the night from Robin Coyle Heidelberg)*

TY Work Experience

Our fourth years completed the first of their work experience weeks after midterm. They have two remaining weeks. They are during the weeks - January 29th to 2nd February 2024 and May 20th to May 24th 2024.

5th Year Shakespeare Workshop

On Thursday 16th November Fifth years were lucky to join two visitors for a King Lear workshop. As we all have finished reading or are approaching the end of the play, this workshop was very beneficial. We found the workshop to be enjoyable and educational. We started by discussing the key themes of



King Lear, family, love, loyalty, etc. To truly bring them to life, we reenacted key scenes from the play. This helped us to better understand the minds of the characters. We were split into groups and given themes to create a representation of in a still image. This allowed us to think outside the box and use our creativity, to get us truly thinking about the story. We were grateful for the experience and found it fun. It was interactive and we got to use our creativity while having some laughs understanding the text, King Lear.

by Daanya Siddiqi and Maria Albert

6th Year Trip to See Hamlet

On Thursday 30th November the 6th Years attended a screening of Hamlet and Lady Bird in the Lighthouse Cinema, Smithfield, with their teachers.

Youth Chinese Test (YCT) Exam Results

Congratulations to the 5th Year students who received their YCT results and certificates recently. The Youth Chinese Test is an international standardised Chinese language test, which is directed at examining non-native primary and secondary students' ability to apply Chinese language in their learning.

The girls studied Chinese language and culture as part of the TY programme. They sat this exam on a Saturday at the end of May. The results were excellent, well done girls.



Sarah O' Sullivan, Lucy Curran, Kate O'Neill, Ruby Cole, Melissa Dunne, Ellie Laker, Chloe Ann O'Connor, Isabel Weissenmayer and Emily Eulit (L to R)

Irish Debates in Blackrock College

The girls worked hard over the midterm break in preparation for the Irish Debates in Blackrock College. Congratulations to both teams who sailed through to the next round! They were excellent, especially as 5 of the 6 girls were first time debaters! Great news.

The senior team from Ms.

Nic Géidigh's class:

Laoise Heery

Charlotte O'Brien

Nóra Walker

The junior team from Ms

Meaney's class:

Eloise O'Connor

Caroline Bryson

Lucy Glennon



DCU Scholarship

120 of 4000 new first year students were awarded entrance scholarships by DCU to acknowledge and celebrate their outstanding achievement of earning over 600 points in the Leaving Cert exam. Georgia Shafe was one of these 120 students. Congratulations to her. DCU also acknowledged the role of the school and her teachers with a plaque presented to Ms. Mee which will be displayed in the library.



Gaisce

The President's Award is Ireland's national youth award and is a self-development programme for young people aged 14-25. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to all young people to dream big and fulfil their potential. To achieve the Bronze Award, students are required to undertake three different Challenge Areas including; physical recreation, community involvement and personal skill. In addition to this, they have to complete a 24km hike.

On Wednesday the 22nd of November we presented 48 5th Year students with their Bronze Gaisce Award. The students completed the award during Transition Year, with all students showing great commitment to the various challenge areas they were involved in. A special mention to Lia Maguire, in 6th Year, who achieved her Silver Award. Congratulations to all involved!

This year, we currently have 78 Transition Year students undertaking the Bronze Award. Good luck to these students!

School Uniform & Student Safety

With the shorter, darker days we are mindful of the importance of our students being 'lit up' and visible to road users. We have a reflective strip on our outer school jacket but to improve visibility we have contacted our uniform supplier to increase it.

Watch Out - Traffic About!

HEALTH AND SAFETY AUTHORITY
www.hsa.ie

Pedestrian Safety Tips

Always:

- Remember that you may not be visible to drivers.
- Stick to designated walkways & crossing points.
- Remember that different vehicles have different stopping distances. Respect them.
- Wear High Visibility clothing when working with or near moving vehicles.

Don't:

- Enter "No Pedestrians" or "Vehicle Only" areas.
- Walk beside a moving vehicle.
- Approach a moving vehicle. Wait until the driver acknowledges your presence.
- Walk behind a reversing vehicle. Remember vehicles can have blind spots.

These simple steps save lives.

STAFF NEWS

- **Ms. Tuite** attended and participated the annual conference of the **Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTe) - Teaching history, teaching peace?** in Strasbourg. Ms. Tuite was a member of the panel discussing "The state of history teaching in Europe: what can we learn from it?". A great representative of the school and the History Teachers Association.



- We are so proud of our Deputy Principal, **Ms. McLoughlin**, who travelled to New York to play Gaelic4Mothers&Others.

STUDENT CORNER

A Sense of Community

by a student from First Year **Palenica**

The bell rang. It was time. It felt childish to be excited but I was. I joined the herd of people pushing through the yellow doors and into the hall.

The decorations for the halloween dance were already up and the teachers dressed up as judges were already seated. This is why everyone loves Muckross and its amazing sense of community.

Even though there was such a wide range of ages in the hall that day (from 1st year to the teachers), it felt like we were all in it together. We were all enjoying eachothers company.

It felt as though the teachers were just like us, but older! They still danced and laughed. Even in class, most teachers don't treat the students like babies, they laugh and joke with them. In older years, they are treated like equals.

I smile as each year completes their dance and laughs. We clap each other on the back, even if we don't win.

I know that every school will always have bullies and all the rest, but It seems like Muckross is packed with lovely people who have each other's back.

I think Muckross is a particularly nice school and even in the joking rivalry between classes, it is all banter. It all just adds to Muckross's amazing sense of community.

Crochet Club

Ms. O'Reilly's crochet club takes place every Tuesday morning. The first year students have been perfecting their crochet skills with the fantastic help of 5th Year crochet pros Emily Eulitz and Isabelle Blum. The 5th years have great experience and love showing the first years their incredible work. The students are currently working on Christmas tree decorations in preparation for

December.

We hope that the school will be filled with crochet decorations soon!



Book Clubs

Book club is an amazing opportunity to share thoughts and opinions on books with other

people passionate about reading. Our school's book club is a vibrant and warm space where everyone gets to participate and everyone's voice is valued. We discuss and explore many different topics as we talk about each book. We debate over many different things, sometimes opinions clash - (are romance books cute or boring?), there is teasing and jokes. But overall we bond over our shared love of reading.



Book club allows students to connect with stories. Many a friendship has been forged through the pages of a novel. Each meeting is different from the last, just like each book is different from the last. Every book club morning when we force ourselves out of bed and get to school for 8:00 am, we remember that it's all worth it, how much we love talking about these beloved stories. (Of course, the juice, biscuits and comfy sofas don't hurt!). The discussions in book club are eye-opening and I think it is extremely valuable to hear everyone's different perspectives, especially as most of the books we read deal with very relevant and serious topics such as war, racism and so much more. Discussing these books allows us to become more thoughtful and gain insight into these issues.

Book club is a haven for everyone who has an interest in stories of any kind, and for anyone who enjoys discussing characters, plot and real world issues over tea and biscuits. There is sure to be something for everyone!

By Maria Albert 5th Year

SPORT

November sports newsletter

Hockey

Since the midterm, the hockey teams in Muckross teams have been thriving in their respective leagues and cups.

1st years:

→ The 1st Year hockey teams have competed in various different blitzes throughout the month. Nine hockey teams have played against Kings Hospital, St Columbas, St Killians and Alex. They are preparing for their 8-aside leagues which will be played in the coming weeks



Minors (2nd Years):

→ The minors have been busy with many matches over the past few weeks. The Minor A team beat High school 5-0. The Minor B team beat both St Andrews and Kings Hospital 2-0 to top their table. The Minor C team beat Drogheda Grammar 5-1. The Minor C2s drew to St Andrews and then beat Mount Temple 5-0. The Minor C3s played St Andrews in a league game.

Juniors (3rd and 4th Years):

→ The Junior teams have all been progressing through their respective leagues. The Junior A team beat Kings Hospital 2-0 in their league game. The Junior B team beat Wesley 3-0 to top their league table.

Seniors (4th, 5th and 6th years):

→ All senior teams have had a great start to the season. The Senior 1s progressed into the quarter final of the senior cup, beating Gerad's on 1v1s. They narrowly lost to St Andrews in a tight league game. The Senior 2s drew to a strong Wesley side 1-1 in the league and the Senior 3s played a league game against Loreto Foxrock and won 1-0. The Senior 4s, 5s and 6s all played Loreto Beaufort with the Senior 4s drawing 1-1 and both the 5s and 6s winning 1-0.

Athletics/ Cross Country

The cross country teams from first to third year competed in the Blackrock Cross Country Race. Each team had a great run and were unlucky not to place.



Basketball

Our amazing basketball teams have been working hard in training but have had no matches this month.

Achievements:

- Ava Maleady represented the Ireland Hockey U21 team in a two match series, in Belgium.
- **U18** - Honor Rowell, Grace Rooney and Aoife O' Meara Full time Ulster 2-2 Leinster
- After a full time 2-2 score, Leinster beat Ulster 3-1 in the final on penalty shootout.
- **U16** - Grace McKenna, Caoimhe Dalton, Daisy Costello and Isabella Willis - Leinster lost in the final to Ulster with Isabella Willis scoring Leinster's only goal.
- Caoimhe Dalton and Daisy Costello have been selected for the Ireland Hockey U16s training squad with Grace McKenna being selected for the regional panel.
- Honor Rowell has been selected for the Ireland Hockey U18s regional panel.
- Laura Fielding competed in All Ireland combined athletics event, and placed 8th

ADVENT SEASON

Advent Wreath Service

Traditionally, in Muckross the Christmas season, preparation for the coming of Christ, starts officially with the Advent Wreath Service, when the first candle is lit. On the 7th December, Fr. Jim will bless our Advent Wreath in a ceremony attended by 1st and 5th Years. Thanks to Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Lawless and the RE department.

Cribs & Christmas Trees

Thanks to Tom who is busy preparing the cribs and the Christmas trees outside and inside.

DATES FOR DECEMBER

DATE	EVENT
28 th November – 8 th December	End of Term Exams for 1 st , 2 nd , 5 th Years
4 th December	School closed (holiday)
5 th December	PA Committee Meeting (online)
7 th December	1 st & 5 th Year Advent Wreath with Fr. Jim
8 th December	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
11 th December	1 st Year Retreat, 6 th Years Ice Skating
12 th December	School closed for students – JC Training Day for teachers
13 th – 15 th December	Marian Musical (TY students involved)
18 th December	Carols by Candlelight Service
20 th December	1 st Year Hockey blitz in Kilkenny (tbc)
21 st December	TY Cinema and Carol singing day
22 nd December	Last day of Term 1. School Carol Service