



# MUCKROSS NEWS

**September 2023**

It seems a long time ago since we started this term on 24th August, just when the ‘back to school’ sunny weather started. Since then there has been a lot of activity in the school. A very warm welcome to our new students in first and other years and their parents and guardians.

We also welcome new staff members, Ms.C. Meaney, Mr. J Geraghty, Ms. E White, Ms. E Maher, Ms. M Carley, Ms. S de Lee and we welcomed back Ms. M.C. Tuite and Ms. M. NicGéidigh. We miss our retired colleagues Ms. B Ní Bhroanáin and Ms. B. O’Brien, although Ms. O’Brien has come back to us in a new role, as she is pursuing a course in Chaplaincy.

I would like to share the following reflection with which we started our first staff meeting and school assembly:

*What will this year bring? We do not know! It will bring its usual times of work and play, experiences of success and failure, all the things that are part of school life. It is a new beginning; the planting of a seed that will grow for a year, the seed of fruit that will blossom in times to come. It is a new hope; hope for good work, for friendship, for fun, for learning. In this coming year, may there be learning, prayer and fun. May there be hard work, faith and friendship. May no one in this school be lonely; may no one be left out in class; may no one suffer through the others here. As we begin this year in hope, in prayer and in friendship, may the Lord begin it with us, be with us during it, and successfully bring it to its conclusion.*

Donal Neary S.J.

I wish you all a happy and healthy year.

*Anne Marie Mee*

Principal

## **ETHOS**

### **Staff Mass**

The staff started the school year with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Jim Caffrey.

### **Dominican Week**

Dominican Week happened from 25th – 29th September. It started with a Dominican Table Quiz in which all students competed, and finished with the Opening of Year School Mass in Donnybrook parish church. During the week we saw the revival, on a small scale, of the Dominican Cup, when our 1st years played a friendly hockey match with Sion Hill 1st Years in Muckross and our 2nd Years travelled to Sion Hill to compete against Sion Hill 2nd Years. Thanks to PE teachers and coaches for

facilitating this. An Art competition invited entries from all with the theme Dominican Saints. We had visits from Dominican priests and novices who spoke to the students. A big thank you to the RE department.

### **Cuan Dominic**

Our new outdoor learning, wellbeing and spiritual space – Cuan Dominic (Dominic’s haven) - was blessed and officially opened. during Dominican week by our school Chaplain, Fr. Jim Caffrey, and Fr. Bernard Treacy O.P., a member of our Board of Management. This project was primarily financed by the 2022 Muckross PA Women’s Lunch. We hope this space will be multipurpose – a mindful space for meditation or a journey along the path of the labyrinth, an outdoor classroom, a mini-theatre, performance space, a place to feel at one with nature, God and the environment, a quiet retreat to be used by students and staff.



5th Years were treated to a very interesting talk on the positive links between Science and Religion during Dominican week from Fr. Conor McDonough, O.P. Fr. Conor teaches theology at the Dominican House of Studies, Dublin. He studied science and theology at Cambridge University and completed postgraduate studies in theology at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. He is also the mastermind behind a very active Irish Dominicans YouTube Channel

<https://youtu.be/p4olwrgyBiM?si=XkNhZhZ32xZ4EISY>

### **Dominican Hockey Muckross V Sion Hill**

Muckross first years took on teams of Sion hill first years here in Muckross while second years travelled to Sion Hill for some competitive fun! Thank you to Riona for organising this.



**Dominican Week Art Competition Winner**

Congratulations to Eva Yu from 3rd year Osma who won with her picture titled “Stewards of Creation”



**Dominican Novices**

Ms. O' Brien welcomed a group of Dominican Novices to Muckross. Students and staff enjoyed an interesting and fun talk on connecting with our inner spirituality and life as a Dominican brother.

## **Whole School Assembly**

We had our first whole school assembly on 14th September where we welcomed new students and staff, introduced those 6th years selected to be prefects, head girls, and sports captains. Our theme for the year, selected from suggestions put forward by the Senior Prefects, was introduced. It is LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER. Congratulations to Faye Hession Jordan and Grace Kennedy who were presented with an award, both highly commended in the Texaco Art competition, a significant success given that there were more than 20,000 entries.



The assembly concluded with the traditional first address by the head girls and sports captains to the students and staff. To celebrate we had a surprise early finish!

## **Lourdes**

This year we continued the tradition of sending students to help with the elderly and disabled pilgrims on the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, started many years ago by Sr. Barnabas. Many more sixth year students applied to go on the trip than the five places allocated to us. Thanks to Ella McCarthy, Lucy McKeon, Rebecca Power, Sophie Quinn and Grace Thornton who were the lucky ones and such good ambassadors for our school in Lourdes, from the 7th – 12th September. During Dominican Week they had the opportunity to share their experience with the whole school. Thanks to Ms. Hoban who prepared, accompanied and worked with them in Lourdes. The girls gave a lovely presentation to the whole school sharing highlights of the pilgrimage.



## **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **Achill**

The TYs had a really wonderful Outdoor Adventures trip to Achill this week, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Mr McCarthy, Ms Whyte, Ms O'Hara, Ms Blount, Ms Byrne and TY Coordinator, Mr McArdle. They were blessed with reasonable weather and enjoyed surfing, kayaking, cycling and the Gaisce walk in areas of natural, unspoiled beauty. On the final day, they visited the beautiful Keem Bay.

## 6th Year Ecology Field Trip

On the 20th of September the sixth years set off to Lullymore, Kildare on their biology trip, to study a woodland ecosystem. Shortly after they arrived they were extremely excited to find out that there was a 'train' to take them on the 5 min excursion to the woodland habitat. Clipboards in hand and wellies at



the ready they embarked on their study. They began by mapping the area, and after that they did a 'qualitative study', basically just examining the different plants and animals in the area, we looked at, (and tested with little success) different traps used to catch them. They learned how to use a cryptozoic trap, barrier pitfall trap, beating tray and a pooter. They also used quadrats to see how many of a particular plant was in the area and performed tests on soil and with light. When they had successfully completed the study they hopped back on the train to the centre, where they availed of the tuck shop. Crisps, chocolate, tea and coffees were purchased along with a fake snail used to frighten the people of Lullymore. Overall it was a huge success.

## Buddies

Mr. Ward and Mr. Farrell have organised the fifth and first year buddies. This initiative is of great benefit to both fifth and first years. Each first year is 'buddied up' with a fifth year student. They are given time to get to know each other, share contact details etc. The first years have that one special senior student to call on for advice, support or to just have a chat. The fifth years get a chance to give something back to our Muckcross family and share their experiences and what they have learned from them. Our buddies are invaluable in helping first years settle into secondary school and can often help with the little things before they become a source of anxiety for them.

## Healthy Eating

The Healthy Eating committee of students, parents and teachers are looking at ways of implementing our recently ratified Healthy Eating Policy. They have great ideas and plans for activities and information sessions for Health and Wellbeing Week which will take place from 9th - 13th October. Watch out for further updates.

## Art

6th Year Art students travelled to Newgrange to support the Visual Studies component of their course. 3rd and 5th Year students visited the Sculpture in Context exhibition in the Botanic Gardens.

## Fête de Cuisine Française (3eme année groupe de Mme Holligan)



## SPORT

Rachel Lynch was selected for the Irish Athletic Team and competed in Bedford for the AAA's competition at the end of August. She ran in the U17 300m hurdles and came 7th.

5th Year, Ríodhna McGrath & 4th Year Kira Lynch represented Ireland at the Under 16 FIBA European Basketball Championships in Montenegro in August. Congratulations to Kira who was top scorer for Ireland in the Championship.

Sport in Muckross began with the 1st Year Sports Camp before school re-started. It was as a great way for the new students to make friends. Thanks to Mr. McCarthy, Ms. Galloway, Mr. Farrell and Ed Randolph. Over 100 new 1st Years attended.

Muckross has also had a record number of students selected for Leinster hockey squads. 8 students are now playing for their province at u16 and u18 level. Congrats to u18's Grace Rooney, Honor Rowell, Aoife O'Meara, and u16's Caoimhe Dalton, Cate Browne, Daisy Costello, Grace McKenna and Isabella Willis.



Hockey then began after school for all years (first years to senior) including strength and conditioning for the senior 1's and 2's. It is hoped to extend this to other teams as well. It is been great to see an increase amongst senior hockey players with 6 squads (16 players) fielded this year compared with four last year.

Along with that, Cross Country has started for all ages and the school has already been invited to the Clonliffe Harriers invitational.

Basketball Coaches Mr. Cullen and Mr Geraghty will help Ed Randolph with basketball coaching this year. Basketball training continues for all, with over 60 first years turning up regularly!

## **STATE EXAMINATIONS**

All of our Leaving Cert students achieved outstanding results this year. They continue to achieve results that are well above the national averages in Leaving Cert exams. Most have been in touch with the school and are now happy in their selected new courses. We are very proud of each and every one of them for their great personal and academic achievements.

We are still waiting for the Junior Cycle Results which we're told will be published on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Please see the table below which details the current extra-curricular activities available to our students.

## **DATES FOR OCTOBER**

2nd	School holiday
3rd	Yondr Bags talk to students
3rd	PA Speaker - Stuart Wilson, 7pm school canteen
5th	6th Year Art trip to Newgrange
8th - 13th	Healthy Eating Week
11th	Study Skills for 6th years
14th - 22nd	Maths Week
18th	JC results (Details tbc)
19th	6th year Parent Teacher Meeting
23rd - 27th	Health & Wellbeing Week
25th	Study Skills for 3rd years
25th	BOM Meeting
30th - 3rd	November Mid Term

**DOMINICAN COLLEGE MUCKROSS PARK EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2023-24**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Morning</b>		<u>Book Club- Ms O'Grady 8am</u>  <u>Crochet club 8am Ms O'Reilly</u>  <u>Emmanuel Concert practice 8am- Ms Carley</u>  Film Club- Ms White R8	<u>Book Club-Ms. O'Grady 8am</u>	<u>8am-School Choir (all years) Ms Cunningham</u>  <u>First Year Book Club (every third Thursday) 8 am</u>  <u>First Year Film Club (JWard)</u>	<u>8am-Orchestra (all years) Ms Cunningham</u>  <u>Basketball U16 &amp; U19</u>
<b>Lunch-time</b>	Shakespeare Club TBC	<u>Young Scientist (Ms Shine) - meetings take place on Tuesdays as needed</u>	Shakespeare Club TBC/Drama TBC	<u>Dance Squad (all years)Ms Cunningham</u> <u>Green schools committee</u>	
<b>After School</b>	<u>Hockey Senior 5,6,7 Junior C&amp;D Minor A&amp;B</u>	<u>Hockey Senior 1,2,3,4 (Senior 1 &amp; 2 - S&amp;C &amp; Fitness - Eleanor Whyte) Junior A&amp;B Minor A&amp;B</u>  <u>Art Portfolio Club for 5th &amp; 6th Years</u>	<u>Hockey Goal Keepers 1st-6th Minor A,B,C, C1,C2,C3</u> <u>Cross Country All ages - Eleanor Whyte</u>  <u>Ministers of the Eucharist (3 Sessions)</u>	<u>Hockey Senior 1,2,3 Junior A,B &amp; C</u>  Meditation	<u>Hockey 1st Years</u>  <u>1.15pm TY musical</u>
<b>After School contd</b>	<u>Basketball 1st Years John Cullen, Ella McGrath</u>  <u>Athletics Young Scientist</u>	<u>Basketball 2nd Years James Geraghty</u>	<u>Basketball U16 &amp; U19 James Geraghty</u> <u>Poster Club 1st and 2nd Years</u>	<u>Basketball U16 &amp; U19 Ed Randolph</u>	