

MUCKROSS NEWS

November 2024

Principal's Message

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians, and Colleagues,

As we enter the Season of Advent, we begin a time of preparation for the coming of the infant Jesus, the Christmas season, and the final weeks of term. It is a time of reflection, hope, and generosity, and our school community is embracing this spirit wholeheartedly.

A special congratulations to our 1st, 2nd, and 5th Year students, who are now halfway through their Winter exams. In the weeks ahead, teachers will provide valuable feedback to support their progress. For the remainder of December, teaching and learning will continue for all students, complemented by events that form part of our wellbeing programme. Full attendance and punctuality remain essential, as these weeks are crucial for both academic and community engagement.

In the spirit of Advent, we look forward to a number of special celebrations in the coming weeks:

- The First Year Advent Wreath Service, a time of prayer and reflection for our youngest students,*
- The much-anticipated Carols by Candlelight Evening, a beautiful event that showcases the talents of our school community while celebrating the joy of the season.*

In addition, we reflect on a meaningful November, marked by remembrance and prayer. These events remind us of the importance of gratitude and hope as we prepare for the joy of Christmas.

Amid the busyness of this season, I encourage everyone to embrace the light, hope, freedom, and peace that Advent offers.

May this time of year bring warmth and togetherness to you and your families.

Anne Marie Mee



CONGRATULATIONS

IRISH BASKETBALL SQUAD

Well done to our Sports Captain - Ríodhna McGrath and 5th Years Kira Lynch and Helena Keane on their selection for the Irish U'18 Basketball squad.

MUCKROSS PARK STUDENT CHLOE IS FINALIST AT 2024 TOP SECURITY FRANK MAHER CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS

Violinist Chloe O'Connor, a sixth year student was a finalist at the 2024 Top Security/Frank Maher Classical Music Awards. It is Ireland's largest such competition for secondary schools and this year's competition took place in Dublin on 25th October.

Lyric FM presenter Marty Whelan was master of ceremonies for an evening of outstanding teen musical talent at which Chloe performed two pieces, '*Symphonie espagnole in D Minor, Op 21:IV*' by composer Edouard Lalo and '*Aus der Heimat – No.2*' by Bedrich Smetana.



Chloe was presented with a €300 bursary.

CONGRATULATIONS Chloe!!

TY/5TH YEAR CHARITY TRIP TO INDIA

A few days before the October midterm four of us from TY and two from 5th year arrived at the airport for our flight to India. We were travelling with the Hope Foundation, which is a charity that works to 'free slum-connected and street-dwelling children and poor families in Kolkata from lives of pain, abuse and poverty'. Kolkata is a city in India where poverty is a massive problem. The Hope Foundation has been working in Kolkata for almost 30 years. Before we went on the trip, we had to raise €2,500 for the Hope Foundation. We stayed in Kolkata for a week and when we were there, we visited 12 of the Hope Foundation's 58 projects. The Hope Foundation provides a variety of



services to people in Kolkata, including education, nutrition, healthcare and accommodation in their protection homes. It was really rewarding to see where the money we had raised was going and to see the difference that it was making in people's lives. As well as the project visits, we got to do some tourist activities too. We learned an Indian dance, visited two temples, did a walking tour of the city and we got henna on our hands. Our trip to India was an amazing and life changing experience and we were all so glad that we got to go!

by Caroline, Étain, Lizzie, Maya, Aoife and Katie

I recently had the pleasure of acting as chaperone to a group of students, including six Muckross pupils that traveled to Kolkata on the Hope Immersion Programme. It was a very successful trip and your girls behaved extremely well at all times. They integrated within the larger group and gave of themselves selflessly. I trust that their experience will serve as a valuable life lesson going forward. They were a credit to their families, school and of course the Hope Foundation. Message sent to the school.



STAND UP AWARENESS WEEK 2024 4 – 8 November

Theme: COMMUNITY



Activity

Raising of flag

Hall of fame SPHE activity - influential person in the LGBTQ+ community worksheet.

Inclusive lessons delivered by teachers

Rainbow bake sale - proceeds will go to BeLong To

Film viewing in the assembly room

Rainbow jumper day - rainbow flag group picture

1st years - Red

2nd years - Orange

3rd years - Yellow

5th years - Blue

6th years - Purple

Teachers - Green



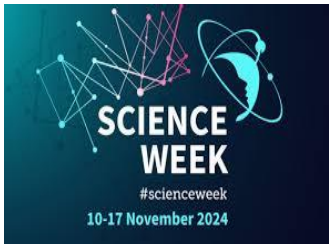
The Ember Team

The Ember Team is an initiative set up by the Dublin Archdiocese. It promotes faith leadership and development in schools. The students will have the opportunity to meet other schools who have Ember teams and share ideas. The girls have already helped out at 'In November we Remember' service and have given prayer cards to 1st years before they start their first set of exams.

Alice Horgan, Fidelie Kapinga, Aoife McLelland, Éimhin Ní Chuana, Ellen O Driscoll. (Missing from the photo : Eva Horkan Eustace, Lucy Hennigan and Aoife Hutchinson). All 5th year students.



SCIENCE WEEK 12 - 15 November



This year, science week was an incredible experience from start to finish! With a range of hands on activities like the daily experiments, interactive workshops like Dave's Jungle, the planetarium and the forensics workshops, science was brought to life in so many exciting ways. From riddles to explosions, the

week didn't disappoint!

It aimed to inspire students to envision possible future careers in STEM, solidified with an impressive tour around the science building in UCD for the sixth years and a quiz for the first and fifth years, which would not have been possible without the amazing science teachers who organised the whole week.

Laura and Teresa our Science Prefects Mr. Farrell up close to the anaconda!



1st years Dave's Jungle First year Byron enjoyed science week with Dave's jungle, who is always so fascinating that even the teachers were dying to get a glimpse of the animals!



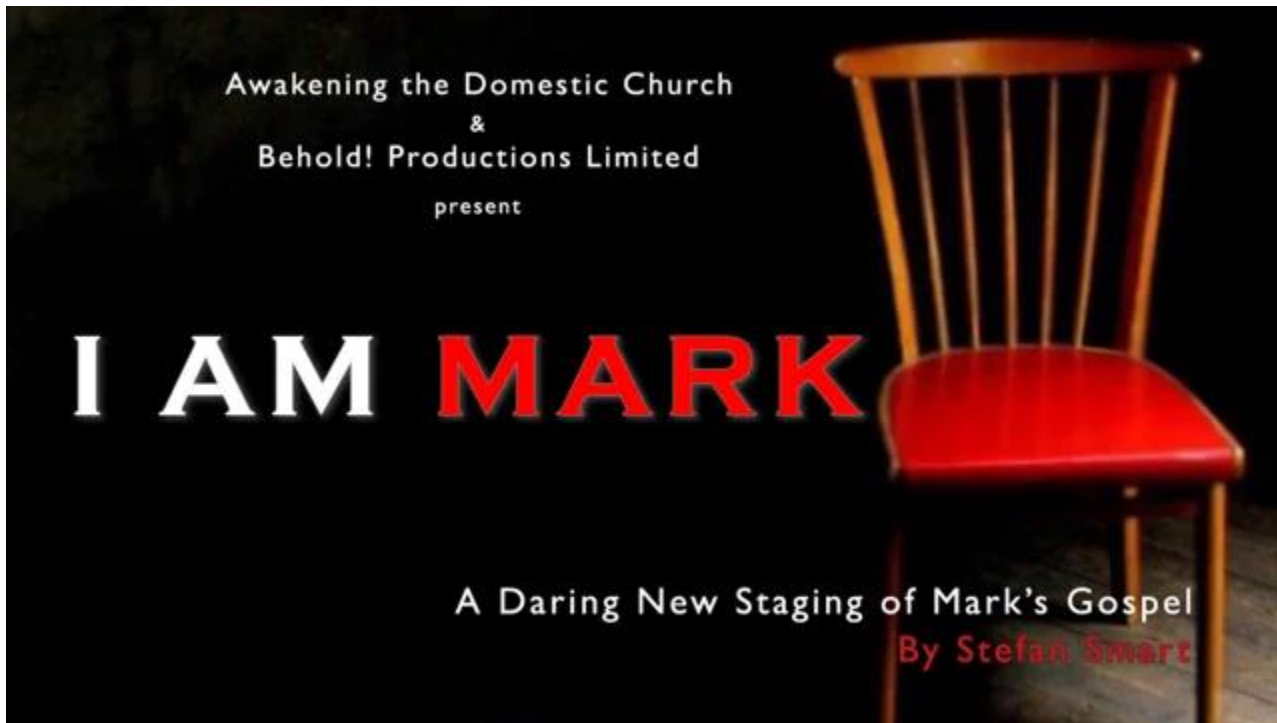


ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This week was organised by the anti-bullying committee to highlight our theme for the year BE KIND and to encourage bystanders to speak up about bullying. SPHE classes focused on anti-bullying issues. Students distributed positive message of encouragement, friendship and kindness. Thank you to all involved.



I AM MARK Performance on 6th November



Fr. Jim, our Chaplain, organised a solo performance by Stefan Smart who brings to life the Book of Mark to come to the school. The show is called "I Am Mark, The Greatest Story Ever Told". Fifth Year students enjoyed the show and the conversation with Stefan afterwards.

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 'In November we Remember'

There was a whole school remembrance service on 21 November led by Fr. Jim. It was organised by the RE team.



TY MATHS PEER TEACHING

16 TY students have been selected to help peer teach in all 5 first year classes.

The first years have started studying algebra which is always tricky and the TYs have been brilliant. We hope to continue this for the rest of the term.

The TYs involved are very proud of themselves and feedback is always welcome.

TY students will attend first year maths class and tutor students.

LANGUAGES WEEK

SPANISH TRIP

Senior cycle students went to see the heart warming Spanish movie, Love & Revolution (Spanish: Te estoy amando locamente, 'I'm Loving You Madly') Set in 1977 Seville, at a time when homosexuality was a crime in Spain, against the backdrop of the struggle against the repressive Law on social dangerousness and rehabilitation, the plot follows Reme and her son Miguel (a wannabe singer and performer) who become acquainted with the budding Andalusian LGBTI movement. Without revealing too much, it really is one to watch with the family and an insight into how far we have come.

Most of us jumped on the legendary 46A from Donnybrook. But it has to be said that it really does go halfway around the world! Those who took the DART were there well before those who took the bus! Some students even managed to get to meet our Taoiseach on the campaign trail in Donnybrook Fair, where a photo was an absolute must!

As usual our girls were exemplary and a credit to the Muckcross name.



The second year French and Spanish classes enjoyed the interactive learning that has been taking place whilst learning about the different food types in their chosen language. It was a great way to learn how to cook (or buy!) traditional dishes. Well done to all those who took part.



BINGO

Isabel & Fiona (the MFL prefects) ran a fun whole school language activity. Thanks girls!



ART

5th and 6th Year Art Trip to Newgrange Thursday 21 st November

The 5th and 6th year art class went to Newgrange in County Meath and personally, I enjoyed every moment of it. Firstly, we were thankful for the weather as it said it would snow which made many of us a bit nervous but it was quite sunny. To start the day off, we went to an educational area where we learned further information on the details of Dowth, Knowth and Newgrange. Although we studied these in detail in class, there were many facts that not a lot of us were aware of. After that, we had a short break before exploring Newgrange. We were given a tour and I was surprised on how much smaller Newgrange was in real life than in pictures. We also got to experience what it would be like if we were there during the winter solstice. The sun would align with the opening above the entrance, known as the roof-box, and would illuminate the narrow passage. Although it was an example of what would happen, I found it fascinating. It was also quite a unique experience to visually see something in physical form rather than the images provided in textbooks and handouts. Many of us spotted artistic features we studied in detail and had a lot of fun exploring

Enkhlen Enkhbayer 5th Year Swift





Well done to the 1st year Art class who had their first exhibition of artwork in the school this November. They created beautifully designed lino prints based on their own primary source drawings of shells. Each student completed a black and white lino print and a colour version inspired by colours of the sea



COOKING IN MUCKROSS

It has been a busy month in Home Economics with some 'spooktacular results!!





1ST YEAR PARENT AND DAUGHTER EVENING

On Thursday 21st November we had our First Year Parent Student evening. The parents were given a tour of the school by their daughters. We then gathered in the hall for a short presentation by Catherine Coyle (PA Chairperson), Ms. McLoughlin and Mr. Langan. The first years gave a great account of their new subjects and experiences and we heard from the head girls and sports captains. We presented each student with their Muckross Candle which they will store in a safe place for their Graduation in 2030! We finished the evening with refreshments provided by the PA. Thank you to all who spoke and contributed to this evening in any way.



RATHDOWN MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Muckross Park College made a strong impression at RADMUN 2024, bringing not one, not two, but three delegations to the conference. Representing Switzerland, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe, the Muckross students proved they were not only well-prepared but also ready to dive headfirst into debates, amendments, and a healthy dose of Model UN drama. With their sharp wits and quick thinking, they made numerous points of information (POIs) and amendments, leaving other delegations scrambling to keep up. If there was an award for most interruptions with style, they'd have taken it home.

Throughout the conference, the Muckross delegations worked tirelessly to ensure their voices were heard, whether it was addressing global crises or just artfully picking apart poorly written resolutions (because let's face it, not all resolutions are created equal). Their efforts were rewarded with a few of their own resolutions passing, which is no small feat in the cutthroat world of Model UN. Whether debating climate change, human rights, or international security, the Muckross students brought passion, eloquence, and the occasional sassy comeback to the table.

The highlight for Muckross came at the General Assembly, where Beth Dooley, a 3rd-year student, delivered a speech that left an impression. Speaking against one of the resolutions that were passed in the security council, she balanced diplomacy with a sprinkle of humor, winning over the room and showing that even the most serious topics can benefit from a touch of charm. It was a proud moment for the school and proof that Muckross students can hold their own on an international (or at least Model UN) stage.

All in all, RADMUN 2024 was a whirlwind of debate, diplomacy, and, let's be honest, probably a little caffeine to keep everyone going. Muckross's three delegations didn't just participate—they excelled, showcasing their skills and proving that when it comes to Model UN, they're a force to be reckoned with. Watch out, world (or at least next conference), because Muckross is coming for you!

Sarah Devaney and Eshaal Siddiqi



PA CAREERS EVENING

Thank you to the PA who organised and invited parents and 5th and 6th Year students to this informative evening. Thank you to the PA and to the many past pupils who came to share their career experiences of life after Muckross.

CAO & BEYOND
A Parent's Association Event

PARENTS AND 5TH / 6TH YEAR STUDENTS

JOIN US
Wednesday November 6th
6.00pm - 7.30pm
Muckross Park College

PARENTS 6.45PM
Presentation from
Resolve Careers
'CAO Advice for Parents'

STUDENTS 6PM

- Get advice on CAO choices.
- Chat with **Muckross Past Pupils** studying a range of 3rd level courses.
- Ask about courses you are considering.
- What is it really like in College ?
- What to consider in CAO list of 10?



MEETING THE TAOISEACH

The Fifth Year students bumped into our Taoiseach Simon Harris in Donnybrook Fair!



DROP OFF ETIQUETTE Reminders

If you drive your child to school, to avoid congestion and to keep students safe, please take note of the advice of the RSA:

- Do not park/set down in a way that would block the school entrance or exit or junctions.
- Do not park/set down on any double yellow lines.
- Do not park/set down on a footpath or a cycle track
- Do not stop on the roundabout

You should also think about:

- Encouraging your child to walk or cycle to school to increase their physical fitness
- Car-pooling or taking public transport.
- Parking nearby and walking the rest of the way.

PARKING IN MUCKROSS

For Health & Safety reasons, to avoid congestion and to keep students safe, students are not permitted to park in the school grounds or on the school avenue.



SPORT

HOCKEY

All our teams have played some super hockey this month. There has been a total of 81 games played this year, and Muckross has won over half!

Senior

The senior 1s unfortunately lost their cup match against St Gerards 1-0. This was a disappointing result but we are excited to see them bounce back in the league. They beat Gerard's 2-1, and drew with King's Hos 3-3.

The Senior 2s have had a great season so far, remaining unbeaten. Recently beating both Kilkenny College and Loreto Dalkey.

The senior 3As beat Columbus 5-0, the 3Bs beat Wilson's Hos 4-1, and the 4s won 2-0 against Kilkenny college. An amazing set of results!

Both the TY teams have been playing really well, and recently took on Kilkenny College. The TYA team finishing 1-1, and the TYB team winning 5-0.

Junior

The junior As are through to the next round of the cup, beating Templecarrig 5-0 in the first round! In the league they beat Kings Hospital 3-2 and drew 1-1 against Wesley.

The junior Bs and C2s both took on Wesley and won.

Minor

The minor As have had a great past few weeks. Recently beating Kilkenny college and drawing against Dalkey. We wish them luck in the first round of the cup on Saturday the 30th, where they take on St Gerard's!

The rest of our minor teams have had lots of great results. The minor Bs beat both Kilkenny College and Dalkey 2-0. Minor Cs beat Rathdown 2-0, while the Minor C2s drew 1-1 with Holy Child.

First years

Our first years have been getting involved in lots of sport this month! From basketball to hockey to cross country.

Hockey

The first year hockey eight-a-side leagues are finishing up soon. There have been lots of great results, including 10 wins across this month. Preparations have begun for the 11-a-side games that will start after Christmas.

BASKETBALL

On Thursday the u19 team played their league quarter final against Colaiste Iosagain last Thursday. Muckross put in an impressive performance winning the match 83-42. They were given a walkover in the semifinal and will play the Dublin league final next Tuesday! This has also secured their spot in the All Ireland League. Unfortunately, the u16s league campaign has come to an end however they are still training hard for next season.



Basketball U'19 Team

SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

- Alannah Sheridan won the interpro finals against Ulster with Leinster hockey u16s
- Daisy Costello (5th) and Alannah Sheridan (3rd) were selected for Irish hockey trials.
- Kira Lynch (5th), Helena Keane (5th) and Ríodhna McGrath (6th) were selected to the Irish u18 basketball squad
- Simi Shanu (4th) is representing Leinster on the U17 Metro team for rugby.

Carols by Candlelight

*The Principal, Staff and Students
of*

Dominican College Muckross Park

invite you to our

Carols by Candlelight Service

in

Dominican College Muckross Park

on

Thursday, 12 December at 7.00p.m.

*followed by refreshments compliments of the Parents
Association*

CHRISTMAS

Acts of Kindness



1

Give 5 people a high five

2

Make a thank you note for someone

3

Help prepare breakfast, lunch or dinner

4

Encourage somebody by using positive words

5

List all the things you are grateful for

6

Tell someone how much they mean to you

7

Donate some of your items to charity

8

Make someone a bookmark

9

Compliment someone

10

Hold the door open for someone

11

Draw someone a picture

12

Practise some mindfulness meditation

13

Tape a coin to a vending machine

14

Write a positive note with chalk on the footpath

15

Tell a funny joke to someone

16

Offer to do some extra chores

17

Pick up some rubbish outside

18

Write a card to someone you love

19

List all the things you love about yourself

20

Leave a positive note for someone

21

Make a gift for someone you love

22

Go for a walk with an adult

23

List all the things you love about your family

24

Give hugs to those you love

DATES FOR DECEMBER

DATE	EVENT
3,4 December	Winter Exams continue for 1 st , 2 nd and 5 th Years
2 December	School closed
5 December	First Year Advent Wreath Service
9 December	AILO Workshop hosted in Muckross
11 December	6th Year Christmas Activity – Ice Skating
12 December	Carols by Candlelight
19 December	TY Christmas Activity
20 December	Last day of Term 1
23 Dec - 5 Jan	Christmas holidays
6 Jan	First Day of Term 2

Finally.....Even on the darkest days, a beautiful sunrise in Muckross awaits. Thank you to Mr. Langan for capturing this moment.

