

Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna
October 2014

First Year Enrolment for 2015-2016

This takes place on Tuesday 4th November 2014 from 4 pm to 6.30 pm in the school. After school study will be cancelled.

Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate Results



Congratulations to all our Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students who received results recently. The school is very proud of their achievement and wish to thank you the parents and their teachers who were a tremendous support to them. I extend a special congratulation to Keelan McMahon on being the first Clare student to

be the recipient of one of the Naughton Scholarships valued at €20,000. The school was awarded €1,000 which will be spent on science equipment.

Well done Keelan..

CAO Points

For your information I include a comparison of the CAO points achieved by our students compared to the National Average for our Leaving Certificate class of 2014 – who are now our Past Pupils class of 2008

Number of CAO Points achieved	National %	Mary Immaculate %
500-600	9.7	4.8
400-499	24.9	38.1
300-399	26.0	23.2
200-299	17.7	26.2
100-199	12.8	7.1
<100	8	0

Mary Immaculate celebrates Mercy Day

Mary Immaculate Secondary School celebrated Mercy Day with a school mass held in Lisdoonvarna Church on 24th September. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Cunningham, the local parish priest. A choir and musicians from the school enhanced the celebration by their musical contributions. Students, staff and parishioners attended.

Mass For Sisters of Mercy



A mass of farewell and thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop Drennan on Sunday 14 September 2014 acknowledging the ministry of the Sisters of Mercy in the parish since they first opened a secondary school in the town in 1949. Eighteen Sisters of Mercy were resident in the Convent at one time or another. Two of our students, Niamh Kelly and Millie King, under the guidance of their art teacher

Mona Hynes produced a plaque with the names of those Sisters engraved on it. Niamh and Millie brought the plaque to the altar and it will be mounted on the front wall of the convent.

Mass for deceased past pupils and staff

The annual mass for deceased past pupils and staff will take place in the school hall on Thursday 27th November 2013 at 8:00 pm. Relatives, friends and parishioners are all welcome.

Parent /Teacher Meetings

All PT Meetings take place from 4.15 pm to 6.45 pm. On evenings of a PT meeting school will finish 15 minutes earlier than usual. Please bring a list of your student's subjects, teacher's name and a list of questions you may wish to ask. Please come as early as possible.

Sixth Year Parent Teacher Meeting:	Monday 10 th November 2014
Third Year Parent Teacher Meeting:	Tuesday 9 th December 2014
Second and Fifth Year PT Meeting:	Thursday 5 th February 2015
First Year Parent Teacher Meeting:	Wednesday 25 th February 2015
Transition Year PT Meeting:	Thursday 12 th March 2015

Parents' Association

I wish to invite all parents to a meeting of our Parents' Association on Wednesday 11th November 2014 at 8 pm in the school. Please come along and support our school so that we can further improve on what we do.

Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Mock Examinations

These are scheduled to take place for 3rd and 6th year students in February 2015. Each year the school subsidises the cost of these examinations. We are keeping the cost to parents at €100 per family. You may pay this now or in instalments or in any event by mid-January 2015. The DES does not meet any of the cost of these mock examinations.

Operation Christmas Child - Shoe Box Appeal

The school's annual "Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal" will be carried out again this year. It is an international project run by "The Samaritans Purse" which tries to inject hope into the lives of the world's poorest children in nearly 30 countries. Students will be involved in preparing shoe boxes with items such as something to play with, to wear, for personal hygiene, for school or something special for children between the ages of 2 and 14 years. Students from all classes are invited to take part in this project.

We would appreciate if all boxes could be returned to the school by Friday 28th November 2014. Shane Slattery and Sally McNamara can be contacted for any further information.

Sponsored School Sleepover for First Years

For yet another year the school will participate in the "schoolmates sponsored sleep over night" in aid of Focus Ireland for the homeless in Ireland. This is taking place on Friday 21st November 2014. In order to make the experience more real the whole group will sleep in the school hall without any heating. The event will be supervised by staff members.

Sharing, bonding, fun and fundraising for a good cause is our main aim for hosting this event. Your support in sponsoring this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated.

BT Young Scientists

The entries for the BT Young Scientist competition, to be held in January, have closed. The school has submitted 13 projects. The students and their teacher are eagerly awaiting the screening process which will select 550 projects for the 51st Young Scientist exhibition. It is expected 2000 projects will be vying for the coveted 550 places. This year will mark the 26th year that John Sims has entered projects in the competition. Below are the list of entrants and their project titles

Ashling O'Connell / Claire Reilly	Pattern of moss growth on coniferous trees
Jessica Kelly	Himantalia elongata found at different locations in North Clare
Niall Sweeney	Attitudes to and knowledge of the people

Killian Blood	of North Clare to tourist facilities in the area
Órlaith Bowen	Has the lunar cycle an effect on the movement of periwinkles (<i>Littorina littorea</i>)
Lucy O'Growney, Lara Norrish	Does size matter when hermit crabs choose a shell?
Isabelle Walsh, Ellen King	What swims in the rock pools of North Clare?
Stephen O'Connell	Follow me in to a lobster pot - Lobster preferences when entering a lobster pot.
Deirdre O'Connell	The geography of award winning Young Scientist projects.
Maghnus Hartigan	Measurement of Physiological Reactions to Stress and Challenge in Video Games
Thomas Hartigan, Dara Kenneally	Study of the movement of out-wintering cattle in the Burren
Jane O'Loughlin, Melissa Roche	Examination of the fluctuations of salinity and nutrient content of the water in a turlough close to the sea
Fearghal Burke	The geography of the voting patterns in the Eurovision Song Contest
Martyna Bujnowska	Feeding patterns of garden birds

Surf Club

The Mary Immaculate Surf Team (M.I.S.T.) is up and running again. The first outing took place on Wed 1st October in Lahinch. We would like to welcome all new members and look forward to an enjoyable and safe new season. The club is run by Shane Slattery with the help of 5th year students Rowan Johnson, Shane O' Donohue and Sean Kelly who have taken on the co-ordination role. Best of Luck.

School Lotto

The school is part of community lotto which helps raise funds for day to day running costs of the school. I wish to thank all parents who contribute to the Lotto either through our school or by buying tickets locally. I would encourage each family to consider contributing €100 to the lotto for the year or €50 for the half year. You have a chance of winning the weekly lotto jackpot and you are helping to ensure that the school can offer a better service. Please return form if you wish to participate. As you may be aware this is the only fundraising carried out by the school.

Lockers

Please ensure that your child has her/his locker key with them every day in school. Students should have a dedicated, safe location on their person or bag so that they can access their locker at all times with the minimum disruption to their learning or their class. In the event of a student coming to school without their locker key you will be requested to bring in key for that day. The cost of a replacement key is €6:50

Uniforms Reminder

1 Each student must have two **full** uniforms. Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform every day.

2 **RE: School Jacket**

The Student Council, with the support of school management, has decided to change the present school jacket to the one in the attached photograph. This jacket is a new lightweight 3 layer membrane fabric which is less bulky than the present one.

It is waterproof, windproof, breathable with a warm knitted fleece backing. There is a concealed hood with draw cord. It is fitted with reflectors and has 2 zipped front internal security and smart phone compatible

pockets. There is a draw cord on the hem and a key ring. It is machine washable at 30°C and quick drying. You can order this jacket at the introductory price of €40. Please contact Sally in the office.



We have a number of our present jackets in stock which we would like to sell. These are a little bulkier but much warmer and are waterproof, windproof, breathable, etc. If you wish to purchase one contact Sally at the school. Parents may be interested in buying one for themselves. Good value assured.

Students, of course, may continue to wear the present jacket in school and in class. First, Second and Third year students continue to wear this jacket if we have it in your size.

Please revert to me if you require any clarification.

Transition Year News

Car Maintenance

The students took part in a Car Maintenance Workshop on Tuesday the 9th of September.

Cliff Walk

Cliff Walk - the students took part in a walk on Wednesday 10th September. They were given a guided walk by Pat Sweeney who gave freely of his time and we wish to extend our thanks to him for this. We wish to thank Kate Burke on arranging a sponsored lunch for the students at the Cliffs of Moher.

Cahercalla Hospice Coffee Morning

The TY students and their teacher Ms.Egan organised a coffee morning in the school hall on Thursday the 18th of September. Thanks to all who supported this event. Funds of €513 were raised.

Ploughing Championships

Students travelled to the Ploughing Championships in Co. Laois on Thursday the 25th of September , they were accompanied by their teachers Ms. Bradshaw and Mr. Sims. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Knock Youth Gathering

On Tuesday the 7th of October Students travelled to Knock for the 2014 Knock Youth Gathering. They were accompanied by Mr.Slattery and Ms.Burke.

Debating

Congratulations to Transition years who had a fantastic win in their first round of the Concern Debate competition against Laurel Hill Limerick. They are being coached by Ms Bradshaw and Ms.Griffey.

Ms Bradshaw and Ms Griffey are currently running debates with First Years as part of their English Course.

Killary Outdoor Pursuits

Transition year students travelled to Killary on the 15th,16th and 17th on September . They were accompanied by Mr.Conway and Ms.Slattery.

Musical – Back to the 80’s

The students are rehearsing for their show Back To The 80’s. This will be performed in the Pavillion Lisdoonvarna. Theresa Leahy is directing the play assisted by Mr. Mulqueeny The Art students are currently involved in the design and preparation of sets for the Transition Year Show. Matinee Shows will be held on Wed 10th & Thurs 11th December and evening shows on Wed 10th & Fri 12th December. Tickets are €10 per adult, €5 per student. Family discounts also available.

Poetry Aloud Regional Winners



Poetry

Students from every year availed of the opportunity to participate in this competition. The first heat took place in St. Enda’s Secondary School in Salthill Galway on Wed 15th October. They were coached by Theresa Leahy and assisted by Ms Bradshaw. Congratulations to all who took part. The following students entered

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1st Year : Caitlin Vaughan, Wiyada Sapornchaoen, Katie Thomas, Emma Kelly, Megan Keane, Kate Considine

2nd Year : Ellen Dobbins Catto, Conor Clancy, Megan Moraghan, Fearghal Burke, Erin Urquhart, Aisling O’Connell, Muireann Leahy, Lucy O’Growney, Joe Keane, Niamh Heath

4th Year: Ellen O’Loughlin, Claire Costello, Niamh Reilly, Scion Flanagan, Keith Dowling, Eala Mardell

5th Year : Neasa McCormack, Iseult Leahy

6th Year : John Clancy, Johnathon Whelan, Aisling O’Rourke

Congratulations to Johnathon Whelan, Ailsing O’Rourke, Muireann Leahy and Scion Flanagan who go forward to the semi-final to be held in the National Library in Dublin.

A huge congratulations to all who participated.

A Way With Words

Congratulations to Grace Cassidy 3rd Year and Róna Burke 6th Year, for their recent literary achievements. Both students had short stories published in “Wild Words, Vol 2”, a Leitrim Co. Council Arts initiative to promote national literacy.

Maths Ireland Week 2014

The school is taking part in Maths Week which runs from October 13th to the 19th. Students have designed posters that are on display throughout the school. First Year students are taking part in daily competitions to stimulate interest in Maths. This supports numeracy awareness in our school.

Sport

North Clare Football School Blitz

The First years from the schools of Mary Immaculate Lisdoonvarna, C.B.S. Ennistymon and Spanish Point took part in a blitz at the beginning of the school year. Our team unfortunately lost to Spanish Point but were victorious against Ennistymon CBS.

The Junior Boys under 15 panel have played the first round of the Under 15 Munster Schools Competition. Unfortunately they were knocked out of this. Well done to the teams and their trainer Mr. Conway.

Ladies Senior Football in Senior D Clare Schools Competition

The opening game in the Senior Clare School's competition against Kildysart Secondary School was played on October 8th. While Kildysart came away with the honours our girls gave a very good performance on their first day out. This team went on to defeat Kilrush on Monday 13th October leaving them the victors. A big congratulations to all involved.

The schools **Junior Ladies Football** team lost out to Kilrush Community School and St. Josephs Spanish Point. Well done to the teams and their Trainer Ms. Slattery.

Senior Hurling:

Mr. Kivlehan R.I.P. took our senior hurling squad on a blitz against Ennistymon Vocational school and St. Patrick's Comprehensive school in Shannon on Wednesday 15th October. Mary Immaculate emerged victorious. The squad included: James Howard, Thomas Griffin, Martyn Whyte, Cillian Droney, Duncan McCormack, Alan Sweeney, Tristan O'Callaghan, Jack Sheedy, Cathal Guerin, Pdraig Kelly, Darren Gray, Colm O'Brien, Aaron O'Brien, Aidan McNamara, Seán Urquhart, Joe McGann.

Student Council

Student elections have taken place and the following students have been elected to the Student Council for the school year 2014/2015

1st Year Darragh Flaherty, Megan Keane, Leah McDonagh, Katie Thomas

2nd Year Conor Clancy, Tara Flanagan, Theo Martin, Muireann Leahy

3rd Year: Leah Barrett, Richie Johnson, Lizzy Roche, Liam Nilan

4th Year Martyna Bujnowska, Jonah Culligan, Scion Flanagan, Claire Costello

5th Year: Bronagh Considine, Stephen O'Connell, Iseult Leahy, Ciarán Johnston

6th Year: Christopher Carr, John Clancy, Kelsey McDonagh, Maree Scheunemann

LCVP Work Experience

The following are the dates allocated for work experience for 5th Year students participating in the LCVP programme:

Mon 27th April---Friday 01st May 2014

Attendance and Punctuality

Students must be in school by 8:50 am and in their classrooms by 8:55am.

Students arriving late to class causes disruption and negatively affects teaching and learning for all.

If your daughter/son is absent from school please ring the school on **7074266** or text only on 0877730000 on the morning of the first absence and follow up with a note of explanation. Please use the detachable slips at the back of the school journal.

The management wishes to thank all parents who adhere to these guidelines.

Missing time from school hinders academic success. Please arrange family holidays in non-term time.



Hugh Kivlehan RIP 1964-2014

The school community of Mary Immaculate Secondary School mourned the sudden death of a valued and much respected teacher and colleague.

Hughie joined the staff of Mary Immaculate in 1999 and he died whilst out herding, feeding his horses and caring for his animals.

He died doing what he loved, out of doors, close to nature and his Maker. He died without pain and was dead before he hit the ground.

He loved teaching and he loved the students. He had a tremendous understanding of those students who were on the margins and in need of encouragement and some straight talking. He was much more than a teacher, he was a gentleman and a

friend.

We all miss him, and we pray especially for his mother, his wife Liz and his children, Joe, James, Patrick and Mae, his mother Patsy, his sisters and brothers, and his large circle of friends.

We give thanks to the Lord for knowing him.

We give thanks to the Lord for his short but significant life in which he touched the lives of so many with this gentleness and kindness, his consideration and his joyful humour.

Scripture says that "Each of us has a variety of gifts and each of us has been graced by the Spirit in a particular way, for the good of all

**to one is given prophetic vision,
to another, the gift of serving,
to another, teaching,
to another, encouraging,
to another, the gift of a generous spirit,
to another, speaking with wisdom,
to another, the gift of bringing healing,
to another, faith,
to another, helping others,
to another, compassion,
to another, the gift of being cheerful**

So, let us remember today the many gifts Hughie brought each day to school, to his classes, to his students, to his colleagues.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for his: Energy, Perception, Co-operative spirit, fun, friendliness, experience, insight, wisdom, dedication, perseverance, joy, affirmation of others, faith, friendship, ... the list goes on. May he rest in Peace Amen.

I extend a big thank you to our Trad group for providing the music for the mass and to Seán Kelly and Bronagh Considine for their lovely and moving rendition of The Parting Glass. I was so proud of you all. Thank you to all the students who attended on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, in uniform, to extend their condolences and show their respect to a teacher whom they had the height of respect for.

Thanks to all the parents who sympathised with the staff on losing a wonderful colleague and to the students of Mary Immaculate on losing a wonderful teacher.

Yours sincerely

John O'Loughlin,
Principal