

**Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna**  
**Newsletter December 2015**

**Parent/Teacher meetings:**

All meetings are scheduled from 04:15pm to 06:45pm. School will finish 15mins earlier than usual on these days. The school will let you know if these meetings are to be cancelled or changed

**Fifth Year students Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**First Year students Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**Transition Year and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016**

**Mock Examinations**

Junior and Leaving cert Mock exams will commence in early February and finish on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. €100 per family towards the cost of Mock Examinations is required to be paid by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015 so that papers, etc. may be ordered. The school receives no support towards the cost of the mock examinations and the BOM subsidises the cost.

**Third Level Scholarship congratulations**

Congratulations to Aisha Dobbin Catto and her parents Liz and Gerry on receiving a scholarship from University of Limerick. Aisha is studying Business.

Congratulations to Kim Murphy and her parents, Martine and Jerry, on receiving a scholarship from Galway Mayo Institute of Technology. Kim is studying Culinary Arts. The scholarships are awarded by the respective colleges on CAO points awarded in their Leaving Certificate.

**Art Space @ Mary Immaculate**

Mary Immaculate Art students have been as busy as ever this term and they are currently enjoying wonderful success due to their efforts.



**Christmas card Success for a Great Cause**

In the recent Mid-Western Cancer Foundation Design a Christmas Card Competition two of our second Year students Aimee Burke, on the left and Anna Pujadas Gonzalvez, on the right were successful and won the opportunity to have their winning designs published and included in this year's Christmas card pack which is on sale nationwide. Aimee is from Lisdoonvarna and Anna is a Spanish student visiting our school for this first term since September. We will

be very sorry to see her return home to Spain at Christmas and we wish her the best in what is indeed a very bright future.

Located at the back of the regional Hospital in Limerick, the Mid-Western Cancer Foundation was founded by Professor R. K. Gupta, Consultant Medical Oncologist and Director of Cancer Services at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Limerick. Its aim is to streamline donations and

provide holistic care for patients with Cancer in the Mid-West region, in addition to the ongoing research support. Proceeds from the sale of these Christmas cards go to providing such holistic care for patients with cancer in the mid-western region. The mid-western region is made up of counties Clare, Tipperary and Limerick.

There were four overall winners. A student from Ard Scoil Ris in Limerick city, one from Abbeyfeale Co Limerick and two students from Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna. The successful students were all second years. A presentation afternoon took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December where Professor Gupta presented the students with a pack of their own cards and a gift voucher. The lasting success of this project will be the awareness it raised to this wonderful support service and the valuable contribution it is making to people's lives.

Transition Year Art students staged a **Transition Year Art exhibition** of their most recent work. The opening took place on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December at 7pm at the Burren Art College and the exhibition ran over the week end. Despite the stormy evening a large crowd attended the opening. Mary Hawkes Greene (Burren Art College) and Mona Hynes (Art Teacher) opened the event. Exhibitors included Richie Johnson, Katie O'Brien, Roisin O'Donoghue, Tess Casasin Sheridan, Olivia Mc Gann, Shauna Flanagan, Joey Fitzgerald, Owen Kelly, Oisín Casasin Sheridan (2<sup>nd</sup> yr) and Niamh Garrahy. The Exhibition was a great success to all concerned. This will hopefully be the first of many future joint ventures with the Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan. All works were acrylic on canvas and all funds raised from the sale of the work went towards the transition year fund which will include donations to local charities.

The recent **Credit Union Design a Logo** also resulted in eleven second years being commended for their design efforts. Each student received ten euro for their competition entries from Ennistymon and district Credit Union. The students are: Sarah Nagle, Katelin Vaughan, Amy Woods, Anna Pujadas Gonzalez, Wiyada Thomson, Leah Mc Donagh, Aimee Burke, Chloe Geraghty, Saoirse O'Brien, Laura Haugh and Emma Kelly.

Students also entered the annual **Positive Mental Health Competition** and the **Doodle for Google**. Best of Luck to all concerned and keep up the hard work.

### **Shoe Box Appeal**

Thanks to all students and their parents who contributed to this worthy cause.

### **Personal Development Day/Retreat**

First year students were given the opportunity to take part in a day of reflection on the 10<sup>th</sup> December hosted by 'Mustard Seed'. The aim of this was to give the students an opportunity to relax in a prayerful environment, to take time away from their everyday activities and to reflect on how school life is for them. The feedback from the students was very positive and they found the day enriching and enjoyable.

### **Mary Immaculate Secondary School Music Group**

Since September 2015 a music club has been formed. Over forty students are involved from all the year groups. We practise a variety of vocal and instrumental pieces. Our group has performed at the 1<sup>st</sup> year open evening and the beginning of school year Mass. We are currently preparing for the Christmas Carol Service which will include songs such as "Ring Christmas Bells" and Florence and the Machine. New students are welcome. Ms Brock is the co-ordinator of the Music Group.



**John Paul Awards**  
 Students from Mary Immaculate were awarded John Paul Awards on Wed 25<sup>th</sup> November in the chapel of St. Columbanus on the NUIG campus. The following students who were awarded the gold, silver and bronze medals were :

Keith Dowling, Saoirse McNamara, Scion Flanagan, Nicholas Dunne, Pdraig Kelly, Eimear Thynne, Myra McNamara, Katie Flanagan, Sean Kelly, Bronagh Considine and Ellen O’Loughlin. The awards were co-ordinated by Shane Slattery and Lisa O’Doherty.

### **Remembrance Mass – Deceased past pupils and staff**

This was held on the Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Students participated in the music and singing. This was much appreciated by the school and those who attended it.

### **BT Young Scientists and Technology exhibition**

This year 12 projects had been accepted for the 2016 BT Young Scientists competition which will be held in January. This is the 52<sup>nd</sup> Young Scientist competition to be held since its foundation. This will be the 27<sup>th</sup> year Lisdoonvarna teacher John Sims has mentored students from Mary Immaculate Secondary School for the competition. We wish all students taking part in the exhibition every success. Our First Year students are visiting the RDS on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to whet their appetite for future participation.

### **Literacy News**

We are pleased with the steady progress in our literacy drive. Students from the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years are currently creating their own class reading tree which instantly illustrates the books that the students have read, highlighting the name, genre and star rating of each book. Christmas is a good time to enjoy reading and the exchange of books as gifts.

### **Transition Year Production**

The Transition Year students have stayed with their tradition of staging shows and have produced “Totally Over You” under the direction of Theresa Leahy and assistant producer Mark Mulqueoney. There were five performances in total, four matinees and one evening performance. A most enjoyable and entertaining production generating some cherished memories and magical

moments. Well done to all. Many thanks to the Art teacher Miss Hynes, and the art students in helping to prepare the sets for the Transition Year show.

Students from Transition Year accompanied by Ms Hynes provided entertainment for the Stella Maris Day Care Centre. It was a very rewarding and enjoyable experience for these students.

### **Girls Football**

Mary Immaculate Junior Girls Football team are due to contest the Munster Cup Semi-final after Christmas versus Colaiste Mhuire A.G. Cork.

### **Boys Football**

The under 16 +1/2, under 15s and Senior Boys are all involved in competitions in the New Year.

### **Futsal Group Games**

Congratulations to our First year boys, Killian Burke, Callum Dobbin, Patrick Doherty, Eoin Guerin, Denis O Callaghan, Gearoid Howley, Daniel Fogarty, Calum Mc Namara, Rael O Connor and Jason Geraghty who were in the Clare final v St. Caimin's school Shannon

### **Cross Country Running**

Congratulations to Patrick O'Rourke on his success in the U17 Intermediate Boys Secondary Schools Cross Country in Lees Road on the 12<sup>th</sup> November. Well done to all who took part.

### **Carol Service**

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of December the students will attend a carol service in the church organised by Ms Cadla Brock, Shane Slattery and Ms Lisa O'Doherty. A large number of junior and senior students will perform a variety of Christmas hymns and seasonal carols accompanied by a group of musicians. Thanks to the students and their teachers for organising this event. School will finish at 1.02 pm. Buses will run at this time.

### **Reminders for the next term**

Mid Term Break Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Bank Holiday Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, St Patrick's Day

Easter Holidays Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

### **LOTTO**

Please consider supporting our school Lotto. It is the only means of fund raising that the school is involved in.

Thank you for your continued support.

I wish you and your family a happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year from all at Mary Immaculate.



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