

## Newsletter Easter 2016

### **Easter Study**

**There is supervised study over Easter on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm. €5 per day. Open to all students who wish to avail of it.**

### **School Lotto**

**Thanks to all families who support our school lotto. It is the only source of fundraising for the school. It helps pay for transport to matches, and subsidises other student transport costs to various school organised events. It help meets the shortfall left by the decrease in funding from the Department of Education. Please support. It helps makes our school one of the best in the country.**

### **Féile na hInse**

Comhghairdeas do na daltaí ó Scoil Mhuire gan Smál i Lios Dúin Bhearna a ghlac páirt i bhFéile na hInse in Inis le déanaí. Bhuaigh an grúpa ceoil a gcomórtas ar an 5ú Márta. Bhí an moltóir an sásta leo agus dúradh go raibh draíocht ag baint lena gcuid ceoil! B'iad na daltaí a bhí i gceist ná Ellen O'Loughlin, Éimear Thynne, Keith Dowling, Róisín O'Donoghue, Ellen King, Jane O'Loughlin, Kate Considine, Laura Haugh, Sarah Nagle, Aimeé Burke, Emma Kelly, Saoirse O'Brien, Sally King, Sarah McNamara, Aoife McNamara, Róisín McNamara, Órlaith Petty, Emma Healy, Aine Connole, Laura Griffey, Bláithnaid Marsh, Grace Cassidy. Comhghairdeas leo ar fad!

Ghlac Ciarán/Conor/Ava agus Jack páirt sa chomortas popghrúpa. Mhol an moltóir an glór iontach a bhí ag Conor. Bhuaigh said an dara áit.

### **School Fundraising for Charity**

#### **Focus Ireland**

On Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> December the students attended a Christmas Carol Service in the church organised by Lisa O' Doherty and Shane Slattery. The sum of €250 was raised for Focus Ireland

#### **Trócaire**

A large number of our students took part in the Trócaire Lent campaign again this year. Details of funds raised will follow in the summer newsletter.

**Tractor run** The Transition Year students from Mary Immaculate Secondary School held a tractor run in aid of the Irish Cancer Society on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of February. Registration was at 11am at Ballyvaughan G.A.A. field and the convoy set off at 12 noon. It drove through Ballyvaughan and then headed onto Lisdoonvarna, Doolin, Fanore, and back to Ballyvaughan where everyone parked along the sea front. Tea and sandwiches were available on return sponsored by Hylands Burren Hotel. We raised €2111 on the entry fee and bucket collections and are still receiving donations.

We would like to thank all of the marshals that came out and helped. We would also like to thank all the people that came out on the streets and watched and supported us despite the poor weather. A special thanks to Hylands Burren Hotel and Kelleher Signs Graphics Ltd. for sponsoring the event. Finally we would like to all of the drivers that gave up their time to support the great cause. All the proceeds will go to The Irish Cancer society and we hope to run the event again next year.

### **Irish Junior Maths Competition**

All first years took part in Round 1. As part of our numeracy initiative this encourages students to challenge themselves in their mathematical skills.

### **Accelerated Reading Programme**

The school has launched the Accelerated Reading Programme for first years. Accelerated Reader is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practise and motivating students to read for pleasure. Each first year student has an individual target of a number of points to achieve per term. The students select a book which is at a suitably challenging level for them. They then take an online quiz and they are awarded points for the number of questions that they correctly answer. Each student's individual progress will be tracked by the Accelerated Reader programme and the students will be motivated by their progress over the year.

The school is building up a library for the continued success of this programme. We would appreciate a donation of any suitable books that you may have at home.

### **Numeracy Reminder to First Year Parents**

Your son/daughter is keeping a graphical record of test results throughout the year in core subjects. This is in the form of a graph in their textbook. Please have a look at their progress.

### **Literacy News**

Our Junior students are involved in the Clare County Library Creative Writing Competition and also the Clare Champion Short Story Competition

### **Senior Football**

Senior boys beat Kilmihil and are through to the Clare semi-final against Kildysart Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

### **Junior Girls Football**

Our Junior girls took part in a development blitz against Ennistymon Vocational School, Scoil Mhuire and Seamount College Lisdoonvarna.

The Junior girls are due to contest the Munster Cup Final. They are playing Ballingearry Co. Cork at a date to be decided next term. Venue yet to be confirmed.

1st year girls will take part in a football blitz in Ennis on the 20<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Cross Country Running**

Congratulations to Patrick O'Rourke who came 1<sup>st</sup> in the County Schools Cross Country running, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the North Munster Cross country and 5<sup>th</sup> in the Munster Cross Country running.

## **Junior Boys**

2<sup>nd</sup> year football blitz held in Lisdoonvarna G.A.A pitch. They played three games against Kiltrush, Ennistymon CBS and Ennistymon VEC. They drew 2 and lost 1.

Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna participated in 1<sup>st</sup> year 9-aside blitz played on the astro-turf in Kildysart on Wednesday the 24th of February. Games of this nature will help develop and improve not only players handling and kicking but their teamwork and confidence on the ball also. Each game was 12 minutes a half. Unlimited substitution was allowed and the entire panel contributed to a well deserved victory in each of the rounds. Up first were Spanish Point, then John Bosco Kildysart, which set up a final against CBS Ennistymon who themselves had gone unbeaten during the day. However a spirited first half paved the way for victory. Clare Coaching Development Officer John Enright presented training tips to the successful panel afterwards.

Panel included: Killian Burke, Callum Dobbins Catto, Patrick Doherty, Daniel Fogarty, Tommy Garrihy, Jason Geraghty, Denis O'Callaghan, Gearoid Howley, Rael O'Connor, Eoin Guerin, Matthew Sheedy, Thomas Roche, Sean McNamara Eoin McNamara, Diarmuid O'Donoghue, Oisin O'Loughlin, Sean Casserly and Dylan Egan

## **Transition Year News**

### **Wheelchair Basketball**

Transition Years took part in Wheelchair Basketball introduction training on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March in Ennistymon Community Centre. There will be a second day to follow competing against other schools in a Clare Schools League.

### **School tour**

Transition Year School Educational and Cultural Trip to Salou/Barcelona departs Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of April and returns Fri 29<sup>th</sup> April. The students will be accompanied by Ms Nagle, Ms Bradshaw and Mr. O'Loughlin.

### **Erasmus**

Pupils and teachers in Mary Immaculate Secondary School travelled to Hoorn in the Netherlands from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of February last. This mobility involved the group of 16 students. It is the second stage of a very successful two year Erasmus Plus project. Mary Immaculate were fortunate to be selected as just one of 57 schools nationally to be awarded the European Commission "Key action 2" project. The basis of the project involves students learning about core marketing principals and international enterprise. Last year's transition year students exported products from the Burren Perfumery which

were sold by their Dutch partners in Holland. In turn some of your readers may remember purchasing Dutch “Joda” cookies which were sold outside Fitzpatrick’s in Ennistymon. The proceeds given to local charity TLC 4 CF.

This year’s students presented an array of potential products for exportation. This ranged from Airmid soaps made in Kilfenora to Barry’s tea in cork.

As well as practical business knowledge the students engaged wholeheartedly in the cultural exchange program. Living with a host family each student is immersed in Dutch culture. Students of Mary Immaculate braved the elements by cycling to school each morning. They visited the Amsterdam stock exchange, the world’s oldest. They pitched their business savvy against each other using trader simulation on the floor of the exchange. They visited a large tulip farm to see first-hand the process in one of Holland’s most famous industry. Attending class gave the group an inside into education and compare practices and facilities.

It was not all just work as students tried their hand at speed skating, a popular pastime in Northern Holland. They visited the museum in Hoorn and experienced one of the world’s leading virtual reality exhibitions using Oculus Rift technology. They also were taken on a tour of Amsterdam by canal boat.

After a very enjoyable week Mary Immaculate students are now busy planning the itinerary for the 9<sup>th</sup> of May when they will extend a warm Irish welcome to the Dutch students of Tabor College in Holland. One student summed up the trip as follows: “all the students enjoyed this exchange to Holland and we are excited that the Dutch students are coming in May so we can show them what school is like in Ireland”.

### **Certificate of Achievement**

Congratulations to Eoin Burke on receiving a Certificate of Achievement for his excellent results in Business Studies Junior Certificate 2015 from The Kemmy Business School, University Limerick in conjunction with the Business Studies Teachers’ Association of Ireland on the 9<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Business Quiz Competition**

On April 20<sup>th</sup> 2016, four 3<sup>rd</sup> year students will go to Athlone I.T to participate in the CIMA & BSTAT Schools Quiz, National Final 2016. They came 1<sup>st</sup> place in Limerick I.T. out of a total of 24 teams from the Munster region.

The students are :

Arthur Collins, Dara Kenneally, Jessica Kelly, Muireann Leahy.

### **CEIST Student Leadership Conference 2015**

The inaugural CEIST Student Leadership conference was held in St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra on Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Shane Slattery and eight of our Fifth Year Students, attended. The students were Eimear Thynne, Ellen O’Loughlin, Olivia Leneghan, Denis McMahon, Nicholas Dunne, Aaron O’Brien, Colm O’Brien and Darren Gray. The focus on the day was the promotion of Youth leadership within our CEIST schools and for the future.

### **Art News**

#### **Feile na hInse**

Aoife Dowling (2nd year) was a winner in the Art section of Feile na hInse. This competition celebrates Artistic skill and endeavour through the promotion of the Irish language

Another second year Laura Haugh is the County winner of the Community Games ART Competition. She received her winning medal from the community games committee last week and is looking forward to her further participation at regional and national level. Congratulation Laura and Best of luck for the next stage.

All second and first year students have participated in an anti-drug Art Competition run by the HSE. The aim of the project was to engage students in creating awareness towards the destruction caused by alcohol and drug addiction.

### **The Thomas F Meagher Foundation – Promoting pride in and respect for the Irish Flag and its meaning for peace.**

Mary Immaculate Secondary School was one of the many schools around the country invited to the Thomas F. Meagher Flag Presentation ceremony hosted by President Michael D Higgins on the 7th of March in Croke Park.

John Sims and 4 5<sup>th</sup> yr students - Colm O'Brien, Myra McNamara, Ben Kenneally and Niamh O'Reilly travelled to Croke Park in Dublin where a flag Presentation ceremony took place. Colm O'Brien represented our school and was presented a copy of the Proclamation. The purpose of the day was to educate our young people on the history of our national flag and also encourage them to promote pride in and respect for the Irish flag and its true meaning for peace on this island. The foundation is named after Thomas Francis Meagher Irish Patriot, US army general and Governor of Montana who flew the first Tricolour flag on the 7th of March 1848 from 33 The Mall in Waterford at the Wolf Tone Club.

### **Proclamation Day**

On 15<sup>th</sup> April the Proclamation was read aloud by Dylan Egan and Eva Harrington. The flag was raised by ex-army officer John Flaherty. After the flag raising the school sang and played Amhrán na bhFiann with the help of Martin Conway another ex-army officer..

### **REMINDER**

As we approach the final term of the present school year I would like to provide you with a number of reminders to ensure the smooth running of the school to the end of the year and the beginning of the new school year:

- **RE: ABSENCE OR LEAVING SCHOOL.**

You are required to text or ring the school, by 9am, if your son/daughter will be absent from school.

If your son/daughter has to leave school during the day you must : -

1. Give your permission by text, phone call or note and
2. Your son/daughter signs out in the office or meet with the Principal or Deputy Principal.

I ask for your support in this matter to ensure proper procedure is followed.

Number for **texting only** : 0876173000

For calls only: 065 7074266

- All students must be in **full school uniform** at all times.
- **Mobile phones** are not allowed to be used in school at any time during the school day. If you need to contact your child you can do so by ringing the office or sending text.
- Please note that school uniform for girls can only be purchased **at Nagle's, Kiltfenora**. To ensure adequate supply of uniforms it is necessary to arrange a fitting with Nagle's for same immediately as it takes from 10 to 12 weeks for the suppliers to supply the orders.
- All students must have **2 complete uniforms** with the exception of the school jacket.
- To facilitate the availability of **lockers** from the beginning of the new school year we would appreciate if all students wishing to avail of this facility would pay the required fee of €25 for incoming First Years and €20 for all other students by the end of May or as early as possible as these are allocated on a first come first serve basis.
- A large quantity of items are stored in our **Lost Property store**- Books, Bags, School uniforms, Coats, PE gear etc. If unclaimed at end of school year they will be recycled.
- **Evening study** will continue as usual during the months of April & May. Saturday Study will continue subject to sufficient demand.

### **Book Inspection**

**An inspection will be carried out in the next term on all books rented by students under the Book Rental Scheme. It is the responsibility of students to look after their rented books during the course of the period in which the books are in their possession. Any books lost or damaged must be paid for or replaced at parents' expense. Please check all books and have them cleaned and repaired where necessary on return from the Easter break.**

### **Leaving Certificate Photograph**

Leaving Certificate Photograph of the LC Class of 2016 and our Past Pupil class of 2010 This is available from the school office for €20.

**In relation to the State Examinations parents must ensure that your son/daughter takes note of the following:**

- ❖ Excellent behaviour required throughout
- ❖ Full school uniform must be worn throughout
- ❖ Have all necessary equipment for examinations
- ❖ Remain in hall until end of exam to give yourself and others every chance of success
- ❖ No mobile phones allowed
- ❖ Obey instructions of supervisors at all times

**Updates for your Calendar for the next semester :**

April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

Ty First Aid Workshop

April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Senior football V Kildysart in Senior Clare Championship
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Yr. parents TY meeting re TY 2016/2017
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	LC French Orals commencing 10am
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	LC German Orals commencing 9am
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	TY Archaeology Workshop in Clare Museum Ennis
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	JC Music Practical 9am – 10.30am
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Vaccinations in the afternoon
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	LC Music practical (afternoon)
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Yr. Ladies Blitz
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	JC Home Economics practical 1.45pm – 3.42pm
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	JC Home Economics practical all day
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Ty wheelchair basketball – Cork
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	LC Oral Irish from 2pm
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	LC Oral Irish
April 25 <sup>th</sup> -29th April	5 <sup>th</sup> Year LCVP Work Experience Non LCVP students will have supervised study in the school on Monday and Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> April
26th April-30 <sup>th</sup> April	TY visit Barcelona with Ms Nagle, Ms Bradshaw and Mr. O'Loughlin
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> yr. vaccination (afternoon)
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Junior Sports Day for 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> years
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	LC graduation Mass at 1:30 pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Student Awards – 11.30am to 12.30 pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	LC supervised study and for the following 2 weeks.
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> May	TYs finish school
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Summer Holidays begin at 12:25 for 1st, 2nd & 5th Years.
08 <sup>th</sup> June	State Examinations begin

May this Easter time, as we remember the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus, bring you and your family many blessings.

Thank you for your continued support for which I am most grateful.  
Happy Easter to you all

*John O'Loughlin*  
**Principal**