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Cumarsáid

Newsletter December 2017



OUR LADY'S TEMPLEMORE

Welcome from the Principal

I am delighted to introduce the Christmas edition of *Cumarsáid*. Some of the highlights this term include award ceremonies where students at Our Lady's claimed the Wellread Programme Award, a Gold Gaisce Medal, an entrance scholarship for Mary Immaculate College and two Pope John Paul II Awards. The Learning to Learn committee has worked with tutors and year-heads to roll out the study skills programme and all students have attended target setting and review sessions. Study plans have been created and students are actively engaged in exam preparation. In November six teachers attended training delivered by Allergy Lifestyle Ltd. As a follow on from this training, the school was certified to register with the Health Products Regulatory Authority. The HPRA issued a licence to the school to procure medicinal products (Glucagon and Epinephrine) and these are now available on site for use in emergencies. The extra-curricular programme has enhanced the school experience for students this term. The music department was well represented at the Seinn Concert in Thurles last week and "Glór" our Siansa Gael Linn competition entry has been submitted. Our sporting achievements include U16 Basketballers winning the regional final, the Harty Cup team securing a place in the quarter-final, Ladies Footballers securing a quarter-final place and four medal winners at the Tipperary Schools' Athletics Cross Country. Co-curricular activities in Science, Home Economics, Business, Religion French, German and Chinese have also enriched the student experience. As we approach the Christmas break, I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Beannacht Dé oraibh go léir um Nollaig.

Patricia Higgins



WELL READ AWARD

Our Lady's Secondary School is delighted to receive the PDST Wellread National Award. This is an initiative aimed at creating heightened awareness about the importance of the culture of reading in school communities. Ms Butler, Ms Cooney and an enthusiastic committee worked hard last year to meet the standard set out for this

competition. Our efforts revolved around refurbishing the library, which was quickly stocked with donations of books from parents and the wider community.

Students in the school were actively encouraged to read for pleasure. All first and second year students availed of the facility for one class a week and could earn extra merit awards for posting book reports. Senior students used the library as a quiet space to take a break from the pressure of study with the distraction of a good book. It was also the venue for a book club where pupils from the local Primary schools met Transition Year students and teachers from Our Lady's, over a six week period, to discuss a number of texts and engage in some fun activities. Overall, the initiative was worthwhile in fostering a reading culture in the school which will bring about an improvement in students' literacy skills. As we know the batteries never die in a book, they are our friends for life.

SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Niamh Collins who received an Entrance Scholarship to Mary Immaculate College in recognition of her outstanding Leaving certificate results. These prestigious awards are conferred on High Achievers in the Leaving Cert who pursue particular courses at Third Level. Niamh Collins did her Leaving Cert exam at Our Lady's in June 2017 and began her studies at MIC in September.



GOLD GAISCE AWARD

Congratulations to Ann Kelly and her Gaisce Leader Ms Norma Galvin who became the first student from Our Lady's to receive the Gold Gaisce Award.

On Wednesday 6th December, Ann, who completed her Leaving Cert in 2017, was presented with the Gold Gaisce award by President Michael D. Higgins at Dublin Castle. It was a wonderful event and a fantastic achievement for Ann.



SHOE BOX APPEAL

First and second year students with a selection of the shoeboxes they collected for Team Hope in November.



• **UPCOMING EVENTS:** Transition to Second-Level - Talk for Parents/Guardians - Thursday, 8th February

Pre-Examinations - 31st January - 9th February

Junior Cycle In-service for Teachers - 20th February (School Closed)



Open Night in Our Lady's



POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

On Wednesday 29th November Christine Brennan and Adrienne Mullen, Leaving Cert students, were presented with the Pope John Paul II awards. The award encourages young people to become actively involved in their parish and community and to contribute in a positive way to the life of their church. Both girls earned their award by taking part in both parish and social activities.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

54TH BT YOUNG SCIENTIST

Thousands of students will light up Dublin's RDS from the 11th to 13th January at the 54th BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition. This event attracts over 60,000 people every year making it one of the largest school events of its kind in the world. This year Caelainn Luby and Wiktoria Lesuk have been selected for the 2018 competition. Their project is entitled: 'A cent wiser, a pound heavier! If we are what we eat, do we really know what we are eating?' This project involved the girls investigating if there is any significant difference in the nutritional information of own-branded goods versus leading brands regarding fat, sugar content, and the addition of self-lengthening preservatives etc. They also will investigate if the presence of cheaper foods in both the German discounter stores and own-brand goods in general are affecting our consumer choices when we enter a store to do our grocery shopping. The girls have inspired younger students in the school to start developing ideas for the 55th BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition. We wish Caelainn and Wikoria the very best of luck in January.



Students benefitted greatly from Science week, 13th to 17th November, with many events organised for all year groups. An introductory course on App Design was run for all students who were interested in computer programming. It was great to see the enthusiasm in the school for coding. A number of Transition Year Students headed to LIT Thurles campus for an Environmental Workshop. This was a hands-on experience where students got to measure the oxygen levels in air and water. A small group of sixth years attended the Sports Performance Workshop in LIT Thurles Campus which they found both interesting and inspiring. Brid Ryan, in sixth year, was recorded for their blog where she gave her opinion on the day. So please stay tuned for that. Over all it was an enjoyable and a busy week where all students were given an opportunity to take part in some Science related activities.



SCIENCE WEEK

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

SIANSA

Siansa is one of the country's most prestigious competitions for young traditional Irish music and singing groups. Organised by Gael Linn with support from **RTE Raidió na Gaeltachta** and **Irish Music Magazine**, Siansa provides a platform for talented teenage groups who aim to emulate groups such as Téada, Altan, Danúetc. While Siansa is essentially a competition, the groups are helped and encouraged along the way by highly regarded traditional musicians. The event is run entirely through the medium of Irish.

This year Our Lady's will enter a group into the competition and the group is called "Glór". This group recorded their CD on Monday December 4th and this recording will be judged and the top 30 entries out of hundreds will go through to the All-Ireland Semi Final stage held in February where the group will perform live. From here the top 8 groups in the country will reach the All-Ireland and get the chance to perform on stage in the National Concert Hall, Dublin in April.



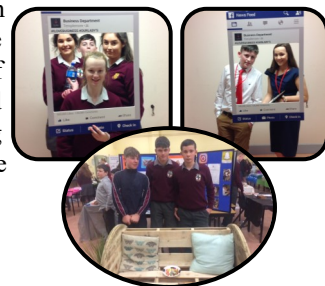
SEINN

Seinn is a new initiative to promote liturgical music in second-level schools. The aim of the programme is to provide RE departments with a resource of liturgical music for use at various school celebrations and by extension it teaches and promotes good liturgical music which will be of benefit to parishes. The programme is directed by Ian Callanan, one of Ireland's leading composers of liturgical music. This is our second time to take part in a Seinn concert and the positive experience the students received last April brought about an increase in the numbers attending from Our Lady's. On December 6th a choir of almost 90 students stood proudly as part of a choir of over 600 students from all secondary schools in the diocese.



BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

For this year's Open Night the Business Department set up their companies in the school canteen creating a mini-market. 24 companies took part and aimed demonstrated to our visitors the innovative ideas that they had created and the companies they developed. The companies were made up of Transition Years and Enterprise Club students. Each group had to create a stand for their company and present their product and idea to the public. Each company was very successful on the night generating sales, taking orders, promoting their product and obtaining feedback. Next on the agenda for these groups will be preparation for competitions after Christmas.



SPORT AT OUR LADY'S

DR HARTY CUP

Our defending Dr Harty Cup Champions have strolled into the last eight of the competition. En route to the quarter final they have beaten Castletroy College (6-27 to 1-10), CBC Cork (1-15 to 2-11) and St Flannan's Ennis (2-20 to 1-13). The quarter final against St. John the Baptist Hospital is scheduled to take place on January 10th. The semi-finals will take place on January 27th and the final on February 17th.



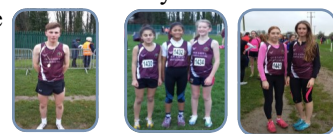
GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Under 16 girls' basketball team have had a sensational season so far having won all their matches. They have now qualified for the All-Ireland Playoffs which will take place on January 13th. The third match was a local derby away to the Ursuline Thurles, which the girls won comfortably. Their final league game was at home to Cill Dara, Kilcock who were also unbeaten, this was a tough, close match with Our Lady's playing some excellent basketball and eventually winning by 9 points. Our Lady's were straight through to the Regional Final having received a walkover from Portarlington in the semi-final. Their opposition in the final was Sacred Heart Tullamore, this was a close game with Our Lady's only pulling away in the final quarter, eventually winning by 33 points to 14.



ATHLETICS

Tipperary school's athletics Cross Country took place on Wednesday, 6th December in Thurles. On the day Our Lady's were well represented in all sections. Congratulations to Jack Ryan who came first in the Junior boys, to Henry Fogarty who came fourth in the Intermediate section, to Adrienne Mullen who came fifth in the Senior Girls and to Conor Ryan who came first in the Senior Boys. Well done to all athletes.



JUNIOR LADIES FOOTBALL

Our Junior Ladies Football team have emerged top of their table.

They now advance to the quarter final against Sacred Heart, Clonakilty, which will be played in the New Year. The team had fantastic victories over The Ursuline (6-13 to 2-3) and Fethard. (6-7 to 2-5) The very best of luck to the girls as the progress in the competition.



FIRST YEAR CHRISTMAS TRIP

Thursday, 7th December saw first year students travel en masse to Dunmore Caves and Kilkenny on Ice. The group were accompanied by their tutors, year head and most importantly by their fifth year Cairde. The Cairdeas group were fantastic, they helped to ensure all our students had a great time, bonds between the first years and these, their fifth year mentors, were strengthened as skates were fastened and bruises nursed. The prowess of many of our students on the ice was remarkable, their tutors, not so much. A wonderful festive experience was enjoyed by all.



TRANSITION YEAR

THE APPRENTICE CHEF

On Thursday, 23rd November 13 TY students had the opportunity to see the facilities in Waterford Institute of Technology and to enter the competition 'The Apprentice Chef'. The objective of the competition is to show students the healthier side of food. The challenge is to use seasonal foods which are available locally.



Our transition year students enjoyed the poetry Slam session, with Stephen Murray, on Monday, 20th November with our TY's writing some fantastic poetry. Stephen Murray is an award winning poet and the founder of Inspireland. He has published two collections of poetry with Salmon Poetry to widespread critical acclaim. He is regarded as Ireland's leading poetry workshop provider for young people and has delivered workshops to over 50,000 young people in Ireland. His work has featured on Nationwide, RTE TwoTube, TV3, Arena, BBC 2, The Irish Times, the Independent and Hot Press.

Studies have organised it's 2018 Annual Easter Program to Shanghai. As Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore has successfully commenced with the teaching of Chinese Culture and Language to Transition Years this year, we have been provided with the opportunity of having four pupils travel to Shanghai University. There they will engage in the study of the Chinese language in the mornings and participate in cultural activities in the afternoons. The four pupils selected to travel are Megan Delaney, Claire Maher, Eoghan Kelly and Ciaran Shanahan. Emily Bergin, a teacher at Our Lady's will accompany the students to Shanghai.



POETRY SLAM

CULTURAL TRIP TO CHINA

UCC and Confucius Institute of Chinese

GERMAN AT OUR LADY'S

A wonderful celebration of German Culture took place at Our Lady's this week, when TY German students together with 2nd year German students organised the Annual Weihnachtsmarkt ie Christmas Market. With Festive German Carols and themed outfits worn by TY students, the Apfelstrudel and Sachertorte tasted even better. Students also loved the German Wurst and Bratkartoffeln. All first and second years really enjoyed having their Photos taken with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus.



GERMAN CLUB

Commences in Room G26 on Wednesday 24th of January 2018 from 3.30pm to 4.15 pm.
5th and 6th class pupils welcome.

FRENCH AT OUR LADY'S

This term six TY students went to St Joseph's primary school to introduce the 5th and 6th class students to France, it's language and culture. Each week they dealt with different topics such as basic French greetings, French cuisine, Halloween, Christmas and various other topics. Different teaching methods ranging from songs to slideshows were used. The first week the children were asked to make a model of the Eiffel Tower. The projects were fantastic and were put on display for open night at Our Lady's. With the help of Poline, a 5th year French student from France, we explained the difference between Irish and French culture and it's cuisine. A sincere thank you to St. Joseph's primary school and the pupils for a great couple of weeks.



PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

