



**St Mary's Secondary School,
New Ross, Co. Wexford**
December Newsletter 2017

A Christmas Wish

As we approach the end of 2017 we would like to take the opportunity to wish all our school community a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

May 2018 bring peace, happiness and strength to all within our school community. May Our Lady of Mercy guide us on our journey and keep us safe from harm.

A Giving Community

Since September our students have been involved in many acts of charity. Some of the groups who have benefited from the generosity are: St Vincent De Paul, Meals on Wheels, Team Hope, Solas Centre and the Hope Centre. Thank you to everyone for such generous support.

Well done to 4.4 who raised over €1,380 during their YSI module for Aobheann's Pink Tie, Ireland's Cancer Charity

A special mention to all of our classes and their tutors for the preparation of abundant hampers. Coinciding with this generosity we awarded a number of prizes for winning tutor groups:

Traditional hamper: Ms Howard's 2.4 class

Christmas message: Ms Kidd's 3.1 class

Prize for Generosity: Ms Tinnelly's 6th Yr Accounting class

Originality: Mr Murphy's 2.1 class

Creativity: Ms O Shea's 4.4 class
Variety: Ms Kavanagh's 6th years & Mr Fogarty's 6th Years & Ms Ryan's Irish class
Overall Winner of 'Creating Community Award': Ms Howard's 2.4 class

Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to a number of last year's students who were honoured with scholarship awards recently as a result of their excellent Leaving Certificate results: Michelle Doherty & Ciara Walsh - UCD
Rachel Byrne, Deirdre Donohue & Ellen Whelan – Trinity College
Lorien Walsh – UCC
Kate Dowling – DCU
Deirdre Donohue also was awarded a JP Mc Manus All Ireland Scholarship.

Dates

The school will close for Christmas holidays at 1.15pm on Friday 22nd December and will reopen on Monday 8th January 2018.

Friday 19th January the school will be closed to facilitate Junior Cycle training. The mocks will take place during the week beginning Monday 29th January until Friday 9th February 2017.

Midterm break will be February 12th – 16th 2017

Thursday February 22nd – the school will close to facilitate Junior Cycle Training (Day 2)

Monday 19th March– St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday

Easter Holidays 26th March- 6th April

Junior Cert and Leaving Cert exams begin Wed 6th June.

Sport

It has been a busy time since September on the sporting front. Our girls have enjoyed success at participation and competition levels in many sports including: Equestrian, Camogie, 1st year Soccer, Volleyball, Football, Badminton

Athletics and Rugby. Particular praise is given to the 1st Year Futsal team who won the County event before progressing to the Leinster finals.

Senior & Junior football has finished for the year. The Senior team won 2 out of 3 games and the Junior team were unlucky not to qualify for the Leinster semi-final after losing to St Leo's by 2 points. U14 football for 1st and 2nd years will begin after Christmas.

Junior rugby will resume after Christmas.

Careers Help

6th year students have availed of trips to Higher Options and visits to 3rd Level colleges as part of their planning for completion of CAO forms and career options.

6th year parents also had an informative talk on the CAO facilitated by Ms Ryan and Ms Lawlor.

Students participated in a Quiz as part of College Awareness Week

6th Year, 5th Year and TY students had an opportunity to speak to 40 professionals about their careers in an event organised by Ms Goulding and Ms S Ryan.

Study Help

The 3rd Year students did DATs aptitude tests to help with consideration of subject choices and career choices.

3rd, 5th and 6th Year students are reminded to make use of their Study Clix account as a study aid.

Excellence in Business

Congratulations to our 13 students who were awarded certificates for Excellence in Business Studies in their Junior Certificate 2017 at a function co-hosted by the Business Studies Teachers' Association of Ireland and Waterford Institute of Technology.

Congratulations to all concerned and to their teachers Ms. Forde and Ms Tinnelly.

Religion Department

The Religion Department has been busy organising a suite of activities promoting Faith Development. Our start of year mass was followed by retreats for 3rd, T.Y. and 6th years. The retreat days offered the girls space to thank God and one another for life and all the wonderful moments it brings.

A Mass of Remembrance was held in November.

The school choir visited the Mount Carmel Convent as part of the Carmelites' 200 years in New Ross celebration. Some details are available at www.carmelitesnewross.com

Congratulations to all involved with the launch of the Young St Vincent de Paul group in the school. A successful bake sale was also held as part of the launch.

A number of students and staff attended the Ferns Diocese launch of the John Paul 2 awards in Enniscorthy.

To celebrate the religious and festive season of Christmas the Christmas Carol service was held this week. Thanks are extended to the Religion Dept. - Ms Mc Kevitt, Ms Walpole, Ms Howard, and Mr Wafer for organising the ceremonies and Ms Lyng, Ms Forde and Ms Tinnelly for coordinating the music.

A special word of thanks is extended to all of the students who participated in the ceremonies and for all who gave up their time to share their musical talents.

School Tour

Preparations are well underway for the 5th Year tour to Berlin under the co-ordination of Mr Fogarty.

Road Safety

We remind all students to 'Be Safe, Be Seen' and take great care as pedestrians on all walking journeys. We remind all road users to be safe when parking and driving especially around the school and Irishtown area.

We urge all students to use the pedestrian crossing outside the school – especially students alighting from buses.

Family Contribution

All family contributions are gratefully received by the school and are used to enhance educational opportunities for our students. Thank you to all who have made a contribution and further donations from others will be appreciated.

Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to all of the students who received an award at our awards ceremony. The awards recognised the many facets of school life and were a celebration of achievement, participation and involvement in school life. We thank Ms Kinsella for organising the ceremony.

Parents' Council Christmas Draw

The Parents' Council would like to thank everyone for their support of the Christmas Draw. There was a great response. The winners were:

1st prize- Nora Leahy, Coolhill, The Rower €200, Molloy's Supervalu voucher.

2nd prize- Pauline Curtis, The Boola, Adamstown €100 Brandon House Hotel Voucher.

3rd prize- Kate Galavan, Hermitage, The Rower €100 Browne's Photography Voucher.

4 Sellers prizes of €25 each:

Seller 1- Emma O Neill 3.3

Seller 2- Mai Dempsey 1.1

Seller 3 – Hannah Culleton 6th Year

Seller 4 – Heather Roche 3.2

Gaeilge 24

Ghlac an idirbhliain páirt sa dushlán Gaeilge 24. Deis iontach ab ea é an Ghaeilge a labhairt. Spreag sé daltaí agus múinteoirí cúpla focal Gaeilge a úsáid timpeall na scoile. Pupils enjoyed ranganna 'as Gaeilge', céilithe & tráth na gceist on the day. 'Beatha teanga í a labhairt.'

Open Night

Thank you to all students, staff and parents who helped out at our Open Night in November.

Curricular Initiatives

Among the curricular initiatives this term were:

- LCVP Enterprises and Christmas Fair
- YSI Promotional Ventures
- 3rd Year Dáil trip
- Budget Business Breakfast
- Science Show
- Maths Week Challenges
- Art Career Talk
- European Language Week
- Art Gallery visit

Head Lice

The holiday period is another good time to do a check. There have been no recent outbreaks but it is always good to maintain regular checks.

