

Presentation Secondary School Listowel

January 2016 Newsletter



Principal's Address



Welcome to the January 2016 edition of the Presentation Secondary School Listowel Newsletter. This Newsletter provides an insight into life in our school in the first term of 2015-2016. The purpose of a newsletter is to make you, the parents and guardians, aware of the innumerable activities undertaken by the students of the school and familiar with the available facilities, so that you will encourage your children to participate in education in the broadest sense. Education is a comprehensive, co-operative, complex business where the entire school community makes a significant contribution. Presentation Secondary School Listowel is a wonderful, dynamic institution within which 320

students and their parents, 30 teachers, 4 SNAs, 3 office staff, a caretaker, a committed Parents' Association and Board of Management participate. Here, an active, thriving community daily negotiates a significant phase in the life of every student. Term one of 2015 has seen so many wonderful activities take place as evidenced in this newsletter. In particular I wish to highlight the wonderful engagement of the Transition Year students in the community this year visiting the Nursing Homes, Community Hospital, Áras Mhuire, Family Resource Centre, Nano Nagle and liaising with St. John of God. Thanks to the local businesses who have facilitated our TY, LCA and LCVP students with their work experience placement. The Board of Management has asked me to thank all parents who have supported the School financially this year. The introduction of the payment plan scheme has been a

significant success. The Board has decided to hold another Bingo event this year to finance the upgrading of the canteen facilities in the school. We will circulate the details of the fundraising event before Easter. Finally, our aim in Presentation Secondary School Listowel is to provide a rich and holistic education for our students. I wish to thank the teaching staff, SNAs, office staff and caretaker for their dedication and commitment to our girls. I also wish to thank you their parents/guardians for entrusting your children to our care.

*May God bless you
Eileen Kennelly*

Library

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."

WALT DISNEY

During the past school year, we carried out an extensive survey, with the help of our colleagues in the English Department, of 1st and 2nd year students, to canvass their opinions on which titles they would like to see in the school library. The results were collated and presented graphically by our Transition Year students in the format of a pie chart. A selection of titles, reflecting the broad choices revealed in our survey, were purchased. At the beginning of the present school year, all these books were covered and

categorized with the co-operation of students who have been dedicated supporters of our school library. In this regard, I want to give a special mention to one student in particular, Karolina Kowalczyk, for her help and support. I would like to remind students and teachers that the library is open every Tuesday and Friday during lunch and all are welcome. Literacy week will take place from the 29th Feb. to the 4th of March, featuring World Book Day on the Thursday of that week. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to students past and present, and to their parents for donations of books

that will foster the joy of reading for years to come. We will collect these books during literacy week. A large project undertaken this year and completed only last week, saw a wonderful expansion to our school library. This much larger, brighter space will now be used by the book club for their weekly meetings. Our library is very much a work in progress and we will continue in our endeavours to create a warm, vibrant space where students can relax, unwind and escape into the world of a good book.

As always, happy reading.

Ms J Normile



Debating

The term kicked off with the reintroduction of debating for Senior Cycle students. The team has already had three outings with success against seasoned Crescent Comprehensive and Killorglin ISK teams. We look forward to hosting the next round on January 26th. Thank you to all students and teachers involved.

Ms O'Loughlin, Mr Daly & Mr Hilliard



Pictured: The Senior Debating Team with Ms O'Loughlin, Mr Hilliard & Mr Daly



Science Department

KSTA Senior Science Quiz

The Regional Final of the Senior Science Quiz was held in Tralee I.T. on Nov. 12th. Three teams represented the school

Teams were as follows:

Anne Marie Swaine, Finola McNamara, Fionnuala Trench, Fiona Hunt, Aoife Moloney, Bridget Sheehan, Laura Sheehy, Iseult O Callaghan, Leah Henry.

National Science Week

National Science week started on Monday the 9th of November to the 13th. The Science Department, along with the Transition Year students, organised a series of events during the week.

TY students decorated the main Social Area in the centre of the school with informative posters.

Science quiz questions were sent out to all the surrounding national schools.. These questions were marked at the end of the week and by the Transition Year students. Prizes were given to Moyvane and Lisselton National Schools.

Quiz questions were also given each day of the week within the school. A different science challenge was put to the students each day of the week during break times, such as trying to balance a 5 cent coin on the end of a hanger, balancing two forks on a match stick off a pint glass and trying to figure out how to balance seven nails on one nail.

Science week was concluded with a science quiz in the hall for First and Second Years. Again the TY students organised this exciting event.

Thanks to Mr Kiely and the TY students in particular for their efforts.



123 Numeracy

Numeracy is a fundamental element to the students' development. We are continuously examining strategies to make our students more aware of this vital tool. In the School we have a numeracy board displaying all life skills associated with numeracy, where students will need these skills and the career paths associated with numeracy. On display also are puzzles requiring students to solve them thus developing these skills.

Eimear White

Numeracy Link Teacher



As a result of our continued commitment to education and teacher development, two teachers were selected to take part in the Learning Schools Research Project. This research project is focusing on Assessment For Learning. All teachers are using the AFL strategies with First Years. This is aimed at enhancing students' success in learning and assessment. Progress will be monitored and a report will be compiled demonstrating the project as part of our School Self Evaluation initiative for 2015-2016. All knowledge learned will be shared with staff to reaffirm teaching strategies.



We were delighted for two of our TY Students who won prizes in the Art Competition organised by the local Credit Union. Erin won first prize and Saidhbh who won 3rd prize were presented with their prizes in school by the Credit Union



Religion

The Department participated in the annual St Vincent de Paul Food Appeal. Many thanks to all those who kindly donated goods for this worthy



Candle Ceremony



Our current first year students received a special formal welcome to Presentation Secondary Listowel from our Leaving Cert students this term in the form of a Candle Ceremony. Each First Year student was paired with a senior student. They were then presented with welcoming candles with their names on them. The candles symbolised the support and friendship offered to the newcomers to the school. The First Year group will reciprocate the gesture next May at the Sixth Year graduation ceremony when they will present them with the candles to wish them well on their journey in life.

English Department News



It has been a very busy but rewarding first term for English students and teachers in Pres. Eight students took part in the regional Poetry Aloud competition and Mary Kate Reidy, a Second Year student, was selected to compete in the National Semi-final where she was again successful. Mary Kate received a certificate for her performance in the National Final where she represented the school admirably. In addition, St John's provided a fitting venue for the Outreach Gaiety Theatre Production of 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'King Lear'. We look forward to 2016. Lastly, the Junior Cycle students rose to the MS reading challenge and raised **€1240** in aid of the charity. Congratulations to all involved.



Mary Kate Reidy, 2nd year pictured with her award at the Poetry Aloud competition

Book Club



Book Club takes place every Thursday where we meet to discuss great books and what we are currently reading. It encourages recreational reading and critical analysis of novels.

Literacy



All teachers encourage literacy with the use of key words in every lesson and word walls are being created with the assistance of TY students. In addition, a literacy week will take place on the week beginning 29th of February

Learn to Earn



Our Transition Year students gained invaluable experience studying this module over five weeks. The programme was run by Bank of Ireland staff who provided interactive lessons and games which captivated the interest of all. On successfully completing the module, the students were presented with certificates.





Green Schools

Sincere thanks to the Green Schools Committee, in particular the TY students, for organising 'Water Week' from December 7th to the 11th. The week began with an extremely interesting talk on climate change by Fr. Maurice Henry. It was most appropriate for the week when world leaders in Paris announced their commitment to reducing CO2 emissions to save our planet from global warming. Wordsearches, a poster competition and PowerPoint presentations were part of the week's activities. Without doubt, the highlight was the launch of the Energy flag by Kerry Environmental Officer, Michael O'Coileain. Entertainment was provided by the student trad group 'Joint Forces' with their spellbinding tune which won them 1st prize in a local talent competition, and the entire school community was mesmerised by the Sean Nós dance performed by Ranog Townsend, our 6th year All-Ireland winner. We now look forward to our third inspection for our Water Flag. The Green Schools committee encourages all to recycle in 2016.

Ms. M. Daly Coordinator

Geography



The Leaving Cert 6th Year annual fieldwork investigation took place last October in Killarney National Park with a detailed study of fluvial processes on the Owengarriff River. All students fully participated with their gathering tasks, and as this contributes to 20% of their overall mark in the Leaving Cert exam, it was a very productive day. Both junior and senior geography students worked very well this term which will in no doubt lead to great success in February.



The 6th Year Geography group at Owengarriff River

Music Department



Prayer Service - New School Year

Ms Kennelly welcomed everyone back after the holidays. There were readings during the prayer service. On the 15th of November there was a Mass in honour of Nano Nagle in the Parish Church. All year groups either sang or played during the Mass.

The Cork Pops Orchestral Concert

All First Years travelled to Limerick University Concert Hall to see the Cork Pops Orchestra. The concert featured songs such as Cheerleader and Blame it on the Boogie. Keith Hanley sang and DJ Dashka did a mix of Ain't Nobody. A great day was had by all.

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service took place in the Parish Church on Sunday December 13th. Students from 1st to 6th Year performed. There were flute solos by Iseult O' Callaghan Leahy and Lainey Clancy and carols old, and new, were sung. Rachael Costello, Erin Halpin, Shauna Slemon and Olivia Stack sang solos. Kerri Ann Dowling accompanied the Christmas song "Somewhere only We know" and played beautifully. The primary schools got a sneak preview on Friday morning the 11th, which brought their fun filled visit to the school to a close.

School Christmas Prayer Service

Staff and students joined in song the morning of the holidays for the School Christmas Prayer Service where the real magic of the season was experienced, with everyone gathered around the crib as Baby Jesus was placed in the manger.



*Ms. Ann Foley
Music Teacher*

Gaeilge

Ghlac daltaí na hIdirbhliana páirt i 'Seó Bóthair' i mí na Nollag, 2015, agus bhain siad taitneamh agus tairbhe as. Ceardlann idirghníomach atá ann faoin nGaeilge le plé, díospóireacht agus rólghlacadh a dhéantar i mbealach taitneamhach. Ba í Louise Ní Fhearghail ó Chonradh na Gaeilge a chuire ar fáil an seó. Labhair sí leis na daltaí faoi na háiteanna ar féidir leo an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus faoina gcearta teanga. Bhí cluichí agus spraoi acu agus iad ag foghlaim ag an am céanna le linn na ceardlainne.

*Norma Dowling
Irish Teacher*



In the first term the Fifth Year girls participating in L.C.V.P. are working on and finalising portfolio items as well as learning the theory. They were also busy working on their mini-company action plan. The girls have divided into three mini-company groups so the staff and students of Pres. Listowel can look forward to a cake sale, a fun event for First Years and a Year Book for Leaving Certs. in early 2016. The girls will be looking forward to your help and support.

The Leaving Cert. Group of L.C.V.P. students are busy completing their portfolio and preparing for the mocks in February 2016. They have attended open days in the colleges, visited a local business and have been working hard on completing the course.

*Ms Teresa Culhane
LCVP Coordinator*



Pictured: 1st Year Students at the Kerry County Museum

Home Economics



Congratulations to last year's TYs who received certificates on completing the Safe Food for Life Programme and achieving Distinctions! This is an industry recognised qualification in food hygiene which

gives students life-long skills in food safety and food hygiene.

The Home Economics Department was very pleased to welcome lots of budding chefs from the local primary schools, who had fun decorating cup cakes for Christmas at our recent Orientation Day. Congratulations to Orla Shine, Murhur NS and Hazel O'Brian, Dromclough NS who won our Home Economics competition on Open Night. Home Economics Week ran from the 23rd to the 27th of November. Our week involved:

- 1) Sid Sheehan of "Nourish by Nature" delivered a presentation on "The Effects of Diet on Health" to TYs and 5th Years.
- 2) Margaret Crea of "That's Life Education Programme" delivered a presentation on Healthy Living and Well Women Issues to First Years, Third years and LCA students.
- 3) Our 6th Year Home Economics students visited Kearney's Home Bakery Ltd, Ballyhahill as part of an investigation of a local food industry.
- 4) Supervalu, Listowel, kindly sponsored fresh fruit for the students for morning break for a day.

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this week a success. Congratulations to our Home Economics Theme Week competition winners!

Caoimhe Nolan, 1st year – Healthy Lunches Competition Winner
Cara McMahon, Rachel Sheehan 2nd year – Poster competition "Healthy Eating/Living Theme Winners"

Niamh Costello 6th year – Home Economics Quiz Winner

*Ms Lisa Whelan & Ms Mary O'Connor
Home Economics Teachers*

History Department



History Week was held in the school just before Christmas. First Year

students completed some amazing projects, included where projects on the models, information booklets and posters. Some year groups went on trips to historical destinations. First Years visited Kerry County Museum for an archaeological workshop and guided tour through our county's unique history. Second Year groups visited the Famine graveyard. They investigated the local effects of one of the worst episodes in Ireland's history. Sixth Years visited Dublin to visit in Collin's Barracks, Glasnevin cemetery, the GPO and the 1916 Freedom tour outlining that tumultuous period surrounding our Independence.

*Eoin Hilliard,
History Teacher*



Transition Year



Transition year in Presentation Listowel has been amazing. Participating is the aim of the TY game. There are plenty of projects, outings and adventures have been keeping us busy. From Irish culture to the B.T. Young Scientist, it has been go, go, go! No rest for the wicked, it hasn't stopped there. Extra Curricular Activities and new



experiences with friends have gone hand in hand with TY.

Volunteering, sport, music and getting involved are a huge focus of the 2015-2016 class. An interesting insightful part of 4th Year is the modules varying from nutrition, the Bank of Ireland Learn to Earn programme to sign language to swimming. It is hard to choose between trips like Kilkenny, surfing, paintballing but Dublin surpassed them all and has been the highlight by far.

With Glasnevin, Ardnacrusha, ice skating, Croke Park Skyline Tour, the B.T. young scientist and plenty of shopping Dublin was an unforgettable experience.

T.Y. has something for everyone.

*Róisín Walsh
& Ciara Galvin
TYStudents*



TY Words

Drama Law Day
Sign Language Social Justice
Florist Exams
Nutrition Volunteering
Work Experience Personal Goals
Theatre Media
Enterprise Education

Student Council



This year, the Student Council has had regular meetings in the school. The council comes together to organise and discuss things that we feel need to be addressed. There are two representatives from each year group in the school on the council. This year the council has

discussed the canteen and the creativity week., The council works together in the school to provide a voice for our student body. Other plans for this year include liaising with the Health Promotion Committee and organising a sports day

Erin Halpin, Student Council Chairperson

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