



Presentation Secondary School Listowel

Summer Newsletter

2015

068 21452

www.presseclistowel.com

Principal's Address

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. I hope you enjoy the variety of articles and photographs provided in this issue. This newsletter offers a snap shot of life in the School.

Our School Self Evaluation focus this year was on Numeracy. Two Maths teachers, Elaine Hickey and Eimear White, produced a fantastic project in conjunction with Tralee Education Centre on "Improving attitudes to Numeracy and Problem Solving". Their project will form the basis for our School Improvement Plan for 2015-2016 on Numeracy.

We have placed a lot of emphasis this year on literacy as part of our 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan. The introduction of teacher based classrooms certainly helped in addressing the challenges regarding literacy in the classroom. The School Library is a wonderful resource that we continue to highlight to students. We are building links with the local library and theme weeks such as the Literacy Week keep a focus on such an important area.

The School Annual Report for 2014-2015 has been published. This report is available to everybody. It offers a very comprehensive overview of all aspects of education in Presentation Secondary School. It will be available on the School website in the Autumn when the website has been updated.

One of the highlights of the year has been the introduction of the theme weeks. Most subject departments organised a theme week. They were very enjoyable, with numerous activities and events organised. The setting up of the Health Promotion Committee representing parents, staff and students has placed a real emphasis on well-being in the School. The development of the field beside the School opens up lots of opportunities for lunch time activities as well as supporting the training of teams.

I wish to thank parents, staff and students for the very positive feedback received in the Whole School Questionnaires completed in March of this year. The feedback provides us with very useful data on which to plan ahead as the Board of Management finalises the Strategic Plan for 2015-2017.

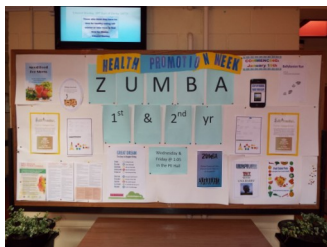
In conclusion, we are in the business of educating young women to embrace their potential, to love life and learning and to follow their dreams. May we always strive to enlighten and enthuse our girls to reach for the stars.

I thank you all, staff, parents and students for your contribution to life in Presentation Secondary School in 2014/2015
May God bless you.

Eileen Kennelly



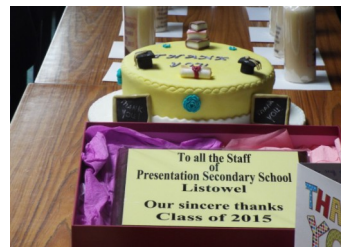
Pieta House Walk Launch



Health Promotion Week



Charity Awareness Project



Our 6th Years Say Thanks!

Student Council

The Student Council of 2014-2015 participated in the following activities:

- Attended Mental Health Day in Killarney
- Participated in the review the Behaviour Code
- Followed up later by inviting Humour Fit Production and Presentation on Bullying
- The Student Council is represented on the Health Promotion Committee
- Participated in various theme weeks, also organised the two Health Promotion theme weeks 'Food for Mood' and 'Small Changes Big Differences' promoting healthy eating and outdoor activities.
- Participated in the Open Night, provided guided tours on Open Night
- Members, along with the Head Girl, attended, on behalf of the school, the bereavement of Ms. Anne Cox, a former staff member
- Conducted a review of the student journal



Plans for 2015-2016

- Organising a Training Day for the Student Council in September
- Organising a Student Council Theme Week in September

Transition Year



Ciara O'Brien being presented with her prize for 'Best Social Project' in Dublin Castle during Tech Week. Ciara's 'Toy Story' won in the 4th to 6th year category of the Scratch competition. The winners were selected from among 800 entries nationwide.

ART

In the final term this year, students were very busy in the art room as art practicals loomed and projects for all years came to a close. First Years received a good foundation in art and have shown great enthusiasm this year in everything they have done. I look forward to nurturing this with the students who have chosen to keep art on for second year. Second Years completed an interior design project, designing a 'Room in a Box' which will be on display shortly. Third Years prepared for their practical exams and completed all aspects of their projects including 3D work, lino cuts, paintings and graphic design.

Sixth Years prepared for practical exams which include a 5hr craft exam, a 2 ½ hour still life exam and 1 ½ hour life drawing exam. Ruth Sweeney, our school representative, won a voucher for an entry to the CEIST schools' competition, for designing an award. She was awarded a €50 book voucher.

Wishing all a creative and exciting Summer ahead, from the Art Department.

Ms. C O'Riordan

Timetable Changes 2015/2016

Please note that in 2015/2016 classes run from 9 - 4pm on Mondays & Tuesdays.

On Wednesdays , Thursdays & Fridays, classes will run from 9 - 3:20pm each day.



SOCCER



Our junior team had an excellent campaign in the Shannonside League. They finished second in the division behind Rathkeale, with the highlight being a comprehensive victory over Pallaskenry. We have a young squad consisting of a number of First Years. We lost the Junior A final to Rathkeale with the players putting in a tremendous performance against the Munster champions and All-Ireland runners-up.

Squad:

Abby McMahon, Jackie Horgan, Cara McMahon, Mairead McKenna, Ciara Hudson, Michelle Walsh, Shannon Sheehy, Kaci Jo Nolan, Becky O'Mahony, Marie Kennelly, Maggie Walsh, Niamh Canty, Leah Henry, Saoirse Kennedy, Kylie Walsh, Karen Moloney.

We would like to acknowledge Savannah McCarthy who has recently graduated from Presestation Listowel. After making her debut with the Irish seniors this season, we wish her well in her future endeavours.
Eoin Hillard



Congratulation to Aoife Mahony who came third in the National Track & Field 800m recently

Leaving Certificate Applied



Congratulations to both LCA groups who achieved fantastic results in Sessions 1 and 3 of their Leaving Certificate Applied. They have completed their practical exams in Hair and Beauty and Hotel, Catering and Tourism which took place in early May. Students also recently completed their Irish and English and Communications oral exams.

Work experience has been an integral part of the students' lives and students received an opportunity to experience learning outside of the classroom. We are very grateful to businesses in our local community who support our programme and afford the students an opportunity to participate in work experience. The Open Night was a great achievement for LCA, as the students showed their skills in hair and beauty by running an open salon for the night. They did manicures, up styles and nail art. It was hugely successful.

To mark 'Home Economics Day', the students made a selection of Easter cakes.

As part of the enterprise element of the programme, the students in LCA 1 organised a salon for a day under the name of "LCA Beauts" and offered hair and nails services to students. It was extremely successful and allowed other students in the school to see what LCA was about. In April the students received an opportunity to attend a make-up trial in a local chemist as part of their hair and beauty course and really enjoyed it.

Green Schools



The highlight of this term was Water Conservation Week held from April 27th to May 1st. The TY students put in Trojan work to make it such a success. Junior Cycle students contributed by researching all aspects of water and presenting this in a poster format, displayed in the school's Social Area. Visitors to the school commented in a very positive way on their work and these will remain as a very important resource in the geography room. TY Students, as part of the April National Spring Clean, went litter picking by the River Feale near Listowel Castle. They were photographed by a prominent member of the Listowel Tidy Towns Committee and their picture can be viewed on the Listowel Tidy Towns website. Congratulations to all students who won a prize in the water themed wordsearch and many thanks to Ms. Kennelly who generously sponsored their prizes. We look forward to an exciting year in 2015-2016 when we will be inspected for our third flag. On behalf of the G.S committee, I would like to wish all members of the school community and their families, an enjoyable summer. For all those who enjoy water sports, in particular, I urge you to keep safe.
Ms Margaret Daly, Green Schools Co-ord



English

It has been an exciting second term for the English team. We welcomed writer in residence, John W. Sexton, to our school. John W. delivered workshops in creative writing to our Fifth Year girls. The experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We look forward to having John W. back again.

The English department played its part during 'Literacy Theme Week.' First through to Third Years were actively encouraged to participate in 'Who wants to be a word millionaire?' It was a resounding success with Megan Canty, 3 Dympna, surpassing all expectations. Megan, through her non-stop reading, has certainly redefined the term 'avid reader.' Well done to Megan! The newly designated **Reading Corner** will surely serve the needs of all well.

Pres Listowel has been supporting Writers' Week's Operation Education since its inception. Over one hundred of the girls attended on May 28th. And what a jam-packed day it was! And how the girls enjoyed it! Joanne O'Riordan, Paul Durcan, Niall McMonagle, Temper- Mental MissElayneous, Séamus Barra Ó Súilleabháin, Will Collins, David Rawle, Sarah Webb, John W. Sexton, Elaine Kinsella, James O'Donoghue and The Promise all featured at this wonderful event. The atmosphere was inspiring. A big "thank you" to Máire Logue and to the very hard-working committee who made it all possible.

The English Department, through its work, believes as Yeats did

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

Let's hope that the events of this year have ignited the necessary sparks!

Muireann O'Sullivan



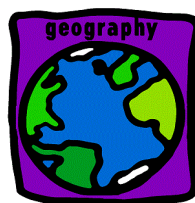
It has been a busy few months. The Sixth Year students prepared well for their French Oral exams. Considering that this examination is worth 20% or 25% of one's overall mark (depending on the level), it was well worth the extra hours of hard graft.

Renise, our *assiatante* for the year, has since returned to France but not before making an excellent contribution to 'Modern European Languages Theme Week.' Thanks too to our international students who added a cosmopolitan flair to the four-day event. French, German, Italian, Spanish and Danish were all given pride of place, culturally and linguistically.

Some of the junior classes also wrote letters, in French, to pen pals in French schools. It was, no doubt, a great experience and it highlighted the importance of French as a means of communication.

Vive cette belle langue et bonnes vacances à toutes nos étudiantes.

Muireann O'Sullivan



GEOGRAPHY

The annual Sixth Year Leaving Certificate field investigation took place in October in Killarney in National Park where students actively took part and this will, hopefully, be reflected in their Leaving Certificate results in August. All geography students played an active role in Water Week and many were encouraged to be stewards of their local environment. First and Second Year students entered the An Post competition; Rás na Mná and Journey of a Parcel.

Margaret Daly & Caroline Reynolds



Presentation of €500 to DonalWalshLiveLife Foundation

Student Enterprise Awards

The TY class showed great interest in Enterprise at the start of the year and decided to exercise their entrepreneurial skills by setting up their own mini-businesses. A mentor from the Kerry County Enterprise Board visited us on a number of occasions and assisted the girls in turning their ideas into profitable businesses. One team was chosen to represent the school at the Student Enterprise Awards final in Tralee on Friday March 20th. The lucky team, called the *Sugar Shack*, were very successful in selling decorated jars of sweets for special occasions. They won the prize for the best stand! M McSweeney



Since the last newsletter our Third Years have completed 50% of their Home Economics exam by doing their practical cookery exams and their optional studies of craft projects or childcare projects last April.

In the final term LCA 1 Eanna completed some delicious Easter cakes and prepared and served a three course lunch for some lucky staff members. LCA 2 Fionnbar completed their practical cookery exam in Hotel, Catering and Tourism. Congratulations to Laura Moloney and Eve McKenna, Transition Year who are prize winners in the Bord Bia Schools competition which is part of Listowel Food Fair this June.

Well done to First Years on completing their felt bookmarkers which were ready just in time for Writers Week!

M. O'Connor & L. Whelan

On Wednesday 14th January, our TY team opened a student bank in the school. After being interviewed by senior staff from the Listowel branch of Bank of Ireland, a very competent team of girls was put in place to run the project. They were suitably trained and assisted each week by Conor McAuliffe. They gained invaluable knowledge and experience over the course of eight weeks. Killian Young was also on hand to provide extra support and encouragement when needed.

The venture was a roaring success with over one hundred accounts opened. The team's hard work and enthusiasm was rewarded with the presentation of certificates acknowledging their great effort.

The students were also invited to visit the bank in Listowel on 18th March. We were given a grand tour of the premises, including the main customer area, the management offices and even to see the safes where all the cash is stored. After a very interesting chat with manager Denise Mullane, we were treated to drinks and cookies before returning to school. Overall this was an excellent project to be involved in.

M MSweeney.



Mrs. Elma Walsh & Catherine Carmody



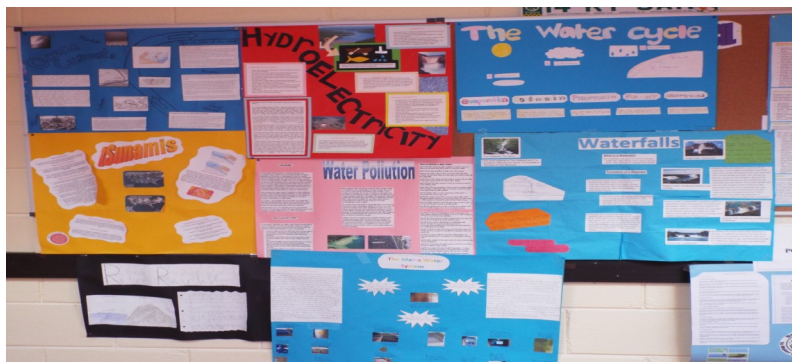
Emma Gleeson & Ms. Kennelly



CEIST Leadership Day Dublin



Bingo Jackpot Winner



Water Week 2015

**“ So please, oh please, we beg, we pray
Go throw your TV set away
And in its place you can install
A lovely bookshelf on the wall “**

Perhaps Roald Dahl was a little extreme in his plea, but

anyone who has been fortunate enough to get totally immersed in a good book, knows there is at least a grain of truth in his verse.

In January of this year, we carried out an extensive survey, with the help of our colleagues in the English Department, of First and Second 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. In recent weeks a selection of titles, reflecting the broad choices revealed in our survey, has been purchased.

Literacy Week which took place from the 2nd to the 6th of March, featured World Book Day on the Thursday of that week. During the week, an appeal to the student body for donations of books, no longer required at home, was very successful. We will gladly continue to accept any further donations during the year.

The week also helped highlight the many lifelong benefits we can all gain from spending a little more time reading. During the week, all departments played a role in promoting literacy throughout the school. The English department was the driving force behind a wonderful initiative called “who wants to be a word millionaire”. This initiative, which involved First and Second Year classes, set aside ten minutes of each class for that week to read a book, chosen by the student herself. A simple method to calculate the word count for the number of pages read per student was calculated and the results presented at the end of the week. Many students were surprised at the huge counts achieved at the end of the exercise, which had the desired effect of having classes read something other than a textbook. Initiatives like this can help reintroduce young people to a world where the wonders of reading just might displace the TV set or iPhone, if only for a little while, and maybe even make room for a lovely bookshelf.

In March of this year Ms. Kennelly and I visited Kerry County Council Library in Listowel. We were made very welcome by Patty Ann O’ Leary who showed us around and provided us with some useful pointers for running our own library and making maximum use of our more modest resources.

A dedicated “reading corner” was set up in the main corridor to make the activity of reading more relaxed and inviting. This area includes a table and benches and some more laid back seating in the form of bean bags. Magazines, books and newspapers are available to help foster a culture where reading or browsing becomes an important part of chilling out at break time.

We have tried over the past year to make our library and its books more relevant to all our students and we hope that our students will engage with and benefit from it. The library is open to all students during lunch time on both Tuesday and Thursday of every week. Reading for just ten minutes a day can make a huge difference to a young person's future. Literature and books play a fundamental role in developing young peoples' academic engagement, development and life chances, providing the framework and stimulus through which to deepen their understanding of themselves and the world around them, through empathising with characters and situations in high quality stories.

Jacqueline Normile.

Library

