



**Presentation Secondary School
Listowel, Co Kerry**

Summer Newsletter 2016



Principal's Address



Welcome to the Summer 2016 edition of our newsletter. This edition highlights all the wonderful events that took place in the school since Christmas.

The students have enjoyed a diverse range of experiences. We encourage our girls to get involved in activities and to challenge themselves to engage. The highlights of this past term were Proclamation Day, the theme weeks, the House Team events, the Sports Day and the Green Flag success to mention a few. It was fantastic to see the field being used on the Sports Day and also for team training during the year.

We wish the Leaving Cert Class of 2016 well as they embark on their new journey. They are a wonderful group. I acknowledged their contribution to the school on the Graduation Day on May 26th, they deserve to do well.

The Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 18th May was a lovely occasion. Our philosophy of placing an emphasis on positive affirmation and rewarding effort was the focus of the event. Warmest congratulations to Kerri Ann Dowling and Niamh O'Sullivan who were awarded the CEIST/Nano Nagle and Overall School Spirit Awards. Congratulations to every student who was given an award.

I wish to express my thanks to the Student Council for their engaging work during the year. The workshop on Student Councils presented by Pat Murphy in September was excellent. They girls gained a significant insight into the effective running of a Student Council. Thanks to Head Girl Laura Keane, Deputy Head Girl Rebecca Long and the Executive of the Student Council for their efforts during the year. The current Board of Management completes its three year term in October. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairperson Mike Sheehy who has served on the Board of Management in Presentation Listowel for twenty years, I also wish to acknowledge the contributions of Leo Daly and Una McElligott. Their longstanding commitment to our school is very much appreciated. I wish to also thank the others members of the current Board for their time and genuine interest in the management of our school. The Parents' Association will be holding an AGM in September to nominate two parents to the new Board.

The Executive of the Parents' Association and the Chairperson of the Student Council Erin Halpin met with the Board of Management in May to discuss their activities during the school year with the Board. It was an excellent meeting. The concept of partnership is a lived experience in Presentation Listowel. Our school is a welcoming school that emphasises the importance of the school community and on every member of that community feeling valued.

The Bingo fundraising event that was held on April 24th was a great success. It raised €6,400 for the school. Thanks to all the local businesses who contributed so generously to the event. The staff, parents and students also worked hard to ensure that this event was a success. We are indeed blessed to have such a supportive school community. On another financial matter we applied for and were granted funding for the rewiring of the school. This work will take place in July.

We continue to work very hard to ensure that our girls are happy and enjoy being at school in Presentation Listowel. Our objective is to uphold the fantastic traditions of this school which include our Christian ethos and high academic achievements. Our mission statement states

'We aim to assist in the development of the full potential of each girl in a pleasant and safe environment, where the dignity of each member of the School Community is recognised, affirmed and valued. We aim to awaken our girls to their true dignity and role as women in present day society.'

May we continue to be challenged to deliver on what those who went before us aspired to.

May God bless you

Library

“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.”



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 people’s academic engagement, development and life choices, 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.

The school library has a wide range of books for all year groups and I encourage you all to pay a visit and delve into the wonderful world of reading.

We expanded our school library in December. This larger, brighter space is much more welcoming and inviting. It is now used by the Book Club every Thursday - run by Ms O Loughlin to encourage recreational reading.

Since the recent expansion, the library is now open every lunch time due to

help and support of the a dedicated group of volunteers. In this regard, I want to give a special mention to one student in particular, Karolina Kowalczyk, for her help and support.

Literacy Week, which took place from the 29th of February to the 4th 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 was very successful. We will gladly continue to accept any further donations

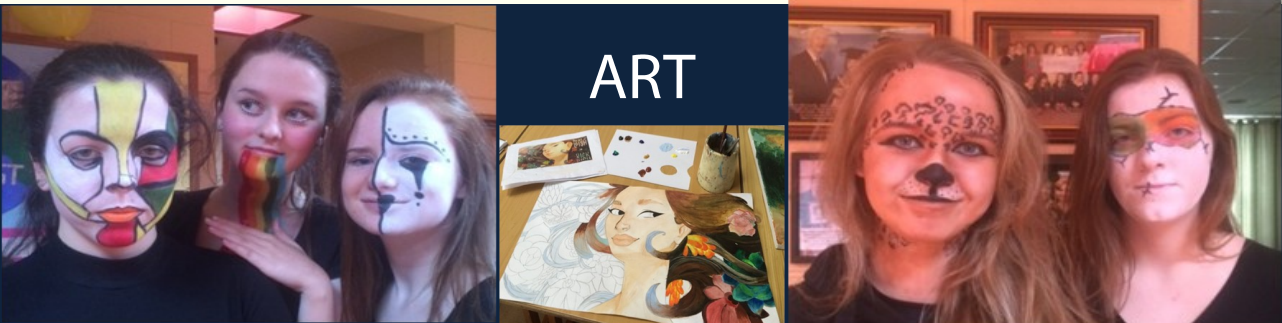
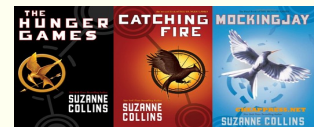
The week helped to highlight the many lifelong benefits we can all gain from spending a little more time reading. Students made trips to the school library as well as to the public library. Some students took part in a literacy quiz and a writing workshop conducted by Gabriel Fitzmaurice. Students also engaged with reading through the ‘drop everything and read’ week. Initiatives like this can help to

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.

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.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students the very best in their exams and I wish our Leaving Cert. students every success in the future.

As always, happy reading.
Ms J Normile



In March we held our Art week in the school. This comprised of artwork displays, art related competitions and an exciting face painting display by the TY students at lunchtime. The TY students created many props for their school musical which was a huge success and was held on Awards Day.

The Second Year students showed off their interior design skills by working on their ‘Room in a box’ project. The Fifth Year students created paintings based on famous artworks, mostly on canvas, and their work was displayed in the school during the term.



Ms C O’Riordan

Debating



This academic year saw the reintroduction of a debating team. The girls competed in the Concern Debates and did the school proud. We would like to congratulate Ciara O'Brien on winning the Concern Debate Researcher of the Year Award. We are all extremely proud of her.

Mr E Hilliard, Ms G O'Loughlin & Mr M Daly



Book Club



To encourage literature discussion, a Book Club met every Thursday in the school library throughout the academic year.

This club has enabled teachers and students to communicate and discuss books of interest.

It has been a pleasure reading numerous books that the students recommended and I can't wait to discuss books in the Book Club next year.

Ms G O'Loughlin



Comórtas Sóisearach Matamaitice Éireann

Congratulations to Isobel Keane and Aisling Kelly who participated in the Kerry Final of the Irish Junior Mathematics competition (Comórtas Sóisearach Matamaitice Éireann) organised by the Irish Mathematics Teachers Association (IMTA).

Well done!

Ms J Normile & Ms N Dowling



Student Council

Well done to the Student Council members 2015-16 who did a fantastic job in representing their classes by attending regular lunchtime meetings. The highlight of the year was the talent show which was a huge success. A special word of thanks to Erin Halpin and Kaylene Chute for coordinating all the events. They were very involved in the school activities.

Ms K Kennedy

History Department

2016 has been a busy year so far for History in Pres Listowel. With the centenary commemoration of the Easter Rising in full swing across the country during March and April, we held our own Proclamation Day ceremony on March 15th. Our "proclamation for a new generation", a 6th year tree planting initiative in honour of the fallen leaders and the raising of the Tricolour above the school as the proclamation was read out, were among the many highlights of the day. Earlier that month, our Transition Years went to Dublin to be presented with the national flag as part of festivities at Croke Park, with President Michael D. Higgins in attendance.

Our Second Years also visited Leeside in May, with students taking in Blarney Castle and Cork Gaol as part of their studies. Despite the inclement weather, the spectacular attractions (and the bit of shopping after!) were well received. All non exam groups have been powering through the syllabus with the 5th year group in particular coming up with some fantastic ideas (such as Coco Chanel, Cinema during World War, the infamous mobster John Gotti and JFK's visit to Ireland) for next year's research study report. In what has been a busy and stressful year for our Junior and Leaving Cert students, the History department would like to wish all of them the best of luck in the upcoming exams. As someone much wiser once said, 'take pride in how far you have come and have faith in how far you can go...'

Mr E Hilliard



Literacy Week

Presentation Listowel organized an excellent literacy themed week aimed at improving recreational reading.

The week included trips to the local library, a writing workshop with Gabriel Fitzmaurice, a literacy quiz and numerous competitions. We always strive to encourage reading and we aim to continue to do so.

Ms G O'Loughlin & Mr M Daly



Bond Trader Challenge

Bank of Ireland

The Bank of Ireland ran a competition called 'The Bond Trader Challenge' on April 20th, 2016 in The Brehon Hotel in Killarney. Five 5th Year Accounting students participated in the event and represented the school very well.

Unfortunately they did not win a prize but they had a lovely evening and as you can see in the photo below they got to meet Killian Young.

Ms T Culhane



French Department

The French Department is always a hive of activity. It becomes obviously so during the run-up to the Leaving Cert oral exams as the students busily and doggedly prepare. Not an easy task one might say. That said, the Sixth Years of 2016 rose to the occasion and acquitted themselves in style. We wish them well for the 'big exam' in June. We, of course, wish our Junior Certs every good wish for their forthcoming examinations and all other students sitting house examinations.



The month of January brought with it Modern Languages Theme Week. This is a collaborative effort between the two modern languages departments. We thank Mrs. Kennedy, German Department, for her input. This is a valuable opportunity for the whole school community to witness living languages and cultures at work. The fact that Presentation Listowel plays host to a dozen or so foreign students adds to the quality of the week.

On a personal note I would like to say "*mille fois merci*" to Ms. Muireann O'Connor who is sadly leaving us to take up a teaching position in a neighbouring county. *On te manquera bien sûr.*

M O'Sullivan

English Department



It has been a very busy but rewarding second term for English students and teachers in Presentation Listowel.

Students took part in a school literacy week which aimed at encouraging recreational reading and enhancing writing. In addition, all TY and Fifth Year students attended 'Operation Education'; an initiative we ran in conjunction with Listowel Writers' Week.

We would like to wish all students well in their exams and every success in the future.

The English Department

Religion



The RE department has been busy over the last two terms. Catholic Schools Week was marked in January. Pupils from each year read a daily reflection on the theme of 'mercy' and a visual display on the theme was created and displayed in the social area for the duration.

Ash Wednesday, was marked by staff and pupils wearing of the ashes. A group of pupils from Presentation Secondary led the Stations of the Cross in St Mary's Church on Friday 26th of February. Many parishioners attended this event.

Pupils from First Year made a great effort for Trocaire and raised over €200 by selling blue ribbons before the Easter break. Our three First Year groups also organised and prepared their own class Masses which were celebrated by Cannon Declan O'Connor. They participated in a candle ceremony again with the Sixth Year cohort, this time offering the same candle they received in September as a sign of welcome to secondary school, as a gift and gesture of goodwill to the pupils who were about to graduate.

Finally, our Sixth Year group celebrated their Graduation Mass on Thursday 26th of May. Pupils will participated in the Liturgy of the Word and the music. Thanks to Sr. Eilis and Ms. Foley for all their work in the organisation of this event.

Ms J O'Connor & Sr Eilis Daly

Football



Our First Year football team participated in the inaugural Presentation Schools Cup competition. The girls qualified for the shield final against Castleisland.

Listowel beat Castleisland in this final after a very accomplished team performance from all the girls. These girls are a dedicated and talented group of players who played excellent football throughout the competition. Well done to all the girls.



Ms E White & Ms M O'Connor

Soccer



After a shortened league campaign due to postponements and a harsh winter for pitches, Presentation Listowel played Desmond College in Newcastlewest on the 19th of May in the junior divisional final of the Shannonside League. With a young squad, we went behind early in the first half, but fought back to level matters with a Hannah Healy deflected goal just before half time. Presentation went on to dominate the second half with goals from Aishling Kelly and Máiréad McKenna. Aishling's 35 yard free kick into the top corner was the pick of the bunch. Final score: 3-1. Great performances all round from a group of exceptional players who are all underage again next year.

Mr E Hilliard



Science Department



The Science Department organised a varied programme for the school year 2015-16 .

Our Fifth and Sixth Year Agricultural Science students visited Neilus O'Connor's potato farm in Moyvane as part of their Agricultural Science project for Leaving Cert. Neilus was very welcoming and showed us the different types of seed potatoes that he stores. It was a very informative trip.

Enthused by this potato farm visit we decided as a group (5th & 6th Years) that we would plant our own potatoes in the school. The TY students also helped out.

The potatoes are doing well and have started to sprout up. They will grow over the summer months and be ready for harvesting when we come back to school the end of August early September. (Pictures attached) We will have more news and pictures on the potatoes when we get back. Hopefully they will be ready for eating!

Science Department



Home Economics



It has been a busy term .The Third Year students prepared well for their practical cookery exam and also their optional studies of craft and childcare projects.

LCA1 visited Listowel Castle as part of their Hotel Catering and Tourism module. LCA 2 students completed their practical cookery exams.

Well done to Adi Canty who represented our school as a finalist in the Ceist All Ireland Bake Off sponsored by Odlums .The theme of the Bake Off was Irish heritage . Adi used the Irish bodhran as an inspiration for her cake.

Ms M O'Connor & Ms L Whelan

The Learning School Project

Gemma O'Loughlin and Muireann O'Connor conducted research on Assessment for Learning Strategies this year. This Learning School Project was supported by Tralee Education Centre. First Year teachers and First Year students were involved in the project. It is a fantastic piece of research. On the basis of this research we will continue in 2016/17 with the Assessment of Learning strategies in all Junior Cycle classes. Sincere thanks to both Gemma and Muireann. They did fantastic work and this research is now published.

Health Promotion Week

Health Promotion week was a great success this year, with fun events for all pupils. There was a bog walk on the Tuesday evening, it was a whole school effort. Students were divided into house teams, with students from each year on each team. It was great fun for all the girls and it created a great sense of team spirit across the board. Circuits were held every day for the girls and a Zumba class at lunch time on Thursday which the girls thoroughly enjoyed. Some Fourth and Fifth Year students climbed Carrantouhill as part of the week also.

Ms M O'Connor & Mr E Hilliard





Green Schools

This year was a very successful year for the Green Schools. Three students attended an Irish Water Ambassador Programme in March and worked on promoting water conservation, as directed by the programme. TY students also took part in the Annual April Spring Clean and were commended for their work by the Tidy Town.

Other activities included meeting with members of the Listowel Tidy Towns Committee in the Town Park, to discuss the feasibility of developing a medicinal herb garden. The year finished with three TY students attending an award ceremony in Cork, where they were presented with our third flag (Water).

We look forward to the official launch of this flag during our environmental week in the next academic year and working towards our fourth flag, based on transport.

I wish to thank all of our students and staff for their continued support in promoting and adhering to the Green Schools ideals.

Margaret Daly – Green Schools Coordinator



123 Maths Department Scratch Competition

The Maths Department held a successful maths week to coincide with National Maths Week. Students participated in a maths trail around the school, daily puzzles and brainteasers to promote the vital tool of problem solving.

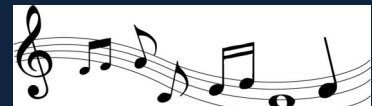
A variety of students represented the school at various maths quizzes, namely the pi quiz, the Irish Olympiad and IMTA competition. Well done to all who represented the school so well.

Maths Department



Ciara Galvin qualified for the Scratch Competition National Finals which were held in the RDS on the 28th April 2016. Ciara's project, 'The Arcade', represented the school in the 4th Year to 6th Year school category. Ciara's project can still be viewed online on scratch.ie by clicking on the competition tab.

Music Department



TY Musical—Hannah Montana & Camp Rock

The TY students performed the Musical on Awards Day (May 18th). They wrote their own script and chose their own songs. Mairead Sheehy (Jessie), Cara O'Brien (Jackson), Kaylene Chute (Hannah/Miley), Eimear Quinn (Kevin), Saidhbh Carmody (Teresa), Aisling Keane (Uncle Browne), Selina Mc Cool (Aaron), Molly Reilly (Travis) and Meabh Trench (Billy Ray Cyrus) all participated.



Awards Ceremony

Before the Awards Ceremony, there were performances from all year groups.

Sixth Year students who performed were Fionnuala Ni Trinsigh and Kerri Ann Dowling on the Piano. Niamh O'Sullivan played the Flute. Transition Year Students, Mairead Brosnan, Eimear Quinn, Aisling Keane (Trad Group) performed with Erin Halpin singing. The Third and Second Year students, Rachael Costello, Olivia Stack with Trad Group, Enya O'Sullivan, Ali Cahill, Clodagh Murphy, Roisin Kissane, Louise Madden with Finola Keane also performed. The First Year Choir sang. Niamh McAuliffe Sang 'Fields of Gold beautifully' and Isobel Keane played the piano.



Leaving Certificate Applied

LCA 1 visited a recording studio in Killarney on May 23rd where they recorded a song. Lianne Lyons sang solo. It was great experience and a great day.

Ms A Foley



Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme



As the school year comes to an end its time to highlight a few events in the L.C.V.P. calendar of 2015/2016 for both 5th Year and 6th Year students.

The 6th Year students completed their portfolio in March and their final exam on May 4. They worked hard so I hope they get the result they want in September. Best of Luck to all the Leaving Cert. girls in their future careers.

The 5th and 6th Year students got an opportunity to visit North Kerry Ingredients in April. The girls were given a presentation about the company and had a guided tour. The 5th Year students have been busy between work experience, a visit from Mr. Tony Carroll, Assistant Industrial Organiser with S.I.P.T.U. and their mini company events. One company ran a bake sale for 'Bumbleance' and another ran a table quiz for First Years to raise funds for 'Make-a-Wish Foundation'.

The final group published a year book for Leaving Certs. They also went to the UCC open day which will be helpful when completing their career investigation for their portfolio.

I wish to thank the following for all their help in making the school year successful., all the local employers who provided our girls with work experience in March, Mr. Tony Carroll for his visit , Ms. Tess Noonan of North Kerry Ingredients for organising our visit, the staff of the Lartigue Monorail. Students and staff who supported our mini company events.

Ms T Culhane



Gaeilge



Roinn na Gaeilge

Bhí bliain ghnóthach eile ag Roinn na Gaeilge i rith na bliana stairiúla seo.

Comóradh 1916

Bhí béim nach beag ar Chomóradh Éirí Amach na Casca 1916 sna ranganna teagaisc, go háirithe sna ranganna sinsearach. Ar an ábhar sin, bhí nasc láidir idir an Roinn Staire agus Roinn na Gaeilge i mbliana. Thug daltaí na hIdirbhliana cuairt ar Cheanncheathrú Chonradh na Gaeilge, ar stiúideo Raidió Rí Rá agus ar An Siopa Leabhar ar Shráid Fhearchair, Baile Átha Cliath agus ar reilig Ghlas Naíon i mí Eanáir. Chuaigh Máiréad Ní Bhrosnacháin ar ais ar thairbhí oibre go Conradh na Gaeilge tamall ina dhiaidh sin.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Gach bliain iarrann an roinn ar dhaltaí na hidirbhliana 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' a eagrú sa scoil. I mbliana, theastaigh ó na daltaí rud

difriúil a dhéanamh. Mar sin d'eagraigh siad 'Aonach na Gaeilge' do na daltaí sa chéad bhliain. I measc na gníomhaíochtaí a bhí ar siúl san aonach bhí cluichí ceoil is cathaoireacha, péinteáil aghaidhe, lacha lacha gé, máisiú chistéiní cupa, rásaí uibheacha agus spúnóga agus iad go léir ar siúl trí mhéan na Gaeilge. Bhí duaiseanna áille ar fáil le linn an aonaigh chomh maith. Rinne daltaí na hIdirbhliana togha na hoibre agus bhain na daltaí go léir tairbhe agus taitneamh as.

Ciorcal Cainte

Bhíodh an ciorcal cainte ar siúl ag am lóin gach Máirt i rith na bliana. Beidh sé ar siúl arís an bhliain seo chugainn le Cúnamh Dé. Beatha Teanga í a labhairt.

Ag an bpointe seo ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le roinnt daoine, ina measc, gach dalta a rinne iarracht feabhas a chur ar a cuid Gaeilge nó a

bliana seo, daltaí na hIdirbhliana a thug tacaíocht do Roinn na Gaeilge, agus dár ndóigh, leis na múinteoirí Gaeilge a oibríonn go dian ar ár son i rith na bliana.

Bainigí taitneamh as na laethanta saoire.

Ó Norma Ní Dhúllaing





Presentation Secondary School



Awards Day 2016



Margaret Walsh Deputy Principal, Niamh O'Sullivan winner of Overall School Spirit Donal Walsh Perpetual Award 2016, Kerri Ann Dowling, winner of the CEIST Nano Nagle & Student of the Year 2016 Award with Principal Eileen Kennelly



Nano Nagle CEIST and Student of the Year Award 2016 Kerri Ann Dowling collecting her award from Ms Kennelly and Ms Walsh



Leaving Certificate Applied Award 2016 Accepting her Award is Sophie Leigh Dunn Pictured with Principi Eileen Kennelly



Top Achievers Award Leaving Certificate Class 2015 Ms Walsh & Ms Kennelly presenting the awards to Ciara Moriarty, Emma Cauty and Timara Kirby

TY Graduation



The Transition Year Graduation and Awards Ceremony took place on Monday 30th May 2016. The students, along with their parents and staff members, took a look back at the wide range of experiences the students have gained in the school year. Students of the TY Year were presented to Erin Halpin and Máireád Brosnan. Kelly Scanlon and Selina McCool were presented with TY School Spirit.




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