



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020

PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL, LISTOWEL, CO. KERRY



PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter 2020.

I am delighted to share this newsletter with you, it celebrates all of the engaging and enjoyable activities of this past term.

I wish to thank everyone for the tremendous cooperation and teamwork that has enabled us to operate effectively this term given the enormous challenges that COVID 19 has put our way.

We will continue to work together in implementing all of the procedures so that we keep each other safe and well. We look forward to the roll out of the COVID vaccination programme in the Spring and hopefully, then, a return to our normal routines.

The Board of Management will be inviting the representatives of the Parents' Association and the Student Council to meet with the Board at the next meeting on 19th January. This meeting will provide a platform to both review, and to discuss current matters. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Design Team for the new building are working very hard behind the scenes. This new development will bring with it a whole new educational experience for staff and students. The last extension was 40 years ago in 1980, it is indeed time for a new vision for the school with the provision of much needed new facilities for our students and staff.

Advent is a season of Hope. Our Trustees, CEIST, have shared some beautiful Advent reflections with us that the Ethos Team/RE teachers have shared with the girls in class.

Christmas really is about family and friendship, it really is about receiving and giving, it really is about being at home and finding that God somehow is there in the midst of all of that we are together and do together. Ultimately, Advent is a great reconciler; it is about finding peace and joy in knowing God's love for us and for all of humanity and indeed all of creation.

Being fully human, being fully with our families, being fully present to nature, being fully aware of the giftedness of our life and the lives of others; that is the real meaning of Christmas into which the child Jesus invites us. See how much love the Father has lavished on us! And then in awareness of that love, see how it is that peace breaks through, even and perhaps more especially for Christmas in a year like no other; the year 2020.

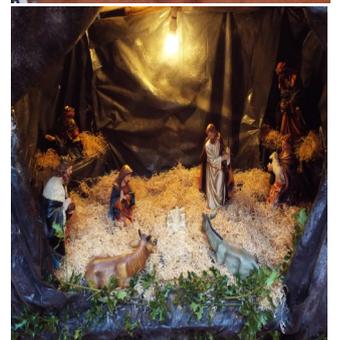
With those inspiring thoughts in mind I would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

I wish to express my gratitude to the staff for their exceptional care of our girls. May we look forward to 2021 with hope and to putting the 'the year like no other 2020' behind us.

Eileen Kennelly
Principal

A Christmas Prayer

God, our dayspring and our dawn,
We turn to you when we fear the dark
And all around us weep.
We pray you greet us with your shining light
That we may spread your warm embrace
And kindle the hope of Christmas
In all whose lives remain in shadow.
Come and be our strength
O Lord, our hope and our salvation. Amen.





Geography Department

On the 30th September 2020 the Leaving Cert Geography students accompanied by Ms Daly and Ms Galvin conducted their fieldwork study in Killarney National Park. Our focus was on the Glengarriff River

which flows through Friar's Glen. The students availed of the opportunity to put their classroom knowledge into practice. Students explored the wetted perimeter and valley shape, evaluated stones according to Power's Roundness

Scale and estimated the river's velocity using a flowmeter. Although the weather was damp, the girls were undeterred and gathered the relevant evidence for their fieldwork study. This has been written up and is ready for submission for next April 2021. Ms Daly & Ms Galvin



PE & Extra Curricular Sport

All the girls have really enjoyed PE this term and of course the incentive of no uniform on that day has been a great bonus for them! This year due to COVID 19 restrictions no extracurricular activities such as soccer or GAA games are currently taking place. However, this hasn't stopped us from allowing the girls to get as much exercise & enjoyment as possible. Lunchtime activities have been busy. From September to October Midterm, we held a Lunchtime basketball league for First years which was very much enjoyed by all. First years and second years enjoy lunchtime activities in the hall during the week while there is also badminton every Thursday at lunchtime for junior students. All the girls are encouraged to be active and to get involved as much as possible and all activities plus more will continue into 2021.



Mr Daly



Lá Gaeilge

Ceiliúradh Lá Gaeilge ar an 13ú Samhain anseo sa scoil. Lá spraoiúil a bhí ann agus rinne gach dalta an-iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt i rith an lae. Ghlacamar páirt i ngníomhaíochtaí éagsúla ar nós tráth na gceist, cómortaas seanfhocail agus d'fhéachamar ar ghearrscannán Gaeilge sna ranganna Gaeilge. Comh maith le sin bhí duaiseanna ann dos na daoine a dhein an iarracht is mó an Ghaeilge a labhairt i rith an lae. Is teanga álainn í an Ghaeilge mar go gcuireann sí ár n-oidhreacht agus ár gcultúr i gcuimhne dúinn. Tugann laethanta cosúil le Lá Gaeilge deis dúinn mar scoil ár dteanga dhúchais a cheiliúradh. Jodie Ní Chatháin Bl. 2

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Home Economics Department

Transition Year and Fifth Year Home Economics students had the valuable opportunity to attend a webinar with Aine O'Donnell from ARC on 5th November.

The Aquaculture Remote Classroom (ARC) is a mobile classroom which has been designed to raise young people's awareness of aquaculture. Aquaculture is the farming of plants and animals in the water. Although almost all of us have seen and understand farming on the land, not many people are aware that we also farm plants and animals in the water.

Bord lascaigh Mhara has developed the ARC as part of a European wide campaign called #FarmedintheEU. Although this project has been carried out in 10 other EU countries, Ireland is the only one that has developed a mobile classroom. Farmed in the EU aims to highlight the benefits of aquaculture in supplying sustainable seafood for the growing population, creating employment and helping sustain coastal communities in Ireland and all over the world.



Music Department

We are blessed to have so many talented musicians in our school, although restrictions are in place this has not stopped them showcasing their talents.

To celebrate Presentation day our music students recorded an instrumental and Nano Nagle hymn which was then broadcast in class before each group watched the Presentation Day Mass on the 20th of November.

Our 5th Year music students performed in St Mary's Church, Listowel at the 10.30 mass on December 8th.

We have purchased a class set of ukuleles and our 1st Year choir are currently learning chords on these instruments.

Music students from various year groups performed for the open night recordings while our First Years have formed a grúpa cheoil and perform on Wednesdays in the school hall for their fellow First Year students.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

We have been restricted in our activities so far in the Link Modules programme due to COVID 19 but we are battling on. Mr. John Browne joined the team in late September and was with us until December 11. The girls had a very interesting virtual visit in from Ashley Fitzgerald (Marketing Manager) of Listowel Credit Union in November. It was our first experience of a virtual visit in, in the history of the L.C.V.P. programme in the school. It certainly was different but it worked. We would have preferred to have her in the classroom in person but it was the best we could have under the circumstances. We will have more such visits during this school year.

The girls were very busy organising their mini company 'Mask-up' throughout the term which culminated in the arrival of sale day on Friday, November 27. We had to take all Covid protocols into consideration so it was a steep learning curve for all. It was a delight to be able to source the face masks from a local producer. All masks were sold and the profit of 212 euro was presented to Noreen Queally of the Listowel Branch of the 'Irish Cancer Society' on Tuesday, December 1. The girls enjoyed the experience and will use the mini company to prepare a portfolio item and will be used for notes in their written exam. The girls also covered valuable theory to prepare them for exams and for life.

I want to wish Mr. Browne the best of luck in his studies. We would like to wish all our students and parents a very Happy Christmas and a safe New Year 2021!!!!
Teresa Culhane, Link Modules Teacher





Transition Year

It has been a tremendously busy term for the TY group in Presentation Listowel. Numerous events, activities, fundraising, training and life experiences have helped the group to fulfil their potential, as the first term draws to a close. These include modules such as: Enterprise 'Make That Course', the 'LIFT' programme, GAA Future Leaders Programme, and the 'Project One Sky Wellbeing' programme.

They were also kept busy participating in GAISCE. GAISCE is a self-developed programme set up in Ireland in 1985. 300,000 young people have participated so far. Core values such as empowerment, inclusion and equality, respect, and excellence are nurtured in the participants.

The group have experienced activities this year such as Splashsports Surf School, Tralee Bay Wetlands Eco & Activity Park, Black Valley Hike, Gold Mine Future Plan Programme – IT Tralee, Irish School of Excellence Driving School, Junk Kouture Recycled Fashion Competition, Local Historical Walks, Science Week, Lá Gaeilge and a Hair & Beauty Wellbeing Workshop.

The students have participated on work experience and extra tuition has been provided for students as an alternative choice. Portfolio Assessment takes place in December and again in May so students are busy with preparations. This does not deter this wonderful group of students who are currently running a Christmas fundraiser for local charities.

The TY team would like to thank everyone in the community for all their help and support during the year as we sign off on 2020.

Merry Christmas to all and here's to a great '21!





Guidance and Counselling

The guidance department have adapted to the new ways of living and doing things consequent upon restrictions of COVID 19. The senior cycle students have a career class each week, all of the materials and resources for the class are online. The student are registered on the Reach+ programme on Careers portal, this is an online career resource and information website that provides college related information and assessment test to students (www.careersportal.ie).

The students also have access to use materials on skills2succeed academy (<https://s2sacademy.ie/login/>). This online resource provide students with practical and relatable information about career and getting ready for progression to life after the Leaving Certificate.

Information regarding open days and other college events are now online. All senior cycle students have access to register and log in to attend these events online. All of the information about college open days are shared on Microsoft Teams and students are encouraged to join in and attend particularly if the open day is by a college they wish to attend.

We recently had a Virtual Talk by Caroline Duggan from NUI Galway, the students had to attend as a class group in order to comply with COVID 19 guidelines. We will be having another Virtual Talk by DCU in the New Year.

The CAO online application is now open (5th of November 2020), most of our girls have put in their application. The PLC colleges will be opening in January and any students thinking of going through the PLC route should visit the Further education website for more information. Alternatively, students can contact the Guidance Counsellor by making appointment through Teams for more information.

All students are encouraged to contact the Guidance Counsellor on Microsoft teams if they wish to book an appointment for a one – to – one meeting. *Ms Titus*

“Whatever You Decide To Do, Make Sure It Makes You Happy”

Student Council

We have appointed the Deputy Head gGrl and the rest of the student body, which is as follows:

Head girl: Maura O’Neill

Deputy head girl: Ava Stack

Chairperson: Johanna Kiely

Deputy chairperson: Symone Ashley Bowes

Secretary: Abbie Roche

Treasurer: Deina Vesko

Public Relations Officers: Ava Hanrahan

Ella-Louise McGlynn

We encourage you to inform your class reps if there is any issue you wish to be discussed at meetings. All inputs are welcome.

Members of the Student Council recently underwent ISSU training, which helped us understand the importance of the student council and each role of the members of the student body.

The next items on our agenda are to create an updated Student Council Policy as well as update the COVID-19 guidelines. If you have any issues that you feel need to be added to the agenda do not hesitate to inform your class rep(s).





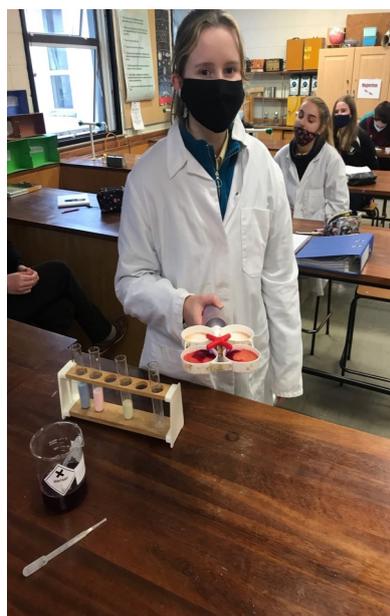
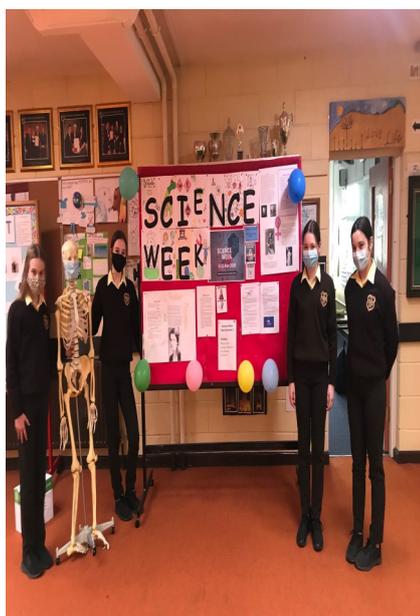
Green Schools

We have decided this year to concentrate again on the theme of 'Biodiversity' which is our 5th Green flag. While this has been a challenging year in so many ways our interest in nature has not diminished! Our TY students had a most enjoyable day in the Tralee Wetlands where topics such as climate change were discussed and they had an opportunity to study this unique habitat. We have embarked on an active planting campaign which has made keen gardeners out of our Agricultural Science and Level 2 Learning Programme students. We are very much looking forward to 2021 when the bulbs will flower and the new shoots will give us joy! Ms Daly



Science Week

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic is closely related to Science, we didn't let it stop us from making the most of Science week. From start to finish, the week was full of experimentation and fun. Numerous activities took place in the social area for students to engage with and a myriad of investigations inside and outside the lab. We even figured out how to make elephant's toothpaste, a home-made rocket launcher, and even a few teachers did a cool trick to make it look as though they were on fire!





1920 Commemoration by Méabh Kennelly, Second Year , History Discussion Article

Should O' Rahilly's house have been knocked?

I strongly object to O'Rahilly's house having been knocked. Michael Joseph O' Rahilly, born a Kerry man moved to America for some time before settling in Dublin. He was one of the founding members of the Irish Volunteers, and was fatally injured during the 1916 rising. He sacrificed himself, showing leadership, vision and courage so that Ireland can be what it is now, and us - the people of Ireland - had the audacity and disrespect to demolish that man's house without a second thought of what he had done for our country. He was a person with a family and a life just like any of us.



You may be saying 'well time was going to beat it anyway'. But this could have been avoided with fundraisers and help from our government. The house could have been supported and kept intact to stand the test of time.

Well, why? Why would we do this? We would do this not only as a mark of respect for the O' Rahillys but as an investment into the Irish tourism industry. People would come from all over Ireland to visit the house. An entry fee would pay back any loans and generate an income for the people of Ireland, which could go towards roads, housing and much more. Once again, I express the argument that it was of great disrespect to have rid the country of this historical building without a thought for the bigger picture. The house would stand as a reminder of O' Rahilly who showed true leadership without any personal gain.

Christmas Door Competition

To get into the festive cheer, students designed the classroom door of their base room in the weeks running up to the Christmas break. Students displayed their innovative and creative talents as well as utilising their team building skills. Here is a selection of some of the designs. The final designs will be judged by Ms A O' Leary on the last day of term. Congratulations in advance to the winners!





Stand Up LGBTI

The students and staff advocated for equal rights on November 1st by wearing a colour to represent the Pride flag. Each year group wore a designated colour for the day.



Junior Cycle Awards

Although it was a very different Results Day to the norm, last year's Third Year students celebrated their Junior Cycle Achievement in September. Congratulations to all of the students on their hard work and dedication especially amidst the pandemic.



Book Club

The Book Club have been engrossed in Sophie Mackenzie's thriller series this term. The students enjoyed 'Girl, Missing' immensely and the club decided to feature Mackenzie's sequel 'Sister, Missing' and 'Missing Me' as the next choices. "I love Sophie Mackenzie's books as she keeps the reader turning the page with all of the suspense" (Aoibh Lennon, 1A). Next term we will look at award winning authors such as Malorie Blackman and Neil Gaiman. Book club is held at lunchtime on Tuesdays, all students are welcome. Miss O' Connor

