



Parent News



Newsletter of Coolmine Community School Parents' Association

April 2019

Happy Easter From Our Principal

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As we approach Easter, the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate have commenced. Oral Irish for Leaving Certificate took place this week. Oral examinations for other languages will follow next week. The Junior Certificate practicals in Home Economics saw the commencement of exams for our Third Years. This is a critical time for our students to strike the right balance between study, exercise, relaxation, diet, sleep etc. Our recent wellbeing day demonstrated practical and enjoyable ways to get the balance right. We, as the adults have a key role to play here.

Our option night for Third Years was a good reminder of the importance of 'working hard and aiming high'. Our aim in Coolmine always is to enable our students to be the best they can be. With this in mind we have supervised study available over the Easter holidays for three hours each morning. This will be a great way for students to have a quiet place to study, have the support of their peers and make sure that they start off each day with a positive plan to do their best. We wish all our students every success in the weeks ahead.

A convention for all 96 Community Schools took place this week in Co. Cavan. This is one of the wider communities to which Coolmine belongs. Three members of our Board of Management attended. The theme was Creativity and Engagement in Education. This annual event is an opportunity to reflect on what is happening in our own school and to share good practice. Two inspirational, but very different presentations were given by Professor Luke O' Neil author of 'Humanology: A Scientist's Guide to Our Amazing Existence' and the Scottish Educationalist the 'Real David Cameron'. I commend both to you. For me, it was an opportunity to reflect again on how we in Coolmine, try to engage the hearts and minds of all our students. We do this through our relationships, our broad curriculum, our experiences of different cultures, the Arts and a broad range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. This edition of Parent News reflects some of this in action. I would like to thank both the Editor and Articles Coordinator of Parent News for the production of this Newsletter. I would also like to thank all Parents who by their commitment demonstrate repeatedly, that we enable the potential of our students most effectively, when we as Parents and Educators work together.

Patricia Mc Phillips

San Valentino 2019

At lunch time on Sunday 17th February fifty-four very excited students and seven equally excited teachers met in Dublin airport to set out for a week of skiing and adventure in the snow covered peaks of northern Italy.

When we arrived at the Bucaneve Hotel we were delighted to receive a warm welcome and a light snack from the amazing staff in the hotel. It was a long first day and night for the teachers trying to settle the overly-excited teenagers. They weren't so excited at 7am the following morning. After breakfast all the tired travellers set about getting their ski equipment ready to start their ski lessons at 9am.

The ski lessons were tough but by day two some members of the group were making excellent progress and preparing to progress up the mountain. For others the pull of gravity was just too much and the net at the end of the slope was the only way to stop.

By three o'clock each day we were all exhausted but the fun didn't stop there. Our week was jam packed with activities like ice-skating, a table quiz, swimming, night-time hiking, a disco and much more.

Our fantastic week was coming to an end but not before we took part in the legendary slalom. Ms. Manek surprised all the doubters by coming second and Mr. Rooney's reputation for speed was questioned by the newbie Mr. Kinlon. Although Ms. McAteer called for a steward's enquiry the results stood firm.

After an exhausting but exhilarating week we woke on Sunday morning and set out for Verona where we visited Juliet's balcony, the Colosseum and enjoyed pottering around the streets of Verona.

The weary voyagers arrived in Dublin safe and sound on Sunday night with students eager to see their families; there was lots of thanks to Mr. Rooney for all the organisation and farewells to the many new friends formed on an unforgettable trip.



Wellbeing



A group of enthusiastic teachers got together to arrange a Wellbeing Day for all students on 22nd March. Each year group was allocated either one or two class periods during the day and students had five different activities to choose from. They could go for a walk, have tea and a chat, do some mindful colouring, they could Zumba or take part in karaoke and dance games. There was a great buzz around the school with students very keen to find out what activities they were doing, as well as what their friends were doing. The students really got involved in each activity, showing off some great talent in the different areas.

In addition to this we collected nearly €450 in aid of Daffodil Day, which will be forwarded onto The Irish Cancer Society. There were many laughs had during the day, and some students really worked up a sweat! All five steps to Wellbeing were met on the day; Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. It was a really good day for the whole school community and TYP and Meitheal students were a great help both in the preparation and on the day.

Anything Bar the Car

Ella Hobbs and Sarah Doherty with the support of their fellow Transition Year students ran a very successful walk, cycle or bus to school day on 7th March. Participating Students were entered into a draw for Blanchardstown Centre vouchers. Over 450 tickets were handed out. Thanks to all who made the effort to consider 'Anything bar the car' to get them to school! Ella and Sarah have entered the SEAI's 'One Good Idea' competition and have successfully progressed to stage two.

Nutrition in Sport

Our Leaving Cert PE classes had 2 guest speakers in from Bohemians Football Club to talk about nutrition in sport. Graham Norton (strength, conditioning and nutrition coach) and Rob Cornwell (player) presented to students about the importance of nutrition and hydration, and the role they play at high level performance. Students then had the opportunity to ask any questions. We're hoping to get Graham and Rob back in at some stage to discuss another topic in the LCPE specification.

Business Dept. Update

Congratulations to the following students and the Business Department who were acknowledged for their contribution to Teaching and Promotion of Excellence in Junior Certificate Business Studies once again this year in Maynooth University.

Ms Maher and Maria Cheslerean, 5th Year, attended the event and collected the award on behalf of the following students Jhellen Kyle, Daniel Agsalud, Sarah Anne Dowling, Daniel Greene, Amanda Rose Uwase, Ese Emonina and Isabelle Tuite whom were acknowledged on the night for achieving a Grade 'A' in Higher Level Business Studies in their Junior Certificate Examination 2018. Congratulations and well done to all.



The Story of Your Stuff

Congratulations to Alex Baciu and Sophia Lawler (TYP 1) whose video 'Bottled up' has been shortlisted for the final of the Environmental Protection Agency's *The Story of Your Stuff* competition. The students and their classmates will attend the finale event in UCD on Tuesday 9th April where a programme of events has been organised for them and the other finalists culminating in the announcement of this year's competition winner. As part of the finale event, students will get to see the other four shortlisted entries, meet representatives from the EPA and UCD as well as to hear from environmental scientist and competition ambassador, Dr Tara Shine.

Basketball

The 2018/2019 season finished with a bang for our U16 Boys Basketball team. They were finalists in the Dublin A League, which they lost out to Terenure, but it meant that they qualified for the All-Ireland quarter finals anyway.

This brought us to Cavan on a cold Sunday in January, leaving Coolmine at 7am! The team were all on time and some had been awake from 5am with excitement! The journey down was quiet and the brightness of the day started to appear as we pulled up to the gym.

Lead by the Captain, James Capellan, we had trojan games against St. Pat's Cavan and De La Salle Waterford but lost out on the win with the same score in each match at 54-50! Incredibly high scoring and very intense. Wasn't good for the blood pressure!

In our final game we went out with a bang with a win over Summerhill, Sligo, but not because of the score, it was the sportsmanship that was shown on the court amongst the team as some of our super subs got a chance to get some court time. The whole gym was rooting for us!

After a well earned McDonald's with some of our supporters, we made the journey back to Coolmine later that evening. There wasn't a hint of sadness or tiredness as the lads sang us the whole way home! They showed great teamwork, determination, respect and positivity and we are all very proud of them.



LGBTI+

LGBTI+ awareness meetings have started in Coolmine this year. Weekly get-togethers are arranged, with positive conversations about helping raise awareness for the group in our school community. All teachers and students are invited to take part in the conversations.

West Dublin Champions

Huge congratulations to the first year boys on winning the West Dublin Soccer League. Winning the final 1-0, against a very strong Salesian's College. As this goes to print the boys are currently preparing for the quarter finals of the Leinster Champions League Cup. A special thank you to the parents that showed up for the league final game, your support is always welcome.

Awesome Walls

A number of students are currently practicing for their Indoor Climbing Award (NICA). They are climbing once a week for ten weeks, developing their climbing skills, rope skills and having fun doing it. This is a first for Coolmine students and will hopefully continue in the future.



DEAR Week

From the 22nd – 26th October 2018 all students and their teachers spent 20 minutes of period 3 each day reading a book or magazine of their choice or listening to an audiobook or podcast. The 'Drop Everything and Read' initiative is designed to promote a love of reading, improve literacy skills and to inspire all the students at Coolmine to read for pleasure. During DEAR Week students and teachers are encouraged to bring a book to school so they can 'drop everything, and read'! DEAR week also ran from 4th to 8th March 2019 and will run again in term 3. Students are urged to always have a book or magazine in their schoolbag to read should the opportunity arise during the day. Parents are encouraged to try and instil a love of reading in their children and be good role models for their children in this regard. It is suggested that you let your children see you reading at home and provide reading material they are interested in at home to encourage them.

The Art of Tradition

Our music students in Coolmine were gifted with an outstanding Irish Music workshop during the term. The Art of Tradition, created by Dr. Martin Tourish and generously supported by the National Concert Hall, is designed to bring to life the Irish traditional music components of the Junior and Leaving Certificate Music courses. It comprises a seventy-minute workshop, delivered at the school, in which topics are explained through live performance and complimented by a presentation featuring photographs, notated examples, audio recordings and film. Each music student received a colourful twenty-page booklet of notes, which included details of recorded examples that can be accessed on specially-curated YouTube playlists.



Leinster House

Three Lynn visited Leinster House on Thursday 17th January 2019 as part of their CSPE Junior Certificate project. They put in a huge amount of work prior to the visit undertaking research on democracy, speech writing, oral presentations and they even took part in a mock election. Three Lynn were present in the Dáil for leader's questions, they also visited the Seanad and had a question and answer session with TD Jack Chambers. It brought the work completed in class to life and was a worthwhile trip for all.



School Goes Orange

On February 15th the students and staff of Coolmine were immersed in an explosion of colour, fun and positivity for the national *Schools Go Orange* day. This is a student-led event run in conjunction with Cycle Against Suicide to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in schools around the country. A hard-working and dedicated group of young people from across the school community took on the task of organising a wide variety of events over the course of the day. These events were to raise money for Cycle Against Suicide but also to promote awareness and spread the message that "Its OK not to feel OK". The day started with students and staff being welcomed to school with music and face paint, liberally applied by some future make-up artists. Positive messages were put on every student's locker. There was also a bake sale, bicycle races, ice cream stall, and a balloon release for first years. Throughout it all, the Schools Go Orange committee with students and staff in a wonderfully energetic and positive way, ensured that their message was not just heard but felt. Congratulations to all the students involved on a wonderful day.



Dance Troupe

Ms Campbell, Ms Davenport and Ms. Nolan have set up a Coolmine Dance Troupe in March 2019. It includes students with a variety of dance styles from contemporary to ballet and hip-hop. Rehearsals will be in the library every Friday at 1pm. Come along and join as we are still looking to recruit some members!

Global Citizenship in Coolmine

In April 2018 Coolmine was awarded our Diplomatic passport in recognition of the work our school is doing to promote global citizenship. Our School has many Global Citizens who understand justice issues, both local and global, that are facing our world today. They want to take meaningful action to create a more just and sustainable society.

One issue that our students feel very strongly about is plastic pollution and they are planning that all our students will eventually have a reusable water bottle. There is a school water bottle (stainless steel) which can be bought from the Global Citizenship Committee for €4.

The Green Schools Committee and Ms. O'Connor are very active global citizens as they prepare for their second green flag for water conservation. Their work in managing waste in our school has also been very successful.

Our TY's have become great ambassadors for global citizenship. Through their Development Education class, they have promoted the Sustainable Development Goals. These are the framework for Global Citizenship and were devised by our world leaders in 2015. Our school journal increases awareness of these Global Goals.

The school garden is a great place to see the work that can be done to promote sustainability. Under the guidance of Mr. Kinlon, TY's have learned how to grow their own vegetables and herbs. Through their hard work, they are playing their part to increase bee numbers which are seriously under threat.

Arts Week, with Ms. Maloney, is another opportunity for students to explore how recycled materials can be used in a creative and artistic way. Some of our students have been very creative with their ideas and have entered competitions to raise awareness of various issues e.g. 'The Story of your Stuff', 'Junk Couture' and 'One Good Idea'.

Ms. McPhillips has done her part as a global citizen. She attended a symposium earlier this year encouraging others school principals to become involved in promoting global citizenship in their schools.

Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is supported by Irish Aid's WorldWide Global Schools (WWGS) and funding is available to support our students in their endeavors.

Our Global Citizenship Committee are currently working on a Cultural Diversity Day which will be held in the Blanchardstown Shopping Centre on May 16th. With so many nationalities living in the Dublin 15 area the Committee felt there was a need to celebrate Cultural Diversity. The Day will allow students to showcase their culture to create a more tolerant and inclusive society. We have invited Blakestown Community School and Riversdale Community College to join our celebration of 6 nationalities: Ireland, Poland, Romania, Nigeria, India and the Philippines. The management of the Town Centre have been very supportive in facilitating our Day. We would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to parents to come and visit our stalls.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank students, teachers and parents in their efforts to promote global citizenship and helping to make this a world a better place for everyone.

Finally, a quote from Martin Luther King

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Young Reporters for the Environment

During February the Green Schools Committee ran the Coolmine Young Reporters for the Environment Competition. Students were asked to write an article reporting on a local litter or waste-related issue. Prizes were awarded in three categories and winners were as follows:

1st year: Alice Centore (1 Cameron)

Junior: Amidat Balogun (2 Adele)

Senior: Angela Tang (TYP 1)

Their articles, along with some of the other entries will be submitted to the National Young Reporters for the Environment Competition, run by An Taisce.

A Feast of Coolmine Talent

Coolmine Community Schools' "A Feast of Coolmine Talent" show took place on Tuesday 22nd of January in the Draíocht Blanchardstown. This annual tradition is in its 18th year and still never fails to provide us with amazing talent each year.

The night had an electric atmosphere which was aided by the MC, Mr. Carroll, with his hilarious jokes, both intentional and unintentional, throughout the night. Karl Nolan returned to the stage after winning the Feast of Coolmine Talent show in 2017. He delivered an amazing performance of 'Stars' from Les Misérables. He was then followed by Sarah Jane Boyle with 'Somewhere Only We Know' – the Lily Allen version made famous by the John Lewis Christmas advertisement. She gave a powerful performance. Arijus Sedleckas then attempted to solve his Rubix Cube in under two minutes. As the clock ticked down, tension mounted but he successfully solved it in under two minutes, unlike Mr. Carroll who also attempted the difficult feat. Next to follow was Princess Jacob who took to the stage with 'Never Enough' from The Greatest Showman and impressed us by singing a demanding song with such ease. The 5th Act, Amy Delaney a 3rd year who sang the song 'Colors' by Halsey and confidently accompanied herself on guitar. The 6th Act was a duo, Sinead Fernandez and Miriam Dongo with 'Almost Is Never Enough' by Ariana Grande. They stunned the audience with their harmonization and pitch perfect performance. Abilily Mansfield then gave a phenomenal performance with her Irish dancing. The 8th Act was a first-year student with big voice and an amazing stage presence, Eden Kelly with 'A Million Dreams' - The Greatest Showman. She's certainly one to watch! The final act of the night Giovanna Adewale also didn't fail to impress with 'Home Sick' by Dua Lipa, rounding out a great show.

A special thanks go to Mr. Damian Tully, Ms. Heather Nolan, Ms. Joanna Faughnan, Ms. Aoife Mc Darby and Ms. Amy Doolan, the producers of this amazing event. As well as our judges DJ Tando, Mr. Danny Kearns and Ms. Rosie O'Connor, who were tasked with the tough job of finding a winner. Mr. Richard Carroll made sure the night was filled with laughter and Mr. John Kearns on sound engineering made everyone sound incredible. A final thanks goes to all the staff in the Draíocht Theatre, Blanchardstown.



A Technical Perspective

Lights, camera, action! Working behind the scenes on the production side of this year's Feast of Coolmine Talent show was an extremely rewarding experience and very educational. Over twenty students contributed their time, skills and expertise to help out backstage. Completing a sound check rehearsal, preparing the stage, adjusting the lighting on stage, looking after the contestants, taking care of equipment, recording the show, handing out programmes, taking photos for the school website; all led to a very successful show. But most of all, those students worked as a team and learned new skills which hopefully can be used later in further education. Overall it was a great experience not just for the audience and the contestants but for all of those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it a major highlight of the school year so far.

Volleyball

On Tuesday 12th February over 50 2nd year girls competed in an in-house volleyball tournament arranged by Ms Byrne and run with the support of the student sports council. The Coolmine Cougars triumphed on the day, but it was fantastic to see so many involved and enjoying sport. In addition to this, the sports council members umpired and managed the score board brilliantly.