



Parent News



Newsletter of Coolmine Community School Parents' Association

April 2023

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This year we celebrate 50 years since the foundation of our school. At the convention for Community Schools last week, the theme 'An Education for All' was a good reminder of the vision for the establishment of this school in Dublin 15 in the early seventies. Back in 1972/1973 when the school first opened its doors, it was a forerunner in offering an education for all. This meant that boys and girls could be educated together, a vast range of academic, technical, and vocational subjects were on offer and all children were welcome regardless of religion, background, and learning style. No doubt, since then we have been on a journey of inclusion in the true sense of the word – we are constantly learning how to include all learners regardless of the unique challenges that this may present. Our new Special Class 'Tearmann' opened in this academic year bears testimony to our commitment to 'An Education for All'.

The parents, teachers and students who joined our school back in 1972/73 and since, have all contributed to education in Coolmine and in developing the tradition that has become synonymous with our school. Our Merit Award ceremony which took place in Westmanstown Golf Club on 30th March 2023 helped me to reflect on this. It was a night when we celebrated excellence in all areas of school life. The students who received Merit Awards embody the Coolmine Spirit – hard work, dedication and commitment, kindness and generosity of spirit underpinned by a commitment to excellence. We are extremely proud of them. It struck me, that this generation of students are the recipients of traditions and values passed down to them. At a time of significant change in Irish Education, they are now establishing their own traditions and standards which they will pass on to future generations. We can be confident about the difference they are making and will make in Coolmine and beyond.

Our 50th Celebration includes a number of 'special' days in the calendar this year. We have already taken time together to remember the deceased in our community on our Memorial Sunday. It was a privilege to remember staff and students who have walked the corridors of Coolmine who are no longer with us. It was important to us, to share stories and memories and recognise their contribution to education here.

Thoughts on our 50th Anniversary

For the remainder of the year, we are planning the following:

- 8th and 9th May 2023 – excerpts from the Musical Grease, performed by our Transition Year Students
- 18th May 2023 – 'Fun for All' day celebrating 50 years of Coolmine
- 19th May 2023 – Sharing Memories together.

We hope that as we take time to pause and look back together, and that as we celebrate the present, that we can move forward confident in our capacity to commit to excellence in education that is an 'Education for All'.

One of our traditions is to have an edition of Parents News at Eastertime. A special word of thanks is due to our Editors for making this possible. May I wish all our families a Happy Easter and extend our support and good wishes to all our 6th years who have exams during this time.

Patricia McPhillips



Happy Easter from the PA

Wishing you a lovely Easter from the Coolmine Parents Association. Sincere thanks to the whole school community for your continued support, especially our School Principal, Deputy Principal, Teachers Office Staff, Caretakers, Parents and Students. I would like to pay a special tribute to the outgoing members of the Parents Association: Dermot O'Mara, Dermot Fitzpatrick and Gillian Douglas for your Trojan work over the years. Your work is very much appreciated by us all and you will be missed.

Coolmine Parents Association supports many memorable elements of school life, not least of which is this very Newsletter! We undertake vital activities, such as the book rental scheme, the Debs ball, pre-loved uniform sale, Parents Talks and helping with the redesign of the school uniform.

We also work on issues that are of concern to Parents at a particular point in time. This year there was a big focus on the teacher shortage crisis with an Action Group formed to push for change. We would also like to host talks for Parents as we did in previous years but our numbers are dwindling, making it trickier to get these events over the line.

This is your Parents Association, please join in and help make school life as fulfilling as it can be for all our children. We are a welcoming group, who are always open to new voices and ideas. We meet on the 1st Monday of every month at 7:30 pm via Zoom and in the school. We will also be meeting over the Summer to organise the book rental. Please email coolmineparents@gmail.com to attend a meeting or learn more.

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh,

Mary Conneely

Chairperson of the PA



Autism Awareness Week

Staff and pupils in Tearmann held a coffee morning on Friday, 31 March, to raise funds for 'AsIAM'. It was lovely morning, with students and teachers enjoying delicious baked goods provided by students and staff. So far, they have raised over €250. Well done to all involved!



HPAT 2023

Well done to our 6th years Patricia Calestru and Georgia Opoku on completing the notoriously difficult Health Profession Admissions Test (HPAT) exam on Friday, 17 February. They hope to study medicine in the future. Best of luck to our hopeful future medics. We are very proud of you.



"Stand up for your writes" competition

Six 2nd years from 2 Oak entered a written piece as part of a thematic competition, with each student producing a unique story. The stories were celebrating something each student was passionate about. Out of the six, we had the overall winner of the competition. I want to acknowledge each individual for their dedication in the lead up to the competition and for their entries. They are a credit to the school!



TY Musical

This year our TYs have been hard at work, expanding their vocal ranges, perfecting their performance and mastering their dance moves, all in preparation for a fantastic musical showcase of **Grease!** Together with Ms Daly, Mr Tully, Ms McDarby and Jill O'Neill, students have worked exceptionally hard in rehearsals, and this is beginning to show as we can see the exceptional show coming together. The TY musical will take place on Monday, **8 and Tuesday, 9 May 2023** and will be a wonderful celebration of the motivation, drive and talent that our students have demonstrated over the course of the year.



Basketball

The 1st and 2nd Year girls Basketball teams trained every Tuesday after school since the start of January. We had large numbers attending training for both teams. All of the girls were very enthusiastic.

Both teams played excellently in their group stages and progressed to the quarter final stages.

Disappointingly, the 2nd Year team narrowly lost their quarter final after a brilliant game.

The 1st Year team won their quarter final and progressed to the semi-final stages. Unfortunately, the 1st Year girls lost their semi-final by the narrowest of margins, three points. It was a heart-breaking defeat as the girls played excellently.

It was exciting to see the improvement in the teams performances throughout the games. We have some great rising talent among us and look forward to working with both of these groups next year



Girls Football

This year saw the re-establishment of a girls' soccer team in Coolmine for the first time in six Years, thanks to Mr. Purcell. Numbers quickly grew to over 30 girls! The season quickly came upon us, although the first game did not go our way, we battled until the final minute, we saw what we needed to improve and we set to work. Training every Thursday at lunch time, this dedicated team of girls, captained by Robin Baird, brilliantly worked their way to the regional final. A tight game saw the girls narrowly miss out on the silverware, but fortunately for the girls they have an excellent opportunity to go far in the second division. Best of luck!



Merit Awards 2023

The annual Merit Awards took place on Thursday, 31 March 2023, in Westmanstown Golf Club. The Merit Awards ceremony is part of the tradition of Coolmine, which recognises significant contribution to the life of our school in a wide variety of areas. Activities such as sport, drama, music, debating, art, Meitheal and Student Council are some of the many aspects of school life, which we value and acknowledge each year. It was a wonderful occasion for students, their families and staff of Coolmine Community School. Well done to all of the recipients



Karina Misko receiving
The Conor O'Keefe
Memorial Art Prize

The Coolmine Thrift Shop

TY 2 students organised 'The Coolmine Thrift Shop', on Friday, 31 March. Students and staff donated clothes in the lead up to the event. On the day, students and staff were invited to the library during lunch to buy items. This event was organised in order to fundraise for the Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP). It also had the intention of encouraging re-using clothes, sustainability and to fight back against 'fast fashion'.



Launch of Enterprise Week: Coolmine Dragons' Den Featuring past pupil Eoin McGee

Our first ever TY Dragons' Den was held on Monday, 6 March to launch Enterprise Week in our school. Enterprise is one of the many modules in our TY programme. Eighteen companies were launched this year as part of the module and a selection of six mini - companies pitched their products to our guest Coolmine Dragons' in front of the students in the school.

The Coolmine Dragons included guest Dragon; Eoin McGee - RTÉ, Financial Analyst and past pupil of Coolmine Community School, Ms McPhillips, Ms Kavanagh, Mr Smith and Elaine Cummins. The TY companies included JVM Jewellery, Country Creations, Fiesta Jewellery, Kohai Candles, Aura and Simple Stitches. The Dragons' Den event was followed by a talk from Eoin for 5th and 6th year Business, Accounting and Economics students. Coolmine Community School is very thankful to Eoin for his ongoing commitment to our school and his continued assistance with the students throughout the duration of their mini companies.



Coolmine Community School Receives Top Prize in the Student Enterprise Fingal County Final

Over 1,200 students from 27 schools in Fingal took part in the Student Enterprise Competition on Wednesday, 15 March in the Crowne Plaza Blanchardstown. Two of our TY mini companies took part. Country Creations and Aura represented Coolmine in the senior category of the Student Enterprise Programme. Both teams took part in a display adjudication and a Dragons' Den Pitch.

Coolmine Community Schools very own mini company 'Aura' were awarded top prize winners in the Senior Category of the Fingal County Final and have been awarded a three-day 'Educational Trip to Barcelona' in May. The winning students will go to Barcelona with their Enterprise teacher Ms Maher.

The Parents Association have kindly offered to provide 'Aura' with new school tops with their company name and Coolmine logo for the trip. Thanks to the Parents Association for this generous support.

The entire experience of the Student Enterprise programme has been extremely worthwhile and of real benefit to our students. Our students not only learn a great deal about the practicalities of starting up their own business, but more importantly they have had a very positive experience of business engaging in the Student Enterprise Programme. This in turn inspires great confidence in their own abilities and has significant personal development benefits.

Best of Luck to 'Aura' representing Coolmine Community School and Fingal in the national final in Croke Park on Friday, 5 May 2023.



Sci-Fest

On Wednesday, 8 March 2023, 129 students from all 2nd year science classes exhibited 68 projects at SciFest@School in Coolmine Community School. This was the school's second SciFest@School! Fifteen scientists from Trinity College Dublin, TU Dublin, UCD, DCU and SciFest were invited to judge the event. Their expertise and presence really added to the excitement and sense of occasion for the students and certainly contributed to healthy competition amongst all participants. Students demonstrated their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and maths through their creative and innovative projects. The judges were blown away with the standard of projects and how well our young scientists in Coolmine communicated their work.

The overall winner this year was a project by Sophia Chiperi, entitled "How does increased acidity in seawater impact shells?". Her project investigated the impact of global warming increasing the acidity levels in our oceans and how this impacts on shells.

Sophia and all the six other winning projects will be representing Coolmine to compete against other schools at SciFest@Grangegorman on Friday, 5 May 2023. Huge congratulations to all the participants in this year's SciFest. A big thanks to all our teachers and students who supported the event. We wish our winners the very best of luck in May!



Parent Plus



An evidence-based parenting course promoting effective communication and positive relationships in families with adolescents aged 11 to 16 years.

The Parents Plus Adolescents Programme considers how parents can connect with and build good relationships with their teenage children (aged 11-16), while also being firm and influential in their lives.

Topics include:

- Getting to know and connecting with your teenager.
- Communicating positively and effectively.
- Building your teenager's self-esteem and confidence.
- Negotiating rules and boundaries.
- Teaching teenagers' responsibility.
- Positive discipline for teenagers.
- Managing conflict.
- Solving problems together.



Who should attend?

The course is free to attend and open to all parents and carers whose teenagers attend Foróige. Where possible we recommend that both parents attend the course as we have found this helps the child the most. If you are a single parent, please feel free to bring along another supportive family member. We will meet all parents for an individual introductory meeting prior to the group starting.

Course details

The course consists of eight group sessions in a location to be confirmed. Starting on 18th April at 10am and finishing on 6th June. Introductory appointments are on week beginning 10th April.

Reply

If you are interested in attending the course please contact Donna McMillen on 086 041 3681 or else send back this form.

Name: _____ Names and ages of children: _____

Contact Details: _____

Professional / organisation who referred you to this programme: _____

I would like to attend the Parents Plus Adolescents Course – please select: Yes / No

My goals for attending are:

Please return this form to Donna