Parent News

Newsletter of Coolmine Community School Parents' Association **SPRING 2016**

PACCS Presidential Address

I first became aware of PACCS, Parents Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools over five years ago. My youngest daughter enrolled in Coolmine Community School and I joined their Parents Association. During this time I was involved in many facets of the Parents Association. I was a PACCS representative and also a member of the PACCS Executive. I was elected as a Parent Nominee to the Board of Management.

I am a director on the National Parents Council Post Primary (NPCPP) and was elected as President of PACCS earlier this year. The experience I gained through my involvement has given me a broad view of Community and Comprehensive Schools and the impact that parents can make. Successful Parents Associations are the result of interest and teamwork. A prime example of this is demonstrated in Coolmine Community School, where the Parents Association operates a very successful and worthwhile Book Rental Scheme on behalf of school management. With their support this scheme is of great benefit to parents, students and teachers. Through awareness, success can be achieved.

At school level, the Parents Association must raise its profile and maintain a visible presence. A noticeable stand at parent/ teacher meetings, school open days, 1st year review nights and other events in the school calendar reinforces this. A parent newsletter and parent page on the school website can be very informative. The Parents Association AGM should be strongly promoted and advertised. Parents should witness the commitments of other parents. Quite simply parents supporting parents.

While all parents are members of a school's Parents Association, the Executive members change annually. Experienced parents leave and new parents should be encouraged to join. Making contact and talking to Parents Associations in local feeder schools is an ideal way to recruit new members.



The role of PACCS is to support Parents Associations ensuring consultation with and representation on appropriate bodies, thereby providing parents with an effective voice in educational development.

David Fitzpatrick,
President PACCS 2015/16

PACCS Annual Conference 2016

Gallen Community School, Ferbane, Co. Offaly
Saturday 16th April 2016
All parents welcome—Admission Free
For further information or to register please visit
www.paccs.ie or email info@paccs.ie

Coolmine Community School Service of Remembrance

The Coolmine Community School Service of Remembrance held on Sunday 15th November this year, was a spiritual and moving occasion of solidarity for those who attended.

The purpose of this Service, which has taken place on a number of occasions in the past, is to remember all the deceased past students and staff of the school. Over 230 people attended, even though many years may have passed, all those who were invited and attended appreciated the fact that those who were once integral to the life of the school community will never be forgotten. The Service also provided an opportunity to re-connect with the school and with some friends. A Remembrance Service is a time to think of all those whom we love and who have gone before us. All those present appreciated the chance to find consolation with others who share a mutual sense of loss and bereavement. We remember those who have passed with fondness and love, and we take solace in the support of family, friends and the school community.

Principal's Address

At the time of writing our 3rd and 6th years have completed their mocks. I hope mid term is providing a very valuable break and change of routine. The remainder of the school year has its own momentum with orals, practicals and revision. Maintaining a healthy mix between study, exercise, rest, relaxation and a balanced diet provides a huge challenge for us all as we try to provide the right support for our students sitting exams. We wish our 3rd and 6th years every success. I would like to mention especially our LCA students who sit this exam for the first time in Coolmine.

Our Board of Management was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Dr. Paraic James, the Chairperson of the Board, on 4th December last. Dr. James had been a member of the Board of Management since the 1990s. It was always a great comfort to know that he had worked with our former principals Mr. O'Beachain and Mrs. Salmon and had a perspective on education here that spanned the decades. He was dedicated and committed to the provision of the highest standard of education at Coolmine Community School. His gentle and unassuming manner was complemented by a great sense of humour. He was a professor of Chemistry in DCU and the coordinator of the International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) in Ireland. We extend our sympathy to his family, his colleagues in DCU and all who knew him. We will miss his generosity, kindness and wisdom on our Board of Management. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

Our school continues to focus on improvement. Our school improvement plans (SIPs) for Literacy and Numeracy are both on our website. I would encourage you to talk with your son or daughter to see how these impact on his/her learning. We are currently gathering data on Homework and Independent Learning. Thank you to all parents and guardians who completed surveys at our parent/teacher meetings and review nights. We are currently working on surveys for staff and hope to survey students then. We will collate the data gathered in order to develop a School Improvement Plan on Homework and Independent Learning.

I wrote to you previously about the traffic congestion and difficulties in the vicinity of the school. Mr. Carroll and I have met with Fingal County Council and have requested some traffic calming measures and appropriate signage.

The Parents Executive was instrumental in getting funding for a new roof for the school. The consultant has been appointed and currently the appointment of the construction team is underway.

Finally I would like to thank the committee who are responsible for Parent News for their work on behalf of the school and the parent body and their commitment to keeping parents informed. Ar aghaidh le Cheile!

Diversity Week

Coolmine Diversity week ran from 16th to 20th November and the theme this year was "strength lies in differences". Now into its fourth year, diversity week gives students and staff of Coolmine community school the opportunity to learn about, embrace and celebrate human diversity.

Throughout the week, an appreciation of diversity is encouraged through discussions in SPHE classes and promoted through visiting speakers.

On Monday the 16th the school was visited by Paul from Afro-Eire. Paul has spent many years living and working in West Africa and is considered an expert in West African culture with a special interest in music. As part of Diversity Week a number of 1st year classes took park in a drumming workshop led by Paul. Students had the opportunity to play a variety of unusual musical instruments and by the end of the workshop, students worked together to create an authentic West African drumming recital.

ShoutOut were in on Thursday and Friday of Diversity Week to deliver workshops to some 3rd, 5th and 6th year groups. Their aim is to give students a basic knowledge of LGBT issues, help them understand homophobia and transphobia and build their awareness of how to support their LGBT friends. The feedback was very positive from the students and the ShoutOut volunteers were very impressed with the level of acceptance and support that students already display.

Oisin Jordan FAI 'Football For All' National Coordinator joined The LCA groups on Thursday 19th November to talk about the Football For All programme. This programme has, as its central aim, the delivery of football opportunities to people who may not ordinarily get a chance to play the 'beautiful game'!

Beyond diversity week, the staff and students involved strive to create an enduring atmosphere of acceptance and support for all differences throughout the school year.

Glee Club Trip

Going to the recording studio was truly an amazing and brand new experience for the club members and me. You could feel the fascination and awe in the atmosphere when we first entered the studio. The studio itself was owned by an Irish three piece band called Half of Me. (http://www.halfofmeband.com/)

Lead singer Luke Nelson helped us settle in and set up. He was the one who recorded us while Ms. Hughes gave us some pointers in getting the sound we achieved. It was quite a magical feeling when everything was put together and the music was flowing so beautifully. Our hard work and constant practice definitely paid off.

After our recording session we hung out a bit and took some photos at the wall outside the studio which was covered with colourful graffiti. Luke talked to us about how to get started in the music industry. He even suggested we start busking in town.



To finish the day we headed down Grafton Street to grab some food for our little picnic in Stephen's Green which was really relaxing. Heading back to Grafton Street we went to watch some of the super talented buskers. To conclude, I can speak for the whole group in saying that it was such an entertaining and jolly day. This day would not have been possible at all if it weren't for Ms. Hughes. We can't thank her enough for giving us an experience and opportunity like this. So if there are any singers/musicians out there I highly suggest they try the Music Club and meet an amazing group of people!

Gaisce Award

Gaisce, the President's Award is an award in Ireland earned by young people between the ages of 15- 25 for participating in several activities for a certain period. The term Gaisce means achievement. There are three levels of award: bronze, silver and gold.

To achieve the Bronze Award a candidate must participate for at least 1 hour a week, for 13 weeks in each of the areas of Community Involvement, Personal Skills and Physical Recreation and must then complete an additional 1 hour a week for 13 weeks in one of the areas mentioned. Also candidates must undertake a 2 day-1 night adventure journey, in a group, walking a minimum distance of 25km.

For community involvement I volunteered to participate in the homework club, tutoring 1st year students. In horticulture classes, I learned how to garden, which fulfilled the Personal Skill requirement. For Physical Recreation I took part in hip hop/ jazz and contemporary dancing. All of my involvement was recorded and dated on a Gaisce log sheet.

The destination for my Gaisce adventure was a two night stay and hike in Glendalough Co. Wicklow. For this I ventured on the Spinc and Wicklow Way Red Route walking trail, a hill walk that covered a distance of 11km and a 490m climb. The hike itself took four hours and we did it twice. This hike brought us to the Lugduff Mountain. It was truly spectacular. We slept in a rented camping field where we told ghost stories and enjoyed the starlit night sky. This trek improved my fitness, gave me ideas for outside hobbies and really made me admire the significance of nature. It was an amazing experience that I will always cherish.

I was delighted to receive my Bronze Award alongside the other candidates at the 3rd year Prize giving ceremony in September.

Conor Dixon, 5 Brady



Trinity Maths Trip for TYP

On Monday the 12th of October, TYP students attended a lecture in Trinity College on the Maths involved in the art of juggling. The lecture was in the Science Gallery, a very lovely building on the TCD campus. We were joined at the lecture by two other school groups, and the talk lasted about an hour and a half. The time flew by though as the professor giving the lecture was very entertaining and spoke very well to a completely captivated audience.

"The man who was giving the lecture was very funny, which I think helped keep everyone's attention as at some points it got a bit confusing. He told us all about the college juggling club he had joined as a student. It was actually very interesting and quite hilarious. Don't worry, he found the idea of a student joining a juggling society just as funny as we did! We were given some free time after the lecture to get some lunch. Unfortunately my friends and I had left ours on the bus. We just chilled out on the green though and soaked up some sunshine as it was quite a nice day." - Aislinn Smeallie

"Colin Wright, a British mathematician, explained how he can prevent ships from crashing by using Maths. He was very funny and he made plenty of jokes during the lecture which made him interesting to listen to. He began to demonstrate how to juggle using patterns. He was skilled and juggled very well. We even got to join in. He asked the audience to choose a sequence of numbers and then juggled the pattern that the numbers made. I think the lecture was enjoyable as it was different ….juggling is a very random subject to contain Maths!!!"- Jason Deshouliers

"Colin told us how juggling has become easier due to Maths. He showed us how, by following a formula, juggling with 5 balls has become easier. By juggling the five balls in a certain order following a certain pattern, he even showed us that time travel is possible! While the ball didn't actually travel in time, it counts as theoretical time travel. So maybe there's hope for the future, or even the past!! - Andrew Reddy

Science Week

This year Coolmine Science Week ran from Monday 9th November to Friday 13th November. Throughout the week the Science Department, assisted by student volunteers, offered a variety of events. Students could participate in a daily true or false quiz, take part in 'the egg drop challenge' and see chemistry in action with the chocolate bomb experiment, flammable bubbles and the whoosh jar. Science quizzes were held within each class prior to science week and each winning team competed in the final for their year group.

Fifth and Sixth Year Chemistry students attended a Science Week event "Careers Though Chemistry" on Thursday the 12th of November at 10am. The venue was Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, Trinity College Dublin.

The students enjoyed a great mix of speakers; some well-known local industries were represented such as Henkel, Intel and Forensic Science Ireland as well as students from Trinity College Dublin and a Royal Society of Chemical Science Communicator.

The Science Department would like to thanks all who were involved in science week with a special thanks to the student volunteers for all their work behind the scenes!



Tree Planting



Transition Year students plant a Hazel tree for 'Tree Day', Thursday 8th October 2015. The tree was supplied by the Tree Council of Ireland, supported by Tetra Pak.

Junior Certificate Prizegiving



The Junior Cert students of 2015 celebrated their achievements in a joyful ceremony led by Ms McPhillips and year head Ms O'Rourke on Friday 18th September.

In the company of their teachers and peers, the proud students received their certificates. The prize for Academic Excellence in the 2015 Junior Certificate exam was awarded to Claudia Siminska.

Each year a prize is awarded to one boy and one girl from each caomhnoir group. The winners are chosen based upon academic effort, character, manners, co-operation and school involvement.

The winners for 2015 are as follows:

Branson	Niamh Kelly, Hayden Rogers
Soros	Ciara Gannon, Joshua Reid
Hilton	Cosmin Pisaru, Mary Rose Elgado
Siebel	Phuong Thai, Yaser Tirsen
Gates	Esther Adesanmi, Rohail Malik
Clinton	Claudia Florea, Jaffer Abdulkarim
Buffet	Kiarrah Pabotoy, Sean Mitten
Berber	Christine Kalala , Jack Kelly

Awards were made to students with full attendance in 3rd year.

Ms Freeman introduced the Stefan Uzanov Memorial Prize which was awarded to Aislinn Smeallie. This perpetual trophy is awarded each year to a student who most captures the spirit that best celebrates the memory of Stefan. It was presented by Stefan's brother Alex and his mother Caroline and father Mitko also attended the ceremony.

The Student of the Year Award recognises students with qualities such as a strong work ethic, a co-operative nature and the ability to work well with both teachers and peers. It is awarded to one boy and one girl from the year group. This year's recipients were Nanda Suresh and Conor McCarthy.

The inaugural Sarah Russell Memorial Prize was awarded to Patricia Petrov. Each year this award will be presented to the Maths student that best embodies the characteristics that Ms Russell valued. It is to acknowledge a student's effort, behaviour and contribution in maths class.

The beautiful music for the ceremony was provided by students of the school with pieces from Christine Kalala and Amy Conway.

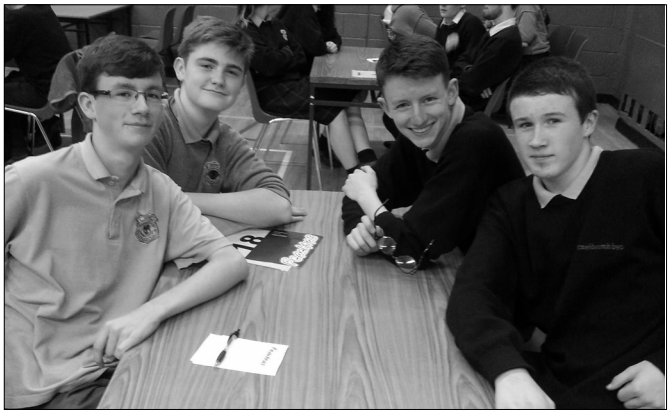


Student of the Year Award winners, Nanda Suresh and Conor McCarthy receive their award from Ms. McPhillips and Year Head, Ms. O'Rourke.

Coolmine Community School Parents Association Executive Committee 2015/16:
Chairperson: Ray Byrne, Secretary: Catherine Dunne, Treasurer: Evelyn LeNoach
Executive Committee: Bernadette Andreucetti. Karen Curtis, Sharon Geraghty, Mary Jennings, Claire Mc Cabe, Heather Mc Cormack, Louise Reynolds, Marisa Sansovini.
Ex Officio Member: Dave Fitzpatrick
Parents Nominees/Board of Management**:** Eileen Evans, Jennifer Mc Garry.
Contact details : Coolmineparents@gmail.com or 086-2216290

Tráth na gCeist

Chuamar go dtí Tráth na gCeist Boird le Ms. Brophy, a bhí ar siúl i Scoil Chaitríona agus á eagrú ag Feachtas i mbliana. Bhí 3 fhoireann againn, ceathrar i ngach ghrúpa…beirt shóisearach agus beirt shinsearach. Ní raibh an bua againn ach thángamar sa cheathrú háit agus bhaineamar an-sult as an oíche trí mheán na Gaeilge. Chabhraigh an ócáid seo le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge ar scoil agus úsáid shóisialta na teanga taobh amuigh den seomra ranga."



Cultural Programme

TYs presented a project as part of their Cultural Programme in Spanish. Projects included descriptions of the Easter processions, the Mexican Day of the Dead, Las Fallas in Valencia, the festival of Moors and Christians and Christmas celebrations. Students created many lovely items for the presentation including Roscón de Reyes (cake eaten at Christmastime in Spain), a Mexican altar and a representation of an Easter procession.



Basketball

This year our Boys' teams had some very tough, close games. They came out with more victories than losses so more smiles all round this season!

Our U16s started off getting to know each other in an interesting first game against Portmarnock, where we were pipped at the post in the last minute to lose by 3 points! Our U19's made sure we came away with a victory that day with a narrow win.



The season went well with games against Ashbourne, C.C.C. and St. Vincent's and both teams qualified for the 1/4 finals of the All Irelands. Our U16's were knocked out and ended up reaching the semi-final of the Plate but narrowly lost again to Portmarnock!

Our U19's made it to the semi-final and came up against Marian who have some great experienced club players. Our lads put up a tremendous battle and played their hearts out but Marian were just the better team and deserved to go on to the finals. The lads are so eager to keep playing so more friendlies will be organised in early 2016 to prepare for next year's season. Farewell and thank you to our 6th years who have shown great dedication and leadership in their time playing basketball for Coolmine. You will be missed. Absolute gents!

Coolmine Talent Show

On Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th January 2016, Draíocht Arts Centre hosted our annual Feast of Coolmine Talent.

2016 Winner – 'Marine Dreamin Pop Star' – Emily Kelly
2nd Place – 'Where is the Love' – Ft Magic (Fortune Igiebor) & Bianca Banares
3rd Place – 'All of Me' – Rachel Devereux / Hollie Mahon
4th Place – 'Twenty Two' – Sean Keenan / Ciara VanBuren / Mary Jolley