Parent News

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

A Christmas Message From Our Principal

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At the time of writing, Santa is in the building and our Community Care Students are hosting a Christmas party for pre-school children. The atmosphere is special and there is a lot of care and love for our visitors. Santa has been thoughtful with his gifts and faces light up as presents are opened. For the rest of the school community classes continue, tests take place, and there is the constant buzz of communication and learning throughout the school. The Christmas party is a reminder to me that Christmas is about sharing and spending time with others.

In these dark winter days, I often think we need the excitement of Christmas, and the opportunity to stop and appreciate the people around us.

In our large Coolmine family, we know that many among us will have experienced a challenging year in 2016, while for others it will have been a very enriching year.

May each student and family experience joy and love at Christmas, and a healthy and fulfilling year in 2017.



Patricia Mc Phillips

Parents Association Christmas Wishes

I would like to warmly welcome all the new first years who have, at this stage, settled into Secondary School life. I would also like to thank all their parents/guardians for the great attendance at the recent review night and for the 100% payment to the Book Rental Scheme. This level of cooperation enables the Parents Association to deal with other matters that arise in the school.

I would like to invite any parents/guardians who wish to assist with the Parents Association (PA) to become a committee member. The commitment is approx one and a half hours per month and maybe a little longer at book rental time during the summer. If you would like to make contact with the PA, at any time, our email address is as above and further details can be got from the PA website (details below).

I wish all students the best of luck with their Christmas exams and I congratulate all the sports teams for their great success in representing the school at all levels.

I wish all teachers, students, parents and guardians a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Keep safe at all times,

Ray Byrne
(Chairman Coolmine Parents Association)

Parents Association 2016/2017

- Ray Byrne (Chair)
- Catherine Dunne & Mary Jennings (Secretary)
- Evelyn LeNoach (Treasurer)
- Claire McCabe
- Jennifer McGarry
- Heather McCormack
- Karen Curtis
- Eileen Evans
- Ancelm Hanney
- Orla McCormack
- Linda Osborne
- Dermot Kinane

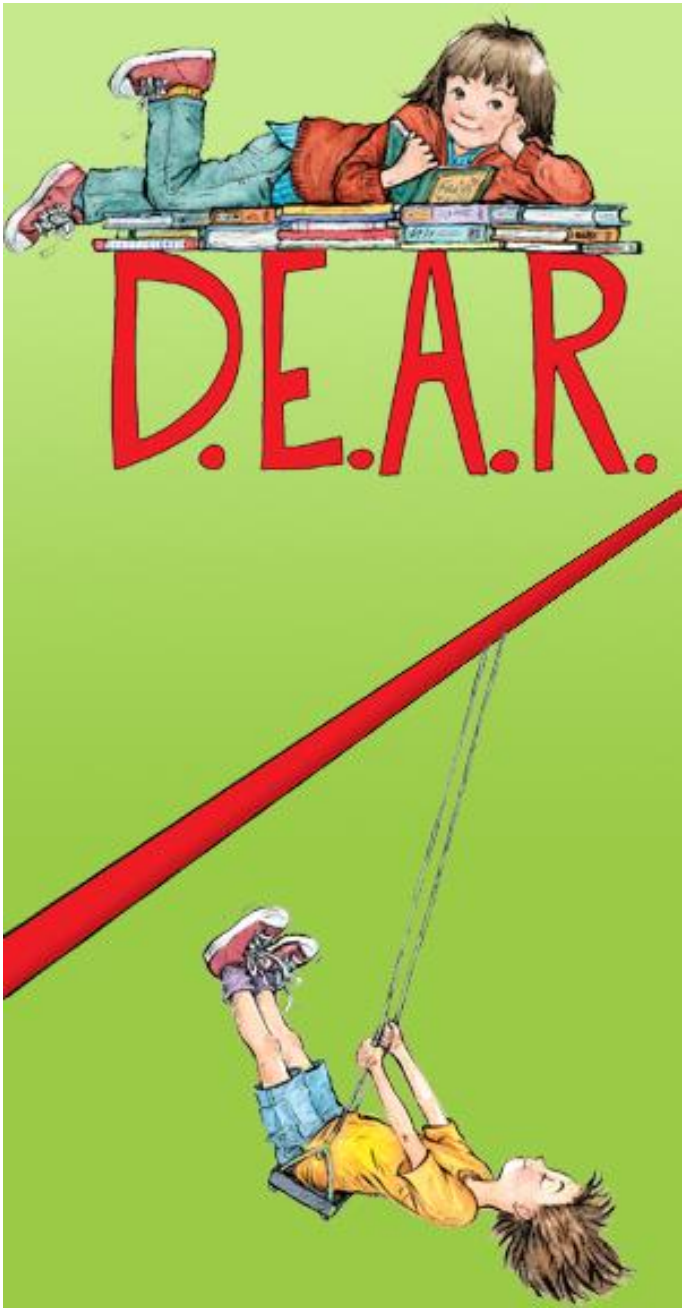
Parents Association Website

http://www.coolminecs.ie/about-us/parents-page/

Stay tuned for updates

Drop Everything And Read

From the 21st - 25th November junior, TY and 5th year students and their teachers spent 15 minutes of period 6 each day reading a book or magazine of their choice. 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 12th to 16th September and will run again in terms 2 and 3. Students are urged to always have a book or magazine in their schoolbag to read should the opportunity arise during the day.



Diversity Week

This is the fourth year of Diversity Week for Coolmine Community School where the school celebrates differences and aims to promote inclusion. During the week of 28th November to 2nd December the corridors were festooned with student posters announcing diversity and our very own Cool FM kicked off Diversity Week playing a diverse playlist.

During the week, a number of invited speakers addressed Junior and Senior Cycle students including Humanist Brian Whiteside and Adam Harris from the Autism awareness group AsIAm. On the 9th of December the Irish Wheelchair Association visited the school and a group of 3rd year students took part in a game of wheelchair basketball. This week is designed to promote Diversity within our school community and to continue in the spirit of inclusion and acceptance. Coolmine CS will welcome speakers from Focus Ireland and Shoutout in the coming weeks.

If any parent has any ideas for a future event, Ms. Mc Guill and Mr. Ryan would be delighted to hear from you.



This year, as in past years, Coolmine Community School is holding the Barnardos Teddy Bear Christmas Raffle. Tickets have been sold in recent days by the Community Care Team and proceeds will be forwarded on to Barnardos in order to support their work with children and families.



As is also the tradition in Coolmine Community School, the Community care Team has hosted a party for a number of children accessing Barnardos services. This party took place on Wednesday 14th December and was a highlight of the school's year.

Coolmine Sport

The Sports Department will be issuing a newsletter each term detailing the extensive sporting curriculum and achievements of students in the school… watch this space for more details

A Feast Of Coolmine Talent 2017

Following the success of Coolmine Community School's "Feast of Coolmine Talent 2016", the students promise to entertain you again on Tuesday 24th January 2017.

Prepare to be dazzled by the students' musical, dance and dramatic abilities.

This is the fifteenth year Coolmine Community School has staged the "Feast of Coolmine Talent" show in association with Draiocht and this show promises to be a night not to be missed.



Date: Tuesday 24th January 2017
Price : €10 each
€8 - Early Bird (offer ending Dec 31st)
Tickets Available from Draiocht Box Office (or on-line) NOW!

Green Schools Committee Update

The Coolmine Green Schools Committee has been working hard towards earning a green flag for the school. New recycling bins were introduced to the school canteen and corridors in September 2016. Their purpose is to promote recycling and reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill with progress being measured through data provided by the waste company. The data shows that there has been a substantial increase in the mass of waste being recycled in the school. In September 2014 only 12% of the total waste produced was recycled compared to September 2016 where 46% of the schools waste was recycled. Food waste from the staff room and canteen kitchen area is now composted on site under the guidance of Mr. Kinlon and used by the Transition Year students participating in the Horticulture module. The Green Schools Committee aim to find ways continue to reduce waste and litter, promote awareness and encourage recycling within our school and the wider community.

Green-Schools

Big Bear Mobile Planetarium Visit

A mobile planetarium visited the school for a half day on 6th of December. 1st and 2nd year exceptionally able group of students attended a show about space and time, planet colonization and the effect of the sun and magnetic fields on the earth. Senior physics classes also attended the show and a talk in the planetarium. All-in-all it was very informative and great fun was had by all.



Work Experience At The Bar



by Tina Adinga

My name is Tina Adinga and I am a 6th year student. While in 5th year I participated in a work experience programme for law, at the Bar of Ireland. I embarked on this work experience as I have been interested in law for a while now and would like to be a barrister when I am older.

I first found out about the work experience when I was searching online for work experience for law. When I discovered that this programme was for 4th to 6th year students, I told my mam and she called the school. The ladies at the front office then informed my year head, Ms. O'Rourke, and she kindly helped me apply for the work experience. All secondary schools across Ireland were eligible to apply for the work experience however only 100 places were available and only one pupil could apply per school. You could only receive a place if your name was one of the 100 to be pulled out of a hat in a lottery-type system. I was fortunate enough to be one of the students that received a place for the work experience.

The work experience ran for five days (1st to 5th February). We were split up into groups of 25 for afternoon activities and smaller groups of 5 for the mornings. Each morning, we followed our host barrister to the courts and observed the trials. In the afternoons, we did several activities such as viewing trials at the Criminal Courts of Justice and touring the Four Courts and Kings Inns. We also received talks from a judge, court Garda and legal journalist for the 'Irish Times' and on the final day we all participated in a series of mock trials. During the week, I got to watch and examine many trials in numerous courts including the circuit court, high court and Supreme Court. I found some trials more interesting than others and two that particularly intrigued me were a murder case and a gender equality case.

Overall, it was a magnificent experience and I'm glad that I was a part of it. I met many wonderful people (the Chief Justice of Ireland (Susan Denham (pictured with me above)), barristers, fellow students etc.). I also gained knowledge in the area of law which interests me. Furthermore, I am proud to say that I represented my school.

Don Chorp Agus Anam

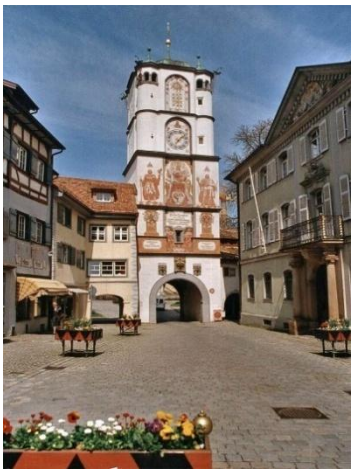
This year all 1st year students were given the opportunity to take part in a one-hour Yoga class through the medium of Irish. This was an all-inclusive activity opening the students' minds to Irish being used outside of the classroom and to the benefits of Yoga. Ciarán Mac Fhearghusa of Óga Yoga, explained the benefits of Yoga to students and the names of the poses in Irish and English. Students were taught how to breathe, relax and respect their physical and mental health. It was a great experience for all students who took part.







German Teacher Visit



3 O'Dalaigh and 1 Markievicz had a visit from a German Teacher who was visiting Dublin on a school trip. Marc Siglinger is an Economics teacher from Wangen in Bavaria. He spent time with students explaining the difference between the school system in Ireland and Germany. He sat with students and discussed their subjects, timetables and uniform. Marc then visited a 5th and 6th year German class where he chatted to students in German and held a questions and answers session encouraging students to speak German and improve their oral skills. This was a great opportunity for students to meet someone from Germany and to learn about life there while communicating in the language.



2016 in Pictures











Loads more photos at http://www.coolminecs.ie/gallery/

Science Week

This year Coolmine Science Week ran from Monday 14th November to Friday 18th November. Throughout the week the Science department, assisted by student volunteers, offered a variety of events.

Science quizzes were held within each class prior to Science Week and each winning team competed in the final for their year group.

Students could participate in a daily true or false quiz and see chemistry in action; with the chocolate bomb experiment, flammable bubbles and the whoosh jar. A new addition to the line-up this year was a Science Spelling Bee which saw students compete against each other spelling science terms.

The grand finale to the week was the 'eggsciting' Students versus Teachers Egg Drop Challenge!

The Science department would like to thank all who were involved in Science Week.







Coolmine Adult Education

The new Adult Education brochure is out for spring term. Enrol online anytime.

http://coolmineadulted.weebly.com/



Classes start January 23rd.

Contact the Adult Education office on 8128397.





The Final Countdown

by Caoimhe Hennessy



So, sixth year is already halfway through... which is absolutely terrifying. Soon enough, we will be stressing about mocks and applying for courses and filling out CAO forms. The six years I have spent in this school have gone by so fast. I know it's common among parents to say we grow up "in the blink of an eye", but imagine how we feel. It feels like just last week I was walking in to my first day of Junior Infants, and now in a few months time I'll be walking out of my last day of sixth year.

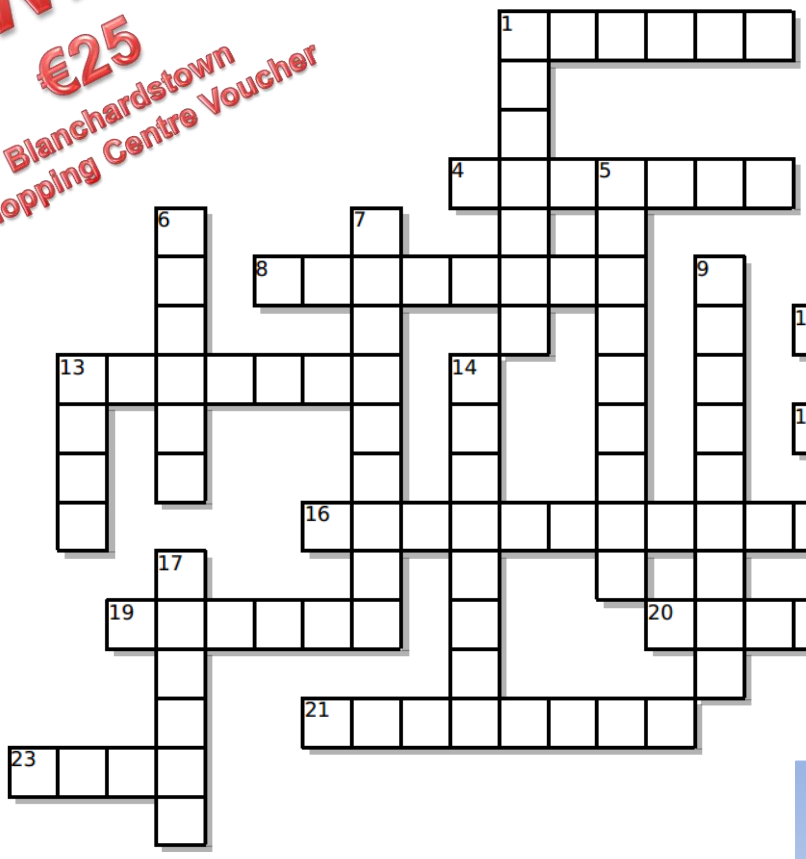
The main emotions that are filling a lot of us up are fear and excitement. It is incredibly scary to have to decide what you want to do for the rest of your life when you're seventeen or eighteen. Even when you have found the perfect course, the points can be extremely intimidating and the fees can be... surprising.

Don't get me wrong, I am very very excited to get away from crowded hallways, uniforms and over-packed school bags that cause aching shoulders. I can't wait to finally only study the subjects I am truly passionate about. However, it's going to be weird not seeing the same people I've been seeing for the last six years every day. I'll miss the comfort I felt by knowing everybody's name, always knowing where each classroom is, having teachers that are involved with our progress and are always checking that we are doing everything that we should be. It's slightly daunting to know that in college, our education will be completely our own responsibility, and the lecturers won't be to blame if we don't try hard enough or "forget" to finish assignments. For many of us, college is not the most immediate priority. The opportunity to travel and work among many other things is just around the corner. There's a whole planet outside of Coolmine (although it's hard to believe), and we're all free to do what we like with it.

I have tried really hard so far this year to not let myself get overwhelmed and it has been quite effective. But now as the mocks are creeping up, I'm stressed because I'm not stressed, if that makes sense? There's nothing worse than seeing how many study notes your classmate has done on a chapter you have barely glanced at since last year. This year more than any other year is a time when everyone should be trying to support each other. I'm lucky because I have some of the best friends in the world with me in most of my classes, so we are always there to comfort each other during a particularly test-filled week. These friends that I have found in Coolmine will be lifelong friends, no matter where we end up after we finish sixth year.

Crossword Competition

WIN €25 Blanchardstown Shopping Centre Voucher



WIN €25 Blanchardstown Shopping Centre Voucher

ACROSS

1 The Tribesmen come from here
2 One of the Cardinal Points
4 An item that appears on the Periodic Table
8 1976 Olympics
11 Author of Oliver Twist, Martin Chuzzlewit and the likes
13 Fancy car with a Prancing Horse
15 This Park was established in 1662 by James Butler, Duke of Ormond
16 Sandstone and limestone both fall into this category
19 SI unit of thermodynamic temperature
20 The 2016 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions
21 A note having the time value of a quarter of a semibreve or half a minim
22 A colour dramatised by John Logan
23 A stitch in time saves this much

DOWN

1 Old Dutch money
3 A flat mountain in South Africa
5 Ronnie won Gold there
6 One of the 1916 Proclamation Signatories
7 Kavanagh watched as bicycles went by in twos and threes along this road
9 The capital city of what sounds like a really cold land
10 AKA 3.14159
12 Where we go to school
13 Amount of players on a Basketball team
14 A Magical place (as gaeilge) to be entertained in Blanchardstown
17 University award
18 He preceded Sean T O'Kelly as Uachtarain na hEireann

To be in with a chance to WIN one of four €25 vouchers for the Blanchardstown Shopping Centre complete the Crossword and return it to the front office with your name and class year (e.g. 1st year/TY etc.) by **noon on 16th January 2017**. Winners will be drawn at random from correct entries received.

Name _____

Class _____