Parent News

Newsletter of Coolmine Community School Parents' Association

May 2019

Summer is Here!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

RSC Schools Analyst Competition
Afternoon Tea
Dance Troupe
GPO History Tour
Cool Planet Experience
Jo Spain Visits Coolmine
Coláiste Chúil Mhín
Exceptionally Able Groups Activities
The Story of Your Stuff
A Day on the Farm
Darkness Into Light
Community Care Team
TY Group Textiles Project
National Tree Week
Merit Awards
Coolmine's Global Citizens Celebrate Cultural Diversity
Sports Day
Santry
Young Social Innovator
Debs

This time of year in Coolmine we are very much thinking of new beginnings. Our sixth years are involved in last minute revision, finishing their last full week of school, putting the final touches to preparation for the graduation and wearing their new sweatshirts for the class of 2019. We wish them every success in their exams and in their lives ahead.

Meantime, incoming first years complete entrance tests and interviews take place for the Meitheal students who will be their mentors. Interviews also take place for TY and LCA while options forms are completed all signalling new beginnings for students for next year. We as a staff work out a calendar for Classroom Based Assessments (CBA) for the new Junior Cycle, a new development to ensure the smooth running of CBAs for students and teachers in the year ahead. Together with Parents and Students we have a discussion about uniform and changes for next year. Our Parents Association negotiates this on behalf of us all, ensuring quality and value for money.

Our Parents are working tirelessly to ensure all students are supported with the transitions ahead. The Debs Committee has been meeting our Sixth Years throughout the year to organise the Debs, the last occasion associated with school life. The Book Rental Scheme bears testimony to the generosity and tremendous hard work of our parents – ensuring that all new students will have a set of books and be ready for action in August.

On my own behalf and behalf of all our parents, I would like to thank the Parents Executive for their commitment, hard work and dedication to education in Coolmine. I would like to say a special thank you to the parents who leave the executive as their sons / daughters graduate, you will be missed.

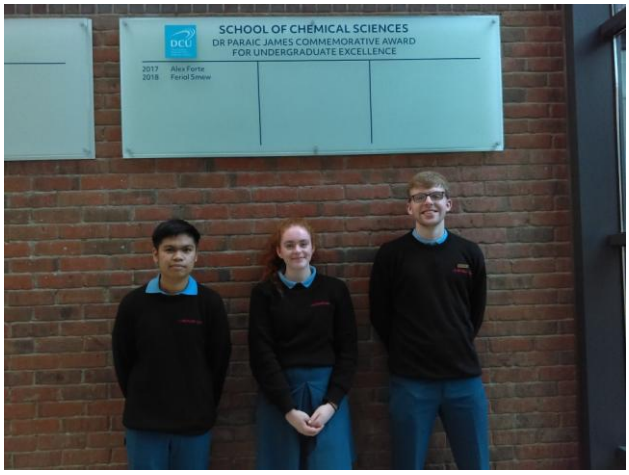
A final thank you to our Editor, the Parents' Association and the School articles coordinator, Ms Manek, for this publication.

My best wishes to all families of Coolmine for a relaxing summer ahead.

Patricia Mc Phillips

RSC Schools Analyst Competition 2019

Three students from fifth year chemistry represented Coolmine CS in the Royal Society of Chemistry Schools Analyst Competition in DCU on May 1st. They were required to undertake various practical analytical experiments based on problems relevant to industrial or social needs. They were judged on their skills, understanding and accuracy. They competed against teams from schools throughout Leinster and represented the school very well. Well done to Aoife Dolan, Kyle Agsalud and Jack Molloy.

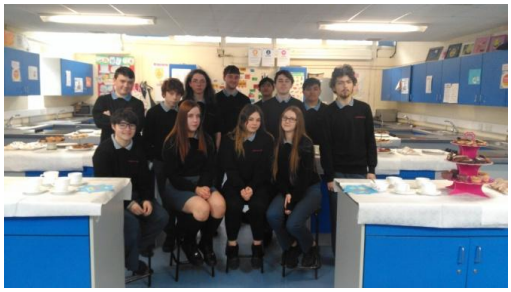


Dance Troupe

This new dance troupe under the guidance of Ms. Davenport, Ms. Campbell and Ms. Nolan have been rehearsing since January. The students range from first to fifth year and have a very diverse range of dance skills from hip-hop to ballet. They are hoping to have their first performance alongside the final Cool FM broadcast of the year.

Afternoon Tea

On Friday the 12th of April, the 5th year LCA students held an Afternoon Tea for teachers in aid of their chosen charity; Enable Ireland. The students spent weeks planning and preparing for this event. They designed the menu, baked goods and set up the wonderful displays. Everyone did an outstanding job on the day, with €200 being raised and donated to Enable Ireland.



GPO History Tour

A large group of 3rd year History students accompanied by their teachers Mr. Kinlon and Ms. Anna Siecinska recently visited the GPO on April 11th. As part of the field trip the students were collected at Coolmine and travelled to the GPO on the 1916 Tour Bus. The students loved the whole experience especially the tour in the GPO and stated that it was extremely valuable to their understanding of that period of Irish history.

Cool Planet Experience

A mixture of Transition year and 5th year geography students attended Ireland's only dedicated climate change centre on the 2nd of May. The Cool Planet Experience was officially launched by climate action advocate & business magnate Richard Branson in Powerscourt Estate, Wicklow. The students experienced a climate change tour and workshop to enhance their understanding of the causes, effects and possible solutions of the climate change crisis.

Jo Spain Visits Coolmine

As a school community we were thrilled to recently welcome best-selling author and local resident Jo Spain to Coolmine CS to provide an insight into life as a writer. In an interview conducted by 5th year student Ese Emonina in front of approximately 90 students, Ms Spain shared her thoughts on characterisation, setting and plot development amongst other things. An interesting event concluded with an equally insightful Q&A which offered students in the audience a chance to get their questions answered.

Coláiste Chúil Mhín 2019

Coolmine Parents Association and Coláiste Chúil Mhín have teamed up to offer students of Coolmine 10 scholarships to the value of €50 each to Coláiste Chúil Mhín this summer. To be in with a chance of winning one of these scholarships just enrol on the course. Application forms are available from any of the Irish teachers in school.

Exceptionally Able Groups Activities

This year the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year exceptionally able groups took part in a Lego building workshop in the school library. We are extremely grateful to the O'Keeffe family who, through a bursary in memory of their son, past pupil Conor O'Keeffe provided funding for this workshop. Great fun and imaginative and creative pieces were made.

The Exceptionally Able groups also took part in code breaking, with information on different types of code breaking and the history of this fascinating subject.

We also went foraging around the school grounds for 'free food'. We then cooked a delicious nettle and wild garlic soup and dandelion and sorrel salad. Some students were reluctant to taste 'yuck, I'm not eating nettles!" but in 10 minutes all 4 litres of soup had been devoured with great gasps of delight and surprise. Students also got to taste various sea weeds as well and learned of the nutritional benefits of such foods, and they are free!

The Story of Your Stuff

Two TY Students Alex Baciu and Sophia Lawler entered their original video 'bottled up' into the EPA's Story of Your Stuff competition. They made it through to the final and their entry was one of five shortlisted videos. Their entire class were invited to UCD on the 9th April to attend the awards ceremony. Although their video didn't win, the students had a great day enjoying a tour of the UCD campus, demonstrations from research students and a delicious lunch.

A Day on the Farm

Causey Farm felt like a breath of fresh air at a very busy time of the school year. It was an opportunity to leave the stress of deadlines and interview prep for one day. We arrived full of excitement and expectations and were greeted by Gloria, a very friendly pig and Donnacha, our guide for the day. We began the day by baking bread, this was a new experience and it became very exciting indeed, when Donnacha decided to throw the eggs at us! We visited the animals, cuddled puppies, learned to play the bodhrán and dance a reel, played toss the welly, made a wish with the fairy bell, petted lambs and the highlight of the day, we jumped into a bog!

We had a great adventure on the farm and even though the weather was dull, nothing could dampen our spirit that day, we laughed from beginning to end.





Darkness Into Light

In the early hours of May 11th 2019, almost 50 senior students, alongside Ms. Dolan, Ms. Brennan and Iníon Ní Dhomhnaill took part in this year's Darkness into Light in the Phoenix Park. Darkness into Light, in conjunction with Pieta House, encourages thousands of people worldwide to join together and show their support for mental health and suicide awareness. Beginning at 4.15am we walked amongst the thousands from darkness into light showing our support for such a great cause, one which is very important to us here in Coolmine.

Community Care Team

The Community Care Team is comprised of a group of 5th Year students who volunteer their time and are subsequently specially chosen in order to reach out to those who are less well off. The team raises awareness about local and global concerns such as homelessness, poverty, famine etc. Furthermore, the Team organises fundraising events and all proceeds are donated to both local and international causes. For example, this year alone, Community Care organised awareness and fundraising events in aid of Concern, Trocaire, St. Francis Hospice, Barnardos, Cystic Fibrosis Ireland and Focus Ireland. One of the highlights of the year was the Barnardos Children's Party when Community Care hosted a party for a group of young children who are accessing Barnardos' services. A great day was enjoyed by all and the event was made extra special with the specially arranged visit by Santa. This is only one of the events hosted in the School by Community Care with other events including Blanchardstown Active Retirement Group and St. Joseph's Centre, Clonsilla. The photo below shows members of the Community Care Team's Sponsored Walk to Bray on 7th May 2019.



TY Group Textiles Project

A group of 7 Transition Year students worked in the medium of textiles to produce a wall hanging based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Artist and crafts person Gabi McGrath visited the class for 3 workshops to demonstrate felt making techniques, embroidery and appliqué and assembly of the pieces. Each student made individual panels in the wet felting technique to represent the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Then the pieces were embroidered and sewn onto a backing for display.

Students learned about the 17 goals and the importance of international co-operation in achieving these goals. Students also learned about how textile arts have been used for centuries as a form of protest and conscience raising on social issues. Examples include the trade union movement and banners made for the 1913 lock out, the suffragette movement embroidered banners and clothing, the Greenham Common CND protests, and the AIDS quilts.

The panels made by the TY students will be on display in the foyer of the Blanchardstown Library until the 24th of May.

National Tree Week

A number of students from First to Fifth year in Coolmine helped participate in National Tree Week 2019. The students involved, assisted by Mr. Kinlon, managed to plant over 40 sapling trees. The trees planted were mountain ash and hawthorn trees. It is hoped the large clusters of red berries on the Mountain Ash trees will attract winter thrushes such as Redwings and Fieldfares. These berries are also the main source of food for the rare Waxwing. A dense hawthorn hedge will also provide plenty of nesting cover for a wide range of species and beautiful blossoms each spring. Both of these types of trees will naturally attract bees and butterflies to the area.





Merit Awards 2019

The Merit Awards is a key event in the Coolmine Calendar. One evening every year, students, staff and parents come together to recognise outstanding student contribution to school life in a variety of ways. These students embrace the school's mission statement on a regular basis, which is "to create an atmosphere of mutual respect, which promotes excellence in all aspects of school life and allows individuals to realise their full potential."

This year's ceremony was hosted in Westmanstown Golf Club on Thursday the 11th of April. Over 250 awards were received by students from 1st to 6th year. Students were awarded certificates for outstanding achievements, excellent attendance, taking part in extracurricular events throughout the year and for their contribution to class. There was also a new award in this year's ceremony for the Students of the Year, where individuals in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th year were recognised for their consistent and continued contributions to school life.

This year's award ceremony was a great success and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who were involved in organising the evening.













Coolmine's Global Citizens Celebrate Cultural Diversity

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, in his 2019 New Year address spoke about the rise of "inequality, intolerance and mistrust" in our world today. With 41 different nationalities in our school we felt it was important, as global citizens, that students be given the opportunity to showcase their culture. A greater understanding and acceptance of each other's values and traditions will bring peace and less conflict. By interacting and communicating with one another we break down barriers which builds a better future for everyone and in time will reduce poverty and help to achieve sustainable development. We are a school that supports the Sustainable Development Goals.

On May 9th we had a celebration in our school library with student–led stalls from ten countries: Ireland, China, India, Japan, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Moldova, Philippines and Russia. Students were invited to visit the library and experience the culture through written information, crafts, clothes, music, dance, language and sport. We even got to taste samples of food from Poland, Nigeria and Russia. This was a very proud day for those representing their culture and a great learning experience for the visiting students.

A further day of celebration will be held in Blanchardstown Shopping Centre on May 16th. We are working with Blakestown Community School and Riversdale Community College to present a day where young people can engage with the local community on their respective cultures.





Sports Day

Coolmine's annual sports day took place for 1st -3rd years this term with classes competing against each other in track and fields events. Thankfully, the weather on the day was very good and students showed great determination and team work for the day. On the day 6 school records were broken. A big thank you to all the students and teachers that helped to make this day a success.

Santry

This years Community Schools Games that are normally held in Santry took place in Navan. Sadly the good weather we had on the sports day did not continue. The students were absolutely fantastic all day, despite the conditions being horrible and no shelter available. We had some very impressive individual and team results. Last year we finished 3rd overall and so the aim this year was to better that result. Overall, we achieved 2nd place – which was great. Again a massive thank you to all students, parents, teachers and management of Coolmine for helping make this such a positive and memorable experience, looking forward to next year.









Young Social Innovator

Two Bono entered the Young Social Innovators competition as part of their Chaomhnóir programme. The students decided to "Celebrate cultural diversity" for their project. Hundreds of hours of work went into the project by every member of the class. As a result of their enthusiasm, teamwork and effort the students put together two books celebrating the language, sporting culture, clothing, myths/legends and recipes of over twenty different countries. They also designed an online game as well as an Instagram page in order to reach as wide an audience as possible. Their involvement in the Young Social Innovators project proved a wonderful success for all involved.

2019 Debs Ball

Saturday 14th September 2019
Red Cow Hotel

Ticket €75
(including transport from school to and from the venue, dinner, live band, DJ and breakfast)

Check out the Debs Facebook Page for further details