Parent News

Newsletter of Coolmine Community School Parents' Association **Dec 2021**

Wishing You A Very Merry Christmas

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These are strange days to be preparing for Christmas. In the media, the focus is on the Omicron variant, further restrictions, concern for health generally and a realisation that staying safe is our priority.

That said, school is a good place to be. I have lost count of the number of Christmas trees that are lit inside the school, our corridors are adorned with lights, the energy and joy of youth is contagious. Christmas jumpers are being worn today to raise money for Barnardos. This has added colour and smiles to our day and is a fun way to provide practical support for others. Meantime our woolly clothes are being collected and the SVP food appeal continues. Thank you to all parents and guardians who support and give so generously to these worthwhile causes.

I hope this *Parents News* captures for you some of the great things that are happening in our school. Yesterday our TY students received their certificates for completion of the LIFT programme. They will now mentor and be leaders for our Second Years. The school's anti-bullying campaign continues with a podcast being recorded this week. Our yearbook team are busy too, in these days, taking photographs of class groups for the Yearbook due to be published in May! The musical sound of *Aisling* is an uplifting experience – check out this new music group on our website.

We are proud of our young people who demonstrate resilience, care, enthusiasm, and generosity as well as commitment to their education despite the difficulties.

As we face the Christmas break, we send best wishes to all in the community who are ill. We wish all our Coolmine families a restful Christmas and a healthy and safe 2022.

Patricia Mc Phillips

Seasons Greetings from the PA

The Parents' Association, (PA), would like to take this opportunity to wish all parents / guardians, students and staff of our school a very happy Christmas and New Year.

We welcome our new members who joined the Association at our AGM and we look forward to working with them. We thank our outgoing members for the commitment and work over the years.

To stay safe we must look out for each other and remember that community spirit is our power. We work together to get our goals complete, we stand together for our beliefs, we listen together so we can make the right choices. Our children don't just attend a school they are a key element of a community... "The Coolmine School Community". The Parents Association is just one element of this school community.

We want to thank the whole school community for their continued interest and support for the PA, these include our School Principal, Deputies, Teachers, Secretaries, Caretakers, pupils and fellow parents. The PA is involved in many aspects of school life which will become apparent as you read through this edition of *Parent News*. We organise and deliver a number of functions to assist in school life such as the Book Rental Scheme, Uniform and Pre-loved Uniform Supply, Debs Ball, Newsletter and talks for parents amongst other things. A special mention goes to thank Ms Manek for her work in gathering the articles for our newsletter. We hope you enjoy the read and don't forget to enter the crossword competition.

COVID-19 has affected us all in many ways and we are all still living within the restrictions. The school and students work hard to stay safe and we thank them all for their diligence. We send our condolences to those families who have suffered any losses over the past year.

We have superb volunteers who help with the PA work. If you would like to assist us you can contact us directly by email coolmineparents@gmail.com.

We thank Dermot Kinane and Selina Bonnie (PA members / Editors) for the hard work in putting together this newsletter.



Merry Christmas,

Janet Mitten

Chairperson of the PA

A New Music Sensation – Aisling **Mr Tully**

The corridors of Coolmine Community School are once again resonating with the sounds of Irish Traditional Music. A new music sensation – Irish group 'Aisling' has been formed from our super talented first and second year students to entertain us with a wide repertoire of Irish jigs, reels, hornpipes, airs and song ballads. The group are really looking forward to performing at future school events.



The group members of Aisling are as follows:

Martina Neumannova - Piano Accordion
Julie-Anne Vega - Low Whistle
Audrey Pahati - Tin Whistle / Concertina
Hannah Patton - Tin Whistle
Zoey Pete - Percussion
Ms Young Park - Piano Accordion
Mr. Gerry Flynn – Acoustic Guitar
Mr. Damian Tully – Keyboards / Synth

Bird Watching at Coolmine

We have decided to make a group called bird watchers. We have identified the birds that live around our school. We have researched them and written profiles of their characteristics. We have found birds like magpies, crows and robins.

Since winter has come, we have decided to give our little birds a home to celebrate Christmas. They will be warm and cosy, and hopefully they will have enough to eat.

Written by *Emilija* in 2 Enright



Flash Mob **by Ms Masterson**

Some of our first-year classes (Ash, Elm and Oak) have been getting into the Christmas spirit by taking part in a Christmas Flash Mob in school this week. They clapped, twirled and jumped their way through Mariah Carey's 'All I Want for Christmas'. It was wonderful to see everyone smiling and laughing together in these tough times. It was such a great success that we might have to get the teachers involved next time! Keep your eyes peeled on our website for the full performance coming soon.



Student Council 2021 – 2022 by Ms Parker

Coolmine Community School's student council has had a very busy and productive start to the school year 2021 - 2022. Students meet at lunchtimes and engage in lively discussions about topics that have been raised by classmates thus giving a voice to all members of the school's student community. Solutions are worked out democratically with contributions from all members from first to sixth year. Strong leadership qualities are also being developed with a few fifth-year members taking on leadership roles within the council, this includes taking on the running of the council meetings on occasions. Student council members are also actively involved in many school wide initiatives and give freely of their time to enhance school life for all. To date this year, student council members have contributed to the mobile phone policy awareness initiative, anti-bullying initiative, odd socks day and have become members of the numeracy and digital literacy committees. New initiatives that are being worked on at present by members of the student council are the celebration of cultures and schools go orange. Members have also taken part in Comhairle na nÓg thus widening their contacts and enabling their voice to be heard by a much wider audience. Their contribution to the school community is acknowledged by all.



Badminton and Volleyball by Mr Ward

Both our badminton club for the early risers and our lunchtime volleyball club has proved hugely popular for students who wish to take part in Extracurricular Sport. They take place on every Wednesday morning at 8am and Thursday at lunch time for the rest of the year. All are welcome.





Stand Up for Awareness Week by Mr Purcell

Coolmine's annual involvement with Belongto's Stand up for awareness week was in November. This is a week focussed on raising awareness of the challenges some of our LGBTI+ community face in school life. The week is designed for students to engage in a number of different activities that help show support for our LGBTI+ community, these included things like poetry competition, rainbow straw hide and seek and our non-uniform rainbow day. This year was a huge success, with more students actively getting involved and showing their support for their fellow students. The awareness group meets every Friday in D42 at lunchtime and everyone is welcome. If you or someone you know would like to confidently talk with someone about LGBTI+, then go to www.belongto.org, email info@belongto.org or call 01 670 6223. In Coolmine, we are continuing to ensure a safe and fully inclusive school for all students to learn and be.





Fit Club's Hike in Howth by Ms Brady

On Monday, 30 November the Fit Club went on a fieldtrip hike in Howth. Ms Gallagher and Ms Brady took the group of 25 dedicated fitness students on an 8km hike of the red trail. It was a cool, crisp day with some drizzle, but these fitness enthusiasts were not deterred. They wrapped up with hats and scarves and took off up the cliffs. We stopped for lunch at the halfway mark and filled up on well-earned snacks and tea!

It was a fun day out where the students had a chance to chat, laugh and experience the outdoors. It was a wonderful opportunity to reward the students for their commitment to fitness and training each week. We look forward to having more adventures out and about in the New Year. Well done Fit Club.



Science Week by Ms McIntyre

Science Week took place in November 2021.

We wanted to bring science week to life for the students of Coolmine, to achieve this we created a packed schedule of talks and events that not only inspired but also challenged them to experience science in a different way. One of the main objectives was to engage all students, and our initiatives brought all years together to collaborate, have fun and learn from each other.

Monday: The first event of the week was the egg-drop challenge which invited them to use problem solving, teamwork and scientific skills to come up with an idea on how to stop an egg from breaking as it fell from a height. The students rose to the challenge coming up with many creative and some "egg-cellent" ways to stop the egg from meeting a messy end!

Tuesday: The sky was the limit as students were invited to build a rocket to test Newton's third law which states that, 'for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction'. Competition was intense to see which rocket could reach the highest reaching a school record of close to 30 meters. Watch this "space" NASA!

Wednesday: The school-wide scavenger-hunt went live. A QR code at the top of A-Corridor kicked things off as students had to decipher clues leading them to the next QR code. From the gym to the garden, on to D-corridor students had to look far and wide. Not all clues were in fixed locations though. Ms. Stafford and Mr. Philips both had QR codes attached to them. Tracking them down may have been the most challenging part of the hunt!

Thursday: Our senior chemistry students took part in the annual chemistry careers workshop which was hosted through Zoom by Trinity College Dublin. This year's theme was energy and sustainability and exposed the students to potential courses and careers in these fields.

Friday: All students were also invited to enjoy 'Captivating Chemistry' in the labs at lunchtime, where the teachers demonstrated the fun-side of chemistry by creating 'flaming bubbles', 'coco-bombs', controlled explosions and so much more! Fifth and sixth year chemistry students enjoyed an workshop facilitated by Trinity College Dublin, entitled, "Power our Future", where students got hands on experience exploring electrochemistry for future power solutions.



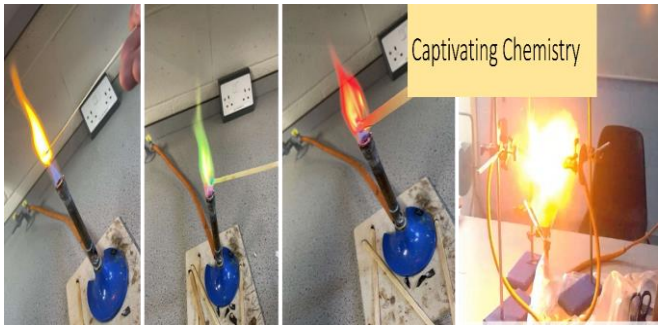
Science Week

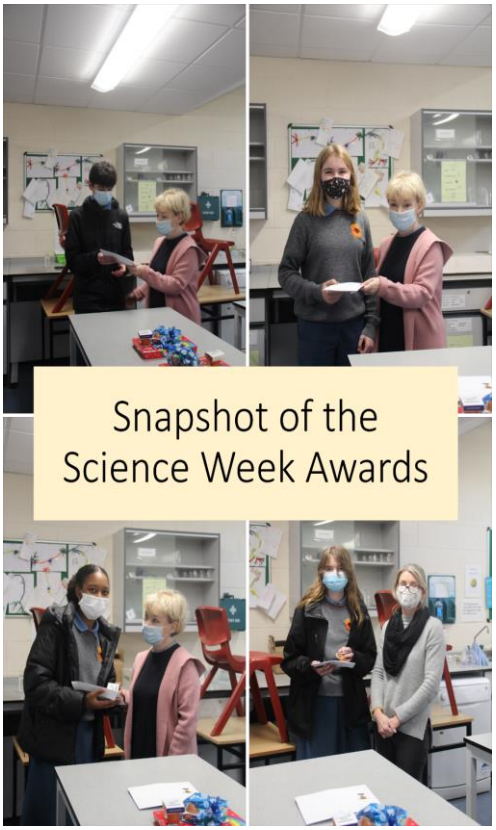
Throughout the entire week: There was a daily "True or False" quiz for all students to try. The students had to submit their answers online and a winner announced daily. A poster competition was also run. Students were invited to communicate this years Science Week theme "Creating our Future", in a creative and informative way. An impressive range of work was submitted, with the winner announced on Friday. First year students completed creative and informative projects on 3D models of plant and animal cells. Second year students completed fascinating projects on food sustainability. Science week culminated with an awards ceremony where all students across all years, competitions, and projects were presented with their prizes by Ms. Mc Philips. A huge thank you to the entire science department for all their hard work to make this year's science week fun, memorable and educational. Thanks to all our remarkable senior students for their time and effort behind the scenes to inspire and support at all events.











College Awareness Week by Ms Maher

College Awareness Week took place in the school from Monday, 22 November to Friday, 26 November. There was a great buzz around the school. Teachers all wore stickers stating where they went to college and what they studied. This generated lots of questions and chats in the classroom around the college experience.

All students were shown a presentation about the benefits of going to college. The first years did lots of college related activities in their Guidance and SPHE classes that week. It was great to have visitors back in the building. We had presentations from:

●Dunboyne College.

●Lyndsey Doran, a HR Consultant who gave a presentation to the TY and 5th years about CV preparation.

●Dublin Business School presented to the senior students on careers in Law.

●Mark Deegan from TU Dublin who gave an excellent presentation about the apprenticeship route. He also presented on careers in Engineering.

●Dr John McGinnity presented prizes to four of our 6th years in Humanities, Science, Business, and Engineering and made a presentation about life on campus in Maynooth University.

●Dr Ian O 'Grady talked about his journey to becoming a Psychologist with the HSE, the students really enjoyed hearing about all the career options with a Psychology degree.

●We had a virtual presentation from TUD Blanchardstown campus.

●James Fennelly, owner of DSC Gym spoke to the students about his career path from Engineer to Personal Trainer and Business Owner. He gave students advice about the different careers in the world of Sport.

We finished the week with a visit from CTC Blanchardstown who met with both LCA groups to discuss what courses they would like CTC to develop to meet the needs of young people in D15.

Teachers had access to a curated selection of college presentations and virtual college tours which they showed to students in their subject area.

There were lunchtime workshops where students took personality tests, 16personalities.com , to find out what career they would be suited to. There was a Lunchtime Big Fun Careers Table Quiz which was a great success. The first prize of a box of Dunkin Donuts was a big draw for many students!!

There were College themed posters all along the corridors to emphasise the Importance of Third level Education.

Students enjoyed the week activities and roll on CAW 2022 as we slowly return to normal.

Global Citizenship by Ms O'Hora

Our Global Citizens have been working very hard to make our school environment a better place for everyone and for the planet. In doing so, they are supporting Global Goal 12, 13 and 15.



These are our Bird Watchers: They have been studying the birds that we see on our school grounds. They have researched these birds and have written a Bird Report which they hope to display outside in the school garden. They have also designed a bird house and with the help of the Woodwork Department, they are hoping to make these in the New Year. In the photograph we have John Panergo, Sheena Zhou, Emilija Latvyte, Mr McIntosh, Audrey Pahati and Halle Sumeras.

These are our Energy Savers: These students identified that a lot of energy was being wasted in classrooms by teachers leaving the projectors on. They had a meeting with Mr Smith, the IT coordinator. They decided that they would make posters which would be placed in a location that would be very visible to teachers to remind them to switch off the projectors. They also developed a screen saver to act as a further reminder. In the photograph we have Miss Tully, Jie Lin, Pedro Hronoc, Sahana Subramanian, Rachel Giles, Hannah Patton and Miss Manning



Global Citizenship



Our Food Milers are working towards developing a calendar of seasonal foods that are grown in Ireland. Buying foods that are in season and that are grown locally is very important for the environment. The food is fresher because it hasn't travelled many miles / kilometres to get here. It also cuts greenhouse gas emissions. This group is being led by Sorina Costis in 2 Enright. Sorina has plans for the building of a compost bin which would be a great addition to the school. In the photograph we have Mr Kinlon, Tudor Andricioaie, Ioana Roscanean and Sorina Costis.

Our plan is to work with ClothesPod.ie to organise a fundraiser in partnership with Green-School's. ClothesPod.ie is Ireland's largest textile recycler. The aim is to raise awareness about the amount of clothing going to landfill. ClothesPod.ie are running a school's initiative with an agreed sum of €400 per tonne of clothing collected, paid to the school. Participating schools will do a clothes collection with parents, students, and staff. Further details will follow in the New Year.



Thank you to all Students and Teachers for their involvement in our Global Citizenship initiatives. Thank you to WorldWise Global Schools for their support.

Girls Basketball 2021 by Ms D'Arcy



Under 19 Girls Basketball Team
Congratulations to the U19 girls basketball team who had a great season. They won both their group games against St. Michael's Holy Faith and Fingal Community College, and their quarter-final against Pobalscoil Neasain. They unfortunately lost their semi-final against Luttrelstown Community College, in a hard-fought match. Well done to all involved.



Under 16 Girls Basketball Team
The U16 girls basketball team had a great start to the season, winning against St. Michael's Holy Faith, and Fingal Community College. They lost against Clonturk Community School but qualified from the group. They had a tough quarter-final qualifier against Edmund Rice College, which they unfortunately lost. Well done to all the players involved.

Food & Woolley Clothes Christmas Appeal

By Ms Masterson and Ms Murphy





First-year and sixth-year students have been working together this week, with the help of some of Santa's elves, to spread the Christmas cheer in Coolmine. They have been collecting non-perishable foods to create hampers which will be distributed to families in need this Christmas.

They have also been taking part in the Simon Community's Woolley Clothes Appeal. Jackets, jumpers, hats, scarves, and gloves have been collected and will be distributed by the Simon Community to the homeless to help keep them warm this winter.

All students have shown great community spirit, compassion, and enthusiasm. Well done to everyone involved and thank you to everyone who donated!

FUSE **by Ms McMahon**

Coolmine Community School has partnered up with DCU to participate in their FUSE anti-bullying and online safety programme. FUSE was developed by the Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre in DCU, supported by Facebook. The programme launched in September 2019 across Ireland. It is currently being delivered to all second year students in our school, consisting of a series of workshops and projects such as cyberbullying, social media, empathy and relationships, reporting and responding.

FUSE aims to support and empower young people to find solutions and initiatives themselves, to tackle bullying and online safety.

DCU Anti-Bullying Centre FUSE team also acknowledge the importance of including parents in their programmes and have already hosted a free parents webinar for all FUSE participating schools on Tuesday, 14 December. As a FUSE participating school, parents will be notified once events such as this are announced.





Anti-Bullying Campaign by Ms O'Hora



Our campaign started on November 4th. This was the first ever International Day against Violence and Bullying in our schools. This initiative, led by UNESCO, aims to give children and adolescents the skills and coping mechanisms to deal with bullying behaviour. A recent UNESCO report shows that almost one in three students have been bullied in the past month, making it the most prevalent form of violence in schools. The theme for this year's International Day was: Together against bullying in school.

As part of our campaign, we held an Odd Sock Day. This was a fun way to express our individuality and uniqueness. It gave us a chance to appreciate each other's individual differences by accepting each other's odd socks.

To raise awareness, our Junior Cycle classes followed designated programmes. First years followed Brian Comerford's Anti-Bullying workshops. Brian is a Guidance Counsellor and has worked with the Department of Education devising a nationwide anti-bullying policy for schools. Second years and Third years followed FUSE, an Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme developed by DCU Anti-Bullying Centre.



Anti-Bullying Campaign

Our Anti-Bullying Charter and Guidelines for Students were also reviewed during the 2020-21 academic year by the Student Council. These are on display in all classrooms throughout the school.

We also got an opportunity to explore the theme of Bullying through the Curriculum.

• CSPE focused on the rights of students to an education, free of bullying and the impact that bullying can have on our health and well-being.

• English allowed students to focus on the many poems and short stories based on the theme.

• The Anti-Bullying Charter has also been translated into different languages by students and teachers.

• Business students studied the Employment Equality Act 1998-2015 which prohibits discrimination/bullying in the workplace. They are aware that the BOM of our School has a legal obligation to protect both students and staff on the nine grounds of discrimination.

• Science students explored how the impact of bullying can alter 'bugs' in our gut.

• History focused on individuals who have stood up against bullying behaviour e.g., Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, John Hume and Malala Yousafzai.

• RE teachers encouraged their classes to 'Be Kind'.

• Maths used data from UNICEF on Peer Violence and identified the countries with high and low levels of bullying.

• Students studying Geography are aware of the global aspect of bullying and this is reflected through the power and wealth that countries in the Northern hemisphere have over those in the Global South. This is evident today through the inequity surrounding Covid-19 vaccine distribution.

• Some of our students have expressed the theme of bullying through performance. Pictured opposite is Mr Tully's second year music class singing 'Beautiful' by Christina Aguilera.

• Currently, our Transition Year students are working on a piece of Drama with Shane Nestor, an experienced actor, producer, and director. We look forward to seeing their work in the New Year.

• We would like to draw your attention to a TY Podcast on the theme of Anti-Bullying which will be available on the school website shortly.







Anti-Bullying Campaign

Throughout our campaign, we held an Anti-Bullying Competition. Students were allowed to enter their reflections in whatever format they wanted.

The winning poster is by Jose Dunlea in 1 Mulberry. Well done to Jose for an excellent piece of work.



Our campaign has given us an opportunity to support the Global Goals and to make our school a safe place for everyone.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank several students for their hard work and involvement in our Anti-Bullying Committee:

Michala Sweeney, Emer McCarthy, Airah Mae Gomez, Michelle Serrao, Adam Flinter, Jake Cahir, Hannah Burke, Louise Leonard Lynch, Ahamed Sajid and Aaron Serrao.

Special thanks to Mr O'Reilly for his time and support during the campaign.

Transition Year LIFT Programme **by Mr Owens**

Congratulations to this years' TY group who have been taking part in the LIFT programme (Leading Ireland's Future Together) and are now fully certified facilitators. The aim of LIFT is to encourage students to be leaders in their own lives. The students have been learning about core leadership values each week and are looking forward to facilitating the programme for 2nd Year students in the New Year.





Girls Gaelic Football Team by Ms Doddy

The school's Girls Gaelic Football Team who participated in a game against Tyrellstown school Le Cheile and were narrowly defeated. The girls' Gaelic team trains on a Tuesday at lunchtime.



First Year Wood Technology by Ms Gallagher

First year Wood Technology students have been busy making their Christmas gifts and trying to get them finished on time. The students got to choose their design and choose who they were making it for. Storm Barra threw a small spanner in the works in terms of missing some classes but they are pushing themselves to try to ensure their gifts are ready to take home in time for Christmas!



School Soccer by Mr Owens

With the reintroduction of schoolboy's leagues, students have been competing at 1st Year, U15 and U17 levels. While there have been some great performances, no team remains involved in cup competition. They are however looking forward to kicking on in their respective league fixtures. Well done to all involved.





Boys Basketball 2021 by Mr Rooney



Our Senior Boys Basketball Teams were able to resume training and matches in the Autumn after a long break. There were many players whose last match was early 2020, so everyone was excited to be back playing the sport they loved!

The teams were competing in the A League against some of the best in the country. While we enjoyed some success and endured some tough games and narrow defeats, the players always represent Coolmine extremely well. They pushed each other on in games, showed respect to their competitors and even took on a few injuries along the way.

The U16 and U19 journeys ended at the Semi Final and Quarter Final stages of the A League Plate competition. But both teams enjoyed being back at matched and learned from their experiences. They will come back strong next season!

Extra Curricular Activities

For the six weeks from 8 November to 17 December students ran a number of classes for their peers. The packed schedule included things like mindfulness colouring, mini company, girls junior GAA, boys junior GAA, computer club, chess and games club, dance club, computer club, English conversation, basketball, music, photography club, and knitting & crochet.

Other extra-curricular activities available in the school include;
Girls soccer : Thursday lunchtime
Boys soccer: Thursday after school
Fit Club: Monday & Thursday. Meet at the gym at 3.40
Basketball
Hurling
Boys & Girls GAA
Swimming gala: February 2022
Badminton for all: Wednesday mornings 8am
LGBT: Fridays at lunch
Junior Enterprise : Tuesdays at lunchtime



Students are reminded of all extra-curricular activities over the intercom & via the class Caomhnoir.

Urban Planning Workshop by Mr Kinlon

Coolmine Community School was recently selected as one of only five schools in Ireland to host an Urban planning workshop delivered by the international organisation the Urban Land Institute (ULI). Students from 5th and 6th year economics and geography classes participated in the day-long workshop on Urban design and planning.

UrbanPlan is a realistic, engaging, and academically demanding classroom-based programme in which students learn about the fundamental forces that affect urban regeneration. An educational initiative developed by the Urban Land Institute, UrbanPlan has been running successfully in schools in the USA and Europe allowing ULI members to share their experiences in land use. It brings the urban environment to life for young people through a series of interactive workshops and team working challenges.



Having been fully adapted, UrbanPlan is now running in schools in Europe with programmes currently running in the UK, Germany and Ireland. UrbanPlan is an educational programme to help young people understand the role real estate plays in reviving and regenerating urban areas. Industry experts who adjudicated during the day on the regeneration competition were extremely enthusiastic and complimentary with the level of engagement and skillsets displayed by the Coolmine students. Well done to all involved.



6th Year Geography Field Trip **by Mr Kinlon**

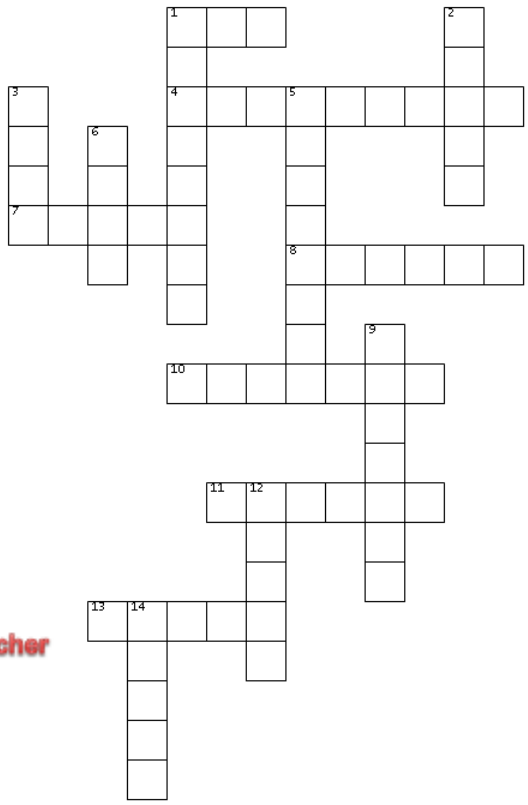
Coolmine's 6th year Geographical Field Study took place on the 19th October on the River Glyn in Larch Hill, Tibradden, Co Dublin. Students were immersed in a practical, hands-on and fun day of experimentation. Exploring the river, students carried out a number of investigations and measured the energy the river has to enable transportation of material, they measured the size and type of the bedload transported and the resulting shape of the fluvial environment. Well done to all those brave 6th years who got in touch with their inner 'Culchie' during the day !!





Crossword Competition

To be in with a chance of winning one of four €25 Blanchardstown Shopping Centre vouchers, simply fill in the crossword puzzle below using the clues provided, put your name and class on it and email a photo / scan to coolmineparents@gmail.com. If you don't have a printer that's no problem simply write the answers in an email to coolmineparents@gmail.com including your name and class. **Closing date is 12 noon Friday 14 January 2022.** Winners drawn at random from correct entries received.







ACROSS

1. What is the third colour of the French flag... blue, white and ---?
4. Who won the RTE Sports Personality of the Year for 2021?
7. What is the 2nd planet from the Sun?
8. Who wrote the novel Normal People?
10. Who are the only Premier League team to have ever gone a full season unbeaten? (English football)
11. What is the capital city of Germany?
13. What county won this years Womens Senior All Ireland Football Championship?

DOWN

1. Who was the first woman to be Uacthtarain na hEireann?
2. Where are the 2024 summer Olympics going to be held?
3. What is the first name of the taller burglar in the Christmas movie Home Alone?
5. What element has atomic number 17 on the Periodic Table of the Elements?
6. What is the square root of 81?
9. What saint is the Patron Saint of Ireland?
12. What is the face value of the letter J in Scrabble?
14. Which Brontë sister wrote Wuthering Heights?

Name _____

Class _____