



**St Mary's Secondary School,
New Ross, Co. Wexford**

December Newsletter 2018

A Christmas Wish

As we approach the end of 2018 we would like to take the opportunity to wish all our school community a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

May 2019 bring peace, happiness and strength to all within our school community. May Our Lady of Mercy guide us on our journey and keep us safe from harm.

A Giving Community

Since September our students have been involved in many acts of charity. Some of the groups who have benefited from the generosity are: St Vincent De Paul, Meals on Wheels, Team Hope, the Hospice and the Tanzania school project. Thank you to everyone for such generous support.

A special mention to all of our classes and their tutors for the preparation of abundant hampers.

Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to a number of last year's students who were honoured with scholarship awards by their 3rd

level colleges recently as a result of their excellent Leaving Certificate results:

Rachel O' Connor - UCD

Lily O' Keeffe– Trinity College

Niamh Byrne – DCU

Kate Doyle – Carlow IT

Dates

Carol Service Monday 17th December 2018 at 2pm. Parents are invited to attend.

The school will close for Christmas holidays at 1.15pm on Friday 21st December and will reopen on Monday 7th January 2019.

1st Year Parent-Teacher Meeting Thursday 17th January 3.30pm.

The mocks will take place during the week beginning Monday 4th February until Friday 15th February 2019.

Assessment tests for next year's 1st Years will take place on Saturday 9th February 2019.

Midterm break will be February 18th – 22nd 2019.

Sport

It has been a busy time since September on the sporting front. Our girls have enjoyed success at participation and competition levels in many sports including: Equestrian, Camogie, Volleyball, Football, Badminton Athletics and Rugby.

Careers Help

6th year students have availed of trips to Higher Options and visits to 3rd Level colleges as part of their planning for completion of CAO forms and career options.

6th year parents also had an informative talk on the CAO with WIT and Maynooth University representatives facilitated by Ms Ryan and Ms Lawlor.

Students participated in College Awareness Week activities.

Study Help

The 3rd Year students did DATs aptitude tests to help with consideration of subject choices and career choices.

3rd, 5th and 6th Year students are reminded to make use of their Study Clix account as a study aid.

Excellence in Business

Congratulations to our 19 students who were awarded certificates for Excellence in Business Studies in their Junior Certificate 2018 at a function co-hosted by the Business Studies Teachers' Association of Ireland and Waterford Institute of Technology.

Congratulations to all concerned and to their teachers Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Forde and Ms Tinnelly.

Religion Department

The Religion Department has been busy organising a suite of activities promoting Faith Development. Our start of year mass was followed by

retreats for 3rd, T.Y. and 6th years. The retreat days offered the girls space to thank God and one another for life and all the wonderful moments it brings.

A Mass of Remembrance was held in November, kindly concelebrated by Mons. Joe Mc Grath. A list of remembrance was placed on the altar for the mass. Students were also invited to place a butterfly with the initials of a deceased loved one who will be remembered and prayed for on our wall of remembrance outside the Religion room.

Congratulations to all involved with the Young St Vincent de Paul group in the school.

On Tuesday 11th December students from Ms Lyng's and Ms Walpole's religion classes visited the New Ross Day Care Centre where they sang carols and songs before giving out a small handmade Christmas 'sock muffin' to all present. Thanks to the students, Ms Lyng and Ms Walpole and the welcoming people in the Day Care Centre.

Road Safety

We remind all students to 'Be Safe, Be Seen' and take great care as pedestrians on all walking journeys. We remind all road users to be safe when parking and driving especially around the school and Irishtown area. We urge all students to use the pedestrian crossing outside the school – especially students alighting from buses.

Family Contribution

All family contributions are gratefully received by the school and are used to enhance educational opportunities for our students. Thank you to all who have made a contribution and further donations from others will be appreciated.

Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to all of the students who received an award at our awards ceremony. The awards recognised the many facets of school life and were a celebration of achievement, participation and involvement in school life. We thank Ms Kinsella for organising the ceremony.

Parents' Council Christmas Draw

The Parents' Council would like to thank everyone for their support of the Christmas Draw. The list of winners will be sent by email.

Gaeilge 24

Ghlac an idirbhliain páirt sa dushlán Gaeilge 24. Deis iontach ab ea é an Ghaeilge a labhairt. Spreag sé daltaí agus múinteoirí cúpla focal Gaeilge a úsáid timpeall na scoile. Pupils enjoyed ranganna 'as Gaeilge', céilithe & tráth na gceist on the day. 'Beatha teanga í a labhairt.'

Open Night

Thank you to all students, staff and parents who helped out at our Open

Night in November. 120 students will join us in August as the new 1st year cohort.

Curricular Initiatives

Among the curricular initiatives this term were:

- LCVP Enterprises and Christmas Fair
- YSI Promotional Ventures – aiding the Rapunzel Foundation and New Ross River Search & Rescue
- 3rd Year CSPE trip
- Budget Business Breakfast
- Science Show
- Maths Week Challenges
- European Language Week
- Art Gallery visit
- 5th Year Home Economics – Apprentice Chef Demo in WIT
- 3rd Year Home Economics trip to the School of Food in Thomastown.
- Music students' visit to the New Ross Piano Festival.

Head Lice

The holiday period is another good time to do a check. There have been no recent outbreaks but it is always good to maintain regular checks.



Lunchtime Activities

Some of the lunchtime activities included:

- Ukulele group
- Dance
- Chess
- Volleyball

Kennedy Summer School

We were happy to host the Kennedy Summer student event in September as part of our Amber Flag work in promoting positive mental health and student voice.

Credit Union

The school branch of credit union is open for business – a great way of saving.

New Building

Our additional accommodation of two new classrooms and another Home Economics kitchen has reached roof level. It is hope that the project will be complete by Easter.

Bookworms

A new Book Club for 1st Years has commenced. All are welcome.

Student Council

The student council has been busy organising class reps, organising a fundraiser for Simon and availed of CEIST training facilitated by ex-St. Mary's principal Mr. Gerry Watchorn. The students also modelled school trousers and the results of a survey will be available soon.

Parents' Survey

Keep your eye out for a survey on school developments – a link will be sent by text.

School Tour

Preparations are underway for the 5th Year tour to Amsterdam under the co-ordination of Mr Fogarty.

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter @mercynewross for the most up-to-date information about school activities.

