



St. Muireann's House
M House

St. Patrick's House
P House



St. Brigid's House
B House

St. Colmcille's House
C House

St. Lawrence's House
L House

Our Lady's School Newsletter



October 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A warm welcome to our new Our Lady's Newsletter. This newsletter will give you details of the many activities that have happened in the school over the last half term.

Thank you for moving over to the App to facilitate more effective communication between home and school. Already this term we have put up over 20 permission slips for trips and extracurricular activities that the girls have participated in. Congratulations to all the students who have been involved in charity work, debating, green schools, sporting events and numerous projects. A big thanks goes to our staff who give up so much extra time to help the holistic development of our students.

Please check the extracurricular timetable that is on the App. There are lots of different activities for your daughter to participate in. We have many new extracurricular activities including 1st Year handcrafts, debating, the 5th and 6th Year chamber choir, Mastermind and 1st -6th Year linguistic Olympiad International. Every student in the school should find something to suit their interests so please encourage your daughter to sign up.

The whole school enjoyed the opening school mass organised by C5. Their theme, 'Never above you, never below you, always beside you' was reflected in the readings and the accompanying music from the school

choir and orchestra. We thank our celebrant Fr McKay.

You will receive the new format Mid-term Formative Assessment Reports after the break. Please refer to information on the website under SSE, School Self-Evaluation to read about formative assessment. A note will go up on the App after mid-term to let you know that you can access the reports on VSware.

A reminder that a Junior Cycle information talk will take place on Thursday 22nd Nov at 7pm. This is an invaluable opportunity to learn all about the new style Junior Cycle and what it means for your daughter. Terms like CBAs, SLARS and the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) will be explained and this talk will enable you to assist your daughter more effectively at Junior Cycle.

A special thanks goes to the Parents' Council who organised a speaker to talk to parents about 'Teenage Girls and Pressures They Face' at their AGM on Oct 25th.

The staff in our Lady's appreciate the support that we receive from Parents and Guardians as we work together to ensure that our students realise their full potential in all aspects of their lives.

I wish all in our school community a happy and restful mid-term break.

Regards,

Marguerite Gorby | Principal



International Languages Day

Students and staff celebrated International Languages Day on October 3rd. The school was brightened up with colourful artwork displaying students' favourite words in German, French and Spanish and students gave announcements in the foreign languages at break times. Foreign language movies were shown at lunchtime and the girls also got to try their hand at the French sport of Boules.



Opening School Mass

We marked the opening of the school year with a very special Mass prepared by C5. Their theme 'Never above you, never below you, always beside you' was reflected in the readings and the accompanying music from the school choir and orchestra. Thanks to all who participated in the mass and well done to all the students for their excellent behaviour throughout.

1st Year Active & Connected Workshop

The Active and Connected Workshop was run by the TY Sports Leadership class on September 18th. The 1st Year classes got the opportunity to take part in a fun morning of sports, helping them to get connected with their form class as well as getting plenty of exercise. It was a great success with lots of smiling 1st and 4th Year students.



Carlingford Trip

On September 24th, the TY's went on the infamous trip to Carlingford. They had many indoor and outdoor activities and although there were a few injuries everyone had a great time. They all bonded and enjoyed themselves.



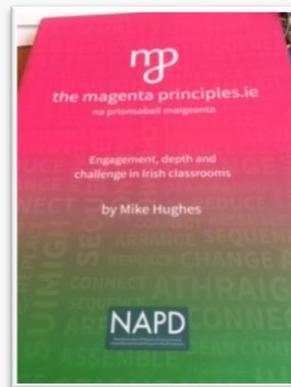
Hospice Coffee Morning

This year, in the absence of Noreen Hanahoe, the annual Hospice Coffee Morning was organised by the SNA team. There was great collaboration amongst all staff - baking and collecting a fantastic amount of €335. Well done to all involved in raising monies for such a well-deserving cause.



Learning and Teaching Expertise in Our Lady's

Congratulations to Ms L Doyle and Ms F Kinsella who both had descriptions of their interactive class published in Mike Hughes' Irish Edition of 'The Magenta Principles'.



Model United Nations

Congratulations to the students who represented Our Lady's School at the Terenure College Model UN conference. All the girls did a great job and were wonderful ambassadors for their countries. A special congratulations to Marie Bishop and Anna Waters who received Distinguished Delegates awards. Aimee Murphy and Alisha Shanagher held chair positions. Ana Cooke, Nicole Dempsey, Ella Manning, Ciara O'Gorman and Alex Lacey represented India. Emma Casier, Robyn McCarthy, Marie Bishop and Anna Waters represented Turkey. Aimee Cosgrove, Mohana Sarwar, Aisling Wedick, Emily Jones and Rachel Kilmartin represented Australia.



Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award

Congratulations to Niamh Guilfoyle C5, who was highly commended in the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award 2018. This prestigious award is in its 48th year and is given to previously unpublished poets.



Award-winners

Junior Science Olympiad

Congratulations to Sarah McNaughton B4 and Sinead McGoldrick C4 on being selected for the Junior Science Olympiad based on their high achievements in Junior Certificate Maths and Science.

Study Skills Week

The first week in October was OLS Study Skills Week: a chance to focus on how, what and when to study. Each year group had a different focus: 1st Year's focus was on organisational skills, 2nd and 3rd Year focused on formative feedback (how to use feedback to improve work), TY's focused on goal setting, and 5th and 6th Year focused on timing for homework and how to study effectively in each subject.



Past Pupils Reunion

We welcomed past pupils who graduated from OLS in 1993, 1998 and 2008 to an Open School Event on Saturday, October 20th. There was great fun, chats and memories shared as the girls caught up and had a chance to wander the corridors reminiscing about their own school days! The 6th Year Council brought the past pupils on tours of the school, representing contemporary OLS superbly.



5th Year Resilience Speaker

Lauren Darcy, M5, writes: The 5th Year students had the opportunity to listen to and interact with the insightful life coach, Sarah Doyle. Sarah came to the school to discuss the importance of good mental health, how to deal with the pressures of school, and general wellbeing. Sarah spoke about how

every single person is unique and special, and how we will all find our place in the world. She talked about her own life and the thing she had gone through, and explained how everyone can have bad days. It was a very interesting talk and I am glad I go to hear Sarah speak.

TY Development Days

For the most recent development day, B4 and C4 had a retreat. They learned about appreciating life and what they have. L4 had a film making workshop. They made some trailers and short films, and the feedback was brilliant from all involved. P4 had a first aid workshop where they learned some lifelong skills.

TY Work Experience

The TY's headed out on their first work experience week from the 15th to the 19th of October. There was a wide range of exciting new opportunities and everyone enjoyed themselves very much. From the Credit Union to the DSPCA, they all had great new experiences.

CSPE Action Project

Róisín O'Neill, C3, writes: For their CSPE Action Project, students in C3 along with their CSPE teacher organized a visit to Dublin Zoo to raise awareness about animal conservation and their chosen animal, the red panda. They actively participated in the 'Zooardship' programme and learned about how they can be better stewards of our planet, by recycling, using less plastics and not wasting food. They took part in a photo workshop, where they had to decide if various photos showed examples of good or bad treatment of animals, and debated whether or not zoos were better for animals than the wild or nature reserves.



Then the class visited the zoo's two red pandas, Jasmine and Brunei. The students learned about the threats their species face such as poaching and habitat loss, and how raising awareness can help to protect them. Finally the girls spent an hour visiting the

zoo's other inhabitants, including the elephants, giraffes and sea lions. Overall the visit to Dublin was a living classroom experience brimming with valuable experiences. A great day was had by students in C3.



Junior Debating

This year, six 2nd Year students are involved in the UCD Junior Schools Debating Competition. The six students - Caitlin Evoy, Róisín Evoy, Eimear Joyce, Abbey Kelly, Anna Portada O'Driscoll and Rebecca Prendergast - took part in their first debate in UCD on September 27th. They competed against many other schools from across Ireland, arguing for and against the motions 'This house would ban advertising aimed at children' and 'This house would replace a minimum voting age with a voting test'. The girls did very well and all progressed to the second round which was held on October 18th. The girls took to the floor again in a fiery fashion to argue both for and against the motion 'Assuming any form of life exists on Mars, this house believes we should not colonise Mars'. The girls will compete in the third round of the competition after the midterm break. We wish them the very best of luck in the next round!



French Theatre Group

On October 22nd senior students of French at OLS got to experience and participate in a French play 'La Salle des Énigmes' (The Escape Room). The students thoroughly enjoyed watching Marie et Jérémie (played by Ceriele et Etienne from Paris) as they tried to solve the clues, with the help of some OLS "volunteers" as their assistants. It was a laugh a minute show all through French. Bravo à toutes les filles qui ont participé.



Chaplaincy Corner

A vibrant, creative and accessible Chaplaincy exists in Our Lady's School.

It is an integral and vital part of the school life. We have had a fantastic start to the school year and so much has been achieved by our students and staff in the last two months. Well done to all involved in maintaining the Christian ethos of the school and the implementation of its mission.

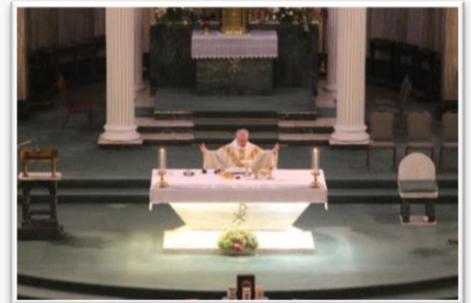
Opening Year Mass

The Opening Mass was held in St Pius X Church on the 20th September. The theme 'Never above you, Never Below you, Always beside you' resonated through the wonderful liturgy prepared by C5. Fr. Brian Mc Kay, from Terenure College, presided over the Mass and we were so glad to have the sisters of our Community, retired teachers and past students in attendance. The beautiful music organised by the Music department and school choir added to the joyous occasion and marked the exciting beginning of our new school year.



Mole Day

5th and 6th Year Chemistry students, and 2nd Year Science students celebrated Mole Day on October 23rd by playing mole games, singing the mole song and decorating an edible periodic table.



OLS Reading Week

The final week before the mid-term break was Reading Week. Our One Book One School pick this year was 'Star By Star' by Sheena Wilkinson, a timely read as 2018 marks the centenary of Irish women gaining the right to vote. The week was filled with bookish activities such as The Great Book Bake-Off, The Wonder-Women Exhibition and scavenger hunts in the school library. Students and staff alike read Star By Star during DEAR time each day and we rounded off the week with a visit from the author, Sheena Wilkinson.



C House Mass

The C House Celebrated their Annual Mass on October 5th with the theme 'I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot, but together we can do great things'. As we celebrated the feast day of St. Colmcille, our patron Saint, we remembered his mission to help people who were struggling to survive poverty and injustice. He lived as a monk in community and understood the importance of everyone pulling together and supporting one another. In the spirit of community each house has decided to come together to support the Peter Mc Verry foundation by making a financial donation for each of their house masses throughout the year. Our commitment to live out the Gospel message and to support people in the wider community is paramount in the work we do in Our Lady's school.

Fright Night Charity event

The annual Our Lady's School Fright Night in aid of Wells for Zoe took place on Friday, October 19th. The school canteen was transformed into a spooky disco where P5 Religion class coordinated a night of dancing, games and competitions for our first year students. Huge support was shown from our local community through donations of hampers, spot prizes, vouchers and food. An incredible €4844.39 was raised which will go directly to the 'Girl Child Project' in Mzuzu, Malawi. This money will ensure that the education for twenty-five secondary school girls will be paid for this year, including uniforms, books, transport costs and a meal each day. A huge thank you to everyone involved! Know that your hard work and effort will change the lives of these girls and give them the gift of hope for the future.



Retreats

As an integral part of the Religious Education programme offered in Our Lady's school, three retreat days occurred this term. The 6th Years made their retreat in-house followed by bowling in Tallaght. The retreat for B₄ and C₄ occurred on the Transition year Development Day, this opportunity to reflect with their own giftedness and God's unconditional love, will be given to L₄ and P₄ in March. The 5th Years visited Avoca, Wicklow for their retreat day. This retreat offered the students a time to challenge themselves in outdoor activities combined with a time for reflection and discussion during the indoor session. The students found these to be worthwhile days and a great opportunity to focus on their holistic development. A huge 'thank you' to the staff, who accompanied the students to Wicklow, and the teams for facilitating the retreats.

Le Chéile Council

In 2013, Our Lady's school was entrusted by the Religious of Christian Education to the Le Chéile Trust. This will ensure that our commitment to maintaining the Christian ethos and rich faith practices of our school will continue into the future. This year, the chaplaincy in Our Lady's will be supported by a new Le Chéile Council. It is a student-led, Faith Leadership council consisting of eighteen 5th Years and six 6th Years. The students will meet every Thursday at lunchtime, to discuss how best to develop the community of faith in the school and respond to the challenge to live the Gospel message in acts of service, to those who are vulnerable or lack a voice in society. The council are already busy planning 'In November we Remember' where we will give time for reflection and commemorate those, we love, who have died. The council will have their induction ceremony as part of the Nuns' Feast Day celebrations on November 23rd.

Anam Caras

The Sisters of the community are Anam Cara's, meaning Faith Friends, to each year group in the school. After the C House Mass, the C6 class visited their Anam Cara, Sr. Margaret who gave them a lovely party before heading back to school for supervised study. Sr. Magnier visited L1 as they completed their Spirituality rotating block. She spent time with the girls and got some insight into the interesting and enthusiastic class she will support for the next six years. If one request wasn't enough, Sr. Magnier also spent time with B5 chatting with them as they prepare of the upcoming Feast Day celebrations. C5 who organised the wonderful Opening Year Mass, visited with Sr. Kathleen to learn all about life growing up in Roscommon and answered an array of questions asked of her. Thank you Sisters, for making time for all of us and for keeping us, and our families in your prayers.