



Coláiste Pobail Acla

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

*Le gach Dea-Ghui i
gcomhair na Nollag is na
hath bhliana.*



TY Sailing Lessons



1st Year Numeracy Initiative



Euroscola 2018 - Strasbourg



International Harp Festival 2018

Principal's Message

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the Christmas issue of the Coláiste Pobail Acla Newsletter. This is always a very busy time for students and staff alike as Christmas exams take place for all students. However, as you can see from this edition of our newsletter, our students were also engaged in a fantastic array of extra-curricular activities. One of the many highlights of this school year was the Walk/Run Fundraiser which took place on the Greenway in October. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm among all who participated. I would like to thank all those who sponsored participants and those who volunteered to help out at the event. It has been a busy few months in Coláiste Pobail Acla. Since last June, we have completed renovations to all our toilet facilities as well as much more. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the all local tradespeople who were involved in the work. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, students and Parents/Guardians for all their hard work and co-operation this term and to wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir!

Paul Fahy
Principal (Acting)

Important Dates

- 7th January** - Junior Cycle Teacher Training day (school closure)
- 8th January** - School re-opens
- 6th February** - Open Night and Enrolment for 6th class students
- 7th February** - Junior and Leaving Certificate Mock exams begin
- 18th – 22nd February** - Mid Term Break
- 18th March** – School Closed
- 21st & 22nd March** – Hairspray the Musical
- 27th March** – 3rd and 6th Year Parent/Teacher Meeting
- 15th April – 26th April** - Easter Holidays
- 6th May** – Bank Holiday
- 31st May** – Final day of school year

Junior Cert. Results 2018



48 students received their Junior Cert results on 12th September. As expected, results were very good across all subjects. These students celebrated by going to the Gateway Leisure Centre in Belmullet for the day where they participated in bowling, mini-golf and much more. Congratulations to them all!

DSPCA & Irish Aid



On the 13th of November, the third year CSPE classes visited both the Dublin Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and The Irish Aid centre in Dublin as part of their Action Projects. They handed over a cheque worth €400 to the DSPCA that they had fundraised for in the school.

School Digital Champions



The CPA School Digital Champions team attended a very enjoyable training day in Sligo at the end of November. The highly skilled team consisting of Declan Foley, Thomas McNamara and Conor Conway attended various workshops including Marketing, PR, Presentation Skills and App Development. The team are currently working on a digital media project related to creating awareness of waste management and monitoring carbon footprint through the development of a game and app.



Leaving Cert. Trip to McHale's



Foiream D'ospóireachta Sóisearach



Foiream D'ospóireachta Sinsearach



TYS in Delphi



Niland Model Art Gallery - Sligo

Students on Retreat



Our 1st Year students enjoyed a retreat in Ballintubber Abbey in September. A nice way to start their Coláiste Pobail Acla journey. Our TY students also enjoyed a retreat in Ballintubber Abbey in September. The trips were organised by Mrs. Shannon and Ms. Shevlin.

Amber Flag



Congrats to our Amber Flag Well-Being Team for attaining the first Amber Flag in Colaiste Pobail Acla. The Pieta house initiative recognises the efforts of our school to create a healthy, inclusive environment that supports mental well-being. This was achieved through different events throughout the school year such as a non-uniform day to raise money for Pieta house and a well-being week organised by the team in January.

Pope John Paul II Awards



This Award is a faith achievement award for young people between the age of 16 and 18. The Award enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church – in the life of their community and society. Congratulations to Cara O'Neill and Denise Fadian on achieving the gold award and Benedict Hamill on achieving the silver award.

Debating

Laoise Conway from 5th year took part in Soroptimist International Castlebar 2018 Public Speaking Competition. Laoise spoke with conviction on her chosen topic 'Ignorance on the one hand and big business on the other are the legal culprits in the mass destruction of the environment'. Laoise's well structured argument and exceptional delivery were complimented. This was CPA's first time to participate in this competition. Laoise has set the bar very high for future competitors from our school.

Phil Speaks



14 TYs attended the Phil Speaks workshop in NUI Galway. The event is run by the 300-year-old Trinity College student society 'The Phil'. Students learned about the principles of public speaking and debating. CPA students were outstanding in the final debate, with Aeryn Gibbs presenting the closing argument for the opposition. The workshop facilitators commended our students on their enthusiasm and composure. Congratulations to all 14 students for representing the school so well. Míle Buíochas Ms O Connor and Ms McLoughlin.

McHale Farm Machinery Factory Visit

Leaving Cert. students enjoyed a trip to McHales farm machinery factory in Ballinrobe in October to support their LCVF folio requirements.

We learnt about the business, the machinery it produces and customers they service. We were shown around the production lines and saw the building of the farm machinery from start to finish. Eoin Clarke, McHales PR then gave us an informative presentation and answered all our questions! Of particular interest to some students were the apprenticeships the company offered; hopefully some of our students impressed the company enough to be accepted! The tour was really interesting and made for a super folio submission, our thanks to MacHales for accommodating us so attentively and to Mr.Fahy, Mr.Moran and Ms.Farrell for accompanying us.

Strasbourg 2018

Laoise Conway, David McGinty & Tara O'Keeffe have recently returned from their 'whistle stop' trip of Brussels, Luxembourg, Strasbourg and Frankfurt. They were chosen along with 21 other Irish students to represent Ireland in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Laoise, David & Tara along with 400 other EU students in Euroscola in Strasbourg discussed various topics such as: What can we do to promote sustainable development, is it acceptable to restrict human rights when security is at stake, what is Europe's future and Youth employment. In Brussels, Tara had the opportunity to discuss her TY mini-company with MEP Mairead McGuinness, Tara outlined what her group have achieved so far, Ms McGuinness was very impressed and she gave Tara valuable advice on where to seek funding for the production of their mini company project.



Hairspray the Musical

Transition Year students of Coláiste Pobail Acla will perform Hairspray the Musical on 21st & 22nd March 2019. The venue is Currane Hall. Tickets cost €10 per adult or €5 per child under 12 (pre-secondary school). Doors open at 18:30 and the show will commence at 19:00. Programmes will be available to purchase on the night. Refreshments will be served and a raffle will be held during the interval. The students are currently learning their lines for their parts in the musical and it is shaping up to be a fantastic event. Keep an eye out for further updates.

Shoebox Appeal 2018



Thanks to all who helped out with the TY Shoe Box appeal this year. We dropped off 57 shoe boxes in total and received our thank you certificate from Team Hope.

Art Workshop

Art students enjoyed a gallery visit to the Niland Model Art Gallery and Museum in Sligo. They were given a tour of the Yeats exhibition and the Aisteach exhibition; both collections offered two totally different experiences which was thoroughly rewarding for all the students as they were able to consider a traditional exhibition versus a contemporary exhibition. It was lovely to visit such a modern space and all the students appreciated the guide's informative commentary of the exhibits and the works themselves.

School Mass

Míle Buíochas to all students for their wonderful participation in our 'Opening of School Year Mass 2018/2019' on September 27th. Fr Eugene celebrated a beautiful ceremony with assistance from an amazing choir under the direction of Ms. Duffy. A sincere well done to all students who did readings, prayers of the faithful, reflection and to all students and staff who helped make the liturgy so enriching.

Tá Coláiste Pobail Acla ag glacadh páirte i scéim an “Brat Gaelach” arís i mbliana. Is éard atá mar aidhm againn an bhliain seo ná an Ghaeilge agus an Cultúr a neartú agus a chothú in ár bPobail. Le cúpla mí anuas, eagraíodh go leor imeachtaí in ár scoil. Mar a deir an seanfhocal “Beatha an Teanga í a labhairt”



Gaelfhíseán na Bliana

Comhghairdeas lenár ndaltaí go léir a bhuaigh comortás ‘Gaelfhíseán na Bliana’ Scriobh ár gcuigiú bliain



an t-amhrán ‘Múinteoirí go léir’. Rinne siad an-iarracht agus bhain siad an-sult as an amhrán a chumadh agus an físeán a chur le chéile. Bhuaigh an scoil €1000.

Ciorcal Comhrá

Bíonn fáilte roimh gach scoláire do “Ciorcal Comhrá” gach coicis. Cuirtear tae, brioscáí agus duaiseanna ar fáil do na daltaí. Tá deis ag na scoláirí agus na múinteoirí a “Cúpla Focal” a chleachtadh don am lóin sin. Bíonn atmaisféar deas, réchúiseach ann gan aon bhrú. “Is fearr Gaeilge Briste ná Béarla Cliste”



“Caith Amach Me”

Chuaigh rang na hArdeiste go dtí Seó Sraith Pictiúir “Caith Amach Mé” le déanaí i mBéal An Átha. Gearr-dhrámaíocht a bhí ann inár thaispeán na haisteoirí na sraith pictiúir dóibh i mbealach éadrom greannmhar. Bhain na scoláirí agus na Múinteoirí uilig sult as an lá. Dea-chleachtadh a bhí ann don scrúdú cainte. “Cleachtadh a dhéanann Maistreacht”



TYs in Delphi



Dreamspace - Microsoft (Dublin)

TY Delphi Trip

On Wednesday Oct 24th the TYs travelled to Delphi for their annual bonding trip. It was an immensely enjoyable experience for all involved and included a range of activities from kayaking, the climbing wall, bog trails to the Zip n’ Trek. In the evenings the group enjoyed a campfire with a singalong, while Thursday evening included an 8km adventure walk followed by warm chocolate chip cookies on their return. Following a cooked breakfast on Friday morning the group completed their bog trail and Kayaking challenges before leaving the resort at 11.30am. The feedback has been extremely positive, and they enjoyed each element of the trip.

TY Trip to Microsoft in Dublin

The TY class and School Digital Champions team visited DreamSpace, Microsoft in Dublin in November. The day commenced with a tour of the ultra-modern facilities in Leopardstown.



Following the tour, the group engaged in two interactive workshops, introducing them to coding micro-bits and mixed reality video development. An enjoyable day was had by all, inspiring them for the future.



Dreamspace - Microsoft (Dublin)

Literacy Initiatives in Coláiste Pobail Acla

Here in Coláiste Pobail Acla we continue to promote reading and literacy amongst all our students. The enjoyment and value of reading can never be underestimated. Below are some of the literacy initiatives which our students have participated in this year.

Drop Everything and Read! - This term’s Drop Everything and Read! took place on October 24th when students read their chosen reading material for thirty minutes. Our First Year students really enjoyed this initiative.

Bookmark Exchange Programme 2018 - This year our First Year students exchanged bookmarks with students in Portugal and our Second Year students with a school in Lithuania.

M.S. Readathon 2018 - Students in Coláiste Pobail Acla have also been fundraising for this worthy charity and also getting in some important reading time along the way!

The Great Reads Awards 2018 - This year some students from both Junior and Senior Cycle participated in this event giving them the opportunity to grade and review a selection of chosen novels. Well done to everyone!

Numeracy Initiatives in Coláiste Pobail Acla

All Subject Departments are constantly promoting Numeracy skills throughout the school. So far, this academic year we have had the following initiatives:

Junior Maths Walk – students go on a walk around the school and write down where they see Maths. This encourages students to look for Maths and numbers in unusual places.

Maths Trail – this was done where TY students worked with first year students. Maths stations were set up where first years could solve practical problems. This was a huge success and all students really enjoyed this event.

‘Drop everything and do a Maths Puzzle’ – This was carried out with first years where they could use their numeracy skills to solve fun problems.

‘Maths Eyes’ - This is where students get to find Maths in everyday objects and take a photo of this. Students always enjoy this and they have come up with amazing examples to show Maths is all around us.

More events like these are planned for the rest of the year.



Junior Boys Football Team

Transition Year First Aid Course

48 Transition Year students took part in a First Aid course in October and are now certified first aiders. Some of the many areas covered were:

- Defibrillator
- CPR
- Splints & Bandages
- Cardiac Problems
- Choking
- Respiratory Problems
- Tour of the ambulance
- Spinal Injuries

Many thanks to Mr. Tony McGinty and Dr. Noreen Lineen-Curtis for delivering this excellent course.



TY First Aid Course



Greenway Walk/Run Fundraiser - October



TY Sailing Lessons



International Harp Festival 2018



2nd Year Kayaking – Achill Outdoor Education Centre



U-16 Football

TY Sailing Lessons



Our TY students took part in sailing lessons with Seamus Butler in Ballycroy. They all learnt a lot and had great fun even though the water was cold! Thank you Seamus hopefully we will get back before June!

Senior Boys Football



Our Senior Boys footballers enjoyed a successful campaign thus far, narrowly missing out on the Flanagan Cup final and getting to a Connacht Quarter Final this December. The boys played some fantastic football, topping their group in the Connacht Senior D league, with some memorable performances. Victories over Colaiste Muire Tuar Mhic Eadaigh, Rosspoint Vocational School and Davitt College sealed progression to a Connacht Quarter Final, where they faced a formidable Dunmore team. The game against Dunmore Community School took place in Mulvey Park, Castlebar, and the boys came unstuck against a very well organised and efficient unit. It was a sobering defeat, but one that will stand the team in good stead going forward. With championship to look forward to in the New Year, the team will be determined to come back stronger and build on their progress to date.

Girls Football



Our girls entered the Senior competition for the first time this year. They came up against tough opposition in Davitt College, Balla and Ballinrobe. They will play Tourmakeady in the new year which should prove to be a close match. It is a relatively young Senior team and will go from strength to strength over the next couple of years.

The Junior team are also looking forward to competing in blitzes and other games in 2019.

Physical Education

Pound Exercise

Coláiste Pobail Acla students enjoying Pound exercise classes. Thanks to Indra for putting them through their workout, the students had good rhythm and fitness levels. Thanks to Alices for the use of the hall.



Gym & Swim

Students have been working out on treadmills, cross trainers, rowing machines, weights and spin bikes.



After their workouts the students then went for a swim in the pool. Hopefully we will get back for a few more weeks in February.

Greenway Walk/Run Fundraiser

A fundraiser, organised by Mr. Ryan, took place on 19th October in Coláiste Pobail Acla. It was the first fundraiser of its kind in our school and it turned out to be a huge success, raising nearly €3000. Over 200 students, staff and parents took to the Greenway in poor weather conditions and completed a 5km walk/run. We would like to thank all those who sponsored the participants and all the volunteers who helped keep everyone safe on the day.

Rugby

In the past couple of months, over 40 of our students have taken part in rugby training with Simon O'Malley (Connacht Rugby Coach). Some of our students are already members of Westport Rugby Club and others are considering joining. This level of interest has been helped by the fact that a bus travels from Achill to Westport every Tuesday and Friday for training.



Table Tennis

Table Tennis is being played every day here in Coláiste Pobail Acla by students from 1st year to 6th year. They are improving their skills every week with the aim of retaining the Comórtas Idirskoile Leadóg Bhoird Shield which we won last year. First year students are showing great potential with many of them outperforming older students already.

