



Coláiste Pobail Acla

Important Dates

- **21st December**
 - Final day of term
- **5th January**
 - School reopens
- **1st - 10th February**
 - Mock exams
- **7th - 10th February**
 - TY Work Experience
- **13th - 17th February**
 - Mid Term break
- **16th & 17th March**
 - School closed
- **27th - 31st March**
 - TY Work Experience
- **24th - 28th April**
 - 5th year Work Experience
- **1st April**
 - Final day of term
- **17th April**
 - School reopens
- **1st May**
 - May Bank Holiday
- **2nd June**
 - School closes for summer holidays
- **7th June**
 - State Exams begin



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. It has been a busy start to the year in Coláiste Pobail Acla, the early stage of work is underway in relation to our new extension which will be a fantastic asset to the school once it is complete. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff and students for all their hard work this year and to wish staff, students, and Parents/Guardians a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Я хотів би скористатися цією нагодою, щоб подякувати співробітникам і учням за всю їхню наполегливу роботу в цьому році і побажати співробітникам, учням і батькам/опікунам щасливого Різдва і щасливого Нового року.

Le gach dea-ghuí i gcomhair na Nollaig is na hathbhliana.

Paul Fahy Principal (Acting)

Nuachtlitir Scoile

Nollaig 2022

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School Ethos

Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB has launched the 'Patrons Framework on Ethos'. This document is central to the Education and Training Board (ETB) sector achieving its goal of becoming Ireland's largest provider of multi-denominational, equality-based education at primary and post-primary level. Underpinning our ethos in Colaiste Pobail Acla are the core values, these include Excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect.

In Colaiste Pobail Acla we are focusing on the Core value of respect. Working with our Student Voice committee we hope that our shared vision, values and purpose, a sense of belonging, and a voice that is listened to will allow the school community to be exemplified in productive collaboration, positive contributions, and effective communication.



School Musical

This year's school musical is 'Disco Inferno.' The group have all been cast and are busily learning lines, songs, and dance routines to prepare for the end of March. The show is set to be a huge success with a powerful amount of talent in the Transition Year group. All students are eager to perform, and we are thoroughly looking forward to hosting the show.

Sean nós ar scoil

Bhí an áthas orainn fáilte a chur roimh an damhsóir agus ceoltóir aitheanta Davóg Fryne. We were delighted to welcome champion Sean nós dancer and musician Davóg Fryne to CPA. Davóg held dance workshops with our 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th year students. Bhí neart rince, spraoi agus foghlama. Freisin, bhí lúchair orainn fáilte a chur roimh Aistrid Ní Mhongáin agus John 'Twin' McNamara chuig Choláiste Pobail Acla le déanaí le haghaidh Ceardlann Amhránaíochta ar an sean-nós. Bhí an-spraoi ag na scoláirí ag foghlaim amhráin as Maigh Eo.

Connacht Scór

Well done to our Leaving Cert student Leah McNamara who won the Connacht Scór Solo Singing competition recently. She advanced to the All-Ireland final held in the TF Royal Theatre Castlebar. Leah performed fantastically in the final. Although she fell short in the final, she can be proud of her performance. Leah also sang 'Amhrán na bhFiann' before the final of this year's Mayo Senior Football Final in McHale Park.



Joe McGinty memorial Blitz

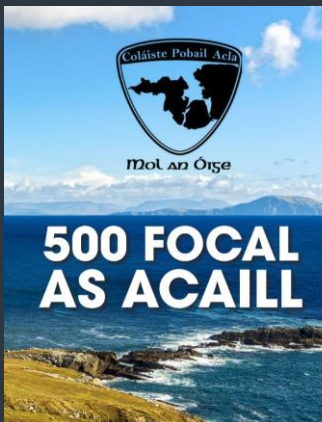
The Joe McGinty memorial blitz took place on 28th October at Davitt Park, Polranny. The blitz was organised after discussions with his 3rd year classmates who wanted to commemorate their friend. They decided that a stone memorial bench on the school grounds would be a fitting tribute.

With the help of Ms Murtagh, the students put a plan in place regarding fundraising and the running of the blitz. There was a great emphasis on making sure that all teams were off an equal strength to ensure a level playing field for all! The blitz incorporated two separate competitions- one for our Junior students and one for our Senior students. Despite wet and windy conditions on the day in question, the students were determined to go ahead with the blitz.

It was a major credit to them to see them embrace the day. The school staff, students, members of the McGinty family and the wider community congregated at Davitt Park to support the players throughout the blitz. We were treated to several exciting games in both competitions and our eventual winners had more than earned their medals. All participating students contributed to the fundraising effort.

Refreshments were available from the clubhouse for the watching supporters and many thanks must go to Achill GAA for the use of the club facilities for the day. Thank you to all the 3rd year students and Ms. Murtagh for organising and running a fitting tribute to Joe McGinty.

500 Focal as Acaill



Tá scoláirí Idirbhliana CPA tar éis taighde ollmhór a dhéanamh ar an gcanúint agus ar na focail a bhaineann le Gaeil' Acla le dhá bhliain anuas. Ar an 19ú Nollaig, sheol muid an bailiúchán i bhfoirm leabhar '500 Focal as Acaill' beo ar RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta.

Is foilseachán oideachasúil an-luachmhar agus fiúntach é seo nach bhfuil ar fáil in aon áit eile sa tír. Bhí neart comhrá, díospóireachta agus plé ar na focail ar an gclár raidió. Is féidir leat an leabhar a cheannach ag Oifig na Scoile am ar bith.

Mic léinn CPA ar RTE RnaG

Beidh mic léinn ón Coláiste Pobail Acla ar chlár speisialta ar RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta oíche Nollag freisin (24ú Nollaig). Craolfar an clár 'Nead na Nollag' ó hAcaill idir 7-8in an oíche sin agus beidh scolairí agus ceoltóirí áitiúla le cloisteáil. Bigí ag éisteacht.





Labhair Gaelge Liom!

Ghlac daltaí as cúigiú blian páirt i nGaeilge 24! Is í an aidhm ná an Ghaeilge a labhairt ar feadh 24 uair a' chloig! 5th Year students took part in Gaeilge24. The aim was to speak Irish for a whole 24 hours! Maith sibhse go léir!



Sport in Coláiste Pobail Acla

• GAA – Busy term for competitive football

We have had an action packed few months as we fielded several teams across all age groups in GAA. Our Senior team have performed competitively in the Flanagan Cup with notable wins over St Tiernan's and Davitt College. They now look forward to playing Tourmakeady in the New Year. Teams at all ages have been representing the school all around the county.



• Hurling - CPA Hurlers continue to make progress

Our young 1st & 2nd year CPA hurlers have attended the Connacht GAA Hurling Blitzes at the Centre of Excellence in Began. The lads played admirably against schools from Sligo, Mayo, and Roscommon.

• Soccer – 2nd Year Girls

2nd Year girls have worked on their football skills this term and were too strong for their counterparts in Gaelcholáiste Chomáin, Rosspport when we visited in November. We look forward to the returning fixture in the new year.

• Rugby – Ladies rugby sessions

Our girls have been partaking in coaching sessions with coaches from Connacht rugby. Eilís Murphy (TY) and Megan Cooney (3rd Year) have attended Connacht trials for their respective age groups. Well done girls!

Horticulture

Our Transition year students have been kept busy this term in their horticulture class with Mr. Lavelle and John Sweeney. Every week our TYs get a chance to get out into the community to help in a variety of different ways. Currently they are in the process of making the plot of war graves, at the local Church of Ireland, more accessible and safer for visitors. There are other projects in the community that our TY Students will be getting involved in over the next few months. Our students have a big part to play in our local community and there is a great sense of pride of place within each year group.



Macbeth

Our Leaving Cert students attended a production of MacBeth in the Dean Crowe Theatre in Athlone in November. The students are studying the text as part of the Leaving Cert course and this opportunity to see it performed live will prove to be hugely beneficial.

Science Week

Our students took part in a variety of activities to mark Science Week 2022. There were poster competitions, webinars, class table quizzes and a lot of experiments in the Science lab! Our 2nd Year students also completed their classroom-based assessments to coincide with the week. Well done to all involved!



Maths Week

1st and 2nd year students attended a webinar with Dr Farquhar along with taking part in this year's Maths Olympiad. Some of our 5th year students attended a webinar about maths in sports. Mikey Wilson (3rd Year) impressed his classmates with his Rubik's cube skills, completing it in 58 seconds. Well done Mikey and to all students who completed the daily maths puzzles.



Shoebox Appeal 2022

Our Transition Year students put in a phenomenal group effort in the run up to Christmas. They fundraised, organised, and donated over 80 Shoe Boxes to the International Children's Charity 'Team Hope'. Fair plé do na scoláire, múinteoirí agus tuismitheoirí uilig a thug tacaíocht dóibh. Ní neart go cur le chéile.



Choir

Our students performed their first Christmas Concert post Covid in Achill Sound Church on 20th December. It was a fantastic opportunity for our talented group of students to showcase their ability. Well done to all involved.

Chess Club

Chess club will continue in the school library on Thursday lunchtimes in the New Year. Thanks to Ms. Moran and Emma Fougerat (5th Year) for the running of this club. Come along and try! Beginners welcome.

Table Tennis

Our students have enjoyed Table Tennis coaching sessions since late November, honing their skills with former Irish Table Tennis coach, Eamon Nealon. The students have access to 2 tables at break times and they continue to prove popular with all age groups.

TY Trip to Delphi

Our TY students were delighted to find themselves running through the bog water on their trip to Delphi earlier this year. This was one of many activities that the students took part in. Thanks to the teachers who went along to facilitate this immensely enjoyable trip!



Student Voice

The Student Voice Committee meet regularly throughout the year to express their views and opinions on various aspects of school life. This year's newly elected students are **Laoise O'Boyle** (6th year), **Matthew Masterson** (6th year), **Diarmuid Price** (5th year), **Ciara Campbell** (4th year), **Oisín Curtis** (3rd year), **Aoibhe Sweeney** 2nd year) & **Patrick Gallagher** (1st year).

Attendance drive- The 'Strive for Five' campaign began in November and has been a success

There was a competitive edge to our attendance drive in November. Prizes were given out to the class with the highest attendance rate as well as individual student prizes. The 2 class groups (Junior & Senior) with the highest attendance rate for the month will be treated to a day out after the Christmas holidays which will include food and activities. Days absent from school can often result in students missing out on important class work and course content which impacts on exam performance and end of term results. Any student who misses out on vital course work being covered in class cannot perform to the best of their ability in an exam and may struggle with schoolwork. Therefore, it is vital that full attendance be maintained in so far as possible in the future.

Big Brother Big Sister - Leaving Certs paired up with First Year students

This year saw the reintroduction of our Big Brother Big Sister initiative. Our Leaving Cert students have been paired up with our youngest students to help ease their transition into CPA. The students check in on their partner during the school term to make sure there are no issues. All participants in the BBBS initiative enjoyed a day of activities in Halla Acla, Achill Sound at the end of November which was organised by the Leaving Cert students.

Gléasadh Suas Oíche Shamhna

Bhí spraoi agus ruaille buaille i gColáiste Pobail Acla nuair a chuir múinteoirí agus scoláirí éide bréige orthu don Oíche Shamhna! Bailíodh airgead d'aonad Altranais Pobail Fionnán áit a bhíonn inár gcroíthe go deo. Bhí cáca díolacháin ag 1Red ar an lá freisin. Maith said.



Ecological Field Trip - Leaving Cert students visit Wild Nephin National Park, Ballycroy

Our Leaving Cert Biology class and Ms. Corcoran went on their ecological fieldtrip to "Wild Nephin National Park- Ballycroy Visitor Centre" earlier this year. The students embarked on a busy day studying the importance of biodiversity and blanket bogs. They investigated the many different species of flora and fauna in a bogland habitat. Many thanks to Michael at the centre for an educational and fun day out.



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