



St. Colmcille's Girls' National School, Swords.

# Newsletter

June 2024

[www.stcolmcillesgns.scoilnet.ie](http://www.stcolmcillesgns.scoilnet.ie)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we reach the end of another incredible school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on, and celebrate the many achievements of our students, staff, and community here in St. Colmcille's! It has of course been a busy year filled with many memorable moments - here are just a few highlights:

- **Student Achievements:** Our students have excelled in their school work, sports, and the arts.
- It has been a phenomenal year for our sports teams. We are thrilled to announce that our students won The Fingal Football League, showcasing their teamwork and skill on the field. Additionally, their participation in the Athletics League has been remarkable, with many students achieving personal bests and setting new records. Our girls made us proud by taking part in the Peace Proms, where their performances were amazing! We are also delighted to share that our school was awarded the **Active Flag** this year, a testament to our students' enthusiasm and our school's dedication to fostering a healthy lifestyle. This achievement reflects the hard work of both students and staff in promoting active living.
- **School Events:** Our school has hosted several successful events, including celebrations for the sacraments of Communion and Confirmation, a jam packed Science Week, a fantastic Seachtain na Gaeilge , A Wellness Week, International Languages Day etc. These events have not only been fun but have also strengthened our sense of community and celebrated our diverse backgrounds.
- **Continued Learning:** This year, we introduced new learning initiatives including UFLI and Heggerty phonics in the junior end of the school initiative, Spanish as a foreign language in our senior classes as well as ukulele lessons in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes. It has been a great year!
- **Acts of Kindness:** Our students have shown remarkable kindness and generosity through various initiatives, such as the Christmas doors

fundraising event for our Autism class to the food drive for the Vincent de Paul and the environmental clean-up project (Picker Pals), which has helped clean up our streets and estates in our community.

It has been a great year!

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our incredible teachers and staff. You are the backbone of our school, and I am deeply grateful for everything you do.

To our wonderful parents and guardians, thank you for your ongoing support and involvement. Your support and commitment to your children's education are invaluable, and we appreciate all the ways you contribute to our school community.

As we look ahead to the new school year, I am filled with excitement and optimism. We have many exciting plans in store, including the opening of the new modular build, and continued focus on fostering a supportive and inclusive school environment.

For our students and families who are leaving, we wish you all the best.

I hope everyone has a wonderful, restful summer break. Take this time to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you back on the 29th of August, ready for another great year here at St. Colmcilles!

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Karen Burke Logue

School Principal

## **Science Week**

Last year Science Week was held in the hall by Ms McMonagle. There were different kinds of experiments like volcanoes, gloves, magnets, water pressure, the body and a telephone going from one side of the hall to the other.

Science week began on the 13th of November and ended on the 24th November 2023. 6th Class got to help out the junior end by facilitating the experiments. The children loved the volcano explosion! There was a mad scientist and he helped the girls with their experiments. He also showed some cool science tricks. Everyone enjoyed it and it was a very fun experience. Thanks to Ms Burke Logue and Ms McMonagle.

Paula and Stacy Ms Moyne's 6th Class

## **Christmas Plays**

This year all the classes had their Christmas plays in December '23. From Junior Infants to Sixth Class everyone prepared and practiced to perform their play for the classes and parents. We all enjoyed it, especially the teachers who worked very hard to make the plays happen! Every class spent countless weeks learning lines, songs, and getting costumes organised for the day. Each girl played their parts very well and made their shows really entertaining for everyone to watch. We loved all the plays and would love to see them again.

Here are each class' Christmas plays and their dates:

- Ms O'Brien Junior infants: It's a Baby! 18/12/23
- Ms Mills Junior infants: It's a Baby! 18/12/23
- Ms Moloney Senior infants: Shine Star Shine! 15/12/23
- Ms Cushen Senior infants: Shine Star Shine! 15/12/23

- Ms Nashat 1st class: Songs and dances 13/12/23
- Ms Tumbleton 1st class: Songs and dances 13/12/23
- Ms Smith 2nd class: Christmas with the Aliens 19/12/23
- Ms McEneaney 2nd class: Christmas with the Crackers 18/12/23
- Ms Mullen 3rd class: Christmas with the Aliens 19/12/23
- Ms Ahern 3rd class: The Night Before Christmas 15/12/23
- Ms Enright 4th class: Lights Camel Action 18/12/23
- Ms Haran 4th class: Away with the Manger 15/12/23
- Mr Daly 5th class: Cinderella Rockerfella 14/12/23
- Ms Kessack 5th class: Cinderella Rockerfella 14/12/23
- Mr Casey 6th class: Stable Manners 14/12/23
- Ms Moyne 6th class: Stable Manners 13/12/23

Chloe and Aisling Ms Moyne's 6th Class

### **Equine Therapy**

Equine Therapy is a special therapy for the girls in Room 17 or the Autism Class. It takes place in a place called Corballis Farm in Donabate. It lasts for an hour and the girls love it! They like to go for a walk on the trails and like trotting in the Arena. At the end, they very kindly give their horses a tasty, nutritious carrot, which the horses love! They are always assigned with the same 6 horses. Sherger, Calvin, Lottie, Apache (yum), Barnie and Chief. With each session they attend, their bond and friendship gets stronger.

Ishanvi Saxena Ms Moyne's 6th Class

## **The Bake Sale**

The bake sale was a very delicious experience! We were able to eat lots of goodies like; brownies, donuts, cupcakes, cookies, cakepops, cakes & rice cakes. The bake sale was used to raise funds for the school & was set up on February 9th 2024. Most of the students really liked the sale, making it an enjoyable experience.

To make the bake sale possible, everyone contributed a little bit by bringing in money & cakes. You could get a few goodies for only €2. Some talented bakers baked different cakes, which were later judged by the principal. The best baker would later be the lucky winner of a raffle! The parents association set up the bake sale & they raised a total of €1342!

Beatriz, Miracle & Shika Ms Moyne's 6th Class

## **After School Activities**

This year the school had a lot of after school activities. Teachers of the school ran the clubs. Lots of girls participated in the after school clubs. Here is a list of the clubs that were run this year;

Chess club, Guitar, Spanish, Tin Whistle, Art, GAA, Dancing, Athletics and lastly, Learn and Grow.

There was lots of excellent feedback about the clubs from both the teachers and the students. All the teachers said the clubs went really well and were very successful. The girls loved doing the clubs and learning new things! All the girls are very excited for next year's after school activities!

Ellie and Kayla Ms Moyne's 6th Class

## **The Confirmation**

On a lovely Friday morning, on the 12th of April, the two 6th Classes celebrated their ceremony of Light and Confirmation at 11am in St Colmcille's Church.

Father John warmly welcomed all the families, as we were treated to lovely music by the 5th Class choir who had been practising for weeks for this special event.

Sister Margaret, Betty and Renata helped to prepare the 6th Class for this very special day by starting a programme with the girls. After a wonderful ceremony, all the families and pupils were welcomed back in the school hall for a party which included lots of tasty treats and drinks organised by the Parents Association. The Hall was beautifully decorated with the 6th Class artwork.

Special thanks to Bianca and Mrs Burke Logue and the two 6th Class Teachers for all their help.

Leah and Briti Ms Moyne's 6th Class

## **Niamh Crowley and the Brendan Martin Cup**

During September 2023 we had a very exciting visit from Niamh Crowley and the Brendan Martin Cup. Niamh Crowley is a senior GAA player for the Dublin GAA team. She also plays for Fingallians GAA club in Swords!

All the classes made her feel very welcome by colouring pictures, putting flags up around the school and singing Molly Malone to her. A few girls from 4th, 5th and 6th class brought her around the school to all the classes that didn't get to see her in the hall. Some of the classes sang Molly Malone to her and some girls asked her questions. Girls in the school were allowed to wear Dublin jerseys or the Dublin

colours to school that day .The GAA team got a photo with her and the cup. Niamh Crowley inspired a lot of the girls to be their best at what they are good at. Ms Burke Logue said that it was a very successful day and it was a great day for all the girls in the school.

Maisie Speer and Olivia Dodd Ms Moyne's 6th Class

### **Active Week**

Our school celebrated Active Week on the 20th May. To start the week off, we had Sports Day. There were lots of fun activities like the 3-legged-race, the potato race, etc.

On Sports Day we also met the Minister of Sport, who told us lots of interesting things. We also did some more active activities like the students versus teachers competition and the dance off.

6th Class, along with Senior Infants, won the dance off. The teachers were proud of and amazed at what their students could accomplish together. There also were some taster sessions held after and before school like hip-hop, gymnastics, soccer, GAA and yoga. Everyone loved all the activities and had so much fun. Thanks so much to Ms Moloney for all of her hard work in organising such a successful week for all of the students!

Hannah Ni and Sinead Ms Moyne's 6th Class

### **Hallowe'en**

On Friday the 27th of October 2023, our school celebrated Halloween! The whole school made chocolate apples which was organised by the parents association. Ms Ahern dressed up as Wednesday Addams and the whole school danced to the Addams family flash mob dance.

Ms Moyne, Ms O'Brien and Ms Coakley dressed up as the Sanderson Sisters from Hocus Pocus and Mr Casey dressed up as Mario. Ms Tumbleton, a teacher from 1st Class dressed up as Sandy from Grease.

Ms Tumbleton's class celebrated Halloween by making magnetic ghosts. She said she really enjoyed it and so did her class.

Hannah B and Alise Ms Moyne's 6th Class

### **Planting**

This year girls from both the junior and senior end of the school participated in planting. When going around the school, it was great to hear that everybody enjoyed planting and would love to do it again. When asking girls how it went, they said it was very fun to plant all different plants. Some classes have brought their plants home and they are doing very good.

It's so great that our school is taking part in planting and helping the planet! A big thank you to all of the teachers for getting seeds, so that all of the girls could enjoy watching their plants grow.

- Ms O'Brien ~ sunflowers & wildflowers
- Ms Mills ~ sunflowers
- Ms Cushen ~ sunflowers & cress seeds
- Ms Moloney ~ sunflowers & mini gardens with any seeds
- Ms Nashat ~ jeepers creepers
- Ms Tumbleton ~ sunflowers
- Ms McEneaney ~ sweet peas
- Ms Smith ~ cress seeds
- Ms Mullen ~ cress seeds
- Ms Ahern ~ gladioli & strawberries
- Ms Haran ~ sunflowers



- Ms Moyne & Mr Casey ~ potatoes, sunflowers, strawberries, carrots, lettuce and tomatoes

Eibhlin and Kripa Ms Moyne's 6th class

### **School Tours**

The end of school year is almost here, and that means that its school tour season. Many teachers and students were very excited about their school tours and were ecstatic after their trips.

Here are some quotes from some students in Ms Kessack's 5th and Ms Nashat's 2nd class

My favourite part of our tour was playing dodge ball and winning against my students!" Ms Kessack stated. "That last part was a joke by the way" she added.

"I loved laser tag!" Amelia from 5th class said.

Ms Nashat's 1st class' favourite parts of their school trip were playing at the playground and seeing the red pandas.

Here is where all the classes went for their school tour:

- Junior/Senior Infants & Room 17 went to Newgrange Farm on the 18th of June
- 1st class went to Dublin Zoo on the 18th of June
- 2nd went to Rockfield House on the 19th of June
- 3rd went to Navan Adventure Centre on the 20th of June
- 4th Botanic Gardens and Croke Park on the 21st of June
- 5th went to Footie on the 18th of June
- 6th class went to Carlingford Adventure Centre on the 19th June

Thank you for reading our newsletter and we hope you all have a lovely summer break 😊