

MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Newslink

CHRISTMAS 2015

Burn, Baby Burn...!



From the Principal...

On behalf of the staff and students, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. It has been a very busy term in Moate Community School and I hope that this Christmas edition of our Newslink continues to give you some impression of the wide variety of activities which we are involved in and which are available to all students. It has been a term where a wonderful production of "Disco Inferno" took place and some significant sporting successes - our Senior Girls Football team are Leinster Champions, our Under 16 Girls Football team have reached the Leinster Final and our Ladies Basketball team won the Midland 'C' Regional Basketball Competition, also our Senior Boys are now League champions.

The academics, sporting and social opportunities for personal development are extensive and we encourage each pupil to engage fully in as many activities as possible. I look forward in the New Year to continue working with you to ensure the best possible education for your children.

Nollaig Shona agus atbhlaiain faoi mhaise dibh go leir.



Amy Hughes, Rachel Duffly, Colin Doyle and Annalise Peredo performing a key scene in the hit musical - 'Disco Inferno'.

The first term at MCS drew to an exciting close with the production of the school musical. *Disco Inferno* is another chapter in the enchanting story of our musical heritage. It demonstrated the school's immense spirit of teamwork and commitment as it

showcased the remarkable talents of our students, who performed to a captive-audience over four nights. Audiences were enthralled with glitz, glam, glitter and rousing renditions of many classic musical hits including powerful solo performances and intricate

group dance routines. The atmosphere each night was electric as students lit up the school stage. Nights like this require extraordinary collective effort from the school community and our heartfelt thanks must go to everybody involved in this wonderful production.

LADIES LEAD LEINSTER

Moate Community School girls continued their trail of glory when they captured the 'B' Leinster title with a very comprehensive victory over Cross and Passion, Kildcullen in Mountmellick on Tuesday 15th December with a score of 4-14 to 4-2.

Their talents and skills were exceptional on the day and they provided their supporters with an outstanding display of determination, passion and commitment. Ciara Heavin was awarded Player of the Match for her invaluable contribution at wing-back. The backbone of the team consists of many of our Sixth Years with youth and energy provided by our Transition Year and Junior students - so the future looks very bright for ladies football in our school.

Several members of this panel are already looking forward to a second Leinster Final at Under 16 level on January 18th 2016 while the Seniors prepare for the All-Ireland Semi Final against the Munster champions on February 16th 2016 - so watch this space!!

LADIES WIN U-16 LEINSTER BASKETBALL FINAL

MCS Ladies set out to win the Leinster Basketball Final against Saint Paul's from Monasterevin. The determination that the girls had to win the Cup was clear from the energy they put into the game from the throw-in. The girls knew how important this game was and put all they had learned into practice throughout the quarters. They wanted to be the first Basketball team from Moate to win a Leinster Final. The scores raked up leaving Saint Paul's behind. The girls scored fourteen in this quarter and only allowed Saint Paul's score twice. When the final whistle was blown, delight and shock was evident on the faces of the girls when they realised what they had won. The final score was Moate 36 - Saint Paul's 25. The girls celebrated their win with a trip to Supermacs. It was a great way to finish an exciting and rewarding day.



Right: Team captain Mary Harkin accepting the Leinster Cup.
Below: Members of the victorious team pictured with the Leinster Cup.



ON YER BIKE! Students lead the way on new Cycle Greenway



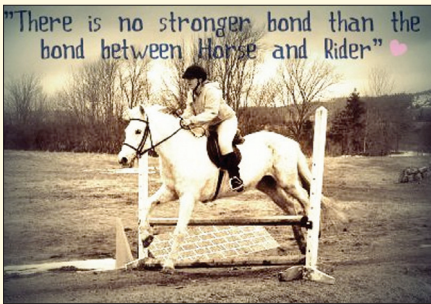
Students meet An Taoiseach Enda Kenny at the official opening of the new Greenway.



Kit Gillivan presents a cheque to Principal Tom Lowry following a fundraising event which took place in the Grand Hotel Moate. This was sponsored by Moate Meats in conjunction with Associated Craft Butchers of Ireland.

Equestrian Club Go Tally-Ho!

This term saw the first outing of MCS Equestrian Club. Students ventured to Gaffey's Equestrian Centre in Athlone for a lesson and an informative talk on stable management. Twenty four students took part in this term's outing and a great afternoon was had by all, with further outings planned in the next term. Students interested should contact Mr. Molloy or Ms. Sullivan for a membership form. Well done to all who participated.



SOCCER

Moate Community School Under 17 soccer team progressed to the second round of the Leinster Cup on the 19th October 2015. This time round Moate travelled to Mullingar Athletics Club to face Rochfortbridge Secondary School. Mr. Flynn fielded the same starting team as the last day, who all deserved their starting place. The score was 2-1 to Moate at half time, both sides attacked well but both were not as impressive down the opposite end of the field.

Rochfortbridge then pushed forward, determined for the win but it wasn't to be as Moate's defence improved and captain Harry Cornally showed great leadership to guide Moate to the third round of the Cup. A great display from the team earned a deserved win and they will now march on confidently to the third round.

Fifth Year LCVP visit to Arrabawn

Thirty three Fifth Year LCVP students travelled to Arrabawn Dairies in Kilconnell just outside Ballinasloe to complete part of their Leaving Certificate course.



Students were split into groups and were given a presentation in the boardroom and a tour of the factory. The tour was very thorough showing how milk gets from the farm to the carton and focused on the history of Arrabawn and its future plans for expansion. The group thoroughly enjoyed the visit and would recommend it to future LCVP students. All students left with a carton of Arrabawn milk to take home.

SENIOR GIRLS SECURE IMPRESSIVE FOOTBALL VICTORY

Moate CS Senior girls travelled to Carlow for the last of the group stage games to secure a place in the Leinster semi-final on Monday 9th November. Despite the poor weather conditions the Moate ladies put on an excellent exhibition of football and beat their opponents Enniscorthy by an impressive 18 points. The girls led from the first five minutes after a quick goal scored by Kelly-Lei Lowry. Kelly-Lei scored a further two goals and lifted the girls as they went on and scored points from Roisín Ennis, Amy Gavin Mangan, Rachel Keane, Ailbhe Sheridan and Tara Hughes. With just a few minutes left Kelly-Lei scored another excellent goal which left the half time score as 3-05 to Moate and 2-01 to Enniscorthy. The girls kept up their hard work in the second half and led from the start with another goal from Kelly-Lei. Points also came from Sarah McCormack, Ciara Heavin, Rachel Duffy and Jennifer Coughlan. Kelly-Lei kicked in her fifth goal and made the final winning score for Moate 6-14 to 4-02 and secures a place for the girls in the Leinster semi-final.



BTYS INFO UPDATE

Seven projects from MCS students exhibiting at the BT Young Scientists & Technology Exhibition at the RDS in January!

Thirteen students from Transition and Fifth Year with their seven Science projects qualified to present at the BT Young Scientists & Technology Exhibition in the RDS, January 6th - 9th. The students have been working hard with their Science investigations ever since September. We would like to wish them well in the completion of their projects and presentation to the judges at the RDS in the early New Year.

BT Young Scientists visit Clara Bog

Kate McLoughlin and Anna Parker are investigating the impact of *Agricultural drains on the growth of the Sphagnum Moss*. They have received great support from Ecologists Dr. George Smyth from Blackthorn Ecology, and Dr. Shane Regan from Trinity College Dublin with their surveys at Clara Bog.

Moate Business College Graduation

Moate Business College graduation ceremony took place on Friday 20th November. This was an extremely proud occasion for graduates as it marked their achievements during their time in Moate Business College. Director Frances Kelly and Principal Tom Lowry addressed graduates on the night and congratulated them on their success in achieving Level 5 or Level 6 qualifications in QQI/FETAC. Past MBC student Barry Whelan encouraged graduates to build on their achievements and always follow their dream. Barry studied Social Care in MBC, completed a BA Hons in Social Studies at AIT and is now completing his H. Dip in Further Education at Maynooth University. He is also completing his



Business and Computing class celebrate graduation.

teaching practice back in Moate Business College. Special Achievement awards on the night were presented to Lauren Keenehan, School of Art & Leisure; Treacy O'Brien School of Caring and Gary Quigley School of Business & IT.

Senior Debating Team compete in Leinster Debating Competition

Eight Fifth Year students participated in Round 1 of the Leinster Debating Society's Competition in University College Dublin on Thursday, October 22nd. They were among fifty other schools in Leinster taking part in the annual event. Two motions were discussed: firstly that *"This House would Ban Advertising aimed at Children"* and secondly; that *"This House would not Fund Schools with Religious Affiliations"*. Their coach, Ms. Jennifer Coughlan was delighted with their successful entry into the next round. Moving straight into Round 2 of the competition are Nia,

Adam, Chloe, Eleanor and Owen. We wish them all the best.



The eight pupils formed four teams of two including: Ciarán Lynam and Chloe McMahon, Nia Murray and Adam Buckley, Hannah Simpson and Aine Hamm and Eleanor Guinan and Owen Cuskelly.

CORRYMEELA ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY VISITS MCS

Two representatives from the Co. Antrim ecumenical Corrymeela community visited and spoke to Third Year religion students recently. As part of their Junior Cert Religion project, students have to investigate how Corrymeela seek to bridge the divide and promote respect between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland. Heather and

David Godfrey spoke very warmly about their involvement with the Corrymeela Centre and explained how the heart of the community strives to create an "accepting and understanding environment" for all religious denominations throughout Ireland.



Men's Basketball

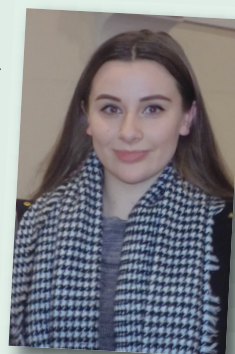
Moate Community School vs. Mountrath U16's and U19's Men's Basketball

U16's: On November 11th, Jose Antonio Hernandez started the game on a high with three baskets, swiftly followed by Matteo Suarez. Jose left the supports in awe scoring an impressive three pointer in the last second. In the second and third quarter MCS defence was proven inadequate giving Mountrath the lead. It was at this point Milan proved he was deserving of his place getting many rebounds. Javi Carillon scored a basket which brought MCS back into the game. However, Jose's competitiveness shone through finishing the game with four baskets. Unfortunately, the final score was 28-25 to Mountrath. MCS were clearly deeply disappointed but there were some promising performances.

U19's: James Kealy started the game impressively with a basket seconds after the whistle was blown. Team work was a key aspect to MCS strength as Kevin O'Flaherty, Eryk Wisniewski and Adam Buckley scored a basket each. MCS revealed their skills in the second quarter. Conor Farrington scored two impressive baskets quickly followed by Eryk and Matthew Phealen. To MCS's surprise Mountrath came back with drive and determination in the third quarter leaving the MCS supporters tense. However, MCS did not disappoint scoring six baskets thanks to Kevin, James and Eryk. The final score was 29-27 to MCS. They did MCS proud displaying skill, competitiveness and raw talent on the court.

Entrance Scholarship Award

Suzie Gillivan, a former student of Moate CS recently received an Entrance Scholarship at the University of Maynooth. This scholarship is awarded to students who score 525 points or more in their Leaving Certificate exams. Suzie is currently studying Froebel Primary teaching in Maynooth University. Best of luck to Suzie in her future studies and career.



BUDDING JOURNALISTS IN TY

Fifteen budding Journalists and their teacher Ms. Ward embarked on a trip to Croke Park. Here they attentively listened to Jacqui Hurley; the co-host of Sunday Sport on RTE. Jacqui who has been a sports journalist for ten years revealed the tips and tricks of the trade that she has picked up over the years from other professionals in the business. Jacqui explained how perseverance is key to success. She began with only five minutes of show time every week on television and now co-hosts her own show on RTE. The best advice she gave was to always think as a journalist would; if you are at an event, take down notes on key events and draft up mini reports later to improve your skill. Students then spent several hours in the interactive games area in the GAA museum

testing their kicking and hand passing skills. Students finished their day in Croke Park with a tour of the stadium, relaxing in the changing rooms and getting a feel for the atmosphere around Croke Park on match day and the excitement of walking out from the tunnels onto the pitch with the whole stadium cheering for you.



Fiona Kelly and Dearbhla O'Reilly in the dressing room at Croke Park.



In the Conference Room in Croke Park, Sorch Handy, Ciara Johnston, Mary Harkin, Clodagh Sheriden, Aisling McLoughlin and Aine Guinan.

UCD Scholarships

Ciara Moran and Nigel Flanagan, former students of Moate CS receive their entrance scholarship awards to UCD.



DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS as Moate CS U16 Team join the Senior Team in Leinster Finals

On Thursday the 3rd of December the Moate U16 girls took on Colaiste Bríde in the semi-final of the B Leinster championship.

Full time score Moate 4-12, Colaiste Bríde 0-2.

There were celebrations and sheer delight despite the baltic conditions at the full time whistle. The girls now join their Senior counterparts in reaching Leinster Final status with seven of these ladies on both teams. This was a historical day for MCS as both the Senior and U16 teams have never reached Finals in the same year. The girls look forward to a meeting with Navan or Loreto Wexford in the much anticipated final. Well done to all.

CHRISTMAS Shoobox Appeal

The Student Care Team at MCS organised the Christmas Shoobox Appeal for Team Hope. A number of TY students gave talks to our junior religion classes. The purpose of this was to encourage them to donate a box full of gifts for the children in the world who are in much need of joy in their lives. These shooboxes from Ireland will go to refugee children, street children, orphans,



children in hospital or other needy situations in Eastern Europe and Africa. This is our third year

organising this activity and this year we were delighted that we collected over 150 boxes.

STUDENTS MAD ABOUT SCIENCE

Students were aware of all things scientific with a range of activities organised during Science Week 9th-13th November. Of special interest was a visit from a Senior Scientist from State Pathologists Laboratory. Fifth Year Biology students received a talk from Forensic Scientist, Laura Galligan who spoke about her job and the tasks involved. She then went into the background behind why she loves her career and how each of her days is completely different. She outlined different sections of forensics and how many different jobs involved in the whole process of solving a crime. She explained the steps involved in a post mortem exam and how it is very difficult to pinpoint how a person has died. She went through how each organ can be damaged and showed diagrams to explain. Also, she showed the group fingerprints on glass that were identified by blood stains. She explained how to get into a career in forensics and what courses to take in college and what the future prospects may hold in the job. Students were clearly impressed with the information. Cian Strolla stated: "Very interesting!" while Andrea Lynam said: "I would consider a career in forensics after the talk".



Moate CS Fifth Year Biology students with Dr. Laura Galligan and Deputy Principal Maura Murray, Margaret Mandal and Principal Tom Lowry.

Science Demos for First Years

Transition Year students Lorcan Daly, Cathal Byrne and PJ McCormack prepared their Science Demonstrations and took over the role of Science Teachers with the First Year students. Among their demonstrations, they showed the students how to create various coloured flames burning salts of chemicals in the periodical table. Turning copper coins to silver and gold, they explained the idea of the brass alloy. The students all thoroughly enjoyed the activity.

Science Quizzes

Transition Year students Michael Killian, Ben Cox and Colin Boland carried out Table Quizzes with the six groups of Second Year students. Questions tested

their knowledge of the Junior Certificate course as well as general Science. The table of three winners from each class group take part in the final of the Table Quiz at lunch time on Friday.

Two teams of Sixth Year students took part in the Regional Final of the ISTA Science Quiz at the AIT on Thursday evening. Teams consisted of Rachael Dolan, Jessica McCormack and Slavomir Vano, James Fallon, Damien Byrne and Eoin Heavin. Both teams performed very well and came in the top ten teams. Questions tested their knowledge of the Leaving Certificate courses as well as topical Science news.

The students at MCS found the activities fun and interesting, stimulating their interest in Science in the world around us!