



Newsletter

Welcome back...

November 2014 Volume 2 - Issue 02

Dear Parents/Guardians, welcome to the second newsletter of the year. It's hard to imagine that we are well and truly into the last few weeks before the Christmas break. School life since mid-term has continued to be busy, active and productive. As the year draws to a close it's important we keep you up to date with developments within the school since the last newsletter.

Richard Prendiville - Principal

Kerry Life Education

Seamus Whitty will speak to LC1, LC2 and 2nd Year students as well as parents on the 12th and 13th of March next. This is what two of last year's T.Y. students had to say about their experience of his workshop. One student commented - "Seamus Whitty facilitated a session with our TY group last year - it wasn't a 'talk' or a 'presentation': I would consider it one of the best sessions in which I've ever been involved. We were immediately struck by Mr. Whitby's energy and engaging personality. His stories made us laugh but also made you think about how you are viewing your life". Another said - "I enjoyed the talk immensely. I feel it was a very beneficial and relevant to teenagers since we could do with learning more about positive thinking."

Guidance

CAO is now open for applications:

- Apply by 20th January 2015 to avail of the discounted application fee of €25
- Normal closing is February 1st 2015 and has a fee of €40

HEAR' and 'DARE' schemes advice clinics:

- Saturday January 10th 10am -2 pm UCC and UL
- Thursday January 15th 7pm - 9pm Tralee

CAO Information night for Parents/Guardians in Tarbert Comprehensive School Library on Tuesday November 25th at 7.30pm.

Parent Teacher Meetings

- 2nd Years THURSDAY 11TH DEC.**
- 1st Year & TY TUESDAY 13TH JAN.**
- LC1 THURSDAY 22ND JAN.**
- LCA1 THURSDAY 22ND JAN.**

ATTENDING A PARENT / TEACHER MEETING

Parent teacher meetings continue to be a very valuable method of communication between home and school. By now both the LC2 and JC3 parent teacher meetings have been completed. Can I remind parents that teachers are still contactable either through the journal or by telephone should you have any concerns or queries regarding your child's academic progress. Teachers will get back to you as soon as possible.

Ideally separated parents are asked to come to an agreement on which one of them attends a parent teacher meeting. Where both parents may wish to attend then we would ask that they would do so together or divide the teachers/subjects amongst themselves. Unfortunately it is not possible to accommodate both parents attending separately as it duplicates work and time at parent teacher meetings is already limited.

Year Heads & Co-ordinators

2014 - 2015

The Year Heads for the academic year 2014/15

A reminder that if you have any concerns regarding your son/daughter then you should contact their Year Head in the first instance. The Year Heads for the academic year 2014/15 are:

- 1st Years Ms. S Fitzgerald**
- 2nd Years Ms. R. O Donoghue**
- 3rd Years Ms. B. Neligan**
- LC1 Mr. K. O Keeffe**
- LC2 Mr. T. Culhane**
- LCA Co-ordinator Ms. L. Moloney**
- TY Co-ordinator Ms. M. Hogan**
- LCVP Co-ordinator Mr. P. McElligott**

Science Olympiad

Following the Junior Certificate results the State Examinations Commission identified two students in our school, Andrew Dai (LC1) and Maurice Moore (LC1) as high achievers in their Science and Maths examinations. Over 100 similar talented students nationwide were invited to attend the Irish National Olympiad final in DCU on November 1st. This is a remarkable achievement for these two students and we congratulate them on being recognised for their exam success.



Science Olympians – Andrew Dai (left) and Maurice Moore (right)

Following the Irish final, Maurice Moore has been selected to represent Ireland at the International Junior Science Olympiad in Mendoza, Argentina from December 2nd to 11th. We congratulate Maurice on what is an exceptional achievement for himself, his family and Tarbert Comprehensive School.

Open Night

Tarbert Comprehensive Open Night was held on Thursday 9th of October last. Large crowds attended the event offering primary school pupils from far and wide the opportunity to view the school facilities and mingle with the school staff. Presentations at the end of the night from Mr. Prendiville, Sr. Frances, Leaving Cert. Mentors and Mrs. Griffin highlighted the uniqueness of the Comprehensive School ethos, pastoral care structures as well as the Junior Cycle curriculum on offer in the school. A summary of the Principal's address and Career Guidance presentation can be viewed on the school website by clicking on the Events tab.

Christmas / Autumn Exams

Christmas/Autumn Exams run from Tuesday November 25th 2014 to Friday November 28th.

Exam results will be posted home before Christmas. Students have been reminded about the importance of these exams as an important stepping stone in their State Exams preparation and as an indicator on their progress in school to date.

I wish to remind parents that while students are allowed be collected from school if they are not doing an exam there is no obligation on parents to do so. In other words students do not need to leave school early or arrive late during the exams in order to study at home. They can study in school when they have no exams so that as much as possible disruption to the school day is kept to a minimum.



Anti Bullying

The schools Anti Bullying Policy has been reviewed and is now available to view on the school website. Issues around cyber bullying are also dealt with in the policy.

On November 13th last Dr. Maureen Griffin provided a wonderful presentation both to students and parents around the concerns of social media and modern communications. I want to thank Dr. Griffin for her work in the school on a topic that is ever growing, ever changing and as parents and members of a school community we must remain constantly vigilant.



November Remembrance Services

Remembrance prayer services took place for all staff and students during the weeks of November. Included in our prayers were all former students, staff and family members who have gone to their eternal reward.

May they rest in peace.

Board of Management

The members of the school Board of management are:

Ms. Mary McGillicuddy – Chairperson
Ms. Ann O'Dwyer – Kerry ETB Nominee
Cllr. Jim Finucane – Kerry ETB Nominee
Ms. Ann Flavin – Bishop's Nominee
Ms. Ciara O'Connor – Staff Nominee
Mr. Noel Keenan – Staff Nominee
Ms. Ann Woods – Parents Nominee
Mr. Ted O'Connor – Parents Nominee
Mr. Richard Prendiville – Secretary

Should you wish to communicate with the Board of Management you may do so by writing to the Secretary of the Board at the school address, or contacting either of the parent's nominees, again using the school address.

All correspondence addressed to members of the Board is treated as private and confidential and is not opened in the school.

Lourdes 2014



In September four students and one teacher went to Lourdes as helpers on the Diocesan pilgrimage. The following is what they said about the trip.

"I would advise anyone to go to Lourdes as a helper if they have the chance. It was one of the best experiences I have had in my life. We spent five days helping the pilgrims. We worked very long hours, and it was very tiring, but it was worth it. It was so much fun. We made good friends, and I have great memories from the trip"

From left: Partick Dineen, Maeve O'Sullivan, Ms. Brid Carroll, Siomha Wall and James Stack

Tarbert to Tanzania



Tarbert Comprehensive School has been fundraising for Concern for over 30 years. In that time the Comp. has raised €186,997! There is no doubt that we have saved thousands of lives and improved the quality of thousands more.

In recognition of that achievement, Tarbert Comprehensive School has been awarded the top school in Ireland prize twice, in 2005 and again in 2014. In July two students, Aisling O'Carroll and Erin Moriarty accompanied by Ms. Brid Carroll flew to Tanzania representing the school. There they visited a variety of Concern projects, working in Agricultural, Education, Health and women's groups etc. "It was truly an amazing and life changing experience."

Congratulations and well done to our students, teachers, staff, parents and parishes for facilitating this trip. Without their help it wouldn't have been possible.

This year Tarbert will be involved again with the Concern fast and also with the church gate collections – Kerry Nov 29th / 30th, Limerick Dec 20th /21st. We are looking forward to your continued support.



Stress Management

On Wednesday 19th November LC2 Students attended a very worth-while training on steps to manage Stress in their lives this year facing exams and for the future. Research has demonstrated that self-esteem plays an important role in coping with stress. Because more confidence about your own ability to respond and deal with crisis is a great way to build resilience for the future, this workshop aimed to boost our LC2 students coping skills. Given by Imelda Dowling Garvey (Psychotherapist and Trainer) the feedback from the students was very positive.

Extra Curricular

I want to congratulate two of our Leaving Cert. students who were members of the recent All Ireland winning Kerry Minor team. Brian O'Seanacháin and Jason Foley.

Both Brian and Jason are both still young enough to compete in next year's minor competition. We congratulate them both on their wonderful achievement.



Girls Rugby

The North Kerry Schools Girls Senior and Junior Shield Competitions were held in Listowel Town Park on Thursday 16th October 2014 and delivered many exciting matches on the day. This touch rugby competition was for girls attending all of the secondary schools in North Kerry. The schools that participated were St Josephs from Ballybunion, Listowel Presentation Convent, Causeway Comprehensive, Listowel Community College and Tarbert Comprehensive. All teams in both competitions were very evenly matched and ultimately it came down to a fine margin to decide the winners. Tarbert Comprehensive emerged victorious in the Junior Shield. Well done girls!!



Parents Association financing



Our sincere thanks to the Parents Association for all their work in applying for support funding for our external counselling service provided to the school.

The ESB has very generously awarded the school €4000 towards supporting the service for the coming year.

Mr. Tony Merriman of the ESB presenting the school with a cheque of €4,000 to fund its counselling services.

Reflection and Team Building Days

2nd Years and LC1 students took part in these days on the 13th, 16th and 17th October. Moving out of the school setting and classrooms can act as the catalyst that enables deeper growth in a young person's life journey. Without a doubt these days have had a great impact in helping to form the spiritual life of our students.

The reflection day provided space and time to:

- Think and clarify their thoughts
- Work in pairs and groups
- Receive information that was inspiring and thought provoking.

The evaluations showed a resoundingly positive and encouraging feedback from almost all students.

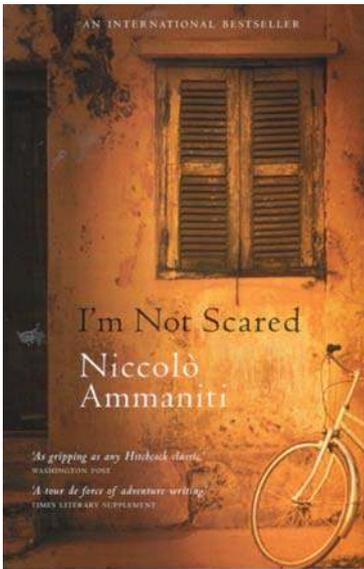
Girls Basketball

Members of the U/16 Cup girls Basketball team who were victorious in the first round of the National Cup Competition against Kanturk recently where the final score was Tarbert 44pts Kanturk 20pts. Top scorers were Niamh Cullen & Cianna Murphy both of whom scored 8 points. The Girls now travel to Cork for the next round of this competition where their opponents are St. Aloysius College, Carrigtwohill. Good Luck Girls!!



Team: Grace Leahy (4), Mairead Spaight (5), Aoife Lynch (6), Laura McLoughlin (7), Grainne Heaphy(8), Muirne Wall(9), Grace Ryan(10), Aisling O'Carroll(11), Cianna Murphy(12), Ciara O'Mahony(13), Mary Barry (14), Niamh Cullen (15), Isobel O'Connor (21), Katie Cashman-Quaid (22), Ciara Shine (23), Hayley Betts (24), Molly Cluney (10x), Lorraine Nolan (injured).
Missing from Photo: Molly Deenihan & Laura Curry.

Senior Book Club



ATTENDING A PARENT / TEACHER MEETING

In conjunction with our work on Literacy, we have launched a Book Club, aimed at senior students in the school. The club has met twice to date. The first novel, chosen for discussion in the last term, was Dermot Bolger's 'New Town Soul', a thriller with a supernatural twist, and an interesting narrative structure that divided the opinions of members. This term's choice is the novel 'I'm Not Scared', an English translation of the popular Italian novel by Niccolò Ammaniti.

The novel was suggested by a TY student and is well-known due to its film adaptation which has appeared on the Leaving Cert English course.

The club will meet to discuss this book in the week before the Christmas holidays, when we will also choose our holiday reading!!! All senior students are welcome to join the discussion and we would hope that you might read along at home too.

School Drop Off & Collection

Can I remind parents that the front gate of the school is not an appropriate area to turn in the mornings and evenings. Instead it is advised to use the upper bus gate to turn. Students can then be dropped at the bottom of the steps.

The main gate needs to be kept free as an entrance and exit point – the risk of an accident is greatly reduced by using the upper gate to turn.



Important Dates

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
Tralee Parent Information Evening	4th Nov.	UCC Cork
CAO Online Application Facility Opens	5th Nov.	Online at cao.ie
Tralee I.T. Open Day	14th Nov.	Tralee Institute of Technology
Kerry IGC Careers Fair	19th Nov.	The Brandon Hotel, Tralee

Important Closing Dates

NAME	DATE	DEADLINE
UCAS	15th Oct. 2014	Some Courses Close
	15th Jan. 2015	All Courses Close
CAO Application Deadline	20th Jan. 2015	Early Application Online Discount €25
	1st Feb. 2015	Normal Application Online/Paper €40
HEAR & DARE Schemes Higher Education Access Route ("HEAR") and Disability Access Route to Education ("DARE")	1st Feb. 2015	Apply ONLINE as part of your CAO application
	1st Apr. 2015	HEAR & DARE Supporting Documents
Post Leaving Cert Courses	Apply Mid Feb. to August 2015	
SUSI Maintenance Grant	Apply May - July 2015	

Important Websites

www.qualifax.ie

www.cao.ie

www.accesscollege.ie (Hear & Dare Schemes)

www.careersportal.ie

www.ucas.com (Study in England)

www.studentfinance.ie (SUSI Grant Information)

All College Websites for Ireland - www.name.ie
e.g. www.ucc.ie, www.ul.ie, www.dcu.ie



Best of Luck for the year ahead!