

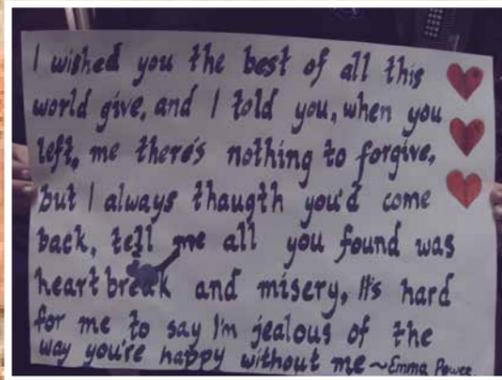
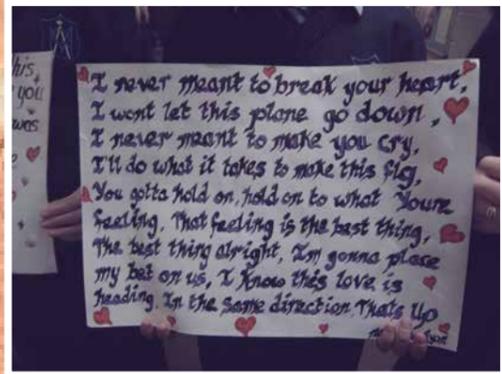
2014
2015

ASGM

Year Book

By Eithne McGill 6th year

Art



PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Summer weather in April reminds us how quickly the year is passing. Gathering school photos, news items, and stories for the school yearbook also heralds the approaching end of the school year, exams and summer holidays.

This yearbook is a bountiful harvest of great achievements, many successes, and wonderful stories. Under the direction of Mr Huff, the yearbook editor, and chronicler, the 2015 yearbook is ready for us to enjoy. Thank you to Mr Huff, Ms Hynan, and to all involved in the yearbook production.

This yearbook will hold special memories for the Leaving Certificate students. The Class of 2015 have greatly enriched the life of the school community. They will be remembered with gratitude and fondness for their kindness, generosity, integrity, their enthusiasm, and sense of fun. They have been inspiring role models for the school community. As they take leave of us, we pray God's blessing on them during their exams and future lives.

Among the highlights this year were winning the Marie Horgan Memorial Cup for Tag Rugby, the First Year Tag Rugby Cup, winning the Inter-School Junior Show Jumping competition and Katie's "Lisa's Light".

Thank you to all our sponsors for supporting our school and this yearbook.

Collette McGrath, Principal



SCHOOL CHANT

We are St Mary's and you know what we've got!

What have you got?
How hot is hot?
Oh Yeah, Oh Yeah!

We've got a school that's hotter than hot!
Batman... Superman!
No one can do it like St Mary's can!

HEAD GIRL'S ADDRESS

Another year down for staff and students of Ardscoil Mhuire, and the last year for the class of 2015... What a year it has been!

I still can't believe that my six years here are over, how much we have all grown/changed, and the lovely young ladies we have become. It's only in these last few weeks that I have realised how hard it will be to say goodbye. It has been a huge honor for me to be elected the Head Girl of such a wonderful school and to represent such a fabulous group of people. The friends and memories I have made here are priceless and I am so grateful for the love and support shown to all of us throughout our years here.

On behalf of all the students, especially the Sixth Years, I would like to say a huge thank you to Ms McGrath, Ms Herbert, and all the teachers that have put up with us!!! I would also like to thank the hero in the office who keeps the whole show on the road. Of course I mean Dee! I would also like to thank Ray, Mick, Mary S., Marion, Mags, Deirdre, Lorraine, Jim, Mary G., Sr Pat, and Father Leonard. We would be one hundred percent lost without them all!

With the exams looming I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Junior and Leaving Cert classes the best of luck.

Finally, I'd like to leave you with my favourite quote (once spotted on an ASM wall)...

"We educate woman because it is smart. We educate woman because it changes the world."
-Drew Faust

Molly Power, Head Girl



PEER MENTORING 2014-2015

Peer mentoring was introduced to the school eight years ago. The benefits are manifold both to the mentors and mentees. Mentees get a helping hand in settling into school life and making the transition to secondary school. Mentors are well placed to assist in this transition as they have themselves recently experienced this. Going to a peer is sometimes not as daunting or formal as approaching an adult. Mentors also benefit as they make a commitment for the year to this many-faceted task. A level of responsibility is expected in carrying out this role.

Mentors undergo school-based training and are introduced to their groups during the MAP Transfer Programme. They run various activities during the year.

The mentors sign up to a programme of activities including art and craft workshops, study skills and exam preparation workshop and a ceili. They meet the first years informally and provide another link between staff and students. They also represent the school at public events e.g. our Open night. This year they were part of the welcoming committee for Minister Jan O'Sullivan on her visit to help us raise our Green Flag.

This year we had huge interest from senior students and our biggest number of mentors to date. Their involvement and great work was acknowledged at the Academic Awards night and the Mentor of the year was award was given to Kari Joyce Fitzgerald. Well done!



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

As a new academic year began in Ardscoil Mhuire so did the process of appointing the new Student Representative Council. was selected as Head Girl, capably assisted by Katie Whelan as Deputy Head Girl. All classes have elected enthusiastic and committed prefects and deputy prefects.

The S.R.C is a vital link between the student body and staff of Ardscoil Mhuire. Students are encouraged to be actively involved in school life through the S.R.C. Thank you to our Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl, prefects and deputy prefects for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm all year.

As the academic year nears its end, we on the S.R.C. would like to take this opportunity to wish all the 3rd and 6th years the very best in the exams and wish you all a happy and safe summer 2015.

Last October our annual Mad Hair and Colours Day took place. The whole school community embraced the spirit of the day and made it a very enjoyable and memorable day for all. €420 was raised for Down Syndrome Ireland. On Friday May 1st 2015, the S.R.C. are organising a "Blue Day" in aid of "Lisa's Light" so in the words of Mrs. Clancy "wear blue, don't be blue".

At our recent Academic Awards Night April Quin (III Colmcille) received the Sr Andrew Award in recognition of her dedication to the role of prefect. Congratulations and well done April!



*** Mad Hair Day ***



Transition Years Leave Us 'All Shook Up'!

It can sometimes be hard to sum up an incredible experience in just one word, though our Transition Year class made it surprisingly easy last November as they treated us to their take on the super-cool musical 'All Shook Up'. That one word? "Wow". It is a perfect little statement as it is exactly how audiences have reacted to a show that has become an instant classic since its first sold-out performance.

As a piece of entertainment, it had it all; classic songs that were amazingly sung, top acting performances, vivid sets that were a special treat for any eagle-eyed ASM student, exciting choreography that captivated, dramatic twists and turns that kept the audience's attention, and heaps of romance with the few obligatory "awws" thrown in for good measure. There were also laughs. Tons of them, and the atmosphere in LIT's Millennium Theatre was electric as every perfectly timed one-liner was served up to appreciative audiences all weekend.

But these things did not happen by accident and there are a lot of people to thank. First and foremost are the school communities of both Ardscoil Mhuire and St Munchin's College for their support of the musical and the students involved over the past three months. The choreography for the musical was created by Amanda Kearns, and we are grateful for the wonderful job she did. Ms Madden (musical director) and Ms O' Connor (director and producer) are both owed a huge thanks for all of their hard work and vision in directing and producing a show that was "bigger" and more exciting than any of us could have predicted.

Finally, we cannot overlook our incredible TY class! They were outstanding and have certainly made us proud! They can be proud of themselves too as their display of energy, enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work resulted in a spectacular show that will undoubtedly have many teachers, students, and family members talking for quite a while to come!

Congratulations to all involved in 'All Shook Up' in 2014!

Dear Diary,

On the first day back to school we all received a text saying that we had to have a song prepared for the next day and we would have to sing that song in front of Ms Madden and Ms O' Connor. All of the girls had to audition with whatever song they chose. We also found out that the musical would be "All Shook Up", which sounded like fun! All of the girls had to take part in the musical but because there were so many boys in T.Y. in Munchin's not all of them had to take part, but the ones that did not perform in the show did back stage work or helped build the sets.

*For my audition I sang "the Cup Song" by Anna Kendrick from Pitch Perfect. The teachers narrowed down the list and fifteen of us were called back and then they cut the list even more and eventually five of us found out that we gotten lead parts. I got the part of **Sylvia**, a mid-30s black woman who runs the local bar and had a sixteen year old daughter called **Lorraine**.*

The first rehearsal was the day after we got our Junior Cert results, so we were all really tired coming in that morning. We had to walk up to Munchin's at 9.00am and that's when we found out who got the lead parts. We started learning the songs straight away and it was kind of awkward because the boys were on one side of the room and the girls were on the other side.

We had dance rehearsals that night from 7pm to 9pm and we had rehearsals every Tuesday and Thursday at that time too. The leads were taken on the weekends for singing and acting so it was really tiring. The two weeks of full time rehearsals were the best; we finally mixed with the boys and became friends with them and all the scenes in the play were coming together.

On the day the show started we had a matinee in the morning for primary schools and that night we performed for the public for the first time. These were the best shows of the entire run because the audience was cheering everyone on and shouting people's names when they were singing, or even on stage.

On the last night of the show all the cast went to Supermacs after the show and it was kind of a goodbye to the musical because this was the last time we were all together as a cast and crew, which was really weird because we had spent so much time together during the rehearsals!

I think it was the best experience of T.Y.

Sarah Moloney (Transition Year 2014/2015)



CAST LIST

Leah Melling as **Natalie/Ed**
 Sarah Moloney as **Sylvia**
 Hannah Brown as **Sandra**
 Shauna Hogan as **Lorraine**
 Chelsea Walters as **Sheriff Earline**



LISA'S LIGHT

Lisa's Light was just a dream little over four months ago; a simple idea, to put positive messages in boxes with bright lights in areas that are dull and dark to brighten someone's day. Now, as I sit here and write this, they are hanging proudly on Thomand Bridge. I hope to continue this simple message and light up all Limerick's Bridges.

The success of this project is down to such a long list of people. I'm not sure I have enough space! Lisa's Light is not only a way to promote positive mental health but a step out against the stigma associated with feeling down or depressed. When I started this project I never thought it would come this far, I lived in hope and persevered and look where Lisa's Light is now! The support I received is just mind blowing.

With the help of my amazing family and school, Daniel Butler (Local Cllr), Ms McGrath, and Alphaset

Graphics & Design Company, I would not be telling you my story today. I just want to thank every person I have come in contact with these few months from the very bottom of my heart.

You have no idea what this means for me and my family to see Lisa's name bringing light to people's lives. Thank you to Limerick City and County Council for their support and the Limerick D.E.P.s for helping me raise money to fund Lisa's Light. I am so looking forward to The Garden Fête, I know it'll be a fun filled day. Between receiving The Limerick Leader's Person of the Month award and French Orals, je suis ravie! (I am delighted). I hope people who see the light boxes will realise 'it's okay not to be okay' and that 'everyday is a new beginning'.

Lastly, I would be so grateful if everyone who reads this would go on and support Lisa's Light on Facebook at [Facebook.com/LisasLightLimerick](https://www.facebook.com/LisasLightLimerick) and watch this space very closely as there is more to come very soon!



'I WAS A BOY IN BELSEN' AUTHOR INSPIRES ASM STUDENTS

We were truly honored to welcome a truly inspirational gentleman to our school in the autumn. Tomi Reichental, author, documentarian, Holocaust Survivor, and a consummate gentleman, spoke to our school community for hours about the harrowing, yet altogether amazing, voyage that has been his life.

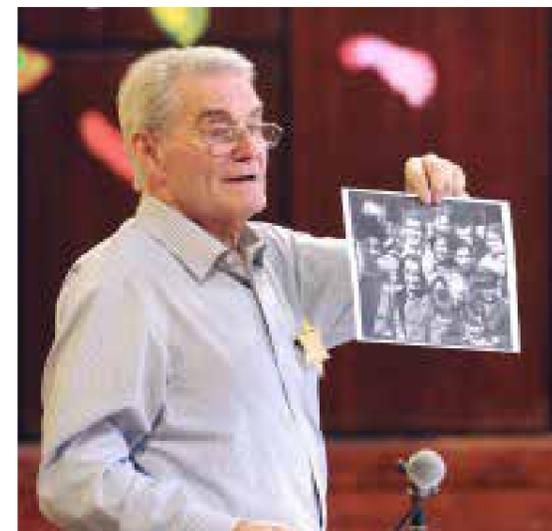
Tomi, a master story-teller in multiple media, detailed his story to an entranced audience of staff, students, and special guests. He began focusing first on his family's idyllic life in Slovakia whilst also charting the rise of anti-Semitic behavior across Europe. Knowing what we did, we were surprised to hear of a family life that was so relatable. He went on to recount the tragic chain of events that led to the loss of many members of his family and ultimately his arrival at the infamous Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at just nine years of age. Particularly emotional moments occurred while Tomi described his time struggling to carry on his education as a little boy and during his vividly shocking description of his daily life in Belsen.

Unlike the stories of so many others interned in the camps, Tomi's ended with a glint of hope as he spoke of Belsen's liberation by the Allies, his eventual reunion with his father, his successful return to education, and of his joy in building a wonderful and loving family in Ireland.

Tomi urged all present to use his story and to keep it with them, to never stand idly by when they see injustice, and to respect the diversity of all people.

Tomi was also good enough to sign copies of his autobiography, 'I Was a Boy in Belsen', and was always sure to share a word with the students who felt inspired to speak to him afterwards. Five copies of Tomi's book have been added to our school library for our students, and we cannot recommend this emotional and edifying page-turner highly enough.

Ardscuil Mhuire would like to sincerely thank Tomi Reichental for the gift that is his story, the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland for facilitating his visit, and a special word of thanks to Mr Conner for organising an enlightening and thought-provoking event.





PUBLIC-SPEAKING AND DEBATING IN ASM

Why debating? Why public-speaking? Those are fair questions and, considering how most people feel about getting up and talking (let alone arguing!) in front of a crowd, they are not answered simply. But we're going to try anyway! Through debating and public-speaking in ASM we hope to encourage our students to find their voices; to communicate their thoughts and hopes more effectively, to present these in an ordered and persuasive way, and to build their confidence. Many past and current students of ASM started on their roads to astounding achievements by simply standing up at a debate and making their voices heard.

Congratulations first to last year's Second Year Debating Team on their amazing achievement. They reached the final of the first ever Limerick City Debating Competition by winning all of their debates by unanimous decision and gave the boys from Ardscoil Rís one hell of a fight on the night! Opposing a motion that called for the lowering of the voting age to sixteen the team; comprised of Melanie McKnight (C), Emma Plunkett, and Emily Gough, with April Quin and Rachel Mortell sitting out for this one as subs; were proud, powerful and persuasive. Look out for all of these girls on the Concern Debates Team in the future!

Speaking of our Concern Debates Team, a new quartet of talented speakers represented the school with pride this year. Rebecca McManus (C), Katie Long, Chloe Whelan, and Hannah Brown gelled incredibly well together and it was great to see their confidence building with each successive debate. They took points from St

Caiman's and Laurel Hill FCJ during a season which saw them debating such topical and interesting motions as Ebola, Scottish Independence, and Climate Change.

The Poetry Aloud competition is a great way for aspiring public speakers to build their confidence whilst also learning to appreciate a wide range of Irish poems. This year saw twenty students from First, Second and Third Year travel to Thurles to take part in the regional heats and it is fair to say that they all did themselves proud with their confident and polished recitals. Building on our success in previous years were Chris Kirwan and Olivia O' Donoghue, who were selected to participate in the competition's All-Ireland semi-final in the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. The girls gave powerful, emotional performances and received no small amount of praise too!

Comhghairdeas le Niamh Ní Chonaire, Jemma Ní Dhuthaigh agus Aibreán Ní Chuinn a bhí spreagúil agus díograiseach sna Díospóireachtaí Gaellinn i mbliana. Shroich siad Craobh Reigiúnach de Chomórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh 2015 agus bhí siad thar barr. Táimid ag tnúth leis an mbliain seo chugainn cheana féin!!

Not all of our debating is competitive though, and sometimes we debate and speak aloud for the fun of it! Transition Years had a blast researching, writing, and debating with each other about young people and the vote, with the ability to drive a tractor becoming a recurring and emotional theme! Second Year students are also starting to dip their toes into the waters of persuasion and argument too, so be sure to keep an eye out for their exploits in the next few years!

Remember to keep up to date on all the goings on in debating and public-speaking in ASM. It couldn't be simpler to either check out the school's Facebook page or to follow us on Twitter @ASMDebates.



Having participated debating this year I have found it extremely beneficial to both my written English and my ability to speak in front of people. It is an invaluable experience that I would highly recommend to anyone who was looking to build their confidence in public-speaking and writing.

Researching and learning about global affairs is educational and interesting. Additionally, debating offers you the chance to work as part of a team which I found to be more enjoyable than working by myself.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Ms McGrath and Mr Huff for their continuous support throughout the school year and their enthusiasm towards debating which impacted hugely on our team's attitude towards it.

- Rebecca McManus (Captain of the 2014/15 Concern Debates Team)

JANUARY 2015

Dear Diary,

We started the project YSI in January 2015 and it went on for a number of months. We chose different topics to research discuss and do our project on. There were three different groups of ten students and each had completely different topics and ideas. The groups' projects focused on Society's idea of Perfection, The Link between Teenage Pregnancy and Alcohol, and Homophobia in Today's World

We spent many classes working on our projects and prepared for the Speak Outs that was Happening in Mary I in March. A Speak Out is like a short presentation through song or drama that gets your project's point across. We also spent art classes creating props such as signs, t-shirts, and badges to help improve our projects and make it more visual and exciting. There were twenty groups of at least ten students performing at the Speak Out from different schools all around Munster. Even though we were all nervous about getting up on stage in front of that many people we were all in the same boat which made things a lot easier.

We all really enjoyed the day out and the projects were very enjoyable to watch and listen to. The judges were really supportive of our projects in their official feedback and all three groups have been invited to submit project posters during the YSI's National Showcase in Dublin this May. We can't wait! This was a very well worth experience and I really benefited from it.

- Socially Concious



FEBRUARY 2015

Dear Diary,

We've been having a brilliant time publicising the School Bank. We're working with Bank of Ireland to help the students in our school start savings accounts so that they can put away a bit of money for a rainy day! The best part has been thinking of funny and eye-catching ways to spread the word. We think we were quite successful at that when we painted our faces, dressed as robbers, and went around the school showing off our "freebie bags" as we even made it onto the school's Facebook page! We had a lot of interest after that, especially when we told the students about the possible prizes for opening an account! It's been a lot of fun and we're definitely learning about banking, finance, and responsibility too.

- The Banking Bandits (just



11TH FEBRUARY 2015

Dear Diary,

Today we went with Ms Kenny, Ms McNamara, and our Junior Achievement Volunteer David O' Gorman to Stryker Orthopaedics for a tour around the factory. Each group went to different parts of the factory and they explained to us what they do in the process of making the artificial knees. We saw all the different machines they use to inspect and package the metal parts of the artificial knees.

Junior Achievement is where we split into groups and each set up a mini company. Two of the mini companies are: 'Pick2Stick', and 'Filtrate Hydrate'.

'Pick2Stick' idea is basically a sticky strip where one side sticks to your skin while the other sticks to the clothing item (e.g.: jeans) and holds it up, which replaces the bulkiness of belts. 'Filtrate Hydrate' idea is basically a water bottle filter.

Seeing the scale of the work going on in Stryker and listening to our tour guide gave us a lot to think about as we began our mini companies. It was an interesting experience for sure.

- The Next Big Thing in Business!

WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

Dear Diary,

Today we did an "upcycling" workshop for Green Schools. It was to encourage recycling every-day rubbish into a handy object we could use at home, for example a coke can made into a candle holder decoration.

The St Munchin's TY boys who were on their Green Committee also got involved and spent the morning in our school. We all went into the GPR and got into groups of four. Some were mixed, some weren't. We had a great time anyway!

Mary McKeown, who lives in Adare, came in and showed us multiple upcycling objects and how to do them. We each brought in a recyclable item, fabrics, and decorations that we could use and upcycled in our groups. We got to take home our upcycled items and had our eyes opened to a really cool and environmentally-friendly idea.

- Friend of the Earth!

11TH MARCH 2015

Dear Diary,

Today athlete Jessie Barr came in to talk to us about her sport story. She is working as one of the Sky Sports Living for Sports Athlete Mentors along with other sports stars around Ireland. They are visiting secondary schools around the country and telling their own personal stories to try and inspire young people to develop valuable life-skills and confidence.

We were one of the schools visited by Jessie Barr, a 400m hurdle athlete from Waterford. She is a member of the Ferrybank Athletics Club. She graduated from her undergraduate course in Psychology and Sociology in University of Limerick in May 2011. While in U. L., she continued her training in athletics. She is now in Bath to get her Masters in Sport Psychology. She has entered and placed in many important races, including being part of Ireland's 400m relay team in the London 2012 Olympics. During her visit she told us about how she tried many different sports before she realised she loved running the 400m hurdles. She was told numerous times that she couldn't do things, and she was able to prove those people wrong as she continues to be successful in her running. Jessie was very inspirational and taught us that if you really want something, you can achieve it through hard work and determination.

Inspired!

16TH OF SEPTEMBER 2014

Dear Diary,

The entire Transition Year class went to UL activity centre in Killaloe. When we arrived we were told about our day and put into groups. First we went climbing on a frame. We were all so scared, especially Chelsea! I was grand though!

After that we went on an adventure trail and played archery. Eventually we had our lunch, which we were gasping for at that stage.

After we had finished they called us again and they gave us wetsuits and a helmet. My group went kayaking first. When we got out far we were allowed to jump out of the kayak. We crashed into loads of trees. After that we tried windsurfing but there was no wind so we went paddle-boarding instead. At the end of the day we got to jump

off the pier. The instructors did cool tricks for us off the pier too. We tried our best to copy them, but lacked the skill!

Finally we all got changed and hopped on the bus to head back to Limerick. It was a great day and everyone enjoyed themselves! I would definitely give it a 10/10!!

TY's Resident Daredevil

6TH - 7TH OCTOBER 2014

Dear Diary,

We completed a first aid course, which is a two day course. We did this activity to be able to be there for someone if they need help and it didn't hurt that we could put in our CV. On the first day we did the theory side of it. We learnt all about different injuries and the ways you can help someone when they have an accident.

On the second day, we did the practical work. We got to do CPR on dummies and use a mask to give mouth to mouth. We put slings and bandages on each other. We also learned how to do CPR on a baby doll. We learned how to put someone in the recovery position and how to handle people in different situations like heart attack, choking or a stroke. We did a test, it was just over twenty questions on what we had learned and when we passed we received certs. I really enjoyed this course. One Happy First-Aider



13TH OCTOBER 2014

Dear Diary,

Today we did Sim Drive. A truck with car simulators in the back came to our school. We were split into groups to do an hour of driving each.

I found it extremely hard to get the car to start but once I got going it was easier. It was a really eye-opening experience because driving is a lot harder than I thought. We had to start and drive the car around a

virtual obstacle course the same way we would drive a real car.

At the end we were given a sheet with our score. Let's just say it was harder than we expected and we hope to be better by the time we really have to drive!

Chloe Whelan.

14TH OF OCTOBER 2014

Dear Diary,

Today a woman named Anne McCarthy came in and talked to my class about healthy eating and what we should and shouldn't be eating.

She started off by telling us how much sugar was in the different types of food. She had a table of some unhealthy foods and healthy foods and she told us which ones were really bad for us. Later she advised us on what size portions we should have of certain types of food. She also gave us a few ideas of healthy snacks that we hadn't really thought of before.

Overall it was a really interesting talk that gave me a lot to think about!

Jade McCarthy

20TH OCTOBER 2014

Dear Diary,

Instead of going to PE today my class and I went to the Ballysimon Road and went to Roller Jam. The teachers that accompanied us were Ms Hosford and Mr Airey. We all came to school in our PE eventually got on to the bus.

We were all badly singing songs from the musical on the way there. We got off the bus and went in and were asked what size roller skates we wanted. He then took our shoes and we tried, keyword tried, to put on our roller skates without falling over. Most of us fell before we even got on to where we had to roller skate but we all managed anyway. The teachers joined in too and let's just say they should stick to teaching because roller skating is not their strongest quality. The music was blaring while we tried to skate, but we spent more time on the floor than we did roller skating due to our poor "skating talents."

We all made it home with only a few bumps and bruises to show off! It was a great, enjoyable day and any day out with the class is a good day just being in their company. Stephanie

NOVEMBER 2014.

Dear Diary,

As part of Transition Year, we get to go on work experience. Our first block was in November. I decided to do work experience in Be Beautiful Hair and Nail Salon. I was there for two weeks. For the first week my work was based around hair. I learned how to wash hair properly, blow-dry hair, mix hair dyes, and do some up-styles in hair. For my second week of work I was learning about nails. I was taught how to do shellac nails, create designs on nails, and to do gel nails. I loved this work experience as it gives you a feel for your likes and dislikes in the world of work. It has benefited me a lot and led me to know what I would like to do in the future.

- Lorna

WEDNESDAY 17TH OF DECEMBER

Dear Diary,

Today we had a makeup and presentation course. A woman called Maeve came to talk to us about how to take care of our skin and gave us ideas and tips and also showed us how to apply makeup properly. She also told us about good quality of makeup to buy for a good price.

When she was talking about taking care of the skin she was able to tell us what skin type we had. She told us which products were best for cleaning our skin. She showed us how to do a facial using a willing volunteer!

When she was on the makeup topic she gave some tips on the order of the way we would apply makeup, what makeup we should buy, and what we should use to apply the makeup with. She showed us how to clean our makeup brushes too. I thought the course was very good because we got lots of advice on how to care for our skin, lots of tips on how to apply makeup, and what order cosmetics should be put on in. She also told us how to take off makeup. This course benefited me in how to care for my skin that extra bit more. I really liked it!
TY's Style Expert

18TH DECEMBER 2014

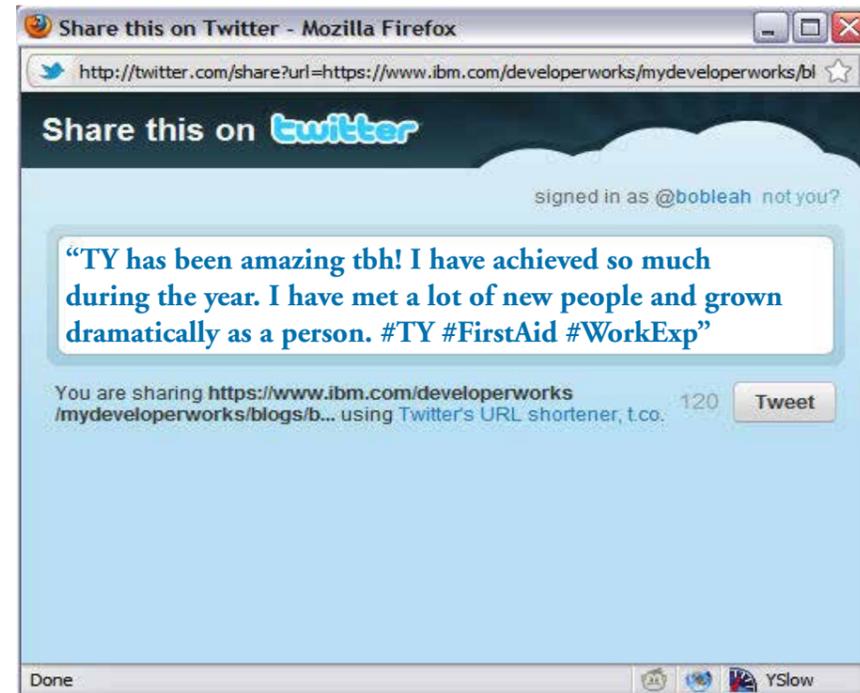
Dear Diary,

Today my class and I went ice skating in Authur's Quay Park. We left our school at a quarter past eleven. Ms Hosford had our tickets so we walked to the front desk where they kept the skates.

We all got our skates then we went to the ice. We had a really good time trying to skate and keep our balance. A few people fell over and of course we all had a good laugh, but thankfully nobody was hurt!

We were skating around the ice for an hour and a half and then we finished up and handed back our skates, which was a shame as we were having a great time. We all really enjoyed the experience and will definitely go ice skating again!

- The Ice Queen!



Amy Koyce @

AmyKoyce

My experience of #TY has been amazing ☺ I've done so many activities which have helped me gain skills & confidence. Favourite events: the Musical & the trip to Dublin. ☺



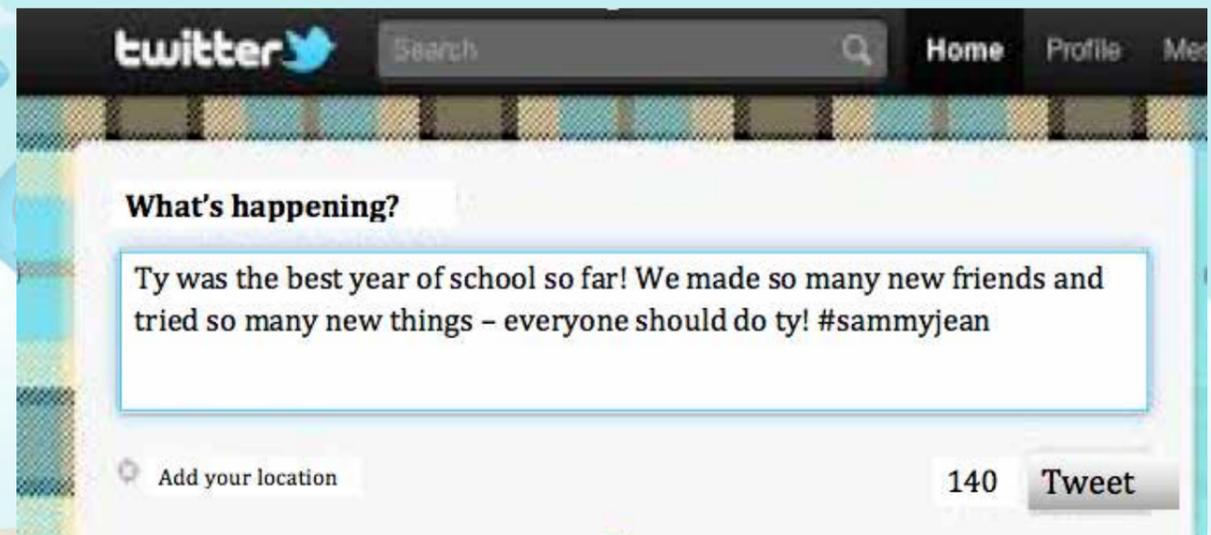
Nicole O'Shea @NicoleOShea

My #TY experience has been brilliant. I have really enjoyed it. Every event has given us skills and confidence & brought the class closer. Favourite event: the musical.



@Stephanie_Gavin

The best part of TY was the ones we spend outside of school. ☺ #TooCoolForSchool #AllShookUp #Dublin #YSI #PloughingChampionships





HISTORY TABLE QUIZ

"History is a people's memory, and without a memory, man is demoted to the lower animals."

- Malcolm X

For the second year in a row, ASM was delighted to host the annual HTAI Junior Cert History Table Quiz. This annual event seeks to aide JC students in their revision by highlighting the fun and excitement to be found in History. While determined to demonstrate our school's dedication and appreciation for the study of History, we were also sure to pull out all the stops to make sure our guests had a great time! Almost fifty teams from all over Munster made their way to our school last on the 16th of March to participate in what turned out to be a highly exciting, enjoyable, and entertaining night of quizzing. Among those were three teams from ASM, who performed strongly, doing Ms Clancy and Ms Dinan proud in the process! Well done!

A special thanks to our Ms Herbert and our TY volunteers who kept things running so smoothly on the night, as well as an epic Quizmaster who will go down in quiz history, Mr Huff!



Poetry

A Pupil's Path

Ardscoil Mhuire is the best,
Worn with pride is our crest.
In the green gates we stroll every day,
Wondering what new information will come our way.
We enter the short brown building,
In which our education we are achieving.
Walking along the decorated halls,
We look at the bright, poster-lined walls.
We pass all the other students,
Some of them looking quite clueless.
Our uniforms are navy and blue,
Along with the school jacket too.
Our classes for the day start at nine,
And finish at 3:30 when we hear the school bell chime!

By Jemma Duhig (2 Deirdre)

First Day Worries

I crept around the corner
And stared through the gate.
I looked at my watch...
"No! I'm not late!"

I walked in the door
And found a sort-of-hall.
I looked around the room,
And everyone was so tall!

"What if they don't like me?"
What if I can't make friends?"
"What if they all judge me?"
"Is this how Primary ends?"

With butterflies in my stomach
And worries in my head,
In the first time since forever
I went home and straight to bed!

by Therese Houghton - I Ide

Ceolchoirm 2015

Gan dabht tá Roinn na Gaeilge agus Roinn an Cheoil an-bhrodúil as na daltaí at fad a rinne sár-iarracht ar an stáitse i mí Márta ag an gCeolchoirm. Bhí siad ar fheabhas. Ar deireadh bhí an bua ag Niamh Conroy a sheinn a port féin ar an bpianó. Áfach d'eirigh go hiontach le Lauren White ó ATF1 a tháinig sa dara háit agus le Nadine, Ashley agus Tiana a tháinig da tríú háit! Ar ndóigh ní féidir dearmad a dhéanamh at Hannah agus Gráinne ón Idirbhliain a rinne sár-jab leis an gcur i láthair.



FIRST YEARS HAVE A WILD TIME!

It was a busy and exciting day for all of our First Years as they attended Cork Pops Orchestra Concert and Fota Wildlife Park as part of Ardscoil Mhuire's annual Music and Science Trip. It all began at the concert in the grand, stately setting of City Hall, Cork. The theme this year was Blockbuster Classics - Music from the Movies. It's fair to say that this was most certainly a treat for the ears as the girls sat back and enjoyed songs from classic movies such as 'The Sound of Music', 'Star Wars', 'Schindler's List', 'The Lord of the Rings', 'Harry Potter', 'Despicable Me 2' and Frozen (one of everybody's favorites this year which was definitely appreciated by the girls!!!).

The singer Keith Hanley, the winner of The Voice of Ireland 2013, was a huge hit with the girls who all joined in on his fantastic renditions of 'Let it Go' and 'Happy'. He generously also took the time to pose for some selfies after the show.

Next the girls were off to Fota Wildlife Park! The First Years toured the park for an hour and a half and were told many interesting facts about monkeys, flamingos, red pandas, giraffes, leopards, and all of the other amazing wild animals that they got to see. The weather held up for the day and the girls shopped in Fota's gift shop before the long journey home after a hugely satisfying day.

The girls had a wonderful time and a sincere thanks, as always, is due to Ms Madden (on her last Music/Science Trip) and Ms Hehir for their time and enthusiasm in organising yet another amazing day out.



LEAVING CERT GEOGRAPHY TRIP

When Ms Hynan told her Sixth Year Geography students that they were all going to the beach, they probably weren't expecting it to be in November, in the chill and rain, and whilst carrying clipboards! That's not to say that they didn't have a whale of a time during their Geography field trip, hitting hotspots such as Creg Beach, Lahinch and Clauhan. We're sure though that all of their hard work

on the day helped loads while they were filling in their Leaving Certificate project booklets and will certainly pay off come results-time in August!



Numeracy in ASM

Numeracy plays an important role in Ardscoil Mhuire. To highlight the importance of numeracy we have run a number of fun events throughout the year for students to take part in. Our entire staff are also dedicated to ensuring that an awareness and appreciation of numeracy is one of the key components of their students' experience in all subjects.

PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

As part of our numeracy initiative there is a Problem of the Week that is changed every Tuesday. There is a different problem for junior and senior students. All students are actively encouraged to take part and enter to win a free lunch.

NUMERACY WEEK.

This was a week full of activities for all students to take part in. Let's count the reasons we loved the 2014 Numeracy Week!

1. THE BAKE-OFF

First year students took part in a culinary frenzy called a bake-off. They each got to make a delicious chocolate cake, with the key aims being to improve their numeracy skills in the area of measurement (time, money, and ingredients) and also to make the theory a mouth-watering real life experience. The students absolutely loved this tasty task and thought it was as easy as Pi!

2. SPORTS THROUGH NUMBERS

This was a fun-filled afternoon for junior students that encouraged them to see that numbers and problem solving could be fun, especially with their friends involved! It consisted of a number of different stations such as bowling, basketball, skipping, puzzles, Nerf Gun targets, and darts. Each station had a numeracy element where each team had to calculate their scores for themselves. This event (hopefully an annual ASM event now!?) was a massive success; the girls had a blast seeing how they could apply numeracy to the art of having fun and even asked when they could take part again!

3. ORIENTEERING

Senior students were certainly not excluded from having fun with numbers this year! Fifth and Sixth Year students were delighted to take part in an orienteering challenge which was run by the Geography and Maths Department. The students were given a series of numeracy clues and a map, and had to make their way to the finishing point by following these clues. Trekking around the hall may seem simple, but our senior girls were really pushed to use their numeracy skills at a high level. This was a great mental workout for the girls that just happened to be great fun too!

Balance

N7maths

Eng

ing





FIRST YEAR TRIP TO KILLALOE

It was the 29th of September and First Years were going on our trip away to Killaloe. It was a cold, cloudy day and there were a few showers here and there. I was so excited to go and I couldn't wait to get to know the other first years. When I got to the school everyone was so excited and the rain didn't seem to affect the trip.

On the bus ride everyone was singing songs, laughing, and taking selfies. When we got there it had stopped raining and everyone was running up and down and couldn't wait to get started at the activities.

We were all split into three groups. The first group was the girls in the boats, the second group was to go on the climbing wall, and the third group went for small activities in the woods.

The activities were so much fun and you really got to know everyone from First Year.

It was a great experience and even though it was raining everyone seemed to have a great time. For me, the boating activities were the best part of the day. Everyone was laughing, singing songs, falling out of the boats, or getting stuck. At the end of the activity everyone went jumping off the pier, either holding hands jumping together or jumping separately.

Killaloe was the best bonding experience ever. I made loads of friends and I was able to be myself and have a great time. Even the bus ride was fun. I would definitely go back to Killaloe for another bonding activities day.

- Sarah McDarby (I Grainne)

My First week in First Year

Hi, I am an Ardscoil Mhuire First Year student and I am going to tell you about my first week in school.

On my first day of school I met all my teachers and my classmates for the year. I went in thinking that all these girls would give me a hard time because I am small and wear glasses, the locker might be a top locker, I might have forgotten to buy certain books, I would have five memos straight away, and I would never be able to pass my Junior Cert or my Leaving Cert.

But I realised that it wasn't bad at all; all the girls were lovely and thought I was a mad laugh, my locker was a bottom locker, I didn't forget any books, I didn't get five memos, and if I study and pay attention and I might actually pass my Leaving Cert!

I loved my second day because I went in all smiles thinking everything was perfect until I got lost! I was like; "oh my I am going to get detention!" But that never happened. I walked up to the office and told them I was lost and soon found my class. The teacher understood that I was only two days into first year so I didn't get into trouble.

The rest of my week was fine. I had loads of fun and became friends with a girl named Monique.

The best advice I would give you is not to worry, always pay attention, and be good if you want to get good grades. I doubt Second Year will be as easy and we will have a bit more growing up to do because we will have to show the First Years a good example.

- Shannon Fitzgerald (I Hilary)

I HILARY

Back Row: Juliet Omuada, Sandra Zuzga, Karlene Wall, Rebecca Collins, Britney Williams, Victoria Keogh O' Connor, Kate O' Brien, Angelika Baczynska, Paige Moloney, Ciara Marnell.

Middle Row: Kalie Reynolds, Nicola Roche Hayes, Lauren Hurton, Emma Hanley, Jade McMahon, Megan O'Loughlin Kennedy, Shauna O' Riordain, Kaitlyn Lowe Neill, Shannon Woodland.

Front Row: Niamh Storan, Nessa Daly, Meagan Walsh, Shannon Fitzgerald, Monique Heelan, Sarah Callinan, Oliva O' Donoghue.



I IDE

Back Row: Mary Lou Keane, Klaudia Woznica, Aine O' Donoghue, Aoife Costello, Laura Mason Reeves, Chris Kirwan, Gloria Gubarkova, Claudia Williams.

Middle Row: April Hannon, Katie Madigan, Dannika Shannon, Courtney Waters, Kelsey Bourke, Grace Donnelly, Erin Mowat, Therese Houghton.

Front Row: Abbey McNamara, Ruth Malone, Rebecca Kiely, Eadaoin Storan, Holly Sheehy, Kelly Hickey, Lauren Kett.



I GRAINNE

Back Row: Joyce Tobin, Titiana Ayawe, Kelsie Wall, Leah O' Reilly, Rebekah O'Shaughnessy, Nadine Liston O' Connor, Sarah McDarby, Michaela Kennedy, Tara Hamillton.

Middle Row: Aoibhin Dally, Rachel McNamara, Sadhbh Healy, Aoife Clancy, Aoife Joyce, Kailey Noonan, Erin Barret, Kerri O' Dwyer.

Front Row: Jayde Bussoli, Nadine Higgins, Courtney Duhig, Alexandra Kiely, Emma Reale, Nicole O' Donoghue, Ashley O' Gorman.



First Year MEMORIES!

"I really enjoyed hockey this year.

I have gotten so much better throughout the year and

I have made lots of new friends through it."

"I am a deputy prefect and I love it because

I can help people if they are having problems in school."

"The trip to Killaloe was a great way to break the ice and make new friends."

"I am in the choir and I love it.

My vocals are better and I can now sing "Listen" by Beyoncé."

"Yeah! I love the canteen, especially on Fridays

as the chicken curry is amazing."

"I love after school study because I get

to do my homework in a quiet place."

"The Academic Awards Night made me feel great about myself

because I was nominated for six awards and I even won one!"

"I was very shy at the beginning of the year but

now I feel settled in and have made lots of new friends."

"The Christmas Dinner was AMAZING!

The whole school came together like a big family.

Great laugh and great food."

"I loved playing basketball!

It is my favourite sport.

I had so much fun on a great team!"

"Our class teachers are kind and listen and

look after you when you need them."

"The base rooms are great social hot-spots!"

*"I love Fun Club, we get loads of exercise and
do loads of art! We met the Olympic athlete Jessie Barr."*

"Friends for Life was very enjoyable!

It thought me lots of stuff about friends and feelings."

"The Great Limerick Run is going to be great.

I can't wait to challenge myself and get fit."

"I really liked and enjoyed tag rugby.

It was a brilliant way to stay fit and you're able to push yourself."

"The lockers are good because we can all put our books

somewhere and not carry them around."

"Mad Hair Day was so funny and helped us all show our creative side!"



BUDDING AUTHORS' BOOK-LAUNCH IN CORK

Congratulations to Ardscoil Mhuire's newest young authors! These Second Year girls were among the class who participated in the 2015 'Make a Book' exhibition. Following intense discussion and planning the girls decided to write all of their books on a particular theme; careers that interested them. What they produced were a series of incredibly bright, interesting, and entertaining books covering a wide range of career choices, including modelling and being a professional musician. Having put weeks and weeks in to researching, writing, rewriting, typing, designing, and publishing their masterpieces the girls were delighted to be invited to travel to Cork's City Hall with their teacher and chief-editor, Ms Fogarty, to see them on display and receive the heartfelt compliments of those in attendance. We look forward to seeing their work on display in ASM soon!



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying Week took place in September 2014. This year we focused especially on cyber-bullying as was reflected in our motto, "tweet others as you would like to be tweeted". Activities took place in Religion classes where each class was shown a powerpoint presentation on bullying. It reminded us of research that demonstrates proactive approaches, such as having an anti-bullying week, greatly reduces the incidents of bullying in schools. We examined the definition of bullying, the characteristics of bullying, and what to do if you are being bullied or witness it.

During Anti-Bullying Week we were also reminded about safety when using social media and when using our mobile phones. Students were given very specific guidelines. Surveys completed in religion classes that week revealed a shocking number of students did not use the safety setting on their own Facebook pages which led to a lively discussion on possible dangers. Through activities such as role plays we looked at typical examples of bullying behaviour and what to do if you are being bullied. We also decorated the school with anti-bullying slogans which were the products of poster competitions within our classes.

If they took no other message away it was hoped that all of our students were reminded not to be a bystander where they see someone being bullied. Ardscoil Mhuire says "NO!" to bullying!

Junior Achievement Programme

As part of this programme, Caroline Moloney, a volunteer from Dell came out to do a six week course with the First Years. The aim was to get students thinking about what success meant to them and how they could go about achieving it.

There were games to help students to decide what career they would like to pursue in the future, what points and subjects they might need and what the salary might be. They also had fun learning about budgeting and responsible finance through simple activities.

The students really enjoyed the programme. One student said:

"It was a very good way to help us to learn about our goals in life so we know where we stand and what we need to improve on. Caroline helped us to realise what we are really capable of. This definitely gave us an insight into our aims and goals in life and I would recommend it to all first year students"



II FIDELMA

Back Row: Sophie Phayer, Mary-Kate Flanagan, Shauna Cuneen Billow, Aimee O'Donnell, Ellen Cotter, Rosslen Tully, Demi Liston, Kayley Lyons.

Middle Row: Maney O'Reilly, Nicole Hartney, Nikita Pyne, Rhea Moloney, Eimear Kirkland, Fiona Kenihan, Caitlin Naughton, Emily McCarthy.

Front Row: Kayleigh Hickey, O'Donnell, Aishling Fitzgerald, Chloe Ryan, Niamh Whelan, Joelle Sheehy, Loren Daly, Danielle Bussoli.



II DEIRDRE

Back Row: Emma Power, Lauren Slattery, Leah Benn, Robyn O'Reilly, Ciara Turner, Ebony O'Donoghue, Ellen McGrath, Aimee Hickey, Megan Lynch.

Middle Row: Bobbi O'Gorman, Laura Halpin, Courtney Power, Chloe Ryan, Sarah Creed, Jemma Duhig, Aoife Reeves, Katelyn Fitzgerald, Brooke Flynn.

Front Row: Lelia Walsh, Katerina Kennedy, Katie Curtain, Natasha Ryan, Roisin Cantillon, Ellen Martin, Aoife O'Connell.



II EILIS

Back Row: Shelby Roche, Amy Casey, Aine Hartigan, Amy Cullen, Alana O'Neill, Shauna Kiely, Julia Vaivode, Kaitlyn Hannon.

Middle Row: Katelyn Flanagan, Kayleigh O'Donoghue, Jade Lipper, Laura Foley, Emma McInerney, Corrie Ryan, Amy Mullins, Chloe Bromell, Anna Wojtal.

Front Row: Katie Ennis, Denika Mason, Jade Kavanagh, Tiffany O'Connell, Amber Lyons, Niamh Togher, Abbey O'Sullivan.





CSPE – I Ide Are Blooming Fantastic!

On the 13th of November last my CSPE class did something that no other class had done before... We planted flowers! This is the story of the hard work that we put in to our elegant display.

Our CSPE teacher, Mr Connor, was teaching us about stewardship and started to suggest projects about it to us. Once we understood what stewardship was and had a think about the project, we went straight to the flowers!

We split ourselves in to teams and came up with patterns that we could plant our flowers in. There were many mind-blowing ideas and, after a whole-class vote, the peace sign came out on top.

We decided to plant daffodils and bought four bags. We also needed to inform Ms McGrath about our idea, so we wrote her a letter with all the details and asking for her permission. Thankfully Ms McGrath gave us the go ahead and we had a great time planting our bulbs on a beautiful and crisp November day!

To this day our flowers are still blooming. We should know, because we start every CSPE class by going out to check on them! We are so proud of our flowers and the hard work that went into planting them. We are also especially grateful to Mr Connor and Ms McGrath for their support.

Eadaoin Storan – I Ide



III BREANDÁN VISIT THE DÁIL

The III Breandán class travelled to Dublin as part of their CSPE action project. The preparatory work was complete and it was time to put our research into action. The class firstly visited the National Museum and then the Dáil. We were welcomed by the Minister for Education and Skills, Ms Jan O'Sullivan. This was special as she was willing to meet ASM girls despite her busy schedule. We were escorted into the Public Gallery. Everyone was impressed by the speakers and by the Chamber itself. Following this we visited The Seanad. This was not in session so we had an opportunity to sit in the public gallery and be enthralled by the magnificence of the room. Overall, the trip to our Government building was hugely informative, awe inspiring, and extremely enjoyable. The really hard work then begun as they set off to write up their projects for the Junior Certificate exam in 2015!

III COLMCILLE SAVE THE SEEDS

Showing true dedication, the III Colmcille class braved one of the coldest days of the year so far to work on their CSPE Action Project with Ms Hynan. Whilst visiting 'Seed Savers' in Scariff the girls got to listen to interesting talks, watch entertaining demonstrations, and even got the opportunity to press and sample their own delicious homemade apple juice. Seed Savers originated in Co. Carlow (the second smallest county in Ireland and

probably the best – Mr Huff) and aims to conserve and protect Ireland's special plant genetic resources. On top of having a very enlightening and satisfying experience the girls took home a very simple message too... "Save the Seeds!"



Irish Seed Savers Association



III BREANDAN

Back Row: Rachel Mortell, Shauna Kiely, Megan McMahon, Zoe Hickey, Edel Kirwan, Donna Healy, Sheena McManus, Niamh O Connell.

Middle Row: Chloe Lowe, Nadine Flanagan, Katie Jackson, Sally Hayes, Melissa Hanrahan, Caitlin Irwin, Anastasija Greciha.

Front Row: Ava Mulqueen, Lauran Hickey, Katelyn Duggan, Chloe Hannon, Any Noonan Neville, Naomi Hannon, Sophia Hogan.



III AINE

Back Row: Aisling Cullen, Ellie Collopy, Shanice Grant, Emma Colbert, Niamh Conroy, Wiktoria Augustynska, Kasia Dimowska, Melanie McKnight.

Middle Row: Erin Fitzgerald, Nicola Walsh, Megan Daly, Aideen Hannon, Ailish Creamer, Amy Crawford, Megan Flanagan, Chloe Organ.

Front Row: Kellyann Curtin, Ann O' Donoghue, Stephanie Loughran, Edel Daly, Emily Gough, Megan Fernandez.



III COLMCILLE

Back Row: April Quin, Ellie O' Donoghue Parsons, Allie Higgins, Rachael Sleath, Ellen Sheedy, Lauren Collopy, Michelle Walsh.

Middle Row: Grace Walsh McDonald, Zoe Roche, Emily Ryan, Emma Plunkett, Kim Quinlivan, Aoife Quinn, Marina Stevens, Ami Oyesola

Front Row: Rebecca O' Donoghue, Leona Moore, Georgia Guerin, Maggie-May O'Reilly, Amy Quinlivan, Cherise Lowe.





SAY NOTHING

"Your life is in danger. Say nothing to anyone. You must leave the city immediately and never return. I repeat: say nothing." These words went through my head as I lay on the hard surface. My hands were crossed over my chest as I lay here. It all happened two days ago at the restaurant.

I sat at the table for two people staring at the vacant seat in front of me. I picked up the clear glass filled with a crimson liquid. My emerald eyes lazily watched as the liquid swirled gently around within the glass before my ruby lips touched the cold surface of the glass, allowing the tangy liquid to pour into my mouth. I placed the glass down on the pearly cloth that was draped over the oak table. My silverware was paired together resting on my now empty plate.

That's when the tall Asian man that had taken my order earlier approached me with a round tray in hand. He stooped next to me and took up my plate as he asked; "Did you enjoy your food?"

I looked up at the man, my eyes connecting with his hazel ones as I answered; "Yes. May I have the cheque please?" The coal haired male blinked before lowering the tray "Hai, I will get that for you now. But here, enjoy this fortune cookie? Please?"

A sigh escaped my lips as I took the piece of hard dough from the tray and watched as he walked off.

As I stared at the cookie that barely covered the centre of my palm, I rolled my eyes at how stupid these things were. Inside the dough would be a small piece of paper with just enough words to form a sentence. I cracked open the cookie to reveal just that. A piece of paper with words that were supposed to tell the future. How stupid! I popped one half of the hardened dough into my mouth and my eyes focused on the words that were on the piece of paper. My brows knitted together as I once again read the words; "Your life is in danger. Say nothing to anyone. You must leave the city immediately and never return. I repeat: say nothing."



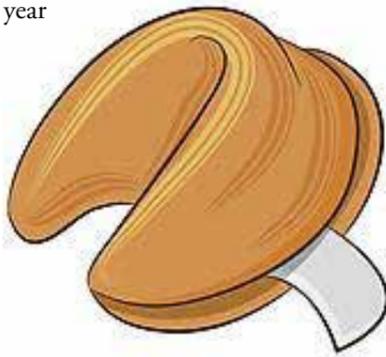
I rose from my seat and walked to the cashier as I pocketed the piece of paper. As soon as I had paid for my food and had left the restaurant I stopped outside on the street. What happened to the waiter? Wasn't he supposed to bring me my cheque? I shook my head and continued to walk, ignoring the thought and disposing the piece of paper.

As soon as I spotted the olive coloured car a person brushed off me whispering; "You are in danger. Don't get into that car". My eyes widened as I recognised the voice, but as soon as I turned around they were gone. I continued to search the empty parking lot. But nothing.

I turned and out of fear I hurried to my car, opening it and getting in. I rooted through my lilac handbag, searching for my keys. Once I found them I inserted them into the ignition and turned the key to start it. It happened so suddenly, the car was surrounded by a group of suited, menacing figures. I knew that I couldn't escape. I began to feel lightheaded and in a matter of seconds I was consumed by darkness.

I should have listened to that man. I should have told someone about the piece of paper. I should have... Said something.

Written by Eda Kiely, 6th year



Afric McGill



Ailish O' Brien



Ailish Tuohy



Anita Lyons



Aoife McGrath



Aoife McNamara



Aoife Reale



Aoife Sheehan



Aoife Williams



Ashling Duhig



Caitlin Moynihan



Chelsea Hannon



Chloe Bourke



Chloe Casey



Chloe O'Halloran



Chloe Prenderville



CLASS OF 2015



CLASS OF 2015



Ciara Fitzgerald



Ciara Kane McLoughlin



Ciara Portley



Claudia Galvin



Erin Coll



Grace Walsh



Jade McNamara



Jennifer Donnellan



Coraigh Daly Walsh



Courtney Lynch



Courtney O' Donnell



Danielle Guerin



Jessica Roe



Kallie O' Connell



Kate Sinnott



Katie Whelan



Deana Crowe



Direann Pearse



Eda Kiely



Eimear Purcell



Kirsti Ryan



Kristin Patterson



Laura Ryan



Lauren White



Eithne McGill



Elaine Dunworth



Ellen Barry



Emma Cullen



Leanne Sheedy



Lisa Prenderville



Mary Maney O' Reilly



Michelle Phayer



CLASS OF 2015



Molly Power



Niamh Brennan



Niamh Campion



Niamh Davis



Niamh McCarthy



Niamh O' Brien



Nicole Fitzgerald



Paula Cusack



Rebecca Taylor



Riah Yung



Samantha Chang



Saoirse Kennedy



Shannon Casey



Sinead Thompson



Stephanie Lysaght



Yumi Zhang

Sixth Year MEMORIES!

"Pure Tuesday like!"

Khloe Bourke swinging on the chair and landing on the floor with three tables on top of her.

Ailish O' Brien – Captain of the ASM volleyball team.

Rise and shine and give God your glory, glory!

"Jingle Bell Rock" with Ms Clancy at the Christmas Dinner.

Wrapping Sammy up in toilet paper and interrupted by Mrs Hickey - "I'm just shocked girls!" - Walks back out!

Aifric dropped by Collin Kelly. Green Schools + making a Christmas tree out of recycled green bottles.

Car course in TY – "good girl Treasa!"

"Just cause you play for Munster!"

Could all the instrumentalists go to reception #everyday.

"Residents of Room 604 howdodeedodee?" #Duhig

"Ladies don't sweat, they perspire." – Ms Coakley

*4 Freddy - *queue eye rolling**

**high heels* - act natural*

"How many cows do you have?" - Toni to Molly

Dee the lifesaving legend!

Ms Madden's terrible music puns.

Where's Ray?

Rocky

"Izelaine!"

Niamh Davis falling in front of the boys at the first rehearsal!

Mr Huff's epic April Fool's Day prank.

Fluffy baby ducks in school.

Molly/Aifric every Mad Hair Day.

Tag Rugby – Competitiveness "Wild Shmary appears."

Ms Moore drinking hydrochloric acid.

"An bhfaca tu Coronatia Street?" - Ms Nihill

Lorraine's beef stroganoff.

Laura Ryan falling asleep in Biology.

Mitochondria.

Eucas.

When the magnesium went up Direann's nose!



LCA2 CLASS SUPPORTING NOVAS

Our Sixth Year LCA group hosted a very successful and thought-provoking event this spring. The girls had completed a very thorough project on Novas, which gave them a deeper understanding of the serious issue of homelessness, as well as the organisation's work in assisting the homeless in Limerick. They displayed their project for guest speakers from Novas, Chris O' Connor and Gráinne Madigan, who were delighted not only by the wonderful project, but also with the lively Q&A session afterwards.

Chris was incredibly impressed by the work that the girls had done: *"Grainne and I were bowled over by the project the class had completed. Their understanding of the issues and complexity of homelessness was obvious. All too often people have set ideas on the cause of homelessness and view the subject through a single dimension. We would like to thank the girls for looking at and understanding many of the complex issues."*

Inspired by what they had learned from their research and their talk with Chris and Gráinne, the girls went above and beyond the limits of their project to organise a series of beautiful Easter hampers for a raffle to raise funds for Novas. Ultimately they were successful in raising €350 for Novas, which they proudly presented to Gráinne during a lovely ceremony in April.

Ardscuil Mhuire is very grateful for the continued support of the community in sponsoring our events throughout the school year. We are aware of the pressure everyone is experiencing of late and appreciate how businesses and individuals put us as a priority.

We acknowledge support from the following:

Bank of Ireland
 Barbers Ink Westbury
 Cappercullen Foods
 Cafe Mocha
 Clancy's Foodstore
 Craughan's butcher
 Dry Cleaners Westbury
 Fennesseys
 Fusion Hair Design
 Garvey's Supervalu
 Halfords
 Hanrahans
 Ink Refill
 Justin Herbert
 Karma Hair Design
 Keatings Pharmacy
 Larkin's Pub
 Laundry Day
 Luca's Pizzeria
 Lawless Florists
 M & J Gleesons
 Mc Elligott Coaches
 Mise Beauty Therapy
 Mes Fleurs Florists
 Mughal's Kebab House
 Munchin's Grill
 O'Sullivan's Chemist
 Peter Mark
 Richardson's Fruit and Veg
 Ring O Roses
 Ryan's Pharmacy
 St. Mary's Credit Union
 Tesco Westbury
 Tony Clarke Bookshop
 Total Cleaning
 Westbury Dry Cleaners
 7Trees Westbury



PARENTS COUNCIL OF ARDSCOIL MHUIRE

Ardscuil Mhuire has a longstanding history of parental involvement through a vibrant and hardworking parent's council. Previous councils have passed on a legacy of support for the school through various activities and ensured the continuing work of today's council. Some of the activities still carried out annually have been in existence for more than twenty years. And yes there is on-going fund-raising.

This year to date the council have organised carol singing at the Crescent Shopping Centre and raised funds for local charities. This is a lovely community event with retired staff, parents, past pupils and present pupils all singing their hearts out. The Society of Vincent de Paul distributes the proceeds at Christmas to families in the area in need of a little extra support at this time of the year.

We held two bingo nights to raise funds. A night of fun, chat and lots of lucky winners. The events could not have gone ahead without the generous donations of the many spot prizes given by local businesses and sponsorship by the school's suppliers.

The Council participated in a short introductory workshop on Restorative Justice given by Ingrid Colvin of Restorative Practices Limerick. We hope to do our bit to make Limerick a restorative city.

Over the years we have been in a position to award bursaries to students for academic endeavours outside the school year. This year we subsidised a very worthwhile session of workshops on study skills given by Claire Commins of Study Focus Galway. Second and fifth year students participated in the workshops during school hours and Claire gave a talk to sixth years also. Following on parents were invited to a talk by Claire. We are all on the same page now.

We are a small group and always grateful for extra ideas and input. If anyone is interested in joining in any of the projects, please feel free to do so. We will welcome new members at any time of the year, please consider it for this year or maybe next year. It is not a huge commitment as we meet usually twice per term and extra short meetings coming up to an event.

Maeve McGill
 Chairperson



KICKBOXING AND ME!

My hobby is kickboxing. I have been involved in kickboxing for the last ten years and have no plans to stop! I got interested in this sport as I wanted to try something different other than the usual sports. I joined the Mixed Martial Arts Club in order to learn all about kickboxing. It is amazing to be professionally trained by coaches that have actual experience in fights and I think it is very useful to know how to defend myself.

There are two main reasons that I enjoy kickboxing: The first is that it keeps me fit and healthy. The second is that it's not just good for you physically, but socially too! I've met lots of people through this sport and made some friends.

Taking part has really brought me out of my shell, boosted my confidence, and helped me to socialise. I'd say that it has really changed me for the better and I would definitely recommend kickboxing to other students who are looking to make friends, boost their confidence, and learn a great new skill!

- Jade McNamara (VI Year)



Music in My Life

I love music. I started piano when I was six. I do piano exams every year and hopefully when I am older I will be able to teach other people to play the piano.

When I was in First Year I started to play melodies I had in my head and some formed into pieces. I played one of my own pieces in the Ceolchoirm and for my music practical called "Loud Silence".

I also play the flute which I started when I was eight, guitar which I started when I was twelve, and the mandolin when I was thirteen. I also play descant and bass recorder in school. I taught myself guitar and mandolin.

I play lots of types of music such as classical, traditional, country, folk, alternative, and pop. I love most genres of music and I love to play and listen to music all the time.

- Niamh Conroy (III Aine)



MY PASSION FOR RUGBY

I play rugby because it is something I have loved to do ever since I was young. My position in rugby is scrum half; it is a really hard position to play because you need to be really fast because whenever someone gets tackled you have to be there to support them and to get the ball out fast. I have played in this position ever since I was young and I have a lot of experience at it. I like playing scrum half because it is a really important position on a rugby team and it is a lot of fun too.

My club team is called Saint Mary's and I have played with this club ever since I was five years old. I started playing rugby with the boys' team and when I got older I had to play with the under 13s girls team because I was too old to play with the boys! Last year I made the Munster Under 18s Girls' Team. I was really excited when I made this team because it is a really hard team to get on to and I was only fifteen, but it was a great experience to play with Munster.

The highlight of my time playing rugby would have to be scoring a try with Munster. It was such a great experience! As a person playing sport I would have to say it takes a lot of my time and an awful lot of hard work, but I really enjoy it and I get to make lots of new friends. I would recommend playing rugby to other students because it is challenging, a lot of fun, and you get to meet lots of new friends.

- Stephanie Nunan (V Ardagh)



IV YEAR

Back Row: Shannon Purcell, Stephanie Gavin, Amy Koyce, Jade McCarthy, Ciara Mullane, Aoife Storan, Sinead O' Brien, Chelsea Walters, Tara Griffin.

Middle Row: Grainne Fitzgerald, Louise Carty, Shona Yung, Ciara Nathan, Chloe Barrett, Ellen McDarby, Laura Mullane, Sarah McKeown, Chloe Whelan, Lorna Corbett Carroll, Shauna Hogan.

Front Row: Danielle Higgins, Roisin Lillis, Hannah Brown, Leah Melling, Shannon Keane, Nicole O' Shea, Sarah Moloney, Molly Averell.



Study Skills and Examination Techniques.

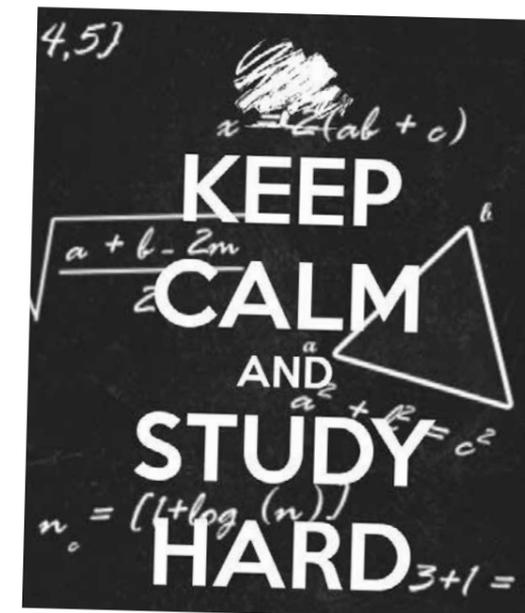
Second and Fifth years took part in a comprehensive study skills workshop second term. Claire Commins of Study Focus Galway facilitated the workshop.

The workshop included such areas as listening techniques, note taking techniques, reading techniques, creating a study environment, learning styles, study timetables, memory techniques, oral exams, managing exam stress and examination techniques.

The session was fast paced and information rich. Additional notes and exercises are available to the students in the student booklet, workbook and C.D. with supporting documents.

The promise given to the girls was simple, follow the guidelines and practices and they will save time and help you to "study smart".

Parents /guardians were not forgotten as they were invited on two separate evenings to attend a talk by Claire based around the information given to the students. So everyone should be on the same page.



A SPOT OF AFTERNOON TEA

This year for Home Economics one of the Leaving Cert assignments focused on the popularity of ‘afternoon tea’ which has led to an increase in home baking. The students were required to prepare, bake and serve one product suitable for serving at afternoon tea.

As active learners the Fifth Year students researched afternoon tea in Limerick and suggested to the teachers that we investigate further! Funnily enough Ms Delaney and Mrs O’ Toole did not take much convincing! We booked afternoon tea in the Strand Hotel for all Fifth Year Home Economics students and their teachers. Needless to say we had many offers to help us “supervise” our trip!

Our menu included: a selection of finger sandwiches, freshly baked scones, homemade afternoon tea pastries, macarons, and a choice of tea or freshly brewed coffee.

Inspired and encouraged by the staff at the stand and their teachers the Fifth Years completed their assignment. I dare say we gave the Strand a run for their money.



RECIPE⁴SUCCESS COOKERY



Our Fifth Year class visited “Recipe4Success” as part of our L.C.V.P. Link Modules programme. “Recipe4Success” is a cookery school that caters for children’s parties, school trips and team building exercises. We had a great day visiting it as we got an insight into how a business runs. On the day we got a talk by the owners as to how they started and how they have grown since. We also got a cooking demonstration on how to make chocolate mousse. Before we left we completed a SWOT analysis on their business. Between preparing and visiting “Recipe4Success” I learned what day to day life is like when running a business.

- Katie Long (Fifth Year)

VARDAGH

Back Row: Eibhlin O’ Reagan, Chloe Moran, Rebecca Franklin, Megan McNally, Sophie Kennedy, Niamh Tuite.

Middle Row: Anita Wojciechowska, Stephanie Nunan, Meagan Torpey Barry, Chloe Kelly, Shannon Stewart.

Front Row: Emily O’ Halloran, Megan Prenderville Lynch, Ciara Price, Marina Ryan, Desiree Higgins.



V KELLS

Back Row: Sarah Devaney, Emma Carroll, Makayla O’ Connell, Kari Joyce Fitzgerald, Niamh McCarthy, Jodie Mulcahy, Lauren Thompson, Katie Lysaght.

Middle Row: Nikola Glazer, Melissa Micks, Aishling O’ Brien, Raven Williams, Amy Flanagan, Ashling Hughes, Shauna Cosgrove.

Front Row: Laura Folan, Niamh Garvey, Fern Carroll, Gillian Ryan, Melanie O’ Brien Power, Aoife Lynch.



LCVP PARTNERSHIP WITH COOK MEDICAL

Throughout the year, Our LCVP class went to several trips to COOK Medical as part of our Link Modules. Cook Medical is a company that makes medical devices for 135 countries. It makes 16,000 products and services different hospital lines. Before we actually got to go to COOK we met with Alfie, who works at COOK and Eleanor, who is a programme coordinator and works for school partnership. They came to our class and presented us with information and instruments made in COOK.

On the 4th of December we got to visit COOK. When we arrived we were given lunch in their cafeteria followed by a tour of the building. During the tour we were introduced to the aging room, the labs, the medical wall, and the timeline of COOK.

The next session we had with COOK was our mock interviews. Alfie along with three girls, Sinead, Adriane, and Grace, came to our school to interview us. We were preparing since our last trip to COOK. We were questioned on COOK and ourselves. It was a great experience and benefited us remarkably.

We then went to COOK again to the Customer Service unit. We were introduced to Paul and he gave us a speech about his job in customer service. We also got the opportunity to listen in on live calls. Each office had a specific country to deal with.

Finally, we invited Alfie, Eleanor, Ms McGrath, Ms Herbert, Ms Healy, and Ms Hughes to sit in on our wrap up session with COOK. We provided tea and coffee and presented a PowerPoint along with a mock interview video to thank Alfie and Eleanor for taking their time out for giving us a great experience.

MR AIREY AND MS KIELY REFLECT ON THEIR YEAR IN ASM!



Name: Jean Kiely
Age: 20+
Nickname: Jean "the Bean."
Most proud of: The list is endless, but... learning to tie my shoe laces of course!
Least proud of: Running over my cat, what a sad day!



Name: Gareth Airey
Age: 20
Nickname: Frodo (don't ask).
Most proud of: Scoring the winning try in my rugby final last year.
Least proud of: My rendition of "Shake it Off" at the Ceolchoirm!

Favourite quote/saying?

Ms Kiely: "There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something you accept no excuses only results."

Mr Airey: "Laughter is like a windshield wiper; it doesn't stop the rain but allows us to keep going."

Favourite band/music?

Ms Kiely: The Red Hot Chili Peppers (my all-time fave!!!)

Mr Airey: A little bit of everything usually, but I'm really into Taylor Swift's songs at the mo!

What's your favourite thing about ASM?

Ms Kiely: Chicken curry on Fridays! And of course all of the girls and staff.

Mr Airey: Everything! The students! What can I say about the students? Ye are an amazing bunch of girls who I really enjoyed teaching. The school community as a whole was a great experience.

Who's the coolest teacher in the staffroom? Why?

Ms Kiely: I'll have to pick Mr. Huff, not many teachers will squeal over superhero movies!

Mr Airey: To be honest all the teachers are pretty cool, but if I had to pick one teacher, it would be Mr Huff. We got along right from the start and he made me feel very welcome. We had great banter together (#Capricorn), and he helped me out as much as he could.

What's your best memory of ASM?

Ms Kiely: It would have to be the Christmas Dinner, such a lovely atmosphere and a great way of bringing all the staff and students together.

Mr Airey: The trip to Lourdes has to be my best memory of Ardscoil Mhuire. I was privileged when I was asked to participate in this amazing experience. From start to finish, I had the most amazing time (even though the girls had a laugh to my expense as I was shaking on the cable cart). It was an amazing and worthwhile experience spent with some wonderful people.

Where do you see yourself in Ten years' time?

Ms Kiely: Hopefully sunning myself on a tropical beach in Barbados or somewhere fancy! Most importantly being happy in my life and in myself.

Mr Airey: In ten years' time, I see myself being rich, powerful and famous. I see myself owning a mansion, a Ferrari, my own island, and loads of beach houses. Realistically, I would like to be happily married with wonderful kids and I would like to be working in the amazing school that is Ardscoil Mhuire!



VICA

Back Row: Nikita Heffernan, Britney Hickey, Shannon McCarthy, Chloe Phayer, Shannon Pyne.
Front Row: Sarah Ryan, Corrie Carey, Kelsey Kinsella, Kate Byrnes.

Butlers
CHOCOLATE
EXPERIENCE



SQT



Certificates for special awards were presented to students who excelled in the areas of attendance, punctuality, academic progress, helpfulness, showing initiative, leadership, and team work.

The girls did all this in their own free time; at lunch time, at breaks and after school. Lisa Ann, Paudie and Lorraine took the girls for practices and time to get the art work ready.

Ms. Kenny (JCSP), Ms. McGill (HSCL), and Ms. O'Sullivan Glynn (chaplain) all gave a helping hand.



JCSP CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2014

The first years who participate in SCP Homework Club and after school activities took part in a lovely Christmas celebration just before the holidays. 23 students received certificates of participation and special certificates were also awarded.

The girls hosted an afternoon where those from home, staff and management were treated to song, dance and poetry. They also showed off their culinary talents and provided refreshments for the celebration. They decorated the room with a Christmas theme, a display of work they were proud of and some unique art work was on show.

Our performers were: Courtney Waters, Monique Heelan and Shannon Fitzgerald giving it socks to "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" and "Let it Go"; Tiana Aways and Ashley O' Gorman giving us a spine-chilling rendition of "Thinking Out Loud"; Victoria Keogh O'Connor accompanied by her backing dancers singing "Happy"; Kallie Reynolds treated us to some very energetic slow dancing, free style; We also had two beautiful poetry readings by Erin Mowat who performed "The Grinch" by Dr. Seuss and Holly Sheehy's lovely recital of "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost.



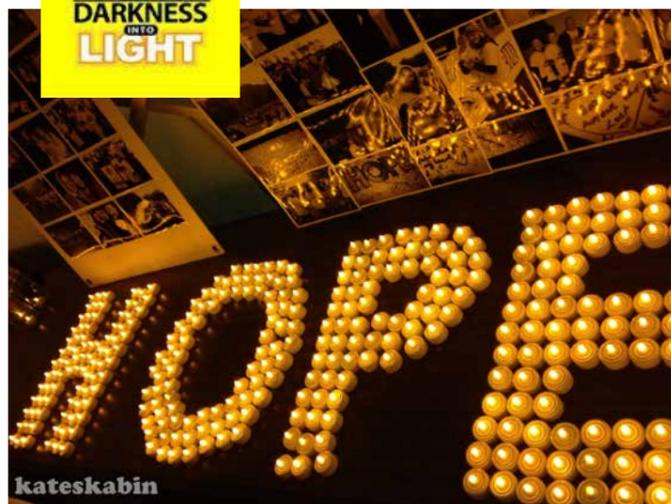
DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

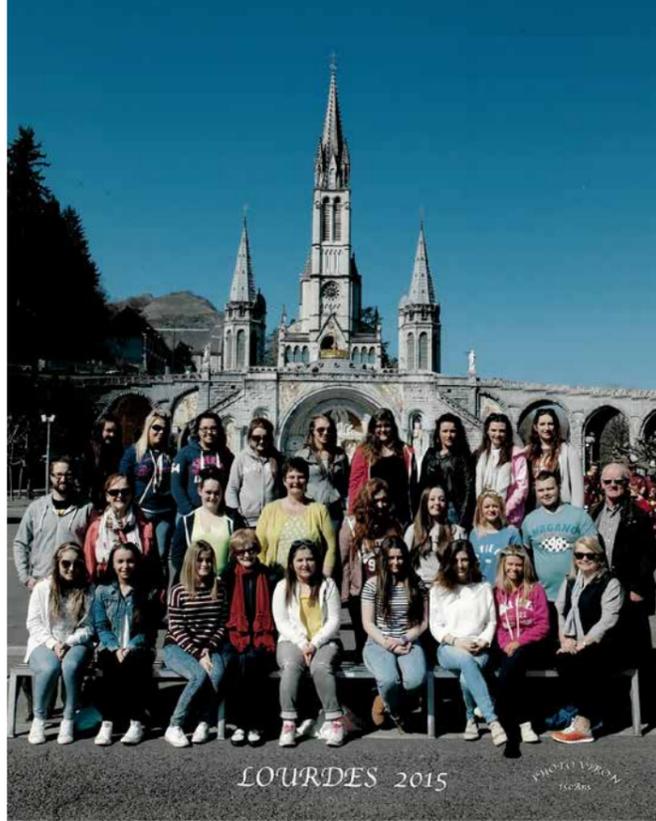
Saturday 10th of May 2014... 3:00 a.m.
As the alarms of ASM teachers and students were going off all over Limerick, volunteers from Pieta House were setting up Thomond Park for the annual *Darkness in to Light* walk. This national campaign was set up to raise money and raise suicide awareness and has become incredibly popular among the people of Limerick.

The students of Ardscoil Mhuire walked the 5km circuit from Thomond Park, over Sarsfield Bridge, along the new board walk, over Thomond Bridge and back to Thomond Park. The route was lined with candles that were blown out as the sun began to rise, symbolically getting rid of the darkness.

The girls began to take part in the event three years ago to promote suicide awareness in the school community. The interest the students have shown has been incredible. This year 67 students and teachers will take part in the walk on the 9th of May. We thank them and wish them the very best of luck!

- Emma Cullen (6th Year student)





The girls also had the valuable opportunity to visit the buildings in Lourdes where St Bernadette had lived and worked in as a child, gaining a deep appreciation for the special and inspirational person that she really was. In a remarkable moment whilst visiting the small town of Bartrès, the girls were given the special honour of touching a relic of St Bernadette during a beautiful and musical service.

Many services were memorable during the week, the first being the Children's Mass that took place in the Church of St Bernadette. Aided by the HCPT, children from all over the World, themselves in desperate need of comfort and care, came together in Lourdes to celebrate life and sing some of the happiest songs ever heard! In an intensely emotional, yet affirming, sermon Ireland's own Bishop McKeown reminded us all that we are all made in God's image and that we are all beautiful. This was a highly emotional service for all involved and helped our entire group to see the blessings of health and love in their own lives.

The Blessing of the Sick in the Underground Basilica was another amazing experience for our girls. Whilst offering up prayers for those who they care about they again reflected on the multiple blessings of health, family, and friends in their own lives.

This was followed by the awe-inspiring night-time spectacle that is the Candlelight Procession. As thousands of the devoted from all walks of life wound their way through the Sanctuary, this massive demonstration of faith by so many people had a profound impact on the girls.

Whilst visiting the City of the Poor (where the truly needy are accommodated during their pilgrimages) the group had the indescribable pleasure of taking mass in the idyllic setting of the Outdoor Cathedral. In a sermon inspired by the natural splendour surrounding him Canon O' Shea (Abbeyfeale) reminded us of our own personal responsibility to safeguard the future of our beautiful World starting with our own areas. This mass was offered for the family, friends, and loved ones of our group.

LOURDES 2015

On the 6th of April 2015 a group of nineteen wonderful senior students from Ardscoil Mhuire set off on the school's annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. Led by Sr Patricia Lee, and accompanied by a team of enthusiastic volunteers, the group left Limerick in the small hours of the morning, arriving in Lourdes, via Dublin, in the afternoon.

The group launched themselves enthusiastically into a week packed full of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun. Sitting down with Sr Pat for a friendly chat moments after their arrival, the girls listened with fascination to the story of Lourdes before setting off for the Grotto itself, where St Bernadette had witnessed the apparitions of Our Lady in 1858. Every visit to the Grotto was charged with emotion as the girls and leaders witnessed the breathtaking devotion of those who visited it alongside them whilst they remembered, and prayed for, their loved ones at home in Ireland.



Our last full day in Lourdes was busy, yet enlightening. This began with an early mass in the Grotto where, once again, the girls witnessed first-hand a powerful display of faith from all assembled. Later, one group of girls took the opportunity to experience the Baths, agreeing that it was the singular experience that made the whole trip extra-special. Again these girls were struck by the devotion on display by the desperately sick and elderly, and found the experience to be incredibly reflective and emotional.

It was during all of these rituals that we kept those whom we love foremost in our thoughts and prayers. Everything that happened during those six amazing days was offered to Our Lady for them and their intentions.

In the midst of all this, we still managed to keep ourselves entertained! Whether it was a tense ride on a cable-car to 100 metres; the perfectly beautiful panoramic-view from the top of Pic du Jer; an intense night of (mostly) friendly competition with the Abbeyfeale girls; the much commented upon sing-song in the lobby of the Agena; or the banter and the selfies, everyone has a special memory to bring back to Limerick with them!



We are all incredibly grateful to Ardscoil Mhuire and our other friends for facilitating the trip; to the adult volunteers for their care and patience; and to Sr Pat and Mr Keating for making the whole, spectacular, life-changing event possible year after year.

However, our most sincere thanks must also go to the nineteen amazing young ladies who made the trip so special. They were enthusiastic, energetic yet respectful, kind, caring, considerate, and in more ways than can be listed, did our school, their families, and most importantly, Our Lady, immensely proud.



ACADEMIC Awards Night



ACADEMIC COUNCIL UPDATE

Our student body's performance in State Examinations at both Junior and Senior Cycle level has always been of the highest standard. This year one of our students Hannah Browne succeeded in achieving 7 A grades in higher level subjects in the Junior Certificate examination.

The Leaving Certificate group of 2014 also achieved excellent grades and high points. Our Leaving Certificate students have chosen a huge variety of courses in Third Level institutions such as UCC, UCG, UL, Mary Immaculate College and LIT to name just a few. *In the Irish Times, on the 27th of November, Ardscoil Mhuire was not only named as one of the Top Ten Most Improved Schools in the country but it was also stated that 94% of our Leaving Certificate students progressed to Third Level, a statistic which is well above the national average.*

A number of initiatives are in place in order to enhance and maintain academic excellence in the school. All students now receive additional Academic Report in November and March which gave parents an insight into how they were progressing in school. Additionally all Third, Fifth and Sixth Year students were and continue to be interviewed by school management in order to motivate, encourage and support them academically. The Academic Awards night also took place on the 26th of March. This is a very significant annual event as it acknowledges and rewards the hard work and dedication of students in the school.

Ardscoil Mhuire has a long and proud tradition of academic excellence. In public recognition of this, together with the hard work of staff and students, the school held its annual Academic Awards Night.

The ceremony was held in the Strand Hotel. Students were nominated in all subject areas while there were additional awards in acknowledgement of other aspects of school life. The awards were presented by the Principal Collette McGrath and the night was hosted by the Deputy Principal Brid Herbert. Staff spoke passionately about their subject areas in advance of announcing the nominees and winners in each year group. Each student received a certificate in recognition of this achievement while the winners of the award each received a trophy. There was an air of anticipation as students were unaware, until their arrival, of the subjects in which they were nominated. Students were surprised, delighted, and proud in equal measure at receiving the individual awards. Parents and guardians followed the proceedings proudly and joined in the hearty congratulations of each achievement.

'Nomination in itself is a huge honour and a true reflection of each student's hard work and dedication throughout the year. Students have been selected from their entire year group and this achievement is highly significant for each girl.'
 - Collette McGrath (Principal)



MINISTER JAN O' SULLIVAN VISITS ASM

Monday, the 22nd of September 2014 was an incredibly busy, yet affirming, day for all of us in Ardscoil Mhuire that was highlighted by a visit from a very important friend of our school. On that day we were delighted to welcome back to our school the Minister for Education and Skills, Ms Jan O' Sullivan. A regular visitor to the school, the Minister had graciously given of her time to mark and officiate several important events with our school community.



"It was an honour and a privilege to have Jan O' Sullivan return to our school as Minister for Education."
Molly Power, Head Girl

The first of these events saw the Minister present a number of senior students with their Gaisce medals (The President's Award). These awards had been earned by the students during their time in Transition Year and recognised the development and achievement of these wonderful young ladies in taking on and triumphing over a particular personal challenge. These challenges were both physical and mental, pushing the students to their limits, but ultimately very rewarding for students involved.



After speaking of the importance of education in our lives the Minister was also proud to honour our high-achieving students from this year's state exams with medals and bursaries from the school's Board of Management. Among these were; Hannah Brown, on achieving the school's highest Junior Certificate results in 2014; Alesia Yermak, who achieved jointly the highest Leaving Certificate points; Erica Flynn, received the award for highest mark in Biology and was also joint achiever of the highest Leaving Certificate points; and Leanne McMahon, who was the highest achieving Leaving Certificate Applied student in the state exams. Ardscoil Mhuire is proud to acknowledge and reward the hard work and dedication of our students, a sentiment certainly reflected in the Minister's remarks.



The Minister was also on hand for the official raising of our very first Green Flag and met the entire student team who were responsible for this incredible achievement. With staff, students, parents, and invited dignitaries present, Minister O' Sullivan congratulated Ardscoil Mhuire on our incredible achievement, acknowledging the time and dedication that had been put into receiving the flag, and encouraged us to keep up the sterling work in the future. Those words will surely keep us motivated in our pursuit of our second Green Flag for energy and in everything else we strive to accomplish.



The entire school community then met the Minister in the hall, where she spoke affectionately about her relationship with Ardscoil Mhuire. The students were treated to some quality advice and listened respectfully as the Minister shared her hope that the strong traditions of academics and extra-curricular involvement continue to thrive in our school.

"Listening to the Minister praise our school made me proud to be an ASM girl."
Amy Cullen, Second Year



Our sincere thanks to Minister O' Sullivan for her time, her generosity and her inspiring words. Our thanks also to the team of school staff and students who volunteered their time and made sure that we all had a wonderful day.

"Minister O' Sullivan raising our first Green Flag was a great reminder of all we've accomplished as a school community over the years."
Melanie McKnight, Third Year



"The Ministers heartfelt words were a wonderful acknowledgement of the strong traditions of academics and extra-curricular involvement that continue to thrive in our school."
Collette McGrath, Principal



The Green Schools Committee started the 2014/2015 year on a hugely positive note as we prepared to raise our first Green Flag. We were determined to continue the great work of recent years; to raise awareness of environmental issues, to educate our school community about conservation, and to change attitudes about waste. As usual we were also delighted to welcome a new committee, spearheaded by an amazingly enthusiastic TY group.



A definite highlight of the year was the raising of our first Green Flag for Waste by the Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan. It was wonderful to see the hard work of so many ASM students in keeping their school clean and litter-free rewarded and acknowledged by such a powerful public figure. It was a great occasion and a truly special day.



A bright new addition to ASM's corridors are the Green Boards. These boards inform our students and visitors about important environmental stories, facts and figures, whilst also keeping us all up to date with the committee's tireless work.



They're used to lighting up the life of the school by now, but our TY class really outdid themselves in organising this year's 'Energy Week' in the hopes of securing ASM's second Green Flag!



It all began when the entire school community learned about the Green Schools Program, ASM's own 'Green Code', energy uses and conservation from an excellent presentation prepared by the TYs. This was a serious lightbulb moment for our students as it highlighted some key energy issues as well as ASM's own unique approach in tackling them.

Energy awareness has been on the minds of everyone in ASM since 'Energy Week', thanks to the unmissable blue spots that have mysteriously appeared on all of our light switches and computers. These helpful reminders keep us focused on the very simple message of switching off lights and appliances when they are not in use.



A definite highlight of the week was the 'Action Hour' for First Year students. The TYs turned the hall in to an interactive fun-zone, where all of the activities were based around the simple theme of energy conservation. Games such as the highly competitive 'Battery Toss' and 'Pin the Switch on the Lightbulb' reminded our students of just how simple it is to recycle and conserve energy as an individual. Other events such as the poster and poetry competitions also shone a light on the important messages of responsibility and conservation! These resulted in many pieces of inspiring work that are currently drawing a lot of attention on the corridors.



This all culminated in the actual Green Schools inspection on the 5th of March. We were delighted to welcome Sinead McDonnell from Limerick City and County Council to inspect and evaluate the work and commitment undertaken by the entire school community. During an entertaining and enlightening presentation from the TYs and a guided tour of the school, Ms McDonnell was impressed and highly complimented our school and students. She was even on hand to judge the poster and poetry competitions too, awarding several happy students with wonderful prizes and some kind words.



As we headed into our last term we were proud to be involved in the Team Limerick Clean-up campaign to beautify our city. The First Year students were, as always, eager volunteers and joined with numerous other groups and high-profile individuals to give their own little corner of Limerick a good spring-clean. In recognition of their work and achievement the good people at TLC were good enough to send a tasty treat to the girls by way of thank you. While being able to help out was reward enough, the girls couldn't say no to such a beautiful cake!



Speaking of cake, this April brought some excellent news that really has been the icing on the cake for this Green Schools Committee's year. We are proud to announce that we have officially been awarded our second Green Flag (Energy) which we will receive during a special ceremony in May. We'll keep you all posted for the official flag raising!

ARDSKOIL MHUIRE,
CORBALLY, LIMERICK.

Tel: 061-349014

MUSIC ACADEMY

Music lessons are being offered to students and adults for the 2015/2016 school year.

Lessons will be available in the following:

Piano	Trombone	Oboe
Clarinet	Cello	Recorder
Violin	Drums	Euphonium
Voice	French Horn	Saxophone
Trumpet	DBL Bass	Music Theory
Viola	Flute	
Guitar	Tuba	

PLEASE CONTACT DEIRDRE @ 061-349014 for further details and enrolment information.

The Sound of 'Music' in ASM!

We have had a very busy and creative year in the Music Department this year, and our schedule has been jam-packed with performances, concerts, and workshops.

Our first years started off the year with a *Brass in the Class* workshop from the conductor of the University Concert Orchestra and our own Brass teacher at ASM's Music Academy, Liam Daly and colleagues. The girls got to sample all the instruments in the brass section of an orchestra and learn about how the instruments are played. They had a great time making a lot of music and noise!! In November the girls got to go on an exciting trip to Cork to see the Cork Pops Orchestra concert on the annual joint Music and Science trip. The concert featured Blockbuster Classics- Music from the movies which the girls thoroughly enjoyed and featured Keith Hanley, winner of *the Voice of Ireland* 2013.



Our Third Years went on a fun excursion to Dublin in October to see the National Symphony Orchestra put on a stunning concert of Junior Cert Music in the classroom. It gave the girls a bird's-eye view and an amazing insight into how an orchestra works, as well as the chance to observe many of their works and pieces they are studying being performed.

Our Leaving Cert students also got to experience their core set-work during *Mozart Live in Action* in St Mary's Cathedral. A thoroughly interesting presentation on the work of Mozart was given by Peter Barley and afterwards a performance of the work within the beautiful acoustics of the cathedral was performed by Stuart O' Sullivan.



ASM's hardworking choir were undaunted by yet another busy year. They sang at the school's start of year mass and several other special events that led to a special invitation by Bishop Brendan Leahy to perform at the opening ceremony for *Catholic Schools Week* in January at the Woodlands Hotel, Adare. The girls sang from a beautiful, spiritual, and uplifting repertoire and afterwards each were given a very thoughtful, personalised gift from the Bishop. The choir also sang for a special mass for the sick in St Mary's Parish Church, which was also led by the Bishop. They thrilled when they performed at the Church's very popular annual Carol Service at Christmas alongside many other accomplished Limerick Choirs. In a characteristic demonstration of their charitable sides, the choir also raised money at Christmas singing Christmas carols in the Crescent Shopping Centre by keeping all the happy shoppers entertained. In February, the girls were busy performing in Limerick City Centre for the *Pay it Forward* initiative as part of the *Festival of Kindness*. The choir will be performing at the school's garden party for Lisa's light in May and are busy bees preparing for that!



Our Trad Group have also been busy throughout the year; they have performed with the choir and had some lovely tunes to play at the Catholic Schools Week ceremony and assorted school masses. The girls also played during the ASM *Pay it Forward* performance during the *Festival of Kindness* and were brilliant. They also have collaborated with some of our classical instrumentalists for some of our performances to achieve a harmonious sound.

We have also just experienced a hugely fun and successful Ceolchoirm where students from all years performed for the school with an Irish theme incorporated. We had some very unique and talented performances this year and even had some teacher-participation with a few dodgy dance moves!! Some of our winners from the Ceolchoirm will now go on to perform against the boys from St Munchin's College in the joint school talent show in May.



Our Junior and Leaving Certs have just finished their music practicals having worked extremely hard. Every one of them gave beautiful performances. The examiners were treated to a variety of music from our students including group and solo performances, instrumental music, and singing. We also had a wide variety of instruments showcasing our students' many talents; including saxophone, guitar, violin, recorder, flute, tin-whistle, cello and piano.

Our Music Academy has had a very successful year with many of our student body taking lessons after school in a wide variety of instruments and voice training. The academy is growing every year with instruments and music filling the classrooms with gorgeous music in the evenings. Whether it's a drum solo or a beautiful flute piece being practiced, there is always music to be heard within the walls of Ardscoil Mhuire!





FIRST YEAR BASKETBALL

The First Year basketball team have done very well this season. They have played several matches in the Limerick League. We are very happy to have made it to the quarter final. In our first basketball match we played St. Nessian's and won 17-3. In our next match we played against Crescent Comprehensive and lost but we still tried and played our best. Just because we lost

that match did not mean that we were out as we went on to play Villiers. We won that match too! We went on to the quarter final and played against Laurel Hill. We did not win but it was a good game and we all played our best. This year has been outstanding and we hope next year will be so too. Everybody on the team has trained incredibly hard and played brilliantly this year. We would like to say THANK YOU to MsHosford, because without her none of this would have been possible.

- Lauren Kett (I de)

Hockey 2014/15

This year, Ardscoil Mhuire formed its first hockey team for First Years. We trained with Ms Hosford for an hour each Wednesday after school which is always enjoyable, but also a challenge and learning experience as there is always a new skill or formation to learn.

Throughout the year we have been competing in the north Munster League, playing against teams such as Castletroy College, Crescent College Comprehensive, and the Ursuline Secondary from Tipperary. We also took part in the Scoil Ide's 50th Anniversary Blitz. All of our matches have been great fun and all helped us learn both hockey skills and other skills such as teamwork and planning skills. It's fair to say that our confidence and skill have grown with every match! I have made lots of new friends through hockey and can't wait for next year.

- Erin Barrett (I Grainne)



Full Contact Rugby

This was the second year contact rugby was in ASM, last year it was seven a side and this year the girls moved on to ten a side. The First/Second Year team played in four tournaments this year playing against schools from Co. Limerick, Bantry, and Dingle. The girls gave a good account in every tournament. It took a few games to get going and when we did we played some very good rugby.

There was some great performances put in by Becky Collins, Loren Daley, and Jemma Duhig in all tournaments and also some huge improvements from Jolle Sheehy, Lauren Morton, and Alana O' Neil.

Rugby is a sport that anybody can play and all girls, from every year, are encouraged to come out and give it a go next year.



Fun Club

The students from the Fun Club had a very special visitor this year and her name is Jessie Barr. Jessie is an Irish 400m hurdler and Olympic athlete who came to teach us about sports for the day. This is part of the Sky Sports Living for Sports project that is running all over Ireland and the UK.

In Fun Club we are doing our best to be more athletic and have started training in track and field events. We are using the sports and skills we have learned so that we can hold a sports day in St Mary's Primary School at the end of the year. This sports day will include sprinting, long distance running, long jump, relays, and lots of other fun activities. Alex Kiely (First Year)



Inter-Schools Show Jumping

A first for ASM sports this year as we fielded a brand new team in the recent Inter-Schools Show Jumping Competition... and they only went and won first time out!

The girls represented the school with pride, grace, and near-flawless rounds. They remained calm and collected throughout the competition and succeeded in claiming first prize in the 50/60s Optimum Time Secondary School Class.

They each went on to do individual rounds, with Ellen McGrath taking a very high honour when she won 3rd place in the Secondary School 90s Individual Speed Class. It has to be said that all of the girls rode beautifully and that their behavior was exemplary. A great first day out for ASM's show jumping team.

Well done to the four students who represented ASM at the competition so proudly; Marina Stevens, Olivia O' Donoghue, Kailey Noonan, and Ellen McGrath. A special word of thanks also to Ms O' Farrell for her tireless work in getting the team up and running.



On May 24th 2014, the 5th year L.C.V.P class planned and organised the annual Sports Day. We asked the whole school to pay 2 euro to take part and this was going to go to a chosen charity, the Irish Cancer Society. It was such a fun day to plan and organise with so many treats and games that were held. We had organised for pancakes and smoothies to be sold at €1 as an extra fundraising effort for the Irish cancer society. While Mr Huff, Ms Delaney, and Mr O' Donoghue were busy in the kitchen making the pancakes and smoothies for everyone, we held a fun whole-school Zumba session with Darren Shinnars. After that workout we sold out of the smoothies and pancakes!

We then went outside to St Mary's Rugby Club for the sports events. Games such as hurling, egg and spoon races, the wellie toss, and sack races were held and laughter followed. Then came the annual Fifth Years vs the Teachers tag rugby match.

We invited high-achieving former student Nicole Cronin back to referee the match and were honoured to have her. Ms Hynan and Ms Hughes had their own cheerleading team that was getting the teachers' attention and made them work hard. Eventually the teachers secured victory... again!

After a long day we retreated back to the school where Nicole gave out the medals. Not that we're biased, but we think it was the best Sports Day ever!

- Aoife Reale and Chloe Prenderville (VI Claddagh)



"Ask not what your teammates can do for you. Ask what you can do for your teammates"

This year a few new faces have joined and added to tremendously to our teams. We played a tournament in house at Christmas, with Mrs Hehir's Reindeers winning the annual Santas vs Reindeers Tag Fun Day.

After Christmas all eyes were on the upcoming Maire Horigan Memorial Tag Rugby Competition hosted by Laurel Hill. ASM fielded three teams (First Year, Senior A, and Senior B).

The First Years, captained by Rebecca Collins, showed their skills and heart by winning the First Year group outright! The girls demonstrated composure in some very tight matches. Well done to all! A special mention to Sarah McDarby, Kerri O' Dwyer, and Niamh Storan who all joined this year and never miss a training session come rain or shine!

The Senior B team, captained by Second Year student Jemma Duhig, played extremely well and fought their way to the semi-final of their tournament. Though they narrowly missed out, these players continue to make significant gains on the pitch and we look forward to seeing them compete for the Senior A Cup in the future.

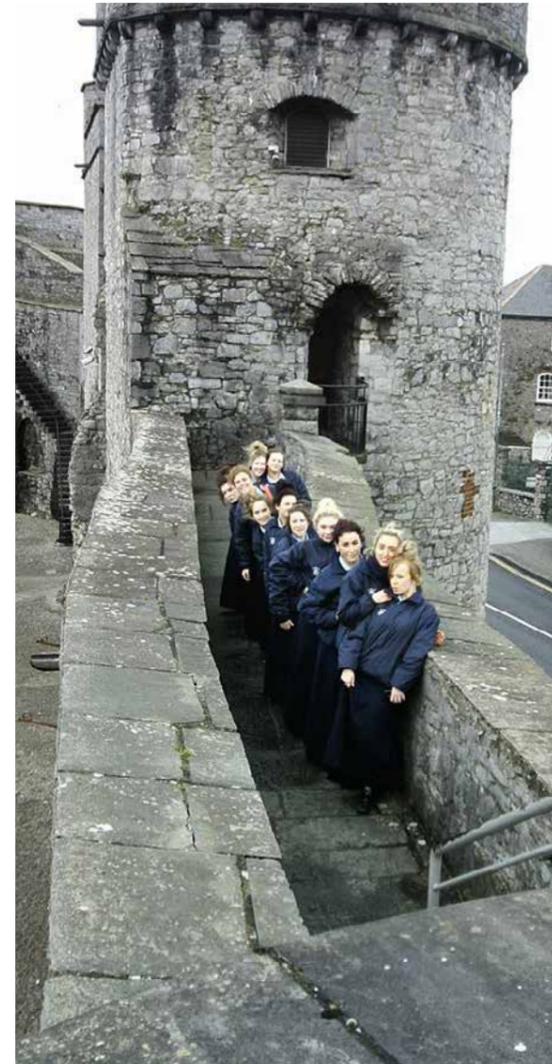
The Senior A team included many veteran players, with some of the girls having played tag for ASM for the last six years! We played Laurel, Rockwell and Laurel Hill Coláiste in the group stages and came out on top of our group. We played our semi-final and after a slow start we made our way into the final against... Laurel Hill. It was déjà vu... the final even ended in a draw and we headed to extra time for a second year in a row. But this year we had learnt our lessons. Determination and concentration were needed by all and each of the team players delivered. We won in style!

Many of the senior team leave us this year and we have to thank them all as they have been the core of tag rugby since First Year. They include Ciara Kane McLoughlin, Molly Power, Sammi Chang, Niamh Brennan, Erin Coll, Ailish Tuohy, and Saoirse Kennedy. We would like to sincerely thank these amazing and talented young ladies for their years of commitment and for representing ASM so proudly!



LCA1S ARE QUEENS OF THE CASTLE

As part of their English and Communication course, the LCA1 class paid a visit to King John's castle before Christmas. They had a lot of fun dressing up in medieval costumes and crawling through tunnels. Ms Clancy was also delighted to be forced into a suit of armor! As well as having a great time, the girls also gained an important insight into the history of their locality which they translated into a set of wonderfully written key assignments.



Our senior students, invited guests from St Munchin's College, and some of our own deeply committed Second Years, were treated to a series of fascinating talks during ASM's inaugural 'Talk Science' event.

The assembled scientists-in-waiting were first brought up to date on research and development in the various scientific disciplines happening in L.I.T., U.L., U.C.C., and Cook Medical. In doing so

they gained a valuable insight into new technologies, career paths and applications for their knowledge of biology and chemistry to industry and research.

Our most sincere thanks to the wonderful speakers who were so giving of their time, experience, and enthusiasm; to the students of ASM and St Munchin's for their interaction, contribution and attention at all of the talks; and especially to Mrs Hehir, Mr Cross, and Ms Herbert for organising this extremely enlightening event.



ARDSCOIL MHUIRE,
CORBALLY, LIMERICK

is delighted to announce its inaugural
"TALK SCIENCE"
Seminar in conjunction with Cook Medical.

This will take place on:
Wednesday 11th February 2015
Venue: Science Department Laboratories Ardscoil Mhuire
Guests: Invited Limerick Schools

Signatures & MEMORIES

ART

The sad one day we will leave this world behind so live the life you will remember
My father told me when I was Just a Child these are the Nights you will remember
- Courtney Power

All I need's a little love in my life All I need's a little love in the dark A little but in hoping it might hic start me and my broken heart I need a little
little loving tonight hold me so my soul's apart a little but in hoping it might hic start me and my broken heart



RUTH
POLIFE
KLAUDIA
POLFE
MERCELA
DINHO
POLIFE



But first, on earth as Vampire sent,
Thy corpse shall from its tomb be rent
Then ghostly haunt thy native place,
And suck the blood of all thy race;
There from thy daughter, sister, wife
At midnight drain the stream of life
Yet loathe the banquet
which perforce must feed thy livid



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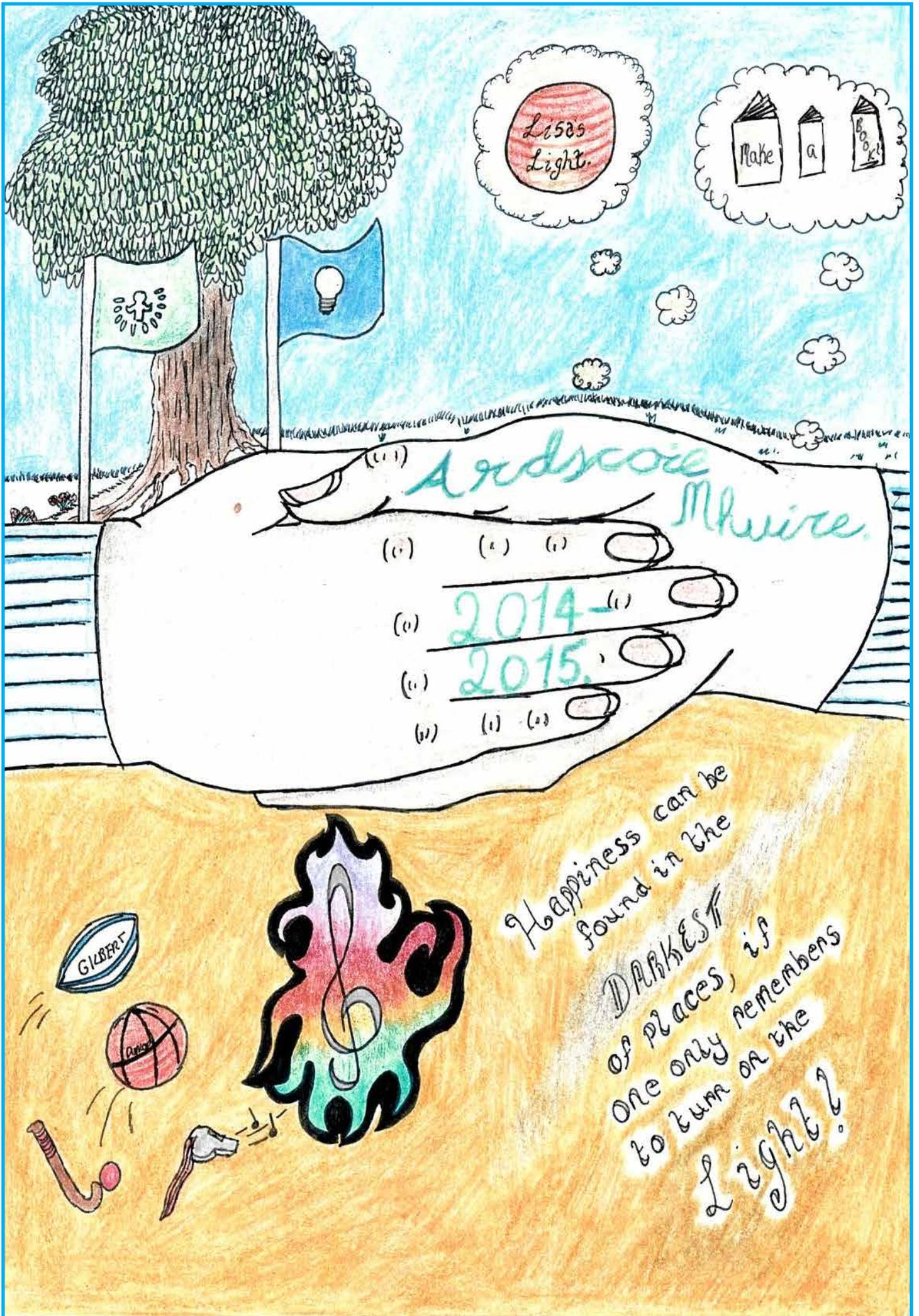
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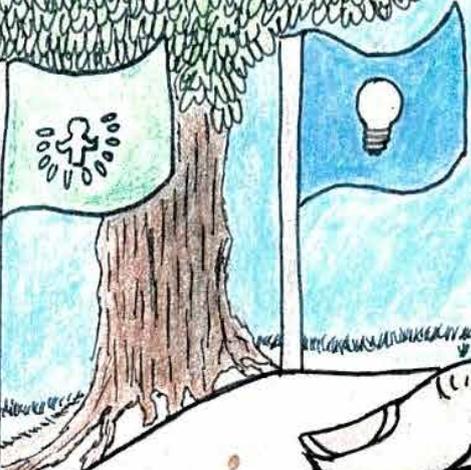


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Lisas
Light.

Make
a
Book!



Ardyscore
Mhuire.
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Happiness can be
found in the
DARKEST
of places, if
one only remembers
to turn on the
Light?

