

BRIDGE TO EMPLOYMENT 2019- 2022

Ardscoil Mhuire was delighted to be selected for involvement in the Bridge to Employment programme. Bridge to Employment (BTE) is a three year mentoring programme that will support our students in achieving academic success and in their preparation for higher education, training, and employment. BTE will present 25 of our students with unique and invaluable real world experiences, allow them to explore potential careers, prepare for college/work and discover how learning is relevant to their future. The focus of the BTE programme is perfectly aligned with the mission of Ardscoil Mhuire and we believe that the students experience over the three years of the programme will be of great benefit to them, now and into the future.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Junior Achievement Ireland, Limerick Institute of Technology, University of Limerick and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care for collaborating on this program. As Principal of Ardscoil Mhuire I look forward to working with our BTE partners in achieving our shared objectives over the next three academic years and make this a transformational experience for all our participating students." Ms Bríd Herbert (Principal, Ardscoil Mhuire).

Some of Ardscoil Mhuire's students, and their parents/guardians, were honoured guests at the official launch of the Bridge to Employment programme in the Strand Hotel, Limerick on the 24th of September 2019. As part of the event, students met the mentors, volunteers from local businesses, who will guide them through an exciting and practical programme over the next three years.



VISIT BY DEPUTY JAN O'SULLIVAN

Tuesday, the 10th of September 2019 was an incredibly busy, yet affirming day in ASM highlighted by a visit from a very important guest to our school, Deputy Jan O'Sullivan. A regular visitor to the school, Deputy O'Sullivan graciously gave

her time to mark and officiate at two important events within our school community.

The first of these events saw Deputy O'Sullivan 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. They recognised the development and achievement of these wonderful young ladies in taking on and triumphing over a particular personal challenge. The Transition Year Co-ordinator, Ms Mitchell, pointed out that these challenges were

both physical and mental, pushing the students to their limits, but were ultimately highly rewarding for all involved.



After speaking of the importance of education in our lives, Deputy O'Sullivan was delighted to acknowledge and congratulate our high-achieving students from this year's Leaving Certificate and presented them with bursaries from the school's Board of Management. Among those who received an award were: Jemma Duhig, who achieved ASM's highest Leaving Certificate points in 2019 and Chloe Ryan, who was the highest achieving Leaving Certificate Applied student in the state exams.

Our sincere thanks to Deputy O'Sullivan for her time, generosity and 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.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL UPDATE



In September 2019 Ardscoil Mhuire was named in the top 10 Limerick City and County Schools in the 'Limerick Chronicle.' A number of initiatives are in place in order to enhance and maintain academic excellence in our school. All students received an Academic Report in November which gave parents an insight into how they were progressing in school. In January each Junior Cycle Year group will be participating in a study skills talk presented by Ms Fogarty and Ms Collins. This presentation will be extremely beneficial to students in that it will assist them to more effectively structure their homework and study. All Senior Cycle students are currently engaged in tracking their academic progress on a monthly basis. The aim of this initiative is to raise general student attainment levels, monitor and improve learning outcomes, improve each student's awareness of her own ability in addition to promoting student self-directed learning. Furthermore, all Sixth and Third Year students were interviewed by school management in order to motivate, encourage and support them academically. Academic interviews will take place in January with all Fifth Year students. The Academic Awards night will also take place on the 2nd of April 2020 in the Strand Hotel. As student nominations will be made by teachers next term, all pupils will need to continue to work hard and remain focused if they wish to secure an invitation.

MUSICAL 2019

Once again, the halls of Ardscoil Mhuire and St. Munchin's College were alive with the sound of music. This year, the collaboration saw the staging of Disney's "High School Musical" in LIT from November 29th to December 1st. The cast of over 100 students was led by our own Ellen Garcia-Breen as Gabriella, Tara McDonagh as Taylor, Laura Kelly as Sharpay, Emily Clancy as Kelsi and Kayleigh Corbett-Keane as Ms. Darbus. Their very talented co-stars were Even Ryan as Troy, Adam Quinn as Ryan, James Madden as Chad, Kevin Rae as Coach Bolton and Scott Quinn-Daly as Jack Scott.

The 12-week rehearsal schedule began in September and was led by Musical Director, Rhoda Cleary and Director, Deirdre Curley. Ms. Marie Delaney, Ms. Kate O'Brien and Ms. Kathryn Ryan did a fantastic job with the costuming, while Mr. Mike Connor, Ms. Sarah Bolger and her team Abbey Hennessey, Hayley Fitzgerald and Amii Fahy used their infinite creative talents to create a wonderful set. A massive THANK YOU to Ms. Grace O'Brien as TY Co-ordinator for all her support and encouragement. Congratulations to all involved for a wonderful show!



CRAFT FAIR

On the 22nd November 2019 Ardscoil Mhuire opened its doors yet again to the wider community in what was said to be the official beginning of Christmas in Corbally. Back for its 3rd year, Santa and his elves were busy getting ready for this year's Craft Fair and Santa Experience. The sensory delights started even before you entered the main event. Ms. O'Farrell and her 1st Year students created a live crib which was very appropriately positioned beside ASM's school choir. The beautiful voices of our 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students greatly contributed to the magical atmosphere on the night.

The school hall was transformed into a Christmas Market - a veritable Winter Wonderland. There were over 28 crafters selling their creations and represented a myriad of disciplines, from painting to woodcraft and baking to knitwear. This year's Gaelbrathach Committee made hot chocolate while the Home Economics classes sold cakes and mince pies. This created aromas reminiscent of continental winter fairs. The enterprising Transition Year students sold items from their mini companies while 1st year Crafter, Sue Lau took pride of place in the centre of the floor with her Pebble Art work.

Shortly after 6.30 pm, the main man himself, Santa, arrived, along with his magical wife Mrs. Clause. They were guided by the ASM Elves to Santa's magical grotto. Santa's grotto was a sight to behold, with snow globes and Christmas villages topped with a sprinkle of magic from Mrs. Claus. A special thank you must be paid to all those who attended on the night making our Craft Fair a magical event. Over all €2,000 was raised, all of which will be going into our School Development Fund.



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

As a new academic year began in Ardscoil Mhuire so did the process of appointing the S.R.C. Ciara Marnell was elected as Head Girl, capably assisted by Olivia O'Donoghue as Deputy Head Girl. The head girl election is a challenging experience. Candidates are firstly interviewed by staff.

Following on from this, they make a presentation to the sixth year student body who then vote for their preferred candidate. The staff also vote. This year, the elections were a closely fought contest, such as the calibre of the candidates. Congratulations to Ciara and Olivia.

All classes have now elected enthusiastic and committed prefects and deputy prefects. So far the SRC has been busy driving the "Every School Day Counts" initiative within their classes. They have also become very involved in providing an important communication link between the student body, the staff and management.



The SRC were delighted to provide assistance to the sixth year LCVP class in the running of this year's "Mad Hair" day in aid of The Haven Hub in Limerick. There was much enthusiasm among prefects in encouraging classmates to enter into the spirit of the occasion.

This year the S.R.C. will add even more festivity to our annual Christmas dinner by organising "Festive Jumper Day." All students are encouraged to wear festive coloured jumpers for the dinner. All proceeds will be donated to the Irish Heart Foundation.

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. A special mention must go to the class teachers who facilitate elections. We look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting. Merry Christmas & Best Wishes for 2020 from all on the Ardscoil Mhuire Students Representative Council.

CREATIVE SCHOOLS



We are delighted to announce that we have been accepted for year two of the Creative Schools programme, an Arts Council initiative in partnership with the Department of Education and Skills. This programme aims to put the arts and creativity at the heart of children and young people's lives. For our first year as a Creative School, we held a Performance Arts Showcase in the Shannon Boatclub. This was a collaboration between the Drama Club, Performing Arts Club, Music Department and Art Department. It was a huge success and celebrated all the hidden talents of our students across the entire school community. We hope to repeat last year's success this year by going bigger and better. Last year a student vote was also held in order to determine the types of initiatives that we would run in the school over the course of the year. The outcome of this vote resulted in a number of creative programmes being selected and organised with the aim to implement them throughout this academic year. These included dance workshops in contemporary and hip hop styles, a photography course and exhibition in the Hunt Museum on the 5th of December 2019 and a Ukulele Project which will be performed in Ormston House for Womens Day 2020. Creativity is now the number one skill sought after in industry and business. ASM is excited to be building on the already vibrant creative culture in our school by creating further opportunities for students to develop and strengthen their creative skills thus preparing them for the jobs of the future.



LEARNING AND TEACHING

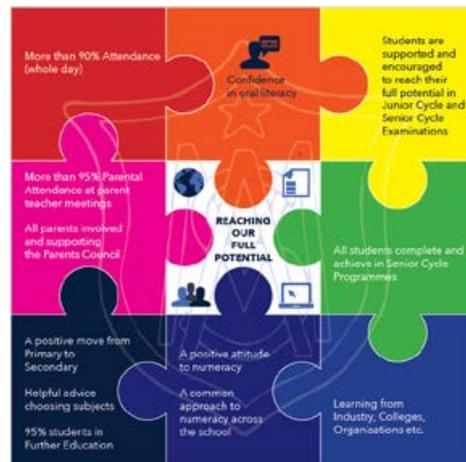
ePortfolio Initiative

For the past four years Ardscoil Mhuire has operated a nationally-praised ePortfolio Initiative. Essentially, this allows Transition Year students to construct a website using a range of Google apps that reflects their personal and academic progression during the year. In doing so, students develop a range of personal, academic, and technical skills that are invaluable for life after school. This year's TYs are currently receiving feedback from their mentor teachers, based on agreed success criteria, and are aiming to present a top-quality ePortfolio in May. The initiative is poised to grow too, as JCSP students will be trialling the system in the new year!



SSE/ DEIS

Ardscoil Mhuire has a long-standing tradition of promoting and fostering excellence in all year groups and at all levels. Ardscoil Mhuire is a school where students are motivated, encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential. Our school targets support students in achieving their full potential.



How can parents/guardians support students in reaching their full potential?

- ✓ Discuss academic progress with students and encourage them to do their best.
- ✓ Encourage full attendance.
- ✓ Check and sign the Student Journal weekly.
- ✓ Encourage students to use supports in the Student Journal, such as the literacy checklist, numeracy resources, attendance tracking, academic tracking, etc.
- ✓ Encourage good homework practice (see Student Journal for advice)
- ✓ Be familiar with school policies, calendars and deadlines
- ✓ Encourage participation in extracurricular activities.
- ✓ Attend school events such as Parent/Teacher Meetings, Subject Option Nights, information evenings, etc.
- ✓ Join the Parents' Council.
- ✓ Stay up to date on school initiatives and achievements by engaging with the school's social media platforms and website.

- ✓ Promote Student Wellbeing by listening to, communicating with and supporting students to embrace all aspects of school life. ASM always strives to support you, the primary educator, to foster happy, confident, responsible and resilient students.

NUMERACY DEEP DIVE

The 2019/2020 academic year marks the second year of the Numeracy Deep Dive initiative. Numeracy Deep Dive is a truly innovative and creative approach to teaching, learning and assessment that relies heavily on collaborative practice.

This year teachers from Maths, Art, Science, and Geography are designing a common approach to teach co-ordinate geometry, map reading, scaling, area and volume and urban development to First Year students. These topics are taught seamlessly over the four subjects and the approach has shown marked improvements in student motivation, engagement and outcomes in the involved subjects. This initiative has brought Art into the Science classrooms as students made models of buildings, measured their area and volume in order to analyse their placement in the Geography classroom. For teachers involved, it has encouraged reflection on their teaching, learning and assessment practices while First Year students have been amazed to see the links between the subjects and to gain access to different teachers' point of view on the same topic.



GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

ASM is delighted to be applying for the schools third Green Flag under the theme of Global Citizenship – Marine Environment. Last year the TY students attended assemblies and informed students about the schools quest for a third Green Flag. The students held an Action Day to inform the junior year groups about what they aimed to achieve. All the students enjoyed the Action Day during which they learned a lot while also having great fun.

As a lot of work is required to obtain a Green Flag, this year's TY students have been allocated a class period per week with Ms. O'Farrell and Ms. O'Rourke to plan, lead and implement change. Our Green School Committee comprises of our TY students and they have been extremely busy getting the schools application ready for Friday, March 27th 2020.

The Committee began its campaign with a whole school and litter clean-up by the canal. The Second Year students, as part of the PIF initiative, assisted the TY students in their task of creating a clean environment. The Committee has also updated the schools Green School's Notice Board with information about the marine environment together with many photos relating to the negative effects of marine litter. The TY students have made posters which are on display around the school to keep awareness alive.



The Green Schools committee also requested that water fountains be purchased for the school, so that the amount of single use plastic bottles used in the school could be reduced. Senior Management listened to their suggestion and two water fountains were installed. Students are currently making great use of the water fountains and the number of single use plastic bottles has been greatly reduced. To future encourage a reduction in single use plastic bottles Ms. Baileys LCVP class is currently designing a reusable drinking bottle with the schools crest as part of their enterprise plan for their LCVP portfolio.

During and after our School Walk, the Green Schools Committee made sure that all non-essential computers, lights etc. were turned off so we could reduce our carbon footprint. Our school now have an ongoing policy to remind people to switch off the lights and computers before they leave the rooms in the evenings.

The current endeavour of the Green Schools Committee is to reduce the use of plastics in the canteen. As a consequence of their perseverance and foresight the school in the future will be investing in compostable Delph (cups, plates, bowls etc.) and wooden cutlery.

DRAMA CLUB

Just when we thought we could have a quiet and relaxing Monday evening, the drama queens of Ardscoil Mhuire have taken the opportunity to express their most zany, creative and fun-filled ideas in drama club. The members of the club are learning and experiencing the important techniques of acting such as concentration, teamwork and self-expression through a combination of physical creativity and imaginative improvisation.

Yet again this year, we are lucky to have the opportunity to engage Cork playwright, Mike Guerin. Presently, he is busy writing a short play based on the ideas given to him by the girls in drama club. Suggestions ranged from a murder mystery to zombiie apocalyptic. He has his work cut out for him!

The play will form part of Ardscoil Mhuire's "Creative School's Showcase" in the third term. Every member of drama club will get a chance to perform in the play with auditions to assign parts taking place in December. Then, it will be full steam ahead learning lines and rehearsing positioning and cues, with gentle direction from Ms Quinn and Ms Clancy.

Drama club aims to build positive relationships, encourage creativity and develop self-esteem, all while having fun. The club is delighted to be part of the Creative School's Initiative in Ardscoil Mhuire.



PERFORMING ARTS CLUB

After a very successful 2018/19 season, ASM Performing Arts Club wasted no time in getting ready for this year's performances. In November, we were invited to take part in the Creative Schools' Showcase in Nun's Island Theatre in Galway. We performed two pieces, a vocal ensemble of "A Million Dreams" from "The Greatest Showman" and a dance piece called "Happy When I'm Dancing".

Afterwards, preparations were underway for our Christmas performances. This year, we performed our own arrangement of the classic carol "Mary Did You Know" as well as another dance - a specially choreographed piece to Ariana Grande's "Santa Tell Me". We'll be busy again in the New Year getting ready for our end of year school showcase!



CHRISTMAS DINNER 2019

Our annual whole-school Christmas Dinner is always a wonderful opportunity for our entire school community to gather, bond and enjoy the company, comedy, and cuisine that are now true ASM hallmarks. Our staff and students are incredibly grateful to all those who work so hard to make this special event a reality every year. A tribute to the whole staff of the school, who work so diligently both inside and outside the classroom throughout the year, evidenced by feedback from past pupils. One of their treasured memories of school days in Ardscoil Mhuire is the unforgettable experience of sitting down as a group to enjoy a sumptuous meal together.

FIRST YEARS ANSWER THE SHOEBOX APPEAL

Our First Year students can feel proud of themselves after their hard work and generosity resulted in two full carloads of Christmas shoeboxes being delivered to Team Hope's depot in November. The girls were genuinely moved by the stories of children suffering through poverty and violence, vowing to work together during their CSPE classes to fill and wrap as many shoeboxes as possible with thoughtfully chosen gifts and treats. We're sure that their caring gesture will mean so much to so many this Christmastime.



ANNUAL SCHOOL WALK 2019



The Ardscoil Mhuire Annual School Walk took place on Wednesday 16th October 2019. This fundraiser was planned and organised by the Accounting students from TY, 5th and 6th Year under the guidance of Business Teacher Ms. Hughes. The total funds raised for our School Development Fund was €5606. We very much appreciate the support of our local businesses who sponsored very generous raffle prizes including Lush Café, Llyod's Pharmacy, O' Sullivan's Pharmacy, Fusion Hair Salon, Luca's Takeaway and Garvey's Supervalu. Well done to the I Gabriel class who collectively raised the most money for this event.

SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

In January, the 5th Year LCVP students will visit Cook Medical as part of the School Business Partnership initiative. This initiative enables LCVP students to visit a business so that they can come to understand and experience a day in the life of a Cook Medical employee. As part of this programme students have four sessions with Cook Medical, which will equip them with the skills to develop and improve both their curriculum vitae and interview technique. This visit will enable students to get an insight into the work carried out by Cook Medical in addition to allowing them to engage in customer service training. It will certainly be a busy exciting year ahead for Ardscoil Mhuire's LCVP students.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

This term the Mental Health Committee has been meeting every Friday lunchtime and Tuesday after school. Our focus has been to raise awareness that if any student needs someone to talk to, teachers, class teachers, Year Heads and Senior Management are available to listen and support. The Committee invites all students to visit the Mental Health Area from time to time. Current information and leaflets on mental health issues can be accessed here. In addition, the committee have decided to put a mental health noticeboard in the school canteen so students can access the information on a daily basis. This should be in place in the New Year.

We celebrated World Mental Health Day on October 10th. A Connect Café was held in the staffroom and €226.10 was raised for the Mental Health Committee. This money is being used to buy resources for the committee and a donation was made to Ms. Hogg. She represented the Mental Health Committee in the Jigsaw Revolution by cycling 100km and raised €150 in the process. Well done Ms. Hogg and huge thanks from the Mental Health Committee to the staff for their generous donations. The Mental Health Committee also had their own Connect Cafe. The goal here is to open up conversations about how we interact, strengthening the connection with yourself, with others and with your community. It was a very enjoyable way to spend lunchtime. The committee is currently preparing for ASM's Mental Health Awareness Week which begins on January 6th 2020. We will be challenging students and staff to participate in many wellbeing initiatives to start the New Year off on the right track.



WEBWISE & SAFER INTERNET DAY

ASM's partnership with Webwise in promoting internet safety continues to go from strength to strength. September saw the official premier of a video showcasing our school community's work in embedding key digital citizenship messages in class and on the corridors. Of particular note are the two stars, Sixth Year students Erin Barrett and Sarah McDarby, who spoke eloquently about their work in starting conversations about young peoples' behaviour online. The video can be found on our school website, www.asmlimerick.ie. Speaking of Erin and Sarah, they are now joined by two more students on the prestigious Youth Advisory Panel. TY students Ciara Grimes and Neala Carroll have already completed a training Webinar and attended an exclusive Webwise training day in Microsoft's Dreamspace. All four students will be involved in training specially selected ambassadors to run Safer Internet Day events and will also be actively involved in consulting on internet safety training for young people, parents/guardians, and teachers.

Recently, another TY student, Hailey Fitzgerald, passed a rigorous application process to be selected as one of Webwise's Safer Internet Day Ambassadors. She has also completed a separate training Webinar and will attend Google HQ in January to work with other teenagers from around Ireland to begin planning Safer Internet Day events. We look forward to hearing about the plans that the whole team come up with for Safer Internet Day on the 11th of February.

Erin Barrett also spoke at the Media Literacy Ireland Conference in Dublin during the midterm break, advocating passionately for young people's voices to be heard in any conversation around digital media literacy education. Erin was able to draw from a deep well of expertise, using knowledge gained from her time on the #KeepItPG team, Webwise Youth Advisory Panel, and as New York Times summer intern.



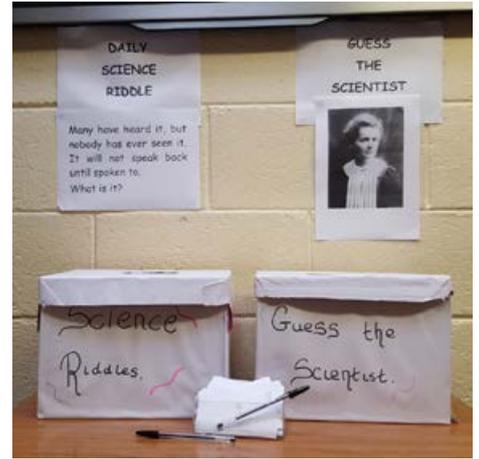
THE HAVEN HUB

The Ardscoil Mhuire, 6th year LCVP class, organised a school fundraiser on Friday 25th of October during "Mad Hair Day" in aid of Limerick's Haven Hub. Students were encouraged to get into the Halloween spirit on the day and wear a costume or create a mad hairstyle. Mr. Madigan's LCVP group organised the event and collected money from each class to donate to the charity. Both students and teachers participated in this fundraiser and succeeded in raising €706 for the Haven Hub. The Haven Hub is an after-hours service created where a number of suicide prevention and search and rescue groups, along with other individuals passionate about suicide prevention, came together in the hope of helping distressed individuals and their families. All funds raised are vital, and will be used to cover insurance, the training of volunteers, supplies, and running costs. Thank you to all students and teachers who supported this event.



SCIENCE

Science Week



ASM had another hugely successful Science Week this year with staff and students alike getting involved in all the fun activities taking place from the 10th to the 17th of November. This year's theme revolved around 'Climate Action' and Ms. Hehir's LCA 1 science students decorated the corridors with tips on how to improve your carbon footprint and tackle climate change. They also organized and ran daily competitions during Science Week for all students and staff which included: 'Guess the Scientist' and 'Guess the Science Riddle'. All correct answers were entered into a raffle for prizes. These initiatives proved to be a fun and rewarding way to create awareness around science in ASM. Well done to all the students in LCA1.

A recommended movie and reading list including: 'The Martian', 'Hidden Figures' and 'Gravity' were also compiled and distributed to the student body in order to encourage them to improve their literacy skills while also learning about and enjoying science. Inside the classroom, students in 1st year took part in a rocket building competition. Students competed in groups to design, build and launch a rocket that could travel the furthest distance. Students had to ensure that they worked well as a team by collaborating and communicating effectively so that they created a working rocket. Rebecca Reynolds, Rachel Butler and Leah Hogan proved to be the most successful team as they produced the furthest travelling rocket. Congratulations!

All 2nd year students were treated to a trip to UL for a 'Science Magic' show as part of the University of Limerick's Festival of Science. Students were amazed by hand held fireballs, man-made clouds, and disappearing water tricks. Some students were even lucky enough to be asked to volunteer on stage in front of an audience of over 250 students from Limerick county.



Ms. Hehir's 5th year Biology students welcomed 5th class students from our neighbouring primary school Scoil Ide to observe, experience and participate in fun science experiments. These included optical illusion, elephant toothpaste, ear dissection, lava lamps, imploding cans, exploding eggs and much more. Our 5th year biology students were certainly put through their paces as the primary school

students grilled our girls about every aspect of the experiments. However, our 5th Year students were well prepared and the Scoil Ide students went away amazed by all they learned. We look forward to welcoming them back in the future.



Ms. O' Farrells' 3rd year science class have taken Climate Action into their own hands and have planted a pine tree and crocuses outside the front of the school. They are hoping that this will offset some of society's carbon emissions. They also hope that as this pine tree grows that it will become a permanent Christmas tree which can be decorated every year by our school.

EARTH AND SPACE:

STAR DOME VISIT

The Science Department would like to thank Francis from Blackrock Castle Observatory, Cork for visiting our school and giving such an inspirational educational presentation to our 1st year students in the Star Dome (some staff may also have had a sneak peak). The Star Dome enabled 1st year students to travel through our galaxy and study the constellations in the night sky. This initiative is part of the Junior Cycle Science Earth and Space curriculum.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE CELL

AND BODY SYSTEMS

6th year students were taken on a 3D adventure through the cell and body systems thanks to another visit from the Stardome. On this occasion the dome enabled students to journey through our cells explaining cell organelles, DNA, implantation and the muscular and nervous systems. This experience has greatly helped to reinforce students biology knowledge in this area and will be of huge benefit to them when preparing for their Leaving Certificate.

BIOLOGY PRACTICALS

In January Ardscoil Mhuire 6th year students will attend the Department of Biological Sciences in UL to conduct laboratory practical experiments in a third level environment, which form part of the Leaving Certificate Biology curriculum. This will provide students with the opportunity to revise mandatory experiments just in time for their pre-exams. Our aspiring scientists will get hands on experience and be assisted by BSc. Ed. students who will quiz them on each activity.



5TH YEAR

BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

5th year Biology students are busy preparing for their upcoming Ecology field trip to Killarney National Park in May 2020. Thank you to Ms. O'Rourke for organising this. All students are looking forward to exploring the Flora and Fauna of Ireland.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT 'FUTUREWIZE' PROGRAMME

This December, 2nd year students began the 5 week 'Futurewize' programme which is organised by Junior Achievement Ireland. This STEAM focused initiative brings students through the five strands of the Junior Cycle curriculum. Students will be given the opportunity to become aeronautical engineers through rocket building, forensic scientists, food nutritionists and computer coders. Students will also receive a talk on careers in the STEAM industry. Thank you to our two volunteers from Regeneron, Limerick who have taken time out of their busy schedules to visit Ardscoil Mhuire to give our girls this amazing insight into the STEAM industry.



CAREERS

In order to help Senior Cycle students make an informed decision in relation to their future career choice, they were given the opportunity to attend various Career Exhibitions and Open Days. In September all Senior

Cycle students were brought to a careers exhibition in the University of Limerick, while they also attended Open Days in the University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology, Mary Immaculate College, University College Cork, LSAD and Shannon College of Hotel Management. Speakers also have visited the school on a number of occasions from various Third Level faculties, while others will do so in the coming months. Being given the opportunity to visit these events and engage with speakers has opened up students' minds as to the huge range of opportunities available and will greatly assist them in making the right career choice in the future. A CAO information night for parents will also be held in the school in January 2020 in order to support both parents and students engaging in this application process.



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP 2019

As part of their Leaving Certificate course all 6th Year Geography students participated in a Field Trip, which accounts for 20% of their final mark. On the 20th of November, Ms. Hynan and Mr. Carroll, along with their Leaving Certificate Geography classes headed off with

their raincoats and wellies to the beach. They visited areas including Creg Beach and Lahinch. Students put their geographical skills, which they had learned in the classroom, into practice, to examine wave frequency and measure cliff height as well as studying features of coastal protection.

In 2017, Storm Ophelia battered the coast of Ireland, and on this particular trip the students got to see the changes implemented by Clare County Council to prevent further damage to the coastline. The students received hands-on experience in the subject and got the opportunity to be active geographers in the field. The various activities undertaken by the students have had a huge impact on their understanding and enjoyment of the subject.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMME

The Junior Achievement Programme 'Economics of Staying at School' has begun. All first-year students will experience and engage in various activities including a career board game, role play and reflection delivered by business volunteers in the business studies classroom. The objective of the programme is to encourage students at an early stage in post primary education to think about careers. Furthermore, students understand the link that staying in education, including the progress to third level education, create many opportunities for students to qualify in the career they currently dream of. The programme gives students the necessary tools to develop skills and succeed in a changing world. The time, enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment of our volunteers Erma Kiely (Zimmer Biomet) and Antoinette Wrafter (Regeneron) is greatly appreciated.



PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

EVENING CLASSES

Evening classes are run every year for parents and adult members of the community. The classes change from year to year depending on interest and demand. However, there are a few favourites which we run every year. This year sees the continuance of an established Spanish language group. This group of enthusiasts are working with tutor, Flora Sammartino, a native of Argentina. They hope to progress and get accreditation through exams. We wish them the best of luck. Flora is also working with a beginners group and they are showing promise! After Christmas we will continue both classes. Also this term parents yoga/pilates and mindfulness classes were held on Tuesday evening. Due to the huge demand from parents/guardians for places these classes will be offered again next term. If there is a group of parents/guardians in the community who would like us to consider running a specific course for them, please get in with contact with the HSCL. The classes are provided free of charge, as they are funded by the LCETB. We are grateful for this service.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The management and staff of Ardscoil Mhuire would like to thank the Board of Management for their continued support, dedication and hard work in particular our parents representatives, Tracy Tobin and Mike McInerney.

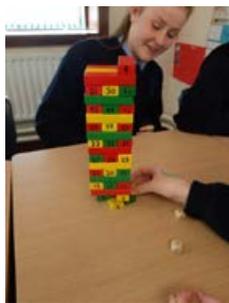
PARENTS COUNCIL

The AGM of the Ardscoil Mhuire's Parents Council took place on Tuesday, October 8th 2019. At the meeting we discussed the role of the Parent's Council and some ideas that we have moving forward into the New Year. The school annual Craft Fair, which is a fundraiser for the school, was also highlighted at this meeting and parents were asked to support and promote it by putting up posters and/or volunteer to help out on the night. This event was a great success, raising just over €2,000 for the school development fund. It is also hoped that one of our customary Bingo nights will be held early in the New Year. This is a wonderful community event and always enjoyed by all. Additionally, the annual Christmas

Carol singing will take place on Saturday 14th of December in the Crescent Shopping Centre. The proceeds from this are given to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society for distribution locally.

DIGITAL SUPPORT SESSION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

An information session for the parents/guardians of our students, entitled 'Digital Support Session for Parents/Guardians', took place in the school in October. It focused on assisting the parents/guardians of our students in dealing with issues such as navigating VSware and the school website, Google Apps for Education that their daughter is using in school, and accessing online safety resources. There was a great turnout on the night and a lovely atmosphere throughout as parents/guardians discovered new ways to support their daughter's education. A sincere thanks to Ms R. Hehir and Mr Huff for organising such a helpful event, that we hope to see happen again in the future.



NUMERACY WEEK

This year Numeracy/Maths Week took place from the 14th to the 18th of October. During this week Ardscoil Mhuire's student body got first-hand experience of the important part that numeracy plays in their lives. The week began

with a very enjoyable First Year Numeracy Quiz that was thoroughly enjoyed by the students who took part. Our Second and Third Year students enjoyed themselves at Numeracy through Sports events, while Fifth and Sixth Years utilised their numeracy skills to assist them in navigating the school during a very competitive Orienteering challenge. Students got involved in a Mangahigh challenge during maths class which involved them solving maths problems and competing in maths games online against other schools around the country. Problem of the Day also took place throughout the week and all year groups were encouraged to solve the problem correctly to win a prize. Well done to Ms Bailey for co-ordinating Numeracy Week and thank you to all staff involved and to our Transition Year students who helped run the events throughout the week.



LITERACY WEEK

We're hoping to promote a love of reading and writing, as well as developing crucial literacy skills during our annual Literacy Week in March! All staff and students will be invited to participate in a wide range of activities in class and on the corridors, culminating on World Book Day (5th of March 2019). The whole-school Reading Challenge, Word Scramble, and Conundrums are set to return, though you should expect a few new surprises too!

CREATIVITY WEEK

Creativity Week is in its fourth year in Ardscoil Mhuire and is getting bigger and better every year. Staff and students explored a range of creative practices in their classrooms. This year the theme was the 'Magic of Creativity'. The First Year students created a magical installation of haunted houses on our main corridor while Ms Hynan's Geography class created 3D models exploring volcanic eruptions. During this week the school also saw the return of the popular 'Black Out Poetry' competition and daily 'Mystery Art' competition. Artist Karen from Fabricate also visited the school and held a fantastic Halloween needle felting workshop with JCSP students while TY students engaged in a Narrative 4 workshop at the Hunt Museum. As always, the week was topped off on Friday with Mad Hair Day during which students arrived in costumes bursting with creativity. The students who produced the most creative costumes were presented with prizes. The staff joined the magical theme and dressed as teachers from Hogwarts school of Magic. It is always a colourful, magical, spooky and fun filled week at ASM. Roll on next year!



JCSP

The Junior Certificate Schools Programme at ASM is growing in numbers and opportunities. Students have already engaged with one of our many JCSP initiatives: 'Artist in the Classroom' with textile artist Karen Cunneen Bilbao from Fabricate. Other activities our students will be involved in this year include the popular 'Make a Book' exhibition, Numeracy Deep Dive in Maths and Science and a Home Economics fieldtrip. The JCSP students are working hard on their statements of learning throughout the year and we always look forward to our Christmas and Summer celebrations to acknowledge and celebrate all of their hard work.

SPORT

RUGBY

Both our schools Senior and Junior teams competed in the Ireland X7s competition this year. This is a 7 a side competition that involves teams from all over Ireland. Both teams qualified for the Munster finals, with the Senior team progressing to the All-Ireland finals in Dublin which will take place in the New Year. The Junior team, which is primarily comprised of 1st and 2nd Year students, lost out but showed great promise for the future. Both our Junior and Senior teams competed in the first 15 a side tournament of the season with the Senior team winning all their games. Several of Ardscoil Mhuire's past and current students have been selected for Munster u-18s panel. The school would like to congratulate Aoife Costello, Rebecca Collins, Aalyah Te Pou and Courtney Duhig on their wonderful achievement. Rugby training takes place every Tuesday evening and all students are welcome.



BASKETBALL

The basketball season in Ardscoil Mhuire began with our U16 team in early September. This was the teams first year at a higher grade level and they learned a great deal throughout the season. The team put in a huge effort in their cup game against St Josephs, Ballybunion. While on this occasion they were narrowly defeated, they showed great promise and determination. In their league games the team played excellently against Villiers and Mungret coming away with well-deserved victories but sadly lost out to Castletroy College and Hazelwood College, who proved stronger on the day. The basketball season for the 1st and second years starts early in the New Year and these teams are looking forward to their upcoming games. Basketball training takes place every Tuesday evening and all students are welcome.



ROWING

Rowing in ASM had a great start again this year with Transition Year and First Year students taking part in the 'Get Going Get Rowing' initiative. Both years will be finishing this program in early 2020 with teams entering the indoor rowing championships in U.L. in February. ASM students, who are members of local rowing clubs, will also be competing in school regattas in the coming months. We would like to wish them all well in their endeavours.

CAMOGIE

Junior camogie in ASM is going from strength to strength with great wins in the Limerick School's Camogie Blitz in Rathkeale earlier in the year. The group continues to train and will compete in a Limerick Junior Camogie League beginning in February.



SOCCER

Our 2018/19 First Year team had a very successful start to 2018 as they were crowned Limerick City and County Champions. The girls went on to represent Limerick in the Munster Championships in Waterford and came away in third place. The girls then went on to win the North Munster Cup beating Killarney 5-0. They put in a fantastic performance and the whole school community were very proud of them. Our current First Year team competed in a Futsal tournament in Limerick recently and came away with a win on the day beating their opponents 3-0. The girls had a fantastic day out and really enjoyed their first tournament representing ASM. Soccer training takes place every Wednesday evening and all students are welcome.



FIRST YEAR TRIP

Our first years travelled to Ballyhass Lakes in Mallow for a team bonding day. The activities included swimming in the aquapark, high ropes, cliff climbing and team challenges. The students thrived on every challenge. These fun activities afforded the First Year students the opportunity to engage in team building activities and develop on a personal and social level. This experience also enabled all First Year students to get to know each other better and make new friends. The foundations were laid for friendships which will last into the future.



CHOIR

Our school choir has been very active this term. The choir not only sang beautifully for Mercy Day mass, which was celebrated by Fr Leonard, but also performed next to the live crib at the school craft fair on the 22nd of November 2019. ASM's school choir were once again delighted to be invited to perform at a very special event, St Mary's Church Choral Recital, on the 11th of December. Our school choir, who represented us so well on the night by singing beautifully, were joined by the Guna's Choir from Killaloe. The choir was directed by Ms Clery and accompanied by Ms Cullen on the piano. On the 14th of December our students also sang in the Crescent Shopping Centre from 10am to 1pm. The aim of this event was to raise money for the poor of Limerick. Ardscoil Mhuire's students, parents, staff and retired staff raised €1000 and this money was presented to Michael Murphy from St Vincent De Paul on the 17th of December. A special thank you to Ms Hynan, Ms Nolan and Ms Curley for all their hard work in organising this charity event.



DEBATING

An encouraging start to the year for our ASM debaters. A record number of students have joined the Junior Debate Club and are building their confidence steadily whilst learning the art of argument through fun games and thought-provoking mock debates. A new aspect of Debate Club is the use of our school's chromebooks to engage in ethical research on some of our motions, allowing for respectful, fact-based debates. Members have even begun applying these methods to online communication using Google Classroom. All interested members will be taking turns on the team participating in the Edmund Rice Junior Debating Competition and are hoping to keep the cup in our school for a third straight year. We are hoping to see this wonderful competition begin in the New Year and wish the best of luck to all involved as the year progresses.

Our Concern Debates Team now has more members than ever before and meet regularly to discuss their research and planned speeches on topics as diverse as nuclear power, world hunger and the dark side of volunteering. At the end of the 2019/20 League Phase the team remains undefeated; most notably having earned an impressive unanimous win by defeating a contentious motion on the EU needing an army against a high quality team from Coláiste Muire, Ennis. Ciara Grimes (c), Jessica Rennicks, Megan Mullane and Katie Dumas represented us on the night. Lucy Bourke and Joanna Dimowska have also participated in competitive debates, whilst Tara McDonagh and Ellen Garcia Breen have contributed to original speeches.



We look forward to following the progress of all our debaters on Twitter via @ASMDebates.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

In November our school took part in 'Every School Day Counts', a TESS national attendance campaign for the month of November. The main focus of the campaign was to encourage and support school attendance.

Attendance matters and is directly connected with students achieving their academic potential. Activities included the following:

1. A poster competition which included the words of the campaign 'Every School Day Counts' and the ASM slogan 'Strive for Five'. Congratulations to all who participated and to the overall winners.
2. Attendance tracking involved students discussing with their class teacher the importance of attendance, that it is 'Not OK to be Away' together with tips for improving attendance for both students and parents. These included:
 - Good routine Get uniform and school bag ready the night before Set an alarm
 - Do homework at a set time or attend after school study
 - Have a breakfast as it helps concentration
 - Ensure a good night sleep
 - Turn off phone at least a half an hour before bedtime
 - Schedule necessary appointments outside school times
3. Attendance prizes included a €100 voucher for 100% attendance, a voucher worth €20 for improved attendance, selection boxes and merit cards. Congratulations to all the overall winners.

Finally, we hope the attendance campaign continues to improve our students attendance during this academic year. Please note if any parent/guardian wishes to discuss their daughter's attendance they can contact Ms R Hehir HSCL.



Gaelbhrathach

Tá an Gaelbhrathach faoi lán seol in Árd scoil Mhuire arís i mbliana agus eachtraí éagsúla idir lámha ag an gCoiste. Ghlacamar páirt i Margadh Na Scoile ar an 22ú Samhain. Shocraíomar Siopa Caife Ghaeilge agus dhíolamar tae, caife agus seacláid te. Bhaineamar taitneamh as an oíche agus bhí seans againn buailleadh le muintir na haite agus seans acu an teanga a chleachtadh.

The Gaelbhrathach has taken off in Árd scoil Mhuire again this year and our committee have lots of activities organised. We took part in the School Craft Fair on 22nd of November. The committee organised an Irish Coffee Shop and sold tea, coffee and hot chocolate. We really enjoyed meeting all the locals and they enjoyed practicing their “cúpla focal”!



An Triail

I Mí Dheireadh Fomhair, dhreastal daltaí na hÁrdteiste ar an dráma “An Triail” le Máiréad ní Ghráda sa Belltable. Deis iontach é seo chun dul i ngleic le scéal an dráma atá ar an gcúrsa i mbliana. Bhaineadar idir tairbhe agus taitneamh as. Árdmholadh ag dul do na haisteoirí ó Fíabín a chuir seo iontach ar siúl mar is ghnáth!



TRANSITION YEAR: September 2019-December 2020

The first term of Transition Year was a very productive and successful period during which the girls have been exposed to so many valuable learning experiences such as:

- Bonding trip to UL adventure centre in Mallow
- Develop Me Team Management Course
- Bridge to employment with Johnson and Johnson
- First Aid- Irish Red Cross First Aid Course
- Limerick Sports Partnership Coaching Course
- Careers Day
- Science Week Workshop
- Young Social Innovators – addressing social issues relevant to students.
- Gaisce overnight adventure journey to Kilfinane
- Interviews with Bank Of Ireland
- Fundraising – Bag packing
- Bingo
- Table Quiz
- Debating
- Public Speaking

- Garda Work Experience
- Defence Force work experience
- Make Up and Presentation Skills
- Gaisce
- Junior Achievement Programme
- Business Enterprise Development
- Work Experience
- “High School Musical” (School Musical)
- Financial Literacy Workshop
- Money Smart challenge
- Golf
- UL Digital Media
- Sign Language Course
- Visit to Hunt Museum
- Comedy show
- Shannon Hotel Catering taster day

All the girls have enjoyed their experience of Transition Year so far and are really looking forward to the term ahead.



PEER MENTORING 2018/19

Peer Mentoring has become an integral part of school life in Árd scoil Mhuire. The initiative was introduced in 2009, and has gone from strength to strength. The programme has undergone many changes and revisions to comprise the form it takes today.

Fifth year students volunteer to mentor first years and the result is a mutually beneficial link. The fifth years meet with the first years on arrival and help them with their books, lockers, timetables and finding their way around the new school. The mentors are included in our in-house transfer programme. They participate in this invaluable course, which assists new students in coping with the changes from primary to post primary.

www.asmlimerick.ie

The mentors meet with first years on a casual basis throughout the year, and act as a “go to” person. There are also organised activities for first years, which the mentors host, and build on the relationships established earlier in the year.

Mentors voluntarily make themselves available on public occasions, such as Open Night, when they greet visitors and answer queries about the school, its procedures and structures.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday the 6th of January 2020 – The start of ASM’s Mental Health Week.
- Tuesday the 4th to Friday the 14th of February 2020 – Junior and Leaving Certificate Pre-Examinations.
- Monday the 10th to Friday the 14th of February 2020 – ASM’s Safer Internet Week (Safer Internet Day, ASM’s #BeInCtrl Event on Tuesday the 11th).
- Monday the 2nd to Friday the 6th of March 2020 – ASM’s Literacy Week and start of Reading Challenge (World Book Day on Thursday the 5th).
- Friday the 6th of March 2020 – International Women’s Day (events for students).
- Tuesday the 4th to Friday the 8th of May 2020 – Interview Week for current Transition Year students.
- Monday the 25th to Friday the 29th of May 2020 – Summer Examinations.

A full timetable of upcoming events can be accessed on our website, www.asmlimerick.ie.

