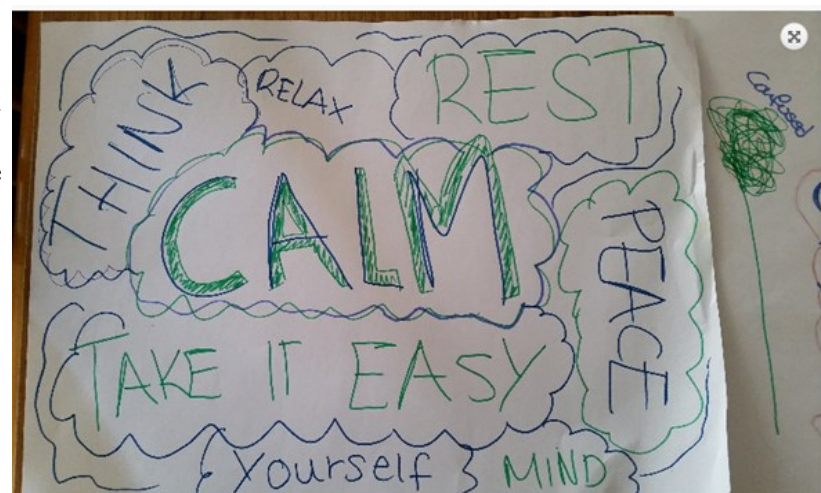


5th & 2nd Year students engage with the Breathe Project

Close to 160 students and 50 staff at Scoil Uí Mhuirí have engaged with the Breathe Programme this term.

Breathe is a programme developed to raise awareness around well-being and positive mental health for young people. It will help improve the social and emotional lives of students. It will question our assumptions about suicide prevention and teach communication, listening, and coping skills to help create a closer community. Teachers learn how to keep the project alive in their own subject areas and use it in a positive way to engage students in lessons.



Students are encouraged to Pause, Breathe and Play to help them cope with different situations but also to help them to become more self-aware. Throughout the Breathe workshops, students are encouraged to express themselves through different artistic mediums be it drawing, modeling, poetry, rap or theatre. This can help them cope better when mistakes happen as a natural part of learning/life and they will be better able to control themselves and handle their frustrations in positive ways. Since students benefit from emotional training to grow into productive, satisfied adults this workshop shows them how they can take some ownership of the process.

The workshop is set in a school environment but with a facilitator rather than a teacher which helps students to be more open to the new ideas that are being introduced. If good relationships are formed with the facilitator and the students feel they are in a safe environment it also encourages students to be open and honest as other more difficult subjects are talked about. The workshop is paced to suit the groups being work with very much aimed and engaging all students in the process. Students loved the way the workshops were a mix of art, photography, storytelling and drama.

The teacher workshop is aimed at keeping the project alive through the school connecting the ideas given to the students in everyday classes. They look at ways of encouraging students to work in the here and now, showing how they can be more productive, co-operative and enjoy the learning experience. By using some of the material that has been generated in the workshops the facilitator shows how student communicate and also highlights what are the students ways of relaxing, important points of view and feelings. Simple short exercises that can be completed at the start or end of a class period are shown to teachers to highlight how these simple activities can encourage positive frame of mind during class time. Some teaching staff have been putting these activities to good use in the classroom.

Student of the Month Awards 2014/2015

Congratulations to our Student of the Month Award Winners for September, October and November 2014.

They are as follows: September 2014, Evan Whelan and Shane Reilly, October 2014, Enya Costello and Aideen Byrne, November 2014 Louise Mc Donnell and Caitriona Phillips.

A sincere thanks to Dunleer Parish Credit Union for their sponsorship of these awards throughout the school year.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí
Post Primary School

Christmas Newsletter 2014



Scoil Uí Mhuirí High Achievers honoured at LMETB Awards

Friday 5th September 2014 was a special evening for three students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer who received awards for outstanding performance in the Leaving Certificate Examinations 2014. With a student population of over 650 students Ms. Kindlon, Principal stated that the collective results of all students were excellent but Friday 5th provided an opportunity to award the highest male achiever, Samuel Mc Keown, the highest female achiever, Karen Byrne and the LCA student of the Year, Jamie Murphy.

Ms. Kindlon explained that during their time in the school, these students were exemplary students who were enthusiastic, talented, focused and committed and who consistently worked to a very high standard. They excelled in academic and non academic areas both within and outside school. They brought enthusiasm to all aspects of Scoil Uí Mhuirí life and they were always willing to help in whatever way they could. Their teachers considered them to be excellent students who were a pleasure to have in the classroom. They were well respected among management, staff and students at Scoil Uí Mhuirí and at all times were found to be caring, courteous, co-operative, reliable and helpful young people.

Ms. Kindlon congratulated the students on their achievements to date and wished them well in the future as they head off to college. Karen is taking up a place in NUIM studying Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Jamie will take up a place in OFI to do a Creative Media Course and Samuel will walk through those famous Trinity gates to study a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics.

Ms. Kindlon also paid tribute to the students' teachers for their efforts in ensuring that Scoil Uí Mhuirí's students avail of high quality teaching and learning thus enabling them to progress their career when they complete their Leaving Certificate.

Congrats to all, a very proud moment for the students, their families, their teachers and the wider Scoil Uí Mhuirí community.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí on Twitter

For regular updates and the latest news please follow Scoil Uí Mhuirí on Twitter:
@ScoilUiMhuiri



Scoil Uí Mhuirí Inaugural Christmas Fair

On Friday 12 December 2014, the Student Council, along with their Liaison Teacher, Ms. Caroline Murphy were delighted to host the school's Inaugural Christmas Fair for students, staff, parents and members of the local community. This event was a combined effort on the part of many of the subject departments across the school.

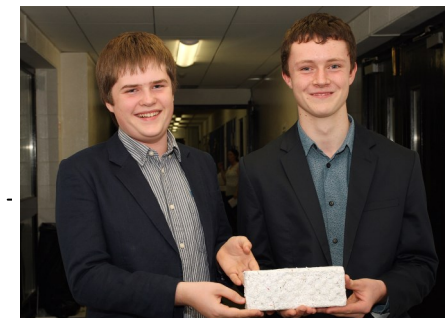
Those attending had opportunities to enter raffles, pick from a lucky dip of prizes, purchase arts and crafts, Christmas logs, wood products, sample some French, German and Spanish traditional foods and enjoy some hot chocolate while listening to our wonderful choir and musical groups.

All proceeds from the event are going towards a new lunch area for students which we hope to have up and running in August 2015.

Sincere thanks to all those who donated spot prizes for the event including our Parents Association. Pictured above is Ms. Caroline Murphy and the organising committee comprising Student Council members. Well done to all – another Scoil Uí Mhuirí success story.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Annual TY Dragons Den Event



Many thanks to our Business Dragons who attended our TY Dragons Den Event in the school on Monday 20th October 2014. This year's Dragons included: Mr. Thomas Clare, Mr. Joe Torris, Mr. Michael Durnin, Mr. David Duffy, Ms. Anne Reilly, Ms. Clare Dowdall, Ms. Jenny Mc Donald, Mr. Jim Dunne and Ms. Peggy Mc Glynn.

The event was organised by Ms. Martina Farrell and provides students with a chance to pitch their business idea with a view to sourcing funding for their mini companies. Once again this year, the Dragons commented on the high standard of viable business ideas and presentations made on the evening.



Dragons Den's Gavin Duffy Opens TY Trade Fair



Enterprise Week at Scoil Uí Mhuirí got off to a great start with Dragon's Den Entrepreneur, Gavin Duffy coming to the school to meet with the TY students and staff and to officially open the TY Trade Fair on Monday 1 December 2014. Gavin spoke with the TY students regarding successful entrepreneurship in action in Dunleer and also encouraged all students to consider developing their business ideas even further in the future. Gavin also visited each of the mini company stands and met with the students and asked them for a description of their business idea and the reason why they came up with those particular ideas.

First Years commence at Scoil Uí Mhuirí bringing student enrolment to over 650....

At present, Scoil Uí Mhuirí has an enrolment of over 650 students. We were delighted to welcome our 1st Year students in August 2014 and we look forward to working with them over the next 5/6 Years.

On their first day in Scoil Uí Mhuirí they were welcomed by Ms. Kindlon, Principal, Mr. Ray Donagh, Deputy Principal and Mr. Declan Clarke, 1st Year Year Head.

They also had opportunities to meet with their mentors, a group of Senior students who will work with them over their 1st Year at the school to help ease the transfer and transition.



Technology Subjects Week at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Technology Subjects Week took place at the school from Monday 22nd September 2014 to Friday 26th September 2014. A range of activities took place including visits to local enterprises, visiting speakers, wood carving workshops, display of student projects and the launch of the Glen Dimplex/Scoil Uí Mhuirí 5th Year Technology Scholarship for 2015.



Peter John and Marvin awarded at ETTA National Conference

Scoil Uí Mhuirí students Peter John Hanratty and Marvin Reid were both awarded certificates of distinction in this year's National Technology Awards. Their success was in recognition of their outstanding work in the Design and Manufacture of their coursework for the 2013 Junior Certificate Examinations in Technology. Congratulations to both students for qualifying for the National awards by winning in the area finals, which took place between all schools in Louth, Meath, Monaghan and Cavan.

The National Technology Awards for 2014 was held at the Glen Royal Hotel, Maynooth in November 2014.

The awards ceremony is an important part of the Engineering and Technology Teachers Association's (ETTA) National Conference. ETTA recognises excellence in student performance in the State Examinations.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Child Protection Policy 2014/2015

The Board of Management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí has adopted fully and without modification the Department of Education and Skills Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary schools as part of the school's overall Child Protection Policy.

The Board of Management of the school has appointed Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal, as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Mr. Ray Donagh, Deputy Principal as the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL). The DLP will continue to act as a liaison with outside agencies and as a resource person to any staff member or volunteer who has child protection concerns.



Literacy Week at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Inaugural Literacy Week took place from Monday 15th September to Friday 19th September 2014. A range of activities took place all aimed at promoting Literacy Awareness and Development. These included: a workshop from Creative Writer Barbara Smith, Spelling Bee Competition, Book Cover design competition, visit from Mr. Kevin Sweeney, journalist with Irish Times to talk to students about Journalism, Games Room, Literacy Tree Development and the Launch of our DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Initiative for the 2014/2015 academic year. Our DEAR Initiative will continue each Thursday throughout the school year.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí's students excel in State Examinations 2014



Scoil Uí Mhuirí's students excel in State Examinations 2014

There was great excitement in Scoil Uí Mhuirí on Wednesday 13th August 2014 and Wednesday 10th September 2014 when the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate classes of 2014 collected their results. Once again this year, our students have excelled and the collective results of all our examination students are outstanding. Achievements like this demonstrate that commitment and hard work on the part of students is rewarded by fantastic results. In general there was a marked increase in the numbers of students taking higher level papers in a range of subjects and this is a trend that should continue in the future.

Exceptional results were achieved in a range of subjects. A number of our Leaving Certificate students achieved well over 500 points and are currently pursuing courses and careers in a range of areas. Our Junior Certificate students have progressed to Senior Cycle where they are engaging in either Transition Year, the Established Leaving Certificate, the Leaving Certificate Applied or the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

An analysis of the school's Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate results has been completed by school management and subject departments and comparisons have been made with last year's results both locally and nationally.

We would like to once again congratulate our students on their wonderful results and to publicly acknowledge and thank the highly committed, supportive and professional teaching staff at the school for the hard work they have done with our students in preparation for these examinations.



Laura Byrne, 5 Tyndall remembers Irish Based Holocaust Survivor Tomi Reichental's visit to Scoil Uí Mhuirí this term....

Tomi Reichental came to our school, as he has done with many others, to tell a story. A story of a boy who was born in 1935 in Piestany, Slovakia. A story of a boy who was deported to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in the cold November of 1944, by way of cattle car, like livestock heading for slaughter. He told us the story of a boy who, made of nothing but skin and bone, played amongst the piles of bodies with his elder brother. He told us of the horrors that the boy, only nine years of age, had to face, the sight of the bodies found against the electric fences where they had thrown themselves of hopes of escaping their misery, or of those who collapsed, unbeknownst to anyone as to whether they would get up again. He told us of the boy who lost thirty-five members of his family to the Holocaust.



Tomi Reichental told us the story of the boy who was liberated in April 1945. His story.

Cian & Sam awarded Lennon Cup GAA All Stars 2014



The GAA Lennon Cup All Star Awards is now in its third year and has been gaining in prestige and recognition and is now a much sought after accolade for Senior Colleges Players.

This year, four Scoil Uí Mhuirí students Enda Mc Kenna, 5th Year, Darren Mc Mullan, 6th Year, Cian Callan, 6th Year and Sam Mulroy, 6th Year were nominated for these awards. Students, staff and members of the Scoil Uí Mhuirí community were invited to vote for our students via the online voting system via the Argus and Drogheda Independent websites.



Through a combination of judging panel and online voting, we were delighted to receive the news that Cian Callan and Sam Mulroy made it through this highly competitive process and received All Star Awards for 2014.

The 15 winning All-Stars were presented with a sponsored DkIT Lennon Cup All-Star Jersey by All Ireland Medal Winner and two times All Star Oisín McConville who currently manages the DkIT Senior Football Team.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Annual TY Dragons Den Event



Christmas Trade Fair 12 December 2014



3 Oak Visit Collon Animal Sanctuary

On 9th December, 3 Oak visited Collon Animal Sanctuary as part of the concept of Stewardship on the CSPE Programme. They decided to put together a hamper of food for the animals and bring it over on the day. This was gratefully accepted because it is a voluntary run sanctuary which relies heavily on donations. While they were there they learned about the history of some of the animals who have been there a very long time. They saw a hand-reared fox and also two snakes. There were some lovely pets for adoption which some of the students became very fond of!!! It was a wonderful experience to spend the afternoon at Collon Animal Sanctuary. 3 Oak obtained lots of information about animals and the Sanctuary itself. Well done to all of 3 Oak for their generous donations of food for the animals.



3 Oak Student Luke Halpenny reports on Garda Kevin Conway's visit to 3 Oak CSPE Class



On the 29th of September, Kevin Conway (a local Garda based in Dunleer) visited our class 3 Oak to talk about the law. He started the talk by answering some questions that the students had prepared. He joined the force in 1991 and has spent 16 years working in Dunleer. He told us about the various types of guards, like frontline guards, detectives, dog handlers and many more.

He went on to talk about some laws in relation to Halloween. He explained why fireworks are illegal, bonfires and bangers like black cats. He explained how they are very dangerous and bad for people. He talked about his uniform and what it consists of: Steel toe boots, protective clothing, uniform belt containing a baton, pepper spray, hand-

cuffs and his phone.

He then talked about some other illegal activities, like assault, property damage, endangering traffic and disrupting a guard. Depending on the seriousness of the crime you can get a fine or a prison sentence.

Later he talked about drugs – what they are, where they come from and how dangerous they are. He explained how you can be prevented from entering certain countries if you have been arrested for drugs. He ended off with this statement which I thought was great: “If your parents wouldn't want you doing something, it's probably illegal.”



Scoil Uí Mhuirí Website

For regular updates and the latest news please log on to our Scoil Uí Mhuirí website:
www.scoiluimhuiri.ie



Athletics Success

There was a very large entry at the Leinster Schools Athletics combined events in the Athlone IT indoor arena on Wednesday 22nd October, making it a long day for everyone but the Scoil Uí Mhuirí students enjoyed every minute!

The girls participated in the 60m hurdles, high jump, long jump, shot putt and 800m, while the boys took part in the 60m hurdles, 200m, long jump, shot putt and 800m.

Liam Fussey and Seoda Matthews were top finishers for the school, with Liam 13th in the Intermediate boys and Seoda 6th in the junior girls. Liam had a personal best in the 800m (2.23.75) while Seoda's personal best was in the long jump (4.49m).

The minor boys also did very well with Conor Matthews leading the boys in 15th place, Daniel Shoroye in 20th, Ben Mullen 27th, Noah Mc Carthy Dunne 29th out of 41 competitors.

The minor girls were all competing in athletics competition for the first time and did brilliantly to manage all of these technical events after 6 weeks training. The minor girls were led home by Nicola Bolger in 27th, with Niamh Farrelly, Yele Taylor and Abbie Kearney all doing very well to finish in the top 30.



Louise and Jessica have recipe for success!

Congratulations to Louise Mc Donnell and Jessica Mc Grane, 3rd Year students who won first place in the Taste of Louth 'Best Tasting Cupcake Category' held in the Marshes Shopping Centre, Dundalk recently.



Themed Weeks at Scoil Uí Mhuirí Term 1

This term we have a series of themed weeks which have been organised to focus students' attention on particular subjects and national awareness campaigns. The relevant themed week team develop a range of activities over the week to raise awareness and bring about learning, including guest speakers, workshops, seminars, competitions, thoughts of the day, etc. To date this year we have had weeks for Study Skills, Literacy, Anti Bullying, Science Mathematics, Technology Subjects, Enterprise Week and Road Safety Awareness Week. Further themed weeks scheduled for 2015 include Positive Mental Health Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Intercultural Week, Active Schools Week, Green Schools Week and Safer Internet Week. We will have more information on these in our Easter Newsletter 2015.