

## International Educational Outings for 2015/2016

Planning is currently underway for a series of International Educational Outings for the 2015/2016 academic year. These outings have been ratified by our Board of Management and the coordinating teachers have been gathering deposits and allocating places on the trips. Each proposal for International Educational Outings must be presented to the Board of Management outlining the purpose of the trip, the links to the curriculum which students are engaging with in school, the skills and qualities students will develop while engaging in the trip and the processes for review and evaluation of the outings.

As in other years the demand for places normally exceeds supply and additional applications will be placed on a waiting list should a student withdraw from their allocated place. As in other years, students behaviour and attitude in school is considered as one of the many factors when allocating places. We would like to thank those teachers who give up of their personal and family time to facilitate these learning experiences for our students. Prior to departure for each international outing an information session for students and their parents is held in the school.

Outings currently being planned include a Business Trip to London at Easter 2015, History/Geography trip to Poland in October 2015, German Exchange in December 2015 and Skiing Trip to Austria at Easter 2016. The leaders for the Educational Outings are Ms. Farrell (London), Ms. Finnegan (Poland), Ms. Matthews (German Exchange) and Ms. Lyons (Austria).

We will be using our new online payments system for these International Educational Outings and details concerning same will be forwarded to parents/guardians.

## Reminder School Transport Applications 2015/2016

Applications for school transport for the school year 2015/16 can now be made with Bus Éireann on [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie). The closing date for applications for school year 2015/16 is Friday, 24 April 2015. Please note that only new pupils need apply, for example pupils starting Primary school or pupils moving to Post Primary school in Autumn 2015. Payments for next school year 2015/16 cannot be made until July 2015, this applies to both existing pupils and new applicants. Details of all existing pupils who currently hold tickets are already recorded and the email address provided in the registration process previously will be used to communicate with families in July when it is time to pay the school transport charges for 2015/16.



## Scoil Uí Mhuirí HSCL Parents Newsletter Easter 2015

### Welcome from Mr. Declan Clarke, Home School Community Liaison Officer

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of the HSCL Parents Newsletter.

The aim of the newsletter is to keep parents informed of developments in the school as well as providing advice and encouraging participation in various school initiatives. We hope that you find the newsletter useful and we would welcome any suggestions that you might have regarding future editions. I would like to thank Ms. Kindlon, all of the staff and the Parents Association for supporting and contributing to this Newsletter. Our Parents Association will have a page in this edition and in future newsletters. Students will continue to have a separate newsletter which also issues at Christmas, Easter and the Summer breaks.

If I can be of any support and assistance to you, please feel free to contact me directly on 087-6117987 or email me at [dclarke.sum@lmetb.ie](mailto:dclarke.sum@lmetb.ie).



### LCA 1 Students demonstrate their Cookery Skills at JCSP Coffee Morning

On 13th February 2015, a Coffee Morning was held for the students and parents of our JCSP Programme (JCSP). The JCSP is a national programme of the Department of Education and Skills. On completion of the Programme JCSP students receive a profile which is an official record of their achievements from the Department of Education and Skills. This profile is in addition to their Junior Certificate results.



Refreshments for the morning comprising cheesecakes, banoffee, cream cakes and finger food were made by our LCA 1 students and indeed all in attendance were extremely impressed with the culinary skills of our senior students! Thanks to Ms. Gemma Murphy, Home Economics Department and Ms. Lorraine Duffy, JSCP Co-ordinator for co-ordinating the event.



## Communication with Parents

The school has introduced a new texting system for parents to keep them informed of developments in the school. Please ensure that the school has an up to date mobile number at all times to ensure that you are receiving these messages.

The school website, [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie) contains more information and communication relevant to parents. General notices and letters for parents will be uploaded to the Parents Tab of the website.

Our School Trips Facebook page and our school Twitter page @ScoilUiMhuiri are also proving popular among our parent community for up to date information on activities happening in the school on a daily basis. You can access these via our school website or you can also befriend us on twitter!!



## Parent Teacher Meetings 2014/2015

The Parent/Teacher meeting provides you with an opportunity to meet with your son's/daughter's teachers and to discuss how they are progressing in school. It is important that you attend these meetings. The Home School Community Liaison Officer liaises with parents/guardians prior to these meetings to encourage all to attend. The PTM's run from 4.15pm to 6.45pm.

Attendance at Parent Teacher Meetings this year has been very good. Attendance at all of the PTMs from First to Sixth Year have improved from last year. The best attended this academic year was the First Year PTM with 83%, followed by 3rd Year with 79 %, 5th Year with 76 %, 6<sup>th</sup> Year had 74 %, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year with 73 % and finally TY had 71% attendance. This strong interest from parents augurs well for the future, as all education research points to the fact that the more interest parents show in their son's/daughter's education, the more effort will be put in by the students.

If there is something concerning you about your child in Scoil Uí Mhuirí, don't hesitate to make an appointment with the relevant Year Head or the Home School Liaison Coordinator. They are as follows: 1st Year Year Head & HSCL Co-ordinator: Mr. Declan Clarke; 2nd Year Year Head : Ms. Kathryn Shannon; 3rd Year Year Head: Ms. Maire Conneely; TY Year Head: Ms. Miriam Howard; 5th Year Year Head: Mr. Martin Cassidy and 6th Year Year Head: Ms. Fiona Ni Conaill.

## After School Study for 3rd & 6th Years

After School Study for 3rd & 6th Year students takes place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. This facility is continuing to the end of the school year.

For further information contact Claire in the school office on 041 6851344.



## Themed Weeks at Scoil Uí Mhuirí



Throughout the school year, 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.

During this term our themed weeks schedule continued with Seachtain Na Gaeilge, Intercultural Week and Green Schools

Week. Positive Mental Health Week and Active Schools Week will take place after Easter. This year we will be linking with the local community in organising and facilitating a Dunleer Positive Mental Health Week. More information on this to follow.

Please talk to your son/daughter about the impact these have had on their outlook on the particular topic.

## New Board of Management Parent Reps for Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's current Board of Management's term of office is coming to an end given the amalgamation of Louth VEC and Meath VEC in July 2013 to form Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB). The Principal wrote to parents recently inviting nominations for the positions of female (one) and male (one) representatives for the new Board of Management.



We are delighted to announce that the new Parent Representatives for the next Board of Management are Ms. Frances Kirwan and Mr. Neil Cooney. We look forward to working with Frances and Neil moving forward and we would like to thank our outgoing Parent Representatives Ms. Terri Callan and Mr. Peter Keane for their work on the Board of Management over the past number of years.

## Information Session for Parents/Guardians of Incoming 1st Yrs student 15/16

As our incoming 1st Years 2015/2016 took their Assessment Tests on Saturday morning 7 February 2015, an information session and coffee morning for their parents and guardians took place in the school. During this session presentations were made by the Principal, Deputy Principal, HSCLO, Guidance Counsellor, SEN Co-ordinator, SCP Project Worker and the incoming 1st Year Year Head Ms. Fiona Ni Chonaill. We were delighted to welcome Ms. Antoinette Rourke, Chairperson of the Parents Association who also gave an account of her journey as a Scoil Uí Mhuirí parent with her daughter now in 3rd Year and preparing for the Junior Certificate Examinations. We were delighted with the large attendance at this session and we look forward to working with our new parents over the coming years.

### *New Walking Group for Parents/Guardians/Past Pupils*



Parents/Guardians and former students are invited to join a new walking group which will take place on Wednesday mornings, commencing on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

This will start at 10.30am and return to the school around 11.30am. It will give those participating an opportunity to make new friends and enjoy doing some exercise.

There will be light refreshments afterwards in the parents' room. Anyone interested can contact Declan Clarke at 087-6117987 or just arrive on the day.

### *Parents Classes Commence*

LMETB's Community Education Department has sanctioned two courses for the parents and guardians of students. The first course is in Art which commenced on Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

The second course is in Carpentry and it will also take place on Wednesdays from 12.25pm to 2.25pm, but the start date is yet to be confirmed for this.

Both courses will run for five weeks, both are free and places are now available on a first come, first served basis. Places can be reserved by texting the HSCL Co-ordinator, Declan Clarke, at 087-6117987. The current ICT class has proven to be very popular, and is progressing well. The school would like to express its thanks to Tutor Ann Gallagher and Community Education Organiser, Sinead Fearon.



### *Senior Cycle Options Night 2015*

A Senior Cycle Options Information Session for Parents/Guardians and students from 3<sup>rd</sup> Year & TY took place in the school on Wednesday 25 March at 7pm. The schedule for the evening was as follows:

7.00 pm – 7.30 pm	Presentation on the TY Programme
7.30 pm – 8.00 pm	Leaving Certificate Subject Options & the LCVP
8.00 pm – 8.30 pm	Presentation on the LCA
8.30pm	Question & Answer Session

The evening was facilitated by Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal, Mr. Ray Donagh, Deputy Principal, Mr. Aiden Matthews, Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Rachel Mc Garrigle, Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Miriam Howard, TY & LCVP Co-ordinator and Mr. Alan Hurley, LCA Co-ordinator.

Prior to the Information Session a Senior Cycle Options Booklet was distributed to students.

**The closing date for Subject Options Forms for 5th Year and TY and LCA Applications is Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 3pm.**

**Senior Cycle Curriculum**

### *Parents Association 2014/2015*

#### *New Logo for Scoil Uí Mhuirí Parents Association*

The Parents Association invited entries from the school's Art students for a new PA logo. The winning entry that was chosen depicts a human pyramid reflecting the partnerships between students, parents and teachers which are at the heart of Scoil Uí Mhuirí school life.

The Parents' Association would like to thank Ms. Deirdre Harrington, Art Department for co-ordinating and organising the entries. The winning entry was created by Eoghan Collier, and the runners up were Claire Carron, Donna Farrelly, Niamh Sweeney and Aoife Gallagher.



The winning entry is currently with the printers and will be visible at school events in the future. Congrats to Eoghan and all students who submitted entries to the competition.

#### *Diet and Nutrition Talk for Parents & Students*



A number of studies have shown that diet has a significant impact on exam performance. With this in mind, the Parents Association have organised a food and cookery demonstration on good nutrition which will take place in the school at 7pm on April 15<sup>th</sup> next.

All parents and students are welcome and the event is free, but we would ask that in order to facilitate planning for the event that you would confirm your attendance with the school at 041-6851344 or by texting the Home School Liaison co-ordinator, Declan Clarke, at 087-6117987.

#### *Parents Association Support Green Mile Event*

We were delighted to launch our Inaugural Green Mile Event during Seachtain na Gaeilge this year. This was a collaborative event between students, staff and the Parents Association. Close to 250 1st and 2nd Year students participated in the event with members of the Parents Association, Antoinette Rourke, Chairperson and Neil Cooney, Secretary in attendance to kick start the event. The Parents Association have kindly offered to match the funds raised from the event by the school and all proceeds will go towards purchasing a second defibrillator for the school.



#### *Parents Association Officers 2014/2015*

The following officers were elected at the AGM for the 2014/2015 academic year: **Chairperson:** Antoinette Rourke, **Assistant Chairperson:** Pauline Butterly, **Secretary:** Neil Cooney, **Treasurer:** John McConville & **PRO:** Mairead Elmaadi.