



# *Scoil Uí Mhuirí Summer Newsletter 2016*



## *Scoil Uí Mhuirí students, staff and parent gather for Awards Night 2016*

On Wednesday 18th May, students, staff and parents gathered in the school gym at 7pm for the school's first evening Awards Ceremony. The Awards Ceremony is one of the key events in the school calendar as it provides the school with an opportunity to recognise and celebrate students' achievements and successes during the academic year. The range of awards presented on the evening reflected all aspects of school life in Scoil Uí Mhuirí, curricular, co-curricular and extra curricular. Compere for the evening was 6th Year student, Jack Rogers and musical interludes were provided throughout the ceremony by Katie Hockey, Jack Rogers, Una Carroll, Aisling Shannon, Nicole Reynolds and Ciaran Campbell.



Once again, 2015/2016 has been an enormously successful year for Scoil Uí Mhuirí and the Scoil Uí Mhuirí community can take great pride in the range of achievements both academic and non academic over the past year. Over 200 awards were presented during the ceremony and Ms. Kindlon, Principal stated "We are really proud of our students' achievements and we wish them continued success in the years ahead both in school and outside of it as well. Our students' achievements bring great joy and a huge sense of pride to the school, their families and the local community. We encourage all Scoil Uí Mhuirí students to maintain their exemplary performance in the coming school year."



Ms. Kindlon also paid tribute to the staff, both teaching and non-teaching at Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Our teachers are extremely committed to our students, their welfare and their learning. They have worked so hard throughout the year to ensure that our students achieve their full potential, whatever that may be and they have also given of their free time at breaktimes, lunchtimes, after school, during mid term breaks and holidays to ensure that our students have opportunities to avail of and participate in a variety of extra curricular activities.



Ms. Kindlon also thanked the Parents Association for their work during the 2015/2016 academic year and thanked officers, Ms. Antoinette Rourke, Chairperson and Mr. Neil Cooney, Secretary, for their attendance at the awards ceremony and for the Parents Association prizes including vouchers for students with full attendance and a bursary towards college for a senior student who had full attendance over her five years at the school. Details of Awards winners will be published in our Annual Report which will issue after the October mid term break.



The school also extended a special word of thanks to all sponsors for their continued support and commitment to the students, staff and management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí throughout the academic year. This year awards were sponsored by Glen Dimplex, Dunleer Parish Credit Union, the Sound Shop/TLT Drogheda, Bank of Ireland, Hoey's Timber, Cregal Art Supplies, Navan Bookshop, Topflight, Rumbles Catering, Allergen, Collon WW1 Museum, LAN consulting and An Taisce . The range of awards presented included Student of the Year, Full Attendance, Subject Specific Awards, Athletics, Gaelic, Basketball, Swimming, Debating, Student Council, Gaeltacht Scholarships, Green Schools, Scoil Uí Mhuirí Academic and Spirit Awards and the LMETB Civic and Community Spirit Award to name but a few.

Towards the end of the evening Ms. Kindlon also paid tribute to the CEO Mr. Peter Kierans who will retire at the end of the school year. A presentation was made to the CEO by Jack Rogers on behalf of the Scoil Uí Mhuirí community. We wish Mr. Kierans a very healthy, happy and enjoyable retirement and thank him for his continued support for our work at Scoil Uí Mhuirí since the amalgamation of Louth and Meath VEC's in July 2013.



## Scoil Uí Mhuirí Annual Awards Ceremony 2016



*Congratulations to all our Award Winners 2016*

## TY Graduation & Awards Night 2016





# Dunleer Parish Credit Union sponsor revamp of Student Canteen Facilities

I'm sure all students will never forget the day they entered our redesigned student canteen after their Easter holidays, fully equipped with new flooring, new doors and proper canteen tables, described by one of our senior students as 'a miracle'!

Our canteen has now been transformed from a dark, cold, tired and dated space with classroom tables and chairs to a proper canteen facility with new flooring, new doors and new purpose designed canteen tables and pod seating for students. It is now heartening to see students sitting having their break and lunch at proper canteen tables, enjoying their free time while chatting with their friends in an environment which is bright, spacious and comfortable. All of this would not have been possible without the financial support from the local Credit Union.

Feedback from all members of the Scoil Uí Mhuirí community has been extremely positive.

We were delighted to welcome Emmet Coulter, Frankie Clare, Maura Callaghan and Sinead Carron from Dunleer Parish Credit Union to the school on Thursday 19th May 2016 to view the new Student Canteen Area. Emmet, Frankie, Maura and Sinead met with Ms. Kindlon, Mr. Donagh and members of the Student Council at the school.

An official opening of the new facility is being planned for the new school year. On behalf of the LMETB, the Board of Management, Parents Association, students, staff and parents of Scoil Uí Mhuirí, we would like to thank all members of Dunleer Parish Credit Union most sincerely for their considerable funding towards the re development of student canteen facilities at Scoil Uí Mhuirí. It is greatly appreciated.



## Green Schools Week 2016

During our Annual Green Schools Week, students engaged in a short quiz each morning. The courtyard garden was prepared with plants and shrubs in advance of Green Schools Week and was open during break and lunch times for students to relax, have their lunch and chat with their friends. The committee also ran an art competition where students were asked to design a poster based on the theme of 'Travel' or 'Be Safe, be Seen'. Wednesday morning was a 'Walk on Wednesday' event. This initiative encouraged students who normally get dropped up to the school by car, to be dropped off at the statue opposite Shearman's and walk the short distance to school. The aim of this was to determine if it would be viable to have a regular 'Walk on Wednesday' in order to reduce congestion at the gates of the school (as well as get a bit of fresh air in the mornings). Globands, bag tags and stickers were distributed to the walkers.

On Thursday it was time for a treasure hunt at break time and Friday was quiz time for the 1st Years. A lot of work was put in by the committee on planning a very successful week and well done to all. Pictured above is Aaliyah Flood receiving her Green Schools Contribution Award from Ms. Gorman.



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*Congratulations to all our Award Winners 2016*



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## Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Inaugural Autism Awareness Week 2016



We were delighted to introduce so many changes to Scoil Uí Mhuirí in 2015/2016 including the opening of An Chrannóg for students with Autism.

In April 2016 we hosted our Inaugural Autism Awareness Week with the highlight for many that very colourful bake sale at the end of the week where students lined up in long queues at the door to make their purchases and what a result as a massive €1500 was raised for An Chrannóg and Autism related charities.

During the week, the corridors had some lovely displays of 1st Year student artwork with interesting Autism myths and facts. A sponsored walk/run with first year students took place on the Tuesday and a bake sale for staff and students was held on Friday. During SPHE classes that week, SPHE teachers facilitated discussion around Autism and we were delighted that a team of our senior students facilitated presentations to our junior classes on autism awareness and understanding.

The senior students also made a presentation to the full staff on their work with the Junior students and were complimented by the staff on this innovative approach to creating an awareness and understanding of Autism among the wider school community.

The students involved are pictured to the right receiving an award for their work from Ms. Kelly on Awards Night. They are: Aoife Torris, Karlie King, Kayleigh McHugh, Aoife Smyth, Nicole Connor, Jasmine Maher, Shauna Sullivan and Jessica Sullivan.



Everyone has worked collaboratively to ensure that An Chrannóg had the best opening possible in a post primary school setting and congrats to Ms. Kelly and our SNAs Debbie, Claire, Caroline and Anita and our teaching staff in this regard.

## 6th Year Graduation Ceremony 2016

Wednesday 25th May 2016 was a very special day for our 6th Year students as they celebrated their Graduation from Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Throughout the morning a series of activities were planned for the 6th Years including a talk on the appropriate use of Social Media by Wayne Denner.

On Wednesday evening 25th May 2016, our 6th Year students, their Parents/Guardians and Scoil Uí Mhuirí staff members gathered in St. Brigid's Church Dunleer for our 6th Year Graduation Ceremony. The evening provided us with an opportunity to honour our 6th Year students and congratulate them on their hard work, commitment, dedication and achievements during their time at Scoil Uí Mhuirí.



Towards the end of the evening the students were presented with their Graduation Certificate by Ms. Kindlon, Principal, Mr. Donagh, Deputy Principal and Mr. Cassidy, Year Head. We would like to thank all students and staff members involved in preparing for this special occasion. We wish our 6th Year students every success in their examinations and we look forward to welcoming them back to the school in August 2016 to collect their Leaving Certificate Results.



## TY Musical 2016 'Sister Act'



TY students took to the stage on Thursday 19th May 2016 for their musical 'Sister Act'. Students had spent a number of months rehearsing for the musical under the guidance of Ms. Howard, Ms. Shields, Ms. Morrison Reilly, Ms. Hughes and Ms. Mc Guinness. There were musical performances from Courtney Dowling, Luke O' Reilly, Siobhan Farrelly and Kara Nugent to name but a few. Musical accompaniment was provided by TY students Clarice O' Brien and Patrick Smyth. The TY class were delighted to welcome former caretaker George Reynolds and his wife Mary back as special guests of honour on the evening. Congrats to all involved in this outstanding production.



## Girls in Action Programme

The girls in action programme was reinstated in the school after the Easter break this year. The programme offers alternative activities for example kickboxing, fencing, archery etc. and qualified instructors are provided by the Louth Sports Partnership to teach each session.

This year sixteen girls signed up to the programme and a minimum of ten students showed up at each session. Kickboxing was the chosen activity and the girls took part in a total of five sessions.



It is hoped to continue the programme from September 2016 and to retain as many girls as possible in the programme.

## Active Schools Week & Sports Day 2016

Active schools week took place this year from the 9th May to the 13th May. This years theme was 'get up and get active.' SPHE teachers were encouraged to introduce physical activities into the classroom or to take their class for a walk and to explain to them the benefits of being active.

'Try out' activities were organised at lunchtimes and students were encouraged to sign up to the various activities. Archery proved a very popular activity on Tuesday with over twenty students attending. A Leinster rugby coach came into the school on Wednesday and introduced the sport to a group of students and on Thursday there were over thirty students actively participating in kickboxing in the gym. Friday the 13th proved a very lucky day for the PE department as the weather was perfect for sports day. This year ran similar to previous years. The Transition Years were involved in operating various activities outside. Students participated in events outside in order to win a ticket that would allow them entry into the inflatables in the gym.

It was a very successful day again this year. Congrats and thanks to all involved.

