



Welcome to the 4th (December) edition of our newsletter from Mountrath Community School for the academic year 2023/2024 bringing you updates on all the latest activities and achievements of our school and students. Included in this edition are the following

- Think Languages Day
- Politics & Society Class
- Sixth Year Language Trips
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Carol Service
- MCS Sports Roundup
- Christmas Door Competition
- LCA Christmas Café
- TY Christmas Markets
- ISL Class
- Attendance Awards
- MCS Volleyball





Principals Christmas Address

22nd December 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

The Christmas holidays have finally arrived after a very busy term and a well due rest has been well and truly earned by all.

Today's marks the official end to the first term and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all and your loved ones a very happy and healthy Christmas holiday and to update you on some events in MCS in the past while.

We started off the new school year with the introduction of our special classes. Classrooms in MCS were reconfigured to create 3 special classes, a sensory room and a life skills room and for students with ASD. The modular build comprising of 6 classrooms is due to be delivered to MCS early in the new year. It has been another busy term which saw our Junior Cycle students 2023 receive their results in October. Last year's 6th Yr student Aidan Goodson received a much desired JP McManus scholarship. We have commenced a cross sectoral STEM project called IZAK9 with our local feeder schools. It is with pride again this year our students have been accepted into the BTYS competition again this year, congratulations to Miriam Senior, David Fitzpatrick and Seana Dunne.

First Years 2023 2024

Our new students and teachers have settled in to MCS life very well, they have just completed their Christmas assessments and had a Welcome Night for their parents early in October and finished up the term with an ice-skating trip. Huge thanks to our 6th Yrs Meitheal and Prefect leaders for their help and support with the First Years.

Music

The Music dept has been in full swing and many events have been organised, such as the Opening of the School Year mass, First Year Welcome Night, Christmas Concert, Carol Service and the 4th Years getting ready to begin rehearsals for the musical 'Back to the 80's', which promises to be a real treat. Attendance over the term has been very good, many thanks for your continued support on this issue, working together on this has brought about much improved outcomes.

Sporting Achievements

The MCS Junior hurlers became Leinster Champions this term and we are extremely proud of their success. We were also delighted with our Senior Volleyball who reached an All-Ireland final, it was not to be for the girls on the day, but they were brilliant. I would like to congratulate all the teams and their coaches for the work put in each week since the beginning of term and there has been a huge commitment and dedication shown by students and teachers.

Finally, on behalf of the staff across all areas of MCS, I wish you and your families, a very healthy, happy Christmas and safe New Year.

Thank you for your continued engagement and I hope the holidays ahead are an opportunity for rest and rejuvenation ahead of the next term. See you all again on January 8th 2023.

Yours faithfully

Kathryn O'Brien, Principal



Think Languages Day



Our MFL Department hosted #Thinklanguagesday which is organised through the Post Primary Languages Ireland. The day involved the entire TY group of fun and activities. The school was lucky to receive a language workshop hosted by Solenn Ryan. A group of 27 students spent the day with Solenn learning about the art of felt making and learning how to make felt. The rest of the students spent the day watching the opening ceremony hosted by the PPLI. They then learned how to sing Christmas songs using sign language, one you see in the video above so a huge thank you to Mr Brennan along with Ms. Ni Bhroin taught the students to sign I'm Dreaming of White Christmas and Merry Christmas everyone. There was a language quiz where the winning team won lunch vouchers. Finally, students took part in a Chinese Calligraphy workshop.

The Champion Team who helped organise the day along with their teachers spent the week promoting the event handing out language games, stickers and prizes to students encouraging them to speak in a different language to their friends. They worked very hard this week and huge credit is due to them. The Team was made up of Ellie Jones, Cheola Danne, Rachel Bohan, Muireann Bennett, Aine Quinn and Elisha Gilligan.



Leaving Certs - Paris Trip



Paris by Lucy Donnery

We arrived in Paris Beauvais at 8:30am and hopped straight on our bus to explore the Tuileries Gardens Christmas Markets. There, some of us grabbed a cosy chocolat chaud and some prezzies for the fam back home while others tried out some escargo... practicing our French when speaking to each stall owner. We returned back to our bus for a tour of the famous sights of Paris, such as the Champs-Élysées, Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame, Palais de Concorde and many more beautiful sites in between. We took an incredibly enjoyable Cruise down the Seine where we got to see another perspective of the city while shouting under each bridge, waving at pedestrians and making Tiktoks. We made our way to the renowned Eiffel Tower, seeing it up close and all the more magical at night time with best friends. We spent the journey to our hotel belting out Christmas songs and probably making the poor bus drivers' ears bleed :) Our second day in Paris was spent in Disneyland! It was beyond nostalgic and we did so many cool things. We were equally thrilled and traumatised by the Tower of Terror, felt like a literal Jedi on Hyperspace Mountain and a superhero on Avengers Flight Force. The Christmas decorations made it all the more special along with the Mickey Mouse shaped food and the parade with all our favourite characters, truly a magical day! Our last morning in Paris was spent in the Palace of Versailles filled top to bottom with art and breathtaking architecture. We walked through some of the fabulous rooms overlooking the gorgeous palace gardens, including Marie Antoinettes. The shop downstairs is filled with the most special trinkets which you can't find anywhere else. We ended our trip with some good old Parisian McDonalds, which was surprisingly different to the ones in Ireland, and headed back to the fabulous Paris Beauvais. After a delayed flight and too many games of Marshmallow, we made it back safe and sound to MCS. It was the most fun practising our French and it was a challenge we all took head on. We would all like to thank Ms O'Shea and Ms Kelly for the amount of time and effort they put into organising this all for us and taking care of us in Paris. C'était une expérience inoubliable!



Leaving Certs - Berlin Trip



Berlin

Mountrath Community School's sixth-year German students recently embarked on a transformative trip to Berlin, packed with cultural immersion and language enrichment. From Wednesday night to Sunday evening, the students, under the guidance of dedicated teachers, explored the city's historical, cultural, and culinary treasures, fostering a profound appreciation for language learning.

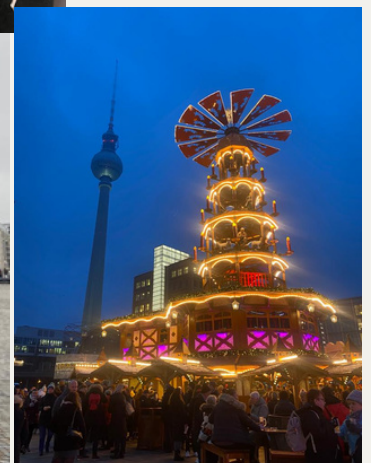
The trip included iconic landmarks such as The Brandenburg Gate and The German History Museum, offering students a tangible connection to history. The group delved into Berlin's resilience with a visit to The Berlin Underground Bunkers, while the festive Christmas Markets provided a spirited backdrop for sampling German delicacies.

At the Christmas Markets students had the chance to reunite with last year's language assistant, Lea Raab, adding a personal touch to the cultural exchange. The Berlin Wall and East Side Gallery, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, Olympic Stadium, and Madame Tussauds added diverse dimensions to the students' experience.

Commending the students for their exemplary behaviour and active engagement with the German language, Mountrath Community School expressed pride in their representation of the school. A heartfelt thank you was extended to the dedicated teachers who gave up their time to plan and organise the trip, showcasing their commitment to providing enriching experiences.

This trip stands as a testament to the school's commitment to providing enriching experiences beyond the classroom.

Mountrath Community School continues to showcase that learning a language is not just an academic pursuit but a doorway to adventure, understanding, and global connections.



Student Achievements & Activities

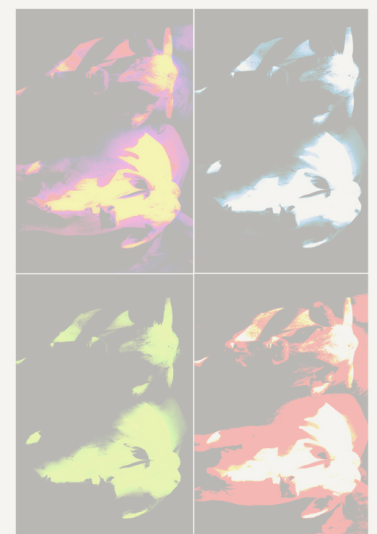
Politics & Society Class

On 12th December 5th year Politics and Society students enjoyed a trip to the EU Liaison Office and Leinster House. Students were given the chance to learn about the European Union as the EU Liaison Officer brought them in for a talk and a Q & A. Students were informed about programmes such as Erasmus and Youth Seminars, as well as the job opportunities within the European Union. Students asked questions regarding the EU's shift to right wing politics, and the immigration crisis in the Union.

After a quick break for some food and shopping on Grafton Street, students were given a guided tour of Leinster House. Students sat in The Dail and listened to party leaders question Leo Varadkar on policies and issues in Ireland. Students then continued to sit in on a vote taking place in The Seanad. Afterwards, the facilitator of the visit, Mr. Brian Stanley TD, met the students and brought them for some refreshments. Mr. Stanley spoke to the students about their course and what is involved in being a TD. During his talk, Sinn Fein leader Ms. Mary Lou McDonald, came over to talk to the students and welcome them to Leinster House.



Senior Art students visit the Andy Warhol Exhibition





LCA Christmas Café 2023

LCA 5 & 6 organised a food event for the teachers during December. We had to make food for the teachers and then the teachers could come in and take what food they wanted. Ms. Keating sent out an email for all of the staff to invite them to attend. We also had a box for the money as you come into the door and you can put in however much you want into the box .The 6th year LCA's had made some buns prior to the Christmas Café and we had put them into the freezer so that they could stay fresh instead of it going stale. The 5th years had made the cookies in class as well so they had frozen them. The skills that we learned were working as a team, organisation skills, communication skills because we got to interact with the teachers . On Tuesday afternoon LCA6 made the pastry for the sausage rolls . Half of the class was doing the pastry and the rest of the class had made some brownies. On Wednesday, we helped Ms Keating set up the room. We started working and got our aprons on and washed our hands, then the girls started on the buns and some of the boys made the icing for the buns. The rest of the boys arranged the grapes and the cheese board and also made the sandwiches . The girls had started to decorate the buns and once they were finished decorating them the lads had then taken them over to the table and made room for them . On the menu was, Cookies, Sandwiches, Rocky road, White chocolate slices cake, Stacia brought in Jamaican bread, Sausage rolls, Pizza rolls, Brownies, Buns, Grapes and cheese, Drinks, Fruit punch, Hot chocolate, Coffee and Tea

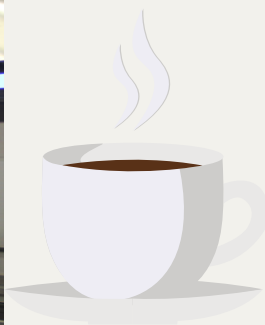
We also used one or 2 of our cupcake holders from our woodwork class to display the food.

Some of us then had made some snowflakes for the window as decorations . It was time for the Christmas Café, from 11.00 until 11.30 . We thought that it had gone well cause the teachers really enjoyed themselves and had a good time . We all had a relaxing time during the lunch break because everyone was talking to one another and everything was all chilled. We went around and got nice photos of everyone enjoying and having a good time .

By Noelle Byrne



Café



TY Christmas Market 2023

The Annual TY Market took place on December 14th in the Gym where TY students got to sell and showcase their min-companies that they have been preparing all year. Well done to all of the students on your amazing ideas and produce. Here are some of the companies that the students set up in their own words.

The name of our TY company was em.and.em_ty, We sold homemade hot chocolate bombs, brownies, k-pops, cookies, hot chocolate to go, and did a photo booth where you could get your christmas photos taken with your group of friends! Our hot chocolate bombs were made in a Christmas tree mould. We added the chocolate to the mould, let it harden,, then added some hot chocolate powder and marshmallows. Lastly we added another layer of melted chocolate to the mould to seal it off. They turned out so nice and were a big hit for our company. We did very well and we were all delighted with how it turned out. *Elisha, Gilligan, Meadhbh Doyle, Ellie*

Jones, and Michael Kavanagh

The name of my ty company is fra raffle we sold drinks and raffle tickets there was 3 in my group. Drinks were 2€, raffle tickets were 5€ and the winner of our raffle was Kyron Cuddy the hurl he won was a Cuman Linn. we had Fionn went around selling tickets and myself and Adam sold drinks and bars, Ryan Byrne, Fionn Cuddy & Adam Doheny

The name of my TY company is Wren Jewellery. The product was pearl bracelets, handmade scrunchies and homemade face masks. There was also a carnival game which involved knocking over a tower of tin cans and winning a Lucozade. I really enjoyed this experience and would certainly do it again. Ciara Kirwan, Kiera Fitzpatrick & Katie Dowling

The name of my mini company was Class Club Keychains. We sold keychains for 3 euro mainly focusing on making them with local GAA club crests but we also took orders for other logos. We had 100 at the start of the day and we sold roughly 70. We are going to take the images out of the unsold crests and replace them with the ordered keychains. We got 20 orders so we won't be left with many spares. We also sold raffle tickets to win a big hamper which contained chocolate, crisps, sweets and soft drinks. - Hugh Donnelly



Our Ty company was called sports crafts we primarily sold coat hangers/ key chains. We also came up with the bright idea to make more profits to do a raffle for a hamper as well as three sliotars we sold tickets for 1 euro and the hurls were 10€ for no customisation and then for ordered/ customisation it was 12€. One of our biggest learnings was probably that selling small things for a cheap price such as the tickets we made a good consistent profit off those while occasionally getting 10€ for the hurls -Alex Phelan, Ben Cordial, Joe Carroll & Jack Bennett



At the Christmas market, Jake and I sold Christmas earrings, laser cut ornaments. Our business is called AJ decor. - *Andreia Dunne & Jake Gee*

TY Christmas Markets

The name of our company is i.e.s products and we sold lash gift sets in little bags that said thank you and had a ribbon and this included lashes, spoolie, glue, and tweezers which were also sold separately. We also sold brownies in nice packaging and we did a raffle for a tan set. We sold all our brownies and the gift sets which had to be ordered as the lashes did not come on time and loads entered into the raffle. We are happy that everything went well. *Sophie Clooney, Isabel Tyrell, Lorena Iordache and Emily Dooley*



Our TY mini company is called RANE study. We sold study whiteboards and candles. We came up with this idea to help students to study easier as we found out that a lot of students are visual learners so being able to see your notes on a whiteboard might help. Our candles were made from soy wax as this is better for people to breathe in than paraffin wax. We also used recycled jars to be sustainable. We all enjoyed the experience of buying and selling the goods. Everything went according to plan on the day and we sold all of our products. It was a valuable experience and gave us an idea of what the business world is like. - *Robyn Campbell, Áine Quinn, Niamh Scully and Emily O'Driscoll.*



The name of our company was Azo picture frames & Polaroids, we made handmade picture frames which could also be purchased with a polaroid which would be wrapped with bubble wrap and tied with a pretty blue ribbon. The TY market was a great experience and I would highly recommend it. It was an enjoyable experience. - *Zoe Holland & Aine McEvoy*

The name of our TY company was AC Bracelets on the day we sold club coloured bracelets which many people purchased along with brownies that were packaged in mesh bags. On the day we also did a raffle on a Leinster jersey which lots of people were interested in. The TY Christmas Market was a very fun, enjoyable and exciting experience as it gives you a taster of what running a business is like but along with that it's something that is done with friends. The TY Christmas Market is a highlight of our TY journey so far. - *Cheola Danne & Aoibheann Russell*



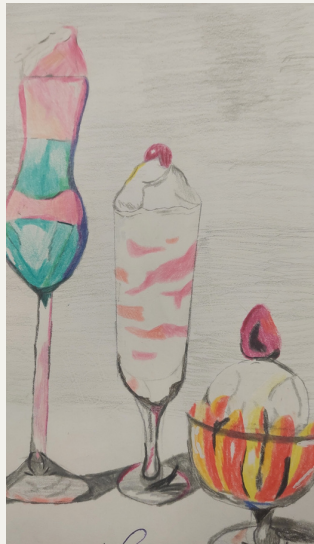
Student Achievements & Activities

Leaving Cert PE

Our very first 6th Year Leaving Cert PE class made history for MCS on Friday the 15th of December when they submitted their completed Physical Activity Projects (PAPs) which are worth 20% of their final grade. The group of 25 students worked really hard over the previous 8 - 10 weeks analysing their performance, creating & completing training programs and reflecting on their progress in a wide variety of Physical Activity areas including, Hurling/Camogie, Gaelic/Ladies Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Boxing, Kickboxing & Golf. Congrats and Well done to all involved.



First Year Art



Wood Technology



Student Achievements & Activities

Well done to Aideen Phelan & Abbey Fitzpatrick who ran a fundraiser in the school for the Donal Walsh #LiveLife Foundation. The girls raised over 900€. A huge achievement for a great cause.



Presentation of cheque to the SVP from some of the Young SVP members in the school.

First Year Christmas Door Competition

This year we ran a Christmas Door competition for the First years and the all made a great effort with their Wellbeing Teachers. Well done to 1C (room 28) for winning the hamper of goodies!!



Third Year Trip to Limerick on Ice



MCS Sports

Check out our social media for up to date sporting news!

First Yr Volleyball

On Wednesday 29th of November 37 First Year students travelled to The Watershed in Kilkenny to play in the Volleyball Ireland Blitz. Four girls' teams and two boys' teams competed for Mountrath Community School on the day. They played schools from Laois, Waterford, Dublin, Kilkenny and Tipperary. Students showed great skill and effort in every match played. Our girls' teams came up against some strong opposition but even so finished 1st and 3rd in their groups, beating teams from Grange CC, Presentation Clonmel, and Portlaoise College along the way. Our boys' teams did us proud also and showed great determination coming up against some very experienced players from other schools. The day finished with a Mountrath derby between our boys' teams that was very competitive. A big thank you must go to our 7 T.Y. coaches who motivated and helped on the day. A great day was had by all. It was excellent to see the future of Mountrath volleyball is very bright.



Evening Study

1. Open to all year groups!
2. Pay per day - €3 only
3. Family offer 2nd child €25/year

NEW

- 💰 **Flexible Payment Options** for students attending on some days - **just €3 per day.**
- **Family Offer** - Families with 2 students pay just **€25 for a second student.**
- 📖 Time and quiet space for **focused study** and homework completion.
- 🍲 **Microwave, Kettle, and Toaster** available.
- ☀️ **Structured Environment:** Encourage **discipline** and **routine** in your students **study habits.**
- 👩‍🏫 **Qualified Supervision:** Our experienced staff ensures a **productive** and **safe** study environment.

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Check out @mountrathcs on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter