

**Mountrath  
Community  
School**  
February 2024



Welcome to the February 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

- St. Brigid's Day Celebrations
- Back to the 80's Musical
- Junk Couture
- Safer Internet Day
- LCA visit Foroige Mountrath
- Donal Walsh's Legacy
- Music - Song writing
- MCS Sports News
- Department - Woodwork, English
- Future Leaders
- Student Council
- Robotics Lego Challenge





# Student Achievements

## *Donal Walsh Legacy*

On the Saturday Night show in April 2013, a month before he died, Donal made an appeal to Young People to rethink their thoughts of suicide and instead Speak to Someone, Get Support, Get Help as it's Ok Not To Feel Ok.

Donal's mom, Elma visited the school on February 27th to speak to the 2nd year students and their Mental health, to take care of their Mental health, to be 'Stubborn' in their attitude about not giving into any Fears, Anxiety, Negative Thoughts about themselves and push forward in the Hope that all will get better for them.

She spoke about the need for young and the not so young to SOS; Get plenty of Sleep, Get in the Outdoors for fresh air and Spirituality: Get in touch with their God, their feelings and express them and care for themselves by reaching out to others.

She spoke about the importance of being Kind to Others. Because we never know what they might be going through and Being Kind can go a long way to Support and Help others.

Second year students Aideen and Abbey wanted to raise money to support Cancer Patients and Cancer Research. They organised a Jersey Day in MCS in term 1 for this cause, and chose the 'Donal Walsh #LifeLife Foundation'. The Jersey day raised €1000.



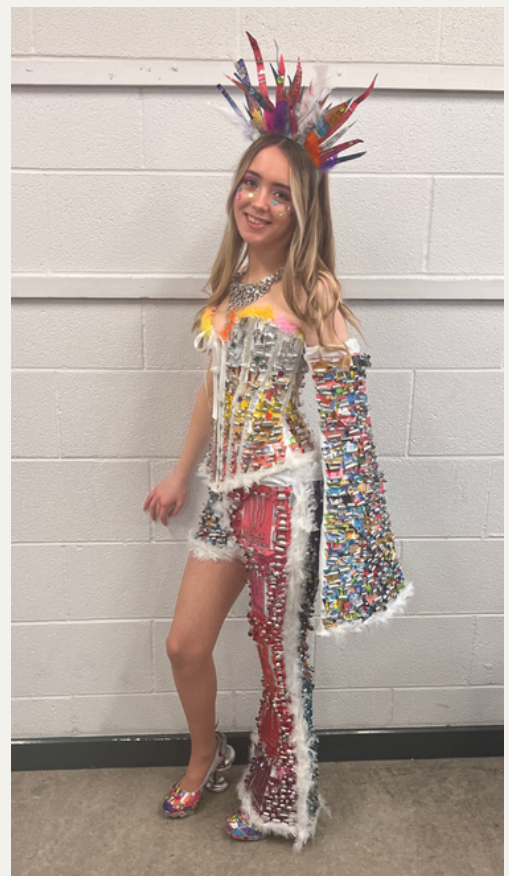
## **Junk Couture Finalists**

Congratulations to Heart Stoppin Fashion by Seana Dunne, Justyna Wilk. Best of luck in the final



## **Music Department**

On 22 February the fifth and sixth year music classes had the massive opportunity of doing a songwriting workshop with singer-songwriter Luan Parle. They wrote a beautiful song called Sadie. They really enjoyed the process of writing and performing the song. They were also visited by Mal Tuohy from The Riptide Movement and treated to a performance of some of his songs. They were able to ask him all about the music business and his journey to success. They also got to sing with him and perform their new song for him. A fantastic day was had by all!





# Student Voice & Activities

## *Student Leadership by Conor Mortimer*

Hello, my name is Conor Mortimer and this year I had the privilege of captaining our Junior Hurling Team to winning a Leinster Final. When I was approached with this role in the team, I was excited to embark on this challenge and learn about myself along the way. I was also filled with confidence in myself in the fact that I was trusted to take on this important role in our team.

During this time, there was an additional amount of pressure put on me to perform, lead by example and be a positive influence to my teammates. The importance of these developed the further on we got into the competition, but I'm glad I have learned that I am able for these challenges and that it won't be anything new if it happens in the future again.

The biggest achievement during my time in this role was winning a Leinster final, but also seeing my teammates develop into better players and people. I was relieved when we won and also became more confident in myself that I was able to succeed in this journey.

My advice for anyone who also captains a sports team in our school is to lead by example on the pitch and in school, as you are now leading by example for your teammates and classmates. It's important to enjoy it and not put any more pressure on yourself just because you are now a captain. There's a reason you were picked for this roll, so have confidence in yourself and your abilities to succeed.



## *Student Council*

Congratulations and well done to our student council who successfully organised student card issuing day. This has been a great initiative, that many students will benefit from. This has been a priority for the student council for some time. Hopefully the student council will receive the student cards in the next week, and they will distribute the cards to the students. Enjoy the discounts and well done to all involved.



## **LCA Spend time in Foroige Mountrath**

LCA classes with their teachers spent time with Foroige here in Mountrath to see what they have to offer to students. Please have a look at their website and social media for information.



Lego Challenge Robotics Team Jamie Clooney , Ross O' Connor. Tadhg Glynn , Jason Moore. who competed in the regional finals in Portlaoise education centre with there certificates and medals. Well done boys.



# Back to the 80's - The Musical

## Meet the Cast....



Hi, I am Hugh Donnelly. I am playing Huey Jackson in the musical back to the 80s. I am 16 and I am from Emo. I play football and I play cornerback. I love listening to music and singing in my freetime.



Hi, my name is Aine Quinn and I play Kim Easton in the musical. I'm 15 years old and I'm from Ballyfin. I love to play football, especially midfields. I also enjoy doing drama. In my free time I like to meet up with my friends, listen to music and spend time with my family and dog.

Hi, my name is Ava Sydes and I am playing Eileen Reagan in the musical. I am 16 years old and I am from Mountrath. I love singing and dancing. I have been part of Leah Moran stage school for 10 years. When I am older I would love to be on Broadway. I look up to Barbara Streisland.



Hi, my name is Sophie Cullinan, and I'm playing Tiffany Houstan in this year's musical. I'm 16 years old and I'm from Ballyfin. I like playing football, singing and would like to be a teacher when I'm older.



Hello, My name is Lilly May, and i am playing Cyndi Gibson in this year's musical. I am 15 years old and I'm from Mountrath. I like to play camogie, sing and play guitar in my free time. I went to Holy Family primary school. I would like to be a teacher when I am older.



Hi, my name is Alex Phelan and I play Stevie Crocker in the Back to the 80s musical. I'm from Mountrath and I'm 16 years old. I have many hobbies and interests such as Rugby in which I play for Portlaoise and I play hurling for Mountrath. I love learning new things and experiences such as the musical.



# Back to the 80's - The Musical

## Meet the Cast....



Hi, my name is Elisha Gilligan and I'm playing Sheena Branigan in this year's musical. I'm 16 years old and I'm from Castletown. I like singing, playing football and guitar. I love to dance and listen to music.



Hi, my name is David Fitzpatrick and I'm playing Fergal Bobby McFerrin the third in the musical. I am 16 years old and I'm from Mountrath. I went to primary school in Paddock NS. I am currently looking for work and I'm very good at video games.

Hi, my name is Emily O' Driscoll and I'm playing Laura Wilde in the musical. I'm from Stradbally but I went to The Heath Primary School. I'm 16 years old. I work in Stradbally Fayre. I have always loved singing, and drama since I was young. In my spare time I love to play piano and see my friends.



Hi, my name is Danny Cunningham and I'm playing Kirk Keaton in this year's musical. I am 16 years old and I'm from the Pike of Rushall. I love to play soccer and play the guitar. When I am older I would like to be on stage. I look up to the Arctic Monkeys



Hi, my name is Muireann Bennet and I'm playing Mel Easton in this year's musical. I'm 15 years old and I'm from Coolrain. I love playing camogie, music and dancing. I would like to be a vet when I'm older.

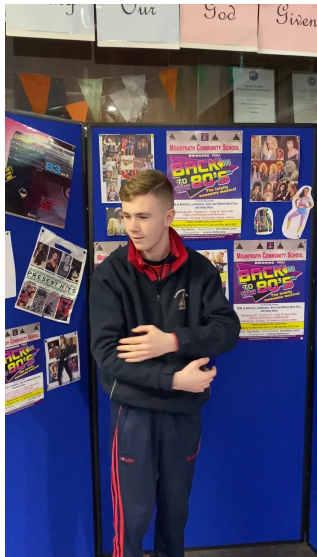


Hi, I'm Jack Coogan. I'm 16, and I'm from Trumera. I am playing Corey Junior, in the Back to the 80s Musical this year. I love music and I love playing piano, drums and bass. I am also a very sporty person.



# Back to the 80's - The Musical

## Meet the Cast....



Hi, My name is Tony McNerny, and I'm playing Corey Palmer Senior in the musical. I am 16 years old and I'm from Portlaoise. I love singing, sound engineering and socialising. I'm the lead singer in the Bass Brothers Country Band in Portlaoise. I've also written an original song about my culture.

This song can be found on Youtube. The name of the song is "What I'll Always Be". I was also born visually impaired so I use a cane to get around.



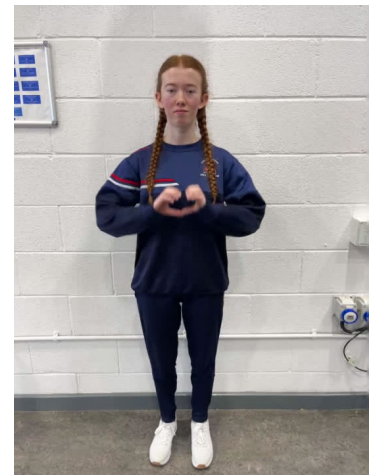
Hi, My name is Padraig Culleton. I am 16 and live in Ballyfin. I love sports, especially rugby and basketball. I enjoy music and love to be outdoors.

I have a passion for hunting and other outdoor sports. I would like to either play rugby or be an engineer when I grow up. I have loved taking part in the musical and can't wait to see how it comes together.

Hi, my name is Brody Gilligan. I am 16 years old and I'm from Ballyfin. I am playing Billy Arnold in the musical. I love sports, my favourite being rugby. I have taken part in the school hurling, Rugby and Football team over recent years. When I am older I would love to be a physio. I am really enjoying being apart in the musical so far



Hi, my name is Caoimhe Dunne, and I'm playing Debbie Fox in this year's school musical. I am 16 years old and I'm from Roskelton. I love singing and acting.



# MOUNTRATH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

BRINGING YOU

# BACK TO THE 80'S

The totally awesome musical

Featuring songs

Kids in America, Loveshack, Girls Just Wanna Have Fun and many more.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at 8pm

in St Philomena's Hall Mountrath.

Ticket prices:- €15 adult, €10 students, retirees, children

Tickets available at the school from  
Monday to Thursday from 11am to 11.30am and from 1pm to 2pm.

Director - Paul Norton, Musical Director - Anne-Marie Lawlor, Choreographer - Julianne McNamara

TICKETS  
ON SALE  
IN THE  
CANTEEN  
- GOING  
FAST!!

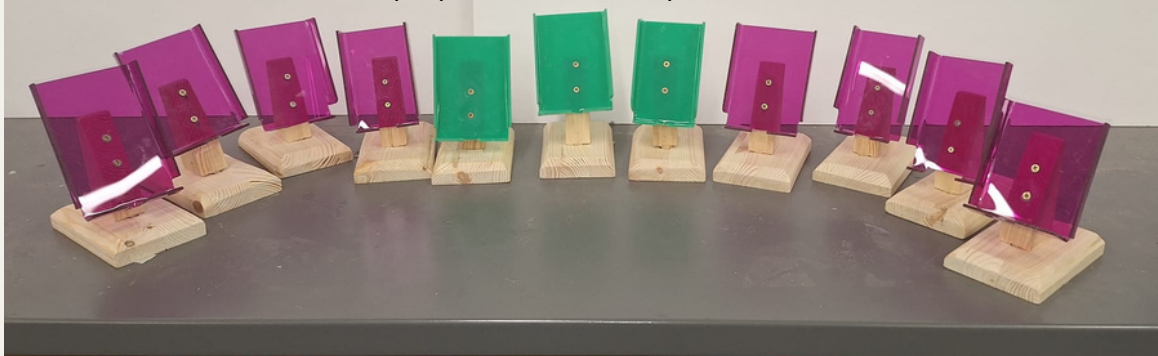


# Snapshots of some Departments at MCS



Fifth year English classes enjoying a recent trip to the Gaiety to enjoy J.B. Keanes Sive.

Second year work - they have learned to mark out and cut a mortise and tenon joint, improve planing skills and chamfered the bases. Also they learned about the properties of thermoplastics.



LCA 6 produced a selection of secondary movement toys in their 'Design & Manufacture of Educational Toys' module



LCA 6 selection of toys utilising their wood turning skills.





# Art Department - 1st & 2nd Ceramic Workshop





# MCS Sports

Keep up-to-date on all sporting events through our Social Media



## MCS VOLLEYBALL

2nd Year boys travelled to Dungarvan to play their pool games against Dungarvan College and St. Francis College Rochestown. They played some very competitive sets with Mountrath CS coming out on top. The boys should be very proud of their performance on the day and we wish them the very best of luck in the Semi-Final.

2nd Year girls travelled to Dublin and played some amazing volleyball to beat Loreto Swords and Loreto Balbriggan. The girls are now through to the Quarter-Finals and we wish them the very best of luck.

1st Year girls played at home to two teams from Loreto Swords and a team from St. Peter's in Cork. There were very competitive games which resulted in a final winner takes all match between the Mountrath CS girls and St. Peter's. Mountrath were victorious and are now through to the Quarter Final. Well done all and best of luck!



## MCS RUGBY

1st Year Rugby is now up and running in the school. The lads played their first match on Weds 21st February against St. Pauls Secondary School, Monasterevin. It was a tight game initially with Mountrath leading 7 - 0 at half time. But the group rallied in the 2nd half and started to show their dominance. They managed to score 4 more tries to win the match 27 - 5. A great performance overall and a good first victory for the group in their first game. Try scorers were Padraig Fahy, Ryan Guilfoyle, Noah Delaney, Luke Delaney and Billy Lawless.



## MCS BASKETBALL

1st and 2nd year girls basketball teams. The 1st years won 2 out of their 4 matches.

The 2nd years got through to the quarter final, but they were unlucky with the outcome today.



Check out @mountrathcs on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter



# 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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