

**Mountrath
Community
School
November 2023**



Welcome to the 3rd (November) 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

- Stand Up Awareness Week 2023
- TY trip to Causey Farm
- MCS Sports Roundup
- TY Big Walk
- Antibullying Week
- 6th year Irish Class trip
- 6th year Geography Field Trip
- Science - BT Young Scientist
- Woodwork - Racing Cars



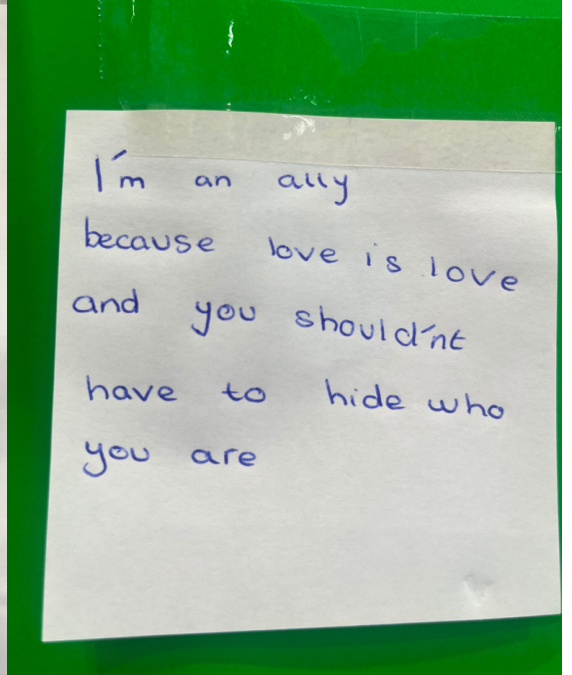
I respect myself and insist upon it from everybody. And because I do it, I then respect everybody, too.

MAYA ANGELOU

Stand-up Awareness Week



An ALLY
is not an noun.
It isn't an identity, a label, or something to claim.
Being an ally is taking action,
making a stand
doing something to make a difference
by standing up
against oppression and marginalization.
You are an ally
when someone else recognizes you as an ally



The theme this year for Stand Up Awareness Week was Allyship. As a school community we all have a role to play in stand up week, it is not just up to the LGBTQ+ community. Throughout this week we celebrated the allies who are an integral part of creating spaces where LGBTQ+ people feel safe and supported. Throughout the week a number of activities took place with the raising of the rainbow flags around the school on Monday. Students were invited to post what being an ally means to them and why it is important to others. A bake sale was held with proceeds going to Belong to. On Thursday each year group were encouraged to wear a different colour of the rainbow flag to show their allyship to the LGBTQ+ community. Well done to all students who participated and helped out with events. Stand Up week 2023 has empowered us all to be allies and advocates for each other, making our school an even more welcoming place for everyone.

Student Activities

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti bullying week took place in November with a number of initiatives and activities run throughout that week, ranging from students watching films with the theme of anti-bullying to students taking part in the poster competition. Congratulations to Molly Dooley 3rd Year on being selected as the winner of the Poster Competition. Anti-bullying week takes place to raise awareness about bullying and create a positive and inclusive school environment. The theme we took on this year in MCS was Kindness. Students from across the school pledged to be kinder to others, while others carried out random acts of kindness. It is very important to remind all members of our school community not to be by-standers to bullying. If you see it, stop it and report it.

We all have a hand in how others are treated and so students got creative and so students used the outline of their hands to write their pledges and created a kindness heart which is on display in the canteen. It is important to remember that being kind should be an everyday thing.



Sign Language Club

Ms. Aisling Ni Bhrion has started a brand new sign language class this year, so far they have learned introductions, the alphabet and lots of Halloween signs. They meet every Wednesday in Rm 20 at 1.30pm and will be working towards a very special Christmas performance!!

Student Council

Attending Comhairle na nÓg at the Midlands Park Hotel proved to be a rewarding experience for the MCS Student Council members. Driven by a collective desire to make a positive impact, they engaged in fruitful collaborations with student councils from diverse schools in Laois, deliberating on the key issues to be addressed throughout the year. The event served as a valuable platform for these young leaders to exchange ideas, perspectives, and aspirations, fostering a strong sense of unity and shared purpose. This dynamic exchange not only empowered the MCS students but also played a role in establishing meaningful connections with their counterparts in other schools. The day was undeniably remarkable, resonating with the enthusiasm of the student council members and setting the stage for a year brimming with collaborative initiatives and positive transformations.



Student Achievements & Activities

TY Trips

The TY group raised funds for Brighter Communities Worldwide by taking part in a sponsored 'Big Walk' in Emo Court. They have raised a €1000 for such a worthy cause.



TY trip to Causey Farm

On the 7th of November, The transition students accompanied by their teachers were lucky enough to travel to Causey Farm in County Meath. The students got to encounter a wide variety of activities from pizza making, bog running and seeing all the different farm animals such as pot belly pigs, llamas, horses, chickens and rabbits. This was a great experience for students and they even got to experience first hand the 'Farmaphobia arena' at the end of the day which was the highlight for the students.

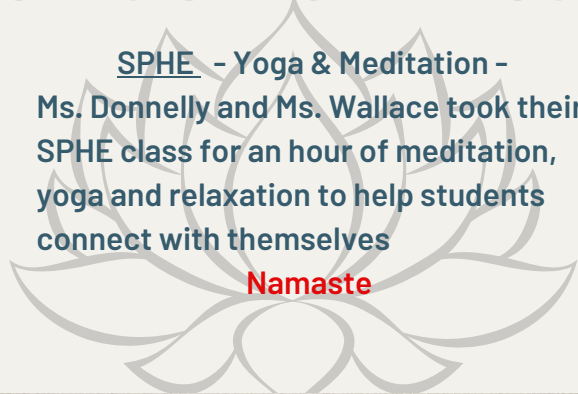


Student Achievements & Activities



SPHE - Yoga & Meditation -
Ms. Donnelly and Ms. Wallace took their
SPHE class for an hour of meditation,
yoga and relaxation to help students
connect with themselves

Namaste



Science - BT Young Scientist
Congratulations to Miriam Senior,
Seana Dunne, David Fitzpatrick from
Transition Year who have qualified
for the BT Young Scientist 2024.
They are one of the five qualified
entries from County Laois. They will
be displaying their project titled
'Extracting latex from dandelions and
using it to make glue to find a
sustainable alternative source for
latex' on 10th to 13th January.



Art - Some creative pieces from our talented students



Student Achievements & Activities

Gaelige - An Triail

The 6th year Irish classes went to Dublin to see the drama An Triail. The classes had read the drama An Triail in their Irish classes as part of the curriculum. This drama is based in Ireland in the 1960s and follows a young girl as she faces a range of personal, social, religious and moral issues. It was wonderful to watch this drama brought to life on stage. It was an enjoyable and worthwhile trip to Dublin!



Woodwork

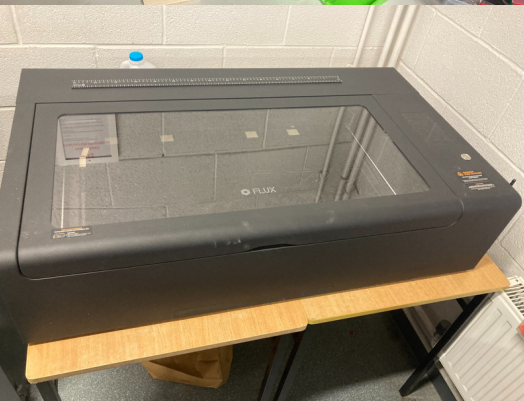
Second year students completed their Toy Racing Cars in Wood Technology and even had a class race qualifier to find the fastest cars to go forward to the Champions Final



Student Achievements & Notices

Engineering & DCG

Below is pictured some new equipment the engineering and construction teachers received from the Department of Education after making applications on the schools behalf. Two laser cutters and two 3d printers are now available for students to use. Mr. Whelehan has already putting the laser cutters to good use making tool storage racks pictured below.



Junior Cycle Top Marks

Miriam Senior was congratulated on receiving the highest number of Junior Cycle distinctions at MCS. Well done Miriam.



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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Laura & Taidhg on TG4

By Taidhg Phelan Dalton

Myself and Laura Scott recently got the opportunity to showcase our talent of playing Irish Traditional Music and singing. About five months ago, Laura and I got to travel to Galway with our Music Teachers, Colm Phelan and Áine McGeeney who are part of a famous Irish band called Goitse. They teach many students who are very successful so it was amazing for me and Laura to be chosen. At the All-Ireland Fleadh in 2022, Laura won the singing competition aged 12-15 and I won the bodhran aged 12-15 also. These are amazing achievements and we both worked very hard to receive these titles. We arrived at the workshop early in the morning after staying in a five star hotel which TG4 paid for. Cameras surrounded us everywhere. We were told then what we were playing and what was the plan for the day. Even though we were both nervous, we knew that this would have a big impact on our careers as people from all around the country would be watching this program, Comhludiar Ceoil. There was a strict time schedule so there was no room for mistakes which put pressure on myself and Laura but we had faced harder things before like participating in the Fleadh and Siansa Gael Linn. The presenter was Daithí O'Shea and we got the privilege of meeting him and getting a photo with him. We got to meet producers and people who worked with TG4 and they all were very supportive. We had to record each song twice to get different shots and different angles. Laura sang a beautiful song with her teacher Áine called 'Belfast Love' and I got to play a set on the Bodhran called 'Cave of the Wild Horses' which both of these sets are on the multiple albums Goitse have released. After the episode was broadcasted on TG4, both Laura and I got amazing compliments from professional musicians. Myself and Laura will both remember this day for years to come. Overall, we had an amazing day and the experiences we had will help our careers to really take off at becoming professional musicians and singers. It was unreal to be able to have this experience and it was only achieved by hard work and determination.



MCS Sports

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



MCS Volleyball

Our 2nd Senior Boys Volleyball team played in the All-Ireland quarter finals recently. Unfortunately not our day but the lads showed great determination and enjoyed the game against tough opposition.

Our U16 girls volleyball team unfortunately bowed out of this year's competition in the All-Ireland quarter finals. The girls showed great team spirit and fought to the bitter end.

Massive congratulations to the Senior Volleyball Girls who had a super win in the All-Ireland semi final against Drumshanbo. They now await their opponents in the All-Ireland final on December 14th. We are so proud of your amazing achievements so far and are behind you all the way girls. #teamwork #letsgomountrath



MCS Ladies Football

Our Junior Ladies Football team had a mighty win against Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlinton on Thursday 9th November. The game saw a flurry of goals from our Junior Ladies, with Katie Kavanagh, Erin Walsh, Laura Parnell and Aoibhinn Russell to the fore. The backs played super stuff keeping Portarlinton to a very low score.

The girls face Dunamase College next with a place in the Leinster quarter final up for grabs.

Our 1st and 2nd year girls are kicking off their football season this week with matches in the new year. All are welcome - stay tuned to announcements for more information.

MCS Football

Mountrath 4-6 to 0-13 Monestrevin
Mountrath Senior Boys football competed against Monestrevin on Tuesday 29th Nov in the North Leinster Senior Boys school's competition. After an extremely competitive game with plenty of highlights, Mountrath ran out victors by five points. Mountrath were trailing by 3 points at half time but with a massive defensive effort and quick breaking from the defence, goals helped seal the victory. Mountrath goes on now to play Hackettstown in the Leinster quarter-final. Scorers: Pete Culleton 2-1, Dion Cuddy 1-3 (2F), Monty Balfe 1-0, Charlie Hand, Eoghan Slattery 0-1.

MCS Rugby

Junior rugby team.

The team is progressing well in the Pat Rossiter Cup. They played their 1st knockout round match vs O'Carolan College on the 9th Nov winning 20 - 12 thanks to a good team performance and tries from Dennis P, Dan W, and Jack R (2).

The team played their QF match vs Colaiste Bhríde a week later on the 14th Nov. A tight first half meant we were down 14 - 5 at half time. But the lads dug in and performed much better in the 2nd half scoring 3 tries and running out 27 - 14 winners. Tries from Odhran C, Conor R, Dan W (2).

The team is now in the SF of the competition. So hopefully they can progress one more step and reach the final which will be played in Donnybrook Stadium. Best of luck lads!



Check out @mountrathcs on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter

MCS Sports

MCS Hurling

Leinster Junior Hurling A1 Final by Conor Mortimer

Our junior boys hurling team would meet Enniscorthy CBS in the Leinster final in Carlow town on the afternoon of the 27th of November.

Mountrath showed great work rate and spirit to come out victorious.

Playing with the wind in the first half, Tom Óg Phelan scored a brace of frees as Kyron Cuddy added a point of his own to put Mountrath up by 3 in the first couple of minutes. Enniscorthy answered with a point but Mountrath would go on to score a goal, Kyron Cuddy adding to his tally.

Each team scored 3 frees before half time leaving the score 1-6 to 4 points at half time.

However, the second half would turn out to be a way bigger challenge for Mountrath. Fergal Brennan got a point from play but Enniscorthy replied with 4 points, leaving only two points in the game. The backs showed great work rate and put their bodies on the line to keep Enniscorthy out at all costs. Donnacadh Carroll scored an excellent long range free and substitute Paddy Farrell came and scored a goal, securing the title for captain Conor Mortimer and his side.

Junior A1 Post Primary Hurling Final Winners 2023



Check out @mountrathcs on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter