



MEÁNSCOIL NA TRÓCAIRE
CNOC AN TSEABHAIC

MERCY MOUNTHAWK

Newsletter

SUMMER
2017



Juliet & Nurse in 'Romeo and Juliet'



Basketball - 1st Year All-Ireland A Winners



Senior Girls - All Ireland Relay Winners



All Ireland Winners
John Hooper Medal for Statistics



TY Sailing Course



GLOBAL TRENDS AND EDUCATION...

Geopolitical developments over the past year have provided us with an impetus and context within which to evaluate the quality of education we are providing our students as a preparation to face this ever changing world. I am thinking of the election of Mr Trump, Brexit, the social media based attempt to undermine the French electoral process and further weaken the European project, and most recently, the withdrawal of the US from the Paris climate agreement.

And in considering such major changes internationally, I am heartened by the endeavours of our students, documented in our summer newsletter, and the emphasis which our teachers have placed on particular extra-curricular and co-curricular activities as a hope that we might be preparing our students to act morally and with critical faculty in this new world of 'fake news' and 'alternative facts'. To pick out a few examples:

ENVIRONMENT: It is encouraging, in the face of the recent cynical denial of urgency of climate change, to see the award received by the YSI group for their environmental project (L.E.A.F.). You can view details of their project on <http://www.mercymounthawk.ie/transition-year/>. There is a plan for 2017/18 to include a poly tunnel linking with local community groups and a co-curricular link to Agricultural Science classes in Senior Cycle. We witnessed also the energy through the year from the Students' Council in addressing the issue of plastic waste and its impact on the environment. From September, the school will provide each student with a reusable water bottle which they can refill from home, thus significantly reducing plastic waste. This was a project with a practical outcome based in the theme of Catholic Schools Week - valuing the earth as our common home.

INTEGRATION: I am also heartened by the students' project on integration in the light of international retrenchment in certain countries in this regard. Students worked to promote integration in the school with our newly arrived students through their multicultural evening and the talent show. They produced a worthwhile video on their project which can be seen at: bit.ly/Interculturalvideo. Read more details inside...

EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP: There is optimism also in the continuing commitment of teachers and students to the European Youth Parliament programme. We need to remind ourselves in Europe of the historical reasons for European integration and we must educate a new generation in the vital importance of a structure that promotes peaceful co-operation across our continent. Therefore it is important that we continue to host our own European Parliament Day in the school, send representatives to the National Youth Parliament and be part of the national team representing Ireland - two students will travel to participate again this year. It is vital that we strive to grow leaders for tomorrow who are politically aware and alive to world trends and developments. In this regard, we plan to introduce a module on politics to TY next year to explore if there might be an uptake for the new politics course in Senior Cycle.

TRUTH AND SCIENCE: In a time when truth is being disregarded in favour of ill-informed comment and vague 'facts' across social media, we also need to develop a critical faculty in our students, a healthy scepticism and a regard for scientific proof and method. We introduced this year

a course in TY on research and information processing that proved very worthwhile and we will continue to develop this course.

We are delighted to be developing another computer room in the school for September 2018 that will allow greater access by classes for research. Our involvement in 'Scifest' and the Young Scientist competition and the strength of interest in the Science Club which you can read about in this magazine are good indicators of the vitality of scientific discovery and interest among students which is a very positive dynamic. We had seventeen projects at 'Scifest' with several category winners.

THE ARTS AND EXPLORING PERSONAL TRUTH: While scientific method guarantees factual verification of truth, there is a deeper human truth rooted in the soul, which is mediated in daily life through the arts and therefore I hold to the belief that a rounded education must include the arts. Drama and literature allow us to explore perspectives on life and alternative worldviews and to discover and clarify our own grasp on personal truth. It is important therefore to see our students engage in that journey too and the school production of 'Romeo and Juliet' in January was inspiring. The capacity of the students to engage with the text and bring it to life was remarkable. It was no surprise that it won a national Bord Gais theatre award. It was also uplifting to attend the wonderful concert series undertaken by the school choir and the Scotia Ensemble in March. You can listen to their beautiful rendition of 'Fix You' at: www.bit.ly/Mounthawk-ScotiaFixYou and a setting of 'The Parting Glass' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sz9ICWRkuhI>. Such artistic endeavours enliven the soul and enrich life for all of us in the school.

In all, as this newsletter shows, it was a busy and vibrant year in the school and much was achieved and celebrated that is positive and uplifting in life and a riposte to so much of the negative news that might clutter our awareness. I want to thank everyone, student and teacher and parent alike, who has contributed so positively to life in the school over the course of this year.

John O'Roarke

John O'Roarke
School Principal





Mercy Mounthawk Awards Night was held on 17th May in the school Gym. As always, it was a very uplifting event, as over 400 awards were presented to students in a diverse range of categories. Students received awards for Academic achievement, Diligence, School Spirit and Christian Leadership.

Many students received awards for extra-curricular activities - in basketball, football, spikeball, rugby, soccer, hurling, camogie, athletics and track and field. Other extra-curricular Awards included Spanish debating, creative writing, poetry, drama and music.

The 2 big awards of the evening went to Ciara McCarthy, Head Girl, winner of Catherine McAuley Award. Ciara also won an Academic Award, Choir Award and Gradam Gaeilge Award. The Principal's Award was given to Head Boy Sam Boyle, winner also of School Spirit Award and Choir Award.

Sinead Ryan received the Board of Management Award from Chairperson of the Board, Sr. Bernadette for her contribution and service to the school community. Sinead also received an award for her involvement in the European Youth Parliament and a Garda Youth Achievement Award.

Aaron Williams and Kevin Ashe were winners of School Community Service Award for their involvement in First Aid and for providing Sound and Lighting for school events.

Sportsman of the year went to Dara Devine and Sportswoman of the year went to Aoibheann O'Brien. Scifest Winners Olivia Moriarty and Tamila Khussainova were also acknowledged. The Art Award went to Jane Sweeney. Thomas Curran received the Physics Award and Joseph Hoare received the Engineering Award



Ms Quane with Gerri O'Brien (Ceist Award) and Zara Harnett (UCC Cup)



Sinead Ryan with Parents Michael & Lisa, and Mr. O'Roarke



Sportsperson Award Winners Aoibheann O'Brien and Dara Devine



Ciara McCarthy (Catherine McAuley Award) and Sam Boyle (Principal's Award) with Mr. O'Roarke

WINNERS AT MENTAL HEALTH IRELAND ART COMPETITION

First year student, Alison Lane's entry into Mental Health Ireland's Art & Photography Competition was selected to appear in the week-long Exhibition in Dublin City Council. The Mind Your Mental Health Exhibition took place from Monday 27th – Friday 31st March in Dublin County Council offices in Dublin 1. The theme for this year's competition was 'Mind your Mental Health'.

There was an awards ceremony on Wednesday 29th of March where the National and Provincial Winners were announced. The artist Lisa Butterly, the head judge for the competition, was there on the evening to critique the national and provincial winners. Each national and provincial winner was presented with their One4All voucher and Highly Commended entrants received a certificate.

This was a great evening and a wonderful opportunity for the students, their families and the teachers to see their work on display.

Aoife King (5th Year), with her inspiring photograph entitled 'Let Your True Colours Shine' won the Munster Provincial Category and was awarded a One 4 All Voucher and a framed copy of her photograph. The judges admired her use of nature to capture the unique beauty of every individual.

Adam Butler (4th Year) whose entry captured the many facets of one person, won the CEO's Choice Award. Both students' entries will be published in Mental Health Ireland's national calendar next year.

Mounthawk is very proud of Aoife, Adam and Alison for doing their part in promoting well-being and mental health in our school.



Adam Butler's picture won CEO's Choice Award



Eileen Novac who won first place in 11-13 age group in Credit Union Art Competition with Marty Whelan & President of the Irish League of Credit Unions



National Gallery Art Competition Finalist

The Department of Education, the National Gallery and the Network of Education Centres in Ireland organised a number of special competitions to commemorate Ireland in 2016. Students were invited to paint a picture on the theme of "Imagine Ireland in 2116". Allen Ybanez's painting was a National Finalist and his painting is on show in the National Gallery of Ireland.

National Doodle 4 Google Competition Finalists

This was the ninth year of the competition and the theme this year was: "If I could create anything it would be." Students were asked to create a doodle for the logo and write a supporting statement regarding their design.

The following students were very successful: Sally O'Mahony (finalist); Ciara O'Connor (semi-finalist) and Iona O'Neill (semi-finalist).



Iona O'Neill



Ciara O'Connor



Sally O'Mahony

COSI GROUP HELP TACKLE PLASTIC POLLUTION PROBLEM BOTTLE BY BOTTLE!

Sinead Foran



COSI group help tackle plastic pollution problem bottle by bottle! As most people are well aware, plastic bottles are responsible for one of the ocean's most pressing environmental problems.

Plastic takes over 1,000 years to decay and with America alone using up to 50 billion plastic water bottles a year it's clear to see how plastic bottles are having a huge negative impact on the environment.

COSI (Community of Social Innovators) decided to put a ban on water bottles. They organised a crate in the school canteen for bottles. With such a large student body in Mounthawk, it is no surprise that

the crate was filled in no time. The aim of the task was to show the usage of plastic bottles and to raise awareness of the problem.

To take things a step further the group now plan to ban plastic water bottles entirely next September and replace them with reusable sports bottles.

Each student in the school was given the chance to vote for their favourite reusable water bottle. Now COSI ask all students in the school to support them in their efforts to reduce the amount of plastic being dumped each year, by purchasing a school water bottle.

L.E.A.F

L.E.A.F., or Leading Environmental Awareness Further, is an initiative created this year by members of the TY Environment class. They are in the process of making a nature pathway on the school grounds where students can walk.

The members of L.E.A.F are: Vilte Dubickaite, Jason Curran, Raul Venczel, Oisin Percival, Megan McCarthy and Brian Votta. They are trying to raise publicity for the pathway and have set up an Instagram and Twitter account, @leaf_ty2017. Please support their group and the great work they're doing by following them on their social media.

They are currently running a competition where their first 25 followers can name a frog. A group of frogs were discovered in the pond by the pathway recently. Some of the frogs have been named already.

1. Fraggie (Ms. D. Buckley)
2. Ribbet (Ms. Donovan)
3. Boo Boo (Ms. B. Buckley)
4. Holden (Mr. Redican)
5. Rupert (Ms. Flanagan)



LUNCHTIME DEBATING

The Lunchtime Debates were bigger and even more enjoyable this year with a packed library each lunchtime. As a result, the finals were held in Centenary Hall. Sincere thanks to all the staff and students who took part. A heavily weighted audience voted in favour of the student team this year, thereby robbing a gallant and eloquent staff team of a deserved victory. That's democracy for you! Now looking for a motion for next year!



Clodagh Byrne, Cillian O'Regan, Christian Keane and Sinead Ryan



Ms O'Mahony, Ms Thornton and Mr Redican

ENTERPRISE

2 WINNERS AT STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Enterprise student Donagh McMahon won the award for Most Innovative Project at the Student Enterprise Awards ceremony on March 31st.

Donagh's project was 'Mc Copy Kit' and it is an 'all in 1' schooling utensil. Its structure is similar to that of a 'Swiss army knife' whereby the tools or in this case pens/pencils 'hinge' in and out.

The award for best social product was also won by Mounthawk students Jennifer Fox, Katie Nagle and Amy O'Mahony,

The girls product JAK Cards involved designing and selling Tralee themed Christmas cards and giving a percentage of the profits to Kerry Cork Health Link Bus. The final sum donated was €599



FIRST PRIZE IN "OUR BIG IDEA"

Tiernan Brosnan represented Mounthawk in a competition organised by I.T. Tralee and sponsored by Tralee Chamber Alliance as part of Enterprise Month. The competition was titled "Our Big Idea" and asked TY students to present ideas that would benefit Tralee as a town.

Tiernan's big idea was "Tralee - Tracks and Trails", an outdoor adventure bicycle park. The park includes BMX tracks and jumps, an Eco-cycling trail and a Learn to Cycle area for toddlers. The planned area for the park is the former dump site near The Wetlands. Tiernan's idea was awarded first prize, which included a cheque for €500 and a trophy sponsored by Trophy World. Bank of Ireland have also arranged for Tiernan to be interviewed by Gavin Duffy from RTE's Dragon's Den.



iWish 2017

On the 10th of February, some TY girls got the chance to attend I Wish 2017. This was a convention devoted to encouraging women to go into STEM field careers. The event was hosted by Sinéad Kennedy, who hosts RTE's Winning Streak with Marty Whelan. We watched a panel talk with leading professionals in the STEM field. Some firms had Virtual Reality experiences there which were very cool. The companies also explained their work and the benefits of a STEM field career. The whole convention focused on the importance of considering a job in STEM.

It exposed them to the variety of careers out there in STEM. Each attendee received a goodie bag at the event. Many science, technology and engineering firms were present at the convention and lots of free items were given out. They also had two hours to shop in Wilton Shopping Centre beforehand!

by Majella Votta



EUROPEAN STUDIES

by Dorcas Oyewande and Majella Votta

Our European Studies class, guided by Ms. S. Carey, were chosen for the Ambassador Schools Programme for the European Commission. In order to achieve Ambassador School status, we had to organise events, take part in debates and source guest speakers. As a class, we like to debate so we started the year with individual speeches on subjects we felt passionately about. We debated topics such as human rights, the gender pay gap and the closing of rural post offices.

We entered the Euroscola Poster Competition in October. The theme was the 1916 Easter Rising in a European context and our poster contained historical images depicting the events occurring in Europe during 1916. The class produced a beautiful poster and we thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

As our subject is European Studies, we felt

that we should communicate with another European school to discover more about their culture. We took part in a Skype call with a school in Finland. We talked to Helmi, Wihelmiina, Piiija and Tuuli-Emily from the Tampereen Lyseon Lukio in Finland.

We discussed school life and pop culture and we shared contact details. We hope

to engage in more Skype calls from other schools around Europe and the world in the future.

On 10th of March three of our classmates represented us in the mock council debate in Dublin. They took the position of The Mathias Fekl, French Minister for Trade, and discussed the EU's international trade agreements. They considered the positive and negative impact on European citizens and businesses. It was a great success and the team did the school proud.

One of the highlights of the year, and maybe the highlight of TY for some students, was the European Youth Parliament in Cork. Twelve people in our class went to the Regional EYP session. The weekend was great fun and insightful and a lot of new friends were made. Two of our classmates, Davis Fitzgerald and Janet Poli were chosen to go to the national session in April, a great achievement..

Dorcas Oyewande also found out she was one of the lucky winners of the weekly graduate. ie quiz. She will be going to Strasbourg in October 2017 to visit the European Parliament!

To round up the year, we ran our own Mock European Youth Parliament in the school before the summer. Forty second years were invited. This event was a huge success and it was a terrific event to mark a great year.



Speakers at our mock European Parliament



Model European Parliament



Mercy Mounthawk Tralee with Lynn Boylan MEP



European Studies Class Photo



FRENCH DEPARTMENT



French Theatre



Crepes for Class 1.4

CHAMPAGNE ANN

The French department had the added benefit of a language assistant for the year. Ann, who hails from the Champagne region of France, was available to all French students throughout the year for individual and class work and students benefitted greatly from listening to her speak in her native tongue as well as gaining confidence in their oral French. Hopefully it is something students will get the opportunity to avail of again.

FRENCH THEATRE

The French department welcomed the French Theatre for Schools drama group to the school in March. They performed a play for senior cycle students followed by a performance for the first, second and third years. They were very entertaining and included many students in the performance which they thoroughly enjoyed and benefitted from.

GERMAN DEPARTMENT

BERLIN TOUR

The Transition Years had the opportunity to go on tour to Berlin during second term. It was a packed four days, starting with a visit to the Holocaust Memorial and the Brandenburg Gate. A bus tour of the city showed many famous historical and political landmarks in the city. They saw the Berlin Wall and Check Point Charlie Museum which highlighted the political but also the human stories associated with the Wall.

Visits were paid to the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum, which was built in the summer of 1936 by prisoners of Emsland concentration camp, the Reichstag, which is where the German government is situated and the Deutsches Historisches Museum, which is the official National History Museum of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Berlin TV Tower gave a magnificent view of the city.

There was also time to visit Berlin Zoo, a chocolate factory, Lasergame Schöneweide and of course the mandatory time for shopping!



It has been a busy year for our German Department. In September we welcomed Isobel Lucas our German assistant from Hamburg. Isobel worked with students from all years and ran a German club on Fridays for Junior Cycle students. We wish her the best of luck with her future studies in Germany.

In November we collaborated with the Spanish department for a presentation to Leaving Certs on "Día de las Muertes" the much celebrated Mexican festival.

Four fifth year students took part in the "Juvenes Translatores" translating competition run by the European Commission. We were 1 of 11 Irish schools selected from over 1800 European applicants. The students who took part were - Liam O'Leary, Daniel Carton, Thomas Curran and Lauren Murphy .



STUDENT COUNCIL

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Daniel Sheehy, 3rd Year

Mounthawk is a multicultural school, and in order to fully integrate all cultures, Social Integration, a sub-committee of the Student Council, was set up. Over the past year, our committee, chaired by Head Girl, Ciara McCarthy, have helped to organise a number of events. We began our year by electing Mary O'Connell (4th Year) as co-chairperson, Jack Lopez (5th Year) as secretary, and Daniel Sheehy (3rd Year) as P.R.O. We were delighted to help U.R.A.C., the Transition Year YSI group, to carry out their Multicultural Talent Show. Among many other achievements, we organised oral practices for sixth years preparing for their French, German and Spanish oral exams in April, and worked with the Executive Council to organise "Centenary Sessions". I believe that this has been a very successful year for the Social Integration Committee. We set out realistic and achievable goals, and helped to increase school spirit.

STUDENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Ciara McCarthy, Head Girl

As always, this year has been a hectic and productive year for the Student Council. September 2016 saw a complete revamp of our Council structure, allowing for three unique committees to oversee specific areas of life in Mounthawk, headed by the Executive Council. The Executive have worked hard throughout the past eight months to achieve specific goals which we set out at the beginning of the year. We are delighted to finally have succeeded in applying for membership of the Irish Second-Level Students' Union, which will provide countless benefits to our council. The 2016/2017 school year has also seen the introduction of 'Centenary Sessions', whereby students provide live entertainment in our new Centenary Hall. We have also worked to organise a HSE Little Things talk for Transition Years, and to enable sixth years to apply for the Register of Electors, to name but a few of the tasks we have undertaken. The Executive are also thrilled to see the presentation of the Student Choice Award for the second year, and we would like to congratulate Ellen O'Connell, a much-deserved winner. On behalf of myself and Sam, I would like to thank all members of the Executive Council and individual committees for an incredibly enjoyable and prosperous year.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING COMMITTEE

Sam Boyle, Head Boy

The Health and Well-Being committee is the first of its kind and I am pleased to say that we were very successful in serving as the guinea pigs. The success of our committee is due to the hard work of its members and their dedication to health promotion. Throughout the years, our school has strived to improve both physical and mental health for its students and our goal was no different. Our annual Health Promotion Week gave us the opportunity to introduce new activities which would generally not be very popular amongst students, such as spikeball and frisbee. However - by working in close association with the Transition Years committee 'Sport Your Mind' - it was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed. Mental Health is seen as equally important to Physical Health in Mercy Mounthawk. This year, we invited guest speaker Julianne Lane, who is part of the 'Little Things' campaign in the HSE, to the school to give a talk to the TY's regarding mental health and its importance amongst young people. Sure enough, the students found it very interesting and beneficial. I would like to thank Ms. Dineen, Ms. O'Shea and The Transition year committees for all their help throughout the year.

Charity Fundraising

Art teacher, Ms O'Shea Daly was touched by the plight of people in Burkino Faso where her friend, Fr. Zachariah works. People suffer blindness from cataracts, which is no longer a first world problem. She raised awareness among students and approached pupils Alex Kelly, Sadbh Griffin, Mary O'Connell, Rachel O'Regan and Heidi Crean and gave them a 21 day challenge to raise money for this cause. An operation to restore a person's sight costs just €350. They rose to the challenge and raised €2000 euro. Well done to all who organised and contributed to this effort.





YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS

Uniting Race and Culture

Transition year students decided to do a step-up project for their YSI project and continue from last year's group - Generation Integration. They felt that cultural integration was, and still is a very valid topic given that Mercy Mounthawk is home to 44 different nationalities. They decided upon the name URAC, which stands for Uniting Race and Culture. The students have completed several initiatives throughout the year to promote Interculturalism in the school. They hosted an Intercultural night where students and parents were given the opportunity to share their cultural food and music. The night was very well attended and was also filmed for their documentary.

URAC's documentary on the role of Intercultural Education will be sent to other secondary schools in the country to demonstrate best practice in the integration of Syrian students into schools. URAC received funding for the documentary from the Post-Primary Languages Initiatives in Dublin. It was showcased on the 26th April in St Nathy's Secondary school Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon. This is because 88 new Syrians have arrived in the town and will be attending local schools. URAC shared resources with this school and some members of the team spoke to Primary school Principals who will also be taking in Syrian students. Our own Syrian students Mohammed and Malek Al Mehir had the opportunity to meet with other Syrians to tell them of their very positive experience in Ireland.

URAC held an Intercultural Talent show where students from different cultures were given a chance to take part in an event that gave them an opportunity to express their talents. Overall winners of the show were Promise Ekwuham from 2nd year and Seamus Harty from 4th year. Liliia Kurochkina came first in the dance section for her wonderful traditional dance act. The best group for the night was Yemesi Osinubi, Blessing Ndebele and Christina Obilana.

Sadhb Griffin, a member of URAC won the Yellow Flag Art competition for her beautiful picture of Different Exteriors, Same Interiors. URAC also had different speakers throughout the year such as members of the Islamic community in Kerry, Gee Walker from the Anthony Walker Foundation and members of the Roma community. What the group realise is that we all need to get along together while accepting one another's differences. This year has given them the opportunity to explore other cultures and to see just how much we have in common. URAC have encouraged students to see one another as connected with everyone. The arrival of the Syrian students have taught them that we may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race.

Top Marks in the State Exams

Ciara Holmes achieved 625 points in her Leaving Cert. exams. Ciara is now studying Engineering at University College, Dublin.

Caoimhe Barry Walsh achieved 625 points in her Leaving Cert. Caoimhe is now studying Physiotherapy at University of Limerick.

Donnagh O'Buachalla achieved 615 points in his Leaving Cert. He is now studying Engineering in N.U.I. Galway.

Emma Leahy achieved 600 points in her Leaving Cert. She is now studying Pharmacy in University College, Cork.



Ciara Holmes



Caoimhe Barry Walsh



Donagh O'Buachalla



Emma Leahy

Junior Cert Excellence

Congratulations to Niamh Mc Mahon, Maria Dwyer, Katie Crowe, Laura Harty, Mary O'Connell, Michael O'Gara, Tiernan Brosnan, Ellen Gercik and Donagh Mc Mahon who received 77 A Grades between them in the Junior Cert.



Junior Certs

Exam Statistics - Junior Cert 2016

	National Average	Mounthawk
A in Irish	11%	14%
A in Maths	10%	13.1%
A in English	9.4%	12.4%
A in Science	11%	19%
A in History	15.2%	18.4%
A in T.Graph	14.2%	19.4 %
A in Art	21.6%	37.9%
A in Business	9.1%	14.8%

Exam Statistics - Leaving Cert 2016

	National Average	Mounthawk
600+ points	0.4%	2%
500+ points	9.5%	19.1%



Winners of the Donal Walsh Live Life Film Awards



CHINESE COOKERY

We were very lucky to be able to host a very educational, enjoyable and tasty Chinese cookery workshop. Xiaoxiao, our master chef, came from Confucius Institute U.C.C. and is also facilitating two of our Transition Year Students on the Confucius Institute U.C.C. Easter trip to Shanghai. Well done to Tiernan Brosnan and Orla O' Reilly who were selected to represent the school. It will be an amazing experience!!



Daffodil Day

WINNER OF THE LIONS CLUB YOUTH AMBASSADOR AWARD

Unity Ankomah, Atlanta Kennedy and Sinead Ryan represented Mercy Secondary School Mounthawk in the Tralee area district Lions Club Young ambassador of the 21st Century competition.

Sinead Ryan was selected to be the Tralee Lions club entry for the Regional final of the Young Ambassador/Youth Award 2016/2017 which took place on Saturday 10th December 2016 in Cork.

Sinead is a member of Irish Red Cross since 2014 and volunteered on a weekly basis providing first aid cover and humanitarian aid to her community. She is also on the school's first aid team which deals with on-site accidents and emergencies.

She was a member of Kerry Comhairle na nÓg from February 2014 to March 2016 and as part of this was a youth representative on the Kerry Children and Youth participation working group providing insight into the most pressing issues facing children and teenagers in modern day Kerry. Sinead also sat on the Children and Youth services committee of Kerry County Council.

Sinead is a volunteer for the European Youth Parliament, organizing sessions across Ireland to discuss current, topical affairs and social issues affecting the E.U. and its citizens.



Congratulations to Sinead Ryan, who is the overall winner of the Tralee Lions Club Youth Award. From l-r: Atlanta Kennedy (Finalist), Shane Kissane (Mercy Mounthawk), Eleanor Collins (Tralee Lions Club), Sinead Ryan (Overall Winner), Brendan Kenny (President - Tralee Lions Club), Unity Ankonah (Finalist), John O'Roarke (Principal - Mercy Mounthawk)



Apprentice Chef Competition

Our budding chefs Niamh McMahon (TY) and Paul Cassidy (TY) were successful in participating in the semi-final of the Apprentice Chef Competition in the I.T. Tralee during the month of March. Paul prepared a Calamari Ragu and Niamh created a Salmon Risotto. Niamh represented Mercy Mounthawk in the final on Thursday May 11th

Romeo & Juliet

MOUNTHAWK'S 'ROMEO & JULIET' WINS NATIONAL THEATRE AWARD

This year, Mercy Mounthawk was proud to present Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', the classic tale of true love, set in the magnificent 16th century city of Verona. The Montagues and the Capulets are both powerful, feuding families whose only children, Romeo and Juliet, become the 'star-crossed lovers' doomed by fate. The cast rehearsed every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from early October as well as over the Christmas holidays. Hugo Wells played Romeo and Juliet was played by Dakotah Carter O'Flynn. Other characters included the vibrant and bawdy Nurse, played by Amy Roche, the wise Friar Lawrence by Matthew Dineen, the witty and playful Mercutio

played by Sean Gannon and the fierce and fiery Tybalt brought to life by Darragh Clarke. Some T.Y. students, guided by Mr O'Sullivan built and painted the wonderfully intricate sets and Mrs. Barry must take credit for the beautiful period costumes.

Mr. Tony Behan, and teachers Ms. Sheldon, Ms. McKenna, Ms. Thornton, Ms. Buckley and Ms. O'Connor directed and produced an excellent production of the play. It is great credit to all involved that Mercy Mounthawk was nominated for two Bord Gáis Energy Awards, for Best Set and won the award for Best Review.



FAREWELL TO OUR CARETAKER JOHN O'HALLORAN

John O'Halloran, our caretaker retired in May. He began working in Mounthawk when the school opened in 2001 and before that he was caretaker in St. John's Secondary School, Balloonagh. We wish John many years of health and happiness in his retirement and thank him for all his years of service to the school.



Maeve Ong and Sophie Irwin of 3rd Year Home Economics 1

1ST PLACE AND MERIT AWARDS IN JOHN HOOPER STATISTICS COMPETITION

October saw Lauren O' Grady, Nessa McGarty and Rachel Bowler visit the National Concert Hall to receive their 1st place medals in the John Hooper Statistics Competition from Pádraig Dalton, Director General of the Central Statistics Office. Their project, entitled 'The Early Birth Catches the Worm' explored the theory that sports people born in the first half of the year have an advantage over those born in the second half of the year. Their research and calculations showed there was a very sound basis for the hypothesis especially in their chosen sport of football and athletics.

Well done also to Hugo Wells, Gerard Tansley and Colin McDaid who also attended the event, receiving an order of merit for their project entitled 'Overfishing'.



First prize and winners of the John Hooper Medal for Statistics presented by Pádraig Dalton, Director General, Central Statistics Office.
Students: Lauren O'Grady, Rachel Bowler, Nessa McGarty
Teacher: Eileen Flanagan



MATHS WEEK

For Maths Week 2016 our Transition Year Students organised a fun event whereby they challenged 2nd year students to complete maths activities. Ten groups of TY students each developed their own maths activity and supervised the 2nd year students engagement with each activity.

This event saw TY students deepen their organisational skill, improve their team work capabilities, develop their abilities to explain concepts to others and also deepen their engagement with mathematics.

The 2nd years thoroughly enjoyed each task, receiving prizes on successful completion of an activity. Well done to the Transition Years on organising such a successful event!

MATHS



David Hughes who got 2nd place in the Kerry IMTA Maths Quiz



Maths Quiz Winners - Timothy Grimes, Liam O'Brien, Eoin Walsh and Isobelle Lynch with Ms McCarthy



Ryan O'Sullivan, winner of the U18 Charlie Chaplin Short Film Competition

A VIBRANT LITERACY WEEK

Word Zone

On Wednesday 1st March, T.Y.'s ran a 'Word Zone' for second year and fifth year students. They participated in literacy games and activities that had been devised by the T.Y. students. Games included Black-Out Poetry, Giant Scrabble, Word Jumble, Guess the Book, and The Chase. It was a tremendous success and received a lot of positive feedback. Literacy Week was the highlight of TY for some T.Y. students.

Poetry Aloud

The first ever Mercy Mounthawk Poetry Aloud Competition was held on Thursday 2nd March, in the library. The competition was organised by Ms. Thornton, and it was open to fourth and fifth year students. The poems recited had to be taken from the 2018 Leaving Cert. Course. The competition was judged by T.Y. students, Éidín Dowling, Shauna Flynn and Majella Votta, who competed in the National Poetry Competition last October/November. The winners of the competition were: Darragh Clarke (3rd place), Rachel Deasy (2nd place) and Sean Trant (1st place). Congratulations to all the participants who performed brilliantly. Thanks to Ms. Thornton for organising the event.

Book Character Dress-Up Day

To end a wonderful Literacy Week, the school had a 'Book Character Dress-Up Day'. T.Y. students and some teachers dressed up as their favourite book characters. There were two competitions for T.Y.'s, a Best-Dressed Competition for the students with the best costumes, and a competition to guess the characters personified by the teachers. It was a fun end to the week, with costumes from Harry Potter and the Cat in the Hat all the way to Matilda. It's clear to see there's plenty of bookworms and book lovers in Mounthawk! The effort was admirable and it was great to see so many people dress as their favourite characters and bringing so much colour to the occasion.



Teachers dress up for World Book Day

LITERACY WEEK

MERCY MOUNTHAWK DEBATING

"I love argument, I love debate. I don't expect anyone just to sit there and agree with me, that's not their job." - Margaret Thatcher



Winners of the 2nd Year Debates - Allen Ybanez, Adam Curran and Alimat Babatunde with Ms Thornton

When I arrived in Mounthawk five years ago my heart was set on joining the debating team, and five years on I was captain of the Concern Debating Team. It is thanks to the hard work of teachers such as Mr Redican, Ms Costolloe, Ms McKenna, Ms Thornton, and of course our resident debating enthusiast Deputy Principal Mr Fleming that we students have the opportunity to take part in the "noble" form of arguing.

In 2014, just before I was to begin knuckling down to preparing for my Junior Cert mocks I heard about a 'teachers versus students' debate. The motion: 'Santa Claus is guilty of trespassing and mass surveillance'. This was my first time ever taking part in a debate and I was thrilled and nervous and excited. But what stuck with me and encouraged me to pursue debating further were my opponents: Mr Redican, who always had the perfect refutations with a brilliant quip, Ms Costolloe, who was always perfectly poised with the perfect line, and finally Mr Fleming, who demonstrated the importance of humour by incorporating hits such as 'Shake It Off' into his speech.

In 2015 Ms McKenna started a First Year Debating Club run by T.Y. students. I volunteered and ended up running the club to my delight. This was also the year I got involved with Concern Debating with the help of Mr Redican. Every Friday I would spend my lunch time encouraging the first years to argue their

points, to be confident, and to learn to stand up in front of their peers and say what needed to be said. And every month or so, I debated with my fellow T.Y.s against other Concern Debating Teams

This year with the adrenaline shot that was Ms Thornton, the Concern Debating Team began to increase in size. It is now composed of two fifth years, myself and Darragh Clark, as well as T.Y. students Katie Crowe, Mary O'Connell, Niamh MacMahon, Eidin Dowling, Majella Vota, and Janet Poli. Aoife King and Hugo Wells do time keeping and fulfil the duties of chairperson.

This year also, the second year English teachers decided to pit their classes against each other to find out who were the debating champions of second year. I was honoured to be invited to judge the debates with Mr Redican and Mr Fleming. The standard of debating by the fourteen year olds, not only in the finals but all the way along, was incredible.

Debating is probably one of the best clubs to join in school as you gain knowledge of the world around you, you learn how to properly formulate your argument, and you learn to conquer the fear of speaking in front of large crowds.

by Rachel Deasy 5.5

Creative Writing Workshops and Global Awareness

From October to January, TY and Fifth Year students participated in several creative writing workshops with poet John W. Sexton. Funded by Poetry Ireland's 'Development Education' programme, students worked closely with Mr. Sexton to explore global issues through a variety of creative writing projects. The programme aims to increase awareness and understanding of the rapidly changing, interdependent and unequal world in which we live. Students were given the chance to engage imaginatively with issues such as the Syrian refugee crisis and child labour through the art of story telling. The students found the experience both educational and inspiring.

LITERACY WEEK

WAITING FOR GODOT

On the 7th of May, the TY's accompanied by their teachers were given the opportunity to see the play "Waiting for Godot" by Samuel Beckett in the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. The play is based on the theory of Absurdism, which relates to the belief that human beings exist in a purposeless, chaotic universe, as well as intentionally ridiculous or bizarre behaviour or character (though almost every person has a different idea of the true meaning of the play). This topic was expressed through compelling dialogue, hilarious scenarios and intriguing characters.

Although the set was quite bare (simply featuring a large, flat stone and a bare tree), it expressed the themes of the play explicitly and you could tell that it was expertly crafted. As for the costuming, it seemed as though the attire each character wore matched their personality and aspirations, which was very pleasing.

Overall, it was an outstanding play and I am extremely happy to have been able to experience it.

by Dorcas Oyewande

SPELLING BEE

The Spelling Bee for first year students has become a Literacy Week Institution at Mounthawk. It provides students with a competitive forum to celebrate a skill they have spent a great deal of time cultivating - that is, spelling accurately the myriad of challenging words our language contains.

We begin by providing each first year group with a list of the 100 most commonly misspelled words in the English language. They sit a test in class in order to represent their group in the final. Each finalist receives recognition for their achievement. We work hard to ensure that all students are celebrated for just getting into the final. After a 'trial run' round, it's a pretty cut throat business, one false move and you're eliminated. The competition rewards nerves of steel as well as the more predictable spelling prowess. All in all, it's a fun afternoon which celebrates intellectual achievement in a competitive setting. Thanks to the English teachers for running this exciting and hotly contested competition. This year's winners were:

First place: Ronan Clancy 1.6

Second place: Louis Monaghan from 1.7

Third place: Katie Dwyer from 1.3



Ms Thornton, Mr Redican, Ms Buckley, Ms Sheldon & Ms Costello



2nd Year Keela Hughes receives National Poetry Certificate of Merit in Cavan



Mr Behan with students Sean Trant, Liam Tuite, Hugo Wells & Amy Roche at the Actor's Workshop



Kludia Simachowicz meets Brendan Kennelly at Listowel Writers Week after winning 2nd prize in the Short Story Competition



Ms Dineen, Ms Hunt & Ms Kane

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Chuir laoch caide na Gaeltachta agus go deimhin na ríochta Louise Ní Mhuircheartaigh tús oifigiúil in athuair le seachtain mhór ceiliúradh ar ár dteanga is ár gcultúr anseo i gCnoc an tSeabhaic i mBlia. Bhí daltaí na scoile sáite i radharc gníomhaíochtaí i gcaitheamh na seachtaine. Bhain lucht na céad bliana agus na ceathrú bliana súp as an gcéilí beo le hAingeal Ní Ghrifín I halla an cheiliúradh agus bhí caighdeán ard dearthóireachta le sonrú sa chomórtas t-léine agus póstaer a rithheadh arís i mBlia. Bhí ranganna Gaeilge na dara bliana in iomaíocht le chéile sa chomórtas Tráth na gceist boird. Cuireadh leagan Gaeilge de scannán Harry Potter ar siúl do lucht na tríú bliana agus choimeád Ms. Cronin lucht na cúigiú bliana sa tsíúil le biongó ina seomra nua féin. Tráthúil go leor ghlac lucht na séú bliana páirt i seisiún geandáil ghasta díreach roimh na mbéaltrialacha, rud a chabhraigh go mór leo. Níor chóir dearmad a dhéanamh ar an taitneamh a bhain daltaí na scoile as an tóraíocht taisce eolais agus as an gceolchoirm beo I halla an cheiliúradh a chuir clabhsúr le seachtain speisialta i saol na scoile. Tabharfaidh lucht na hidirbhliana cuairt ar an nGaeltacht I lár mí na Bealtaine.

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta

Ba mhian le múinteoirí roinn na Gaeilge anseo sa scoil ár mbuíochoas a ghabhail le Coláistí Chorca Dhuibhne I mBaile an Fheirtéaraigh as ucht sé leath-scoláireacht a bhronnadh orainn arís i mBlia. Is fiú beagnach trí mhíle euro a leithéidí d'ár ndaltaí agus táimid fíor bhuíoch as na scoláireachtaí a fháil. Is iad na buaiteoirí a bheidh ag tabhairt aghaidh ar an nGaeltacht i rith an tsamhraidh 2017 ná Olamide Obadina (2.2), David Leane (2.7), Dylan Harris (1.6), Róisín Mulrooney (1.4), Lara Flynn (1.4) Diarmuid O'Connor (5.2) Comhghairdeas libh agus bainigí taitneamh as!

Cúinne na Gaeilge le Ms Ní Dhubhda Gaeilge 24

Reachtáladh Gaeilge 24 sa scoil seo don chéad uair riamh I mBlia. Feachtas e seo de chuid Conradh na Gaeilge chun daoine óga a spreagadh chun Gaeilge a labhairt. Ghlac breis is tríocha míle dalta ó cheann ceann na tíre páirt sa dúshlán chun Gaeilge a labhairt ar feadh tréimhse ceithre uaire is fiche. Mar chuid den dúshlán bhí ar na daltaí urraíocht de deich euro an duine a bhailiú agus fuairadar t-léine mar aon le banda rosta agus leabhrán frasaí mar thoradh ar a gcuid iarrachtaí. Chaith formhór na foirne greamáin a léirigh go rabhadar sásta an cúpla focal a labhairt sna ranganna I gcaitheamh an lae agus táimid fíor bhuíoch dóibh siúd as a dtacaíocht.

Thugamar féin faoin dúshlán ar an gcúigiú la déag de mhí na Samhna. Toisc an scoil a bheith chomh mór roghnaíomar an dúshlán a dhéanamh leis an idirbhliain amháin. Eagraíodh scata imeachtaí I gcaitheamh an lae chun gach éinne a choimeád ar an mbóthar ceart. Chan lucht na hidirbhliana amháin Ghaeilge sa GP ag am sosa iad á thionlacan ag an trad ghrúpa a thug a dtaispeántas féin ina dhiaidh sin agus ard mholadh ag dul dóibh féin agus do MS. Ní

Dheargáin as an tacaíocht agus an deá atmaisféar a chruthaigh siad ag imeachtaí éagsúla I rith na bliana. Leanadh ansin le seisiún geandail ghasta. Seisiún beo bríomhar a bhí anseo ar bhain na daltaí idir thaitneamh is thairbhe as agus iad ag cumarsáid le cheile go neafaiseach trí mheán na Gaeilge. San Iarnóin cuireadh céilí ar siúl I halla an chomóradh agus mise á rá libh gur baineadh súp as. Ballaí Luimní, Droichead Átha Luain, An Staicín Eorna agus an sméar mullaigh An Dreoilín le Ms. Ní Dheargáin! Ní féidir dearmad a dhéanamh ar rince na deilbhe ach oiread.

In ainneoin gur cheap roinnt mhaith daltaí go raibh se thar a bheith dúshlánach Gaeilge amháin a labhairt ar feadh tréimhse ceithre uaire is fiche táimid thar a bheith bródúil as an éacht a rinne sibh go hairithe nuair a smaoiníonn sibh ar an tionchar a bhí agaibh ar foireann an cheaintín agus ár ndóigh ar lucht an tsiopa trasna an bhóthair agus ar an bpobal máguaird chun iad a spreagadh chun ár dteanga dúchais a labhairt.

Gur fada buan sibh!

GRADAM GAEILGE

Comhghairdeas le Ciara Nic Cárthaigh as an séú bliain a bhuaigh an Gradam Gaeilge ag Oíche Bronnta na ngradam i mí Bealtaine. Cuireadh an gradam seo ar bun i gcuimhne ar Mháire Uí Ghéiní, iar-mhúinteoir na scoile seo a cailleadh sa bhliain 2002 agus a raibh suim mhór aici sa Ghaeilinn agus sa chultúr gaelach. Bronnadh an gradam ar Chiara toisc gur ghnóthaigh sí an marc is airde sa Ghaeilinn I réamhscrúdú na hardteistiméireachta. Léirigh sí ardchumas agus ardchaighdeán. Ar ndóigh chaith Ciara dhá bhliain ina ball de fhoireann díospóireachta sóisearach na scoile, a chuaigh chomh fada le craobh na hÉireann, de chomórtas díospóireachta an Phiaraisigh Ghael Linn 2014.

AN TRAD GHRÚPA

Tá an trad ghrúpa ag dul ó neart go neart in ár scoil i mBlia. Faoi stiúir Ms. Ní Dheargáin, tá suas le cúig bhall is fiche sa ghrúpa. Ní bréag a rá go raibh téarma an ghnóthach acu. Thugadar taispeántas iontach uathu nuair a sheinneadar don lá oscailte ag tús mí na Samhna. Cúpla lá ina dhiaidh, thacaigh siad leis an idirbhliain, nuair a rinneadar tionlacan ar an seisiún amhránaíochta sa GP. Go deimhin chruthaigh na poirt a sheinneadar ina n-aonar an- atmaisféar le linn an tsosa. Bhíodar ar an

ardán arís nuair a sheinneadar don seó faisin a reachtáladh sa scoil ag tús mí na Nollag. Taithí úrnua a bhí I ngach ócáid acu seo don ghrúpa atá fos ag forbairt, ach, ba é an deis seinnt ag seirbhís carúil na Nollag le hais cór na scoile, an sméar mullaigh gan aon agó! Táimid ag súil le go leor eile uathu san athbhliain.



Spanish Debating

Mercy Mounthawk had the honour of hosting its first Spanish debate in February. Three other teams travelled to us, to debate the motion that “The Internet does more harm than good”. We were delighted to welcome teams from Pobalscoil Corca Dhuibne in Kerry, along with Salesians Pallaskenny and Laurel Hill Coláiste from Limerick. Our team was made up of three sixth year students: Sinéad Deacy (captain), Niamh Green and Unity Ankomah, along with a transition year student: Majella Votta.

The girls represented themselves and their school commendably as they successfully argued that the internet does more good than harm, beating Laurel Hill Coláiste. Sinéad Deacy was the best speaker on the night. Pobalscoil also won their debate on the night.

The dedication and preparation shown by our debate team was note-worthy. Hopefully their success will help these debates to become part of the fabric of Mercy Mounthawk in the future.

Argentinian Cultural Exchange Day

In January, a group of Argentinian students visited our 4th year Spanish classes. The Argentinian and the Mercy Mounthawk students both made presentations in Spanish and English about life in their countries. Students mingled with each other, sampling some Argentinian and Irish food and listened to their popular music. This cultural exchange was very enjoyable and everyone had a wonderful time getting to know each other.

Our Trip to Sol Y Sombra

On March 10th our 6th Year Spanish classes were treated to our annual evening of Spanish food and music in the well renowned tapas restaurant, Sol Y Sombra in Killorglin. As the menus are in Spanish, the students took the opportunity to practice the language with the waiters who are Spanish natives. Students tasted delicious tapas dishes and spoke the language throughout the evening. This has now become a very popular event.



Ciará Holmes receives a National Award for best results in Leaving Cert. Spanish



Mounthawk & Argentinian students with Ms Fitzgerald



Spanish Debating



2nd Year School Tour to Madrid



Spanish Debating



SR. JOAN CURTIN

1952-2017

Sadly, this year, the school community lost Sr. Joan who was a member of the teaching staff in Mercy Mounthawk until her retirement in 2011.

Sr. Joan was born in Brosna, a small village in North Kerry. She was so proud of her roots that she would have gladly added it to the Seven Wonders of the World, if the chance was afforded to her! Her secondary education was in Coláiste Íde in Dingle as a boarder along with her sister Kathleen. After concluding her studies, she decided to follow her calling to the Mercy Order and dedicated her life to showing the love of God in a very human and touching way. University College Cork was her alma mater for her third level degree in French, Gaeilge and Maths.

On her return to Kerry in 1977, she was assigned to Coláiste Íde. During her twenty years in Coláiste Íde, she taught Gaeilge, Spanish and French, produced two plays each year and helped in the kitchen of the boarding school during her free time.

In 1996 she moved to Moyderwell and said in her retirement speech that she was struck by the generosity of the staff in that academy. In 2001 she made another move to Mounthawk as the two staffs from Moyderwell and Balloonagh embraced the new millennium with a fresh start in our present facility.

Her first love was teaching and her grá of the Irish language was unrivalled and she spoke both fluent and rich Gaeilge at every opportunity. While the vagaries of Irish grammar may cause a stumbling block to most, she was nothing if not a genius in this knowledge also. As teachers, we regularly called on her knowledge to unravel the mysteries of 'h' and 'na'. She visited France in order to polish her French accent and to expand her vocabulary bank.

Sr. Joan prepared many students in Mounthawk to become competent, enthusiastic and eloquent Irish language debaters. She freely gave up her lunchtimes, after school and weekends, polishing the pronunciation and delivery, to produce a final

drama fit for Árd Rí na hÉireann Fadó. Nothing was left to chance. Diograiseach go dtí an deireadh (diligent to the end).

Joan loved a light moment in her day and her laughter lifted the hearts of colleagues as well as her insightful, witty humour in the hustle and bustle of the staff room.

During her illness, she persevered and embraced life as much as she was able to and often more than she was able to. She remained light hearted and positive without being dismissive of the toll that her sickness was taking on her body and mind.

In conclusion what we have lost:

*A simple person God, used to do great things;
A woman of principle with a high moral compass;
An educator who was always learning;
A lady who saw the best in all those she met;
A woman of faith exemplified in her dealings with people;
A teacher we will miss and who has left us too soon.*

Written in 1895 after the birth of his son, Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If', attempts to offer values that he feels that his baby should live by. Two of its most famous lines read:

*"If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch"*

Sr. Joan Curtin personified these lines on a daily basis. She radiated a gracious humility despite her innate intelligence, a serene gentleness despite her fervent passion, a sincerity of spirit despite her riotous wit. Each trait left an indelible imprint on those of us who were blessed enough to have been taught by and worked alongside Joan.

Bean uasal íseal í gan dabht.



CELEBRATING TRANSITION YEAR

by Mr. Kissane

This year saw the number of students in Transition Year rise above 150 for the first time. We now have one of the largest elective TY classes in the country, something that we are very proud of. Our students engaged in a diverse programme of events both academic and non-academic and competed in competitions ranging from The John Hooper Medal for Statistics Competition to the Young Environmentalist Awards. In both of these competitions Mercy Mounthawk won National awards. Our students were also finalists and prize winners in the Young Social Innovators competition and our science research project class were winners in the Sci-fest competition and will go on to enter the young scientist competition next year. Many of our students played parts in, as well as building the set for the school production of Romeo and Juliet. The set designers won the award for best set at the Bord Gais Theatre awards in May.

As is now traditional in TY in Mounthawk, the outdoors had a starring role. In September and October we went surfing and coastering, both of which proved extremely exciting, invigorating and popular. We climbed Torc Mountain, Cardiac Hill and Mt. Brandon. We walked from Camp to Dingle as part of the President's Awards (GAISCE) programme and we hiked around the Black Head loop in the Burren. On both of these trips we stayed in hostels and the students catered for all their own meals. A new sporting feature of Transition Year 2017 was the introduction of a sailing course devised in partnership with The Tralee Bay Maritime Centre. For this course our students were introduced to sailing on a yacht and got to try their hands ("falling into the drink") at sailing dingies. They also took boats out to observe wildlife including seals and dolphins. We waited until after Easter for the sailing and two day hikes hoping that the weather would be favourable and it sure was. The clouds disappeared and the skies were blue for these few weeks. The students got to see how really beautiful our country was and many of them really saw Tralee bay for the first time. They will treasure the memories of these days for years to come.

Our academic programme benefitted from the introduction of a new module with 5 subjects: Oral Irish, Calculus, Creative Writing, Academic History and Academic Geography. The students chose two subjects from this list and worked hard towards gaining valuable skills for their Leaving Certificate.

English as a subject, was backed up by weekly drama classes for all, as well as attending numerous plays and musicals. Two of the theatre highlights of the year were visits to Cork and Dublin to see 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane' and 'Waiting for Godot' respectively. Our students made a number of short films, including our own "Lego movie" in conjunction with the museum in Tralee. These will be linked to the school website during the summer. We took part in art competitions, organized Maths Week and Literacy Week. Our Active Leisure programme organized the coaching of football, soccer and athletics to primary schools. There was wheelchair basketball, spikeball, an obstacle course competition, drumming, gardening, juggling and stilt-walking.

The year drew to a close with our annual T.Y. Night of the Awards, music and drama at which we were treated to a ukulele performance, excerpts from plays such as 'Sive' and '12 Angry Men'. Our students of the year were Mary O'Connell and Darragh Boyd and Orla O'Reilly won the Coordinators Award. After the TY night we went to the Burren for two days and the following week began with the end of year review of each student's work (The Portfolio Review). Our final outing was to The Maharees to participate in surfing, kayaking and general fun under, again, blue skies. It was probably the most active and busiest transition year ever. Thank you to all of the staff who were involved beyond the call of duty. A year like this is not possible without their cooperation and help. Thank you to the students who provided energy, enthusiasm and wit. I would like to thank the core team of Ms Eileen Flanagan, Ms Cora Mc Elligott, Ms Veronica Hunt, Ms Betty Farrell, Mr Ronan Redican and Ms Stella O'Shea for their hard work for the last nine years. It is their huge and diverse contribution that allows our Transition Year to operate as well as it does. I would like to bid farewell to Ms. Hunt, her contribution to TY and indeed the school was immeasurable and will be missed by many.

Finally, I wish to congratulate Ronan Redican on his appointment to the Programme Coordinator role and I know that Transition Year in Mercy Mounthawk will thrive under his guidance.



MÚINTEOIR MANIA

Múinteoir Mania was a fitness class which was available at lunch and after school open to all teachers organised by students in Active Leisure. This was an amazing opportunity for teachers to train in a comfortable environment and to enjoy a well-structured workout that



would suit one's ability. This was done by ensuring different variations on each exercise and this went down very well with the teachers as it was inclusive but still a challenge. Active Leisure thoroughly enjoyed this fitness class and we can see it becoming a permanent event for teachers in the future. We are proud to say that it was a success and it was one of many highlights for Active Leisure this year.

MERCY MOUNTHAWK GHOSTS BREAK GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

by Majella Votta

Mercy Mounthawk T.Y. students in conjunction with I.T. Tralee and in aid of Kerry Arthritic Association broke the Guinness World Record for Most Amount of People Dressed As Ghosts.

The previous record was around the 250 mark. On Friday 24th of March, we had over 560 students dressed as ghosts in the Gym so we are hopeful that we can secure the World Record.

The school was full of energy the day before and day of the event. Ms. Hunt and her COSI group as well as TY volunteers collected, measured, fit and cut the white sheets for first, second, fourth and fifth years. Massive dedication and commitment were showcased by the students and teachers involved.

View a video of the actual event on Mercy Mounthawk's Twitter page. <https://twitter.com/MounthawkMercy/status/845318731978956804>



TRANSITION YEAR

ALL THINGS IRISH - FASHION SHOW 2016

by Jessie Tierney, 4th Year

Mercy Mounthawk's annual Transition Year fashion show 2016 was an enormous success. All transition year students and fashion show committees put endless hours into the preparation for the show and were delighted with the big turnout. We would like to thank everyone who came. This year's show had the theme - 'All Things Irish', being the centenary of the 1916 Rising, it seemed the perfect time to celebrate our Irishness.

The fashion show not only showcased our modelling skills but also our talents as singers, musicians and dancers. We hoped to raise awareness of the charities we sponsored, namely, Tír na nÓg

Orphanage, Tralee Responders and Kerry Autism Assistant Dogs. These charities are all very close to our hearts and deserve so much praise for all their work. The Fashion Show has brought students out of their comfort zone, and helped them gain confidence not only on stage but also around their peers. It brought the T.Y. students closer as a year group and was truly an unforgettable night.

The night would not have been a success if it wasn't for Ms Hunt and Ms Flanagan, we are so grateful for all their help.

We hope all enjoyed the fun-filled and entertaining night as much as we did.



TY Gaisce Walk



Ms Stella O'Shea with TY students at the Insight Tourism Night in ITT

Burren Trip



HEALTH PROMOTION WEEK

We had 2 very eventful Health Promotion Weeks this year in Mercy Mounthawk. This year, we chose the theme “for your lives” as we thought it would be suitable for people to get out and about for their own enjoyment and for their own lives.

The first week in October tied in with the upcoming Halloween holidays. We organised a range of different activities throughout the week where students and teachers alike could get involved. Our T.Y. students hosted events such as “pedal for your life” and “Dance for your life,” for 2nd years. Our Spikeball Leaders received their first coaching session from Spikeball Ireland. It is hard to believe all this happened in one day! What a start to the week! On Tuesday we received a Health and fitness talk from none other than ‘Ireland’s Fittest Family’ member, Joe O’ Connor. Wednesday

was one of our busiest days as our TY Active Leisure group and COSI organised “run for your lives” - a run with a ‘spooktacular’ twist!

On Thursday, Active Leisure organised a Wheelchair Basketball tournament in aid of Kerry Wheelblasters, a local wheelchair basketball team. It was a great success with teachers and students alike getting involved in the tournament. On Friday all T.Y. students ventured up Cardiac Hill in Killarney National Park; it was a tough climb but we helped each other along the way. Also on the Friday we had healthy cooking demos and “cycle for your life” for any 5th year students who wanted to get involved.

The second Health Promotion Week was run in April. It was launched by three staff members who are significantly involved in sport, Ms. Dineen who plays camogie, Ms Ni

Mhuirheartaigh and Ms Brosnan who plays football with Kerry ladies team. Activities for the week included a spikeball tournament, Muinteoir Mania – fitness for teachers devised by the Active Leisure group in T.Y., and Group Dance-off for 1st and 2nd years in the gym. The big event of the week was the Ghost Challenge, where we attempted to break the Guinness Book of Records by having as many people as possible dressed as ghosts, to raise awareness for Arthritis Ireland. The current record is around 250 and we managed to have 560! Well done to all involved, especially the Health Promotion Team who manage to think up novel and fun activities each year to promote positive physical and mental health.

by Aideen Fox

GUIDANCE COUNSELLING

The arrival of June brings to an end another academic year. Our focus, from the beginning of the New Year, was on preparing Leaving Certificate students for the next step in their academic journey. To this end, a talk on the C.A.O. process was given to Leaving Certificate students and their parents. Applications to the C.A.O. were submitted by the February 1st deadline while applications for both D.A.R.E. and H.E.A.R. were completed by the April 1st deadline. Information on Post Leaving Certificate courses, maintenance grants and preparing for life after school were disseminated to all 6th year students.

There were a number of information evenings facilitated by the guidance counsellors for students, and their parents, including the Subject Choice talk for 1st years going into 2nd year and the Senior Cycle Subject Options talk for 3rd and 4th years going into 5th year. A number of speakers from third level institutes visited 6th year students, including representatives from local post Leaving Certificate courses.

In order to inform students in other years in planning their future career paths, the Rothman Miller Interest Blank was administered to all 5th years, including L.C.A.1, while the Differential Aptitude Test was administered to all 4th years. 3rd years took the Career Decision Making test. Appointments with students and parents of students, making subject choice decisions, were facilitated on request.

The Guidance team would like to thank fellow staff, parents and management for their ongoing support throughout the year. We wish all students health, happiness and a summer of sunshine. In particular, we are mindful of the Junior Certificate students and wish them good luck in their upcoming exams. We bid fond farewell to another group of Leaving Certificate students. They were a wonderful group to work with and we wish them well in their exams and hope that as they move on from here they will “learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow.”

from Ms. B. Farrell, Ms. M. O’ Mahony and Ms. S. Muldoon-Walsh

Each year in this section, we try to give a brief update on the school improvement plans – small incremental changes year on year is the aim...

MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND CHANGES FOR 2017/18

A major focus this year in school planning has been on the review of Senior Management structures. In September 2016, the inspectorate of the Department of Education issues a series of important new documents providing a framework for school self-evaluation. We have uploaded these onto the school website for your perusal:

<http://www.mercymounthawk.ie/new-curriculum-developments/>

Based on the domains outlined in these documents, we conducted a review of school management with the Board, the Senior Management team and with the staff in this current year. This was a timely review as we have had the opportunity to add a new member to the senior management team.

Mr Shane Kissane has been appointed as a new Deputy Principal on the team (giving us three Deputy Principals) and will take up his role in August. As the team has expanded, we have had the opportunity, in the light of the review, to realign the responsibilities of each of the positions in the team in order to better deliver on the expectations.

Mr Kissane will have responsibility for student care and management in Senior Cycle. Mrs Quane will continue to have responsibility for student care in Junior Cycle. Mr Fleming will have responsibility for Curriculum Management, co-ordinating planning in teaching and learning, CPD for teachers and tracking and supporting student academic progress.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TY

As planned, a new format journal for Transition Year was introduced in September 2016. As well as a weekly diary with a section for outlining key skills learned or developed each week, it also contained dedicated sections for evaluating and reflecting on projects and activities, guest speakers, presentations, educational trips and excursions, work shadowing and community work. The intention was to promote and scaffold self-evaluation by students of their own engagement in the programme on a continuing basis.

The core team teachers who were responsible for each class group monitored

the diary on a daily/weekly basis. They found that having the weekly reflections in one place was easier to monitor and track. In their view, the introduction of the new journal was successful in helping students engage with self-evaluation and allowing the core team teachers to encourage and support student's overall engagement with the Transition Year Programme.

Student needs were largely self-identified and the teachers could then provide the appropriate guidance and support where necessary. We aim to continue with the new format journal for Transition Year 2017 – 2018.



Transition Year continues to be a huge success at Mercy Mounthawk. See Mr. Kissane's article on page 19 for some details on why we've got one of the largest elective TY classes in the country

WELLBEING - policy and results of consultation

As you will be aware from our parent information evening in February, an exciting and positive change for next year is the ring-fencing of 300 hours of Wellbeing in the curriculum which will be composed of PE, SPHE, CSPE, Guidance and other provisions. I want to thank all the parents who responded to our Wellbeing Survey in Mercy Mounthawk as part of this consultation. A report on the results of this survey is on the website at: [http://www.mercymounthawk.ie/new-curriculum-developments/\(under+the+wellbeing+tab\)](http://www.mercymounthawk.ie/new-curriculum-developments/(under+the+wellbeing+tab)) and slides from the wellbeing talk are available at <http://www.mercymounthawk.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Talk-for-Parents-on-Wellbeing-Feb-2017-Mercy-Mounthawk.pdf> The feedback from the process has fed into determining priorities in the goals for Wellbeing in the coming year.

We will be setting specific goals for the development of the wellbeing programme in the school – more detail in September. We are maintaining the morning assembly/tutor grouping as consultation with teachers and parents indicated that it was seen as essential to the building of community and connection with students in the school, which must be seen as an essential strategy in promoting the learning outcomes in 'wellbeing'. This time will therefore be counted as part of the 300 hours of 'wellbeing' provision in our timetable. We are continuing to engage with students in relation to tracking engagement in 2nd year classes and the work with Kerry Life Education continues with 2nd year groups.

NUMERACY SIP

One of our main goals in Numeracy was addressing the gender imbalance in Mathematics uptake at Leaving Cert. higher level. There has been significant progress made. In 2015 around 30% of girls took higher level Maths at Mounthawk compared to 41% of boys. While the percentage of boys remains higher, the initiatives undertaken have seen an increase each year so that this year 38% of girls are expected to take higher level in the Leaving Cert (2017). This is a significant outcome to the SIP and these figures compare more than favourably with the national data with about 13% only taking higher level in 2016.

There was also a significant development of Maths Week with TY students creating an activities programme in Centenary Hall for 1st and 2nd years to promote interest in maths. The activities encouraged problem solving in a fun environment and benefited both the TY students who created the puzzles and the younger students who participated.

LITERACY SIP

New 'Word Journals' were introduced into 1st year this year as planned and the feedback from teachers is that they are a better structure for maintaining vocab lists and word banks. The 'Word Journals' are to be extended into 2nd year next year.

This year also saw the expansion of the lending programme for novels into 3rd year so that all of Junior Cycle is now covered. This means that through class management of the programme by the English teachers, all students have access to sets of novels to address the curriculum requirement in Junior Cycle English. Our plan is to consider a 'book in the bag' initiative next year as an alternative to the 'Drop and Read' initiative which did not take off well this year. We will also move on to look at the possibilities of setting up a structure in TY to borrow novels using the stock in our own library.

There was a significant development of Literacy Week this year with an initiative involving teachers and students in naming and describing their favourite novel. The engagement of teachers across all subject areas ensured the success of this initiative. Further to this, Lunchtime Debates are drawing more spectators and standards have risen over the year – a great support in the development of oral literacy in Junior Cycle.

ATTENDANCE STRATEGY

We have been developing our attendance strategy during the year and this will be published on the school website in September outlining the strategies that will be adopted in the school around set goals in improving attendance across the school.

CHANGES IN THE TIMETABLE FOR 2017/18

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
9:00-9:10	Assembly	Assembly	9:00-9:40	Assembly	Assembly	9:00-9:10
9:10-9:50			9:40-10:20			9:10-9:50
9:50-10:30			10:20-10:30 (<i>Break 10</i>)			9:50-10:30
10:30-10:45	Break (15)	Break (15)	10:30-11:10	Break (15)	Break (15)	10:30-10:45
10:45-11:25			11:10-11:50			10:45-11:25
11:25-12:05			11:50-12:30			11:25-12:05
12:05-12:45			12:30-1:10			12:05-12:45
12:45-13:25			1:10-1:45 (<i>Lunch 35</i>)			12:45-13:25
13:25-14:20	Lunch (55)	Lunch (55)	1:45-2:25	Lunch (55)	Lunch (55)	13:25-14:20
14:20-15:00			2:25-3:05			14:20-15:00
15:00-15:40			3:05-3:45			15:00-15:40

In order to comply with a circular from the DES, we have to make changes to the timetable for the coming academic year. We also have to move to 40 minute classes from the current mix of 35 and 40 minute periods to accord with a directive from the Department of Education in circular 0015/2017. Following consultation, the Board of Management has ratified the timetable above for next year. As you will see, four days are the same with a difference on Wednesday. Each day begins and ends at much the same time as at present: 9:00 start and ending at 4:40 on four days and 4:45 on the Wednesday. In order to incorporate an extra period on Wednesday, lunch will be 35 minutes on that day as opposed to 55 minutes on the other days. As such, the changes to the current timetable are minimal.

There is a drop in the number of periods from 45 to 42 and therefore, as part of the transition arrangements next year, there will be a change in the allocation of the number of periods to certain subjects, details of which have been discussed with the teachers and will issue with the timetables in August.

College Scholarship Award Winners 2016



David Ogewande received a J.P. McManus Scholarship based on his Leaving Cert. results. David achieved 575 points in his Leaving Cert and is studying Pharmacy in University College, Cork.



Donagh O'Buachalla received a U.C.G. Entrance Scholarship based on his Leaving Cert results. Donagh achieved 615 points in his Leaving Cert and is studying Engineering.



Caoimhe Barry Walsh received a UL 40 Scholarship based on her Leaving Cert results. Caoimhe achieved 625 Points in her Leaving Cert and is studying Physiotherapy in University of Limerick.



Ciara Holmes received a U.C.D. Entrance Scholarship based on Her Leaving Cert Results. Ciara achieved 625 points and is studying Engineering in University College, Dublin.



Student Yearbook

Congratulations to Ms Michelle Mangan and her team, led by 6th year student Christian Keane, who produced a very full and beautiful Yearbook this year. They covered every aspect of school life, tributes, creative writing, memories as well as fabulous photographs of trips and events over the year. It's a great read and a lovely memento for the class of 2017.

Mounthawk students break Records in Athletics

BEST OVERALL SENIOR GIRLS SCHOOL IN MUNSTER AND IRELAND

by Siobhán Stokes & Lyndsey Moriarty

Mounthawk students break Records in Athletics. Senior Girls won best overall School in Munster and Ireland.

Huge credit is due to Mercy Mounthawk's Track and Field team in what has been a hugely successful year. The students excelled in several disciplines and enjoyed tremendous success across all competitions, in particular within the county region winning both titles of Best Boys and Best Girls Track and Field Schools in Kerry. The athletes received a total of 19 medals at the Munster Indoor Games, 68 medals in the County Track & Field Competition, 54 medals in the North Munster Competition, 21 medals at Munster Level and 8 medals at Nationals. In addition to this, the senior girls were presented with Best Overall Senior Girls School titles in both Munster and Ireland, while breaking both the North Munster and Munster Relay records. Furthermore our junior boys were presented with the Best Overall Junior Boys School in Munster and positioned second in Ireland. A special congratulations to Mervyn Shalemba who won a series of gold medals in the sprint events across all competitions and also broke the North Munster record for both the 100m and 200m sprints.

Finally a huge well done and farewell to all of our senior athletes, in particular to Aoife O' Carroll

and Aoibheann O'Brien. The girls have been an absolute pleasure to work with over the past six years. They are both incredibly talented athletes, but also two of the most helpful, dependable, role model students that have represented Mercy Mounthawk. Thank you girls for your commitment and dedication over the years, we know that you will succeed in whatever endeavour you choose to pursue.

ALL-IRELAND TRACK & FIELD RESULTS:

Venue: Tullamore Harriers Club

Date: 3rd June 2017

Major Achievements:

- Senior girls team won joint best overall senior girls school in Ireland
- Junior boys team won second best junior boys school in Ireland

Gold Medallists:

- Mervyn Shalemba (100m, 200m)
- Aoibheann O'Brien (Long Jump)

Silver Medallists:

- Orla O'Reilly (Relay)
- Aoibheann O'Brien (Relay)
- Rachel Bowler (Relay)
- Aoife O'Carroll (Relay)

Bronze Medallists:

- Lauren O'Grady (Discus)

Athletics Coaching Course

Some T.Y. students attended a coaching course led by Tralee Harriers Coaches in Moyderwell Primary School on 27th of September. We were taught how to coach the basics of athletics to young children through fun games and activities which help to improve agility, balance and co-ordination. The Harriers coaches were so impressed, that they decided to send the T.Y. students to different primary schools around Tralee to coach young children of different ages and abilities in athletics. We received great feedback from the primary school teachers. Una O'Mahony one of the Tralee Harriers coaches and also the owner of Radar Retail sports shop, was so pleased with our progress and enthusiasm that she decided to sponsor training t-shirts for us. We created our own unique logo and designed the t-shirts. We are delighted with them and are proud to wear the t-shirts while carrying out our Active Leisure work in the school and community.

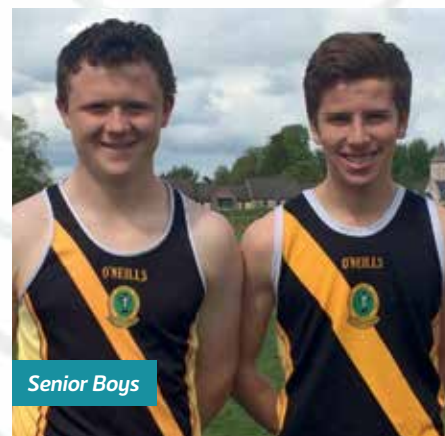
by Orla O'Reilly



Lauren O'Grady



Mervyn Shalemba



Senior Boys



Senior Girls Team



Multi Events Team



Aoife O'Carroll, Damien McLoughlin & Aoibheann O'Brien



MERCY MOUNTHAWK BASKETBALL

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS

On Sunday the 7th of May at 4pm in the University of Limerick, Mounthawk's first year boys' team created history by becoming the first boys' team to capture an All-Ireland A School's title defeating St. Pat's of Castleisland on a score line of 29 to 26 points. It capped off a magic weekend for the team where they won six games in two days to be crowned champions.

On Saturday, the boys played St. Joseph's of Galway, Ard Scoil Ris of Dublin and Summerhill of Sligo in their group games. They won all three games convincingly with some great performances by Conor O'Brien, Brian Godley and John Feely.

The quarter final against Oranmore was played at a quick pace with both teams eager to get up the court for easy baskets. Oranmore had some big, tall players which we struggled to get to grips with but Brian Mc Elligott did an excellent job in the first quarter. In the third quarter we really stepped up our efforts on the big men inside with Odhran Pierce leading the way. We played some brilliant defence but,

with two minutes to go, we found ourselves five down and a timeout was needed. After the timeout and having made some adjustments, to win by just one point.

The Semi-final match up was an all Kerry affair v Rathmore. This team had also beaten us earlier in the year. It was a game of high quality with some great shooting on both sides. Tim and Sean Pollman – Daamen really rattled Rathmore with some great shooting and layups in transition. The game was close until the end with Mounthawk's offence power final winning out by five points and setting up another all Kerry affair final with St. Pat's.

The final started out as a very tense affair. A lovely move by Jack Dakissia toward the end of the first quarter saw him level up the scores. Again Mercy Mounthawk had to attend to St Pat's size and physical strength but the team showed a lot of fight and determination, especially by Daniel Bowler and Joe Reidy. Throughout the game they proved that they were not going to be pushed over and defeated.

The last quarter was nerve racking for all involved, Tim Pollmann -Daamen opened the quarter with some great shots and, with just over a minute to go, the sides were deadlocked. In the dying minutes, Mounthawk seemed to find an extra gear in the tank and some huge shots by Mikey McCarthy and big freethrows by Sean Pollmann-Daamen sealed the sweet victory for Mercy Mounthawk.

Thanks to all the players who have been training together since September and a special word to their parents who supported us in the final on Sunday and who dropped the boys to training on school breaks and weekends.

The Team: Sean Pollmann- Daamen, Tim Pollmann-Daamen, Mikey Mc Carthy, Daniel Bowler, Joe Reidy, Conor O'Brien, John Feely, Odhran Pierce, Brian Mc Elligott, Bryan Godley and Jack Dakissia.

Great credit and thanks also go to the coaches - John Dowling, Lyndsey Moriarty and Jimmy Diggins.

Achievements in Basketball 2016/17

U19 BOYS

Southwest Champions
All Ireland League Elite 8
All Ireland Cup Final Four
Record 11-4

U16 BOYS

Southwest Champions
All Ireland League Final 4
All Ireland Cup Final Four 14-3

SECOND YEAR BOYS

Southwest Runners up
All Ireland League 13-3

FIRST YEAR BOYS

Southwest Runners up
All Ireland Cup runners up
All Ireland League 12-3

Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

Some of the students from TY Active Leisure took part in a Munster Schools wheelchair basketball tournament in Neptune Stadium, Cork on the 30th of March. The team played 7 games in total and won 4 of the 7 games and came third out of 13 teams. It was a great experience for the students involved as it gave an insight into what it's like to be in a wheelchair. It also conveyed awareness that even though it was a tough workout it's possible to be a skilful athlete while also using a wheelchair. Sport is a great way to challenge adversity.

by Dale Healy O'Flaherty



U14 BOYS AND U14 GIRLS GET TO FINALS AND WIN SILVER IN TALLAGHT

by Jack Dakissa & Emily O'Brien

Thursday 27th April, the U14 Boys' Basketball team took a coach up to Tallaght to battle it out for the National Cup. The semi-final match was against the Bish, Galway. Mounthawk fought hard, and after four tough quarters, they pulled away 51 to 38.

Mounthawk met Oranmore in the final. There was a sense of intensity in the arena both from the crowd and the players. After the warm up and a quick team talk, the game began. Mounthawk let their guard down in the first quarter and gave away easy baskets. They were down by four points entering the second quarter. The second quarter started with a basket from Oranmore. Then they continued on to score another five points which really set Mounthawk back. The score was 21 to 17 entering the third quarter.

Mounthawk came into the final quarter determined to close the gap. Sean Pullman scored a contested layup and hit a three point shot, which brought Oranmore's lead down to three points. To follow Sean's score, his twin brother Tim scored off a steal to bring Oranmore's lead to just one point.

Mounthawk was on a roll. Sean scored twice more to give Mounthawk a three point lead. Just after Sean's

scores, Oranmore got the rebound off a missed shot and scored twice to push ahead. The game ended 32 Mounthawk 35 Oranmore. Disappointing!

Although we didn't win, we were very proud that we got to the finals. The team is young and definitely has a great future.

Meanwhile, Mounthawk's U14 Girls' Basketball team reached the All-Ireland semi-final on Wednesday, 26th April, in Tallaght's National Basketball Arena. This was against St. Louis, Mayo and when we were 12 points down in the third quarter we did not give up. We made a comeback and it was level playing until the final eight seconds when we were a basket down. One of our players scored a free-throw. Mounthawk was one point down with three seconds to go. One of our players got the ball and scored a lay-up.

Mounthawk met a very strong team in Colaiste Einde from Galway in the final. They beat us fifteen to thirty-three. We never dropped our heads or gave up at any point during the game and left happy with our silver medals.



First Year Girls Football Blitz

GAA Referee Course

On the 28th of February we were joined by Pat Sheehy and Richard Fitzgerald from Kerry G.A.A. for an introduction to G.A.A. refereeing. We got an insight into how hard it is for referees during hurling and football matches to always make the right call.

Many of our members play G.A.A. and were very surprised with some of the unfamiliar rules. We had great craic with the two referees and it was very beneficial to all of us. The introductory course gave some of us the inspiration to pursue the more advanced course and receive further qualifications.



Mercy Mounthawk's Senior Ladies Football Team

The senior ladies started off the season with training every Monday and Friday during lunch. They were put into the Kerry division with their first game against Dromcollogher which was played at home in the school field. The team worked very well together and pulled through by beating Dromcollogher by 6-12 to 5-13.

The girls' second game was against Tarbert which was an extremely difficult game for them as they were losing in the first half so in the second half they gave it 100% and put in a lot of teamwork and by scoring a last second goal to draw with Tarbert 4-12 to 4-12.

To qualify for the Munster Championship the team needed to play 3 games, the third team forfeited the game putting them straight through to the Quarter Finals of the 'Munsters'. Unfortunately, due to lack of players from injury, illness and lack of commitment, our coaches Mr Lyne and Ms Dineen decided to forfeit the game so their year ended early. A big 'Thank you' to Mr Lyne and Ms Dineen for coaching the team and their non-stop support and encouragement. Jaime Finnegan



Russell Cup Final

U-15 Boy's Football Season

COACHED BY KIERAN COSTELLO & PATRICK SUGRUE

Our journey began back in September with the boys out training twice a week in preparation for corn Eamainn Uí Dhonnchu Munster competition. The team won comprehensively in their first two outings beating Coachford College and Coláiste Na Sceilge. However, Mounthawk were narrowly beaten by Clonakilty, who went on to the Final, narrowly losing to Bandon.

Despite the setback, the team came back stronger and more determined after the Christmas break and had their eyes set on the Russell Cup group games in March. The boys trained extremely hard and put in a lot of commitment over this period. When we finally got word that we would be playing the two Munster A Finalists, our great rivals C.B.S the Green and St. Brendan's College, Killarney, we knew we were in for two tough battles. Our first opponents were the Green in the Mounthawk football pitch on 14/3/17.

The boys got off to a dream start scoring an early goal and pushed on from there to have a four point lead at half time. With a strong breeze against us in the second half, we knew that we would be up against it but with a monstrous defensive effort we managed to grind out a brilliant win to put us in a great position to qualify for a semi-final spot with a score line of 3-10 to 2-9.

Next game we faced was Munster 'A' champion side St. Brendan's College, Killarney. The game was played in ideal conditions in Dr. Crokes, Killarney on 31/3/17. Mounthawk played well in patches in the first half, but didn't get the scores on the board going in at half-time losing by 5 points. Mounthawk played much better in the second half, outscoring the St Brendan's team by 1-7 to 0-7. Mounthawk went on to lose narrowly by 2-9 to 1-14. This result meant Mounthawk were guaranteed a Russell Cup Semi-Final spot and after knocking out one of the two Munster finalists in the process.

Mounthawk went into the Semi-Final match v ISK on 27/4/17 feeling confident following the performance to date. Mounthawk dominated right up to half time, but failed to make it count on the scoreboard until the final seconds before half time, scoring a goal, leaving the half time score as 2-3 to

0-4. ISK started the second half strongly, outscoring Mounthawk 1-4 to 0-4. The Mounthawk lead was down to 2 points heading into the closing stages of the match when Mounthawk had a player black carded. Mounthawk however remained calm and a fortunate goal in the final moments gave us a victory 3-7 to 1-10.

The Russell Cup Final 2017 was played against St Brendan's Killarney in Fitzgerald Stadium on a windy 5th of May. St Brendan's had a comprehensive win in their semi-final verses Coláiste Íde agus Iosef, Abbeyfeale and entered the match as favourites. After the marginal victory v ISK, Mounthawk knew they needed to up their game in the final. Mounthawk started impressively, scoring two goals in succession playing into the wind. Getting the ball up the pitch was proving very challenging for Mounthawk, but almost every attack yielded a score. Going into the final 10 minutes, Mounthawk's players upped the intensity and put St Brendan's under severe pressure, scoring 2 more goals. The final score stood at Mounthawk 5-5, St Brendan's 4-13.

Although unsuccessful on the day, the U-15 Boys team performance on the day was excellent, the dedication and commitment shown by the team was commendable. Mounthawk were the only team in Munster to come so close on the score board to this St Brendan's team. There is no doubt in future years we will meet again, hopefully with a different result.

Finally, from the U-15 coaches' perspective, we would like to thank all the players, parents and school management for all the help over the course of the year. This squad of players were a pleasure to work with and will achieve great things in the years to come.

T.Y. SPIKE BALL

by Jack Dakissa & Emily O'Brien



This year, the Transition Year girls had a once in a lifetime opportunity to become spike ball coaches and, in essence, referee for the primary schools in our local area. Each of the Transition Year girls had to study a coaching course in order to pass the test and qualify to coach the primary teams. There were around 3-6 girls sent out to each primary school to coach either fifth or sixth class and to fully prepare them for the blitz which would take place at the end of the six weeks of training.

Each week the girls had a task of setting teams and demonstrating the various skills which had to be taught. The coaches thoroughly enjoyed training the primary schools and being totally immersed in an activity which proved to be a huge success. They organised a blitz day for all the primary schools.

A member of the Volleyball Association of Ireland came down for the day to help. There were four courts with four referees on all of them. Each referee was a spike ball coach so they knew all the rules and it was a great experience for them.

There was also a coach from each school to guide their team throughout the day. All the results and scores were processed in order to arrange the semi-finals and the final. There was a sound committee which played music and helped us utilise the microphone on the day.

This proved to be a great success and kept everything in order. The winners received medals.

Thanks to all those involved in the organisation of the programme. We were all delighted we could participate.

Captains of our three Cricket Teams, runners-up in the inaugural Kerry Schools Girls Cricket Challenge.

*Kelly Meehan
Meadhbh Hanafin
Ciara Knix*



FAI Kickstart 1 Coaching Course

On the 14th March Brian O'Regan, Tomás Dwyer, Dale Healy O'Flaherty, David Ryle, Jack Murphy, Michael O'Gara and Gavin Hussey took part in an FAI Kickstart 1 coaching course. The course was held by Kerry's regional development officer and Kerry U-17 soccer manager Darren Aherne.

The course took a full school day to complete. It consisted of classroom work (questions, facts and how to comprehend the game better) such as understanding what is soccer and why do we play it. Most of the course took place outdoors where Darren educated us on how to properly set out a training sessions for 6-9 year olds, how to implement a bit of fun while also teaching kids basic techniques for the sport, such as dribbling, how to change direction while moving with the ball, few basic skills (e.g. step overs, cruyff turn, fake shot etc.) and decision making. It was highly insightful while also great craic.

Upon finishing the course each participant received a booklet containing multiple drills, training ideas and coaching tips and a cert for completing the course. Darren was impressed with our skills so he asked us to referee a Primary Schools Soccer Blitz in Mounthawk Park on May 3rd. Mercy Mounthawk and especially the T.Y. Active Leisure group would like to thank Darren for coming in and wish him the best of luck with the Kerry U-17s soccer team.
by Brian O'Regan

SUPERVISED STUDY

Supervised Study will begin on Monday 4th September 2017 to Thursday 21st December 2017.

Supervised study is available to all students from:

**Monday to Friday
4pm to 6pm - €250**

**Monday to Friday
4pm to 7pm - €350**

*Sibling Discount can apply
Second Sibling:
€50 reduction on above fees
Third Sibling:
€100 reduction on above fees*

SECOND CHANCE UNIFORMS

The Parents' Council are asking parents to donate any school uniforms that are clean and in good condition and that they no longer need to this worthy scheme.

Uniforms can be dropped in at the office.

Second Chance Uniforms will be on sale in the school on Thursday 17th August from 12 - 2pm

GEMMA'S UNIFORMS

Gemma's will be in school on

Thursday 3rd August

also

Thursday 17th August

and

Friday 18th August

10am to 3pm

Uniforms may be ordered or purchased on these dates.

ENROLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Enrolment for students starting in September 2018 opens on Monday 4th September 2017.

The closing date for applications for September 2018 is at 2.00pm on Saturday 14th October 2017

- our Open Day. This is a very important deadline for those applying under the siblings and Moyderwell / Balloonagh criteria of the policy.

I wish to remind you that all application forms must be in prior to the deadline to be considered valid. Also, please be aware that each application must be returned to the office in person, countersigned, and the carbon copy retained for your records.

OUTLINE CALENDAR 2017/2018

August - December

SCHOOL RE-OPENING DATES

Monday 28th August	T.V. students return to school
Tuesday 29th August	1st year students begin school
Wednesday 30th August	3rd and 6th years return (1st years remain at home)
Thursday 31st August	2nd year students return (school for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 6th years)
Friday 1st September	5th year students return (school for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th years)

HOLIDAYS

October Mid-Term	Closing Friday 27th October. Reopen Monday 6th November
Christmas Holidays	Closing Friday 22nd December. Reopen Monday 8th January
Spring Mid-Term	Closing Friday 9th February. Reopen Monday 19th February
St. Patrick's Day	Closing 16th March. Reopen 20th March
Easter Holidays	Closing 23rd March. Reopen Monday 9th April
Summer Holidays	Closing Friday 1st June

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 3rd August	Gemma's Uniforms in school
Thursday 17th / Friday 18th August	Gemma's Uniforms in school
Thursday 17th August	Second Chance Uniforms 12 - 2p.m.
Tuesday 5th September	Talk for parent of students in Transition Year
Tuesday 12th September	Talk for parents and students 3rd and 6th years 7.30p.m.
Tuesday 19th September	Talk for parents and students of 1st years 7.30p.m.
Friday 22nd September	Mercy Day
Wednesday 27th September	AGM of Parents Council, 8p.m.
9th - 13th October	Health Promotion Week
16th - 20th October	Maths Week
Thursday 5th October	Careers Night
Saturday 14th October	Open Day 9.30-2.00
13th - 17th November	Science Week
Tuesday 21st November	6th year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15-6.45
Wednesday 6th December	3rd year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15-6.45
Wednesday 13th December	Carol service in the church of Our Lady and St. Brendan
15th - 22nd December	House Exams 1st, 2nd, 5th years



5th Years with pumpkins for Halloween



Christmas Jumper Food Appeal



1st Year League Winners with Shane Enright



Mr Kissane with Co-Ordinators Award Winner, Orla O'Reilly



Mercy Mounthawk Secondary School
Mounthawk
Tralee, County Kerry



School Digital Champions

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