

MERCY MOUNTHAWK

MEÁNSCOIL NA TRÓCAIRE CNOC AN TSEABHAIC



Mounthawk Wins Best Boys' School and Best Girls' School 2014 in Athletics



Chinese Cooking



Music Workshop



Health Promotion



Basketball

SUMMER BULLETIN

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‘ALWAYS TURN UP. ALWAYS GET BACK UP. AND NEVER GIVE UP..’

We have talked a lot this year in school about ‘hope’ and ‘resilience’ and ‘optimism’, but, as one of my colleagues asked; ‘What do those words mean in real life?’ It was a comment which made me consider what these qualities might look like day to day, as we try to live life in hope and with optimism and resilience. The reality is not so high minded or so nebulous. In fact these qualities look downright boring and at the same time downright challenging. There is nothing like the heroism of everyday life!

No matter what we dream about, no matter the plan or how grand it may be, we cannot hope to achieve it unless we ‘turn up’ each and every day. Half the battle is **‘turning up’** and being there, because, let’s face it, nothing can happen if we are not there and so many things are achieved step by little step. Next, in the effort to realise any dream, we must accept that we are most probably going to fail, at least somewhere along the way. Suppose one of the few things we can be sure of in life is that we will get something wrong and therefore it is vital for us to **‘get back up’** when we fall down or fail. That’s the quality of resilience and it takes daily courage and grit. Indeed the most successful people are the ones who keep getting back up and who **‘never give up’**, because they are ones standing in the end when all the others have dropped out of the race. This is the dogged, gritty edge of optimism - because optimism is not some vague, wistful feeling, it is a decision that I will keep going because then I will succeed.

And all of this is equally true of education. Students in school cannot learn, unless they **‘turn up’** each day - good attendance is vital. Students need to be in class to learn - too much is missed when class is missed. As we learn something new, we automatically meet a challenge, and we will undoubtedly get things wrong on the first or even a subsequent try. So it is part of learning to **‘get back up’** when we fall down and fail. It is vital to try again and again and to interpret that process, not as a fatal failure that leads to frustration, but as a natural, ordinary part of the process of learning. If we are to succeed in learning we can **‘never give up’**.

For these reasons we focus on student ATTENDANCE in Mounthawk. We emphasise turning up each morning in time. It was gratifying to note that in our recent parent survey 77.7% of parents felt that attendance was well monitored. We will be developing or system of

parental feedback through text over the coming year in order to support parents further in monitoring attendance.

It is out of our belief in the importance of positivity that we run a COURSE IN RESILIENCE in 2nd year and a POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY COURSE for students in SPHE in 5th year. We will continue to run these courses again next year and we are in the process of developing a parent/student component to these courses - more about this in September. It is for this reason also that we focus our health promotion weeks on optimism and positivity and as you will see from the newsletter, several highlights occurred this year - participation by the TY group in the Donal Walsh Live Life Walk, and participation by both students and teachers in the ‘Cycle Against Suicide’. We hope to continue involvement in these projects in the coming year as they have contributed to the positive air in the school. Well done to all the school community who participated this year.

Continuing on the theme of resilience, we have focused in the development of the LITERACY SIP (School Improvement Plan) on promoting a love of literacy and on overcoming any negative attitude to reading that may have developed among students. We conducted a series of surveys this year among students to get a sense of the attitude to reading among them and based on that we have set smart goals for the development of reading in the school – see the article in this newsletter. A summary report on this aspect of the School Improvement Plan will be circulated to parents in the 1st term of 2014/15. As part of this plan, a new book rental scheme for incoming 1st year students for English novels will be launched in September on return to school. Feedback thus far from the examination students regarding this year’s state exam papers seems mainly favourable. They report that the papers gave them a fair opportunity to use their knowledge. We hope that each student achieves his/her goal and does him/herself justice in the exams.

Hoping you all have a wonderful summer break and that the weather is good...

John O Roarke
(Principal)

ENROLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

Enrolment for students starting in September 2015 opens on Monday 1st September 2014. The closing date for applications for September 2015 is at 2.00pm on Saturday 8th November 2014 - 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.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Last year, the Students' Council was very active in a range of lunch time activities led by Mrs Cronin, Liam Gannon (Head Boy), Vanessa Dineen (Head Girl) and notably student council prize winner Jacy Ybanez. These events varied from a FIFA sports competition to Sing Star Karaoke at lunch breaks. The aim was to spread a bit of cheer and joy at lunch time. We got students from all years involved and it provided a worthy excuse for friends to meet up and reconnect with their secret karaoke past.

The Students' Council raised almost €2000 for the Philippines Disaster fund and €2000 for the Lourdes Trip. They also supported the Library Committee in reviving the school library. Liam and Vanessa also did a fantastic job leading the Debs Committee this year. To all the sixth years who are leaving us We say good luck in your exams and in your future careers. Aoife and I look forward to working with the Students' Council again next year.



DAFFODIL DAY

The Irish Cancer Society is the national charity in Ireland dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem and improving the lives of those living with cancer. Daffodil Day takes place on the 28th of March every year. Each year Mercy Mounthawk holds a fundraiser on this day to aid the Irish Cancer Society.

This year, to raise funds for the charity, we held a bake sale at break and lunch. Mercy Mounthawk also had a non-uniform day on the 28th March where the students paid two euro to wear their own clothes. As yellow is the colour of a daffodil, we asked students to wear an item of clothing that was yellow to promote Daffodil Day and the students that wore the most yellow won an Easter egg. The main two organisers of Daffodil Day were Ms. Thornton and Ms. McElligott. We are very thankful for all their work. They also had help from many students such as James O'Connor, Micheal Murphy, Sean Herrick, Katie Cronin, Jamie Bourke, Alisha Finnerty, Christine O'Sullivan, Elaine Heaslip, Adam McEllistrim, Alanah Boyle, Meabh Burke and Liam Kennedy.

We raised 2,400 euro for the Irish Cancer Society. Thank you to everyone for your donations.

GARDA YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

CILLIAN CUSACK, GRAHAM NELLIGAN, GREG LEAHY WITH TEACHERS MS. HEALY, MS MCELLIGOTT AND MS BRASSIL



Three of our students were awarded Garda Youth Achievement awards:

The Garda Youth Achievement Awards Ceremony took place at Ballyoe Heights Hotel on Friday, January 24th. Over 230 people sat for a gala banquet which was followed by the presentation of awards by Chief Superintendent Pat O'Sullivan. Principal John O'Roarke spoke of his pride that the achievements of the Mounthawk pupils were recognised. He said that all three students were wonderful ambassadors for the school and they reflect the ethos of Mercy Mounthawk.

Greg Leahy: Won a merit award for his positive contribution to the school community and to the mental health awareness initiative in the school. He is positive, hardworking and very willing to give of his time freely. Nominated by Ms. Brassil.

Cillian Cusack: Won a merit award for his contribution to the Red Cross, to "Surf2heal", mentoring and many other projects too numerous to mention. Nominated by Ms. Healy.

Graham Nelligan: Won a merit award for his contribution to the mental health awareness programme in the school as well as his role in Jigsaw Kerry on the youth advisory panel. He also does a huge amount of charity work. Nominated by Ms. Healy.



FUNDRAISING FOR NEW EXTENSION GOLF CLASSIC

Our fund raising effort started this year with the Transition Year fashion show. Then we had our pre Christmas jumble sale which was a great success. During the Easter holidays, Mercy Mounthawk organised a Golf Classic.

4 Team Golf Classic was held in Tralee Golf Club on Friday 18th April in aid of the new extension to the school.

RESULTS

1st Overall

Fionnuala Mann, Tony Johnson,
Sandra O Sullivan & John M. O
Sullivan - 100 points

Best Mens

Gerard O Sullivan, Sean Mc Carthy,
Domnic Foley, & Sean Reidy
- 97 points

Best Mixed

Padraig Coughlan, Declan
Crowley, John O'Brien,
Aoife Crowley - 96 points

Best Ladies

Sandra Nyhan, Anne O Keeffe,
Mary Higgins, & Gyn Comyn
(Mallow) - 90 points

Nearest the Pins

Jerry Mc Kenn (Macroom),
Geradline O Donovan
(Mitchelstown),
Joe Rogers (Tralee),

Timmy Barrett (Tralee)

Longest Drives

Mary Sheehy (Tralee),
Oliver Carr (Tipperary),
Ann Creamur (Tipperary),
Gareth O'Donnell (Tralee)

F9

Colm Sheehy, Mike Tangney,
Timmy Sugure, Buddy Burrows
(Tralee) - 48 points

B9

Pat Creamur, Anne Creamur,
Oliver Carr, Mike Hanly
(Tipperary) - 50 points

Raffle

Tom O Driscoll, Aisling O Connor,
Liam Greensmyth, Nora Quane,
Helen Hobart, Gemma Lynch,
Liz O Carroll, Mary Breen,
Joe Rogers, Ber Walsh, &
Michelle Flynn.

Over €35,000 has been raised this year to help fund the school extension. Many thanks to the parents, teachers and local businesses of Tralee for their generosity in giving their time, expertise and money to make this extension happen.



GOLF CLASSIC



CYCLE AGAINST SUICIDE

One of the most dynamic events of 2014 was the Cycle Against Suicide. www.cycleagainstsucide.com It is a cycle around the island of Ireland; a total of 1400kms, a total of 8000 cyclists participating in various or all legs of the cycle. On May 2nd Mounthawk cycled from Tralee to Killarney to join the Cycle Against Suicide pelathon on their next leg of the cycle, Killarney to Tralee.

We wish to extend our thanks to everyone who helped out in any way to make this event possible. It was truly amazing and we look forward to next year's cycle already.



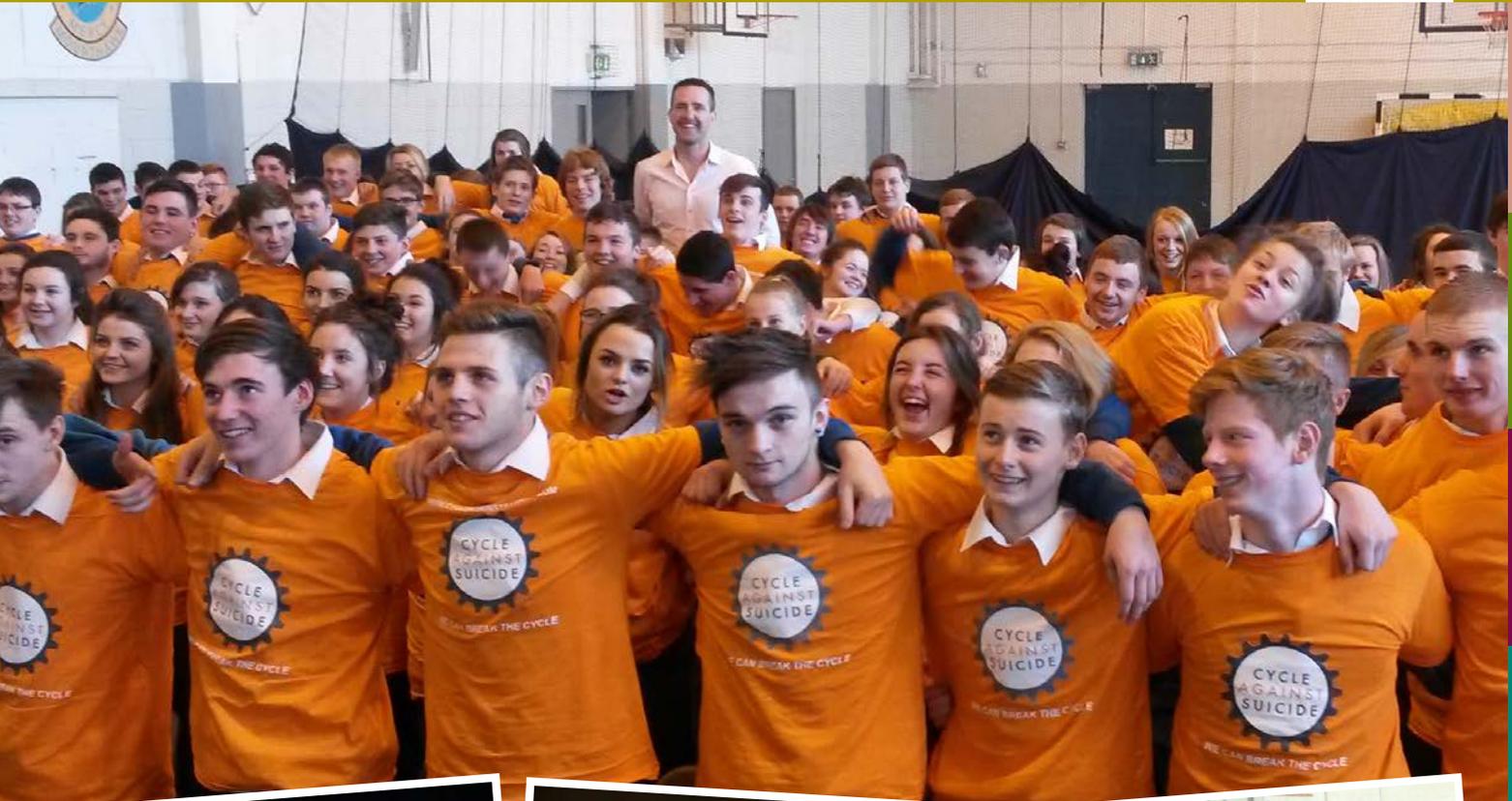
Health Promotion Wall of Gratitude



Charity Sponsored Walk



Christmas Food Appeal



HEALTH PROMOTION WEEK MARCH 2014

Following on from November's very successful Health Promotion Week, Mounthawk was again busy this March with another action-packed Health Promotion Week for the whole school community to enjoy. Our theme this year was 'Hope, Resilience and Optimism' and the wide variety of events and activities on offer lent themselves very generously to this life changing theme.

Students had lots of opportunities to enjoy; Anti-Bullying Talks given by Dr. Brendan Byrne, a Positive Palms Campaign around the school where everyone was invited to write a positive word or comment on their palm of what made them feel good about themselves. A Student Welfare Survey was carried out in Junior Classes. There was an excellent feel good factor around the school both through the School Choir's performances in the General Purpose Area and also the production of Mounthawk 'Happy' video. The video is available to view on YouTube - "Mounthawk Happy".

Jim Breen's input during the launch of Health Promotion Week in November, as organiser of Cycle against Suicide, led to Mounthawk's participation in the Cycle Against Suicide (www.cycleagainstsuicide.com). In preparation for this major event, during Health Promotion Week March 2014, 55 students and 10 teachers cycled shoulder to shoulder firstly around Tralee and also out to Fenit and back. There was an amazing atmosphere around the school and a few of our local celebrities came in to encourage us and wave us off!! Following on from this incredible event, Mounthawk is very proud to adopt the Cycle Against Suicide's key message as next year's Health Promotion Theme: #itsoknottofeelok.

Many many thanks to all the students who got involved, the brilliant student group COSI (Centre of Social Innovation), and of course all the teachers both in the Health Promotion Committee, Cycle Against Suicide Team and everyone else who helped out in every way, big or small, to make all these fantastic events possible!!!



EIRGRID UNDERSTANDING ELECTRICITY

Some first and second year students attended a science show on the 11th of February, in Siamsa Tire. The show was to help develop an appreciation of the impact that electricity has on our lives and the environment. The show gave a knowledge and understanding of important principles, core concepts and facts relating to electricity and their application and impact in the life of a student. Students got an opportunity to interact with the various forms of energy and how they are used to generate electricity. Students learned about our economic dependence on electricity and the drive to exploit our renewable resources.



EIRGRID - UNDERSTANDING ELECTRICITY

SUPERVISED STUDY

**Supervised Study will begin on
Monday 8th September 2014**

Supervised study is available to all students from:
**Monday to Thursday - 4pm to 6pm or
Monday to Friday - 4pm to 7pm**

Next year we shall also offer Night Study
from 6.30pm to 9pm (subject to demand).

Forms and Information are available from Ms Stella O'Shea.
Please see our website for study prices and policy.

MOUNTHAWK WINS ISTA JUNIOR SCIENCE QUIZ

30 teams took part in the Junior Science Quiz in the I.T.T. on the 10th April. The event is sponsored by Kerry Group. Three teams represented Mounthawk at the event. After six rounds, four teams emerged with only one point between them. Mounthawk tied for both first and second positions. After two tie-breaking rounds the results were -

1st Place Mounthawk

David Oyewande, Cian Liston,
Ruth O'Connell and Brian Fox,

2nd Place Mounthawk

Ciara McCarthy, Sinead Ryan,
Abigail O'Mahony and Aide O'Connor.

4th Place Mounthawk

Christian Keane, Cillian Tierney,
Sarah Quigley and Roisin Lynch.

ISTA JUNIOR SCIENCE QUIZ



SCIENCE CLUB

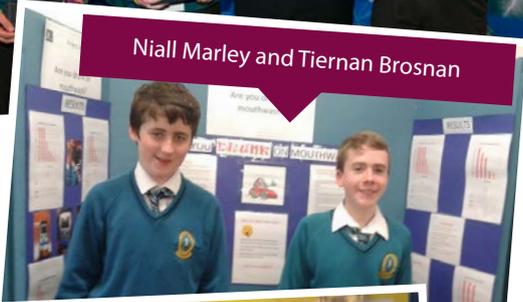




Scifest Excellence Award Winners 2014
Daragh Clarke, Diarmuid O'Connor, Colin McDaid



Niall Marley and Tiernan Brosnan



Dorcias Oyewande, Busola Akintope



Grace Egan



SCIFEST

Mercy Mounthawk entered three projects at Scifest in the I.T.T. on the 8th of May, at which schools from all over the county were represented. Grace Egan investigated the effects on milk yields of giving TLC (tender loving care) to dairy cows. Her results showed that it increased milk yields.

Tiernan Brosnan and Niall Marley found from their research 'Drunk on Mouthwash', that one could fail the breathalyser test after using mouthwash.

Dorcias Oyewande and Busola Akintope did research into the weight of schoolbags from 6th class to 1st year and suggested alternatives such as trolley-bags or use of i pads instead of books.

BEAVERS COMPETITION WINNERS

The Irish Beaver Computing Contest (IBCC) is an All-Ireland problem-solving challenge with a focus on computational and logical thinking. The contest is part of the International Bebras Computing Contest which introduces Computer Science to students. It is designed to get Irish students at a young age excited about computing. It also aims to identify and encourage students having a talent in the area of computational thinking. Over 3000 students were called to participate.

Three Mercy Mounthawk students were medal winners. Patrick Slattery won Gold and Ciara Holmes and Conor O Nuallain won silver. All three students are in 4th years.



Ciara Holmes, Conor O Nuallain and Patrick Slattery

GEMMA'S UNIFORMS

Gemma's will be in school on
Thursday 7th August - (First Years)
Friday 8th August - (All Students)
Wednesday 20th August - (All Students)
10am to 3pm

Uniforms may be ordered or purchased on these dates.



SENIOR MATHS QUIZ

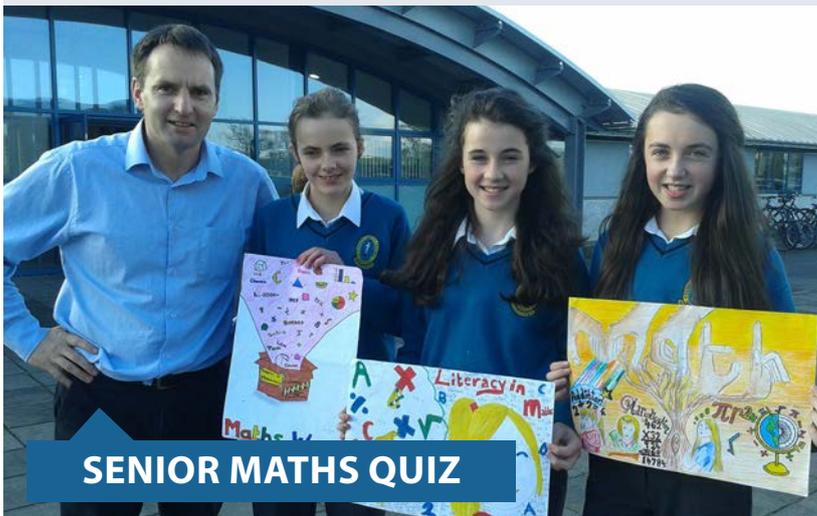


SENIOR MATHS 1ST AND 2ND PLACE

Team Math has been a long-running competition of the Irish Maths Teachers' Association, with local rounds for many years and local and National Finals since 2005. Team Math is a table quiz for teams of up to 4 students from Leaving Cert year, with questions based on the Leaving Certificate higher level syllabus. Regional Rounds were held on the evening of Friday January 31, 2014. Mercy Mounthawk had 2 teams representing the school on the night and claimed both 1st and 2nd place. The winning team members were Aine Daly, Michael Grimes, Donal Mullins and Liam Gannon. The runner up team included Dylan Sheehy, Cormac Leen, Conor O'Mahony and Brendan O Connor.

ALL IRELAND SILVER WINNERS

The winning team went forward to the National final which was held in NUI Galway on Saturday March 8, 2014. The team did brilliantly finishing joint second. Congratulations to the team and their teachers Mr. Stack and Mr. Lyne.



SENIOR MATHS QUIZ

1ST AND 2ND PLACE KERRY MATHS QUIZ

The school is particularly proud of the maths achievements of Tiernan Brosnan, Paul Cassidy, Laura Harty, Matus Lukco, Niall Marley, Stella McElligott and Lucy O'Sullivan. Each of these students was selected on the basis of the scores they achieved in the preliminary rounds of the IMTA (Irish Maths Teachers' Association) First Year Quiz. They were called to represent their school in the county round of the competition. In the Final, Matus Lukco finished 1st and Tiernan Brosnan finished 2nd - the number of students called and the fact that they did so well is a clear indication of the high standard of maths in our school.



IMTA FIRST YEAR QUIZ

MATHLETES BEST 1ST YEAR STUDENT AND BEST SCHOOL IN KERRY

Mathletes is a new way of making the learning of maths more fun. Irish students compete online on this free maths gaming website funded by the Khan Academy. It is a national competition, run online, that features all the ingredients of good gaming with levels, energy points and of course leader boards. While thousands of students took part in the challenge from right across the country, Eidin Dowling, Stella McElligott, Richard Williams and Adam Butler, all in first year in Mercy Mounthawk were called to take part in the Provincial round in Cork. At the provincial round Adam Butler (1.1) was presented with a Gold Medal for being the best first year student in Kerry.

Second year students, Niamh O'Regan, Sophie Byrne and Diarmuid O'Connor were also selected for the Provincial Round and Diarmuid was identified as one of the top 30 students in second year in the country. He was the only second year student in Kerry that was called to take part in the National Championship Final.

In the Schools Section, Mercy Mounthawk won the best school category in Kerry and a plaque was presented to the school in recognition of their achievement.



KANGAROO MATHS



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

SECOND HAND BOOKS

Students who want to sell on school books that they no longer need may do so on 18th August in G.P. Area. This initiative will help reduce the cost of books to parents and allow students recoup some money for new books.

Student may sell their books on Wednesday 18th August from 12-2 pm

COSI

COMMUNITY OF SOCIAL INNOVATION RECEIVES 'WE INNOVATE' FLAG

Mounthawk is well known in Tralee for its involvement in the promotion of teenagers' mental health. This year, Mounthawk was involved in the Community of Social Innovation (COSI). The centre has been running for three years and can boast of many past successes. Mounthawk is one of only twenty-six other schools throughout the country taking part in this programme.

The Mounthawk COSI team which trained with three other schools this year including Tamsin Stack, Conor O'Donoghue, Patrick Slattery, Eabha McCarthy and Karen O'Brien from fourth year, and Michael Ryan, Darragh Costello, Aishling O'Malley, Fearghal O'Rourke and Emma Moynihan from fifth year.

The aim of the COSI programme is to develop a new approach to social innovation education in schools. The students endeavour to provide their peers with opportunities to involve themselves in volunteering. Through their time in secondary school, the project creates new opportunities for teenagers to participate in civic action and to grow as social innovators.

This year our school has been deemed eligible to receive the "We Innovate" flag as part of the Social Innovation Awards scheme. This scheme designed by Young Social Innovators in association with its public partners, was launched by an Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, on the 29th March 2014.

Well done to this year's team who achieved widespread engagement of young people in social innovation action in a whole community.

The team held two major whole school events this year. For health Promotion Week, they built a Wall of Gratitude, that allowed every student and staff member to write a letter of thanks to someone they felt indebted or gratitude towards. For our second Health Promotion week in February, they produced the 'Happy' Video using the Will Pharrell song 'Happy' as their inspiration. See youtube "Mounthawk Happy".

The team liaised with the Irish department for Seachtaine Na Gaeilge creating a treasure hunt for the first year students. They also helped out with the running of T.Y. sports day.

Spreading into the wider community, they sold wrist bands for the LIVE Life Donal Walsh foundation and helped Jim Breen in his successful Cycle Against Suicide Campaign. Thanks to Ms Hunt for her involvement and support throughout the year.



COSI 2014



MOUNTHAWK REPRESENTS IRELAND YOUR EUROPE, YOUR SAY

'Your Europe, Your Say' is an annual event hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), which brings together students from every EU Member State and allows them to have their say in the future of the EU. This year, Mercy Mounthawk was the school chosen to represent Ireland and Connor O'Donoghue, Aoife Grimes and Ciara Holmes were the lucky students invited to attend this event.

On Wednesday 26th March, the three students and ESP teacher Ms. S. Carey travelled to Brussels.

The next day was spent hard at work in the EESC building. After a welcome from the President of the EESC Henri Malosse and Vice President Jane Morris the debates began.

Over the weekend the students bonded with the Dutch delegation. They enjoyed discussing their differences in schooling.

On Thursday morning it was back to the EESC building again and a visit to the impressive conference room with working translators.

Their task for the day was to talk about how they envisioned the EU in 2030; how it would have changed, what would stay the same and what new policies it might have introduced. There were some really innovative ideas such as:

A similar school system in member states to facilitate exchanges sharing energy resources to try and make the best use of our sustainable energy options making it mandatory to study an EU language at school.



Ms. Carey, Conor O'Donoghue, Aoife Grimes, Ciara Holmes and Vice President Jane Morris

GUIDANCE COUNSELLING

Ms. Betty Farrell and Ms. Mairead O' Mahony

The arrival of summer brings to an end another school year. Since January, attention has turned to 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 was disseminated to all 6th year students, in Guidance class.

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 facilitate students' planning of 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 parents of students' making subject choice decisions were facilitated on request.

The Guidance team would like to thank parents and management for their understanding and support throughout the year. We wish the Junior Certificate students every success in their upcoming exams and we bid farewell to another group of Leaving Certificate students. We hope that, as they come to the end of one leg of their journey, they will embark on the next with pride in their achievements to date. In the words of T.S. Eliot -

*'Last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning.'*



RIGA TRIP



EUROPEAN TRIP



NATIONAL FINALIST LIONS CLUB

We would like to congratulate Darragh Costello, a fifth year student, who made it to the National Finals of the Lions Club Young Ambassador Competition. After his success at the local round of the competition, Darragh sailed through the Regional Final in Cork before Christmas and went all the way to the National Finals in Dublin in January. Unfortunately Darragh was narrowly beaten at the Final; however, he represented his family, his school and his Lions Club brilliantly. Darragh's success was mostly down to his involvement with the COSI (Centre of Social Innovation) group in school. They work tirelessly to promote positive mental health in Mercy Mounthawk. Well done to Darragh, who made his teachers Ms. Hunt, Ms. Healy and Ms. McElligott very proud.



Darragh Costello with Ms. Healy and Ms. McElligott

PERFECT PITCH KERRY WINNERS

Mercy Mounthawk students Leandra Nana, Elizabeth Hayes and Dearbhail Ryan won the Young Entrepreneur 'Perfect Pitch' competition on March 20, 2014. The girls formed a company called 'Rica Rica' to import and sell portable device charges to charge a mobile phone or tablet PC on the go. The girls beat off competition from all over Kerry to win first place and a prize of an iPad Mini each.

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

Thomas Edison

SCHOOL CHOIR

This year was a very busy and exciting year for our school choir. We started the year performing at our opening school mass which was celebrated with our Bishop Ray Browne. Our next recital was at the annual Christmas carol service in St. Brendan's church. They performed both traditional and modern carols and hymns. Among them were the haunting 15th century 'Coventry Carol', 'Óiche úd í mBeithil' and the popular "Ring Christmas Bells".

Following on from the success of the Nuns' Chorus in our production of 'the Sound of Music', they decided to enter the prestigious Cork Choral Festival Competition. This competition took place on the 1st of May. A huge amount of time, commitment and dedication was put in by each of the 46 students involved. They attended rehearsals at lunch times, after school and even during their Easter holidays. They performed 'Aidemus' by Karl Jenkins and a challenging Aloys Fleischmann, a cappella version of the Irish lament 'Cill Cháis'. Our performers received excellent comments from the judges.

All of the choir members have given considerable time and commitment to rehearsals, preparation and practice for the many musical events that took place throughout the school year. They had a central part to play in our wonderful production of 'The Sound of Music', some of them on stage and others in our orchestra. The choir have performed at religious ceremonies, Health Promotion Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Awards Night and many other school events throughout the year.





MOUNTHAWK STUDENT AWARDS

Mercy Mounthawk held its annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday 15th May. With over 250 award winners and their parents and friends in attendance, the school hall was thronged for the event. The evening which was organised by a team of teachers was hosted by Ms Suzanne O'Halloran and Ms Ellen Mc Kenna and began with an input from school principal, Mr John O'Roarke who congratulated all the students who were receiving awards. He spoke about the importance of encouraging improvement and acknowledging achievement, referring to the old saying 'Mol an oige agus tiocfaidh sí.'

Awards were presented to students across a wide number of categories from Academic awards, to School Spirit, to Christian Leadership and covering a spread of extra-curricular achievements. They are awarded to acknowledge the holistic range of skills and attitudes of the students. For instance, the 'Comhar Awards' and 'School Spirit Awards' recognise the value of attitudes such as generosity, empathy and teamwork which are essential to learning in a co-operative way and to success in life.

The Tadhg O'Connell memorial shield for Physics was presented by his wife Mary to Michael Grimes, the UCC cup was presented to Helen Edgar for her dedication to academic work. An Gradam Gaeilge cuimhneachán ar Mháire Ní Ghéiní was awarded to Brendan O'Connor and Conor O'Mahony. Megan Carmody received the Arts and Humanities award for her participation in and contribution to drama and music in Mounthawk. Maedbh Lyons won an award for debating, Jacy Ybanez got an award for her involvement in the Student Council. The evening also honoured several sporting achievements particularly in the area of athletics with the school having won both the Best Overall Girls School and Best Overall Boys School in both Cross Country and Track and Field. Sports Person of the Year awards were presented to Laura Rogers for her achievements in football and basketball and to Eoin O'Carroll for his achievements in rugby and athletics.

Entertainment during the evening included a performance of 'Aidemus' and 'Cill Chais' from the school choir and two members of the cast from the school's production of 'The sound of Music,' Eva Lee and Iseult Daly sang 'My Favourite Things'

The achievements of the students are a product of the commitment of all the school community; teachers, students and parents and a testimony to the quality of co-operation, dedication and enthusiasm that has become the hall mark of the school. The Board of Management awards for Citizenship went to Conor O'Mahony, David Kavanagh and Peter Karim for their commitment and contribution to various aspects of school life and the Community Service award was presented to Jack Ferguson acknowledging the generosity of spirit he has shown in serving the school community. The two main awards of the night were presented by Mr O'Roarke. Liam Gannon received the Principal's Award and Vanessa Dineen received the Catherine McAuley Award.



Emma Ryan, James Rusk and Maebh Buckley

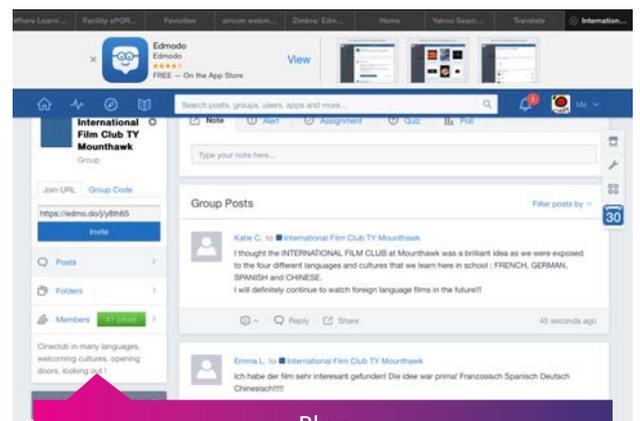
INTERNATIONAL FILM CLUB

*'You live a new life for every language you speak.
If you only know one language, you only live once'*
Czech Proverb.

In September 2013 the International Film Club Mercy Mounthawk Transition Year was rolled out with great success. This was a pilot project run in the school with the objectives of - heightening global exposure through World Cinema, increasing Intercultural Awareness, facilitating Cross Curricular Development, creating further interest in other languages and encouraging film research and creativity.

All students in Transition Year were brought together once a week throughout the year to watch four films, one in each language being currently taught in the Transition Year Programme; 'El Orfanato'(Spanish), 'Les Choristes' (French) 'Die Welle' (German) and 'Ghosts' (Chinese). These films and many more were fully discussed and previewed by the teachers involved and each of them had something unique to offer through language, culture, diversity, creativity or cinematography.

Students were then invited to participate in an online blog which was created by the teachers on Edmodo, and further comment both in their native tongue and in the target language on all the films they had been shown.



Blog



SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to winner Laura Harty 1.8 (centre) pictured with the finalists from the Spelling Bee during Literacy Week. Well done to all the finalists who took part and thanks to Ms. McKenna and Ms. Healy for organising a great competition.



TY Glantannessig Hike



PARENTS COUNCIL REPORT - 2013/14

The Parents' Council has, in the past year, supported a variety of events and activities such as:

Health Promotion Week and Reading Week in the School Fundraising Events, Leaving Certificate Class of 2014 Year-book, Second Chance School Uniform Scheme, Reading for Fun and Maths for Fun programmes, Sixth Year Debs Event and 121 Digital Mentoring

The Parents' Council undertook its own fundraising by holding a table quiz and bag-packing event during the year and community support of these events is much appreciated.

All parents/guardians are automatically members of the Parents' Council but are not required to attend our monthly meetings. An Annual General Meeting is held, usually in October each year, at which a report is presented to the general parent body regarding the past year's activities. The Parents' Council can be contacted at our email address [mmparentscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mpparentscouncil@gmail.com). We welcome input from all parents on any matters of interest to them.



MOUNTHAWK AWARDS NIGHT

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 Monday 18th August from 12 - 2pm



TRANSITION YEAR 2013-2014



F is for Fun Fashion Show



Trip to the Burren



Italy School Tour



Transition year 2013-2014 came to a formal close on Wednesday 28th May at the annual TY awards night and show. One hundred and sixteen students, their parents and teachers gathered to remember and celebrate a year of achievement and fun. On the night, sixty transition years received their Gaisce awards, a fantastic achievement, as this was double the amount of pupils reaching the required standard of any previous year.

Forty eight students were awarded with certificates for their participation in the 121 digital programme, where every Wednesday after school our students met with adult learners from around Tralee and taught them how to manage their smart phones and tablets. This course was so successful that we already have seventy people on a waiting list to take part in next year's classes. The delivery of the module would not have been possible without the huge input of parents: Tricia O Malley, Ingrid Clement and Ellen Healy who selflessly gave of their time each week and ensured that everything went smoothly.

The individual students' contributions to the year were recognised by the school during the presentation of the much anticipated TY Awards. Over fifty pupils were presented with plaques for their positive engagement with their teachers, subjects, classes and for their overall effort throughout the year. The student of the year awards were presented, by the Principal Mr. John O Roarke, to Ciara Holmes and Conor O'Donoghue for their positive contribution towards a very successful Transition Year.

On the night, guests were entertained with music, song, drama and comedy, with one of the highlights being a brilliant performance of the famous Monty Python sketch "When we were young..."

Transition Year 2013-2014 was notable for the students' engagement with the wider Tralee community through their Tuesday afternoon community work placements as well as being called upon to raise money for quite a number of charities. Our TY's also volunteered to help out at many town events throughout the year, especially the Tralee marathon. Mounthawk Transition Years also took part in the Mount Brandon climb and the "Aviva to Thomond" walk to raise awareness for the Donal Walsh Live Life foundation.

The optional education trip to Italy was a great success, it is hard to believe that so much could be crammed in to five days away and I'm sure many used the mid-term break to catch up on much needed sleep. The last two weeks saw our students go on three outings: one to Cappanalea for a fun filled day of sunshine, sport and swimming, another to Dublin for the annual Eco-Unesco Young Environmentalist Awards where the "Don't go with the Flo" group won the senior water category award. This was well deserved as they put huge effort into the campaign throughout the year. The third end of year outing was our first overnight Tourism trip to Co. Clare. Over ninety pupils travelled up to Black Head in the Burren to complete a 25 kilometre hike. They overnighted in a hostel in Lisdoonvarna where they catered for their own meals and on the following day they visited the Ailwee Caves, the Burren Bird of Prey Centre and the Cliffs of Moher.

Throughout the year and at all events and on all overnight trips and tours our pupils behaved impeccably. It was often stated to the accompanying teachers that the students from Mercy Secondary School Mounthawk were the best behaved schoolboys and school-girls that people had ever encountered. Well done to all involved.



TY LAKE GARDA ITALY



TY TRIP 2014



TY HIKE



F IS FOR FUN FASHION SHOW



COMÓRTAS DÍOSPÓIREACHTA GHAEL LINN

Shroich foireann díospóireachta na scoile barr a maitheasa I mbliana, nuair a cháilíodar do Chraobh na hÉireann I gcomórtas díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh, a reáchtáladh in Óstán an Heritage I bPort Laoise ar an fichiú lá de mhí Márta. Is féidir leis an bhfoireann a bheith an bhródúil astu féin agus uailmhian gach foireann díospóireachta sroichte acu, luach saothair faighte acu ar a gcuid allais agus go deimhin ar an sár obair atá déanta acu le dhá bhliain anuas.

Ba iad Eoghan Ó Coistealbha (Captaen), Carla Ní Hainiféin agus Ciara Nic Cárthaigh baill na foirne, triúr a bhí ar an bhfoireann sóisearach anuraidh leis, agus ba í Maebh Ní Bhuachalla a bhí mar ionadaí ar an bhfoireann I mbliana; ar eagla na heagla!

Ós rud é nár chuir aon scoil eile as Ciarraí isteach ar an gcomórtas I mbliana bhí a lán taistil I gceist. Ba ar Choláiste Chiaráin I gCromadh I Luimneach a bhí ár dtriail don gcéad bhabhta ar an fichiú lá de mhí na Samhna. 'Tuilleann imreoirí sacair a gcuid airgid' an rún a bhí faoin ár mbráid agus bhíomar féin agus Meánscóil na n-Ursalach, Dúrlas I bhfabhar an rúin agus Pobalscúil Eoin Baiste, An tOspidéal ina choinne. I ndeireadh na dála d'éirigh linn féin agus le Meánscóil na n-Ursalach, ár mbó a chur thar abhainn an tráthnóna sin.

Ar an dtríú lá de Mhárta thugamar aghaidh ar Óstán ghalánta an Ballyki-steen I nGabhal Luimní don Chraobh Réigiúnach agus sinn réidh chun catha. 'Tugann muintir na hÉireann aire mhaith dá sláinte' an rún a bhí faoin ár mbráid agus sinne I gcoinne an rúin. I ndeireadh na dála, ba linne a bhí an lá, agus bronnadh trófaí an duine ar bhaill na foirne agus ní bréag a rá go raibh lúcháir orainn a bheith ag filleadh ar craobh na hÉireann arís.



LCA COFFEE MORNING



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2014

Ar an 10ú lá de mhí Márta thosaigh Seachtain Na Gaelige i Meanscoil Na Trócaire Cnoc an tSeabhaic. Do mhuintir na hidirbhliana ciallaíonn sé sin go mbíonn rudaí deasa le déanamh againn, rudaí difriúla chun ár dteanga agus ar gcúlútr dúchasach a cheiliúradh. Bhí an bhlian ar fad ag tnúth go mór leis an seachtain.

An bhlian seo bheadh na daltaí san idirbhlian ag canadh sa G.P ag am sosa os comhair na scoile; as Gaelige d'ár ndóigh! "Amhrán na gcupán" agus 'Tóg amach mé'.



CEILÍ SA HALLA

MEÁNSCOIL NA TRÓCAIRE CNOC AN TSEABHAIC 10Ú -14Ú MÁRTA 2014

Sceideal na Seachtaine

Tabharfaidh daltaí na hidirbhliana cúirt lae ar an nGaeltacht ag tús mí Aibreáin agus beidh cluichí, tóraíocht taisce agus amhránaíocht Ghaeilge ar siúl sna ranganna l gcaitheamh na seachtaine

DÉ LUAIN

Seoladh Oifigiúil le Sandra ní Bhambaire
Comórtas Póstaeir do lucht na céad bliana

DÉ MÁIRT

Seisiún Amhránaíochta le daltaí na scoile
Tráth na gCeist leis an dara bliain
Biongó leis an gcúigiú bliain (ranganna ard leibhéil)

DÉ CÉADAOIN

Biongó leis an gcúigiú bliain (ranganna gnáth leibhéil)

DÉARDAOIN

Craobh chomórtas Thráth na gCeist boird leis an dara bliain

DÉ HAOINE

Céilí do dhaltaí na céad bliana
Comórtas t- Léine le daltaí na céad bliana
Ceardlann damhsa seite do dhaltaí na hidirbhliana

MADRID TRIP

The early hours of the morning of April 11th saw 54 second year students leave the school to travel to Dublin Airport en route to Madrid which is one of Spain's most popular destinations and is renowned for its many cultural attractions.

As always, the tour was a mix of education, culture and fun. Students and teachers visited the Reina Sophia Museum and the Palacio Real, one of the largest European Palaces and the official residence of Juan Carlos 1 of Spain. The glorious sunshine allowed them to spend a few hours in the magnificent Retiro Park, filled with beautiful sculpture and monuments, a lake and host to a variety of events.

One of the main attractions for the students was the Real Madrid Stadium - Santiago Bernabeu where they had a two hour guided tour.

The group visited some very historic sites outside of Madrid. Toledo is a very beautiful town and was the former capital of Madrid. It has the second largest cathedral in the world. It is a UNESCO city as is Segovia where they saw the extraordinary roman Aquaduct.

El Escorial and La Valle des Los Caidos, the burial place of General Franco has a huge Basilica, built underground and is the size of Croke Park, dedicated to all who died during the Spanish Civil War.

For all the students and indeed the teachers, the highlight of the trip was the day spent in the Warner Brothers theme park. Great fun was had by all on the amazing rides and the exotic shows. Shopping and long evening walks were also part of this memorable trip. A special thanks goes to the teachers who gave up their Easter holidays to ensure that the trip could take place and especially Sr Bernadette, who organised the whole trip and ensured that every moment was filled with thing to do and most importantly, that everybody had a safe and enjoyable time.



MADRID TRIP



LITERACY WEEK APRIL 2014

Literacy week 2014 took place in the week following the Easter break. Our aim as a school during this time was to encourage students to read more, to read for enjoyment and to recognise that reading is of immeasurable value in their overall development. As part of Literacy Week, classes engaged in a variety of activities including book swaps, a literary treasure hunt and a 'Drop Everything and Read' activity. First year students participated in the hotly contested Spelling Bee which was won by Laura Harty after a very tight final round. Our school corridors were decorated with posters advertising some of the best literature available to young people. These posters were produced as a joint initiative between Ms Mangan and our Fourth Year students.



MOUNTHAWK CREDIT UNION

A group of Transition year students, with the help of Tralee Credit Union official Orla O'Shea, set up a Credit Union branch in the school this year. The students involved were selected through interview and had a training day in Tralee Credit Union before opening.

The school branch was open every Thursday at lunch time and it gave students an opportunity to set up an account and save money through the purchase of saving stamps. Raffles were held on Valentine's Day and Easter. The Credit Union mascot, Nellie the Elephant visited many classrooms to promote and encourage saving with the bank.



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT - LITERACY

As part of the school development plan, each school nationally has been asked to look at the development of Literacy and numeracy across the curriculum. This year, we focused on Literacy as part of our School Improvement Plan.

Staff had an in-service at the start of the year on methodologies for the promotion of literacy in the classroom. Strategies such as word banks, concept circles, word webs and word mix-and-match were explored. Teachers began implementing these strategies during the year and will continue to embed these techniques in the coming academic year.

A survey was conducted among Junior Cycle students on literacy with some interesting results: 91% of students surveyed indicated that they believe it important to read in their own time. This was a very positive response to the survey. However when we explored further and asked how many hours they spend reading per week, 15.04% said "Not at all", 34.07% said "Less than one hour" and 50.88% said "More than one hour". This has led us to adopt a new goal for our literacy improvement plan namely to decrease the percentage of students who do not read from 15.04% to 10% over the next 2 years.

We will be enlisting the help of parents to address this issue in the next academic year and to guide you in the choice of texts – this was the finding of the survey. Students were asked to indicate which types of literature they read. The most popular genres included: comedy (53.50%), teen fiction (38.27%) and magazines (25.51%), whereas the least popular included graphic novels (7%), autobiographies (8.64%) and newspapers (9.47%). So if you are trying to get your son or daughter to read, it is most important to get them something they will enjoy.

42.06% of students surveyed indicated that they would be interested in borrowing books if the school had a book lending facility in the library. Based on this response, we have brought the question of library lending facilities to the top of priority list in the school. The Parents Council have plans to get on board to support us in running the library and we hope to get a solid lending structure in place in the coming academic year.

BYOD

Bring your own device is an initiative that was rolled out in Transition Year this year, where students could bring their own laptop or i-pad to school and use them in class. The initiative was very successful in some subjects like English and History where students were able to access texts and research topics online. Students could submit their work to the teachers through EDMODO and teachers similarly could give notes and feedback to students.

Students could also submit project work for assessment through the education platform and this has strengthened the project based nature of Transition Year. BYOD will continue as part of TY again next year.



SCHOOL MUSICAL 'THE SOUND OF MUSIC'

This year our school staged another production of a well-known and much loved musical, under the direction of former Principal Mr. Tony Behan. It was decided that the musical to be staged in early January 2014 would be the Rodger and Hammerstein classic "The Sound of Music".

Auditions began in May of last year, with many candidates eager to showcase to Mr. Behan, Ms. Costelloe, Ms. Muldoon Walsh, Ms. Hunt and Ms. Sheldon what they had to offer. Further auditions commenced on returning to school in September, with the final cast being announced in late September. The whole cast and chorus attended rehearsals most days after school and weekends, for acting, singing and also dancing classes. Students were involved in many aspects of the making of the show, not only in acting and singing, but also in the orchestra and set design.

Great credit goes to all involved, the cast members, the teachers and background team who made the show such a success. In particular, Mr O'Sullivan who built the set, Ms O'Shea Daly and her team for painting the set, Ms Kara Keane for the costumes, Mr. Buddy O'Grady for transporting the set from school to Siamsa Tire and back again and last but not least, Mr. Behan, Ms Costello, Ms Muldoon Walsh and Ms Hunt for all the hours of work they put in to producing a memorable show.

Iseult Daly, who played one of the lead roles in the musical summed up the whole experience: "I thoroughly enjoyed my time in "The Sound of Music" and I'm so grateful to have been a part of such an incredible and special production. It is by far one of the most exciting and challenging experiences I have ever encountered and I feel so privileged to have got to work with such an amazing group of actors and actresses".



THE CAST OF 'THE SOUND OF MUSIC'



Seamus Whitty, Kerry Life Education with SPHE students.

KERRY LIFE EDUCATION

Seamus Whitty, Kerry Life Education, in conjunction with SPHE teachers, worked with 1st and 2nd years this year on the theme of 'resilience' and 'optimism'. Students enjoyed exploring how they learn, what are the obstacles to learning and how to work towards achieving their goals in school and in life. The following is some of the feedback from students:

What did you enjoy about the programmes?

Risks, thinking what kind of learner I am, Happiness videos, Rocky stuff!

Life is what you make of it. The smallest change can make the biggest difference. Belief in yourself is important to be happy.

I learned that negativity is the worst weapon but kindness and hope are the best defence

I really enjoyed coming here. I have more confidence I wanna go chase my dreams now.

I like the music choice & I like the way you tell us go for everything.

I learned that everyone has a spark and you can do anything if you work hard and don't give up on the things you love.



'DON'T GO WITH THE FLO' ECO-UNESCO WINNERS

Youth Social Innovator team 'Don't Go with the Flo' received a 'highly recommended' status having brought their anti-fluoride project to the YSI finals in City West. This was a step up project from last year that had seen this creative and innovative group make a series of online videos in their efforts to spread awareness about the fluoride issue.

Green Teams from Mercy Mounthawk Secondary school, scooped the Senior Water Category prize at the Eco-Unesco's Environmental Showcase and Awards ceremony last week. The group "Dont Go with the Flo" examined the negative effects of fluoride in the water. The group went on to give talks on the risks of water fluoridation for their community, they devised information leaflets and did a bake sale to fund their project. They hope that their videos will continue to educate people nationally. They also hope that local businesses will become fluoride free by installing reverse osmosis filters. According to Elaine Nevin, National Director at Eco- Unesco, the level of dedication and environmental awareness demonstrated by the group was highly commendable.

Water and air, the essentials on which all life depends have become a global garbage can.

Jacque Cousteau

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Each year during this week Catholic schools across Ireland celebrate their unique identity and heritage. At Mercy Mounthawk we marked this event by participating in a Table Fellowship activity.

Table fellowship means eating and drinking together around the same table. Jesus often ate with people to indicate that there is a place for everyone, no-one is outcast. Sitting down and eating with others is one of the most ancient signs of human closeness, since the relationships that sustain family and friendship are built and rebuilt continuously through it.

Across Catholic School's Week various student groups participated in this activity which saw students sit down together and share food that they had brought. Students and teachers enjoyed the opportunity to engage informally and to build community, positive relationships and a culture of inclusivity in our school.



MOUNTHAWK STUDENTS SELECTED FOR EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Between the 15th and the 23rd of March 2014, three Mercy Mounthawk fifth year students, Seán Hurley, Meadhb Lyons and Niall Buckley represented Ireland at the 76th International Session of the European Youth Parliament in Riga, Latvia. The European Youth Parliament is a prestigious youth debate forum, where two hundred and fifty delegates from 33 different countries across Europe are selected to participate in discussion and debate. To have one Mercy Mounthawk student selected to represent Ireland at the session is a great achievement in itself but to have three is completely unprecedented! Their participation at this prestigious session was a fitting reward for the endeavour and graft they showed in making it thus far. The session opened with arousing rendition of the European Anthem performed by a full orchestra. Days were filled with committee work and at night delegates were treated to numerous concerts.

The session in Riga concluded with a two day general assembly in the famous Latvian Academy of Science. Each committee's resolution was brought to the floor to be dissected by opposing committees. The three members of the Mounthawk delegation did their school proud, with the insightful, dynamic, creative and, at times, controversial ideas they brought to the assembly. They returned home having made new friends, a treasure trove of memories and the satisfaction of a job well done.



Meadhb Lyons, Seán Hurley and Niall Buckley



1ST YEAR BOYS' FOOTBALL

Coached by Mr. Buddy O Grady and Mr. Patrick Sugrue. A huge interest was shown in the 1st Year Boys' Class Leagues which ran from September to January 2014. 64 players took part as part of their class groups, playing on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Mercy Mounthawk 1st Year Boys took part in a 7 a side Blitz held in Cahersalee on the 24th October. After comprehensive victories over ISK Killorglin and Dingle in the group stages, Mounthawk played St. Brendan's Killarney in the Semi-Final, narrowly losing out on a score of 2-9 to 2-6.

Mercy Mounthawk 1st Year Boys also took part in the 15 a side Division 2 Blitz, organised by the County Board held in Cahersalee on Tuesday 8th April. Overall, in spite of the lack of success in this age group this year, the overall squad of players who took part are destined for great futures for their Clubs and at Inter-county level in years to come.

The standard of players and reputation of football in Mounthawk has been on the rise steadily over recent years, with the school set to take part in the Corn Ui Mhuiri for the first time at Senior Level in 2014/2015. Great things are in store in years to come for the present 1st years.

7 A SIDE BLITZ, 24TH OCTOBER 2013



FUTSAL TEAM



GAA FOOTBALL AND HURLING

MOUNTHAWK JOINS GAA A-CLASS

This has been a landmark year in GAA at Mounthawk. The success of our teams this year means that we now move up to 'A' level competitions in Munster for the first time next next year. This is testament to the dedication and hard work of our coaches and the great talent of the young players at all age groups.

Since Christmas:

The U-15 boys reached the Kerry Colleges (Russell Cup) final. The U-16 boys won the Munster 'B' cup winning their final by an impressive 8 points.

Following their reaching the Dunloe Cup final earlier, the senior team beat many of the best schools in Cork and Kerry to win a one-day Invitational Blitz.

Transition Year student, Andrew Barry played a starring role for the Kerry minors this year and we have great hopes that he will be joined by a number of Mounthawk players on that team next year.

The 1st Year girls team reached the semi-final of their Munster schools blitz competition. The 1st year boys competed extremely well in all their blitz games this year and showed great promise for the future.

The U-15 hurlers also did us proud and reached the Munster semi-final of their competition.

U-17 FOOTBALL



SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL





BASKETBALL

1ST YEAR BOYS ALL IRELAND PLATE WINNERS

The 1st year boys' basketball team had a tremendous year, finishing with a massive 16 wins in total. They reached the All Ireland under 14 cup semi-final where they were beaten by the eventual winners of North Mon. AG of Cork. The boys topped the league in Southwest in the regular session going undefeated all the way to the final where they were narrowly defeated by St Pats. Castleisland who eventually went on to win the All Ireland league. The boys finished runners up of the Southwest league and qualified for the All Ireland league play-offs. In their group, Mounthawk went into the Plate Competition where they beat Rathangan and Tullamore to be crowned All Ireland Plate league winners for the 1st time.

2ND YEAR BOYS

The 2nd year boys' basketball team had a break out season this year. They topped the southwest league beating last year's all Ireland semi-finalists ISK Killorgan. They qualified for the all-Ireland Series. The boys had a remarkable tournament losing to Malahide, last year's all Ireland finalists by 8 points and missing out on an All-Ireland semi-final spot having lost to CBC of Cork by 2 points. With 4 under 16's young enough next year to play with this team, it should be a very interesting year for this team going forward.

SENIOR BOYS'

Senior boys' basketball had another good year finishing with a record of 12 wins. They finished runners up in their Southwest Region, losing the final by 2 points. They qualified for the All Ireland playoffs where they eventually were beaten by the finalists St Malachy's, Belfast.

A special mention to our graduating 6th year class of Shane Crowley, Mike O'Leary, Cathal Rogers, Sean Dowling and Cian Sayers for their 6 years of hard work and dedication to Mounthawk basketball, we wish them all the best going forward in their studies and their basketball careers.



4TH YEAR BASKETBALL COACHES

This year, some 4th year students took on the task of coaching and managing basketball teams in Mounthawk, as well as Ballonagh and Moyderwell primary schools. They went to Ballonagh and Moyderwell primary schools once a week every week for the entire year, coaching 2nd class to 6th class students. They also coached the 1st year and 2nd year boys teams on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings, teaching them about the game of basketball, core fitness and athletics. The 4th year basketball coaches were Cathal O'Reilly, Keelan Crowe, James O'Connor, Sean Herrick, Karl Hoffman, Gary Fernane, Orla Sheehy, Catriona Collins Caoimhe Barry Walsh and Jenny Fitzgerald. They have been a pleasure to work with and are a credit to their families and their school and we thank them and wish them well as they embark on the Leaving Certificate trail.

INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION WINNERS

Woodlands Equestrian Centre, Faha, Killarney hosted an Inter - Schools Show jumping competition Saturday 8th Feb. Entries were teams of 4 and there were 10 teams taking part from both Cork and Kerry. Each competitor competed in the first round, which consisted of jumping 14 fences, 3 of these 4 competitors had to jump a clear round to get through to the final round. Then 2 of the 4 from each qualifying team were chosen to jump in the final 'jump off' - against the clock. The team with the combined fastest time wins.

Rachel Moloney, Micheal Daly, Dylan Savage and Liam Moloney represented Mercy Mounthawk Secondary School, Tralee. They qualified for the final round and Rachel Moloney and Micheal Daly did the team proud with the fastest time resulting in the team taking 1st place and bringing the trophy back to school.



MOUNTHAWK SHOWJUMPING TEAM
RACHEL MOLONEY, DYLAN SAVAGE, LIAM MOLONEY, MICHEAL DALY



BEST BOYS AND BEST GIRLS SCHOOL

Mercy Mounthawk's Track and Field Athletics team have proven very successful this year. Winning out the Kerry Schools Track and Field Competition, Eoin O'Carroll and David Kavanagh were presented with the Best Overall Boys School Shield, and Clare Brennan and Vanessa Dineen were presented with Best Overall Girls School Shield. This year will be the first year that Mercy Mounthawk has won both boys and girls Best Overall Schools in both Cross Country and Track and Field. Congratulations and well done to all athletes involved.



ATHLETICS TRACK & FIELD



ALL-IRELAND TRACK & FIELD RESULTS

Venue: Tullamore Date: 31/05/14

Gold Medallists

Eoin O'Carroll (Triple Jump)

Silver Medallists

Eoin O'Carroll (Long Jump)

Bronze Medallists

Rachel Bowler (Long Jump)

Iarla Courtney (Relay)

Brian Hill (Relay)

Fearghal O'Nuallain (Relay)

Eoin O'Carroll (Relay)

Ryan Dolan (Relay)



ATHLETICS TRACK & FIELD

BEST GIRLS AND BEST BOYS TEAM

Mercy Mounthawk's Cross Country team had tremendous success this academic year. Almost five hundred athletes from Kerry and West Limerick took part in this year's Kerry Schools Cross Country Championship. Mounthawk athletes showed great determination and capability on the day with Vanessa Dineen being presented with the Morkham Shield for Best Girls School and Conor O'Mahony being presented with the Shield for Best Boys School.





NORTH MUNSTER CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS



ATHLETICS CROSS COUNTRY

Venue: Pallaskenry Date: 30/01/14

Team Qualifiers

Minor Girls (4th) • Minor Boys (2nd)
Junior Boys (3rd) • Intermediate Boys (2nd)
Senior Girls (3rd) • Senior Boys (1st)



MUNSTER CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

**Venue: Cork Institute of Technology
Date: 13/02/14**

All-Ireland Individual Qualifiers

Sean Carmody (6th)
Conor O'Mahony (6th)

All-Ireland Team Qualifiers:

Minor Boys (3rd) • Senior Boys (3rd)

U-15 SOCCER SUCCESS

The second year blitz held annually within Tralee was again a victory for Mounthawk, who for the third year in a row came away with the top prize of the Cup. This involved 12 players from 2nd year soccer.

For the 4th year in a row Mercy Mounthawk's 1st years won the Kerry Futsal competition. They won all their games and beat ISK Killorglin 2-1 in the final. JR Tshikota scored both goals.

The team went to compete against the best of Munster in Nenagh. They had a tough act to follow as last year's team made it to the All-Ireland Final. The boys in green and black played well and were a credit to the school and themselves, narrowly missing out on qualification as they won 3 but lost 2.

3 IRISH INTERNATIONALS

Jesse Stafford Lacey, 4th year - Plays soccer for Ireland.

19 appearances for Ireland. 4 goals. 6 international caps - 4 as captain.
Captained Ireland twice against both Estonia and Holland.
Man of the match vs Estonia 28th September 2013

Rian O'Sullivan, 2nd year - plays soccer for Ireland.

Played 2 Internationals v Holland and Scotland. Played in Hibernia trophy, for Ireland vs Manchester United, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Staid Renne. 5 games/2 goals. Man of the match vs Man Utd.

Joshua Barnes, 6th year- played Ireland club under 18s rugby.

Played against England, France and Italy.
Plays second row. Plays with Tralee Rugby Club and Munster.



Jesse Stafford Lacey, Rian O'Sullivan and Joshua Barnes

OUTLINE CALENDAR 2014/2015

SCHOOL RE-OPENING DATES

Mon 25th Aug	1st year students begin school Teacher Subject department meetings
Tues 26th Aug	Staff meeting. T.Y. students return
Wed 27th Aug	3rd and 6th year, LCA2 students return (school for 1st 3rd TY 6th yrs)
Thurs 28th Aug	2nd year students return (school for 1st 2nd 3rd and 6th year)
Friday 29th Aug	5th students return (school for 1st 2nd 3rd, 5th TY 6th year)
Mon 2nd Sept	

HOLIDAYS

October Mid-Term	Closing Friday 24th October. Reopen Monday 3rd November
Christmas Holidays	Closing Friday 19th December. Reopen Monday 5th January
Spring Mid-Term	Closing Friday 13th February. Reopen Monday 23rd February
St. Patrick's Day	Closed on 17th March. Reopen Wednesday 18th March
Easter Holidays	Closing Friday 27th March. Reopen Monday 13th April
Summer Holidays	Closing Friday 29th May

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed 7th/Thurs 8th Aug	Gemma's Uniforms in school
Mon 18th Aug	Second Chance Uniforms 12 - 2 p.m.
Wed 20th Aug	Gemma's Uniforms in school
Mon 1st Sept	Talk for parent of students in Transition Year
Tues 9th Sept	Talk for parents and students 3rd and 6th years 7.30
Wed 24th Sept	Mercy Day
Wed 24th Sept	Talk for parents and students of 1st years
Tues 7th Oct	Talk for parents and students of 2nd and 5th years 7.30
Wed 8th Oct	HSE - HPV 1 vaccination of 1st year girls
Wed 8th Oct	AGM of Parents Council, 8 p.m.
Thurs 23rd Oct	Transition Year Parent-Teacher Meeting 4.15 - 6.45
Fri 7th Nov	Staff/Subject Department meetings 3.45 - 6.15
Sat 8th Nov	Open Day 9.30-2.00
Tues 18th Nov	6th year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15 - 6.45
Mon 1st Dec	3rd year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15 - 6.45
Thurs 11th Dec	Carol service in the church of Our Lady and St. Brendan
Wed 17th Dec	Staff meeting

PROVISIONAL DATES FOR PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

All meetings are from 4.15pm - 6.45pm

Thurs 23rd Oct	Transition Year Parent-Teacher Meeting
Tues 18th Nov	6th year Parent-Teacher meeting
Mon 1st Dec	3rd year Parent-teacher meeting
Tues 20th Jan	1st year Parent-Teacher meeting
Tues 3rd Feb	5th year Parent-Teacher meeting
Thurs 12th Feb	2nd year Parent-Teacher meeting



MERCY MOUNTHAWK SECONDARY SCHOOL, MOUNTHAWK, TRALEE, CO. KERRY

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