

Presentation Secondary School Newsletter



Principal's Message

Congratulations on a terrific terms work to staff and students.

We have had some memorable visits Bishop Brendan Leahy, our Intercultural Visitors from Latvia, great sporting and debating victories, as well as a school tour to Strasbourg and a School Inspection. May I wish you and all your families a very happy Christmas and every blessing in 2014.

Mrs Marion Cummins.



Bishop Brendan Leahy visit to Presentation Secondary School



On the 21st. November 2013 Presentation Secondary School received a very special visitor, Bishop Brendan Leahy. This visit was to celebrate 176 years of the Presentation Sisters in Limerick and the announcement that Nano Nagle, Presentation Sisters foundress, will be made a saint by Pope Francis. Bishop Brendan gave an inspirational speech to the school and he reminded us all to be happy.

A big thank you to the religion department for organizing this special event and to Bishop Brendan for taking the time to visit our wonderful school.



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Presentation Secondary School Intercultural Day

You've heard of "the United Colours of Benetton"? Well, 23 October 2013 was surely "the United Colours of Presentation". Formally, and with great fanfare, we launched our "Intercultural Year 2013-14". Preparation began weeks before. Aware of the twenty-two different nationalities (including Irish) represented in our student body, we wanted to organise a range of events to acknowledge and celebrate such welcome diversity throughout the school year.

And the first was the "Intercultural Day" at Presentation Secondary School. Meetings were held, auditions were run and rehearsals were under way. Requests were made and volunteers came forward to prepare music, posters, flags, recipes and food to present images and impressions of the full rainbow of cultures in Presentation.

So the day arrived and, as if by magic, a little army of students descended on the school gym and in two hours transformed that space into a wonderful display of the foods and fashions, the maps and music of twenty-two countries from three continents. Classes visited the stands in rotation. They sampled delicious food, hunted for answers to an International Quiz and had henna designs painted on their arms by our own Naima from Somalia. Many students donned traditional dress as the gym was transformed into a microcosm of world attires. Parents chipped in with their time and talents. The mouth-watering Thai green curry seemed in endless supply and the Malaysian chicken satay, equally lovely disappeared into appreciative mouths.

Then the treat that we all await on these Intercultural days at Presentation! The performances! The whole school gathered around a stage set in the centre of the school gym. Among the acts, all put on by our own students we had: a section of the local pipe band with gifted Irish and Polish musicians; sensational solo singers from Ireland, Lithuania and Sudan; contemporary Hip-Hop from Zimbabwe; an exotic and exquisite Thai dance; a virtuoso display of Irish dance. To round off the music we were enchanted by an adorable and talented group of visiting Latvian children, bedecked in beautiful native costumes and accomplishing a series of intricate dances.

The day, as they say, ticked all the boxes that an Intercultural Day at any school should. It was a harbinger of great things to come for the rest of 2013-14 at Presentation Secondary when events such as a poetry/story competition, a photography competition and a Fairtrade day, all with an intercultural/international theme will be just some of what to expect!

Above all, the day was a testament to the value the school places on the rich diversity of talented students from every corner of the world including Ireland, who enrich our lives even by their very presence!



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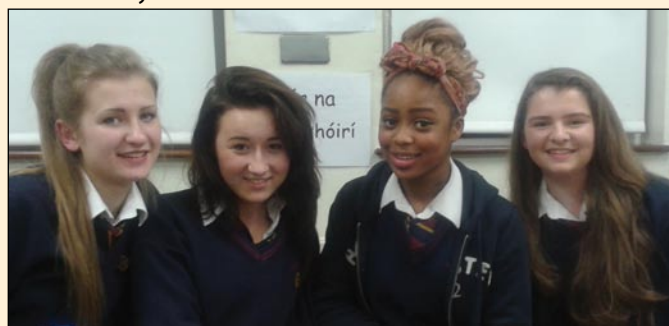


Presentation debaters do us proud!

Presentation Secondary School achieved a hugely commendable victory in the national Concern Debates Competition on Thursday 12 December 2013. Our girls delivered an argument that the judges said was both informed and passionate. What made the victory all the sweeter was the fact that we defeated an extremely talented team from Laurel Hill Cholaiste on their own home patch. We are so proud of all our debaters who invested hours upon hours of time and energy into research, learning speeches and rehearsing their pieces. We pay tribute to Alannah O'Neill, surely one of the youngest Debates Captains in Ireland in this competition, and to Liana Savaljeva, Anastasia Novikova and Nuscka Babela, as well as those who participated in our earlier debates. We look forward to future debates and the prospect of building on this well-deserved victory.

In November, our Second Year Debating Team, captained by Lauren Doyle, alongside Yasmin Taufik and Rebecca Buckley, performed with great skill and confidence and very narrowly lost to St Mary's Secondary School. They certainly have a great future too as Presentation Debaters!

Yasmin Taufik, Rebecca Kiely & Lauren Doyle



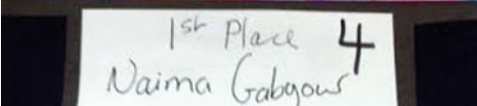
Anastasia Novikova, Liana Savaljeva, Nuscka Babela & Alannah O'Neill



School Tour - Strasbourg

On Thursday 24th of October 22 students travelled to Dublin with Ms Moroney and Ms Kavanagh to embark on their European adventure. They flew to Frankfurt and travelled by bus to the beautiful city of Strasbourg on the French/German border. They visited Freiburg, Heidelberg and Europa Park, one of the biggest theme parks in Europe. A big highlight of the tour was the cable car trip with stunning views of the French/German/Swiss Alps. It was a wonderful experience for all involved and the girls would like to thank Ms Kavanagh and Ms Moroney for organising the tour. They are already looking forward to the next trip.

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Good News Postcard Competition

We recently organised a student competition to design a postcard which will form part of a new reward system to recognise positive student behaviour in our school. We had a huge level of entries from students which presented the judging panel, made up of students and teachers, with the difficult task of selecting the final winners. We would like to thank all students for entering and Ms Hennigar, our Art teacher, for supporting students in the design of their postcards. Congratulations to: Naima Gabyour (1st Place), Gabby Zubova (2nd Place) and Erika Vandalauskaitė (3rd Place). We look forward to seeing your postcards in use. Well done Ms. S. Moloney for a great school initiative.



Transition year students with Ryan Tubridy live from Colbert Train Station in Limerick.

Transition Years with Chef Tom Flavin from the Strand Hotel during their in-house cookery workshop.



Transition Year students displaying their Halloween Pumpkins which were created with Ms. Madigan in Science class.

Spiritual Celebrations in our School for this Term

It has been a really busy time with celebrations in our school this year. On Thursday September 19th, Fr. Chris celebrated the Opening School Mass and our theme for this year is "Gifts and Talents". We reflected on what will this year bring? We will motivate ourselves this year by renewing our CEIST values.

All the Central College Limerick students were welcome to our school on September 19th and were encouraged to use their talents in whatever course they have chosen to study. Mrs Cummins welcomed all the students from CCL and asked them to use their talents this year.

September was exciting also for our TY students who spent an overnight retreat in Ballygriffin, accompanied by Ms. O'Brien and Sr. Colette. Our first stop was an educational tour of the Donkey Farm in Lis Carroll. On to Ballygriffin next, some prayer, creative gardening, more prayer and then a really delicious chicken curry, prepared by Ms. O'Brien. As a special treat, late that night, we watched a film, all cosy and ready for bed. The film was fantastic, "The Notebook". We were very, very wet the next day as we walked miles along the Blackwater river on the Cosmic Walk. All were happy and nobody complained.

October 4th, we left by bus for the TY special day at Knock. A bad start to the journey, as we thought the bus was going on fire and we came to a halt at Shannon. Then we enjoyed each other's company on the roadside for at least an hour. While we lingered there, Bishop Brendan and Fr. Frank waved to us as they passed us by on their way to Knock. A new bus arrived and we looked forward to breakfast, which we managed to get at Supervalu in Claregalway. We knew we were late now but on arrival at the Knock Shrine, Bishop Brendan and Fr. Frank gave us such a warm welcome that we all began relax for the first time that day. It was a lovely day with all TY's from all over Ireland and each one received the gift of "YOUCAT" and a Rosary beads. We sang all the way home to Limerick.

Early October, our 6th and 3rd years had their creative and dynamic in-school retreats, with the themes "Journey", "Nature and Beach". We finished the days with beautiful liturgies from Fr.'s Frank and Chris.

Nano Nagle was made Venerable on October 31st by Pope Francis.

Bishop Brendan visited our school on Presentation day and was given a warm welcome by staff and students. Special thanks to the JRC and SRC who provided the Guard of Honour and our fifth years who acted as ushers. Thanks to all our students who participated so wonderfully with readings, prayers, gift bearers and the presentation of meaningful symbols, which included a relic of Nano Nagle. Thanks also to Mrs. Casey, Ms. Kitching and our choir who performed superbly on Presentation day. We were so proud of our Head Girl, Rachel O'Regan and Deputy Head Girl, Ciara Judge who

did an excellent job throughout the ceremony. Last week December 10th, we celebrated a healing service for all the students of our school, and many availed of the Sacrament of Healing. Thanks to local priests, Fr. Frank O'Connor (St. Michael's Parish), Fr. Pat O' Sullivan (Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish) and Fr. Leo McDonald (St. John's Parish) led by Fr. Noel Kirwin (P.P. St. Michael's Parish).

Many students participated in our Christmas celebration that afternoon with the theme "Jesus is the Light of the World". Baby Jesus was placed in the crib by the youngest student in the school, Stacey Malone, accompanied by Head Girl, Rachel O'Regan.

After all these celebrations, everyone needs a good rest. Ms. O'Brien and Sr. Colette would like to wish you all a very happy, holy and wonderful Christmas.



Ms. Katelyn McMahon and Sr. Colette Hourigan



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SECOND YEAR BUSINESS STUDIES PRESENTATIONS



Weronika, Danielle and Erika at the beginning of their Business Studies Presentation on Foreign Trade



Kirsty, Aisling and Amanda gave a power-point presentation to the class on the Chain of Production



Nicole, Alicia and Claire after presenting their poster on the National Budget to their peers

Natthawipa, Leah and Emma displaying their business studies posters on Delivery Systems.



Lauren and Yasmin taught their business studies peers about Channels of Distribution

Shannon, Olivia and Hayleigh spoke to the class about different forms of businesses



Last years TY's 2012-2013 presenting their cheque from going the distance to Nicola Mernagh from the Crumlin Research and Medical Centre. The students raised the money from their 'going the distance' event where they cycled through the night in school and covered the distance from Limerick to Crumlin.



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Parents Corner Classes

The Home School teachers from the five schools on Sexton Street along with Ms. Murray organised a variety of classes and courses for parents throughout this school term. These courses included Cookery, Sewing and Crafts, Pilates, Spanish, Gaeilge, Computers, Decoupage, English as an additional language and Junior and Leaving Certificate English and Maths. All these courses are free to parents and more are welcome to join. All who took part this term enjoyed their course and are looking forward to courses that are offered after Christmas. Contact Ms. Murray for more details on these courses or you can give her new suggestions. Here are some photos from some of the course that were held at Presentation Secondary School.



Cookery for Fun with First Years

The students of Class Nessa and Class Áine were invited, with their parents, to take part in Cookery for Fun in early December. Ms Fitzsimons and Mrs Lynch, who are the Home Economics teachers and Class teachers of these groups, led the classes to make scones. Everyone had loads of fun making them and it was even more fun eating them with cream and jam. Well done Ms. Fitzsimons and Mrs. Lynch for all your hard work.



5th years on a trip to the local fish shop where they tasted freshly cooked lobster



5th year home economics students at the artisan food market in the milk market



Alicia in 2nd year with her berry crumble

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Sports in Presentation

This year has seen a successful start to sports in Presentation. The U16 ½ football team had their most successful season to date. They beat Comeragh College from Tipperary in the group stages while losing out to CTI Clonmel. However their fantastic win against Comeragh College saw them get through to the quarter finals of the Munster Junior Cup for the first time in the school's history. Basketball has been the most popular sport in our school for many years now. This year our first year team have been training hard. They played a mixed blitz with our senior team during the week. The senior girls were very impressed with the talent coming out of first year. It's great to see good numbers at all training sessions this year and the commitment of the girls has seen improvement throughout the teams. The senior girls were beaten in their first game of the year 47-32 but they played extremely well. The lessons they learned from that day were brought through to this week and saw them beat Laurel Hill in the senior League 29-12. Congratulations to everybody involved!



Transition year students surfing at Nevsail in Kilkee under the guidance of PE teacher and instructor Mr. C. O'Sullivan. Congratulations



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL...
organised by Ms. C. O'Brien and the TY students.
Above Sarah Nash and Chelsey Kinnane

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Second Year Story Writing Competition

Congratulations to Lauren Doyle, Jessica Quinlivan & Tory Johnson, who are the winners of the second year story writing competition. They are pictured here with their teachers Ms. Shee, Ms. Duggan and Ms. Greene.



Head Girl- Rachel O'Regan & Deputy Head Girl - Ciara Judge



As Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl it has been a huge honour to receive these roles. We were chosen to represent the student body by our year group and staff members. Our first duty as Head and Deputy Head girl we were introduced to two Presentation Sisters from Australia. They were very welcoming and they were pleased that our student body was represented by two senior members of staff.

On Presentation Day, the school was visited by Bishop Brendan Leahy. Our duties that day were to welcome the Bishop to the school, introduce him to our Principal, Mrs. Cummins, and our Deputy Principal Mrs. Ryan. The Limerick Leader came and interviewed us and the Bishop about Presentation Day and its significance in our school. After the mass took place, we invited the Bishop and our guests, some Presentation Sisters, a representative of Ceist, members of staff and dear friends of our school, Father Frank, Father Noel and Father Chris to enjoy some refreshments that were served in the Library. It was great to see the positive impact that Presentation Day had on our guests and the sense of pride that the students had to be a member of our school community.

Now that this half of the school year is over, we have gained the trust of all the students and staff in regards to any problems or difficulties that they may have. It is a great achievement for us and these roles will stand to us for many years to come.

Alannah O Neill and Louise Madden recently competed in a competition ran by Saffron Travel. The girls made a video outlining their opinion on the future of transport. The girls worked on the video over the summer holidays after being inspired by their science teacher Ms Jenkins. The video outlined the importance of bio fuels in the future of transport. The video was selected as one of the twelve finalists from all over Ireland and the girls ended up coming in a fantastic sixth place. The video can be viewed on YouTube under Saffron competition. Well done girls, you've done Presentation proud.



Miss Olivia Cox
(Class Brid)
2nd year,
soloist at the
Christmas
Liturgy
with choir
conductor
and head of
music
Miss Gabrielle
Lee Casey.

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Sixth Year Geography Field Trip to Creg Beach and Doolin, Co. Clare - December 9th 2013



Colin Bunce, Geomorphologist, The Burren Outdoor Educational Centre with L.C. Students
Below: Sample of granite on limestone showing coastal transportation.



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Christmas Celebrations Liturgy 2013

A Candle in the Window.

I have a childhood memory of returning from Mass in a pony and trap and asking my mother why are all the candles lighting in all the houses and I clearly remember her answer. To welcome the infant Jesus and to welcome the stranger who may need a place to stay.

The candle in the window is a tradition handed down to us from ancient times and still very much alive today. It is a symbol of welcome to Joseph and Mary who despite their need, were refused shelter in the inn, the call for us today is to offer shelter, food or hospitality to people in need. Maurice Walsh the great Irish writer said it's the whole country opening its doors and its hearts to people in need.

When Mary Robinson became President of Ireland she had a candle lighting on a window in the Aras and it was for all Irish people who were gone all over the world telling them they are not forgotten.

During Penal Days in Ireland when we were not allowed practice our Faith - people left the candle lighting hoping that at least once in their lifetimes a priest might come and say Mass in the house.

We see how important light is. Christmas is known as the feast of light. Just think of a glorious sunrise or sunset you have seen - no wonder some people like the Incas of Peru worshipped the sun as a god. We who are a little more enlightened know the one true God is not the sun but the maker of the sun.

St John begins his gospel saying that Jesus is the true light who enlightens everyone. In the creed we call Jesus "Light from light"

Light is beautiful and mysterious - like God.

Light helps us to see things.

Jesus helps us see the truth.

Light guides us as we travel.

Jesus through His words guides us through life.

Life gives growth and life.

Jesus gives us everlasting life.

Light warms and comforts.

Jesus welcomes us and calms us.

Light prevents crime.

Jesus is goodness itself.

Light takes Away darkness.

Jesus overcomes evil.

When Cardinal Newman was trying to decide what faith was best for him - He prayed for light in his beautiful poem Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom lead thou me on....

This Christmas as we are reminded of the lighted candle - We pray for light.

Let each one of us shine our special light on all our families, friends and all we come in contact with. Let your inner light shine.



Fr. Noel Kirwan, Sr. Colette Hourigan, Fr. Frank O'Connor at the Reconciliation Service on November 21st 2013.



Mrs. Lelia Fitzgerald, (Chairperson of the B.O.M.), Sr. Colette Hourigan, School Chaplin and Principal Mrs. Marion Cummins.



Sr. Colette Hourigan, on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee been congratulated by Mrs. Cornelia O'Brien (Head of RE in the school) on behalf of all the students and staff.

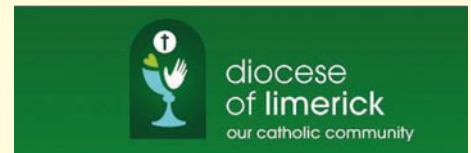
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Stained Glass Window



Christmas Wreath



25 November 2013

Dear Mrs. Cummins,

I want to say a big "thanks" for the wonderful and warm welcome all of you at the Presentation Secondary School extended to me on Presentation Day. I was very impressed by the whole event. Every last detail was prepared with such care and attention. Please convey to all the students and staff my gratitude. I still have in my mind's eye the line of smiling students (each with a specific role in the school) to welcome me, the lovely luminous hall, the beautifully-narrated story of Nano Nagle, the lovely liturgy, the glowing lanterns and especially, the marvellous singing and music. There can be no doubt that on this Presentation Day, Presentation School in Limerick was tops!

I look forward to the next visit!

With warm regards,

† Brendan



Youngest pupil in the school Stacey Malone (Nessa) 1st year visits the crib