

NORTH MONASTERY SECONDARY SCHOOL

May 2023

Issue 4

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Shrek Jr. Musical

History Club

Wellbeing Week

One Book One Community

Trips Out

Creative Schools Projects



A Message from the Acting Principal

As we come closer to the Summer holidays, we may not be thinking of the enormous changes that we have prepared for in recent months.

The North Monastery Secondary School is changing to the North Monastery Co-Educational Secondary School. Since 1811, the 'North Mon' has been known as a boy's school but is, from September 2023, to become 'officially' a coeducational school for the first time.

The year gone by has had some great memories in our build up to this - Our open night showed how the mention of going coeducational was so popular in the locality as the numbers swelled to previously unseen proportions. The visit of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Deirdre Forde, who was announced as the first female student of the coeducational era was delighted to accept the honorary title and put on our zip top at the visit. Our 'Mon boy for a day' became our 'Mon student for a day' and was very popular also. Those attending from the local primary schools were treated to a fabulous day of fun.

Some other great moments will be remembered from the year also. For example, we had approximately 140 of the 5th and 6th class students from local primary schools attend at our GAA day in the school and the red faces after the event, while they sampled some refreshments, demonstrated how enthusiastic they were during the day.

Our Christmas market was immensely successful and again the primary school pupils from the locality sampled what can be anticipated from their time as secondary students in North Monastery Coeducational Secondary School.

The coeducational era students will be joining a very vibrant community as for example, the fabulous performances of Shrek Junior, the musical, demonstrated and where the talent among our students and the enthusiasm among all involved was palpable.

We wish all of our students the best of luck in the upcoming examinations and we ask all to do their best.

Finally, as we launch into a historic move, let us remember that the North Mon tradition is to continue and we look forward to giving a new generation a chance to become part of this history.

J Boyle
Acting Principal

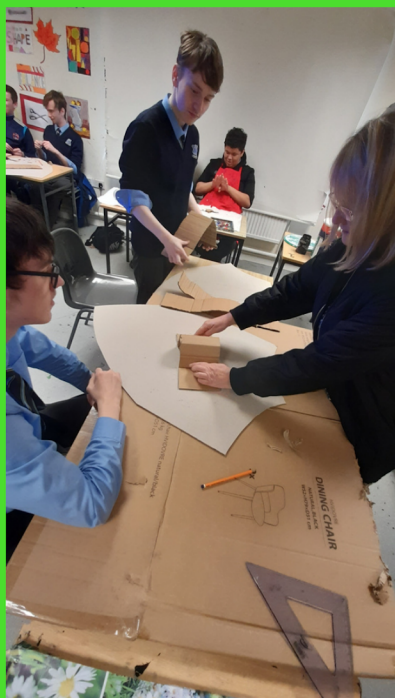
SHREK JR. MUSICAL TY MARCH 2023



This year TY students joined forces with Terence MacSwiney Secondary School to stage Shrek Jr. the Musical. The students worked on the show from November - March rehearsing weekly. It was a wonderful experience and they made many new friends from being involved. The music, art and woodwork departments came together to make this production such a success. The students staged 3 performances of the show including a matinee where local primary schools attended. All the students gained great confidence and interpersonal skills from their engagement. A huge amount of staff were involved in coming together on this project. Well done to all the students and staff who made this show such a great experience for all involved! The talent in the North Mon knows no limits!



SHREK JR. MUSICAL TY MARCH 2023



The art department worked on making props and painting different scenery, while the woodwork department built and assembled parts of the set.



The music department worked on the singing, acting and choreography. While lots of teachers helped in many ways with costumes, make-up, raffle programme, advertising and promotion.



SHREK JR. MUSICAL TY MARCH 2023



A big well done to all the students on their fantastic performances as well as to all the students who did the background work also! It takes many people to make it a success



A huge thank you to all the wonderful staff who also helped in any way. A particular well done to Ms. Collins (Music), Mr. Ruby (Art), Mr. Bohane (Woodwork) and Ms. Kelleher for all their hard work!

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY



This is a HSCL literacy initiative, where each 4th class and 1st year student from all the schools in the local area pick the same book to read and have a series of fun activities afterwards. This year the book chosen was 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. This was a really exciting, light-hearted and funny book about a young boy who was in the wrong place at the wrong time and ends up in 'Camp Greenlake', a labour camp for young offenders. The book deals with the themes of friendship, hardship, racism, greed and the power of fate to determine events.

As part of the celebrations, our students created an art piece with parents as well as students and parents from the North Mon primary. Posters were also drawn and this artwork was displayed in the Blackpool Library. The Blackpool Library also hosted a music and drama day, where each school carried out a performance to represent the book. Our students played two 'trad' songs. Along with songs there were also sketches, costumes, ballet and singing groups. This year group were also hosted by Blarney Street school for a 'cinema' experience of the movie Holes accompanied by their 5th year 'buddy mentors'. Overall, One book-One Community was a fantastic success again this year and we are already researching what book to do next year.

ART NEWS!

RTE - 'This is Art' Online Competition

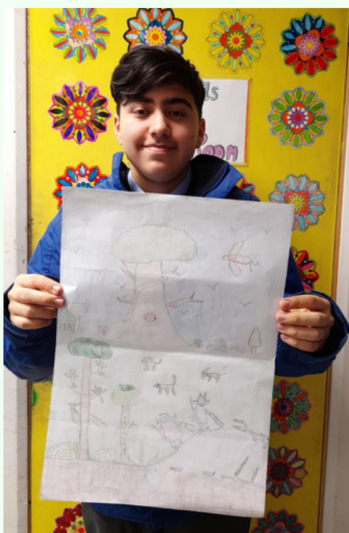
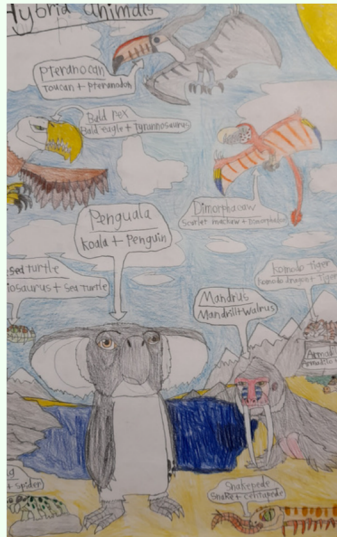
Four of our pupils are representing the school in this national competition. They have submitted work to the competition - their work will be displayed on the RTE- This is Art online exhibition. A prize fund of more than 10,000 euro will be awarded across different categories. Winners will be announced on Cruinniú na nOg on 10th June. Images of pupils with work:

2nd Yr

Vladyslav Zolotko
Manuel Sandoval
Jay O Donovan

3rd Yr

Deniz Han Eren



One Book- One Community

Pupils and parents from North Mon Primary School and pupils/parents from our 1st year group came together over three weeks in March in the art room to create a group 3-D sculpture piece. This piece was based on the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar.

The art sessions were really enjoyed by all and the final piece was displayed in Blackpool Library in late March/early April.



Art News!



Creative Schools Week

Group Printing Activity

Six groups from various year groups took part in a group printmaking activity where they printed over 80 linocut images that will be joined together to make a very large and impressive pattern/print piece.



SPANISH CLASS

As part of the Cork International Film Festival our TY Spanish class attended the screening of *Mediterráneo*. The movie is set on the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the Mediterranean Sea, an incredible story about a few good men who risk their own life to save many others. Our students had the chance to improve their Spanish listening skills by learning about the dramatic situation of the Refugee crisis in Southern Europe.

The TY Spanish class have been busy designing 'Mi familia Loca project' in their eportfolio. The students had to come with the craziest members of their family and present them to the class. Congratulations to the winners of this project. Aran, Adam and Shane. Buen trabajo chicos!





Our TY group were recently invited by the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American studies in UCC to take part in a series of 2day workshops on the UCC campus. Students had the opportunity to explore the diverse histories and cultures of various countries where Spanish is spoken. Our students were given the opportunity to present 5 group projects in front of over 70 students from other Cork schools.



Congratulations to 5th Year students David De Abreu, Barry Hickey and Maciek Skalski who won overall best presentation! Felicidades chicos!



TRIPS OUT

SURFING

On March 14th, fifteen third year students went to Tramore for a surf lesson as Gaeilge to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023. The boys got an hour-long lesson and an hour in the water to catch some waves. Thanks once again to Billy in Freedom Surf School for the great day out!



JANSEN BRIDGE TO EMPLOYMENT

This year our Fifth Year students participated in the Janssen Bridge to Employment programme and were invited out to their site in Ringaskiddy for a site tour and also to meet their mentors. Janssen has been supporting our students for almost 17 years and have been a very valuable asset to our school.



ROADSTONE

Our 2nd Year students got to visit the Roadstone site in Ovens and speak with employees in HR, Health and Safety, Quality Control, Lorry Drivers and Site Managers about their jobs and the importance of staying in education.



Trips Out

For the last two years the school has been involved in the creative schools initiative. Due to funding received from the Arts council, we have been able to participate in a number of various activities. These included:

Engineering workshop

Circus workshop

Glucksmann Biodiversity Experience

Bernard Casey Acting & Improv class

A trip to the Everyman theatre to see Druid

Theatre company

Finally students from TY and 2nd year worked with Cork Community Artlink on designing, creating and completing various art pieces that will be sure to brighten the halls of the North Mon!

A special thank you to the creative schools committee of Ms. Kerenna Cronin, Ms. Kelleher, Mr. Ruby, Ms de Barra and Ms. A. Collins as well as our creative associate from the arts council Christina Seward for her expertise and encouragement.



HISTROY CLUB

History Club began the year with the election of their officers, during which the following students were elected.

President – Shane Carroll

Vice-President – Kyle Morey

Treasurer – Aaron Wilson-Cotter

Secretary – Liam Carroll

PRO – Glenn Horgan



REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL

The Club represented the school at a number of functions this year including the launch of a new book on the works of Terence MacSwiney called "The Art and Ideology of Terence MacSwiney: Caught in the living flame", a commemorative concert in honour of Tomás MacCurtain and a ceremony in Waterford to mark the 175th anniversary of the Irish Flag.



COMPETITIONS

The Club successfully obtained awards in this years Discover Cork: Schools Heritage Project in which the boys secured 3 prizes for the school. This ensured eight students received awards for their excellent work this year. This was the highest amount of awards secured by any Secondary School this year in this competition. The History Club also entered the Thomas F. Meagher Awards & Scholarship Programme this year once again. President, Shane Carroll submitted a diverse project on what the Irish Flag means to him and was awarded 1st Place, in all of Ireland, in the Social Media Category. Shane's Tik Tok Videos and YouTube Video which he created along with Mrs Kelleher and Club PRO Glenn Horgan will be used by the Thomas Meagher Foundation in their pursuit of highlighting the importance of the Flag as a national symbol of peace & respect. The Club's TY members are currently hard at work creating an entry for the Malcolm Doolin Memorial Award in co-operation with the Western Front Association and we wish them the best of luck with this endeavour. No doubt they will make us proud!



TRIPS

The Club completed local trips to Waterford & Dublin this year which the boys found very enjoyable. They travelled to Waterford as part of the celebrations for the national flag turning 175 years old and the boys travelled to Dublin to visit Dáil Éireann at the invitation of Cllr Tony Fitzgerald. The major trip this year was to Berlin. The boys spent four days in the German Capital where they visited the Brandenburg Gate, Check Point Charlie, The Topography of Terror, Berlin Zoo and even got to spend a day in Tropical Islands Water Park. The boys had an excellent time and enjoyed it immensely.

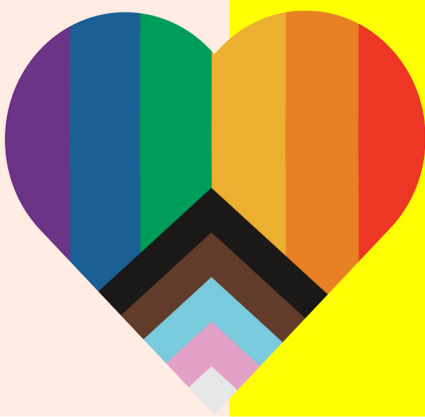


LGBTQ+Quality Mark

All staff completed online and in person training with BeLonG To.

Belong To is an LGBT youth organisation in Ireland which caters for young people aged between 14–23 years. It is a registered charity and is supported by the Irish Department of Education.

During this year the LGBTQ+ Allies group was formed. The group is here to help support anyone who needs it. The goal of the group is to provide a safe place to discuss issues related to the LGBTQ community. In the early meetings we worked hard to pick a name and create a logo. We decided to call ourselves **IRIS** because it means rainbow in Latin and that is how we feel; a bright and surrounding light that shines through a grey cloudy day. The logo is still a work in progress and we hope to launch the group officially in the new school year.





NUMERACY INITIATIVE



The DEIS school's excellence fund created an opportunity for a 'numeracy initiative' between our school, the North Mon primary and Blarney street school. This project was aimed at 4th and 5th class students in the primary schools and 1st years in our school. It allowed us to create 'active learning' classrooms through the use of chromebooks and manipulatives. A survey showed that students much preferred this 'hands -on' way of learning. The laptops for Maths were a big hit as it allowed students to learn at their own pace. The manipulatives were fun to use and students were learning without realising it. A special thanks to the staff in all 3 schools who helped make this possible.



WELLBEING WEEK

What a fantastic way to finish off a busy and productive year!

We are very lucky to have such a multi- talented school staff who ran activities and entertained all class groups with various different events over the week. From Guided Meditation sessions to Dodgeball, from Nutrition talks and Cookery Demonstrations to Team building and an awful lot more in-between, all our students participated in a week of fun while being mindful of the importance of good mental health. Our school also ran an awareness event "Cycle Against Suicide" with participation from both staff and students.



BUDDIES

This year has been the second year of our Buddy Programme.

The aim of our Buddy Programme is to ensure that all participants, both mentors and mentees experience a very positive and enjoyable outcome to your participation. It is also hoped that this will boost our First Years' aspirations, confidence, self-belief and motivation while also enhancing all students experience as a Mon Student! The programme is growing from strength to strength and I would like to thank our 5th Years for their participation and welcome the next bunch of enthusiastic Buddies for next year.



Photo (left-right): Jacob Egan Morley, Piotr Pawlowski,
Ethan Loveridge,

LCVP

The last week of January saw our 5th Year LCVP students spend a week undertaking various work experiences to get a taste of the working world that awaits them! Some students also attended Janssen's Bridge to Employment Work Experience programme in Little Island. Many thanks to Janssen Ireland for giving our 5th years the fantastic week. A special thank you to Cliona O'Gorman and Bridge to Employment Cork.

On March 7th, 5th and 6th Year LCVP classes visited the Irish Guide Dog Association on Model Farm Road. Here we learned all about the great work they do for visually impaired people in Cork. We got a tour around the site and even got to see some of the lovely service dogs being trained!



LCA

On March 15th, 5LCA held a St. Patrick's Day themed Cake Sale as part of their Enterprise task for their Vocational Preparation and Guidance module! We made a huge sum of €400 which was all donated to the Cork Cancer Support Centre. Thank you to everyone who made us cakes to sell, who bought from us and who helped us in any way for this great cause!



LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Ms Kehoe, the JCSP Co-Ordinator, received a library grant as part of Norma Foley's promotion of school libraries. Ms Kehoe and Ms de Barra worked hard all year to build it into a warm and inviting place to go and enjoy reading and playing games.

Over the year they received a huge amount of donations from the staff and students in UCC as well as building a relationship with both Vibes and Scribes and Waterstones. There is now a modern and relevant book stock, as well as a collection of board games and some new comfortable furniture.





CLUBS & SOCIETIES

With the newly developed library there was a huge surge in the activities taking place. The library was open during lunchtime for students who wanted to stay on campus rather than going downtown, we had a regular and wonderful group who came every day.

There were three new clubs established in the newly refurbished library.

DEBATE CLUB

This grew out of the TY students doing the Concern Debates at the start of the year. the students did remarkably well in the debates and wanted to continue with the debating as a club.....and so began the debater club. We meet on Thursdays in the library and play short public speaking games and then hold a debate on a chosen topic. We will continue with the club next year and all students are welcome to join.

BOOK CLUB

There was a request from students to establish a book club and with our new book stock it seemed only right to have a club to go with it! The book club ran a costume day and raised 100 euro to spend on more resources for the library. We are considering expanding the club to include creative writing and poetry.

We meet every Friday in the library and all students are welcome to join!

*Wishing everyone in the
North Mon Community a
Wonderful
Summer Holiday!
We look forward to the
exciting new changes of
going Co-Ed in
September!*

