

Scoil Aireagail Newsletter



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Education and Training Board

Christmas 2022

Principal Helen McTighe's Message

Christmas is a special time of year; a time of Christmas carols and celebrations. Despite the cold weather, it's a time of warmth; a time that we gather as a family and as a school community. Indeed 'community' is one of Scoil Aireagail's core values. I was delighted to meet lots of the local community at the Billy's Tearooms Christmas market and at the Scoil Aireagail morning of music in Billy's also.

We have our own school community here in Scoil Aireagail too; one where respect, care and equality are at the forefront of our daily proceedings. I want to welcome our ten students from Ukraine who have joined SA this term. I want to welcome their parents. I want to thank those in our school community who bought raffle tickets, baked for the Christmas market and donated clothes for the Parents Association fundraiser. The proceeds of these events will be used to fund school activities and equipment for our students.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas. School life runs at a busy pace, and I want to thank everyone for their commitment to excellence in education; for the work that takes place inside and outside of the classroom and for the support of parents and staff for making this happen. Tá súil agam go mbeidh Nollaig shona sásta ag gach duine dhaoibh- students, parents/guardians, families, friends and our great staff.

Nollaig shona dhaoibh go léir.
Helen

Evening Study

Block two of Evening Study will run for seven weeks from Monday, 9th January until Thursday 2nd March at a cost of 100€ per student. Evening study runs on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4-6pm. Please email info@scoilairagail before Friday 6th January if you would like to enquire about booking a place. Limited places available so please book early.

Ukrainian Translation of our Newsletter

available by scanning this QR Code

Український переклад нашого бюлетеня доступний, відсканувавши цей QR-код
Русский перевод нашего информационного бюллетеня доступен после сканирования этого QR-кода



Scoil Aireagail honours retired Principal Liam O'Brien

Last Wednesday we held a special event at break time for retired principal Liam O'Brien. Staff, Student Prefects, members of our Board of Management and Parents Association, gathered to present Liam with a piece from Newbridge Silverware. Our 6th Year prefect Orestas Balsys gave a warm speech in which he thanked Liam for his commitment to the students and the school community during his time as Principal of Scoil Aireagail. Big thank you to Theresa for providing a fabulous selection of cakes, and to Ms. Mills for organising the event.



Junior Cycle results

Congratulations to our students who received their Junior Cycle results at the end of November. After a challenging three years during Covid -19 their results demonstrate great resilience, determination, and work ethic. Well done.



Reminder: Change of Date

The 1st year and TY parent teacher meeting will now take place on **Thursday 23rd February (4.15-6.30pm)**. This will be a useful opportunity parents to discuss their child's progress and for TY parents to seek advice regarding subject choice for senior cycle.

Music

Ms. Rowe and our music students have had a very busy term entertaining our school and local community. They have recorded a series of songs each week performed by students and have posted them on the Scoil Aireagail Music Department YouTube channel including the 12 days of Christmas Series. On Monday last they performed a concert in Billy's Tearooms. Our talented musicians in the school played some beautiful Irish and Christmas songs to a packed audience of Ballyhale locals, Board of management members, and staff. Well done to all involved in this event. It is always wonderful to connect with our local community and what better way to bring our community together than through music and song. They have also been performing for our local primary schools. This week the venue was Bausch Lomb in Waterford who asked them to entertain workers at a company event. Highlights from all performances plus the 12 days of Christmas series are available to watch by scanning this QR Code



Art

5th and 6th Year Art students visit our National Museum and National Gallery in Dublin: 5th & 6th Year Art students did an educational trip to Dublin last week. After a stroll around Grafton St. they did a guided tour of our National Museum on Kildare St. where they learned about the artefacts of pre-Christian/bronze age art, followed by a visit to our National Gallery on Merrion Sq. to explore the highlights of its collection. Before finishing with a little Christmas shopping in Liffey Valley.



Art students win prizes in Thomastown art competition Congratulations to 9 of our very talented art students who won prizes in the local Thomastown art competition last week. 5th year students 1st place went to Amy Prendergast (image of her painting which has now gone on to the next level of the competition) runners up from 5th year Denys Yankovskyi, Jasmine Shasby, Shane Doyle, and Oskar Hulisz. Also 2nd and 1st year art students 1st place going to Aoibhe Murphy and Emma Sutton Duggan in their categories and runners up Caoimhe Corcoran and Ava O'keeffe. Students received their prizes at a presentation last Friday 2nd. Well done and congratulations to all.



Art students create painting 'Celebrating our achievements in the jerseys we wear'

5th Year Art students, Amy Prendergast, Jessica Flynn, and Jagoda Kiezka, created this large painting, entitled 'Celebrating our achievements in the jerseys we wear' it represents our past and current students who have had great success in both hurling and camogie, symbolised by the inclusion of the O'Duffy and Liam McCarthy Cups. It also represents our success and pride in our school jerseys. Thanks to Bobby for hanging it today and well done to artists, beautiful work. Take a look at the video showing the process of how the painting was created by scanning this QR Code.



TY

Our TY students and their co-ordinator Ms. Naddy have had a very busy term. Here's some of the activities and trips they went on:

At the start of November TY students completed a week long workshop with **Young Irish Film Makers**, in association with the one million start project in which students learned how to create a short film to the theme of healthy relationships. Films are being premiered in the Set Theatre Kilkenny tomorrow evening. Well done to all involved.



In December our **TY students travelled Kilkenny** for a tour of the castle to learn about some of our local history. The students then finished off the day with some shopping and bowling.

Also in December our TY students completed the CPR 4 schools Programme run and funded by the Irish Heart Foundation.

Last week our TY students our TY students got in the festive spirit with a **Christmas wreaths workshop**. The students made the wreaths from scratch and even collected all the materials themselves. A massive well done to everyone on creating such wonderful pieces.



Student Council

Junior Student Council members attend the Kilkenny Comhairle Na Nóg AGM Recently our Junior Student Council members attended the Kilkenny Comhairle Na Nóg AGM in Langtons Hotel. There was 3 main things discussed: 1. School related issues 2. Lack of facilities and 3. Transport.



Scoil Aireagail Student Council's annual Breakfast Morning raises €400 for Solas Cancer Support Well done to Scoil Aireagail Student Council who held their Annual Breakfast Morning in aid of Solas Cancer Support and they raised €400. A very special thanks to our sponsors Flahavans porridge, Country Style sausages and Walsh's Bakery, Waterford for their Blaas.



Hurling

Scoil Aireagail/ Grennan College hurlers win the South Leinster junior final Well done to the Scoil Aireagail/ Grennan College hurlers who won the South Leinster junior final last Thursday in Ratheniska. After a titanic battle we came out on top by one point in a game played in very windy conditions. Well done to all the panel and a big thank you to the supporters and helpers who attended. Panel members are Cathal Coogan, Jack Walshe Raggett, Adam Franks, Matthew Murphy, Ciaran Holden, Michael Catt, Christopher Aylward, Sam Mansfield, Oisín Reid.



Senior Hurling victory against Presentation De La Salle Bagnelstown Our Senior hurlers had a very convincing win today of 8-17 to 0-6 against Presentation De La Salle Bagnelstown. Captain Cormac McEvoy led the team with 1-7 and was ably assisted by Michael O'Shea, Joseph Aylward, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Conor Holden and Orestas Balsys. The lads top the group from this win. Well done lads on a great performance.



Senior Soccer Girls draw 1-1 against Coláiste Pobail Osraí Our senior soccer girls faced off against Coláiste Pobail Osraí in November in their penultimate league game. The Scoil Aireagail girls took an early lead with a nice passage of play between Hannah Pearse and the eventual goal scorer Abby O'Keefe. As the tough foggy conditions began to lift CPO equalised through a well taken free kick. The second half brought a fierce battle with both teams getting stuck in and making it a very enjoyable spectacle. However, there would be no separating the sides as it finished 1-1. Well done to all involved.

Past students visit Scoil Aireagail with O'Duffy and All Ireland Junior Championship cups Scoil Aireagail were delighted to welcome back it's former students with both the O'Duffy and All Ireland Junior Championship cups. Sport has always been and continues to be part of our lives here at Scoil Aireagail making this a very special occasion for all. The students were delighted to welcome All-Ireland Champions: Julianne Malone, Michaela Keneally, Sarah Crowley, James Culleton, Ger Malone and Mikey Jones. The Students were reminded of the importance of perseverance and hard work in achieving their goals. Success requires hard work. Ní bhíonn bua gan dua.



Maths Week Fun Our students had lots of fun participating in all the activities during Maths week back in October.



Anti Bullying Week - Junior and Senior
Students participate in FUSE Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme

At the end of November, to celebrate Anti Bullying Week our 6th and 2nd Year students took part in FUSE, an Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme developed by DCU Anti-Bullying Centre. As part of the programme our 6th year students wrote letters to our First Year students offering them some advice.



Science

Some budding scientists demonstrated some interesting experiments with household products at our Open Night in October. They showed how soap cleans hands using glitter. They explained how sound is made from vibrations using elastic bands and also blew up balloons using acid and a base.



1st Year students trip to Kilkenny with their Cairdeas Mentors

On Thursday December 15th our 1st year students and their Cairdeas Mentors were treated to a day out to Kilkenny. They started the day with Orienteering in groups, followed by some Christmas shopping and a round of Bowling. Everyone had a great day.



Irish

Bhí na daltaí Gaeilge sa chéad bhliain gnóthach ag cruthú cártaí Nollag dá gcairde pinn nua

Bhí na daltaí Gaeilge sa chéad bhliain gnóthach ag cruthú cártaí Nollag dá gcairde pinn nua. Tá siad ag fanacht ar fear an phoist chun a gcártaí a fháil!! Our 1st year Gaeilge students were busy creating Christmas Cards for their new PenPals. They are waiting for the post man for their cards.



Rainbow Jumper Day to support our LGBTI+ community for Stand Up Awareness Week

Well done to our wonderful students and staff who participated in Stand Up Awareness Week. Stand Up Awareness Week is a time for second-level schools, youth services, and Youthreach Centre's in Ireland to join us and take a stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. In order to mark the final day we participated in the Rainbow Jumper day where each year group dressed in different colours to show our support of the LGBTI+ community.



Key Dates

School re-opens after Midterm
Thurs, 5th January.

Block 2 of supervised evening study runs from Monday, 9th January until Thursday 2nd March

2nd and 6th Year Parent/Teacher meeting 4:15-6:30pm Thursday 17th January

TY and 1st Year Parent/Teacher Meeting Thursday 23rd February (4.15-6.30pm).

Pre-Leaving Certificate and Pre-Junior Cycle Examinations Friday 3rd February - Friday 10th February

School Closed: Public Holiday Monday 6th February

February Mid-Term Break Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February

Entrance Assessment for Incoming 1st Years 2023/24 Saturday 11th March

School Closed: Public Holiday Friday 17th March