

ZODIAC

Vol. XXVII No. 2

November / December 2017

EDITORIAL

We wish all our correspondents and readers a Very Happy Christmas.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, 18th Dec. Presentation of Cheques to Charities from “Day of Action”.

Friday, 22nd School closes at 12.30pm for Christmas Holidays.

Monday, 8th Jan. School Re-Opens.

Wednesday, 10th First Year Parent Teacher Meeting at 3.45pm.

Monday, 15th Standardised Testing of First Year Students in Unit Five.

Thursday, 25th “C.C.S. Talent Extravaganza Show” in The Aras.

Friday, 26th Annual Prizegiving Ceremony in The Aras.

Tuesday, 30th OPEN NIGHT - Assemble in The Aras at 7.30pm.

Monday, 6th Junior & Leaving Cert. Practical Mock Exams.

Wed, 7th Feb. Closing Date for payment of Junior & Leaving Exam Fees.

Thursday, 8th “Dancing at Lughnasa” in The Aras at 7.30pm.

Friday, 9th School closes for Mid-Term Break.

Monday, 19th School Re-Opens.

Tuesday, 27th Incoming First Year Induction Day.

Open Night

All sixth class pupils are invited to the CCS Open Night on Tuesday 30th January 2018. Pupils from the feeder schools are asked to gather with their parents/guardians in the Arás at 7.30pm. The school prospectus will be distributed along with an enrolment form. After a brief word of welcome, pupils and their parents/guardians are free to walk around the school, visit classrooms, chat to teachers, and get an overall feel for Carndonagh Community School. Light refreshments will also be served.

French Exchange 2018

The Annual French Exchange will take place during the last week of April 2018. There are only a few places still available. It is open to 2nd year students who are studying French. The exchange is an amazing opportunity to put Junior Cert French into use, visit another country and experience the French culture as well as making new friends and contacts. The total cost of the trip is approximately €550 and includes three nights in Paris visiting Euro Disney and all the major sights. The group then travel to Saint Brieuc by TGV, stay four nights with a French family and attend the Lycée Saint Charles with host students. There are also several field trips. All students on the exchange will then host their French counterparts for a week in Ireland. For further details please contact Mr. Spencer or Mrs. McGoldrick.



Girls Rugby

U18 and U15 girls rugby training takes place every Thursday at Carndonagh CS from 15.45-16.45. Experienced and beginners are welcome. Permission slips are available from the Rugby notice board in the Mall.

Chess Club

The Chess Club meets every Wednesday in the Library during Lunch (12.40-13.20). All ages and grades of players, experienced to complete beginners are welcome to attend and hone their puzzle-solving skills, critical thinking skills and strategies.

First Year Christmas Movie Afternoon

Transition Year will be holding their annual Christmas Matinee movie for 1st Year students in the Arás on Friday 15th December during last 3 periods. Tickets cost €2 each and will be sold by TY students during the week.

Mock Trial Team Commended as Daniel Wins Top Lawyer

CCS put in a brave shift at the Empire Mock Trial World Championships in New York; the team received several commendations from the judges. Daniel McCormick scooped the Top Lawyer award...in the world! Not a bad day's work. We'd like to extend our admiration and congratulations to all the pupils, teachers, families and fundraisers who brought the whole thing together. The 2017 team have set the standard.

Transition Year News

Christmas Craft Fayre

Bobbles, Christmas jumpers, hot chocolate and wooden snowmen and 110 energetic and enthused TY's...what else could it be but the now traditional TY Christmas Craft Fayre. Friday 1st December saw a large throng of eager Christmas shoppers descend on The Aras where they were greeted by a gargantuan glittering display of all things Yuletide. It didn't take long for the various locally produced (CCS) products to disappear off the stands and into bags to make their way to decorate the homes of Inishowen. By the end of the school day stocks were clearly running low as was evident by the empty tables and perhaps more importantly by the look of sheer (Christmas) joy on the tired TY faces. Many people commented on not only the quality of the items but also on the quality of the sales teams and the almost electric atmosphere throughout the day. Thanks to everyone who supported the TY Craft Fayre in any way and especially to our ever-helpful caretakers. The day was a resounding success once again thanks to the efforts, perseverance and imagination of the TY students who were ably assisted by their Enterprise teachers...Elaine Mc Goldrick, Emma Doherty, Lynn Mc Gowan, Niall Havlin and Mary Harkin. Dragon's Den and The Apprentice wouldn't get a look in! Well Done everyone!

Work Experience

The TY students have just returned from their first work placement from Monday 4th Dec-Friday 8th Dec. Work experience is an opportunity to introduce young people to the reality of working life as well as other important skills: Verbal Communication, teamwork, initiative/ self-motivation, planning & organising, time management. I'm sure the TYs have gained some valuable skills which they can apply to their TY year and future endeavours.

Careers Talk Day

On 24th Nov the TY students attended a Careers Talk Day in the Aras. Twenty-one people from all different backgrounds gave the students an insight into their World of Work. It was a very interesting, productive morning.

European Youth Parliament

The European Youth Parliament (EYP) is a non-partisan and independent educational project tailored specifically to the needs of young European citizens. Each year EYP reaches out to over 20,000 young people in 41 countries and in doing so provides students with an opportunity to engage in intercultural dialogue, parliamentary debate, political educational work and discussion on a range of pressing issues. Shane Doherty TYC spent the weekend in Galway on Nov 24th as part of the European Youth Parliament. His chosen topic was Agri. He met students from all over Ireland and thoroughly enjoyed the experience....Shane's chosen topic - AGRI: #modernagriculture
The future of crops - With new agricultural technologies on the rise, what role should modern technologies play for Europe's farmers and how can the EU ensure its citizens' food supplies stay stable for the foreseeable future?

The Connaught-Ulster Regional Conference is one of five conferences organised by the European Youth Parliament Ireland, the Irish branch of the largest not-for-profit youth organisation in Europe.

Road Safety Authority

Louise McGeever gave a presentation to the TYs on Road Safety. She presented some frightening facts and statistics. The RSA are running many Road Safety Campaigns so have a look online. She said that "The TYs were absolutely excellent to work with. I have been to many schools and I have to say the manner, respect and engagement of your students was top class!"

LAW Programme

We are delighted that Cliona McNeill TYD was randomly drawn in the lottery for the Bar of Ireland's Look into Law programme next February. Cliona will attend five days Monday 5th to Friday 9th February 2018 from 9am to 4.30pm (approx.) each day. Congratulations again Cliona and it will be fantastic experience.

Student of the Month (November)

Congratulations to the following students: TYA- Killian Mc Carron, TYB Olivia Harkin, TYC Ellie Doherty, TYD Lorcan Diver, TYE Jessica Coyle.

Campaign Academy

Campaign Academy is a yearlong TY programme with the aim and purpose of empowering students to run a campaign within their own school community and we will equip them with the skills to do this. The theme this year is on peace and conflict and students will be able to plan their own campaign on any issue they are most drawn to around this. It's a great programme and really gives students a chance to become actively involved with global issues! The following students will be taking part in the Campaign: Niamh Mc Geoghegan, Paul Shiels, Shane Doherty, Cliona Mc Neill, Deirdre Brennan, Lorcan Diver, Olivia Harkin, Fionn Bowyer

First Aid

TYE have completed a 3-week Introductory Course in First Aid. This course is aimed to give the students the understanding and confidence to be able to act in the occurrence of an accident or emergency.

Hairspray Letterkenny

"You can't stop the Beat". Some TY students enjoyed a trip to Letterkenny to see the musical Hairspray starring our very own Ms. Coyle and Ms. Mc Intyre. The students had a wonderful night and based on the singing and dance moves on the bus home, Ms. Meehan enjoyed it too.

Public Service Cards

On Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December TYs applied for their Public Service Card. You need to have a Public Service Card if you are sitting the Driver Theory Test. No excuses now.

TYA Literacy Programme

TYA have completed a Literacy Programme with Ms. Fiona McLaughlin's First year group. Both groups enjoyed the programme.

AIB Build a Bank

Congratulations to Róisín Toland, Michael O'Sullivan, Eimear Doherty, Conor Doherty, Ailbhe McLaughlin and Mary Kate Kelly on their appointment as this year's CCS Build a Bank team. The bank staff were blown away by the students' talents and abilities during the rigorous interview process. The team then got their creative hats on to come up with a theme, choosing in the end, Bankwatch. (Lifesavers, money savers). The students have been busy writing their business plan and deciding on their future events. They launched their Bank on the 16th November in the Coffee Dock. This was a huge success, drawing a lot of attention and new accounts. We wish them the best of luck in the competition and look forward to hearing all about their venture.

Enterprise Projects / Christmas Jumper / Movie

Never a dull moment! Now that the Craft Fayre is over the TYs are already organising and planning their next Enterprise projects. A group is organising a Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 21st Dec. Plenty more on the horizon!!!

Mental Health Wellbeing Initiative

Nov 13th was 'Stand Up Awareness Week'. This was a week dedicated to standing up against LGBTI+ bullying. CCS is an LGBTI+ inclusive school. For 'Stand Up Week' this year, CCS engaged in various projects. The following TYs helped Ms. Byrne with the initiative:

Eadaoin Doherty TYA, Beibhinn McClure TYA, Deirdre Brennan TYB, Natasha Devlin TYC, Lorcan Diver TYD, Tony Keyes TYD.

AIB Future Sparks

Thirty students will be travelling to the RDS in Dublin on 22nd March 2018 to take part in the AIB Future Sparks Festival. The AIB Future Sparks Festival brings together industry experts and young entrepreneurs, to inspire students and show them the power of potential. No other event gives students this kind of access to Ireland's most innovative industries with business at the heart, including tech, creative and lifestyle.

Futsal

Three TY students travelled to Waterford on Monday 4th Dec. to help Mr. Conor Doherty with the First Year Futsal All Ireland Finals in Waterford. Christopher Mc Daid, Jade Doherty, Eimear Doherty.

Lifeline's White Ribbon Campaign

As part of the Lifeline's White Ribbon Campaign on 23rd November the TY's hosted a friendly soccer match against Merville Community College.

Derryveagh Crystal Schools' Golf

The CCS Golf Team recently took to the fairways in Ballyliffin Golf Club trying to win back the Derryveagh trophy for 2017/18. Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair and St Columba's Stranorlar were both delighted to be playing at Ballyliffin, the home of the Irish Open for 2018. CCS golf veteran, Oisín McGonagle, certainly took home advantage by winning the overall individual prize. Martin O'Connor proved his worth to the CCS team by winning his section with very impressive scoring. CCS will be hoping to build on this solid start with another two rounds to be played after Christmas. Team: DJ McGeoghan, Oisín McGonagle, Ryan Collins, Cormac Monagle, Martin O'Connor, Paddy Monagle.

Guidance News - December 2017

USED Postage Stamps for the Blind

Christmas is a time when lots of cards arrive in our homes in the post. The stamps on the envelopes, if torn off, are actually valuable. **Last year we filled a full box with used Christmas stamps.** The Irish Guide Dogs charity gets money for these from stamp collecting companies. Please bring all used stamps to Mr. Harkin in the guidance office after Christmas, and we will forward them to Irish Guide Dogs Association.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR LEAVING CERT STUDENTS

SAVE €15 - SAVE €15 - SAVE €15

Just register for CAO by 20 January 2018
for €30 instead of €45.

Important Information for Parents on the HEAR and the DARE Access Programmes

Students and their parents/guardians who wish to be considered for a place in the ACCESS / HEAR scheme need to apply online on the CAO application website as part of their CAO application. You must register for CAO first, before you can apply for HEAR / DARE.

What are the HEAR and DARE programmes?

HEAR is a way of getting into college for approximately 10% less points and DARE is an access route to college for students with certain health or learning difficulties. Please ask your

son/daughter to show you the relevant information which is in a recent email and is also on our Guidance Blog. You will need to read the material on the website below to decide whether your son/daughter is eligible or not. **This short article does not explain this.**

What do parents need to do?

Parents/guardians must take full responsibility for all aspects of the HEAR / DARE application. Parents/guardians should be aware that their children will not have all the information that is required to fill in the online HEAR/DARE application form and that parents will have to assist them in the process. We estimate that it could take 30 mins to an hour to fill in the details required - that is if you have all the financial information to hand.

What help have students been given?

Students have been given a link (sent by email) to download a HEAR and a DARE Application Booklet which will guide you through the online form step by step. Alternatively go to www.accesscollege.ie and click **Downloads**.

What do I need to send by post?

Parents/guardians need to be aware that as well as filling in the form online, that a range of information will need to be sent to CAO by 1 April 2018. Some examples:

- If either Parent/Guardian is working: a P21 for **2016** from the tax office in Letterkenny (NB **NOT** 2017) must be sent in. **Tax documents from the wrong year will not be accepted.**
- If either Parent/Guardian is self-employed or involved in farming: a 'Notice of Assessment' for **2016** from the tax

office must be sent in to CAO. Tax documents from the wrong year will not be accepted.

- If either Parent/Guardian is unemployed or in receipt of a social welfare allowance, then a statement of income for **2016** will be required from the Department of Social Protection in Buncrana. This form can be downloaded from the HEAR / DARE website: www.accesscollege.ie
- When posting documents to CAO, for HEAR / DARE you do not need to send the originals, photocopies will suffice.
- Bring your CAO handbook with you to the post office when you are posting the letter and get the post office to stamp one of the four certificates of postage inside the back cover of the CAO handbook.

Do you need any more help?

Guidance Counsellors in the school will, as always assist students with their CAO choices and the CAO application process, but it must be stressed that they are not in a position to offer assistance with regard to the HEAR Application, due to the large amount of private and financial information required by HEAR. The SEN Coordinator and individual resource teachers in the school will assist DARE applicants with their application forms. Further advice and help may possibly be obtained from your Social Protection Local Office in Buncrana (074) 932 0075 or from the Citizens' Information Services Office in the County Council Offices, Malin Road, Carndonagh. Tel: (074) 937 3728.

DARE and HEAR Advice Clinic Saturday 20th January 2018

There will be a HEAR / DARE Advice Clinic for Parents/Guardians who need help filling in the forms or with finding the supporting documents. It will be held in the Villa

Rose Hotel, Main St., Ballybofey on Saturday January 20th from 10am until 2pm. HEAR /DARE advisers will meet parents / guardians and students on a one-to-one confidential basis and will be able to offer advice on filling in both forms. No booking required. Just turn up at the hotel anytime between 10am and 2pm. CAO will also operate a helpline until 1st March 2018 to assist applicant on making an application to HEAR / DARE. The helpline phone number is: 091 509800, ask for the HEAR/DARE section when you call.

IT Sligo Breaking the Mould Applications

In previous years, there was an access scheme in IT Sligo called Breaking the Mould. This is no longer in operation as IT Sligo has now joined the HEAR/DARE schemes.

Applications to NWRC NOW OPEN

Online applications to the North West Regional College are expected to open on 15th December. All applications are now online only. See www.nwrc.ac.uk. If the website is not open on 15th December students should keep checking over the Christmas holidays. High-demand courses such as Health Sciences (back door to nursing), Health & Social Care, Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy and Apprenticeships fill up quickly, so we strongly urge students to apply for these before Christmas.

Free Self-Help Leaflets

This link gives FREE access to a range of over 20 Self-Help Guides - <https://www.nwrc.ac.uk/pic/selfhelp/>

These guides cover common mental health issues from anxiety, depression and panic to anger, domestic violence and sleeping problems. They contain useful tips and hints as well as self-help

techniques. Each guide has an introductory video as well as audio versions available to stream. Guides can also be downloaded free of charge to your iPad, phone or tablet for offline reading and can even be printed directly from your device. There is also an iPad / iPhone / Android App containing all the guides. The app is called NTW's **Self Help** for iPad / iPhone and Android. The app gives you easy access to the full range of 23 mental health self-help guides. Just search for "**Self Help**" in the Google Play Store or on iTunes.

Free eBook for Parents / Guardians / Students: "How to Research Your CAO Options". Free download.

We can highly recommend this excellent eBook, written simply with both parents and students in mind. It will help parents and students understand the CAO system and help you decide on your CAO choices. It is available to download from Waterford IT at this link:

https://www.wit.ie/images/uploads/About_PDF/How_to_research_your_CAO-final.pdf

You will need a PDF reader such as Adobe Reader to open the book.

College Awareness Week 2017 (CAW)

We had SIX very successful CAW events this year in Carndonagh Community School. These took place throughout the whole week and even into Saturday 25th November ...

1. **In-school Presentation by Letterkenny IT** - while this is an annual event for our sixth years, we deliberately scheduled it this year for the start of CAW 17 to give a clear focus to the week. Fiona Kelly Schools Liaison Officer from LYIT gave an excellent presentation in the school on courses in LYIT. This event got our CAW 17 celebrations off to a great start.

2. **Alumni Alma Mater III** - This is the third year of our Alumni Alma Mater project where each teacher's classroom door has a poster with the names and logos of all the colleges they attended. New teachers to the school were issued with posters and any lost or damaged posters were replaced.
3. **Who Went Where in 2017?** This is a large exhibition featuring the photographs and names of the Leaving Cert Class of 2017 who progressed to college - all 158 of them or 80% of the cohort. Details of the courses being studied, and the colleges chosen were also displayed.
4. **Careers Talk Speed Date Day** - this event was organized by Ms. Elaine Farren's Fifth Year **LCVP students** and involved the students researching and then inviting local people in a wide range of careers to come to the school. The students then spent 10 minutes at each stand where the invited guests described their work and where there was the opportunity to ask questions. This provided a range of local role models in a wide variety of areas such as Fire Fighter, Holistic Therapist, Pharmacist and Garda.
5. **LYIT Open Day** - this year's LYIT Open Day happened to fall on Friday 24th November, so this enabled us to bookend our events with a trip to the Open Day for senior students, on the last school day of CAW 17.
6. **Our final event was on Saturday 25th. This was a trip to the Maynooth University Open Day** which meant a very early start for the students as the bus departed Carndonagh at 5.30am, to arrive in Maynooth for an 11am start. The students had a fabulous time and arrived home exhausted at 9.30pm - a round trip of 16 hours. That's what it means to be really College Aware!

Roinn na Gaeilge

The Club Cainte continues every Friday at 1pm in Rm 110.
Tá fáilte roimh chách.

TY/5th Yr Turas chun na Gaeltachta

We have 58 students signed up for our trip to Coláiste Chu Chulainn in March. The remaining installments will be collected as follows:

8th December €30

12th January €40

9th February €40

Money to be paid to Ms L Mc Gowan Or Ms C Byrne.

Irish Oral Workshop

On 22nd November, 6th year Irish students were treated to an interactive workshop when Highrock Productions visited the school. 'Caith Amach É,' a Leaving Cert Irish Oral Show and Workshop has toured over 200 schools in 24 counties in Ireland. It has been seen by over 40,000 students. The show covered the 20 dreaded Sraith Pictiúir through a series of comedic sketches and songs and really brought the material to life. After the sketch show the company gave a talk to all students offering tips/memory techniques in preparation for the cómhra. It was clear from the wealth of laughter and applause that all students in attendance enjoyed themselves thoroughly. We look forward to welcoming Highrock Productions back next year for another hilarious yet informative production.

FAI Schools First Year All Ireland Futsal Championships

The First Year boys and girls played brilliantly in Waterford on Tuesday, 5th December but were up against some very tough teams. They kept their heads high and did the coaches and the school proud.

Boys:

The boys were competing against St Francis College (Rochestown, Cork), Good Counsel (New Ross, Wexford) and St Joseph's (The Bish, Galway).

Game 1: Carndonagh CS 2-3 St Francis College

CCS had a great start and went a goal up, scored by Adam Duffy. On the stroke of half-time, CCS missed a great chance to go 2-0 up. St Francis hit on the counter attack with a well taken goal to level the game 1-1 at half-time. Kyran Cantwell was brought on and immediately caused havoc in the opponent's defence with his relentless pressing and work rate and he forced a mistake to put CCS 2-1 up with seven minutes to go. CCS held this lead until three minutes from time. But two quickfire strikes from St Francis marksman Harry Nevin secured a 3-2 victory over CCS.

Game 2: Carndonagh CS 2-5 Good Counsel

The CCS boys started the game off very well again with Lee Coyle scoring in the first few minutes. However, Good Counsel took control and scored an equalizer before scoring from three consecutive corners to lead 4-1 at the break. Mr Doherty emptied the bench at half-time and added fresh legs with Sean

O'Donnell in particular standing out. Sean O'D won a penalty which Sean O'Kane converted to make it 4-2. The boys continued to work hard but another goal on the counter attack ensured the final score was 5-2 to Good Counsel.

Game 3: Carndonagh CS 2-0 St Joseph's

Even after the first two defeats, the boys kept their heads up and performed fantastically in their final game. Cadán managed to make some excellent saves, with defenders working very hard to ensure St Joseph's couldn't create any clear chances. CCS created a series of chances which were all well saved by the St Joseph's goalkeeper. Sean O' Donnell finally broke the deadlock when showing intelligence and bravery to beat the keeper to the ball and roll it into the net. The scoreline was 1-0 at half-time with CCS well on top. The boys were determined to finish with a win and controlled the second half excellently. An Adam Duffy strike ensured a 2-0 win and a 3rd place finish overall.

The boys were a little disappointed at the end, but it was great to finish on the winning note they deserved. St Francis strolled to victory in their other two games and the boys were left to wonder what might have been had they held on for the last three minutes in their first game. Mr Conor Doherty and Ms Anita Hegarty were very proud of the performances they put in. They represented their school excellently on the big stage with every member of the squad getting a game throughout the tournament.

Boys Squad: Cadán Doherty, Seán O'Kane, Dara Harkin, Lee Coyle, Jamie McKinney, Aaron Porter, Ryan McLaughlin, Adam Duffy, Seán O'Donnell, Kyran Cantwell, Liam McWeeney, Matthew Mooney. **Coaches:** Conor Doherty & Anita Hegarty

Girls:

The girls were competing against Presentation SS (Ballypheane, Cork), St Leo's College (Carlow) and St Attracta's College (Sligo).

Game 1: Carndonagh CS 1-2 Presentation SS

The girls had a great start to the game with Sophie Murphy scoring a goal in the first minute. However, on the next attack Sophie was injured and had to sit out the rest of the game. She was a big loss to the CCS girls, who were also missing their other main striker Dacia Crumlish to injury. The girls worked together very well and were unlucky when the Cork keeper made an excellent save from an Emma Devlin strike to stop CCS going 2-0 up. The Cork school then punished CCS on the stroke of half-time with a well taken goal. The CCS girls played some fantastic football in this game and laid siege to the Cork goal without being able to make a breakthrough. CCS were hit with a sucker-punch in the last minute when a corner came into the box. After a scramble, the ball ended up in the CCS net and cruelly the girls were defeated 2-1.

Game 2: Carndonagh CS 2-4 St Leo's College

Sophie Murphy showed great bravery and started the second game against St Leo's (Carlow), managing to score early on to put the girls ahead. The girls then switched off, allowing St Leo's to score two goals. In the second-half the girls worked extremely hard and Sophie managed to score another goal. However, CCS struggled to contain an excellent St Leo's team who scored two more goals, ending the game 4-2 to St Leo's.

Game 3: Carndonagh CS- 1-3 St Attraca's

The girls had a good start to their final game with Sophie scoring almost immediately. All the girls tried their hardest with everyone working together, but they were unable to hold off St Attraca's who managed to score two goals before half time. Mr Doherty and Ms Hegarty used their whole bench in this game, giving the team some fresh legs. Even though they lost, it was a tight game and the girls managed to compete excellently against a very good side.

The girls finished the tournament in fourth place. Even though they were disappointed, they still all played extremely well and to the best of their ability, with every girl getting game time.

Girls Squad: Yasmin Crumlish; Katherine Doherty; Alaina Keogh; Sophie Murphy; Emma Devlin; Dacia Crumlish; Chloe Lacey; Ella McGonigle; Lorinne Greene; Kate Doherty, Ciara Gilmore, Caitlin Kelly. **Coaches:** Mr Conor Doherty and Ms Anita Hegarty

Mr Conor Doherty and Ms Anita Hegarty couldn't speak highly enough of the effort put into the tournament. They were extremely proud and commended the players' conduct both on and off the pitch. They were a credit to their school, their families and themselves. They should hold their heads high. Not only was it the first time the school had reached the All Ireland Futsal Finals - history was made because no school has ever reached the Finals in both boys and girls tournaments in the same year. Mr Doherty and Ms Hegarty would like to acknowledge the support and assistance they received from the School Management, the staff and also the parents of the players both on the day and throughout the year. A BIG thank

you also goes to the school's friends in the United States, spearheaded by the St Charles Sister Cities organisation. Their help, along with that of all supporters and contributors, will be formally acknowledged before Christmas.

Lighting of the Trees - Christmas 2017

Last year, Tony Lafferty lit the tree at the gym as part of our annual 'Day of Action'. Tony was at the switch again in 2017, this time co-hosting with Darragh Gallagher in light of the fact that there are TWO CCS trees this Christmas. The local hospice ward and The Irish Heart Foundation will definitely get a boost thanks to the efforts of Mr. John Farren, Mr. Con McMonagle, Mr. Sean McGeoghegan, and of course all those who contributed to the fund. While the trees are now bearing the fruits of the fundraiser, it's never too late to contribute. Just see one of the aforementioned members of staff to "buy a bulb". Bulbs cost €5. And remember, you're not REALLY buying a bulb, you're helping someone you probably know. Many thanks to all who have contributed so far.

Senior Rugby - Boys v Men!

The boys' senior rugby team kicked off their season on Wednesday, 29th November, when Mr. McNally retreated from teaching to take the team to Rainey. A young PJ Callaghan was told he was going to the hill and Stephen Kelly was handed a Mars Dar Duo to force them both to play. It was too tempting an offer for Kelly to turn down. The team felt defeated from the beginning when team hero Christopher Gill couldn't go due to

international duty against New Zealand; good luck Christopher!! From the whistle, team captain Finin MacLochlainn, an all-around phenomenal person on and off the pitch, dump-tackled the other captain off the field. The CCS lads piled on the pressure until a mistake caused the Rainey boys to score under the posts. Birthday boy Connor Bambrick retaliated with a compelling run down the wing to score. Runs from Stephen Kelly, PJ Callaghan and Michael Harkin constantly forced the Rainey defence back. Poetry in motion occurred when Stephen got the ball, steamrolled an unsuspecting Rainey prop and offloaded to Finín, who performed a perfectly timed one handed pass to Eoin Hela, who reminded the crowd of a young Michael Flatley, spinning like there was no tomorrow.

The Inishowen scrum dominated the whole 70 minutes, with the backs disappointing as usual. Darragh McCormick was invisible, except for when he shouted for Connor Bambrick to carry him and do his own job at the same time. It was then up to Ulster star Stephan Kelly to pick up a Rainey man and carry him half the length of the field, only for McCormick to once again let the team down by not being able to tackle. Ultan Doherty then made a dodgy enough run. We aren't sure how he managed to do it and I don't think he was sure himself, but it got the job done when he crossed the white line to put the scores level. The CCS men weren't going to let the heads go down just yet. The ball went from 22 to 22 until Mark Scott missed a tackle, to which he excused himself - "I seen a Massey driving past"...the opposition capitalised. You should have seen Connor Bambrick running. He looked like a milk bottle on fire. Things went from bad to worse when Sean Carroll tore a hamstring after his relentless efforts from the sidelines - keeping the lads hydrated - for which he was rewarded with Man of the Match. Two late tries from

Rainey in the last few minutes came down to fitness...and Connor Quigley having to fix his hair every 14.9 seconds. It was a great game of rugby and a great experience to prepare Mr. McNally's troops for the upcoming game against Columba's. See you then folks!

U15 Boys Soccer - CCS 3-0 MCC

It was a solid performance from the boys, who took the lead through Cian Burke after some good work from Shane McCaul, Gareth Bradley and Josh Diver. Despite MCC creating a few chances of their own and applying pressure in stages, the defence stood firm and Jack Nelson made sure nothing was getting past him in goals. The second half continued much the same, with Carn looking dangerous in attack and the defence seeing out any danger that came their way. CCS added another two goals from Gareth Bradley (wondergoal!) and a tidy finish from Rían Diver to secure the 3 points.

Careers Day (Organised by 5B LCVP)

Class 5B LCVP organised a Careers Talk Day in the Aras. The day proved to be extremely productive and informative. The invited guests from all different backgrounds gave the students an insight into their world. The feedback from both the students and the guests was extremely positive. A special thanks to all who took the time out of their busy schedule to join us on the day:

Tara Shortt: General Manager, Special Delivery Unit, HSE | Sarah Mc Laughlin : Art Therapists | Anna Quigley: Vet | Shaun Mc Laughlin : Guard | Kathy Donaghy : Journalist | Seamus Kelly : Doctor | James Ball: Oyster Farmer | Jennifer Coffey: Accounting Manager | Michael : Pharmacist | Dermott O'Brien: Sports Administrator/Sports Coach | Pauric Bonner: Branch Manager AIB | Brian Vaughan : BIM (Fishing) | Eddie Doherty/John Doherty: Fire Brigade | Tony Boyce: Personal trainer and Vol. Irish Coast Guard | Mark Carlin; Architect | John Mc Cay: Architect | Maria Stevens: Kinesiology | Brendan Boyle: Retired Secondary School Teacher | Stephen Sheridan; Careers Support Officer NWRC | Feargall Taitt EMT

5th Year Home Ec. Students Visit “Recipe 4 Success”

On Thursday, 9th November 2017, the 5th year Home Economics students left Carndonagh for an overnight trip that was to include a visit to the cookery school “Recipe 4 Success” in Limerick. After a long journey we arrived at the Abbey Court Hotel in Nenagh where we received a warm welcome from the staff. We all then enjoyed dinner in the hotel and a good night’s sleep was had by all!! After a 07:15 breakfast, we left the Abbey Court for a 25-minute bus ride to the “Recipe 4 Success” cookery school in Annacotty, Limerick. This cookery school has developed a very successful Leaving Certificate Home Economics cookery skills programme. It is a highly interactive educational format which includes a mixture of demonstrations and hands on activities. As a result, the students were well equipped to tackle the three food assignments which were covered. This

programme develops new skills, confidence and a clear understanding of the techniques required to investigate and make - Hot and cold soufflés - Preservation, including citrus marmalade and Healthy eating, including Cajun Chicken, Sweet potatoes and healthy coleslaw.

The students firstly investigated, prepared and cooked their dishes. They then served and of course, ate their food. The working environment was professional and stimulating. In the students' own words "This is just like Masterchef". All the dishes were first demonstrated to the students who then cooked them themselves in groups of three. All of this was carried out in a seamless, fast moving, student friendly and fun way. The students took away laminated recipe cards, photographs and flip chart information. On evaluating the trip with them, all agreed that the long journey was well worth it and good value for money. Overall, they rated the whole experience very highly. By the time we got back to Carndonagh community school on Friday night, the cookery school had already posted a video montage of the group in action. All in all, our visit to "Recipe 4 Success" was indeed a great success. Definitely a trip I would recommend in the future.

U16 Girls GAA v Coláiste Ailigh

The U16 girls took on a strong, attacking side in Coláiste Ailigh on Tuesday, 23rd November. Both teams had difficulties on a sodden pitch. Ailigh ran out winners in the end, although the CCS ladies put in a good performance. That wraps things up for the U16s. The Management would like to thank all the girls for their dedication to both training and matches since September.

Parental Courses Survey

The link below (which can be found on the school website) leads to a short survey on parental interests in relation to possible courses in CCS. All courses will be subject to a minimum number of participants. If typing the link into a browser, it must be typed exactly as seen here...

www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPKXN5L

The Maths Tutor Visits CCS

CCS exam-year students have a new resource to help them to master maths and prepare for their exams.

The school has invested in a licence for TheMathsTutor.ie, Ireland's leading online support system for post-primary maths students. And it is very fitting that CCS students should benefit from this system, as its creator, Eamonn Toland, is himself a past pupil of the school.

TheMathsTutor.ie provides a full online learning environment for students. Video lessons, exam preparation and additional online supports are available to students on-demand. This complements the work of maths teachers, giving students extra support outside of the classroom. Focusing on Junior Cert and Leaving Cert maths, the system is used in schools and homes right across the Republic of Ireland.

Pupils Get a Kick out of Science Roadshow

A Science Foundation Ireland Roadshow took place in the Aras on Wednesday, 15th November. Students undertook a range of fun and interactive physical activities. A competition soon developed to find out who could kick the ball the fastest! Mr Bogan was in the lead with 50 miles per hour...until...Cian Burke recorded 57 miles per hour! Mr Halvin and Mr Doherty have asked for their score not to be recorded online.

Students completed the following tasks using their understanding of how key scientific principles relate to physical activity: A sensor timing gate ten-meter sprint challenge investigating speed and acceleration; an inflatable distance cage assessing kicking speed in miles per hour; a vertical jump challenge investigating explosive power and hang time in the air. Students learned about the links between scientific theory and practical applications through the sports experiments.

Stand Up! Awareness Week



Stand Up 2017!.....Stand Up Week took place November 13th-17th. CCS joined hundreds of schools across Ireland in taking a stand against LGBTI+ bullying. Find out more at www.belongto.org.

Learning Can Be Fun at W5

A group of 2nd & 3rd year trip students went to W5 Science Museum Belfast on Tuesday, 7th November. The students enjoyed a technology trial workshop which involved building and testing a race car. Followed by a chance to try out their climbing skills on Climb IT. A fun day was had by all!

U15 Girls Soccer - CCS 3-0 St. Columba's

Our U15 girls had their 2nd game of the season in the Ulster U15 Cup vs St Columba's Stranorlar. The girls welcomed Sophie Murphy back from injury but were missing the influential Katherine Doherty. The girls started the game excellently, pinning St Columba's back for long periods of the game and creating lots of chances. Erin McLaughlin was pulling the strings in midfield and Alaina Keogh and Jenna Harkin caused endless bother on the wings for the St Columba's full backs. The breakthrough came as Sophie Murphy finished expertly when well placed in the box. Carndonagh CS really piled on the pressure but the St Columba's keeper, who had an excellent game, kept them at bay. She made one excellent save from an Erin McLaughlin driven shot, tipping it onto the bar. The 2nd goal finally arrived when Alana Doherty ran onto a through ball and showed great composure to calmly slot it past the keeper. Carn CS were nearly caught with a sucker punch right before half time when sloppy play allowed the St Columba's 9 to run through. However, Kate McCallion showed great pace and determination to get back and make a tackle just before the number 9 pulled the trigger.

In the 2nd half Carndonagh CS played some of their best football of the season but could not find their way past the stubborn St Columba's defence. Erin McLaughlin thought she had our 3rd goal when her curling drive beat the keeper and was sailing into the far corner...only for a defender to head clear on the line. With 5 minutes to play, Erin McLaughlin finally got her goal with a neat toe-poke in off the post. The girls performed excellently throughout; they were defensively very sound, created lots of chances and will just need to ensure they take them the next day. Well done girls. The girls play local rivals Scoil Mhuire Buncrana in their next game.

Chaplaincy

A Christmas blessing

May love come alive within your heart
As Christmas time draws near.
May hope fill each room you decorate,
And bring joy to those you hold dear.
May peace be before you at every meal,
And faith ring through every song.
For Christ is alive, the light of the world,
May he bless you all season long.

Annual Charity Day / Day of Action

Well done to all the students who collected money for the annual charity day for local charities. This year the collection raised €2,400 in total and a special thanks goes to class 1C who raised the most funds: over €500. Many thanks also to Mr. Danny O Donnell for leading the initiative. We greatly appreciate the work done by everyone who supported and contributed to the fundraiser.