

# *St. Oliver Post Primary School - Autumn Newsletter 2021*



**Graphic Design by Jessica Caffrey (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)**

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. It has been a busy and productive start to the year with plenty happening for our students, both inside and outside of the classroom. The last few weeks have seen a return to extra-curricular activities, after school study, house exams, in-school workshops and plenty more. Although the public health guidelines remain strictly in place for our school population, the first term has been the closest experience to school life pre-COVID.

In late August we welcomed 118 new first year students. Guided by the 6<sup>th</sup> year prefects and their tutors these students have hit the ground running and have made a tremendous start to their second level education.

On the other hand we said goodbye to the Leaving Cert class of 2021. In what was a challenging and unique year for the students it was great to see so many of our students reach their potential when they received their results on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Our school principal, Mr Corcoran, noted the impressive spread of results throughout all levels, with special mention to Ms Smith and our team of SNA's, who provided tremendous assistance for many students over their time in the school. In our first ever Leaving Cert Applied programme fourteen students received distinctions. In the traditional Leaving Cert, seventeen students received in excess of 500 points, eight of whom received over 550 points. Two students worthy of special mention are Ned Brunton and Laura Isdell. Ned received a total of 613 points, whilst Laura received the maximum 625 points. An incredible achievement for both students.

We hope you enjoy the rest of our newsletter. To keep up to date with all of our school events on a daily basis please follow us on our social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter.

## *Leaving Cert Applied - Our Second Cohort!*

In September we welcomed a new class of nineteen Leaving Certificate Applied students. As we begin this journey together, we aim to build on the talents of these students and help them apply what they learn in the real world. This year will give students the opportunity to develop in terms of responsibility, self-esteem, and self-knowledge.



The school year got off to a flying start with students participating in a team bonding session with "Go Beyond Adventures". The students engaged in several tasks throughout the day. This event challenged our students, both mentally and physically, through a series of exciting tasks to promote personal and team development, creativity, problem solving and most of all fun.

### *Leisure and Recreation*

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of October our LCA students successfully ran a 1<sup>st</sup> Year football blitz competition. Students had the opportunity to organize an event and display their managerial and teamwork skills.

Following on from this, on November 4<sup>th</sup>, the students will be running a "First Year Sports Challenge" for our First-Year students. Each First-Year class will compete against each other in six very different and fun events,

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Welly Wanging      | 2. Dizzy Penalties  |
| 3. Dizzy Penalties    | 4. Marble Passing   |
| 5. Seated Bib Passing | 6. Bucket Challenge |

There will be music and some tasty treats for sale on the day, not to mention a prize for the winning First Year team! Any funds raised will be donated to SVP.

### *Horticulture*



So far this year students have learned how to mix soil for germination transplanting and general potting. They have spent some time taking leaf and stem cuttings, used recycled materials to label pots and much more. They have planted bulbs, herbs, and annual flowers in preparation for their enterprise task in the spring. The class really have rolled up their sleeves and embraced horticulture.

Prior to mid-term the students enjoyed pumpkin carving in preparation for Halloween with Ms Crowe.

### What's next?

Next term we are looking forward to meeting a representative from Solas to talk to us about the different apprenticeships available. We will also welcome some local businesses to the school to talk to us about their work and different career opportunities.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November students will participate in a barista training workshop. This course is ideal for those looking to begin their adventure in the coffee industry. Along with some theory on the subject of coffee, students will learn the espresso routine and milk texturing technique, both staples of being a fantastic barista!

Well done to all the students for their participation in the programme so far. We are looking forward to the weeks and months ahead.

## *School Football Makes a Welcome Return*

With restrictions on school sporting events being lifted our students have been delighted to get back to training and playing. On the 7<sup>th</sup> October our Junior girls were our first students to take to the football field in a St Oliver Post Primary school jersey in almost two years. The Juniors have played two games to date, winning two from two. They were convincing winners against Loreto Navan and O'Carolan College Nobber, scoring a total of 10 goals and 22 points. Being trained by Ms Brogan we will be keeping a close eye on this talented group.



Unfortunately the Senior girls were beaten in the first two games of their campaign, which means they do not progress from their group.

The U16 boys also got their campaign under way. This group contains the majority of players who reached the Leinster Final at U14, which unfortunately was never played due to COVID restrictions. Mr Briody and Mr Harvey have continued coaching this team and have high hopes

for the group. On their first outing they saw off Nobber, winning by 4-18 to 3-8. Their next game is against Colaiste De Lacy, Ashbourne.

The Senior boys will be playing their first game in mid-November. Hopefully we will be reporting further successes for our teams in our next newsletter.



## Stand Up Awareness Week

The SPHE department in conjunction with the Student Council will be running our first ever Stand Up Awareness Week from November 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.



Stand Up Awareness Week is a time for second-level schools, youth services and Youthreach in Ireland to join BeLonGto.org and take a stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. This week is an opportunity to take steps to make spaces safe and supportive for LGBTI+ young people and, in general, create an inclusive environment in the school for all.

Our plans so far include; a Rainbow themed Cake Sale on Tuesday, a Rainbow Jumper Day on Wednesday, SPHE lessons for all throughout the week on the topic, an art competition, the raising of the rainbow flag outside the school and of course decorations will be put up too. Specific details will be emailed nearer to the time regarding these and any other plans.

If you are interested in getting involved or helping out during the week, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please see Ms Sheridan for any other information required.



## Wellbeing Week 2021

In what has now become a major week each year in our academic calendar, we had another very successful Wellbeing week from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

In an action packed week many events took place including a Strava Challenge, creative writing and art competitions, 6<sup>th</sup> year PE challenges against the teachers, no homework Tuesday, non-uniform day, DVD afternoon, random acts of kindness and drop and walk. Our 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> years also had an internet safety talk.

Well done to all students and staff who participated so well in all of the events and made it such an enjoyable week. There is always somebody there to listen so we hope that by raising awareness of wellbeing that we can show students what supports there are in place and give them the tools to cope when things get tough.



2<sup>nd</sup> years visit the church grounds during Wellbeing week



## *Another National Title for Mark Cadden*

Following from our report in last year's newsletter 3<sup>rd</sup> year student Mark Cadden has continued his impressive run of form, claiming the National U-16 Strokeplay Pitch & Putt Championship in Tipperary. Just before his return to school Mark not only won the top prize but also had the best winning score in 41 years. This follows on from his victory in the prestigious Gary Player trophy in September 2020. Mark is a member of both the Oldcastle Pitch & Putt Club and Headford Golf club, Kells and has proven himself to be a strong competitor at local and national level. We wish Mark all the best over the coming months and we will continue to track his progress.



## *Team Hope - Shoebox Appeal*

This year has seen the return of the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. After missing out on this event last year due to the restrictions we are looking forward to donating as many shoeboxes as possible. Founded in 2010 Team Hope is an Irish child focused international development organisation who work in Africa and Eastern Europe. We are encouraging all students to bring in a shoebox for this very worthy cause.

The deadline for final collection is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November.



### What can I put in my box?



#### Write

Pens or pencils, crayons, paper or copy books, colouring books, markers, sharpeners and erasers.



#### Wash

Soap (wrapped), hairbrush, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste and facecloths.



#### Wear

Socks, underwear, flip flops, hat, scarf and gloves.



#### Wow

Cuddly toy, skipping rope, a yo-yo, sweets (that do not go out of date for at least 6 months), small musical instrument, photo of you and your family, toy car, doll, ball and stickers.

## *Transition Year 2021*

This year we have two class groups in Transition Year, made up of 38 students, which includes two Spanish students. The group have got the year off to a fantastic start under the guidance of Ms McStay. At the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Year these students met as a group and had a team bonding workshop. The students have one day of work experience each week and each student is changing their placement after each term, meaning they will have a minimum of three different work experiences for the year. Along with this, the students have a block of work experience in early February.

All of the activities so far this year have taken place in the school due to the restrictions on travel but with this being eased the students are looking forward to some off-site trips and activities.

Some of the activities the students have been involved in include,

- Reptile Haven workshop – students were introduced to many exotic animals, learning all about the animals and their environments.
- An online driving skills course.
- An activity course with “Go Beyond Adventures” – here both classes worked in different teams, competing against each in team bonding activities.
- Stand Up Comedy Workshop – The group were introduced to stand-up comedy and were shown how to generate their own material. They then delivered their jokes to the class. In the long term the students will benefit hugely from the public speaking element of this workshop.



The students have also received their TY hoodies which are used for all non-uniform activities. Over the coming weeks the students will be engaged in further activities. We will update you further in our next newsletter on how the group are progressing.

## *"Day for Darren" Receives Further Recognition*

It is now over two years since we tragically lost Darren Connell. In October 2020, seven of Darren's friends ran the hugely successful "Day for Darren", raising over €30, 000 for Jigsaw. Earlier this year Oldcastle GFC, Darren's parents, Jim and Vera, and St Oliver Post Primary School nominated the seven lads for the Garda Síochána Youth Award. On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 the Harry, Craig, Pearse, James, Ronan, Ned and Sean deservedly received their Garda Síochána Outstanding Achievement Award. The lads looked very dapper on the night and had personalised Day for Darren ties, which they presented Jim and Vera with on the night. A lovely gesture from an inspirational group of young men.





## Gallery



Senior Gils GAA Squad



TY Students - Pumpkin Carving



LCA Team Workshop with "Go Beyond Adventures"





*The winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> year GAA blitz, which was organised by our LCA's*



*6<sup>th</sup> Year Students taking Non-Uniform Day to a new level*



*Our new LCA group*

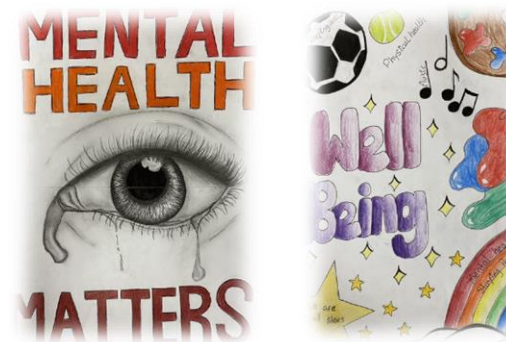
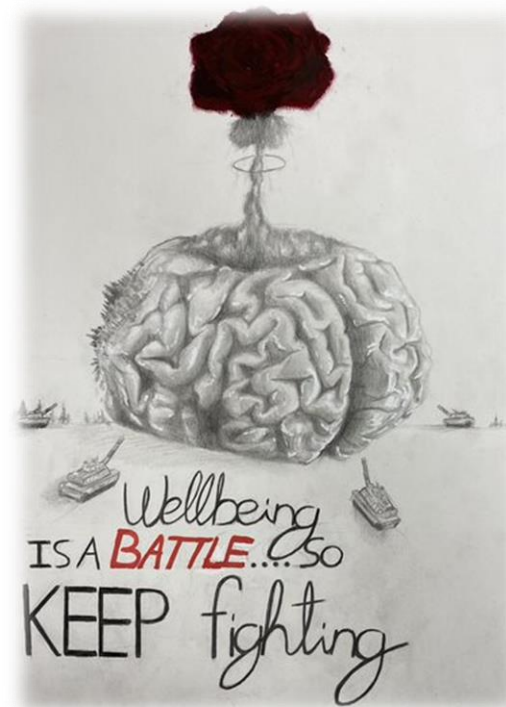


*Our new Student Council Team*





LCA Pumpkin Carving



Art drawing during Wellbeing Week 2021