



Happy Christmas

Wesołych Świąt

CASTLEREA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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December 2022

Bon Noël

ЩАСЛИВОГО РІЗДВА

Feliz Natal



Fröhliche Weihnachten

Ziemassvetkus

Speaking and Poetry competitions, just a sample of the achievements in our first term. It is important to acknowledge the work and commitment of both students and staff not only in the classrooms, but also across the many extra-curricular activities which are carried out on a voluntary basis and contribute in a very significant way to the student's overall experience of school and their sense of belonging with us. Congratulations to the raffle winners of our recently launched Lotto Fundraiser and we thank all our contributors for your support.

Looking to the future, we continue to be excited about the prospects ahead for our students. The designation, last May, of our school as a DEIS school has afforded us much opportunity and we look forward to being able to support our school community even further through initiatives such as the Home School Community Liaison Coordinator, Schools Completion Programme and the introduction of our Free School Meals in January. We are delighted to introduce Ms. Deirdre Collins into the role of HSCL Coordinator and assure all parents and guardians of her assistance and support during your son or daughters time with us in CCS.

To our current exam students, I want to wish you luck in the upcoming mocks and while the



Christmas Holidays is a valuable opportunity to recharge and re-energize after this term, a study plan goes a long way in alleviating stress and striking a balance between this much needed rest and revision.

I am acutely aware that 2022 has been a sad and difficult year for some in our school community and my wish for you is that this Christmas season brings you peace and comfort and the strength to see the brighter days ahead. I wish all our school community a very happy and peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2023 and I look forward to seeing you again on January 5th.

Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Merry Christmas,

Ms. Ryan



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Dear Students, Staff and Parents/Guardians,

As we move towards the end of yet another very fast and busy year here in CCS, we look back on what we hope has been a happy and productive year for you all. As we are only too aware, the school year goes by so quickly and now is a good time to pause and reflect upon all our activities and achievements over the past term.

This Christmas Newsletter gives a flavor of those activities and life here in CCS since we returned for the new academic year in August and we hope you enjoy the read. Thank you to the students and staff who worked so diligently on the publication. Beginning the new year with fantastic results from our Leaving Cert class of 2022, followed in November by the issue of Junior Cycle 2022 results set the tone for a successful term ahead. Well done to all students involved and we wish you all the best in the next step of your educational and life journey. Successes followed on both the sporting and arts areas of school life with a Senior County Football title under the belts of the Senior boys team, qualification to a senior basketball All-Ireland Final which will be held in the National Arena in Tallaght early in the New Year, the staging of a very successful "Back to the 80's" musical in the lead up to the midterm break and successes in Public

Priecigus

Fusventom Kaledom

Nollaig Shona



Outstanding Leaving Cert Results in CCS

Congratulations to the Leaving Cert Class of 2022 on your outstanding results. The School Community would like to congratulate every single one of our Leaving Cert students on their fantastic results. Almost half of this year's cohort achieved over 500 points, with many achieving well in excess of this, even topping 600 points. Students have now reached a significant milestone in their lives. CCS would like to thank students' families, teachers and the school community for the support they have shown over the course of the students' education.

Go n-eirí an bóthar libh.



Leaving Cert. Class of 2022 with Mr J Reidy Year Head, Mr J Burke, Deputy Principal and Ms E Ryan, Principal



Ronan Tumbek (Leaving Cert Class 2021) who received the Pauline & Bunnie Jones Scholarship in University Galway recently pictured with members of the Jones family including Pauline Jones and Ann Marie Quinn, Guidance Counsellor

Pauline and Bunnie Jones CAO Scholarship

CCS extends congratulations to Ronan Tumbek, Leaving Cert Class 2021, who was awarded the Pauline & Bunnie Jones Scholarship from University of Galway at the 2021-2022 Excellence Scholarship Celebration recently. The 'Pauline & Bunnie Jones Scholarship' was established to promote excellence and celebrate academic achievement in secondary schools in Co. Roscommon. The Jones Family is the benefactor of this scholarship which has been awarded through Galway University Foundation. The value of the scholarship is €2,500 per student per annum for the first 4 years of study (total value of €10,000 per student). This very prestigious award, is awarded based on receiving the highest Leaving Certificate scores achieved in any one year in Co Roscommon. All at CCS are very proud of Ronan, it is a wonderful achievement.



LCA Year 1 Results

Congratulations to LCA Students who received their Year 1 results this term. The students achieved excellent results, a great reflection of the hard work and commitment shown by themselves and by their team of teachers. Well done to all involved.



LCA Students who received their Year 1 results pictured with Principal, Ms. E Ryan and Programme Coordinator, Ms. Y Ryan. Absent from photo: Leah Cooney, Diane D'Oliviera and Luke Brosnan.

Prestigious ETTA Award.

Castlerea Community School once again were successful in the 2022 ETTA (Engineering and Technology Teachers' Association) Young Technologist Regional Awards. In the Regional Final, Dorian Dzigumovic achieved his award for his Junior Cert. Applied Technology project. Dorian received a specially engraved medal and certificate at a presentation ceremony in Summerhill College, Sligo. Dorian's project was to encourage people to use less packaging on products and recycle where possible. It was electro-mechanically controlled and involved an element of programming.

All in CCS congratulate Dorian on his success.



Dorian Dzigumovic receiving his ETTA (Engineering and Technology Teachers' Association) Award for his Junior Cycle Technology Project from Jim McLean Miko Metals – Sponsor



Poetry Aloud Success for CCS

We received some wonderful news recently that five of our students were chosen from hundreds of entries to proceed to the next round of Poetry Aloud, the national poetry recital competition. This is a phenomenal achievement and we are very proud of the students who were chosen to proceed in the next round – Cara Gill, Kate Hawkshaw (Junior Category) Michéal Shriane, Sarah Joyce and Leanne Vaughan (Intermediate Category). Congratulations to all the students. We wish them the very best of luck as they advance in this competition.



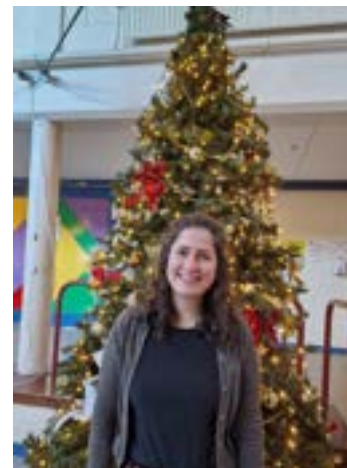
Sarah Joyce, Michéal Shriane and Leanne Vaughan were selected to go forward to the next round in the Intermediate Category of The Poetry Aloud Competition



First Year Students Kate Hawkshaw and Cara Gill were chosen from hundreds of entries to progress to the next round in The Poetry Aloud Competition in the Junior Category

German Assistant Teacher

CCS welcomes Stefanie Pichler, a German assistant teacher, who will be with us for the remainder of the year. Stefanie is supporting the German Department in class preparation and lesson delivery. She also assists with one to one and intensive, small group tuition. Later in the year, she will support students in their preparation for the German Oral Exams. We wish Stefanie all the best for the year ahead and hope the experience will be a positive one for her and the students.



Stefanie Pichler, our German assistant teacher for 2022/2023



TY News

Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition

TY students attended the local heats of The Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition in Athlone, recently. Leanne Vaughan gave a superb performance and was awarded first prize. Sarah Joyce (TY) also participated in the same competition. Congratulations to both girls. Well done!

Leanne Vaughan (TY – Overall Winner), Ms. M Larkin (English Teacher) and Sarah Joyce (TY) participated in the local heats of The Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition in Athlone.



Fofoige Leadership for Life Programme

Congratulations to our TY students who successfully completed the Fofoige Leadership for Life Programme recently. Our thanks to the facilitators who delivered the programme, we were delighted to receive such positive feedback. Our thanks also to the Trinity Arts Centre for accommodating the week long programme.

The Leadership for Life programme empowers young people to make a positive difference to their community through practical actions and innovative projects.

Throughout the programme, young people learn the key concepts of leadership and gain valuable skills such as communication, teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking and self-awareness.

The programme develops the leadership capabilities inherent in every young person, giving them an opportunity to harness their skills and attributes, in a fun and encouraging environment, thus helping them to contribute to their society.



TY Students who attended the Fofoige Leadership for Life Programme in the Trinity Arts



TY Bonding Trip to Delphi

To start the year off, TY students went on bonding trip to Delphi Adventure Centre, Co. Mayo. The trip was organised by TY Co-ordinator Ms. Y Ryan and the TY team. The purpose of the trip was to allow everyone to interact with one another, thus becoming closer, as a year group. The trip lasted three days, with various activities organised each day.

Activities included the “high ropes” challenge, canoeing, bog jumping, archery and evening walks. Students had the opportunity, on their last night, to light a campfire and sit around it. This was one of their favourite moments. Some students played guitars while others sang along!

Over the three days, they were completely immersed in the beauty of nature. They also managed to have a social media detox, due to the lack of mobile phone coverage. This gave them quality time together and allowed them to make many memories that will last a lifetime.

Delphi was an amazing trip. It pushed everyone to get out of their comfort zone and try new things, but it brought the whole class together and everyone really bonded. Thank you to the teachers who made this trip possible: Ms. Y Ryan, Ms. E Robson, Mr. S O’Hara and Mr. S Collins.



TY students on their bonding trip to Delphi, Co. Mayo



TY Students enjoying the Craft Fair in the Hub recently.

Wednesday Activities

Every Wednesday since the 14th of September, both groups of TY students were engaged in an afternoon of activities.

Golf

TY class 4B was the first to participate in the golfing activity. In Castlerea Golf Club, the students were met by Philip Murphy, Irish PGA Pro. who has a golf school of his own called the ‘Murphy Sweeney Golf School.’ The group learnt how to use putters, practice rollers and launchers. The group enjoyed the activities and many students hope to continue with golf as a hobby. We are really grateful to Castlerea Golf Club members who volunteered their afternoons to attend and help us.



TY students enjoying their golf lessons in the Golf Club with Philip Murphy, Golf Pro. and Valerie Rabbitt, Club Member.

Cycling

Class 4A participated in cycling with Cyclist, Daire Feeley and Paralympian Cyclist, Richael Timothy. They learned the proper signals to use while cycling and how to be safe on the main road during a cycle. They also cycled a 10 kilometer route around Castlerea, to practice their newly acquired skills.



TY students ready for take-off on their cycle

Student Enterprise

TY students participated in a workshop with James Gaughan, from Early Days Consultancy. He introduced the students to the Student Enterprise Programme. He spoke about the steps involved in setting up a successful business. He encouraged us to think about factors that could cause problems for entrepreneurs and what types of products would do well in the market. He gave us the task of coming up with a new business idea and provided us with a template, as a blueprint, to help us start our business. Students have now selected their enterprise and are busy working on their products. They attended the Christmas Craft Fair in the Hub, Castlerea on Sunday 4th of December. The aim of TY students attending the craft fair was to create awareness about the goods they have produced for their enterprise mini companies.

TY’s were delighted with the number of orders received on the day, as well as with the amount of products sold. They were delighted to be able to advertise their products and get the opportunity to sell their products. Students would like to thank all who attended the event as well as all who bought some of the products. They also wish to thank the school for organising the table there and the Hub for accommodating them. Products will be displayed in the school over the coming weeks.



Wellbeing in Castlereagh Community School

Wellbeing is present when a person realises their potential, is resilient in dealing with the normal stresses of their life, takes care of their physical wellbeing and has a sense of purpose, connection and belonging to a wider community. It is a fluid way of being and needs nurturing throughout life. (Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for practice 2016-2023).

Wellbeing is embedded into the curriculum and is a whole school approach here in Castlereagh Community School. A new initiative this year was to appoint ten students as Wellbeing Ambassadors. These students work closely with the Wellbeing Core Teacher Team and Wellbeing Coordinator, to highlight teenage and social issues, fundraise and to promote general wellbeing throughout the student body in a fun and active way. Meetings take place weekly to organise upcoming events. The following are just a small sample of activities this term.

It has been a very busy term with our first campaign on World Mental Health Day, 10th October. Informative posters and students greeting everyone that morning, formed the basis of our first event.

Goal Jersey Day followed on 14th October with most staff and students wearing their favourite sports jersey or club colours and donating €2 each to the cause. It was great fun as the rivalry between clubs became apparent, but it was hugely successful also raising a total of €472.40 to support GOAL's work with vulnerable communities around the world.

GOAL's Jersey Day sparked a lot of questions about food wastage in our own homes especially as the cost of living soared. We decided to carry out a survey amongst students and teachers, to ascertain which food types have the most potential to end up in landfill or compost heaps. The results indicated that fresh fruit, vegetables, yoghurts, and bread were frequently discarded by most households. The full results and conclusions of the survey were displayed around the school with tips on how to limit future waste.

A campaign to educate the school community on Meningitis and Septicaemia was the most recent activity. 'Act For Meningitis' kindly delivered posters, leaflets, and information cards to our school for distribution. The Wellbeing Ambassadors eagerly engaged in sharing this information for a couple of lunch breaks in November.

To wrap up the school term, festive activities take place on the final day of term. A whole school table quiz is currently being planned with lots of little prizes and who knows, we might even have a special guest!!

We are all looking forward to our annual Wellbeing Week from March 20th and preparations are already under way. Thank you to all the students and teachers in these teams who help to organise such worthwhile events and campaigns.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and every happiness in 2023.

Bernie Gormally

Wellbeing Coordinator.



The Wellbeing Ambassador Team, pictured with Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Ms. Gormally.



Big brother Big Sister Programme

Castlerea Community School has introduced a new programme to the school, called Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS). This is a mentoring programme and is being conducted in conjunction with Foróige. The Big Brother Big Sister Programme pairs older students with younger students, who are looking for friendship and support from someone with a bit more life experience. By sharing interests, older students can have an extraordinary impact on the day to day life of a younger person.

This mentoring programme aims to provide additional support to First Year Students as they make the transition from primary to secondary education. Students from 5th year will be paired up with students from 1st year and will have weekly meetings.

They will be participating in games and activities. Students from 5th year had a rigorous process to go through, starting with a letter of application followed by an interview. After the interviews students were visited by the Foróige Mentoring Group, who are aiding the organisation of the BBBS programme in the school. 5th year students had a training day to learn how to look after their “buddies” throughout the year. 1st year students also received training to introduce them to the programme and learn more about it. There was a huge response from both groups of students who are very willing to avail of this new initiative. The next stage will be pairing up and meeting with the first years. It will be an amazing opportunity for 1st years to get support from older pupils in the school, as well as making new friends.

Many thanks to all the students and teachers who volunteered to be part of the BBBS team.



5th year students attending the training day for the Big Brother Big Sister mentoring programme



Carol Service

Well done to all those involved in the recent Christmas Carol Service. It was a most uplifting and enjoyable occasion.



Pictured above are the students and teachers who participated in the school's annual Carol Service.



Basketball News

Outstanding Win for U16 Boys' Basketball

Congratulations to the U16 Boys' Basketball Team and their Management, on their progression to the final of the All-Ireland Schools' Cup. They boys beat Scoil Catriona, Dublin in the National Basketball Arena in the recent semi-final.

Jack Dolan and Dara Curran emerged as the key scorers in the game but it was the team defence that made the difference. The final will be played in mid-January with a date to be confirmed.

Panel: Kevin Hester, Dylan Keane, Seán Vaughan, Jamie Dowd, Joseph Botton, James Hawkshaw, Michael Keaveney, Ross Flynn, Jack Dolan, Cian Fitzmaurice, Yani Chiforiuc, Kaylum Curran and Dara Curran



The U16 Boys' Basketball Team pictured with their mentors Mr. J Henry and Mr. T Callaghan. They now progress to the Final of the All-Ireland Schools' Cup



U 19 Girls Basketball taem pictured with coach Mr. T Callaghan.

Gaelic News

Senior Boys' Football Victory

Congratulations to our Senior Boys' Football Team, who won the Roscommon Schools Senior B Championship against Colaiste Chiarain. The managers were Mr. D McDermott, Mr. J Reidy and Mr. D Burke. Well done to all involved.



Senior Boys' Football Team, who won the Roscommon Schools Senior B Championship against Colaiste Chiarain.

Senior D Football

Congratulations to the Senior Boys' Football Team and Management who won their game against Roscommon Community College. The team now top this Group as they progress to the next stage of the Senior D Championship. The game was played in the Connaught Centre of Excellence, Bekan, Co. Mayo. It proved to be a very challenging and exciting game. The final score was 16 points to 14 points. Well done to the boys and their Management Team, Mr. J Reidy, Mr. D McDermott and Mr. D Burke.



The Senior Boys' Football Team who were victorious against RCC in the Senior D Championship, pictured with Mr. D McDermott (Manager)

Juvenile Boys' Football

The Juvenile boys played Strokestown in Castlerea recently. This was a really good team performance which saw Castlerea win by 4-11 to 3-5, with everyone on the panel getting some game time. The Juveniles are now looking forward to the Connaught Championship which will begin in February.

CCS Panel: Cian Bruen, Robert Bligh, Sean Silke, Timur Tumbek, Martin Gurren, Conor Larkin, Ryan Dunleavy, Eddie Finneran, Kieran Murray, Cian Fitzmaurice, Aaron Egan, Dara Curran, Sean Vaughan, Kaylum Curran, Sean Donlon, Yani Chiforiuc, Tadhg Donlon, Oisín Flattery, Tyler Waldron, Oisín Fleming, Martin Mujica, Jack Dolan, Ruairí Webb, Alan Joyce, Conor Higgins, Conor Hannon, Leon Burke.

Pictured Left :- The Juvenile Football Team with coaches Mr. P Gooney and Mr D Burke





Goal Jersey Day

A fundraiser for Goal took place in CCS recently. Students wore their favourite jersey to school and generously donated to this worthy cause. The TY Development Education Class and the Wellbeing Ambassadors, tried to create awareness around the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, Goals 1 and 2: Zero Hunger and No Poverty. Students and teachers wore their County colours with pride and raised money for children across the world who need our support. Well done to all involved.



Wiktoria Chojnacka, Ella Fleming Donoghue, Ms. Gormally - Well-being Coordinator, Lauren Sweeney and Patrick Conroy supporting the Goal fundraising jersey day.



Students sporting their favourite jerseys while raising funds for Goal.

Swimming

Castlerea CS swimmers have been busy recently, having participated in a number of competitions and galas with Coman's Swimming Club, Roscommon.

Well done to Kate Hawkshaw, who reached the All-Ireland Swimming Finals in the Community Games which took place recently at University of Limerick, where she swam in the 50m Backstroke

Kate also recently took part in the Connaught Aspiring Championships 2 day event in Castlebar, along with Ruairi Webb and Cara Gill, competing in a number of events over the two days.

Cara swam the 100m Breast, 50m Backstroke, 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke and the 200m individual medley, while Kate competed in the 100m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke, 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke and 50m Breaststroke.

Meanwhile, in the same event Ruairi Webb swam the 50m Breaststroke, 50m Freestyle and 200m Breaststroke.



Castlerea CS Swimmers, Cara Gill, Ruairi Webb and Kate Hawkshaw who recently participated in a number of competitions and galas with Coman's Swimming Club, Roscommon.





It is not presents but your presence that will matter this Christmas

There's an old joke about a young boy who desperately wanted a new bicycle for Christmas.

Having just played a vital role in the school Nativity play, he thought rather than writing to Santa he would write a letter to the baby Jesus.

So the boy went to his room and wrote: "Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas."

But he wasn't very happy when he read it over, so he decided to try again.

This time he wrote: "Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas."

He read it back and wasn't happy with that either. He tried a third version. "Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike."

He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach.

After a short time he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed.

Then he wrote this letter: "Dear Jesus, if you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike."

It's often tempting when we think about Christmas to just think about the presents – to be excited about the ones we might receive and to get a little worried about the ones we are to buy.

The greatest gift which any of us can give is the gift of ourselves, especially to God and our neighbour.

More than any bike or toy, gadget or jewellery, tinsel or tree, the thing that can make Christmas memorable is when we give who we are to those we care about.



CanSat Challenge

The European CanSat Competition is an ESA (European Space Agency) educational project aimed at promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) literacy amongst young European students through project-based learning. The team's challenge is to fit all the subsystems of a satellite inside a can the size of soft drinks can! Every participating CanSat team will have to accomplish two missions: a mandatory primary mission – to collect and transmit air temperature and pressure data at least once a second by means of radio waves, land the satellite and a secondary mission completely open to the team's imagination! The secondary mission could be exploring a new planet, fitting a gps system, analysing the earth's atmosphere or developing a rover to fit inside the CanSat, or anything else the team may devise.

There is a third phase to the competition which involves communicating with the local community and schools, having a social media presence or designing a website and also getting media coverage for the project.

Kylian Crossan, Daniel Rodrigues, Joseph Mannion and Conor Griffin, accompanied by their teacher, Ms. Hanbury, travelled to TUS Athlone to take part in a workshop for the annual CanSat Competition.

Students were then given the CanSat starter pack, which contained numerous chips and the Arduino Uno, which is a micro-controller. Joseph and Conor worked on the Arduino and Kylian and Daniel learned how to programme it.

It was a most educational and enjoyable experience. The team are now working hard on preparing for the next part of the challenge.



Kylian Crossan, Daniel, Rodrigues, Conor Griffin and Joseph Mannion working on their CanSat Challenge.



Chaplain's Christmas Reflection

This year in CCS we returned to something looking like normality. A number of traditions that had to be postponed for a few years, returned to our calendar. A summary of three of the highlights follow. We were delighted to gather together as a school community for our Opening School Year Mass in September, in St Patrick's Church. 'New Beginnings,' was a very fitting theme for the Mass. November marked the first time in at least three years that we were able to hold a Mass of Remembrance in our School's Sacred Space, to pray for our deceased family, colleagues, relations and friends. These important celebrations would not have been possible without the support of Fr. John McManus and Deacon Chris Garrett who continue to provide all in CCS with Pastoral Care, for which we are all very grateful. Finally, as Christmas is just around the corner, we gathered together for our festive Carol Service that saw popular, traditional carols performed by our school choir and readings and reflections read by students. It was a great way to round off 2022 in CCS!

Stephen O'Hara



Back row (L-R): Conor Fannon, Fr. John McManus, Ellen Mulrenan, Shane Larkin, Cian Flanagan, Rhys Flanagan, Principal - Ms. Eileen Ryan.
Front row (L-R): Abi Flanagan, Lisa Kelly, Noreen Lyons, Holly Connolly, Tyler Waldron, Chaplain - Mr. Stephen



Joseph Canny, Shane Larkin, Conall Murphy, Michael Shriane, John Curran and Rolandas Plotnikovas pictured at the CCS Christmas Crib.

Congratulations to Past Pupils Aoife and Lisa O'Rourke

CCS extends congratulations to past pupils Aoife and Lisa O'Rourke who were conferred with the Freedom of Roscommon, recently. World champion boxer, Lisa and her sister, Aoife, double European champion, were presented with the County's highest honour, in recognition of their wonderful achievements. Aoife and Lisa are only the second and third females ever, to be conferred as Roscommon's first citizens, following in the footsteps of former President, Mary McAleese.

Lisa and Aoife attended the RTE Sports Awards at the weekend. Lisa received a nomination for RTÉ Sports Awards in the category "Young Sportsperson of the Year".

Well done to both girls. CCS is very proud of you.



Lisa and Aoife O'Rourke at the RTE Sports Awards with host Jacqui Hurley.

Reflect upon your present blessings -of which every man has many -not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.
-Charles Dickens





Highlights from "Back to the 80's"



CCS Students and Staff stage "Back to the 80's"

CCS students were delighted to tread the boards, once more, after covid 19. "Back to the 80s" proved to be a most entertaining and enjoyable experience for the audiences and performers alike. The musical was staged over three nights with a matinee for national school students kicking off the proceedings. The show opened with classic eighties music, getting the audience in the mood for what was to come. The cast entertained with their passionate singing and dancing and one could feel the sheer energy that emanated from the stage. The dances were fantastically choreographed and the performers carried out their roles brilliantly.

The choice of music was fabulous, featuring the most prominent songs from the era. The musical harked back to the period very well, using a whole host of devices including the set, costumes and props, to name but a few. The cast did not take themselves too seriously, which only served to heighten the humorous nature of the performances.

Overall the performance was pure entertainment and proved to be a very fun experience for everyone involved. This was especially true for the cast themselves, who had a ball running and dancing around the stage with such tremendous energy! It was a light-hearted, chilled out performance full of laughter and nostalgia. The musical was so successful that the cast got standing ovations after each performance. A huge thank you to all our fantastic audiences each night, to all who donated prizes for the raffles, to our sponsors, to the hard-working production team and to everyone who made this performance possible. Well done to all involved.





A Message from our Home School Community Liaison Coordinator

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DEIRDRE COLLINS
 HSCL Co-ordinator
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**SUPPORTING PARENTS AND GUARDIANS
 TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION**

The position of Home School Community Liaison Coordinator was re-established in C.C.S. in September 2022 and I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to take on the position. I see this as a very valuable and privileged role, as I can help connect homes and community with the school, in the hope of maximising your child's potential.

Guiding teenagers through their time in secondary school can be a challenge. As part of my role, I am here to support you, the parents and guardians. To date, I have been working on building relationship through phone calls, home visitations and meetings in the school. I am grateful for the positive response which I have received. The collective resource of parents/guardians is an asset to any community and needs to be nourished. Next Spring, I hope to run a four-week cookery course and I am open to any suggestions for other activities.

If, at any time, you want support or advice for your teenager, you can contact me by phone or email. I am willing to come to your home to meet you, or you are more than welcome to come to the school to meet me. I would like to wish all our families a wonderful Christmas and many blessings for a happy and healthy 2023.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



A Message from the Editor

We are delighted to share with you the School Christmas Newsletter for 2022. The newsletter gives a wonderful insight into the many activities and events enjoyed by the students from September last to Christmas. It provides a snapshot of life in school over the first term. However it is just a snapshot. It would be impossible to include all activities and events which have taken place but it does give a representation of the myriad of events which students have been involved in. I would like to thank all who have submitted articles, both staff and students, throughout the term. A huge thank you to Ms. Hanbury for her technical skills and so much more! There is so much to look forward to as we take a break. All that is left for us now, is to wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and for us all to give some thought to those less fortunate than ourselves.

"Feliz Navidad" ... "Bon Noël" ... "Nollaig Shona" ...
 "Happy Christmas."

Enjoy and best wishes to all for the Christmas season ahead.

Eithne Hurley



Castlerea Community School LOTTO

Your support makes a real difference
 Jackpot increases every week plus a weekly prize

Join Now
 Scan the QR code or go to our website below



<https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/castlereacs>



The school community extends its sincere condolences to Ms Jacqueline Kenny on the death of her father Jimmy, Ms Michelle McNulty on the death of her father Gerry, Ms. Rósin Madden on the death of her mother Rose Greene, Ms Mary Neary on the death of her father, Tommy, Mrs Josie Lavin on the death of her sister Eithne, Breege Doyle on the death of her brother Michael Keane, her partner Michael O'Brien and also to his sister Mary Murren. We also offer our deepest sympathies to all members of the wider school community who have been bereaved in the last year.

Go suaimhní siad i síocháin