

Kishoge Community College

Principal's Report to Parents

February 2017

BEST EDUCATIONAL BUILDING AWARD

Kishoge CC won the award for 'Best Educational Building' at the LAMA awards on Saturday 4th February. This is a national award organised by all of the county councils in Ireland and we had strong competition from the other shortlisted buildings from Wicklow, Cavan and Cork.

It's nice to see that our appreciation of the new building has been shared by the judging panel in the LAMA awards.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

The third exceptional school closure to allow for staff training on the New Junior Cycle will be on Thursday 23rd March. The school will be closed to students on this day.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL POST

Micheál Griffin appointed third Assistant Principal. Micheál's main duties will be as IT Co-ordinator.

ASSESSMENT

Junior Cert Mock Exams run from Feb 9th- Feb 17th.

Reports will issue on Monday 13th March along with level choice forms. To be returned the following day.

EAL PROVISION

Mary Kenny, ESOL Development Officer from DDLETB, visited the school on 27th January to test/retest our EAL students. Observation that accompanied the results of the tests:

*"I would like to commend the commitment you and your team have shown in supporting the most vulnerable learners in your school: three of the four students who were in the school last year as 1st years and tested in Jan 2016 have improved enormously in the intervening year – as measured by the online Cambridge Placement test. The investment in them (6 hours of language support a week!) has paid off as they no longer need language support and are now coping well in mainstream classes. **This improvement in such a short time frame is unprecedented in my experience testing in our second level schools.** It demonstrates that given the timely support EAL students can achieve and access the curriculum on an equal basis with their peers."*

Credit due to all of the students' teachers and particularly to the EAL teachers Maeve Ward, Richard McCormack and Ruth Malone.

TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME 2017

There will be 2 classes x 28 students.

Costs: At presentation to parents prior to the vote on whether or not TY should be compulsory the costs of TY were stated as being between €350 -€600.

Given that the year is compulsory the Board of Management has set €350 as the charge. This does not include the ordinary school charge of €110

Parents will be written to in the next month and asked whether or not they wish to apply for a place in TY. A first payment of €175 will be sought by March 31st and final payment of €175 by May 26th.

TESTING OF INCOMING FIRST YEARS

Testing of incoming First Years took place on Sat. February 4th 9.15-12.45.

158 students were tested.

UNIFORM CHANGE

The Student's Council have surveyed the student body regarding an alternative jumper for senior students. The results showed that approx 70% of students are in favour of the alternative jumper. The Student Council along with staff and students are now looking into different designs/colours.

Parents' Council unanimous in supporting new jumper.

Issue now is to find a colour that will match the skirts and trousers. Two PC reps required to work on this in March.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

We are planning an Outdoor Education day for Friday March 31st.

Parents and students chose from the following trips:

- Weekend in Delphi, Co Mayo - 80 students
- Weekend in Bundoran, Co Donegal – 9 students. Will not proceed.
- Day trip to Avon Rí Centre, Co Wicklow – 85 students
- Day hike, Co Wicklow

INTERNET SAFETY DAY

To mark Internet Safety Day on 7th Feb we brought Zeeko Ltd to the school to make presentations to all students during the school day, teachers after school and parents in the evening.

Zeeko's workshop covered topics such as cyber bullying, inappropriate content to include sexting and internet pornography, digital footprint and its consequences, excessive internet use, online relationships and friendships, and the internet and the law.

15 parents attended the talk for parents.

SCIFEST 2017

On the 16th February Kishoge CC ran its third SciFest@Schools competition, there were 69 projects from every first year student and after a tough judging round the winners were:

1. Oscar, Abrar, Tarik: Spectroscopy
2. Callum Hynes: 3D hologram
3. Ishan: Piezoelectricity
4. Emmanuel, Ben, Akim: Teachers' observation skills
5. Kieran, Mohamad, Conor: Does different food change your performance?
6. Divine, Leanne: How comet size affects how fast it melts
7. Ciara, Diana, Dayna: Oxidation of apples
8. Katelyn, Samira, Chidera: Voice Modulator
9. Bilal, Timi: What happens when you combine toilet bowl cleaner and aluminium foil

These students will now go to the regionals in Blanchardstown in May.

Thanks to Kristian, Ronan and Ciara R.

GREENSCHOOLS

The Green Schools committee received extremely positive feedback on their application for the first green flag, with particular commendation on the inclusiveness of the committee. The committee are working on the recommendations made to us from Green Schools in anticipation of a school visit to assess our application for the flag. The green Schools committee have linked up with the art and music departments and have begun organising. The fashion show/talent show due to take place during Green/arts week in March. Thanks to Ciara R.

BOARD GAMES CLUB

Board games club has a regular group of students in attendance, approximately 15 each lunch time. Students are playing on-going games of chess and dungeons and dragons. Board games club has been extended to Friday lunch times and is now offered on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Thanks to Ciara R., Fiona O'D, John, Enda and Linda who have volunteered their time.

CLUB NA GAEILGE

Club na Gaeilge will resume next Monday, 13th February. It will take place every Monday at lunchtime. The aim of this club will be to promote Gaeilge as a living language. In order to achieve this, students will be granted with the opportunity to converse as Gaeilge in a fun, safe environment through the use of ciorcal comhrá, cluichí agus gníomhaíochtaí. We hope to see a wide variety of students attending this club. Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.

DEBATING CLUB

The Debating Club had three students enter The Junior Debating National Mace competition called "The Speech" this term. Kara Ekah, Eiman Elsir and Bimpe Onikan are awaiting the results to see if they have made it to the final.

The club is also waiting on results from the UCD Junior Debating competition that 8 students took part in, and they hope to make it into the final rounds in March.

PE / EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

Cross country / Running Club:

34 students across 1st to 3rd Year represented Kishoge at the West Leinster Cross Country Competition in the Phoenix Park, on the 26th of January. The school as a whole performed very well and improved greatly on their performance last year. This is a reflection of the hard work that the students put in, training twice a week in the build up to the event, after school on Mondays and before school on Wednesdays.

Abdel Laadjel in 1st Year performed exceptionally well, finishing 4th place in his race. Abdel will now go on to represent the school in the Leinster schools event this month. The first time the school has reached this level of the competition.

(Rosie, John and Lorna)

Basketball Club:

1st Year boys now have two wins under their belt. Two great performances for the first years against St Aidans, Tallaght and St Tiernans Balally. The team just has one more match in their league so are sure to finish high on the table.

2nd Year boys got off to a shaky start with a heavy loss to St Aidans, Tallaght. However, the boys returned with an excellent performance against St Tiernans, Balally. Impressive performances from Irlann De Silva, Josh Sheridan and Duvall Sokoh secured a win for the team.

2nd Year girls started their league campaign off in style with a remarkable performance against St Tiernan's CS. Hopefully the girls keep up their winning ways for the rest of their league matches.

(Boys: Áine and Rosie, Girls: Maeve and Rachel)

Football Club:

The first year boys' team had another impressive win in their league campaign. This should see them finish top of their table.

The second year team compete in the cup competition this week. Hoping to progress on to the final.

The 3rd year boys continue to train every Thursday Lunch time. The boys will compete in some competitions after their mocks.

The girls' team have two matches left in their league. They continue to train hard every Monday evening in preparation for their final two games.

(Aaron, Enda, Garvan, Michael M, Rosie)

Badminton Club:

Badminton club continues to be one of the most popular clubs currently running in Kishoge, with over 30 students attending each week. Maeve is looking to get Badminton Ireland into the school to provide the students with some extra coaching and competitions.

(Ciara R and Maeve)

Fitness Club:

Fitness club remains very popular. We have almost 20 students attending before school, every Monday. (Rosie)

Rowing Ireland:

3rd Year students are currently enjoying participating in the Rowing programme. The students are getting the opportunity to revisit Rowing after their training in first year. Students from the Resource Centre are also accessing training every Friday morning. Jordan Byrne in 1st Year received an award from the Rowing Ireland coach this week, for his performance in rowing throughout the programme and for achieving the silver medal time.

Upcoming Events:

- Leinster Schools Cross Country Competition
- Dublin B Cross Country Championships
- Muck Run
- Rowing Competition UL
- Rowing on the water – Island bridge
- Basketball finals