



St. Vincent de Paul

Led by Ms. Maher, students have made a great response to the St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Food Appeal. SVP has a long history of helping our local community and we donated 2 hampers per class this Christmas



Art students with their Mixed Media Mural

Art students, in collaboration with the artist in residence Anne Fitzgerald and assisted by art teacher Ms. McGrath, are embarking on the creation of a mixed media mural representing the ethos of our school. Funded by the Creative Engagement and NAPD, the aim of this mural is to represent the school's collective community, both new and old. This piece of work seeks to capture the heart of our blended community and celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of our students.

The background of the mural is made up of puzzle pieces, with each piece representing a value highlighted in the school's mission statement. Each student was responsible for a jigsaw piece. To the forefront of this work will be the schools logo, Mungret Abbey, which will be recreated using a wire technique. This piece will be hung proudly in the reception for all to see.



The school has registered for the Green School Programme and the committee are working hard to promote the importance of environmental awareness among the students. The first green flag is a two-year process and focuses on litter and waste management. The committee recently carried out a litter survey of the school and will be looking at ideas to promote recycling based on the results of this survey. An environmental awareness week is planned for early in the New Year.



Music Class Visit

University Concert Hall, Limerick

In celebrating the very first National Harp Day, music students went to the University Concert Hall, Limerick on 11th November, where the Cork Pops Orchestra performed. This year's programme featured the instrument that is Ireland's national emblem - The Harp. The concert also featured dance music producer DJ Dashka and Voice of Ireland vocalist Keith Hanley.



Music class at the University Concert Hall

1st Year Music class collaborate with Music Generation.

Music Generation Limerick City (MGLC) have been transforming the lives of children and young people in the city since 2013, with an innovative, inclusive music programme delivered by professional musicians. Our music students focussed on creativity and self-expression over the course of a four week practical workshop facilitated by renowned singer, Patrick O'Brien. Five groups of students composed a number of fantastic songs in a variety of different styles which were recorded during the final workshop class. Well done to all!

Principal's Message

It gives me great pleasure to see the publication of our first school newsletter. I hope this will give you an insight into our school and the variety of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that are taking place.

Over the last few months our school has grown from an idea to a vibrant centre of learning. Every member of staff deserves great credit for the commitment and dedication they have shown. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for what they individually and collectively bring to our school community.

I hope our students are enjoying all aspects of school life and that they continue to develop all their talents. We appreciate the hard work they are putting into their school work and the efforts they are making to produce a caring and positive school culture where everyone is valued.

It has been a pleasure getting to know all our students and their parents/guardians over the last number of months. I would like to thank you all for the belief you have shown in our school and I hope that these relationships continue to develop over the coming years.

A special thank you to Mr. Fitzgerald for the time and effort he has put into producing this publication.

Finally, I would like to wish all our students, parents/guardians, staff and their families a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Liam O'Mahoney - Principal



Student Council 2017/2018

Our Student Council was established in September following a proportional representation vote. Each of the four base groups are represented by two male and two female students. Weekly meetings are held to discuss relevant student issues.

In late September, Cllr. Daniel Butler, Chairperson of the Board of Management, addressed the newly elected council and participated in a question and answer session.

On Monday 23rd October, council members attended a School Council training course presented by Mr. Donal Fitzgibbon. During this session, the Student Council Committee were elected and the purpose of the council was identified. The Student Council seeks to represent the voice of the student body from the perspective of making our school a better place for all.

On Friday 24th November, four council members attended a Limerick Comhairle Na nÓg event in the University of Limerick. This was co-organised by Limerick Youth Services along with Limerick City and County Councils.



Student Council with Cllr. Daniel Butler

EU Day of Languages 26th Sept 2017

The Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department welcome the recent launch of the *Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017-2026* by Minister for Education Richard Bruton. From the outset, the MFL teachers have promoted the importance of pursuing studies in language and encouraged students to embrace linguistic and cultural diversity.

All students engaged in a school poster competition in celebration of the EU Day of Languages on 26th September. Posters stating "Hello" were created in a wide variety of languages and displayed during the formation of a human "Hi".

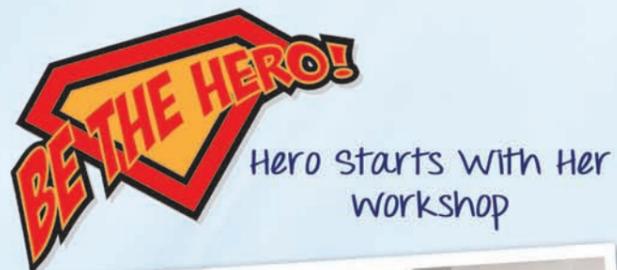


Language Poster Competition Winners



We are currently in the process of applying for an ISPCC accredited Blue Shield Flag. A core team of staff have formed a dedicated anti-bullying committee and meetings to date have focused on optimising the school's ability to raise awareness and support students. The Student Council have also gathered ideas from the wider student body in order to establish and sustain a bully-free culture.

All students have received targeted information in relation to bullying identification, prevention and intervention during timetabled SPHE classes. Students submitted several entries to the nationwide anti-bullying campaign 'Tackle Bullying', a competition organised by the Anti-Bullying Centre at Dublin City University.



Ms. Angelina Ryle recently attended the school to conduct a workshop with all 1st Year girls. This "Hero Starts with Her" workshop raises awareness of issues particularly relevant to female students and seeks to promote healthy, respectful relationships.

Business Club

Business Club began in September when students attended the launch of the Student Enterprise Awards competition, which students will participate in later this year. Two mini companies have been established in the school: "Krafty Kidz" and "Mungret Master Crafters".

Krafty Kidz held a very successful cake sale in the school to fundraise for the start-up of their crafting business. Since then, they have been making Christmas crafts for the festive season.

Mungret Master Crafters, with the help of Ms. Keays and the Woodwork Club, are making beautiful handmade wooden Christmas decorations and festive snowmen.

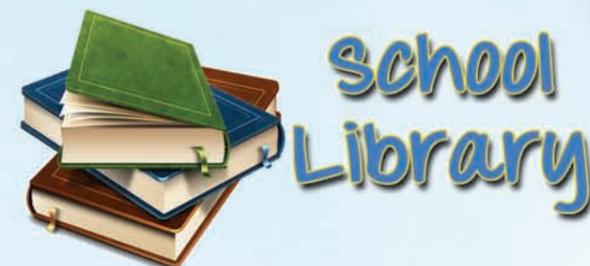


Christmas Market at Mungret GAA Hall

Both companies held a stall at the Mungret Christmas Market on the 26th November. This was an extremely successful day with both companies witnessing huge sales and profits. Both businesses are working hard on ideas for their next project in the run up to the Student Enterprise Awards in March.



The school celebrated World Mental Health Week in October by participating in a variety of themed events. Daily themes included "Give", "Get Involved", and "Get Active" and students made a huge effort to participate. Some of the events that took place were 'Random Acts of Kindness' and 'Wear a Positive Message'. All Staff and students embraced the theme of "Get Active" by going for a walk in the local park.



Mungret Community College has been chosen as one of the recipients of the Robert Dunbar Memorial Libraries organised by Children's Books Ireland. On 15th December Elaina Ryan, Director of Children's Books Ireland presented us with our prize:

- a library of books worth €1,500,
- two artists visits,
- training and resources to help engage students with books and encourage a whole-school reading culture.

To help build a whole-school reading culture all students visited the library in Dooradoyle. Having met author Bob Burke, each student received a copy of the reading guidebook *Inis*.



In Mungret Community College we promote many different sporting activities and our students have take great pride in representing our school.

Boys **Rugby** training takes place every Wednesday afternoon with Ken Imbusch of the Munster Branch. In our first blitz in October, we came 2nd out of 4 teams with Francis Onaloye scoring our first ever try. In December, we took part in a three team blitz in Thomond College, where we won one game and drew one game.



The girls **Tag Rugby** team train every Thursday after school with Ed Daly of the Munster Branch and Ms. Downey.

The rapidly improving boys **Soccer** team train on Thursday afternoons with Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Giltenane. Well defeated by an accomplished Newport team in our first game we played really well and were unlucky to lose last time out against Croom.

GAA training takes place on Monday evenings with competitive games on the horizon in the New Year.

Boys and girls **Basketball** teams have both competed very well in two local blitzes against Crescent Comprehensive and Villiers. These teams have many talented players who are looking forward to the regional competitions starting in the New Year.



Simon Week ran from 2nd-8th October and the theme of the week was "No one should be left behind". Students participated in a Colours Day on Wednesday 4th October to raise funds for the Simon Community. Each student wore an item of yellow clothing and donated €2. A total of €180 was raised and donated to the **Mid-West Simon Community**. Well done to all who participated and donated!



On Monday 4th December, Karen Cotter from the National Active Flag Awarding Committee visited our school to help guide the work being done by our Active School Committee and teaching staff Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Downey. We are committed to being an active school community, catering for the interest and abilities of all students in our promotion of health and well-being.