

Summer Newsletter 2017

The Newsletter Committee

The student newsletter committee met again in January to begin preparing for the busy new term in Ballymakenny College. Committee members worked hard to research and cover events this term. Members include, Katelyn Rose Brady, Ebipade Fufeyin, Linnea Hughes, Shaunamay Martin-Bohan and Sadhbh Mc Donough. Thank you to those who contributed and helped with the articles. We hope you enjoy our Summer 2017 edition of the newsletter.



Barcelona Trip

by Shaunamay Martin-Bohan

On the 8th of April a group of second year students met on the school grounds at two am, ready to embark on a journey they'd never forget. After the final goodbye the students boarded the bus to catch their flight to Barcelona.

Their first destination when they arrived was Montserrat, a breathtaking Benedictine monk's retreat. Next stop was the beautiful Tarragona village where students enjoyed some free time and shopping. Well rested from their sleep in Hotel Calypso, students then took a tour of Barcelona. The tour included some iconic destinations such as the La Sagrada Familia, the Barcelona Olympic stadium and the famous Barcelona aquarium. We topped off the day with a night of bowling before heading back to the hotel.

Day three was by far the favourite among the students, as they spent six hours in Spain's most popular theme park, Portaventura. After this the group hit the beach, before a magical night at the House of Illusion. April 11th was the final day in Spain, we visited the official Barcelona football stadium before the final stop at the La Roca village.



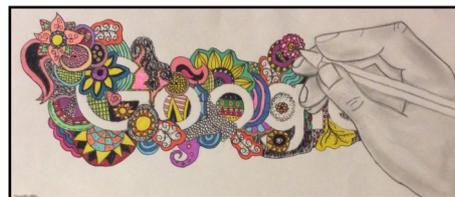
After a brilliant trip we arrived home at 12:30am at night, tired and exhausted, but happy. Thanks to everyone who organised the trip and joined us in Barcelona.

Doodle for Google

by Sadhbh Mc Donough

My name is Sadhbh Mc Donough and a few months ago I entered Doodle for Google. The competition was called 'Just Doodling'. There were around 4,200 entries in this year's competition and I was lucky enough to become one of the 75 finalists.

If you make it to the finals you receive an invitation to the prize giving ceremony in the Google headquarters. I was accompanied by my art



teacher Lynn, our Vice Principal Caroline and one other student. We attended the ceremony on the third of April.

The ceremony was great and all the finalists went home with a framed photo of their doodle and lots of other great prizes. The overall winner was a little girl named Erica Redmond who had a brilliant drawing. After the ceremony, we were allowed to wander around and enjoy all the activities that were set up.

It was a fantastic day out and I would encourage everyone to enter Doodle for Google next year!

Sports Roundup

by Dylan Lynch

Sports in Ballymakenny College continues to grow each year, for both boys and girls. Basketball kicked off with the boy's team reaching their semi final. The girl's team did well also and took part in tournaments throughout the year.

Football was successful as the U15 boys got to the North East Leinster Final, where they came up just short. Boy's rugby succeeded in winning a 7's tournament, they also played their semi-final but unfortunately were out played on the day.

Ballymakenny College had an impressive first season in the Leinster Division 5 Table Tennis League. Having only lost one game to Oak Academy in January the team had success against CBC Monkstown, and DLS Churchtown. With these results the team placed second in the league. Well done to all the team members Jordan Nowamagbe, Eoin Chen, James Smith and Mantas Skerzonas.

Finally, Gaelic football saw Ballymakenny College win their first trophy in sport. The boys U14 team won their shield final against St. Mary's Dundalk. Unfortunately no silver wear for the girls Gaelic but we have high hopes for next year with panel size increasing.



Green Schools

by Linnea Hughes

As Ballymakenny is a new school we are determined to maintain a responsible usage of energy resources and water consumption. We are operating in a modern and energy efficient building, yet we can still aim to implement changes to further reduce our environmental impact.

At Ballymakenny College we believe that everyone in the school has a part to play in the environmental impact of the school.

Overall the Green School committee intend to involve the entire school community in our approach. Improving recycling or reducing energy or water waste is the first step. Food waste is a major factor that we attend to work on in the future too. We look forward to the new school year and aim to make a difference in the school community.



ISPPC Cyberbullying Conference

by Ebipade Fufeyin

On Thursday 4th May 2017 class Gregory in 2nd year had the opportunity to go to Dundalk Crowne Plaza for a cyber bullying conference in which speakers talked about the issues surrounding cyber safety and how to be safe online. With the majority of young people on social media it was a talk that everyone in the class could relate to. There were other schools taking part, students in Galway, Cork and Dublin were connected through a live stream from their locations and we all got to share our ideas on how issues with cyber bullying should

be dealt with.

The conference was very informative and you could tell that people were beginning to think to themselves 'is my account safe?'

People attending the conference even voiced concerns stating they were going to change their privacy settings. The meeting was interesting and it was sponsored by Vodafone too –working to keep children safe online.



Seachtain na Gaelige

by Shaunamay Martin-Bohan

From the sixth to the sixteenth of March our school held a fun filled Seachtain na Gaelige. The period was jam packed with everything Irish from tea to trad music. During

this time students were invited to speak the Irish language and take part in competitions.

Students weren't the only ones competing in Irish one teacher from each house participated in an Irish Kahoot. One student said "it was really fun and encouraging, it made me want to talk Irish all the time". In Irish class students learnt songs in Irish and took part in Irish dancing.

Finally on the 16th of March Ballymakenny College hosted a traditional Irish music night. The night was fun filled with performances from the staff and students. Thanks to everyone involved.