



St. Farnan's Post-Primary School

Summer Newsletter 2022.



I would just like to take this opportunity to wish everyone associated with St. Farnan's PPS a very safe and happy summer holidays. Having been part of St. Farnan's for the past eight months, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute and I'm so happy to have been given the opportunity to lead, help and facilitate our students, staff, parents and guardians over this period and I am looking forward to planning for a rapidly growing school next August with the introduction of a new 120 students in 1st year. We have a staff here who all excel at putting our students at the center focus for learning and growth and I would like to thank and acknowledge them all: from our Care Team, who constantly support the students and families, or school caretakers and housekeeping team, who put huge effort into keeping this old building as fresh as possible, our Assistant Principal and our Year Head Team who manage the daily running of each year group, and all our SNAs and finally our teaching staff who facilitate learning in an approachable, caring and professional fashion. I would really like to thank Maria Benndorf and Jenna Donagher, whom I bombard with questions every day in the front office. A huge thanks also to Mr. John Cleary, who again has seamlessly looked after the busy running of the school, even during the most difficult circumstances during Covid times. Thank you to our parents and guardians and the local community for constantly supporting St. Farnan's in all that we try to achieve. To our students, our prized possessions, we wish all our third and sixth years the best of luck in your Junior Cycle and Leaving Cert exams. Put your best effort in and you will be rewarded, and to all other students, do your best in your upcoming exams. Enjoy the summer - be safe, have fun and be kind. Andrew Purcell, Principal.

Suzanne awarded prestigious third level bursary



Everyone in St. Farnan's would like to congratulate Suzanne Carew, 6th year, on her fantastic achievement of winning the Pat Jones Bursary from the Croí Laighean Credit Union. Suzanne is pictured receiving her award from Mr. Martin Fitzgerald, Community Development Officer with Croí Laighean Credit Union and the Principal, Mr. Purcell. Congratulations also to Lauren McArdle and Faye Anderson who were short-listed for this award.

6th year Graduation Celebrations

The end of their final year in school is always a special time for our Leaving Cert. students but this year's cohort certainly have enjoyed a truly memorable last few days. 6th year Year Head Ms. Cassidy organized the most beautiful meal to celebrate our Leaving Cert. students on Friday, May 20th and it was so lovely to sit down and chat with this great bunch of students! Their Graduation Ceremony was held on May 26th and always it was a lovely occasion, celebrating school days and memories in words and song. We were delighted to have been joined by our Graduates' families and by some special guests, including the



CEO of KWETB, Dr. Deirdre Keyes and by Eddie Collins, our recently retired Principal, our Secretary, Sheila Walsh and Ms. Ciara Breslin, who were all very warmly greeted by students and staff.



Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Career Talks to 6th year students from ICT Apprenticeships
- Student Council meetings held
- Assessment morning and Information Evening held for incoming 1st year students
- TY Tours to the Colaiste Acla in Mayo, the Little Museum of Dublin, Irish National Stud, Castletown House and the European Parliament Offices in Dublin.
- Leaving Cert. Art trip to the National Gallery of Ireland
- End of Year Trip to Tayto Park for our 1st and 2nd year students
- End of Year Trip to Zipit in Tibbradden Woods for our 3rd years
- End of Year Trip to Castlecomer Adventure Park for our 5th years
- 5th year students attended the JustLife event in Newbridge
- The Ukrainian National holiday, Vysnyvanka Day, was marked in the school with Yeva presenting to her class and the staff
- Practical exams in Home Economics, Music & Construction Studies
- JCSP Celebration held for students and their families on May 6
- Skipping workshops held for TY & 5th year students
- 3rd year Class Boru CSPE trip to Dublin Zoo
- Fundraising events for the Simon Community raised over €600
- Interviews held for next year's Senior Prefects
- School Sports Day held on May 19th
- Lunch for Leaving Cert. students and staff held on May 20th
- Bake Sale held for Football for All initiative
- Flower and Plant Sale organised by Rooms 25 & 26 on May 24th
- Leaving Cert. Students graduate on May 26th
- TY Students graduate on June 1st

Congratulations to the winners of the 1st year History model competition — everyone is so impressed by your creations which are proudly on display in the front foyer!



Key Dates for next term

June 8th: State Examinations begin

July 1st: CAO Change of Mind option closes

July 7th: SUSI's closing date for new grant applications

August 25th: 1st year students Induction Day

August 29th: 6th year students return to school

August 30th: 5th and 2nd year students return to school

August 31st: 3rd year and TY students return to school

Sept. 1st: All students in school

September 26th: School closed as per school calendar

October 31st: Midterm break begins



Art Competition to design new school journal cover

We have consulted with representative groups of students, parents and staff and have some great ideas to improve our school journal for the new academic year 2022-2023. To compliment this new version of the journal, we are also going to change the cover and we are going to feature some student artwork on it—all students have invited to submit their design which must incorporate the school's positive behaviour statements of FAIR - Fair, Ambitious, Inclusive, Respect. All will be revealed in the Autumn!

St. Farnan's Transition Year Update

The students in Transition Year Class Bailey have had a very busy few months since Easter. In addition to their core course work and taster senior cycle modules, the TYs have had guest speakers including a representative from Dogs Trust. They have enjoyed several workshops which included Rugby, Skipping and Dance & Fitness. They have been on several trips to the Little Museum of Dublin, the Irish National Stud, Castletown House, the European Commission Offices & the National Museum. The highlight of the year for many was the three day trip to Colaiste Acla where they enjoyed Irish classes and many team activities including swimming, surfing, kayaking and peer jumping. They have been involved in many school events including coaching younger teams, organising matches charity events and the school's Sports Day. They continued to do their work experience and also did a week of Community Work Experience last week May with the theme of "giving back". As was very evident at their end of year interviews and their Graduation Ceremony, they are a fantastic bunch and they have been an absolute pleasure to work with all year! Well done and thank you all for your cooperation and participation! The Transition Year team is looking forward to working with two class groups next year and are delighted that the programme is so popular with our school community.

St. Farnan's Parent Teacher Association



St. Farnan's PPS Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is recruiting new members. It is envisaged that each year group would have representation on the committee. It is important that the parent and guardian voice is represented within the school. The committee meets once a month for 1 hour and the night of the meeting rotates to accommodate all parent/guardians and their commitments. Please come along, get involved, have a say and support the education of your child/ children. Contact a committee member through the email. We look forward to meeting you. Email: stfarnanspta@gmail.com

Sports Day & Teachers vs. Students game

We were delighted to be able to host our Sports Day on May 19th and it was a really fun day for everyone. The staff vs. 6th year soccer game, another great tradition, was also played in lovely sunshine again on May 24th with the teachers prevailing again to hold on to their title with a final scoreline of 2-1.



Wishing all our students, parents and staff a very happy and restful summer break!

St. Farnan's will reopen on a phased basis from Thursday, August 25th.



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Sports Update -

The boys Gaelic football and hurling/camogie seasons came to a close in the final term of the year.

The 2nd year Gaelic footballers defeated Banagher College, Offaly on a score line of 4-8 to 3-7 to win the North Leinster shield title. The team worked extremely hard to overcome a strong opponent and finish the year on a high.



The 1st year hurlers lost out in the Larry Doyle Cup final to St. Paul's Monasterevin in Hawkfield. They lost on a score line of 2-9 to 2-3. The junior camogie team competed in the North Midland's league where they played matches against Boyne C.S Co. Meath and Colaiste Raithin, Bray, Co. Wicklow. They played very well but lost out in the end in both matches.



Girls soccer has had a fantastic year in the school as we entered 4 teams from 1st to 6th year. We were competitive in all competitions and reached an U17 Cup final as well as an U19 League Semi



Final. The girls senior gaelic football team also reached a Leinster Semi Final earlier in the year. Thank you to 6th year students Faye, Sophie, Aoileann and Suzanne for their contributions to sport in the school over the past 6 years.

HSCL Update

2021-2022 has been a very busy year. Since the lifting of restrictions it has been great to see so many parent/guardians involved in the school. This year courses run through the HSCL programme included; Cup cake decorating, Mental Health literacy and a hanging baskets course. In addition this academic year saw the launch of the parent/guardian Book club. For the summer months we are reading *Lucinda Riley's Seven Sister's* series. Please keep an eye out on the website and Facebook page for courses and initiatives for parents/guardians. All are welcome. Until September, I wish you all an enjoyable and healthy summer. Jennifer.

