



Message from the Principal

Welcome to our school's Christmas Newsletter.... Another very busy and successful term draws to a close. I invite you to read through our Newsletter to get a flavour of the long list of activities that your sons and daughters can avail of at St. Farnan's. Our school has recently had a WSE/MLL inspection - Whole School Evaluation/Management Leadership and Learning. We look forward to getting feedback on this in the New Year. This has meant having to change the date of the Fifth Year Parent Teacher meeting which will now take place on January 17th next.

Our first year, second year and fifth year students have just finished their Christmas exams, while our third and sixth years continue to study and prepare for Mock Exams after Christmas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and students for their hard work and commitment to St. Farnan's and to you as parents for your continued support. Finally, on behalf of our school community may I wish all staff, students and parents a peaceful and restful Christmas. School resumes on Monday, January 7th.

Eddie Collins, Principal.

Opening Day of the School's Credit Union Branch



St. Farnan's Credit Union Branch Update

The students in TY class Heffernan have been working incredibly hard to reopen the Credit Union branch this term. We had guest speakers from the Credit Union in to educate us on all the information required. We have been creating information for first year students to inform them about the Credit Union. We held a very successful first day on December 6th and it will be open every Wednesday at 1:20pm in Room 11 for the rest of the year. There will be TYs there to assist you and we hope to see as many people join as possible!

Written by Clodagh Kane, PRO, St. Farnan's Credit Union.



Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Sarah O'Rourke and Jake Gillick were elected Chairperson and Vice-Chair of the school's Student Council for the Academic Year 2018-2019
- Breakfast Club is taking place every morning in the canteen
- The 38 students selected to take part in the Skills@Work Programme with SAP Ireland have completed three modules of the programme and will have their Mock Interviews in Citywest on January 23rd.
- TYs completed their Tour-guiding Course in Glasnevin as part of their Heritage Module
- TY GAA and Ultimate Frisbee Coaching Courses
- Science Week celebrated in the school with various events including STEM Workshops for 1st years and TYs
- Career Talks to 6th year students from IT Blanchardstown, St. Patrick's College, Dunboyne College of Further Education, IT Carlow, DCU, DIT, the Defence Forces with more planned for the coming weeks
- College Awareness Week was celebrated in the school.
- Planning Meetings have taken place for the European Tour which this year will see 58 5th year students travel to Italy in April 2019
- School Website was officially launched by Mairead McGuinness MEP on November 9th.
- 5th year LCVF Class held a very successful Cake Sale for Focus Ireland
- TY Film-making Course was held on December 19th
- End of Term Review Interviews were held with TY students
- TY, 5LCA, 6LCA and the PLC students completed their Work Experience modules
- Cinema Trip for 5LCA as part of their English & Communication Studies Module
- Iceskating Trip for 1st, 2nd and TY students to Dundrum
- 3rd year French students were involved in new language learning software trials in conjunction with UCD
- Spanish Club Cosmo is meeting every Tuesday lunchtime in Room 17
- Open Mic sessions are on every Tuesday lunchtime in R. 19



Key Dates for next term

- Jan. 9th:** 6th year Careers Talk — IT Tallaght
- Jan. 9th:** Parents' Association Meeting, 8.30pm in the school.
- Jan. 14th:** 6th year Careers Talk — National College of Ireland
- Jan. 15th:** TY European Studies Trip—European Commission Offices & the National Gallery
- Jan. 17th:** TY & 5th year Parent-Teacher meetings
- Jan. 21st:** 6th year Careers Talk—Trinity College Dublin
- Jan. 23rd:** Skills@Work Programme, Mock Interviews in SAP
- Jan. 24th:** 1st year Parent-Teacher meetings.
- Jan. 28th:** 6th year Careers Talk — Mary Immaculate College
- Jan. 29th:** School Closed for Teacher Inservice Day
- Feb. 4th:** Mock Exams begin for 3rd and 6th year students
- Feb. 5th:** Skills@Work Programme, Team-Building Workshop
- Feb. 18th:** Midterm break begins.

5th year LCVP Charity Fundraiser

Ms. Delaney's 5th year LCVP class organised and hosted a very successful Cake Sale for Focus Ireland on December 10th as part of their Enterprise Module. They had a gorgeous array of home-baked biscuits, buns and cakes and they raised €270 for this very worthy charity. Focus Ireland help families, young people and children at risk or affected by homelessness so it was a particularly good choice of charity at this time of year.



St. Farnan's Student Council Update

Congratulations to all the students who have been chosen by their peers to represent them on the school's Student Council this year. A very special word of congratulations to the elected Officers –Chairperson of the Student Council, Sarah O'Rourke from 6th year, Jake Gillick, 5th year, who is the Vice-Chairperson and Audrey Brady, also from 5th year, who is the Council's Secretary. The Student Council has met to plan its priorities for discussion and review in the New Year. Some of the agenda items include Healthy Eating, promoting positive mental health, encouraging more participation in extracurricular activities, extending the range of sports offered and charity fundraising events.



Visit by Mairéad McGuinness, MEP

We were delighted to welcome Mairéad McGuinness, MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament to St. Farnan's on November 9th. Mairéad was invited to

come by our TY students to speak to them about her work as they are learning all about Europe and its institutions as part of their work on the European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme. Mairéad also officially launched the new St. Farnan's school website during her visit. Distinguished guests on the day included the Chair of the school's Board of Management, Mr. Brendan Weld and the Director of Schools with KWETB, Dr. Rory O'Toole.



Wishing all our students, parents and staff a very happy and peaceful Christmas!
St. Farnan's will reopen on Monday, Jan. 7th. 2019.

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Sports Update - Gaelic Football

Senior Football

St. Farnan's O-II
St. Fergal's Rathdowney 2-9
(after extra time)



St. Fergal's emerged victorious after a hard fought encounter last Wednesday, December 12th. Played in calm conditions, a young St. Farnan's side fought to the very end but were outlasted by their older opponents and they thus exited the competition.

Under 16 Team

The under 16 football team have progressed to the Kildare championship final after beating every team in their group. This final will take place after Christmas.



HSCL Update— Andrew Little:

This has been a very busy term with lots of new initiatives, talks and courses for parents. We have seen the return of our Parents Maths course, which has had a fantastic uptake. This course is set to continue in the New Year on Monday mornings from 9.30-11.30am from Monday, January 14th to Monday, February 11th. Any parents that would like to join are more than welcome and can sign up with Andrew on 0877554770. In addition, we ran SafeTalk training for parents/guardians. This training is in relation to suicide awareness and prevention. In total, twenty-seven parents completed the course and are shown below receiving their certificates. This term saw two new courses rolled out in the school. The first was a 4-week course on iPads, Smartphones and Cybersafety. This course will be run again in the New Year so keep an eye out on our school website, Facebook page and school texts for more information. In addition, there was a Christmas cake decorating course run by the Busy Bee Bakery in the school. This course is due to be repeated for Easter so again keep an eye out for details, as places are limited. The Student Support Team also organised for second year students to take part in the Pieta House Resilience Academy. Through this programme, our second years addressed issues they face and built skills and resilience for coping with adolescence.

The New Year looks set to be a busy one upcoming courses and talks include; Cybersafety, First Aid, Easter Baking, Building Resilience in your Teen, Family Nutrition, Parents Exercise Class, CAO and Careers and Parents Plus. As always, please contact me on 087-7554770 to express interest in any course or if you have any ideas of what could be provided. For now, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Andrew

