

News Update September 2016

Ardcoil na Mara

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Dear Parents/ Guardians,

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to our first newsletter of the year. Ardcoil na Mara is an extremely vibrant and dynamic school where there is a huge amount of activity occurring on any given day. The purpose of the newsletter is to give you a flavour of some of the activities going on as well as acknowledge the huge amount of work that our students are involved in whether that be in the classroom, out on the pitch or working together to enhance our school community. We wish to thank them for all this work.

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the staff of Ardcoil na Mara for their continued commitment and efforts not just in the academic side of the school but also in the extra and co-curricular life of the school. Without this commitment and the enormous amount of their free time they give back to the school, that vital element of the school could not function.

We wish you every happiness and success for the year ahead.

P. Cawley, M. Jefford & A. Leahy

Teaching and Learning

As the school settles in for another school year, a number of old and new teaching and learning initiatives will develop this year.

- Sixth year study talks have taken place with individual meetings now being organised. Study mentors will start their meetings in the coming weeks.
- Fifth year study talks will begin after mid-term break.
- Junior study talks will also begin in the coming weeks.

Upcoming Events

Transition Year
Drama workshops
continue from 5th
October

7th October, Girls
Junior Soccer Vs
Christ the King.

11th October,
Creative Engagement
Showcase Exhibition

12th October, U15
Gaelic Football Vs
Kenmare

19th October, U15
Boys Soccer Vs
Lismore.

20th October, UL
Open Day.

Teaching and Learning

Congratulations to all students who received their Junior Certificate Results during the month of September.

- After school study has begun. We ask that those who have signed up to study, attend regularly as we have a significant waiting list for those who did not get a place.
- Ardscoil na Mara numeracy initiatives will be rolled out in the coming weeks with the introduction of numeracy strategies to aid student learning.
- TY and LCA e-portfolio training has begun as Ardscoil na Mara aims to be a lead school in developing this area of learning and assessment.

Latest News

Retirement

On Friday night last, 30th September, the staff of Ardscoil na Mara, along with some special guests, gathered in the Strand Hotel, Dunmore East to celebrate the retirement of Joe Conway and Maeve Delahunty. Joe and Maeve made a hugely significant impact on thousands of students in Tramore over the years and their care for and about students will be missed. We wish them both a long and happy retirement as well as extending a warm welcome should they wish to call for a chat or a cuppa in the near future.

School Life Air Run (SLAR!!!)

On the 20th September, as part of our school student bonding programme, we had a School Life Air Run. Each year group experienced and enjoyed the School Life Air Run inflatable obstacle course on the school pitch.

The course was made up of 5 large obstacles; each obstacle represented a school year. Students had to overcome these obstacles individually and with the help of their classmates and friends. In pairs 150 students took their turn and completed the air run safely. Great credit is due to LCA and Transition Year students who acted as stewards on the day. It simply would not have been possible without them.



News in Brief

#National Fitness Day

Well done to all students who walked to school on September 16th for the first National Fitness day.



Update from India

Ms Denton is currently in India attending the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Congress. She has taken part in a pre-congress immersion programme where she visited a number of schools and development projects located in the slums as well as the homes of some of the teenagers. Ms Denton has reported that the people she has met have been extremely welcoming and the hospitality has been fantastic. The congress aims to generate ideas about how we in Ireland can “join our voices to a global movement seeking change in an ever increasing divided world.”

Ardcoil na Mara Peace and Justice Group

Two of our Peace and Justice group were awarded Certificates by Focus Ireland during the month of September. These awards were in recognition of their volunteer work carried out last year. On the night the two members who could attend the function in Beloved Shop in Waterford were Lara Quinn and Alannah Dalton. The students were delighted to be recognised and thanked for their work, many thanks to Margaret Coleman of Focus Ireland for extending the invite.



School Mass

Ardcoil na Mara celebrated the start of a new school year with a mass for the whole school. Our new Head Boy and Girl also Deputy Head Boy and Girl were introduced to the full student group at our beginning of year mass.



L to R Pádraig Cawley Principal, Barry Kennedy Deputy Head Boy, Eoghan Carey Head Boy, Rebecca Dineen Head Girl, Clíodhna Brennan Deputy Head Girl, Tracy Doherty Teacher.

News in Brief

Student Council

Senior students are busy coordinating nominations for every class group for the upcoming student council elections. Best of luck to all involved.

Religion Department

Congratulations to three of our sixth year students, Yasmin Butler, Clara Crehan and Aoife O'Mahoney who received the Papal Cross award from the Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, Most Reverend Alphonsus Cullinan.



Transition Year News

Transition Years go Ploughing

On a wet and windy Wednesday morning, Transition Year students and teachers from Ardscoil na Mara, travelled to the annual National Ploughing Championships which were held in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Students and teachers reported that, despite the weather conditions, the trip was very enjoyable and worthwhile.



Bonding Trip to Spike Island

To celebrate their Junior Cert' results, our Transition Year group were taken on a mystery tour on Thursday, 15th September. Lots of guesses were made in the run up to the trip but no one successfully picked a military adventure on Spike Island as our destination.

The fog was down over Cobh and the speed boat trip out to the island added to its eeriness. From the start of the day, the aim was one of team bonding, support and comradery. They ran up hills with 'bodies', they climbed up walls, walked across ropes, crawled under netting, went through mazes, all with the help of classmates. The most popular activity was 'Find the sniper' where they played a big game of hide and seek in a forest in camouflage. The finale was a group assault course where the determination and enthusiasm of the group was evident. They completed it in a magnificent time-filthy, wet, but absolutely buzzing. The fog had lifted for the return journey and the last few boats off the island got treated to extra donuts and the screams could be heard back in Tramore.



News in Brief

TY Idea Generation Workshop

Our Transition Year students recently travelled to Dungarvan to attend a business workshop on 'Idea Generation'. The facilitators provided age appropriate examples of enterprise companies and students brainstormed about what mini-business they are going to start up in the coming weeks.

Sports Update

Girls Basketball

Our Under 16 and Under 19 girls' basketball teams got off to a winning start in the South East league against Abbey Community College. The Under 16s had a comprehensive victory with a score line of 42-8. Emily Cronin led in rebounds, with Barbara Severec top scoring for the team.

The Under 19s match was a much tighter affair, with the girls clawing back from being 8-0 down in the first few minutes to win by 8 in the end. Hannah Grimes and Eabha Cox topped the scoreboard, with the team defence leading them to victory.

Senior Hurling

September has been a successful month for our senior hurlers with the boys picking up where they left off last year. The first outing of the county championship saw Ardscoil na Mara defeat St. Declan's CC on a score line of 3-7 to 0-14. The second outing was a closely contested encounter with Ardscoil na Mara coming out on top after extra time, the score was Ardscoil na Mara 2-20 St. Pauls 2-13.

Hurlers/Camogie Breakfast

In recognition of the huge effort being put in by our senior hurlers and our camogie teams, the school is providing a healthy breakfast for all after training. Keep up the good work!

News in Brief

1st Year Gaelic Football

Our first year boy's Gaelic football team participated in a blitz on Friday 30th of September in WIT sports complex. The school entered two teams and both performed very well. Well done to all involved. Training continues every Monday after school.

Senior Soccer

Ardscoil na Mara Senior boys soccer team had a comprehensive win over Mount Sion on Thursday 29-09-16 winning 3-0. Well done lads!