WINTER ISSUE 2 20 DECEMBER 2019

School Newsletter

Le Chéile Secondary School

Christmas Market puts whole school in the Christmas Spirit

by Emma Connolly (Social Media Ambassador)

The annual Le Chéile Christmas Market took place on the 18th of December 2019.

Students from across different year groups decided on products to sell and prepared food to for hungry customers. The GP hall was filled with chatter and excitement as the students began to set up their stalls. *(continued on pg 16)*

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Past pupil of Le Chéile wins bronze medal at European Championship *-pg.14*

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

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HOUSE OF SWAG

A raise the roof performance by Le Chéile students *-pg.15*

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Our Deputy Principal's Reflects

Our Deputy Principal Ms. Ní Dhonnacha gets in the festive spirit *-pg.6*

Prefect's Discuss their Role in School

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‘Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace’

Pope Francis

A Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe that the first term is almost over and Christmas is definitely on its way. School life is so busy with teaching and learning and the wide range of extra-curricular activities that the time seems to fly past. Our students have once again been a credit to their school and their families in engaging with learning, getting involved in school activities and supporting one another.

Our Transition Years have embraced the new type of learning which characterises the TY programme with the emphasis on much greater independence and self directed learning. The musical preparations are well underway and we look forward to the production of Back to the 80’s in January.

We are delighted to have introduced a curricular and extra curricular initiative this term involving performance and dance classes provided by House of Swag. The project has been hugely successful and is igniting students imagination and creativity, all the while increasing their positive mental health. Thank you to Ms O’ Brien who is co-ordinating this venture.

As you are aware the school has had a recent Whole School Evaluation. Whilst we will have to wait until the New Year for the written report we have been given some very positive feedback from the inspectors. The quality of teaching and learning, the care of students and our broad and balanced curriculum were highlighted as strengths of the school. This is testament to the hard work of all the staff and I would like to thank them for their commitment and the generosity with which they give their time to our students. I would also like to thank the representatives from our Parents’ Council who met the inspectors on behalf of the parent population. Thank you to the 2nd and 5th years parents who took the time to complete the Parent Questionnaires ensuring the visibility of the parent voice in the inspection process. We look forward to receiving the written report which we will share with parents through our school website.

As a school community we have spent Advent reflecting on our core value of Gratitude and reminding ourselves of all that we have to be grateful for. Christmas is a time of giving and during the course of Advent the students have challenged themselves to be giving both at home and in school. They have put energy and enthusiasm into various charitable events including hampers for the Saint Vincent de Paul.They have put energy and enthusiasm into various charitable events including hampers for the Saint Vincent de Paul and I would like to acknowledge the generosity of all in the Le Chéile school community who have been so kind in their support of the SVP hamper appeal.

The Christmas season is a very special time and brings great opportunities for spiritual re-growth and reunions with family and friends. It can however also be very challenging for some and at this time our thoughts and prayers are with those who are dealing with loss or anxiety over the health of loved ones.

As the term draws to a close I am delighted to take this opportunity to wish each of you a peaceful and blessed Christmas and health and happiness in 2020. I look forward to welcoming the students back on the 6th January rested and with a renewed enthusiasm.

Ms. Leona Harrington
Principal

SCIFEST @ LE CHÉILE

by Dr. Finnegan (Teacher)

As part of our Science Week celebrations, Le Chéile hosted SciFest@School on Thursday 14th November. SciFest@School is where a second-level school hosts their own in-house SciFest STEM fair. This was the third year that we held SciFest@School at Le Chéile and it was a huge success. We had a very wide range of projects entered ranging from how the weather affects your mood to food preservation to the microbiology of bathrooms.

We had judges from TU Blanchardstown and from SciFest and both commended our students on their hard work, enthusiasm and confidence in presenting their science projects.

Huge congratulations to all students who took part, but special mention to the following students who were selected as prizewinners by the judges.

Winning SciFest Projects

Overall First Prize
Soap vs Hand Sanitiser: Which Kills More Germs?
1. Gabi Asvydyte
2. Kerri Gilsenan
3. Andrea David

Overall Runner Up
Hibernation Investigation
1. Grace McGuinness
2. Erin ní Shéamais
3. Hannah Heffernan

Innovation Award
Are They Listening to Us?
1. Kerryann Walker
2. Abigail Cunningham
3. Emma Connolly

Innovation - Highly Commended
Can you Predict Rock, Paper, Scissors?
1. Jack O'Shea
2. Fionn Devoy
3. Jakub Nowosielski

Best First Year Project
Crystals
1. Azanat Kareem
2. Zuzanna Wawszczak-Salamonska

Hell in the Hall

by Mr. Park (Teacher)

The PE Department hosted "*Hell in the Hall*" on the last day of the October mid-term. The school's PE classes and one or two other creepy creatures joined in the Halloween fun which included "Beat the Creeper", "Bush-Tucker Trials", "Pickled Onion Pong","Dookin for Apples" and many more scary activities.

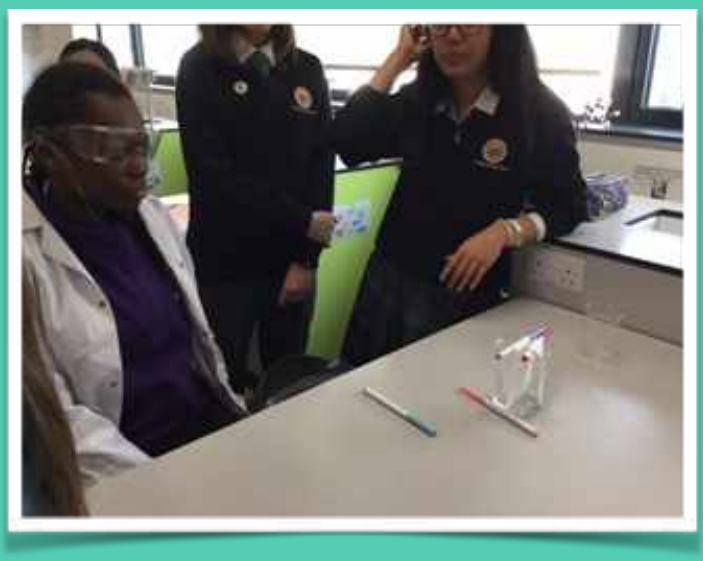
Hopefully, nobody was feeling too ghastly after all the pickled onions that were consumed!

CLADDAGH NEWS

by Mr. McNulty (Teacher)

Claddagh students recently joined Ms. Sheehan's 5th year Chemistry class to take part in a number experiments as part of Science Week which took place in November.

The 5th year students demonstrated a number of amazing experiments that included the magic demonstration of a disappearing coin and turning water into wine, where different chemicals are added together turning different colours. Students also took part in some chromatography where they separated ink using filter paper and water.



Thank you to Ms. Sheehan and all her 5th year Chemistry students for making the Claddagh team feel so welcome in their class and teaching us some chemistry as part of Science week, we all really enjoyed the experience.

Happy Christmas from all in the Claddagh!

‘You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality’.

Walt Disney

Dia daoibh gach duine/Hello everybody,

It is with great pleasure that I write this Christmas note after a hugely enjoyable first term as Deputy Principal at Le Chéile.

It was another half term packed with activities such as Science week, Maths week and College for Every Student week, basketball finals, gaelic matches, TY trips/work experience as well as our December house examinations which are an important point in our assessment calendar every year.

We were also very busy welcoming a number of visitors to the school, including Inspectors from the Department of Education. At Le Chéile, we pride ourselves on having a very open and welcoming school and while here, the inspectors remarked on the friendly and warm reception they received from both staff and students which was fantastic to hear.

As Christmas approaches, we also welcome the opportunity to remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves and reach out to help them.
For this term at school, we have been reflecting, as part of our Wellbeing programme, on all of the things we should be grateful in our lives as well as ‘giving back’ to those who need it most, by contributing to the St. Vincent de Paul’s Christmas Shoebox appeal – Thank you to all of you who contributed to the appeal. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Walt Disney once said ‘You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality’. The reality at Le Chéile is that none of the magic that happens in our school would be possible without a huge amount of commitment and dedication from our extremely hardworking staff whose efforts are hugely appreciated.
It would also not be possible without your support, as parents/guardians, in guiding your children through all of the joys and challenges that secondary school life brings. Thank you for that.

Christmas is, above all, a time for spending precious time with friends and family so enjoy it! May you make golden memories and treasure this special time together.

Take care. Come back on January 6th rested and don't forget your school jacket! – January is a cold month!

Nollaig shona díbh ar fad/Happy Christmas all.

Ms. Ní Dhonncha

TY PHYSICAL EDUCATION

by Mr. Park (Teacher)

As part of their PE programme this year, our TY students have been busy improving their skills in a range of familiar, and not so familiar, activities.

Brendan McGrane of *Braveheart Martial Arts* has been instructing basic self defence techniques and the students have been really been getting to ***grips*** with the moves!

Paul Breen and Jamie Wilson, our local FAI Football Development officers, have also been in attendance to put a select group of 24 students through their PDP 1 (Player Development Plan) coaching awards. The students will complete their award in January when they coach a variety of skills to students from St Luke's National School. They are bound to all have a ***ball*** with this and we'll encourage them to keep on ***shooting*** for the stars!

Rowing Ireland have also started training a select group of students as rowing coaches; they will be working with more of our friends from St Luke's in the new year and will finish their sessions with some time on the River Liffey later in the school year. Don't forget your paddle!

Girls Basketball Success

by Carla Tudor (Social Media Ambassador)

U16 and U19 reach semi-finals

With an amazing term of sporting achievements at Le Chéile, we're extremely proud of our ambitious U16s and U19s Girls Basketball Teams. After numerous challenging games, both teams have managed to soar their way into the semi-finals of their league! Our school is the newest addition to the basketball league, we have the youngest U19s Basketball team and yet we've still managed to create an impeccable image for the school.

Amazing achievement overall which of course couldn't have been reached without the much needed support and coaching of Mr Byrne and Ms McGee, who've both put in their time and energy to get our basketball teams to where we are now!

U16 Result

by Mr. Byrne (Teacher)

This year was the most successful year for our girls senior basketball teams. Training began in the second week of September with the goal for both teams to qualify out of a difficult 7 team group which included two Dublin champions.

The U16's began their season immensely going unbeaten until coming up against a hugely strong Adamstown team losing by one basket. A huge win against Colaiste Mhuire of Cabra allowed the girls to qualify for the last 16 where they faced a strong Colaiste Chillian team, however they were no match for Le Chéile with the girls steamrolling past them to set up a quarter final clash against the much fancied St Conleth's College. Again the girls showed no fear winning comfortably against a hugely experienced team. This brought the girls to a massive semi final clash against eventual winners St Finians where the girls fought bravely but lost against a top side who eventually went on to win the whole competition. Overall a massive achievement for our U16's

U19 Result

by Mr. Byrne (Teacher)

The U19's had an absolutely amazing season. By far the youngest team in the competition they steamrolled past the group stages to set up a massive home game against St Tiernans. This was no match for the girls who eased past St Tiernans comfortably winning by over 50 points. Our next game against St Conleth's was one of the most exciting games in Le Chéile basketball history. In front of a packed hall, Le Chéile were down by 8 points with four minutes remaining. However the girls fought back, Le Chéile being level with 14 seconds left before pandemonium hit the hall as Le Chéile scored the final basket to win the game by two points. A game that will live long in the memory.

The semi final against Ard Scoil Raheny was a little anti-climatic, as the girls eased to a 12 point victory against a good team who struggled to deal with our pace. The final in Oblate Hall awaited us against the three time Dublin Champions and current All Ireland Champions Scoil Chatriona. The girls fought bravely and would be disappointed that they didn't go on to win the game as they comfortably dealt with the occasion however the experience of the champions won out in the end as Le Chéile lost by 8 points.

An absolutely amazing year of Girls Basketball that left your coaches, your teachers, and fellow students all immensely proud.

U16 & U19 Girls Basketball Teams

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL!

by Lily Ann Blood (Social Media Ambassador)

In Le Chéile we like to give back and so for the weeks before our Christmas break we have been collecting food which is going to be donated for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal, this is a very important event in Le Chéile as it not only helps people who aren't as fortunate as us but also shows our root beliefs of **Small Things Matter** and **Seasaímid le Chéile**!

WHAT HAVE OUR TYS BEEN UP TO?

by Mr. Walshe (Teacher)

TYs have been busy this term from hiking around Glendalough, to making it thru' Hell & Back while fundraising for Trócaire, running European Languages Week, attending Zeminar 2019, completing their first Work Experience placement, auditioning and rehearsing for the Musical (coming January 2020) and a site visit to Bristol Myers-Squibb, and that is before mentioning what they've been up to in lessons!! From recording podcasts in Radio Production, Set Design in Technology and Art, BT Young Scientist work in Science, Kenpo, Rowing and FAI coaching courses in PE, and preparing for the Christmas Market in Business - to name but a few. For more information on the Transition Year Programme here at Le Chéile and the latest news and podcasts go to www.lecheilety.com. Wishing you a very happy Christmas and 2020.

Ice-skating trip for 1st and 2nd Years

by Lily Ann Blood (Social Media Ambassador)

Helen Keller win first term trip!

For the first term trip of the year Helen Keller won the House prize as they were the house with the most points.

This trip was for the first and second year students in the Helen Keller house and for any student who hadn't lost any points in the term. They all got a well deserved trip to Swords on Ice.

It went great with only some small injuries and even some of the teachers got on their ice skates and tried it out for themselves!

6th Year Common Room

by Amy Agboola (Social Media Ambassador)

Le Chéile Secondary School like no other provides the seniors of the school with the luxury we call “The 6th Year Common Room”.

“It is a place of drama, love, friendship, laughter and memories all in one.”

It is a place of drama, love, friendship, laughter and memories all in one. The room gives the 6th year students a sense of independence and privacy to discuss, laugh, eat lunch and relax with friends. It also allows us to forget all the stress that builds up from being a leaving cert student.

Announcements that need to be made just for the 6th year group are disclosed inside there. Ms Collins is the 6th Year Head and she ensures that all 6th years are responsible for the maintenance of the common room.

We are expected to respect each other, the games, furniture and toasters kindly supplied to us. 6th years have complete authority over the space and other year groups are strictly forbidden from entering!

Spoting Achievements

by Ms. Muldoon (Teacher)

BRYAN VALENZUELA – ANOTHER RISING STAR AT LE CHÉILE!

Bryan Valenzuela in 5th year, has recently been selected for the Irish U17 Boys Basketball Team. We would like to congratulate Bryan on this huge achievement and commend him for the work he has put in to get to this point. Bryan, who plays for Sonics Basketball Club, has represented Le Chéile since he was in 1st year.

We wish him the very best of luck

in this new adventure!!

ZAZANNA WAWSZCZAK-SALAMONSKA – TAE KWAN DO NATIONAL CHAMP 2019

Congratulations to Zazanna in 1st year Mahatma Ghandi who claimed the National Champ title last month. We are very proud of Zazanna and wish her the best for 2020.

Congratulations Zazanna!!

MALGORZATA KISIEL – DUBLIN GAA TRIALS!

Best of luck to Malgorzata Kisiel in 1st year Mother Teresa who has been selected for Dublin GAA trials this week.

We wish her the very best!

Efrem Gidey-European Champion

Past pupil of Le Chéile wins bronze medal at European Championship

by Ms. Heavey (Teacher)

Congratulations to past pupil Efrem Gidey who won a bronze medal for Ireland in the U20 European Cross Country Championships in December. Efrem was a late but vital last minute addition to the Irish team after issues with his visa. He completed the race with a time of 19.01.

Earlier this year, Efrem won the All Ireland Schools Cross Country Championships representing Le Chéile in Clongowes Wood College for the second time. He also won the Schools' Athlete of the Year in the National Athletic Awards and the Heralds Sports Star of the Future Award 2019.

The teachers and staff of Le Chéile are exceptionally proud of this young mans achievements and are excited to see him represent Ireland in the future.

HOUSE OF SWAG PERFORMANCE

by Lily Ann Blood (Social Media Ambassador)

After we got a glimpse of the dancing from House of SWAG in late October we all wondered if we would get an opportunity to dance with them and we did. A group of students practised during lunch and after school for weeks learning new moves and improving all the time.

On the 17th of December the House of SWAG dancers came in and we had our show, but not only did we dance with them in front of our whole school but we also danced in front of two local primary schools. We truly demonstrated how great great our school is with an amazing performance!

Of course none of this would have been possible without Nelly, Lauren and Jack our brilliant teachers. Thanks to their hard word and dedication we were able preform like professionals!

Christmas Market puts whole school in the Christmas Spirit

by Emma Connolly (Social Media Ambassador)

Students began to lay out their Christmas products. There was a range of different items being sold, between scrunchies and handmade bracelets, wooden iPad stands, earphone holders to fresh pancakes and hotdogs! The Christmas market was a gathering for people to jump into the Christmas spirit and to buy gifts to give to their loved ones this Christmas.

made us all think of the importance of giving at Christmas.

The Christmas market was an all round success! With most stalls and mini companies making a good profit for themselves. The Christmas market is a great opportunity for young people to get some first hand experience as to what it's like to run a small business and sell products first hand to customers. Now we can hope that next years will be just as good for 2020!

There was lots of profit to be made by the young entrepreneurs off their products that they had put a lot of time and hard work into. There was definitely an atmosphere of excitement and Christmas joy lingering as the festive lights sparkled and the tunes of Christmas blared through the loud speakers. As everyone began to pack up theirs stalls and tidy away their last few remaining products, a collection of €2 went around that was put towards a charity. This

TY Musical is coming soon:
Back to the 80's

Tickets are on sale now at LeChéile.eventbrite.com

Prefect Message

by Daniel Bandi and Uchechi Obialor (Senior Prefects)

During the start of the school year in Le Chéile the sixth year students were given the opportunity of taking up an enormous role within Le Chéile Secondary School as Student Prefects. This role comes with major responsibilities such as leadership and to be a representative of the Le Chéile Communnity.

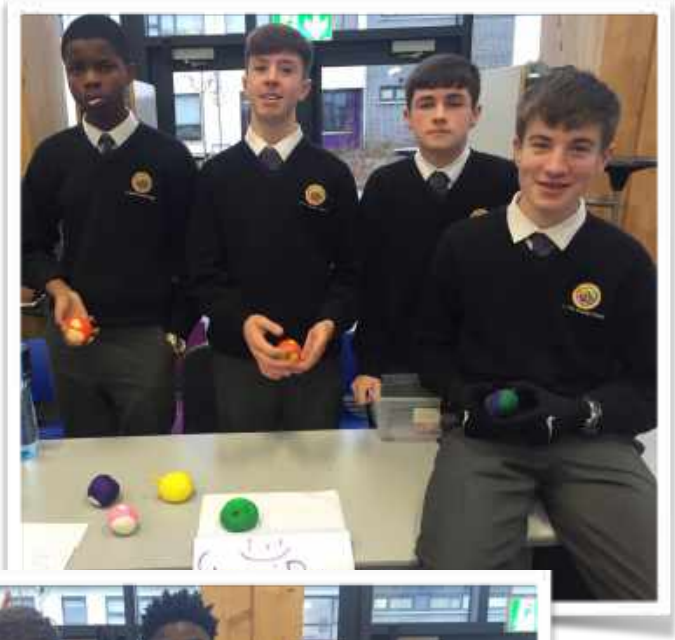
The process achieving this major role was through filling out a form and then going through an interview with the Deputy Principal Ms. Ní Dhonncha and the Principal Mrs. Harrington to express our views about the school and ways we could help to contribute to our School community.

Going through this rigorous process gave the current prefect team even more satisfaction when they received their badges. It also gave them even more pride to represent the school community.

Very soon after being appointed, the Prefect team had a discussion together on what we could do to further improve the school and we came to a collective decision on some key areas. Firstly, to keep guard during break times as we felt this is an area where we could make an impact through our presence. We have all agreed taking on this additional responsibility has had a positive impact on our communication and teamwork skills.

A parting message from the entire prefect team we promise to try our best to represent the school for the coming year and we hope that us being prefects has given others in the school courage to step forward and make a change.

Photo Gallery



WELCOME
WISDOM • WITNESS
MASITA

Santas Grotto

5th Years Embrace the Gift of Giving this Christmas

A wonderful group of our 5th Year students make special Christmas gifts for their teachers

by Ms. Molloy (Teacher)

The kind, generous, thoughtful and caring students of the 5th year Helen Keller class made beautiful personalised mugs for their teachers and staff members as Christmas gifts.