EASTER ISSUE 3 3 APRIL 2020

School Newsletter

Le Chéile Secondary School

Le Chéile's School Musical *'Back to the 80s'* a Huge Success

The annual Le Chéile School Musical took place between the 29th-31st January 2020.

Students from our Transition Year programme performed the amazing musical 'Back to the 80's' for us all to enjoy. *(continued on pg 5)*

1 BT YOUNG SCIENTIST

TY students Emma, Kerryann and Abigail represented LCSS at the BTYS. *-pg.3*

2 2ND YEAR SLEEPOVER

A cohort of 2nd year students fundraised for the ICHH Charity *-pg.6*

3 5TH YEAR SALON

Students from 5th Year Helen Keller manage a very successful hair and beauty salon. *-pg.8*

A Message from Our Principal & Deputy Principal

A Message to Our Parents & Guardians -pg.2

A Message to Our Students -pg.4

‘Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Hallelujah is our song’

St. John Paul II

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Spring is such a lovely time of year. The days are a little bit brighter and all around we begin to see the emergence of new life as the first buds of Spring appear.

Whilst that brightness has been obscured as we respond to the Covid-19 pandemic we are heartened by the resilience, optimism and kindness of our Le Chéile School Community who have been resolute in their determination that even apart we stand together (Seasaimid Le Chéile).

Schools are only as good as the people in them and as Principal and Deputy Principal, we are very proud of the amazing work being done and the great support being given by all and to all members of our school community at this time.

Over the past three weeks we have endeavoured to continue the delivery of high quality teaching and learning through a virtual learning model. Teachers and students have been in regular contact and through the diligence, dedication and commitment of both teachers and students, distance learning has continued a pace.

Learning from home can bring its own challenges, students are required to be more engaged in their own learning, to be focused and disciplined, to meet deadlines and to submit work that reflects their best effort. We salute our students for their hard work and we thank our parents and guardians for your support.

Our Year Heads, SEN team and Care team are supporting our subject teachers and our students and parents in ensuring that contact with home is maintained. We appreciate all that they are doing to

keep our students connected with school and to support their wellbeing.

We know that these are particularly challenging times for our Leaving and Junior Certificate students who are faced with such uncertainty about the exams. We encourage students to continue with their preparations. An Taoiseach has again reinforced the Government’s determination to proceed with the exams in June. That said students should take a break from their studies and give themselves time to recharge over the Easter holiday. They will need to be rested and ready when the final term comes.

We are due to reopen on 20th, after the Easter holidays and work will resume at that point regardless of whether that is in the school building or remotely once again. We will update you via text and our Facebook page as the situation unfolds.

In the meantime we hope that you enjoy reading through our Spring Newsletter. If we can be of any further assistance or support you can contact us by sending an email to msharrington@lecheilesecondaryschool.ie or msnidhonncha@lecheilesecondaryschool.ie

We hope that you and your families remain safe and well in these unprecedented and challenging times. We wish each of you a blessed Easter. May you feel the hope that is at the heart of the Easter story.

Leona Harrington
Principal

Róisin Ní Dhonncha
Deputy Principal

BT YOUNG SCIENTIST

The BT Young Scientist Exhibition was held on Thursday 9th, Friday 10th and Saturday 11th of January.

Le Chéile Secondary School's qualifying project *"Are They Listening To Us?"* was entered in the Technology category. Three students from Transition Year Emma Connolly, Kerryann Walker and Abigail Cunningham were the brains behind this project and made a huge impression with media, politicians and visitors over the course of the 3 day event.

‘Our young people are resourceful, resilient, creative and courageous. You have a huge role to play in families & communities - keeping morale high, making the rest of us laugh & continuing to be optimistic’.

Minister for Education - Joe Mc Hugh TD

Dear Le Chéile Students,

As we begin our Easter holiday we wanted to write to you to thank you for all your hard work and the efforts you have put into your studies in the most difficult of circumstances.

Your teachers have worked exceptionally hard over the past three weeks to ensure that you are able to continue progressing in each subject area and on your behalf we would like to thank them for their amazing work.

To our 3rd and 6th Year students - we know that you are worried about your exams. The Government are doing all that they can to ensure that the exams take place and for that reason we would encourage you to continue studying for them.

We understand the many challenges that social distancing and the Government emergency restrictions have created. We know you miss your friends and we hope that you also miss school (a little bit anyway!), we certainly miss you. We also know that many of you are minding younger brothers and sisters and supporting your parents in lots of different ways. All the while you are doing your best to keep up with your work and to meet your submission deadlines.

Social distancing is hard for all of us, so staying connected with school is really important. Keep posting on Schoology and know that although we are not a physical presence in the school we are here to support you through email and Schoology messages. Stay connected with your friends even if it’s ‘virtually’, get lots of fresh air even if it’s only going into the garden for a few minutes and be kind yourself and those around you.

Last week the Minister for Education spoke about young people as being ‘resourceful, resilient, creative and courageous’ and this is what we have seen in you as Le Chéile students over the past three weeks. We are very proud of you, you are a credit to yourselves and to your families and a wonderful example of how to ‘be your best self’.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break. We all need to take a rest from schoolwork over the next two weeks so over the holidays your teachers will not be posting work on Schoology and will be taking a well deserved break.

We keep in our thoughts all who are ill at the moment and we pray for good news in the coming weeks so that we can return to school without further delay.

Stay Safe.

Ms Harrington
Principal

Ms Ní Dhonncha
Deputy Principal

'BACK TO THE 80'S'

This year's TY musical was 'Back to the 80's' and featured a number of classic 80's hits, including 'Time of our Life', 'Footloose', 'Video Killed the Radio Star' and '500 Miles', to name but a few. Back to the 80's told the story of the senior class of William Ocean High School, as remembered through the eyes of now thirty-something Corey Palmer, played by Callum Daughton.

This year's production featured David Rosca as one of our lead characters, Corey Jr. Along with his friends Alf and Kirk (played by Niall Phelan and Jakub Nowosielski), Corey sets his sights on becoming class president and winning the heart of the girl next door Tiffany (Rebecca Conway).

Corey's task was made all the more difficult thanks to the most popular guy in school, yet total jerk, Michael Feldman (Francis Custodio). Along with his cronies (Sean Bailey Morrow, Micheal Ezebube and Richard Osuagwu), they sabotage his plans and aim to claim the title of student president.

This years production also featured the wonderful talents of Darragh Wilders and Gabi Asvydyte as the student's teachers Mr. Cocker and Ms. Brannigan and Lena Baldock as Tiffany's best friend Cyndi. Emma Connolly and Abigail Cunningham as Mel and Kim, Andrea David and Erin Ní Sheamais as Laura and Debbie, our class geek Feargal McFerrin played by Ray Bruen, and Kerri Gilsenan as new girl Eileen.

The show was a great success, with phenominal performances from all the cast leaving the audiences dancing, clapping and singing the tunes for days and weeks after.

We are so proud of our TY students and look forward to next years 2021 production to be announced this September.

#Backtothe80s

#LeChéileMusical

School Sleepover

A number of 2nd Year students fundraise for the Inner City Helping Homeless Charity.

On Thursday 27th February, a number of our 2nd year students held a school sleepover which they successfully fundraised over €2000 for.

At the beginning of the evening they made sandwiches and snacks to support the Inner City Helping Homeless Charity which some of our students then donated to them later that night.

Of course throughout the night there were many activities to keep everyone entertained and lots of pizza as there is at any sleepover worth talking about!

None of this would have been possible without the fantastic support of our wonderful school chaplain Ms. O'Shea and her army of teachers who supervised the event on the night. We would like to thank Ms. O Shea for creating a beautiful reflection time for all on the night and for creating awareness around the homeless crisis at this time.

#seasaimidlechéile #gratitude

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2nd YEAR SLEEPOVER

5th Year Hair and Beauty Salon

Students from 5th Year Helen Keller Hair and Beauty class set up a lunch time 'Hair and Beauty Salon' for staff in February and March.

The salon demonstrated the skills the class had acquired over the past few months with their fantastic teacher Mrs. Corcoran.

Staff could avail of lunchtime manicures or the very popular wash and blow dry for a very reasonable price.

The class organised a robust booking system and ensured their customer service was exceptional with all their clients.

A special thank you to the following students Rebecca Glennon, Ashley Lynch, Michaela Cullen Rooney, Caitlin Magee, Shauna Carey and Katelyn Fitzgerald for sharing their talents with us all.

#wecantransformtheworldwithourcreativity

BEFORE!

AFTER!

LE CHÉILE DAY CELEBRATED VIRTUALLY!

On Friday 3rd April Le Chéile celebrated "Le Chéile Day" with a feature of activities. This is a day where we remember to **#LoveYourNeighbour**. This year we celebrated this day 'virtually' through a host of activities.

Ms. O'Shea's "ONE GOOD THING" initiative encouraged students to flood social media with positivity by doing ONE GOOD THING for someone else. Students' could take a photo of it and post it online to our Schoology platform.

Let's get positive... **#SmallThingsMatter #TheSpiritFillsUsWithJoy**

THE GREAT BIG LE CHÉILE KAHOOT

Well done to Mr. Walshe for organising a whopper 80 question Le Chéile Kahoot Quiz on Friday 3rd April. In typical Mr. Walshe style he introduced the quiz with an energetic dance performance to The Weeknd-Blinding Lights (FULL VIDEO IS UP ON SCHOOLOGY). It was lovely to have the school community come together and engage in a fun quiz. Huge congratualtions go to our winners: Darragh, Aaron and Sarah who not only beat all the other students but the staff also including poor Dr.Finnegan (who came 4th).

#TheGreatBigLeChéileKahoot **#SeasaimidLeChéile**

MR.KENNEDY'S ANNUAL FUN RUN

The lockdown didn't manage to lockdown Mr.Kennedy's Annual Fun Run this year as he encouraged students to get some fresh air and exercise SAFELY on Friday 3rd April. Be it a walk, star jumps or your own invention for 5 minutes or more! He encouraged you to show how you are social distancing too!

Student's are encouraged to send their videos or photos onto Mr.Kennedy who will allocate VSWare points to those who do!

#MrKennedysFunRun #StayActive

1ST YEAR BASKETBALL

Well done to the 1st Year Boys Basketball team who beat Rathcoole HCS with a final score of 42-38. Unfortunately, they were suppose to play in their final on Thursday 12th March in the Oblate Hall but this was cancelled. Big thank you to Mr. Blanchfield for supporting the boys!!

#LeChéileBasketball #wecantransformtheworldwithourcreativity

Seactain na Gaeilge #SNAG2020 in Le Chéile

There was a jam-packed schedule of activities for SNAG this year.

- Caith Uait agus Duolingo (Drop Everything and Duolingo)
- Kahoot as Gaeilge
- Bialann Gaeilge (Irish Restaurant
- Tóg Amach Mé (Take Me Out)
- Céilí (Irish Dancing Session)
- Turas Pictiúrlann (Cinema Trip) The Breadwinner

Unfortunatley, we did not get to complete our last 2 events due to the school closure but the events we did complete were great fun and we look forward to bringing it all back again for #SNAG2021

TOGAMACH ME

TOGAMACH ME

TOGAMACH ME

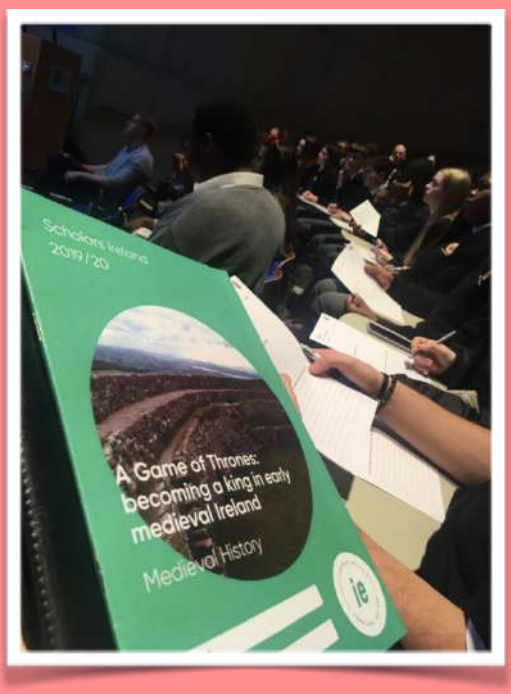
GAMACH ME

TOGAMACH ME

WELL DONE TO OUR TRINITY SCHOLARS

These students completed their final assignment with Trinity College as part of the Trinity Access Programme in March. These students have gained an experience of what 3rd level education is like which is a valuable resource when building a pathway to college in the future. It was a tremendous experience for all students. Huge thank you to Mr.Kennedy for supporting them on this truly rewarding journey.

#TrinityScholars #Gratitude



Grad Book Committee Bake Sale

Well done to the Grad Book Committe who organised a very successful bake sale on the 9th March. the Grad Book Committe is fundraising to support the production of their Graduation Book which will document all the special memories and occasions they had during their time in Le Chéile.

No doubt this Grad Book will be a memorable one for you all!

Congratualtions to Peter Read in 1st Year who won the prize for the best baked goods!

Huge thank you to Ms.Cahill for supporting the Grad Book Committee in achieving their goals!

#GradBookCommittee

#wecantransformtheworldwithourtalents

Le Chéile Schools Trust Annual Conference

The annual Le Chéile Schools Trust conference took place in the Hodson Bay Hotel in Athlone.

Transition Year students Darragh Wilders and Andrea David attended the Conference along with students from the other 64 Le Chéile Schools.

Ms O' Shea joined other Le Chéile teachers to support with facilitating the Student Conference

The theme of this years conference was Wisdom – Ecology, Sustainability & Hope!

The wonderful leadership skills of the students and their understanding of the importance of caring for our environment was evident through the student led group discussions which took place on the 2nd day. Through these discussions some practical ideas around Ecology and Sustainability were shared.

Well done to Darragh and Andrea who participated fully throughout the two days and represented the Le Chéile School community so wonderfully.

Our hope in Le Chéile is to plant some of our raised beds with wild flowers, creating mini wild flower meadows to support our bee populations.

We had hoped to unveil these newly planted beds on Le Chéile Day (3rd April), however due to the school closures we will have to wait a little bit longer before our wild flowers are in bloom. This year the theme of Le Chéile Day reflected the context we find ourselves faced with as we respond to the Covid 19 pandemic. We focused our efforts on 'Sustaining hope' for our neighbours, friends and colleagues who are alone and lonely.

Darragh entertaining fellow students at the Le Chéile Trust Annual Conference

Welcoming our Incoming First Years

On Saturday 1st February we welcomed our incoming First Year students to TU Blanchardstown for their CAT tests.

Our current First Year students were there to help out on the morning and some of the students even turned into models for the day - modelling the school uniform and the PE gear!

After a morning of tests the incoming First Years were given a 'goodie bag' which had been decorated with welcoming messages from the Le Chéile students.

We are really looking forward to welcoming the new students to our Le Chéile family and the First Years are excited about being 'Angels' to the new group.

Le Chéile Students attend Model United Nations Conference.

The MUN conferences is held in Wesley College Dublin every year, hosting 500 students from 25 schools from all over the UK and Ireland. The conference aims to offer a valuable introduction to MUN for first-time delegates as well as allowing those with experience the opportunity and forum to demonstrate their negotiation and political skills. Above all, MUN is a friendly conference with an emphasis on building relationships and striving for consensus. All delegates are encouraged to make it a priority to sort out the world's problems (rather than add to them) in the spirit of cooperation and team building. After all, it is the United Nations that we are modelling.
Well done to Fabian, Alex, Kissmat, Colm, Gillian, Alex M, Emmanuel, Joshua, Khyla, Ruby, Miska & Pelumi who represented our the school at this Conference and thank Ms Leddy for co-ordinating the MUN group in school and for accompanying the students to the Conference.

"By participating in the MUN Conference I feel as if I was able to reach a high standard when it came to debating. Quite frankly, I loved the experience and believe everyone in Le Cheile's MUN group made those two days some of the best days of my life."

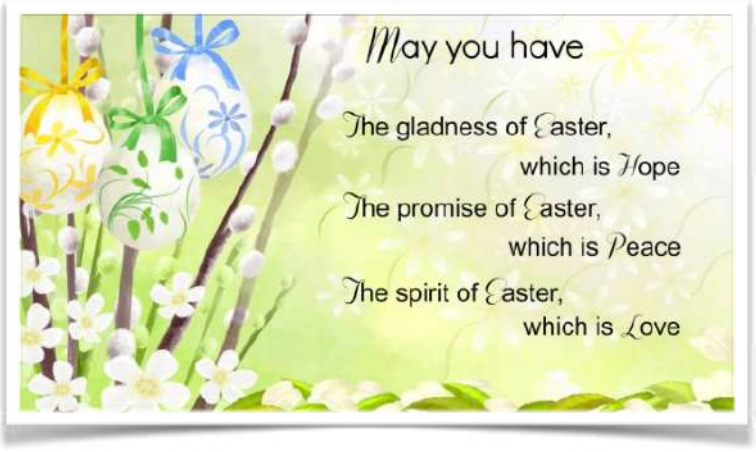
Alexander Coyle

Coerver® Coaching Programme

We are delighted to have been given the opportunity to participate in a six week Coerver® Coaching programme. Coerver® Coaching is technical development programme for youth football players. Thirty 1st & 2nd Year students are participating in the programme both as a co-curricular element of their PE lessons and as an extra curricular activity.

Students are really enjoying the coaching and feedback has been very positive.

Le Chéile supports our Health Care Heroes

In this time of great need Le Chéile Secondary School has donated our goggles, gloves and hand sanitisers to support our health care workers. **#SmallThingsMatter**

We wish all our Students and Parents a very happy Easter. We look forward with hope to returning to normal school life in the near future.