CHRISTMAS 2021 ISSUE 2 22 DECEMBER 2021

School Newsletter

Le Chéile Secondary School

Student Council 2021/2022 - A voice for all students.

The new student council was elected via online voting on the 12th November. These amazing students will represent the student voice for all students in Le Cheile Secondary School. All students got an opportunity to (continued on page 9….)

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PRINCIPAL WELCOME

Seasons greetings from Mrs Harrington

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STAND UP WEEK

Some excellent pictures and overview of how Le Cheile celebrated Stand Up Week together.

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ART DEPARTMENT

We couldn't let a term go by without showcasing some beautiful work from the students.

Stand up week

Le Cheile was a flurry of colours during Stand up week (page 4)

Reel life Science

Our very own bright and shining stars Bea and Chloe speak about their win (page 7)

Sports news

A round up of all the sporting news here at Le Cheile (pages 12,13 & 14)

A Message from the Principal, Mrs Harrington

"There will be time enough for running.
For rushing, For worrying, For pushing.
For now, stay. Wait.
Something is on the horizon."
Jan Richardson

Writing my Christmas message always forces me to take time out from the busyness of school life to reflect on the year that has passed. 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.

We have continued to flourish as a school in spite of our 'new normal'. Over the course of the term we have had welcomed back House of Swag, participated in Climate Action Week and earned our first Cycle Against Suicide Ambassador Plaque. We have had students involved in the Architects in School programme and have enjoyed success in the Reel Life Science competition. Our 6th Year students have participated in a Study Skills days and a 6th Year Retreat. 1st Year students have been busy raising money for our school nominated charities and we are delighted that our extra curricular sports schedule has resumed with great success. Reading through our Newsletter you will hear about many more wonderful events and initiatives. I am very grateful to our teachers who give their time so generously to ensure that our students have such a broad and balanced educational experience.

We talk often of our root beliefs and core values, values which are Gospel values rooted in the person of Jesus Christ, and which guide and direct all that we do here in Le Chéile. In this season of Advent, we reflect on our core value of Hope and Gratitude and remind ourselves of all that we have to be grateful for and hopeful about. I would like to acknowledge all in our school community, our parents, students, teachers, SNAs and ancillary staff for being beacons of welcome, wisdom, witness and hope in these challenging times.

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 this year, more than ever, our thoughts and prayers are with those who are dealing with the loss of loved ones or anxiety over the health of those close to them.

As the term draws to a close I am delighted to take this opportunity to wish each of you a peaceful and blessed Christmas. We look forward with hope and optimism to 2022 and to welcoming our students back on the 6th January rested and with a renewed enthusiasm.

Leona Harrington
Principal

Architects in Schools Programme

This term a number of senior students took part in the Architects in Schools Project with Ms O'Brien.

The group have collaborated really well together impressing Mark Costello MRIAI fromStrand Architects with their diligence and skills.

They are on the final leg of their project building models and preparing their final presentation for the IAI exhibition in the Museum of Country Life, Castlebar in Co. Mayo May 2022.Best of luck to the following students taking part:

Roisin Ahern
Eimear Clifford
Chloe Forde
Sean Garland Prouse
Sanija Gicevica
Sasha Odemena
Dawid Pender

Angel Quiz

A massive thank you to Ms Lattin, Ms Collins and all the teachers and students who were involved in organising the Angel quiz on the 5th November for our 1st and 2nd years. This event gave the 1st year students an opportunity to meet with their "angel" and show off their general knowledge skills at the same time!

Stand Up Week 15th-19th November

Here in Le Cheile differences are to be celebrated.
During Stand Up week we organised a number of events to educate students and staff on aspects of LGBTIA+ rights. We held a poster competition with the theme "Love is Love" and during tutor class the students learnt about inclusivity. Lunchtimes were also busy during the week as a pop up jewellery club was run to make pride jewellery to sell at the Christmas markets. All proceeds will to go Belong To. Finally to round off the week we had a "colourful clothes day" . A massive thank you to all the students who took part and to our amazing Stand up committee and teachers!

UNESCO International day against violence and bullying in schools, including cyber bullying.

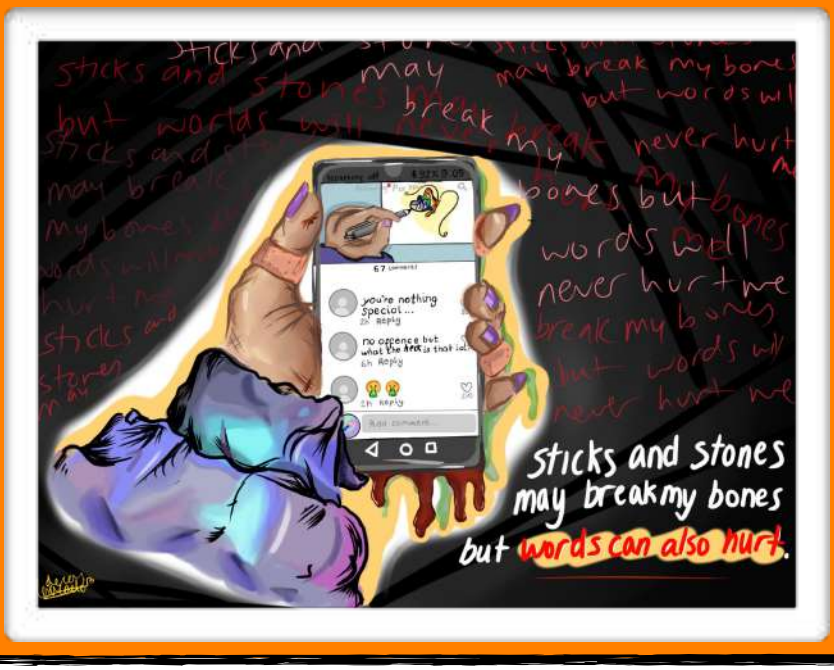
It was Le Chéile's first year celebrating this event in school but definitely not our last. An anti bullying committee was set up in the lead up to the event and members of this committee met as a focus group with Ms Carey and spoke about their own experiences of bullying and shared some of their thoughts on how we could help to tackle bullying issues in the community.

On the day itself, the committee members sourced inspirational and positive quotes online and they were hung up on every teachers door to remind students how important they are and to help maintain positive mental health among students. One of our sixth year students Stephanie Ajasa also highlighted the significance of the day over the intercom to all students and reminded students that 'words also hurt'. She also lead students in a moment of silence for all victims of bullying.

One of our fifth year students Lara Cacho also created a fabulous digital poster which was hung up around the school corridors and also shared during tutor class to open up honest discussions around cyber bullying.

Overall, it was a very successful day and we hope to celebrate in even bigger style next year!

Thank you so much to The Anti Bullying committee and Ms Carey for all their



Library Update

Our library admin team have never been so busy! Students really missed the library last year so we are all delighted here in Le Chéile to have the space back available for students. LC Library is open after school Mondays to Thursdays until 5pm. This term Our Junior Reading Group were meeting Mondays at Lunchtime to Read - 'Hidden Gifts' (One of the Junior Great Reads 2021). Our Seniors Reading group was meeting on Tuesday's at lunchtime to discuss …….

We also got a delivery recently of the prescribed English texts in some 'Home Languages' - Polish / Romanian / Spanish / German which students can avail of as an additional study aid.
If you would like any other information in relation to library times/bookings etc please feel free to visit their website!

https://lecheilelibrary.wixsite.com/website

A massive thank you to the Library committee staff and students for all that you do behind the scenes.

Reel Life Science 2021-WINNERS!!!

We are so proud of our two TY bright and shining stars **Bea Gicale** and **Chloe Forde** who won the reel life competition of 2021! The girls not only got the title of 1st prize but also won €1,000 for the school. Their entry was titled "The Science of Colour Vision" and can be viewed using the below URL.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-hUMDdJIcA

Watch out Science world-these girls are coming for you!

House Trip to the Cinema!

Congratulations to the three houses from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year that won a trip to the cinema due to their excellent records from the first term! Students were extremely lucky to get their very own private screening of Home Alone 1 in Blanchardstown Cinema and enjoy an afternoon off from school life and exam talk! A massive thank you to Ms Lattin, Ms Collins and Mr Mc Cann for organising-but the big question is — where will we go next term!!!

6th Year Retreat

The 6th Years went to Brackenstown for a Retreat Day at the end of November, facilitated by our school chaplain Fr Brian & Mr Walshe. This was an opportunity for them to take some time out of their busy lives, step back, and take stock of their stress levels. During the course of the day, they reflected on stressors and stress-reducers, and coping strategies for dealing with the inevitable stress of the "Big Quiz" next June. They enjoyed meditations, group discussion and games, along with a walk through the park and some time in the outdoors. It was a chill-out day away from school, and an important part of our student wellbeing initiatives.

Art Department Update

The art department are busy bees all year long but we couldn't let a term go by without showcasing some of their incredible work from all year groups! Thank you to Ms Cowley for sharing!

Student Council 2021/2022

(continued from front page)

....vote for two candidates in their year group after their campaign videos were shown to students during tutor time. Although they have only recently being elected the students are hoping to create a narrative throughout the school establishing the work and purpose of the council. Furthermore, they look forward to getting involved in organising school events, leasing with management on important issues regarding the student voice and making a real impact for the student body. We wish this years student council the very best of luck in their new roles. **Missing from picture Roisin Coffey Duff TY***

College Awareness week

College Awareness week is always a busy week here in Le Cheile!

To mark the beginning of College Awareness Week, staff were served a lovely gourmet breakfast, thank you to Mr McCann and Ms Harrington for organising such a lovely treat!

Monday also marked the first day that our 6th year students got to meet their staff mentors who will help them navigate the challenging year ahead and act as a support to them! Thanks to Ms Stanley and Ms Lyons for organising the mentoring and distributing

some lovely chocolate treats to thank our staff for giving up their time to do this for our students.

This year we were also lucky enough to have a number of colleges and universities visit our senior students to give presentations on college life and courses available at third level.
Among the colleges who came were UCD,DCU, Maynooth and Dunboyne college of further education.

Our LCA class also got busy during the week making posters of the logos of their favourite colleges which take pride of place on our College Awareness Week wall. Students also created pic collages of their role models which can also be seen on our CAW wall.

College Awareness week

Well done to Haoyi Chen and Hammad Rizwan who won our whole school College Bingo activity-They both said one of the most interesting things they found out was about aboutwhat colleges some of our staff went to!

The highlight of this years College Awareness Week was having our TY's, 5th and 6th years attend their first ever virtual careers fair with neighbouring schools. For the first time ever, parents were also able to log in and chat to college representatives. Students could video call and chat with a number of universities including colleges overseas.

Thanks also to Mr Kershaw who created a fabulous signpost with his 5th years to show our students the distance and locations of the colleges and universities nearby! Hopefully this signpost will serve as a reminder to our students that they are never too far from pursuing their dreams!

Thank you to all of our students who attending the talks and engaged in all the activities during the week and thank you also to all members of our College for Every student committee who help make the week so successful every year!

Sports Update

Senior Girls GAA

Our Senior Girls Gaelic team hosted local rivals Coolmine on Friday Dec 3rd. They played an excellent game of football showing huge improvements in their skills and development. The team was captained by Skye Healy on the day. Every student involved played such a vital role in the team from the starting 15 to the subs that came on. A real determination was shown by everyone and a hunger to win! The referee Michelle, who has seen these girls develop over the last 5 years, commented on how well they have improved their skills and it was wonderful to see such talent come through. The final score was Le Cheile 2:20 to Coolmine 3:09!! A massive thank you to Ms Heavey, Ms Blood and Ms Fitzpatrick for all their work with the girls this year.

Sports Update

u16 and u19 Basketball

Le Cheile's 16 & u19 Boy's basketball teams competed in the Post Primary Schools 'B' grade for the school's first time. Trials took place on returning from the October midterm and both teams trained weekly to prepare for the challenge ahead.

Both teams travelled together for their opening games against Hansfield ETSS in the first week of November. The u19 squad ran out comprehensive winners with an impressive performance throughout the squad.

The u16s competed well and were unlucky to lose out narrowly to a very good Hansfield team on the day. Unfortunately for this group, this was to be their only game in the competition as a result of their narrow loss and other teams in the competition being unable to fulfill their fixtures. It was a disappointing end to the season for this group who also missed out on the opportunity to play in a 1st year final in March 2020 due to the global pandemic. However, a lot of potential exists within the group to experience better days ahead in schools basketball.

Sports Update

u16 and u19 Basketball

The u19s win against Hansfield had seen them through to a Dublin semi-final against Moyle Park College, Clondalkin, on the 30th of November. An excellent high scoring game (54-50) seen us narrowly miss out on victory to a very good Moyle Park team. The skill, attitude and determination of the boys with the help of coaching from Mr. Byrne meant the spirit of Le Cheile was clear to see throughout their performance. Moyle Park went on to win the Dublin final beating Blackrock College, which is an indication of how much our boys have achieved to be able to compete to such a high standard for their first time in the B grade.

Losing the semi-final meant we were in play-off with other semi-finalists, St. Benildus, Stillorgan, to fight for a place in the All-Ireland series on the 10th of December. A well-coached and organised Benildus team ran out comfortable winners on the day but once again our boys, always being their best selves, represented the school to the best of their ability and fought hard until the last minute. The group led by its 6th year members Sean Bailey-Morrow, Richard Osuagwu and Ronan Guilalas have a lot to be proud of. Through their attitude, commitment and honesty they have set a great example for up and coming basketball players within Le Cheile.

Mr Blanchfield.

A massive thank you to Mr Blanchfield, Mr Byrne and all other students and staff who coached and supported the basketball teams this term.

U15s Soccer

A massive well done to our u15 boys Soccer team who were victorious over the strong Nord Anglia team in November -

TY
Musical in full swing!

Everyone is extremely excited about the upcoming musical in 2022 - especially the cast and crew themselves. It has been amazing to see the students showcase their talents and skills over the last few weeks of term. The Le Cheile Musical this year is.....GREASE!!! What an epic show this will be- stay tuned on our social media pages for updates on the show which is sure to be the best one yet!

LCA NEWS

Awards Day- November

Christmas Prep!

LCA students have been busy making Christmas Decorations for the General Education Task and they are ready for sale. They will be available to buy at the Le Chéile Christmas Market on Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st December. The students have decided to donate their proceeds to Temple Street Children's Hospital. A huge amount of effort has gone into making them so please support if you can. A massive thank you to Tara, Vikki and Ms Cowley for all their help and direction during this task.

LCA NEWS

Double celebrations for Chidera!

Not only was Chidera elected to represent 5th year students in the Student council in November but he also celebrated his 18th birthday. The LCA class threw him a covid friendly birthday party which he was simply blown away with!

Elf-mania!

Finally, the LCA Elves have been busy decorating Ms Barron's classroom door for the Christmas Door competition. I think she is in with a good chance.

Thank you elves!

Christmas Markets 2021

A massive thank you to all the students and teachers who made the Christmas markets this year such a success. It was lovely to have the tradition back again in a safe and enjoyable manner!

Celebrating Christmas as a school.

Parting words from one of our Deputy Principals, Ms Ni Dhonncha

Dia daoibh gach duine/Hello everybody,

As I write this to you on the day of the Winter Solstice, I reflect on some of the dark days that we experienced in 2021 through school closures, sicknesses and job losses in our school community. But like the winter solstice that brings with it brighter evenings, this year also brought many light-hearted magical moments where **huge levels of kindness and compassion as well as a seasaimidlechéile approach was felt by all. A big thank you, especially, to our Le Chéile staff who kept the show running in hugely challenging times.**

Christmas is a very special time when families get to spend time with each other, the birth of baby Jesus is remembered and we all get to take stock and look forward to a bright, new year. Please cut out all distractions and focus on those who are in front of you this Christmas. Enjoy the now and remember TATMTT – These are the Moments to Treasure.

I wish you all a very special Christmas. Nollaig shona daoibh ar fad/ Happy Christmas all!

Be safe and we look forward to welcoming your children back in January, 2022.