

St. Macartan's College Easter Newsletter 2021



Focal ón bPríomhoide

Just over four weeks ago we welcomed our sixth years back to school, followed by our fifth years. That brought a semblance of normality to a school that had moved totally online on January 11th. All things going well we can look forward to all students returning to school after the Easter holidays on April 12th. I know that students parents and teachers alike are very much looking forward to that.

It would be remiss for me not to congratulate all members of the school community for your efforts, especially since January 11th. As I said at our online St. Macartan's Day reflection, your resilience, ingenuity and hard work in the face of the difficult circumstances we all faced was second to none. Well done everyone.

It is imperative for us to get back to some semblance of normality on our return. Our students need to be physically back in school. Our teachers want to see our students back also. This is something to look forward to. Obviously affording our sixth years an opportunity to sit their exams in June is a priority for us all. We all wish them well as they prepare for their final school examinations. Our third years will also be a priority. They will return to see the completion of their Junior Cycle education culminating in their own individual Junior Cycle Certificate of Achievement.

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As you read this newsletter, I hope that you will see that despite the difficulties we faced since January 11th, school has in many ways continued. Teachers and students engaged in every class every day. With the obvious exception of sport, an impressive extracurricular programme continued this term. We have made the best out of the current situation. Once again well done everyone. Spring is here and better days for us all are ahead.

Beir beannacht, Raymond McHugh Principal

Student Enterprise Success



Congratulations to St. Macartan's T.Y. student Matthew McVicar and founder of Coppercase.ie on winning the Innovation Award and the Overall Senior Award the County Monaghan Local Enterprise Office Student Enterprise Awards. Matthew will go forward to represent Monaghan at the All Ireland Student Enterprise finals. Well done also GD Footballs who were placed third in the senior category and their Enterprise teachers Ms. McColgan and Mr. Jack McCarron



The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students by allowing them to solve interactive tasks online. It is run in over 50 countries and begins every November. The aim of Bebras is to get students all over the world excited about computing.



BEBRAS® - IRELAND

Congratulations to the Sem boys, who progress to the national finals after the qualifying event . The students who qualified are in the Cadet section are, Shane Clerkin, Rory Conway, Amit Dhanasekar, Carlos Garcia, John Keyes, Conor Mc Meel, Rejus Mikulis, Sovan Pattu, Mantas Pilvinis, Kaydan Keenan. In the Junior Section the qualifiers are, Julius Kamps, Luke McManus, Matthew McVicar, Benjamin Goutverg, and in the Senior Section, William Larsson, Joe McElvaney, Caolán McKenna, and Michael Naklicki. Well done boys and best of luck in the All Ireland finals.

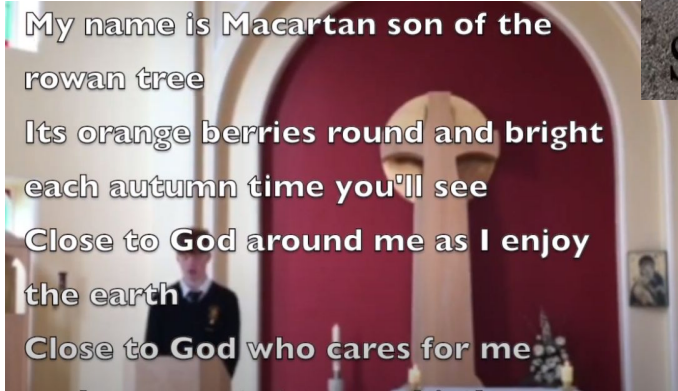


Parents - Please complete the return to school form for your son prior to his return on April 12th. The form is available on the school app.



St. Macartan's Day

March 24th is St. Macartan's Day - a day set aside in honour of the patron saint of Clogher and our College. This year, head prefect, James McKenny, school chaplain Fr. Joyce and principal Mr. McHugh spoke remotely to the school community to mark the day. The ceremony was a reflection on what the St. Macartan's community is and stands for in 2021. It was also a reflection on how the example of Macartan the strong and loyal helps guide the school community during these challenging times.



National Flag Day

Once again this year, our students marked the Thomas F. Meagher Flag Day which takes place on the eve of St. Patrick's Day. The raising of the flag in 2021 symbolises a coming together to create a community of hope for Ireland's future.



Coming soon to a screen near you - the Third Year Talent Showcase. Further details to follow.



*Thank you
Monaghan Lions Club*



Thank you to Monaghan Lions Club for your generous donation of laptops to the school. The laptops supplied by McArdles Computer Supplies were part of the school's efforts to support students in need of digital devices to assist with remote learning.

POETRY ALOUD

Poetry Aloud is an annual poetry speaking competition organised by the National Library of Ireland and is open to all post-primary students on the island of Ireland. This year the competition opened for virtual entries from schools. The competition, which has run since 2007 and has involved thousands of students in that time, has changed its structure for this year due to the challenges presented by Covid-19.

The first round this year consisted of a virtual competition in lieu of on-site regional heats. Participating teachers selected three students to represent their school from any of the three categories -Junior, Intermediate and Senior and submitted video recording of the students speaking their prescribed poem.

Two St. Macartan's College students are through to the All Ireland Finals this year. They are Alex McVicar in the junior section and Daniel Keelan in the intermediate section. Congratulations to both students and to Ms. Curran the Poetry Aloud coordinator at St. Macartan's College.

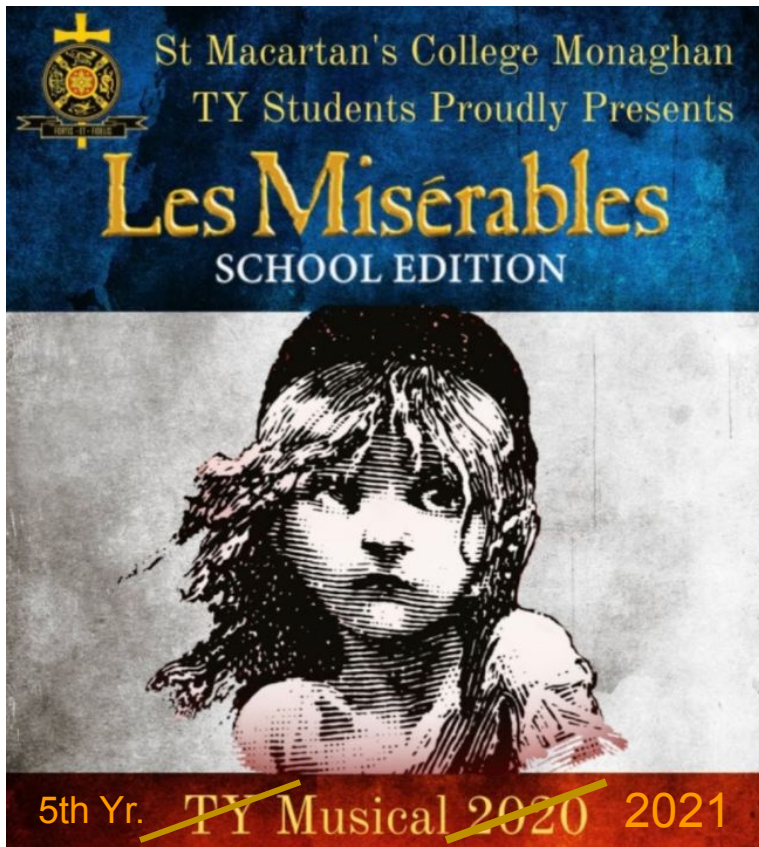


Covid Inspection

The Department of Education and Skills undertook an in depth inspection of the schools Covid prevention procedures. The inspector spent a day in the school and spoke with teachers, students and management as well as observing the protocols in place to combat the spread of infection in the school. The inspector commended the school for our efforts and described St. Macartan's efforts to keep students and staff safe as an exemplar.

The Board of Management has decided that due to the difficult circumstances that many families find themselves in at this time, there will be no Voluntary Contribution request this year





The Show Will Go On !

Last year's T.Y. production of Les Misérables was due to go on stage when Covid saw the sudden and protracted closure of schools.

In consultation with the students involved, Ms. Kirke and the production team intend to bring the show to a virtual stage with rehearsals to recommence over the Easter holidays.

The show will be recorded and available online in early June.

School Development

Our school architect Paul McGuigan has concluded his design work on the new extension. Permission to proceed to tender is expected soon from the Department. Work on the school's access project will begin over the Easter holidays.



St. Macartan's College, Monaghan

McGUIGAN ARCHITECTS



Student Council Elections will begin with the election of our prefects for the coming academic year. These elections will be followed by elections for all other year groups. The incoming student council will meet to elect our incoming head prefect and deputy head prefect before the end of this academic year.

Awards Day 2021 will go ahead this year. It will be a little different but we have a lot to celebrate.



1.

Let me tell you 'bout the cherry trees
Every April in our town
They put on the most outrageous clothes
And they sing and they dance around

2.

Hardly anybody sings or dances
Hardly anybody dances or sings
In this town that I call my own
You have to hand it to the cherry trees
And they seem to be saying,
To me anyway;
"You know we've travelled all around the Sun
You know it's taken us one whole year
Well done everyone, Well Done"

3
Cherry Blossom in the air

Cherry Blossom on the street

Cherry Blossom in your hair

And a Blossom at your feet

You know we've travelled all around the Sun

You know it's taken us one whole year

Well done everyone, Well Done

On behalf of me and the Cherry Trees, Well Done!

By John Spillane