

# Presentation Wexford Newsletter

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*Our Best, Always*

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Winter 2018 Newsletter

## Celebrations as Presentation mark 200 Years



The entire school community came together in October for a week that will live long in the memory as we celebrated 200 years of continued education and service in Wexford Town. The Presentation Convent was the first religious order to be established in Wexford town, after the Penal Laws. The convent was opened on Francis Street on Friday, October 2, 1818 on the Feast Day of the Guardian Angels with two Presentation nuns Sister Mary Frances de Salles and Sister Mary Baptist Frayne coming from the already established convent in Kilkenny City.

The Bicentenary Committee had been working hard behind the scenes for two years to put together a schedule of events to mark this special occasion, with the celebrations beginning on Tuesday, October 2nd. Students opened the proceedings with walks through the Convent and Convent gardens, before the book launch of "Going One Step Beyond, The Presentation community in Wexford 1818-2018" taking place prior to a lantern procession that evening.

A celebratory Bicentenary Mass with Bishop Denis Brennan and school chaplain Fr Tom Dalton then took place in Rowe Street Church on Thursday October 4th.

The celebrations came to a fabulous close on the Friday evening, with an extraordinary Bicentenary Gala Concert in Rowe Street Church. A massive thank you to each and every one of you who sent messages of good will or joined us in celebrating at one of our events.

### Winter Edition

Welcome to the winter newsletter of the 2018/2019 academic year. We would like to wish you all a very healthy and happy Christmas as we bring you the latest news from Presentation Secondary School.



# Principal's

## Address



A chairde,

As Christmas approaches I look back over what has been an extraordinary term for us all. It has been a term that we will not forget for many reasons, since our return to school at the end of August. We have had a long and sometimes difficult term.

The untimely loss of our students under any circumstances is hard to bear, sadly this term we lost two of our wonderful students through illness and tragedy over the last few months. We remember Tara & Hannah as the Christmas season approaches and we keep their families, friends, and whole school community in our thoughts and prayers. On top of that, we also had a fire to contend with when one of our Science labs suffered damage in September. As Principal here, I would wholeheartedly like to thank, all the staff, all of our students, and all Parents/Guardians for your support, kindness and dedication to our school community through these difficult times.

I would like to thank the students and teachers for their dedication and hard work both in and out of the classroom, in teaching & learning, and the many extra-curricular activities that are on offer here in the school. Though the term has been a difficult one, we look forward to the New Year with hope and optimism and as a community; we will continue to strive to provide quality education, support and aim to achieve our best, always.

As well as this, we had a wonderful week of celebrations for our Bicentenary, which took 2 years of planning to mark what has been in the making for 200 years. It would not have been possible without a hardworking, dedicated Bicentenary committee of 20 staff members and sisters from the convent & our students who helped at many of the events during the course of the week. For anyone looking for a copy of "Going One Step Beyond", our Bicentenary publication, it is now back in stock and available only from the school reception and Wexford Book Centre for €20. Be sure to pick up your copy for the perfect stocking filler!

We also had an excellent report published following our WSE-MLL that was held in the school in April, the report can be found on our website under inspection reports.

Many thanks to all of the prospective students and parents who came to sample the atmosphere at the school for our open night the 14th November. Well done to all our students and staff who showed off what we do best here at the school. It was a very successful night with large attendance; I hope you got a flavour of what we have to offer here in Presentation Wexford.

Well done to our 5th, 2nd and 1st years on the completion of their House Exams. The hard work pays off. Reports will be live from the 21st of December on VShare.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this year's Transition Year play – I would like to commend the Transition Year students for the time and effort they put into their Annual Panto, "Cinderella" by Thomas O'Leary. A massive thank you to Paul Walsh and all the teachers & staff involved in putting on this production. You certainly lifted the spirits of the school this past week.

I would like to offer a special word of thanks to the members of the Parents' Council who put tremendous work into organising the recent Race night. Their fundraising, work and support is invaluable to the school community.

Plans are underway for the refurbishment of the Science lab damaged in the recent fire; we hope to have it up and running in the next few months. Our new wing comprising 1 Science lab and Prep room, 2 general-purpose classrooms, and toilet facilities has now been tendered and plans are being drawn. We look forward to this additional accommodation starting in the next few months.

Can I remind Parents/Guardians that supports are in place for your daughters if they are feeling any way upset or distressed over recent events. Please see our website under principal's page for more information.

I wish you all the joy of the festive season, may it be a peaceful and happy Christmas. Take time to relax, reenergise, spend time with family & friends, 2019 comes with a sense of renewal and new beginnings. May your new year bring big dreams, new goals and hopes that all you wish for will come to fruition in 2019.



# Presentation Open Night

Hundreds of prospective students and parents came to see the school this term as Presentation opened its doors to the 5th and 6th class students of County Wexford. Well done to all of the student volunteers who helped show off what we do best here at Presentation Wexford.



## Presentation Student Winner in National Poetry Competition

Congratulations to 2nd year student Etain Doolan who was named winner of the PDST National Poetry Competition. She is pictured here with Sara Griffin author, poet and columnist with The Irish Times collecting her prize. Congratulations, Etain.

## Public Speaking

Well done to Charlotte Glynn, Mia Berry, Sinead Kirwan & Jessie Malone who took part in the Wexford Soroptimist public speaking competition in the Riverbank Hotel this term. Congratulations to Charlotte who qualified for the regional finals.





# Cinderella

*Congratulations to our Transition Year students who wowed audiences with their production of Thomas O'Leary's 'Cinderella' this term. Thanks to Paul Walsh and all those involved in putting the show together.*



## TY Craft Fair

Well done to all of our mini companies who showcased their products at our annual Christmas Craft Fair this term.



## College Awareness Week

Our Transition year students pictured at IT Carlow Wexford Campus during College Awareness Week.



## Glendalough

Another year, another Gaisce Bronze Medal hike completed at Glendalough.

## Fifth Year Peer Mentors

A new initiative was begun in the school this year to provide support, opportunities for student leadership and to create links between the senior and junior students. During September, interviews were held for fifth years interested in becoming mentors to second year students. Following this, the successful students attended a training afternoon to prepare them for their role. They were then all presented with a lighthouse badge by Mr. Ryan to identify them in their roles.

Between four and five enthusiastic students were assigned to each second year class. The peer mentors are available to help students with small problems they may be having in various subjects, they are also there to lend a friendly ear. To date, they have helped with the organisation of numeracy week and science week and visit their classes on a weekly basis to check in with the students.



## Chat & Connect

Students from the class of 2018 were welcomed back this term to discuss life after Presentation with the current Leaving Cert Cohort.



## Chemistry Magic Show

Third year students were amazed by the sparks and explosions of the Chemistry Magic Show presented by John Daly. Some lucky students even got to take part in the action.



## SVP

Well done to all of our students who contributed to our SVP Food Hamper Drive. Our Transition Years also organised a Quiz and a Gift Giving Tree to donate toys for children in the area.



## Ancient Roman Come Dine With



## Gaeilge 24



Bhí an ócáid mhór náisiúnta darbh ainm Gaeilge 24 á ceiliúradh againn i rith na seachtaine.

Bhain chuile dhalta idir tairbhe is taitneamh as an lá caithréimeach seo. Ghlac thart faoi thrí chéad dalta is fiche páirt sa lá seo. Bhí ar na daltaí t-léinte a chaitheamh mar aon le rost bhandaí is greamáin. Ina theannta sin, bhí cárta urraíochta ag gach dalta agus bhí orthu deich euro a thuilleadh chun páirt a ghlacadh ann.

Bhailigh na daltaí go léir i Halla mór na scoile ag deireadh an lae chun grianghraf a fháil agus ba léir go bhfanfaidh an lá iontach seo ina gcuimhní go deo na ndeor.

D'éirigh leis na daltaí go léir an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn timpeall na scoile. Ní raibh drogall ar bith orthu a n-oidhreacht agus a gcultúr a cheiliúradh. Ní dhéanfaidís dearmad ar an lá rathúil seo.

## Parent Workshops

During Term 1 there were 6 weeks of Parenting workshops for 2 hours with tea/ coffee running on Friday mornings which finished on November 30.

Thanks to all parents who attended. Nettie Bowie CBT therapist facilitated an excellent 6 week module on Building Family Communications which participants thought was very helpful and enjoyed by all.

Other workshops for parents covered a number of weeks on supporting Autism, Anxiety, Mental Health and Dyslexia.

Further workshops will run next term - if interested in attending on Friday mornings please contact Ms. Bradshaw.

## VSware Positive Behaviour

This term saw the VS Ware positive behaviour system in school become very popular with students receiving well done cards and prizes when they achieve 115 points or more on VS Ware. Points are awarded by teachers for positive behaviour such as excellent work, kindness to others, good manners etc.

This term also saw the introduction of bronze, silver and gold badges with the school crest for senior students when they achieved points on VS Ware.

In the new year we will be introducing a different type of badge for junior students with the school motto "Our Best, always"

Holly O'Rourke, 1st year, was the lucky winner of the big teddy this Christmas with Andrea Woodbyrne, 5th year and Grace Brennan, TY, inning the Cheeky Monkeys.

The positive behaviour system in the Presentation will become very exciting for students with LOTS MORE to come in with the new year.



## Parents Association

Season's Greetings from your Parent Association Committee at Presentation Secondary School.

A special thanks to you all for your support of our Race Night fundraiser. We are delighted to announce that we raised just over €6,000. These funds will be used to replace equipment in the Science Lab recently damaged by fire.

In 2019, we look forward to hosting:

A Careers Night.

A talk on making the transition from school to college.

The Annual Easter Draw.

Sincere best wishes to school staff, pupils and your families from all the committee. We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy and healthy 2019.



## Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Well done to all of our students who donated gifts to the annual Team Hope Ireland shoebox appeal.

## Camogie

Our senior Camogie team go into the New Year still in contention to qualify from their group after some excellent results as they began life in the top division. Their group finished in an incredible 3-way tie with Presentation Kilkenny up first in a play-off on January 6th before the girls return to school.



## Gaelic Football



Our Senior Footballers pictured after an 8-point victory over St Mary's New Ross this term.

## 1st Years Crowned Wexford Champions

Congratulations to our 1st year soccer team who were crowned 1st year Wexford Futsal Champions this term. Our U15, U17, & senior squads now turn their attention to their league campaigns with some big games coming up in the new year.

A big thank you to all who attended our quiz this term as the girls ramp up their fundraising efforts ahead of their trip to Barcelona in October 2019.

Thanks also to EMS Copiers who sponsored our new JAKO kit for the new season.



A big thank you to local club Bridge Rovers who kindly gave us the use of their excellent facilities this term for all of our teams.



## Library Corner



There was a wonderful meeting of minds at the Presentation school library this term as members of the book club from St Peter's College joined our girls in discussing the books they're currently reading. We look forward to the next event in February.



## Basketballers Reach South East Final



Our U16 basketballers have had an excellent term, reaching the South East 'C' final where they were pipped by an excellent Gaelcholasite Ceatharlach team. The girls now look forward to the All-Ireland finals in the New Year.

## Equestrian

Our Equestrian club continued their busy league campaign this term with some fine performances while there is also huge congratulations owed to Alisha Deery who won the individual class from a start list of over 40 competitors in November.

## 6th Year Meitheal Leaders

Well done to our 6th year Meitheal Leaders on another great term of work with our 1st year students.

## Attendance & Punctuality

Our aim as a school is to encourage full attendance. To achieve this parents are encouraged to;

- \* Set high standards for their child in relation to attendance and punctuality
- \* Engage with the school if there is a problem about their child's attendance and support plans to address the problem
- \* Ensure that their child regularly attends and arrives to school on time
- \* Avoid taking their child out of class unless there is a serious reason
- \* Avoid taking their child on holidays during term time

Thank you for your cooperation to date. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns regarding attendance and punctuality.

Ms B Ryan





Wonderful art work portraying the founding sisters during Bicentenary Week. We look forward to the unveiling of our sculpture in the New Year.

# New Website



Check out our newly launched website at [www.preswex.ie](http://www.preswex.ie). A big thank you to Niall and the team at Graphedia for creating a website that beautifully reflects life at Presentation.



6th Year Students before watching Macbeth at Smock Alley Theatre.



5th Year students attending the Opera during this year's Festival.



## FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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