

ST. PETER'S

PASSAGE WEST

2023

Newsletter & PODCAST



In St. Peter's we are dedicated to providing students with a vibrant educational experience in a highly collaborative, inclusive, and supportive environment. We challenge our students to act with courage, integrity, and leadership.

Promoting Partnership

We are grateful for the continued support of our local community, clubs and businesses. St. Peter's Community School is very fortunate to be part of a great community. This partnership is transformative in supporting students in St. Peter's; together we can achieve so much.

Student leadership

St. Peter's Community School places great emphasis on developing caring students while promoting the concept of student leadership within the school. Our newly created student leadership wall allows for the celebration of student achievements while also actively encouraging students to contribute to their school community through a range of leadership initiatives. This has proven very beneficial over the last academic year in providing students with opportunities to develop their leadership skills, while contributing to the school community.

Extra-Curricular Achievement

While academic achievement will always be our primary focus, it is wonderful that extra-curricular achievement continues to play a huge role in the life of St. Peter's. I am delighted that we continue to build on our past successes, with an exceptional year of achievement for our students this past year. These, together with all the other areas that we pursue, help form our young men and women to be the leaders of tomorrow.

I hope that in reading our newsletter you will get an insight into the wonderful, caring and student centered school that we have here in St. Peter's Community School.

Tony McSweeney
Principal



Minister McGrath

March saw the return of one of our most famous sons and past pupils, Minister for Finance Michael McGrath. Minister McGrath, ably accompanied by brother and Councillor Séamus as well as his mother, reminisced with staff about the early days of St. Peter's

and enjoyed strolling the corridors browsing old photographs which no doubt sparked happy memories for the Passage native. This homecoming of sorts was a very warm and positive experience where the popular Minister spoke about achievements and inspired not only our student body but no doubt our hardworking teachers too. Ms Quane and Mr McSweeney presented the Minister with a beautiful painting, a well-received gift and token of our appreciation and friendship.

E Ryan. Photos by Ronan O'Donovan.



Introducing the St. Peter's Podcast!



Over this coming year, the team at the School Newsletter plan to start our first ever school podcast. Our objective is to provide an audio form of communication to complement the Newsletter so that you can keep up to date with discussions about school news and happenings while on the move. We want to also encourage students and teachers to get involved, learn the media skills needed for podcasting and journalism, and improve students' literacy and communication skills. We hope to provide podcasts on various interests including sports, arts and entertainment, exam advice, school subjects, extra-curricular activities, trips, tours and much more. If you would like to get involved in the podcast, please contact Mr Ryan. Joining the podcast team usually involves joining the Newsletter team first.

E Ryan

S.S.E. (School Self Evaluation) Report 2022-23

In the last year we, as a school, have been gathering feedback from everyone in our school community; students, parents, guardians and teachers. Thank you to everyone who completed questionnaires and participated in focus groups.

The data gathered, was very positive. E.g., Parents/guardians felt the school was very supportive and caring and commented on teachers' commitment and good standard of teaching. Students enjoy learning using interactive methods and group work and wish to do well in exams.

The information gathered will inform our next School Plan (2023 – 2026).

The key Teaching and Learning area identified for the coming year is **'Reflective Practice'**.

Educational theorists e.g., Dewey, highlight how reflecting helps students enhance and embed their learning.

'We do not learn from experience...we learn from reflecting on experience'
(John Dewey).

Throughout the year we will be encouraging students to reflect on their learning and set goals for the future. E.g., They will identify what they are doing well and identify how they can improve.

Parents/guardians can help by talking to their children about what they learned in school, discussing school reports (available on vsware), asking students to identify their strengths, and by exploring different approaches to learning etc.



ST. PETER'S C.S. PILLARS



The three pillars on which we build our practice and which we are immensely proud of are: **Academic Excellence, Care and, Pride and Leadership.**

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

Here in St. Peter's Teaching and Learning is the most important activity in our school. Our aim is to provide excellent teaching and high-quality learning for all our students. To achieve this, we use a range of teaching and learning strategies to help all our students reach their potential.



CARE:

St. Peter's is a vibrant, caring and personal school where each student is valued and cared for as an individual. Our structured system of pastoral care of Subject Teachers, Class Tutors, Year Tutors, Chaplain, Career Guidance Counsellor and Management all actively take on the duty of care for our students. (Many visitors to our school comment on the warm and welcoming atmosphere they experience).



PRIDE & LEADERSHIP:

We are very proud of our students, and we challenge them to act with courage, integrity, and leadership. Our mission statement highlights our belief in empowering and equipping our students to become well rounded and future leaders for an ever-changing world, providing them with a broad range of extra-curricular and leadership opportunities.





Just some of the diverse cultures celebrated in our school.



EMBRACING DIVERSITY by Isadora M. da Rosa

St. Peter's has a large cohort of students who come from far away (including international students), and it has shown that making these students feel welcome is one of the main priorities. As part of this group, I have had the privilege of experiencing the welcoming atmosphere the school provides to all of us when we arrive.

To ensure our wellbeing, the school is concerned with preserving and embracing the different cultures and customs we bring from our countries. An example of this is Culture Day, this annual event in our school allows every student of our community to promote their own cultures and demonstrate the similarities we all share.

One memory of mine that encapsulates the welcoming spirit of our school is from my first week. I had been in Ireland for about seven months and was already familiar with the language and a good bit of the culture. When I came into the school on my first day, I initially felt a mix of excitement and uncertainty. However, that unease quickly faded away when I was introduced to a few of my classmates, that later on, became my friends. They all gave me a quick tour of the school. As we were walking through the corridors, they talked about different subjects and teachers, and also oriented me on how a few things worked. That orientation was crucial for my adaptation to the school, and the memory of that day is still very special to me.

In addition to the warm reception I received from my friends, the school staff played an important role in my



journey of adaptation. Teachers were very understanding and also very interested in knowing where I came from, which showed me I was now part of the school community and no longer an outsider.

By embracing the range of cultures and customs brought by students from around the world, our school has created an environment where we all feel like valued members of a family. Culture Day, my initial warm welcome by my friends, and the genuine interest shown by teachers, all are examples of the welcoming spirit that defines our school. As I continue my educational journey here, it is evident that creating a diverse and inclusive community is not just a priority, but a shared commitment. This sense of belonging, whether it's the friendships, the supportive staff, or the embracing of our cultures, is what makes our school truly special.



PORTRAIT OF A FIRST YEAR! by Aaron Gernon

Many people who know me in my current life are often surprised to hear of the struggles I went through in first year. I had a difficult time adjusting to school life and felt like an outsider among my peers, as I didn't come from the same primary school as all of them. It seemed that way at first, but as I began to make friends and open myself up to learning new things, I discovered a new perspective on school. It turned into a place where I could learn, grow, and find my place in the world. My first few weeks at school were challenging to say the least. No friends, zero clue what to do, and not really wanting to do work but still determined to give it my best shot. It was quite the journey getting there.

Before long I made several friends, first it was a very prudent and intelligent individual, then a friendly and determined person. I also met this individual who was creative, imaginative, and empathetic, and this other person this open-minded, nice individual. There was also this straightforward and aloof person, plus this social and energetic individual. And finally caring and enthusiastic person along with this good-natured but often meek person. With the first midterm tests on the horizon, I was ready to take them on, thanks to my friends' encouragement and the studying I did it and got over 70's by my recollection.

Christmas exam time! I knew these were some of the most important tests I'd take yet, and I was definitely a bit nervous. These exams were going to be very similar to the real thing, so I knew I couldn't take them lightly. Thankfully, studying for them for the past couple of months had helped prepare me, and I treated them as a trial run for the main exams. Plus, I knew how to study in an effective way that played to my strengths, like mind mapping for visual learning or hearing my notes aloud as an aural learner. All in all, I felt ready for Christmas exam time! The Exam days arrived and I was ready. Months of studying had led up to this moment. Walking into the hall, I stayed quiet, took my seat and the exam began. Focused on the questions, I worked fast and was the first out. Satisfied, I left with relief, accomplishment and a sense of success.

I had really found my place in that St. Peter's and it seemed like others had started to take notice too. I found myself approaching more and more people from my year group, and it turned out that they actually liked me! This was great for my self-confidence. It got even better when I started seeing the results of my efforts in class - I was getting

consistently 80+ on exams and tests, making me one of the top students in my year. When things were finally looking up for me one of my friends moved away at this point so we had a goodbye ceremony for him.

After the holidays and celebrations of a new year, the grindstone welcomed back learners with exams and increased studying. I had grown used to this, being one of the top students in my year through consistent studying. The months after Christmas leading up to sports day feel like a blur. Sports day was one of my favourite parts of the end of the year. Everyone got to have extra fun, try new things, and see how they measured up against their classmates. I gave it my all and saw how far I could go, which was great for de-stressing from my studying. Fresh air and fun competitions with friends and teachers made it a highlight. It was definitely one of the best days of the year!

The summer exam days have come. I could feel my heart pounding in my chest as I took my seat in the exam hall. These exams were even more significant than the Christmas exams. This was the last chance to show what I had learned over the past school year. And it was also my final chance to impress my teachers, if I wanted to leave school with good grades. No pressure, right? I took a deep breath and began. I knew I just needed to focus on the questions in front of me, and I'd do just fine. By the end of the year, I was really happy with how my school life had progressed. I had so many friends that I actually couldn't keep up with all of them, yet I still found myself enjoying every moment I spent at school. My teachers also seemed to be quite fond of me and my work ethic - I can't think of anything I did to make them dislike me, at least. In fact, I think they liked how much I loved learning and how excited I was to be there every day.

Overall, I had a hard time adapting to school. At first, I felt like an outsider but I made friends and started to see school as a place of growth and learning. I made solid friends, found my place with consistent studying and did well on exams. I got consistently high grades and became one of the most academically successful people in my year. After the holidays, exam time was back and I did well again. I loved sports day and made more friends. But by the end of the year, school was amazing, thanks to my teachers and friends.

I can't wait to see what the new school year brings me!

THE TRANSITION

The transition between primary and secondary school summed up in a word is confusing. Confusing in the ways that your schedule changes completely, you're also introduced to new concepts like a timetable, lockers, and different classes for different subjects. The overwhelming feeling is present throughout all school life, adapting to new environments are undeniably difficult. I always say, school is incredibly demanding both academically and emotionally. People grow in many ways but growing mentally is one of the most fundamental parts of our life. This is what a lot of people leave out about school that it is extremely challenging and demanding in so many ways considering school is one of the most important parts in our lifetime. School prepares us for what the future holds and how to deal with the academic and emotional challenges of life.

On the flip side of things, school can be some of the most incredible and cherished parts of our lives. School will eventually end just like all things but the memories you make last for a lifetime. Watching people grow from strangers to friends, winning different cups and leagues with the school, showing your passion through a club, or even just expressing your passion in a subject. All these things make school worthwhile and gives us unforgettable memories.

One day everything we do will be nothing but an old page in a book or pictures on a wall, so enjoy this time while it last because we won't be this young forever. Live your life to the fullest because you get one shot to make it truly yours.

So, enjoy the time we have and don't dwell or stress on the things that don't matter. As Mala Yousafzai once said, "Let us remember: **One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world.**" So, enjoy your education and let it shape you into who you become in the future, for the future is only certain if you work to make it work.

by Chloe Walsh.



First year students Christopher Williams, Nathan Urbonas, Dylan Lin and Nathan McCarthy in action in our chess club for 1st year students.

MORE THAN JUST A BANK HOLIDAY!

by Éadaoin Farrell.



A new bank holiday? An extra day off school? Brilliant! But why is St. Brigid's Day important, and why is it a new holiday for 2023?

In Irish Gaelic tradition, the calendar is split into 'Quarter Days', festivals marking the start of each season – summer was marked by Bealtaine, autumn by Lúnasa, winter by Samhain and spring was heralded by St Brigid's Day or Imbolc, falling on the 1st of February. The day is dedicated to St. Brigid, but prior to the Christianisation of Ireland, the festival of Imbolc was held on this day, celebrating birth, growth and renewal. Attached to this celebration was the goddess Brighid, patroness of poets, smith workers and livestock and goddess of healing. The festival then began to be associated with St. Brigid, who Christianised her tribe and founded Ireland's oldest monastery in Kildare. Crosses made with rushes were made on this day, and hung in houses, to gain the saint's blessing.

Brigid the saint and the goddess were both embodied through a real woman, and she is a role model for feminism. The whole world goes green for St. Patrick's Day, but it isn't until this year that we have a day for our matron saint. She founded a powerful and influential community in a hugely patriarchal world. She emanates the qualities we want to see in a new Ireland – protecting the environment, inclusivity, empowerment and determination.

St. Brigid's Day, although celebrated in Ireland, was never an official public holiday until now. Last year, a one-off public holiday was named on the 18th of March, to recognise and thank the workers who gave their all during the fight against COVID. The new permanent St. Brigid's Day holiday is the first public holiday to be named for a female saint. It marks the halfway point between winter solstice and the equinox, and is the beginning of spring. But the best thing about it... a day off school!

Source – rte.ie, written by Éadaoin Farrell.



Pictured above is coordinator of JA and business teacher Úna Mc Carthy and Laura Floyd (Musgrave group)

BUSINESS

Every year Business students in at Peter's get an opportunity to take part in a Junior Achievement programme. This year fifth year business studies took part in a 6-week workshop delivered by Laura Floyd of the Musgrave group. Laura delivered the workshop around CV and interview skills and

each student received a mock interview at the end of the programme. We are grateful to JA Ireland for their long-standing relationship with our school and look forward to facilitating them in delivering many more workshops in the future.

THE BIG INTERVIEW: MARY'S RETIREMENT

Mary O'Leary has played a huge role here in St Peter's, she has worked in St Peter's since the doors opened in 1988, thirty-five years ago.

Mary's role and responsibilities of the school were looking after everything, basically she needed to know every student's detail, everything about the student, their parents, their student subjects, everything. She paid every bill, got buses ready for trips. She said, "it's a big job but a lovely job."

Her role has evolved a lot throughout the years. She started off with just a piece of paper and pen and now she is big into computers. Back then everything was on a piece of paper, every student's name was down on a piece of paper and now everything is down on then IT system.

The ups and downs of being a secretary? Mary maintains "there are very few downs, but one is that you have to know everything and that's not easy. The ups are the people, the staff, students, parents really bring the upside." Mary has worked with different principals like Denis Ahern the first principal, Derek Dunne the second, and the third and current principal Tony McSweeney.

Her favourite memory of being in St Peter's was when she started here thirty-five years ago. The first day watching every single item of equipment and furniture coming into



the school was great, every locker, every chair, everything. Even the carpet on the floor. When she came here thirty-five years ago, she was sitting in the main office on a metal crate waiting for everything to come. "I've seen lots of changes over the years," she added.

When Mary retires, she looks forward to turning off her alarm clock in the morning and listening to the rain outside in the winter mornings knowing she doesn't have to get up.

A message that she would like to share with the school community is that she has enjoyed every day. She said "you really made me so happy and welcome here with kind words and wishes. They

were just fantastic over the years, really and truly all I can say is I wish St Peter's all the best and I hope the new school build will come soon. I hope to be invited back for the opening as a V.I.P guest!!!

And we would like to wish Mary the very best of luck in her new chapter ahead and to thank her for how much she has done for St Peter's over the last thirty-five years. Thank you, Mary.

Interview done by Katie Cronin and Isadora Moraes Rosa

JUNIOR SCHOOL REVIEW

Defecting from sixth class, and primary education conclusively, I was little more than a fearful student. I was concerned about further progression into secondary level education, however St. Peter's Community School of Passage West embraced me alongside my youthful peers with concern and care.

I fondly recall my first day in this sanctuary of education, my first-year induction. Sitting before Ms. O'Connell as she spoke of what was awaiting us, I was nervous. However, sitting alongside my classmates, I was consoled, and that communal aspect still remains present in everyday life. Haplessly, towards the latter part of first year, Covid 19 once again swept over the country and consequently remote education was integrated. However, this did not cease teachers' concern for their students; rather it unified them to a further degree.

Then in September of 2022, my second year of school began. I was eager with anticipation for what awaited me as during this period. Covid 19 restrictions were progressively subsiding, although there was still a requirement to wear masks, we were permitted to take part in various school excursions. Such adventures were held at Ballycotton, East Cork, on a cliffside walk, and at West Cork secret, where we played games, crept through mud and dirt on an intense military-fashioned circuit, and glided down a tarpaulin mound into a bath of water; it was a lot of fun.

However, these escapades were all calm, before the impending storm; the junior certificate examinations. Despite the doom, this adversity was faced with valiance and determination, for me alongside my fellow peers, as we toiled with the feat of studying and trying our utmost in the examinations. The reward was our summer holidays, and I am pleased to say that it was enjoyed by many of us.

Now, transition year has begun, and I can say with confidence, and on behalf of my classmates, that there is not another school that we would rather be in than St. Peter's Community School, and I am excited for what awaits me.

by Christopher Sheehan



BOOK CLUB:

Ms Wallace's book club definitely got up to a lot this year, after taking part in the one book one county program, they got to meet the author of the chosen book *Not My Problem*, Ciara Smith. It was an interesting and worthwhile experience where they learnt a lot about the process of writing and publishing a book. They also organised activities for World Book Day and have even more fun filled activities planned for next year that everybody is certainly going to enjoy.

-Olivia Lenihan

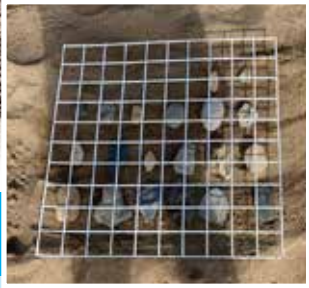


THE BARR BUAS

The bar bua awards ceremony was certainly a memorable day. We had the privilege of welcoming the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment Simon Coveney to the school for the day. He got to meet some out of the many hard-working students here at St Peter's as well as giving a very inspiring speech. Photos by Ronan O'Donovan 5th year.

by Millie Griffin Lynch.





Some images of 6th Year students hard at work on their geography field trip to Rocky Bay with Ms Quane.

GEOGRAPHY

St. Peter's Eco-Club

St. Peter's School Eco-Club is a thriving and dynamic initiative dedicated to promoting sustainable practices within our educational community. Comprising of a passionate group of students and staff, this club serves as a beacon of environmental stewardship and advocacy.

At St. Peter's, we believe in nurturing a profound connection with the natural world, and our Eco-Club is at the forefront of this mission. Through various engaging activities, including promoting recycling in our school, performing waste audits, and participating in nation-wide competitions, our members actively contribute to a greener and more eco-friendly school environment.

One of the most important activities our schools Eco-club participates in is their yearly outing. This year our eco-club went on a cycle along a scenic trail that brought them past historic buildings, such as Blackrock Castle, and all the way into Cork City's very own Marina Market. These outings allow our school's eco-club members to foster environmental awareness regarding their local community.

With a commitment to raising awareness about pressing environmental issues and inspiring positive change, St. Peter's School Eco-Club is sowing the seeds of a brighter, more sustainable future.

by Thomas Coughlan



Some students from 5th Year on their Geography field trip to Garrettstown beach near Kinsale, where they impressed their teacher Ms Heffernan with great enthusiasm and hard work.



Éadaoin and Ethel's Litter Awareness Talk

On the 25th of November, Eco-Club's founding members, Ethel D'Alton Bateman and Éadaoin Farrell, along with Ms. S Quane, visited the local primary school, Star of the Sea, to give a talk about litter awareness and Cop 27 (the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Students learned about the harmful effects littering has on marine animals, aims and outcomes of the latest COP 27 meeting.

-Ms. Quane





ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

Some fantastic pieces from 3rd yr. Engineering – Model Helix Elevator, 6th yr. Engineering Project - Tracked Electric Skateboard and Engineering Day Practical - Model Clamp. Mr. O'Connor.

Jack Sheehan and Emmet Stapleton created fantastic Construction projects as part of the LC state examination. Both students received excellent results for their efforts. Jack designed and made a sectional detail model looking at everything from foundation to roof structure. Emmet designed and made a Passive house and included the surrounding area. Mr. Fitzgerald.



St Peter's Open Night:

It's safe to say the St Peter's 2022 Open Night was a huge success. Incoming first years and their families were shown around and were introduced to the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of the school. Stalls situated around the building gave people a chance to see all the extracurricular activities the school provides and all of the students' fantastic achievements. Amazing speeches were given by Grace O' Reilly and Ciarán Farrell about their life here at St Peter's. To end the night our principal Mr McSweeney gave a speech that truly showed the atmosphere of the school. In conclusion the night was a fantastic display of St Peter's and truly showed everyone what it's like to attend school here.

-Millie Griffin Lynch

Vitali playing piano at the Open Evening.



T.Y. ACTIVITIES



Rays of Sunshine!

Every year International students from Germany, Spain and Italy arrive in Passage and surrounding areas and spend the year here learning English and enjoying the hospitality of Ireland. We had another successful year again last year and we look forward to welcoming many more in future.

E Ryan.



Students Brian Linehan and Tomás Hanlon who took part in our e-scooter workshop for our Transition Year class.



TY students Anna Wozniak, Ríonagh Altamirano and Cillian O Sullivan taught French to 4th and 5th class students in Scoil Barra Naofa, Monkstown for three weeks. A lot of fun was had by both students and trainee teachers while learning topics such as numbers, colours and animals in French. Well done to our students for sharing their passion for the language.



Actor Shane Casey, also known as loveable rogue and bus hijacker Billy Murphy, made his annual visit to the school to deliver his much loved TY workshop on resilience. Shane and Billy will be back on our screens soon for the third series of Young Offenders and we can't wait!



Art

A sample of work from TY student Erin Malone's Art project.

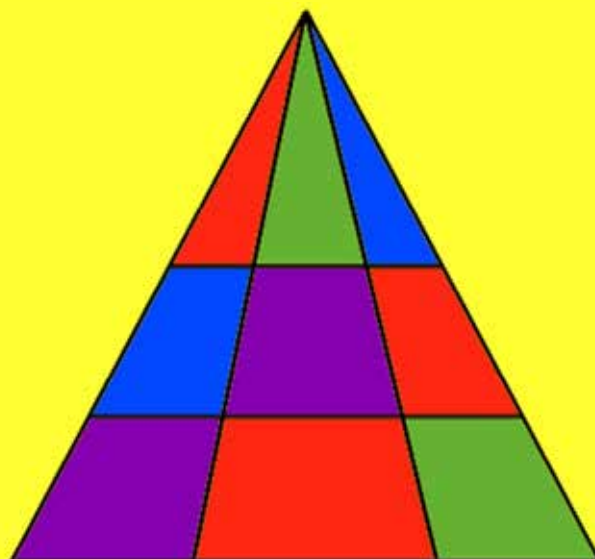
Puzzle Page

St Peters Sports

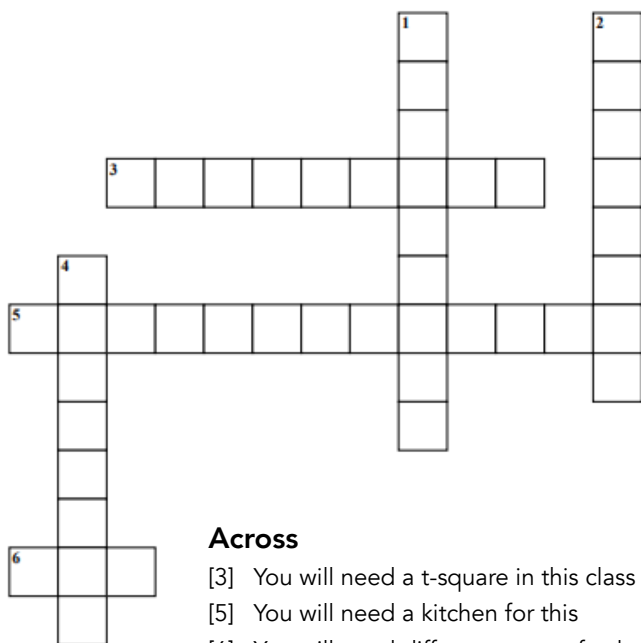
Q K G R E C C O S D X Y A J Z
 Y N I N G S V O H F R I D R L
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SOCCER
 BASKETBALL
 HURLING
 ROWING
 ORIENTEERING
 HORSE
 RIDING
 VOLLEYBALL
 GAELIC
 FOOTBALL
 ATHLETICS

How Many Triangles?



St Peter's Option Subjects



Across

- [3] You will need a t-square in this class
- [5] You will need a kitchen for this
- [6] You will need different types of colours

Down

- [1] You will need a file for this
- [2] You will need to calculate stuff in this class
- [4] You will need a chisel in this class

Sudoku Puzzle

3		5	4		2		6	
4	9		7	6		1		8
6			1		3	2	4	5
		3	9			5	8	
9	6			5	8	7		3
	8	1	3		4		9	2
	5		6		1	4		
2			5	4	9		7	
1	4	9			7	3		6

The rules for sudoku are simple. A 9x9 square must be filled in with numbers from 1-9 with no repeated numbers in each line, horizontally or vertically. To challenge you more, there are 3x3 squares marked out in the grid, and each of these squares can't have any repeat numbers either.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Grandparents' Day

On the 20th of January some of the students in second year held a grandparents' day. Grandparents along with older relatives and friends who play an important role in lives of young people influencing behaviours and life paths.

It was a great day as both students and grandparents really enjoyed themselves.

The day began with a little prayer when everyone got together into a circle when they arrived. Then the day consisted of getting to know everyone with a little game between the grandparent or older relative and their grandchild. They asked each other questions and filled in blanks. It was a great activity for them to get to know more about each other and to bond.

After that there was cakes, tea, coffee and more treats. They then played a game of bingo or cards. Some grandparents went on a tour of the school, and this could not have been done without the help of Ms McGovern.



Home Economics

Home economics students proudly displaying just a tiny fraction of the great tasty treats and meals they made throughout throughout the year.



Our 2nd Year group enjoying outdoor education at Ballyhass adventure centre.

Carol Singing

This year, some students from 1st, 2nd and 3rd years volunteered to go Carol singing to Padre Pio nursing home in Rochestown. They brightened up the residents' day and spread some Christmas cheer. The students also sat down and chatted with the residents and they got to know one another. It was great to see the residents of Padre Pio with big smiles on their faces and this could not have been done without Ms McGovern and Mr Murphy.

After Carol singing in Padre Pio the students, Ms McGovern and Mr Murphy went Carol singing outside Passage West Post Office raising money for UNICEF and local charities.

Since after Christmas some of the transition years have been volunteering their time to provide company to the residents of Padre Pio by playing board games and connecting residents with local news and events.

It's great to see students and staff volunteering their time to benefit others in our community!

By Katie Cronin.



Second Year Retreat

On Thursday September 29th our Second Years, Ms O'Brien and Ms O'Connell went on a mindfulness retreat to Scala, Blackrock. Scala is an organisation which welcomes any and all ages to a getaway trip. Scala focuses on a journey that calls us to think about friendship, fairness and service. The day included many activities. The second years participated in all sorts of activities which led to teambuilding and bonding. Long breaks were provided which offered the Second Years a chance to walk around a bit and explore the area. Overall, we all had a fabulous day!

-Lea Vučko

Extra- Curricular Notices:

If you would like to get involved in Camogie this year, please get in touch with Ms McCarthy.



Similarly, if you would like to get involved in athletics, Mr Ryan will be hosting after school runs for cross-country through the year and should be attending some athletics meets.

SOCCER



High achievers: Passage West rising soccer stars.

Passage West has always had a tradition of producing solid soccer players, as well as a few high achievers and this generation is no different. Third year student Jamie Nduwuba recently scored a brace for Cork City Academy in their 3-2 win away to North London giants Tottenham Hotspur Academy. Liam Quinn and Siobhán Deasy are also making waves in the academy for Cork City. Sister of Siobhán, Maeve and Brooke Manley recently trained with Cork City academy while Sarah O'Keeffe won overall girls' academy player of the year at Douglas Hall club, as well as winning the treble! All of course represent St. Peter's too and have had a great year with their school. We love to celebrate their achievements and wish them well in their pursuit of joy and success in their sport.



Our dedicated teaching staff watching a girls' soccer match after school at Rockenham. Photo by E Ryan.

Girls' Soccer

The Junior and Senior teams of talented and hardworking girls have proven to be a force to be reckoned with both on and off the field. They have consistently led by example through their determination, resilience and passion for the sport.

These girls have a genuine love for soccer, which fuels their dedication and commitment. Their passion for the sport is evident in their playing style, work ethic, and enthusiasm on the field. This year saw our Junior team reach the Cork Schoolgirls League Final and the Munster Cup semi final. While our Senior team reached the Cork Schoolgirls League Semifinal and the Cork Schools Cup Final. Coaches Ms. Lucey and Ms. Walsh are confident that this coming year will be another success for the St. Peter's girls.

Ms Walsh.

Cobh Pirates

I have always enjoyed the more physical and aggressive sports since a young age. At the age of six I joined Cobh Pirates Rugby club and I have loved it ever since.

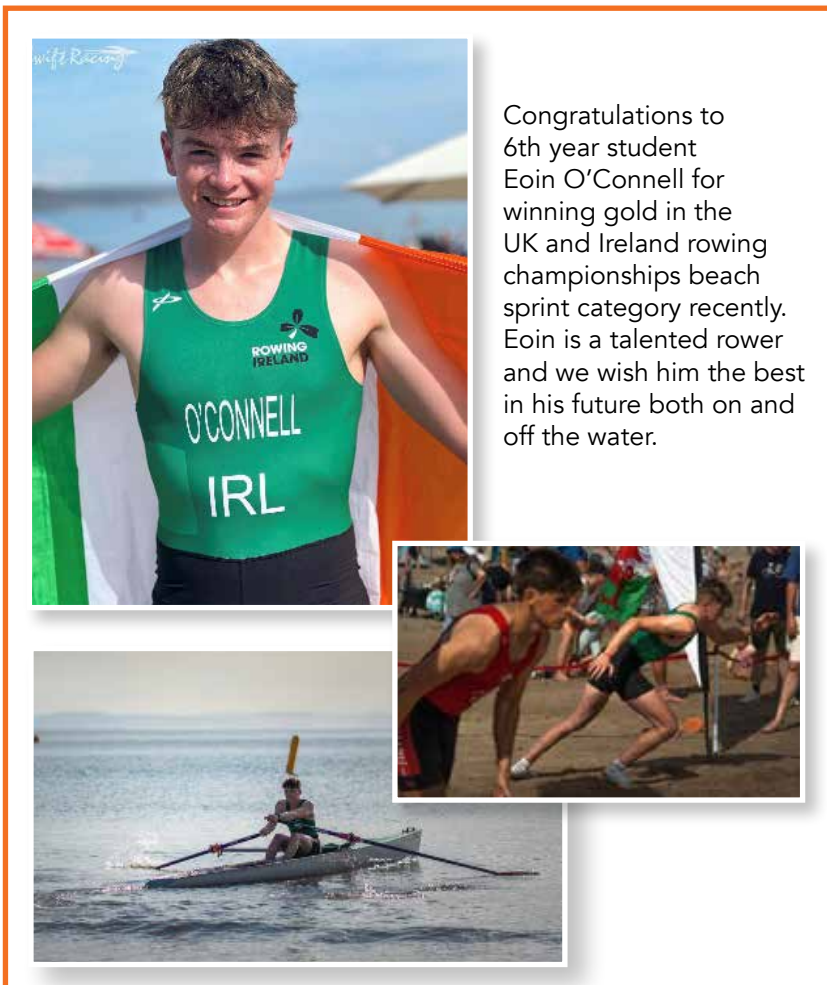
Through Cobh Pirates, apart from the game itself I have learned lessons that have enabled me to benefit from personal values taught to me by the game of rugby. Some of these include teamwork, a sense of physical well-being and resilience. When you play a sport like rugby from such a young age it is striking how quickly you grow to learn that you will not win the game by yourself. You need your team, and you are stronger as a team.

Without your team and equal persistent effort from everyone you are almost guaranteed to lose. Even with your team you will sometimes fail. You might fail often but it is a necessity, the trials and turbulence along the road to victory. Always remember persistence is necessary to prevail and overcome hurdles as a team.

In personal experience I have come to believe that many principles and important lessons learned in a sport like rugby are applicable to everyday life, such as, no matter how skilled you are you and how you live, your life is shaped by how you work alongside others to accomplish a common goal. That is true of rugby and life. If a team does not work well together the team will inevitably lose.

There is no such thing as a self-made man. He who is to thrive must communicate well with those around him otherwise he is inadequate. Often your toughest lesson on the field will go on to make you a tougher player and a better team. That much is true of life as well. If a man never loses, then he has never fought a tough battle in his life. That is what Cobh Pirates taught me.

By Josh O'Mahony.



Congratulations to 6th year student Eoin O'Connell for winning gold in the UK and Ireland rowing championships beach sprint category recently. Eoin is a talented rower and we wish him the best in his future both on and off the water.



Sports Day

The whole school was alive this year for our annual sports day, the day was packed with fun-filled activities such as obstacle courses, ball games, tug of war, sack races and much, much more. A huge shoutout to everyone involved in organising this day especially the PE department as you all did a fantastic job. Thankfully the weather was bright and sunny, amazing weather for an amazing day.

-Millie Griffin Lynch



5th Year medalists and participants enjoying the glorious sunshine on sports day.



An ensemble of some of the great sports teams in the school including junior and senior boys' and girls' football and soccer teams, boys U18 rowing medallists, volleyball champ Ozioma Mbakwe of the Cork Volleyball Academy, St. Peter's Francesca Kyamagero with her Irish basketball teammates and one of our basketball teams ready for action.



POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS SENIOR HURLING FINAL A HURLING TRADITION BORN IN ST.PETER'S

St. Peter's 1-19

Scoil Mhuire Kanturk 1-11

Kanturk may have been slight favourites heading into this Senior D final given the near home advantage they held at Banteer, and they lived up to that mantle in the opening exchanges, playing with aggression pace and no little skill to put St Peters under severe pressure.

Zac O' Brien hit St. Peters first point after a lovely run and strike from the wing to level it at a point a piece after 5 minutes however, by the time Sean Coughlan had pointed their second after 15 minutes Kanturk were in a 5-2 lead. Without the sterling work of Mark Lester at wing back, who was resolute in his work against the coming tide, that margin could have been much wider.

The issue at hand was clear to St Peters trainer Justin McCarthy – Kanturk's centre forward was roaming out the field as a third midfielder and hurling a lot of ball. McCarthy made the decision after twenty minutes to withdraw an inside forward, push centre back Dylan Barrett out as a third midfielder, and bring Darragh McCarthy into centre back, and it was not long before the move began to pay dividends.

Sean Coughlan, who had also been switched from corner to half forward; to get more involved, did just that when he conjured up a beautiful run and dummy before putting St.Peters within two. Then Dylan Barrett and Darragh McCarthy began to run the game around the centre of the field, which became the theme for the remainder of the proceedings. On 22 minutes Dylan produced a sensational block when a Kanturk score to stretch their lead looked certain and from the resulting play St.Peters were awarded a free which Darragh landed from all of 70 yards out, which was a moment in the game when instead of a possible 3 point deficit, Peters pulled it back to one, and suddenly the



town. Dylan followed this up 2 minutes later with another fine free from 65 yards to level it and 2 minutes after that, Darragh burst out from centre back and drove over a point from centre field that put Peters in front for the first time and the sixty-plus supporters who had made the trip went hoarse with delight.

Only a minute later captain James Desmond made a driving run that tore through the heart of the Kanturk defence, before being fouled 20 yards out. Liam Harrington stood over the free and smelled blood – instead of tapping it over the bar he buried it past the goalkeeper to put Peters firmly in the driving seat. Dylan added another before the break to make it 1-7 to 0-6 at half time.

Kanturk began the second half just as vigorously as the first. They pointed the first of the half to put only a goal between the sides and in that period the full back line of Conor





Hanlon, Andrew O'Mahony and Denis O'Brien stood up well to the pressure. Eoghan Farrell at centre field and Josh Horan at half back fought manfully to handle the onslaught and then came a period of exceptional hurling from Peters.

Sean Coughlan pointed two frees after wonderful sniping runs by Paul Canty left the Kanturk defenders with no option but to foul him. Then, either side of two more Sean Coughlan frees were three inspirational scores worthy of winning any game. The first was the point of the match. Dylan Barrett rose majestically to catch a puck out, found Sean Coughlan in midfield who played it to Darragh McCarthy who had thundered forward from centre back and his shot raised another white flag. The second was from James Desmond after wonderful tigerish half back play from Mark Lester to break up and attack, James picked up the loose ball at centre field and fired it over the bar from 65 yards out – every inch a captain's point in what was every inch a captain's display. The last of the three was from Dylan, again from way out the field, he stylishly found his range and the roars from the stand could be heard all the way to Passage. All those scores had come without reply, and what had been a tightly fought contest was now looking almost like one way traffic however, with 5 minutes to go Kanturk fought back and scored 1-1 to put them within 6 points, and suddenly the fight back was on.

However, Sean Coughlan; calmness personified, found his range with two more lovely frees after good work by Liam Harrington and substitute Noah O'Sullivan, before he added a third from play to stretch the lead to 8 and put Peters out of sight.

Justin McCarthy presented the trophy to captain James Desmond after the match and amongst his wise words said, **"there might not be a great hurling tradition in St.Peters, but a tradition was born today."** If that indeed does prove to be the case, then these players, this team and this performance will live long in the memory.

St. Peters Team: S.Moynihan, C.Hanlon (I.O'Sullivan 55mins), A.O'Mahony, D.O'Brien, M.Lester, D.Barrett, J.Horan, E.Farrell, J. Desmond, P.Canty (E.Craven 50mins), L.Harrington, Z.O'Brien O'Hanlon (N.O'Sullivan 55mins), S.Coughlan, T.Killen (J.Deasy 55 mins), E.Craven (D.McCarthy 20 mins)

Scorers

S.Coughlan 0-10 (6f)
 D.Barrett 0-4 (1f)
 D.McCarthy 0-3 (1f)
 L.Harrington 1-0
 J.Desmond 0-1
 Z.O'Brien O'Hanlon 0-1

Written by J O'Regan



SPORTS



It was great to be able to field several GAA teams in both codes at different age groups in St. Peter's last year. We will be hoping to do the same again this year! If any students have interest in getting involved in GAA in any capacity, please contact me, Mr. O' Regan or Mr. Hurley, or myself Mr. P O'Connor.

Mr O' Connor

St. Peter's Equestrian Club Outing to Dunsfort Riding Centre

Students from various years and levels went on their second outing to Dunsfort Riding Centre on the 7th of October, organized by Ms. O'Donovan. Split into two lessons, the riders had a fantastic time. The first lesson did lots of trotting and bending exercises. The second lesson included trotting, cantering and some jumping, which was great fun. For some riders, it was their first time jumping! The instructors at Dunsfort were brilliant, giving lots of advice and tips. Thanks to all at Dunsfort Riding Centre for having the group and especially to Ms. O' Donovan for organizing everything. We hope to go riding again very soon!

- Éadaoin Farrell



St. Peter's Primary School Sports Day, by Katie Cronin

On the 16th of May 2023 the PE department of our school St Peter's hosted its inaugural Primary School Sports Day, a brand-new initiative as part of our work with local primary schools. Students from 4th and 5th class along with their teachers from Star of The Sea Primary School (Passage), Scoil Barra Naofa (Monkstown) and St Luke's National School (Douglas) came and attended to compete in a series of sporting challenges throughout the day! They had a beautiful day. Both students and staff had a fantastic day welcoming some of our future students to the school. And huge Congratulations to Star of the Sea for being the first Peter's Sports day winners!.



Eco club members cycling the greenway from Passage to Cork.



Year Head, Mr Ryan with Joey Shaw 5th Year, who won a European silver medal for Taekwondo during the year. Congratulations Joey!



Congratulations to Muirinn Ahern, Cobh Pirates U14 Player of the Year.

CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION



Congratulations to all our class of 2023 on graduation day. The graduation ceremony was a great success again. We hope to see you all again some day and we wish you well in your future.



MINI COMPANY

In mini company, students learn the skills to bring their business ideas to reality. One company that was recognised by Enterprise Ireland was Hands On Bracelets. Hands On was a mini company that specialised in a creative and engaging product: a bracelet making kit accompanied by detailed instructions for crafting your own friendship bracelets. The kit provided customers with all the essential materials and tools needed to design beautiful and personalised bracelets.

With a strong focus on promoting creativity and fostering meaningful connections, Hands On aimed to inspire individuals of all ages to explore their artistic side while creating memorable gifts for friends and loved ones. This mini company not only encouraged creativity but also provides a fun and accessible way for people to express their affection and appreciation through the art of bracelet-making.

J O'Brien.

Digital Prospectus



EDWARD FARR

Accidentally and coincidentally dressed the same, Mr Ryan recently paid a visit to congratulate Leaving Cert high achiever Edward Farr who earned 589 points in the Leaving Cert 2023. Mr Ryan clearly remembers the day Edward sat his CAT tests in advance of becoming a First-year student at St. Peter's. Edward now has come full circle as he prepares to be a First year again, this time a UCC fresher. Edward's love of maths, no doubt fostered by his excellent maths teachers, sees him off to focus more on the subject that he loves. We wish him all the best in the future as we do all our class of '23 as they too head off, excited about what tomorrow might bring.



Meet the Newsletter team: Millie Griffin Lynch, Thomas Coughlan, Lea Vucko, Olivia Lenihan, Katie Cronin, Isadora De Moraes Da Rosa, Éadaoin Farrell and Josh O'Mahony (not pictured). If you are a student, teacher, parent or any member of the school community and would like to contribute in any way, or even join the team, please contact Mr Ryan.