



PCH

NEWSLETTER

October 24, 2020

Volume 1, Number 5



OICHE SHAMHNA 2020

Halloween 2020

TO OUR PCH COMMUNITY

As we all take a welcome break for midterm, we can reflect back on the term gone by with pride. We made it through a horrendously challenging 9 weeks with that inimitable Presentation spirit and ethos. This bumper newsletter shows that the essence of being a member of the Presentation community; *Be the best you can be*, is very much alive and well in PCH

We all know in PCH that education is not just about curricula and syllabi; it is about life, love, laughter, growth, friendship, challenges and being the best, you can be, in all spheres of life. This newsletter will remind us all of the teaching, learning and creativity that is thriving in PCH, despite the very difficult circumstances and restrictions. We are so proud of the way all of our community has adapted, engaged, grown and developed to adjust to the rigours of our new reality. It has not been easy, but we all got through the past 9 weeks by looking after each other.

There are a group of people working away in the background, who really make it possible for us to function everyday- they are our office and caretaking staff. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Margaret, Joan, Bernie, Ger, Bridie, Karen & Willie for keeping our school safe, clean, sanitised and working efficiently.

Wishing our whole school community, a safe, healthy and restful midterm break

Oiche Shamhna Shona Daoibh go léir

Aisling McAlpine, Ciarán Ryan & Orla Jackson

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ALL SHALL BE WELL AND ALL SHALL BE WELL, ALL MANNER OF THINGS SHALL BE WELL

JULIAN OF NORWICH

Everything is Going to be All Right (Picture of Clydagh Bay, Lough Corrib)



*How should I not be glad to contemplate
the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?
There will be dying, there will be dying,
but there is no need to go into that.
The poems flow from the hand unbidden
and the hidden source is the watchful heart.
The sun rises in spite of everything
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.
I lie here in a riot of sunlight
watching the day break and the clouds flying.
Everything is going to be all right.*

Derek Mahon, from *Selected Poems*

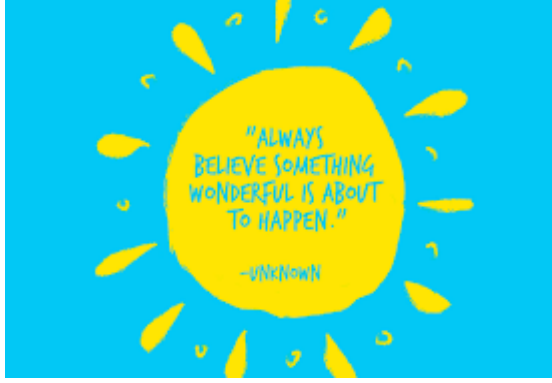


02. NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2020-2023

Sincere thanks to the outgoing Board of Management of PCH for their commitment, generosity and tenacity.

The new Board of Management for 2020-2023;

Chairperson – Mary Hoade, **Trustee Nominees**- Adrian McLynn, Anne Walsh, Ger Naughton, **Staff Nominees**- John Toner, Sinéad Conlon, **Parent Nominees**- Elimar Flynn, Austin O’Connell **Secretary**- Aisling McAlpine & **Recording Secretary**-Ciarán Ryan



03. Visits to Primary Schools

We were welcomed into 16 Primary Schools this week and distributed over 200 enrolment packs for 2021 already!

Thank you to all our colleagues and the students of the local primary schools for their warm welcome and continued support. We are a community and there is strength in numbers- ní neart go cur le chéile! Our 2021 enrolment form is also available to download from our website and further information may also be obtained by contacting the office -093 35408 or office@presheadford.ie



04. Slán & Beannacht to Concepta McHugh

Everyone in PCH would like to wish a very happy & healthy retirement to Ms Concepta McHugh, our near neighbour in Headford Boys' National School. Concepta has touched the lives of generations of Headford people during her stellar 38 year career here. We wish Mr Brian Qualter, a past pupil of PCH, congratulations and the best of luck as he takes up the position as Principal of HBNS

05. LEAVING CERT GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On October 9th the Leaving Cert Geography class with their teachers, Ms Andrea Walsh and Ms Colette Flanagan, undertook their vital geography field study against the stunning landscape of Clonbur. Here are some photos from that day;



06. LEADERSHIP FOR LIFE



A group of 5th year students are on the way to completing Module 2 of the Foroige Leadership for Life programme. The programme enables young people to develop the skills and qualities necessary to be effective leaders, as well as challenging them to use the skills for the betterment of society. Thank you to Ms Conlon and Ms Shaughnessy who are the trainers for this valuable programme

07. TY NEWS

Wellbeing/Bonding day

TY have had a busy term, learning to work with the restrictions has meant we adapt and change the style of TY. The year kicked off with an outdoor activity and team building day with the staff from Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre, here in PCH, where each student had an opportunity to get to know their class members and focus on their own wellbeing and team working skills. The students then settled into classes in each subject, setting goals and making plans for the new school year.



Poetry Slam

At the end of September, our TY students took part in a Poetry Slam workshop with Stephen Murray of Inspirelands. Students were given the opportunity to tap into their creative talents and each produced a written piece. One of the students details his experience here; *'Although I must admit that at the start I was sceptical, thinking it would be like an English class, this completely changed as soon as Poetry Slam started. Stephen was extremely charismatic and*

used a lot of humour and anecdotes to help us relate to him. We learned that poetry isn't about some old guy who died a century or two ago but rather it's an expression of emotion'.

You can browse the lyricisms of this very bright bunch on our school website. www.presheadford.ie



FORENSIC FUN

October saw a very interesting forensic workshop with Alison from Forensic Fun. The students had prepared for the workshop by learning about the Forensic science techniques in science class and then reviewed the evidence gathered after the assassination of JFK. They also enjoyed a look at the ballistics of the case. They evaluated the various conspiracy theory associated with the case. Hopefully the critical thinking skills got a good work out.

Next up on the calendar of extra activities was the launch of the enterprise competition and seeds set for a new set of PCH entrepreneurs. We will hopefully see the fruits of their brainstorming soon as these enterprises start peddling their wares. Mid October saw a two-day workshop with barrister James Fahy, they learnt a lot about legal system and even ran a mock trial at the end of the day. We assured all charges have been dropped against the defendant on the day.

The Holocaust Crocus Project

This year a number of our Transition Year students are taking part in the Holocaust Education Trust Crocus Project. The Crocus Project is an Irish initiative whereby yellow crocuses are planted in memory of the one and a half million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust. The yellow flowers are representative of the Star of David which the Jews were forced to wear during World War II. The Crocus blooms around the end of January, about the same time as International Holocaust Memorial Day and each Crocus that blooms will represent a child that lost their life. This last week, the Transition Years students that volunteered to take part in this initiative, were busy planting the Crocus bulbs. After the midterm break they will turn their attention to completing research project work based on some of the lives lost during the Holocaust.



The Holocaust Crocus Project

TY RADIO

Wednesday October 21st saw, or heard, the successful launch of TY radio. The halls of the school rang out with interesting chat and well-chosen beats to really start of the day off with an upbeat mood. It is fair to say TY radio is going to be a resounding success. Stay tuned every Wednesday and Friday from 8.45 to 9.00 am.



TY DRUMMING WORKSHOP



More beats filled the halls on Thursday and the TYs really got into the beat with a drumming workshop that really has to be heard to be believed. Team work really played a vital role in getting the music flowing.

TY TRICK OR TREAT FOR TEMPLE STREET

The TY students have run a pumpkin carving competition and a fancy-dress competition in aid of a very worthy cause, Temple Street Children's hospital. Everyone had such fun on Friday October 23rd, it really helped to lift the spirits and relieve some of the stresses and strains of the past term and all for a very worthy cause. Here is a selection of pictures of teachers – as you have never seen them before! There will be lots more pictures of students and staff in fancy dress on our website.



TY DRIVER'S EDUCATION

As mid-term arrives the TYs can enjoy a rest and look forward to Drivers education on Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th November.

08. HOME ECONOMICS NEWS

INTERIOR DESIGN PROJECTS



A beautiful interior design project by Chloe McPadden 3A



A lovely bedroom design by Aimee Madden 3B

The First Year Home Economics Apple Tree- every apple has a unique flavour!



FIRST YEAR FOOD SUSTAINABILITY COMPETITION- WELL DONE!



09. FANTASY FOOTBALL

After 3 weeks of gameplay so far, and 2 match days left in the month, Darragh McNally is just about pipping Kieran McDonagh and John Cannon to the number one spot by 4 points. The top 10 is represented by someone from every year in the school so well done to everyone who is getting involved. We also have Laoise Halloran representing the girls in 7th place. Representing the teachers, we have Mr Moran in 1st (43rd overall), Mr Biggins in 2nd (46th) and Mr O'Connell in 3rd (49th), where there is much room for improvement over the midterm.

Thanks to everyone who has got involved. We have a total of 102 teams overall, which was a much bigger response than anticipated. It's all to play for over the break and will be interesting to see who comes out on top after the 1st month. Enjoy the break and see you all in November

All the best

Mr O'Connell



10. SEOMRA SEODA

We really enjoyed welcoming back all of our Seomra Seoda students this year with the addition of one new first year member.

Everyone has settled in well and we've enjoyed sharing stories about our time during lockdown and our hopes for the coming year.

Students are taking part in many enjoyable activities including yoga, exercise, meditation, arts and crafts, science, I.C.T. and table tennis as well as home economics, S.P.H.E., wellbeing, literacy and numeracy activities.

Our break and lunchtime club, run by our S.N.A.'s, is still as popular as ever.

Unfortunately, the current restrictions are putting a stop to our regular outings, but we hope to engage in other worthwhile in-school activities such as fundraisers and awareness weeks throughout the year to make up for this.

We wish our students in Seomra Seoda all the very best for the coming year. We are delighted to see them back and doing so well.



11. FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

We are thrilled to welcome our three foreign language assistants to PCH. Ella Grigoleit from Germany, Ilona Teste from France and Carmen Beltran from Spain. The three ladies made a huge personal sacrifice to be with us here in PCH, they left their friends and families behind and isolated for nearly 3 weeks before joining us here on October 1st. We are truly blessed to be able to offer our students this wonderful opportunity to speak a modern foreign language with native speakers.



12. AIDEEN CONNEELY

Our wonderful 2nd year student, Aideen Conneely 2C, has yet again donated her beautiful long blonde hair for a very worthy cause- Well done, Aideen.



13. FIRST YEAR WELLBEING AND BONDING DAY

Each year, our first years take part in a day long mindfulness retreat. Of course, as with many things, this was not possible with restrictions this year. However, in true indomitable Presentation style, that did not stop us. Ms O'Shaughnessy , our School Chaplain, brought Petersburg Outdoor Activity Centre to PCH. Our First Year's took part in bonding and team building activities which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



14. CHAPLAINCY

Our School Chaplain, Ms Shaughnessy, raises our spirits with a Sacred Space and a Friday Thought each week. This is so welcome in such bleak and dreary times



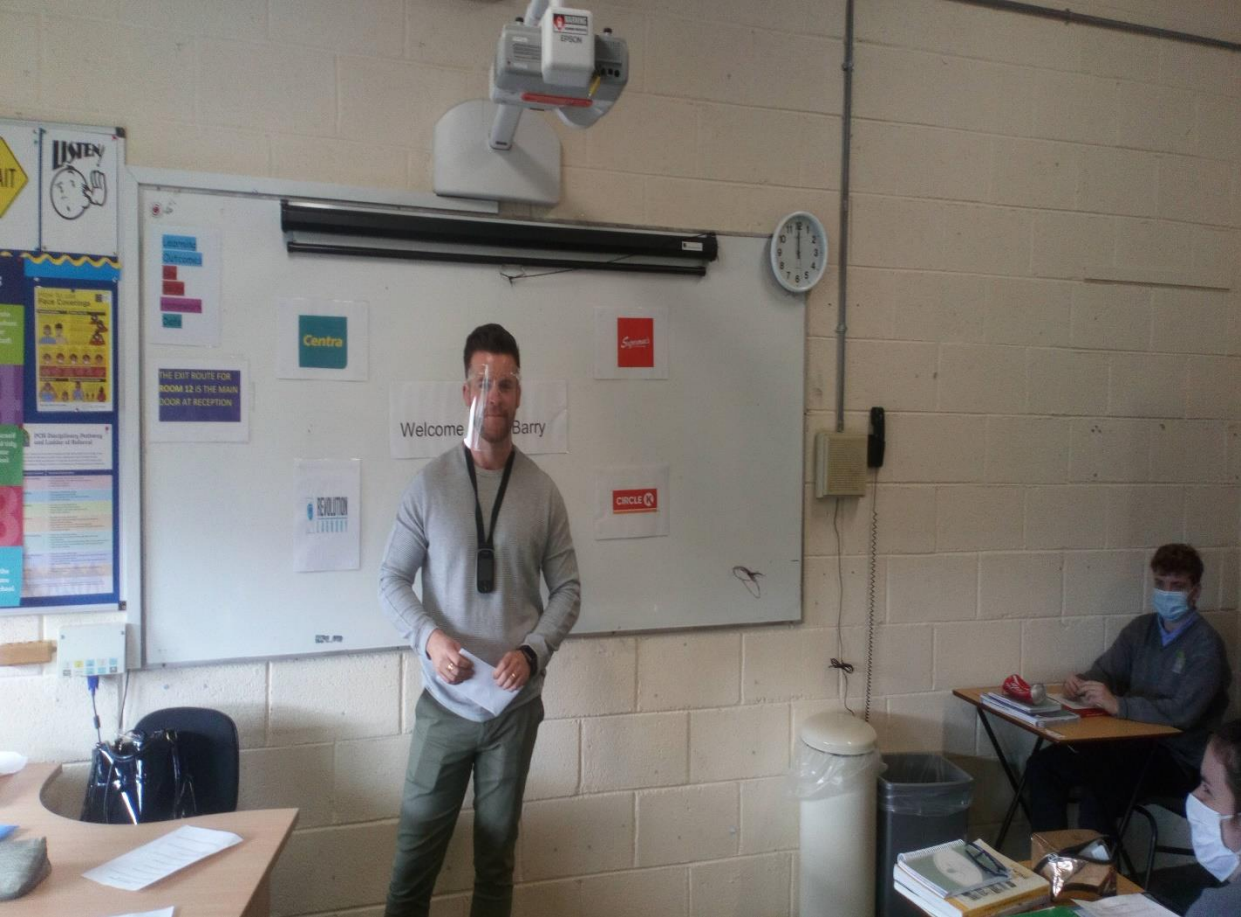
15. GREEN SCHOOLS

You may remember during the lockdown, we were all delighted to hear the good news that PCH had been awarded its first Green Flag! The flag arrived recently and here is a picture of the Committee proudly unfurling their well-deserved flag!



16. LEAVING CERT & LCVP NEWS

Ms McDonagh's LCVP class met with local entrepreneur and well known past pupil, Barry Monaghan, as part of their LCVP course/activities. Barry gave them lots of tips and guidance on developing their organisational and planning skills.



Barry Monaghan Visiting PCH



And finally, some leaving certs kicking back and chilling with their Ukeleles- courtesy of Ms Cunningham!

17. CONTACT DETAILS AND COVID 19 GUIDELINES

USEFUL EMAIL ADDRESSES:

YEAR HEADS

1ST YEAR -MR SEÁN CONLON; sean.conlon@presheadford.ie

2ND YEAR- MS SUSAN CURRAN; susan.curran@presheadford

3RD YEAR- MS ANITA MCGONAGLE; anita.mcgonagle@preheadford.ie

5TH YEAR & TY MS SARAH WITHERO; sarah.withero@presheadford.ie

6TH YEAR/LCA MR BRENDAN O'MAHONEY- brendan.mahoney@presheadford.ie

SCHOOL OFFICE office@presheadford.ie

CAREER GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS

MS JOANNE WHITNEY; joanne.whitney@presheadford.ie

MR JOHN SLATTERY; john.slattery@presheadford.ie

MS CATHY COSTELLO; cathy.costello@presheadford.ie

LATEST GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES ON COVID 19 FOR SCHOOLS

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7acad-reopening-our-post-primary-schools/>

A COVID POEM FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

T'was the week before half term and all through the land
The teachers were tired of washing their hands
Of cleaning the desks, and the drawers and the pens
Of reminding their class not to cuddle their friends
Of hand gel and soap, of bleach and of wipes
Of passwords and google and all things that swipe
Of trying to stand at the length of a lion
From friends whose shoulders they wanted to cry on
T'was the week before half term and all through the land
The parents were trying to make up great plans
That don't involve meeting, or greeting, or places
That in these strange times don't resemble safe spaces
They look to the teachers, and all they have done
To make school inviting, inspiring and fun
To see past the problems, the issues and rules
To bring back the joy and excitement of school
Thank you for being the safe place, the learning
And for standing there strong with the children returning
For finding solutions that don't feel so strange
With no funds or magicians to help you arrange
For stories and spellings and phonics and play
For taking the fear of this moment away.

October 2020