

First Year Newsletter

07-04-2022

YEAR HEAD'S MESSAGE

We are just at the end of our penultimate term and the first year students are looking forward to a well deserved 2 week break for Easter. They have been very busy academically and getting involved in all their favourite sports and activities.

Here are the final school dates to put in your calendar

April 9th : Easter Break begins.

April 25th : Return after the Easter Break.

May 2nd : Bank Holiday.

June 3rd : Last day of timetabled classes

As students head into this last term, it is important to support them at home as they strive to do their best for their summer exams. Keeping up a regular routine each evening regarding homework, both written and learning will create a positive learning environment for your child. A little extra help with study plans and supervising their homework each evening for the coming weeks will help your child to truly reach their full potential in each of their subjects.

As parents, the following may be helpful

1. Check VShare for emails from the Year Head
2. Check your child's journal every night
3. Make sure subjects are written into the journal at the weekend for the week ahead
4. Make sure all homework, both written & learning are completed each evening
5. Supervise homework each evening
6. Encourage your child to make out a study plan each week to help them prepare for their summer tests

On that note, I would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Enjoy the two week Easter break with your family and friends. I hope the Easter Bunny delivers eggs in abundance this year

Kindest Regards

Michelle

Year Head

THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

The school website has many documents and pages that parents might find useful. In the documents section you will see several documents that are developed to help students learn effectively, keep students safe, enforce out rules consistently and fairly and help provide the best possible learning environment. Recently a number of policies went through the various stages of review and were ratified by the Board of Management. One that is of extreme importance to us is the recently ratified Policy on Countering Bullying Behaviour. The policy aims develop a positive school culture and climate and to ensure effective treatment for reported cases of bullying. If you have a few minutes, it would be well worth the read <https://www.saintcaimins.ie/policies>



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many of our first years have joined the St. Caimin's Young SVP. They have volunteered their time to create awareness and raise funds for a worthy cause while having fun as a group engaging in a variety of activities.

They have been involved in a St. Valentine's Cake Sale for Shannon SVP.

They created positive quotes and a chocolate bar for the leaving cert students, which they placed on each student's desk on the first morning of their mock exams.

Many of these students attended the Mid West SVP Youth Day where Olive and Sophie sang beautiful solo's as part of our group performance.

This week they had an Easter Competition to guess the amount of Easter treats in a jar which created a real buzz at break and lunchtime as many students flocked to the table and tried various ways and formulas to calculate the number of eggs on display.

This Friday they are holding a Cake Sale for Autism Assistance Dog's Ireland.

They are an excellent group of young students, working together to make a big difference in our community. Well done to all involved



SVP GROUP



BUSY AT WORK



MID WEST YOUTH
DAY

CELEBRATING NEURODIVERSITY IN ST. CAIMIN'S

April is widely celebrated all over the world as *Autism Awareness Month*. On Thursday the 7th of April, we celebrated Autism Awareness Day in school. The main aim of the day was to raise awareness of autism throughout our school community, by sharing information and resources with staff and students. Here are some of the posters that will be on display in school throughout the month of April:

On Autism Awareness Day, students and staff were encouraged to wear an item of blue clothing, in recognition of Autism Awareness Day and those on the Autism Spectrum in our school community. Students also took part in AsIAm's *Same Chance Challenge* – a Heads or Tails Tournament, which was a lot of fun and promoted the idea that all students deserve the same chance when it comes to their education. In addition, teachers shared a video with students which heard the thoughts of some autistic students in our school community in response to the question: *"What would you like people to know about autism?"*. One student's response to this question was;

"I would like people to know that it is okay to have autism.

Even I didn't really know too much about autism until I was 12.

So, if you think someone is acting a bit strange or makes weird noises, just think about autism and then you will know what they are doing and understand them better."

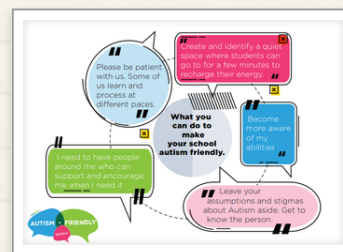
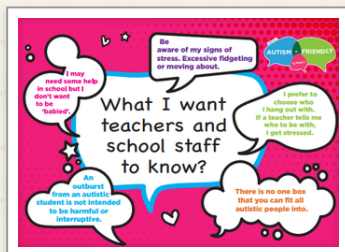
We also heard from some staff members about what they have learned from teaching students on the Autism Spectrum. One teacher said;

"Teaching students with autism has shown me how important it is to adapt to the students in front of us.

All students learn differently, and every child is capable of learning.

Working with these students has taught me to be more patient, understanding and to be mindful

of how the child with autism experiences the world around them."



TALENT IN ABUNDANCE - FIRST YEAR PLAYS

On Friday the 4th of March we enjoyed an action-packed hour of entertainment and laughter, thanks to the wonderful students of Class Pádraig and Class Séadna.

I had the pleasure of getting a sneak preview of superb talent on show when I was allowed to attend their rehearsals that morning. As students brushed their nerves aside, excitement took over as they brought their characters to life in each showcase.

Based on the premise of a fictional storyline that centres around robbery, retribution and revenge, our first-year English students were tasked with creating a script, before facing the even greater task of performing it live. All students worked exceptionally hard to perfect their scripts, and rose to the challenge, performing their parts very well on the day.

Mr. Cunningham, who was in attendance on the day, praised the students' efforts. He commended their performances, saying "you are incredibly brave to stand up here in front of your classmates and teachers and perform. That is not an easy task, so you should be very happy with yourselves."

Every student who participated in the event received a unique award, in recognition of their outstanding commitment, bravery and enthusiasm. Despite facing some very stiff competition, the award for "Best Garda" was awarded to Ava Carroll, for her impressive performance as a "no-nonsense" Bean Garda. Other awards on the day included "Best Dramatic Performance", "Award for going the extra smile" and "Best use of a prop" award. The "Rising Star" award went to Class Pádraig student, Ciarán Ryan, for his outstanding role as an angry father!

Thanks to all teachers and students who came along to the Hub to enjoy this event. We look forward to creating more drama soon!



WELLBEING ART EXHIBITION

Ms. Christie & Ms. Whitty organised a cross curricular art exhibition on the theme of wellbeing for Wellbeing week 2022.

All students were invited to put their creative hats on and draw or paint a piece of work based on Wellbeing.

Student's work was showcased & exhibited all around the school for our entire community to enjoy. Well done to all who participated.



WELLBEING POSTER



WELLBEING POSTER



WELLBEING POSTER

FIRST YEAR GIRL'S SOCCER

Many of our first year girls taking part in the soccer team this year, are kicking a football competitively for the first time thanks to the continued efforts and co-operation between staff, students and parent/guardians. This year has proven very successful to date in fostering and developing an ethos of friendship, inclusion, and most definitely, perseverance. With a squad depth of over twenty girls keen to represent their school on the pitch, we are incredibly proud of our girls turning up week-in-week-out to continue honing their skills which will ultimately help them in their future both on and off the pitch. We look forward to their continued development, and look forward with anticipation to their continued success.

The First Year girls played their first league match of the season on Thursday 10th February. Their opponents were Colaiste Mhuire, Ennis and in a very even match with many chances on both sides, the Ennis team were victorious with a score line of 2-0. This was a very encouraging performance by St. Caimin's girls as well as being a very enjoyable day out. Well done to all



FIRST YEAR BOY'S SOCCER

The name St. Caimin's has well and truly established itself as synonymous with sporting accolades. Our first year boys' team can attest to such a statement, having won multiple matches this year already. Star performances include spectacles from individuals such as Zak Phelan and Colin Cavanagh, with heroics between the posts in the form of Dylan Tobin and his acrobatic penalty saving prowess. These are the makings of a formidable force with this cohort of students, which excites both staff and student bodies to conceptualise what the future may hold for this team.

Getting our students involved in extra-curricular activities like this proves a vital component to their lived experience in the school community. Not only does it allow the students the opportunity to create new friendships and memories with their peers, but it also helps to promote a sense of pride and respect for the school's badge which they wear, and what it represents to both the school and the wider community. Our first year students are doing us proud and we hope that they continue this sporting journey throughout their years in St. Caimin's.

Well done to the first year boys soccer team on their 4-0 win today in the first round of the Munster Cup when they came up against a strong side from St. Joseoh's, Tulla.

Goals were scored by Zac Phelan (2), Colin Cavanagh and Godson Onyebuchi.

Well done to Dylan Tobin on securing a clean sheet in goal with a brilliant second half penalty save.



Best foot forward



Team Pic



On target

GEOGRAPHY VALENTINE'S CARDS

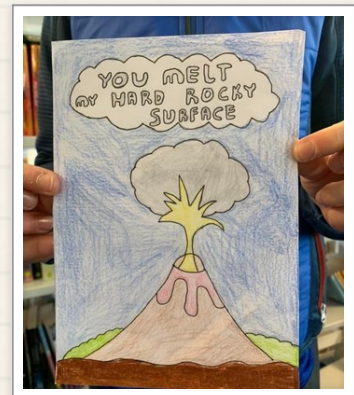
Creativity really shone through when Ms. Ryan Quinn's geography class combined their art skills with their geography skill to come up with captions and drawings to illustrate the love on Valentine's Day. Geography students were tasked with using some quick thinking to create an array of topical Valentine's cards. The results speak for themselves on this one.



Love is in the air ♥



CLASS PADRAIG

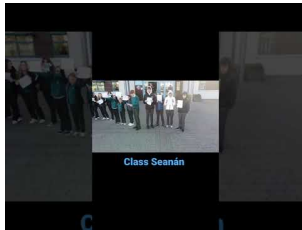


Geography entwined with Love

ENGLISH POETRY

Students of class Seanán showed their enthusiasm for poetry as we approached the Easter Break. While studying the illustrious Seamus Heaney, students were given the chance to express their views on his use of imagery within his poem *Digging*. Each student drew their favourite image from the poem before going outside to present their finished projects before our panel of judges, all with the chance of winning an Easter egg before heading away on their much earned Easter Break. "Between my finger and my thumb, The squat pen rests; snug as a gun". Class Seanán are a credit to Heaney's words, as they portray their poetic prowess with pen in hand.

Click a link below to watch the competition in action !!!!



8 April 2022

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)



