



The Caimin's Connection

Keeping you up to date with the latest news in our school community

TYA (Willow, Conor, Grace, Harrison)

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Toy Show Treasures - by Harrison Wang

It's that wonderful time of the year again – a time when many of us get the Christmas decorations down from the attic and gather around the fire to watch some great Christmas television while gorging ourselves on sweets. For many of us, there is one show that undoubtedly marks the beginning of the festive season: this is of course, The Late Late Toy Show. This year had a lot of people talking, with Patrick Kielty making his debut as the new host. This year, the Elf-themed show was watched by over 1.7 million people and raised over €3.6 million for the Toy Show Appeal.

To get into the Christmas spirit, I spoke to students from across the school community to find out about their Toy Show traditions, their thoughts on this year's show, and take a trip down memory lane to think about some of their all-time favourite Christmas presents!

Transition Year student Emma was one of the many students who tuned in to this year's toy show with her family. She said, *"I got into my Christmas pyjamas and me and my mom decided to order a Chinese. On her way back, she picked up some essential snacks for the show. We had pringles, M&M's, and snuggled into a blanket. We really enjoyed the show this year."*

Róisín also enjoyed the toy show this year. When asked about her highlights she said, *"when Peter O'Mahony and Bunde Aki surprised the boy who sang Ireland's Call. My favourite person on the show was of course Sheamie from Kilfenora. I thought he was hilarious, but he was very good at chatting to Patrick as well."*

Mike Brew in TY told me, *"I watched the toy show with my family, and I liked the kid who dressed up as 'Elf-vis' Presley,"* while 2nd year student Hannah described the new presenter as *"weird, but he did a lot to include everyone."*



When asked about her toy show traditions, first year student Áine added, *"My toy show tradition is getting matching pyjamas with my family. This year, I even got one for my dog!"*

Alex Hayes really enjoyed the toy show this year. Speaking of his personal highlight, he said, *"One of the guests Sheamie was great craic. He made the show really good and is a Clare man which made it even better."*

Molly also tuned into the show. She said, *"My favourite act was Elvis. He was so funny playing his guitar. I also enjoyed Sheamie from Clare with his hair and his accent. I heard him on the radio the other day and I had a good laugh. I already can't wait to watch it again next year!"*

Speaking about her all-time favourite Christmas presents, first year student Savannah said, *"It is a tie between my Nintendo Switch and Drawing Tablet. I got my switch the year it came out, and to this day, I still use it constantly."* In addition, first year Danny told us that his favourite ever Christmas present had to be his PlayStation 5. He said, *"I didn't expect to get it, but when I woke up and went down the stairs my mom was recording us, and I got a really big shock when I saw it. I played it for so long, it was great."*

Latest News in St. Caimin's



Concern Debates: My Journey So Far – by Willow Leenane

For the last couple of weeks, I have been working hard with the St. Caimin's school debate team. Led by our amazing captain Micheala Harden, and our teacher Ms. McDonnell, our debate team has been participating in the *Concern Debates* program. The Concern Debates is part of Concern Worldwide, Ireland's largest aid and humanitarian agency. The Concern Debates program is Concern Worldwide's flagship education programme for schools, helping educate students on certain worldwide issues. The Concern Debates has been running for almost 40 years and has engaged over 60,000 people. Every year, more than 150 schools take part in Concern's program, giving students the opportunity to research, explore and debate defining issues of today.

The Concern Debates are held in a series of knock out stages, with each school getting a score out of five (five being the highest and zero being the lowest number of points you can score). The first knockout stage is known as the League Phase and takes place between September and December. Each school takes part in three debates which are held online on Zoom. To make it through to the knock out stage, each school should aim to score at least 3 points in their debates.

In January, the top 64 schools that make it out of the League Phase will progress into the knockout stages, which, like the League Phase, is continued online. There are three knockout phases in this league with the top 32 schools, top 16 schools, and top 8 schools in Ireland. The Quarter finals takes place in March and will be held in person with the top 8 schools. The debates are held in mid-way venues arranged by the Concern Debate team.

The Semi-Finals are held in Dublin in April. The Final will take place in the Helix, Dublin on May 2nd, 2024. At the moment we are in the League phase and are unfortunately at zero points.

For the first motion we were the proposition, tasked with proposing the motion; *"Africa will regret its reliance on China"*. We were against Loreto school in Kilkenny. The structure of every debate is the same, with each opposing in side taking it in turns to speak their views and respond to the other team through refutation and rebuttals. In every debate, the captain of the proposition always starts first and finishes last. It is important during your debate to refute and rebut the other team's speakers as much as possible, and because of this, it is important to listen to the other speakers for points you can use.

When debating, all debaters must treat the opposing side with courtesy and respect. There are four speakers in each debate team, including the team captain. During the debate, the captain speaks twice, first, during their opening speech and last in their closing speech. You also have a Chairperson - who introduces each speaker - and a time keeper. Each debater has 4 minutes and 30 seconds to debate and refute. Your debate cannot be less than 4 minutes and can't be over 4 and half minutes or your team will be docked marks. Even though you have limited time during your debate, it is important to talk slowly and pace yourself, adding emphasis to important parts of your speech.



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Debaters should be confident, using notes as little as possible and be passionate about the subject. When debating, debaters should use body language, eye contact and vary their tone to keep the audience captivated. In our debate, I was the fourth speaker, the second last speaker in our team before our captain. My topic that I had to debate was how China was strategically using Africa in international contexts for their own benefit for example, within the United Nations and how African countries are suffering because of the extreme debt China has put them in. For our next debate we are against an all-girls school in Limerick. Since we were the proposing speech last debate this time we are the opposition. Our topic is; *"African Nations must be allowed to develop fossil fuels resources to help lift their people out of poverty"* my debate topic that I am discussing is on the climate change effects that African nations experience. We just finished the debate a few days ago, I think it went well

and we will receive our results around next week. The motion for the last debate of the league phase in which we have to propose is *"Big Business is indifferent to the Sustainable Development Goals"*. We have started our preparation for this debate already and we are hoping to get the official debate done soon. Our debate team usually meets every lunchtime and after school to prepare for our upcoming debate topics and to practice our speeches. Being in this debate team is extremely time consuming but it's worth it. I love taking part in the concern debates program not only do I get to learn more about pressing issues going on in our world today but taking part in these debates has helped me with my public speaking and with my confidence. Debating and being able to speak in public is an extremely important skill, a skill in which I think everyone should learn once in their lives. Being part of the concern debates program and our schools debate club has taught me this skill and for that I am extremely grateful.

Senior Boys Football Update – by Conor Rafferty

On Wednesday the 22nd of November, our U19 footballers made the trip to West Limerick to take on Glanmire Community College of Cork in Round 2 of the Munster Schools Football Championship.

The game was a very close encounter with just the bare minimum separating the teams at the full-time whistle. It was a close game from the first whistle to the last, with a single point as the difference at half time, with Caimin's leading 1-4 to Glanmire's 1-3. The goals proved crucial and our goal scorers on the day were Finn Murphy, Jack O' Halloran and Kevin Hanley.

Caimin's won the game with a final scoreline of 3-5 to Glanmire's 2-7. We now move into the next round and hope to repeat the Munster success of our U16's team last year. We wish the lads the best of luck in the next round of the Munster Championship.

Meanwhile, this same group of footballers have progressed to the Clare Schools Final, following a victory over St. Micheal's Community College, Kilmihil in the

semi-final. The game was played earlier this week and ended with a scoreline of 2-13 to 2-08 to Caimin's. We wish all the players and management team involved the best of luck in the final and will keep you up to date on the details of this game both here and on the St. Caimin's Community School Instagram page.



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Photography Club – by Willow Leenane

For the last two years, I have been a member of the Photography Club here in school. The Caimin's Photography Club started up two years ago and is organised by Ms. Masterson. Being a part of photography club, I get to learn more about photography and the art of taking photos. We get to learn about the rule of thirds, which is when you break your camera into grids so that you have nine parts. This means you can put your subject matter in frame. We learned about different camera angles; some different camera angles are Low Angle which is when you hold the camera at a height lower than your eye. Eye level is another camera angle, eye level is referred to when the level of your camera is placed at the same height as the eyes of the characters in your frame.



Bird's Eye view is the highest camera angle you can use. This is when you get above the scene and look straight down. This angle is great for looking down and seeing all the details of a scene from above. A Bird's Eye view is an unusual angle because you're not normally looking down on a scene. Any angle that is beyond your usual daily experience will make your photo more interesting to look at. You can also draw digitally on top of your photo once you have taken it. This can make your photo more interesting and visually appealing.

As a group, we meet every Monday at lunchtime. We show the group the photos that we took of the last week's theme, we discuss our thoughts and ideas behind the photo and our techniques that we used.



Photography Club is a great way to share your work and ideas with others. After we critique the pictures we have taken, we are given a theme that we have to take for the next week. The prompts that we get for photography club can be virtually anything, but they are usually themed around certain calendar events. For example, around holidays, we have Christmas and Halloween themes and for Stand-Up Week and Green Week in the school, we had to create photos around these events.

Some themes we have explored in photography to date are; hands, patterns, weird camera angles, autumn/Halloween and circles in your environment. We also had the opportunity to take part in multiple photography competitions such as the Clare Comhairle na nóg winter competition. Last year, we had a photography exhibition within the school, to show our photos that we have taken over the school year, and we are trying to have another photography exhibition this year.

Being a part of photography club is an enriching experience, since this club gives me the opportunity to create art. I love being a part of a group setting because it is so beneficial for many reasons. For one, we are constantly getting critiques and feedback from other members and Ms Masterson. This means I am constantly improving my photography skills. If you have an interest in photography and want to join the club in school, you can contact Ms. Masterson and get involved!

Latest News in St. Caimin's

School Musical Update – by Harrison Wang

Since last we reported on the school musical, we had only given a small insight into the students and their roles following the conclusion of auditions, but as the weeks have gone by, the whole school has been itching to pitch in in any possible way, from painting sets to advertising on social media. From those with no expertise to those with years on stage, musical fever has taken over.

I sat down with some of the cast members to fill us in with all things musical as of late. Transition Year student Kylie O'Neill is one of the first cast members I spoke with. Kylei is one of many students playing secondary roles in the musical. She explained, *"I'm playing Kim. I'm cheerleader and joining the school at the start of the musical"*. She added, *"We've been rehearsing every day after school, which is nice. The rehearsals are fairly stressful, its challenging to stay up to date and know the moves!"*.

I also sat down with LC1 student David Nslongia, who, like main lead Callum Sutton, has no experience with musicals or performing on stage. When I asked him

about the role he is playing in our school's upcoming production of 'Back to the 80's', David responded, *"Kirk Keaton, the best friend of the main character."* I then asked him what the hardest part of the production has been. He said, *"The singing has been the hardest for me."*

The most interesting and insightful interview I had was with music teacher and head producer/director of the musical, Ms. Killeen. When I asked her to tell me a little more about her role, she responded, *"My job is to make sure leads are ready for their solos and the choir has practised for their harmonies"*. I then went on to ask her what the hardest part of the production has been so far, to which she replied, *"Getting everybody together for rehearsals."* Speaking about the most enjoyable part of her role, she said, *"Hearing the harmonies come together, it's like hearing the fruits of your labour."*

Many thanks to Kylie, David and Ms. Killeen for taking the time to bring us up to date on the musical and we wish you all the best of luck in the shows. Break a leg!

The St. Caimin's musical 'Back to the 80's' will take place on the 19th and 20th of December in the PE Hall and promises to be two great nights of fun and entertainment. Doors open at 6.45 pm, show starts at 7.30 pm. If you want to buy tickets, head to the St. Caimin's Instagram Page for more information.

TY Movement Programme

This week marked the start of our movement programme for some Junior Cycle students. 26 Transition Year students have been trained up as movement coaches and will be leading the sessions over the coming weeks, ably assisted by our SNA's and class teachers.



Junior Girls Soccer – by Grace Quinn

On the 22nd of November, our Junior girls' soccer team took on St. Joseph's of Tulla in their third match of the year. The match was held at Lees Road in Ennis. The weather was cold and wet but that didn't stop our girls from performing as from the warmup they were concentrating and ready to go. Just before the start of the match, Mr. Corbett had a word with the girls and told them the team and ran through the tactics for the match.

Caimin's started the game off strong having many shots at goal, but they were just unlucky with the finish. Unfortunately, they conceded an early goal which left the score 1-0 after 25 minutes. Then, following a great pass to Kate Kennedy, followed by a great first touch, the Transition Year student blasted the ball into the net to equalise the sides.

Soon after this, Tulla raided down the right wing and after a series of passes it was 2-1 in the blink of an eye. With half time fast approaching and Caimin's backs under pressure, we eventually conceded another goal to leave the half time score hanging at 3-1.

Following a firm team talk at half time, Caimin's started the second half with greater purpose despite the deteriorating weather conditions. This positive approach eventually paid off when Jodi Dunne braced through the strong Tulla defence to score a brilliant goal to make it 3-2. At this point, Caimin's made a number of substitutions which added fresh legs in the testing conditions. Caimin's were further rewarded for their efforts when following some intricate passing, Aibhe Ring played an incredible pass to Aibhe O' Leary to score a spectacular equaliser. The game ended in a draw, at 3-3, in a well contested match which was refereed fairly by the match official. Overall, it was great performance by the girls and roll on the next fixture.

Senior Boys Football Update – by Conor Rafferty

On Tuesday the 29th of November, the St. Caimin's U17 soccer team travelled to Nenagh, Co. Tipperary to play a school's U17 Munster cup game. The match kicked off at 11:30 am.

The first half was a tame enough half. There wasn't much action until Nenagh went 1-0 up after their number 11 scored a goal just a few minutes before half time. Only one substitution for St. Caimin's was made at half time, our super-sub, Patrick Lonergan.

The second half went well for Caimin's, and we were by far the better team until one of our midfielders, Kevin Hanley, got sent off in controversial circumstances. A few minutes after the red card, Lee Maguire scored a great goal, equalizing the game for us. Five minutes later, Lee Maguire scored his second goal, putting Caimin's in the lead at 2-1. All was going well and we looked like we were about to hold on but the referee played a bit more extra time than he should have and

during the time he added on, Nenagh equalized with just seconds of the match remaining, bringing the game to extra time.

Both sides agreed to play the extra time rather than go straight to penalties. One substitution was made on the Caimin's team with Kian Dempsey coming off and Denis coming on. During the first half of extra time, the referee gave away a few controversial decisions but at the end of the half it was still all square.

Both teams went straight into the second half looking for a winner but unfortunately disaster struck early on with the Caimin's defense giving away a penalty. The Tipperary side's number 11 scored the penalty. The Caimin's players did all they could to get the equalizer, but it wasn't enough as the referee blew the whistle for full time. Unfortunately, the boys are now out of Munster, but they still have The North Munster to look forward to. The best player for Caimin's on the day was Bridge United star Lee Maguire.