



Christian Brothers College Monkstown Park *Newsletter*

a positive environment where learning is valued



Message from the Principal

As we start out on our second term of the academic year 2014/15 in CBC, I would like to wish all our pupils, parents and members of the CBC community a happy new year.

We have just completed a long term with plenty of activity both in and outside of the school. Our Official Opening was a fabulous occasion and I would like to thank all who were involved from staff, pupils, parents and Fr. Coady in Monkstown Parish.

The American Tea Party was once again a great success with valuable funds being raised for rugby in the school. Our Seniors and Juniors have been

working hard in the Junior and Senior leagues, cup draws have been made and We would like to wish them well for the upcoming cup campaigns.

Our Carol Service which was held just before the house exams was a beautiful and moving occasion. It was a celebration of Christmas which involved the singing of carols by the choir and individual soloists organised by Mr. Rooney our music teacher.

May I wish everybody once again a very enjoyable and happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all at the start of the next academic term in 2015.

Dr. G. Berry
Principal



The American Tea Party

The annual American Tea Party was held on the 6th of December in the school hall. It is without doubt one of the social highlights of the school calendar for parents and staff.

The hall looked incredible with the tables decorated individually by the host. This is the main fundraiser for rugby in the school and there was a great selection of raffle prizes and auction items on the night.

Thanks to all those who attended and supported the event.



My First Term in CBC

Tom Hayes (1KL)

On my first day, I didn't really know what to expect, I was nervous, anxious and excited at the thought of starting secondary school. Although some of my friends from Hollypark National School were coming to CBC, I was put in a tutor group with nobody I knew. This was daunting at first but I got to know the lads in my class very quickly.

One of the biggest changes from junior school has been the freedom. We have to move around from class to class and we have different teachers for all of our subjects. I have started German this year for the first time and it is really interesting and fun to be learning a new language. My favourite subject is Art with Mr. O'Farrell. I can finally find my way around and I even remember my timetable now! It's hard to believe that I have only been in CBC Monkstown for four months as I feel so at home here.



Sports Update

Rugby

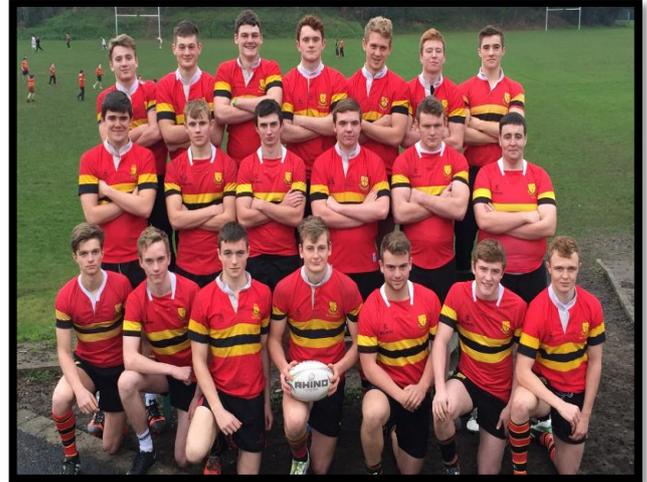
The Seniors have drawn CUS in the first round of the Leinster Senior Cup, the match will be played in Donnybrook on the 30th of January.

The Juniors will play Skerries Community College in Templeville on the 15th of January in the first round of the Fr. Godfrey Cup.

We hope to see you all there to support our boys!

Cross Country

CBC enjoyed a great cross country meet in Blackrock College at the end of November. There were some very creditable performances with the Junior team finishing third of the eight schools competing.



News

News in Brief

7 CBC Students have been selected by the state examinations commission as high achievers in Maths in the 2014 Junior Certificate Examination. Congratulations to Brian Barry, Shane Gill, Shane O'Hanrahan, Brian Toale, Edward O'Sullivan, Jason Chambers and Mark Cunningham. They have now been selected to participate in the 2014 Irish Beaver Computing Contest (IBCC).

Four of our very talented musicians known as "The Klars" headed off to L.A. to take part in the YouBloom Music festival. You can check out their music on iTunes or Google Play Music.



Well done to Cian McGovern Leahy who competed in the European Chess Championships over the Christmas break.



The College Carol Service took place in the school hall on Tuesday the 9th of December. A special mention to the school choir who performed superbly on the night, well done to Mr. Rooney.

Well done to Orson O'Sullivan, Ewan McConnell, Barry McNamara and Harry Loakman on their enterprise projects. They were involved in the Christmas market in Glathule selling their assorted products including chocolate covered honeycomb, protein brownies, cookies and fudge.



CBC Christmas Toy Drive

This year we entered the Christmas spirit by trying to brighten up Christmas for some of Ireland's sickest children. We asked families of the CBC community to buy a small present which would be donated to Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin and the LauraLynn Hospice in Leopardstown.

Thank you to all those who donated presents for these two very worthy charities.

TY Times

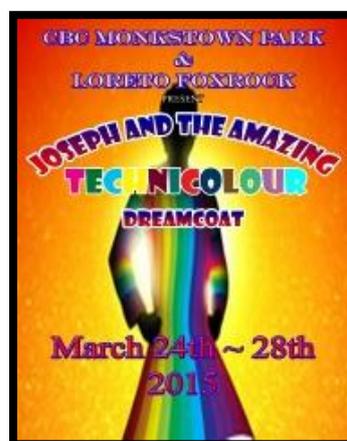
Another very Busy couple of months for the Transition Years

Fighting Words

We have a group of 25 fourth year students currently involved in a writing project called Fighting Words with Roddy Doyle as one of the mentors!



The Musical



Rehearsals are underway for the Musical

Where do you think you are?

Armed with a map, working in a team and using a bit of nous, TY students were set the challenge of finding a number of sites and buildings around Monkstown and Dun Laoghaire



<http://twitter.com/cbcty>

Computer Coding



Carol Singing



Run in the Dark

The lads have continued their running with over 40 of them completing the Mark Pollock run in the dark.



<http://tycbc.weebly.com/>

The Learning Revolution

*The Learning Revolution is changing the way many of us teach and learn,
We had a chat with its leaders Mr. Fitzmaurice and Ms. Morgan*

What is the Learning Revolution?

The Learning Revolution creates a platform and environment within our school that fosters growth and development of students and teachers. Teachers meet on a voluntary basis for 40 minutes every Friday at lunchtime to discuss methods of enhancing the joy of learning for our students.



Where did the idea for the Learning Revolution come from?

The idea for the Learning Revolution came from watching a TEDx talk given by Sir Ken Robinson where he talks about changes and innovations he would like to see in the education system

What do you do at it? What's it all about?

"No man is an island"

The Learning Revolution is all about collaboration between people. We aim to enhance learning through sharing different perspectives, methodologies and best practice from within our school and outside. We wish to support both students and teachers by sharing presentations and discussions with all learners within our school. We invite teachers, students and visiting speakers to present and engage in discussion around learning.

Who is involved?

It is open to all members of staff throughout the year and management also attends our meetings. Students also share this learning space at different times to collaborate on educational issues and give feedback.

What is the greatest achievement so far?

The greatest achievement of the L.R. is creating a learning space within our school where learning expands and evolves due to the contribution of both teachers and students from within and outside our school.

Do you have anything great planned for next year?

Absolutely, we aim to constantly enhance our learning environment and some of the ideas we are planning are; teachers observing how other colleagues teach, collaborating with other schools, making the best use of group work in the class and inviting in guest speakers.

What have you been up to this term?

- We have developed our Learning Revolution Blog in which we share our learnings.
- A staff CPD day was organised where the staff learned to use Design Thinking as a learning tool.
- Use of Google docs, Quizlet as a learning tool, use of tablets and smartphones in the classroom.
- Cross curricular learnings and students presentations.
- Use of the merit card system



Prof Suzi Jarvis & Dr, Colman Farrell from the innovation Academy in UCD

What is the long term goal?

The long term goal of the L.R. is cultivating a supportive environment where the topic of enjoyment and engagement with learning is discussed with teachers, students and parents and we collaborate consistently with ourselves and other schools to maximize best practice and the potentiality of our students.

