



# GROVE NEWS

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December 2019

## A few words from Mr. Dooley

Another productive and enjoyable term nears its end here at Our Lady's Grove. We are delighted to have welcomed our new vibrant staff who have collectively contributed to the continued energy and positivity in our school community. Our new 1<sup>st</sup> Year cohort have been expertly welcomed by our Care Team and student leaders and now hopefully feel at home amongst our other students.

As always, our wonderful ladies, across all academic years, have been participating and achieving in a wide variety of events and challenges both within and outside school and I hope you will enjoy a flavour of their success in the pages that follow.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my teaching and administrative colleagues for their consistent efforts in 2019. Informed by our familial ethos, we work consistently to try to ensure that all students feel welcomed and at home. Further to that, we strive to develop their abilities holistically throughout their time with us.

I would also like to extend my thanks to you our parents/guardians. We are partners in our young peoples' holistic formation. Your interest, and attendance at school events is warmly welcomed. I will communicate formally to all parents about important school community issues early in the new year.

We wish all of you and yours a relaxing and enjoyable festive season and we look forward to working with you into the next decade.

Colm Dooley

## Welcome 1<sup>st</sup> Years

We are delighted to welcome our 1<sup>st</sup> Years to Our Lady's Grove and to meet their parents at our 1<sup>st</sup> Year Welcome Evening in September. At the meeting parents had an opportunity to get an insight into the workings of the school, to meet each other and most importantly to hear about life as a Grove Girl from Head Girl Emma, Deputy Caroline and 1<sup>st</sup> Year Prefect Amy.

5<sup>th</sup> year mentors also introduced themselves and are working hard to help our 1<sup>st</sup> years manage the challenges of Secondary School. We hope that all 1<sup>st</sup> years are making friends, involved in school life, are working hard and feel happy in our school.



Our Lady's Grove Hockey Pitch .



Class of 2020 and class of 2025

## Transition Year News

### Work Experience

All TY students took part in a week of Work Experience following the October mid-term. The school received incredibly positive employer's reports about the girls. Well done to everybody and hopefully the experience will be useful to you as you start to think about your future choices. TY students will be giving input to 3rd years about all things Work Experience in the New Year. Meanwhile TYs are working hard on their digital portfolios. The digital portfolio is a reflective journal of each girl's TY experiences and is proving a very rewarding experience for all. TYs also attended a day long presentation on careers in the creative arts in the National Gallery and are looking forward to attending the I Wish Stem Careers event in February.

### CS SPARKS by Ciara Doyle

This year 8 TY students participated in the UCD CS Sparks programme. This allowed us to discover and discuss the operations of computers in a fun and innovative way. This course was based over the course of 4 weeks with 2 hour sessions on Fridays. The activities included coding, using micro-bits and programming LED robots to complete actions. This was a great experience and was extremely fun. It also included a tour of the Science campus and a certificate giving ceremony.



### Enterprise Trip by Sarah Wall

On Tuesday the 12th of December we went on an enterprise trip to the chocolate warehouse in Walkinstown with Ms Yau and Mr Cussen. We learned about the history of Chocolate and how it is produced. We were also told about the business side of the factory. It was really helpful and will benefit us greatly with our enterprise projects. We got to design some chocolates and buy some treats from the gift shop.



## Axa Road Safety Show

By Aisling Fox

On the 14th of October we went to the AXA Road Safety Show. It was a very informative and eye opening experience about road safety whether in a car, on bike, walking etc. We were shown videos of the horrifying results of what happens when you aren't safe on the road. When a car crashes we were shown the different departments and many people involved in taking care of the aftermath including the Garda, the fire brigade, the paramedics, the doctors in the hospital and finally your parents. Each of the people who spoke to us were people involved with taking care of the accident and explained to us what they have to do. Finally the last speaker was Leo who's daughter, Marcia, had died in a road accident when she was a teenager. It was extremely sad and really showed us how careful you have to be on the road.

At the end we were shown how the fire brigade and paramedics take a person from a car accident.



TY First Aiders



## Student Leadership Team



*'She believes she can so she does'*

Each class has two class captains and a student council representative. Each class group also has a 6th Year Prefect who meets with her class group regularly while 1st year students have a dedicated group of 5th year mentors who act as big sisters to guide and support them. The Head Girl Emma and Deputy Head Girl Caroline work with all year groups and meet regularly with Mr. Dooley and Ms. Lyons. This year Past Head Girl and Deputy Grace Pierce and Laura Lee delivered a leadership workshop to school leaders.

The student council meets monthly and represents the student voice in policy and decision making as well bringing student concerns to management. It is currently working on reviewing the uniform policy, wellbeing provision and developing a digital student suggestion box. The Green Schools committee is another forum for school leaders and is working towards achieving its third green flag.

After Christmas we hope all 5th years will apply for a Prefect position in the school. In order to become a Prefect, students submit an application form, take part in a leadership development task and attend for interview.

## College Aware Week

All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years attended an interesting and engaging talk by Jeanne Kelly partner in LK Shields on the importance of the arts and taking time to do the things you love as an enabler of professional success.

Messerah Abdullah (6<sup>th</sup>), Reshma Raji (6<sup>th</sup>) and Kate Redden (6<sup>th</sup>) hosted a lunchtime STEM workshop which was very well attended by an enthusiastic group who completed a number of STEM tasks.

6<sup>th</sup> years and 1<sup>st</sup> years spent a lovely 40 minutes together where they interviewed each other about their dreams and their plans to realise them. Many of the 6<sup>th</sup> years were surprised at how clearly the 1<sup>st</sup> years were able to talk about their future professional lives and the maturity of the advice they gave to the 6<sup>th</sup> years. 1<sup>st</sup> years were delighted to gain an insight into the lives of 6<sup>th</sup> years with one particularly amazed 1<sup>st</sup> year wondering if 6<sup>th</sup> years could 'just do what they want when they want'. As we head into 2020 all the 1<sup>st</sup> years and everyone in OLG would like to wish our 6th years the very best of luck with their exams and everything else.

## Future Choices

4th and 5th year students attended the Careers Fair hosted by Our Lady's Grove and other local schools in St. Killian's German School in November. 6th Year students learned a lot at Higher Options in the RDS in September while 4th years are just back from work experience and are using that learning to begin thinking about potential career options. We have had a

range of fantastic

speakers in to talk to Senior

Students including speakers from UCD, TU Dublin and Maynooth University as well as Past Pupils and teacher speakers including a most engaging talk delivered by Ms. Cunningham to 6th years.

Follow [@olgrove\\_guidance](#) for updates



1st years interview 6th years for College Aware week

## Chinese News

Congratulations to our TY students who presented their work and shared their experience of learning Chinese at the launch of the report "Chinese as a Foreign Language in Post-Primary Schools in Ireland" which was held in UCD Confucius Institute on the 4th December. We are delighted for our students to be part of and to represent our school at this event.



## Netball News

All students have put in huge effort and have worked hard together as a team. Thank you to Avril Fisher and Samaya Ali Hassan who have been training the First Year Netball team as part of their Gaisce. Best of luck to Avril Fisher and Karimah Zaiter who are currently on the u17s Long squad. The two girls could potentially be representing Ireland in the u17s European Championships in February which will take place in the Isle of Man. The final selection will be made in January. Best wishes to Natalie Badin, Emilie Badin, Chloe Leung, Sreya Saji, Aoife O'Neill and Riya Raji who are currently playing on the u15s Long squad, keep up the hard work and motivation! Lastly a huge thank you to Norma our coach who has put in great time and effort into training the girls.



## Great Grove Bake-Off



The Great Grove Bake-off takes place once again during Christmas week. This year TY students, helped by Ms. Cooke, baked Buche de Noel to compete for a place to bake against the teachers. The competition was judged by 6th Home Economics class and 1st year class captains. Four TY teams will bake against four teacher teams. The event will be live-streamed to classrooms and will this year incorporate talent show moments and live voting for both cakes and performances. No doubt feelings will run high in the kitchen and on the corridors but Mr. Doyle, his camera crew and digital support team will be there to capture this rollercoaster of confection and emotion. Remember to vote online for the winning team. You have the power.



TY Bakers preparing for battle



## Hockey News

The best hockey news is of course that we now have our own on site hockey pitch. The Senior and Junior teams started playing on it on December 10th and already it feels like it has always been there. We look forward to updating you with further Hockey and Sport news in the new year and wish all our athletes across their many disciplines good health and success in their sporting endeavours.





## CREATE Wellbeing Week

The student council 18/19 began work organising CREATE wellbeing week last April and the 19/20 council completed the task. The goal of our CREATE wellbeing week is to show how creativity, connection and self-expression enhance wellbeing. Each of the letters in the word CREATE stands for activities which nourish our wellbeing such as connection, reading, eating well, activity and art, taking time to talk, think and enjoy being ourselves. The more we do this, the more we are free to be our best selves, creative, connected and able to meet the challenges of everyday life. A huge thank you to the Student Council, Prefects, Mentors, Class Captains, teachers and the Wellbeing Board of studies for organising, facilitating and running OLG CREATE wellbeing week. Thanks to everyone for throwing yourselves so totally into every experience and activity and for filling out our review survey. If you have any suggestions for CREATE wellbeing week next year or would like to start a wellbeing initiative please let your student council class rep know and/or email. [r.mcdonnell@olgrove.ie](mailto:r.mcdonnell@olgrove.ie)

### Drop Everything and Dance

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning of CREATE wellbeing week



students and teachers danced and sang themselves awake from 7:45 am. Well done to Anna and Megan our wellbeing prefects and to Caroline, Amy and all the 6th years who ran the show. Gracias to Ms. Garcia and the TY Amigas also who really put us through our paces with some serious salsa on Thursday. Much fun was had by all. Prefects will be running a morning Drop Everything and Dance once a month from January and we look forward to even greater numbers dancing their way into Spring.



Pastoral Care Cake Cakes and judging in the kitchen.

### Let them eat cake

CREATE cake competition was all about creativity of baking in appearance and taste. The competition was hungrily judged by the Student Council. Following the judging the 6<sup>th</sup> Year Home Economics class cut up all the cakes which were then delivered and feasted upon by everyone in the school during Pastoral Care. Thank you to Ms. Doyle and the 6<sup>th</sup> Home Economics class for coordinating the epic amount of cakes and cake slices.



### Pet Selfies and Animals Anonymous

Animal lovers big and small gathered together for a lunchtime chat about pets they had or wished they had. Thanks to Mr. Doran who facilitated this meeting and also the Pet Selfie competition where students and teachers sent in an eclectic range of photos including a particularly frightening photo of Mr. Coyne and his pet lion.

### Art and Activity

Ms. Denny and 5<sup>th</sup> year mentors hosted a lunchtime skipping session in the hall which everyone enjoyed, meanwhile 6<sup>th</sup> Years returned from a performance of Hamlet in the Mill Theatre and painted mandalas in the Art Room as part of mindful creativity with Ms. Walkin. Ms. Walkin also ran an art competition and exhibition where students submitted photos and paintings of their passions. Thanks to Ms. Walkin, 6<sup>th</sup> year Lauren Martin and the 6<sup>th</sup> Year Art Class for judging the completion and well done to Jenny Cooper and Fatima Ali winners of the competition.



## CREATE Wellbeing week

### Is that an Alpaca?

The school was dark, the students sleepy, so sleepy in fact that it took quite a while before anyone looked out the window and spotted the two alpacas, goats, sheep, a rooster, chickens, kittens and a gaggle of teachers roaming freely near the tennis courts. Each class group spent a half hour with Farmer Joe and the animals learning all about the therapeutic power of being with animals and experiencing it for themselves. It was an absolutely unforgettable day in the school and everybody went home smiling. Thank you to Mr. Dooley, Ms. Lyons and the Board of Management for giving the go-ahead for Farmyard in our School Yard.



### Imagination Dress Up Day

Once again the students and staff in Our Lady's Grove grasped the opportunity to dress up. This year the theme was Imagination and everyone created costumes inspired by characters from their favourite books, comics or films. Willy Wonka aka Mr. Doyle ably assisted by our wellbeing prefects Megan and Anna and the rest of Prefect team facilitated and judged the competition. Ms. Sloan and Ms. Martin then lead the whole school in a song and dance routine before 6<sup>th</sup> years led by Ailbhe stormed the stage. Within seconds everyone was cha cha sliding and YMCAing as if it were the Friday before the Hallow'een holiday. We raised 356 euro with all money going to Pieta House. As always, the students were amazingly creative, full of fun, good humour and energy. It was a great end to CREATE week and thank you to everyone for taking part.



# Books and Poetry

## The Poet's Disease

Messenger Abdullah (6th) reflects on her experience of frustration with the L.C. English Poetry course.

The expectation of adoration  
Romanticism of every painstakingly mundane aspect  
Of rather ordinary lives.  
Feigned understanding  
Of pains never felt

So much self importance  
That to read it almost hurts  
Look at my form! See my technique!  
I'm intellectual, I'm deep  
My words and feelings matter more  
Than anything you've felt before!

Pick apart and analyse every accidental alliteration  
That adds to my prodigal guise  
I'll turn every happy moment into a heaven in my mind  
Every passing comment a knife

And with such hyperbolic intensity  
Comes certain insecurity  
Flatter me?  
Tell me that I matter?  
Write me five pages for my five lines  
Exaggerate my skill, my talent and prowess  
Romanticise my mundaneness  
Present to me my mediocrity  
In the way I present that of the world

Succumb to the poet's disease

And finally, we wish everyone in OLG, their families and their friends, a restful Christmas and happiness and good health in 2020.

## Grove Book Club

The book club is a vibrant space open to all who want to talk, think and read. Amy Doyle (6<sup>th</sup>) and Sarah Wall (TY) set up the book club this year. The book club meets weekly and is always delighted to welcome new members. Many thanks to Ms. Waters who facilitates the meetings. Here is the Grove Book Club suggested Christmas reading list. After all, there is no better gift for Christmas than a good book.

- The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe (The Chronicles of Narnia #1) - CS Lewis \*All ages
- The Secret Garden - Francis Hodgson Burnett \*1st-3rd year
- The Christmas Lights - Karen Swan \*1st-2nd year
- The Outsiders - S.E Hinton \*2nd-4th year
- Let it Snow - John Green \*1st - 3rd year
- How the Grinch Stole Christmas - Dr Seuss \*all ages
- Harry Potter and The Philosophers Stone (Harry Potter #1) - JK Rowling \*All ages
- What Light - Jay Asher \*3rd-6th year
- My True Love Gave to Me: Twelve Holiday Stories - multiple authors (set of Christmasy short stories) \*4th-6th year
- The Book Thief - Markus Zusak \*4th-6th year
- Little Women- Louisa May Alcott (read it before you go see the film out on Dec 26th) \*4th-6th year

