

# GROVE NEWS

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December 2020

## A few words from Mr. Dooley

As I write to you, we are untangling lights and untwisting tinsel trying to decorate the school in a way that brings much needed cheer into our community's lives. We are also planning many activities for the run up to the holidays to help provide much needed respite for students and teachers alike. In a year like this year opportunities for fun and laughter must be actively sought, like never before.

I would like to take this end of year opportunity to welcome the new members of our community. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Year class of 2020/2021 has started secondary school in a manner like no previous year before them. We are delighted to be supporting them and helping them to continuously grow, despite the obvious constraints. Our new staff have seamlessly taken over with the same drive and enthusiasm of departed colleagues. Through adversity we hopefully grow stronger together.

A massive thank you to all teaching and administrative staff for their adaptability, energy and positivity. Solutions have consistently been found to ensure that the curriculum, and the extra-curricular, continue to be provided to a standard of excellence. It is a testament to them how successfully this has been managed. We are all particularly aware of the specific challenges being endured by the years who face state examinations in 2021 and are committed to supporting them to the best of the community's ability.

We wish all of you and yours a relaxing and enjoyable festive season and we look forward to working with you in a new year, which we hope will bring new perspectives, realities, and opportunities.

Warm regards

Colm Dooley

## Welcome 1st Years

We are delighted to welcome all our 1st years to Our Lady's Grove. We hope that you have settled in well and that you are enjoying secondary school life.



## College Awareness Week

Senior Cycle students enjoyed hearing from UCD, Trinity College, TU Dublin and IADT through virtual presentations as part of College Awareness Week, while Junior Students took part in college quizzes, celebrity kahoots and interviews with teachers about their college life. Meanwhile, 6th year students really loved being interviewed by 1st years about their dreams, hopes and ambitions and shared some wise words with our newest Grovers Thanks to all for taking part and to UCD and TU Dublin for providing prizes most of which were won by the very determined 2A who really were prepared to do anything for those TU Dublin phone sockets and UCD scarves.



1st year and 6th year interviews

## Ice cream for all



Students and teachers in OLG enjoyed a delicious ice cream in early October as a little thank you for the way students and teachers are handling the demands of our new routines.

## Grove FM



Although we can't gather together the way we always have done in the past, the launch of Grove Fm has proved a really effective way of creating a sense of community. Each week, prefects gather

musical suggestions and requests from all year groups and play them just before the end of class on a Friday. Just before Halloween the whole school took part in a match the teacher and the song activity. Who would have guessed Mr. Dooley's favourite song would be Another Brick in the wall.

## Stand Up Awareness Week

The student council was delighted to launch Stand Up Awareness Week in November. The focus of the week is to promote and inclusive and protective environment for LGBT+ young people and to take a stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. The work of the week has continued with the formation of a group of student volunteers who will work to promote a protective environment for all beginning with a review of the anti-bullying policy. They will begin this work in January.



The Student Council and Prefects

## Grove Santa

The Santa Games took place on Wednesday 9th December. Mr. Coyne, Ms. Wright and Dude Doyle were delighted to make the short list and were interviewed by Holly Byrne (5th year), Muireann O Reilly (4th year) and Ms. Cunningham. The interview panel were ably assisted by Chief Elf Alicia Duffy (4th year). As well as answering challenging questions such as the pay and conditions of Elves and which teachers were on the naughty list, the Santas had to complete a number of tasks which included wrapping and delivering Christmas presents to students, climbing through a 'chimney' and learning a Christmas TikTok. A special thanks to Mr. Lynn for developing the HoHoHometer a scientific device designed to measure the power and jollity of our Santas' Ho Ho Ho and for organising the voting. The event was live streamed to all classes and in the end Ms. Wright was deemed Grove Santa much to the chagrin of Mr. Coyne and complete indifference of the Dude Doyle. We wish her a happy and successful reign as Grove Santa and hope the power does go to her head. Here she is below with Igneous Rock her penguin and Ms. Cunningham inexplicably dressed as a student.



## Fundraising

For Halloween Students and teachers dressed up to raise funds for Pieta House. The total raised was 423 euro Thank you to all in our community who supported this. At the moment, students and teachers are taking part in The Grove December Walk and Run to fundraise for Crumlin's children's hospital.

If you would like donate you can do so on our JustGiving page. So far we have raised 528 euro. Thank you to everyone for supporting this cause. The student council will be in touch in the New Year with more ideas about how to help those who need it most while in CSPE classes, many of the students are taking parts in projects to help the homeless and children in need.



Dancing 5th years

## Debating News

Though restructured due to Covid 19, the debate club has entered three senior teams into the Concern Debates. Shannon, Iciar, Millie and Emilie won their debate on the topic 'this time, after the death of George Floyd, things will be different.' Juliette, Claudia, Eavan and Ellen also took part and debated the motion of 'why criticism of the WHO over their handling of Covid is irresponsible and unfair' while Muireann, Aisling F, Aisling S and Abir argued that 'to tackle income inequality, billionaires should not exist.'

## GROVE SPORTS NEWS



The extra-curricular sports look quite different this year but thankfully despite not being able to play matches all students are able to train. The TY students are taking part in coaching the first years in Netball and Hockey. The girls are doing this as part of their Bronze Gaisce Award. It is great to see so many students taking part in Hockey, Netball, Tennis and Athletics after school. During lunchtime students are playing Badminton and table tennis. Once the covid restrictions are lifted we hope to restart the Pilates classes which so many of the girls miss. We hope that matches will resume early in the new year. We are also delighted to see our friends from OLG Primary getting as much fun out of the hockey pitch and tennis courts as we are. Ni neart go cur le cheile!

## Halloween Creativity

The Friday of mid-term break students and staff once again showed their creativity by dressing up for Halloween. The theme this year was 'Halloween' and while the theme may not have been that original, the costumes certainly were. Well done to all the winners in the various categories for the time and effort that went into your costumes and to the student council for organising the event.



## Sci-Fest

Congratulations to Aisling Fox, Molly Powell and Emily Adderley who won the Newstalk Best Communicator Award at the SciFest College 2020 regional STEM fair with their project Rest V Exercise - Finding a balance. Through desk research, surveys and experiments using 'fitbits' they found out how much exercise is too much and discussed the negative effects that come with it. They explained what a recovery day is and how it affects your performance, your sleep and your overall physical and mental health. They were one of nine award winners out of over 430 project entries in the Tallaght, Dublin division and were awarded with a Dublin Crystal trophy which is now on display in the front hall.



## A Transition Year Like no other

Our merry band of TYs continue to throw themselves into every aspect of Transition Year despite the changes that Covid has brought. Here is a selection of some of what they have been up to since we returned in August written by Sara Haque, Aimee Sherry, Ciara Kelliher, Anna Cunningham, Omayma Benarab, Farah Abdullah, Mia Arganio, Aoife Hartnett and Maira Granados Salazar. A word of thanks to the TY team and especially Ms. Martin, Programme Co-ordinator for ensuring there is always something to look forward to in Transition Year.

### Halloween Pumpkin Carving

Transition Years brought school bags and pumpkins to school just before mid-term to do some pumpkin carving. Having first drawn out our design, students used spoons and knives to carve out our pumpkins. We loved this memorable and expressive activity.



### Larch Hill

On Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October our year group embarked on an exhilarating expedition to the picturesque National Scout Centre of Larch Hill. Throughout the course of the day, we ventured into an exciting range of activities which allowed to delve into and explore what the world of Scouting had to offer alongside our classmates. This adventurous day included “High Ropes”, in which we challenged ourselves to climb 30 feet to the top of the telegraph poles and overcome our fears by attempting a complex aerial obstacle course set out for us. Next, we tried “Grass Sledging” which consisted of sledging down the grass slopes of Larch Hill alongside our friends and perfecting our newly learned skill and showcasing our competitive side by having races down the hill. We also did “Orienteering” that required us to navigate our way around the vast and enlivening acres of woodland with the aim of encountering the hidden and concealed landmarks. Lastly, our day concluded with a relaxing lesson in the woods revolving around “Outdoor Cooking”, in which we acquired the skill of how to light a fire with the aid of flint and steel in order to be capable of cooking in the outdoors, an essential ability everyone should possess.



### DigiEduHack 2020

Terrific news from the tech team, placing second in the EduDigi hackathon competition. Our group the “nerd herd” noticed some problems with the physical journal and used that to our advantage and created “Journolgy” which is an online journal with all the features of a physical copy and more, allowing you access to different wellbeing and educational attributes. We spent a few weeks testing and making prototypes to come up with the best lay out for our app, we made a power point to present and even got to talk with Luke Saunders the founder of Study Clix. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of November we, Ciara C, Anna, Alicia, Aoife H, Kyra, Muireann and Aimee, presented our idea to a panel of international judges and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and are now advancing to the next round. Well done also to Sara H, Riya and Sreya who did an excellent presentation of their idea ‘Apps for Apps’ a one stop solution platform where students can access instructions on how to use functions/tools within the Microsoft 365 apps.



## Languages Connect

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, 4<sup>th</sup> years took part in an interactive language learning day called languages connect. The aim of this day was to enhance our interest and appreciation in world languages and culture. At the start of the day we got to watch a video with different speakers telling us their stories and how learning languages has helped them and how it could benefit us in the future. We looked at Russian, Arabic, Chinese and French. We looked at French culture and cuisine. Throughout the day we got to try different activities such as Russian ballet, Arabic belly dancing and Chinese paper cutting. The 4<sup>th</sup> years received certificates at the end of their day and really enjoyed the experience and would definitely recommend the activity to future 4<sup>th</sup> years.

#thinklanguages

## Community Work

For community work, we partnered with Age Action and Young St. Vincent de Paul. We made tutorials on how to use different aspects of technology for older people who live alone. For our Young SVP project we completed a number of workshops. We also went to Deer Park to clean up the area and help our community.

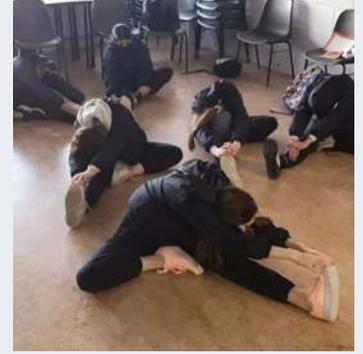


## A word from and to our Student Leaders

We have many leadership opportunities for young people in our school. There are class captains, student council representatives, fifth year mentors, Prefects and our Head Girl and Deputy. This year more than any we would like to extend a huge thank you not only to those with official leadership roles and but also to those who don't. Your everyday leadership is making a hugely positive difference to the life of the school. Thank you.



The Prefect Team



## Afternoon Tea Competition

In late September we took part in a culinary delights workshop. We then followed this up by making afternoon tea at home. We sent in photos of our creations which we then happily devoured. Hopefully we will be able to treat some of our community to these delights in the New Year!



## African Drumming



## We remember

In November we placed a memory tree in the front hall and placed on it the names of those we have lost. Now in the front hall, we have our Christmas tree decorated not only with lights and tinsel but with messages of hope for 2021 while the names of our loved ones are placed beneath it. This Christmas is a difficult one for many in our community and it is hard for many of us to say Merry Christmas. So instead, we hope that when we need help we ask for it, that when we ask for help it is given and we wish each other all that is good for 2021. Happy New Year to all.