



Meánscoil Mhuire

Béal an Mhuirthead, Co. Mhaigh Eo

Tel: 097-81157 | email: info@ourladysbelmullet.ie | Website: www.olssbelmullet.com



Nollaig 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,
Greetings to all of you at the end of a very busy term as we prepare for Christmas. Although this has been a trying and testing year where so much has changed in our everyday lives due to Covid-19, some aspects remain mostly unaltered. Christmas is still a time for us to come together with our families and friends and celebrate the birth of Jesus and an opportune time to reflect upon and be grateful for the good things we have in our lives. It's also at this time, that we remember in our thoughts and prayers, those in our community who have lost loved ones and for whom this is an especially difficult time.

All assessments have taken place in November and for the first year ever the school reports were provided to parents before Christmas. Our Leaving and Junior Cert. students are busy preparing for their Mock Examinations and we wish you all the best of luck as we endeavour to provide any support we can for you. The Leaving Cert Accredited grades model alongside the written Leaving Cert Exams was an enormous undertaking for everyone this year and we continue to celebrate all of our school's success. We are very proud that our students have once again excelled in their education, which is in keeping with the proud tradition initiated by the Sisters of Mercy in Erris. I wish to congratulate, in particular, the Leaving Cert. Class of 2021 who displayed remarkable fortitude in the challenges they faced throughout last year and we wish them well with the next chapter in their



Mai Murphy Cup 2021
Congratulations to
Billy O'Connor & Amy McWilliams
Billy & Amy were joint winners of the Mai Murphy Cup for achieving the highest results in the Leaving Certificate 2021



Congratulations to this group of First Years who designed and manufactured a beautiful new crib for our school, assisted by Mr Molloy, Mr McNulty, Mr Monaghan and Ms McDermott. The group are pictured here with Fr Hegarty.

lives. Maith sibh agus, go n-Éirí an t-ádh libh go léir. This current climate continues to present unprecedented challenges for schools, however, the response from the students, the parents, and the staff has been so positive with everyone committed to working together in overcoming these challenges. With the easing of some restrictions allowing the return of some sports and school excursions, we look forward to a hopefully brighter 2022. We remain grateful to you, the parents, for your ongoing support in keeping the school as safe as possible for the students as continue to adapt to each new challenge.

I want to thank our staff for their ongoing enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment to all of our students' success and welfare.

We also wish to express our thanks for the ongoing support of a committed and active Parents' Association and our Board of Management members. Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh go léir agus rath is siocháin san athbhliain.

Edmund Holmes,
Principal



6th Year Student Leaders
Shane Gallagher, Brendan Conway, Ellie Healy & Aimee Carey



TY Students visit the Christmas Market in Galway

Student Council 2021/2022



1st Year

Mitch Among & Mia Carey

2nd Year

Leo Reuland & Ella McGuire

3rd Year

Ciara Cosgrove & Oisín Reilly

Transition Year

Leah Neary & Anthony Barrett

5th Year

Ben Wilson & Ailish Sweeney

LCA

Sarah McGinty & James Gallagher

6th Year

Joseph Heston & Aimee Carey

International Students

Sarah Mayr & Martí Sáez Alonso



Transition Year students were invited into the Irish Wheelchair Association centre in Belmullet. The TY students presented a Christmas card designed by the students for the IWA to sell at the Christmas Markets. The students got a tour of the amazing building and were shown all the arts, crafts and activities that the members have completed. We look forward to visiting again soon.



Maths Week 2021

Maths week took place in October and as always in Our Lady's, we like to celebrate it with fun activities for the students outside of the classroom. 1st Year and TY students took part in a Maths Trail around the school buildings, 2nd and 3rd year students enjoyed an afternoon of countdown and kahoot challenges. The 5th and 6th year students took some time out this evening to practice their problem-solving and probability skills during games of draughts, chess and cards. Thank you to our Maths Department for organising these activities for the students.



Geography Field Trip

Our Leaving Certificate geography class enjoyed carrying out their field study at Glencar River, Co. Leitrim recently. They had a successful day collecting data based on fluvial transportation and deposition processes that occur at the meander on the Glencar river.



Congratulations to **Grace Lally** from Transition Year who represented Our Lady's Secondary School in the Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition in Ballina. She did herself and the school proud.



Christmas Jumper Day

Congratulations to Declan Coyne and Pawel Bugalski who were joint winners in the junior section of this years Christmas Jumper Competition



Drum Workshop

Thank you to Peter Crann from We Drum Ireland for delivering a really enjoyable day of drums and music for our TY and First year students.



Science Week 2021

Students took part in several exciting activities to celebrate Science Week. 1st and 2nd years undertook building robotic walking Geckos and then raced their designs against one another. 3rd years competed in a national quiz organised by Science Foundation Ireland called



'Pick Your Brain' with two groups finishing in the top 40 of 500 teams. 5th year students took part in an Acrobatic Circus Workshop organised by Mr. Molloy and Nature's Secret Circus and funded by Science Week Ireland.



John F. Kennedy Forensics Workshop

TY students attended the JFK Forensics Workshop, where they developed their critical thinking skills. This involved analysing the forensics from the JFK assassination including; ballistics, fingerprints, facial recognition and more.



Transition Year students preparing for their trip to Killary Adventure Centre in September



Danny Maloney pictured with his very successful Christmas Card venture.



U-17 Boys Soccer Team Success

Well done to our under 17 boys soccer team who came back from 2 goals down to win 3-2 against Lacken Cross. Goals from Josh Carey (2) and Jack Healy. Good luck in the Connacht Quarter Final.

Back Row: Anthony Barrett, Luke Lynch, Adam McManamon, Kevin Conway, Patrick Doherty, Josh Carey, Jason Calvey, Jack Healy, Max Geissler, James Gallagher
Front Row: Brendan Conway, Lachlan Gallagher, Reilly, Luke McManamon, Declan Coyne, Charlie Ginnelly



Boys Senior Basketball Team

The Senior Boys are through to the Regional Finals after victories against Claremorris, Ballyhaunis and Foxford.

Back Row: Mark Tighe, Kian Gallagher, Cillian Reilly, Lorcán McGrath
Front Row: Luke Lynch, Brendan Conroy, Kevin Conway, Mark Gaughan

Launch of DEIS SEF Project @ OLSS

Our Lady's Secondary School in partnership with Belmullet N.S. and Corclough N.S. have been accepted onto an exclusive Department of Education programme called, DEIS School's Excellence Fund scheme for the next 3 years.



The schools have been granted €55,000 between them to enable them to work in partnership on a specific project aimed at, "Improving Students' Teamwork, Critical-Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills through the medium of STEM subjects."



The launch of this programme took place in OLSS on Thursday 21st October, where the 5th class, 6th class along with First and Second years took part in a variety of STEM based activities. The students were wowed by the wonders of The Planetarium, and then put a variety of mathematical and engineering skills to the test, to create a robotic walking Gecko!

A big thank you to Ms. Lavelle, Ms. Geoghegan, Mr. Barrett and Ms. Carey for accompanying the students, we look forward to welcoming you again soon for the next exciting phase of this project.



Stand Up Awareness Week

To celebrate identity and support our LGBTQIA+ students, Mr Holmes held assemblies with each year, where he highlighted the importance of respect and welcome for all students and how positive it is that we are an inclusive and caring school. To highlight our stance against bullying, staff and students took part in a 'Wear Your Colours Day'. Each year group wore different colours to make up the pride flag.



Gaisce Bronze President's Award Programme

Good luck to our TY students commencing the Gaisce Bronze President's Award Programme where they will be further assisting in the community, developing new skills, keeping active and partaking in journey of adventure .