

Festive Fun at ETSSW

Principal's Christmas Message

2022 has been a very difficult year for our school community with the sudden passing in June of our founding principal Colm Kehoe. Colm has left an indelible impact on all staff and students here in the school with his boundless enthusiasm, belief and pride in all members of our school community. It is undoubtedly the resilience, self-belief and self-efficacy that he instilled in our staff and students that has gotten us through a difficult six months.

Undoubtedly Colm would be proud of what his staff and students have accomplished since we reopened in late August. The community has grown with new students, teachers and SNAs joining the school this year along with the appointments of Shauna O'Toole as our Acting Deputy Principal and Ceire Hatton as our Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator. The school is now at full capacity in all year groups and we are continuing to work hard to accommodate those on our growing waiting lists.

November was a particularly historic month for the school in that we experienced our first set of Junior Cycle results and could not have been more proud of our Transition Year students, many of whom achieved distinctions in subjects like Spanish, Science, Woodwork and Graphics. It was an incredible achievement for those students who dealt with not only the covid pandemic, but also the loss of Colm on the eve of the examinations.

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ETSSW Christmas Fair 2022

One of the main highlights in ETSS Wicklow's calendar this year was the Christmas fair that took place on the 13th of December. The evening started off with an autism friendly hour from 5-6 pm, which was a quiet and relaxed hour specifically for people with autism or who might be sensitive to a loud environment. Then the fair opened to the general public.



Overtime, the fair got busier and busier, with people from all around Wicklow visiting. There were many stalls in the fair, including Christmas tree decorations, candles, knitting materials, Christmas Wreaths, books, hot chocolate and more.

There were a few students from the

school who booked tables for their stalls; we had first year Dylan McConnologue selling reindeer shaped Christmas tree decorations and popcorn - you could smell the popcorn from the door, it was amazing!



We also had third year Ayah Mohamed selling some great bracelets, and her cakes were delicious - they sold out fast! Max Doyle from Transition year was selling some brilliant teddies and we had Harry Tindale with his wooden decorations - they were brilliant too! Cian (the teacher) also had some lovely wooden laser cut decorations that sold like wildfire!

Tea & coffee was served throughout the evening by a team of students and staff, along with a selection of cupcakes and ginger-

bread men baked by Amy and the Home Economics students.

There was an extra treat in store for the visitors of the Winter Fair, when the ETSS Wicklow Choir made an excellent performance in-front of everybody. They sang songs such as 'Last Christmas' by Wham and 'Silent Night' rehearsed with teacher Cailin over the last few months. Everyone clearly enjoying the singsong as parents and children alike got into the Christmas spirit.

Eva Flynn from third year produced some festive Yule logs in aid of Together from Homeless. She was inspired from her CBA last year on Collette Talbot and met her to donate all her proceeds. On behalf of the school community and charity, Well done Eva!

Overall the 2022 ETSS Wicklow Winter Fair was a great, fun and enjoyable night for all. The funds raised during the fair will go towards the Transition Year musical 'Beauty and the Beast' which will take place in May 2023. We thank the public and school community for making the 2022 Winter Fair a fantastic evening and we are all already looking forward to the next one.



By Bobby Connolly & Dylan Mc Connologue

Sporting Events at ETSS Wicklow

On the 11th of November, the ETSSW under 15 boys played their second soccer league game of the season.

We took on Enniscorthy Community Collage away from home. The night before the match there was a lot of rain, which made the pitch even harder to play on. The start of the match was difficult for both teams as there was heavy wind - but ETSSW didn't let that affect them when Callum Hodge scored an absolutely worldy goal from 30 yards out, and not too short after ETSSW were still dominating the game when Aaron Fitzsimons took a corner - on the end of it was Connor Martin hitting an absolute cracker of a header into the top corner, which then brought the game to half time as ETSSW were leading 2 – 0.

The second half was the same – ETSSW were still dominating with shots from Oscar Finn, and Aaron Fitzsimons came close to scoring but the keeper had other ideas. Enniscorthy started to find their rhythm closer to the end of the match with good shots - but not good enough to get past number 1, James McGowan.



Enniscorthy were still hitting hard on the attack, despite some good blocks from Michael Lynch. It didn't take long for Enniscorthy to score their first goal of the match, which was a good strike from their number 9 putting them back into the game!

In the closing minutes of the game ETSSW really wanted their first ever school team win and kept fighting for the school, and not too short after the referee blew her whistle making ETSSW the winners of the match!

When we arrived back at the school, the team was greeted by a warm welcome from the rest of the students and teachers, celebrating our first ever school victory!

By Callum Hodge, Oscar Finn & James McGowan

Hoops, I did it Again!

At the beginning of this school year, ETSSW started training for a school basketball team with teachers Lucy and Jess. Everyone trains together, but for matches we are split into the girls team and the boys team. I am a part of the girls basketball team.

We train every Monday straight after school for an hour. Each training session is a mix of shooting practice, dribbling drills, marking drills, and many more skills to get everyone ready for matches. The training ends with multiple matches - to put the skills we learn up to the test, with different team combinations each week. Since the girls team has only recently started up, we have only played 2 matches so far.

Both matches were played away – in the opposing schools, on bigger courts and better courts than ours. The first match we played was against East Glendalough School. In the first half, we scored no points – but by the end of the match we had 3 baskets, scored by myself (Kai) and Nadiya.

Although we did not win, we took away many helpful tips from the match, what we needed to improve on and went back to training hard once again. By the time the next match rolled around, against St. Mary's College, we had really improved on our performance.

We had become better at marking and teamwork, and though once again did not manage to win the match, we knew what our skills were – which will help us dominate our next match!

By Kai Lawlor Clack

During basketball training with Lucy and Jess, we work hard to be able to win our matches and be better at our game. Our training usually consists of layups, dribbling, shooting three pointers, defence and a teamwork skill – passing. Having those skills mastered is the key to basketball, since it is a very fast paced, competitive sport. Basketball the fourth hardest sport in the world.

My personal advice, having played basketball for a long time, is that getting to know your teammates and being at least somewhat comfortable with them is useful, since teammates generally pass to who they trust with the ball. Look into how your teammates play, and be able to estimate where they are when you have the ball before passing

- there are always a lot of behind the back or under arm throws.

Learn your enemy's tactic, and learn how every opposing player plays their game - in order to be able to defend against their techniques. Remember to be unpredictable, so as to keep the ball between your team as much as possible.

By Oliver Kowalski



Wicklow ETSS Volleyball Training

At ETSS Wicklow, our PE teacher Andrei Molnar has organised a girls volleyball training session on Tuesdays after school. Usually about 10-15 girls attend, and due to the small numbers Andrei can focus on everyone's personal strengths and weaknesses to train us. Training is an hour and a half, and during that time we practice a vast amount of things – from volley passes, to across court serves – and much more. We learn lots of new skills in the training sessions, and improve every day - and we can also practice outside at break time.

Training is well organised and easy to follow, and even if you don't attend every class, it's simple to catch up. In my opinion, having a girls only volleyball training is great - because first of all, the mixed classes have too many people, and secondly, sessions are easier to manage with boys and girls separated. Overall, the girls volleyball training has helped us a lot during the past month, and we even won a few matches against other schools!

By Rada Kanevskaya & Marija Mickeviciute 2

Junior Cycle Results Day

This year our school had its first ever Junior Cycle, which was a momentous occasion. The lead up to the Junior Cycle was tough, as we found out the day before our exams that our principal Colm had unfortunately passed away. It was a difficult time for the school as he had been the principal since day one. He got the school up and running, and he had a huge belief in what the students were capable of. We knew that the Junior Cycle could be a great opportunity to prove that Colm always believing in us was worth it, and put our all into all of our exams.

We all managed to get through the exams, and we think it's safe to say we did Colm proud and we hope he is watching down on us thinking that exact thing. A couple of weeks ago we received our results, which was a historical moment for the school seen as we were the first year group to sit the Junior Cycle Exams for ETSS Wicklow. We all did an amazing job and were very happy with our results.

Thankfully the Junior Cycle is over, but the Senior Cycle stress has only just begun!

By Ava Warrington and Jasmine Roberston



TY Coordinator Reflections

Alicia Devlin-Byrne took on the role a Garda Liaison talk, Video production of TY coordinator and was excited to workshop, Art trip, Careers trip and to get stuck into the planning for the finish off the year a day of Ice-skating. schools first ever Transition year. The year started off with a bang with a In the New Year, students have overnight bonding trip to Carlingford. Mondello, an Army base, Avondale Tree Tops and a Mystery tour to look

Students then enjoyed a wide variety forward to! of enjoyable workshops and events such as; a law module, Rugby training with the Lenister team, three mini company wokshops, Radio broadcast training, mental health workshop (SOS), Roddy Doyles Fighting Words,



TY Trips

TY students had their first overnight trip of the year to Carlingford Adventure in September. Students participated in survivor and team building activities, such as raft building. They spent the few days getting to know each other and developing communication and team work skills, students were pushed out of their comfort zone and asked to put their full trust in each other as they navigated an obstacle course together; blindfolded! They also did some pier jumping, kayaking, a laser tag course, dodge ball archery and rock-climbing in the mountains. It was great to see many students challenging themselves, trying something new and supporting each other.



Our DCU Trip



Art Gallery/Museum Trip



Carlingford Trip

TY Art and History students visited the National Museum of Archaeology and the National Gallery of Ireland. They attended two guided tours of the highlights of both collections which was very informative and enjoyable. They enjoyed learning about artefacts from Pre-Christian and Early Christian Ireland, as well as the artworks of the Impressionists, Jack B. Yeats, and Caravaggio. The TY students also visited DCU for a tour of the campus in October.

TY Musical

TY students at ETSS Wicklow impressive accents, great stage have decided to do Beauty & The presence and hilarious Beast for this years TY musical. humour.

Just before midterm, students auditioned for main roles and we Rehearsals are in full swing are excited to say that the main and our two acting roles have now been cast!

coordinators, Shauna and Sheena, are very excited and A huge well done to our lead roles, impressed with what they have Grace Wernick as Belle, Vega seen so far!

Quetglas Larroya as The Beast, Our set and costume Sonny Anderson-Ludlow as Gaston departments are doing and Hannah O'Callaghan as Mrs. fantastic work with Amanda Potts, and to all of our acting and Cian, designing our stage, students, Katie O'Connor, Hugo props, costumes and Kerekes, Cody Grove, Ava Li everything that the actors will Blount, Éanna Maher, Tia work with. They have Swindells, Eve Stokes and Ngozi proposed excellent ideas and Nicholas, who will play all of the students have shown great other fantastic characters in the enthusiasm and creativity so play, bringing them to life with far.



Themed Weeks



European Languages Week

In October, we celebrated European Languages Week and we ran many events for students to engage in.

There was “Drop Everything and Salsa”, where they took the last 15 minutes of the final period on Wednesday afternoon and engaged in a Salsa tutorial online. Daily challenges were fun and their accomplishments were shared on Padlet.

They were challenged to say hello in another language, cook something from another country, introduce themselves in another language, find something in their house that was labelled in another language, take a photo of their favourite European destination and watch a movie in another language. Students and teachers also dressed up in the colours of a country.

Thanks to all students for getting involved in EU Languages Week and we hope you all enjoyed it.

Gaelige 24 Sponsored Walk



Cailin Fitzpatrick our new Irish teacher organised a sponsored walk for Conradh na Gaeilge. The students raised €900 for this Irish organisation which helps promote the Irish language in the country. Students took part in a walk around Wicklow town and also spoke Irish for the day. It was a successful event with even the locals partaking by speaking Irish as the students walked by them.

Maths Week

We had a very exciting Maths week here at ETSS Wicklow. On Monday, we kicked off with maths puzzles during tutor time and at lunch. We measured the students in each year group to find the average heights in centimetres and converted them to feet and inches. On Tuesday, each tutor group solved the daily Nerdle online and the 1st and 2nd year students took part in a very intense game of Maths Monopoly at lunchtime. Well done to David Dubrovskij in 1st year who collected the most points. On Wednesday morning, our students worked in pairs to solve sudoku puzzles, we saw some serious concentration! The TYs also organised a maths joke competition to bring comedy into numeracy. The funniest joke of the day came from 1st year student Isobel O'Connor. Her joke “What do vegans and parallel lines have in common? They never meet” got quite a reaction. On Thursday, students were given a “Number of the Day” and were asked to partition it and round it. At lunchtime, over 100 students took part in our Maths Escape Room in the PE Hall. The students had to search for clues and solve the problems in order to crack the code for the padlock and escape the hall.

3rd year student Attila Diamant got out in the fastest time. On Friday morning, students got competitive with a maths trivia Kahoot! We finished off the week with a codebreaker challenge in which students solved problems to unlock letters which they then rearranged to form maths words. Each day, our students were challenged with solving a riddle to be in with the chance of winning a prize

This was extremely popular among the school community, even the staff got involved! To celebrate women in maths and maths in Ireland, TY students researched female and Irish mathematicians and presented their findings to their classes on Friday. We all learned so much from this.

We can't wait for Maths week 2023!



Science Week

Science Week took place from the 13th – 20th November. We had a wide variety of activities planned for students to participate in. During tutor time students worked in teams to complete STEM challenges. Students' designs were then be tested at the end of the week and the best designs won a pizza party for their class.

Transition Year students took part in a live chat session with scientific researchers. This was a great opportunity for students to ask questions about the life of a scientist, as well as gaining knowledge in the most cutting-edge research that is currently taking place in Ireland. During science class students completed experiments and engaging in STEM workshops. Students made either a car or a float or Zipline out of Art and Crafts materials.

The traditional whole school Science quiz took place on Friday, this tested students' knowledge of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Space and famous scientists. Attila Diamant was crowned the overall winner of the quiz, who received a voucher and a 3-D printed trophy. Runners up from every year group won many other prizes across the week. It is great to see Science taking front and centre stage in the school.



The Rotary Club

My name is Hannah O'Callaghan and I am the Student Council President of ETSS Wicklow. This year was the first year our school was able to take part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Competition. Due to not having any students above the age of 16 for the previous years, we were unable to participate. We were delighted to finally take part, and were optimistic to get far in the competition.

The competition consisted of three rounds; the school round, the Wicklow round and the Zone final. 24 students from all around Ireland would be chosen from this to go on a trip with all fees paid. This trip will begin in Belfast, with a tour of The Titanic Centre, a tour of Stormont and meeting with local politicians and business leaders. The tour will then move on to Dublin, where the students will attend an information seminar/tour and a lunch hosted by the staff of The Dáil. Finally, the highlight of the trip will be the trip to Strasbourg. The students will fly to France to take part in a full day of debating at Euroscola at the European Parliament. Alongside the 24 Irish young representatives, there will be around 500 other students from around Europe there too. The last day of the trip will be a sightseeing day of Strasbourg and then back to Ireland.

Myself, Eoin Edwards, Lenna Smith and Jack Campbell from transition year interviewed in the school round of the competition. Unfortunately, there could only be one winner. All students that took part did an amazing job, however I was chosen to go on to the Wicklow round. There was lots of schools from around Wicklow, and some tough competition. I did my interview in the Wicklow Gold Club, and I won the Wicklow round. I was shocked because the other schools had been doing the competition for so long, yet our school had already gotten so far in its first year. I couldn't believe I was a finalist, but nevertheless I attended the Zone final a couple of days later. It was probably the most nerve-wrecking moment of my life, however I won the Zone final after some challenging questions that most certainly caught me off guard. Now, I will be one of the 24 students from Ireland attending the Strasbourg trip in February to represent our country. I am very excited and hope that I will be able to guide more students in our school next year to do just as well.

I would like to thank Alicia for advising me to do this, because I wouldn't have put myself forward if it wasn't for her. I would also like to congratulate all my fellow students who participated in the school round of the competition. I hope I can represent not only Ireland, but our school in Strasbourg in February!

By Hannah O'Callaghan



Parent Events

We have had a number of opportunity to work with staff in successful parent Coffee mornings focus groups and discuss possible links between the home and school months which was a welcomed over the coming year. We are opportunity to finally meet in looking forward to this increased person, something we have not parental involvement within our been able to do for some time. thriving school community.

Parents were introduced to Ceire Hatton who is ETSSW's new home school community liaison co-ordinator. Ceire's role in the school is to work with and support parents and guardians to help improve student educational outcomes. Typically, this includes the organisation of classes and events for parents along with individual home support visits.

Our coffee mornings provided parents/guardians a great

Parents also enjoyed a lovely festive Wreath Making workshop where they were able to enjoy some nice pies and coffee while they created some amazing door show stoppers. Well done everyone!



Model United Nations

We are very proud to say that we are an enthusiastic Model United Nations school. We have been involved in MUN since 2019, and are improving our knowledge and skills as the years progress.

So far this year, we have been invited to multiple MUN conferences, ETSS Wicklow attended RADMUN in November as the delegation of Angola, and participated in some fruitful debate. Well done to all students who took part in this. We are excited to attend more conferences in the New Year, such as representing the delegations of Australia and Belarus at ROCKMUN, happening on January 27th and 28th.



This year we are delighted to announce that we will be hosting our first in-person conference of our annual MUN on April 21st and 22nd. Due to Covid, for the last three years it has been online, and now we can officially say that we are finally holding it in the venue of our school building. Our main preparation team for this conference consists of Secretary General Hannah O'Callaghan, Deputy Secretary General Eoin Edwards, Conference Manager Lenna Smith, Deputy Conference Manager Grace Wernick, and our advisor James Hayden.

Last year, we had a whopping 180 delegates attend our conference online, and we are hopeful to get a full capacity conference again this year. We are inviting multiple schools from all over Ireland, and can't wait to meet all these delegates for a debate-filled, and not to mention enjoyable, weekend.

By Hannah O'Callaghan

🎵 School Choir

Choir has been run by Cailín every Friday to reach our goal of singing for the ETSS Wicklow Fair. It was a great few weeks practicing with Christmas spirit in our minds. We sang lots of songs, such as “Do They Know it’s Christmas Time”, “Last Christmas”, “Merry Christmas Everyone” and many more. We also sang some carols, for example “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” and “Silent Night.” We were all ready for the night, and we all sounded great. Everyone enjoyed our singing, and some even sang along. Overall I think we did a great job. Thanks to Cailín who gave up her time to help us prepare, we couldn’t have done it without you!

By Harry Tindale

"First Few Months as a First year"

My name is Vyga Nair, and I am a first year student in ETSS Wicklow. I'm writing this article to talk about how my first few months have been at ETSS Wicklow. At the start of the school year, I walked in very nervous - but then started finding many new friends! The older students are well-mannered, friendly, and made me feel very welcome. The teachers are amazing, and I idolise them all!

In September we took time off from our busy timetables to bond and create new friendships on an Adventure Day! Our classes went bowling, for a hike along the Murrough and took part in some exciting team building games with our tutors. The sun even stayed out for us!

When I joined ETSS Wicklow, I was anxious about school itself – however, I soon found that teachers go out of their way to help students with anything you are finding hard, difficult or you just don't understand at all!

These past few months in ETSS Wicklow have been a blast – I hope we can have more fun in the future!

By Vyga Nair



Our Spanish Students

As you may or may not know, some Spanish students started in our school in September. They joined our school in the hope that they would improve their English, and as a native English speaker, hearing them speak now proves that they have learned a lot of English and made great progress in the language skills.

As well as this, they have also made a lot of friends here too. They have been working very hard in school, and tried to get involved in as much as possible in class. The students have also got involved in some of the lunch time sports, such as basketball, ping pong and volleyball.

Along with this, they have shown great resilience since joining the school, by showing us that even if you do not know the primary language of a country, it is an opportunity to use it as a learning experience.



I interviewed one of the Spanish students. They said “I think that this school is pretty good, the iPads are very useful, and I really like the fact that the school gives a copybook for each subject. The school journal has lots of useful information. The students are all very friendly and respectful with each other. I would highly recommend this school to other students. I would like to stay in this school if I could.”

To conclude, the Spanish students have been a great addition to our school this year.

By Elliott Potts

Debating Culture

As well as ETSS Wicklow running the National Educate Together Debating Competition again this year, our school teams have put up a tough fight in the first round of the competition. Debating students with the support their coach Cailín over the Christmas holidays will be preparing for their final debate on ‘Reality shows should be part of the Junior Cycle Curriculum’. We wish them all the very best of luck.

ETSS Wicklow Open Day Success

On the 5th of October, our school held an Open Evening for incoming first years and anyone interested in ETSSW, in order to learn a bit about our school, its teachers, students and ethos.

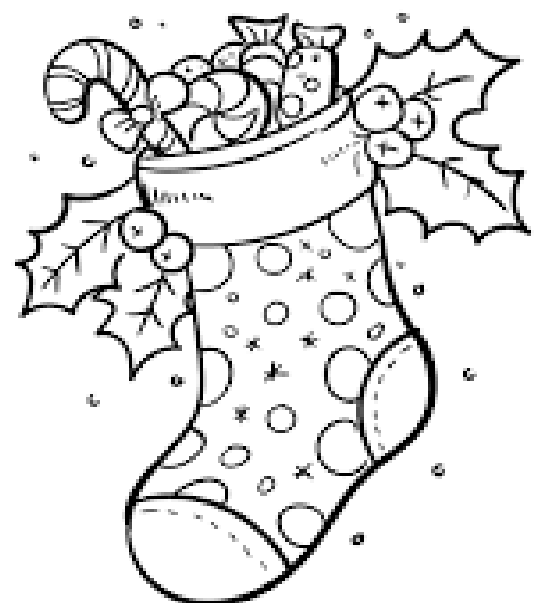


Students were put in charge of different subject rooms, to give tours and explain a little about their assigned subjects. Me (Ayah), Cody Grove, Ruben Smith and Katelyn Byrne were in charge of the music room display, and we had many people coming in and out to chat to us about the subject and our school in general.

Cody managed to attract a lot of people with his beautiful piano skills – while myself, Ruben and Katelyn talked to parents and potential students about our music classes and our musically talented students – of which there is many in our school! Amy did a great job in the Home Ec room, and made sure everything was perfect – the cupcakes were delicious! Acting Principal John Maddock's address attracted such interest that the audience even spilled out the doors.

It was a great evening and everyone enjoyed organising and attending it. I am sure many incoming first years have made up their minds about which school they will be choosing!

By Ayah Mohamed



Shauna O' Toole Deputy Principal



Beginning my role as Deputy Principal in September 2022 has been challenging yet really rewarding at the same time. It has been great to see all students embrace the changes to the culture of the school as well as continuing on from where Colm left off. Colm was a fantastic mentor and could always see the potential in each student and staff member. I know he would be very proud of you all. In the New Year 2023, I will continue to strive to meet and support the needs of every student in the school. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and see you all in the New Year!

My role as year head is to monitor student lateness and absenteeism, oversee the academic progress of students, ensure the year group follow the code of behaviour, support students at risk and address the needs of vulnerable students. I also meet weekly with John our Principal and Shauna the Deputy Principal to discuss and review issues concerning the year group. I hope that all of our 1st Year students have a well-earned break over the holidays after a busy term and come back to school in January, refreshed and ready for more learning and achievement. In the meantime, from myself, Jess (Form Tutor Gray Class), Siún (Form Tutor Yeats Class) and Cailín (Form Tutor Osborne Class), wishing all our students and families, a 'Lovely Christmas and a Happy & Healthy and Happy New Year!'

Craig Ledwith Second Year Head



I am Craig and I joined the school at the start of last year. I teach Business Studies and Mathematics and have taken on the role of Year Head for 2nd Years this year. My role this year involves dealing with any behavioural issues in 2nd year, keeping an eye on student attendance and punctuality and being available to any 2nd year who may need my help with any issues they are facing in the school. My hope for January and beyond is to continue to build relationships with the 2nd years and affect positive change in their lives, both inside and outside of school.

My name is Jake Firman and I am from a small rural village in Co. Wexford! I teach Gaelic, Guitar and Geography in the school. My new role as year head is to oversee the academic progress of 3rd and 4th year students. I ensure the year group understand & follow school policies, and address the needs of all students in my year groups. Myself and the year-heads meet with the Deputy Principal, Shauna and the Principal, John, each week to keep them up to date with various student achievements and any points of concern. I have loved every second of my role this year and I hope every student has benefited in some way from the help & guidance that myself and my tutor team have tried to offer. I look forward to setting our students up for success in the new year ahead!

Jake Firman 3rd & TY Year Head



Sarah Hayward First Year Head



The School Bunny Rabbits

In November of this year, a neighbour of one of our SNA's, Mildred, had two rabbits they were giving away. Mildred brought them into the school, and now they live in the Enright room and are taken care of by Magda most of the time.

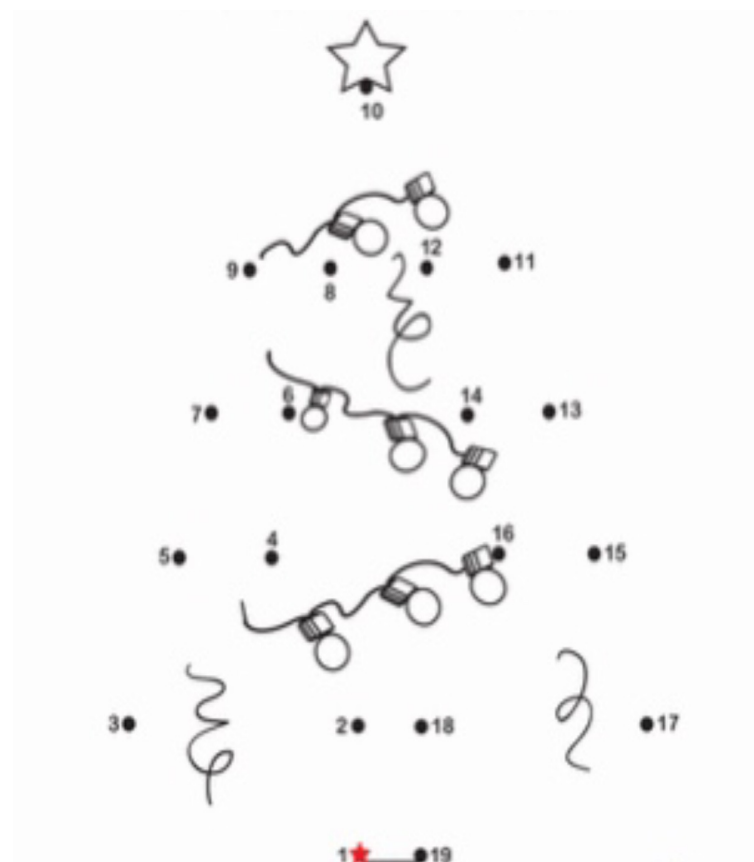
They are fed hay every weekday, and they get extra food on Fridays. They also regularly get bits of fruit and veg from the Home Ec. room and bits of wood to chew on from the woodwork room.

They are mother and daughter, the mother being called Jade (named by Enright) and the daughter Oreo (named by Scully). Their bedding gets changed once a week and the rabbits run around the floor while their cage is being cleaned.

While they didn't have much to say, I really enjoyed getting to interview the rabbits and hope everyone else gets to meet them too!

By Cadhla Tyner

Christmas Dots



Principal Address Continued

From Front Page

The Transition Year students have also been instrumental in continuing a number of Colm's ambitious projects for the school. The National Debating Competition he founded has since gone from strength to strength under student leadership, while Colm's Model United Nations initiative will, for the first time this year, be organised in person on the school grounds during a Friday evening and Saturday. Here at ETSS Wicklow we are continuing to grow our student leaders, so it was no surprise to us when our Student Council President, Hannah O'Callaghan won the Rotary Ireland Youth Leadership Development Competition! We wish Hannah every success in visiting the Dáil, Stormont and Strasbourg parliaments to represent the young people of Ireland.

ETSS Wicklow continues to experience success outside of the classroom with continued athletics wins, wins on the basketball courts and soccer pitches and the new emergence of a very formidable girls' and boys' volleyball team under the tutelage of PE teacher and Irish National coach Andrei Molner.

Our school atmosphere and culture is continuing to grow and flourish. Our themed weeks have been a great success with Maths Week, Science Week, Stand-Up Week and Languages Week being particular highlights this term.

This year has also seen several new clubs and activities added to the daily schedule. We now have the likes of board games, lego club, chess club, choir, creative writing club, debating and book club to name but a few! We also held our first ever Winter Fair fundraiser this December and we were blown away by the support the Wicklow community showed us on the evening. We look forward now to expanding our Winter Fair to an even bigger and better event next year.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students, parents, guardians, Board of Management members and members of staff for how they have supported and helped us all in the ETSS Wicklow community since we returned from the summer break.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday and a well-deserved rest before we return in the new year.



Acting Principal John Maddock

Board of Management Message

Another year of growth and change in 2022. The tragedy of losing Colm was almost too much to bear. But we did make it through and that is thanks to all of us standing strong together. Now we have John and Shauna as acting Principal and acting Deputy Principal to build on Colm's legacy.

We have a new Board of Management with elections from the staff, parents and students - welcome to them and thanks to their predecessors. We have full enrolment across all our years with three new classes joining in September. Our first Junior Cycle results were excellent- distinctions in Woodwork, Science, Spanish and Graphics. Art was excellent too. And our first TY year enjoyed an overnight trip to Carlingford.

Other highlights include Aaron Fitzsimons on Ireland's Fittest Family, the Educate Together National Debating Competition, Hannah O'Callaghan being chosen to represent Wicklow in the Rotary Club Youth Leadership Development competition and Noah Harris competing in the Canoe Ocean Racing European Championships.

And of course team success in Volleyball, GAA, soccer and basketball- our first full year of playing sports as a school.

On behalf of the board of management may I wish you all a festive winter break as we look forward to a new year for ETSS Wicklow!

By Chairperson Danny Haskins

Looking to 2023!

Next year looks set to be yet another eventful year for ETSS Wicklow with lots to look forward to for staff, parents and students.

The new year kicks off with a 6 week Operation Transformation challenge for parents led by our HSCL Ceire. Each day offers a new challenge for parents such as Zumba, Yoga, Ball sports & WOW. Parents will be able to book in for these sessions through a link on our social media. It should be a great way to improve fitness as well as getting to know members of the school community.

The National Educate Together Debating Competition run by our

school has already gotten off to a great start with some really outstanding debating. We are looking forward to hosting the final in early May and awarding the Colm Kehoe cup to a well deserving team.

The Model United Nations was another event close to Colm's heart and TY students are currently in the final preparations for our first ever live event hosted in the school in May. We hope you will come along to listen to the keynote speakers!

Another two events to add to the calender is a tree planting memorial for Colm, as well as the much anticipated TY Beauty & the Beast musical.

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