

# The MACC

January 2017

Margaret Aylward CC Thatch Road Whitehall Dublin 9

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[www.margaretaylwardcc.ie](http://www.margaretaylwardcc.ie)

## Message from the Principal

On behalf of the staff in Margaret Aylward Community College I wish parents and students a happy and fulfilling New Year. I hope all students have had a restful break and have returned to school ready to participate with renewed energy for the rest of the academic year.



Since September teaching staff and students have been busy academically and through involvement in many extra-curricular activities described on our website at [www.margaretaylwardcc.ie](http://www.margaretaylwardcc.ie). September was marked by outdoor trips including a team-building Transition Year outing to Wicklow. Junior Cycle, Transition Year and Fifth Year students continue to benefit from DCU programmes such as the pre-16, DCU UniTY, and U-First programmes. Two of our Transition Year students attend the Trinity College Walton Club each Saturday



which emphasises science and mathematics. The wonders of science were also enjoyed by parents and students during our school Science Week. Other highlights in our first term included the achievement of a National Well Read Award and the participation of a team of students in a Digital Champion Project. The school's new library is now fully in action. We warmly welcome our Librarian Ms. Sarah Purcell who contributes hugely to the learning experiences of our students.

As the New Year unfolds the school continues with its mission of encouraging students to achieve their full potential and develop the skills necessary to become self-motivating members of society. In order to equip students for an uncertain and complex society students are supported in the development of strong bonds of friendship, character building, and the acquisition of skills and a good attitude for learning. We thank our prefects and mentors who provide invaluable support to other students. I would like to remind parents, guardians and students of the importance of good attendance and punctuality as there is a direct link between attendance and academic achievement.



We wish every success to our Sixth Year students who are entering the final stretch of their academic journey in Margaret Aylward Community College. We look forward to new First Year students who are continuing to enrol for September 2017. We also welcome students who wish to enrol in other year groups. Finally I look forward to meeting parents and guardians at our parent-teacher meetings during the month of January.

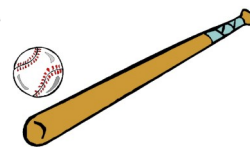
## Transition Year Market Day

The Transition Year Market Day was a roaring success with all companies creating profitable products. We were delighted to welcome 4th, 5th and 6th class students and teachers from the Holy Child National School in Larkhill on the day. The TY students designed and produced their own goods to sell at what has become our annual Christmas Market Day. The Transition Year class was ambitious, dedicated and highly motivated throughout the event. It was a wonderful way to kick off the festive period in Margaret Aylward CC.



## PE News

We've had a busy and fun first term of the academic year. During the first half of the term we used a sport education model to do our rounders strand of the PE syllabus. That means we were using the same teams more or less for the whole 'season' of rounders. Every class had a number of teams. We built up our team-work and leadership skills (as well as our batting and fielding skills) with everyone on each team having the opportunity to be captain and lead the group. This meant leadership in all aspects of the game, including tactics, having the team appropriately warmed up and motivating the team. This culminated in an inter-class rounders competition before the



midterm break. This was an exciting competition and standards were high. The final winners were the Second Years. Sixth Years are taking full advantage of the good weather to hone their skills in preparation for the teachers versus pupils match that will take place at the end of this academic year. They intend to win this year. Two Sixth Years are getting in lots of umpiring practice to ensure a fair competition on the day.

The second half of the term was spent doing health-related activity. Each class focussed on different aspects of fitness each week and designed their own fitness circuit towards the end. This included appropriate strength, cardiovascular and flexibility exercises. We also did some 'blind' taste-testing and the girls found it difficult to taste the difference between well-known branded and non-branded food products. This goes to show the influence of our attitudes on what we think we are eating. So, let's try to eat healthily in 2017.

## LCA Talk on Syrian Refugees

Our 5 LCA class participated in a visitor exercise recently as part of our English and Communications module. Our English teacher's twin sister, Mary Leahy, came in to the class and talked to us about her experience working with Syrian refugees in a refugee camp in Greece. Mary explained to the class about the lives of the people living in the camps. I learnt that the refugees had left their country to get away from the war. They crossed dangerous seas to get to Greece and other countries and many people died trying to reach land. Mary told us that one fifth of the refugee children are suffering from PTSD as a result of the traumatic experience in their own country where they saw torture and loved ones being abused. Mary helped set up a women's group in the camp where they could talk and knit. She also set up art therapy class for the children so they could draw their experiences. I found this talk very sad but yet very interesting. I hope that more people take this whole situation with the refugees more seriously and decide to help. I am delighted I now know more about the refugees and I hope one day when I'm a bit older I can take part in helping refugees around the world.



Zoe Brannock, 5LCA (adapted)

## Fundraising for ISPC

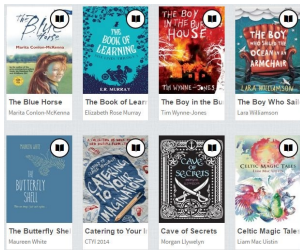
Well done to our First Year class **1 Olive** who raised over €300 for the ISPC. They ran a really successful non-uniform day and cake sale and helped to highlight the great work the ISPC does in taking a stand against bullying. The girls also came up with their own anti-bullying song. All students wore a safety pin to show 'We are a safe school.'



## JCSP NEWS

We are delighted to announce that we are now a **National Well Read School**. We appreciate all the efforts put in by students, parents and staff in order to help us secure this prestigious national award and we'd like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all.

We continue to run book clubs this year and we are so excited about the enthusiasm we see from participants. On Fridays Senior and First Year book clubs are run by Ms. Mahony, Ms. McNamara and Ms. Roche. Junior book clubs for Second and Third Year will run on Monday beginning in the new year, as will our TY book club. We welcome all participants.



Don't forget you can also avail of our JCSP digital library which is free. You can sign in under the Web address [www.jcspreserve.com](http://www.jcspreserve.com) or by downloading the overdrive app. Please talk to Sarah in the library if you are unsure how to log on.

We would like to extend an invitation to all parents to attend our World Book Day book sale in early April. The date is yet to be finalised but this was an extremely successful event last year and we look forward to making it even more successful this year. Keep your ear to the ground and make sure not to miss this wonderful event.

Congratulations to our JCSP Christmas poetry competition winner... **Lisa Stokes 1 Olive**. Well done, Lisa.

Our first year JCSP Christmas celebration took place in December. We enjoyed student awards, songs, poems and much more. It was a fantastic morning and great to meet so many of the first year parents.



## School Digital Champion Programme

Margaret Aylward CC is delighted to be taking part in the School Digital Champion Programme for the first time this year. The School Digital Champion programme is a new initiative which aims to enhance the use of technology in teaching and learning. Our Digital Champions are Kaitlyn Whelan and Lucy Myers from Sixth Year, Rachel Lawlor and Nicole Jordan representing Transition Year and Aimee Crowe who is in Third Year. Keep an eye on our website [www.margaretaylwardcc.ie](http://www.margaretaylwardcc.ie) to hear about our progress.



## Transition Year News

Garda Dave Barron from Santry Garda Station gave our TY class a talk on road safety in December. The talk, entitled '**It Won't Happen To Me**', gave Dave the opportunity to speak to the students about all aspects of road safety and the role they can play in keeping safe.

TY students are taking part in a Dublin City Council cultural programme called '**Press Play**'. With the help of the renowned theatre-maker, Veronica Dyas, the students will be creating a pop-up museum of sport and song and will be exploring their identity through Ireland's strong history of music and sportsmanship.





## TY Baltinglass Trip

TY students had a fantastic start to their year when they spent three days at Baltinglass adventure centre. Students and teachers pushed themselves to their limits while enjoying activities such as zip lining, rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, archery and orienteering. We had a blast and we can only say a big huge thank you to the amazing staff at the adventure centre. Lets hope that's just the start of a fantastic year for TY.



## Christmas Art Work

TY students and members of the parents group enjoyed a workshop where they created Christmas centrepieces for their homes. In just one hour and twenty minutes they created these wonderful works of art that will bring good cheer to any household.

## School Bank

Congratulations to the TY students on a very successful school bank launch on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a fun day with all thirty new account holders receiving party treats and entry into a Christmas hamper draw. The lucky winner was Nattawadee Ungkawanont from 1 Olive pictured with Ms. Clonan, acting DP, and Brendan Boylan, Bank of Ireland. Mr. Boylan commended the TYs on their enthusiasm and professionalism in marketing and organising the event.

**Bank opening times:** Tuesdays 1pm -1.30, Room 7



## School Shop

The school shop is a thriving business this year thanks in no small way to Sandra Moore (SNA) and a very capable and dedicated team of TY students. The team comprises Lauren Mahon, Nicole Jordan, Rachel Lawlor, Leigha Byrne and Stacey Tunnicliffe. They run the shop very efficiently taking responsibility for stock control, account management and staff rostering. Sales are up on last year as are profits. Customer satisfaction is high as staff are considerate of their wants when replenishing stock in the Cash & Carry. Well done everyone and keep up the good work!

