



Gareth Suite Newsletter

Newsletter Date:
15/12/15



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From left-right, Ryan Brown, Aaron Meade, Shauna Flynn, Colm Redmond Carey, Jack Morgan & Gavin Ryan.

Welcome to our second Gareth Suite Newsletter. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Seven weeks have past since our last newsletter and we have quite a lot to tell you about.

In November, Mr. Rayfus met with all of our parents to update and inform them of our progress in school.

Some parents were invited back to the Suite in December and took part in some lessons and activities.

In the New Year we hope to do more with parents and build upon the link with Home and School.

This term we placed a special learning emphasis upon community life and living skills.

Students are experiencing lots of opportunities outside of the classroom, the highlight of the year so far was watching our successful U19 boys basketball team win the Dublin League Division final.

Congratulations to Mr. Barnett and his team.

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Occupational and Speech & Language Therapy with Beechpark Services.

In October our students started an 'Emotional Literacy' group with Beechpark Services in the Gareth Suite.

The programme ran over a six week period and concluded at the end of November. Each session focused on a specific emotion.

We learned how each emotion made us feel and behave. These emotions included Joy, Fear, Disgust, Anger, Sadness, Surprise and Excitement.

Characters from the film 'Inside Out' were used to structure each E.L group. In each ses-

sion we had lots of discussion and roll play around each emotion.

During each session we filled in our 'Feelings Book' and drew lots of pictures about what our faces looked like and how each emotion made us feel both emotionally & physically.

Special Points of Interest

- ◆ Please ask to see my student passport in order to find out more interesting things about me.
- ◆ In mainstream class I will have my (CSI) workbook and (My Edit Checklist) with me. In this folder I can keep all of my work together so I can keep track of my work.
- ◆ I may need a (Time-Out) break from time to time. I will show you my (Exit Card) if I feel I need to take a break.

Travel Training

After speaking with parents in November, Mr. Rayfus decided to place a special emphasis on preparing students for personal safety and making journeys safely.

For all of us, repetition is an essential part of learning and an important part of travel training and confidence building is repeatedly making journeys.

For this purpose amongst others, we walk to the Donaghmede Library every Friday and cross a number of roads. An important part of this process is learning how to safely and correctly cross a busy

road. Students are learning about the correct use of zebra crossings, pedestrian crossings and traffic light islands.

Students are learning about the need to press the button on the traffic light island and to wait for the green man to signal before attempting to cross the road.

One can never emphasise enough of an awareness that traffic may come from either left or right and to WAIT at the road crossing for all traffic to stop before they try to cross the road. This piece of learning is most difficult to understand.

When on school trips we also try to travel on public transportation. This experience helps us become more familiar with planning our journeys, understanding bus routes and reading timetables.

This is only the first step of our traveling training and as outlined at the start, practice is essential to learning and helps build confidence when making journeys.

Below are pictures of our students planning their journeys. This is the first step in our students journey in becoming more independent and confident when travelling.



Donaghmede Library Visits

All of our students in the Suite are now members of the Donaghmede Library and visit every Friday morning.

The Donaghmede Library have a selection of wonderful books. The social interaction students experience on their visit to the library is invaluable to them and helps build upon their community life and living skills.

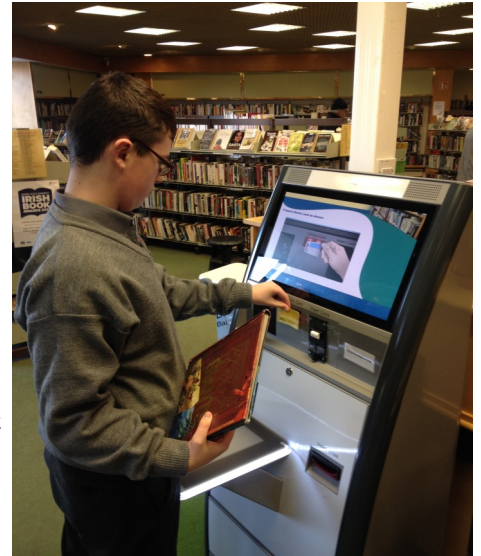
Students have learned how to use the touch-screen self-service machine when borrowing and exchanging books.

And by now know where to find their favorite category of books in the library.

Students have also become very friendly with the staff in the library and receive a warm welcome each Friday morning when they arrive.

Our Library visits have helped engrain an interest in reading for pleasure and further enhances and develops key literacy skills.

This is Aaron borrowing a book at the self-service machine.



Ms. McMahon G. Suite Music Class

Music as a subject was introduced to Grange Community College last year. Ms. McMahon is our music teacher and offers music classes in the Gareth Suite.

Some of the interesting things students have been learning include expressing opinions upon their musical tastes, performing different genres and styles, gaining an understanding of musical terminology and listening and engaging with various classical works.

A special theme worked on this term was called 'Instruments of the Orchestra'. Students learned how to identify to musical instruments by ear and gained an understanding of how the orchestra was divided and organised.

Thanks to Ms. McMahon especially our SNA's Laura and Roisin. All reports indicate that our students are really enjoying their new music classes.

Our new school crest was designed by students in our Art Department last year and if reviewed in years to come might incorporate a musical symbol to recognise music as a new subject in our school.



Grange Community College

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Many thanks to the professional and diligent work of our SNA staff who assist our students on a daily basis, Debbie, Deirdre and Louise in the mainstream and especially Roisin and Laura in the Suite.

Thanks to our caretaker Kevin and our cleaning staff Mandy and Adrienne who ensure our Suite is clean and fresh each morning and who maintain the Suite's toileting area. Your work is greatly appreciated by everyone in the Suite.

Many thanks to Ursula Noonan Occupational Therapist and Laura O'Brien Speech and Language Therapist from Beechpark Services who visited our Suite in October and November and offered 'Emotional Literacy' classes to the class. This is a new service for our students in our school.

Creative Writing by Ryan Brown (The Egyptian King)

To be Continued.....

The friendship between Time Lords and Egyptians was coming to an end. There were drawings on the walls in the pyramids where Thoth was buried.

These drawings showed all of the events of Thoth's legacy. One day when Paper Man was looking at a globe that magically showed the entire world, he discovered something which alarmed him.

He banged his magic staff on the tomb of Thoth and awoken him. He tells Thoth 'Master', a man has decided to write a story about magic. Thoth said if this is so the case we must help him in his destiny to become an author. So over the years, Thoth shaped the destinies of all those people who would become authors.

Thoth and Paper Man travelled around the world, as they told all kinds of authors of what they could put in their stories. This inspired writers to write their own text.

One night Paper Man was looking at the globe when he noticed that the God of Dreams, 'Morpheus' had come to Ireland. Alarmed he awoken Thoth again and said 'Master', 'Morpheus' the God of Dreams has gone to Ireland for reasons unknown".

Thoth then said, we must find out why 'Morpheus' has gone to Ireland".

So Thoth and Paper Man, travelled all the way to Ireland. They found Morpheus visiting a young boy. While the boy is sleeping, Morpheus creates a dream that inspires the boy. Then Paper Man says "he is inspiring him to become a writer.

Thoth says "then we must also shape the boy's destiny". As Thoth shapes the destiny of this boy he also tells Paper Man as they return to Egypt, the age of the 'Egyptian Gods' will only return when the prophecy of the fight between man and immortal comes true.

This young boy whom 'Morpheus' has inspired with a dream could be the key. He could be the one we have been waiting for.

And so it was that Thoth, Paper Man and Morpheus helped inspire and shape the destiny of a young Irish boy that would write the stories about the fight between man and immortal and so insuring the return of the age of the 'Egyptian Gods'.

The End.