

St. David's Holy Faith School Library



**Quarterly Update
October 2024**

Librarian: Mairéad Duggan

Quarterly Report – October 2024

Library Management System

Cataloguing is progressing and we try to do a little every day. Several of the *Library Council* students have been trained in and are helping out with this mammoth task. This term the History section has been catalogued. Also, all our student library patrons have been added to the system. Our library management system *Koha* is officially open for business and scanning books out to students. Students may borrow books for two weeks with an option to renew them after that date.

Public Library Links

The 5th and 6th Year History students are continuing to research their History Projects and some have ordered their specialist topic books through the school library. We have a long-term loan facility which allows the students to order books and keep them for extended periods to complete their projects. This is a great facility offered by our local library which saves us time, money and space, and offers students a wealth of knowledge on a variety of topics.

Arts Programme Classes

Transition Year Creative Writing and Illustrating

TY students have a *Creative Arts Programme* running throughout their language classes facilitated by Ms. Foynes and Mr. Wiggins. We are delivering a course on writing picture books over the course of this term with lectures and practical instruction. The classes are working on writing a series of children's books written in the French language and illustrated by the students themselves. These books may be used for the French language teaching that our students are involved in, in local primary schools. We will also look to publish a copy for the students by the end of the school year.

Creative Clubs in the School Library

Create Club

On Monday afternoons, our *Create Club* meets after school. The librarian works in tandem with Ms. Doyle of the English Department to encourage creative writing and illustration. We have a really strong group of writers and a few illustrators who have written an extensive body of work already and have uploaded their assignments to Google Classroom. Students are beginning to share their work and there are quite a few talented writers emerging. We are using writing prompts to write during club time and we are also using a class set of a picturebooks called 'The Mysteries of Harris Burdick' which has been a great tool for inspiring a myriad of intriguing stories. Our numbers have doubled this year and we are hoping to publish annually or bi-annually to allow students to have a portfolio of published work.

Film Club

There are a small number of students who are interested in learning how to make short films and they attend the club on Wednesdays after school. Our project this year is to make a short promotional video showcasing our school clubs.

In Film Club, the students have watched a number of short films for inspiration. The librarian is liaising with the Irish Film Institute to get a subscription for schools. The Film Club will liaise with different Departments over the course of the year. Our first film screening will be in November in conjunction with the French Department. We will screen a French movie and the French Department will invite some of their students to attend film club on that date.

Work with School Departments

Art Department

The Art Department have been very active in collection development this term. A selection of books exploring different art movements, line, signs, and maps amongst other elements have been ordered and catalogued. The art teachers will borrow the books on long-term loan for the art rooms and some reference copies will remain in the library.

In collaboration with the art department and the creative writing club, Ms. Gore will be running another creative club in the library on the last Tuesday of the month. We will be providing copies of 'Wreck this Journal' by Keri Smith to the students to unleash their creativity. The Club will be called 'Wrecksperts' and we hope to invite the author Keri Smith over later in the year to talk to the students.

Small Sample of New Art books



French Department

Along with the TY Picturebooks and Graphic Novels course to produce children's books in French, Ms. Foynes is beginning to launch a Junior French Club to take place in the library at lunchtime. There will be a series of French films screened in conjunction with Film Club over the next couple of months.

Science Department

Mr. Lynch and his group of young scientists have been busy planning and preparing their project applications in the library for the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition this year.

English Department

In collaboration with the English Department, our plan is to bring each 1st year class to the library for 30 mins every two weeks in a rotation that suits. Students will borrow books, read for pleasure and some library assistants will be trained in for each class. Next year, we would like to extend this plan to the 2nd year cohort and give them the same time in the library for the first term.

Irish Department

This week a class set of 'Inis Mara' an Irish language novel for young adults was delivered to the Irish Department. We are very excited that our first Irish language reading group has begun. Huge thanks to Ms. Woods for organizing. We have invited the author Tristan Rosenstock in to talk to the students in December and maybe incorporate a traditional music session into the presentation.

Wellread Award

Ms. Doyle is working in tandem with the library to work towards achieving the PDST Wellread Award for the school. This will involve several elements of reading promotion including promoting reading and Young Adult Literature in the school and then linking in with parents and the wider community. This is a prestigious award and it will be a great opportunity for us to show off the great work already happening in the school.

Staff Book Club

The staff book club is going strong with most of last year's members remaining and quite a few new members have joined the ranks. We read 'Long Island' over the summer and will discuss this on the last day of term before Halloween. Our next choice is two-fold. We have chosen two books from the new series by John Boyne, 'Water' and 'Earth'. Members are welcome to read one or both. Copies are available in the library and will be passed on to other community book clubs in due course.

Parents in the library

In consultation with management, the librarian attended the PA meeting on the night of Monday 14th October. We wanted to consult with the Parents Association about the possibility of parents volunteering in the library. We also wanted to look into the possibility of establishing a Book Club for parents.

There was a very positive response and a number of parents have already volunteered. The next step is to begin the Garda Vetting process and we look forward to welcoming some new library assistants in the next term. A number of people expressed an interest in the Book Club for parents. The plan is to hold a meeting of the book club once per term. Parents involved would be invited in to discuss a book over a cup of tea and a copy of the chosen book (depending on numbers) would also be provided. At the moment it is envisioned that it would be during the school day and in the school library once a term. All are welcome. Please send an email to librarian@stdavids.ie if you would be interested in becoming a book club member.

Continuous Professional Development

The librarian attended this year's Children's Books Ireland Conference on the weekend of the 21st and the 22nd of September. This year's conference theme 'Character Building' had a double meaning; speakers talked about the importance of characters and character development and they also wanted to explore what is it that

builds character, resilience and strength, both on the page and in real life. The conference is a fantastic opportunity to find out about latest developments in Irish and International Children's Literature. We have ordered a selection of books from speakers at the conference. Contacts were also made with various departments in Children's Books Ireland and with various writers, illustrators and speakers. Many thanks to the school for funding this professional development which forms the basis for collection development and the visiting speakers programme for the year.

Wider Educational/Artistic Community Collaborations

Halfway Up the Stairs - Collaborations

Attending the book launch in Halfway Up the Stairs for Eilish Fisher's novel 'Fia and the Last Snow Deer' was a great opportunity to network with a number of local artists and illustrators. We managed to make connections and organize an author-illustrator visit for after the mid-term break. We will be using a set of this novel with our writing groups.

After Christmas, we hope to do a podcasting collaboration with the local bookshop and post some book reviews on our website.

Members of the Library Council regularly accompany the librarian to the local bookshop to help with collection development.

Library Association of Ireland –Youth Libraries Group

The librarian in St. David's has been invited to do a presentation on our work on picturebooks and graphic novels at two *Youth Libraries* conferences in March. The presentation will involve exhibiting some of the work we are doing in St. David's on writing and illustrating and using picturebooks and graphic novels. Conferences are in Kilkenny and Monaghan on two Wednesdays in March. It will be a great opportunity to showcase the wonderful work done by the TY groups.

Appendix A

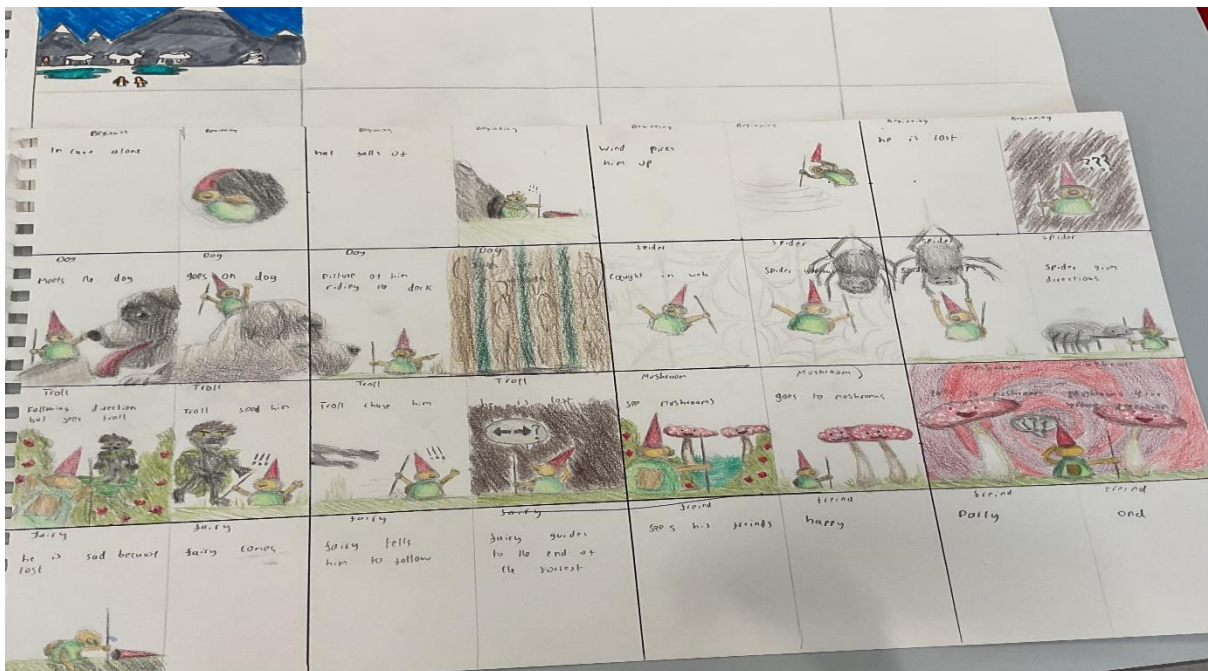
Samples of Student work

9 Word Limit – Student Stories

Tears in traffic
Delayed three hours
She missed the funeral.
Lucy Finnegan TY

Cold coffee, never drank. Discarded. He never came home.
Miles Matthews O'Connor

How strange it is to be unknown yet again.
Anonymous



Sample TY Storyboarding for Picturebooks