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## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of **THRiVE LIVE** featuring regular news and updates on what we've been up to and the difference it's making in the community.

THRiVE is a collaboration of local parents, schools, community and voluntary groups, and statutory agencies, working together to help children and young people in this community to do well. We are all pulling together to improve attainment, aspiration, wellbeing for children and young people through collaboration.

## Parentivity

One of our partners, Newtownabbey Family Connections provide parent programmes and support for local families. This term, they ran a Start Smart school readiness programme to help children get settled back into school. And then Parentivity, a programme to help parents look after their own well-being.



**90%**

**of parents completing the Parentivity programme reported improvements in their well-being.**



# BOOST programme

The BOOST programme helps children in six local primary schools improve their maths and literacy skills: Rathcoole Primary School, Whitehouse Primary School, Abbots Cross Primary School, Kings' Park Primary School, St James's' Primary School, and Hollybank Primary School.



BOOST workers support P5 children in small groups, and also work with parents to help them help with their children's learning. Parents and children had great fun attending a BOOST Family Learning Christmas party at the Methodist Mission church hall. This term 75 pupils are part of BOOST and 59 parents were actively engaged in family learning sessions after school.



# STEPS programme

8 parents completed this personal development programme with Monkstown Boxing Club.



**" I feel more positive, inspired, confident, better self-esteem, my truth, calmer, more resilient, confident, encouraged. "**

**" It made me think more about what I want, not just about what other people want me to do. "**



# WE CAN

**WE CAN learn, WE CAN be healthy and well and WE CAN be connected.**

A THRiVE highlight was the fantastic community event held at the end of October as part of NACN's Community festival. At the WE CAN Awards event, seven inspirational local young people received awards and prize packs for their contribution to learning, wellness and being connected. Lots of community organisations and schools were involved. We are grateful to Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network for producing the WE CAN... Award presented to the Award winners and making the Award Nomination videos.



## Parent Champions

THRiVE Parent Champions are a group of local parents who work together to support and advocate for families in the area. The Parent Champions have been focusing on promoting opportunities for parents to engage in Essential Skills qualifications, positive mental wellbeing and for families to play and learn together. Before Christmas, they joined with Rathcoole

Women's'Group to support their fantastic Christmas Party at the Dunanney Centre.



## Professor Ray Jones



THRiVE were delighted to speak with Professor Ray Jones, who is chairing a Review of Children's Social Care in NI. Local parents, teachers, community workers and local young people spoke with him about the importance of everyone working together and gave good examples from THRiVE about how this can happen in practice.