



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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7th June 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate exams are well on their way at this stage and I wish all students the strength and stillness to give their full mindful attention to the exams they face.

This is the last parent newsletter for this academic year, and here are a few notices from the month of May that you may be interested in.

School Trips

The 1st years visited Kilfinane in deepest County Limerick for their class trip this year. They enjoyed activities such as kayaking, rock climbing, archery, river walking, orienteering and basketball. They showed fantastic team spirit, enthusiasm, cooperation and a great sense of fun. The 2nd years visit Birr adventure centre and the 5th years visited the Burren in Co. Clare. The feedback from the trips was that all, both students and teachers, thoroughly enjoyed the company of each other.

Mindfulness Seminars

The last of the seminars in the Mindfulness seminar series takes place on Monday June 15th. The title of the talk is

Mindfulness: The key to high performance in schools

and will be given by Dr. Camillus Power. This talk will explain how Mindfulness can support cognitive development and goal achievement. It will also illustrate how Mindfulness can help master stress, develop resilience, improve communication skills and enhance common sense. To book a ticket please click [here](#).

Merchant of Venice Pictures

The Transition Year students produced a fantastic performance of the Merchant of Venice. The delivered scintillating performances to enthralled audiences, over 4 days in the Player's theatre in Trinity College. It really was impressive to see how this Transition Year group have grown in self confidence, strength of character and unity throughout the year. Well done to all involved, in particular the drama coordinator Ms Byrne.

Please check out this short video for a description which can be achieved with Shakespearian drama in schools (made last years after Romeo and Julie): [Drama in TY](#)

Primary School Principal

As you may already know Ms Telford is stepping down as the primary school principal after many years leading and developing the school. On behalf of the secondary school, I wish her the best. Some of you may be interested in attending a celebration dinner for her in Newman house on June 8. Tickets can be bought online through the JSS online payment system. Mr

Clancy will start as the new principal in September and I know he will continue the excellent leadership of Ms Telford.

India Film

Julia Twamley has produced an excellent documentary on the Transition Year experience in India. It is well worth the watch. You can see it at [here](#).

SciFest

John Scottus was represented by 5 students from second year at SciFest. After weeks of preparation on their science investigation Emma Lohan and Anna Nakonechnyy's investigation 'IQ Chew' and Isobel Kelliher, Aiza Revazova, Tien Le's investigation 'Tune In or Turn Down' went all the way to the Scifest competition at the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown. Well done to all involved, in particular Ms. Cronin. For more details please click [here](#).

World Wyse

Transition Year has been contributing to and benefiting from Worldwide advice and finance since 2007. We are currently linked with four schools in West Bengal by way of this Irish Aid agency. Very recently the Worldwide global conference was held in the Aviva Stadium where the school was awarded the WWGS Global Passport by Sean Sherlock TD Minister of State at Department of Foreign Affairs. Well done to all involved, particularly Mr. Flynn and Mr. Alexander. For more details please click [here](#).

Royal Society of Chemistry visit

The Royal Society of Chemistry's Spectroscopy in a Suitcase scheme came to John Scottus chemistry students. 5th and 6th year chemists got the chance to learn about spectroscopy through a hands-on experience. They were challenged to solve a crime forensically using infrared and ultra-violet spectroscopic instruments. For more details and pictures please click [here](#).

Nepal Fund Raising

The 5th year students, led by Hannah and Aisling, organised a fund-raising cake sale to help provide funds for the Nepal earth-quake disaster. They raised a fantastic total of €502.29 which was sent on to GOAL.

Sports Report May 2015

It has been an extremely successful and exciting month of sport for JSS.

JSS Irish Internationals

A special mention must be made to the following students; Tess Tangney and Kate Ryan who were selected for the Irish Under 20 Ultimate Frisbee team. Additionally, Jack Bruton successfully made it onto the Irish Ten Pin Bowling team, which is a massive achievement considering only 8 players are chosen in that specific age group.

Sports Day: 1st May

In the build up to sports day 'Active Schools Week', encouraged students to become more active during their down time. Activities included, Sports Quiz, Healthy Breakfast, Basketball Hoop Challenge and Herbert Park 5k Run.

Sports day took place on Friday May 1st. The day was a great success with many great examples of individual and team performance. A special mention must be made of Mr. Craig and Ms. Sweeney for the superb organisation and communication. For more details of the event please click [here](#).

1st year and Senior Soccer Update

For an update on the 1st year soccer and senior soccer games please click [here](#).

Sports Awards

Speech and Prize Giving night celebrated the sporting achievements from our students this academic year. For details of the student winning awards please click [here](#).

PE lesson

The year finished off with some very competitive in house Rounders competitions and some very enjoyable lessons. Overall this year the level of participation and progress has been exceptional. On the whole JSS students enjoy a varied, well balanced and exciting PE curriculum, this is something we will continue to provide throughout next year.

We would like to thank the parents, students and staff of JSS for supporting and contributing to what has been a really successful sporting year.

Celebration and Prize Giving Night - Pictures

Celebration and prize giving night took place on April Thursday 30th. It was a great night of celebration enjoyed by all. For pictures of the event and prize winners for each category please click [here](#).

A philosophical thought for the day

“Afflictive emotions— our jealousy, anger, hatred, fear—can be put to an end when you realize that these emotions are only temporary, that they always pass on like clouds in the sky.” – Dalai Lama

Yours sincerely,



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