



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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19th October 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope your sons and daughters have had an enjoyable first two months of school. Here are some points I would like to share.

Open Day, Thursday Oct 22nd

Please spread the word of the John Scottus Secondary school Open Day taking place on Thursday Oct 22nd. It takes place from 11.30 to 1.00 pm and from 6.00 to 8.00pm.

Visitors will meet our subject teachers, see different subject displays and activities, receive guided tours of the school facilities by 5th and 6th year students and talk with students about their experiences in John Scottus School. In addition from 11.30 to 1.00 pm there will be visits to classrooms where teaching is in progress.

Maths Week

Maths week took place on the week beginning Oct 12th. Various Maths events and competitions were held during the week and the school walls were lined with brain teasers, posters and puzzles to ensure minds were stimulated at every moment.

Maths Support Club

All students are invited every Monday from 3.45 to 4.45pm to join in the Maths Support club either to receive help or provide help. Mr. Daniel Flynn and Ms. Bernice Cronin are in attendance at these times providing support and guidance as needed.

Literacy Strategy

Our Literacy improvement strategy has set out four targets.

1. Reduce number of students that dislike reading out loud in class
2. Increase number of students that spend more than an hour per week reading at home
3. Increase confidence about speaking aloud in class
4. Increase numbers of students that check their spelling, grammar and choice of words before submitting written work

To help reach these targets we ask all parents to support reading time at home and to donate any appropriate books for the drop everything and read times.

Sports Update

To read information about the girls junior hockey team, the boys soccer team, Ultimate Frisbee and Taekwon-do please click [here](#).

To view the physical education for each year please click [here](#).

Sport in John Scottus has got off to a bright start and as the year progresses a variety of different sporting opportunities, both team based and individual will be made available to students. It is our hope that students of all ages get involved in as many as possible of the wide variety of activities throughout the year.

Fundraising for Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team

In a response to a parent's suggestion, I would suggest taking time out to support the Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue team by texting DWMRT to 50300. One text donates €4. The volunteers of the Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team helped in supporting a recent search of a John Scottus student by providing skilled assistance. Their website is <http://www.dwmrt.ie>.

John Scottus Sanskrit students perform for Prime Minister of India.

In a historic occasion students performed a Sanskrit programme for the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. Please click [here](#) to see the performance.

Class outings

Our third year students visited Dublin Zoo Education Centre on Wednesday 16th September 2015. For more information please click [here](#).

The Classics Department brought our Leaving Certificate Students to a production of 'Oedipus' in the Abbey Theatre on Tuesday 13th October. For more details please click [here](#).

On October 15th our 5th year students went to see a live screening of Shakespeare's Hamlet from the National Theatre.

A special thanks to Ms. Bernice Cronin, Ms Máirin Waters and Ms Emma Maguire Timmins for organising these outings.

School Care Team

The newly formed care team consists of Ms Emma Maguire Timmins (trained guidance counsellor), Mr Philip Brady (trained counsellor), Ms Trish Kenny (trained guidance counsellor) and Ms Nash Zvikaramba (fully accredited Psychotherapist). They meet on regular basis and provide career guidance and pastoral care support to all students.

New Teacher – Ms. Sarah Swan

Welcome to Ms Sarah Swan who is now teaching full time in the school. She teaches Geography, History and CSPE. She has been working for the past few years in schools in England which have received the 'Outstanding' ranking in recent inspections.

Irish International - Brian Kavanagh

Well done to Brian Kavanagh (3rd year student) who represented Ireland in the recent international wakeboarding championship.

Jharkali Fundraising Lunch

The John Scottus TY students prepared a delicious lunch in aid of the Jharkali Education project on Friday Oct 16th. For more information please click [here](#).

Founders day trip to Larch Hill

On Thursday September 24th, the whole school travelled to Larch Hill scouting centre in celebration of Founder's Day. It was an action packed 2 days of hiking, team games and outdoor activities. For pictures of the event please click [here](#).

Creative Engagement Exhibition

On Oct 3rd at the Collins Barracks, there were two projects from John Scottus presenting at the Creative Engagement Exhibition. On display was the drama production "Gone Missing" produced by our 1st years last year and the Art Mosaic project from all our art students. For pictures of the event please click [here](#).

A special thanks to Ms Sinead Sweeney, Ms Liz Byrne and Ms Nell Smyth in managing these projects to a very high standard.

French Exchange

From Oct 8th to Oct 17th our students hosted French students in the return leg of the French exchange trip. By all accounts they had an excellent time. A special thanks must be given to all the parents who hosted children and to Mr Timothy Telford for organising the exchange.

Teen Tantra Workshop, aged 13 to 17

An introduction for teenagers to help provide tools for adolescence and relationships is available. This workshop aims to give teenagers additional awareness and a positive outlook on their emerging sexuality. Please contact Danielle Vierling, a parent of a Transition year student at daniellevierling@gmail.com for more information.

Mindfulness Summit

The Mindfulness summit may be of interest to you.

(<http://themindfulnesssummit.com/>). It is a 31 day online event which has started on Oct 1st. There is a daily talk and interview which can be accessed for free. The list of speakers at the event can be found [here](#).

Summary of Events coming up

Open Day Secondary School - Thursday Oct 22nd, 11.30 to 1.00 pm and 6.00 to 8.00 pm

Midterm Break – Oct 26th to Oct 30th

1st and 2nd Year Parent Subject Teacher meetings – Tuesday Nov 3rd

3rd, 5th and 6th Year Parent Subject Teacher meetings – Tuesday Nov 10th

Careers Evening – Thursday Nov 12th

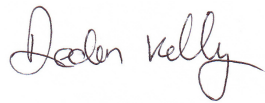
Whole School Exam Week - Beginning Nov 16th

School Planning Day (School Closed) – Friday Nov 22nd

A philosophical thought for the day

‘If you fell down yesterday, stand up today’ – HG Wells

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Declan Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

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