



# JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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

## Maths Week

Maths week took place on the week beginning Oct 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## Class Trips

The Transition Year class visited Leinster House – Please click [here](#) for details.

1<sup>st</sup> years visited the Hill Tara on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Here is a report trip by the organising teacher Katryn Breen.

### *First Year trip to The Hill of Tara*

*The trip was inspired by the novel Artemis Fowl which the First Years are reading this term. It is a story about fairies and magic and Tara is mentioned in it a few times. On arrival, the students were greeted by gale force winds and heavy rain. Undaunted, they set about their first task which was to make a documentary in groups, The documentaries are about: The Protest Against the M 3, Myths and Legends, The High Kings, The Flora and Fauna of the area, and the History of the area. After making the documentaries they set off for the Wishing Tree on which they tied the wishes they had written and wrapped at home. Then they found a private space for themselves in which to write a poem inspired by an item in the landscape, an interesting aspect of their documentary, or the history or geography of the area. Unfortunately many of the poems were whisked away by gusts of wind or disintegrated in the rain but those that survived are very good. After lunch, which was eaten in the bus due to a cloud-burst, the boys and girls played an enthusiastic game of Rounders and tried their best to win The Hill of Tara Race. They were fortunate enough to meet with two interesting gentlemen who had protested against the motorway which was built near the Hill. One of the gentlemen gave the students a talk on the history of the area. The other was a performance poet who performed one of his poems, the message of which was, that 'the best things in life are free'. The students showed a keen interest in what the men had to say and were very respectful towards them.*

*The Hill of Tara, with its wildness and openness, archaeology and history is an interesting and exciting place for young people to visit. The First Years had a very enjoyable and educational day there. Hopefully the visit will help them to realise that the best things in life really are free.*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> years visited the Four Courts on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>

Here is a report by the organising teacher Timothy Telford

*As part of our CSPE Action project, the 3rd years went to the Central Criminal Courts on Parkgate street today. We saw two jury trials, that of Naoise O'Conrain who is on trial for assault of 5 gardai 2 years ago and another jury trial of a man, again up for assault. We saw the full rigour of the courts in action with the judge making important interventions and some good speeches by the barristers. It was an excellent trip.*

## **Sports Update**

The emphasis this term has been on increasing fitness levels amongst students after the summer break. Great improvements have been seen in all the fitness tests. PE lessons have also focused on health related fitness, reinforcing the link between physical activity and overall well being.

The extra curricular program is well under way. The girls ultimate frisbee team had a 5-3 win over Muckcross. In the Leinster hockey league, the girls junior hockey team had a 0-0 draw against Sion hill and the 1st year girls hockey team had a 4-3 win over Sandford park.

## **Head Lice**

Please be aware that there have been some incidents of head lice in 1<sup>st</sup> year. This strain seems to be particularly persistent and despite steps to treat it there are still some incidents of it. Please take the necessary precautions.

## **Staff Development**

Here is a sample of some of the professional development teachers in John Scottus have been at in the last two months

- World Wise Global Schools: John Alexander attended with Timothy Telford and Daniel Flynn the World Wise Global Schools Conference which looked at how to promote Development Education in schools
- Emma Maguire attended a leadership seminar titled "Achieving Leadership Excellence in Your School"
- Philip Brady attended the Console: The World Suicide Prevention Day Conference
- Bernice Cronin attended a course for teaching chemistry titled 'Strategies for introducing and developing difficult topics in Leaving Certificate Chemistry'. She also attended the Maths Fest in UCD.

## **Study Skills Seminar Day**

There will be a Study skills seminar held in the school on Saturday Nov 8<sup>th</sup>. This is targeted at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students, however any interested student can attend. The cost is €20 per student. If interested please contact Mr. O'Connor at [doconnor@johnscottus.ie](mailto:doconnor@johnscottus.ie).

## **Musical**

The school musical this year will be "Oliver" and will take place on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Auditions have come and gone and rehearsals have started.

There was a Halloween dress up to help fund-raise for the Musical. Please click [here](#) for some pictures.

### **Personal Information**

If any personal contact information has changed please contact the office so we can update our records.

### **ICT**

Please be mindful of the policy regarding the use of mobile phones and other ICT devices. The policy states that if there is any un-authorized use of ICT devices, the device is confiscated for three days and only the parent can collect it after this period has elapsed.

### **Christmas Fair**

The John Scottus Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday Nov 30<sup>th</sup> from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. This is an opportunity for everybody to get involved in some way. It can be with crafts such as sewing, knitting or cooking or with preparing the building. We would welcome any form of participation from parents and guardians. If you would like to be involved please text or email Jackie at 0878646547 or [info@languageacademyireland.com](mailto:info@languageacademyireland.com).

### **Open Day**

An Open Day was held on Oct 9<sup>th</sup> which was enthusiastically received by all visitors. We had a strong intake of 1<sup>st</sup> years this year, enough to split the group into two classes. We hope to continue this next year

### **Upcoming events**

- Science week begins on Nov 10<sup>th</sup>
- Formal exams to assess progress in the first 11 weeks will take place on the week beginning Nov 17<sup>th</sup>
- School will close for a planning day on Friday Nov 21<sup>st</sup>
- Parent-teacher meetings for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years will take place on Nov 27<sup>th</sup>. In addition, a CAO Seminar will take place for 6<sup>th</sup> year parents on this night
- Parent-teacher meetings for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years will take place on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

### **A philosophical thought for the day**

“Although people seem to be unaware of it today, the development of the faculty of attention forms the real object and almost the sole interest of studies. Most school tasks have a certain intrinsic interest as well, but such an interest is secondary. All tasks which really call upon the power of attention are interesting for the same reason and to an almost equal degree.”

- Simone Weil

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Declan Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

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