



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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10th February 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Philosophy Week

Philosophy week took place the week beginning Monday January 18th. The theme of Philosophy week was "Know Thyself: Do as you say, and say what you mean, with kindness". For more information please click [here](#).

Assemblies and Philosophy Themes

Each week at Monday assembly we introduce a philosophical inspired theme for the week. I will start putting the themes up on the website for you to read. If you would like to read more about these themes please click [here](#).

School Musical

For those of you who had the opportunity to see the world debut of The Stolen Child you know that it truly was a feast for the senses. The staging, the costumes, the lighting, the singing, the dancing and the acting were all of such a high standard. For pictures of the event please click [here](#).

TY Students off to India

Our TY students are in India at the moment running the English outreach program "Ripple Down Ripple Out". For some pictures from India please click [here](#).

TY Battle of the Bands

On Saturday January 23rd, John Scottus Transition Year put on a brilliant Battle of the Bands competition at the Grand Social in order to raise much needed funds for their teaching project in India. For more information please click [here](#).

The have also raised €2300 through bag packing for the Jharkali India program. Well done to all the students who worked so hard to organise both events.

O School

So often we hear young students ask the question, "What do I do with my life" or "what was I made for." They need a sense of direction and understanding of what it means to realize their greatest selves and do great work in their lives. To help answer these questions, our 5th years attended a 3 day workshop last November and December run by O School Google. For more information please click [here](#).

Hamlet

Our 5th years, who are studying Hamlet for their Leaving Certificate English course, went to see the bard's work in action. For more information please click [here](#).

Enrolments

Enrolments coming into 1st year next year are strong with a significant number of applications from students from schools other than John Scottus Primary school. Students in 1st year will experience a broad ranging curriculum that encompasses Irish, English, Maths, French, Geography, History, Latin, Sanskrit, Greek, Science, Music, Art, Drama and Philosophy.

Leadership Course

At the end of their leadership course, the 6th years were asked to write an essay on what they considered the essence of leadership. To read what the students wrote please click [here](#).

Knitting Club

A knitting club has been set up by one of our parents Emer Thorbury. Any student can drop in and learn how to knit. For more details please click [here](#).

BOM Agreed reports

The Board of Management Agreed reports are now available on the website. Please click [here](#) if you wish to read them.

The Pause Student Magazine

The latest issue of the student magazine The Pause can be found [here](#). Well done to all students and teachers involved in its production.

Mindfulness Practice in Schools Conference

On April 16th, the 2nd Mindfulness Practice in Schools Conference will take place in luxurious tranquil country setting of Townley Hall. John Scottus School are acting as coordinators for the event as the practice of Mindfulness has been a key part of the ethos of the school since it started in 1986 and this is reflected in the school motto "Delight in the Present".

The conference aims to support schools in Mindfulness practice. It is for school leaders who wish to lead Mindfulness practice, for teachers practicing Mindfulness with their students and for others who may wish to begin the practice of Mindfulness.

There will be both high profile international speakers, namely Bob Roth (CEO David Lynch Foundation, Katherine Weare (Emeritus Professor at the University of Exeter and consultant on the Mindfulness in Schools .b Project) and Jason Cowman (Irish Rugby Team Strength and Conditioning Coach). In addition there will be a number of workshops on various topics such as introducing Mindfulness into primary schools, running Mindfulness programs in secondary schools and Mindfulness training of teachers.

For more information and tickets please see <http://mindfulnesspracticeinschools.ie/>

Art Mosaic

The Mosaic depicting the ethos of the school is now hanging in the front hall entrance of the school. Well done to all students involved. Particular mention must be made of Ms. Sweeney who inspired and managed this project. To see a picture, please click [here](#).

Summary of Events coming up

School closes for mid-term - Monday February 15th to Friday February 19th

Classics Department Trip to Rome - Tuesday February 16th

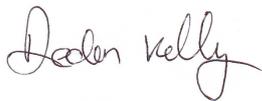
Sechtain na Gaeilge - March 7th

End of School Term - Wednesday March 16th

A philosophical thought for the day

“Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment” – Buddha

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Declan Kelly".

Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

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