



# JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We are coming close to the end of a very eventful first term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their dedication during the first term: students, parents, teachers, staff and extended school community. Here are just a few notices I would like to share with you.

## **Philosophy Themes**

To provoke discussion and thought, some of the themes for the past few weeks have been:

Am I a Global Citizen?  
Why be Still?  
What is your vision?  
What motivates me?

For more information about the assembly themes please click [here](#).

## **Interesting links:**

Here are some links you may have missed, which highlight some recent events in the school

[6<sup>th</sup> Year Geography Field Study](#)

[Trekking Club Outing](#)

[2nd years mapping their families' migration routes](#)

[Turas go dtí an Triail](#)

[Sailing Club Outing](#)

[EuroSchola entry 2018](#)

[Green Schools Committee campaign for Reusable Bottles](#)

## **Creative Engagement Project**

Our Art teacher, Ms. Sweeney has been successful in getting a grant of €800 from the Creative Engagement grants award to develop an Art piece. The last grant received produced the beautiful mosaic that displays proudly at the main staircase in Old Conna. Well done Ms. Sweeney

## **Carol Service**

Our Carol Service takes place on Friday Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 11.30am in St. Mary's church, Haddington Road. I hope to see you there.

## **Sports Update**

This term has been a very busy one with great participation in athletics, soccer and

hockey. For an update on Sports activities please follow the links:  
[Scottus Stormers – John Scottus soccer team win first ever home game.](#)  
[Ultimate Frisbee Team win](#)

### **Irish Debating Team**

28th November last was an historic occasion for the John Scottus Irish debating team as they took part in their first ever national competition, Comórtas an Phiarsaigh. For more information, please click [here](#).

### **Science Week**

For some pictures from Science Week, please click [here](#).  
Science week (Nov 12<sup>th</sup>) was kick started with a spectacular display of science by Ms. Grace at assembly on Monday. During the week there were numerous Science activities including quizzes, games and presentations. Even the walls of the school were decorated with fun science facts to encapsulate the students' ever inquiring minds. Thank you to all the teachers and students that helped promote the relevance of science, technology, engineering and maths in our everyday lives during science week.

### **Presidential Elections**

The school held a presidential election on the same day as the country's presidential election. The students of John Scottus Secondary have elected their 2018 president of Ireland.

*Michael D Higgins- 46%*

Joan Freeman- 14%

Peter Casey- 11%

Liadh Ni Riada- 9%

Sean Gallagher- 7%

Gavin Duffy-1%

To see pictures of the elections, please click [here](#).

### **Parent and Family Events:**

*Mindfulness through Art.*

Coming this Saturday is our next workshop, Mindfulness through Art. If interested please book a place [here](#).

*Evolving Education Family Workshops*

Last Saturday, a Mindfulness through Art workshop took place and on Nov 24<sup>th</sup> the Yoga for the Family workshop took place. These workshops are for children up to age 12, along with their parents, and explore how Yoga and Art can help promote concentration and confidence. Please note our next workshop, Philosophy for Children, takes place on Saturday, Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. For more details, please click [here](#).

*Emotional First Aid Training Tool for Parents of Teenagers*

Over 60 people attended the talk by Enda Murphy on the Emotional First Aid Training Tool for Parents of Teenagers on Nov 12<sup>th</sup>. There may be a future series of talks on this topic and we will keep you informed on scheduled dates. For your information, Enda Murphy is one of the best-known Psychotherapists in Ireland. Currently he is

Broadcasting Columnist on 'Today with Sean O Rourke', RTE radio (Aug 2014 – To Date) and has authored many books including 'Five Steps to Happiness' and 'Flagging the Screenager'.

#### *Food and Nutrition*

Our catering manager, Grainne Murphy, gave a workshop on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> on the topic of nutrition for children. Some of the topics discussed included treats, superfoods, boosting the nutritional content of meals and meal planners.

#### *Open Day, Sunday Oct 7<sup>th</sup>*

Over last Open Day was very successful with over 300 people attending. Events such as this suggest there is a lot of interest in John Scottus in our new location and we look forward to see many new students enrol in the future.

#### **Board of Management Agreed Reports**

Two meetings of the Board of Management have taken place this academic year. If you wish to read the latest Board of Management agreed reports please click [here](#).

#### **Anti-Bullying Policy**

The Board of Management has reviewed the schools anti-bullying policy recently. Please click [here](#) for details of the policy.

#### **Transport Fees for 2019/2019**

For the past two years, in acknowledgement of the parents who have supported the school's move to Old Conna, free buses have been provided to transport students to and from school. This is obviously not sustainable in the long term and as indicated in previous correspondence, transport fees would be introduced for the academic year 2019/2020. It is expected that a letter will go to all parents addressing this issue in the next few weeks.

#### **School Improvement Plan**

For the past number of months input has been received from students, teachers, parents and members of the Board of Management and Boards of Trustees. During this self-evaluation process, a number of key areas have been identified as areas of focus over the next few years. Four related to learning and teaching: Feedback, Questioning, Literacy and Numeracy; and two relate to well-being: Extra-curricular activities and the Mentoring Programme. For each of these areas targets, actions and review processes have been identified. We hope that this plan will refine our educational offering throughout the school.

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

"Wisdom begins in Wonder" – Socrates

#### **Summary of Events coming up**

TY Show case Night, Thursday Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm

Literacy Week, Beginning Monday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>

Speech Competition, Thursday, Dec 20<sup>th</sup>  
Carol Service, St. Mary's Road, Haddington Road, Friday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, 11.30am  
End of Term, Friday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, 12.30pm

School Re-opens – Monday Jan 7<sup>th</sup>  
Parent-Class Teacher Meetings – Monday Jan 14<sup>th</sup>  
School Closed for Junior Cycle Training Day – Friday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>

Yours warmly,

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

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