



Welcome

The summer has finally arrived marking the end of another school year and I would like to acknowledge the great work done by everyone and to wish our examination students the very best of luck in their Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations.

Well done to everyone who represented the school throughout the year on all the various teams and projects and thanks to all the teachers who organised school tours and extra-curricular activities.

This year has been a busy one with many school outings and events taking place. All of which are highlighted in the summer newsletter.

This year also saw the girls U-19 Basketball team engage in a very successful campaign resulting in two All-Ireland Titles. A fantastic achievement for the girls, their coaches and everyone involved. Congratulations also goes to the Transition year girls on their multi award winning project: *Busy Bags for Busy Bees*.

Parents Association: We would like to thank the Parents Association for providing great support to the school this year. Once again they have organised the Book Sale for Friday 23rd June in the school hall from 2-4pm.

At this stage, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the businesses who gave our students work experience opportunities throughout the year. Thanks to everyone in our school community who were so supportive and helpful this year, especially our teachers, support staff, students, parents, the Board of Management, the Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board and local businesses.

Finally, I would like to wish our Leaving Certificate students the very best for the future and I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

Elaine Harte



Our wonderful **Senior Girls Basketball** team, pictured with their coaches Ms. Leydon and Mr. Johnson. The girls won the **All-Ireland double** of **League** and **Cup** competitions, a unique achievement for **St. Joseph's!**

Important Dates for your Diary:

State Examinations for Junior & Leaving Certificate Students begin on Wednesday 7th June 2017

(The State Exams timetable is available on our website, please familiarise yourself with it)

Leaving Cert Results16th August 2017

Return to school during last week in August, date will be notified.

Further important notices & dates will be forwarded to you and displayed on our website, Facebook, and Twitter

Guest Speakers and Student Trips

John Lonergan: St Joseph's Community College was honoured and privileged to welcome **John Lonergan**, motivational speaker and former Governor of Mount Joy Prison, to our school on Thursday 4th May 2017. John has an immense wealth of experience in speaking to and inspiring our younger generations and is captivating in his content knowledge. He delivered a talk to parents, called **"Parenting - the challenges and the rewards"**. During his talk, he discussed many areas and issues relevant to parents of children of all ages. Thanks to Ms. Lavelle for organising the evening.



1st and 2nd year students taking part in the Creative Writing workshop with poet and dramatist, Terry Mc Donagh, on Friday 28th April 2017.



Leaving Certificate students who attended **The Hamlet Session** at the Hawk's Well theatre in Sligo on 21/03/17.

An interactive performance, full of humour and engaging analysis of the text. A day that left everyone with a lot to think about!
"To be or not to be..."

The Junior Certificate **Home Economics** Projects were eye-catching. Ms. Farrell was very proud of her student's exhibits!





This present **TY Class** had a lovely week in Italy where they were accompanied by Mr. Ó Ciobhain and Ms. Kelly. The TY class of 2016/17 enjoyed a great year. The 24 students who completed the programme experienced a very busy year inside the classroom and out. Highlights included a cultural tour to Dublin, a trip to Italy and much more besides. Feedback was very positive from students and parents and we wish the students well in the Senior Cycle.

Spiritual Guidance: The First & Second Year students had a very enjoyable retreat organised by Ms. Farrell recently. It took place in the School Hall and was given by "An Tobar Nua"

The Leaving Certificate Class of 2017 are busy organising their **Graduation Mass** presently under the guidance of Ms. Farrell. See more details further down this Newsletter.

Design & Communication Graphics, some lovely work produced by the Leaving Certs. in their Exam Assignment which is worth 40% of the overall course.



Agricultural Science Students had a very enjoyable and educational trip to Ballyhaise Agricultural College in Co. Cavan with Ms. McHugh in March this year.



Transition Year students have continued with their very full year of activities since Christmas.

St. Patrick's Day Parade and artistic endeavour! Spirits remained high during the wettest Parade in years!



Have fun guessing who the characters are!

Mini Companies: The 'Jewel in the Crown' of this Year's TY was the **Busy Bees** who not only got recognition by the MSLETB inaugural Awards but were also lauded both provincially and nationally for their enterprise and effort by. See more details later in this Newsletter.

All Ireland Basketball Champions on the Double!!



What an amazing achievement! **Ms. Leydon** is pictured with 3 sets of sisters, **Doherty's, Burkes and McHale's** who have **12 All Ireland Winners Medals** between them. Could this medal haul be one for the Guinness Book of Records?

To win an All-Ireland Title is no easy task, to do it twice within a couple of months is the stuff of dreams. The Senior Basketball team of St. Joseph's achieved this unique feat when they won both the Cup in January and League in March. Both Finals were, as one would expect, very tight games, full of skill and athleticism with little between the teams on the scoreboard throughout. One really had to be there to experience the unique atmosphere. This writer had to watch the first match via the live YouTube stream and even then, it was nerve wracking! The girls were very professional in their approach and came good in the end of a game that swayed one way and then the other. The League Final was noticeable for the courage shown in having to play "catch-up" for a long time, a couple of the girls were also suffering from 'flu but when it was required they shown calmness and skill and the warrior instinct that saw them hit the front right at the death. We will not forget this magical display, if they were a football team they would be Barcelona! For those of you moving on to College Go mBeidh an t-Ádh libh.....and thanks for the memories!!

GAA: 1/2 years' football enjoyed a few days out at the Connacht GAA blitzes and gave a great account of themselves.

Juveniles got to the last day of the blitzes and eventually lost out to some very strong sides. Hopefully next year we can win our trophy back. The **Senior Gaelic** side were never going to reach the highs of an All-Ireland win so soon after the terrific exploits of last year but the present lot acquitted themselves well, this year will have given them the experience required for a challenge next season and things are already looking good with a few players representing their County in the U17 Championship as well as other training with County squads

SOCCER: This is a sad time of year in one sense as we say "goodbye" to some great sportsmen who always represented, our school, with pride. The medals and trophies won over the past six years in Soccer and Gaelic Football are a reminder of the great times but it's the stories and the reminiscing of battles won and lost that really flesh out what was a wonderful era in St. Joseph's history both at Provincial and National level. This year saw the **Senior soccer** side loose out in the Connaught Quarter Final to Moneenageisha of Galway after an epic battle that went to extra time. The **Under 17** Team bowed out early to stronger opposition in their Group while the **U15s** just failed to make the knockout stages with some cracking games along the qualifiers. We also entered the **First-Year Futsal** Competition as a mixed team and had a good day out in Castlebar where we gave a good account of ourselves without progressing to the finals. The Girls in the group were noted for their wonderful display!

A big **Thank You** to the local clubs who assisted us yet again over the past year with pitches, coaches, and training facilities. Go Raibh Maith Agaibh!



Keep an eye on our Social Media for regular updates

FCDM Ltd. Busy Bags for Busy Bees

Congratulations to our transition year students Aideen Mahon, Alana Cole, Alex Fleming, and Ruth Duffy on the success of their mini-company this year.

FCDM Ltd. Busy Bags for Busy Bees are **themed-bags for children** to be sold to hotels, restaurants, and parents. The **aim** of the product was to keep children occupied and entertained so everyone had an enjoyable, memorable, and stress-free day.



The **product** includes a handmade book containing 9 fun-filled pages of activities and puzzles, crayons, a paper fortune teller, a customisable card to be designed and given to the bride and groom, sweets, a mini puzzle, all housed in a brown paper bag that can be customised by the child. Our **Unique Selling Point** that our company offers over our competitors is that we customise our bags to suit the event/individuals etc. By including this option FCDM made their company **stand out against the existing market**.



FCDM, Busy Bags for Busy Bees have won **numerous awards** this year at **regional, county and national levels** for their company, in the Student Enterprise Awards competition.

They also won an award for Entrepreneurship and Innovation from the first ETB awards held in Curry, Sligo.

You can find details of the company on social media if you wish to purchase their product. Well done girls, we are very proud of you!



ZIPIT, Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle.

Ms Nolan took a group of 1st Year Students to Lough Key Forest Park where they had a great, adventurous and enjoyable day on the Zipit course.





Leaving Certificate Graduation Mass was held in the school Hall on a glorious evening on the 24th May. Thanks to **Fr. Tommy Johnston** and **Fr. Doherty** for officiating at a wonderful occasion where the local community turned out in force. It was like an evening at the Oscars with the style on display! Many proud parents listened to and talked about the wonderful memories of the past 5-6 years. **Ms. Duffy** provided the music that added to the niceness of the whole event. A very special "Thank You" to **Ms. Farrell** for guiding the whole event. To our Secretary Carmel and our Caretaker Charles we also say "Go raibh mile maith agaibh" for a behind the scenes job well done.

A wonderful evening was capped off by tea and cake, caint agus comhrá. We wish the Leaving Certs. The very best on the exciting road ahead. Go n-éirí libh!

