

Saint Joseph's Community College

Newsletter - Christmas 2016



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Welcome

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)

Welcome to the Christmas issue of the St. Joseph's Community College Newsletter.

This is always a very busy time for students and staff alike as Christmas exams take place for our 1st, 2nd and 5th year students and the 3rd and 6th year groups prepare for their mock exams in the New Year. However, as you can see from this edition of the newsletter our students were also engaged in a fantastic array of activities ranging from politics to ice skating.

Here in St. Joseph's we are all looking forward to the new year and the commencement of Phase 1 of our School Development Plan. The new build will include the construction of four practical rooms for Home Economics, Metalwork/Engineering, Design & Communication Graphics and Woodwork/Construction Studies.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff and students for all their hard work during the course of the past year and to wish staff, students and parents/guardians a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Best wishes,
Elaine Harte
Principal



Fifth Year girls Amy McCann, Anna McHale and Leasha McHale who received their **John Paul 11 Awards** in November.

Important Dates:

Open Evening for New First Years: 25th January 2017

Fifth and Transition Year Parent Teacher Meeting: February 6th

CAO Deadline is 1st February 2017

Junior and Leaving Certificate Mock exams: Feb Thurs 9th February-Fri 17 February

Mid Term Break: February 20th to February 24th

St. Patrick's Day: Fri 17th March

Easter Break: Monday 10th April to Friday 21st April

Further upcoming dates will be forwarded to you and displayed on our website, Facebook, and Twitter

Politicians visit

Latest News



We welcomed back past pupil Councillor Gerry Murray along with Dara Calleary T.D and Senator Michelle Mulherin seen here with chairperson Gerald Higgins who chaired a very interesting and educational talk on how the political system works in Ireland.

READING WEEK: took place in the school in November where there was a dedicated time set aside each day for reading.



First Year Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal 2016



First Year students worked with the Shoe Box Appeal to help the less fortunate children of the world making sure that they are not forgotten about at this time of year.



Dáil Trip: 3rd Year CSPE group attend Leinster House as part of their Junior Certificate project.

Congratulations are extended to Ruth Duffy who achieved an A Grade at Higher Level in her Business Studies Junior Certificate Examination 2016. In recognition of Ruth's excellent achievement and in conjunction with the National University of Ireland Galway's (NUIG) College of Business, Public Policy, and Law and the BSTAI an award ceremony was held in NUI Galway on the 20th October 2016 to present students with their certificate of achievement. Ruth is pictured accepting her award from Professor John Mc Hale Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy, and Law.



Last Year's TY Class had a lovely week in Barcelona and its surrounds in September of this year, basking in wonderful sunshine while we had to endure a very wet return to school back in Ireland!



TY students opening Bank accounts in conjunction with their School Bank. Also in picture are Gerald Scully, BOI Manager Charlestown. Keith Higgins,



Higher Options 2016

The annual trip to the Higher Options careers fair for 6th years was well attended back in September.

CAO

Pupils are reminded that the normal closing date for applications is 1st February.

Spiritual Guidance: The school community took part in a start of year Mass in the local church back in September and more recently celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on the 8th December where various students assisted Fr. Johnson with the service.

Sacrament of Penance: The local priests made Confessions available to the students in the run up to Christmas

Transition Year students have been extremely busy since the beginning of the year, doing everything from Mini companies to Legal Studies as well as preparing (and eating!) a very delicious Christmas dinner.

Legal Studies: James Fahy, B.L. provided the class with a behind the scenes look at the Courts and then took the students to Sligo Court rooms to see the practical side of the Law at work.

Mini Companies: This is a great idea and the entrepreneurial skills of the present students is eye opening with them adding to great work done by past years. The guidance provided by the Business Studies Department is added to by the outside guests including local BOI Manager and Mayo Football hero Keith Higgins who were recent visitors.

Carol Singing: The local Nursing Homes were visited recently where carols were sung to brighten up the day for the residents.

Niall and Christy enjoy the ice skating (or were they skating on thin ice!) on their very recent trip to Dublin. The two-night stay was packed full of things to do both of an educational and fun nature. This was a learning curve for the group and the experience will stand to them as they embark on the second half of the year which again will be full of new and interesting things.

St. Joseph's GAA '16/17

Senior Gaelic Football – Our senior team began the season last September with the Flanagan Cup down in Knockmore GAA Grounds. We played Scoil Mhuire & Padraig Swinford, Davitt College and Gortnor Abbey. We were victorious against Swinford but it wasn't enough to qualify for the final. For our Connacht campaign, we were in a group with Abbey Community College Boyle, Dunmore Community College, Roscommon CC and Elphin. Unfortunately, the break of the ball didn't go our way and we failed to qualify for the knock-out stages.

Junior Gaelic Football – Our Junior team started the campaign with the Colleran Cup in Began. After victories over Swinford and Davitt College they qualified for the final of the competition where we are to play Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet (venue and date TBA). For the Connacht league, we were in a group with Foxford, Balla, St. Brendan's Belmullet and Gortnor Abbey Crosmolina. It was a good learning curve for our Junior players to play schools with a larger pool of players to choose from and this experience will stand to them in the future.

Juvenile Gaelic Football – Our Juvenile team participated in 2 blitzes which were specifically designed for schools with a small playing population. The first blitz took them to Castlebar where they played Louisburgh and Swinford. The second day was in Began where the opposition was Castlerea and Swinford. Again, our players played with great effort and enthusiasm but didn't reach the knockout stages.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Charlestown GAA Club for the continued use of the football pitch and facilities. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful facility on our doorstep and are very grateful for the continued use. Go raibh míle maith agaibh



Kellie with Connacht Cup, Our marvellous basketball girls are going from strength to strength.

SPIKEBALL SUCCESS

The First and Second Year Girls Spikeball teams, with their TY leaders. Both teams emerged top in the Mayo competitions. They now compete in the Connacht Finals in Roscommon on Dec 16th



SOCCER:The senior side qualified from their group and lost out in the Quarter Final to Moneenageisha from Galway after an epic battle that went to extra time. See full report on SJCC.IE

The under 17 have had just one game, a last-minute defeat to Ballinodde in Sligo while the u15 started well with a win over Roscommon but have slipped up lately with defeat to both near neighbours Swinford and Galway stalwarts Glenamaddy.

A first-year mixed team also took part in an FAI Futsal competition in November in Castlebar.

Thanks to James, Miriam and the great groundsman at Charlestown Athletic for your continued support, it is very much appreciated!

