



# January/February Transition Year Update

- The first day back after Christmas holidays saw the Peace and Justice group and 4C travel to Cork, to hand over a petition of nearly 10,000 names to Minister Simon Coveney. Their resolution for 2017 was to keep homelessness in the public eye so that the government has pressure put on it to continue to do everything it can to make homelessness history. The students' campaign – called '*One Campaign for Change*' - grew out of the focus in Edmund Rice Schools on students knowing and learning more about social justice issues. The High Hopes choirs from Cork, Waterford and Dublin joined them at the presentation.
- Song School was run in Ardscoil na Mara as part of the Wellness week and the TY programme. Two mentors worked side by side with students throughout the day as they brainstormed, wrote, composed and even performed their own musical pieces. Students were divided up into bands ranging from 5-7 members and had the whole day to work together. The outcome - hysterical laughter all around. Many students were surprised at the results and quickly came to realise that a song can be about just about anything: from school life to the zoo, breakfast and even jaffa cakes; it all had a place of relevance at Song School. From singing, to playing guitar, piano and even the triangle, everyone had a place and everyone had a ball. Songs were sung and laughs were had and the finished pieces were songs that they all were proud of writing.
- This year, our Sky Sports Living for Sport mentor is All Ireland winning Tipperary hurler, Noel McGrath. On Thursday of Wellness week, he spoke to TYs about the importance of exercise, balance and nutrition. Some of the students tried to get a few Tipperary secrets out of him but were left in awe at the gruelling schedule that an intercounty hurler has. Noel will return to work with the project group in a few weeks time.

- Over 300 2nd Year and TY students took part in a group dance to promote positive physical and mental health during Wellness week and they helped raise funds for the local branch of the Samaritans. The dance was taught to the students by the talented and energetic Pat Grant, who put a great deal of time into making this project a success. The students had a ball showing off their moves to 'Greased Lightning' from the musical 'Grease', which included a signature move added by Pat which he called the 'Ardscoil na Mara Haka'! We raised €500 for the Samaritans. Well done to all involved.
- The heats of the Ardscoil na Mara Bake Off competition were held in Home Economics class. Any TY student who wanted to enter could do so. Their task was to make and present decorated cupcakes. There was serious competition and judging was extremely challenging as a result!! Students made a huge effort. Upon judging, three students from each TY class were selected to enter the Bake Off Final which will be held on Friday 3rd March. They are: Rebecca Breen, Ellen Foran, Aisling Kelly, Caoimhe Graham, Aobha Owens, Lauren Butler, Chloe Kinsella, Niamh Larkin, Charlotte Finlay, Nadine Butler, Orla Murphy and Sarah Fahey.
- In January, the mini business competition took centre stage in the school. All the TY students set up their stand in the foyer to display the work that they had been involved in over the last few months. It was an opportunity to sell more products to the school community but also to impress the judges who were choosing who would progress to represent the school in the county final. The following businesses were chosen to proceed to the final:
  - Time Mags - who produce magnetic timetables for lockers.
  - Every Event - who organised a 3rd Year ball.
  - Aquafizz-who produce baths bombs and salts.
  - Scrub Tub- who produce body and lip scrubs.
  - Lazygirl - who produce a fake tan remover.
  - Kiki Krush - who produce homemade lotions and face masks.
  - Memory Frame- who create a fancy display of photos.
  - Freeze Frame Media- who have a videography company.
 Along with them, four internal awards were given to: Jingle Baubles for their interpersonal skills, Adhmad Óg for their teamwork, Sweet Express for the best display and Top That for the most creative.
 

This event was followed up with a visit by a number of students to a business expo in Carriganore which gave them the opportunity to display to the wider community and gave them practice before some of them head on to the final.

- 4A & 4C have used their statistical knowledge learned in maths to enter the John Hooper Statistical poster competition run by the Central Statistics Office. The topics investigated ranged from weights of schoolbags to videogaming and makeup, to name a few.
- Chloe Kinsella and Cathy O'Neill 4C proudly represented the school this year at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in January. The students project titled 'A comparison of the attitudes of Irish, Spanish and French students to learning foreign languages' was one of 550 projects selected from over 2000 entries to present their project in the RDS. The students project was entered into the social and behavioural category. The aim of their project was to uncover what other students from Ireland, France and Spain thought about learning a foreign language and could we learn anything from these countries about how best to teach a foreign language. The two girls surveyed over 290 students from Ireland, France and Spain. The students were commended by the judges for extending their project beyond Ireland. The two ladies were excellent ambassadors for the school and presented their project to other students and the general public over the 4 days of the exhibition. The BT Young Scientist competition requires many long hours outside school and stretches students to extend their knowledge of their area of interest and to develop new skills. Cathy and Chloe have certainly learnt a great deal from producing and presenting this project and should be proud of all they have achieved.
- The sign language Fetac Level 3 course has begun for TYs on Wednesday evenings. It will run for 15 weeks and should leave all the students involved with an ability to understand and use the language at a competent level.
- The architects in schools group will host an exhibition in the school for Senator Grace O'Sullivan and school management next month, followed by an exhibition of work from all schools in the architects in schools competition in WIT later in the year. Following 12 weeks of work, they have finished producing designs and models for potential pavilions in various areas of Tramore.
- F1 in schools Competition - We entered 3 teams in the preliminary stages and all 3 teams qualified for the regional finals to be held in Newry in March. The teams have so far had to create a 5 page business and design plan for their F1 teams. They now have to design and produce a scale model of a F1 car which will be raced against other schools at the finals. The teams will also have to produce a 20 page design and business book describing their teams and how they have

promoted the team along with how they designed the car in detail. At the finals, the teams will have to do a verbal presentation, as well as be interviewed by various judges during the day.

The teams are: Zodiac Racing - Conor Butler, Tom Carney, Richard Lynch, Cameron Kent, Jaiden Owie, Jack O' Sullivan

Velocity Racing - Sean Halpin, Adam Murphy, Michael Lonergan, Jordan Power, Cian Corbett

Redtail Racing - Barry Sheerin, Kieran Murphy, Callum Wheatley, Martin Kerins, Chloe Kinsella, Rory O' Hanlon

- Bank interviews took place in early January and the interview panel were blown away by the standard of interviews. All the candidates took on board tips given before the interview and were very well prepared going into it. This was followed up with an afternoon of bank training in the Tramore branch of Bank of Ireland where they learned the ins and outs of working in a bank and will bring this information back for when they are running their own school branch. The bank team this year will be: Branch Manager - Harry Slattery, Assistant Manager - Ella Hennessy, Sales Manager - Sinead McGrath, Marketing Managers - Kieran Murphy & Barry Sheerin, Audit Specialists - Martin Kerins & Callum Wheatley, Customer Digi Advisors - Emily Slattery, Ellen Foran, Niamh Cronin, Chloe Kinsella & Ciara McGrath
- Thank you to the group of students from 4B who were fantastic in assisting Ms. Barry in cataloging all of the Special Educational Needs Resources.
- All students have completed another two weeks of work experience and hopefully they have gained an insight into the reality of the working world. Some will have found their calling in life, while others will know what they are definitely going to try to avoid when they leave school.
- The PDST have loaned the school a set of Google Chromebooks for use in developing the student's eportfolios. Our Transition Years are the lucky group who are getting to test them and develop their IT knowledge in the process.

Please check out the school website/Twitter to see photos of TYs involved in all their activities. If you have any queries about any of the activities, please don't hesitate to contact me in the school.

Emily Campbell - Transition Year Coordinator