

October TY Update

Firstly I would like to congratulate this year's TY class for the positive start that they have made during their first few weeks. I was very proud to take them away on their bonding trip to Spike Island, where the instructors raved about what a nice, enthusiastic and mannerly group they were.



Throughout the first few weeks, the students have been given a huge amount of opportunities to get involved in committees, groups, competitions and awards.

- Ms. Denton is coordinating **Gaisce**, the President's Award. Hopefully most students are up and running- learning a new skill, volunteering in the community and involving themselves in a physical activity.
- As one of thirty pilot schools in Ireland, the students are now up and running with their **eportfolio**. They are using google classroom in many classes and each of them have an individual website to showcase their work. I would encourage students to work on their eportfolio outside of school and put their own stamp on it. They will be assessed on it at the end of the year.
- 4A and 4C have been involved in creating fun opportunities for 1st and 2nd Years during **Maths week**, including mazes, games and puzzles.
- Twenty students have signed up to be **homework mentors** to junior students after school, which will begin in the coming weeks.
- Adults with special needs, who attend the **Brothers of Charity** day care centre, will be coming in to work on computers with a number of students who have signed up. This will take place every Monday and both our students and the Brother of Charity group always look forward to this worthwhile time spent together.
- 4C produced 24 cartoons on the themes of kindness and friendship for display on school TVs. Callum Wheatley edited and produced a movie for the junior school assemblies. Callum, together with Harry Dineen, presented to the other years. Over 600 students received the message that kindness and friendship are both key to student happiness. Well done on their excellent communication skills and public speaking. Wiktor Szpilka, Barry Sheerin and Kieran Murphy provided the technical support to the assemblies.
- **Ardscoil Radio** had its first broadcast last week. A large number of TYs are learning the skills involved and entertaining the masses in the school.

- The **PE Expo** will take place in March. It is the PE version of the Young Scientist, on a smaller scale. Students will work on a project in areas such as the science behind sport, nutrition, sports psychology, ICT in sport etc. Any other students who have not signed up to do a project and have an interest in a particular area are more than welcome to discuss it with me and I will support them through it.
- At the moment, the main project of the **Peace and Justice** group is the Shoebox appeal. This year's Christmas Shoebox Appeal aims to spread the joy of Christmas with children in need in Africa and East Europe. To get involved, pack a shoebox, wrap it and put €4 in the envelope provided in the Team Hope leaflets, then drop it off to SF32 before November 11.
- 29 TY students from across the four classes are taking part in the **Formula 1 in Schools** competition, to design and race a scaled version of a Formula 1 car. Students get together to make teams of between 3 and 6 people forming a Formula 1 team. Each student has a role within the team, from team manager to designers to engineers. Teams will submit their business plans in November, hoping to qualify for the regional finals after Christmas. The national winner then goes on to represent Ireland in the World Finals. The 2016 finals take place in Austin Texas.
- 26 TY students from across the four classes signed up to take part in the **Architects in Schools** workshop run by Emily Power, Architect, on behalf of the Irish Architecture Foundation. The group will spend 2 hours every week for 8 weeks looking at design and architecture. Last year the groups looked at redesigning areas of the school to help improve student life in the building.
- Ms. Lonergan has spoken to the classes about getting involved in the **John Paul II Award**. Fr. Toomey is due to visit in the coming weeks to give an insight into the Award. It enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church – in the life of their community and society.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out at the **Garda station open day**. They were kept busy with the number of people who attended and the number of demanding children who required their artistic skills when face painting.
- During Halloween, the **Lafcadio Japanese Gardens** will host two ghost stories evenings. A number of students have applied to participate in both acting and non acting roles. They will have an acting workshop in the school beforehand and hopefully will be able to put their skills learned into play.
- 4A & 4D have been taken through their paces **cycling** around Tramore as part of their PE programme. Many had not been on a bike since primary school but it might encourage them to take on the Greenway next.

- All Transition Years took part in **drama and dance workshops** with Pat Grant of Waterford Academy of Music and Arts. Each TY class group had an 80-minute session which included games, drama improvisations and dance. The students loved it. Many of them tried dance for the first time, and Pat got even the most reluctant dancers moving on the dance floor and having fun! A great success all round.
- Every day, six students go down to the community care centre in Tramore to help with **Meals on Wheels**. They help with the delivery around Tramore and the clean up afterwards.
- The nominees for **student council** from TY are
4A Caitlin Roche & Martin Kerins
4B Ailbhe Hackett Power & Barry Sheerin
4C Chloe Kinsella & Harry Dineen
4D Nadine Butler & Patrick Batho
- Nadine Butler attended the **Comhairle Na nOg AGM** in Dungarvan on Fri 14h October.
- There will be opportunities for the students to volunteer with the **St Vincent de Paul**. A speaker from SVP will be in on Friday to inform them of their work and introduce them to the opportunities to get involved.
- Students will be participating in a **bag pack in Tesco** for the charity, Aware on October 20th and 21st. Aware is a support charity for people with depression and it also runs a school programme called Beat the Blues which we have in the school each year.
- The **GAA coaching course** is complete now and hopefully it gave the students an opportunity to develop their communication skills and encouraged them to get involved in coaching in the future.
- There are five new TY members of the **Amber Flag committee**. This aims to promote positive mental health throughout the school.
- Thanks to all the Transition Year students who helped run the **School Life Air Run**. Their help was invaluable on the day. A huge thank you to Barry Sheerin and Kieran Murphy for their wonderful video of the day, which can be seen around the schools on the tv screens. They really captures the essence of the day.

- We are still waiting to get our **sign language course** up and running. Due to Garda vetting, the start date is delayed but we look forward to getting started as soon as possible.
- From a trip point of view, the group have travelled to take part in a military team building day in **Spike Island**. This ranged from a speed boat trip over to the island, camouflage hide and seek to team assault challenges, just to name a few. On went the wellies for their trip to the **Ploughing championships** in Tullamore. They got thinking about their mini business during an **Idea Generation workshop** in Dungarvan. To celebrate maths week, the destination was the **Great Escape** in Waterford where they put on their problem solving hats to try to escape from the rooms. They also had tours of the **Viking triangle, the Medieval Museum and the Bishop's Palace**.

Photos of the above trips can be seen on the website and on twitter. Hopefully the students bring their eportfolio to life with them too.

The students have a number of projects due in for different subjects over the coming week. They are encouraged to try to space them out and meet the deadlines set by the teachers.

If you have any queries about any of the activities, please don't hesitate to contact me in the school.

Emily Campbell
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