

Christmas TY Update

After a short half term, here is an update of some of the activities that your son/daughter has been involved in.



- The Young **St Vincent De Paul** committee had been formed under the direction of Debbie O'Halloran. It consists of 19 TY members and has had several meetings. They will follow up with an action strategy in 2017.
- Well done to the 22 **pool lifeguard** candidates who completed the practical test of their course recently. They still have the academic side of the course to complete but are progressing excellently.
- The **John Paul II Awards** students have been assisting at the daily mass in Holy Cross, the November parish and school services and in preparing Holy Cross Church for Christmas. They are also participating in The Young St Vincent De Paul, Peace and Justice and other community events.
- A great night was had at the **Focus Ireland big sleepout** which the peace and justice group took part in. It was a truly eye opening experience. Lying out on cardboard exposed to the elements showed a true insight into what it must be like to be homeless. With songs and real life stories from the high hopes choir, the true significance of the night was seen by all. It was great to see the transition year students participate and rise to the challenge to help raise funds for Focus Ireland.
- Using their maths skills of measuring and marking out, 4C were heavily involved in coordinating the whole school event which saw all the students shape out the number **2400**. This represents all the homeless children in Ireland at the moment. The aerial photograph was taken by Barry Sheerin and will be presented, along with a petition, to the Minister of Housing, Simon Coveney after Christmas.
- Well done to the Peace and Justice committee who coordinated the collection of 240 boxes for the **Shoebox Appeal**. A number of the classes were involved in creating class shoeboxes for the worthy cause.
- On Friday 16th December, all Transition Year classes took part in a **workshop on Fairtrade** given by the One World Centre, Waterford. All classes will take part in a fairtrade project after Christmas.

- 4B completed their **first aid course**, courtesy of Tramore Order of Malta. They participated in the 'Adam's Gift' programme. This is an awareness initiative supported by the Order of Malta Ireland Ambulance Corps, with the aim of helping as many people as possible recognise the signs of cardiac arrest and to have the knowledge, training and confidence to offer their lifesaving skills if and when someone calls on their help.
- All TYs are busy in different ways in art class. Two of the groups had a great opportunity to work with **Irish Milliner**, Laura Kinsella, during the month of November. Laura is renowned for her unique abstract hats, headpieces and accessories. These workshops helped the students in their development of their **Junk Kouture project**. Junk Kouture is a national contest which encourages young designers in second level education to create striking couture designs and impressive works of wearable art from everyday junk that would normally find its way into the bin. The other two art classes groups are well under well with their preparation for the **Artifice Festival** in Lismore Castle Arts. They will be exhibiting their work in the gallery in the Castle in March.
- The TY's are playing a vital role in the Music Department. They are taking on a lead role in **choir, school radio** and the **brass ensemble**. The radio station (Ardscoil FM) has been up and running since October. They initially broadcast from the maintenance room off the main foyer but moved from there and now broadcast from the stage in the foyer. They have two full time teams consisting of a producer, 3 presenters, 2 sound engineers and a runner. They broadcast every Tuesday and Thursday at lunch time. Each daily show is 35 minutes long - which consists mainly of a look at what's making the news and playing out songs, usually sourced from requests submitted by students.
- Chloe Kinsella and Cathy O' Neill have a project accepted into the **BT Young Scientist** exhibition this coming January. The project title is 'A comparison of the attitudes of Irish, French and Spanish students towards the teaching of foreign languages'. Best of luck to the girls with all their preparation for the big event.
- Applications for the **school bank** are in from students and interviews will take place directly after Christmas. Positions to be filled include manager, assistant manager, PR, tellers etc.
- All students have now completed at least two weeks of **work experience**. I hope they have gained an insight into the reality of the working world and found it beneficial in choosing their future career. A reminder that they have two more weeks of work experience in February during the weeks beginning February 6th and 13th. They are encouraged to have those workplaces organised as soon as possible and if possible, to get this experience in places that they have an interest in in order to rule in or to rule out these careers.

- At this stage of the year, all **mini businesses** are up and running. It is a huge learning curve for the students, with very successful businesses running along side struggling businesses. In the New Year, they will be presenting their businesses to the school community before some progress to the regional finals.
- 4D joined forces with LCA to help out at the Halloween event **Trick or Treat for Temple Street**. They made halloween decorations and decorated the school, along with raising €425 for Temple Street hospital. Following on from that, they are helping with the **Christmas jumper day** in aid of Crumlin Children's hospital.
- Thank you to all the students who are **homework mentors** to junior students after school. This has proved invaluable to these students and the TYs are gaining worthy experience in return.
- Adults with special needs, who attend the **Brothers of Charity** day care centre, are coming to the school every Monday afternoon, to work together on computers or to play cards etc. The group will rotate every few weeks in order for all interested students to be involved.
- The students who are completing a project for the PE Expo in March attended a **video analysis workshop** in WIT. This included a talk and a practical workshop on use of video analysis in sport. This gave food for thought for their project.
- This year the Irish **Formula 1 in Schools** competition is not taking place. However because there have been a number of students involved in the project so far this year, we are going to enter the British competition which will take place in Newry in the coming months. Lots of work is needed in January as they write their plan and then turn to design and race a scaled version of a Formula 1 car.
- Congratulations to Caitlin Roche & Patrick Batho who were voted as the TY representatives onto the **Student Council**.
- Six TY students have been involved in the **Library Committee** since its inception -Ella Hennessy, Tara Bradley, Michelle Hickson, Chloe Kinsella, Nadine Butler & Niamh Cronin. These students, along with Mrs Murphy, have worked every Thursday after school and on Thursday and Friday mornings setting up a new library in Ardscoil na Mara. They are currently coming near the end of the process of logging all the books into a computerised lending system. They have worked very hard and performed all tasks with enthusiasm and good humour.
- **Wellness week** will take place in early January and Transition Year students will be very involved in activities throughout the week.

- In November, Theatre Royal was the destination of choice for the English department, to attend the show **Psycho Spaghetti**. This was combined with visits to Waterford library and a mix of history trips around the Viking Triangle
- Their Christmas trip involved **ice skating** and a visit to **Waterford Crystal**.
- All students have attended **careers talks** on Civil Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Construction Management & Engineering, Building Services and Sustainable Energy Engineering.
- Students have completed a huge number of **projects** in all different subjects varying from film directors, mathematicians, the meaning of life, sports science elements and a lán tionscadal sa rang Gaeilge to name but a few.
- Students rotated classes this term between the different **languages** of French, Spanish, Italian and German.

Many photos of the above trips and activities can be seen on the website and on twitter.

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

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