

Principal's Report
Parents' Advisory Council
Thursday 25 January 2018

Christmas Charity

St Vincent De Paul organised their usual 'Giving Tree', hamper raffle and food collection for those in need at Christmas. The raffle raised €330 and the gifts from the 'Giving Tree' were worth in excess of €1,000.

Transition Year students also organised a bake sale in aid of the 'Make a Wish Foundation'.

Transition Year students did several carol-singing sessions and supported the Rotary club by singing at their annual Christmas fundraiser in the centre of town.

A Christmas jumper and accessory day was held to raise much-needed funds for Loreto, Rumbek.

The TY Development Education class travelled to Dublin with Ms Aoife Davitt on Monday evening 18 December to distribute essentials and a few luxuries to the homeless.

Carol Service

The annual Carol Service took place on Thursday 21 December in the cathedral. The senior choir, orchestra and traditional group were all involved as well as the first year girls who presented their nativity play. The service was very moving as always and allowed the school community an opportunity to prepare prayerfully for Christmas. Huge extra work was involved for the students who took part and their teachers Ms Olivia Toman, Ms Lynn Brophy, Ms Yvonne Doyle, Ms Alma Grace, Mr Niall Mannion and Ms Olivia Callaghan.

Mary Ward Week 22 -29 January has been celebrated in the school and there have been many events around the school as well as different activities in RE classes and Sr Anna has led prayers and reflections over the intercom. This week also marks Catholic Schools' Week and there are many activities and liturgies taking place.

We remember especially our first year student Eva Bond whose father Sean has been missing since Christmas Eve.

Congratulations to Louise McEntire and Sinead Hyland on the birth of their baby boys in recent weeks.

On Wednesday 20 December, our TY students enjoyed their Christmas trip to Galway.

All of the usual activities are continuing at lunchtime including Big Sister, Little Sister Student Council meetings and Gaisce, with 'Tea and Talk' on Thursdays.

A speaker from Sligo IT visited the school on Monday last.

Ms Alma Grace and her Transition Year group have achieved great success with their paper recycling initiative and are hoping to address the issue of plastic bottles next.

Sport and Extra-Curricular Activities

Basketball

The school hosted and took part in the All-Ireland senior playoffs on Saturday 20 January. The day was a great success but unfortunately our own team didn't progress to the final stages of the competition. Thanks to Ms Therese O'Keeffe and Ms Ann Marie Fagan for all of their work with the team.

Since Christmas first year basketball team won their first league game against Scoil Dara, Kilcock and second years unfortunately lost their game to the same opposition.

First and second year hockey teams beat St Wolstan's Celbridge 1-0 and 4-0 respectively on Tuesday 16 January. Thanks to Mr Sam Carroll for his help with basketball training.

Camogie

Our senior camogie team were crowned Leinster champions on Saturday 20 January. They defeated Callan, Co Kilkenny 2-11 to 1-2 in the semi final and Trim in the final 3-5 to 2-6. It was a great achievement for the team and their coach Ms Sinead Lynch with wonderful coverage in the local press.

Soccer

Our u 17 soccer team is enjoying amazing success and the girls beating Loreto Kilkenny by 4 goals to 1, scoring all five goals! They played St Mary's Naas in their quarter final match winning 4-2 and in the semi-final they defeated Loreto, Bray by 4 goals to 2.

Lunchtime and After School Activities

Walking Club, hockey, spikeball, badminton, soccer, camogie, tag rugby, breakfast club, athletics, tennis, careers speakers, SVP and Students' council.

Teaching and Learning Report

25 January 2018

Parent-Teacher Meetings

The Fifth Year Parent-Teacher meetings took place on Thursday 7 December and was reasonably well attended.

Market Day took place on Thursday 14 December and was the usual mix of ideas and entrepreneurial skills! Special thanks to the Business Department and LCVP teachers for organising this very successful annual event.

Languages

Final preparations are being put in place for the French Department's trip to Paris from 6 to 9 February. An information evening for parents of those travelling was held on Wednesday 24 January.

Congratulations to Fionnuala Maher (TY) and Niamh O'Reilly (5th Yr) who represented the school at the regional finals of the Soroptomists Public Speaking competition in Bloomfield House Hotel on Saturday 13 January. Fionnuala was selected to represent the region in the finals with Niamh as the reserve speaker. Best wishes to both girls for the final that will take place in March.

Mock Examinations take place on Monday 29 January to Friday 9 February with house examinations for first, second and fifth years on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 29 -31 January.

Subject Choice Forms have been completed by third year and Transition Year students and it is hoped to generate 'best fit' for next year's timetable and complete the process before mid-term break.

The school has made a very strong application to be a pilot school for Leaving Certificate Physical Education to NCCA and it is hoped that we will be successful considering our track record offering GCSE PE. The list of pilot schools should be known by the end of January.

Application forms for Transition Year have been completed and numbers (88) are on a par with last year. In the region of eighty places will be offered to facilitate three groups of twenty four students.

Supervised Study is continuing this term and is at full capacity for the five weeks until mid-term.

LCVP recorded interviews were held on Wednesday 24 January to Friday 26 January. Thanks to Ms Hanlon and Ms O'Toole for all their work on these very important elements of the programme.

Science

Transition Years attended the Bt Young Scientist Exhibition on Thursday 11 as did all first year students. This is fast becoming an annual trip for these groups of students.

Chemistry workshops for sixth years took place in the school facilitated by staff from the Chemistry Dept in Trinity College on Monday 22 January. The Chemistry students and their teachers also travelled to Maynooth University on Wednesday 24 January for a full day of experiments.

Physics students also spent a morning in the labs in Maynooth University on Friday 12 January as part of their practical learning.

Four students and their teacher Mr Carroll attended a Development Education workshop organised by Loreto Education Centre last week and benefitted from meeting groups from other Loreto schools.

Fifth and sixth year Art students visited the Hugh Lane Art Gallery and the Irish Museum of Modern Art as part of their Leaving Certificate requirements on Wednesday 13 December.

Third Year students visited a mosque as part of their Religious Education programme and History sites were combined on the trip to cover two subjects in one day.

Club Gaeilge, French, German, Spanish clubs, Art club, Homework Club, Orchestra, Lunchtime Choir and Ukulele for first and second years are all taking place at lunchtime. A new initiative is the Creative Writing Club that has been started by Olga Cosgrave. Mary Reynolds (TY) had her short story published in the Westmeath Examiner.

Teacher training

JCT cluster training took place on Tuesday 23 January for all subject teachers. Classes were cancelled for the day and teacher training in the delivery and assessment of the new Junior Cycle curriculum took place in various host schools in Mullingar, Tullamore and Athlone.

Four of our teachers availed of the opportunity to attend a workshop entitled 'Learning for Understanding' under the direction of Graham Powell.

Sharing practice meetings have been taking place where teachers volunteer to meet and share methodologies and different tips to improve and enhance teaching and learning. The initiative has been spearheaded by Sinead Lawlor and is proving very popular and beneficial.

Music

Final preparations for the Music students' trip to London are in full swing and the whole experience should enhance the musical experiences of our girls.

Guitar lessons are available in the school for the first time and uptake has been encouraging.