

# St. Joseph's TY Newsletter

# 2019

## ALL SHOOK UP

This year's Transition Year Musical was "All Shook Up" which featured all the classic hits of Elvis. We started the with auditions in early September and we all got our roles. We began rehearsals straight away with Donna Ruane, the director of the show, Ms. Lee, the musical director and Jason Guthrie, the choreographer. The girls who got main parts started to learn their lines.

Our production of "All Shook Up" includes crowd favorites such as "Heartbreak Hotel" and "All Shook Up". It was set in a 1950s Midwestern town which got "All Shook Up" with the arrival of Chad, a good-looking, guitar playing, roustabout who rides from town to town spreading his loving. Chad sets about dismantling Mayor Matilda's rules banning music and dancing. The musical bringing some life and energy back into the townspeople and changes the lives of mechanic Jim, his daughter Natalie, geeky Dennis, bar keeper Sylvia, museum owner Miss Sandra, and young lovers Dean and Lorraine, Mayor Matilda and Sheriff Earl.

On Wednesday the 27th, we preformed "All Shook Up" for the first time. We had a matinee for the local primary and secondary schools and an evening show open to the public. Our final show, was on Thursday 28th. We had three amazing performances and all the girls enjoyed a trip to Supermac's after the final show. We were delighted with our show and felt that we were rewarded for all our hard work. From the editorial team here and all the Transition Year students, we would like to thank Ms. Lee, Donna Ruane, Jason Guthrie, Ms. Geary, Ms. Flannery and all who were involved in making this show such a success.

## Editorial Team

- Ellen McHale
- Ann Sibi
- Marie O'Malley

*With assistance from Ms. Calvey and Megan Frazer.*

We produced this newsletter as part of our project for School Digital Championship. We created this E-newsletter to promote the school TY programme in an environmentally friendly manner. It is available on both the school app and school website.

## TY Modules

Transition Year is a year for new opportunities and new experiences. Students have a choice of modules to pick from. Modules include: Young Social Innovators (YSI), Future Leaders, Green Schools and Chinese.

YSI gets the students involved with the community, trying to solve social problems in the community.

Green Schools teaches us about being environmentally conscious citizens. Chinese class gives us the opportunity to learn a different language.

Future Leaders is a new module this year. It involves various aspects of sport, looks at journalism, nutrition, and coaching, as well as hosting blitzes, and attending matches.



*A photo from our Musical featuring Mayor Matilda, Sheriff Earl and all the angels and devils.*



## The National Ploughing Championship

On the 17th of September, the majority of our TY's took a leisurely trip down to Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow to take part in the National Ploughing Championship 2019. Over eighty TYs went on this long bus trip accompanied by Ms. Prendergast, Ms. McLoughlin, Ms. Allen and Pdraig Syron. Our TYs had an early start that morning but all were excited to be on the road.

The National Ploughing Championship is a rural event that revolves around the showing off of different products and businesses that are related to life in the Irish countryside. Many different companies set up stalls during this event to showcase their work and increase interest in their business. These companies are not the only ones to set up camp for the week though, as even the Irish Government takes part. All of the different departments set up large tents and invited the public in to see what they had achieved during the year. Another aspect of the "Ploughing" was the National Farming competitions, a series of competitive events relating to ploughing and farming skills. Many people travel from all over Ireland to watch them perform.

When we arrived there, we were all a little bit daunted by the size of the festival. We never realized how large it would be. However we all pulled on our wellies and off we went. We all started to explore the festival and investigate all the booths in small groups of four or five. By the end of the day, our feet were aching and our bags were full of free samples but we enjoyed it immensely. I would definitely recommend everyone to try to attend it as it's already is one of the highlights of our year!

## National Ploughing Championships



## Rua Bake Sale

On Sunday 20th of October, TY's took part in a fundraising Bake Sale for our school's Home Economics Department. TYs helped to bake the goodies, set up the stalls, and sell our treats in Rua. A vast array of delicious treats were on offer - including Pear & Almond Tart, Carrot Cake, Chocolate Biscuit Cake, Coffee & Walnut slices, Cookies and Lemon Drizzle slices.

The bake sale was a resounding success. All of the delicious baked goods were sold and our customers were delighted with their treats.

## Parish Youth Choir

At the beginning of the year, Yvonne representing the Parish Youth Choir for TY students, issued an invitation to those interested in singing or music to join the choir. Youth Choir takes place once a week in the Monastery, and performs at some Saturday evening masses. The Youth Choir will also be singing at Christmas Eve mass. It is a fantastic opportunity to sing as part of a group, have fun and also improve ones musical skills.



## Our Trip to Killary Adventure Centre

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, all of our Transition Year students took a bus down to Killary Adventure Centre in Connemara, Co. Galway. We spent an amazing two days there, trying out plenty of new activities. Many of us had never tried activities like these before. It was a welcome break from the regular day to day life in school. We all learnt a lot about each other and developed new friendships over the course of our stay.

We were overlooking the Killary Fjord, looking out at a scenic spot on the Wild Atlantic Way. It was located in the middle of nowhere but we think that added to the atmosphere at the Centre.

Killary Adventure Centre is dedicated to providing fun outdoor activities for its guests. It offers a wide variety of over twenty activities to choose from. Many of these activities are unique to the area.

Our experience at Killary was

amazing. We all enjoyed the two action packed days. We took part in many fun activities such as Kayaking, Gorge Walking, Orienteering, Raft Building, Stand Up Paddle Boarding, High Ropes, Giant Swing and of course The Turf Challenge. The Turf Challenge was a series of activities in a bog. It was dirty, wet and cold but also great craic. We all just went for it and jumped right in to the bog. We all learnt new things about each other, made new friends and bonded well as a year group.

## John Paul II Awards

The John Paul II award is an award presented to young people who get involved in parish and social awareness projects. TY students can participate in various activities such as charity work, Youth Choir or any volunteering related activities. The hours of participation must add up to 40 hours or extra for a gold award. The award is a recognition of time and effort devoted to community and social projects.



## YSI Family Day

Ms. Keaveney's YSI class, organized a "Family Day" for an afternoon in October. The planning for this event started weeks in advance with invitations being designed and handed out to family members. A "picture wall" consisting of pictures of the girls along with their families was set up by the students. A fun Mr. and Mrs. style game was designed by the class and proved to be a great success.

Members of the class decorated the room with fairy lights, flowers and tablecloths to give the library a welcoming and cozy look. Students also baked delicious treats which were served up on the day. We had music, dance, songs and a lot of fun. The family day gave an opportunity to the students to catch up with family members they may not see all that often. It proved to be a great event and was enjoyed by all.



## Junk Kouture

Every year, Transition Year students participate in a competition called "Junk Kouture". The aim is to use materials that are commonly wasted or thrown away to create a dress or outfit. Students work in teams and each team chooses a model for their creation. A photograph of the outfit is taken and uploaded to Junk Couture website and the competition for the most "likes" begins. Those with the most "likes" proceed to the Regional Finals, where the outfit is modelled on stage for a few minutes in a dance performance. Some of our TY's are using materials such as potatoes, butter wrappers, popcorn and even old instruments for this year's creations. It is a fantastic opportunity for those with artistic, fashion, or acting interests.

## Fire Station Visit

TYs were invited to an open day at the local Fire Brigade. We got to see the fire trucks and all the various equipment and learnt about what everything does. We got to

listen to a talk on smoke alarms, were shown how to put out a fire and learnt different techniques on how to prevent and deal with a kitchen fire. It was very enjoyable and educational.

## Christmas Carol Service

The last week before midterm, is always busy, preparing for Christmas. A highlight of this week is the traditional school Christmas Carol Service. Everyone looks forward to hearing the choirs sing some festive songs. Once we hear the Christmas songs, we know that Christmas has arrived. Transition Year students were responsible for preparing readings and prayers and these added to the occasion.

The Youth Choir for the John Paul II, performs for the community in the local church of The Holy Rosary, with some very catchy, festive tunes. This all helps us to get into the Christmas spirit.

## The year so far.....

Over the last few months, Transition Year students have had lots of opportunities and excitement from trips to Killary Adventure Centre, the National Ploughing Championship, the Musical and Work Experience in different places. Also, many students have also participated in various competitions.

The majority of TYs have enjoyed the year so far, trying new things, going to new places and having an exam-free year. So far it has been an extremely busy yet very enjoyable year.

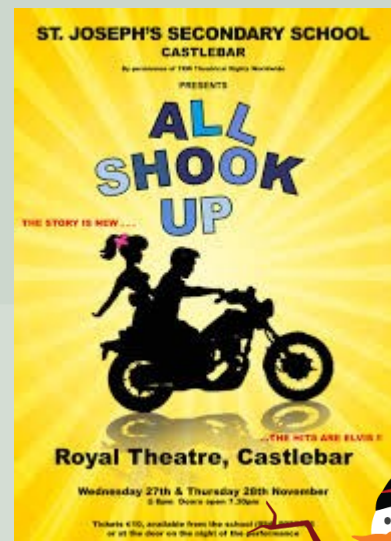
Now, we are all waiting for the Christmas holidays to be over so that we can get started into the next project, competition or outing. Everyone is especially looking forward to the Amsterdam trip in April.

From everyone at the TY Newsletter Editorial Team, we hope that you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will see you again in January.



## Gaisce

This year 49 TY students signed up to take part in Gaisce under the supervision of Ms. O' Toole. Gaisce is a self-development programme for young people which requires students to develop their skills in four key areas: Community Involvement, Personal Skills, Physical Recreation and an Adventure Journey. Each challenge area requires a minimum participation of 1 hour per week for 13 weeks. The Adventure Journey takes place over 2 days and 1 night. An additional 13 weeks must be completed in one challenge area of your choice. Currently participants are getting on task, getting their report cards filled in and hopefully after 26 weeks will be presented with a bronze medal at an award ceremony - fingers crossed!



Poster for our TY Musical "All Shook Up".

