



ST. PATRICK'S COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017



2017/18 Calendar

Term 1

• Halloween Break

Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November

• Christmas Holidays

Monday 25th December to Friday 5th January

Term 2

• School re-opening

Monday 8th January

• Spring Break

Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February

• Easter Holidays

Monday 19th March to Friday 6th April

Term 3

• School re-opening

Monday 9th April

• May Bank Holiday

Monday 7th May

• Summer Holiday

Friday 1st June



Parents Association



Chairperson: Sharron Murray

Treasurer: Caroline Halpin

Secretary: Ingrid McLaughlin

Telephone: 086 261 5851

The PA is committed to providing opportunities and resources which benefit the students of the school. These include the Breakfast Club, Study Seminars and safe and secure evening entertainment for Junior Cycle students.

The PA does a small amount of fundraising each year and often collaborates with TY students for such events.

The PA is always open to new members and to new ideas and suggestions. Meetings are held monthly and dates of meetings can be found on the school website.

If you would like to find out more please contact the above number or go along to the next meeting.

2017/18 Re-opening

First Years: Tuesday 29th August - 9 am to 4.00 pm

Third Year, Fifth Year & LCA2: Wednesday 30th August

Second Year, Fourth Year & LCA1: Thursday 31st August

Transition Year: Friday 1st September

Examination Fees

State Examinations (based on 2017)

Leaving Certificate: €116
Leaving Certificate Applied: €116
Repeat Leaving Certificate: €301
Junior Certificate: €109



Exemptions:

Candidates who hold a current medical card or who are dependent on a parent guardian who holds a current medical card are exempt from paying state examination fees.

Mock Examinations:

Leaving Certificate: €90
Junior Certificate: €90

Please note that the medical card exemption does not apply to mock examinations. Fees must be fully paid by Monday 29th January.

Parent/Teacher Meetings



Year	Date
1	Thursday 11th January
2	Thursday 1st February
3	Wednesday 6th December
4	Thursday 25th January
5	Thursday 23rd November
TY	Wednesday 6th December
LCA1	Thursday 25th January
LCA2	Thursday 23rd November

Please note that you should arrive not later than 5.45pm to allow sufficient time to meet all teachers.

Year Heads

1st Year: Ms. Shannon
2nd Year: Mr. Daly
3rd Year: Ms. Magee
4th Year: Ms. Dinneen
5th Year: Ms. Hickey
TY: Ms. Dinneen
LCA: Ms. Hickey



House Exams



Christmas

3rd and 5th Years:

Week beginning Monday 6th November

1st, 2nd, & 4th Years:

Week beginning Monday 11th December

Mocks

Monday 29th January to Friday 9th February

Summer

Week beginning Monday 21st May

Student Council

The Student Council is a representative structure through which students in the school can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management and staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students. Each year two students from each year group are nominated to represent their respective year group. This year's student council members were as follows:

5th Year

Nathanael Nyakujara
Lisa O'Shea

LCA

Luke O'Leary

4th Year

Padraig Shannon

TY

Michael Hartigan
Tara Alford

3rd Year

Kai Downes
Lyndsey Prenderville

2nd Year

Allia- Jai Marren
Leon Pino

1st Year

Sally Fox
Ben Naughton

What we do?

The student council meet once a month to discuss any issues that have been brought to them by other students.

The following are some of the tasks the student council were involved in this year:

- Putting a student council suggestion box in the library for any issues students need addressing.
- Surveying each year group to see what lunchtime food they wanted served in the school.

As a result we now have a selection of healthy food being served in the school at lunchtime.

- Reviewing school policies.
- Updating the Student Council notice board to include minutes of each meeting.
- Putting a page in the school journal regarding information about the Student Council and what we do.
- The Student Council went to Mary Immaculate College for a talk on mental health strategies. Here they met other student council members from other schools. They also came away with some ideas on how to promote mental health in the school.
- The Student Council are currently putting together some ideas for a mental health notice board and a mental health week in the school for the next academic year.

The current student council will stay in place until the start of the next academic year; this is when a new student council will be elected.



Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is open from 8.30 am to 9 am each morning. All students can avail of tea and toast free of charge, compliments of the Parents Association.



School Website

Log on to our website for up to date information, links and photographs.



www.stpatrickscprehensive.ie

Lost and Found



Please note that personal belongings found in the school are stored for a limited period of time after which they are given to charity.

Students who have lost clothes or other items should contact Ms. Brooks.

Open Night



Our Open Night for 6th Class pupils and their parents will be held on Thursday 26th October from 7 pm to 9 pm.

The principal's address to parents will begin at 7.15 pm and pupils attending the Open Night must be accompanied by a parent/ guardian.

Study Information

Weekly Study:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Breaks
4:15- 6:15	4:15- 6:15	3:30- 5:30	3:30 - 5:30	3:30 - 5:30	10 mins

Students pay on a termly basis, the cost will be announced in September.

Contact: Ms. Dinneen

Saturday Study:

Study runs every Saturday from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Break: 11:15 am to 11:30 am

The cost is: €5.

Contact: Ms Graham



German Exchange



St. Patrick's Comprehensive welcomed German students from Lichtenfels in Bavaria in September.

St. Patrick's Comprehensive School and the Meranier Gymnasium in Lichtenfels established a student exchange programme in 2005. The purpose of the programme is to provide an opportunity for both Irish and German students to learn their respective languages, to integrate into the local way of life and to experience facets of the local culture.

This year a group of 22 German students and 2 accompanying teachers spent a week in our school. Apart from attending classes and observing the Irish school system, the German students took part in school excursions to Bunratty Castle, Craggaunowen, a treasure hunt in Galway organised by our TY students and a bonding day in Derg Isle Team Building Centre.

The exchange programme has proved a very rewarding experience for participants: the challenge of learning a new language, living with a host family and adapting to a new culture, presents students with a unique experience from which they will derive lifelong benefits.

We extend our wholehearted thanks to the host families for their ongoing support of this valued programme.

'Nationwide' Visit

In February, the RTE 'Nationwide' team visited our school. The episode was based on the history of Shannon town and featured a segment on St Patrick's Comprehensive, including interviews with our Principal Mr Heaphy and Mr Diarmuid O'Donovan who was the first Principal of St. Patrick's Comprehensive School.



LCA Bonding Trip to Spike Island

In October our Leaving Certificate Applied 1 students spent two days on Spike Island county Cork experiencing military themed outdoor games and activities. Our students were challenged with a variety of tough assault courses and team building games. They were equipped with survival skills including how to light a fire with stones. They were taught daytime and night time orienteering skills and during the night were shown how to get started in stargazing. All these activities help to strengthen self-belief and self-confidence in the students and it also gave them the opportunity to create a strong team spirit amongst themselves.

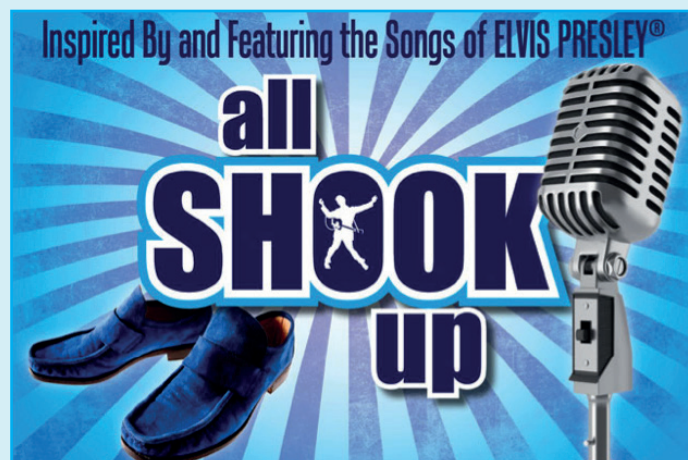
Musical

Next year's musical is going to be 'All Shook Up', a great show with a really entertaining storyline and great Elvis tunes to delight audiences young and not so young!

We're very fortunate to have once again secured the services of Aidan Fox and Karen Barrett, both past students of the school, who will be working with a team of teachers led by Ms. M. Hickey and Ms. McDonnell to assist our students in putting on a show to rival our previous outstanding productions.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people. The personal achievements, team skills, camaraderie and memories will stay with them and stand to them for the rest of their lives.

Auditions will be held in early September and the show will take place in the school hall from Dec. 6th to 9th, 2017.



Extension

Work on the extension is progressing on schedule and will be completed for the beginning of the new school year.

The extension will include:

- Special Education Unit
- Canteen/General Purpose Area
- Music Room
- Multimedia Laboratory
- Science Room
- Art Room
- Home Economics Room
- Business/Computer Room
- Engineering Room
- 2 Classrooms
- Offices
- Toilets
- Lockers



The Special Education Unit will include:

- 2 Classrooms
- Central Activities Area
- Multi Sensory Room
- Para – Educational Room
- Practical Activities Room
- Daily Living Skills Room
- Offices Toilets
- Utility Room
- Outdoor Play Area/Garden



Our Budding Mathematicians

Congratulations to our two Second Year mathematicians, Sinead Cahill and Thomas Power who proudly represented our school in the 'Pangea Maths Competition' recently. This competition was held in Trinity College Dublin. Well done guys!!



Active Schools Week

This year's Active Schools Week was our best one yet. We were extremely lucky with the weather as the sun was shining all week, perfect conditions for the outdoor activities (and some sunburn)! The Tuesday after the May Bank Holiday kick started the week, with our enthusiastic Transition Years giving a Health Promotion Workshop to all PE classes.

The workshop offered games, information on physical and mental health, blood pressure check-ups and floating debates. Wednesday the whole school participated in a 5K walk/run. The route brought us on a return trip towards the airport, with plenty of water stations along the way to keep hydrated in the heat! Thursday brought an eagerly anticipated visit from Munster Rugby coaches.

The coaches held an introduction to rugby session with PE classes and all First Years, featuring some fun starter games and basic skills. Finally Friday rounded off a fantastic week with Noel Marshall from 'Backballer' coming in to give a talk on muscle recovery and our whole school sports day. Students took part in various fun relay races in their year groups, with our Transition Years challenging some of our teachers to a race or two before finishing up!

Overall the week was a great success and a great opportunity for our students to get active. We would like to thank everyone who took part and we look forward to Active Schools Week 2018!



Student Achievements

We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate two of our past pupils on their fantastic academic achievements to date.

Congratulations to Kornelia Przychodnia who received a Leaders@LIT Scholarship at an awards ceremony in LIT in February. Kornelia studied Leaving Certificate Biology and Chemistry here in St Patrick's and graduated last year. Kornelia is a First Year Science student in LIT and we are very proud of her achievements.



Also, congratulations to Denas Kulpis who commenced his studies in the prestigious Trinity College Dublin in September.

Denas completed his Leaving Certificate last year and we are delighted to see him achieving one of his goals.

Student Reflections

By Shane Quinn - First Year

First year in Comp was a great year for me. I was welcomed and got great opportunities. When I first entered the school, I did not know anyone but even after the first day I had made friends. We have two class tutors, Ms Graham and Ms McInerney, our class tutors are great and make sure we are all feeling happy and content in school. Our Year Head is Mr Daly, he is always there for advice and support. We have great facilities in our school, including the library which holds a wide range of books, it is also a great place to study and play chess at lunch. Every Friday our English class go to the Library to read which we all love.

Sport is a huge part of our school. We have our PE class but we are encouraged to join the school teams who train during lunch and after school. I myself play rugby, we have had a busy year playing in blitzes including getting to play in Thomond Park which was amazing.

We finished our First Year on a high, Ms Graham organised a trip for us to the cinema, the trip was a reward for our hard work, good attendance and excellent behaviour throughout the year.

I started in St. Patrick's Comprehensive in September 2016 as a very nervous and apprehensive person; I am here today May 2017 feeling a part of a great inclusive community, where we have lots of support both academically and holistically. I have great memories from my first year here and eagerly look forward to Second Year.



Conor Wilmot - A Remembrance

Sadly this year our school experienced a tragic loss. Conor Wilmot was a bright, friendly, budding sports star who was part of our First Year group. Famous for his unique hairstyle and cheeky smile he played an active part in our school community as well as excelling on the rugby pitch representing our school.

Conor is sadly missed but will always be remembered by his fellow students, his friends, his teachers and the wider school community.

May he rest in peace.



Fundraising for the Irish Asthma Society



Our school was delighted to welcome the CEO of the Irish Asthma Society, Ms Averil Power to their school last September. Ms Power came in person to acknowledge all the hard work done by Ms Gallery's Leaving Cert Applied Maths class in raising over €4,000 for this very worthy cause.

These brilliant, brave and enthusiastic students undertook many tasks in their fundraising efforts, including bag-packing, waxing and being waxed, gathering sponsorship from all around the community and they topped off their efforts by sky-diving from a height of 10,000 feet at the TandemSkydive club in Longford. The impetus to do all this was to show solidarity with fellow students, Michael and Olivia Hartigan whose 7 year old brother, Liam, died last year following an asthma attack.



Ms Power commended the students and explained just how important their fundraising is. In Ireland, on average, one person a week dies from Asthma and with government funding to the charity having been cut by 50% in the last few years, efforts such as those made by St Patrick's Comprehensive are now more necessary than ever.

Staff and students alike were delighted to meet Ms Power. They were impressed with her passion and genuine commitment to raise awareness and reduce suffering for asthmatics and their families. As an asthmatic herself, the former Senator is well aware of the plight of sufferers. As she addressed the students she spoke about the society's efforts at lobbying Government to bring down the cost of medication and informed them about the many practical uses the Asthma Society will have for the funds raised.

A sincere thank you from the staff and students of St Patrick's Comprehensive goes to all those that helped these students in their efforts.

50th Anniversary Tree Planting & Minister's Visit

In September we welcomed Richard Bruton, TD and Minister for Education & Skills, to plant an ash tree to mark the 50th anniversary of our school and to view progress on our new extension.



World Book Week

To celebrate World Book Day, every year our school holds World Book Week, a week of activities planned and carried out by our Transition Years. This year marked twenty years of World Book Day in Ireland and to celebrate this, some of our students and staff dressed up as their most loved characters from their favourite books.

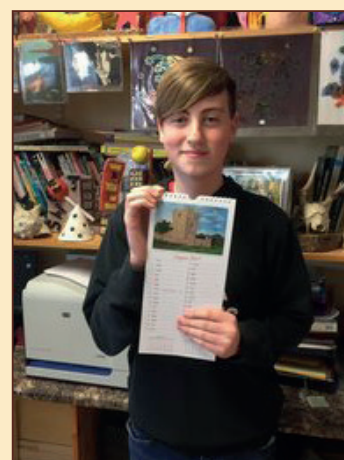


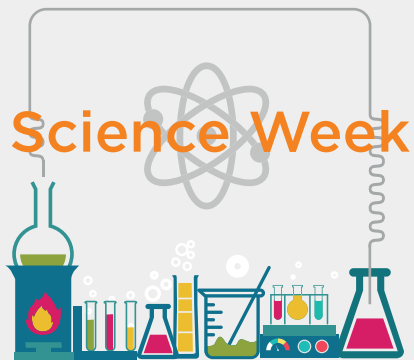
Texaco Art Competition Winner

Congratulations to Jake Justice, Third Year, whose entry in the 2016 Texaco Children's Art Competition earned him first place in the 14-15 category.

Jake and his family holiday in Killarney and he chose Ross Castle as his subject for the competition.

As well as receiving a prize, Jake's painting is also featured in the 2017 Texaco calendar.





Another successful Science Week took place in November 2016. Many activities were enjoyed by students across all years. From building hot air balloons, enjoying an amazing display of fun experiments, nature walks and a monster 3rd year Science quiz. Well done to all who participated! Bring on Science Week 2017!



Christmas Market & Craft Fair

Our school hosted a Christmas Market & Craft Fair in the school on Thursday 1st December. Stalls sold a wide variety of crafts and Christmas 'goodies' made by our own talented students and staff as well as local craftspeople. The market was open to the public and many took the opportunity to get some Christmas shopping done and to soak up the festive atmosphere. Proceeds from the market went to St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal.

We would like to thank all buyers, browsers and vendors who contributed to our festive event.



50th Anniversary Celebrations

2016 marked a very special year for our school as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of St. Patrick's Comprehensive. To mark this special milestone in both our history and the history of Shannon town a weekend of various activities were organised by our anniversary committee.

It kicked off on Friday with a special anniversary concert taking place in the school gym, showcasing the talents of pupils of the school, both past and present. Performers included our own school choir, Shannon Gospel Choir, Celtic rock group Horslips, Dave Hope, One September among others. It was a wonderful evening of music.

Celebrations continued into Saturday with our school hosting an open day and photo exhibition in the afternoon. Past and present pupils were invited to visit the school and enjoy a trip down memory lane. A fantastic photo display lined our halls reminiscing years gone by. This open day also showcased the future development of our school extension, due for completion in September 2017.

The Oakwood Hotel in Shannon was the venue for Saturday evening's festivities. Past and present members of the St. Patrick's Comprehensive School Community gathered to enjoy a gala dinner.





A special service was held in Saints John and Paul's Church in Shannon on Sunday morning to conclude a fantastic weekend of celebrations for our school community.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all those who made this a wonderful, memorable weekend, especially our dedicated anniversary committee.



Senior Cycle Reading List

Title	Author
Life of Pi	Y. Martell
The Fault in Our Stars	J. Green
The Ocean at the End of the Lane	N. Gaiman
The Great Gatsby	S.F Scott
Great Expectations	C.Dickens
Emma	J.Austen
The Uncommon Reader	A.Bennett
Circle of friends	M. Binchy
Wuthering Heights	E. Bronte
The Perks of Being a Wallflower	S. CHBOSKY
The Book Thief	M. Zusak



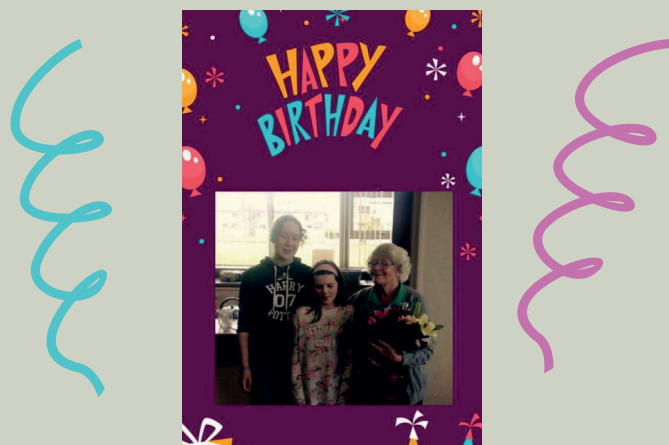
Texts for Second and Third year

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. BLACKMAN, Malorie | Noughts and Crosses |
| 2. BOYNE, John | The Dare |
| 3. CATHER, Willa | My Antonia |
| 4. CONNOLLY, John | The Book of Lost Things |
| 5. CROSSAN, Sarah | The Weight of Water |
| 6. GLEITZMAN, Morris | Once |
| 7. GOLDING, William | Lord of the Flies |
| 8. HINTON, S.E. | The Outsiders |
| 9. JOHNSTON, Jennifer | Shadows on our Skin |
| 10. KIERNAN, Celine | Into the Grey |
| 11. LEE, Harper | To Kill a Mockingbird |
| 12. MITCHELL, Jane | Chalkline |
| 13. MULLIGAN, Andy | Trash |
| 14. NESS, Patrick | The Knife of Never Letting Go |
| 15. NICHOLSON, William | The Wind Singer |
| 16. ORWELL, George | Animal Farm |
| 17. PORTIS, Charles | True Grit |
| 18. STEINBECK, John | Of Mice and Men |
| 19. SWINDELLS, Robert | Stone Cold |



Happy 70th Birthday Margaret

The 28th of April marked a very special day in our school as 'Our Margaret' (Mrs Phelan) turned a very young 70 years old! Some of the members of the Student Council presented Margaret with flowers as a gesture of our appreciation for everything she does for us here. From all of us at St. Patrick's Comprehensive, congratulations Margaret!



Summer Reading

Texts for First Year

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. ALMOND, David | Skellig |
| 2. BABBITT, Nicole | Tuck Everlasting |
| 3. CAREY, Anna | The Real Rebecca |
| 4. COLFER, Eoin | Artemis Fowl |
| 5. DOYLE, Roddy | Wilderness |
| 6. GAIMAN, Neil | Coraline |
| 7. GRISHAM, John Theodore Boone: | Half the Man, Twice the Lawyer |
| 8. HENRY, April | Girl Stolen |
| 9. HINTON, Nigel | Buddy |
| 10. LANDY, Derek | Skulduggery Pleasant |
| 11. McKENZIE, Sophie | Girl, Missing |
| 12. MORPURGO, Michael | Private Peaceful |
| 13. PALACIO, R.J. | Wonder |
| 14. PAULSEN, Gary | Nightjohn |
| 15. PULLMAN, Philip | The Scarecrow and his Servant |
| 16. SACHAR, Louis | The Boy Who Lost His Face |
| 17. SHAN, Darren | Cirque Du Freak |
| 18. TAYLOR, Theodore | The Cay |
| 19. TOLKEIN, J.R.R. | The Hobbit |

Students Working Within the Parish & Local Community

On February 1st five second year girls, Lisa Quinn, Olivia Hartigan, Abbey O'Connell, Jade Adana and Emma Connelly made traditional St. Brigid's Crosses and presented them to residents of Carrigoran Nursing Home. The girls were taken on a tour of the home and visited residents in their own rooms.



Kara Kirby and Megan Nolan

Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage- Alisha Mullins, Lucia Dunne and Eoin Riordan will travel to Lourdes from June 26th-July 1st. They will act as volunteers helping the disabled from around the world.

John Paul II Award- Alisha, Lucia and Eoin are preparing also for this award to be presented in November in The Inn at Dromoland. It involves undertaking voluntary work at both parish and community level. They hope to receive the Gold Award. They follow in the footsteps of Magen Nolan who received the Gold Award and Kara Kirby who received the Papal Award (the highest award) in November 2016.

The Composition Choir

By Annabelle Toone - 2nd Year



I have been a member of the 'Composition Choir' for the past two years. We meet every Monday from 4pm until 5.30pm. Rehearsals are generally light-hearted and fun. This year we have been very busy. The Comp celebrated its 50th birthday this year and the choir was given the privilege of performing for it. We sang at the Open Night as well, singing 'Hold Back the River' and 'Royals'. The choir also competed in the Limerick Choral Festival. Although we didn't win, we still had plenty of fun and enjoyed the experience. In late March the music students and the choir went to the Limetree Theatre to watch 'Godspell'. To finish up the year we sang at the Transition Year and Leaving Cert graduations on May 25th and May 26th. Plans for next year include a choral workshop and we will play a key part in our school musical. All are welcome.

Student Reflections

By Aoibhín Stack - First Year



Hello, my name is Aoibhín Stack. I have had a wonderful first year in St. Patrick's Comprehensive. On our first day we were introduced to our Year Head, Mr Daly and put into our Teaghlach groups. Each Teaghlach group has a Class Tutor. We got to try all the different options available to us in the first few weeks; this helped me make an informed choice about my chosen options. One of my favourite subjects is English. Since beginning first year my enthusiasm for the subject and especially reading has really grown. Every week we go to our school library to read and at the end of each term we write a book review. At this time of the year we are given 'Reading Wards' and our teacher, Ms Graham monitors and records our progress.

There are great activities available to us both during and after school, I decided to join the school choir this year and I am really happy that I did as I have made great friends. Next year I hope to try hockey. My first year ended with a school trip to watch a movie and hit Penny's in the Omniplex in Limerick!

On my first day of school I was really looking forward to making new friends, but I was also very nervous, I was worried about finding my way around the building, what would my teaches be like?, who is going to be in my class?

However, I settled really well and quite quickly, it has been a big change in my life but very exciting and I cannot wait for Second Year to start.

University of Limerick Transition Year Science Work Experience

By Eoin Riordan & Tommy Walsh - TY/4th Year

We participated in the Transition Year Science Work Experience at the University of Limerick from the 27th to the 31st of March 2017.

During this time, we learned many things such as how fibre optics work, what staphylococcus aureus is and how to test for it, and how to make ice-cream using liquid nitrogen!

We really enjoyed working with many different students from around the country from Leitrim to Cork. We made a lot of friends in doing this project.



St Patricks Comprehensive's Young Innovators' trip to San Francisco

Seven budding innovators from St Patrick's Comprehensive School enjoyed a celebratory trip to San Francisco and Silicon Valley after their recent victory in the 2nd ITLG Young Innovators competition held at Shannon Airport. The competition saw them compete against 800 students in a nationwide competition to come up with a concept for an invention that would be useful in the next 50 years. Their idea for a microchip to monitor your health and warn of early onset of any health conditions proved to be a winning one and earned them an all-expense paid trip to Silicon Valley and San Francisco.

During their trip to Silicon Valley the students took part in a tour of cutting edge technology companies such as Intel where they took part in a classroom training exercise and got a chronological tour of the company's many innovations in technology. The group also took a behind the scenes tour of the Google campus and got an in-depth look at the working conditions that Google's 30,000 employees enjoy. The students also visited the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose where they enjoyed many hands-on activities such as robot building, Jet-pack simulator, glider design, cracking security passwords, lock picking and earthquake simulator.

After the three day tour of Silicon Valley, the group headed to San Francisco and experienced the many sights the city has to offer. The iconic steep streets of San Francisco were explored in the bus tour of the city which included the many districts of the city which are home to the most expensive real-estate in America.

The students also visited the legendary Alcatraz Prison which is a short ferry trip from the city and took a step back in time to experience what prison life was like on "The Rock". No trip to San Francisco would be complete without a visit to the iconic Golden Gate Bridge and students took the opportunity to walk across this famous landmark and take in the many views it has to offer.

The seven students enjoyed their trip to Silicon Valley and San Francisco thanks to their innovative idea and courtesy of the many sponsors of the competition, in particular their hosts, John and Helen Hartnett of the ITLG. The founder of the ITLG John Hartnett believes "The technological age & what we do in the future will be driven largely by the young people of today. This event may well light a flame for some of the technology innovators and entrepreneurs in the future". Perhaps the innovative talents of these students will lead them back to Silicon Valley to seek their fortunes in the future and shape the future of technology.



The Army Band Comes to Town!

On the 24th of January this year we were privileged to host a visit of Band 1 Brigade from Collins' Barracks in Cork City. This concert was organised to coincide with our school's 50th anniversary and due to the band's busy schedule it was a long time in the planning process so we were delighted when we heard that they were finally on their way!

The concert did not disappoint. Under the baton of Company Sergeant Noel Galvin these army musicians performed a varied programme that had something for everyone including classical, Irish traditional, jazz and pop. We listened to excerpts from the musicals and film scores including Les Miserables and Mamma Mia. Star Wars and James Bond were particular favourites as well as vocal performances of songs by Bruno Mars, Michael Bublé and Robbie Williams to which we all sang along! In addition to the performance, there was an educational aspect as well as different members of the band talked about and played their instruments and introduced us to less well known instruments like the Bass clarinet and Soprano saxophone.

The band members themselves complimented our school afterwards on the warm reception they received and on the attentive and responsive audience and promised to return again soon.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge iontach againn i mbliana! Our first and second years gathered together to learn and perform 'Tóg Amach Mé'as Gaeilge. Luckily, it didn't take too long for everybody to be confident enough to belt out the song. Mr. Donnellan gave us an amazing performance of some Irish dancing steps and wowed all our students. We also had a demonstration from some of our incredibly talented students including Ella Hasty, Lauren McNamara and Evan Gavin. Our musical accompaniment was provided by Kara Kirby, Sinéad Quinn, Fiona Quinn, Lily Glynn and Jenny Keane. Our first and second years took part in a big 'tráth na gceist' in our leabharlann. Our final day was a 'Lá Glas' and culminated in a giant green selfie in the school hall.



Transition Year 2016-2017

This year's Transition Years had another fantastic, action-packed year. They were involved in various exciting projects and initiatives both in school and in the wider community, developing and enhancing new and existing skills. As a group they both organised and took part in a variety of events which included:

- Bonding Trip to Lahinch
- Trip to Glór Theatre
- Road Safety Expo
- Active School Week
- Mental Health Info Day in Thomond Park
- Work Experience
- World Book Week
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Bakesales
- Darkness Into Light Promotion/Registration
- Iceskating
- School Talent Show for Junior Achievement Award
- Shannon Foynes Compass Competition
- School Sleep-In for Novas Charity
- Christmas Market & Craft Fair
- European Studies Trip to Berlin



Second Year School Trip 2017

On Monday 15th May Second Year students went on an action packed school trip in the Banner county. First stop was the ancient megalithic tomb Poul nabroune. This portal dolmen dates back to the neolithic period, probably between 4200 BC and 2900 BC. While there we examined the limestone pavement and identified unique surface features such as clints and grikes. Our next stop was the Aliwee caves. Here we went on a guided tour of the caves which were carved out approximately 350,000 years ago!! The majestic Cliffs of Moher was our next port of call. Even in the rain the erosive power of the sea was evident and it's no wonder the cliffs are one of Ireland's most famous sights. Lahinch beckoned for some lunch and for some brave students a swim!!! We arrived back to Shannon with bellies full of ice-cream, wind-swept hair and memories that will last a life time!!!



Transition Year Reflection

By Diarmuid Fitzgerald - TY

On Thursday the 25th of May, the 2017 Transition Year 1 and 2 classes graduated from a year which we all agreed was 'one of the most incredible experiences of our lives'. When we all came into Transition year back in September, we would have no idea of the challenges which lay ahead, the experiences we would come to have and how much we would all change and mature throughout the year.

During our Transition Year programme, we had the opportunity to compete in competitions, attend talks on many different topics and even organise and run significant school events. The highlights of these include: The Shannon Foynes Compass Competition, a talk on the correlations between mental and physical health and even running our own Christmas market. Through all of these events we were challenged, yet we learned throughout the year the importance of overcoming challenges and how to tackle any situation.



Another time in our year that sticks out to most are the two weeks of work experience placement we had the opportunity to enjoy. One of these weeks was back in November, when we were new to the year, with another in March. At the start we were all daunted by the prospect of a week in the world of work, and the responsibility we were handed in sourcing our own placements. However we left after the two weeks, with new skills, and possibly with career options in our minds.

Overall the one part of TY which will always be my favourite is the special bond we created throughout the year. We all became closer than we ever expected and we truly learned the importance of teamwork when overcoming tough challenges. We all grew and evolved as a team and as strong, mature individuals and we will forever be grateful for the fantastic experience.



First Year Tree Planting

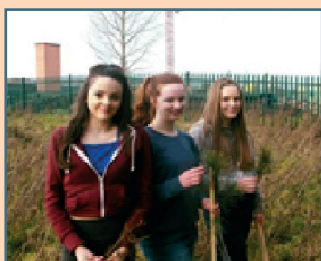
**"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago.
The second best time is now."**

Old Chinese Proverb.

As part of their CSPE Action Project all First Years planted a tree on school grounds.

They did this in association with the charity One Million Trees in One Day. This is a charity, not-for-profit, cross-border, community and environmental initiative which aims to plant a million young native trees at many different sites across both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in 24 hours.

Each student marked the tree they planted with a wooden stake on which they wrote their name and species they had planted. We look forward to seeing the trees (and the First Years) grow in the years to come!!!



Transition Year Graduation

On Thursday the 25th of May our Transition Years graduated. Family, teachers and students gathered in the library to celebrate and recap on a wonderful year. Tara Alford and Michael Hartigan spoke on behalf of their classes, Kyle Kilmartin and Anna Von Metzradt provided reflections, Ms Brooks presented the students with their certificates and Ms Dinneen addressed the audience as TY Year Head. This was all rounded off with a collage of TY memories and some fantastic music from our school choir and TY students alike.

Congratulations to our Transition Year Classes of 2017!



Student Reflections

By Róisín Fitzgerald & Amy O'Halloran - LCA2

My time in Leaving Certificate Applied was great; I made new friends and experienced new things such as bowling which I enjoyed. We bonded a lot and this wouldn't have happened if we didn't go to the Burren, where funny incidents happened. L.C.A helped me grow up a lot I know I feel more mature and I have more knowledge for when I leave school and go out into the working world. The subjects which we did prepared us for life and were really helpful.

The teachers that we had treated us like adults and not students and we could have a full conversation with them as if they were one of us. We were able to crack jokes and have laughs too. I really enjoyed my two years with everyone and wouldn't change it for the world. I'm glad that I picked L.C.A as it really helped me mature and bond with new people. I would recommend that people do Leaving Cert Applied as it really is a great experience.



Leaving Certificate Graduation

On Friday the 26th of May our Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied classes of 2017 graduated. Our school gym was transformed by our teachers and students to set the scene for this special occasion. The ceremony included music from the school choir and performances from some of the Leaving Cert students themselves, including a number from Ms Hickey's Leaving Cert Music Class.

The speakers included Mr Heaphy, Ms Dinneen, Ms Hickey, Ms Murray, Fr Tom Ryan as well as Mr Deighan, Chairperson of our Board of Management. Aoife Crimmins, Christopher Carey, Amy O'Halloran and Daniel Madden spoke on behalf of the student cohort.

Parents, guardians and teachers alike were delighted to be part of this special day and we would like to wish all of our graduating students of 2017 all the best for the future.



First Year School Trip

It has become school tradition that First Year students celebrate a successful year by going to the Crescent Shopping Centre in Limerick. This year Ms Graham organised for the students to watch the movie, 'A Diary of Wimpy Kid' in the Omniplex Cinema; students were then given time to browse the shops and get lunch. The trip celebrates student's attendance, behaviour and overall effort throughout the year. A great day was had by all. Thank you to Mr Daly (Year Head), Ms Graham (Class Tutor), Ms McInerney (Class Tutor) and Ms Griffin (Class Teacher) for making the day so memorable.



Sports at St. Patrick's Comprehensive

It has been a very busy year for sports in our school. From rugby to GAA, athletics to basketball there was always something happening and a variety of activities to partake in.



Ladies Football

In May 2016, after our first year out, our Junior team were victorious bringing home the Clare Schools Ladies Football Junior trophy. The girls fought a tough contest coming from behind to secure the championship. In September we welcomed Clare Senior Ladies Footballers Ailish Considine and Laura Egan to our school to present the girls with their medals. It was a fantastic achievement to win the competition on our first entry in recent years and a great boost to promote Ladies Football in our school.



Boys Basketball

The U16 Boys Basketball team made it to the Munster league semi-final this year. The boys made a tremendous effort throughout the school year. The future is bright for the Comp with the new skilful 1st year bunch. They practice before school, break time, lunchtime and after school, basketball fanatics!

The boys U19 basketball made it to the All-Ireland semi-final in their division. The boys unfortunately didn't make it to the final as they were missing two vital players Jayme Sullivan & Tommy Walsh. Next year will be their year. The silky skills of Joseph Cesar will be missed on the courts next year as Joseph finished his last year with Comp. Tom Haugh from HM travel sponsored our jerseys this year which we are extremely thankful for.



Girls Basketball

Our girls' basketball players continued to develop their skills and played in both U16 and 2nd Year girls leagues this year. Consisting mainly of Second and Third years who began playing together last year, they performed very well against strong opposition from other Clare schools. The Second Years showed remarkable determination in beating three of the five teams in their league. We look forward to an even stronger year of girls' basketball next year. Thanks to Tommy Walsh, Thomas Flach and Arnas Blazarenas for all their coaching assistance throughout the year.



Boys Football & Hurling

First Year footballers took part in the Clare blitz in May. The team played three Clare schools with Callum Desmond-Lynch and Jake Buckley as captains. The school played Rice College Ennis, St. Joseph's Spanish Point and St. John Bosco Kildysart. A great day was had by all, well done to all involved.

First Year hurlers competed in a series of matches as part of the Clare schools First Year Hurling Championship. This group of players put in fantastic effort all year.



Pakie Ryan Memorial Run

This year marked the third year registration took place in our school for both students and teachers to take part in the Pakie Ryan Memorial Run. The Pakie Ryan Memorial Run is a local charity race held in Newmarket on Fergus each year which raises money for local charities. The event holds a 5K walk/run, 10K run, 10 mile run and 30K/50K cycle. This year students and teachers alike took part in the event to donate to the worthy causes. It was a fantastic way to get out and get active while also doing our bit for charity. Well done to all who took part.



Achievement in Sport

Congratulations to 4th Year Jayme O'Sullivan who was voted Electric Ireland's Minor Inter-County Football Player of the Week on the 18th of May. It is a fantastic achievement to both represent the county and win this award. Well done Jayme!

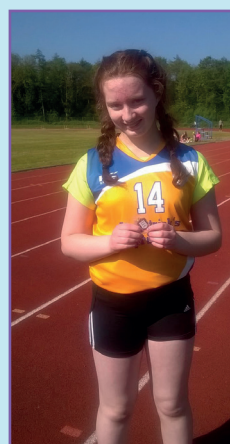


Athletics

Jamie Kelly TY had a very successful cross country campaign this year, qualifying as an individual athlete to compete at the All-Ireland Schools in Mallusk Belfast on March 11th. Jamie did us proud on the day with a top 35 place in what was a long and tough race in the Intermediate Boys division. Well done to Jamie, we look forward to next year.

North Munster Track & Field Competitions ran as usual over two days in May, Tuesday 9th found us in Lees Road Ennis and on Thursday 11th we headed to UL. We had some fine performances over the two days, culminating in three medals. Orla Fitzgerald (1st yr) won bronze in the Junior Girls Walk. Amy McNamara First Year competed in the minor girls sprint hurdles and also won bronze. Dave Hanley (PLC Sport & Rec) also attained a third place finish, his medal coming in the senior boy's long jump. Orla and Dave went to Cork IT on May 20th to represent the school at the Munster schools athletics championships. Both competed very well with 5th and 4th place finishes, respectively.

Well done to all students who wore the Comp singlet at athletics events this year.



Rugby

2016/17 was one of the best years for rugby in the school in recent times. Three teams played throughout the school this season U 15, U 17 and U 19s. This year has even seen the introduction of girl's rugby in the school also.

For many years a number of students were asking for comp to start up its own team. The 2016/17 season was the year where everything got up and running.

New gear was sponsored for the introduction of this team, including new jerseys sponsored by Backballer as well as new balls and training equipment provided through a link with Connacht rugby.

After 'some' training Comp U 19's finally got their first game as they came up against a strong outfit in Rice College from Ennis.



During a hotly contested back and forth contest in Lees Road, Comp prevailed in our first game.

A week later Comp would play Villiers School in a game which didn't go the way that they would have hoped for, but we used this game as a learning experience, especially after an impressive second half from the boys in blue.



The rugby training continues after school on Thursdays while still having a laugh at the same time. Training sessions improved massively after a visit to the UL sports arena where the teams watched a Munster squad training session and took inspiration from it for new drills and techniques we could use on the pitch.

Both U-15's and U-17's reached the blitz finals in Thomond Park on 27th April. A bus of supporters highlighted the schools support for our teams. The results didn't go our way but some strong performances were brought away as positives from the day. We have a lot to work with for the years ahead. In addition to this our rugby players got the opportunity to go watch a Munster training session in the University of Limerick.

The St Senans School Boys Cup last played in 2010 is a colours match between the two schools U-19 teams, St. Patrick's Comprehensive and St. Caimin's Community School. Comp with a strong team supported by some of our U-19 PLC's took the cup with a final score of 19-8. Even Shane Kelly got one the score board and Conor Hassett scored a conversion!



The last match of the year was tinged with sadness with the news that we had lost one of our First Years. Conor de Matos Wilmot was one of the key players in the plan to build Comp rugby. A minutes silence was held at the start of the match and captain Dylon O Connor dedicated the win to Conor.



Remembering Conor

A gutsy and skilful second row for us, he smiled when asked to prop in uncontested scrums, happy to be staying on the pitch. He attended all training sessions, played in all matches and poached many a ball from a ruck.

Our favourite memory of Conor will be the smiling second row in his comp jersey, gum shielded smile, and green hair, playing in Thomond Park with pride and determination. Not to mention the day he turned up with the colourful hair to play Villiers, of all teams! We were proud to have him in our jersey and will remember the short but effective contribution he made. Rest in Peace Conor.

Halloween Fancy Dress

It has become tradition in our school that Transition Year students organise a Halloween fancy dress fundraiser. Both staff and students were enthusiastic to take part and great fun was had by all.

