



## SCHOOL MUSICAL — SPREAD THE WORD

Rehearsals are well underway for this year's musical, the popular, *JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT*. The new date on the calendar is quite appropriate as this is a musical with a difference. Written by one of the most successful duos of all time, Andrew Loyd Webber and Tim Rice, this show is unique in musical theatre in that it is entirely sung while the story is narrated. Having witnessed some of the preparations in recent days it can be honestly said that we are in for a treat.



Lively (and extremely catchy) song and dance routines and vibrant and colourful costumes will undoubtedly serve to make this a memorable spectacle. We once again welcome Portumna and District Credit Union on Board as our main sponsors. Without their help it would be almost impossible to stage a show of this scale.

The cast is made up out of the Transition Year class and this year they will be accompanied by a large choir of First Year students who will, we know, add greatly to the occasion with their beautiful singing.

The **Matinee performance** for the local **Primary Schools** will take place on **Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.** with full **Public performances** on **Thursday (4<sup>th</sup>)** and **Friday (5<sup>th</sup>)** at 8pm each night. Tickets will go on sale on Thursday next and please note that seats will again be pre-booked so buying your tickets in advance is advisable, i.e. first tickets sold will be closest to the stage. Let's all help to spread the word and help to pack the hall for this wonderful show.

### HAITI DISASTER RELIEF FUND



Following the recent earthquake in Haiti which, to date, has killed an estimated 50,000 people and left millions homeless it was decided to take up a collection on Tuesday morning, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.,

during Tutor Class for the people of Haiti.

The funds collected on Tuesday will be used for much needed food, clothes, blankets and medical supplies. So please contribute what you can.

Many thanks.

### VISIT TO CHURCH OF IRELAND

Next week, 17<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January, is a week of **Prayer for Christian Unity**. All First Years are invited to the Church of Ireland on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> January from 2.45 to 3.50 pm for a special service of prayer and singing. The Church of Ireland Minister and Ms. Ann Menhennett will lead the service during which there will be an open forum for questions and answers.

Fr. Abe.

### MOCK FEES NOW DUE!

All Third, Sixth years and LCA2 students must have their Mock Exam Fees paid by Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January. The cost is €20 per student or €30 for a family. All monies should be given to Mrs. Larkin. Please note that this €20 only covers the cost of the question papers and stationery required for the exams.

If student scripts are sent away for correction that fee is paid to the subject teacher concerned.



† R.I.P. †

We were saddened to hear in school this week of the death of Mr. Bob Ryan, Ballinlough, Co. Meath (father of Ms. Ryan). Also the death occurred of Paddy Diamond of Killimor who has been a Practical Exam supervisor for us here in the school every year since 1996.

“Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílis”.



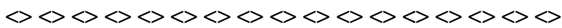
The next **STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING** will take place on Tues., 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. at 10.10am in the Guidance room (N). All representatives must attend.



The **SCHOOL TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE** will be in use from Monday morning, 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. Parents/Guardians will receive a text message if their daughter/son is marked absent from school. Contact should be made with school if there is any doubt about the absence.



Please note : If you have changed your mobile number recently please inform us by letter as soon as possible.

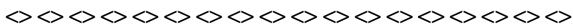


### ATHLETICS

The school Cross Country Season is about to begin and Training will resume next week for all athletes interested and teams will be finalised. Training times

4 – 5 pm on the following dates in January : Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup>. It is vital that students wishing to compete must do their best to attend all 4 sessions.

Upcoming Fixtures: South Connacht Finals at St. Mary's College, Galway on Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> Jan.; Connacht Finals at St. Mary's College on Thurs. 11<sup>th</sup> Feb.; All Ireland Cross Country Finals at C.I.T. Cork on Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> March.



### SIGN OUT YOUTH CAFÉ UPDATES EXTENDED OPENING HOURS FOR 2010

Open every Friday from 7pm to 9.30pm and Mondays from 7.30pm to 9pm, as a drop in facility for 15 year + age group. New for 2010 is **Monday Games Night** - why not pop in and challenge your friends in our weekly Pool & Table Tennis Tournaments or enjoy console games on the big screen with high definition and surround sound. FIFA 10 has been added to our games library.

**MUSIC SESSIONS:** Want to brush up on your Skills? Sign Out are running a workshop for all budding musicians /singers who enjoy music, want to improve their skills, learn about recording, instruments, gigs, P.A's, etc. If you are over 13 why not pop along to Sign Out Youth Café on Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. from 2pm. A timesheet will be available on the day for practice sessions.

**LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR TEENS - LET'S DO IT FOR OURSELVES** - A fun and active programme. Would you like to become involved in organising community activities for young people? Do you want to learn more about teamwork, group skills, leadership and lots more, while at the same time developing friendships through activities with people your own age? When: Feb/March. Places limited. For more information on any of the above contact 087 6779267 or email youthsignout@gmail.com



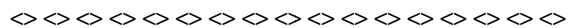
## HALF WAY THERE?

While we are now at the end of our first week back it is worth noting that this is almost the halfway point in the school year!!

For Leaving Certs the **CAO deadline** is rapidly approaching (February) and for all exam classes the '**Mocks**' are just a few weeks away (8<sup>th</sup> Feb.). It is a very good time therefore to do a little re-assessment of attitudes and practices with regard to study and homework. The most important piece of advice in this area is to establish a sensible routine which you should then try to adhere to as far as possible. Obviously there are times when this will be difficult but for the next few months it is essential that study and exam preparation is a priority.

Remember also, there is plenty of advice, support and help available in school – so don't be afraid to ask!

★ Please note : next Sunday's 'Sunday Business Post' will have a special feature on what they expect the job situation will be five years from now.

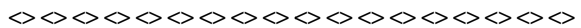


### SAFE TRACTOR SKILLS

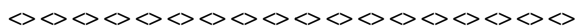


The Sign Out Youth Co in association with the Farm Relief Services and Garda Traffic Corp are offering one day Certificate Safe Tractor Skills for Teenagers on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February.

The aim of this workshop is to create a safety awareness amongst teenagers working with tractors. Places limited to 15 so get your name down as soon as possible. Part funded by the HSE and GRD. Cost €30. Contact Susan @ 087 6779267.

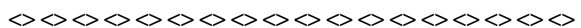


The **PORTUMNA BRANCH OF THE IRISH RED CROSS** is holding an open night for all who are interested to see what they do. Parents can also meet the committee who train their children.

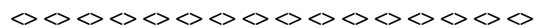


An **AFTERNOON TEA DANCE** will take place on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> January from 3pm to 6pm in the Town Hall Portumna. Music by Pat Conlon and Richie Burke. Tea and Sandwiches will be served.

Admission: €5 per person. All proceeds will go towards the up keep of the Town Hall.



The **DRUGS MISUSE TALK FOR PARENTS** that was postponed last week due to the bad weather will now take place in the school on Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm. The next talk will be on Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> and the final session will take place on Mon. 8<sup>th</sup> Feb.



Congrats to **Conor O'Meara (TY)** as an article he wrote, "My T.Y. Week", will be appearing in the Education Section of the Irish Times on Wednesday next.

### Events Diary: (16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.)

- Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> : Senior Camogie vs St. Patrick's, Maghera in Lorrha GAA pitch @ 2pm. Players to meet in dressing rooms at 1.30 pm.
- Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> : Drugs Misuse Talk for Parents in the school @ 7.30pm.

