

# newsletter



**St John Plessington  
Catholic College**

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Learning Programme 4/2

## Pancake Fun!



Lunchtime last Tuesday was utterlypantastic as pupils took part in our annual Pancake Day Races. Keenly competing for glory and chocolate were pupils from across the College and even a few staff! Everyone enjoyed themselves and managed to raise money for CAFOD in the process. You can see more pictures by visiting the SJP website.

## Theme for the Week

2nd March 2009 " FOLLOWING JESUS—HAPPINESS"

WEEKLY MASS Wednesday 12.50pm

All welcome!

The Season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday. What can each one of us do to make this time of Lent a little different? It's good for us to give something up, but perhaps this Lent is also an opportunity for us to do something extra, to take a positive step forward with Jesus as he walks towards his cross.

*'Today you will be with me in paradise.'*

This week's theme reminds us that while Lent is a time of reflection, fasting and prayer – it's also a time of happiness, as we think about the way Jesus leads us to the promise of heaven. His words from the cross to the repentant thief show that God is full of compassion and mercy. So we set our sights on paradise, thinking how we can build God's heavenly kingdom here on earth.

## Year 9 Parents

Don't forget that Thursday, 12th March is the Key Stage 4 Information Evening. Starting at 7.30pm this is your chance to speak to the teachers of the various GCSE subjects as the pupils decide their options for Year10 and Year11. We look forward to seeing you all there!

## PFOP Reminder

The next PFOP meeting is being held on  
**Tuesday, 3rd. March 2009 at 7pm**

## Ski's the limit for SJP!



"What an amazing experience! "I wish we could stay longer"  
"Can we come back next year?"

These were just a few comments, made by pupils, on the recent ski trip to New Hampshire. Over half term, 35 pupils and 4 staff travelled on the ski trip to the USA. The holiday began with our stay in the town of Jackson, New Hampshire, where The Eagle Mountain House became our home for 6 days. Our first ski stop was a beautiful little resort called Cranmore followed by Wildcat resort, which was a bigger, higher and colder location, with temperatures plummeting to -12degrees. The runs at Wildcat were a little more icy and narrower than at Cranmore which really tested our technique. By the end of the week, all the groups looked like ski professionals. The instructors praised the pupils for their progress and achievement. This brought our skiing to an end leaving the group very sad to be departing our little ski home. However, the holiday wasn't over just yet. Boston was awaiting our arrival! With a whole day and night to spend in Boston, we managed to visit the famous Cheers Bar, wave to Fenway Park (home to the Boston Red Sox), take a stroll through the beautiful public gardens, tour through the City and have tea in the Hardrock Café. The staff at the Hardrock Café had welcomed us with our very own personalised SJP menu! The pupils really were a credit to themselves, their parents and the College. Thanks go to all the pupils and of course to Mr Burrows, Mr Davies, Miss Pritchard and Miss Harris for all their help during the trip.

The ski footage is now playing on SJP LIVE.

## Confirmation @ St Anne's 2009

Confirmation preparation will begin at St Anne's this month. There is an introductory meeting for candidates and their parents on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the church at 7.00pm. Anybody in Year 8 and above is welcome to attend. Further details can be obtained from Fr Ned 645 3996 or see Miss McNally.

## Attendance

Year 7 - 92%  
Year 8 - 92.8%  
Year 9 - 92%  
Year 10 - 91.4%  
Year 11 - 93.8%

In the lead this week is Year 11.

## Word of the Week

NOUN Proxy (Pl Proxies)

1. the authority to represent someone else, especially in voting
2. a person authorised to act on behalf of another.
3. A figure used to represent the value of something in a calculation

ORIGIN contraction of [PROCURACY](#).

## Eric Clapton Tickets

An amazing prize of 2 tickets to see Eric Clapton at the Royal Albert Hall, plus accommodation at a 4\* London hotel, will go to the lucky winner of a prize draw.

Tickets (only £1) are available from Mr Lally and the money raised will support a local parish group taking children to Lourdes.

## FLANDERS' FIELDS

Following a College trip to the battlefields of the First World War, Mr Austin was so moved by what he had seen, including the conditions that people had to endure between 1914 - 1918 and the size and number of cemeteries (both allied and German), that he thought he would do something.

"I decided that the most valuable thing I had to give was my music so I started writing a Mass setting. This was the first time that I had ever written a piece of classical music, let alone a choral religious work. It was completed in the summer of 2008 and the music tells the story of a Regiment from their arrival at the Western Front through to 11 o'clock on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, when the guns fell silent."



The CD of this new and original work is available at a cost of £4 from the College Reception. All proceeds will help to fund a five-day concert tour of Germany by SJP Brass and The College Choir later this year.

## SHORT STORY COMPETITION!

To help celebrate *World Book Day* we are running a Short Story Competition (no more than 300 words). Prizes will be awarded for the most creative stories in both lower and upper school, with the overall winning story being screened on SJP Live. The first lines are supplied for you by some of our top children's authors, all you have to do is choose which first line you like from the selection below. Use your imagination and see how creative you can be..... HAVE FUN!

### Bear Grylls

'As the cry of the wolf echoed over the forest, the fire went out and Beck was left in the darkness. He reached for his knife, hurriedly shoved it inside his backpack and started running..'

### Jenny Valentine

'When I woke up it was still dark and I knew straight away that everything was different.'

### Cathy Cassidy

'The moment I saw him, I just knew ... Casey Clark was nothing but trouble.'

### Mark Walden

'Better start running ,' he said with an evil grin, patting the shrouded cage beside him.'You've got a thirty second head start and then I let it out.'

### Joe Delaney

'The witch placed two mysterious objects on the table and now I had to choose: one would free me , one would kill me but both were too terrible to touch!'

**HURRY! ENTRIES NEED TO BE HANDED IN TO MRS BROOM BY FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

## ASH WEDNESDAY

All members of the College took part in special services for Ash Wednesday last week. Lead by our Chaplain and with music from our Chamber Choir, this was a wonderfully reflective way for us to begin this season of Lent.

## RE Revision Timetable

### Revision lessons Year 10 Wednesday evenings

4th March - J1: Sin & Salvation with Mrs Ford

11th March - J1: Love of God and love of others - Parable of the Sheep and Goats with Miss Wilson

### Revision lessons Year 11 Tuesday evenings

#### With Mrs Davidson in RE 4

3rd March - C1: Miracles, Design and Causation

10th March - C1: The Search for Meaning and Purpose / The Existence of Religion

**SJP AWARDED SCIENCE COLLEGE STATUS**

The governors would like to congratulate pupils and staff on achieving science college status as our third specialism in recognition of our consistent high performance.

This year has already been a great year with:

- Schools Minister Jim Knight identifying SJP as one of the top fifteen schools in the country for high performance.
- Our GCSE results of 84% S&C made SJP highest achieving school on the W1011.
- Our excellent GCSE Sixth form results was the second highest performing sixth form on the W1011.
- The College identified by OFSTED as an "Outstanding provider of education"
- Phase 3 of our building work to be completed by Easter 2009.

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