A few short months ago, a group of students and teachers from our school departed to Kabwe in Zambia. This trip is part of the bi-annual immersion project run between ourselves and Sables school run by Mr. Fanning, the ex-principal of the primary school.

On the trip, the group spent the days working at the school in Sables and at the local hospice. In high temperatures, the level and quality of the work that was undertaken is remarkable. Yet, however strong and willing the Irish contingent were, what sticks in memory is the willingness, eagerness and joy of the Sables students. In their free time before and after class, the children were always sources of happiness regardless of any personal difficulties they face.

There was no greater example to witness this uplifting attitude than when the Joey’s group joined the local children on their dawn walk into school. As the red sun rose over the horizon and the heat began to pick up, our lads were able to see how important a place like Sables is to them. It is not just a school and a source of education (although that can be the difference between life and death); it is a place of
Ms. O’Regan beamed when saying ‘the students made us so proud and bonded so well with the Zambian students’. Needless to say, this trip is a life-changing and attitude-altering experience. Many discussions were had while there, and surely many have been had since. A great deal of thanks must be made to Ms. O’Regan and her team for organising everything. It would be futile to try and truly express the level of gratitude required in words, but to all, know that this trip will never be forgotten.

In the past few weeks, students from 6th year and first year have begun their time in the school’s ‘Big Brother’ programme. This is the second year of the programme and it pairs an older student with a younger ‘little’ to act as a mentor for the year.

For the ‘Littles’, this programme aims to give them a peer that they can build a friendship with, gain insights into what the school will be like for the future years and have somebody that they can discuss any concerns with.

The BBBS programme is an international movement that is widely known and acknowledged. Supported by Foróige, a national body for youth development, this programme will be supervised by Ms. O’Regan/Mr Stack and will be of notable benefit to the older mentors.

Not only will they gain professional experience that will be invaluable when it comes to composing a CV, they will gain and develop crucial life skills such as communication, empathy and planning.
Green Schools—Travelling On

by Vadim Cretu

Following on from the hard work completed by last year’s committee, the current TYs are working to complete the 'travel' theme and achieve yet another Green Schools Flag.

The new bike shed, school walk and Green schools notice board are all contributing factors toward earning the award, and while it is the TYs doing the paperwork, the whole school are participants of the programme.

By cycling, walking or car-pooling, you are helping the environment by reducing the use of fossil fuels. Not only that, but the wider community also benefits from reduced traffic, better infrastructure and the selection of healthy life options.

There is the additional reward for the TYs in that this work is of benefit to the school and student body, but also that it forms part of their work toward achieving the Gaisce President’s Award.

Keep an eye on the Green Schools notice board (adjacent to Mr. Cullen’s office), and keep up the healthy travelling choices!

Mental Health Week

by Luke McCormick

Mental Health Week took place this year from the 9th—15th of October with the aim of highlighting ways in which people can stay healthy and build resilience to stress in their every day life.

The Mental Health committee for the school is comprised of Ms. Martin, Ms. O’Driscoll, Mr. Quinlan, Mr. O’Callaghan, and various members of the Parents’ Council.

The committee organised many events throughout the week, and there were many reminders in school during the week for both pupils and staff to ‘mind your mental health’

The highlight of the week came when Dublin footballer, Kevin McManamon gave a series of talks on behalf of Aware. K-Mc spoke to senior pupils about his experience of mental health in sports. He addressed the stigma which exists in talking about mental health, particularly among young males, encouraging students to talk about how they are feeling if they aren’t feeling ok. His practical suggestion of keeping a diary to record both the highs and the lows of every day life was met with approval when he recounted some of his personal entries from his recent glory on the pitch with Dublin GAA. Kevin’s talk finished with a Q&A session and the simple message that we all need to keep in mind:

“It’s ok not to feel ok.
The school walk has always been a proud tradition for this school. It is a time when we all unite under a common cause: to support the school. On that day, every student, from first years to sixth, were all marching side by side, proud in the knowledge they were helping to support the school for years to come. This year, by the 30th of September, we managed to raise over €5000! Such an amount being raised by such a small school of under 320 students is why we are proud to wear the Joey's crest.

Of course it isn’t just the students who have to work hard to bring this event to fruition. Without the hard work of Ms. Glennon, Ms. Ryan and Ms. Kelly, this massive fundraiser would not be possible. When asked about her thoughts on the event, Ms. Kelly replied “a brilliant success—we’re glad that everybody enjoyed the new route and we’re extremely happy with the considerable contributions from students”. What a champ!

So to everyone involved: to the staff, for organising the event, to the parents and acquaintances, for donating money, and most of all to you, without whom none of this would be possible, there is only one thing left to say:

THANK YOU!

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**TY trip to Skypark** by Yankit Wan

On the 4th of October, our Transition Year Group hopped on the bus to Skypark in Carlingford, Co. Louth. I felt happy and excited by what had been promised as a thrilling experience.

When we arrived we were met by the course instructors, given the very important safety talk and then told put on the harness. After this, it was time for a short training course so we could practice the techniques we would need when we were 100 foot in the air!

Then it was time to climb. It was interesting and exhilarating. Some of the stages really tested my balance and bravery, but left me exhilarated. I would like to have stayed even longer. On the bus home I felt tired after a busy day. I would recommend Skypark because it was fun and different. I will go again for sure!!

Thank you so much to Mr. Quinlan. I hope we get to go on another trip soon!

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**Oh Sing Choirs of Angels** by Keith O'Rourke

The annual carol service took place this week in the primary school hall. Every year, the whole school community eagerly looks forward to this event!

The senior school students performed three carols on the recorder with the assistance of student and teacher guitar players. Special mention must be made of Margaret, one of our SNAs, who sang beautifully throughout the service.

The end-of-term raffle also took place and there were many winners of some pretty amazing gifts if we say so ourselves!

Special thanks to Ms. McGorman who every year puts in a tireless effort and makes sure to put a smile on everybody’s face at this special time of year.

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**With the School on Our Shoulders, We Walk** by Eamon McCormick

The school walk has always been a proud tradition for this school. It is a time when we all unite under a common cause: to support the school. On that day, every student, from first years to sixth, were all marching side by side, proud in the knowledge they were helping to support the school for years to come. This year, by the 30th of September, we managed to raise over €5000! Such an amount being raised by such a small school of under 320 students is why we are proud to wear the Joey’s crest.

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So to everyone involved: to the staff, for organising the event, to the parents and acquaintances, for donating money, and most of all to you, without whom none of this would be possible, there is only one thing left to say:

THANK YOU!
Diarmuid Hiney—Past Pupil

Diarmuid Hiney is a graduate of Joey’s during the mid-1950s. Born in 1938, he was brought up in the locality and has always called the north side of the city ‘home’.

It was during the outbreak of WWII that Diarmuid entered into Joey’s Primary and was required to ‘swear obedience to the massive, motherly and strictly in charge: Batty Ryan’ (as Diarmuid put it!).

Diarmuid recalled to us fond memories of bringing sods to the open fire of the school house to keep everybody warm, whilst practicing first confession with Rev. Batty.

Upon graduating to the senior school and the affable Brother O’Condun, Brother Slattery, Mr. Ward et al., Diarmuid enjoyed playing hurling in the blue and gold, and winning Corn Fianna Fail specifically.

Taking part in a production of ‘Pirates of Pengezance’, learning French through Irish and learning English from the incomparable George Lyons also came to mind when he recalled his time in Joey’s.

Diarmuid joined the Civil Service in 1958 at the age of 19 before entering work as a journalist with ‘The Evening Press’. Diarmuid has published many of his works of poetry and local histories, and is presently retired and still living in the area. He says that he still thinks of Joey’s with Sylvan memories of golden days in one of the best schools in Ireland.

The Transition Year Media group sincerely wish to thank Diarmuid for contacting us, and so kindly offering to make a contribution. This is the Joey’s spirit we hope to foster in all of our students, and as Diarmuid has proven, it is something which never leaves you once you find it.

Thanks once again.

The Gift of Youth

By D. Hiney

Expressive ease that zest embraces
Lilting airs of memoried faces
All aglow and shining bright
Joy all day long, invite the night.

Bouncing on a high inborn
Discard the blues, meet the morn
All ready, happy, greeting you.
Laugh with it, self pity walk through.

Gather moments, spread the joy
Donate those peals to each girl and boy.
A necklace try at least to thread
And someone with nil, will eat bread.

Rapport, recount, repay, explain.
For you it’s easy, for your brother his pain.
Fostered in a team spirit, soars
From aching voyager, to take the oars.

Optimism sully not with brashness
Or natural talents, flaunt in flashiness.
Exuberance take, devoid of affection
Rejoice it’s not measured by injection.

You’ve got the script, the end you know
Don’t blow it easy like by saying no
To die would be to swallow wide
Launch yourself, catch that tide

The joy of going, is easy man
When you feel the motion, that special elan
That you created by being alive
Think of it, because of you others survive.

So joie de vivre for ever hail
Repression, suppression, always nail.
With your respect for one like you
Timid debutantes, will come smiling through.
As part of Mental Health Week 2016, several senior members of the Student Council attended the highly anticipated mental health conference – Zeminar – in the RDS on Tuesday, October 11th. The conference had a host of well-known guest speakers, including Bressie and Dublin footballer Johnny Cooper, who opened up about their experiences with mental illness and the importance of minding your mental health. The pupils who attended were able to listen to guest speakers, talk to various organisations at the main exhibit, take part in group exercises and brought back a wealth of information, leaflets and ideas for the coming school year. Following on from the conference, the Student Council displayed leaflets on the notice board, and set aside time to discuss a mental health awareness campaign, to take place later in the year.

Student Council Campaigns

The Student Council successfully secured the installation of a light in the new bike shed and the opening of the locker room after study.

Have you a suggestion or a concern? Simply approach any member of council and have your voice heard.

Ugandan Orphanage Appeal

A fundraising initiative for a Ugandan Orphanage has been taking place in the school, with members of the Council selling pen bundles for €1. So far, over €80 has been raised, and with further sales expected before Christmas, it is hoped this figure would reach well over €100. This is a fundraising effort that is close to our hearts in Joeys, and we know from our trips to Zambia that every penny counts. Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far.

Merry Christmas from your Student Council
The newest sci-fi third person shooter 'Warframe' has arrived to the next generation consoles for free. The campaign starts with the player finding out about his/her culture; the 'Tenno', who were heroes of the old war for the galaxy.

The game starts with the Tenno confronting new enemies: the 'Griner' and the 'Corpos'. The game does have a small campaign, but soon after you kill the first boss you, your friends and clan are free to explore the open world planets with some help from AI pets. Though the AI does not tell you what to do, you get the hang of it very fast. While most of the missions include stealth, you can still "run and gun", as they say in games.

The game also includes a place for trading with other players for blueprints, weapons, gear and platinum for buying items on the store such as ships, pets and mods, which is a nice touch for upgrading gear and weapons. Warframe has over a dozen suits to use and there are endless outcomes to any mission.

I also would like to say there is a crafting station for building keys for special missions with mutant creatures called the 'infected'. The clan dojo is an area where you and your friends can build different labs and training rooms to increase your skills on the battlefield. Warframe is similar the other shooters like 'Borderlands' and 'left 4 dead' but has its differences such as the colouring of the characters’ appearances and the colour of your weapons, but the game does have bugs that are being fixed as fast as they are found.

I would recommend this game to most people and give it a solid eight out of ten!
This house would move to call it a success!  

by Jamie McAuley

Continuing on from our recent successes in debating, this term saw a group of students entering into the UCD Junior Debating Competition. However, on the second night, our students came back with a vengeance. Debating on the topic of whether size O models should be banned, the pair of Hugh and Michael came in second place.

We look forward to watching the progress of these students and the school’s debating growth. We also look forward to senior debating next term.

Special thanks to Ms. Ryan who has tirelessly committed time, both within and without school to this endeavour.

Hoop Dreams  by Daniel Rowe and Ferran Canal

Joey’s basketball renaissance continues to flourish. The U16 and U19 teams have been hard at work this term and the progress through the league and cup competitions is bearing the fruit deserved.

One notable trip the U16 team took was all the way to Ballyhaunis CS in Co. Mayo (way outside the pale!). The boys in yellow and blue enjoyed a comprehensive victory, winning on a score-line of 47-19. Top scorer Moroni Cirne (17), along with Ferran Canal (11) and the ever-fiery Francis Brady (8), excelled on the day.

This led the team in to an All-Ireland cup series which is farther than they have ever progressed before. We hope that they continue to impress, and as a school with a very proud GAA and soccer tradition, it is great to see this team strive to emulate and overcome their predecessors!

Special thanks to Ms. O’Donnell, Mr. Hennessey and Ms. Dowdall for their hard work.
Since September, a group of TY students have participated in the Dublin City Council’s ‘Startbox’ Bronze Award Programme. This course runs over a duration of six weeks and culminates in an inter-school boxing tournament. Five students; Corey Scully, Josh Lewis, Jake Bride, Curtis Smith and Darragh Campbell; then fought an opponent from another school in the National Boxing Arena on the 8th December.

Each of these students received a certificate for completing the Gold Award. Their fellow TY students went over to the stadium to cheer them on in what were keenly contested bouts. Although there were no ‘official’ winners, it was widely agreed that each Joey’s student won their bouts. Fair play to all the lads who took part in the Startbox programme, which once again was a great success.

This programme will take place again next year and will be open to all current third years.

**Soccer Round-up**

On foot of reaching last year’s senior league division 2 final, we found ourselves promoted to the top division for this year’s campaign. We had nine of last year’s starters and were confident of doing well.

However, we were drawn against Chanel in the Leinster Cup and despite playing well, we lost out 3-1 to a very talented team.

Our league campaign produced two narrow defeats to St. David’s and Colaiste Choilm.

However, the season is not yet over and we will embark on a Leinster Shield campaign after Christmas with an away match against Ashbourne CS.

The top performers this season so far have been Darragh Lyons, Pierce Gavin and Aaron Daly. While the squad are confident of doing well in 2017, much will depend on fitness and the team’s ability to take chances when they are presented.
Hard Hits from Joey’s Hurlers.

by Dylan Hyland

The last two years have shown that there is a degree of promise in the current group of hurlers playing for the school, but it had yet to yield any silverware. Unfortunately this term, such a level of promise was on show again.

The hurling year starts with the senior team in the second week of September. Our senior team is led by strong hurlers from fifth year, and strong men from sixth year! The straight knockout nature of the competition means that you never know what to expect, and the first step into the unknown was a home game against Beneavin.

A powerful performance led by full forward Pierce Gavin resulted in a convincing win. Players such as Eoin McNeill, Carl McKeever, Aaron Daly and Conor Keane also stood out on the day.

The Junior hurlers also played this side of Christmas and had a mixed campaign. After a very satisfying display at home to Ardgillan, the team travelled to Lusk in what was a progress-or-die game.

A strong first half had the lads believing in a spot in the knockout stages, however Lusk were able to rise through the gears and pull away in the final ten minutes. Captain Cian O’Brien, Matthew Boland and Reece Lowry tried hard throughout and deserve special mention.

The Juvenile hurlers start their campaign after the New Year and all of the older groups wish them the best of luck.

Juvenile captain Cian O’Brien and teammate Daniel Mullane

This newsletter was written and made by Transition Year students as part of their Media Studies module with Mr. Stack. The writers and contributors are as follows:

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- Sean Bruen (News Editor)
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- Jake Mooney (Features Editor)
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- Daryl Donnery
- Dylan Hyland
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- Ferran Canals
- Vadim Cretu
- Sean English
- Cian O’Brien
- Keith O’Rourke
- Curtis Smith
- Angel Mier Ignoto

Well done to the Transition Years on another successful publication.

Special thanks to past pupil Diarmuid Hiney for so kindly offering to contribute to our newsletter.

We hope you enjoy our publication!

Merry Christmas!