

SOLAS MAGAZINE

ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN HILL, CORK
NEWSLETTER ISSUE 32, CHRISTMAS 2017

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Action Project finds its Roots



As part of our CSPE Action Project we up-cycled unused items and tidied the courtyard next to our library. Our project is based on the concept of stewardship and involves re-using items, reducing waste and recycling. We also set up a class swap box to give unused items, such as books and DVDs, a new life.

In the courtyard we planted colourful heathers and daffodil bulbs, cleaned plant pots, swept the ground, weeded beds and up-rooted old plants. We re-used wood mulch from recent tree cutting in our school to decorate the flowerbeds.

At Halloween we filled the courtyard with pumpkins that were locally grown and supplied by our school completion co-ordinator Ms Pauline Hydes. We used skeletons and spider webs to give

a spooky feel. We are currently working on re-using old decorations in the courtyards to mark the festive season. Adam Geaney, Zoe Kiely, Niamh Mulcahy and Ian Rodgers are seen here starting work on the Christmas garden. Overall, we think we are doing a super job!

Alex Thompson, Megan Casey and Olan Mc .

Class Áodan, 2nd year.





Busy BEES

The UCC School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES) comprises diverse specialities covering marine, terrestrial and fresh water environments.

Through our continued links with UCC, we are delighted that 2 of our TY students, Rachel Galgey and Rebecca Galwey have secured a week long placement in BEES during which time they will take part in lectures and experiments, meet staff and students and be given an opportunity to experience college life.

We wish Rachel and Rebecca the very best during their time in UCC.



Bank of Ireland Academy

Over 100 lucky TY students from a number of schools in Cork, recently participated in the 3 day UCC Bank of Ireland Academy.

The Academy offers students the opportunity to acquire new skills and enables students to work on a business problem alongside students from other schools. Over the course of the three days, they explore entrepreneurship, innovation, communication skills, teamwork and learn how to pitch their proposals in a "Dragon's Den" environment. Congratulations

to Jessica Brooks Stout, Chelsea Velasco, James Matthews and Sam Waldron for their excellent participation in the Academy. Sam Waldron was part of the team which won best overall project and Jessica Brooks Stout's team also qualified for the final.

St Aidan's Hosts Construction Industry Jobs Seminar



On November 13th last St Aidan's hosted a joint seminar with the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) on career opportunities.

The event, attended by 70 students, highlighted the current shortage of workers in construction and the resulting excellent opportunities available for students. Ronan O'Brien and Conor O'Connell of the CIF and Bill Kelleher, Vincent

O'Donoghue and Sean Carrigy of PJ Hegarty's gave a broad and interesting overview of the varied opportunities available. St Aidan's offers a fully comprehensive range of technology related subjects to LC higher level including engineering, construction studies, design communication graphics, physics and chemistry and as a result we equip our students with the skills necessary to pursue a career in the construction industry.

DPS Youth Advisory Panel

The DPS Aspire 2 Programme has now entered its third year and is proving to be of huge benefit in helping to raise educational aspirations and assist our students to progress to third level.

One of the key elements of the programme is the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) whereby students get a direct input into the running of the programme.

8 YAP members attended a leadership training day in CIT and learned a great deal about leadership roles and management of teams.

Thanks to Nicola and Janice from DPS for organising this great day.



Bank Wisely at Pennywise

Pennywise Bank operates every Wednesday lunchtime in the main area and in the few short weeks since this bank's launch, it has seen membership grow considerably.

The bank was established as part of the AIB Build a Bank Challenge, a programme which St Aidan's has been involved in for many years.

This year's staff are enthusiastic, helpful and very capable. Pictured here are Shauna Lane, Manager, Kaitlin O'Regan, Chief Operating Officer, Ryan Ferreira Beadle, Marketing Manager, Mia Dorney, Financial Controller, James Matthews, Social Media Operator and Aine Byrne, Customer Service.

Many thanks to Louise Lynch and David Cotter, AIB Student Officers and Ms N Mc Donnell for their continued work with the school bank.



Student Council welcome Lord Mayor

The annual and very traditional Lord Mayor's visit is always eagerly anticipated in St Aidan's. This year broke slightly with tradition as Lord Mayor, Cllr Tony Fitzgerald and his wife, Lady Mayoress Georgina Fitzgerald, did not address the audience from the school stage but instead mingled amongst pupils in a relaxed and less formal manner.

Students were delighted and engaged in conversation with our Lord Mayor who complimented the student council and the school band, seen here welcoming our visitors.

Unfortunately, we did not see the return of the traditional half-day!





Basketball

This season has been a very enjoyable experience with the Girls U16 and Girls U19 teams reaching County semi-finals.

Our players have been 100% dedicated to training and their basketball skills have noticeably improved leading to success defeating Bandon Grammar, St. Brogan's Bandon, North Presentation Secondary School and

Ballincollig Community School en route to the County semi-finals where they were defeated by St. Mary's in Macroom.

Well done girls!



Sporting Heroines

Kelly Taylor, 1st year, is pictured here with Leanne O'Sullivan following Cork's victory over Kilkenny at the Senior All-Ireland Camogie final in September.

Kelly has been playing camogie with The Glen since she was 4 and Leanne is a fantastic role model for all the girls in our school.

Leanne is not only a past pupil but is also completing her teacher training in St Aidan's this year.



Health Week 2017

St Aidan's annual Health Week took place in September. The focus of this week is on our students' physical and mental wellbeing.

The week kicked off with a TY sports tournament and a Junior sports day incorporating basketball, long-jump, hurdles, football, javelin and the ever popular tug-of-war. Guest speakers from the Irish Heart Foundation met with all 2nd year students and instructors from Next Level Fitness gave a fitness seminar for TY and LCA students.

Yoga and mindfulness, as well as nutrition classes were also on offer to those who wished to avail of them on the "alternative" sports day. Health Week is also about having fun and pictured here are some of our students doing just that!





Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Many thanks to our TY students and teachers Ms Furlong, Mr Healy and Mr Murphy for the fantastic work they have just completed on this year's Shoebox Appeal.

TEAM HOPE, best known for its Shoebox Appeal, is an Irish, Christian development aid charity that works with children, their families and communities, mainly across Eastern Europe and Africa.

The Shoebox Appeal involves filling small boxes with gifts such as pens, pencils, picture books, hygiene items, small clothing items, cuddly toys and sweets. This may be the only gift vulnerable

children receive this Christmas.

The students and their teachers spent many hours in a warehouse in Glanmire filling and stacking hundreds of boxes for shipment. Thank you to all who devoted their time to such a good cause.

Adam Lawler and Troy Aherne, Class Ambrose, are pictured here with some of the boxes they put together for the appeal.



Art



First year art students have worked very hard this term studying the principal elements of art including tone, shading, the basics of composition and colour, shape and form.

This trio of posters by Aoife Heffernan, Martyna Krysz and Aoife Higginston capture a small cross section of the work being done by this scarily talented group of learners!

“Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow’s reality.”

Malala Yousafzai



Surf Champion Jamie

Congratulations to Jamie O'Brien, 6th year, who won the Junior Longboat Final at the 2017 Surf Kayaking World Championships held in Portrush, Northern Ireland. This win makes Jamie the World Champion for Junior Longboat in Surf Kayaking!

Jamie also picked up a bronze medal

in the Junior Shortboat Final, ranking him number 3 in the world. This is an amazing achievement and well deserved given Jamie's work ethic and dedication in school and in sport.

We are very proud of Jamie and wish him every success in his future studies and travels.



Congratulations to Daniel Mulcahy, 4th year, who won the All Ireland U16 Solo Drumming Championship in Dublin earlier this year.



Many thanks to past pupil Rebecca Kennedy who returned to St Aidan's recently to mentor 5th year pupils who are interested in pursuing careers in teaching.

Rebecca is currently studying and training to become a primary school teacher and we appreciate her making the time to return to St Aidan's in a mentoring role.



Well done Katie Cronin, 1st year, on your recent gold medal wins with The Sapphire Baton Twirlers.



Chocolate Spike!

Class Ronan LCA 2 and Class Sean LCA 1, visited Spike Island in September to conduct research on a centre of cultural and historical significance.



The high winds and torrential rains did not dampen our spirits as we headed across the harbour from Kennedy Pier. On arrival, we met with two tour guides who took us on a journey through Spike's past and present. Just days after our visit, Spike Island was named as Europe's leading tourist attraction at the prestigious World Travel Award beating off competition from The Eiffel Tower, the Colosseum and the Acropolis!



We feel very lucky to have been there!

In late November we visited Cocomo Chocolates in Dennehy's Cross with our Vocational Preparation and English and Communications teachers.



The purpose of our visit was to investigate how small businesses operate in terms of financing, overheads, staffing and advertising. It wasn't all work though as we had an opportunity to make and create our own chocolates while we interviewed the owner and manager, Enda Spillane.

We hope to put our skills and knowledge to good use as we prepare to set up and operate our own mini company in 2018.

Class Sean and Class Ronan, LCA 1 and 2





Exploring English

Class Finbarr, together with their English teachers, enjoyed a day soaking up the Christmas atmosphere in Cork's city centre on a crisp, cold December morning.

The morning began with a visit to the Crawford Art Gallery on Emmett Place. The gallery offered a moment of peace and reflection before moving on to the bustling English market to explore the varied, colourful and fascinating stalls.

Next stop, Waterstone's on Patrick Street. The purpose of the visit to this fantastic bookshop was to purchase new books for our school library.

Each student had researched and reviewed 3 books of their choice before the visit and it was not long before we filled a trolley with over a 100 new titles for all of our students to enjoy.

Class Finbarr are pictured here outside the Crawford Art Gallery, at the famous fountain in the English Market and happily browsing the bookshelves in Waterstone's.





Get Fresh School Dinners

This year has seen the introduction of a breakfast club and school dinner programme in St Aidan's for all our students.

The cold weather has resulted in a welcome increase in the numbers availing of breakfast which includes juice, toast, cereal, yogurt, pancakes and fruit. The breakfast club is a wonderful way for students to socialise and ensures a good start to their day. The lunchtime menu is also very popular especially on Wednesday's when Una's now famous chicken curry disappears within minutes! Pasta, a

selection of vegetables and home-made vegetable soup is on offer throughout the week.

Get Fresh staff also cater for the 11am break with a selection of baguettes, pastries and sausage rolls as well as soups and teas.

Una, Lorraine and Christina are pictured here with 3rd year students Clara Hogan and Jake Murphy.



Chloe Dalton, Chef Gerome, Kabul Yahya and Ms Kelleher at the St Aidan's Cookery demonstration in aid of St Vincent de Paul.

Christmas Cookery

A Christmas cookery demonstration in aid of St Vincent de Paul was hosted by Chef Muinteoir in St Aidan's CC in December.

"Ceol, Craic agus Comedy" was promised and attendees were not disappointed! New recipes, new skills and a new fresh approach to Christmas cooking captured everyone's attention.

Many thanks to Chef Muinteoir for his warm and fun approach on the night and to Ms Kelleher, our Home School Liaison Officer, for organising the event.



Student of the Week



St Aidan's endeavours to acknowledge the efforts made by our students to reach their personal best in their academic work. Students and their parents are offered study seminars to ensure their efforts always yield the best possible results. Student of the Week certificates are awarded each week at assembly to celebrate students drive and ambition to reach their personal best.

Pictured here are pupils who have received Student of the Week certificates on more than one occasion. Well done to Olan O'Brien, Ronan O'Keeffe, Alex Thompson, Menjie Liu, Glenn Towler, Jessica Brooks Stout, Ryan Nosek and Alison Power.

Literacy Initiatives

This year as part of our literacy planning we will be running a number of initiatives towards applying for the Wellread National Award.

This award aims to foster and nurture a reading culture in our school in order to bring about an overall improvement in students' literacy skills in a fun and engaging way. Students, teachers and parents are encouraged to celebrate and promote reading within the school community.

TY students are seen here involved in paired reading with 1st year students Chloe Scannell and Daniel O'Connor.

In recognition of their hard work, 2nd year students from class Sorcha and

Padraig received their JCSP Reading and Peer Tutoring Initiative certificates from their proud teachers, Ms Mc Donnell and Ms Crean.

Also pictured are Chloe Healy, Lauren Quinn and Martyna Kris, 1st year, who worked on a display featuring the most popular and most recommended titles in the school library.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
Dr Seuss.





The staff and students
at St Aidan's wish everyone
a happy and peaceful
Christmas and the very
best for 2018!

