

SOLAS MAGAZINE

ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN HILL, CORK
NEWSLETTER ISSUE 31, SUMMER 2017

TEL: 021-430 9598 FAX: 021-430 3274

EMAIL: AIDANSCORK@EIRCOM.NET

WWW.STAIDANSCORK.IE



Young Environmentalists



St. Aidan's reach ECO-UNESCO Young Environmental Awards 2017

Amy O'Neill, Becky O' Mahony, Jamie Lewis, Aimee Saund, Lee Donovan and Craig Downey's creative eco-project has earned them a place in the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalists final.

The students made beautiful colourful bird boxes out of up-cycled material. They used scrap wood, bottle tops, leftover paint, cans, plastic bottles and even old buttons!

They donated some bird boxes to our neighbouring primary school, Scoil Oilibhéir, who were so impressed that they commissioned some more along with fairy doors. You can now visit their magical fairy trail at 'Scoil Oilí Fairyland' to see the project for yourself!

"We wanted to do this project to enhance the wildlife in our surrounding school environment and local community", Lee Donovan.

"The project gave birds a warm and colourful home in our school gardens and local area", Becky O' Mahony.

Following the semi-final stage of the competition at the UCC ECO-Den, where they impressed a panel of expert judges, the group have qualified for the National Final of the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalists Awards which takes place in May at the Mansion House in Dublin.



Artistic Achievements



It has been another busy year here in the St.Aidan's Art Department with Miss Edmondson and Mr.Mouroz working on many exciting projects.

Class Sorcha's colourful examples of still life and pattern are on display on the corridors along with their Celtic manuscript style posters which were designed for Seachtain na Gaeilge.

2nd year students are currently working on designing an e report cover for the Simon community, a very rewarding project.

4th year students new ceramics project saw them create an eclectic mix of real and imaginative characters out of clay which are seen here displayed on a totem pole for all our school to enjoy.

5th year students also took part in the Articulate Ireland competition. St. Aidan's was represented by Rebecca Lynch who gave an amazing presentation on her favourite artist. Ms Lee, Ms Edmondson, Ms Knightly and Ms Crean all supported Rebecca in preparing for the daunting oral presentation requirement of this nationwide and prestigious competition. Rebecca did herself and her school proud and her work was highly commended by the judges.



Bonne Chance!

Dr. Patrick Crowley and Sylvie Campion welcomed the 6th year French students from St. Aidan's to UCC. The students were given a wonderful presentation on French courses available and the benefits of studying the French language.

They enjoyed a tour of the campus and many have expressed their desire to return to UCC as students in September.

Bonne Chance to all our Leaving Certificate students.



Third Year Theatrical Treat

3rd year students from Class Ambrose recently enjoyed a visit to The Mill Theatre in Dundrum Town Centre for a performance of "Romeo and Juliet". It was an ideal opportunity to expose Junior Cycle English students to their first live Shakespeare experience. Seeing a play performed on stage helps students to engage creatively by exploring characters, themes and the language of the chosen text, while also understanding a director's take on a much loved romantic tragedy. Our current 3rd Year group are the first group to sit the reformed Junior Cycle English exam and we wish them every success in the exam in June.

Celebrating Diversity

The emphasis this term has been the relevance of geography as a subject with our Geography in the News slot each day. Migration, for example, has been a key issue for British voters in the Brexit debate and the xenophobia associated with Donald Trump's US Presidential campaign. The students have followed the EU refugee crisis, the Syrian civil war and the rescue missions in the Mediterranean.

The geography department has emphasised the positive aspects of the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural make up of St. Aidan's. In class Ambrose, we have 10 different nationalities represented. We have first hand input from students on every topic from the Geography of Brazil to China's one child policy. As Socrates said in 390 BC, "I am a citizen not of Athens or Greece, but of the World."



Media Morning



Transition year students were introduced to a new media module this year which involved reading and discussing the daily news as featured in the Irish Examiner.

In a world now dominated by screen time, live streaming of news online and the so called “fake news” phenomenon,

the focus of what became known as our “Media Morning” , was reading in a relaxing screen free environment as well as discussing and exchanging opinions on current news events.

Many thanks to the Irish Examiner for their support.



Daffodil Day 2017

Congratulations to our TY students who volunteered to collect for the Irish Cancer Society's annual Daffodil Day collection. They raised an incredible 4,241 euro. Your hard work and dedication to this worthy cause is very much appreciated.

Many thanks to Ballyvolane shopping centre, Decky's shop, Keelings flowers, Ms Kingston for organising the coffee morning, the art department and students for their beautiful art work, Mrs Woods in Scoil Oilibheir, Mary Morrish of the Irish Cancer Society and the co-ordinator, Maeve Flavin Murphy.

TY students Eoin Mc Carthy, Nicole Bolger, Claudia Burke, Joel Ouethy and Neil Nietes are pictured here.



Jack Taylor Author

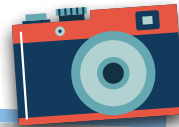


'Elemental Order' by Jack Taylor

My name is Jack Taylor. I am a first year student. I want to become an author.

Everyone loved it when I read out my stories in English class and it made me feel like a genius when I struggled with the other parts of the curriculum. So during February mid-term this year I finally decided to write my story.

My resource teacher Ms. Flanagan and my SNA Ms. Byrne read my work and gave me lots of encouragement and feedback as I went along. I was also supported by Kailum Shek who drew the cover for my novel.



Damian Coleman Photographer

6th year student Damian Coleman developed an interest in photography at the age of 9. A Christmas present of a camera at the age of 12 and the encouragement of his science teacher and photography enthusiast, Mr Doyle, saw Damian take his love of photography a step further and now he plans to study photography in college. He impressed staff with the fantastic portfolio he prepared for his college application and his professional approach to taking photographs at our recent Awards Ceremony.

We wish Damian every success in his future career.

Daniel Mulcahy Drummer



Daniel Mulcahy, Class Ambrose, recently competed in the World Solo Drumming Championships, winning a silver medal in his section. Over 120 competitors from around the world took part in the competition, held in Glasgow in October.

Daniel plays with the Carrigaline pipe band and has won many medals since taking up drumming 2 years ago.

He shows great dedication to his drumming in the same way that he shows commitment to his school work. We are very proud of Daniel and wish him well in his playing and competitions in the years to come.



Student of the Week

Congratulations to the students pictured here with our Deputy Principal, Ms M Quane. These students received multiple awards throughout the academic year in recognition of their hard work and academic achievements. Well done!

Back row l to r: Rebecca Galwey, Jessica Brooks Stout, Mia Dorney, Jodie Hughes, Leah O' Donovan, Kiana Lynch, Megan Hill, and Ms M Quane.

Front row l to r: Ava Donovan, Tristan Kelleher, Owen Forde, Ben Crowley, EJ Albino, Sean Boyle and Clara Hogan.

Rewards Trip

Students are seen here enjoying the mud and the sunshine at West Cork Secrets, Kilbrittain! This end of year rewards trip was a huge success and a wonderful way to reward our students for their hard work.



Primary School Links

St. Aidan's I.T. team recently welcomed 5th class pupils from Scoil Oilibhéir to take part in lessons on Scratch Programming. 5th year students under the guidance of Mr Buckley taught the younger pupils how to create interactive stories, games and animations using Scratch. The pupils and their teachers thoroughly enjoyed the lessons.

Our primary links continued with further visits throughout the year. Students are seen here enjoying a practical lesson in Home Economics under the watchful eye of Ms Kingston.

Transition year students were also delighted to welcome our neighbours to a fun morning of Irish dancing and singing. A wonderful rendition of Amhrán na Bhfiann was performed at the end of the morning. Thank you to Ms Scanlon and Class Colmcille for facilitating this exciting event.



As part of the Junior Achievement programme for 1st years, Class Colmán, Ms. Byrne and Ms. O Connor visited Bank of Ireland Head Office on South Mall, Cork and were welcomed on arrival by staff member Ms. Carmel Buckley.

The visit included a tour of the bank vault and a demonstration on an ATM and money counting machine. Surprisingly, some documents in the bank vaults dated back as far as 1738! Students and teachers got to see and hold 500,000 euro in their hands – under the watchful supervision of staff!

Ms. Liz McEvoy, Junior Achievement, gave students a talk on their skills and abilities and each student filled in a worksheet with a view to choosing an area for a potential career. There was a draw for a set of headphones which was won by Sophie Jackson Leahy. Congratulations Sophie!

Junior Achievement Programme

Class Colmcille are pictured here having successfully completed the Junior Achievement programme "My Life, My Future". This hands-on and action based programme focussed on enterprise, communication and interview skills as well as financial literacy.

This programme takes the mystery out of negotiating the path from school to a career that suits each students individual strengths.



Congratulations to the class of 2017

"We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better."

JK Rowling



Class Barra



Class Aonghus



Class Áine



Class Neasán



Class Gobnait

2017 Solas Awards Ceremony



Congratulations to our Award Winners

Exceptional Co-Curricular
Eco-Unesco Enviro Awards Team

Best Class Award
Class Ambrose

Setanta Sports Award
Female Junior - Ava Dorney
Female Senior - Kelly Murphy
Male Junior - Tristan Kelleher
Male Senior - Alex Smith

Edward Pope Memorial
Lee Donovan

Pupil Endeavour
Junior Cycle - Jodie Hughes
Senior Cycle - Dylan O'Flaherty

Technological
Oliver Szamak

Business Studies
Rory Murnane

Home Economics
Rebecca Bevan

Maths
Jamie Huggins

French
James O'Mahony

Science
Daniella Minyo

History
Eabha Atkinson

English
Luke Higginston

Geography
Kelly Meany

Music
Julia Pawlak

Art
Theodora Ichim

Gaeilge
Jake Ricken

Exceptional Pastoral Achievement
Nollaig O' Donnell

JCSP
Lorraine Evans

LCA
Hayley O' Connell

Student of the Year 1st Year
Kieran Wentz

2nd Year
Abbey Mc Namara

3rd Year
Mia Dorney

4th Year
Jessica Ricken

5th Year
Owen Forde

6th Year
Sarah O' Connell

Junior Academic
Shauna Lane

Senior Academic
Craig Mc Carthy

Best Junior Certificate 2016
Robyn Andrews

Best Leaving Certificate 2016
Shauna O' Callaghan

Best Leaving Certificate Applied 2016
Clodagh O' Connor

Community Award
Tom Kelleher

Principal's Award
Megan Scollard

CLASS TRIP

Kenmare Calling

The transition year school tour took us to the outskirts of Kenmare for a 3 day excursion to Eclipse Ireland. 28 students and 3 teachers, cautiously headed to the adventure centre that is not for the faint hearted! It's pretty safe to say that all pupils and teachers were slightly apprehensive as to what lay ahead!

We engaged in team building activities, which tested both our mental and physical agility. We pulled for our lives in a gruesome game of tug of war, scrambled over high walls and were drenched in muddy water if one didn't have the strength to swing like Tarzan on a rope across a muddy pond. Other activities included archery, coasteering and last but not least, the infamous mud run! Despite being covered in mud, both students and teachers alike had the time of their lives. This was one school tour that will be fondly remembered for a long time to come.



Science and Strawberries!



On Tuesday May 2nd we visited the Science Department in U.C.C. with our teacher Ms Caffrey. We were greeted by physiologist Eimear Ferguson. She described what college life was like, her work in the Science Department and she explained what we would be doing for the day.

We did a fascinating experiment on 'How to get the DNA of a strawberry.' We were helped by three girls, Pepé, Rachel and Sofia. After a short break, we were given a guided campus tour where we learned about the history of U.C.C., its buildings, architecture and students.

We really enjoyed the trip and would love to visit again.

By Megan Casey and Lauren McCarthy 1st Year



Ecology Field Trip

5th year Biology, along with their teacher, Mr. Doyle and also Ms. Manning, went to the Tralee Wetland Centre to do the Ecology Field Work component of the LC Biology course. Dr. David Mc Goldrick who runs the centre, proved to be a font of fabulous knowledge. Everybody had an educational and fun morning.

Highlights included Micheal's legs, Aaron's duck, capturing a field mouse in a mammal trap and an hour of fun in the Aquadome! As usual, huge thanks to Tom Kelleher, our bus driver.



S 2017

Turas go dtí An Ghaeltacht

Chuamar go Ceann Trá dhá uair i mbliana. Chaitheamar trí lá ann i Mí Dheireadh Fómhair agus i Mí na Márta ag ullmhú don bhéaltríail. D'fhanamar le Bean an Tí fad is a bhíomar ann agus chuir sí fáilte romhainn agus d'ullmhaigh sí béilí deasa dúinn. Chabhraigh sí linn leis an nGaeilge chomh maith. D'oibríomar go dian agus thugamar cuairt ar an Daingean agus an uisceadán ann agus shiúlamar go Dún Chaoin. D'fhan na buachaillí agus na cailíní i dtithe dífriúla thíos ann agus bhuaileamar le chéile ar an trá. D'imríomar cluiche peile ar an trá agus chuaigh cuid dúinn ag snámh cé go rabhamar préachta ina dhiaidh. Thaitin an Gaeltacht go mór linn agus mholfainn do ghach duine tréimhse a chaitheamh ann.

Éabha Atkinson, Dalta ardeiste



Girls' basketball training camp in Killarney, Co. Kerry

OUR CLASS TRIPS



Football training at Garretstown beach, Co. Cork



TY trip to Zipit, Farran Woods



Science trip to Blackrock Castle Observatory

COLLEGE COMMUNITY MARKET



As part of the Leaving Cert Applied programme, Class Ronan ran a very successful enterprise. They set up a market, The College Community Market, with stalls selling tea, coffee, hot chocolate, a variety of cakes, chocolate treats and pizza. They also ran a successful raffle.

They learned about raising finance, costing products, different ways of marketing and the importance of good customer service skills. After several weeks of preparation, they ran the market for two days and were very pleased to make a profit. The students worked very hard and we have high hopes of excellent marks for this section of the course.



Let's Cook

The LCA Hotel Catering and Tourism class hosted a fantastic lunch for staff in April. They prepared, cooked and served a 2 course meal for 10 invited guests. The lucky teachers were treated to a creamy curry, a brilliant bolognese and a medley of desserts. Well done and thank you to all our cooks!



As part of Class Ciara's programme, they set up and operated a very successful and popular car wash. Many staff availed of the professional valet and wash at competitive prices. Well done!





Full STEM ahead in St.Aidan's

As part of our curricular and extra-curricular activities, St. Aidan's places a huge emphasis on the increasingly important area of STEM, offering one of the broadest range of STEM subjects of any school in Cork – DCG, Engineering/MTM, Construction Studies/MTW, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology.

- St. Aidan's is now in its second year of the Aspire2 programme with DPS – a Global Engineering Project Management group.
- Through the Schools Business Partnership, St. Aidan's is linked with Pharmaceutical Giant Janssen Biologics.
- 20 of our TY girls attended the iWish Seminar in City Hall.
- St. Aidan's continues to build on its links with the CIT Access Service, the benefits of which include Saturday Leaving Cert Maths revision courses and participation in the Experience CIT Week/Engineer Your Future Week.
- Through our links with the Junior Achievement Programme, students visited Bord Gais Networks HQ and Boston Scientific.
- As part of Engineers Week, 20 St. Aidan's students were invited to a tour the LE Roisin and got a superb insight into all aspects of life in the Irish navy.
- The UCC + Student Achievement Award 2017 saw 8 of our students honoured for their outstanding work in English, French, Irish and Maths.



We were delighted to welcome past pupil Jill Manning back to St. Aidan's this year to complete her teaching practice. Jill is a talented and respected Maths and Geography teacher and we wish her the very best in her future career.



Congratulations to our 5th year student, Eamer Coughlan, who is a World Junior Boxing silver medallist. Eamer is widely recognised as being a top prospect for Irish Boxing. We wish him every success in his future boxing career.

“Just play. Have fun. Enjoy the game”

Michael Jordan

