

SOLAS MAGAZINE

ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN HILL, CORK
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TEL: 021-430 9598 FAX: 021-430 3274
EMAIL: AIDANSCORK@EIRCOM.NET
WWW.STAIDANSCORK.IE



St.Aidan's scoop top prizes at CIT Access Art Exhibition



St.Aidan's are delighted and proud to announce that three of our Leaving Certificate students were credited with the top prizes in CIT last month. Students from schools around Cork were invited to participate in a recent CIT Art Exhibition entitled, "My Education, My Future".

Students were asked to make a piece of work in response to the theme, and faced stiff competition from St. Brogans College, Carrignafoy Community College, Deerpark CBS, and Ursuline Secondary School.

The work produced showed creativity, initiative, and maturity and indeed a snapshot into our pupils' futures. In fact, college representatives exclaimed that our pupils' work was finished to college standard. In front of representatives of CIT and Crawford College of Art and Design, lecturers, teachers, parents and

students, Sinead Long received fourth place for her mixed media piece "The Future Awaits", with Christopher O Driscoll winning second place for his stencil work "Looking to the Future" and Zach Cronin winning the first place award for his mixed media sculptural piece called "Snapshot to my Future". It's great to see the ingenuity and artistic flare of St.Aidan's pupils is still going strong!

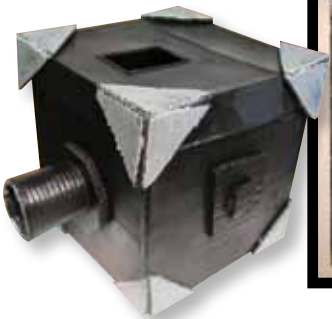
Congratulations to all students involved!

Guest speaker Eva shines at the 2014 Solas Awards

I was honoured and a little emotional when I was invited to speak at tonight's ceremony.

I graduated from St. Aidan's in 1993. My time as a student here was a happy one...

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A Word from the Principal

St Aidan's Community College has educated students in the Ballyvolane/ Dublin Hill area for 30 years. We have witnessed many changes over this time from changes in students and staff to the building itself which has been extended many times.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember the past students and staff of St Aidan's who have contributed so much to the school. The school motto 'Bíodh bhur solas ag taitneamh' has stood the test of time due to the commitment of everyone involved in St Aidan's Community College. As the school year 2013/14 draws to a close I would like to acknowledge the work that has been carried out in St Aidan's by both the students and the staff. The students have been actively working to help those less fortunate than themselves with a range of fundraising events for charities such as St Vincent de Paul, Focus Ireland and the Irish Heart Foundation to name a few.

Our teachers have added many events to our school calendar such as Health Week, Literacy Week and the amazing Christmas Talent Show. Students from the Green Schools Committee were recognised by An Taisce for their work in cleaning up the locality. We have forged new links with Janssen Biologics through the Schools Business Partnership and our strengthened links with UCC and CIT have proven a valuable asset to the future education prospects of our students. I would like to wish our students every success in their upcoming examinations, in particular the students in 3rd year and 6th year who will sit the state examinations in June.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of St Aidan's Community College for their dedication to the students. I would also like to thank the parents for the support they have shown the school and the encouragement they have given to their sons and daughters.

I would like to wish everyone a peaceful break for the summer holidays.

- S. Curley, Principal

Guest speaker Eva shines at Solas Awards



I was honoured and a little emotional when I was invited to speak at tonight's ceremony. I graduated from St. Aidan's in 1993. My time as a student here was a happy one. I was involved in many activities: the environmental club, the choir and the musical society to name a few. When I think back on my time here, I think about the lifelong friends I made and the many opportunities my teachers gave me.

My love of music and writing was encouraged and supported in St. Aidan's. A few years ago, I released an album of my own songs called "Heart on My Sleeve". This was a key moment in my life, one which I know would not have happened without the confidence instilled in me by my teachers.

I studied Business in CIT and later found employment with Zurich financial services in Cork for 15 years. I was made redundant in December, 2012 and found myself wondering about what the future would hold.

I had trained new staff in my previous job and was involved in scouting over the years and a friend thought I'd make a good teacher.

That innocent comment started me on a new journey and led me to apply for the Professional Diploma in Education in UCC. I immediately thought of completing my teaching practice in St. Aidan's, a school that gave me so much as a student.

Becoming a business studies teacher has been one of the best decisions of my life. This past year in St. Aidan's has been enriching and rewarding. The students and staff are a pleasure to work with.

I believe pursuing your passions and following your dreams is one of the most important things we can do for ourselves. The students here tonight know, that you get out of school what you put into it and that's a valuable lesson that will serve them well whatever they do in life.

Congratulations to the award winners, I know you have a bright future ahead of you.

Ms Eva Corbett

Student Council News



Student Council News

This year St. Aidan's Student Council played an active part in the drive to achieve Green Flag status for the school. The Council worked closely with Ms Flanagan and the Green Schools Committee in what has been a busy but rewarding year.

Weekly meetings are held to discuss issues raised by the student body and the students concerns are then given a voice at regular meetings with the school's Principal, Ms Curley.

The Council hope to continue the work they have done on promoting healthy eating and they will continue their campaign to get the Amber Flag by promoting positive mental health in the school community.

Congratulations to our Solas Award Winners 2014



Congratulations to our Solas Award Winners 2014

Exceptional Co-Curricular
Daffodil Day Team

Best Class Award
Class Brid

Setanta Sports Awards Female Junior
Kelly Murphy

Setanta Sports Awards Female Senior
Jessica Lane

Setanta Sports Awards Male Junior
Jamie Corkery

Setanta Sports Awards Male Senior
Ryan Meaney

Edward Pope Memorial
Maria Martin

Pupil Endeavour Junior Cycle
Eoghan Corcoran

Pupil Endeavour Senior Cycle
Erica Cronin

Technological
Eibhlis Murphy

Business Studies
Emmet Cat

Home Economics
Nicole Kenneally

Maths
Katie O'Callaghan

French
Lauren Callanan

Science
Aaron Kang

History
Julia Pawlak

English
April Walsh

Geography
Robyn Andrews

Music
Nollaig O'Donnell

Art
Sinead Long

Gaeilge
Aisling Sheehan

Exceptional Pastoral Achievement
Stephanie Heffernan

JCSP
Caitlyn O'Driscoll

LCA
Callum Miloudi

Student of the Year 1st Year
Joel Ouethy

2nd Year
Quintain Noonan

3rd Year
Mark O' Connor

4th Year
Donna O' Neill

5th Year
Glenn O' Donovan

6th Year
Eoin O' Connell

Junior Academic
Megan Scollard

Senior Academic
Conor Sheehan

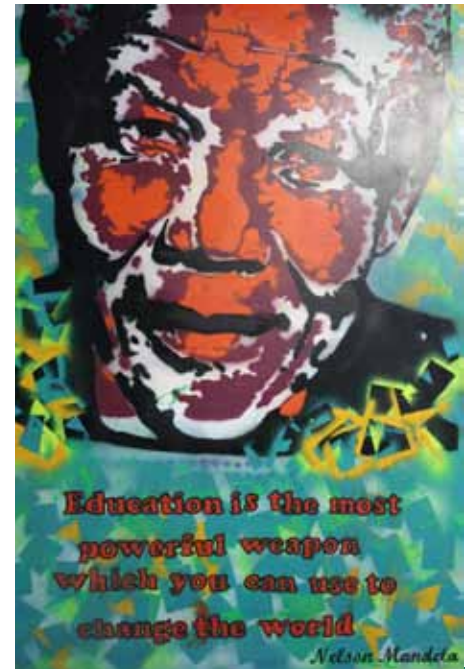
Best Junior Certificate 2013
Rebecca Kennedy and Shauna O' Callaghan

Best Leaving Certificate 2013
Jill Manning

Best Leaving Certificate Applied 2013
Bryan Goulding

Community Award
Fr. Shem Furlong

Principal's Award
Ciara Murphy



SVP Booklet Design Competition

Congratulations to Sarah Costello, 5th year Art, joint runner-up in the SVP schools booklet competition. Her design highlights the importance of balance and inclusion in society.

Yellow was chosen as the main colour to highlight positivity and the repeat colours in the background represents equality and diversity. Her design is very effective and it will be great to see it in printed format when the booklet is completed. The image and her name will be included at the back of the booklet.

Well done Sarah!

Arty Aidan's visit Glucksman Gallery for a Comic Adventure!

A group of fourth year students recently paid a visit to the fantastic Glucksman gallery located on the UCC Campus to partake in a comic book workshop.

Students discovered how to plan storyboards, design characters and build them into an exciting storyline.

A creative and fun day was had by all and we hope to return to this amazing gallery again with next year's Arty Aidan's team!

Art Students Honour Nelson Mandela

Fourth year class Odhran recently completed a stencil piece in memory of Nelson Mandela as part of their portrait project art module.

This challenging yet hugely rewarding project included stencil cutting and spray painting many different colourful layers inspired by many different artists. The pupils were very satisfied with their finished design and it is indeed a very striking piece of work. This work is currently on view as part of a national art exhibition run by the African Embassy, Ireland in Dublin.



Anti-Bullying Poster Competition

During the months of November and December 2013, there was a huge emphasis placed on anti-bullying in St. Aidan's. During a 4 week program in SPHE classes, pupils became aware that bullying is repetitive, deliberate and hurtful behaviour. The effects of bullying, the school's anti-bullying policy and its consequences were discussed in all classes.

To create awareness and promote anti-bullying in the school a poster competition was held where pupils were asked to design posters including imagery and a slogan that would catch everyone's attention. The competition was open to all pupils and there were some excellent entries, especially from first year pupils.

Well done to all involved. The posters are now displayed all over the school and are a huge assistance in our fight against bullying.

Ms A Crowley



Arty Aidan's meet Newgrange!

26 Leaving Cert Art students and 2 art teachers from St. Aidan's Community College, travelled to Newgrange to explore the exciting history the Neolithic site has to offer. The group took part in an organised tour and were amazed by one of Ireland's most treasured sites.

Their artistic talents were then put to the test in an evening fashion show where students made costumes with a twist, inspired by the designs at Newgrange! The next morning was an early start with a treasure hunt in the National Museum discovering the Broighter hoard, items from Stone and Bronze Age Ireland as well as an exciting insight into the wide variety of Christian art the museum has to offer.

The National Gallery's permanent collection, but as it is the gallery's 150th anniversary, we had to compete with Marian Finucane for a viewing space as she was recording in there at the same time.

Our art students are now ready to take on their exams with newfound knowledge and enthusiasm.

G. Tierney and A. Crowley



Our final stop was a guided tour of

Leaving Certificate 2014

As the sixth year students come to the end of their time here in St. Aidan's, a new future awaits them. I hope the life skills and the knowledge they have gained in school will help them with what lies ahead.

It has been a great pleasure for me to be sixth year head. I had the opportunity to work with an amazing group of young adults, who were always friendly, had a good sense of humour, were helpful and hard working. On behalf of all the staff and the sixth year tutors, Ms. Mc Donnell, Ms. Caffrey, Ms. Bernard, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Keenan, and Ms. Tierney, I would like to wish them the very best of luck in their exams and in their future.

Ms. Kingston



Class Agaistin



Class Naoise



Class Roisin



Class Doireann



Class Eavan



Class Cathan

“ I would like to wish you every success in your exams and very happy, healthy and successful lives. ”

First Class Honours

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of our first year in St. Aidan's. It has been an amazing year for all of us. We have made so many new friends and with the help of our teachers we have adapted to a new pace and a new way of school life. Our initial fears at facing a longer school day and studying so many new subjects were soon put aside. The atmosphere in St. Aidan's is warm, welcoming and there is always someone to talk to should we have any concerns.

It would be impossible to choose one thing as the highlight of the year. Trips to The Farm in Grenagh, our retreat to Ennismore, the Christmas Talent Show, the first year table quiz, Literacy Week, Health Week and the Junior Sports day are just some of the events that come to mind.

However, the support we have received from our teachers and families in ensuring that we made an easy transition to St. Aidan's must not be forgotten. We might be looking forward to long summer days ahead but we will also be looking ahead to second year and the many new and welcome challenges we face.

First Year Class Moars

“ We have made so many new friends and with the help of our teachers we have adapted to a new pace and a new way of school life. ”

First Year Classes 2013/2014



Class Colmcille



Class Ronan



Class Eoin



Class Tomas

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

In the weeks coming up to the Christmas holidays this year, the first year students showed incredible generosity as they were hard at work gathering toys, food, stationery and clothes for the TEAM HOPE Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

In what is the ultimate Christmas story, the students with the help of the Meitheal team, Ms. Dineen, Mr. Murphy and Ms. Bergin gathered gifts and packed boxes of hope which were then delivered to children all across Africa and Eastern Europe who may not have received any other gifts over the festive season.

Class Ronan wrapped a number of shoe boxes in lovely festive wrapping paper and the Meitheal team then filled the boxes for collection. Over thirty boxes were filled altogether which no doubt made it a very happy Christmas for a number of children across the world!

Well done to all involved!



In SHARE we continue to care

The SHARE organisation was set up in 1976 to address the problem of the cold, damp and dreary conditions in which many of our senior citizens lived. The idea was to raise money to help build houses for the poor elderly people of Cork and in the past 40 years hundreds have benefitted.

Fifth year students, from over twenty secondary schools, work together in the running of SHARE. Each year, schools nominate 2 representatives to the S.H.A.R.E. executive. The Executive organises many activities including the 8 day Fast and Collection on the streets of Cork - often in freezing cold conditions and weekly visits to the elderly poor people.

This year's Executive members from St. Aidan's were Shauna Hegarty and Mairead Fitzgerald, pictured here with the Lord Mayor, Cllr Catherine Clancy. The girls did a fantastic job and did themselves and their school proud.



SHARE reminds us what Christmas really means: being generous, sharing, thinking of others and taking care of each other and especially the poor and vulnerable in our society.

Mr. M Forde



Fasting for Trocaire

Congratulations to first year student Craig Downey who took part in the Trocaire 24 hour fast as part of the Trocaire Lenten campaign. Craig raised a considerable sum of money for the charity. He is pictured here with Mr Murphy, St. Aidan's school chaplain.



SVP Toy Appeal

We have a longstanding tradition in St. Aidan's of raising awareness among our students of social issues and the challenges faced by those less fortunate in our society. To support the fantastic work done by the St. Vincent de Paul, our Meitheal team organised and collected toys for the Christmas toy appeal. The generous response from the students was amazing. Sincere thanks to all involved in this worthwhile appeal.



Daffodil Day 2014

After the wettest winter on record it was uplifting to see the daffodils arrive in the foyer of St. Aidan's and bring a welcome splash of colour to our school.

However, the daffodils were not for our benefit alone. They were sold over a number of days by a diligent group of TY students in a number of locations in and around our school to raise funds for the Irish Cancer Society and the CUH's Hugs Appeal.

2314 euro and 1455 euro respectively was raised.

We are very proud of our students who give their time to help raise money for worthy causes. Well done and thank you to all involved.



Class fundraiser in memory of past pupil, Graham O'Connell News

Fourth year students from St.Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill took part in a novel sponsorship event to raise money for the Irish Heart Foundation.

This initiative was undertaken in memory of their fellow classmate, Graham O'Connell, who died last year from a heart related illness. The 26 students gave up their mobile phones for 24 hours on Tuesday November 26th and raised much needed funds through sponsorship and donations.

Well done to Class Deaglan!
Ms McCarthy

Meitheal Team 2014

The Irish word Meitheal describes the old Irish tradition where people in rural communities gathered together on a neighbour's farm to help save hay or some other crop. This built up strong friendships and respect among those involved in the Meitheal.

St.Aidan's is among 20 schools in Cork City that sends 5th year students on a 4 day intensive training course to Scala in Blackrock. This training helps the students to identify need in their school and to use their own initiative to respond to these needs.

In St.Aidan's, the Meitheal team chose to work with our first year students, helping them to adjust to life in secondary school. The first years also played an active part in the fundraising activities organised by the Meitheal team. This year the team co-ordinated collections for The Shoebox Appeal, the St Vincent de Paul Christmas toy collection and the Trocaire Lenten fast.

Through their work this year, the Meitheal team have succeeded in helping the first years to build friendships and work together for the good of others.

Well done to the Meitheal team of 2014!



Health Week 2014

St. Aidan's Community College hosted its annual Health Week early this year and once again it was a hugely successful event. Health week aims to educate students about living healthy and active lives. During the week students attended numerous talks and activities. This year's main events included a junior and senior sports day, a 5KM run and a club symposium.

The symposium was a fantastic new event and more than 20 local clubs and gyms set up information stands to attract new players from both St. Aidan's and Scoil Oilibheir.

The week got off to a flying start with GAA legends Colm O'Neill, and Tomas Mulcahy carrying out football and hurling skills session in the school pitch with our talented GAA players. Past pupil and renowned basketball coach, Paul Kelleher, carried out an intensive basketball camp with the school's players.

Ainle O Caireallain, the strength and conditioning trainer with the Cork senior footballers, conducted an extreme fitness session and gave a nutritional talk to our senior students. Source health and fitness instructor Brian, Tiffany from Blackpool Zumba Dance, Aoife from AB Pilates, and David and Tadgh from The Glen kept students busy and active with a wide ranging course of fun fitness classes.

Throughout the week, we also focused on mental health and healthy lifestyles. This began with an enlightening talk from the Irish Heart Foundation. Our guest speaker offered advice to students on nutrition, physical activity and warned them of the dangers of smoking.

Representatives from Coisceim low cost counselling services, Mental Health Ireland and YHS spoke to our students about depression and the counselling services available to young people. The students thoroughly enjoyed these sessions.

The week culminated with an uplifting and inspiring speech and sports day medal presentation from Cork legend, Sean Og O hAilpin.

Ms J Delaney





Wheelchair Basketball

In March this year, Paul Ryan, from the Irish Wheelchair Association came to the school and ran a one day workshop with our TY students. In the morning each class group had their own session with Paul where they learned the skills and rules of wheelchair basketball through fun activities and games.

After lunch all four classes came together for a fun tournament! Each team got the opportunity to show off their skills in an effort to get themselves a place on the school team.

These lucky students went on to represent St. Aidan's in a tournament against other County Cork schools. Everybody involved had a fantastic day and we look forward to next year's tournament!

Ms C Bergin



Junior Girls Basketball 2014



The interest in this year's basketball season was immense with 25 new players representing St. Aidan's. The commitment and effort shown by the 1st and 2nd years was superb. Their talent and potential was obvious in every match and they were extremely unlucky not to reach the play-offs of the league.

Jade Falvey had an outstanding season with the 1st years and was the top scorer on her team while Zoe O Donovan was 2nd year top scorer and excelled in every match, particularly against local rivals

North Presentation, scoring 20 points in total. We are already looking forward to a very promising season next year.

Well done girls!

Boys' Basketball Bounces Back!

2014 saw a return of boys' basketball to St. Aidan's Community College after an absence of nearly two years. Our 1st and 2nd year team played in the Cork "B" league and did extremely well considering the school is going through a rebuilding process at the moment following the huge success of recent years.

Our boys have been training twice a week since January and played five league games against Christians, GCC, Scoil Mhuire, Crosshaven, Christ Ri and Mallow. Our second year team won all five games and put on some impressive performances with captains EJ Albino and Garreth Blount leading by example. Our first years were just as impressive winning four out of their five games and only losing out to GCC by a single basket. Jake Collins and Sean Varian are no doubt going to be stars in the future for St. Aidan's and follow in the foot-steps of former students Roy Downey and Jordan Blount who have represented Ireland numerous times and both have been awarded basketball scholarships on foreign shores.

Jake and Sean along with Captain Garreth Blount are also members of the Neptune U14 team that recently won the club All-Ireland. Garreth also represented Cork in the inter area competition in UL over the Easter

holidays. The future looks bright for the St. Aidan's boys and we look forward to next season with high hopes of success.

A special thank you to 5th year Alan Hourigan and 4th years Sean Fitzgerald and Stephen O'Connell, who have put in tremendous work with both teams.

J. Furlong





First Year Literacy Initiative

As part of a pilot programme for first year students, St. Aidan's Community College has, in the past year, immersed its students in historical and literary events that resonated across the generational divide. Inspiring parents and students to actively engage with the learning process was a fundamental aspect of this programme and has proven to be an immense success.

To facilitate this and to enhance the literary experience of first year students numerous resources were utilised creatively. Students and parents were encouraged to read an assigned novel and explore an accompanying online interactive website www.hanassuitcase.ca. This allowed them to view archival footage, listen to audio commentary and view surviving literary compositions and artwork from children that did not survive the Holocaust.

Following the success of this novel amongst first year students, links were forged with the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Centre in Japan. Students were given the opportunity to share their work with Japanese children and to ask Fumiko Ishioka, the director of the Holocaust Education Resource Centre and the person

who discovered the forgotten story of a young Czech girl who died in Auschwitz, questions relating to the story of Hana's Suitcase. Through the utilisation of social media these questions were graciously answered and our students work is now being displayed on the Holocaust Education Resource Centre's official webpage. As a department, our wish is to encourage and sustain our students' interest in literary pursuits and show them that by reading books they can enter a world filled with wonder.

Well done to our literacy competition winners: Sean Varian, Rebecca O'Donnell, Jessica Reicken, Daniel O'Sullivan, Robyn Andrews and Alison Power.

Mr S O'Brien



First Year Table Quiz

All first year classes took part in a fun filled and challenging table quiz just before the Easter holidays. Over 20 teams gathered in the main area for the quiz. The competition was incredible and at times the atmosphere was tense as teams battled for first prize

Many thanks to the Meitheal team for assisting with the score sheets on the day. Congratulations to the winning team pictured here with Mr Keenan and Ms Hegarty.

Giving the Holocaust a Face

"Giving the Holocaust a face" became a guiding principle for a literacy programme that inspired the English department to reach out to a living holocaust survivor, Mr Tomi Reichental. An invitation was extended to Mr Reichental to speak to the students of St.Aidan's Community College and we were thrilled when this invitation was accepted.



Over the course of a morning, Mr Reichental told "a story that the dead cannot tell", a story that enthralled students from all year groups. Undoubtedly it was and is a story to remember, one that describes a vanished era of lost innocence, of deportation and captivity.

given the opportunity to interact with Mr. Reichental. This permitted a deeper understanding of the Holocaust, of the emotions, the fears and the guilt that survival entailed. The event resonated with all present and was a great success.

Mr. S. O'Brien

To promote family literacy initiatives, parents were encouraged to attend.

Thus, students and parents, through a question and answer session, were

AquaSpa Entrepreneur meets LCA class

Ms Trudi Hickey, owner and founder of AquaSpa, Bishopstown, visited the LCA Communications and Enterprise class in April. She gave an inspirational talk to the class about setting up her own business and how to run a successful company in today's economy.

The students engaged Ms Hickey in a question and answer session and learned about financing a business venture, customer service, maintaining competitiveness, professional development, staffing and advertising. The use of social media and the internet to promote, to research and to advertise was, in Ms Hickey's opinion a key factor in the success of any business.

The AquaSpa businesswoman provided a wonderful role model to young girls in the class and a few lighter moments about the role of men in the beauty industry added much humour to a very enjoyable and informative talk.



St. Aidan's bank named "Candy Bank" ensured customers were continually rewarded for their savings through creative promotions and fun events which were organised to encourage students to save more and spend less. As part of learning to manage a business the students needed to source customers, open accounts, encourage savings and explore new ways to bank such as Phone and Internet banking. CV writing skills,

You Can Bank On Us

Six TY students were appointed in October, to run the school bank for the school year, following interviews held by personnel from AIB Bank South Mall. The group comprised of Jordan O' Donovan Branch Manager, Rebecca Kennedy, Assistant Branch Manager, Donna O' Neill Sales & Marketing Manager, Niamh Nolan Auditor, and Clodagh Varian and Emma Milner in Customer Service. The students operated the bank in conjunction with The AIB Build a Bank Challenge and had to submit a business plan and an exhibition stand at the regional finals on the running of their school bank.

developing interview techniques, skills required for producing oral and visual presentations were all part of the skill set acquired from taking part in this programme. The bank team worked under the guidance of Mr. Damien Power, AIB Student Officer and their teacher Ms. Natalie Mc Donnell and were commended for their hard work in reaching the regional finals.

Jennifer's Unbroken Attendance Record

Congratulations to Jennifer Hosford, Class Doireann, 6th year, who has an unbroken attendance record. Jennifer has not missed a day at school since Junior Infants!

This is a remarkable achievement and shows incredible commitment on Jennifer's part. Well done Jennifer! We wish you every success in the future.



Gaisce Awards

This year fourteen TY students completed the Bronze Gaisce Presidents Award under the leadership of Ms. Bergin and Ms. Corbett. The Gaisce awards work on the basis of a personal challenge set by the participant. There are three areas within the challenge; Community Involvement, Personal Skill and Physical Recreation.

The students chose many different areas in which they completed the personal skill section of the award. Some students took up guitar lessons with Ms. Corbett after school on a Friday while some decided to assist in coaching the first year girls' basketball team.

For the physical recreation section of the awards many of the students trained with teams outside of school on a weekly basis while others attended the gym or even went to fitness classes.

The community involvement section of the award was one which allowed the students branch out into the local community. Once a week the students worked with local people in the communities of Mayfield, Churchfield, The Glen, Ballyvolane and Shandon Street helping out with walking groups, yoga classes, make-up classes, computer classes and toddler groups. Both the students and the local groups found this a very enjoyable project and everybody looked forward to this slot each week!

Finally, the last section of the award is an adventure journey. For this we went to the West Cork Secret near Kilbrittain, Co.Cork. Throughout the two days the students set up their own camp, covered a distance of 25km over three different hikes, participated in evening activities such as zorb balling, team challenges, cooked their own meals and set up their campfire for the night!! Overall, this was the highlight of the whole Gaisce award and one the students will look back on with fond memories in the years to come!

Congratulations to all involved, you should all be very proud of your fantastic achievement!

Ms C Bergin and Ms E Corbett



The Gaisce Guitar Group

This year several Transition Year students have taken up guitar lessons in pursuit of the Bronze Award. As part of the Personal Skill part of the award, six students, Clodagh, Donna, Stephen, Niamh, Emma and Jordan are learning to play guitar.

They come to a guitar class after school every Friday as well as practicing at home and have really made great strides in achieving their goal. Their commitment is admirable and it has been rewarding and fun to teach them and watch them improve over the last few months.

Ms Eva Corbett



Meet our Young Entrepreneurs

It has been a busy year for our Leaving Certificate Applied class. One of their key tasks this year was to set up and run their own business. A *Dragon's Den* approach was taken to allow students to pitch their ideas and this culminated in the establishment of "The Teacher's Lunchbox", a one stop shop for the teachers in St. Aidan's to buy a healthy lunch.

The idea for this venture came from the LCA class who felt they were constantly being reminded by teachers to eat healthily. They saw an opening in the market and following some market research "The Teacher's Lunchbox" was opened. Of course the onus was now on the teachers to lead by example and purchase the wide range of healthy options available.

The shop was a huge success and a healthy profit was recorded at the end of the venture. The LCA students were complimented on their customer service, the presentation of their shop and most of all on their entrepreneurship!

We wish the LCA class every success in the future!



CIT Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering Exhibition

Twenty-two 5th year Physics and Engineering students from St. Aidan's attended the CIT Mechanical & Biomedical Engineering Exhibition which was held in CIT on April 10th.

The day provided fantastic opportunities for the students to investigate the excellent career prospects available in these exciting areas. The day also included a free lunch and tour of the campus, both compliments of the CIT Access Service to which we wish to express our sincere thanks for their wonderful help to our students in so many ways in this past year.



UCC+ Higher Education Access Route

St. Aidan's further developed its links with UCC this past year through an expansion of the UCC+ Higher Education Access Programme resulting in several new programmes being offered to our school.

These included a week long taster for Transition Year students, a CSI (Chemistry Scene Investigation) Camp for second years, a soccer camp for TY students and extra tuition for our Leaving Cert students in maths and the sciences.

All these programmes help to further our association with the college to which many of our Leaving Certificate pupils progress each year. We are thankful to all the UCC+ team for their invaluable help.



A Day in the Life of a CIT student

35 Leaving Certificate students attended the 'Day in the Life of a CIT Student' event at CIT on April 10th. Students got an opportunity to explore their CAO course choices by attending lectures, visiting departments, taking a tour of the campus and getting the opportunity to quiz students about CIT life.

Students also had the opportunity to speak with the CIT Access Team about any queries or concerns on the admission process or any aspects of studying at CIT. It proved to be a really valuable and inspiring day for all those who attended.

MentaliTY Positive Mental Health



Transition Year students are pictured here with community youth workers, Steven and Yvonne, at the MentaliTY positive mental health seminar which was held in City Hall in February.

The session featured talks, workshops and discussions on topics like social media safety, cyber-bullying, self-harm, addiction and depression. There was a focus on preventive and coping skills which the students found very useful and informative.

Literacy Week Readathon

St.Aidan's library provides a quiet and tranquil space for students who enjoy a good read and some lunchtime relaxation during what is often a busy school day. The library has thousands of titles which cater for all year groups and all interests.

This year saw the launch of Literacy Week and one of the many events planned was a Readathon. First year Class Ronan were more than willing to jump to the challenge of a full day Readathon as they have shown a keen interest in reading and using the library throughout the year.

Students Adam Brew, Erica Miloudi, Michael Mc Carthy and Chloe Mc Carthy are seen here enjoying the Readathon.



Bon Appetit!

Last February, the Leaving Certificate Applied Hotel and Catering class invited a group of teachers to lunch! A delicious four course lunch was prepared with the freshest ingredients, cooked and served by the students. Many hours of working in a hot and busy kitchen paid off when the teachers gave five star reviews to the pupils.

The sewing room was transformed into a stylish restaurant complete with crisp cotton, polished cutlery, the finest ware and fresh flowers.

We are already looking forward to next year's lunch! Well done to all involved in this task which was carried out under the watchful and expert eye of Ms Kingston.



Bravo St.Aidan's!



On Thursday November 28th, 2013, the Senior French Schools Quiz took place in Bishopstown Community School. Schools from all over the county participated and St. Aidan's was represented by Lauren Callanan, Aaron Kang and Eric Griffin O'Shea.

Questions were asked on grammar, history, sport and culture. There was great excitement as the rounds progressed.

A great night was had by all and we were delighted to come a joint second! Bravo!

PLC Colleges Open Day Tour

St. Aidan's students got an insight into life at third level in Cork's three PLC colleges when 78 Leaving Certificate students took a tour of St. Johns Central College, Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa and Cork College of Commerce to see what was on offer at the college Open Days which were held on March 4th.

All 3 colleges offer a comprehensive range of courses in a broad selection of areas offering strong employment prospects and opportunities for progression to higher education colleges such as UCC and CIT.

The tour proved to be an eye opener for our students to of the many careers

available through this route, all of which deserve consideration as students face important career decisions over the coming months.

A great day was had by all!



Hurling Star Lorcan mentors St.Aidan's pupils

This year, the St. Aidan's /CIT Linked Schools Programme has evolved further and many new initiatives have been introduced including information sessions for parents and students, Saturday revision days in biology and maths, Graffiti Theatre Company communication workshops and student mentoring skills sessions presented by Cork Hurling star Lorcan Mc Loughlin.

CIT is one of the top institutes of technology in Ireland and we wish to thank all the CIT Access programme team, in particular Ms. Louise O Callaghan, for their invaluable help this past year.



UCC Professor of Engineering Visits St.Aidan's

Dr Brian Ó Gallachóir, Lecturer in Energy Engineering in University College Cork (UCC) and Principal Investigator in Energy Policy and Modelling research in UCC's Environmental Research Institute visited St. Aidan's in February and delivered a highly educational and engaging presentation to over seventy students on Engineering as a Career.





Engineering Your Future

Engineer Your Future is a week-long, hands-on programme for Transition Year students who have an interest in science and maths and we extend congratulations to two TY students Ross O' Halloran and Daniel Coleman who have won places on the programme.



Prestigious New Partnership with Janssen Biologics

This year, St. Aidan's was linked with a new company, Janssen Biologics in Ringaskiddy, through its involvement with the School Business Partnership. The programme matches a school with a large local business and facilitates various work and career related activities including a site visit, 'A Day in the Life' talk by employees of the company, CV workshops and practice interviews. The programme proved to be a tremendous learning experience for the thirty students who participated in the project.

The class paid a visit to the Janssen facility in Ringaskiddy in March and were treated to an educational programme of events. In May members of the HR department visited St. Aidan's to conduct practice interviews with the students.

Janssen is one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical organisations and is part of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies. It is dedicated to addressing and solving the most important unmet medical needs

of our time in the area of oncology, immunology, neuroscience, infectious disease, and cardiovascular and metabolic diseases.

St. Aidan's is honoured to be associated with such a prestigious and world renowned company as Janssen and wishes to thank Ms Claire Porter, Janssen HR Manager and Ms Diane Beckingham, SBP Co-Ordinator, for their support in making the programme such a success.



Past pupil delivers STEM lecture to Aidan's careers class

Past Pupil David O Leary paid a return visit to his former Alma Mater to deliver a highly insightful and fun presentation on careers in the area of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). David, a member of St. Aidan's Class of 2009, studied Computer Science in UCC and secured employment with technology giant IBM. He delivered this lecture as part of his association with Engineers Ireland. Thanks David for sharing your expertise and best wishes for the future!



iPad Luck for Laurence

Congratulations to Laurence Twohig, winner of an iPad Mini at the Careers Exhibition in Rochestown Park Hotel in October. He received his prize from Anthony Cremin, CIT and Ms Curley, Principal, St. Aidan's Community College.

Neat Streets Award for Green School Committee

ECO FRIENDLY

Robbie Thompson, Glenn O Donovan, Callan Dempsey and Conor Dunphy were the proud recipients of a *Neat Streets* award this year. These students, along with the rest of their committee, organised many events in St.Aidan's and the local community in an effort to enhance the appearance of both and to increase awareness among their fellow students of the need to be litter conscious.

Neat Streets is an anti-litter programme for secondary schools. It is linked to

the Green-Schools programme and involves students working with their peers to develop initiatives to tackle litter in their schools and local areas.

The programme is operated by An Taisce and supported by the Wrigley Company Foundation.

St.Aidan's was the only Cork school to receive the award this year.

Mrs Mc Carthy



Spring Clean Team



Congratulations to Class Ronan, 1st year for their huge efforts during the recent Spring Clean initiative in St.Aidan's. This initiative forms part of the on-going work by the Green Schools Committee under the expert guidance of Ms Flanagan.

Residents of the Ballyvolane and Dublin Hill area welcomed students from St.Aidan's wearing high visibility vests and carrying litter pickers as they cleaned pathways, hedges and green areas around the school.

Class Ronan showed great team spirit and their enthusiasm to play an active part in the greening of their community must be commended.





TY Students in the Driving Seat

Instructor Eamon O'Sullivan was a regular and most welcome visitor to our school during 2013-4 with his drive simulator housed within what appeared to be a typical articulated truck! Our TY students looked forward to and thoroughly enjoyed sessions using the drive simulator to test and challenge their driving skills.

There has been huge media attention on road safety and issues relating to driving safely in recent weeks so the driving simulator provided TY students with the perfect opportunity to put their driving skills to the test.



First Year Retreat



Ennismore Retreat Centre in Mayfield is described as “an oasis of beauty, peace, hospitality and welcome.” It is all of this and much more! On a beautiful spring day in early April our first year students arrived at Ennismore for a full day retreat.

We were warmly greeted at the centre by the wonderful staff who engaged the students in a day of group activities, creative dialogue, reflection and meditation.

The gardens at Ennismore are stunning. It is hard to believe that such an amazing place is nestled away in the middle of a busy suburb.

We were taken on a guided walk through the gardens before lunch, a real treat on such a gorgeous day.

Our students benefitted greatly from the day. Many thanks to the facilitators and staff at Ennismore. They did an amazing job with our young students and we look forward to returning again next year.

Class Trips

