

SOLAS MAGAZINE

ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN HILL, CORK
NEWSLETTER ISSUE 36, CHRISTMAS 2019

TEL: 021-430 9598 FAX: 021-430 3274
EMAIL: OFFICE.STAIDANS@CORKETB.IE
WWW.STAIDANSCORK.IE



Fiona O'Connell, Shauna Lane, Jagoda Lniska and Abby Murphy accepted the National Wellread Award on behalf of the St Aidan's CC Wellread committee. We are proud recipients of this award and now boast the title of being a Wellread school.

See page 5



Empowering Students with Assistive Technology

Our Assistive Technology Homework Club had a fantastic visit to UCC for College Awareness Week.

Assistive Technology (AT) involves using any device or software that helps our students to work around challenges and play to their strengths. AT has helped many of our students to learn, communicate and thrive in school while growing their confidence and independence.

Special thanks to Paul Geeleher of UCCPlus+ and Deirdre Madden of the DSS Office in UCC for coordinating this trip to the campus and the training our students received in the mind mapping software programme XMindmapping.

Thanks also to the 1st year Occupational Therapy students who volunteered to deliver the programme in St Aidan's over the past few weeks and who gave our students a tour of the campus during our visit. They are pictured here with our students in the Quad in UCC.

Thank you Mr Walsh and Ms Flanagan for organising the programme and supporting our students.



Our Quiet Room in St Aidan's provides students and staff with a calm, relaxing space. It was given a makeover recently thanks to the initiative our Inclusion Support Assistant Ms Angela Byrne and the support of Dunnes Stores in Ballyvolane. Colourful scatter cushions, rugs, lamps, planters, frames and aroma diffusers were sponsored by the textile manager, Leonard Donovan. Our students Erin and Justin can be seen here proudly showing the room to the families that visited us on open night.

Our students have taken part in The Hope Foundation's Christmas Shoebox Appeal for many years. This charity sends thousands of gift-filled shoeboxes to children in Africa and Eastern Europe.

The children who receive the shoeboxes live on the margins of society or in areas affected by conflict.

In recent weeks our students have collected and donated new toys, stationery, toiletries and other useful items to fill these boxes.

Caitlin Hamilton, Paul O'Mahony and Cody Rutherford are pictured here packing shoeboxes at a collection point in Cork City.

Our Art department was thrilled to receive funding from The Artist in Schools Scheme which facilitated a professional artist to make a series of visits to a school in their county and work with students on a specific project.

Our 6th year students and their teacher, Ms Lee, had the privilege of working with ceramicist Brendan Ryan from Whitechurch. Their project focussed on the history of the Northside and the finished pieces are stunning representations of local landmarks.

In late November we had a ceremony to unveil the artwork which now holds pride of place at the main entrance to our school. The ceremony was attended by our Lord Mayor John Sheehan, CEO of Cork ETB Mr Denis Leamy, the artist Brendan Ryan, historian Diarmuid O'Donovan, local singer Myles Gaffney, Principal Ms Curley, parents, pupils and teachers.

Congratulations and well done to all who worked on this fantastic project.





I would like to thank Sidney for sharing her talent and time with us for the past 6 years in St Aidan's. Sidney has performed at many college events including concerts, masses, open nights and the Solas Awards.

During this time Sidney has completed her grades at the Cork School of Music and is now studying for her Diploma in Violin.

Sidney is also a member of the Cork Youth Orchestra and currently holds the prestigious position of lead player. Many of us will be familiar with the orchestra's performances in City Hall at Christmas time where The Snowman is an annual sell out concert.

Sidney will be travelling to Italy this summer for a series of concerts with the orchestra.

Not only is Sidney an amazing musician but she is known by staff and peers alike as an amazing person who is kind, incredibly modest and truly inspirational.

I wish Sidney every success in her future musical career.

Hilary Williamson

Congratulations to Clara Hogan who made her acting debut this year, performing alongside her grandfather, in the play Dockers, in Father Matthew Hall.

Clara is no stranger to these pages and has been a very active and productive member of our community through her involvement in school clubs, the Student Council, camogie, St John's ambulance and last but not least running marathons!

Clara hopes to join the Irish Navy and is seen here with Petty Officers Honor Murphy and Darren McCann on their recent visit to St Aidan's to deliver a presentation on careers in the Irish Naval Service.

We wish Clara the very best in her future careers!



Navy Careers Clara and Tristan 2019





We were recently awarded the National Wellread Award. This award is organised by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) and aims to create a culture of reading for pleasure among participating schools.

Our school signed up to the program in October 2017 and a huge amount of work has taken place over the past two years to secure the award. Since work commenced on this literacy initiative we have set up paired reading, a junior and senior book club and have taken part in the One Book One Community reading initiative.

We also have done tremendous work to foster a culture of reading across our entire school community, through the celebration of World Book Day, World Poetry Day and World Comic Day. Some of our most successful initiatives have been our Readathon in aid of the Mercy Hospital children's ward, Speed Dating with a Book, Blind Date with a Book and our wonderful creative book displays in our school library. One of the judges at the presentation ceremony made reference to how the students in our school are now reading beyond the prescribed syllabus. The novel "Once" by Morris Gleitzman was so popular in the classroom students wanted to read the entire series afterwards so the series was purchased for the school library and are always in popular demand.

Our portfolio which documented our Wellread journey since 2017 was submitted to the PDST in May and students Jagoda Lniska, Fiona O'Connell, Abby Murphy and Shauna Lane from our Wellread committee attended the presentation ceremony in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone to accept the award which we will hold from 2019 until 2022. We will reapply for the award in 2022 and look forward to working together as a school community to improve literacy levels and reading being at the heart of our school.



Pairing for Success

Paired reading is an enjoyable and valuable way of improving reading skills and confidence among students.

Since it was first introduced in the 1970's over 100 research studies have shown that this peer assisted programme results in increased reading accuracy, fluency and reading comprehension.

1st year students from Class Grainne are pictured here enjoying the paired reading class with their partners from 4th year.

Also pictured are Ronan O'Keefe and Ciara Greany who helped with the delivery of over 100 new short novels which will be used in our paired reading classes.



BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

I THINK...



DPS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

I QUESTION...



TRICK OR TREAT FOR TEMPLE STREET



CORK FILM FESTIVAL

I DESIGN...



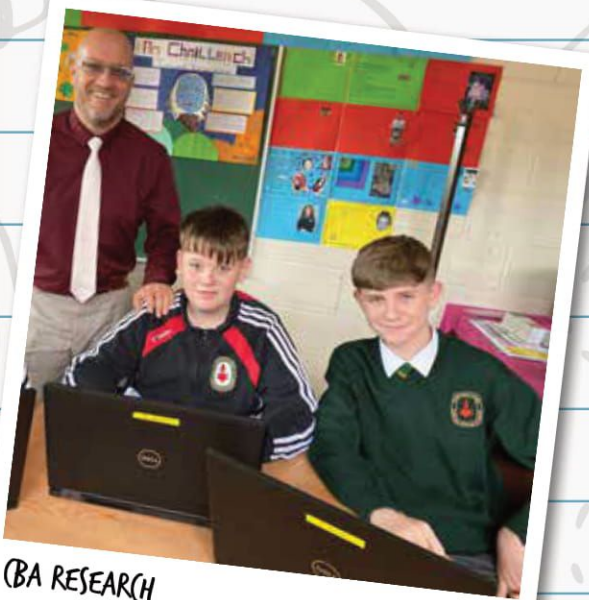
LUKE, TJ AND GIORGIO'S AUTUMN HARVEST



COFFEE MORNING FOR 1ST YEAR PARENTS

I CREATE...

I COLLABORATE...



CBA RESEARCH



IT EXPERTS!

I INVENT...



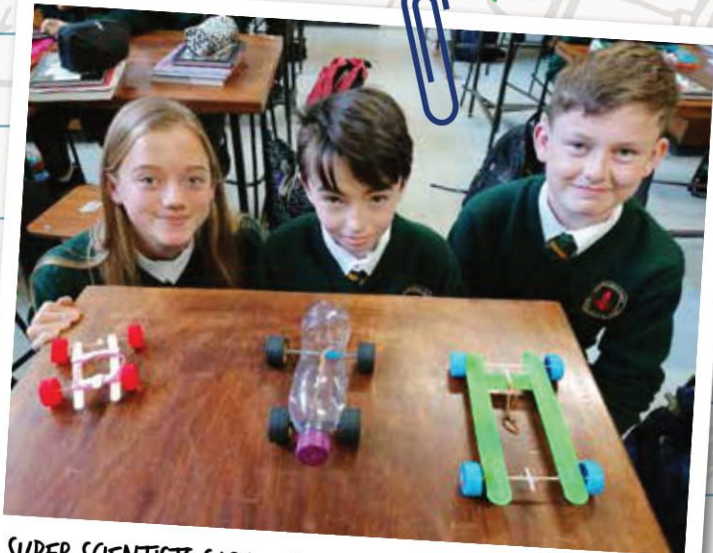
JOHN, SEAN, DANIEL AND JAMES ENJOYING SCRABBLE!

I SOLVE...



IRISH DANCING WITH TY'S

I REFLECT...



SUPER SCIENTISTS SARAH, SEAN AND KEITH



VISITING AUTHOR PAT FITZPATRICK

I LEARN!

VSWARE: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

VSware handles all core school data from attendance, assessments and behaviour. It provides teachers with the tools to monitor and improve the progress of their students. It allows parents to login to check term reports, attendance, behaviour reports and timetables.

VSware records many types of positive and negative behaviour. In St Aidan's, praise, recognition and acknowledgement of our pupils is part of our everyday practice. The students and parents pictured here have all benefitted from using VSware.



TARA GRIFFIN AND PARENTS

"VSware is a fantastic medium to track our child's progress in school. It makes us, as parents, very proud when we log in and read the positive comments about our daughter."

Anthony and Marcella Griffin

"VSware is an excellent way of staying informed of my daughter's progress in school. I can regularly check on results, time-keeping and behaviour. The girls enjoy showing us their positive comments and it really encourages them."

Tracy Kelleher



RACHEL KELLEHER AND MUM



SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Congratulations to Eoin Leahy, Niamh Mulcahy and Kieran Wentz on being awarded a Senior Scholarship in St Aidan's CC following the receipt of their outstanding Junior Certificate results in October.



Our 2nd year tutors and the year head, Mr Savage, have commended this group for their positivity and enthusiasm. Students pictured here are representative of many others who are recognised by their teachers, using VSware, for making an exceptional effort.

Well done to Cian Hyde, Jessica Mc Carthy, Kasey O'Mahony, Catriona Healy, Rebecca Moynihan and Mairead O'Gorman seen here and to Rachel Kelleher, Katie Saville, Molly O'Neill, Chloe Stewart, Leia Andrakovic, Amy Cullinane, Tara Griffin, Emma O'Sullivan and Shannon O'Sullivan for their 100% positive record!



Well done to the 3rd year students who have been acknowledged by their teachers not only for their outstanding work ethic but for their positive behaviour, their exceptional manners, their willingness to help others and their contribution to class.

The students pictured here, Ross Cronin, Katelynn Mullane, Jonathan Stout, Darren Ahern and Chloe Foo and those mentioned below have received a 100% positive report on VSware since September. Well done also to Aoife Higginston, Jack Kearney, Kristian Newing, Olan O'Brien, Ronan O'Keeffe, Holly O'Sullivan, Xavier Ticao and Glenn Towler.

TOP POINTS



1st years Rosaleen Brady, Maria Campinho, Sarah O'Sullivan and Abby Kenneally received the highest points on VSware this term. Their hard work, diligence and commitment to their studies has been recognised by their teachers. Well done!



Congratulations to 2nd year pupils Mairéad O'Gorman, Daniel Smith, Courtney Corbett and Molly O'Neill on receiving the highest amount of positive points on VSware from September to December 2019.



Well done to Olan O'Brien, Darren Ahern, Ronan O'Keeffe and Xavier Ticao pictured here. These outstanding pupils received the highest points in 3rd year for their motivation, positive behaviour and contribution to class.

CAREERS IN STEM



Natalie Huggins and Kim Mullane are pictured here following a careers talk given to our students by past pupil Aoibhinn Kelleher and her colleague Dave from PepsiCo Ireland.

Aoibhinn is an Engineering Technician at PepsiCo's Research and Development facility. She spoke to students about the vast opportunities available to this generation in Science and Technology. She became a STEM ambassador to promote an awareness, especially for girls, of the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths in a rapidly changing world.

Many thanks to Aoibhinn for delivering such a valuable insight into the industry and to PepsiCo for promoting careers in this area by facilitating work placements.

"We went to the PepsiCo Research and Development centre in Little Island on a work placement and while there we ran a pilot production for Gatorade concentrate. This involved creating a mixture of water, gum and oil in a high shear mixer called a Scanima. We also worked in the sensory laboratory where we had to describe the flavours of different mixtures. It was a fantastic experience and has given us a new outlook on career opportunities in this industry."

Natalie Huggins and Kim Mullane



Taimid go léir ag foghlaim le chéile leis an MRB (Measúnú Rang Bhunnaithe- CBA as Béarla) agus dhein na mic-léinn éacht anso chun é a dhéanamh agus é a chur i gcrích in am. Táim an-bhródúil astu.

Ról-Ghlacadh le Muintir an Tarna Bliain: Tá na mic/iníonacha-léinn ag déanamh sár-oibre leis an gcúrsa nua. Táid dúthrach, díograiseach agus toilteanach chun oibre. Is é an cuspóir a thá againn dóibh ná a bheith ina bhfoghlaimoirí féin-spreagtha neamhspléacha agus ba léir gur baineadh amach an ceann scríbe san leis an Ról-Ghlacadh ranga. Tá an-chuid den obair an ranga ar líne agus sna Leabhair Phunainne anois. Mo cheol sibhse go léir.



Ag tús na bliana chuamar go hIarthar Chorcaí go dtí an Ionad Cultúrtha Mhíchíl Uí Choileáin chun An Ghaoluinn a chur i gcomhthéacs stairiúil dár gcuidse mic/iníonacha-léinn. Ba lá dár saol é ag foghlaim mar gheall ar ár laoch agus ag scríobh tionscnaimh don Leabhar Punainne níos déanaí. Úsáideadh an-chuid des na scileanna nua sa tsonraíocht nua chun an sprioc seo a bhaint amach ar ár mbóthar foghlamtha. Is éabhlóid agus réabhlóid tuisceana nua é dár gcuidse scoláirí. Nár laga Dia a gcuid oibre go deo.

Making the Transition

We invited students and teachers from our neighbouring schools, Scoil Oilibheir and St Patrick's Boys NS, to visit us in St Aidan's and experience what it is really like to be a 1st year student. This Transfer and Transition programme is aimed at those pupils who may be worried or concerned about what to expect when they come to secondary school.

We were thrilled to meet so many delightful and enthusiastic pupils who brought many smiles and stories to brighten our day.

Science class always proves popular and baking in Home Economics is clearly another favourite. The exciting programme of events did not stop there and students are pictured here enjoying PE in the school gym, croissants in French class and of course, lunch in the school canteen.



Baking with Ms Kingston



Testing the treadmills and rowing machines with Mr Walsh

SCIENCE



Ava and Sophie enjoying Ms O Meara's Science class



Great smiles from Jack, Ruby, Sophie, Nicole, Tia and Ms O'Connell



Cian and Jamie with Mr Ring



Conor and Zach with our TY assistants, Lauren and Kieran



James, Luke and Darragh enjoying lunch



St Patricks visit French class



Waiting for lunch with Mr Horgan



Hoping that 2020 brings peace and happiness to all, from Weronia and Lewis



Wishing our friends and families a fantastic 2020, from Eoin and Jodie



Merry Christmas to the staff and students of St Aidan's from Aoibhe and Stephen



Wishing our neighbours and friends a happy holiday season, from Olivia and Scott

