



TULLAMORE COLLEGE

our **winter** edition

VOL. 11 NO. 2

DEC. 2012

NEWSLETTER

*Wishing all our readers a very
happy Christmas and New Year!*

GREEN SHOOTS!

Eco Friendly Daisy!

Over the Summer, Daisy the Cow part of our fifth years Milk It Campaign was entered in the Tullamore Agricultural Show. Daisy came first in her category for best item made from recycled materials.

Ciaran Murray

Green Schools

Tullamore College is taking its first steps toward getting its very own Green Flag. Over the past week a Green Schools committee has been set up with representation from 1st, 2nd, TY and 5th year students. These students, along with the help of Miss Browne, Ms Howlin and Miss Coyne will be the backbone of the campaign in the school. Thank you to all those students who volunteered! Through the Green Schools campaign we hope to make Tullamore College a more environmental friendly school, by reducing our waste, stamping out the litter bugs and increasing our recycling efforts. We hope everyone will get involved and do their bit! Ms. Browne

Trip to Brussels

Tullamore College was put on the map on 26th November as they represented Ireland in Brussels Belgium as part of U4energy competition. Tullamore College were in Category C titled "Best school campaign for energy efficiency". It was a well organised competition in which all expenses were paid by U4energy. Katie Rabbitte a second year student represented the school in which a trophy and certificate was received at the awards ceremony in the Belgian Comic strip. It was a huge honour to represent Ireland and indeed Tullamore College in such a competitive competition. Success arose from the hard work and dedication of the College's students to create energy efficiency board games for the 'One Good Idea' competition here in Ireland. During the trip there was an exciting opportunity of visiting the European Commission and the Parliament and we attended an exclusive workshop on polar icecaps, this was topped off by a walking tour of Brussels where we viewed the city and its astonishing architecture and got a chance to sample some of Belgium's renowned chocolates. This was a fantastic experience and greatly enjoyed. Ms. Coyne

Congratulations to our current LC1 and TY students who received prizes for achieving the top Junior Certificate results in their class group - Leighanne Kelly, Hristina Ignatova, Grainne Black, Niamh Jones and Corey Galvin each received their prize at our Whole School Assembly earlier this term.

Ms. Hickey



Above L to R: Mr. Noel Graham, Ms. Fiona Graham, President Mr. Michael D. Higgins, Mrs. Myra Graham.

Gold Gaisce Award

Ms Graham, receiving her **Gold Gaisce Award** from President Mr. Michael D. Higgins this year. Ms Graham was one of only 65 young people in Ireland to receive the award. Ms. Graham is currently helping 30 students in the school complete their Bronze and Silver Awards which they will be receiving in the Radisson Hotel, Athlone.

Anti-Bullying Awareness Week

A successful Anti Bullying Awareness week took place recently. With the focus on strategies to deal with cyber bullying, the students are now aware of the issues involved. The topic was covered in SPHE lessons and posters were displayed throughout the school. Students participated in the Poster and Slogan competitions and a DVD was shown. The key advice regarding cyber bullying i.e don't respond and keep the evidence as proof was further highlighted in the competitions. Congratulations to the winners - Muireann Griffin, Luana Ussene, Kayleigh Brereton, Eoghan Cahill (Best Posters), Caoimhe Griffin, Chloe Healy Lawlor, Danielle Donohue (best slogans).

Ms. M. O'Connor

MS Readathon

Congratulations to the following students who participated in this year's M.S.Readathon; Caoimhe Griffen, Lydia Coyne, Muireann Griffen, Dylan Harvey, Annie Egan and Stephen Harte. A total of €165.30 was raised for this worthwhile charity. Stephen Harte received a Michael Murphurgo novel in recognition for reading 24 books over the course of the month long readathon. Well done to all the students and teachers as well as the sponsors.

Ms. Finlay

Rex, King of Canines

My name is Jason and I have quite an amazing dog. His name is Rex. Once when I was bored out the back of the house I began to talk to Rex. Weird? Yes, but then I decided to teach him to wink. Every time Rex would do what I asked him to do, I gave him a treat. That's the easiest way to teach your dog. Everytime I winked at Rex he winked back but if anyone else in the family tried he ignored them. Rex is a Cocker Spaniel. They're used a lot over in England. Their speciality is retrieving birds that are shot down. Rex has a nice smooth golden coat and hand-length floppy ears. He's a brilliant sniffer dog. On his birth cert his name is The Golden Boy. We bought him in Co. Donegal. His father was a famous full breed retriever called The Golden Cocker. There is even a statue of him! Rex's mother was a black and white, curly-haired cocker. A lovely friendly dog. Rex has about another 10 years to live so he is still full of life and energy. I love coming home after school because as soon as I walk through those doors he's just sitting there with his tail wagging. He loves when I rub behind his ears. You'd see his eyes just close softly and sometimes he'd drift into a sleep.



Before I go to bed I always say 'Goodnight, Rex'. He gives me a wink and I give him one back. That's the story of Rex. Happy Christmas to the king of canines, my best friend.

Jason Mills. 3rd Year

Public Speaking Competition

On the 14th November, 2012 our senior girls public speaking team participated in the Business and Professional Womens' Public Speaking Competition. The team included Alana Baker as the Chairperson, Yoshi Nolan as the Guest Speaker and Hristina Ignatova as the Giver of Thanks. Our topic was 'The Importance of Literature in our Lives'. Unfortunately, we didn't make it through to the final but we will look forward to competing again next year. We would like to thank Ms. Gallagher for working with us and Ms. Hickey and Ms. Graham for their input.

Alana Baker

Shoe Box Appeal

The shoe box appeal in Tullamore College in association with the Team Hope organisation has been an outstanding success this year within the school. This year over 70 boxes were prepared and brought into school by both first and transition year students. The vast number of boxes this year reveals how generous and sympathising the students are as they realise that although Ireland is going through an economic downturn in recent years, children in poor European countries and Africa are in a more unfortunate state. This is Tullamore College's second year to take part in this worthy appeal and with the student's dedication and generosity we hope it will be a yearly contribution that will make a huge difference to those in most need of hope and happiness at Christmas.

Ms Coyne

Youth Alpha Course

A group of 6th year students were offered the chance to rediscover and challenge their faith once again by engaging in the Youth Alpha Course. This is generously run every week by Sr. Genny, Fr. Patrick, Annette, Tony and Rev. William. We participated in several weeks of discussion on controversial topics such as the Bible, Sins and Was Jesus Real? We were enthusiastically welcomed with breakfast rolls and tea as well as pizza and chips generously supplied throughout the day. Our guest speaker was Johnny Summerville. The Tullamore College students were joined by the Christian Brothers to discuss the Holy Spirit. In our discussion groups, we questioned what the Holy Spirit was and what it meant to accept the Holy Spirit. After lengthy discussion and some laughs too we had a quiet reflection and prayer time in the Chapel followed by a modern style Mass to sum up a great day of thought and reflection. The Tullamore College students would like to thank all involved for their hard work in making this such a successful day and we look forward to the continuation of our course!

Nicolle Murphy

T.Y. NEWS

Transition Year Students Address Agenda for a Better Europe

Dylan Hyland, Eileen De Souza, Michaela Monaghan, Jennifer Donlon and Pierce Cleary represented Tullamore College at the Regional European Youth Parliament in Castlebar from November 29th – December 3rd. The European Youth Parliament was founded in 1987. The aim is to encourage youth all over Europe to be active European citizens. Following their first week of work experience, the five young delegates took the train to Castlebar where they joined students from all over Ireland to discuss and formulate policy documents on issues as diverse as Gender Equality, Stem Cell Research, Gay Marriage and Adoption, Securing European Borders and Protecting Intellectual Property. Students worked in committees, defining the problems, developing solutions then presenting their written resolutions to a general assembly where voting takes place. It was a busy, demanding weekend where ideas and opinions were voiced and shared. An experience to remember. Another challenging module in Tullamore College's T.Y. Programme.

Ms. McArdle

T.Y. Students Face the Phoenix

On Friday, 23rd November our T.Y. students brought their mini company ideas before a panel of local Phoenixes in a bid to win seed capital for their company. The students told the panel of judges about their products, marketing campaigns and projected sales in a ten minute pitch. Congratulations to our four successful companies – Conor Lynch Woodturning, Brace Yourself Ltd., Magnefan Ltd. and Geolight Ltd. who secured an investment in their companies. We would like to thank Tullamore Credit Union for organising the competition.

Ms. Gallagher

Science Week 2012 in Tullamore College

Science Week kicked off with two days of 'Science for Fun' where local primary school students got to take part in fun science experiments including gloop, heart dissection and elephant tooth paste organised by T.Y. students. All junior students were invited to the Lab. during lunch where science behind the magic tricks was demonstrated and they

got to complete other fun experiments. First year science students went on a science school trip to Kilkenny where they learned all about electricity in a fun and interactive environment run by Air Grid school science programme. Senior science students got to learn about the world of biotechnology in a talk given by Liam Brennan, a lecturer in N.U.I. Galway. Science week ended on a high with intense competition at the 5th year science quiz. The winning team included Niamh Mooney, Daragh Fogarty, Ethan Cox and Colm Woodlock. Second place was awarded to Robin Maher, Alana Baker, Billie Daly and Mark Kinahan. Ms. Howlin



Science News

On the 12th October, the 5th and 6th year Physics students went to see the CERN Exhibition in Galway. After an early start and a long bus journey, we went inside to learn about some of the most important work in Physics, past, present and future. We learned about the Big Bang and the creation and formation of the Universe. Then we moved on and were taught about the various particles and forces that make up the world as we know it. We also learned about the mysterious dark matter before attending a lecture about some of the work CERN does. We learned how we can only explain 4% of the matter in the Universe and how CERN is carrying out important experiments in their headquarters at the large Hadron Collider in Switzerland. It was a great day out and was enjoyed by all the students. We thank Ms. Flynn for organising it. Mark Kinahan, Daragh Fogarty, Hristina Ignatova, John Hamill, LC1C.



Above: J. Bermington and T. Scully do experiments during Science Week.

Comhairle na nOg

A group of 12 LC1 and TY students represented the school at the Youth Enterprise Conference in the Tullamore Court Hotel on 25th Oct. This conference was organised by Offaly Comhairle na nOg which aims to give young people a voice and encourage greater participation in society. Students found the conference very engaging as they listened to young entrepreneurs tell their stories as well as participating in creativity and ideas generation workshops.

Ms. Hickey

J.C.S.P./H.S.C.L.

First and Second Year students are currently participating in Numeracy Initiatives to develop their speed and accuracy in mathematics. The Initiatives also include 'numeracy moments' whereby students record moments when they come across mathematics outside of maths class. This cross curricular initiative highlights the importance of numeracy in everyday life and has helped students appreciate how immersed our lives are in mathematics. Numerous worksheets have been filled out and handed up to Mr. Moran and Ms. Finlay who will make presentations at the end of term. The J.C.S.P. classes are continuing to fill up learning outcomes in their folders and congratulations to James Minnock who got Folder of the Month for Numbers.

Mr. Moran

Gerry Duffy – Motivational Talk Tullamore Court Hotel

On Oct. 24th Tullamore Lions Club hosted a presentation by Gerry Duffy entitled "Your Success is what you want it to be" Gerry related his methods of achieving sporting success as the winner of the U.K. DecaMan Ironman to achieving exam success. Students and teachers found the presentation to be very worthwhile. Thanks to the Tullamore Lions Club for hosting the event.

Mo Chéad Lá Sa Mhéanscoil

Is cuimhin liom mo chéad lá sa mhéanscoil.

Rith mé isteach gan mhoill,
'S ní raibh aon duine ag gol.

Shuigh mé síos le Lydia agus Tara
Mar bhíomar le chéile
I mbunscoil Mhuire,
'S ní raibh aon duine ag gol.

Chuamar go dtí ár seomra ranga.
D'éist gach duine go crua
Lenár múinteoir nua.
'S ní raibh aon duine ag gol.

Chuaigh mé abhaile
Ar leathuair tar éis a trí
Ach ní bheidh mé críochnaithe
Go ceann cúpla mí.
Táim ag tnúth le craic 'gus spraoi.

Muireann Ní Ghríofa 1OU

Business Brains

Two teams of four business students from 3rd year in Tullamore College travelled to A.I.T. in Athlone to compete in a Business and General Knowledge Quiz. Over 30 teams from the Leinster region participated in the quiz. The questions were fast and furious, some very easy and others very difficult. The competition was close all the way through with countless tie-breakers, leaving only a point or two separating teams. Tullamore College teams were placed in 2nd and 4th place. The 2nd place team consisted of Emma Kirwan, Finian Carton, Damien Mooney and Jack Dooley. They now progress to the All Ireland stages in University of Limerick. The 4th place team were Jennifer Coyne, Cian Fogarty, David Garamszegi and Stephen O'Connor. An enjoyable night was had by all students who did Tullamore College proud. Emma Kirwan



Above L to R:
E. Kirwan, D. Mooney, J. Dooley and F. Carton.

LCA Hotel, Catering & Tourism Calendars

As part of the H.C.T. task, the LC2A class made Calendars for 2013 that show wonderful pictures taken by the class of areas of interest in Tullamore. Calendars are available to purchase for only €5. Ms. Doolan

LCA - Christmas Lunch

The LC2A H.C.T. class are hosting a three course Christmas Lunch for five lucky teachers. It is a great chance for the class to show their culinary skills. Ms. Doolan

Home Cook Baking Competition

Congratulations to all participants in the Home Cook Baking Competition – there were wonderful entries. Best of luck to all the bakers in the national competition.

Home Economics Dept.

After School Cookery Classes

After school cookery classes will begin after school in New Year. Places are limited – so contact Ms. Graham or Ms. Finlay if interested in attending. Ms. Graham

Well done to Alana Dillon and Kotryna Kozlovskyte on winning the Consumer Studies Poster Competition. Ms. Dunstan

Junior Football

Tullamore College 2-08 Ballymahon S.S. 1-07

Tullamore got off to a good start in their junior football campaign in Ballymahon recently. Tullamore lead by 4 points at half time but missed numerous choices in the process. A goal from Shane Tierney early in the second half consolidated the lead. However, concentration levels dipped and Ballymahon came back into the game with a goal and two points without reply to leave only two points between the teams. However a strong finish from Tullamore with points from Shane Tierney, Barry Mooney and Dylan Hyland put the game beyond doubt. Best on the day for Tullamore were Conor Dunne, Shane Tierney, Joe O'Brien and Brian Ryan.

Tullamore College 2-16 Kilbeggan C.S. 3-05

Tullamore College beat Kilbeggan C.S. in their second group game in O'Brien Park. Tullamore recently qualified for the knockout stages in Killina. An early goal from the visitors rocked the home team after 2 minutes. However, Tullamore responded well with 2 points, the first a very well worked 45 between Shane Tierney and Dylan Hyland. A solid platform from midfield from Alan Scally, Clint Horan and Kevin Kinahan meant Tullamore College dominated the game. A scrappy goal pushed Tullamore ahead at half time at 1-06 to 1-04. Tullamore College pushed ahead in the second half with five unanswered points from Aidan Campbell, Shane Tierney, Dylan Hyland and Clint Horan. Tullamore were flying at this stage and were getting good movement patterns going with John Tobin and Conor Dunne very influential and with Kealan Feery solid between the posts. Tullamore unloaded the bench in the last 10 minutes and finished out as 9 point winners. Best on the day were Aidan Campbell, John Tobin, James Bracken, Adam Kelly and Alan Scally.

Junior Boys Golf

Tullamore College competed recently in the G.U.I. Leinster Boys Championship. The qualifying competition was a stroke play competition in which handicaps were capped at 15. The team consisted of four Castle Barna G.C. members – Lee O'Meara, 6, Joe Joslin 13, Conor Casey 13 and Damien Mooney 13. With 18 schools seeking to qualify from this group, T. C. played some excellent golf to win the qualifying competition and Joe Joslin playing inspired golf to card a net score of -7. The final was played in tough conditions in Killeen Golf Club outside Clane. Conor Casey performed best of the T.C. team with a -1 net score off his 13 handicap. The team finished 5th overall which was quite an achievement given that 54 teams had entered the competition. Mr. Begley

SPORTS DESK

U16 Girls' Football

Tullamore College has entered their first ever U16 girl's football team into the schools Leinster league competition. Their first match was against Oakland's Community College in Edenderry. Despite difficult weather conditions the girls played exceptionally well, with strong performances from Yoshi Nolan, Ciannait Goulding and Claudia Darcy. The team were extremely unlucky to lose by just one point. In the second round of the league they met Colaiste Iosagain where despite best efforts they were met by tough competition on the day, as they were a stronger and more skilfully advanced team due to their involvement in this league over the years. Although Colaiste Iosagain was our most difficult challenge to date, a number of students from Tullamore College stood out from the team and excelled in their performance on the day, these include the following - Laura Doyle, Jessie Nolan and Emma Kirwan. Their enthusiasm and skill is promising for the future games in the league this coming year.

Ms. Coyne