



TULLAMORE COLLEGE

our **spring** edition VOL. 11 NO. 3

MARCH 2013

NEWSLETTER



Ski Trip 2013

During mid-term, teachers organised the ski trip to Italy for second years. Myself and eighteen others went on the trip. We were accompanied by Ms. Geoghegan, Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Meehan. We went to Pinzola in the north of Italy. We got the bus to Dublin Airport early Thursday morning. After we checked in, we got ready for the flight. We arrived in Italy safely. The last part of the journey was a three hour bus journey. Everyone was tired, so most of us slept. We arrived at the hotel at around 4 p.m. The hotel was very homely. Every night, the woman in the hotel was very generous with food. We definitely didn't go hungry. Our first morning skiing was tough. We were up early for breakfast and down to get our boots and skis. We walked down to the resort in our boots and carried our poles. Our first time in the gondola was frightening, we were up so high. When we met the ski guides, they were lovely. We had two men called Alberto and Fabio. We had two lessons a day that lasted two hours. It was a lot of effort but we got used to it. Two of the days, it was snowing very heavily and it was hard to see. In the evenings, after dinner, we went in the common room. We would play cards or watch a film. None of us wanted to leave but sadly we had to. On the last night, our instructors came for dinner. They presented us with medals and gave us our grades from our ski test. We had many thanks for Alberto and Fabio. It was a great experience. I really recommend going on the trip. It's great fun and everyone should get the chance to go. It was by far the best week of my life. Katie Rabbitte, 2AF

Green Week

As part of our green schools initiative the green school committee headed up by Ms Browne launched 'Green Week' in the school which ran from 18th-22nd of February. There were events running all week as part of 'Green Week', they included competitions such as a green poster, green poem and a green slogan competition.

One of the highlights from the week was the 'Green Carnival' which took place at lunchtime in the gym for first years. It consisted of all the traditional carnival games and prizes but the games were made from recycled items. They included bowling made from plastic bottles and cans, going fish where you had to catch a can with a fishing rod, knock down the cans and many more.

Other events that took place was a litterbug beetle drive for second years, a school based recycling quiz where the answers could be found posted all around the school and a talk for 5th years by the Environmental Liaison Officer.

As a school each class has made a commitment to 'Turn Over a New Leaf', and their commitments were written on green paper leaves which have been placed on a large wooden tree in the centre of the school.

Green Week Prize winners

Recycling quiz

1st: Dillon Donoghue, 2nd: Emily Deverell

Poster competition

1st: Niall Whelan,

2nd: Caoimhe Griffen and Lauren Gorry.

Slogan competition - Irish version

1st: Caitlin McDarby

Slogan competition - English version

1st: Chelsea Kilroe, 2nd: Dominik Wozniak

Poetry Competition

1st: Nicole Rattigan & Zoe McDonagh,

2nd: Dylan Cuskelly

A Helping Hand

On Friday the 22nd of February the LCVP 6th year class and the Transition Year students came together to present our local charity organisation "St. Vincent de Paul" with a cheque for €430. We raised the money by doing a "School Bingo" and this years "Bazaar". We were delighted to have raised such a great amount and we hope it will be of good use to St Vincent de Paul. Chelsea Henchy

Below: LCVP Class with cheque for St. Vincent de Paul



Leabhair Power!

Pause for thought

"There is no such thing as a child that hates to read; there are only children who have not yet found the right book" Frank Serafini, Author, Educator

World Book Day

World Book Day was celebrated on Thursday March 7th with staff and students enjoying some D.E.A.R. (drop everything and read) time for 15 minutes at 10.a.m. Thanks to all the first and second years who participated in a World Book Day Quiz in the library at lunchtime. The winner of the quiz was Ciara Cahill. Remember to use your book tokens in the local bookshops before March 24th. Check out the website www.worldbookday.com to download the free app to access short stories written by popular authors of teenage fiction. Ms Hickey and Ms Finlay



French Exchange to Segré

Tullamore College welcomed a group of French students from Lycée Blaise Pascal in Segré, (North-West France) last week. After a very successful trip to France last March, the Irish students returned the favour. The French students stayed with their correspondents' families and unanimously praised the warm welcome they were given. A very good time was had by all as the two groups bonded over a variety of cultural outings and activities. Among other things, the French students enjoyed several classes in Tullamore College and were given a tour of the Tullamore Dew Heritage Centre. All students also celebrated traditional Irish culture with a bodhrán class and a Ceili in Dun Na Si Heritage Centre in Moate. Great spirits prevailed throughout the week. Judging by the laughter and tears seen at the good-bye meal organised by the students in the Wolfrap on Wednesday evening, there is no doubt that life-long memories and genuine friendships have been made.

Ms. Rougerie

L.C.A. News

Congratulations to the sixth year L.C.A. students who successfully completed the task examinations in February. The tasks ranged from a group project making calendars with a Tourism in Tullamore theme to individual tasks whereby students investigated issues in the media and undertook actions relating to them. This involved presentations to other students, letter writing, developing information leaflets and posters. The students also participated in the Practical Achievement Task for which individuals learned to play guitar, make a chicken house, flower arranging, how to care for an ill person, hairdressing, baking, decorate a bedroom and woodwork. Well done to all the teachers who helped with all tasks including Ms. Doolan, Mr. Cosgrave, Ms. O'Connor and Mr. Carton. We look forward to seeing the results in April and are delighted that the students are still learning and practicing the skills they began due to task work.

L.C.A. 5th Year Task

Our 5th year students of L.C.A. completed a brilliant task with Mr. Begley whereby they surveyed a range of students from first to fifth year in regard to participation in sport and physical activity. The results were extremely interesting for e.g. girls were on average more involved in sport than boys in first year and less involved in fifth year. The L.C.A. students learned how to use Excel and produce graphs which are on display on the notice board opposite the Canteen. Well done to all and thanks to all who participated.

Mr. Carton



Movie Madness!!

The LC1A group set up and run a cinema for 1st year students as part of a task for VP and English. The group worked hard, organising movies, snacks and times for 1st years to come to the cinema. It was a great task and everyone involved had a great time and worked hard to make the 'Movie Madness' a success!

Well done LC1A class.

Ms. Doolan and Ms. Sheerin

Co Operation is cool

On Thursday the 28th of February Tullamore college entered Co Operation is cool competition in Laois Education centre where the aim was to show the schools ability to co operate and work together to create a project. Tullamore College met with six other second level projects and numerous primary schools. Tullamore project idea was to make musical instruments from recycled materials such as cans, bottles and scraps from the wood work room. Over the weeks they had collected enough to make the musical instruments which took a lot of co-operation and team work and they got a lot of help from different departments in the schools such as Art and Woodwork. Then the instruments were constructed 3rd year students Finian Carton, John Tobin and Ashling Magner took it upon themselves to transform a well known song by Journey 'Don't Stop Believing' to 'Don't Stop Recycling' to give Tullamore College a competitive edge among other schools and certainly did achieve this as the judges were equally impressed with their efforts.

The LC2A Hotel, Catering and Tourism Group entered their task of 2013 calendars to the competition also. The class took photos of areas around Tullamore and created a beautiful 2013 calendar which they sold around the school and town. This was a great task to show the co-operation of the 9 LCA students and all the work they did in different classes - English, Maths, Computers, Art and HCT. Everyone who saw the calendars was very impressed with the high standard and professionalism of the group. Three LC2A students went to Laois to represent the group - Mary Dunne, Rachel McDonagh and Avril Daly.

A transition year group entered the competition also with their enterprise initiative of Lumo Pets. A great creation to allow your dog to be seen at night when out walking.

At the end of the competition Tullamore College were thrilled as they became overall winner for the 2nd year running and also bringing home 3rd and 4th place prizes, highlighting the commitment of the students to work together to achieve success once again.

Ms Coyne, Ms. Doolan and Ms. Gallagher.



LC2A - Avril Daly, Rachel McDonagh, Mary Dunne with Ms. Doolan receive their calendar award from Laois co-operation representatives.

First Aid

Over the past several years our Transition Year Class has partaken in a First aid Course with Brendan Gilligan, a paramedic of Tullamore's Order of Malta. We are doing the course in conjunction with our Social and Community Studies with Ms Dunstan and as part of our Y.S.I. project with Ms Graham for Development Education, "How to Aid a Life". We have been fundraising since September under Ms Dunstan's watchful eye and through our hard work we finally made it! During the course, we have learned different injuries and how to identify them eg. sprains and breaks. We discussed our rights and responsibilities as basic first aiders. We were trained in CPR; mouth – to – mouth, compressions, how to do and when to use the recovery position, bandaging certain wounds temporarily and what to do in certain cases, such as shock. We will receive a three year certificate at the end which enables us to perform these actions if necessary. For our Y.S.I. project, we propose that every school should have people trained in First Aid and schools that comply with this will receive a red flag. The concept is similar to the "Green Schools Flag". It's important to have people trained in schools because you never know when it'll come in handy. For more about our project visit our website:

www.howtoaidalife.webs.com

Jodie Bermingham

J.C.S.P.

Good luck to the 3MOC class who are currently completing their Folders and final Profiles. Well done to 1JC who completed the Paired Maths Initiative with T.Y. students. They are currently undertaking a similar Literary Initiative with T.Y. students. The MJB class have successfully completed their 'Make a Book' in History and Geography and will be attending the Exhibition on Friday, 15th March in Dublin.

Mr. Moran, J.C.S.P. Co-Ordinator



Above: Paired Maths - David Harrington & Leanne Cusack receiving their awards.

Storyteller Michael Creagh

On Friday 8th first year students were treated to a storytelling session with Laois storyteller Michael Creagh. Michael is a popular visitor to the school and is back again this year by popular demand. His entertaining and energetic performance always engages the students and this year he didn't disappoint. The student participation was particularly memorable. Thanks to Ms. Finlay for organising this successful event.

English Club

English Club is on every Thursday at lunchtime in the library and is open to students who would like to do drama, reading or creative writing. If you are interested just come to the library@ 1.10 on Thursday.

Ms. Hickey

A Trip That Changed My Life

A schools study visit to one of the poorest countries on earth will long live in the memory of seven secondary school students from around Ireland. We set off during half-term on the annual Self Help Africa trip. I travelled with my teacher Ms Emma Coyne from Tullamore College. Prior to our visit we had carried out numerous research projects, essays and interviews in order to be chosen as the one to represent our school. I was so excited to be selected.

Our enduring memories will be of the warmth of welcome, the rich culture and tradition, and the great sense of drive and determination of the people. Our recent experience in far-off Burkina Faso was unforgettable. Long gone are the stereotypical images of hardship and deprivation that are fed to us by the media. These people are spending our money, the money so generously donated by the Tullamore Community.

Travelling to the West African country on a schools study trip with Self Help Africa, we got the chance to visit museums, parks and cultural events, while also meeting rural farming communities. We spent time with various women's groups and other African volunteers who were working with the Irish development agency. We arrived in the capital of the West African state to a carnival atmosphere that greeted the nation's homecoming soccer team following their near triumph in this year's Africa Nations Cup soccer tournament. Our week in Africa started in memorable fashion, and just got better and better!

It was a first for me to travel to Africa and it most definitely did not disappoint! I went not sure what to expect. While the people manage with a lot less than we do here in Ireland, the trip showed me that we are all the same as people in so many ways. We have the same dreams, the same fears and the same hope for a better future.

We were also invited to visit artisan crafts people. We were introduced to a crafts enterprise co-op supporting the disabled. We met and interacted with our African counterparts during a visit to a local secondary school and we travelled to a youth development organization in the capital, Ouagadougou (pronounced wagga do goo)

Self Help Africa is an Irish development agency that has been working for the past 30 years to help rural African communities to grow more and earn more in order to work their way out of poverty.

The charity has a Development Education section that conducts workshops, gives presentations, and supports students and teachers in Ireland to have a greater understanding of the issues and challenges faced by people in the Developing World.

To find out more visit: www.selfhelpafrica.org

Ms. Coyne & Jodie Bermingham with children from Burkina Faso.



T.Y. Enterprise

Conor Lynch, a Transition Year student won second prize in the Senior Category in the Offaly County Enterprise Awards in the Tullamore Court Hotel on Thursday, 7th March. The other companies who participated were Magnefan Ltd., Biopots Ltd. and Brace Yourself Ltd.

Guitar Club

Guitar Club for the Laoch Award continues every Tuesday at lunch time in the M.T.W. room. Mr. Comiskey is teaching a Beginners Class where the students are making great progress learning the basic chords and how to read guitar tablature. Contact Mr. Comiskey or Mr. Carton if you would like to join the class.
Mr. Carton

Woodwork Club

Woodwork Club for second year students who are participating in the Laoch Award is on during Wednesday lunchtime. The lessons are aimed at students who do not do M.T.W. as a school subject. The students are making a pivoting mirror which they started with Mr. Maloney. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Old King Oak



TY Students explore the King Oak in Charleville Estate which was placed 3rd in the 'Tree of the year' competition.

Sports Desk

Operation Transformation

Tullamore College recently ran an Operation Transformation programme to promote physical activity and healthy living in conjunction with the R.T.E. television programme. Overseen by Mr. Begley at lunchtime, it involved running and walking the canal line and a route around town twice weekly. Initially enthusiasm was rife and the on the first day over 50 students took to the canal line to rid themselves of the Christmas excess.

Slowly but surely the numbers dropped off as only the strongest and most committed survived. By the end of week 6, all students had moved up a level with group 1 comfortably moving up to 2 minutes and 30 second walk intervals.

As part of this initiative, students were given exercise programmes and it is hoped they will continue to complete at home to help maintain a healthy and happy life and go some way in counteracting the obesity epidemic. All students who completed the programme received Certificates of Participation and hopefully a new found appreciation of the value of exercise and healthy living. Well done to all concerned.
Mr. Begley and Ms. Howlin

Home Economics News

Junior Certificate Home Economics Practical exams will be taking place between April 15th and 26th, 2013. All students have chosen their assignments and have had a practice run in school. We would like to encourage all the students participating in the Junior Cert. Home Economics Practicals to practice their cookery assignments as much as possible over Easter.

All first year Home Economics students are currently completing the Textile Studies section of the First Year course. It is essential that students bring their practical work to class at all times to ensure the work is completed on time.

Second Year Home Economics students have all begun work on their 3rd Year Junior Cert. projects for Home Economics. Some are completing Textile Craft Projects and some Childcare Projects. It is extremely important that they meet the deadlines set for these and that the work is all their own to ensure 10 marks for originality of project. This project is worth 15% of their overall result in Home Economics in the Junior Cert.
Ms. Dunstan

Home School Community Liaison

This term has been very busy. After school cookery classes started for a group of 1st and 2nd years with Ms. Graham. Mr. Caslin is running an after school art course for a very enthusiastic group of 1st years on Mondays.

Parent classes in Family Cookery and Basic Computers were well attended on Monday nights.

Our 1st year J.C.S.P. classes are being helped by our Transition Year students with their reading and maths.

We had a very good Cyber-Bullying Workshop delivered by Barnardos to all 1st and 2nd years and their parents on March 4th.

At present, our international students are preparing for a multi-cultural exhibition in our Gym. on Friday, March 22nd. All their parents/guardians are invited to visit what should be a very exciting event in our school calendar from 2.30 – 3.30 p.m. on that day.

Marian Finlay



Above: Class MJB with Ms. Finlay - Business and History trip to Heritage Centre Tullamore

First Year Girls' Basketball

Well done to the First Year Girls Basketball team who defeated Monasterevin (42-18) and Kildare (38-6). After these well-deserved victories, the team, now goes forward to play Mountmellick in the next round of the league and has a great chance to qualify for the Semi-Finals. The girls have shown fantastic attitude and discipline throughout the games. Well done and best of luck to the team!
Ms. Rougerie