



Scoil Uí Mhuirí
Post Primary School

Easter Newsletter 2016

Scoil Uí Mhuirí celebrates Proclamation Day



As part of the Ireland 2016 Commemorative Programme, Scoil Uí Mhuirí reflected on the events of 100 years ago at our Proclamation and Raising of the National Flag Ceremony at the school. Our flag had been collected by Ms. O'Connell, Mr. Devin, Thomas Dorian, Gearoid Conlon and Laura Byrne in Croke Park earlier in the month. On 16th March all students and staff gathered at the front of the school for our ceremony which included an address to the SuM community on the history of our flag by Ms. O'Connell, a reflection on the Easter Rising by Mr. Devin, a raising of our national flag by Thomas, Gearoid and Laura and a reading of the Proclamation by a number of our students.



Students visit Waterstones, Drogheda as part of World Book Day



Many thanks to the staff in Waterstones Drogheda who welcomed our students recently for a visit to celebrate World Book day.

The purpose of the day is to celebrate World Book Day and continue the work over the last decade that has seen World Book Day promote reading in Ireland, celebrating books and opening up the benefits of reading for everyone.

The students taking part in this visit had opportunities to purchase a book of their choice.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí's LCA students develop Interview Skills with Actavis

Actavis (Dundalk) is making a commitment to assist and encourage **Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer** senior cycle students to complete their schooling by providing them with valuable first-hand insight and experience of the working world.

As part of the newly established partnership with Actavis Dundalk, LCA students had opportunities earlier this term to undertake mock interviews as part of the Skills @ Work programme. The partnership has been facilitated by the Schools' Business Partnership (SBP) and is an initiative of Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI).



Pictured above is LCA 2 student, Marvin Reid having completed his mock interview and feedback session with David Ussher, Associate Director, Stability, Actavis (Dundalk). A very enjoyable and informative day was had by all. Thanks to David and his team for their time and advice!

Scoil Uí Mhuirí secures another win at Trashion Fashion Event



On Tuesday evening, 26th January 2016, Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Emma Campbell was celebrating along with her Art Teacher Ms. Harrington when her dress was announced as one of the ten winning dresses at the Louth County Council Trashion Fashion event in the Carrickdale Hotel, Dundalk. The judges were also impressed with the other five entries which we had in this year's competition.

Trashion Fashion is a catwalk show that showcases outfits made from materials that are really destined for the bin! This event has proven to be a very impressive showcasing opportunity for the creative talent that Co. Louth has to offer.

Emma's next step was to take part in the Regional Finals of the Junk Kouture Competition in the Helix DCU.

Congrats to all our students involved in these competitions and to their teachers Ms. Harrington, Art Department and Ms. Murphy, Home Economics Department. We look forward to more success stories from our Art students in the future.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Patrick Smyth impresses at Young Scientist

On the 6th of January, I made my way to the RDS hall with one of my classmates and my teacher Ms. Kirk, to take part in the BT Young Scientist 2016. I was very excited as I had never taken part in it before and I didn't know what to expect.

My science project was "Quitting Smoking: Which method is the most effective?" I surveyed over 300 ex-smokers to figure out which method of quitting smoking worked the best. Overall, I found that nicotine vaping helped the most when quitting.

After setting up my stand in the hall, we all went to the opening ceremony where Michael D Higgins made a speech. He even went down to the stands to meet some of the students.

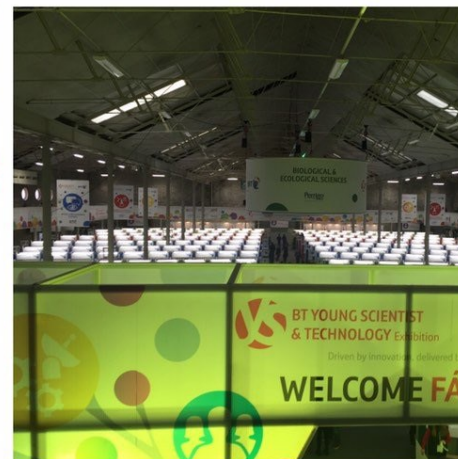
Judges came soon after to take a look at all our projects, ask questions and mark them.

There were three rounds of judging – this was the hardest part of the Young Scientist. The hall was open to the public the next day and many people were coming up to my stand, asking me questions about my project – mostly smokers or ex-smokers.

Some celebrity guests and politicians came to talk to the students – such as Brian O'Driscoll. Micheál Martin came to talk to me about my project as well as a few other politicians.

Overall I had a great time at the Young Scientist. I had a great experience and met loads of new people. I would definitely do it again next year.

Congrats to Patrick and Ms. Kirk on this wonderful achievement.



Clarice and Patrick honoured in National University of Ireland, Maynooth

On Tuesday 9th February 2016, Scoil Uí Mhuirí students Patrick Smyth and Clarice O' Brien attended an Excellence in Junior Certificate Business Studies Ceremony at NUI Maynooth where they were presented with an award for achieving an 'A' grade in the 2015 higher level Business Studies Junior Certificate Exam.

The Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting, School of Business and Department of law, NUIM were delighted to host the event in association with the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland. The purpose of the ceremony was to publically recognise excellence in Junior Certificate Higher Level Business Studies. Congrats to Patrick and Clarice on this outstanding achievement.



Senior Students complete Solas Safe Pass Course during Feb Mid Term

The SOLAS Safe Pass Health and Safety Awareness Training Programme is to ensure that, over the course of time, all workers in construction will have a basic knowledge of health and safety, and be able to work on-site without being a risk to themselves or others. From a health and safety perspective, construction workers are bound by law to hold a valid Safe Pass card. The aims of the programme are focused mainly around health and safety awareness, while the benefits include an improved safety culture.

A number of our senior students had expressed an interest in completing apprenticeships in the many different areas of the construction industry when finished at second level. The Safe Pass is a basic requirement for work on any construction site so we hope that being able to offer students an opportunity to have this completed will give them a little head start when looking for their dream apprenticeship. Students from 5th and 6th year completed the day during the February Mid Term at the school. Thanks to Ms. McGarrigle for organising same.

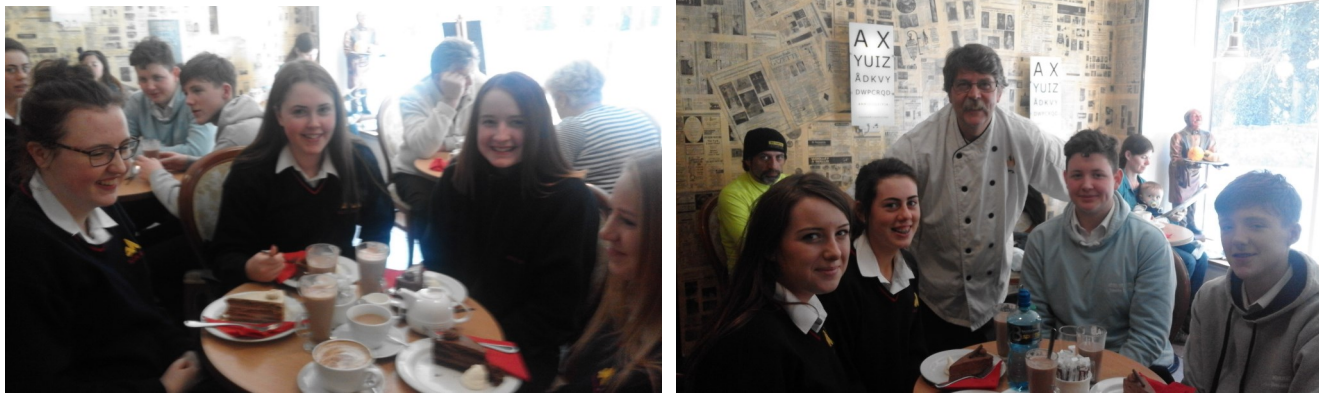
Senior Students welcome Fionnbar Walsh to Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Donal Walsh's story became known to most Irish people after he appeared on Brendan O'Connor's Saturday Night Show. The Kerry lad was an ordinary 16-year-old but when he was struck with cancer three times he showed tremendous strength and courage. In the end, he knew that he was going to die, so he lived life at full throttle.

Since Donal's death his parents Fionnbar and Elma set up a foundation called www.donalwalshlivelife.org. The sole purpose of it is to continue the conversation that Donal started which is about suicide prevention in teenagers. These days their lives are very busy. Two days every week Fionnbar and Elma travel around schools in Ireland telling their son's story and we were delighted to welcome Fionnbar to the school where he spoke with students and collected a cheque for the foundation from monies raised in the school. Congrats to students from 5 Beech who organised the fundraising event.



German Students head to Slane for 'Kaffee und Kuchen'



During this year's Intercultural week, TY German students and their teacher Ms. Lyons visited George's patisserie in Slane where they were treated to traditional 'Kaffee und Kuchen'. Students were also given a demonstration on how to make traditional German 'Schwarzalder Kirschtorte' (Black Forest Gateau). Thanks so much to George and his staff for the warm 'Willkommen'.

Yarn bombing and Graffiti Knitting at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Yarn bombing or graffiti knitting is a type of graffiti or street art that employs colourful displays of knitted, crocheted or woven yarn or fibre rather than paint or chalk. While other forms of graffiti may be viewed as vandalism, yarn bombing is almost exclusively about reclaiming and personalising sterile or cold public places or objects.

Here in Scoil Uí Mhuirí we have created our own Yarn Bomb *installation*. The students of TY Setanta and students from 1st Year in An Chrannóg have worked together to bring a new look to a school desk and chair under the guidance of Ms McGarrigle. Each student completed a number of squares of weaving, knitting or crochet which were then sewn together.

Their aim was to make people smile as they arrived in school.

I'm sure you'll agreed that they have met their aim, the installation has become a talking point in the school, and will remain on display for the remainder of the year. Making People Smile.....



Curtis scoops Art Award in LMETB Competition

The presentation of awards to the winners of the LMETB Art Competition took place on Thursday evening, 11th February 2016. Hosted by the Drogheda Arts Centre in Stockwell Street, Drogheda, these awards were to celebrate those chosen as winners and Merit award holders for the first running of this Art Competition.

The competition was organised by Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Deirdre Harrington and Declan Clarke and Paul McCann who teaches in O'Carolan's College, Nobber and in Dunshaughlin Community School.

Over 11,000 students were eligible to enter, and fifteen of the seventeen ETB secondary schools were represented. The competition was judged by international renowned artist, Robert Ballagh, who was unfortunately unable to attend the awards ceremony.

In total twenty entries were selected for awards. Fourteen received Merit awards, seven for both the Junior and Senior categories. Each entry received an Art Pack donated by Cregal Art Supplies, and each was framed by Dealg Art Framers from Ardee.

Speaking at the ceremony, LMETB CEO, Peter Kierans, praised the students and their Art teachers for their achievement which the ETB was delighted to support. Presenting the prizes, the Chairperson of LMETB, Cllr. Oliver Tully, remarked on the exceptional quality of the entries which would not be out of place in a professional gallery.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí were delighted that Curtis Johnson was one of those receiving an award on the night for his entry to the competition.



TY Enterprise Students Win Awards



Congratulations to TY Mini Company GoaTY Goodness winners of the best food production award and to Katy Duggan winner of the best sole trader award at the recent Student Enterprise Awards organised by the Local Enterprise Offices in Dundalk.

Students enjoy trip to Germany/Austria during the Easter break

During the Easter break 2016, students enjoyed an activity filled educational outing to Germany/Austria along with their teachers Ms. Lyons, Mr. Hurley, Ms. Finnegan and Mr. Brian Mathews.

Activities included a guided tour of Munich and a series of skiing lessons. The skiing instructors were very impressed with our students' skiing skills with many advancing to the second level of lessons very quickly. Check out our facebook page for some interesting videos on the ski slopes!



Good Luck to our Business Studies iMovie Makers

Best wishes to Ms. Mc Cready and her second year Business Studies class who have just submitted their entry to this year's Young Economist of the Year competition. The class submitted an iMovie called 'Come Dine with Economics' which looks at whether or not Ireland should impose a sugar tax! Keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and Twitter page to see how they get on.

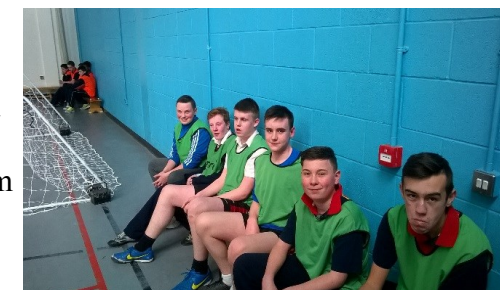
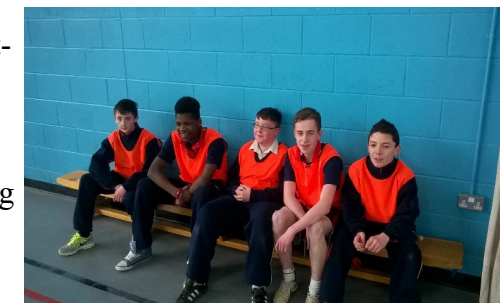


1st Year Indoor Soccer Tournament (Futsal) commences

Scoil Ui Mhuiri's Physical Education Department has recently set up an indoor soccer tournament (also known as 'Futsal') for any 1st Year student that wishes to take part.

The tournament is held each Monday in the sports hall during lunch. Each student that participates represents their class. The four 1st Year classes battle it out with three games each Monday to see who comes out on top after three weeks with scores recorded and tables updated.

Every student that takes part gets sufficient playing time and a fair chance to participate. We feel that this is a great opportunity for our students to have fun and to be part of a team while also developing their soccer skills. To date, this well organised event has been a true success and an extremely popular activity among all students that participate.



Calling all Table Tennis Enthusiasts



Table tennis has been changed from Monday lunchtime to Thursday lunchtimes in the gym. If you have any queries talk to Mr. Coombes.

Self Defence Classes

Self Defence classes are taking place on Wednesdays after school each week. These classes are being facilitated by staff members Ms. Hughes/Mr. Coombes and TY student Luke O'Reilly. New members are welcome and there is no charge. For further information please talk to Ms. Hughes/Mr. Coombes.



Students enjoy Drumming Workshop as part of Intercultural Week





Scoil Uí Mhuirí launch Inaugural CD of Music

The evening of Monday 13th January 2016 was a special one for the music department and students at Scoil Uí Mhuirí as students, staff, parents Association members, Board of Management members and LMETB Committee Members gathered for the launch of the school's first CD of music.

The development of the CD project was overseen by the TY Setanta and Ferdia groups in collaboration with Ms. Shields and Ms. Morrison Reilly, Music Department, SuM.

The CD includes a mixture of solo pieces, instrumentals and choir performances and it really demonstrates the wonderful musical talent we are fortunate to have here in Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

Mr. Oliver Tully, current chair of the LMETB Committee addressed those in attendance and congratulated all involved in this wonderful production. Mr. Tully explained that he has been involved with Scoil Uí Mhuirí for a long number of years as a member of the Board of Management and that it was an honour for him to attend the launch of this fantastic CD of music.

A total of 15 tracks are included in this first CD which is on sale from the main office in the school.

A particular word of thanks to Patrick Leddy, TLT Drogheda for his support, encouragement and guidance during the recording process.

