

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

March & April 2015

Transition Year News

Horticulture News

Jake Healy & Naoise O'Conluain

Planting has begun, there's PLANTY to do!

It's that time of year again! The TY horticulture class with Ms. Brennan have begun planting vegetables, herbs and trees for the year ahead.

We have also spent time, over the last few weeks, drawing up a plan for our raised beds. We started putting this plan into place just before the Easter break with the help of MacDara, Sam and Tim from the GLD unit and Jim the caretaker. The boys from the GLD unit planted herbs including chives, parsley and basil. They are anxiously waiting to whip up a lovely meal with their produce in Mr. Daly's cooking class.

The TY Horticulture Class planted a variety of trees that were kindly donated to us, by DLR County Council as part of National Tree Week. After Easter we will continue our planting with a selection of vegetables including potatoes, carrots, lettuce, parsnip, cabbage, beetroot and pumpkins.

TY Music CD Project

Oisín Singleton

After putting the finishing touches on their original songs, both the TY music class and members of the CD Project visited Temple Lane recording studios in Temple Bar. Here, the students spent the day recording their own songs and getting the chance to hear each other's songs live.



Their music was put on Bandcamp and you can hear it by attending the upcoming school concert and receiving the download code! The visit to the studio was both enjoyable and a great experience for any first time attendees, thanks to Mr. Mc Gloughlin who organised and accompanied the students on the trip.

Kayaking

David Dunwoody

On 16th and 23rd of April the first class of Transition Year Students headed down to the Kilkenny/Carlow to take part in Kayaking as their Thursday activity. Students met outside the school at 7:30 a.m. before departing shortly after. Once they arrived they were greeted by their leader Paul who explained to them what they would be doing for the day. The students had a great time kayaking along the river Barrow before returning back to the school for 5:00 p.m. Over the next few weeks all other TY students will have the opportunity to partake in some kayaking on the Barrow. Many thanks to Mr. O'Shaughnessy and Mr. Sheehy.

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TY Tour to Barcelona

Thomas Finlay

On the first Sunday of the Easter Holidays, 34 Transition Year students along with three teachers, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Traynor and Mr. Faherty, set off on a 5 day trip to Barcelona which would include events such as Zip lining, Go-Karting, Mini-Golf and more.

When we arrived on the Sunday morning, we made our way to our coach which took us on a tour to different places around Barcelona. This gave us the opportunity to see the city and some of its many sights. We were then brought, in the evening, to a magic show not far from our hotel where we all enjoyed a night of illusion. At the end of the day we then made our way to our hotel in Salou.



Monday we visited Montserrat monastery in the mountains. We took a cable-car up to its peak and took pictures of the magnificent view. On our return to the hotel we had some free time to enjoy the lovely weather by the pool and that evening we went bowling.

On Tuesday, we headed for PortAventura Theme Park in Salou. We spent a wonderful day at PortAventura where we enjoyed many of the attractions including "Shambhalla", the tallest roller-coaster in Europe. We rounded off our day playing mini-golf near our hotel. That evening we relaxed at our hotel and played a few games of pool.



Wednesday morning we were taken Zip Lining, then in the afternoon we spent time at the beach and swimming pool. In the evening we went to the Nou Camp to watch Barcelona v Almeria. This was a highlight of the tour for many and we were delighted to see Barcelona win 4-0. The atmosphere at the stadium was fantastic and everyone enjoyed themselves.

We ended our trip to Barcelona with a football match on the beach, having spent the final morning of our tour Go-Karting in Salou. It was a great end to a fantastic tour. Thanks to Mr. Traynor, Mr. Brennan and Mr. Faherty who accompanied us.

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TY Social Care Module

Luc Joole & Cian Rellis

One important aspect of our TY schedule was completing the Social Care module run by Mr. Traynor and Ms. Dunlop. This module consisted of five different programmes, each to aid the local community in a different way.

The first programme was called 121 Digital. This programme involved older people coming to the school on Tuesday afternoons with questions or problems relating to their electronic devices. Students did their best to help out with their problems and give the adults insights into how to use their devices effectively.

The second programme was called Autism Initiatives. A group of autistic adults visited the school and participated in different activities, with TY students from Clonkeen College, such as Art and Basketball.

The Beaufort Day Centre was another location for the social care work. Each week two students visited the centre where they helped out with gardening and talking to the people there.

Another group of students helped out in the General Learning Difficulty (GLD) unit in the school taking part in activities such as cooking and football, each Tuesday, with Tim, Sam and MacDara.

The final activity undertaken as part of the Social Care module was to help out at local charity shops in Dun Laoghaire and Blackrock. While helping out at these shops we sorted donations and helped customers. Each of the placements was a very rewarding experience and one that will stay with us for years to come.

The Anthology

Mr. J. Toomey

ANTHOLOGY 2015 has been recently distributed to all those who ordered a copy. Thanks very much for all the hard work done by Clonkeen College Press' editors – Michael Culloty, Alex Cregan-McNamara, Caolán Moore and Emmett Murphy. Thanks also to Harry Martin for his work on the cover. And finally, thanks to all our contributing writers and those who have generously supported the project by ordering a copy of the ANTHOLOGY 2015.

Next year we aim to organise Clonkeen College Press differently by appointing five motivated and interested students to run the project. These five students will form the Board of Clonkeen College Press and enjoy responsibility for the running of the project. The five positions and associated duties are as follows:

1. **Editor** (formulating CCP standardised print style, proof-reading submissions, laying out the final manuscript, ordering the stories)
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3. **Cover design** (designing the cover image, working with marketing on promotional posters and ideas)

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4. Layout and production (ordering the stories, choosing appropriate fonts, sizing, spacing, and general style of book, liaising with editors and the printer and Marketing and Sales)

5. Marketing and Sales (working with Cover Design to establish an image to be used in all posters, creating an easily recognisable product, promoting the ANTHOLOGY with regard to submissions, general awareness, pricing, advance sales, keeping accounts)

If you are interested in any of these positions and would like to apply or enquire further, please contact us by email at:
clonkeencollegepress@gmail.com

Clonkeen Literacy Initiative

Ms. L. Healy

'Reading for Pleasure'

This is a programme established to help foster a love and appreciation for literature. It is aimed primarily at all students in 1st Year. The aim is to increase the frequency with which students choose to read. Clonkeen College has purchased a collection of books. All the books in the collection have been sourced and approved by the children's book buyer in Dubray bookshop.

Students will receive a book pack. This pack will contain the book, a student log, the book list, and a section for student review. It is essential that all students sign the student logbook with

the title of their chosen book their own name and the date when they first selected it to read. Students are required to complete a short review of each book they read, which it is hoped will improve their written literacy.

Clonkeen College will allocate 10 minutes of reading time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in order to promote the initiative and to create a positive environment for reading. It is hoped that students will choose to read in their own personal time at home. The students will have an opportunity to exchange books on Friday morning. Discussing the books they have read with each other as they swap and exchange them, will help to develop their oral literacy.

Finian O'Shea cut the ribbon on Saturday April 17th for the new and exciting National Awards. This has been set up to help grow a reading culture in schools. School communities can show how much they value reading by applying for the PDST 'Wellread National Award' which recognises and celebrates their commitment to reading. If you would like more information, log on to www.wellread.ie.

It is hoped that with this reading initiative we will be on our way to becoming eligible to apply for this National Award in the future.

Clonkeen is actively working towards establishing a school library.

Should you have any queries in relation to the programme please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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1st Year Connemara Trip

Jordan Kelly

Recently, our 1st Year students along with a small number of 2nd Year students enjoyed a trip to Recess in Connemara along with Mr. Faherty, Mr. O Shaughnessy, Mr. Daly and Mr. Brennan.



The boys took part in a number of activities during the trip. The stunning weather made for a great time kayaking! Group 3 were the best at actual kayaking, while Group 1 spent more time in the water than in their kayaks!



A fear of heights was overcome by many of the students, as they tried out climbing and abseiling. Jack Nugent was this year's King of the Climb.

The joint winning time in the orienteering for the 1st Year boys was a very impressive 29 minutes. There were good times all around though as the

Clonkeen College record was beaten with a new record of 24 minutes and 18 seconds being achieved! Well done to all who took part!

Things got a little mucky on the hike as many a bog hole was found. Some decided to invent their own version of bog snorkelling: without the snorkel!

The following morning, adventurous spirit was in abundance as 12 brave souls decided to take to the freezing water at quarter to eight in the morning! Honourable mention to Mark Brophy from 2nd Year who was the first person who dared to enter the water!

The school would also like to say a big thanks to Jim, James, Iarlath and Tina for looking after everyone so well as always.

Clonkeen Active Week

Ronan Hayes

The first ever Clonkeen College Active Week was held this year from the 23rd to 27th of March. The week was organised and run by Mr. Howley with the help of the entire P.E. department. Active Week consisted of both students and teachers participating in various extra-curricular sports including American Football, Weightlifting competitions, Football and Tug of War. All pupils and teachers involved were hugely enthusiastic and eager to show off their skills. The perfect Irish weather we had for the week allowed for top class performances in all competitions. A few notable competitors include Junior King of the Bench, Cormac Quinn and the victorious NFL team the Teacher Titans. There was fantastic energy around the school the whole week long and Active Week was deemed a huge success by all. It will hopefully become an annual event on the school calendar.

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5th & 6th Year Art History Trip

Ms. L. Healy

The 5th and 6th years had a culturally enlightening day in Dublin visiting our National Museum and our National Gallery. Students spent the morning at the National Museum in Kildare St. During our visit we viewed beautiful artefacts from the Bronze Age, the Early Christian Period, Ancient Egypt and the Battle of Clontarf while also visiting the "Kingship and Sacrifice" Exhibition where we saw the remains of bodies found preserved in Irish bogs.



The afternoon was spent in the company of Sophie, our tour guide in the National Gallery. Sophie began the tour with an early Renaissance painting which depicted the Annunciation. Other paintings on the tour included the outstanding painting by Caravaggio 'The Taking of Christ'. We were shown a still life from Picasso's Cubist period and a melancholy painting by Yeats of a gambling man who had lost his fiancé. There were a few paintings from the Impressionist era which focus on capturing the fall of light on the chosen subject matter.

The paintings shown to us are part of the Heritage Collection and the guide explained the way in which the gallery hangs paintings and how it chooses to display the work. The walls are painted in subdued colours to compliment the work, and the lighting is soft so as not to damage the paintings. Students were required to complete a worksheet during the guide and two sketches of their chosen works of art.

It was a pleasant and informative day full of culture and art. We are very appreciative to Ms. O'Rourke for accompanying us on the trip and thank you to Manos for the safe journey.

Clonkeen College Parents' Association News

Heart Screening

Seán Smith

Many thanks to Clonkeen College Parents' Association who organised heart screening to be carried out in the school, in March. A team from AMS (Advanced Medical Screening) visited the school in the final week of term before the Easter Holiday. Screening was made available to all pupils and teachers and helped to raise awareness about Sudden Adult Death Syndrome and how we all need to look after our health and especially our hearts. Many students availed of the screening which was both quick and easy. Details of each student's results were forwarded to their G.P. and their family home in the weeks that followed. All agreed that it had been a worthwhile experience.

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Parents' Association News contd.

Sports Day BBQ

Mrs. A. Cosson & Mrs. K. Connaughton

This year the annual Sports Day takes place on May 15th. After the fantastic success of Active Week we can look forward to a great fun day of sport for all.

To add to the spirit of the day the Parent's Association are delighted to announce that they will host a barbecue for staff and students in the grounds of the college. Burgers and hotdogs will be served and, for those who still have room, Teddy's ice-cream van will pay us a visit.

Manchester United Trip

Paul Fitzachary

On Saturday 11th, April a group of students accompanied by Mr. McGauley, Ms. Murray and Mr. O'Shaughnessy departed for Manchester to attend the Manchester Derby between Manchester United FC and Manchester City FC. Having left Clonkeen College at 6 a.m. we arrived in Manchester in the middle of the afternoon. We went straight to Old Trafford where we had a tour of the stadium and visited the museum.

Sunday morning we visited Manchester City's home ground The Etihad Stadium. Although it is an impressive stadium, the many United fans in our group didn't feel that it came close to what we had seen at Old Trafford the previous afternoon. After lunch we headed to Old Trafford to soak up some of the pre-match atmosphere ahead of the clash of City and United. It was a thrilling match with a much-deserved victory for United who beat City 4-2.

Monday we set out for our return home, stopping on the way at the Welsh village famous for having the longest place name in Europe (Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyllylantysiliogogoch – 58 characters!!) We spent some time in the village before boarding our bus to continue to Holyhead and our ferry home. A really enjoyable weekend was had by everyone on the trip and we would like to say a big thank-you to Mr. McGauley, Ms. Murray and Mr. O'Shaughnessy.

1st year DSPCA Trip

Jack Georgieff, Seán Downing & Dylan Wildes

On Thursday, 19th March, students from A1 and Sam, Tim and MacDara visited the DSPCA along with Ms. Murray, Mr. McGloughlin, Mrs. Dent & Mrs. McGill, as part of our CSPE class. During our visit we learned about the work of the DSPCA, animal rights and our responsibilities towards animals. We listened to Enya tell us about some of the animals they had saved and then fed some of the animal with Andy. We really enjoyed our visit.



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Seachtain na Gaeilge

Mr. S. Faherty & Luke Gilroy

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge den scoth againn i mbliana i gColáiste Chluain Caoin. Eagraíodh réimse leathan imeachtaí agus ghlac na scoláirí páirt iontu le díogras agus fuinneamh agus is mar gheall orthusan i ndairíre a d'éirigh chomh maith leis.

Mar is gnáth chríochnaigh muid an tseachtain le Tráth na gCeist Bord sa halla, na foirne sinsearaí ar maidin agus na foirne sóisearaí tráthnóna. D'éirigh go han-mhaith leis seo agus bhí ghlaic mhór uibheacha cásca ag dul abhaile ag scoláirí an tráthnóna sin. Chomh maith leis sin bhí comórtais puc fada agus cic fada againn, bhí comórtais biongó, stad an bhus agus ealaíne againn sna ranganna freisin.

Rith muid comórtas nua i mbliana den chéad uair, ó mhí Eanáir i leith bhí na scoláirí ag obair ar an app Duolingo ag dul thríd na cleachtaí difriúla atá air. Fuair siad pointí ar chuile cleachtadh a rinne siad agus thug muid amach duaiseanna don triúr scoláirí is mó a bhí pointí acu i ngach bliain ag deireadh Seachtain na Gaeilge. D'éirigh thar barr leis seo agus bhí iomaíocht den scoth le feiceáil idir na scoláirí, is léir gur imeacht rathúil a bhí ann gan dabht.

Bhí muid mar Roinn na Gaeilge fíor shásta leis an méid tacaíocht a fuair muid óna múinteoirí eile ar fad agus táimid go háirithe buíoch do na scoláirí a chuir an oiread sin iarracht agus beocht isteach sa tseachtain. Ní féidir linn dearmad a dhéanamh ar Bhean Uí Dunne a thug léi duais na múinteoirí don iarracht ollmhór a rinne sí i labhairt na Gaeilge i rith na seachtaine. Mar a deirtear i gconáil, beatha na teanga, í a labhairt.

Euroscola

Maciej Nowak

Thanks to Conor Spain in 5th year, who earlier this year won a subsidised class trip to Strasbourg from the European Parliament Information Office with his six word message to our MEPs: "11 parliamentary seats, make them count.", 24 students from both 5th Year and Transition Year were chosen to travel to the European Parliament in Strasbourg in March, also taking in the German cities of Frankfurt and Heidelberg on their travels.



The trip began on St. Patrick's Day when the students arrived in Frankfurt. First, the group went on a walking tour of the city taking in Europe's financial centre as well as the historic centre which has largely been reconstructed since World War II. After arriving at our accommodation in Strasbourg, we finished off the day with a competitive game of bowling.

The second day began early in the morning with a walking tour of the city of Strasbourg. The visit to the Cathedral of Notre Dame will never be forgotten. We walked up to the very top of the cathedral and the view of the landscape of the city was breath-taking. A cruise on the river Rhine capped off the day's sightseeing which we followed with a trip to the cinema to unwind.

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Euroscola contd.

We spent the third and most important day of the trip in the European Parliament in Strasbourg debating issues affecting Europe with over 700 students of our own age from across the European Union. Upon arrival at the parliament after our security check, we were divided up into six committees, each debating a different topic such as the future of Europe and freedom of information. Once each of the committees had agreed on a proposal to put to the wider group, we all joined together in the parliamentary chamber of the European Parliament to debate our proposals.



At the beginning of the parliamentary session, a representative from each country had to introduce their school and their country to the 700+ delegates present. Conor Spain addressed the chamber on our behalf and did the school and country very proud with his presentation as Gaeilge and as Béarla. The parliamentary session itself was a great success. We gave our feedback on many European issues and integrated well with our European counterparts. Sitting in the parliamentary seats our MEPs sit in was a real privilege which we will never forget.

On Day Four of our trip, everyone was sad to leave but it was time to go on the last tour of the trip to the medieval German city of Heidelberg. It started off with a funicular train up to and a guide of Heidelberg Castle. The castle consisted of many rooms, a huge wine cellar downstairs and a wide open courtyard. The views were indescribable. It was then time to leave and say farewell to the city of Heidelberg.



All in all, we had a great action-packed four days and learned much about the inner workings of the European Union as well as the region and its history. Thanks again to Conor Spain in 5th Year for making the trip a possibility.

Oral Examinations

Congratulations to all our Leaving Certificate students who recently sat their oral exams in French and in Irish. We hope that all their hard work paid off and that they have made a good start to their Leaving Certificate ahead of the upcoming written papers. We wish them all the best as they make final preparations for their exams in June and hope they enjoy their final weeks with us at Clonkeen College.

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TWSG News

Christian Kelly

March was another busy month for Clonkeen College Third World Support Group. Mid-month we had our annual Foxrock Church Gate Collection. Our chairperson, Conor M. Murphy delivered an excellent address to the congregation at each mass, highlighting the life-saving work being carried out by the TWSG. Well done to all our members who gave up their time over the weekend and a big thank-you especially to all the members of the Foxrock community who, yet again, showed great support for our collection.

On March 26th, we held our annual raffle. We were delighted to see how well this event was supported by everyone in the community. Well done to all students who made a great effort to sell tickets on our behalf and to all the families and local businesses who donated prizes to the raffle.

In April, we carried out two days bag-packing at SuperValu in Killiney. Again this was a successful event for the group. We would like to thank the staff and management of SuperValu Killiney for welcoming us into their store and supporting the bag-pack.

April also brought our last non-uniform day of the current school year. We would like to thank all students who participated and all teachers who facilitated the collection of €2 from each student.

Our last event of the school year is the annual concert, which will take place on Friday 8th May. The concert will include performances by the participants in the CD Music Project and readings from The Anthology 2015. Tickets go on sale on Thursday, April 30th and will cost €3 per ticket. We hope for a good turnout from all students.

Green Schools

Andrei Olariu & Mr. D. Traynor

Just before the Easter holidays, the school was notified that it had been awarded its first Green Flag for Litter and Waste by An Taisce. This is a really proud achievement for the school and something towards which the Green Schools Committee had been working on since it was set up in September 2013. Well done to everyone in the school community for making this a possibility but especially to every student and member of staff who has been involved in the Green Schools Committee over the past two years for working tirelessly in order that the school could pass the criteria necessary to be awarded the Green Flag.



As part of our work towards getting a Green Flag, the school held a Green Schools Day of Action on Wednesday, 29th April in which every student in every year group in the school participated. This Day of Action involved us taking part in An Taisce's National Spring Clean by undertaking a spring clean of the school grounds and the surrounding area of Clonkeen Park. Our Day of Action was launched in the school by An Cathaoirleach Marie Baker and we were joined on the day by Councillor Patricia Stewart who gave us a helping hand. We managed to fill over 40 refuse sacks of litter from our spring clean which were subsequently picked up by the Environment Department of Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council. Well done to all involved.

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Sports News

Athletics

Kevin Gannon

On March 26th, Mr. Sheehy and Mr. Flynn accompanied the school's athletics team to Morton Stadium in Santry for the annual Edmund Rice Games. Clonkeen College brought home an incredible haul of 22 medals. Since then our athletes have trained hard and are currently taking part in the East Leinster Games which are also being held at Santry. Clonkeen College has already won a number of medals on Day 1, making a great start to the competition. We will be keeping a close eye on our school Twitter feed for updates of performances on Day 2. Congratulations to all involved and their coaches.



U14 Hurling

Craig Finn

Congratulations are in order for our U14 hurlers who made it to the quarter finals of their championship with impressive wins against Blackrock College and Oatlands College under their coaches Mr. Bennett and Mr. O'Brien. They were unfortunate to lose their closely-fought quarter final match against Maynooth Post Primary on April 15th. Final score: Maynooth P.P. 4-10 Clonkeen College: 3-7.

U15 Soccer



Clonkeen College faced Templeogue College in the South Dublin Final on April 14th. Clonkeen trailed Templeogue 1-0 at half-time. It looked as though it was not going to be our day, until Luke Hannigan scored an equaliser in the dying minutes to bring the sides level, forcing the match into extra time. Cian O'Dea and Luke Hannigan got extra-time off to a fantastic start for Clonkeen with a goal apiece. The team then managed to keep Templeogue at bay for the second half of extra-time, claiming the victory for Clonkeen with a score line of 3-1. Congratulations to the team and their coaches Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Faherty.



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1st Year Gaelic football

Rory McMahon

Congratulations to our 1st Year Gaelic footballers who qualified for the quarter-finals in an outstanding performance against Old Bawn on 21st April. Despite being down to 13 men due to injuries and unavailability, we manfully held on to gain the runners-up position in the group on points' difference. There were heroic performances all across the pitch – 13 men-of-the match!!

Our quarter-final ultimately ended in disappointment with a 7-7 to 5-3 defeat against St. David's CBS: but as the score line suggests it was end-to-end, we kept going to the final whistle in what was a physical encounter. However, all bar one of our panel are under-14 for next year, so with the next year's 1st Years we should be well in contention for honours once again! Well done to all the panel – in May we will have our list of Top Trainers for the year.



Meanwhile, Shane Hanney has attended a training camp for the U17 Irish side that has recently qualified for the finals of the UEFA Championships. Congratulations to Shane who has been named on the squad, by Head Coach, Tom Mohan, to travel to Bulgaria for the finals which will take place next month. Ireland has been drawn in Group D, along with top tier teams from the Netherlands, Italy and England (reigning champions). Our first match will be against the Netherlands on May 7th in Sozopol. Best of luck to Shane and the team!

International Soccer

Congratulations to 5th Year students, Dylan Watts and Shane Hanney who continue to represent Ireland on the international stage.

Dylan was a member of the U18 Irish Schools Team that took home the Centenary Shield last week. The Irish team faced stiff competition from their English, Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish counterparts in the tournament which was held in Edinburgh.

