

## C.S.I. comes to Davitt College!

Transition Year students at Davitt College, Castlebar, had the opportunity to become C.S.I. investigators and solve a real life crime on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2013. Using a number of pieces of evidence gathered from a crime scene, students were required to solve the crime. Modern techniques such as D.N.A. profiling and blood sampling were used in conjunction with the more traditional methods of finger printing and microscopic analysis. Based on analysis of the evidence gathered, the students were able to positively identify the culprit. The Forensic Science presentation provided the students with an exciting opportunity to experience an everyday use of Science in a real world situation. It proved to be an exciting and interactive educational experience, where observation and deductive reasoning combined with the science that students are learning in Davitt College, were used to solve crimes in the real world. This day was facilitated by Forensic Scientist, Ms. Alison Leck from Education Interactive, an Australian-owned company based in Sydney.



*Pictured at the Forensic Science Workshop are Mrs. Caitriona O'Donnell, Chemistry Teacher; Ms. Andrea Silke, Agricultural Science Teacher; Ms. Alison Leck, Forensic Scientist; Mr. Niall O'Connor, Physics Teacher; Ms. Bernie Rowland, Principal, Davitt College and Transition Year students participating in the workshop.*



The Davitt College, Castlebar Transition Year Build a Bank

### **Davitt College launch "Build a Bank" Challenge**

team comprising of Holly Logan, Sean Murphy, Sarah Murray, Megan Palmer, Katie Reddington and Conor Reilly were congratulated and commended for their work by Mr. Brendan Heneghan, Mayor of Castlebar, at the official launch of their Build a Bank Challenge in association with AIB. Also in attendance at the official launch of their bank, "The Piggy Bank" were Ms. Bernie Rowland, Principal Davitt College; Mr. Austin O'Malley, AIB; Mr. Brendan Heneghan, Mayor of Castlebar; Ms. Michelle Howie, AIB; Ms. Patricia Harrington and Ms. Joan Walsh, Business Teachers.





## Healthy Living Week at Davitt College



Davitt College celebrated its second annual healthy living/Active Schools week. The healthy living week in Davitt College strives to

promote the importance of nutrition, physical activity and the steps that will lead to a healthy lifestyle. The week involved cross curricular links between the Physical Education, Home Economics, Religion and SPHE departments. A wide range of activities were organised during class time, lunch time and

after school. The week involved fitness sessions, sports challenges, presentations, cookery demonstrations and workshops on healthy living, as well as taster sessions organised by various sports organisations.



## Active School Flag Award for Davitt College

Davitt College has been lauded for promoting Healthy Living/Active school. In April, the school was presented with the Active School Flag by Ms. Sonia O'Sullivan. Also in photograph are Ms. Sinead Flynn, PE teacher, Mr. Michael Gallagher, GAA Coach and Davitt College students.



## Davitt College Awards Ceremony 2013

Davitt College, Castlebar hosted its annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Mr. Charlie Lambert, Mayo Sports Partnership Co-ordinator, was guest of honour where over 200 students received awards ranging from academic, sport and dedication to school life. With superb music being provided by the school choir the event was memorable for many reasons.

Photos of all the awards can be found on the Davitt College website:

[www.davittcollege.com](http://www.davittcollege.com)

## Davitt stars deliver memorable musical

by Michael Gallagher



*Ethan Carey (Corey Jnr) and Aisling Gallagher (Tiffany)*



*Owen Higgins (Feargal) and Holly Logan (Eileen)*

Being a parent is one of the greatest challenges the human race will ever face. Guiding offspring through the formative years of life before gradually opening the door to independence is a talent that is impossible to get fully right, but we try. Martina and I are blessed with two amazing daughters and the ups and downs of family life are many and varied. We learn something new every day, but there are moments when life reaches right into your chest, clutches your heart and catches you completely by surprise. Such a moment occurred last Tuesday in the dark corner of a packed assembly hall in Castlebar. I was standing in the shadows, watching the Transition Year students from Davitt College perform the first showing of their musical "That 80's Show" in front of more than 400 National School students and suddenly I felt tears rolling down my cheeks. I was stunned. How could this be happening? Thankfully, it was dark and nobody could see. They'd have presumed that I was even madder than usual.

The reason for my emotion stood on the stage at the other end of the hall. The baby girl who first wriggled in my arms 16 years previously was standing there singing like a superstar and a flood of memories sent moisture seeping from my eyes. Memories of teething, toddlerhood and tears; of sweets, Santa and school were meshing with pride, excitement and joy. Emotions were running high as the amazing show unfolded and we were all taken on a journey back to the days of Madonna, Michael Jackson, the Rubik's Cube, Max Headroom and the Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles.

Over the following three nights many more parents wiped tears from their cheeks as they watched their amazing offspring perform magnificently on that famous stage. "Back to the 80's" was the 30th annual musical produced by Davitt College. Like all the others, it set standards few can match. It was brilliantly produced by the tireless and tremendously talented Eamonn Mulderrig. The Kilmaine man teaches music in the school, but went above and beyond the call of duty on this occasion. The choreography by Aine Egan of Danceworld created moments that will forever live in the memory while the music of John Flatley, his colleagues and the Davitt College Orchestra brought us on a magical trip down memory lane. The story features the graduation class of William Ocean High School as they live through their final senior year and experience the fun, heartbreaks, love and loneliness of growing up. All this is set against the biggest hits of the eighties in the USA and seen through the eyes of 30-something Corey Palmer (David Gavin). Back in his days in William Ocean High, the then 17-year-old Corey (Ethan Carey) is madly in love with Tiffany Houston (Aisling Gallagher) one of the coolest girls in school. Unfortunately, Tiffany is infatuated with football star and general cool dude, Michael Feldman (Brandon Cresham). The unfolding story brings to life magical characters such as Feargal McFerrin III (Owen Higgins), Miss Brannigan (Mary Maughan), Mr Cocker (Niall Kearns), Cindy Gibson (Cherelle Geraghty), Eileen (Holly Logan), Mel and Kim (Shona Connolly and Laura Ivers), Feldman's buddies (Oran Scully, Sean Togher and Michael Flatley), Corey's mates (Liam Higgins and Jamie Costello and the extravagantly wonderful duo who are McFerrin's groupies (Féile Kilkenny-Rodgers and Melissa Duffy). These were just a handful of the students involved in the mammoth production as more than 60 appeared on the stage each night at different intervals in a show that exhibited all that's good about the youth of our nation. Months of dedicated preparation paid off handsomely and the standing ovations from the sold-out audiences over the three nights demonstrated what an unmitigated success the 30th edition of the Davitt College musical truly was. The fact that the musical was a huge success owes much to the co-operation of the whole school family and this was remarked upon by school principal Bernie Rowland when she addressed the audience on Friday night after the final show.

Personally, it was one of life's most memorable moments. Watching Aisling and her wonderful friends create such joy in the heart of their own community was something that I'll take to the grave. And she picked the right boy in the end too!

**This article appeared in The Western People on March 12th 2013**





## *Seachtain na Gaeilge 2013* boosts the promotion of Irish in Davitt College



*A group of First Year students being interviewed by Barbara Nic Dhonnacha during Seachtain na Gaeilge, 2013, in Davitt College*

Éileamh'. Well know to the youngsters of today, she greatly impressed our students and put on a great show, which included dancing, singing and the students interviewing Barbara *as Gaeilge*, parts of which were aired on Barbara's live show! As well as conversing with the students and encouraging them to speak *as Gaeilge*, Barbara also presented the winners of the First Year quiz and winners of the First Year *Seanfhocail* posters, with trophies sponsored by *Conradh na Gaeilge*. Another event that took place involved a drama group from *An Taibhdhearc Theatre* in Galway, who presented the *Picture Series of the Irish Oral* to the Leaving Certificate students.



*Irish Quiz winners during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2013, (L-R), Erin Ni Ragmailaigh, Aoife Ni Ragmailaigh, Kaitlyn Reddington agus Eoin O'Maille. Pictured with Bernie Rowland, (Principal), Mairtín Ó Maicín, (Conradh na Gaeilge), Barbara Nic Dhonnacha, (iRadio), Michelle Hession, Aoife Morrissey, Donna Mulchrone, Érin O'Hara & John Mullin (Irish teachers)*

## Future Fashion Designers in Davitt College!

of County Life in Turlough. The girls collaborated and designed a garment inspired by artefacts of the museum.

Their winning design will be displayed in the Museum from the end of April 2013. Pictured is the winning design.

Davitt College, Castlebar second year students Niamh Neyret and Aoife Halligan were awarded First prize in a Fashion Competition run by the National Museum





# Davitt Sports Desk



As the 2012/2013 school year draws to an end we can look back at probably one of the most significant years in the school's sporting history. It has been a year of great joy in the sporting arena with huge numbers of students excelling in a large number of disciplines. This past year there were many and varied highlights during a very busy season in the sports department. We have an extensive extracurricular programme which caters for the sporting and leisure needs of the students in Davitt College. The provision of a wide range of extra-curricular activities makes an enormous contribution to the life of the school. The involvement in such activities complements the work that takes place in the classroom and gives the students an opportunity to develop their talents, social skills, and self-confidence and leadership qualities.

## Class Davitt College Boys are All-Ireland Semi-Finalists

Pictured are the Davitt College, Castlebar first year boys basketball team who reached the All-Ireland Semi-Finals in University of Limerick Sports Arena on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Back Row (L-R): Mr. P.J. McTavish (Coach), Liam McEllin, Ciaran Costello, Bartek Zalewski (Captain), Emil Samko, Eoin O'Malley, Joshua Awodibu. Front Row (L-R): James Kennedy, Bah So, Noel Geraghty, James Finnerty, Ler Lah, Dónal Parkinson. Their commitment, stamina



and sacrifice throughout their 7-match campaign was praised by Principal Ms. Bernie Rowland. Davitt College wishes to congratulate the entire team and their dedicated coach Mr. McTavish



## Triathlon Winners for Davitt College

Congratulations to the Davitt College Triathlon Team who took First, Second and Third place at the Gortnor Abbey Triathlon Competition in May 2013. Pictured from left (back row): Mr. Danny Buckley, Mentor, Shane Gavin, Niall Kilkenny, Benjamin Studnicka and Liam Corcoran. Front row: Ambre Fadden, Paula McDonagh and Meaghan Coen



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# Davitt News

## Boys Senior and U-16 Gaelic Teams are All-Ireland Finalists



Congratulations to the Senior (top photo) and U-16 (left photo) boys Gaelic Football teams on reaching the All-Ireland Semi-Finals 2013.

Well done to all the boys and managers for their commitment throughout the year.

## Dragons Den Winners—All Ireland Finalists

*Congratulations to Davitt College students Ornaith Hopkins, Shannon Mangan and Claire McDonagh and their company Fíor Dhathanna who competed in the National Finals of Junior Dragons Den in Dublin on Saturday, December 8th 2012.*

Well done to the entrepreneurs on a fantastic achievement.

