



TY TIMES

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The Davitt College official Transition Year newsletter



YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT

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TYs Escape from Davitt!!!

BY EVA GARAYALDE

In January, the TYs visited the Castlebar Escape Rooms. Between the fiendish puzzles and the ticking clock, this invigorating, character-building trip was highly entertaining and dramatic.

It took half an hour, a multitude of hints, and the combined intelligence of a room of TY escapees, but in the end, we returned to the sweet fresh air of the Castlebar roadside once more. (continued on page 4)

ANNUAL

POETRY

COMPETITION

Huge congratulations to not one, but three Davitt students, who won the ATU Mayo TY Poetry Pillar Competition. Each student submitted a poem based on the theme of Biodiversity. A prize-giving event will be held in ATU Mayo Campus on Friday, 5th May 2023, this will include the installation of the winning poem on the Poetry Pillar in St. Mary's Courtyard Garden, ATU Mayo Campus. Well done to everyone who took part, especially to the winners who will receive cash prizes.

1st place= Eva Garayalde

2nd place = Alan Nolan

3rd place = Rory Lowe Walsh

You can read some of their poetry throughout this issue.



GALWAY CITY • MAYO • CONNEMARA • MOUNTBELLEW

Service of Loss Ceremony



Transition Year students participated in the Service of Loss ceremony on February 24th at ATU Castlebar. The service was held for parents who have experienced bereavement through the death of a baby or who have experienced pregnancy loss.

The students took part in a very poignant candle ceremony and distributed prayer cards created by TY Class 4A.



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'I felt considerably less intelligent leaving the escape rooms than going in. A humbling experience, 5 stars.' said one of this writer's sources, who wishes to remain anonymous.

Let's just hope that none of us turn to a life of crime and end up imprisoned, since we would stand little chance of escape without hints and would in the end be forced to tunnel out with nothing but blood, tears, and an old teaspoon.



DREAMSCAPES

BY EVA GARAYALDE

There's this recurring dream of mine
of endless suburbs and grey skies
a sea of cargo ships and car rides
bitten nails and nuclear tides
My world through fear tinted glasses

In another dream, its antithesis
of wolves in the woods and eagles
crossing thunder-clad skies
Of towns fading to ruins, time
taking its due and nature our debt

Different ends, lives in different eyes
shaped in all by humanity's fickle touch
Power slipping from grasping hands
like sand in an hourglass, meanwhile
Meanwhile the world is burning
and I am tired of this game
of political politeness
Nature will not wait for us to win.



JIVING

by THOMAS LYNCH

It was like something out of a movie - people flying around the place with elbows swinging left, right, and centre. We started with a warmup, and then we were given a short break. We had some bumps here and there (which had the hallmarks of an American football game) and a few 1-on-1 collisions (one, in particular, where an individual found themselves alone and somewhat outnumbered). It was good fun all the same, apart from the bumps and bruises that were all part and parcel of a group of individuals learning to jive for the first time (although our experience with the school musical should have helped in this regard!).

After the break, we got back into it. Our instructor allowed us to roam freely around and pick our dance partner. There were people moving frantically around, looking for their perfect dance partner, and the sounds of thudding hooves might have been more at place at the local mart. It was like a royal rumble in the middle and people were going in for the swing. A few, who shall be kept anonymous for their safety and wellbeing, threw a few moves that resembled haymakers and may have caused a bit of damage were it not for the watchful eyes of our talented instructor.

There were only a few bruises afterwards, but apart from that, the jiving (or rumble!) was good. I firmly believe that the dance teacher was impressed by our enthusiasm and our natural talent for jiving.



KRAV in MAGA COMES to DAVITT

BY ELLEN GILLAN AND EMILY JACKSON

On Thursday afternoon, Robert (the owner of Krav Maga Explode Castlebar) came to our school to teach us some self-defence. It took place in the school's own PE hall. It was important to be educated on pickpocketers and how to be safe in a bad situation, especially when we are traveling to Paris on the 24th April for our TY school tour.



In the two weeks of instruction, we learned how to run away safely by distracting the kidnappers and how to trick pickpocketers. He showed us a video example of people being spiked and how easy it is to be robbed or attacked, and the dangers around it. We used punching bags and fake knives to re-enact what happens in those situations. With the punching bag we learnt how to throw good punches.

Overall the experience was useful and important for life situations, that hopefully we won't find ourselves in!



TY Insight Series

Not a Bad Hair Day

By Sorcha Munnelly & Grace Kilbane



Last week in Davitt College we learned the valuable life skill of hairdressing, now we are so talented we can do any hairstyle you could imagine, from a Celtic Braid to a Fishtail Updo, we have the whole package.

We also learned how to properly care for our hair. Do NOT scrub with a towel do NOT go to bed with wet hair and do NOT use lots of heat on your hair (I still continue to do all of these things). We decided to interview some of our peers who also completed the workshop.

Our first interviewee was Iona Concannon McDonnell. Here's what she had to say:

What did you think of the workshop?

Very insightful and I learned about my grey hairs (hint of sarcasm).

What did you learn from the workshop?

I learned a Fishtail Updo style, it was so cool and so insightful (more sarcasm detected).



For our next interviewees we decided to get a twin perspective, so we spoke to Adam and Matthew Blake.

What did you think of the workshop?

Adam: it was a good experience, very entertaining.

What did you learn from the experience?

Adam: I learned how to braid.

Do you plan on using these skills in the future?

Adam: Absolutely I plan to braid my future wife's hair.

Do you want to become a hairdresser?

Adam: No.

Next we heard from his twin brother, Matthew.

What did you think of the workshop?

Matthew: it was alright.

Do you plan on using this skill in the future?

Matthew: No. (unlike his twin he does not plan to braid his future wife's hair)

What did you learn from the workshop?

Matthew: Nothing I didn't understand.

Do you plan on becoming a hairdresser?

Matthew: No.



TY Insight Series

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Our next interviewee was Guilherme Barbosa or, as some of you may know him, the infamous Barbosa Barbers @barbosathebarber on TikTok. We thought a "real" barber's perspective would be helpful.

What did you think of the workshop?

It was helpful for the students with no knowledge in the industry, it did not contain barber knowledge, but it was helpful.

What did you learn?

I learned how to braid plaits and different hairstyles ... for women.

Do you plan on using these skills in the future?

Yes, I will use these skills in the future as I do work in the industry.

Do you plan on becoming a hairdresser?

Yes, there is a very high possibility, as I said I, do work in the hair industry.



This interviewee, Rebecca Moran, had no previous knowledge of hair before this. She couldn't even tie her own ponytail. Let's see what she had to say.

What did you think of the workshop?

It was fun but challenging.

What did you learn?

How to plait hair properly.

Do you plan on using these skills in the future?

Probably it stemmed my confidence in doing hair.

Do you plan on becoming a hairdresser?

Probably an option, not my first option, though or second or third. I think it would be best for all of us if it wasn't an option at all.

With a special shout out to Leone and Joan.

NEVER LET OUR GREEN EARTH FALL

BY ALAN NOLAN

This world is a peaceful place,
It goes at its own steady pace.
But we seek to exploit this finite resource,
To destroy it and disrupt its course.

To clean and ultimately save this planet,
We require belief in a new tenet.

A way to keep the green on the grass,
The blue in the sky,
The smiles on peoples' faces.

The temperature's rising,
The people are fighting,
So, something must be done.

Come together one and all,
Never let our green earth fall.

TY's Venture to the 'Big Smoke'

BY KATIE HOLMES

On the sunny morning of the first Friday in February, 2023, Davitt College Transition Years and five teachers set off on a trip to Dublin. Everyone was buzzing with excitement as we waited for the second bus which was running a few minutes late. We didn't let that stop us though, we had a busy day ahead.

The bus journey to Dublin passed quicker than expected as the chatter on the bus was non-stop. As the buses pulled up outside Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, everyone quickly hopped off and walked briskly into the main entrance to save as much time for shopping. We only had 1hr 30mins before we had to leave for the bus, so we had to use our time wisely.

After our quick look around in Liffey Valley, our next stop was Croke Park. We were shown the conference room, dressing rooms, warm-up room, premium level, the pitch, Croke Park museum and the shop. The tour guide talked about the history behind Croke Park including Bloody Sunday. The highlight of the tour was when we got the chance to climb up to the very top of the Hogan stand and look down on the pitch.

Our last stop was the Bord Gáis Theatre where we experienced the musical version of 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show.' There were definitely mixed reviews after watching the musical, but it was still a good experience because most of us had never been in the Bord Gáis before.

On the way home from Dublin we stopped at Supermacs in Ballinalack for food. By the time we got back to school we were all half asleep.





DRIVING

by KEELAN O'DONNELL

It was a cold stormy morning in March. 4C and 4A were making a trek to Galway to take part in a relaxing driving lesson and a mock theory test at Pallas Karting.

The trip started in controversy as, en route to Pallas Karting, we were left stranded in the fields of Athenry for an hour, until another bus came for and eventually brought us to the venue. When we arrived, we got free grub that the school prepared for us (thank you Mr. O'Reilly!) and then we got straight down to business. My group passed the theory test scoring 35 out of 40.

After the theory test, we set off in groups of four to practice our driving. I'll keep the participants anonymous to save them from embarrassment but two professionals conked the car and someone else nearly drove us off the road! However, I feel we are all better drivers as a result of our day at the driving school.





WOMEN IN STEM

by Michaela Keavney & Niamh Bourke

The Transition Year girls got an opportunity to go to Ballina for the afternoon and receive a talk about women in STEM. Hollister put on a talk with inspirational women within the company and Nora Patten, an Irish aeronautical engineer.

The day started off when all the girls in the year got on a bus and headed off to the Great National Hotel Ballina. When we arrived, we got front row seats. iRadio was there, playing some good tunes. Some of the girls were lucky enough to get some cool sunglasses! Soon, many more schools from all over the Ballina area arrived. Sarah, a lead engineer from Hollister started the event and talked about the company and what she does as an engineer. She also gave an interesting fact that only 13% of people in STEM are woman. After Sarah spoke, she introduced the operations manager of Hollister, Mandy, who flew all the way from Chicago to speak at the event.

Next up was the one and only Nora Patten. She gave a great speech about her childhood and how she gained an interest in space. The main message of all three speeches was, if you have an interest in something and have a dream, then it can happen, and you can do it. When all the talks had finished, there was many stands where they demonstrated different areas of science. At the end we were given some gifts from the main organisers of this magnificent event. We were given a Hollister glass bottle and shoe lights.

It was a momentous day and gave us a great insight into women in STEM and science. Overall, there was a great atmosphere and the buzz was brilliant.

TY ON THE MOVE



Spar Cup



Spar Cup



Movement Gym



STEM



Escape Rooms

Spar Cup Drama

BY DOMINICK DUNNE AND CIAN REDDINGTON

The Spar Cup is a primary school blitz held in Milebush, Solar 21 park. It spans over two days (13th to the 14th of March), with one day dedicated to the boys and one day dedicated to girls. Davitt College TY students were asked to volunteer to assist with the refereeing of this blitz.

The first day was for girls from the primary schools - it was good and there were some excellent players but day two was the main event. I can say the quality of football definitely improved on the second day, it was a lot more eventful! Everything was smooth sailing for the first hour but then disaster struck. A young lad was tackled, and, as he soared elegantly through the air, he crashed on the ground but unfortunately landed on his arm. It was a disaster. This team's main player was injured! After a few minutes on the ground, he was checked and brought off with his arm in a sling. It was said that he broke his arm, poor lad!

There were some eventful moments such as when one lad made a dirty tackle but the officials did not see any foul play! The score was one-all. Last kick of the game and a penalty was the deciding factor. There was a chill in the air, the atmosphere was incredible. The young footballer ran up to the ball and blasted his foot through the centre of the leather orb. The keeper saw this absolute rocket of a ball soar through the air into the top-right corner. They had won and moved on to the next round of the tournament.

The students that gave their time and effort to help with this event were Dominick Dunne, Cian Reddington, Colm Lynch, Sintayehu Killeen, Adam Blake, Conor Loftus, Beth Roache, Saoirse Loftus, and Sarah King. We all really enjoyed it and realised how tough it is to be a referee.

#RespectTheRefs

TY ON THE MOVE



Movement Gym



Movement Gym



FAI Schools Coaching



Movie Magic



Escape Rooms

BIODIVERSITY

BY RORY LOWE-WALSH

We humans do not own planet Earth
We are just one of the species
Of the millions that inhabit this Earth
Of which only fifteen percent
We have been able to discover and describe

So we should live in unity
With the biological diversity
We are blessed with
Each of the species on this earth
They must be left,
To their native environment

TY ON THE MOVE



Researching in the Library



U17 Girls vs Merlin College



Creating Movie Magic



TYS Visit Croke Park



Senior Boys vs Crossmolina

MOVIE MAGIC





BACK TO THE FIFTIES

As the Easter break loomed upon Davitt College, and the prospect of students being deprived of classes and learning hung like a weight around the collective shoulders of the DC student body, it came as a welcome distraction for the TY class and the pit singers from Grease: The Musical to catch a preview of their performance live on stage. Facilitated by Mayo Movie World, some 150 students packed in to Screen 1 to witness themselves on stage for the first time!



Happy Easter!

THANK YOU FOR READING