



TY TIMES

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The Davitt College official Transition Year newsletter



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Surfing USA ... in Enniscrone

BY RYAN FADDEN

Enniscrone, located on the northwest coast of Ireland, is a hidden gem that offers something for everyone. Enniscrone has everything you need for an unforgettable adventure for a group of TY students who love the outdoors.

Enniscrone is home to some of the best surfing spots in Ireland. The beach at Enniscrone is a popular spot [continued on page 5].

Breaking News: TYs Win Prestigious Landscaping Award

BY COLM GARVEY

Throughout the year several TYs partook in a wonderful project to revamp a neglected and seldom used outdoor area at the heart of the school. From the creative mind of Ms. Morley a plan was hatched and a vision for a bright, new, vibrant social area was born. The first task was to wipe the canvas! Mr. Garvey was appointed Construction Manager for the project and under his guidance, Conor Loftus and Martin Graven set to work with barrow and spade, clearing stone and gravel. Martin estimates he wheeled over 100 barrows of earth but had only 50 cups of tea! With Phase One complete the TYs headed off on a well-earned holiday to Paris.



For Phase Two, muscle was needed to set formwork and pour concrete for a new semi-circular pathway - Cillian Moore and Jason Mullen were the powerhouses brought in for the job. A skilled concrete operator was still needed however, and a wide net was cast from Brussels to Turlough to find such a person. The design team eventually settled on the multitalented Mr. McGrath and under his leadership the concrete flowed.



With the path completed the refreshed TYs returned and set about putting the finishing touches on the job. Conor and Martin enlisted Diarmuid Swift and Dominic Dunne to help with the decorative stone and the planting of trees and flowers – an amazing job was done. Speaking with lead foreman Conor Loftus afterwards, he claims he was inspired by the gardens of Versailles. Mr. Donlon (floral arrangement advisor) and Ms. Spindler (retaining wall engineer) must also get credit for their much-needed assistance. Mr. Donlon is not sure where Versailles is, but he thinks he has a map somewhere to look it up.



Presenting the award at a special awards ceremony last night Mr. McGrath held back the tears as the smell of lavender from our TY lads peppered his eyes - congrats to all involved!!





SURFING USA ... IN ENNISCROME

by RYAN FADDEN

Enniscrone is home to some of the best surfing spots in Ireland. The beach at Enniscrone is a popular spot for surfers of all levels, from beginners to people like me. The waves are consistent and challenging, making it the perfect destination for thrill-seekers.

If you're new to surfing, there are plenty of surf schools in the area that offer lessons and equipment rentals. The instructors are experienced and knowledgeable, and they'll help you get up on your board in no time.

Enniscrone is a must-visit destination for any TY students. With its beautiful beaches and world-class golf courses, Enniscrone has everything you need for an unforgettable adventure. So pack your bags, grab your surfboard and head to Enniscrone for the ultimate day out with your classmates.







LIBRARY LEGO

by Ellen, SORCHA & ALISON

On the 28th of May, Transition Year class 4C set up the library as a LEGO haven for kids as part of their TY business project. Many hours that morning were spent hanging balloons and decorating the library for a senior infants class to come across the road and visit Davitt College for an hour to play with LEGO.

This project was based on sustainability. LEGO is a sustainable toy as it can be reused multiple times. It is important to be sustainable in today's world, and leave behind a better world for future generation. Creating more new plastic is having an effect on the environment.

16 six-year-olds arrived at the front doors of Davitt College, all excited to play with LEGO. For a full hour the kids were busy creating beautiful creations out of LEGO. Some of TYs took time to play and chat with the kids and others, a certain group of people who we shall not name, sat there for the entire duration, taking everything in. All we can say is some of the 16-year-olds were shy than the 6-year-olds! When the senior infants left with bags and bags of LEGO we had a quick clean up and headed off for lunch.



TYs Experience College Life in ATU Galway!

BY MAEVE KELLY, CHRISTOPHER LENNON, BETH ROACHE, DARA GRIFFITHS, AND LIVIA MACIAZEK

On the 10th of May, the entire Transition Year visited the ATU campus in Galway. A range of trial courses were on offer to all the TYs attending the Open Day - courses such as Sports Sciences, Hotel Management, Culinary Studies and Science & Engineering. Here are some of the students' thoughts on the Courses ATU Galway offers.

Christopher Lennon (Hotel Management)

I chose the Hotel Management course. We were first brought into a room with current 1st to 3rd years in the college. They told us about their experiences and why they chose to go there. Then we were told about opportunities the course could give us. For example, moving to New York for work experience for 3 months, a world class skills competition and the trophy that they won, we were then taken to the computer room. They taught us how to use Travelport, a special website for travel agents and companies to mass book flights. Then we were brought on a campus tour.



Dara Griffiths and Livia Maciazek (Hotel and Culinary Skills)

We went to the Culinary Arts and Gastronomy course. We were told about kitchen management and food service. Next, we were shown a presentation on course content and electives. Some of the electives included mixology, wine tasting, charcuterie creation and ethnic food cooking. We were then taught about food preservation and foraging. We were shown examples of students' work such as rosehip syrup, elderberry vinegars and slow gin that had been preserving for over a year. Finally, we were taught about foraging and how to identify local ingredients in the wilderness. We were shown wild garlic, edible wildflowers, seaweed and gorse bushes. We got to sample some of these ingredients and learn what flavours they add to food. I thought the course was interesting as there were many different career paths it could take you down. The kitchens looked spacious and professional, and every student had their own unit to cook at with their own equipment.

Maeve Kelly and Beth Roache (Sports Science, Exercise & Nutrition)

We chose to do the Sports Science, Exercise & Nutrition Course in ATU, they took us to the Sports Hall to participate, we were then introduced to two of the Sports Science, Exercise & Nutrition Lecturers. We then participated in various experiments such as Vertical jump test (which tested how high we could jump off the ground), we completed a reaction test (which tested our reaction speed and reflexes), we tried a reach test (where we had to push a metal shaft on a box as far as you could while keeping your legs flushed to ground), and finally we tried a back strength test. After we finished the experiments in the sports hall we were brought on a tour of the ATU Campus and were shown the Engineering Rooms, Computer Rooms & Hotel Management Rooms. We personally thought that the ATU Campus was smaller than the University of Galway Campus but it had a more homelier atmosphere.

TYs Honoured at the ATU Poetry Pillar Competition



Million Euro Horses

BY ELLEN GILLAN AND KATIE HOLMES

On the 4th of May, two busloads of Transition Years went off to Kildangan stud in Co. Kildare. We learned about some of its history and discovered a wealthy man named Sheikh Mohammed owns this stud with expensive horses and a foal worth an eye-watering €1million euro.

Some facts we learned include: the stud was purchased in 1986, but has been part of thoroughbred history for over a century and produced many Champions. Godolphin's operation in Ireland comprises of five farms in County Kildare, one in County Meath and two in County Tipperary.

Kildangan itself is home to the Irish-based Darley stallions.

We stopped on the way back at Junction 14 to complete a unique experience.





TROUBLE IN PARIS-DISE

by Michaella Keavney & Eimear O'Donnell

It all started off when a group of 100 students left for Dublin Airport at 1am in the morning. The energy in Lidl's car park was wild they were an energetic and enthusiastic bunch for the journey ahead.

We reached Dublin Airport at 4 o'clock, got off the bus and headed straight for the check-in desks. At this stage everyone was tired and ready to go to bed ... little did we know that this was only the start of a big adventure.

We started to board the plane to Paris some time later (of course the teachers were the last people on the plane!). The journey was a quick flight, everyone was tired but still rearing to go as we walked into the airport to meet a huge crowd. This was a little inconvenient as one of the TY students was having a bit of trouble with travel documents - they finally let him go after an hour of waiting, which felt like an eternity! We were ready to set off on our next part of the trip: try and get out of the airport with Mr. Brogan leading the group (little did he know he was bringing us around in circles).

Eventually we reached the bus and headed into Paris, only for Mr. Brogan and Mr. Nevin to get in a little argument with the bus driver! When we reached the city, we pulled up at the Arc de Triomphe where we were given about an hour and a half to sample the local cuisine. We rendezvoused back at the bus for a tour of the city, unfortunately we were all so tired from the journey from Ireland that most of us fell asleep.

We headed to Paris ile de France where we were forced to get food in a place called Flunch. In all honesty, they were not that friendly and refused us entry at first! It took Mr. Nevin to fight for our rights since we had already paid for this little venture. While we were waiting to be let into the restaurant, we got a bit of street entertainment with a man showing off all his dance moves. Sadly the performance had to come to an end when his speaker died. Eventually, after an hour, we got in for some food - the options were chicken or fish.

After that we headed back to the bus to make our way to the Explorer's Hotel. It was a long bus journey and almost everyone took the opportunity for a quick nap as it had been a long day of travelling.

When we reached the hotel, we were given the keys to our rooms. We were very impressed with the hotel. We headed straight for a quick look at our boudoirs before heading back downstairs for a lovely evening swim. We were all ran from the pool at 11 o'clock as the facilities were closing so we headed back up to our rooms for a good night's sleep.





DISNEYLAND DELIGHT

by 4D

On our third day, we got up at 7am to get breakfast and be ready for the day. We departed at 9.30 am. There were a few students who were extremely tired. We hopped on the bus and arrived at Disneyland. Everyone got off and got their tickets.

We decided to meet at World of Disney. As we walked through the gates, we all felt like children again. The word 'magical' came immediately to our minds. We went straight for the rides, where the queues were long. The highlights were definitely the lift aka 'The Tower of Terror' and the Avengers roller coaster. We were all looking forward to lunch and we were delighted with the Mickey Mouse shaped pizza. Later in the night, the queues were not as long and we got another opportunity to go on the rides. Some of us then got front row seats to the fireworks, which were more than we expected. They were unreal, some might even say a once in a lifetime experience. Once they were finished, we went for a walk back to the hotel. Although we were tired, the day was worth the pain!





JOURNAL DE PARIS, DAY 3

by Joseph Mandel & Alex Minkov

The grand denouement of our Paris trip began at the Air and Space Paris Le Bourget Museum, it was very interesting and a unique experience. Unfortunately, we weren't allowed to go on some of the planes as you needed tickets (which cost more money). But ingenious Adam Blake and I (the magnificent Joseph Mandel) found a ticket on the ground and got on the plane. Mr. Nevin was not happy that we had access to areas that he had not. We took some pictures for him though! We got some pictures outside with the massive letters which you can see below/above this article.

After we left, we went to the Palace of Versailles, the former residence of Marie-Antoinette during the French Revolution. Since 1979, the Palace of Versailles has been listed as a World Heritage site and is one of the greatest achievements in French 17th century art. There were some amazing pieces of artwork in the palace, most of them painted by a man named Le Brun. We couldn't go into the gardens as you needed a ticket for that too. I reckon Mr. Nevin will have to increase the budget next year to buy the extra tickets.

Then we got on the bus and went to the Aéroville shopping centre, the teachers gave us two hours to go around. The shopping centre was great, it had everything including clothes, food, jewellery and restaurants. A lot of people in the year bought some clothes and some got jewellery, it was a great shopping centre and a good ending to our trip.













TYs Excel at Rugby



4 d · 0
Congratulations to Aine O'Connor who played with Connacht u16s 7s squad today and won all their matches. Interpro finals next Saturday in the IRFU High Performance Centre.

Congratulations to Áine O'Connor, who was selected for the Connaught U16s Rugby squad.



Castlebar U17s Rugby beat Gort to become 2023 Plate Champions, propped up by some of our excellent Transition Year students.



Colm Lynch Selected for Mayo U17.



Tianha Johnson wins Senior Healthy Home Chef.



Diarmuid Swift & Armóin finish 2nd in the final of Siansa Gael Linn.



Davitt College

18 May at 21:06 · 🌐

Our talented TY student Sintayehu Killeen playing the very same Steinway piano that David Bowie once played in Windmill Lane Studios, Dublin



Sinteyahu Killeen plays the same Steinway piano that David Bowie once played in Dublin.

TY CLEAN UP THE TOWN



ETB SPORTS DAY

BY SARAH BRIGHT & ORLA MCHUGH

On the bright, sunny morning of the 17th of May, five buses filled with Davitt students headed to Ballina. We were on our way to take part in the ETB Athletics Day and were eager and excited to try out activities, such as javelin, long jump, high jump, relays and much more.

Davitt started the day off strong with the senior lads winning the tug of war contest, and the senior girls coming second. As the day went on and the sun started to split the stones, a few students relaxed on the grass while others won more medals. Some of which were the gold in girls javelin, long jump, boys 400m relay, silver in the 100m sprints, boys high jump and bronze in the girls relay and 800m sprint.



As the day came to an end and the we were waiting for the buses, a water-fight broke out between some of the senior students and, when the buses finally arrived, we were drenched. On the way home there was one more treat in store when we stopped at Applegreen to get some well deserved ice-creams. Overall the day was a fantastic experience and in the words of some of the athletes, "the atmosphere was electric"(Alison), "I had a really great day in the sun (Sorcha), "I got sun-kissed and the high jump was amazing"(Ellen), "the craic was 90 especially with the water fight at the end"(Rebecca).

FAI SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

BY BETH ROACHE AND EIMEAR O'DONNELL

Davitt College Students Beth, Eimear, Aoibheann, Conor and Adam participated in a six-week coaching course with Castlebar Celtic where they coached four First Class groups from primary schools across Castlebar.



After the six-week period they arranged a fun day for all the First Class groups. They enjoyed playing matches and all participated in a very skillful penalty shoot-out. It was a very hot day, and the children gave great feedback that they were delighted to play football with their classmates. Our TYs enjoyed their experience and are thankful to Castlebar Celtic for the great coaching opportunity.



THE TY ACADEMY AWARDS 2023

TY AWARDS

On the 30th of May, the entire Transition Year Class of 2023 were ushered into the assembly hall for their annual awards ceremony. For over 45 minutes they were shown a montage of their entire year from start to finish, which included highlights from the 2022 musical Grease, their fantastic foray onto foreign soil in Paris, and a selection of personal achievements both in and outside of Davitt College.

The class were treated to their cinematic debuts as they watched their short films, which they made themselves, broadcast on to the big screen!

Signing the Transition Year of 2022/2023 off, the TY Times editors, Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Gallagher.



*Happy
Summer!*

THANK YOU FOR READING