

PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL



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Summer 2014

Welcome to the summer edition of our school newsletter! So much has happened in the school in the past few months. Here are some of the highlights!

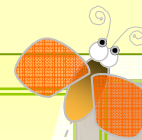


Congratulations to First Year student **Ellie Daly**!! She won the Overall Intel award for Best Physical Science/ Technology project at **SciFest** at WIT with her design of a bottle feeder for kid goats.

Well done to Alannah Finnegan and Kayleigh Carroll for taking part and for getting to the last round of judging with their app 'Codeyourcloset'.



First Year students received their certificates for attendance, significant improvement, attendance, academic achievement and much more! See Page 4



Dame Mary Peters (Gold Olympian, 1972) visited the TY schools who were involved with tireless fund-raising and projects for the Sand Dam Project (associated with the Rotary Club)





Deutschmobil in der schule!

Students of German in Presentation Secondary School enjoyed a wonderful experience on Wednesday 21st May when they welcomed the Deutschmobil into their school. The Deutschmobil, a touring bus and the initiative of German Connects, has been visiting schools and other educational institutions throughout the country as part of their language campaign to foster the learning of the German language throughout Ireland.

The second year 2A5 class was very fortunate to welcome this unique event into the school and were treated to a morning of German language and cultural activities not to be forgotten. German music, card-games, role-plays, jig-saw puzzles and map-work were just a few of the many versatile, student-motivating activities incorporated, along with colourful teaching materials used to enthuse and encourage the girls to learn more about the language and culture of Germany. Students Jessica and Ciara said that "we found it very helpful and an easy and fun way to learn", "we found the visit very enjoyable. The activities were fun and made us use our German." Fellow classmates Sarah and Grace said "we learnt lots about Germany".

The Deutschmobil is designed to encourage a greater number of Irish pupils and students to choose to learn German as part of their education and is equipped with carefully chosen teaching and advertising materials for its tour through Ireland. Deutschmobil is operated by two German language assistants funded by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

Motivating students and inspiring teachers are the main goals of their project. To this end, they choose unconventional teaching methods and promote learning through fun and games.

It seeks to highlight why German is an important modern language which is worth learning and which will prove beneficial to all "would-be" German speakers.

The programme is an initiative by the German Embassy and the Goethe-Institut Irland, and is developed in close association with key Irish educational institutions and business. With a growing demand for high levels of language skills from domestic, Irish-based German companies in Ireland, this is the perfect time to learn German.



Cycle against Suicide leadership conference

From singing and dancing, to tears and sobs, it is fair to say that a great day was had by all at the Cycle against Suicide leadership conference.

The Conference was kicked off by the Heathers singing some of their up beat joyful songs! Everyone was clapping and tapping to the sound of the beat. From then on in, an indescribable atmosphere in the RDS was created!

After the Heathers, Jim Breen, the organiser of The Cycle against Suicide took to the stage. He talked about how important our mental health is and that 'it's ok not to feel ok'. He also reminded us how everyone is affected by suicide and that 'together we can break the cycle'.

Jim invited many students from schools across the nation to speak about what they did to help break the cycle. Some schools had great video clips about mental health. We learned a lot from them such as the importance of telling someone if you are feeling low. Everyone was shocked to find out how important it is to have someone you can trust in your life and to hear about lots of people who chose not to speak about their issues, or not get any help.

Four sports people talked to us about how they struggle with their mental health. How they got help, how they talked to their family and friends, how they coped and how against all odds they found just a small amount of hope and managed to find a light at the end of the tunnel. They told us when things are not going your way, to keep on going, because life won't always be like that.

The eye widener of the day came when Donal Walsh's Dad told us the story of Donal's life. Donal battled terminal cancer from the age of twelve. His message was to choose to live your life, because he had no choice. Donal's friends stood on the stage with the expressions of hurting and loss written all over each of their faces. Everyone in the audience was moved to tears to hear about Donal. But the sadness his father and friends carry showed us all what death does, and what would be created if we were to commit suicide.

Four musicians were next to tell their stories. It's hard to believe that even our role models have mental health problems. Bressie opened up to us about realising that something was wrong with him when he was our age. He told us that his doctor did not help him, and how he went to the extent of breaking his own arm in the hope that the hospital doctors would know what the problem was. He talked about his frustration with his mental issues and how he copes. It is such a comforter to know that even our stars can have mental health problems. "It can happen to anyone". The other musicians also told us how they get through each day. From opening the curtains for light, to doing press ups and being able to list thirty things to be grateful for each day, are all ways in which our stars cope.

The story which we all connected with the most was the life story of a light hearted school principal. He told us how he fell in love with his wife, that she passed away and the dark patch he was plunged into. He shared with us what she used to say to him whenever he was having a bad day. "You are lovely, you are lovable and you are loved!"

To leave on a high note, the Heathers came back on stage, returning the concert like atmosphere. They sang "Remember when" and "Forget me knots". Both songs had powerful lyrics to reflect the day beautifully.

The Cycle against Suicide leadership conference was best day of Transition year by far. We now believe that "it's ok not to feel ok and that it's more than ok to ask for help". Whenever we are feeling low, just remember "you are lovely, you are lovable and you are loved!" And "***Together we CAN break the cycle of suicide***".



Eimear Gilhooly

Awards time!





Presentation Wexford clinched the South East senior basketball title, overcoming St Anne's of Tipperary by 44 points to 26. En route to the final, Presentation recorded wins over Loreto, Bridgetown and Ramsgrange while going down to FCJ Bunclody. A superior score difference saw Presentation top the group and record a quarter final win at home to Cahir, before squeezing past O.L.O.L. New Ross in the semi-final. This set up a final against St Anne's, with whom the girls have enjoyed a healthy rivalry with over recent years.

In the final, the Presentation girls marked their intent in the opening exchanges with Aleisha Cullen and Leanne Brennan scoring early baskets, as the Wexford side's defence held solid. At the end of the first quarter Presentation led by 11 points to 2, with Chloe Thomas and Niamh Butler each adding a basket.

The second quarter saw St Anne's take the game to Presentation, as they upped their tempo and intensity. This period saw Mairead O'Connor registering 6 points for the Tipp side, bringing them right back into the game. Niamh Butler responded with 8 points of her own as the pace of both teams was now more evenly matched. Marie Kinane showed her effectiveness close to the basket for St Anne's as she drew fouls and added 3 points for St Anne's before Leanne Brennan added a basket for Presentation, to leave the score 22 to 13 at half time.

The strength of the Presentation squad was key to their performance, as Jess Hore, Sadhbh O'Flaherty and Butler again, all registered scores in the third quarter, while Aisling Buckley and Mairead O'Connor replied for St Anne's, who were playing with great tenacity to try and claw their way back into the game. Aine McDonnell, Sophie Donnelly and Roisin Doolan were introduced for Presentation at various stages, maintaining the high octane pace of the game.

Aleisha Cullen found her form in the fourth to register six points and not to be outdone, Leanne Brennan sank three baskets of her own. In response, Kinane and O'Connor combined to score three baskets for St Anne's. The final score was 44 to 26 to Presentation, whose bright start to the game laid the foundation for their victory.

Presentation now progress to the All-Ireland phase of the competition on Saturday 1st of February. It is hoped that Kacey Maher will be sufficiently recovered from a knee injury sustained in the semi-final win over Rosbercon to take to the court and add further strength to the girls' bid to win a place in the All-Ireland semi final.

Team: Niamh Butler (capt), Aleisha Cullen, Chloe Thomas, Aine McDonald, Niamh Kenny, Leanne Brennan, Sophie Donnelly, Jess Hore, Ailish Sinnott, Kacey Maher, Sadhbh O'Flaherty, Roisin Doolan, Jess White, Leah McGuire, Eimear Gilhooly and Elisa Valadez.

Build a bank - TY



On Wednesday, the 5th of March, "The Big Bank Theory" from Presentation Secondary School, Wexford made the journey to Leopardstown, Co.Dublin to compete in the AIB Build A Bank Challenge. The Build A Bank Challenge consisted of six Transition Year students creating a bank in the school and getting as many students as possible to open and maintain their own account. The six team members were Ciara Brady (Bank Manager) , Hannah Rossiter (Assistant Manager) , Andrea Byrne (Auditor) ,Molly Carleton (Sales and Marketing Executive) , Hannah Sinnott (Customer Service Rep.) and Camila Amirhanov (Customer Service Rep.).

On the day of the competition, over 40 schools attended. Each bank had to create an exhibition showing exactly how their bank operated, what their bank accomplished and what the theme of their bank was. The standard was extremely high and it was clear that a lot of effort was put into each school bank. "The Big Bank Theory" went with a Scientific theme & prepared a PowerPoint presentation. Their exhibition poster included many pictures of their accomplishments, such as their open day with Minister Brendan Howlin and Mayor George Lawlor cutting the ribbon. The poster featured their many loyal customers, their Valentines Day promotion and their school community involvement with the TY mini companies. "The Big Bank Theory" benefited the entire school from first to sixth year students.

Different panels of judges came around during the day and talked to each team about their bank. All the hard work paid off in the end and the bank won in the "Best Newcomer" category! Each individual team member received a 100 euro 'one for all voucher' along with 250 euro for the school. It was a great day for the entire ' Build a Bank' Team, all thanks to the AIB & superbly organised day.

The Big Bank Theory has opened over a hundred new student accounts to date and hopes to exceed this number by the end of the year! A Huge Thank you to all our loyal customers and as our motto goes "Banking with anyone else just wouldn't make cents!"

by **Ciara Brady**, TY2013–2014

The Big Bank Theory



Presentation Secondary School Wexford.



The Big Bank Theory's Open Day with the Mayor of Wexford and Brendan Howlin!



"It was such an honour to have Brendan Howlin T.D., Minister for Public Expenditure, assisting Mayor George Lawlor to officially open our bank The Big Bank Theory"





The TY Dress that was shown in Dublin on Friday at Junk Kouture Competition in the O2.

The "Walk in my Shoes" day, organised by Transition Year students on April 10th, was a campaign to help stamp out the stigma, that surrounds mental health issues in Ireland.

The objective of the day, was for every student and staff member to wear brightly decorated, odd or mis-matched shoes to school on that day. This is to create the illusion of feeling different, and having people stare at you. We wanted everyone to feel exactly how someone with mental health issues feels every day.



On the day, we also ran a competition for the wackiest, most strange shoes for both the junior and senior end of the school. A competitive atmosphere was in the air as people wore flippers, ballet shoes, slippers, wellington boots and artistically designed shoes in their attempt to win the prizes! Every one had fun looking at other peoples foot ware all day, and trying to walk normally in odd shoes!

We are delighted to say that the entire school got behind us on this attempt to raise awareness for mental health issues in Ireland. We made a whopping total of €1,225 on this amazing day had by all!

Rotary Club Sand Dam Project-Fundraising





German exchange

Ireland

On the 6th of April this year we, Sinead Prunty, Laura Dempsey and Carly Walsh from Transition Year and Sarah White, Eimear Brennan, Ciara Cahill, Hayley Murphy and Sophie Donnelly from 5th year welcomed our German exchange students to Ireland. They stayed with us and our families for 10 days and attended school with us. Their English was unbelievably good! They found Ireland very different to Germany and at the beginning found it hard to understand our accents, although some of them had already been on an exchange to Cork. We showed them as much as Wexford as we could and we also brought them to the beach. For some of them it was their first time ever being at the beach as the nearest beach to Cologne is several hours away. We also brought them to the Dunbrody Ship in New Ross, to the Heritage Park and also shopping in Dublin (they spent hours in Penneys!). They found our school very strange because we wear a uniform and it's an all-girls school, whereas theirs is mixed. In school they did some power points in the German and Geography classes to tell everyone a bit about Germany. On the 16th of April we said our goodbyes in the airport but it wasn't long until we saw them again as we headed to Germany nine days later!

Germany

On the 25th of April we boarded our plane and headed off to Germany for 10 days. We stayed in Cologne with our exchange partners and their families. We attended school, visited many tourist attractions and participated in their daily routines.

Life in Germany

Life in Germany is quite different to life in Ireland. Most people come from small families (usually one or two children) and live in apartments. They eat all of their meals together as a family unlike some families in Ireland and they don't start eating until everyone has been served their food and the mother or father says 'Guten Appetit'. The people living in Germany nowadays come from all over the world and there is a huge number of Turkish people living there. We found that German people are not at all like the very strict stereotypical German. They are incredibly nice, mannerly and welcoming and they made us feel right at home. We also found that they are very conservative and very Eco-Friendly (Umweltfreundlich). They drink all of their water from bottles and when they are finished with the bottles they take them back to the supermarket to be recycled properly. Also, most of the houses have four different bins for different types of rubbish whereas in Ireland most houses only have two! The dialogues we learned in 1st, 2nd and 3rd year came in extremely handy when we were ordering food or ice cream and once when we had to ask for directions.

School

The school we attended in Germany was a lot different to ours. The Gymnasium, Realschule and Hauptschule were all in the same grounds and although we attended the Gymnasium, some of our classes were in the other two schools. It was a mixed school and they don't wear a uniform. Each student has their own individual timetable which means that school starts and finishes at different times for everyone. They have a lot of short breaks during the day and fewer, but longer classes. They don't have much books and in class they work mostly from handouts and their folders. Every student is involved in the class and topics are discussed between the students and teacher rather than individual work, meaning there is much more conversation rather than just writing and taking notes. We found some of the topics a little bit hard to understand although we got the general gist of what they were talking about.

Food

We found the food in Germany really nice and while over there we ate a lot of pasta, cheese, bread, sausages and other types of meat. In the supermarkets there are huge delis full with different types of cheese and meat, much bigger than the ones in Irish supermarkets! They don't snack as much as we do although their meal portions tended to be a lot bigger than what we'd usually have in Ireland. They drink mostly sparkling water instead of still water and when we got there they had to buy still water especially for us!

Trips and Activities

While we were in Germany we visited the Rhein(Rhine) river, which runs right through Köln(Cologne). The Rhein is used to transport heavy goods and is also used for party boats during festivals. We went to Phantasialand which is a huge theme park in Cologne. The English teacher took us on a tour of Cologne city and we travelled over the Rhein in a cable car (Seilbahn). We went to the Dom, which is probably the most famous building in Cologne. They have been building the Dom for over 800 years and it is still not finished! We climbed over 500 steps to the very top of the Dom and got an amazing birds eye view of Cologne. We then went to the lock bridge where people write the name of the person they love of a lock and lock it onto the bridge, which means that their love will be eternal. There are so many locks on the bridge now that soon they will have to take some off because the bridge is getting too heavy! On the 30th of April we went to a street party called Mai Fest. This is a night when all of the girls go out to parties and the boys stay at home (although most of them didn't). At 12am the boys put a May Tree (Mai Baum) outside the house of their girlfriend or of a girl that they like. These trees are quite big and are decorated with colourful ribbon. This festival marks the beginning of May.

Back to Ireland

On the 5th of May we headed to the airport and said goodbye to our exchange partners. Everyone was really sad to leave but we all made plans to try and organize to come back next year. We all became very close with all of the exchange partners and we really hope to keep in contact with them. Not only have we improved our German from this trip, but we have all learned so much about life and the culture in Germany. It was a truly amazing experience and we would strongly recommend organizing an exchange to anyone who plans on studying German for the Leaving Cert.



HORSE TALES



Students represented the Presentation in a range of individual and team events this year. From September to Christmas the girls placed 3rd and 4th in the Open team events. Members included Rachel Jordan, Shannon Hynes, Alanna Roche, Andrea Dempsey and Joanne Corish.

Shannon also placed 4th in the Open Individuals while Andrea was 3rd in the 1.10 Premier Class.

A team of three was entered into the All-Ireland Interschools Hunter Trials held in Baginbstown in Carlow. The members were Sarah Berry, Katherine O'Rourke and Nicola McDonald.

In the Junior Individuals Niamh Berry and Emma O'Hagen donned the schools colours.

Well done to all!



French Exchange 2014



Another successful exchange between the students of the Presentation and their partner school in Paris took place this February. Our students enjoyed a cultural introduction to the capital city and attended the school.

These pictures show the girls visiting the Sacre Coeur Cathedral and the Eiffel tower. A fun-filled day in Euro Disney wrapped up this busy but enjoyable week.

A few weeks later the French arrived travelling from Dublin to Waterford and beyond to visit famous landmarks. They also attended classes in the Presentation to get a flavour of the Irish education system.



