

Douglas Community School

Douglas, Cork



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Spring 2015

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

It has been a busy and rewarding year for all at Douglas Community School. This publication chronicles the achievements of all those associated with Douglas Community School during recent months.

It is with great pride that I take this opportunity to congratulate Brian Creagh and Aaron McCarthy on being awarded entrance scholarships to University College Cork for the current academic year 2014/2015. Douglas Community School has a great tradition of academic excellence and are regular winners of these much sought after scholarships.

We have also won scholarships to Trinity College, Dublin, Cambridge University and many other Universities in the U.K. and also the United States. I would also congratulate all of our Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students who performed so well in the 2014 examinations and I extend my gratitude to our dedicated teaching staff who helped the boys achieve their potential.

I was delighted to attend the performances of Pinochio, staged by our Transition Year Students before Christmas. It was evident that the audiences

really enjoyed the shows and great credit must go to all TY students and the many teachers involved in the production. I congratulate the many students who are involved in extra curricular activities in the school and encourage everybody to get involved in the wide range that is available in our school. I wish all those students who are representing the school the best of luck over the coming weeks and months.

Jim Long

Principal



Pictured are Jim Long, Professor John O'Halloran Vice-President UCC and past pupil, Aaron McCarthy, Brian Creagh and Dr. Mark Mulcahy Director of Bsc Finance Program and past pupil

LINGUISTICS OLYMPIAD

This year's school final of the Linguistics Olympiad was held in the school on February 2nd. The Linguistics Olympiad has proven to be a popular and very successful event in the school. Last year 3 students (including Emmet O Sullivan and Krzysztof Wroblewski) from DCS qualified for the national final in Trinity College and Daniel Herlihy of sixth year represented Ireland in Beijing last July. Daniel, along with 3 other secondary school students from across the island of Ireland teamed up to test their language decoding skills against the world's

best at the International Linguistics Olympiad. The Olympiad is run by CNGL Centre for Global Intelligent Content, a research centre led by Trinity and co-hosted in Dublin City University. It challenges students to apply logic and reasoning skills to solve complex language puzzles in unfamiliar languages, with the aim of inspiring the next generation of multilingual technology graduates to possess a powerful blend of language competency and problem-solving expertise. For more information see <http://www.cngl.ie/ailo/>



DCS LAUNCHES NEW TRANSITION YR SUBJECT

This year has seen the introduction of Spanish Studies for Transition Year at DCS. Approximately 470 million people speak Spanish as a native language, making it second only to Mandarin in terms of its number of native speakers worldwide. Spanish is the official or national language of 22 countries worldwide.

This 7 week short course in Spanish Language and Culture introduces students to the language and culture of the Spanish speaking world. It provides students with a learning base in Spanish which they can build upon in the future. They also learn about Spain and Latin America and they understand and experience some aspects of Hispanic culture which are essential to communicate effectively in Spanish. There are three basic and overlapping components: Myself, The Spanish Speaking World and Spanish language in the Arts. As well as completing a project on an aspect of Spanish culture, students will learn basic conversational skills and be introduced to the Spanish Art, Literature and Cinema.

“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.”

- Rita Mae Brown

“A different language is a different vision of life.”

Federico Fellini



WHICH IS BETTER, MOVIE OR BOOK?

This term the DCS Book Club decided to investigate the common held belief that the book is always better than the movie. We discussed several movie adaptations and always felt the books were better. With this in mind we decided to make 'The Hobbit' by JRR Tolkien our book of choice for this term and when read, we would go and see the movie.

First of all, everyone enjoyed both. No complaints from anyone that both book and movie were fantastic. In fact, leaving school at 1pm on a Thursday with the school putting on a bus to take us to Mahon Point scored points in favour of the movie!

Overall however we felt the book was just slightly better. The movie was epic and the 3D IMAXX theatre really made it special but in the end we concluded that there is no substitute for your imagination. It's better and more rewarding to imagine the places, characters and scenes for yourselves. You can connect to the characters more and care for them more from reading a book and all the details contained. There are few things better than sitting down to read a good book. But then we would say that, wouldn't we?!

Mr. Lynch



COOKERY

This year a number of the fourth year students are attending a cookery course at the local cookery school "Cookery Cottage". Over a four week period they will be cooking a number of different ethnic dishes as well as learning some of the essential skills of cooking in general.





FORMER DCS PUPIL EXTENDS STAY AT CELTIC

YOUNG defender Eoghan O’Connell has signed a two-year contract extension at Celtic, committing his future at the club until the summer of 2017.

Delighted at penning his new deal, the 19-year-old has now set his sights on making more inroads into the first-team over the coming seasons.

The Cork-born player joined the Celtic Youth Academy in 2011, aged 16, and he quickly pushed his way into the Development Squad.

After making his senior debut last season against Ross County, the stopper has made significant strides forward this season, making four appearances for Ronny Deila’s side.

And his growing standing in the Hoops squad was recognised when he captained a youthful team in the recent friendly with Sparta Prague in Gran Canaria.

Speaking to the official Celtic website, O’Connell said: “I’m delighted and just happy to get it done. Now I’ll try and kick on from here and get on with the rest of the season.

“I’m at an interesting stage between the Development Side and the first-team, and it’s all about working as hard as I can and taking a chance when I get them.

“When I’ve played I feel I have done that, and if I can keep working hard and impressing then hopefully it will work out for me.

“Making my debut at the end of last season was a good thing as it gave me a good platform coming into the next season and show what I could do,” continued the Irishman.

“I’ve made a few appearances this year, which has been good, but I’m not taking anything for granted. I will be working away as always and this contract is just another stepping stone I have to use to get better and where I need to be.

“I will be 21 or 22 by the end of the contract and I would want to be playing for the team by then, and that’s what I will certainly be looking to do, forcing my way in whilst continuing to work hard.”

And with the likes of Liam Henderson, Callum McGregor and Darnell Fisher featuring for the first-team under Ronny Deila, O’Connell knows there is a pathway to the senior side for the club’s young players.

“A couple of the lads have done really well and it shows that if you are doing well, you will get the chance – if you are good enough, it will shine through – so that’s another good thing,” he added.



DCS ATHLETES PREPARE FOR SEASON AHEAD



Douglas CS athletes are busy preparing for the upcoming Schools Cross Country season and the Indoor T&F championships. Recently some athletes from the school were in Banna Beach in Kerry at the Munster Performance

Squad Camp for 3 days. This is an elite squad of endurance athletes selected from both school & club competitions at National level. The school has 3 athletes on the endurance squad including Evan Byrne, Stephen Cotter and Jamie O’Connell. The athletes were put through their paces doing some challenged training sessions on the sand dunes and also taking part in various educational workshops. It is a great honour for the school to have 3 athletes on this elite squad along with Alan O’Donovan, who is also on the javelin squad.

A huge congratulations also to Chris O’Reilly who was the schools best finisher at the recent National XC Championships in Dundalk IT, finishing an outstanding 13th overall in u14 boys 3000m race out of over 130 athletes. Chris has huge talent and no doubt will bring a lot more success back to DCS over the coming years. The next competition for the squad is the South Munster Schools XC Championships on Friday 30th January.





DCS – GONE TO THE DOGS

On the 9th of October 2014, our third year class NU3 went to town to help fundraise for the Irish Guide Dogs Association Flag Day, for our C.S.P.E action project. We hopped on the bus into town early that morning. We went to Patricks Street to meet the Guide Dogs representative, Ann Byrne. She spoke to us and informed us about what we were to experience. She provided us with high-vis vests to identify us as volunteers and she also gave us collection boxes and then dispersed us to different areas of town. We spent several hours collecting and thankfully public support was very good.

On the 4th of November, as a thank you, we went to The Irish Guide Dogs Head Quarters on the Model Farm Road. We were met by Jennifer Smith (volunteer) and she gave us a tour of their facilities. She showed us where the puppies would normally be. Unfortunately we weren't able to catch a glimpse of them at that time. But the good news was that we got to see a lot of the older guide dogs. Their breeds were Golden Retriever, Labrador, German Shepherd and Poodles. She also told us some interesting facts about their association; like

it takes 6-8 weeks to prepare a puppy for puppy walking. They receive 80% of their income through voluntary donations and fundraising. It costs over 4 million euro to run their Organisation and they would normally retire a dog at the age of 10. She also told us we helped to raise 8,955 euro on the flag day. Overall it was a huge success for the Guide Dogs and for us and we will hope that you will continue to help the Irish Guide Dogs Association in future fundraising events.

Article by: Eoin McGrath



DCS ROBOTICS HEAD WEST

The Robotics Team is stronger than ever this year. A team of 12 is to attend the national SAP sponsored final in Galway and the second year team are building on the practical success of the robot tasks from last year.

The 4th year group have a much shorter time to prepare as the competition is on 24th January 2015 a few days from writing. The theme this year is education and the students have a good number of the robotics tasks completed. Last year we came second in the robot game narrowly losing in the final run off to a Robotics Club from the Galway area. This year we are also aiming to do well in the project to give us a chance in the overall competition. The students have come up with a novel self-learning program for a computer program that is adapted from the way computer coding is taught. The whole system can be adapted to class or terminal use and changed to fit an individual student's needs.

We have also upgraded our presentation, building a booth for the computer display and coming up with a name and posters for background. We also

have a design for the interface and a schematic for the way it will operate.

The second year competition is also fast approaching. The team are tasked with 4 different mazes. The most difficult task seems to be the colour sensor where they have to follow a red and black line around a course. This teaches very good practical construction and programming skills that blends very well with the now well established Codo Dojo club where the students get to learn basic coding.

Neil Bronks – "MENTOR OF THE YEAR"





CANSAT GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH:



CANSAT is now in its third year. The basic idea is to create a sensor array that fits into a 330ml can and will send information on such things as temperature and pressure to a computer on the ground in real time.

Last year we were narrowly beaten in the Irish final in Birr by a team from Kerry who got to go to Norway and use a commercial rocket. This year

we are using last year's knowledge to build a more ambitious structure that can send a message on its position and rotation. This will aid its usefulness and help us find it after landing. Last year we almost lost the can when the wind carried it out of the castle grounds after being launched from a 3m high chemical rocket at 500m above the ground. This year we are prepared.

The speed will come from a Pitot Tube so we need to get 2 pressure sensors on the board. It's going to be a tight squeeze but luckily one of the mentors is Mr Buckley who will be helping with building and giving a crash course in soldering. This year's team members are John Stout, Conor Powell, Maykel Mendiola, Edvard Calyj and Kevin Jakubauskas

Of all the projects undertaken in the school this requires the most independent planning and is an excellent training for life in the real world. Like that the only limit to the project is the stars.

DCS TAKE TO THE STAGE AGAIN!

After 12 years of the Douglas Community School play, you would think Mr. Wolfe would be on his last legs. However the unbelievable raw talent from this year's Fourth year meant they were able to pull him along again.

This year they told the story of Pinocchio (Billy Joel Manuel), a wooden puppet belonging to Granny Basher (Patrick Walsh) who is brought to life by the magic of the Blue Fairy (Daniel Courtney). Pinocchio must learn how to be a good boy while also avoiding the evil circus master Stromboli (Krzysztof Wroblewski) and the cunning Child-catchers (Ptryk Hajdul and Cian Dadgar). Thankfully, Pinocchio had the help of Lampwink (Jack Lynch) and Jamie Traynor from the UK (Jamie Traynor from the UK), not to mention his conscience, the fabulously dressed Jiminy Cricket (Peter Jackson) and his even better shadow (Hugh Deasy). However the story would have never worked if it wasn't for the great dancers and singers accompanied by the band, and let's not forget nobody would see or hear us without lighting and sound! Altogether, the play was a huge success with everyone taking part and enjoying themselves.

The script was up to its usual standards, with hilarious one-liners and funny skits. The story was ripe with innuendos and even included guest appearances from members of staff like Ms Thomason, Mr O Leary, Mr McNamara and the primate Mr Fahy. There were jokes made about schools, celebrities, the government and special videos were taken all around Douglas. So basically the school play was as classy and sophisticated as ever, up to the high standards set by Mr Wolfe and Ms Moriarty.

Although the play was based on a fairy tale, not all characters were from the original. Circus members Boris the female acrobat (Ryan O Herlihy) and the Red clown (Cillian O Byrne) followed around Stromboli. Scumbags (Cian Fitton, Alex Castaldo, Eoin Byrne, and Oscar Scannell) and their sexy girlfriends (Kiane O Neill and Dylan McCarthy) provided comic relief along with a group of Irish Water workers (led by James Daly and Aaron O Flynn). Granny Basher was nowhere without her affluent group of foreigners (Ethan Bevan, Adam Goldsmith, Kyryn Wren, and Stephen Hepi). Finally, Brian Kirara played a variety of parts throughout the night that were arguably the funniest bits.

This year, backstage work was especially prominent. Anyone who attended the production could clearly see the huge effort that went into props and costumes. A special thank you has to be given to the Art Department and all the time they put in to constructing the ginormous Monstro the Whale and various other props throughout.

Six shows were performed, three night shows and three primary school performances. The primary schools were overjoyed with some of the characters and the dancing, joining in with routines and even creating their own conga line with Boris the Acrobat! The night performances were equally, if not more successful, receiving standing ovations and huge laughs. All this lead to mean that nobody in 4th year will forget the enjoyable experience and thanks have to be given to Mr Wolfe, Ms Moriarty, Mrs Healy and Mrs Cotter.





DCS HURLING FORTUNES ON THE RISE

The 2014/15 school year has been by far the best year in a long time in Douglas Community School for Hurling. After a very promising year last year and a huge amount of effort put in, our fortunes were boosted by the intake of many talented young hurlers in first year. With the exception of the red weather warning day, we have trained every single Wednesday since September, with over 25 hurlers consistently turning up to better their skills. We even went training of a Saturday morning in November so as to prepare for a match the following Monday. This shows how serious we are about trying to better ourselves.

For a few years now, our hurling season would be well over after suffering heavy defeats. However, as we face into the New Year, we have a u 14 County Final semi Final and a u 15 Munster quarter final to look forward and train for. We finished the year top of our group and undefeated.

Our goal at DCS is twofold. Firstly, build a team from first year that can compete at the highest level in

senior cycle. The development of the fundamental skills of the game of hurling is key to this. The main aim of every training session is to pick one skill and work on it, if it doesn't work for you, it will with perseverance. Secondly, we are trying to build a team of players, and not a group of individuals from different local clubs.

There has been a lot of work done with the current group of players at the underage level in the school, and one can only admire the commitment and dedication these young players are reciprocating to the school. All this effort has to start reaping rewards at some stage in the future; hopefully it will be within their time here at DCS. Many a great team have fallen short of silverware, but I have no doubt that if this group of players can keep the attitude and enthusiasm that they are currently showing in abundance, that their day in the sun is not that far away at all. You can follow us on twitter @DCSHurling

BASKETBALL

It was a mixed year for our u16 team. After a few unfortunate losses the lads enjoyed a dramatic win over local rivals Rochestown College with some great performances by Alex Chandler, Rory Kennedy and Liam McCarthy. There were also some hard fought encounters against Carrigaline Community School and Presentation Brothers College until the lads were knocked out by Christian Brothers College in a tough and fast paced game in which our lads battled hard but unfortunately came out on the losing side.

The u19 team enjoyed a emphatic year in the Cork League beating teams such as Presentation Brothers College, Carrigaline Community School,





North Monastery CBS and Rochestown College. The lads showed great skill and determination to reach the Cork League Final against Colaiste Choilm. In a tight game, DCS came out on top with some star performances from Jack O Mahony, Kevin Brennan and Gregg Fuchs and in the absence of Ryan Lacey to become county league champions. A great achievement for the team and its coaches Ms. O Callaghan and Mr.O'Loughlin.

The team has also beaten Presentation College Bray and Colasite Choilm, Tullamore to reach the Quarter Finals of National Cup. Our competitive squad were pitted against a strong side in the form of St. Eunans College. The team travelled over 400 km to Letterkenny the day before the match and stayed overnight in a hotel. The boys made a terrific effort considering the coach Ms. O'Callaghan was unable to travel but lost in the dying seconds by just two points.

Following our great county victory we are set to play in the quarter-final and the semi-final on the 10th of February. A huge thanks must go to everyone involved, which include Ms O'Callaghan, Mr O'Loughlin, John Chandler (Our coach in Letterkenny) and of course the squad of 11 Players.



SENIOR GAELIC FOOTBALL

The seniors put in a huge effort this year with numbers at training considerably up from previous years. In Munster we were handed a tough draw against Kerry opponents and came up short by 5 points. In the cork colleges competition we drew Kinsale in the first round and after a tremendous display we advanced to the quarter final. Unfortunately for us we came up against a very strong Carrigaline side and lost out in the end by 7 points. The lads gave everything for the year and were really impressive in their commitment and attitude to training. Leaving

Certificate students Michael Lynch, Niall Fitz, Daire O' Shaughnessy, Andrew Forde, John O Connell, Eric Fahy and Aidan O Sullivan can be proud of their displays over the last six years. While the future looks ever brighter with the emergence of an outstanding bunch of fourth year students who were playing two years above their age group. Pa Walsh, Cian Dadgar, Simon Falvey, Dave Hurley, Cian Fitton, Brian Lyons, Dy;an McCarthy and Ryan O' Herlihy were simply outstanding throughout and will undoubtedly taste success in U16 and U16.5 grades.

SOCCKER UPDATES IN DCS

U17 Soccer – the story so far:

The U17s enjoyed an excellent start to their Munster campaign defeating St. Aidans 11-2. This was a stunning performance especially having gone two nil down in the first twenty minutes. Thereafter captain Dean Swords gave a display of goal scoring, speed, skill and class that will live long in the memory. Swords ended up scoring seven goals, a new individual record for Douglas Community School soccer. Ricardo Pembele was also impressive coming off the bench. Simon Falvey and David Hurley dominated in midfield and Eoin Byrne was brilliant at right full back.

In the last 16 we faced old rivals PBC and as always one goal separated the sides with PBC coming

out on top. Our lads never reached the level of performance they are undoubtedly capable of and were very disappointed at the final whistle. PBC managed to nullify Swords and without his threat DCS struggled to unlock the strong PBC defence. The final five minutes saw us pepper the PBC goal but to no avail and our lads will surely look back on this one as one that got away.

In the county cup we have been handed a tricky draw against Davis College of Mallow.





U15 Soccer – heartbreak in Munster

The U15 squad made up of mostly last years first year squad and one or two third years suffered the heartbreak of a sudden death penalty shoot out exit at the hands of local rivals Rochestown College in the first round of Munster. The game was a classic and though lacking goals the skill, commitment and determination of both sides was something to behold. Each side seemed to cancel each other out and it was clear whoever came through this match was going to have a great shot at winning Munster.

DCS probably just shaded the clear cut chances with Liam Ross heading over from six yards and Adam Idah having a seemingly unstoppable drive tipped onto the crossbar by the Rochestown 'keeper. Subsequently penalties ensued. With the score at 4-4 after the first five penalties we missed our penalty and the Rochestown

player held his nerve. It was tough on our lads who had given absolutely everything to the game but came away empty handed.

The entire team were incredible that day. Adam Mullins showed why he is one of the most highly rated Goalkeepers around with a commanding display. Ben Healy and Robert O Mahony who were both playing their first games at centre half due to injuries were immense. Andrew O Connell and Harvey Cummins at full back were brilliant, with Harvey Cummins the clear man of the match. In midfield Adam O' Reilly and captain Brian Holland along with Oisin Carroll were magnificent, with Rob Creegan and Liam Ross excellent on the wings and Adam Idah was a constant threat up front.

Next up for the lads is the County Cup where Davis College from Mallow are our opponents.

CORK SCHOOLS SENIOR CHAMPIONS

Douglas CS 5, Rochestown College 0
Douglas CS outclassed and outplayed their opponents to record an emphatic victory in the Senior cup final held in Turners Cross.

A 90th minute free kick from Paul Lehane earned a hard fought 2-1 victory away to Mallow in the quarter-final and an impressive 3-0 semi-final win against Presentation College set up the final against close neighbours Rochestown College.

After a tight opening 20 minutes it was Rochestown who had the first clear chance with a chipped effort that was well saved by keeper Gavin Barrett. DCS first chance came when Paul Lehanes dipped free kick went just wide of the far post after 25 minutes before the break-through goal arrived before half-time.

Ryan McCarthys thundering volley from outside the box was parried by the keeper with Buster Holland quickest to react slotting home from close range. DCS maintained their 1 goal lead with a sliding goal-line clearance from Gavin Falvey just before half-time, but DCS were on top with Pierce O Keeffe starting to dominate the midfield with a powerful performance.

DCS took control of the game at the start of the second half and their quick passing game started to carve open the opposition. The 2nd goal came in the 48th minute with a low 20 yard drive from Ryan McCarthy and then a majestic through ball from Rob Coughlan allowed Lehane lob the keeper for the 3rd in the 50th minute. Rochestown continued to battle but the introduction of Niall Fitzgerald, Eric Murphy and Barry o Callaghan drove DCS on and Lehane added his 2nd of the day from the penalty spot on the hour mark sending the Douglas supporters into delirious celebrations. Indeed the support from the DCS travelling army was immense throughout and they were undoubtedly the twelfth

man on the day.

The Douglas back line including Luke Mullins, Dylan Stanton and Dylan Walsh were in complete control and DCS dominance was rewarded with a 5th goal when Eric Murphys cross was finished into the top corner with a spectacular diving header from Niall Fitzgerald.

The final whistle must have come as some relief for Rochestown as Douglas continuing to attack to the 90th minute. Captain Dylan Walsh lifted the Cork Schools Senior Cup for DCS for the first time since 2010.

After early season victories away to Cobh and Carrigaline followed by a disappointing away loss to De La Salle of Waterford this years senior team got back on track with an impressive 6-2 victory against St. Aidans with Dean Swords scoring an impressive 4 goals from the left wing.

Not to be outdone forward Ryan McCarthy scored 4 first-half goals in a 5-1 victory against Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig with Niall Fitzgerald showing signs of returning to last seasons form adding a late headed goal. The senior team have now progressed to the Munster semi-finals and hope to continue their winning form into the New Year.



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