



St. Aidan's C.B.S., Whitehall, Dublin

Scoil Aodháin, Fionnbhrú, Baile Átha Cliath

News Update

Summer 2014

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

It's going to be a golden year for our St Aidan's CBS with past pupils and present invited to the school to help celebrate 50 years of a great school.

Former students who get in touch will find a warm welcome as they take a nostalgic trip down memory lane and help the present St Aidan's mark what really is a special time for the school.

The celebrations will include a special commemoration video excellently produced by past pupils by past pupil Stephen Cadwell marking the school's 50 years in the community.

There will also be a Run in Morton Stadium, An Art Exhibition, big Reunion Dinner at the Radison Blu, Golden Lane, 12th September 2014 and lots more.

A specially designed 50th Anniversary flag is being flown at the school to mark the occasion and a wonderful commissioned sculpture by Fergus Costello captures the St Aidan's ethos beautifully in the form of a carefully crafted tree with roots reaching out to the community and the school's 5,000 past pupils.

There are also plans to set up an Alumni Association the beginning of which can already be found in the St Aidan's group on LinkedIn that has been joined by hundreds of past pupils now leading successful lives in a variety of careers.

Our popular school wants all the celebrations to be community events and is calling on all past pupils and teachers to get in touch through the website so that they can join in and celebrate with us.



Edmund Rice



Chess Club



Senior Football Team



Leaving Certs 2014 with Year Head Ms Brennan



New PE Hall

Don't forget the
St Aidan's Past Pupil Dinner
at the Radison Blu,
Golden Bridge Lane,
September 12th 2014
Tickets available online @
www.staidanscbs.ie
or phone 01-8377587



Sculpture Marks 50th Anniversary

Fergus Costello is an artist whose background is that of a liturgical circle and could be described as a modern spiritual iconographer. He has done a lot of work in modern churches and school Oratory's. He specializes mainly in sculpture pieces and was commissioned by the school to design a sculptural piece to encompass all that our 50th Anniversary reflects on our journey in education, its past, present and future.

He has completed a remarkable semi abstract piece made of solid oak for the school. It is a tall piece, its base reveals thick roots that reach out to the community, ground the piece so well and give it strength. At the top the head of Christ emerges amid a sea of outstretched arms reminding us of his crucifixion. The arms are raised and reach out towards the future. Then you notice the trickle of a line that flows down the side reminding us of the piercing of Christ and the flow of the blood.

When I first saw the piece without knowing the above, I saw the roots as the foundations we plant as educators then passing our students on into the community. I felt the outstretched arms are all of us reaching with strength, joy, and hope for the future. We are one, all joined together, learning from one another as we do in school.

It's very special to have this sculpture to mark our 50th Anniversary and we have it there forever more to admire, reflect, evoke a reaction, discuss, ponder at what the artist was trying to convey, all the things we try to do as educators. In that moment as we look at this sculpture the past, present and future all blend into one.



GOOGLE POWER

Google was joined by An Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore TD to announce the winners of its inaugural Call to Code online coding competition for post primary students. More than half of all secondary schools in Ireland took part: over 2,500 students registered to represent their school and 50pc of participation came from outside of Dublin showing a growing interest among students in computer science. The overall winner of the junior cycle group was 15-year-old Adam Power from St Aidan's CBS, Dublin 9 and the winner of the senior cycle group was Aron Hoffman, aged 17, from Luttrellstown Community College, Dublin 15. They both received MaKey MaKey units and a brand new Chromebook Pixel. "The talent and the ingenuity of our people are what make companies invest in Ireland and expand their operations here, as Google has done," said An Tánaiste. "We – Government and industry together – must continue to develop that talent. I am pleased to see Google playing their part. "We all know the strategic importance of the ICT sector to Ireland. It accounts for over €70bn in exports every year. There are 44,500 job openings forecast to arise between now and 2018 in the sector. Initiatives such as Call to Code are to be welcomed for encouraging an interest in this area and providing the opportunity to test student skills."

Karina Corbett



Dublin students win first Google Call to Code competition
Pictured: Ronan Harris, Google, junior cycle group Adam Power and Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore.

Courts of Criminal Justice



TYPS attended the Courts Of Criminal Justice last Friday 2nd May 2014. They were observing a real murder trial and had to perform a mock trial on the day. Kevin Quinn was the court reporter and his account was so good that he has been invited to attend a special event in the court next Thursday. He will be given a special award by the Chief Justice. Congratulations to Kevin, on his excellent work.

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JUSTICE FOR KEVIN



Kevin with his parents and Chief Justice Susan Denham

through the CCJ this year as part of the CCJ's Schools Programme. Kevin reported on the Mock Trial carried out by TYPS earlier in May.

Kevin Quinn attended the Criminal Courts of Justice on Thursday 15 th May to receive his award for Best Court Report 2013/2014. This is an outstanding achievement given that more than 4000 students passed

AWARDS NIGHT 2014

We are never disappointed with the Awards Night it runs so smoothly thanks to Mr. P Ward who organizes the event so well. We are always kept amused with the witty comments of the two MC's on the night, Ms. H Thompson and Mr. D Humphreys who both do a wonderful job. Our guest speakers on the night were Mr. David Brophy who is Principal Conductor of the RTE Orchestra, also a past pupil of the school and Mr Jim Gavin who is the Dublin Senior Football Manager. They are both very interesting men and had a captive audience when they spoke. Warmest congratulations to all nominees and winners on this very special night. We appreciate and give a special thanks to all the sponsors on the night, Student Council, and all the staff who without their help it would not be possible. Well done to all involved.

6TH YEAR GRADUATION

Our 6th year graduation was a special evening as it is the end of a chapter in their lives and they are about to move on to the next stage of their lives, so exciting. The boys looked so stylish in their suits all grown up and ready to go. Ms. A Brennan their Year Head gave a wonderful speech about them as a group and wished them well in their exams. There is always great joy tinged with a little sadness at our graduation night, we wish them well on their journey in life and remind them to always be happy.



Dogs Trust Us



Four representatives from 3mid (James Mc Gauren, Darren Kitching, Glen Mc Carthy and Dylan Cooling) recently visited the dogs trust to hand over a cheque of €260. They collected the money during a sponsored walk in March as part of their CSPE project on animal welfare. Well done to all the boys of 3 Mid.



Sponsored Walk 3 South CSPE Raised €467.

This money is for a charity called Canine Companion. Canine Companion is not supported by the Irish Government and so relies heavily on donations. The charity trains 'assistance dogs' to work with people who have Autism. Well done to all the students involved.



BIG QUIZ SUCCESS

The Big Quiz took place on the 28th May 2014 in our spacious new PE hall, it was great to see plenty of teams turn out for this fundraiser.

Mr. O Deneher was the Quizmaster and he had some very tough questions for us. His team of TY's were terrific, collecting answer sheets and adding up scores. Nevertheless at the end of the rounds it was down to three teams in a penalty shootout of questions. A big thank you to all who helped organize the evening, who donated spot prizes and came along to the quiz. We had great fun and raised money to help purchase gym equipment for our new PE hall.

GAISCE BRONZE AWARD



Eleven TY students completed a two day hike on the Wicklow Mountains as part of their Gaisce Bronze Award.

The lads showed wonderful stamina in completing the trek and enjoyed their overnight stay in Knockree Hostel. Well done to all involved.



LCA Young Social Innovator

On Wednesday 7th May our LCA class presented their poster at the YSI showcase event at the Citywest Convention Centre where over 4,000 students presented their work. There were almost 200 posters on show. They were accompanied by their tutor Ms Byrne and their Social Education teacher Mr. Mc Ginnity. The LCA class based their poster on the use of the internet and on-line gaming. After carrying out a school wide survey about gaming and the internet, the class then compiled their results and created their poster. Our results showed that the average time spent on-line is between 3 and 5 hours. Furthermore, students reported feeling a mixture of positive and negative feelings. Some felt anger, frustration and disappointment whilst playing video games whereas others mentioned more positive emotions like happiness, relaxation and a sense of accomplishment. During the event the students were able to visit information stands from organizations such as Irish Aid, St Vincent de Paul, and many more. There was also a silent disco, archery and lots of outdoor activities. Overall it was a very enjoyable day.



Student Council

St Aidan's Student's Council was founded 11 years ago and since it's foundation it has gone from strength to strength each year. The members of the Council have done a remarkable job representing the school on joyous and also solemn occasions.

The Students Council are involved in a myriad of events & occasions throughout the academic year. I would like to give you a brief outline of some of the tasks that they have graciously taken on.

This year the Council ran the Sports day for 1st and 2nd years, helped supervise the TY céilí, organised a quiz for first years and held the annual battle of the bands.

At the open evening they were great ambassadors for St. Aidan's as they guided parents around the school. They also organise the "Buy back book scheme" during the summer and are an invaluable help to Mr. Ward on awards night. The Council donates to charity both inside and outside of the school. As well as all of the above, the Students Council is the voice of the students. They bring issues that students feel strongly about to teachers. They are reliable & focused and the younger students look up to the example of the members. I want to say a personal thank you to each of you for making me feel so welcome at your meetings, you are a capable and organised group of young men and I thoroughly enjoyed working with each one of you.

Ms. Z Kennedy

SPORTS DAY

The annual Students Council Sports day took place on Friday May 9th 2014. First and Second year students participated in 100m Sprint, 3 legged race and backwards race, to name but a few! A great day was had by all. The money raised went towards the Students Council, who have sponsored jerseys for the Tanzania students and sponsored the Enterprise Award.



Kilmainham Gaol

Ms Kennedy organised a trip to Kilmainham Gaol. We had an hour long tour of the jail and saw where the Easter Rising leaders were executed. We called into Glasnevin cemetery on the way home and were given a quick tour by a former Aidan's student, Andrew!



TY ITALIAN TRIP 2014

For most of the students in TY this was the highlight of the year for them, both students and teachers alike had a wonderful time in Italy. Donal Corrigan wrote this witty poem which he read at the TY graduation night and for all who know Donal, he made us all laugh as only he can. What a gift to have the joy of bringing laughter to others especially as the trip was such a special experience for all involved.

An early Monday morning TY's were woken,"What, Oh God, two or three more minutes,"
Were the words that were spoken.
We gathered together in a hectic affair, I was just glad that we were not flying with Ryanair
Singing and chanting the plane it was filled
The Italians on board were not overly thrilled
We arrived in Milan all eager to learn
While me and Mr Lowry had already started to burn
We took a bus from Milan to Verona
By this stage we were sick of some of the teacher's persona
Verona the city of love, said all the preachers
While some TY's began to express their love for some of the teachers
On Tuesday morning we set out for Venice
That morning too tired to be acting the menace
Venice was magical the culture piled like hay
While most of the students were wondering where was the nearest Subway
I noticed the Italians use hand expressively
Perhaps you could say they use it excessively
There is a fair amount of hand signals used in the car
I'm talking right to left I don't know where your minds are
Venice was majestic from the sky to the ground
Meanwhile a few buachilli were nowhere to be found
Wednesday we travelled to Garda the lake
While students realized their Ray Bands were fake
Thursday arrived along with Garda Land
Some afraid of Garda Land said, "Ah sure it will be grand."
At the roller coaster we stood up all hot and clammy
Brave on the outside but inside I want my Mammy
A few minutes later the fun it did commence
Oh now Mr Traynor watch out for that fence
Friday arrived, students sad and moaney
We arrived in Milan it bursting with cultures
While the looky looky waited like vultures
We stood in the airport waiting to go
Arrivedeci to our francesco
In Dublin we landed bunched up like a riot
Parents stood saying, goodbye peace and quiet
By Donal Corrigan



St Aidan's Rock the Axis

Our Transition Years and Drama Club showed us the wow factor of their talents on stage. Both Ms. L O Flanagan and Mr. R Gill had those students performing in such a professional manner, we were all so impressed. They made us laugh and then cry with laughter. It was a great night well done to all involved you were sheer magic.

There were two performances of the play in The Axis Theatre, Ballymun. There was a short play by Drama Club, The Monkey's Paw, and then the TY play "St. Aidan's Rock the Axis". Keep up the good work!



GALWAY SUMO

Congratulations to our Robotics team who competed in The All Ireland Mini-Sumo Tournament in Galway on Friday 4th April. Our teams from first year were the youngest in the tournament which was mostly made up of Transition Years. The teams were placed 8th and 12th in the competition out of 64 teams. Our team that was placed 8th lost narrowly to the eventual champions. This is an amazing achievement for our students and teacher Mr. P Cole. Well done to all involved and we look forward to seeing what you invent for next year's competition.



St. Aidan's wins Evening Herald Irish Sports School of the Year



I entered St. Aidan's as a student in September, 1991. The first thing I noticed was the famous 'Wall of Fame'. I saw pictures of Tommy Drumm, Mark Kinsella, Niall Bruton, Paul Clarke, Kippers McQuaid and Liam Brady. I knew straight away I was in a school that took sports seriously. Very seriously! About half way through September, Bro. Coffey came into my Music class to inform us that trials would be taking place for the school's First Year Gaelic Football Team. A week later, Mr. P. McDermott popped into Maths class to inform us that we were invited to participate in the first year cross-country race/trials. Early in October, Ms. A. O' Driscoll approached me after P.E. and asked me if I was interested in Basketball. I was in! And a few months later, I was not 'yer man at the back of the class!'. I was the captain of the football team. I was the runner. I was the 'b baller'. I was someone! One day Coach McDermott asked me to look at the giant oak tree at the end of the field. He told me that mighty tree came from a tiny seed. And look at it now. Strong, powerful and commanding. Even as a frozen 12 year old I knew what Coach was getting at. This great school, and it's attitude toward sport, could help me become achieve something. Those were great days. From muddy fields in Galway, to shiny courts in St. Fintan's, from the narrow dirt track in Gormanston, to a wind-swept pitch in Stillorgan. Those days were awesome! Mud, sweat, blood and tears. Medals, pain, euphoria and fears. Singing on the bus and crying on the bus. Folding up your jersey and bursting with pride. I can feel the hair stand on my neck just thinking about those days. And the guys on my shoulder? They were not just fellas from the same school as me. They were my brothers. They were my comrades. They would pick me up if I fell. 23 years later they are still there. My red and white brothers! When I returned to the school in 2002, I wondered whether the school still had sporting excellence intertwined in its ethos. I was not disappointed. If anything, sport was even stronger. I met enthusiastic coaches like Mr. McCafferty, Mr. Moore, Bro. Caulfield, Mr. Duffy, Ms. O' Driscoll, Mr. Lynch and Ms. Doherty, to name but a few. They had received the baton and they were running hard. Since 2002 I have watched sports in the school go from strength. I have seen more and

more coaches getting involved each year. These are the same teachers/coaches that have taken large pay cuts, and at the same time being asked to work more hours. Yet they still come and give freely of their time. Last November I found myself stuck for room to train! Both pitches were covered in hurlers and footballers. The runners had gone running in Albert College Park. The hall was being used by the badminton team and the courts at that the front of the school were being trampled by the basketballers. A classroom was being used to show motivational videos to other sportsmen! I estimated that 250 students were still in the school. And this was at 5.17p.m. on a cold, wet Wednesday evening. Pay cuts? What pay cuts? We have students to train and facilitate. It is our moral and ethical obligation to accommodate their skills and desires. This is St. Aidan's after all. Another interesting development in recent years is the school's policy to accommodate all sportsmen. We have seen teams established in chess, badminton, water-polo, swimming, golf, boxing, judo and soccer. A cricket set was found in the equipment box recently! 19 teachers volunteered this year, like every year, to give up thousands of hours to accommodate the 16 sports we provide. We have close to 400 students in the school participating in extra-curricular activities. That's over 60% of the student body. The schools management have been unwavering in their support and encouragement. All staff members cover classes, talk to sportsmen and encourage their colleagues. And today, on Wednesday, May 7th, 2014, we were recognized as Ireland's finest sports school. This is a victory for the legendary coaches of the past. A victory for the managers of the school over the past 50 years. A victory for all staff, past and present. And most importantly, for those brilliant students that inspire us every day to be the best. This is for you! Roll on the next 50 years. That mighty oak will still be there, swaying bravely in the wind. Let's show him more great days!

Pax et Spes,
Alan O' Neill



St. Aidan's CBS Golf Championship 2014

Congratulations to Lee Duffy on winning The St. Aidan's CBS Golf Championship over the Easter break. Lee had a tremendous score of 37 points in tough conditions and takes home the perpetual trophy until his defence next year. Well done to all who competed on the day, in particular to Sean Kellett and Dean Duffy who came 2nd and 3rd respectively.

