

GRAPEVINE

ISSUE 54 / EASTER 2011

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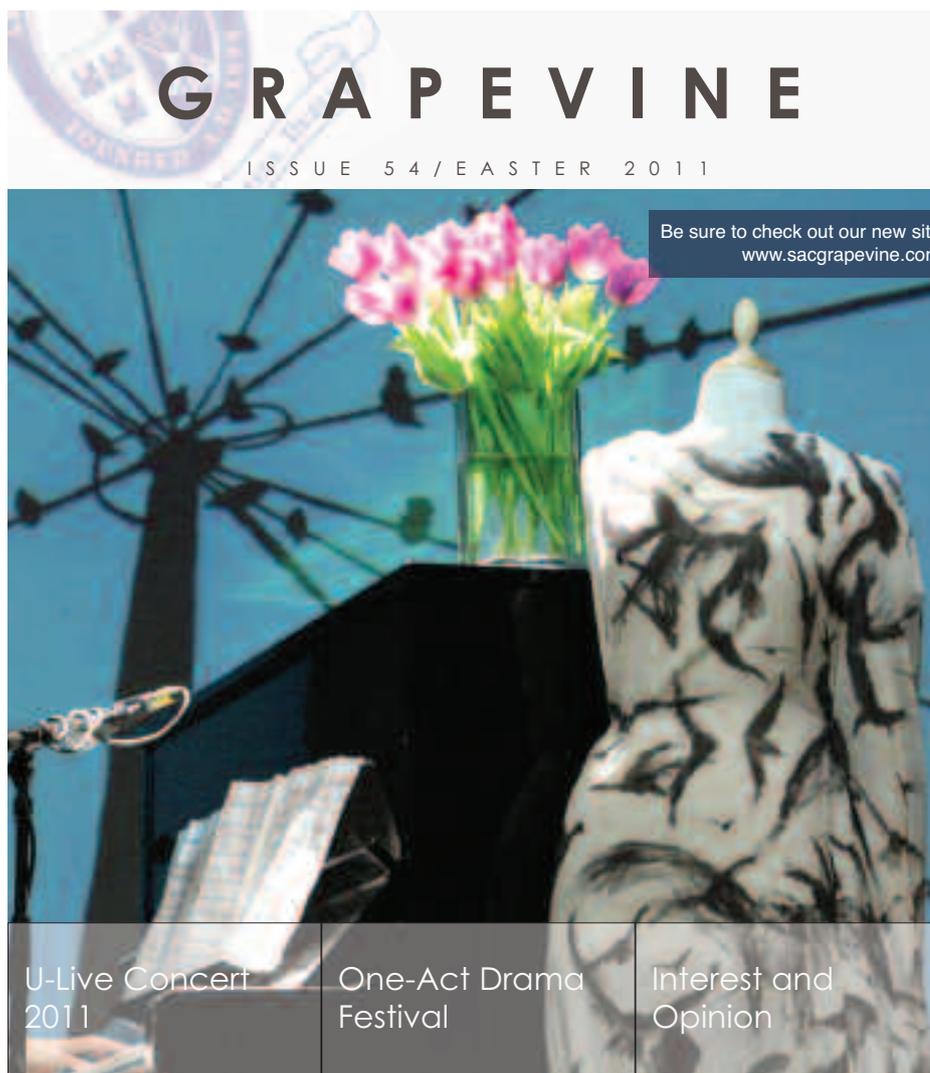
U-Live Concert
2011

One-Act Drama
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Interest and
Opinion

The Arts, Drama and Culture Issue

We catch up on this term's biggest events in the Arts



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Editorial



The production of this edition of Grapevine has been a great learning experience for me. Luckily, Grapevine has turned out to be an absorbing pastime and a haven in my busy school life. The day-to-day interaction with all of the Grapevine staff - the journalists, photographers and illustrators who have all put enormous effort into their work - has opened many doors, and built a foundation for the building of many friendships for all involved.

There has been a wonderful sense of community to Grapevine this term, and I find I look forward to each weekly meeting more and more. The enormous support offered to the core Grapevine Staff from the staff and the student body must be acknowledged, as must the fantastic and restless work by Ms Doran and Mr Hamill in the actualisation of the final product- the magazine that you hold in your hands.

And here we are - we have finally arrived at the end of what has been a period of change for St. Andrew's College. This term has been full of opportunities: as each week passes, so passes with it a huge range of events, meetings and trips. Maybe it's the recent upturn in the weather, but I feel that the entire school atmosphere has transformed in the last term - there is a greater sense of general happiness and belonging in the corridors as the younger years begin to find their footing and the senior college thrive and achieve to their best abilities. The new building has renewed the motivation to get involved and reap the benefits of a St Andrew's education.

This is a special issue focusing in on Arts in the college. The U-Live Concert and One Act Drama Festival were both huge successes this

year, each raising the profile of music and drama considerably. Often unsung compared to sports events, St Andrew's has a performing arts crew that grows and improves continuously. Students often dedicate hours to rehearsing pieces and producing top notch shows, and this issue nods its head to their talent and commitment- a perfect example of this is Literature Aloud winner Aoife Franklyn, who has kindly given us an interview!

We have also taken a special look at student interests externally from the college- may I refer you to an article by David O'Caoimh, a multi-award-winning Wakeboarder who is in fifth year this year. His dedication to his sport has landed him several titles and much respect.

So maybe this issue should really be the Dedication Issue: we acknowledge the dedication of the college and student body alike to transition, change, improvement, achievement and excellence in all areas - let's hope this continues into next term.

Enjoy!

Briony Morgan

This term at SAC

Book Sale for Rubirizi School Library

For the first time ever, a book sale was held in the Library as part of the Winter Fair in aid of Uganda. Thanks to the generous donations of parents and students, €470 was raised: a sizeable sum when one considers that books costed only €2 each! The money raised will be used to help the school library at Rubirizi Secondary School. Thanks to TY students Nisha Krywonis, Stuart Wiley, Jeremy Boles, Stephen Keenan Andrew Dowd, Mina Dawood and Alexandra Agar for their help. Left over books were donated to Oxfam Dun Laoghaire.



SAC



On 15 November, nine Transition Year students volunteered to help at a warehouse where hundreds of shoeboxes were being packed with presents. These were to be sent off to various countries across Africa where, for most children, this would be their only Christmas present. Students across the entire country sent these boxes as a way of giving back to children in need. Each box was filled with various toys and basic necessities, such as toothbrushes and face cloths, which are considered luxuries for most of the receivers. Our job was to try and fit as many shoeboxes as possible into larger boxes to be shipped away. We also unloaded hundreds of shoe boxes that had just been sent in from vans. It was hard work, but we all thoroughly enjoyed working as a team and getting to know the generous people who give up their time for this cause every year. We learned a lot. We hope to give our time again next year and to encourage others to help, as it makes such a difference. Overall, it was a great experience.

Shoeboxes

Isobel Foley



Congratulations to St Andrew's U14 Boys' hockey team, winners of Leinster League, Leinster Cup and All-Irelands. The boys are following in the footsteps of the 2009/10 Senior Girls' and we will no doubt see many more trophies from them in the future. A big thank you to all the past students who gave of their time to help train the boys: Andrew Ward, Ben Murphy, Tim Lewis, Richard Sykes. And especially Mr Antoni, whose coaching is invaluable.

Treble Winners

Team: J Carr, J Bailey, Z Agnew, B Arrowsmith, G Fearon, J Henry (Capt), D Nolan, A Bailey, A Fogarty, J Ryan, G Cole, H Temperley, S Hohn, S Gibbons, C Sinnamon, J Wiley, R Nichols



The First Year students drew posters for an anti-bullying competition. The slogan used was "Reporting is Supporting". Riley and Paige were the winners of the competition, which was organized by Ms. Carter as part of the school anti-bullying programme. Karen Knight came second and Molly Parsons, Blanca Schofield Legorburo and Sally Campbell came third.

Poster Competition

Girls Hockey Trip 2011

The Senior Girls' tour to Belgium started on Saturday 8 January. A relatively short flight to Brussels was followed by a convoluted journey by various means of public transport to the British School of Belgium. This was to be the venue of our hockey match. We found the first part of the match didn't go as well as we would have liked. But at half time, we managed to gather ourselves with the help and guidance of our coaches and, through torrential rain, went on to win the match 3-2. After we checked into our hostel, we went out for a well-deserved Italian meal in Brussels. On Sunday, most of us spent the morning exploring the various shops and museums in the city. Later that afternoon, we visited the historical city of Bruges which was only an hour train-ride away from Brussels. After the release of the movie In Bruges, many of us were excited to explore the city and, thanks to our coach's excellent idea to rent out bicycles for the afternoon, we were able to do so. The town offered us many different places of interest, such as the distinctive church which Brendan Gleeson famously jumped off in the movie, or its many different chocolatiers. Monday was our final day in Brussels and we were all keen to go out and do what we could before we had to leave. Most of us went shopping or visited some of the museums, such as The Royal Museum of Fine Arts. We then said goodbye to Brussels with a team lunch before heading off to the airport for our return flight home to Dublin. I think I speak on behalf of everyone when I say that it was a truly unforgettable trip and that we have bonded because of it. I would like to thank Ms Hollwey, Ms Sloan and Lisa Jacobs for all the effort they put in to organising the trip and for looking after us when we were away.

Sadhbh Hynes

TY Sing for the Blind

Let's face it: Transition Year isn't exactly about exams. Many a grumbling parent might ask, 'What is the point of this year? What are you doing with yourselves?' Well, many things, actually. The main task in TY is doing charity work. Fundraising for the coveted trip to Uganda is the most obvious, but did anyone notice the absence of Fourth Years in the school on the last day of the Christmas Exams? Well, while the rest of the school were anxiously chewing on pens outside their exam rooms, TY students were carol singing, icing cakes and doing sponsored walks! My form, 4Si, trooped out to Nutgrove Shopping Centre on Tuesday 14 December for four hours of carol singing, in a campaign to fight blindness. We worked our way through the usual repertoire of festive songs: Silent Night, Away in a Manger, Jingle Bells etc., and, considering it was a weekday morning, we gathered quite a crowd (granted, we deliberately positioned ourselves directly in front of the café to trap people who had already been sitting there)! Four hours of singing later we had made around €400. It was a great experience which we all enjoyed.

Sophie Murphy Byrne

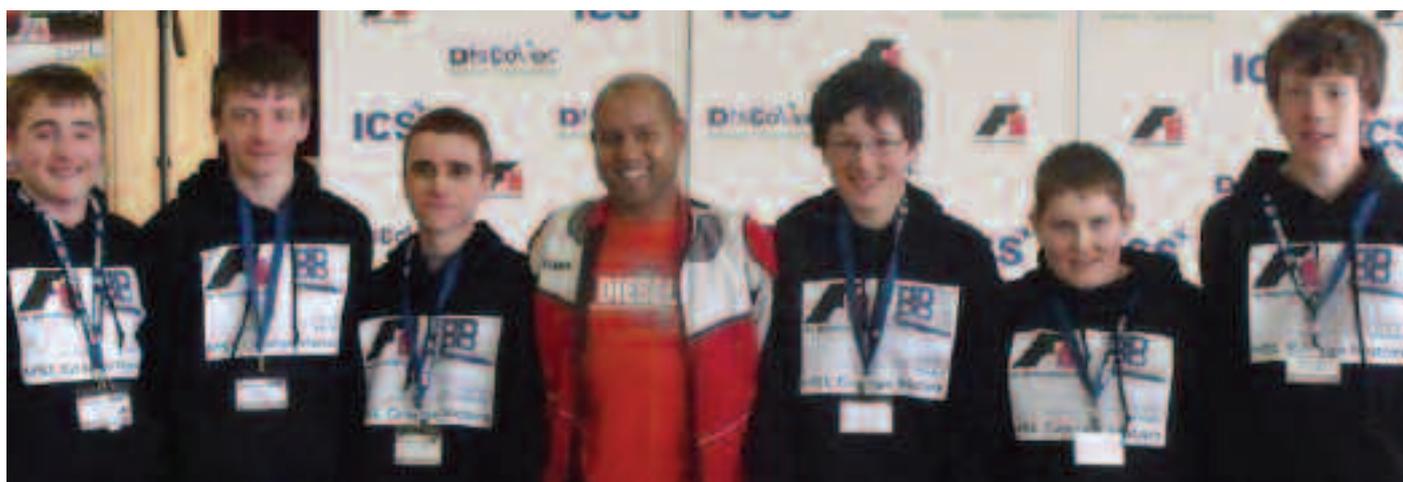
St Michael's House Bring a Book, Buy a Book

To celebrate World Book Week and help St. Michael's House Early Services Programmes, a book sale was held on 8th March. Parents and students donated their unwanted fiction and non-fiction books and €550 was raised to help this very worthwhile charity. Thank you to Alice Cummings and the Bursar's Office. Books that were not sold were donated to Oxfam Dun Laoghaire.



Formula 1 in Schools

Transition Year is a great time to get involved in new things. I chose AutoCAD as an option and got 'roped' into a competition called F1 in Schools. Our team is called the Blackrock Blasters and there are six of us on the team, each with a different role: James Evans, the graphics designer, Marcus Swift, the marketing and sponsorship manager, Adam Swift, the design engineer, Tim Smith, the team resources manager, Shahram Kashani, as the manufacturing engineer and myself, the team manager. The objective of the F1 in Schools competition is to design a model Formula One racing car, build it, test it and race it. There are many aspects to this project before the race, other than the obvious design and build phases. There is a lot of work involved in sourcing the much-needed sponsorship and marketing materials as well as in preparing for the various evaluations that are part of the competition, as winning is not all based on having the fastest car.



F1 in Schools is a Global competition and teams have to go through several qualifying rounds. The judges and staff of F1 in Schools have been impressed with our project so far and we are very pleased to be going forward to the national finals in April. The national winners, as well as receiving great prizes, are eligible for the Global competition in Malaysia! To get started we had to submit a document setting out our plans for our entry. Once this was approved and admitted to the competition we advanced to the Regional final in March and our preparations began in earnest. Our model car is about the size of a shoebox and the cars get built through a "mill" which, unfortunately, St Andrew's does not have. As a result we had to be paired with another college, where a student built it for us based on our precise specifications.

We arrived at the regional finals very early to get set up, having been up late the night before putting the finishing touches to our car and our marketing materials. One of the requirements you are judged on is the Display Stand you must set up to showcase what you have done on the project to get to this stage. Our display consisted of a multimedia presentation projected from our laptop, a slide presentation and lots of posters showing the stages of design and development of both the concept and the car itself, as well as a rotating dais displaying the car. We had a very interesting day seeing all the ideas and entries for the other regional finalists. The quality of

many of the presentations was to a very high standard and we were not all that sure that we would qualify for the national finals- although we were confident that our car would have an edge due to the research we had put in to make it as aerodynamically efficient as we could. Our car was rigorously scrutinised by the judges, who checked each aspect for compliance with the very strict competition rules and regulations, just like in the real Formula One competitions. A few infractions meant we lost some points, but we made them up with a strong display and oral presentation. Then the moment of truth came: our car was lined up on the starting line ready for the speed test against the other competitors. There were four races; two test reaction times and two measured speed races. Our reaction times were not as good as some of the other competitors, but we achieved the best race time.

At the end of the day we were all delighted to be informed that we had succeeded in qualifying for the National finals in April. As part of the promotion of our project, we set up a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Blackrock-Blasters) and a Team website (www.blackrockblasters.com) where you can follow our progress. It would be amazing to get to represent St. Andrew's in Malaysia but in any event we have developed many new skills including team work, IT, marketing and presentation skills and have really enjoyed being involved in the competition so far. A big thank you to Mr Eluk and Mr Shevlin for their support.

Conor Barrett

Bottle It - TY Mini Company



Bottle-It is our mini-company. We came up with an idea to make and sell sports bottles with the college crest printed on them during our mini-company class and added an option to have the bottle customized with whatever squad number the customer desired printed for an extra 50 cent. After a week trying to find a supplier, we sourced the bottles in the UK and a company who could print the college logo onto the bottles for us. Our supplier would not ship outside the UK, so we had them taken from Belfast to Dublin by a courier. Our stock of 160 bottles sold well and the Sports department bought 50 from us. We made €600- a profit of €300.

After the Christmas holiday, we were told by our teacher, Ms McElwee, that we would be entered in the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Student Enterprise Awards, so we worked extra hard on our business and supplied bottles to Leinster Rugby and the men's Irish hockey team. At the awards we set up our stall and handed in the business report. We spoke to the judges about our enterprise, market research etc. At the prize giving ceremony, as companies were called up for prizes our hope diminished until all but the Senior Level 1st Prize remained. When they called our company name out, we were shocked and went up to the stage to have our photo taken and prize presented. We were also put forward for the National Finals in Croke Park on April 14. We have since expanded our business and now cater to rugby and hockey clubs and have recently expanded our market to include a variety of sports, most notably securing a contract with a major GAA club in Munster - Thurles Sarsfields GAA club - as well as pending contracts with two soccer clubs.

Andrew Russell

One-Act 2011



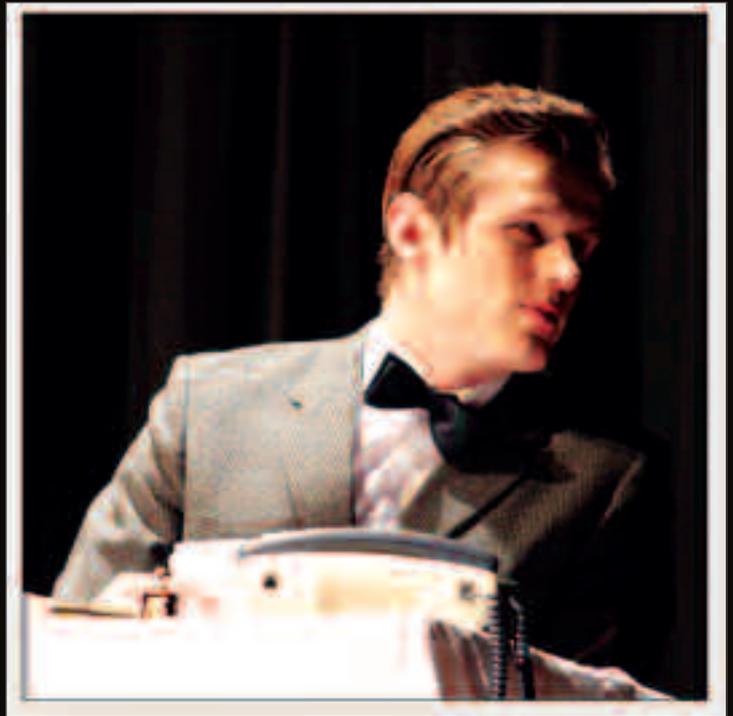
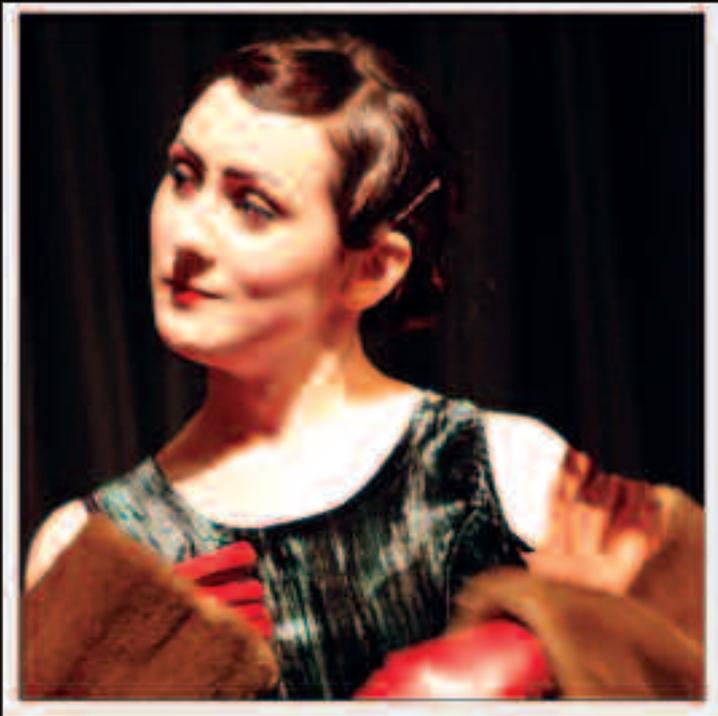
The St Andrew's College One-Act Drama Festival is an inter-schools competition, taking place over three days each Drama and Arts week. Schools from around Dublin and the greater Dublin area perform their plays in front of qualified adjudicators, competing for the coveted selection of prizes to be awarded on the final night. The festival entered its twenty-third consecutive year this February and Auditions for the St Andrew's One-Act play took place in September.

Why All the Fuss about Free Will is an original play by Mr Robert McDermott and was directed by past Junior School principal Mr William Mansfield, who has directed the St Andrew's One-Act plays for the past five years. At the very beginning of the whole experience, Mr McDermott said to us "usually a One-Act play is a shambles until about a week before you actually perform it. Only then does it start taking shape". Now, I wouldn't say it was a 'shambles' in the weeks before we went on, but we definitely all surprised ourselves with our best performance yet on the 17 February.

Five months of Wednesday after-school and Saturday morning rehearsals finally paid off when it came to the big night. We were performing on the third and final night; the previous two nights featured performances from Clonkeen College, Newpark Comprehensive School, East Glendalough School and St Gerard's School. All were great performances. Why All the Fuss about Free Will centres around the question of humans being allowed free will to make their own decisions, and whether the Big G (God) should remove this privilege or not. This decision is argued over by Satan and St Peter, both wanting their own way with things – Satan wants the Bible rewritten to include her side of the story, while St Peter is determined to prevent this. Could removing free will put a stop to this nonsense? Meanwhile, Mark Twain wanders into hell 'by accident' and runs into the slightly intoxicated theatre critic Dorothy Parker. The demons attempt to help Satan as best they can, but her fiery temper flares at the slightest mistake. And just to add to the chaos, Satan's assistant Beelzebub and St Peter's minion fall for each other Romeo-and-Juliet style.

After our performance, the entire cast was buzzing with delight, so proud of our achievement after months of hard work and especially over Niamh Mannion's exceptional performance playing Dorothy Parker. After the Alexandra College play, the adjudication took place. Cathryn Brennan and Paul Brennan didn't think much of us unfortunately, but it was just a small disappointment - we were all satisfied that we had left nothing on the stage that night. Newpark came first and St Gerard's was awarded runners-up. St Andrew's took home a certificate for costumes and our very own Shane English won 'Most Promising Performance': the most prestigious prize. Nice to have our second consecutive win for that prize – Danny Ryan also won it last year for his role in Whatever It Takes. Many thanks to our wonderful stage crew: Isla Jeffery, Eabha O'Connor and Maggie Cawley and to our amazing stage manager Meghan McNicholas. This is her second and final year contributing to the One-Act; we'll be lost without her! Thanks to Mr McDermott, without whom this production wouldn't have been possible, to Mr McArdle and Ms Fitzsimons for all the effort they put into this year's show, and to everyone who turned up for the big night. To the fantastic cast, who would all have been awarded with best actors/actresses prizes if I had my way, an enormous congratulations and, to Mr Mansfield: where would we have been without you over the last five months? Thank you for all of your effort and hard work.

Sophie Murphy Byrne and Eabha O'Connor



To be Frank...



Anyone who loves English or speaking aloud, whether it be acting or reciting poetry, should definitely enter into the National Poetry Aloud at some point during their time in St. Andrews, just to have that amazing and original experience, according to sixth year student Aoife Franklyn- and I for one will be taking that advice.

Poetry Aloud was devised in 2006 to celebrate the poetry of WB Yeats and to mark the date of the Library's award-winning exhibition, *Yeats: the Life and Works of William Butler Yeats*. There are roughly eighteen regional heats preceding the final and semi-final, which were altogether hosted in eleven venues, mainly in schools throughout Ireland. This year more than 1,200 students took part, 300 more than last year's entries. So if you, like Aoife, find joy in language, reciting, performing or just love to read, broaden your experience and take part in National Poetry Aloud, even if it's just for the sake of saying you did. You won't regret it.

I met with Aoife in March to ask her about her great achievement earlier this year. Aoife competed in the all-Ireland Poetry Aloud competition, with the final heat on the 14th January in the National Library of Ireland.

Aoife was a huge success, as she not only won first place in the Senior Category, but was also declared the Overall Winner of the entire competition, winning a trophy, a cash prize and a shelf of poetry books for the school library.



For the final heat of the competition Aoife recited the poems 'All Legendary Obstacles' by John Montague and 'To Autumn' by Yeats. 'All Legendary Obstacles' was one of the compulsory poems from the Senior Category, but the second poem she chose herself because, in her own words, she loves the season of autumn and "the poem really spoke to her".

When I asked her if she was nervous the day of the final heat (when she was up against twenty-three other students), she told me that she'd actually been to an audition for a drama college earlier that day and as it had gone smoothly, she felt as she walked into the National Library that she could do anything.

The competition judges were Director of Poetry Ireland, Joseph Woods, poet Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, and author Siobhán Parkinson. All highly accomplished in the arts, and obviously knowing a great deal about poetry, she felt somewhat at ease reciting in front of them. She also had two of our St. Andrew's English teachers, Ms. Quin and Ms. Fitzsimons, to support her during the final heat. She said that they being there meant so much to her.

"Competing in the National Poetry Aloud was such a great experience for me because I love drama and poetry- and I hope that I will get to do something in the arts when I go to college."

Saibh McCaffery



Aoife receiving her award.

U-Live 2011



Picture this. It's announced in registration that the annual Uganda fundraiser, the U-Live concert, is drawing near and there will be a meeting held at break to start preparing. All fine and good. Break time comes and about 50 people are gathered buzzing excitedly about what they'd like to do. Mr Hickmott enters and calmly explains that he will play no part in the event, that it's for us TYs to organise – oh, and that it's in less than two weeks.

...PANIC, right? Remove your name from the sign-up sheet, pretend you were never there and run for the hills! (Don't actually do what I did...) Not for the TYs! The harsh weather endured in Outward Bound and lack of exam stress has turned us into quite a tough little bunch.

Everyone excelled at their assigned tasks and somehow our PR people sold tickets to over 300 people. The backstage crew had the stage and equipment arranged and our sixteen phenomenal acts were ready, all just in time for 8 February.

Spotlights dazzled our MCs Hannah Blair-White and Mina Dawood. The crowd was hushed. A typical feel-good introduction cued Euan Murphy to open the show with Get Off The Stage. This catchy tune was the ideal opener and really set the tone for the night. Euan finished with a beautiful song, Into the Wild, accompanied by fellow fifth year, Fiona Paine.

I'll try not to be biased here, as she's in my own year, but anyone would agree that Nicola White's stunning performance of Hometown Glory had the entire hall in silence, listening in awe. The night continued with sixth year Aoife Franklyn taking time out from her mocks to sing Beeswing, and Jack Collen was next on stage with a gorgeous rendition of Use Somebody. The Kings of Leon should be ashamed of themselves for failing to perform that song to this high standard.

Next up – Isla Jeffery. There are no words to describe her wonderful performance of Dreaming, so I'm just going to leave it there.

Fifth years Julie Murphy and Emily Joyce took to the stage next to sing Remember When and had us all absolutely mesmerized.

Even if you don't know Jessie J, you know Price Tag. We couldn't have found anyone better in our year to sing it than Pilar Martin-Villa.

Problems with sound equipment weren't enough to stop The George Humphrey Divine Jazz Experience singing Personal Jesus/Rock and Roll. Mr Humphreys and Mr McDermott's band was great entertainment.

Aly Coyne and Briony Morgan are both known to be astonishing singers. Combined, they are lethal. A truly 'Wicked' performance of For Good followed and (to borrow a line off Cheryl Cole) they smashed it!

Sparkle Antoine, with Lianne Murray on piano, sang the Eminem/Rihanna duet Love the Way You Lie Part 2. One of the world-famous rapper's finest.

New this year, Simone Collins followed. We heard rumours that she could sing well. Those rumours didn't do her justice. Singing Run by Leona Lewis (or Snow Patrol) she stunned us all.

Some might shiver at the thought of being after Simone, but they don't know Eloise Thompson-Tubridy. The amount of talent in fifth year is a little frightening and Eloise's version of Yellow was amazing.

Feeling Good was a medley of all the chart toppers from the last two years and Danielle Quinn's unparalleled performance of it was hands down the best of night. Such was the standing ovation for her that we were convinced this was the phenomenal closing to the show.

We stood corrected, because Sadhbh O'Brien actually closed the show with the help of The Ulls and Cee-Lo Green's hit Forget You.

Surely this is the one that will set the bar for future Uganda concerts? If not, I don't know what will...

Sophie Murphy Byrne

International Night 2010



Last November for one week, St Andrew's College celebrated its international population by holding an 'Intercultural Week': a week of food, games, competitions and cultural events. The week, coordinated by Ms Lane, was divided into five days for five continents (Africa, Asia, Australia, The Americas and Europe). A different teacher organised each day, with students and staff members all getting involved. Some of the events throughout the week were a treasure hunt, an origami workshop, bake sales, musical performances, Australian instruments on display and decorations around the school. On many of the days, students wore clothes from their home countries and put up flags around the school.

A competition was held where students were asked to guess the languages on specific cards outside the school library which all said "welcome". There were thirty languages in total. Food was in abundance, for example the Thanksgiving dinner and a European bake sale. Just over €600 was raised from these events for 'Doctors without Borders'.

The centre of the week was International Night, which was held on the Wednesday. First off was the parade, where the entire international population of the school walked onto the stage in the senior hall. Then we had the variety show, which this year showed a wide range of acts. There were many highlights. The US act did a wonderful show of the Thanksgiving Macy's Day parade, including miniature Elvis impersonations, drummers, dancers and a rendition of Jay-Z's Empire State of Mind. The adorable Suzanne Thirion came out on stage in a little mouse costume and sang a short French poem. The Japanese dance brought a wonderful sense of culture to the event, Henry Lee captivated the audience with his regular diablo display, and the show was ended with a rousing chorus from the Junior School singing We Are The World.

However, my favourite act was the special guests from Burundi. There was a distinctly rich heritage to the performance they gave, from the language they spoke to the way they were dressed. They had a great sense of intensity, of tradition and of pure excitement in music. You could tell they were coming from a rich heritage, and it came through in their performance. It was loud, bombastic, natural and very, very exciting: a joy to behold.

Right after the variety show was the International Night food stalls, a tradition which everyone loves. There was, as with many years, a large range of stalls, with my favourites being the Pakistani stall, the Japanese stall and the Latvian stall. The food, as always, was delicious, with a large range of tastes that covered sweet, sour, spicy, savoury and anything else you could think of. Like most people, I was sick from all I had eaten by the end of the night. And, probably like most people, I just wish I could do it all again.

Grattan Aikins

Japan Fundraising

Dear Megumi,

In geography class, we learned about the Japanese tsunami. We all know from the constant news reports about it. We know about the earthquake that shook your country. We know about the tsunami that washed away your towns. We know about the radiation poisoning people and the nuclear plants giving no electricity to those who need it. We know about the towns that disappeared suddenly, turned into rubble. I know there are many homeless and many dead. Many have been left without parents, siblings, relatives or friends. Today we lit a candle in class for hope, hope that there are still people alive, happy and well. My class and I are sorry for any and all losses you have and may face. We wish you good luck on your journey there and back.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely,
Eva Kearny-Keaveny

On 11 March, there was a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami in the northeast of Japan. The earthquake was the seventh biggest earthquake since records began. There are nearly 17,000 people still missing and 260,000 people have been made refugees. Over 9,000 people have been confirmed dead already. The Japanese students in the senior school had a meeting with Ms Lane to discuss how to raise money to help the people who lost their houses and most likely family members and friends in this terrible event. We decided to organise a week of fundraising in school at lunch time. We arranged a talk with photos to advertise our fundraising and inform students of what happened in Japan. Three of us presented this to every year in the Senior School weekly assemblies. We made approximately 250 origami cranes and shuriken. Some pupils designed Japanese calligraphy on posters and greeting cards. Students were given the opportunity to have any message, name or symbol on their card. Also, forty misanga bracelets were made and sold by some Japanese students. On 30 March, most of the Japanese students went to the school Prizegiving at UCD in the hope of raising more money. We sold a large amount of origami shapes and misanga. We raised about 300 euro at the Prizegiving. The school arranged a non-uniform day for fundraising and all students donated €2. A number of students even brought in extra money to donate! Lastly, we would like to thank Ms Lane and Mr Godsil for their support and in particular, everyone who donated money to this cause. In total just over €2600 was raised. The money will be sent to the Japanese Red Cross to help with the rebuilding of Japan in the coming months.

ありがとうございました!
(Thank you very much!)

Satoko Takeda



Hungarian Easter Tradition



In every country there are traditions that have been passed down, created or formed to celebrate Easter. Every year Easter is celebrated by Hungarians and other nationalities to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus. In Hungary, Easter traditions differ from those of other European countries. Why is that? In many countries in the world, Easter is celebrated by hiding chocolate figurines in the garden then having a hunting game to find them, rolling an egg down a hill, painting eggs with different colours and motifs. In my country, Easter happens differently. Parts of Hungary celebrate Easter in different ways. Big cities such as Budapest are much more modernized and have adapted the modern version of Western traditions, like ones in America and other parts of Europe, while in the country villages the old-fashioned traditions are still practised.

These traditions are very special and cannot be found elsewhere in the world. During this holiday, the girls have much more to do than the boys. Why is that? Well, the boys can't cook or bake. Before Easter Monday, the girls have a huge amount to bake and cook to be ready for the big day. They prepare traditional food and cakes like 'édés sárga sajt' (sweet yellow cheese) and cooked ham. The girls aren't only cooks, but also artists. They have to make painted eggs, which will be very important in celebrating Easter Monday. These eggs are decorated with different techniques passed down from the elderly women to the young girls. Many designs exist for these painted eggs and many different colours. The final decoration all depends on the young artist.

But why make eggs that will be not eaten by anyone? Well, even though it might sound strange, the girls are making these to offer it to the boys. On D-day, the boys and girls wake up early before the sun wakes and get ready. The girls prepare the eggs, food and the drinks, and the boys set out in search of "withered flowers", meaning the girls. Their only aim is to not let any young girl wither away. How? The special way is to water or sprinkle them. Sound strange, watering girls? Yes, watering just like watering a flower by taking a bucket of water or a hose, or going by the extreme measure of throwing the poor girl into the river. They celebrate Easter this way to symbolise letting the young girls have a happy life and rejoice about the fact that they would not wither away. After the boys' act of kindness, they offer them a decorated egg, food and drink. Of course, the boys are granted happiness in their lives too by receiving the eggs. Playing games with them represents good fortune in some villages. Throwing a coin into the egg and knocking two eggs together so it won't break, means that the boy will have good fortune in life. During D-day, giving a dark red coloured egg to the boy also symbolizes love toward him, which the boy would gladly accept. In the past, the boys showed their love towards the girl they liked by stapling a piece of birch on the girl's door. Because of this special way of celebrating Easter Monday, it is called 'Locsolkodás napja' meaning the Watering Day.

Later, the whole town celebrates by singing traditional songs, dancing to traditional music, eating the food that was prepared by the young girls, drinking the wine from the cellar and many other things. They only think about the happy future, nothing else matters for the day, just being happy.

Stella Pete

Köln - Liebe deine Stadt!

Cologne - Love Your City!

Cologne is one of the biggest cities in Germany with a population of over one million inhabitants. It is one of the oldest cities in Germany, having been founded in 38 BC. The symbol of Cologne is the 'Kölner Dom', a big cathedral with two towers, which is located right next to the main train station and the river Rhine. The construction of the cathedral started in 1248 and continued until 1800.

For the people in Cologne, it is very important to be happy and enjoy life. So there are a lot of restaurants, shops, concert halls and discos everywhere in town. There are cafés with shelves full of books, restaurants with food from all over the world, bars with jazz music, traditional music from Cologne and, of course, a few Irish pubs in the city centre. In Cologne, there are also a few very old, small cinemas which just show films from all over the world in their native language, but with German subtitles. During the night, there are a lot of pubs, restaurants and discos open and there are always a few concerts on during the week and at the weekend.

Cologne is an intercultural city, because there are a lot of people from different countries. But from the end of February until the beginning of March, everybody who is Kölsch celebrates together. This is the season of the Cologne carnival, a fair that has its origins in the 19th century. During this week, it is a bit like St Patrick's Day in Dublin. The typical greeting during the festival is Kölle Alaaf!, a Kölsch phrase which can be translated as "Cologne above all!".



Like every other city, Cologne has a lot of different museums, with paintings and sculptures from the Renaissance up until today's art and photography. There are also a lot of monuments left from the old city town wall of the 12th century and some ruins from Roman times.

When the people of Cologne are sick of the city life, there are a lot of very big parks to go to. This is very unusual for such a big city, but because Konrad Adenauer, mayor of Cologne in 1917 and the first federal chancellor of Germany in 1950, had constructed a green belt, a long chain of parks with a few lakes and cafes around Cologne, it is possible. There are also a few parks and some beaches along the river Rhine, which is a very popular location for teenagers.

Germany's national sport is football. Every rich town or big city has its own football club. Cologne's football club is called the 1 FC Köln. It was found on 13 February 1948 and has since then been three times the best team in Germany. Its lucky mascot is Hennes, a billy-goat, who 'watches' every match. Like Cologne's population, there are football players from different countries on the team. Some think it is bad, but actually it is a great strength to be able to cooperate with all of them - and they are very good!

Pia-Maria Litzenberger

Mi experiencia en Irlanda.



Hola, soy vuestra compañera Gala Gil Amat de Elda (Alicante), España. El año pasado me propuse mejorar mi nivel de inglés y decidí hacerlo en Irlanda durante un año. Ya había estado aquí una quincena en abril de 2009 y me pareció un país acogedor y entrañable. Cuando se lo dije a mis padres, me llamaron loca, pero al final los convencí y el 27 de Agosto de 2011 aterricé en el aeropuerto de Dublín, asustada, ya que estaba sola y no sabía a dónde iba, ni que me esperaba.

El día siguiente fue mi primera jornada en St. Andrew's College. Todo era nuevo para mí y me encontraba perdida. No se como, al final, localicé la oficina de 4th Year, el mío y me explicaron que tenía que ir a "registration", ¿qué será eso?-me pregunté, y la respuesta es, básicamente, pasar lista a primera hora de la mañana y decir los eventos que se van a llevar a cabo ese día. Bueno, entré a la clase y todas las miradas se dirigieron a mí, me presenté y todos me dieron la bienvenida. Después volví a la oficina de mi año y me dijeron cuáles eran mis asignaturas y hasta me hicieron un mapa del colegio, ya que esto es muy diferente a mi instituto en España, en el que el profesor es el que va a tu aula, en vez de ser tú el que tiene que dirigirse a la clase en la que el profesor imparte su asignatura. Por supuesto, muchos compañeros me ayudaron a encontrar donde tenía que ir, ya que los alumnos de este colegio destacan por su compañerismo, cortesía y educación. Aquí, se da las gracias al profesor al terminar la clase y se piden las cosas por favor, actitudes que se están perdiendo entre gran parte de la juventud de hoy en día.

Apenas iniciado el curso, tuvimos la primera excursión, a Donegal, en el Norte de Irlanda. Fue un viaje fascinante que me ayudó a hacer muchos amigos y a ver un poquito más de esta hermosa isla esmeralda. También me parece una gran idea que durante este curso, Transition Year, tengamos la oportunidad de estudiar muchas materias y de realizar diversas actividades como baile moderno, yoga, cocina, escalada, piragüismo,...que junto a la "work experience" nos ayudarán a que las elecciones del futuro sean las correctas. Además, tenemos las "lectures", que son una valiosa fuente de información para la selección de una carrera o universidad.

Otro aspecto que destacaría positivamente de este colegio es la gran cantidad de eventos que en él se celebran: MUN, conciertos, ferias, exhibiciones,...y que muchos de ellos sean para recaudar fondos para obras benéficas.

Por todo esto, animo a todas las personas que tienen la posibilidad de estudiar fuera a hacerlo, ya que es una experiencia inolvidable, con la que he descubierto cosas que no sabía sobre otras culturas, y aún más importante, sobre mí misma. También, he hecho amigos únicos con los que espero seguir en contacto cuando me vaya. Y sobre todo porque lo he pasado bomba, descubriendo este maravilloso país, al cual espero volver y que siempre voy a llevar en mi corazón, al igual que a St. Andrew's y a sus excelentes profesores que me han ayudado siempre que lo he necesitado.

Gala Gil Amat

Past Pupils Abroad

Continuing our interviews with Alumni abroad, we catch up with two Award-winning past pupils....



I graduated from St Andrew's in 2006 and went on to study Business, Economics and Social Studies (BESS) in Trinity College. Making the choice to go to Trinity was easy for me - the city centre location meant lots of opportunities to socialize with friends between lectures. A flexible business course with the opportunity to study abroad was another big pull. In my first year I joined lots of different societies and made lots of friends. I had the best four years there, but it wasn't all play, as Trinity is hard work too. I studied hard and was offered the opportunity to study abroad in the US for my third college year. I spent this year at a University in Atlanta, Georgia, where I studied lots of different subjects and did lots of travelling. I returned to Trinity for my final year in BESS and graduated with a First Class Honour and Gold Medal.

I moved to Amsterdam last September after being offered a job as a Jameson Brand Ambassador on their Graduate Programme. Amsterdam is a very different city to Dublin, and a great place for young people. The city itself is very international, creative, liberal and lively, yet with a laid-back atmosphere. There are a great many Irish people living over here and even a GAA team, so I'm starting to feel at home! While many of my friends over here belong to the extensive Expat community I have also made Dutch friends through my work. Most Dutch people living in Amsterdam speak perfect English, so there is almost no language barrier. Even the cinema and TV shows are in English... At least that's my excuse for not being able to learn the language yet!

My job in Amsterdam is for one year, however I plan to work abroad for another few years before returning to Ireland. While I miss my friends (still a lot of the same group from my time in St Andrew's) and family at home in Ireland, I love the adventure of living abroad and experiencing new places and cultures. My years in St Andrew's playing hockey and doing MUN provided a great foundation for me in college and also for the job I'm doing now. I learned to get involved as much as possible and take every opportunity that came to me. Looking back, I can't believe we are already having our five-year reunion! The years fly by, so make sure you make the most of them.

Hannah O'Leary

I was in St Andrew's College from August 2008 to May 2010, spending my Fifth and Sixth year there. I initially went to Ireland from Japan because of my mother's sabbatical for one year, but then I decided to stay on for another year doing a home stay because I wanted to finish my International Baccalaureate Diploma. I have many wonderful memories of St Andrew's but overall I believe that having the opportunity to study in the IB Diploma programme itself was one of the most life-changing experiences. The IB programme was indeed very challenging and stressful at times but nevertheless it offered me an opportunity to engage deeply in education that I found extremely valuable. As part of the IB programme, I had the chance to start studying French and Spanish, as well as English literature, discovering my love of languages and the world of literature. Currently I am studying in the Faculty of Arts at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. I am planning to double major in French and Modern European Studies while continuing to study Spanish and I am also hoping that I will be able to spend my third year in either Switzerland or France. In the future, I hope to be able to work in a field in which I can use my language skills as well as my experience in living on three continents: Asia, Europe, and North America.

Mary Kazuko Hikosaka



Solar Eclipse

On January 4, Ireland was given the opportunity to witness 2011's first solar eclipse. Unfortunately, the spectacle was cloud-covered in most areas. The partial eclipse took place in the early hours of the morning, as the moon passed between the sun and the earth, covering up to 40% of the sun. It looked as if a chunk of the solar surface had been bitten off.

In London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and Berlin between two-thirds and three-quarters of the sun was covered at the eclipse's peak. When seen from Beirut, Jerusalem and Amman the sun was almost half-obscured, but more than 60% obscured from towns in Turkey.

I set off at 8.15am, excited to witness my first solar eclipse. The sun hadn't risen yet, but the sky was already lit. Struggling to find a spot where the horizon wasn't blocked by buildings, I finally settled in the car park beside Teddy's along the sea walk. I waited anxiously for the sun to rise, hoping that no breeze would come along with a cloud to block the sight. Finally, the incandescent star rose. At first, I thought a chimney was blocking a side of it, but then I realised it was the moon instead. I waited for the sun to rise high enough to be fully seen and it was spectacular. It seemed

as if at that moment the whole world had stopped; no movement, no noise. I was the first one to break that silence, snap! And the picture was taken. It had come out as if with a coffee stain, but without using filters or effects. "Perfect!" I said to myself, returning home.

Federico Doorly

Science Olympiad

The Senior Sciences Olympiads are held annually at DCU and gather students from all over Ireland to compete for places on the national teams to represent Ireland in the different sciences at the international Olympiads. Our school was represented by four students – Garrett Macklin, Max Kroll, Ihab Jameel and Sam Boles – all students studying for the Interna-

tional Baccalaureate at school. The students performed exceptionally well, gaining the following awards:

Sam Boles	Gold Medal and 1st place trophy Computer Programming
Garrett Macklin	Silver Medal Chemistry
Ihab Jameel	Bronze Medal Physics

Both Sam and Garret have been offered places to train for the International Olympiads team selection. Congratulations to all students.



Nobel Laureate



DCU hosted a lecture recently by the Honourable Dr. Steven Chu, the first in their Nobel Laureate Lecture Series. Professor Brian MacCraith has said that he viewed these lectures as a positive way to motivate students and to give them targets. The lecture was well attended and there were people from all age groups in the audience.

Dr. Steven Chu (Nobel Laureate for Physics) is currently the United States Secretary of Energy. The lecture was entitled “A Random Walk In Science: from laser cooling to global warming.” Dr. Chu began by trying to explain his history of scientific experiments and discoveries and their relevance to today.



Dr. Chu began by saying that by surrounding atoms with laser lights we can cool them which, in turn, will slow their movement and then it is possible to measure their frequency and energy levels. Dr. Chu then discovered that if you raise these cooled atoms up and let them fall back down it is possible, with quantum mechanics, to split the atom in two before it combines again and through this we are able to get “exquisite measurements”. This helped in the discovery of the acceleration of gravity.

Dr. Chu continued to explain that another one of his experiments was to test if it was possible to hold onto molecules with the assistance of lasers. It had previously been thought that you can hold onto particles with lasers and so Dr. Chu attached a sphere to a strand of DNA and focused a laser onto it. He then connected this laser light with a joystick and was able to move the DNA strand by moving the sphere. This enables us to study biology one molecule at a time. Dr. Chu also studied the composition of RNA and was able to fold and unfold a particular type of RNA using lasers and through this he discovered that the RNA strand has four different states, all of which have different functions and roles.

With such ground-breaking discoveries in science it would seem strange that Dr. Chu then went on to become a key figure in politics, but he tackled this query by saying that he became the United States Secretary of Energy because he was greatly concerned with the problem of climate change. He compared Earth’s increasing carbon dioxide levels with weight gain, saying that it was as though we were eating the same amount but we were doing less exercise.

The US government spent \$9 billion in investments looking for more energy efficiency. They have created Research Centres and Innovations Hubs as a stimulus for research and discoveries into new technologies.

Asked about fusion power and whether he saw it as a promising new source of energy Dr. Chu acknowledged that it was a very promising idea but that the materials needed made it a plan for the future and that we should “do what we know today.” Asked if he preferred his political role to his previous involvement in labs and universities, he commented that he does miss his research but feels his current role is very important and he can make good decisions. Asked if he believed that investing in new technologies was postponing economic development and he answered that he disagreed and thought that it was best to “build it in the smartest way possible.” Meaning that if we were to invest in energy efficient methods or objects we would be benefiting the economy in the long run. Dr. Chu was lastly asked whether he felt there was clash between science and politics and if this was hindering progress in either. He answered that there is sometimes a clash but there is also a need for patience. If there is a reasonable probability that global warming is true and it is economically viable to tackle it then it is our responsibility to acknowledge this. Dr. Chu finished by saying that each year the evidence for global warming gets more compelling.

It was a thoroughly insightful lecture and Dr. Steven Chu came across as very personable and forthcoming. It was a very enlightening and certainly motivational experience, just as hoped.

Wakeboarding



Wakeboarding is the fastest growing water sport in the world. It's a combination of water-skiing and snowboarding on water. The wakeboarder uses a board with bindings and is pulled behind a specially designed speedboat at about 40 kilometres per hour, using the wake of the boat to launch into the air to perform different variations of flips and spins. I started water-skiing when I was five years old and got into wakeboarding when I was ten.

The wakeboarding community in Ireland is quite large. For example, on one small lake in Cavan where I train, there are forty ski and wakeboard boats plus huge numbers on all the lakes along the Shannon. It's also really big in Northern Ireland. Everyone in the community is very friendly and helpful, especially to small children taking up the sport.

Wakeboarding can be done on almost any stretch of water, though not usually on the sea. Throughout Ireland, there are a number of different wakeboard clubs which cater to all levels from beginners to professionals. My personal favourite club is 'Lough Muckno Waterski and Wakeboard Club' in Co Monaghan. However, to make it to the very top in wakeboarding, you really need to live in Orlando, Florida as that is the Mecca of wakeboarding and where the big sponsorship is.

There are a lot of competitions in Ireland, with the Irish National Championships being the highlight of the year. There are also lots of really important contests in the UK, Europe and the USA. I compete on the Irish team, both at the European and World Wakeboarding Championships, which have been held in places like Sweden, Portugal, France, Qatar and Korea. I ride in the Pro-Men Division in Ireland and I was lucky enough to win this year. In international competitions, I ride in Junior Men (ages 15 to 19) and I was delighted to take the Silver Medal at this year's European Championships.

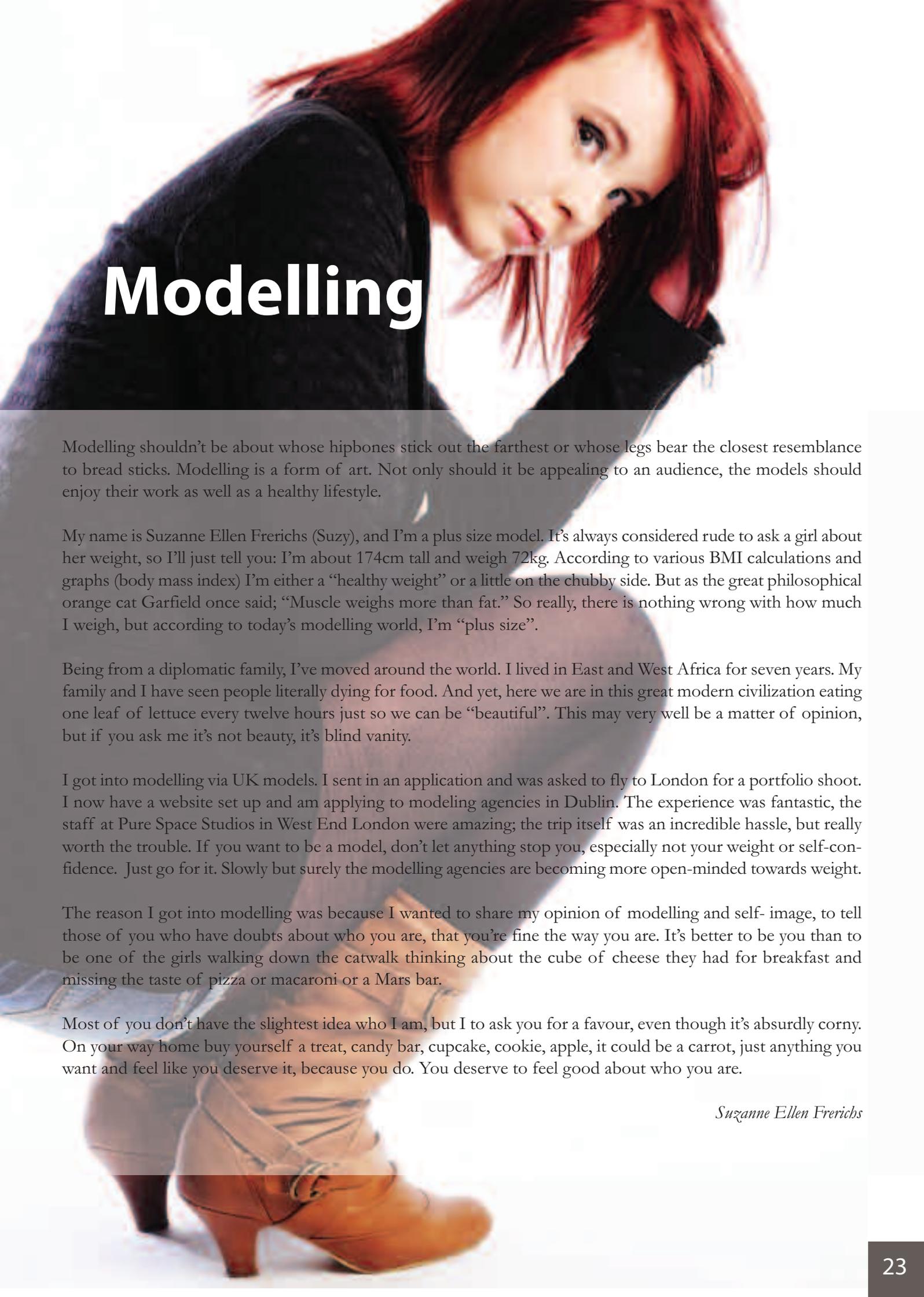
Why do I love wakeboarding so much? I think that it's the thrill I get when flipping upside down at 40kph, or maybe the feeling of landing a new trick for the first time after weeks of painful attempts. That feeling is the best feeling I've ever had. It's the feeling of success!

When I'm not at school, I spend most of my time in Cavan on Lough Sillan, training behind my own boat. During the summer I train twice to three times a day for about 30 to 40 minutes. During the winter, I can only get out at the weekends. I train all year round unless the lake is frozen! Usually, I try to get out to my coach who lives in Durban in South Africa so I can do warm-weather training at Christmas and then maybe to Orlando at Easter. I also visit the UK regularly to train on obstacles, as we don't have any in Ireland. Last year was brilliant as I was in Transition Year, so I lived abroad and trained in South Africa and Orlando for the whole winter.

I'd like to thank my sponsors who help me out a lot and provide me with all my equipment, wetsuits, impact vests and my energy drinks! A big thank you to O'Brien Wakeboards, O'Neill Wetsuits and Relentless Energy drink.

David O'Caoimh

Editor's Note: David recently won a mention in Outsider magazine's 'People of the Year' list 2010. Congratulations David.



Modelling

Modelling shouldn't be about whose hipbones stick out the farthest or whose legs bear the closest resemblance to bread sticks. Modelling is a form of art. Not only should it be appealing to an audience, the models should enjoy their work as well as a healthy lifestyle.

My name is Suzanne Ellen Frerichs (Suzy), and I'm a plus size model. It's always considered rude to ask a girl about her weight, so I'll just tell you: I'm about 174cm tall and weigh 72kg. According to various BMI calculations and graphs (body mass index) I'm either a "healthy weight" or a little on the chubby side. But as the great philosophical orange cat Garfield once said; "Muscle weighs more than fat." So really, there is nothing wrong with how much I weigh, but according to today's modelling world, I'm "plus size".

Being from a diplomatic family, I've moved around the world. I lived in East and West Africa for seven years. My family and I have seen people literally dying for food. And yet, here we are in this great modern civilization eating one leaf of lettuce every twelve hours just so we can be "beautiful". This may very well be a matter of opinion, but if you ask me it's not beauty, it's blind vanity.

I got into modelling via UK models. I sent in an application and was asked to fly to London for a portfolio shoot. I now have a website set up and am applying to modeling agencies in Dublin. The experience was fantastic, the staff at Pure Space Studios in West End London were amazing; the trip itself was an incredible hassle, but really worth the trouble. If you want to be a model, don't let anything stop you, especially not your weight or self-confidence. Just go for it. Slowly but surely the modelling agencies are becoming more open-minded towards weight.

The reason I got into modelling was because I wanted to share my opinion of modelling and self-image, to tell those of you who have doubts about who you are, that you're fine the way you are. It's better to be you than to be one of the girls walking down the catwalk thinking about the cube of cheese they had for breakfast and missing the taste of pizza or macaroni or a Mars bar.

Most of you don't have the slightest idea who I am, but I to ask you for a favour, even though it's absurdly corny. On your way home buy yourself a treat, candy bar, cupcake, cookie, apple, it could be a carrot, just anything you want and feel like you deserve it, because you do. You deserve to feel good about who you are.

Suzanne Ellen Frerichs

Seachtain na Gaeilge



Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge á ceiliúradh sa choláiste idir an 9ú –16ú Márta. Bhí roinnt imeachtaí eagraithe ag na múinteoirí Gaeilge don tseachtain. Spreagadh na daltaí agus chomhphobal an Choláiste chun “cúpla focal” a úsáid i rith na seachtaine. Ardaíodh Brat na hÉireann!

Comórtas Tish Parsons: Tionscnaimh bunaithe ar Mhíotaseolaíocht na hÉireann ar taispeáint san Ionad Gaeilge ag daltaí ón gCéad Bhliain. Comórtas na bPostaer: Postaeir deartha go healaíonta ag daltaí sa Dara Bliain bunaithe ar sheanfhocail na hÉireann. Bhí Díospóireacht ag an cúigiú bliain, ag plé an rúin ‘Ba cheart go mbeadh an Ghaeilge rognach san Ardteist; Ghlac ceithre fhoireann póint agus bhuaigh foireann amháin as rang Bean Uí Tynan agus ceann eile as rang Bean Uí Chéadaigh’. Bronnadh na nduaiseanna agus Ceiliúradh Sheachtain na Gaeilge, Céadaoin 16ú Márta.

Buaiteoirí:

Comórtas Tish Parsons: Bhuaigh Cassandra Sierevogal an chéad áit leis an ngearrscannán “An Bradán Feasa”. An dara áit, James Brown agus David Rabette, agus bhuaigh Danielle Dawson agus Ellen Stuart- Gormley an tríú duais.

Comórtas na bPostaer: An chéad áit, **Ella Woolfson**. An dara háit, **Linda Horn** agus an tríú háit, **Annie Rowe**, **Comhghairdeas libh a dhaltaí!**

Díospóireacht



Ó chlé go ceart: Lorcán Miller, Lauren Cassidy, Alexandra McKay

A chathaorlaigh, a mholtóirigh, a lucht an fhreasúra agus a lucht éisteachta. Táim anseo inniú chun insint díobh faoin lá iontach a bhí again ag díospóireacht i Tír an Úir, agus muna aontaíonn sibh liom tá sibh as bhur meabhair.

Tar éis dhá seachtaine d'obair crua agus muid faoi strus ó thaobh ár n-óraid, bhí an lá ann go raibh orm féin, Lorcán Miller agus Lauren Cassidy freastal ar Díospóireacht gaeilge i Presentation Terenure College. Bhí dhá fhoireann ullmhaithe agus aithne maith acu inár gcoinne. Coláiste Nua Droichead agus Choláiste Terenure. B'é an rún á phlé again deacair go leor: 'Ba choir dúinn fáilte a chuir roimh Banríon Sasana'. Bhí chuma ar an rún seo mothúcáin difriúla a bhí ag dáлтаí éagsula a chuir in iúl agus rún an-chonspóideach a bhí ann. Ach mar sin bhí sé i bhfad níos suimiúla do gach duine a raibh tar éis páirt a ghlacadh ann.

Ar lá an díospóireacht, chuireamar críoch lenár n-óraid le cabhair Máistir Mac Giolla Bhríde. D'fhág muid an scoil timpeall ar a 4.30 agus thugamar aghaidh ar an díospóireacht a bhí ar a 6:00. Bhíomar an-neirbhíseach ach le lámha cabhriúla Maistir Mac Giolla Bhríde agus a thaithí ó thaobh díospóireachtaí a ullmhú agus ag ghlacadh páirt i ndíospóireachtaí, bhí muid abalta choimead socair. Thosaigh an díospóireacht ar am agus chuir Lorcán Miller tús leis, lena argóintí láidire agus an fhoireann a chuir in aithne do gach éinne. Rinne na chéad cainteoir ón bhfoireann eile an rud gcéanna ach le chuma pianmhar ar a aghaidh. Ansin bhí sé in am do Lauren Cassidy seasamh suas agus a pointí a chur in iúl dúinn. Rinne sí é le neart agus stuagh. Dhún mé an díospóireacht ag caint faoi Stair na hÉireann agus ár gcuid creideanna agus nósanna. Bhí rath ar díospóireacht ach ar an drochuair ní éirigh le choláiste Naomh Aindriú áit sa Chraomh a fháil. Bhí bród ar Máistir Mac Giolla Bhríde orainn agus chun an bród sin a léiriú thóg sé muid ar chuairt chuig Mac Donalds chun muid a mhisniú. Gan Máistir Mac Giolla Bhríde ní tharlódh an lá iontach, tairbheach sin.

Tá siúl agam go n-aontóidh sibh liom gur lá iontach a bhí ann a thug taithí maith d'uile is na dáлтаí a ghlac páirt sa díospóireacht.

Alexandra McKay

Equestrian Team



St Andrew's equestrian team travelled to Broadmeadows Equestrian Centre in Co Meath on 16 January. The team consisted of Eve Hedderman, Seb Curren, Anna Barrett and Hazel Windsor-Aubrey. The course for the day seemed fair with a challenging turn and comfortable distances.

With six clear rounds, we qualified for the jump-off against some really good teams. Hazel and Eve represented us. Hazel went first and jumped a beautiful clear round. Eve was next and to get placed, needed to hit the accelerator but still jump clear. She did just that, but unfortunately not fast enough for first place. The team finished third and were delighted.

On 26 February, two teams wearing St Andrew's colours headed to Boswell Equestrian Centre in Ashford for an interschools show jumping competition. The competition was tough, competing against twenty other teams, all in the hopes of winning rosettes and prizes. There were four members in each team. The Blue team - Rachel Lee, Seb Curran, Anna Barrett and Hazel Windsor-Aubrey - jumped first and all jumped clear, qualifying for the jump off against the clock later that afternoon. The White Team with Thea Curran, Heidi Anderson, Amy Sutton and Leife Hollwey jumped next. Unfortunately, they incurred some faults, which excluded them from the jump off. The course was tricky for the jump-off, but Rachel and Hazel jumped brilliantly, landing us in sixth place on the day, and adding more qualifying points to our overall year's score.

Our next outing was Saturday 12 March, when the St Andrew's equestrian team began their three-hour journey to Galway to compete in the Presentation Athenry Interschools competition. Being so far away from home, we booked stables and a place for the team and supporters to stay overnight. With a tough course and opposition, we were not expecting to be in the top placings for the day, but the team - Hazel Windsor-Aubrey, Seb Curran, Thea Curran and Rachel Lee - did more than enough to guarantee them a place in the jump-off. Hazel and Rachel represented the team and with two clear rounds we finished up in third place. A great result left the team on a high and we enjoyed an evening of well-deserved fun together.

We all put a lot of preparation and work individually into training our horses, but on the day of the competition, it was all down to the team working together and the support on the sidelines from Fiona Lee, our Chef d'Equipe and our parents cheering us on. We would also like to thank Mrs Kirby and administrative staff in the school for all their help in getting forms signed and ready on time to be sent off. A big thank you from all the squad.

Eve Hedderman, Anna Barrett, Rachel Lee

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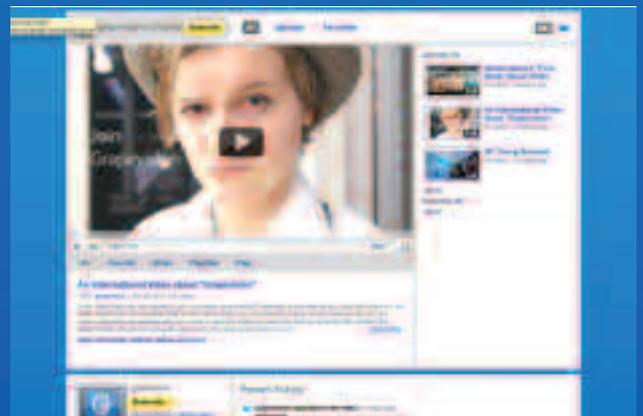
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It's not always easy to make your opinion known. Here at Grapevine, we understand that sometimes students just want to get their ideas out there, into the world. That's why we've designed our new website, www.sacgrapevine.com. This is a place for students to publish articles about their hobbies, interests, opinions and general thoughts on life, the universe and everything. The website is also an opportunity for budding web designers to get involved- we want to know how you think things should look. Any articles for the website can be sent to grapevinemagazine@gmail.com

www.youtube.com/grapevision

Grapevision is the student- run film production subsidy of Grapevine. Grapevision produce short films, ads, music videos, class presentations and school news. All finished pieces are uploaded to YouTube for public viewing and state of the art software and equipment is used to produce videos. All students are welcome, at all levels of expertise and ability. Whether it's just an idea for a video, or a finished film that needs a quick looking over- Grapevision is the place to go.



Grapevine - you make, we publish

Junior School

Junior School String Programme

Being involved in introducing a string programme into a junior school is a challenging but wonderfully exciting opportunity for everyone involved. First brought to our attention by St. Agnes's School in Crumlin, mainly through the RTE documentary 'Music changes lives', the school now boasts a 60 strong orchestra, a parent orchestra with 40 members, and provides instruction on a string instrument to more than 400 children every week. 16 of their orchestra members have been awarded a place in the Dublin Youth Orchestra. This unique programme has provided children with opportunities they would never have otherwise received. I believe a music programme in a Junior School becomes far more comprehensive once it includes a string/orchestra programme. Through this students learn the value of hard work, time management, teamwork and artistic expression. It is statistically proven that string students, at all levels, academically outperform their peer students and develop musical, social and intellectual skills that they may use throughout their lives.



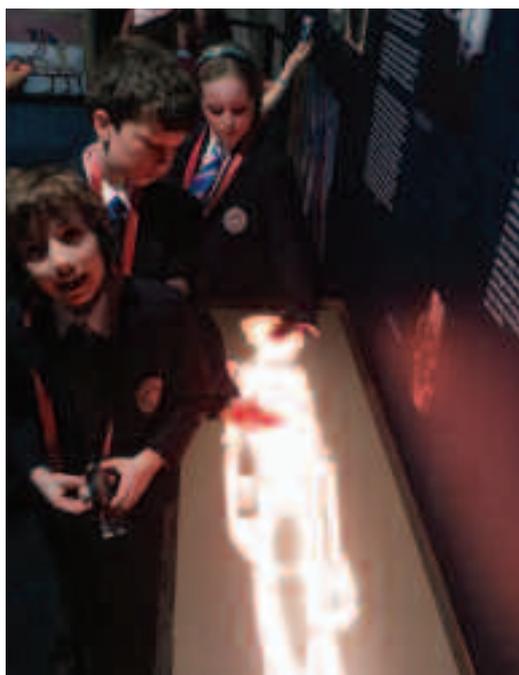
The children are taught the violin every week using the Suzuki method which initially involves the children playing by ear and from memory, rather than learning to read music. The thinking behind this is that a child learns music and technique almost as another 'mother tongue' without worries about whether or not he or she can read properly to follow musical notation. By the time a child begins to learn to play 'Twinkle Twinkle' and to read the notes, he or she has the music thoroughly memorized so none of their energy or attention is diverted into recalling the notes as they begin to play. Suzuki stresses that this listening also motivates the child to want to play the music. If you sit in on a Suzuki violin class you will quickly see that no Suzuki teacher teaches alike - after all both the teacher and the students are unique. To be applied successfully, the Suzuki approach requires a great deal of creativity from the teacher. Hard work but definitely worth it! This year in the Junior School we are piloting this string programme with all the children in P1 and P2. 56 violins on the go every week! We began back in September when all the children were measured for their violins and by now they have learned how to care for their instrument, the names of all its component parts, how to prepare and hold their instrument safely, name and pluck and strings and just recently play with the bow. Fun in the lessons is crucial and ensures children are far more motivated to practice at home and remain enthusiastic about their progress. It's lovely to see the children help and teach each

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other during a class and future years will be very exciting as these children progress further up the school growing in confidence and ability. Our plans are to have many more classes in the school playing a stringed instrument whether violin, viola, cello or double bass and participating in either an orchestra, chamber orchestra or string ensemble. Who knows maybe even a parent orchestra!! To finish I would like to quote some inspirational words of Dr. Suzuki 'The greatest duty and joy given to us adults is the privilege of developing our children's potentialities and of educating desirable human beings with beautiful harmonious minds and high sensitivity. I believe sensitivity and love toward music and art are very important things to all people whether they are politicians, scientists, businessmen or laborers. They are the things that make our lives rich.'

Ms Armitage

Tutankhamun



Since September, P3 have been very busy doing numerous projects and investigations. For one of our most interesting and enjoyable projects we delved deep into the past and marvelled at the exotic and wondrous artefacts of Ancient Egypt. Here are some accounts of our class trip to the Tutankhamun exhibition in the RDS.

On 11 March, P3 went to the RDS on a school trip. We saw the Tutankhamun exhibition. Before hand, the people who worked there gave us headphones and a pad with buttons on it. Each exhibit had a number on it. You could press the same number on your pad to hear all about that particular exhibit. There were lots of interesting things to see, like King Tut's sarcophagus and burial mask. There was also a reconstruction of his tomb just as Howard Carter found it in 1922. Inside the tomb were copies of King Tut's treasures – there were gold chariots, statues, a guard dog and many more treasures. Everyone's favourite thing was seeing the amazing sarcophagus and mask. At the exhibition there was also a movie about the Pharaohs before and after the reign of Tutankhamun. It also told us about Tutankhamun's

family. It was a really enjoyable trip, all the class had a great time.

Evie Kelly

Tutankhamun was one of the best exhibitions I have been to so far. It was overwhelming and I was very excited to see all his fantastic treasures. I didn't have a favourite treasure because it was all so good and I couldn't choose. If I had to pick one it would probably be Tutankhamun's health and appearance. P3 did a lot of research on Tutankhamun. When we went into the exhibition we gave a DVD we made into the office. As we had done the research before, it made the exhibition more interesting as it told us what we didn't already know about Tutankhamun. P3 took the bus to the exhibition. I sat beside Nina and Marcia. When P3 got inside I was amazed with what I saw. After the exhibition, P3 got the bus back to the school. I will never forget that day because it was so different to what I was expecting and it was the best exhibition I have ever been to so far.

Katie Kellett

P6 European Food Day

During the months of February and March, P6 worked in pairs or small groups on European projects. On 16 March we had our European Food Day, where each group prepared and brought in a dish native from their European country. We feasted on a variety of foods including goulash, Belgian waffles, Greek salad, danishes, kebabs, olives, Turkish delight and Black Forest gateau to name but a few. Everybody had a wonderful time eating a lot of delicious food!!

Yoav Modai



Young Scientist

I was proud to represent my school at the Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS. Our project was called the 'Inside Story' and it was about the digestive system. Digestion is the process of making insoluble food into soluble food. Our project consisted of a model of the gut and a series of tests. We made the model out of plasticine.

The three tests in our project were the test for starch, glucose and water. In the test for starch, you add some iodine solution to the food. If the food turns blue-black then starch is present. In the test for glucose you have to dip a pink square of 'Clinistix' paper into the liquid. If glucose is present the pink square will turn purple. In the test for water you dip blue cobalt chloride paper in to liquid. If water is present, the paper will turn pink.

Different groups of children represented our class in the RDS. It was our responsibility to present and discuss the project with the judges. Being present at the Young Scientist Exhibition was a fantastic experience because my grand-uncle, Patrick Burke, founded it! As a result of all our hard work, we won a glass trophy.

Alexander Wallace

Native American Exhibition

In February, the American Studies Junior School students had an exhibition! Each student had become an expert on a different Native American tribe. At the expo, they had a display of their tribes' home, a poster of descriptions and pictures, a craft or project that showed a skill of their tribes, and a food item that their tribes would have eaten. The students also created a timeline showing how Native Americans fit into U.S. history. Each student contributed by describing important Native American people and events. A video slide show, filled with Native American pictures and music, set the atmosphere. Lastly, there was yummy cornbread, an authentic Native American dish, for all the students to try! All the students did an amazing job and should be so proud of all their hard work! What a great day we had!

Suzanne Inman



Poetry Month in P2M

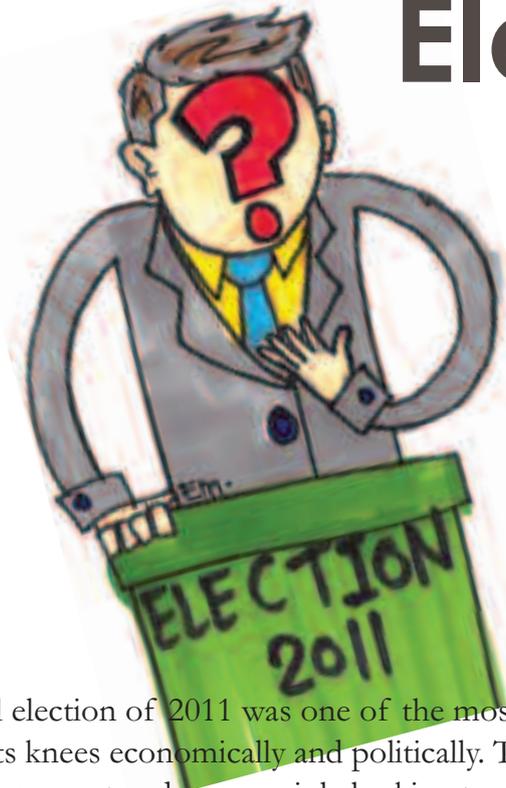
The month of February was dedicated to poetry month in the junior school.



We discovered a lot of hilarious poetry in the poetry books we brought into class. We read Roald Dahl's Dirty Beasts and we got ideas for our own poetry books. We put together a display of our books so far. Come in and have a read, some of the poems are so funny!

This is one of the poems in Finn's poetry book:
The time Rudolph got curious!
This all started when,
Old Rudolph got curious again,
He peered down the chimney,
And there was a light shining dimly,
So down he goes but he fell and hurt his nose,
Not only did he hurt his face,
But he landed in the only lit fireplace!!

General Election 2011



The Irish general election of 2011 was one of the most highly-anticipated elections for a long time. The country was on its knees economically and politically. The people were looking for a change from the Fianna Fáil led government and were mainly looking towards Fine Gael and Labour, with Sinn Féin's popularity soaring as well. On polling day, Friday 25 February, the result was expected to be harsh on Fianna Fáil and the Greens, and those predictions were not far off. Of the 165 TDs elected to Dáil Eireann, 20 were Fianna Fáil members, a fall of 51 from the previous election. The Greens gained no seats and now have no representatives in Dáil Eireann. On the other hand, the election was a striking success for Fine Gael and Labour, winning 76 and 37 seats respectively, with both parties now in a coalition government. The smaller parties of Sinn Féin and the United Left Alliance, along with Independents, all had an increase in their number of seats.

A new development not seen in any Irish election before was organised television debates on the stations RTE, TV3 and TG4 among the main leaders of each of the parties, the first of which took place on TV3 between Eamon Gilmore and Micheal Martin. Both leaders asked that the absence of Enda Kenny be represented by an empty chair beside them, however this wish was turned down by TV3, unfortunately. Three more debates took place in the lead up to the election, two on RTE and one on TG4.

A record 76 first-time TDs were elected. One of these was Sinn Féin's leader Gerry Adams, who ran for election in the Louth constituency. Labour TDs Dominic Hannigan and John Lyons became the first openly gay people to be elected to the Dáil, while Luke 'Ming' Flanagan, infamous for his confession to growing his own marijuana, was also elected. He has now given up the drug, citing respect for his family as the reason. Ministers such as Mary Hanafin and Mary Coughlan lost their seats, with Mary Hanafin having just been chosen as deputy leader of Fianna Fáil by Micheál Martin, and Mary Coughlan the outgoing Tánaiste.

This was an election like no other; it brought Irish politics into the new age via the televised debates, and also showed the anger of the Irish people towards Fianna Fáil. Change has come in the form of Fine Gael and Labour and let's hope it's a change for the better.

Rory O'Regan

Bright Eyes

The People's Key

Many of you will be aware of Bright Eyes, but then again there are probably also a great deal of you who are not. Bright Eyes is the brainchild of singer-songwriter Conor Oberst, along with his two band mates Mike Mogis and Nate Walcott. Oberst has been releasing records under the Bright Eyes moniker for a little over ten years. The People's Key is the band's eleventh album since their debut in 1998. The 'key' in the title has been said by Oberst to be the key of C on a piano, or the key of E on a guitar. This is because it is said that you can play all the white keys on a piano in C, without hitting a bad note and the same for E on a guitar. Anyway, enough of this - the songs...

The album opens with the voice of Denny Brewer from the band Refried Ice Cream, telling us that there is no such thing as time and that we all descended from lizards. I'm not too sure whether this is supposed to be taken seriously or not, but it's appropriate for an album where many of the lyrical themes are inspired by science fiction. Every Bright Eyes album opens up with an obscure, mainly spoken-word introduction. The song that follows this peculiar narrative is a brooding slow-burner that, I must admit, is a little unwelcoming as an opening track.

Next, we have Shell Games. This song is very upbeat and makes great use of Oberst's new arsenal of instruments. Each lyric holds a hidden metaphor, which is typical of Oberst, though he appears to have stepped it up for this album and, at times, you feel you need a decoder to understand the meaning behind his lyrics. The third song on The People's Key is Jejeune Stars, an up-tempo number.

By now, you may have realised that this is the most musically accessible Bright Eyes album to date. This album falls away from the usual formula significantly, as Oberst has chosen to replace his traditionally large array of acoustic instruments for electric guitars and synthesizers. This may disappoint some fans, but the album blends the different instrument types in such an effortless manner that most fans should be happy.

My standout track on the album would have to be Ladder Song. It is an archetypal Oberst tear-jerker, one that's sure to become an instant classic with fans. The track is piano-led with Oberst's hushed voice coming in to tell us 'You're gonna lose what you love the most, you're not alone in anything, you're not unique in dying'. Uplifting indeed.

The album concludes as it begins with Brewer's shamanic ramblings. These provide fitting book-ends to the album.

Oberst has been quoted as saying that this may be the last album with the Bright Eyes name and, as much as it pains me to accept this, I can truly say they go out with a bang. This is a concise and brilliant album which deserves repeated listening. I highly recommend checking it out, though it's true to say that I have yet to find one Bright Eyes album that is not worth owning. Oberst leave us on a high, with our spirits feeling typically low. Terrific.

Euan Murphy



Dublin International Film Festival

On 17 February, the Jameson Dublin Film Festival celebrated its ninth consecutive year. The range of movies was wide and they came from such places as Romania, South Korea, The Democratic Republic of Congo and Ireland itself. They ranged from large blockbusters to very small independent works. I got the chance to catch up with seven films being shown at the festival.



Cave of Forgotten Dreams

Cave of Forgotten Dreams

Werner Herzog isn't very well known to mainstream audiences, but he's one of the most influential and brilliant filmmakers of all time and, in recent years, he's begun to move over to documentaries, such as the Oscar nominated *Encounters at the End of the World* or the brilliant *Grizzly Man*. Here, he takes the first film cameras allowed into the Chauvet caves in France, containing 5,000 to 10,000 year old cave paintings. He uses 3-D to make the caves seem real, as if you could reach out and feel the cold surface of the rocks in front of you. A truly spiritual experience.

Outrage

You may know Takeshi Kitano as the teacher of the class in *Battle Royale*, but he's been building up a fascinating filmography as a director over the past 22 years and while *Outrage* isn't his best, it's still definitely worth a look. Kitano returns to his Yakuza origins in portraying a film of interlocking crime families and the interactions between them. There's some very interesting themes Kitano is dealing with and some great film-making craft (as is expected), but mostly the film succeeds by being a lot of fun.

Bridge on the River Kwai

The only film I saw which isn't a new release, David Lean's epic war film from 1957 looks beautiful on the big screen, with shots of the sun and of soldiers swimming down the river improved greatly by the cinema experience. Lean is able to communicate the complex psychology of Alec Guinness's corporal so well. A fantastic movie, worth seeing on DVD if you can.



Bridge on the River Kwai

Poetry

A new film from the new wave of great cinema being produced in South Korea, it's a wonderfully meditative piece on grief, pain and the uncontrollable nature of life. Do you like those things? Then you'll love this movie.

The Adjustment Bureau

I may not have liked this as much as I thought I would, but the new Matt Damon blockbuster was a very enjoyable film. A lot of great scenes, especially the meeting between Damon and Blunt, Terence Stamp's speech on the history of the bureau and the moments it let humanity have its own control, and some of the chase scenes I thought were very well done. The ending may be perceived as overly cheesy, but I thought there was more to it than that. I didn't even know Anthony Mackie was in this when I entered the cinema, and he's always brilliant no matter what he's in.



Incendies

Incendies, a Canadian film, is about a woman who is part of the struggle in the Middle East, and the story of her twin children, who were asked by her posthumously to find both their brother and their father. There's a lot of ways this movie could go wrong, there's a lot of plot to get through and, as well as juggling two parallel storylines, it's dealing with a very delicate and complicated piece of history. Some of the plot twists at the end could come off as really trite and over the top, but director Denis Villeneuve brings a subtlety and sense of craft to the project which brings you into the world and treats its subject objectively. The emotions on display are raw and beautiful. Definitely worth seeking out.

Surprise Film (Cedar Rapids)

The surprise film is one of the most talked about events at the festival, and this year the movie was Cedar Rapids, a comedy about small town in Iowa starring Ed Helms (from The Hangover) and the great John C Reilly. The movie itself was a pretty solid comedy with some great moments, but the actual experience of seeing it as the surprise film was fantastic. It seems that going to a movie which you don't know beforehand means the audience is just there to have as great a time as they can and the whole audience here was in uproarious laughter, which was infectious.



All in all, it was a great year. I loved pretty much every movie I saw, for wildly different reasons. Not to mention the films I didn't see, like Richard Ayoade's Submarine, or Francois Ozon's Potiche. It was a great week.



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