

Davitt News



Gold for Davitt College Students!

Page 1

May 2013

Laura Ivers, Davitt College, Castlebar Transition Year student has been named The 2013 Connacht Gold Junior Chef. Laura was one of 18 Secondary School students selected from all entries to compete in the Final. She displayed her culinary talent in abundance and sautéed her way into first place at the cook off held in St. Angela's College as part of the So Sligo Food Festival.

Laura was a Gold Medal winner in the Senior Category and also scooped Overall Winner

Award of the competition. As her prize she won a specially commissioned trophy, a one day working scholarship at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo, with TV3 Ireland AM resident chef, Joe Shannon and an iPad mini.

Davitt College was the only Post Primary School in the competition to have two students participating in the Final. 5th Year Home Economics student Amy Mulchrone displayed her culinary expertise and was also awarded a Gold Medal in the Senior Category of the competition.

"In Davitt College Home Economics has become increasingly popular in recent years," said principal, Ms. Bernie Rowland. "We are very fortunate to have two fully equipped state-of-the-art Home Economic Rooms and the subject has become almost as popular with boys as it is with girls. There has been a notable increase in the number of students taking the subject at Higher Level both in Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate and examination results far exceed the national average." Ms. Fiona Murtagh, Home Economics teacher stated: "The subject itself aims to equip students with the life skills necessary to be self-sufficient both now and in the future, therefore, we encourage that it is studied by both boys and girls. The Home Economics department in Davitt College constantly strives to encourage creativity in the kitchen. The competition was a fantastic opportunity for Davitt College Home Economics students to display their skills and passion for cooking. We are very proud of our two students and their excellent accomplishments."



Pictured from Left: Amy Mulchrone, Senior Gold Medal Winner; Ms. Fiona Murtagh, Home Economics teacher ; Laura Ivers, The 2013 Connacht Gold Junior Chef



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Davitt News



Davitt College Students attend Trinity College Dublin

Page 2

May 2013

Davitt College, Castlebar

students David Gavin and Jack McEllin were selected to attend a Nanoscience Information Workshop in Trinity College Dublin where they visited CRANN (the Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices) and got to see the state of the art technology being utilised for Nanotechnology research. CRANN aims to raise awareness about Nanoscience, the research activities within the institute, and how nanotechnology is impacting the Irish economy and society generally.



Melissa is All-Ireland Doodle4Google Finalist



Congratulations to Melissa Duffy who was a finalist in the Senior Category of the Doodle 4 Google Competition. Doodle 4 Google is a competition open to all students attending Primary or Secondary schools in the Republic of Ireland. This year, over 3000 students entered the competition and Melissa Duffy was one of fifteen All-Ireland Finalists in her category. Well done Melissa!

Melissa is pictured with her Art teacher Ms. Ciara Silke.

Davitt College Students of the Year 2013

Leaving Certificate Students of the Year 2013 were Noel Conlon and Haregewaren Tilahun. They were congratulated by Mr. Ger Munnelly (Year Head), Mr. Ger King (Deputy Principal), Ms. Bernie Rowland (Principal) and Ms. Maria Carey (Year Head)





Laura accepted into Centre for Talented Youth Programme



Pictured from left: Cora Hoban; Jack Rowland; Niamh Toban; Ms. Veronica Morley, English Teacher; Laura Ryan; Stephen Kearns; Shane Gavin and Lydia Garey.

Congratulations to Laura Ryan, a Second Year student at Davitt College, Castlebar, who has been accepted into the prestigious *Centre for Talented Youth in Ireland* summer programme in Dublin City University. Laura is among the top five percent of the population with exceptional academic ability who is admitted to this programme for talented youths. Laura's outstanding achievement will ensure that she can participate in a wide range of Third-Level courses at Dublin City University during the summer months.

Soroptimist Castlebar supports Music Programme at Davitt College



Soroptimist International Castlebar has recently sponsored a Music Programme at Davitt College, Castlebar. The club has kindly supported the provision of tuition for a six week Music Programme for students, together with providing funds towards the purchase of musical instruments. The National President of Soroptimist Ireland, Ms. Ann O'Driscoll, visited the school recently and was entertained by students involved in the programme. Back row: Mr. Ger King, Deputy Principal; Ms. S. Sheridan, School Completion Programme; Mrs. Ann Collins, Soroptimist Club President; Ms. Ann O'Driscoll, National President Soroptimist Ireland; Ms. Therese O'Grady, Soroptimist PRO; Ms. Kate McKeown, Music Generation Mayo; Jamie Ralph, Mr. Paul Kelly and Mr. Mike Cannon, Davitt College; Mr. Eamonn Mulderrig, Music Teacher, Davitt College; Ms. Bernie Rowland, Principal, Davitt College. Front row: Jack McEllin, Niamh Tobin, Neill Tropman, Francis Kelly, Neill Kilkenny, Aoife Halligan and Ethan Carey, Davitt College students.

Davitt College student selected to attend National Conference of the European Youth Parliament

Liam Higgins, Davitt College, Castlebar, Transition Year student, was selected recently to attend the National Conference of the European Youth Parliament Ireland 2013 at University College Dublin from 21st to 24th March 2013. Liam received this honour because of his acumen in Debating and Public Speaking. Liam (front row) is being congratulated by his classmates.



Davitt College students experience poetry reading by Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney and Michael Longley



The senior students of Davitt College were given the opportunity to attend the Cúirt International Festival of Literature in Galway on April 24th. The students were in the presence of greatness as they attended a joint poetry reading by Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney and Michael Longley. The Town Hall Theatre was packed to the rim full of eager lovers of poetry, who were captivated by each word spoken by the literary luminaries. The event was also attended by the Irish President Michael D.Higgins who had launched the festival earlier that evening and was honoured by each of the poets as they chose to read one of his poems. The poets read a number of their poems and gave an insight into the inspiration behind those that featured. The students found the experience entertaining and educational as both Seamus Heaney and Michael Longley provided a very personal and accessible approach to their work.

Davitt College Students US-Bound After Win At BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition



Davitt College, Castlebar, was described in a recent report by the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills as “a very progressive school and a true learning community where the widespread use of Information Communications Technology has revolutionised teaching and learning.” The school certainly lived up to its excellent reputation recently when a record four student projects were accepted at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. And true to form Transition Year students Jack McEllin, Sean Murphy and Conor Reilly won The Analog Devices Travel Award 2013. The students also picked up Third Prize in the Technology Intermediate Group category. Their impressive project involved the design and construction of a Robotic Glove which can be used instead of a mouse on a computer. The students believe that their invention has great potential to be further developed and has commercial possibilities in the Music and Physiotherapy sectors. Their awards include an all expenses paid trip the United States and Silicon Valley where the students will present their project to researchers for Analog Devices at their Headquarters in Silicon Valley. The students have also won €2,500 worth of Science Equipment and a Perpetual Trophy for their school. Congratulations to all students involved – the future looks very bright indeed with such clever and creative young people.





DAVITT COLLEGE SUCCESSFULLY LINKS WITH N.U.I. GALWAY

The world of science, technology, engineering and maths continues to develop and with it the need for a skilled and talented workforce. The

role of any school is central to the development of key skills that our future generation will need.

“There is no doubt that the education of our young people from Primary school to Third-level will play a very important role in Ireland’s future prosperity and advancement,” said Ms. Bernie Rowland, Principal of Davitt College, Castlebar. “So we are constantly enriching and enhancing the curriculum we provide here at Davitt College. She was speaking at the launch of the schools new Computer Programming Module in association with the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) at N.U.I. Galway. Mr. Brendan Smith, Education Officer at



Pictured at the Davitt College launch of the new Computer Programming Module: (front Row) Transition Year students Michael Flatley, Sean Murphy and Ross Chambers. (Back Row) Ms. Emma Nestor, ICT and Programming Teacher; Mr. Brendan Smith, NUI Galway; TY student Aoife Doyle; Ms. Bernie Rowland, Principal, Davitt College; TY student Melissa Duffy and Mr. Niall O'Connor, teacher of Maths and ICT Co-Ordinator.

N.U.I.G., will deliver a range of pioneering technology learning initiatives to students. In turn students will be equipped with a range of skills from using mathematics to fostering critical thinking and will become “digital creators” rather than just “digital users”. “The new Junior Cycle Programme, which schools will begin to roll out next year, aims to ensure that our students develop key skills that are necessary for lifelong learning. It will give our students more opportunities to engage actively in their own learning and to use their clever and creative energies,” said Bernie Rowland. “The new Junior Cycle Programme will include modules such as Programming/Coding and Digital Media. With today’s launch of this new module for students we continue to lead the way in implementing new curricula which will help all of our students to excel in science and mathematics,” she said. Mr. Brendan Smith, Education Officer with N.U.I.G., has co-ordinated an array of successful medical, environmental, digital heritage and web science projects for schools and communities in the region over the past ten years. He said he was delighted to be involved in teaching students at Davitt College and also training teachers who will in turn be able to facilitate future cohorts of students in Programming/Coding and Digital Media.

Davitt College Students reach All-Ireland Scor Na Nog Finals



Five Davitt College students competed in the All Ireland Scor Na Nog Finals in Derry. This prestigious competition promotes traditional Irish music and culture and involves people of all ages. From left to right are: Principal Ms. Bernie Rowland; Caoimhe Kilkenny, Marianna Tiernan; Patrick Daly; Seamus Tiernan; Ellen Murphy; and Vice Principal Ger King.