

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Many thanks to the parents and Transition Year students who raised €1589 with Cash for Clobber and €1773 with a bag packing fundraiser. The proceeds bought a Laptop for the Field Development raffle and supported our trip to the Young Scientist Exhibition. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## DESMOND COLLEGE ACKNOWLEDGES THE ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM OUR YOUNG SCIENTIST PARTNER COMPANIES

The assistance and contribution received from our Young Scientist Partner Companies have allowed us to enhance the experience for our students and by doing so play a significant role in the success our school continues to have at the BT Young Scientist Competition. We sincerely thank them for all their support and good wishes during the actual competition and hope to emulate this years achievements with their help in the future:

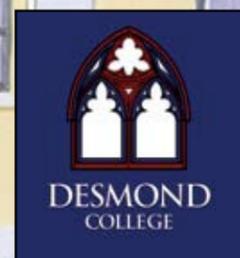
**Rettig Ireland**  
**Trade Electric**  
**Desmond Credit Union**  
**Madigans Bus and Coach Hire**  
**Vickie O'Sullivan, NCW Bookstore Ltd,**  
**Bank Of Ireland,**  
**Shanid Mantels,**  
**VSO Publications, (Weekly Observer)**  
**Mike Mulcahy , (Trophy and Medals)**

Thank you to all contributors of mid-term magazine



## LEARNING SCHOOLS PILOT PROJECT

As part of Desmond College's ongoing commitment to best educational practice and opportunity for learning, we are delighted to announce that we are half way through our pilot project on Homework with all our Second Years. It will run for another four weeks after mid-term break. The focus has been on improving and evaluating students' efforts at HOMEWORK. The Learning Schools Team and all teachers have been working hard to ensure that students improve their motivation towards homework and thus benefit in their academic performance. As always the success of students commitment depends on parental support. It is invaluable and greatly appreciated with the focus firmly on encouraging best on-going homework practice that can be used far beyond the pilot scheme.



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Warren Gleeson and Sean Duffy being presented with their winning award in Junior Tech BT Young Scientist Competition 2012



## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**Ms. Gavin- Barry**

The school year is flying past at a speed that is frightening to most of us, especially for those in 3rd and 6th year. We are into an important and critical time now - the Junior Certs have just finished their pre-exams, the Leaving Certs are just beginning theirs, LCA students are in the middle of Task Interviews and project completion dates are looming ever closer! Our First Years have recently completed a Reading Challenge and are about to undergo a Challenge to improve their fitness levels with Beat The Bleep, expect to see them out running on the old railway tracks at lunchtime! Meanwhile, Second Years are heavily involved in a Learning Schools Project which is focusing attention on their efforts at their homework, while Third Years, who have just finished their DATS testing, are about to take part in an international Maths study - PISA 2012. On the extracurricular front our First Year Hurlers look like they are shaping up to be a real force to be reckoned with and our camogie ladies are on a winning run. As the weather improves we look forward to more sporting events. Our success at the BT Young Scientist Awards has been truly phenomenal. This competition which has captured the interest of the general public has really become part of who we are in Desmond. We have gone from strength to strength over the years. However, it must be remembered that success like this does not just happen by chance, it is as a result of hard work and dedication by a team of teachers working in the fields of science and technology and a group of enterprising, academic and innovative young people. Our congratulations go to all the winners, but especially to Junior Technology Group winners, Sean Duffy and Warren Gleeson. We are also very proud of Marie Corkery, awarded the Analog Teacher of Excellence. This is the second time that this Award has come to Desmond College; Donal Enright won the same title in 2010 - an amazing achievement for one school. Another recent highlight was The Desmond Factor. This year's show was without doubt our best and most professional. The show provides such a wonderful opportunity to showcase our many artistically gifted and talented students and really gives them an opportunity to shine for all to see. However, despite all the good times and the success our school has had recently, our world fell apart when we heard the tragic news of the sudden death of Darra O'Donovan on December 12th. The shock and grief felt by all is almost impossible to describe. It was such a difficult time for our whole school community, but we took care of each other and continue to do so. Although we know we will never forget, we also know that time is a great healer. We have such great memories and stories to tell about Darra and it is these that will get us through the difficult times. Our thoughts and prayers are with Darras family each and everyday.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*



## DESMOND COLLEGE MULTICULTURAL WEEK

Desmond College students' interest in International cultures and traditions is alive and active in the school with the development of a new initiative, a week long range of educational activities especially dedicated to Multicultural Studies. The brainchild of German and French teacher Ms. Meadhbh Nash and supported by many teachers, First Year students explored, researched and made presentations on various different cultures and traditions. They enjoyed International cookery and tasting workshops, sports 'country playoff' matches and quiz competitions with a multicultural theme. The theme of the week helped develop students' awareness, respect and inclusion of International cultures and traditions.



Left to right: Aliaksei Pishchyk, John Paul Geoghegan, Darragh O' Se, Sean Mc Elligott, Jack O Connor



Left to right: Patrick Woulfe, Brian Hartnett, Jack Forde, Alan Curtin, Cathal Geary.



### FIRST YEARS LAUNCHING MULTICULTURAL WEEK

(Back L-R) Brian Hartnett, Dwayne McCoy, Nathan Prysko, Chloe O Mahony, Conor Reidy, Ptreez Nugent, Liam Dowling (Front L-R) Jack Harrington, Alaichsei Pishchyk, Cillian Mc Mahon, Adrianna Rodrigues, Damien Wojtowicz



## AGRI AWARE GREEN DRAGON

Good Luck to our five groups participating in the qualifying heat of the 'Nationwide AgriAware Green Dragon' competition on Wednesday March 22nd in Athlone. At the BT Young Scientist they were invited by representatives of Green Dragon to submit their projects to the Agriculture and Environmental categories of the competition. The projects and teams participating are: Chimney Turbine, Warning Device for Slurry Tower Valve, the Veterinary Caesarean section device 'Calving Jack', Environmental Alternative to Pesticides for the control of Wasps and Hair Today Gone Tomorrow.



JACK O' CONNOR FIRST YEAR STUDENT ACCEPTING HIS AWARD AS WINNER IN THE TIDY TOWNS CATEGORY OF THE SUPERVALU WEST LIMERICK TOURISM SCHOOLS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION. OTHER STUDENTS SEAN MCELLIGOTT AND CONOR REIDY WITH CSPE TEACHER Ms.MARGARET O' CONNOR AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY IN DESMOND COMPLEX.



Leaving Cert History student Joanne Dowling with History teacher Ms. White whose new research on 'Joesphine Baker' was newly published by Blackpast.org. Well done.



Thank you from the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal

## CATWALK EXTRAVAGANZA

Our eagerly awaited bi-annual Fashion Show will take place in the Devon Inn on Mach 21st. Teachers, especially many of our new teachers and students alike will strut their stuff as they take to the catwalk with the support of local fashion boutiques to raise money for school funds. Any students interested in being involved please contact Ms. Sandra Quaid.



# FAIRTRADE WINNERS

Fairtrade Limerick ran a Christmas card competition for schools in the Limerick City and County area. Students were asked to design a fairtrade Christmas card. Congrats to Gavin Browne (3rd year) and Ciara Madigan (1st year) were prize winners in their categories. The prize giving ceremony took place in Thomond Park in Decemebr attended by the Lord Major of Limerick as well as representatives from the Limerick Fairtrade Commitee. Well done to all the students who submitted cards for the competition. More information about Fairtrade can be found on [www.fairtrade.ie](http://www.fairtrade.ie). Transition year students are in the process of registering Desmond college as a 'fairtrade school'. Watch this space as a number of initiatives will take place during Fairtrade Fortnight in February. Watch out for their book mark competition! Details will be given to all CSPE classes before the midterm break.

**Winners pictured with Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Gavin**



**Blackrock Observatory visit is a unique virtual display in the Science dome. This year we invited Gaelscoil students, our own First-Year Science students and 5th year Physics students to the presentations.**



**Our young hurlers enjoyed skills training with Declan Hannon and Thomas O'Brien, Limerick Hurlers**



# FIELD DEVELOPMENT DRAW



John McCoy winner of Television with Miss Gavin



Kevin O'Connor winner of Gaelic Football in Field Draw.



Ciara Lane lucky winner of a laptop in the sports pitch draw



Congratulations to James Keenan Leaving Cert Student 2011 on receiving 2nd in All Ireland for his Construction Studies pictured with teacher Mr. Lowe and Principal



U18 Football in Co Limerick Post Primary Championship

# Reading Challenge



All first year students took part in this year's reading challenge. Students were expected to read one book per week for six weeks and to write a short review on each book. This initiative was to encourage students to read more and improve their literacy skills. During the course of the initiative it was easy to see that students were motivated and enjoyed the class period they got each day to read their chosen book. It was a total success and students really benefitted from it. Congratulations to Ciara Madigan and Meaghan Hartigan who were our two top readers at the end of the six weeks.



Mr. Culhane, Ciara Madigan & Meaghan Hartigan



Mr. Culhane & Larry Ward



Ms. Gavin Barry & Killian Brouder.



Ms. Ryan & Claire Mortell

## First Years 'Operation Transformation'

'Get Fit and Beat the Bleep' is a challenge for first year secondary students on The John Murray Show in association with Dublin City University. Our First Years are in the second week of the challenge which will run for eight weeks. As part of their operation transformation they undertook a 'Bleep Test' and are undertaking special training to improve their fitness levels with Ms. Quaid, Ms. Ryan and Mr. McCarthy. Professor Niall Moyna from DCU and fitness mentor to All Ireland Champions Dublin, will announce full details of the incentives and any prizes for schools after all results have been collated.



First Year soccer team at outing in Killarney.

## Desmond Factor Fever



## Camogie



James Moynihan, Chairman of the County Board presenting the Camogie team with their award for winning the U/16½ County Final. Pictured with Ms. Corkery, and Mr. Nash



# 'Desmond Factor Fever'

The Desmond Factor has become an annual event for Desmond College, Newcastle West over the last seven years. It is true to say that each year, the event becomes more professional due to the dedication and hard work of the teachers and the students that are involved. This year, Desmond College decided to run the show for two nights and also hold a matinee performance for the local primary schools. At each show the audience were treated to a huge variety of performances, catering for many areas of the arts. Thursday Night, saw 30 acts perform including winners from the past; Edyta Soltys, Leanne Quilligan, Alicia Magner, Vincent Markham, Leon Bourke and Laura Fitzpatrick all graced the stage. The Desmond Factor diaspora combined with our current talented pupils, performed to 400 people for the Variety Show Night. The audience were awe struck by the professional attitude of the performing pupils and the professional screens and camera shots. It is true that there is a science in producing such an event; attempting to merge appropriate lighting, slick sound and creative camera work with an 'X factor' sound introduction for each performer. With good decision making by our organisers and technicians, every piece of the jigsaw fit together to give the public an outstanding nights entertainment. On Friday afternoon, local primary school children were treated to a sample of the acts. It was an exciting show as many little sisters and brothers grew in pride as they watched their siblings perform on stage. The children returned to their primary schools with dreams in their hearts of the day they too will take to the stage and perform at the Desmond Factor! The event came to a climax with Competition Night on Friday. Even in competition it was so evident that students helped out their fellow contestants, which shows the positive and caring ethos of the College. In all 25 acts performed in front of a packed crowd of 530 people and 3 judges. We were delighted and honoured that Denis Allen (Writer of the famous song Limerick You're My Lady) was able to join us as one of our judges. The other judges were well known dance co-ordinator and producer, Niamh Toomey along with Ola Goodman from Limericks' School of Dance. There were 6 categories of prizes, with a winner and runner up in each. The judges really had their work cut out for them as there were so many truly gifted performers. **The overall winner on the Desmond Factor was a wonderful and unique performance by James O'Connor on the Bodhran playing Avicci Level combined with dance music. It was a truly stunning and popular performance. Group winners included Niamh Nolan, TY Drama (The Witches), Anastasija Kostockina (gymnastics and ballet combined), Rachel O'Mahony, Robert Toomey and The Show Goes On (Jeff Kadima, Van Mambouana and Damian Frackowiak). Runners up in each category were Gemma Lacey, Shauna Cronin and Sarah Enright, Adrenalin dance (choreographed by Suam Murphy and 3rd year girls), Rose Magner, and the Republic of Desmond (drama sketch). Particularly poignant was the dedication by Dance Group 'Adrenalin' and Drama Sketch 'Republic of Desmond' of their win to their dear friend Darra O'Donovan who passed away in December.** Each performance would not have been out of place on any talent competition aired on any television station. It was a credit to the students, parents, teachers and the wider community, to have a production of such magnitude and a calibre of student that can perform the arts to such a wonderful level. The show was made all the more special by the wonderful presenters on both nights. This difficult job was professionally done by the beautiful Nicola O'Brien and the charming Tom Flavin. Special recognition must go to the gifted Daniel Cremin, for putting together the 'X- Factor' style introduction for each act. It was a master piece of technical ability. We are already looking forward to our show next year!

*Thank you to Donie O'Conor and Bridie Murphy for the photographs*



## TRANSITION YEARS SECRET MILLIONAIRE

With a remix of hit single and a twist on a popular TV show, our Transition Year students at Desmond College are hoping to provide a boost to a number of charities and community projects in West Limerick.

On the 6th of December students, teachers and invited guests launched the 'West Limerick Charity Secret Millionaire' project. TY has been joined by Newcastle West Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club in the initiative and are supporting them in the fundraising activities. The project will benefit a number of local clubs, voluntary groups and charitable organisations over the coming weeks.

Special guest on the night was John Concannon, one of the stars of RTE's 'Secret Millionaire' TV programme, which has provided the template for the Transition Year project. Transition year teacher Carol Liston explained that the scheme is all about civic pride. "Back in September, the class sat down and discussed problems and issues within their community that they could help under the Young Social Innovators project. They wanted to help clubs and organisations which might be struggling for money at the moment". The twenty one students have recorded a charity single a version of Aloe Blacc's 'I Need a Dollar,' which will be on sale across West Limerick. The students also plan to hold a number of fundraisers, starting with a primary school colouring competition.

The young social innovators programme ethos places huge emphasis on young people working with their community. Our TY Students have embraced this ethos by enrolling the help of the Newcastle West and District Lyons Club and the Chamber of Commerce. These organisations are extremely enthusiastic about working with young people, they will no doubt supply the students with encouragement, knowledge and assistance that will be vital to the success of the West Limerick Charity Secret Millionaire.

We encourage all parents and students who are involved in any non profit making organisations to ensure that their club or charity apply. It is a fantastic opportunity that should not be missed.

Organisations interested in benefiting from the proceeds can download an application form from the West Limerick Charity Secret Millionaire website, [www.wlsm.tk](http://www.wlsm.tk). or application forms are available in the school Reception. In March, the winning charities will be named at a special gala night.



# BT YOUNG SCIENTIST SUCCESS FOR DESMOND COLLEGE



SWEET SCIENCE AS Desmond College students Warren Glesson and Sean Duffy scooped the top prize in the BT Young Scientist Junior Technology Section with INVIGL8 security system. The two Desmond College students won the coveted Analog Devices Travel Award for their project entitled "InVigil8" at the BT Young Scientist Competition. Sean Duffy from Knockaderry and Warren Gleeson of Newcastle West were elated to hear their names called out at a packed RDS hall. The second year boys won one of the top five prizes which included an all expense paid trip to Los Angeles and San Francisco where they will be the guests of Analog Devices at their head quarters, followed by visits to Google, Intel and Stanford University. In addition to this very sought after prize the students will receive €2500 for their school. Their project won high praise from the judges who commented on their maturity, scientific understanding and ability to engage the judges when describing how their innovative "personal portable security device" works. The boys came up with the project following a tragedy in a hotel in Kinsale last year when there was a case of carbon monoxide poisoning. They invented a suitcase with built in features such as CO2 detection, smoke detection, anti-theft device locator and built in night light. In addition, the suitcase would charge a range of replacement batteries. Five other innovative groups from Desmond College won Display Awards; Kate Brislane and Louise Copse were highly recommended, Eoghan McMahon, Micheal O' Flynn and John Byrnes with 'a simple device to ensure the secure closure of manure storage tanks' Junior Technology, Conor Barry, Martin Madden, AJ O'Connor with their 'effective device to promote hygiene and safety when performing caesarean sections in cows', Rose Magner, Lisa Barrow, Laura O' Mahony with 'Herbo Fermelato silage effluent, turning problems in to projects' and Cieran Scanlan and Michael Upton with 'the self sanitizing door handle device'. Not to be outdone and due to popular public interest Cieran Scanlan and Michael Upton secured a coveted slot on 'The Late Late Show' where they demonstrated their self-sanitizing door handle hygiene device. During the week as the RDS filled with camera crews and press photographers images of Desmond College students were beamed via news, print and on line media to a national audience. TV 3 and Two Tube featured Conor Barry, Martin Madden and AJ O Connor and their eye catching "calving jack", whilst News Today featured Shauna Gayer and Eileen O' Flynn and their innovative anti-wasp candles and lip balm. RTE's website had an interview with "soft shell eggs - a solution" duo of Kate Brislane and Louise Copse. Tom Flavin, Chris Scannell and John Delee were interviewed on Today FM by Tom Dunne. Other groups held their own in interviews James O'Connor 'You've Got Mail', Orlaith Condon and Nikita Derwin's 'Body Clock', Ciaran Nolan and Mark Danagher's 'Chimney Turbine', Jack Fanning and Liam Upton's novel idea for using urine as a fertilizer kept judges and the public enamoured. Ms. Marie Corkery Science Teacher and Young Scientist Mentor received an 'Analog Devices Technology Educator of Excellence Award 2012'. This trophy recognises the commitment and encouragement that has enabled her students to participate enthusiastically and successfully in the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition over the last number of years. In addition Marie won an Analog Devices trip to the United States. Young Scientist 2012 has been yet another successful year for all Desmond Colleges' thirty students and thirteen projects and it could not happen without the assistance from the staff of Desmond College, Ms. Marie Corkery, Mr Tom Byrne, Mr. Donal Enright, Ms. Orla Fahy and the Desmond College Parents Association, parents and the generous sponsorship from local businesses and industries. All students have done themselves, their families and school really proud.



Ms Marie Corkery receiving Educator of Excellence award

