

Douglas Community School

Douglas, Cork

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Spring 2011

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

I have great pleasure in announcing the circulation of our Spring Newsletter which informs students and parents of developments in Douglas Community School and I would like to thank everybody associated with its publication.

It is with great pride that I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Brian Murray and Ciarán Fleming on being awarded entrance scholarships to UCC for the current academic year 2010/2011. Douglas Community School has a great tradition of academic excellence and are regular winners of these much sought after scholarships. We have also won scholarships to Trinity College, Dublin, Cambridge University and many other Universities in the UK and the United States.

Our academic success is an important indicator of school quality but this must be matched in many other areas if a school is to provide the rounded education for its students that any good school should strive for. This publication gives clear proof that Douglas Community School is fulfilling its obligation in this regard with recognition given to many aspects of school life, both academic and extra curricular. I would particularly like to congratulate the Robotics team on their recent All Ireland triumph. I extend my best wishes to the many students who are representing DCS and are competing at advanced stages of many competitions.

I was delighted to attend the various performances of Robin Hood, staged by our fourth year students just before

Christmas. Despite inclement weather the show went on and audiences were delighted with a production staged over four days and nights. Well done to all who were involved.

There are few schools who offer such a wide variety of extra curricular activities and while this is a tribute to the students of Douglas Community School, it would not be possible without the help, encouragement and commitment of a tremendously dedicated teaching staff who give so generously of their free time.

Our IT facilities within the school are in the process of being upgraded and I am delighted to announce that interactive white boards are at present being installed in many classrooms while computer rooms are also being upgraded with state of the art facilities. This is in line with the schools aspiration to provide facilities and a curriculum which satisfy the highest level of educational provision for the students of Douglas Community School.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the contribution that the parents of our students have made through their participation in the Parent's Association and their representation on our Board of Management.

Jim Long, Principal

TWO DCS STUDENTS AWARDED UCC ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Pictured being congratulated by Principal Jim Long on their achievement in securing UCC Entrance Scholarships are Ciarán Fleming and Brian Murray. Both students deserve great credit on receiving these much sought after and prestigious scholarships. Such a fitting reward is

testament to both students' diligence and endeavour in their studies during their six years at DCS and we wish them every success as they embark on their studies in UCC.



DCS STUDENTS ADVANCE TO SEMI-FINALS IN MENTAL HEALTH PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Congratulations to Fifth Year students on their recent victory in the Cork Mental Health Public Speaking Competition. The team consisted of Kevin Twomey, Liam Cuthbert and Jason Moloney. Having defeated St Mary's High School Mallow and Glanmire Community College the team now progress to the Semi-Finals of the competition. We wish them every success in their quest to bring home the trophy to Douglas Community School, best of luck in the Semis!!



Ms. Sabrina Mackey



STUDY SKILLS PRESENTATION HELD AT DCS

Pictured addressing a meeting of parents and Douglas Community School students during a recent presentation and information evening on enhancing study skills is Principal Mr. Jim Long. This well attended and successful event was organised in conjunction with the school's Guidance Counselling team and was aimed at developing students' study skills through practical and innovative advice. Parental involvement was encouraged to further aid their sons' development and proficiency in the various courses followed in the school. Douglas Community School also operates an After School Study programme primarily for Junior and Leaving Cert. students but well attended by students from all other years also. In operation for many years, this programme allows students to attend two hour supervised study sessions after school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

DCS STUDENTS ATTEND PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE IRISH GUIDE DOGS ASSOCIATION

Pictured are NN3 students whose Junior Cert CSPE project is on raising awareness of The Irish Guide Dog Association. On Thursday the 27th of January, the students met with two representatives from The Irish Guide Dog Association, Mr Séan Murphy and Miss Mary Duffy and her dog Trudy, who spoke to the students on the work of the association and how their work helps to improve the lives of those who are visually impaired. NN3 students also met with Miss Elaine O' Neill Slattery and her dog "Mr T." who explained to them how having a guide dog has dramatically improved her quality of life and allowed her to maintain her independence. We are very grateful to all of these people who took the time to talk to us about their work and the importance of The Irish Guide Dog Association.

Ms. Claire Moylan



DCS STUDENTS ATTEND ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS PRESENTATION

Pictured are some Transition Year Douglas Community School students attending a recent hard-hitting road safety demonstration delivered by local emergency services at The Rochestown Park Hotel. This annual event is run with the support of An Garda Síochána, Fire and Ambulance emergency services, Cork City Council, Red FM and AXA Insurance in an attempt to raise awareness among teenagers of the importance of road safety.

The show depicts graphically the reality of the danger of death and serious injury on the road as well as the impact on loved ones left behind. With a backdrop of contemporary music from Red FM, video clips and television advertisements, the story of a couple needlessly involved in a tragic accident is depicted. The story is told as a narrative sequence of events by a Garda, ambulance personnel, fire officer, an Accident and Emergency consultant and a representative from a victim support group. The show culminates in a presentation by a victim of a road traffic collision who has to live with life changing injuries as a result.



It is hoped that over 1,400 students will attend the event and hear first-hand the implications of our actions if care is not taken on the roads.

Superintendent Gerard Dillane, Anglesea Street who is speaking on behalf of the organising committee of the emergency services in Cork City for the event, commented that "too often when a life is lost on our roads, those left behind ask the question why, who, or what is responsible? Unfortunately, the answers to these questions will not bring back a loved one. Road safety is everyone's responsibility and we hope that those who will attend will take with them an understanding of the implications for the wider community after a serious road traffic collision".



Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"The extensive range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities provided by a dedicated staff is one of the great strengths of Douglas Community School. The variety of activities on offer ensures a high level of participation among students. Among the many co-curricular activities provided are visits to the Blackrock Observatory, theatres, galleries, museums, cinemas, libraries, the Dail, local enterprises, science exhibitions and lectures."



TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS GIVE THE UNIQUE DCS INTERPRETATION OF ROBIN HOOD

This year the Douglas Community school Transition Year students musical production, Robin Hood, was a roaring success. It ran from December 1 to 3, despite the difficult Arctic weather, with the Transition Years putting on two shows a day. They not only survived this gruelling schedule, but managed to improve with each performance, right up to the last night. The morning shows, performed for invited primary schools, were very enthusiastically received, with the children who braved the slippery conditions really getting into the “oh-yes-you-are”, “oh-no-you’re-not” of the show. In the evenings, the students revelled in performing in front of their peers, parents, and siblings, who were, if anything, even more enthusiastic and vocal than the 11-year-olds.

There were many great performances – from Emmett Moynihan, who played the Dame with great verve and panache, to the dashing yet evil Sheriff of Nottingham (Jimmy Bourke), to the cartwheeling Robin Hood (Billy Murphy), and our visiting guest star, the Sheriff’s American cousin Lois (Nick Brown, in DCS for a term from Denver, Colorado). However, the play would not have been possible without the input of the whole year – all of those who acted,

from One Direction to the Indians who got taken away, ably directed by Mr Wolfe (who also wrote the show) and Ms Moriarty; all of those who danced, under the supervision of Ms O Callaghan, who was herself assisted by Ms Mackey and Ms Sherwin; all of those who sang and played music, guided by Mr O Conaill; and those who worked behind the scenes, under the watchful eye of Mr Fahy. The photos here attest to the sheer number of students involved, the range of their different parts and talents, and their enthusiasm for the craziness that makes up, each year, the DCS school show. Special thanks should also go to those teachers who helped out on each of the nights, making sure that the show was as efficient as it was uproarious.

After Christmas, students from local primary schools will come to Douglas Community School to take part in drama workshops with our Transition Years students. As ever, we expect these to be great fun for all involved, and a great learning experience for the Transition Year students, who will go from taking direction themselves to giving directions to the primary school students!

Mr. Ciaran O Conaill



Dept. of Education and Science Inspector’s Report: Douglas Community School

“Students have successfully participated in many competitions and quizzes relating to different subject areas such as Science Olympiads, the Young Scientist and Technology competition, Young Social Innovators, the President’s Gaisce awards, a robotics competition, photography competitions, German debates, public speaking and maths and business quizzes.”



DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Mr J. Long, Principal, Ms E. Barry, Chairperson of the Board of Management, Mr Séan Kelly, MEP and Mr C. Hickey Deputy Principal.



First Year Endeavour Award- Jack O' Mahony



Second Year Nominee



Fifth Year Nominee- Michael Forrest



Robotics- Jordan Smith



Log on Learn

The annual Douglas Community School Gradam na Scoile for the academic year 2009/10 were presented on Thursday evening, the 4th of November. Keynote speaker and prizegiver Mr Séan Kelly, MEP was welcomed by Ms Eileen Barry, Cathaoirleach of the Board of Management and by Mr Jim Long, Principal of Douglas Community School.

The awards recognise the excellence, achievement and endeavour of the students of DCS in many diverse spheres of school life.

Outstanding academic success was recognised in the Junior and Senior School Gradam Awards. Kevin Twomey, who achieved 11 A grades in the Junior Certificate was a worthy Gradam recipient while Brian Murray, a musician, an athlete as well as an outstanding scholar was the Senior Gradam recipient.

In extra-curricular activities a broad range of talents, abilities and achievements were recognised. Awards were presented in such diverse disciplines as Young Scientist, Cricket, School Choir, Athletics, Sailing, Robotics, Gaelic Football, Log On, Learn and Rugby to name but a few.

Prizegiver Mr Séan Kelly, MEP, commended the students on the outstanding success they have enjoyed and Mr Kelly also commended the staff of Douglas Community School who volunteer considerable amounts of time and effort enabling students to pursue their interests.

The well attended event was a celebration of the outstanding and excellent successes enjoyed by the students of Douglas Community School.



School Bank- Gary B

Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"The standard of individual planning for lessons is commended in all subjects. The preparation of worksheets, handouts, visual presentations using ICT and other teaching materials helped enhance the quality of the lessons and had a positive impact on student's learning.....Subjects are very well resourced."



GRADAM NA SCOILE 2010



Nominee- Marko Cirkovic



Third Year Nominee- George Donegan



Transition Year Nominee- Omolade Adebawale



Nominee- Shaine O' Neill



Young Scientist -Padraig Wilson-McCarthy



Gael Taca Quiz- Shane O' Sullivan



Black



Golf- Eoin Harris



Basketball- Daragh Fleming

Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"It is to be commended that all students are encouraged to take higher level courses for the certificate examinations."



DCS STUDENTS COMPETE IN MUNSTER CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE MILE CHALLENGE AT THE MARDYKE

Douglas Community School athletes had a busy and successful weekend competing at the Munster u12-u18 Cross-Country Championships in Cork, the Gerry Farnan Cross-Country in Dublin and at the Brooks Pre-National Meet in America. At the Munster u12-u18 Cross-Country Championships at Carrigadrohid the school had a very successful day. The u14 boys team were second led by Liam Harris in seventh place and great runs from Jack O'Mahony, James Gorton and Luke Varian. The u16 boys team were also second led home by Billy Murphy in sixth place and there were fine performances from Eoin Bourke 12th, Brendan Couch 15th and Mike McLaughlin. The u18 team were easy team winners with four athletes in the top five with Danny Mullins second, Patrick Coleman third, Cullen Lynch fourth and Emmet Bracken fifth. At the Gerry Farnan Cross-Country in the Phoenix Park in Dublin Peter Hanrahan had a fine run to finish in the top 15 juniors. Douglas Community School past pupil Craig Murphy lined up in Terra Haute Indiana in America at the Brooks Pre National Cross-Country meet for his college Iona. The race was a dry run for the NCAA Championships which take place on the same course over 10km on 22 November. Craig finished a superb 35th covering the eight kilometre course in 24.16 and helping his team Iona to a second place finish. The race can be viewed on

the school website www.dcs.ie.

Douglas Community School athletes competed in a Mile Challenge at the Mardyke Track recently. Over 60 athletes took part in the mile challenge with two races taking place. The first year race had 29 finishers with Ruairi Casey having a superb win in a time of 5.42, with James Gorton second (also 5.42) and Barry Forde 3rd. Other great runs came from Daniel Leahy, Alan Morgan, Aidan Desaulles and Evan Byrne, all under 6 mins. In the senior race after a slow first lap Peter Hanrahan stretched out the field and won in 4.36 from Danny Mullins 4.38 and Emmet Bracken 4.43. Other great races came from Patrick Coleman, Ian Tobin, Mark Seacy and Billy Murphy. This race was a good test for all those competing in the All-Ireland Cross-Country championships in Derry where the school has u14, u16, u18 and u20 teams in action.



DCS GYMNAST COMPETES ABROAD

Congratulations to Adam Dalton of Third Year who has been doing very well in his chosen sport of gymnastics. Over the past year Adam has competed at the European Junior Championships held in Birmingham and he has also travelled to Romania this summer as part of the Irish training camp. Adam is aiming to make the Irish team that will be competing in the European Youth Olympics in Turkey during the summer of 2011. Douglas Community School wish Adam all the best in his quest.

Mr. John O'Leary

Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"There is a good quality of teaching and learning in Science and Chemistry in Douglas Community School. Successful teaching strategies were employed...Relationships in the classroom provide a positive atmosphere in which achievement flourishes."



DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL WINS AWARD AT NATIONAL ROBOTICS COMPETITION

The Lego Mindstorms Competition is an international competition held annually with

The students were excellent explaining all the details clearly with each student giving clear and concise explanations. The judges were visibly impressed by their confidence and expertise.

Regional Finals and a Grand Final to be held in St. Louis in April. The competition has been running for 4 years but this was the first time that DCS had qualified for this stage of the competition.

Our first run did not go as well as we hoped, but everybody was doing poorly and we thought that just one good run could take it. Following the presentation we began to feel more confident that we could improve. The second and third runs proved to be much better but unfortunately we did not receive the type of scores that we had got in previous rounds in Cork.

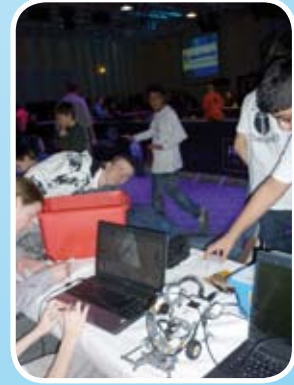
After receiving the component kit we spent 3 months working on the designing and building of the models and mat for 4 hours a week after school. As the competition day approached however, we needed to spend at least 20 hours a week in perfecting and completing the project. There were a number of tasks with the general theme of technology in medicine. The tasks that our robot had to be able to perform were very challenging and we went through many different designs and while frustrating this did eventually get us the successful design. As well as designing and building the robot we also had to prepare a presentation of our work on the project. The PowerPoint presentation can be seen on Youtube by searching for dcsrobotics.

This took us out of contention for the overall prize but we stayed on to cheer the victors. Before the overall winners were announced, awards for Teamwork and then the Technical Award for Design and Programming were announced for "Douglas Community School Cork"!! We were delighted and went wild as this recognised us as having shown the best building and programming skills. We were very proud to be presented with the Lego cup to bring back to Douglas.

The freezing weather had delayed the completion of projects but the organisation of the competition day itself was fantastic and well worth all the effort, including sliding all the way up to Galway. A huge room at the Radisson Hotel was filled with the 21 other competing teams from all over the country. Music played and a TV presenter from the UK acted as the MC for the day. We first had to explain the design and programming to a judging panel and answer questions.

The team was Shahruckh Nawaz, Shane O'Sullivan, Oisín Dwane, Azim Bhayla, Eion Conroy, Stephen O'Sullivan, Aidan Donegan, James Flynn and Brendan O'Brien and Gavin McCarthy.

Mr. Neil Bronks



DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE AT YOUNG SCIENTIST 2011

Douglas Community School has over thirty years of unbroken participation in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. Indeed, for many years, the school has by far the largest level of participation of any boys school in Munster. This year was no exception, with 21 students applying to attend and 9 of those being selected to represent the Douglas Community School at the RDS Exhibition Centre in Dublin from the 12th to the 15th of January 2011.

of presentations. Brendan O'Brien, Aidan Donegan and Luke O'Leary compiled a comprehensive study of the composition and variety of wild bird seeds available in the environment. Eoin Conroy, Otto Cronje and Paul O'Keeffe conducted a study on the effects of household radiation on various small plants. Finally, James Flynn, John Durcan and Kevin Cotter conducted an investigation into the relationship between water turbidity and levels of dissolved oxygen.

Three teams of fourth years attended the exhibition with Science teacher, Cian O'Mahony and all were highly commended by the judges for both their work and quality

Congratulations to all the boys for representing the school so well and good luck to all those thinking of entering the 2012 competition.



Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"Students were courteous and respectful of their fellow classmates and of their teachers in all lessons. An atmosphere of mutual respect and commitment to learning was clearly evident.These were very effective and successful lessons."

DCS SENIOR SOCCER SQUAD ENJOY CONTINUED SUCCESS

The senior soccer squad has enjoyed some fantastic results recently:

MUNSTER SENIOR CUP

Drawn in a group with neighbours Carrigaline and the two Ballincollig schools (Colaiste Choilm and Ballincollig Community School) we knew this would be a tough ask. An extremely long injury list meant that a largely inexperienced young team took the field for our first group game against **Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig** which we **lost 2-1**. This piled on the pressure for the remaining group games. A win was required against **Ballincollig Community School** and thanks to a brilliant goal from Eoin Cremin and some outstanding goalkeeping by **Padraig O'Flynn** we **won the game one nil** and were still in contention. In our last group game only a win by three clear goals against **Carrigaline** would guarantee qualification. Four superb goals from striker **Rob Lehane** along with goals from **Andy O' Connell** and **Eoghan Murphy** ensured a tremendous **6-2 win** and qualification from the group.

In the **round of 16** we were handed a difficult draw away against old rivals **Colaiste Sprioid Naomh** of Bishopstown. An exceptional team performance resulted in a **4-2 win**. Centre-halves **Shaun Healy** and **Eoghan Murphy** were magnificent, fullbacks **Andrew Lehane** and **Michael Forrest** were commanding throughout while in midfield **Stephen Bunny**, **Captain Graham Cullinane** and **Josh Kra** were immense. Talented winger **Luke O' Sullivan** bagged two goals and strikers **Rob Lehane** and **Andy O' Connell** completed the scoring with **Cian Hammond** excellent in goal with some crucial saves.

The **quarter final** saw us drawn against **Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig**, the team who had beaten us 2-1 in the first group stage game. What followed was an outstanding team performance. Two goals each for **Rob Lehane** and **Andy O' Connell** as well as second half strikes from **Eoin Cremin**, **Cormac McCarthy** and **Darren O'Sullivan** ensured an emphatic **7-0 triumph**. Again **Cian Hammond** was solid in goal and the back four showed further signs of developing the togetherness and understanding that will undoubtedly be tested further in later rounds. In midfield **Stephen Bunnay** was exceptional at breaking down any possible threat while **Graham Culliane** controlled the tempo from the first ball. **Josh Kra** worked tirelessly on the right wing and **Luke O'Sullivan** who is enjoying his best season yet was outstanding on the left. Up front **Rob and Andy** was an awesome double act while it was great to see the return of **Eoin Cremin** and **Darren O' Sullivan** after injuries.

De Le Salle of Waterford awaits us in the semi-final.



MUNSTER YOUTH CUP

The Munster Youth Cup saw us drawn against **Nagle Community School** in the first round. In a battling performance we emerged as **one nil winners** thanks to an excellent finish from striker **Rob Lehane**. In the **round of 16** we were pitted against old rivals **Colaiste Mhuire Cobh**, another **Rob Lehane** strike **another one nil** win, another outstanding performance by our back four marshalled by the exceptional **Eoghan Murphy** partnered by no the towering **John Daly** with captain **Andrew Lehane** at left back. **Cian Hammond** looked unbeatable in goal. While in midfield **Graham Cullinane** and **Josh Kra** were exemplary. Next up was a trip to **Rockwell College** in the **quarter finals**. Once again our lads produced another brilliant performance emerging victorious on a **6-2** score line. **Josh Kra** who was exceptional on the day got two goals, while **Eoin Cremin** and **Darren O'Sullivan** starting their first games after injury bagged a goal each. **Rob Lehane** took his impressive tally to eleven for the season with two amazing strikes after coming of the bench. **Padraig O' Flynn** was excellent in goal while **Billy Davis** making his first start of the year was solid at right back. While it was also great to see the return of **Paul Beale** who will no doubt play a vital role for us this year.



We await the winners of **St Aidans v Schull** in the semi-final.

COUNTY CUP

We are still awaiting the winners of Passage and Carrigaline in the round of 16.

SQUAD IN FULL:

Adrian O' Connell, Andrew Lehane, Andy O' Connell, Billy Davis, Cian Hammond, Conor O' Donovan, Cormac McCarthy, Darren O' Sullivan, Djamal, Eoghan Murphy, Eoin Cremin, Eoin O' Connell, Graham Cullinane, Jack Buckley, Jack Wilkins, John Daly, Josh Kra, Luke O' Sullivan, Michael Forrest, Padraig O' Flynn, Paul Beale, Rob Lehane, Rob Lyons, Shaun Healy, Stephen Bunnay.

Manager: **Mr K. Ronayne**



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The full content of the Inspection Reports can be accessed via the inspectorate link on the Department of Education and Science website: www.education.ie

Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"A vast array of co-curricular and extracurricular science activities, including fieldtrips and quizzes, is employed to expand students' scientific experience and consolidate their learning. In addition, students have been furnished with the opportunity to attend DNA workshops in University College Cork and have participated in events such as the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition and the robotics competition. The continued commitment of teachers to the organisation of these very valuable activities is a key element of the students' school experience and is to be highly commended."