



Oaklands Community College



Issue 14 • February 2014

SWEETMAN TRUST WINNERS



Mr Gerry Connolly Principal, Charlotte Clear, Michelle Murphy, Shona O Callaghan Teacher



CREDIT UNION ART COMPETITION

Pictured left to right: Mr Connolly (School Principal), Adam Sheehan - 2nd place 14-17 year Category; Maggie O Connell - 3rd place 14-17 Year Category; Leona Kennedy - 1st in the 11-13 Year category and also 3rd in the regional competition; Samantha Kirwan - 1st in 14-17 Year category. Ms Kenny (Class Teacher)

YOUNG SCIENTIST SUCCESS

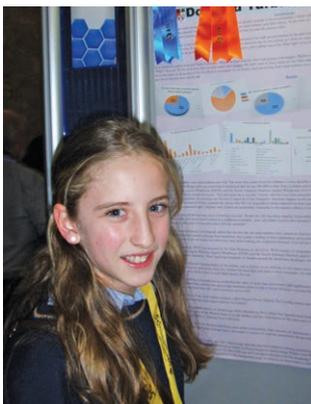
Megan Addie (12), a first year student at Oaklands Community College was one of only 550 projects who qualified for the BT Young Scientist Exhibition. Over 2,000 projects applied making it the biggest Young Scientist Exhibition to date. Her project was entitled 'Do Wind Turbines Affect People, Animals or the Environment?'. She chose this project as it is close to her heart, with several wind turbines proposed to be built near her home. Megan received a lot of attention from exhibitors/media at the RDS, as the topic is current and controversial. She concluded that wind turbines can have negative effects on animals, people and the environment, and had plenty of research to back this up.

Megan achieved second place in the Junior Individual Social and Behavioural Sciences category. She also received a display award, of which only thirty were awarded amongst the 550 projects.

She had spent the last few months researching into her chosen topic by handing out surveys, speaking with some of the companies at their 'consultation days' and anti-wind groups as well as researching online into the potential effects from industrial turbines.

Then, with the help of her teacher, compiled all the results into pie charts and designed her poster to display her findings.

She had pro and anti wind people question her along with 3 judges, and she was a credit to her school. RTE, Midlands 104, The Irish Times and The Offaly Topic were all very interested to hear what she had to say.



L.C.A. NEWS

Sixth year Leaving Certificate applied students recently completed a task for Craft and Design on the topic of smoking. To complement this in their drama class they wrote, directed and acted in a film about smoking. Well done to all the students involved.

Fifth year LCA students will be competing in Youth Connect's Decent Work film project. As part of the competition the students have to create a video on the issue of decent work and relate it to the 1913 lockout.

Fifth and sixth year leaving certificate applied students have taken part in a number of workshops this term. They have received talks from Youth Connect, The European Movement and Offaly Enterprise board.





Oaklands Community College

HSCL UPDATE

Dear Parent / Guardian

I would like to thank the many parents/ guardians for their support and commitment to the many events which were organised during the first term. Many parents / guardians attended the various Talks and Information Sessions - Information Sessions for different year groups in September, a Coffee Morning for First Year JCSP Students, an invaluable and informative talk providing practical advice on 'Helping Your Son / Daughter Achieve Academic Success'. In October all students attended a workshop on 'Mobile Phone and Internet Safety' by Dr. Maureen Griffin, Forensic Psychologist in UCC. This talk was also delivered to Parents who all agreed that this was an extremely worthwhile and relevant talk because of the dangers of social media and in particular cyberbullying which of concern to every parent. Other initiatives included a Cooking demonstration entitled 'Healthy Eating for A Healthy Mind' sponsored by Offaly VEC and on November the 29th Dr. Ciaran Reilly from NUIM gave a fascinating Talk on 'Edenderry and The Famine' to 1st, 2nd Year History Students, 6th class students from Edenderry Boys National School and members from the local Edenderry Historical Society. Many other parents attended our successful workshops on Project Maths or the enjoyable Christmas Flower Arranging Classes in December.

Many homes have been visited and many parents / guardians are now attending our ESOL Classes in the school each week. We are thankful

to the School Completion Programme for funding our successful Evening Study Classes for 1st and 2nd Year Students, which are supervised by different maths teachers each evening. Parental support has been essential in ensuring the success of these classes.

I would like to thank Offaly County Development for funding our weekly 'Reach A Teacher Programme which is an on-line Maths Course for a group of first year students. They also sponsored a Personal Development Course for the same group which was delivered by Claire Crowley Collier from 'Family Matters'.

I would like to thank all our parents / guardians who completed the various Questionnaires which were distributed at the Parent / Teacher Meetings during the first term. We are presently in the process of taking on board the feedback from the parents of 3rd and 6th year students which will enable us to support these students as they prepare for their forthcoming exams.

During the coming week I will be sending out notices to parents/guardians of courses that will be held in our school during the 2nd term. I would encourage you to return these application forms to me as soon as possible as places are limited.

Finally I would like to wish all our parents/guardians a happy new year and best wishes for 2014.

Regards, Mairead O'Shea HSCL.

DEBATING

Well done to our Junior Debating team who competed in the IT Carlow Open Day Debate. The team Stephen Molloy, Conor Finn and Niall Farrell worked very hard and this was reflected in their performance. They were commended by the judges for their dedication and their debating technique. We hope to build upon this success in the future.

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE 2014

- Got various new foods in the shop e.g. waffles(crisps).
- Got new racks and shelves for canteens.
- We held the non-uniform day and rose over €700 for new speakers for the canteen.

We thank Mr.Connolly for his never ending co-operation and Ms.Fahy for organising weekly meetings!

JCSP UPDATE

It has been another busy term for JCSP students. There are over sixty students in the programme. We had a parent information afternoon in September and had our first Statement week in October and another one in December. First year students went on a trip to Jumping Jack's in Tullamore as part of their induction to the programme.

On the last day of term before Christmas all JCSP students took part in a quiz with the winning team receiving a prize.

The school applied for and received funding for a number of initiatives. First years will be embarking on a reading challenge and number millionaire with Mr Hines. Second years will be taking part in the debating challenge with their teacher Ms O'Callaghan. Third year students will begin the bodhran initiative in March. Over six weeks each student will learn how to play the Bodhran with their tutor Mr Flood.

We are entering the National Make a Book Exhibition. Mr Mahon's first year craft class is working very hard on the project. We hope to go and visit the exhibition in March.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE

The Parents' Association has been very active in the school since September. The highlight of the year to date was the Choir/Carol Service in association with St Ciaran's Choir, Castlejordan.

We would like to thank all those who supported this event.

With the funds raised to date, it was proposed to replace the shelter adjacent to the hard court area. On the advice of the Principal and Laois/Offaly ETB, we are putting this on hold until a firm decision is made in relation to the extension. The Parents' Association is now investigating the provision of extra picnic benches, the provision of basketball materials for the Girl's Basketball team and the provision of more computers in the Library for student use.

Anyone interested in joining the Parents' Association, should contact the school for further information.

The next meeting is Tuesday 11th March 2014.



Board of Management



Pictured Students First Year Students with their French Project Work. This work was the result of a collaboration between the French and the Art departments