



MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Newslink

OCTOBER 2017

Beauty and the Beast brings lights and laughter

MCS presented Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* from the 24th to the 27th of October. This show was set to be our most extravagant and entertaining production-to-date and did not disappoint. The musicality of the student-body combined with the enthusiasm and energy of all the cast members and staff involved in the production of this tale, guaranteed a fantastic nights entertainment.

This 18th century classic is a timeless tale of a beautiful and intelligent girl named Belle (Annalise Peredo) who feels misplaced in her French village and has to face the unwanted affections of Gaston (Dean Rooney). An arrogant young prince (Colm Shortall) and his castle's servants fall under the spell of a wicked enchantress,

who turns him into the hideous Beast until he learns to love and be loved in return. The spirited, headstrong village girl Belle enters the Beast's castle after he imprisons her father Maurice (Oisin Johnston). With the help of his enchanted servants, including the matronly Mrs. Potts (Therese McCormack), Chip (Holly Keenan), Cogsworth (Kenny Heffernan) and Lumier (Jack O'Donovan), Belle begins to draw the cold-hearted Beast out of his isolation. Of course, this provided much for the audience in the form of singing, dancing and comedic respite and as the audience invested in Belle, it soon become a tale of love and hope, fun and laughter. Well done to all involved.

From the Principal...

I welcome all students back to another year in Moate Community School, where superb Leaving Certificate results have enabled many of our Class of 2017 to realise their dreams. A fresh and enthusiastic bunch of First Years have embarked on a new chapter in their academic lives facing new and exciting challenges. This year sees much change in our school with the introduction of one hour lessons and the implementation of a new structure which I'm glad to say has been embraced and supported by staff, students and parents alike. It has been a busy term with "*Beauty & the Beast*" taking centre stage along with a myriad of curricular and extra-curricular activities. My thanks to all for your endless dedication, cooperation and support.



Dean Rooney captivates his audience.



Holly Keenan as Chip.



Belle attends to the Beast wounds.



Cara Greville and Kenny Heffernan.



Colm Shortall and Annalise Peredo.

GAISCE

Thirty one Fifth Year students recently participated in The Presidents Award (Gaisce) venture as part of their bronze award. Those students who finished this award already committed to, and completed a community-related activity, developed a personal skill and engaged in an activity to enhance his/her personal health during Transition Year.

The venture was the final element of the award and it took place in conjunction with Birr Outdoor Education Centre and their wonderful staff Dave, Lorraine, Louise and Edgar; these ardent outdoor adventurers led the hikes in the Slieve Bloom Mountains over two days as required by Gaisce for completion of this award. The venture also entailed a one night stay at the centre and night time activities including rock climbing and archery facilitated by the group leaders.

The students received excellent hospitality from the chef, Bill who catered for the students by providing them with nutritious food, fuel for their 25km hike. We would also like to express our



Ronan Murphy, Cillian Carroll and Gerard O'Reilly lead the way on the Gaisce hike.

sincere thanks to Mary, Deirdre and Yanni who do stellar work at the centre and who are instrumental in assisting with planning this annual event. The Gaisce award is world-recognised and will certainly enhance the students' CVs in the future. Many congratulations to this wonderful group who were a pleasure for their PAL (President Award Leader) Josephine Meehan to work with.

SWIMMING SUCCESS

Bryan Scully, a Sixth Year student in our school, has added to his impressive swimming successes recently. He won a gold medal in the 50m freestyle and 100m breaststroke at the Castlebar Gala in September. He won a bronze medal in the 200m freestyle, a gold medal in the 50m breaststroke and a bronze medal in the 100m freestyle at the Longford Gala in October. Bryan also won gold in the 100m breaststroke at the Claremorris Gala Connacht Senior Schools Championships and therefore goes through to qualify for the All-Ireland schools Championships in May. Well done Bryan and best of luck.



First Year Bonding Trip

First Year students together with their Tutors and Year Head, Ms Duignan enjoyed a bonding day in Jump Zone Trampoline Park in Santry. On arrival students were provided with special socks with good grip, to prevent them falling and getting injured. Our students could try out each of the many activities, such as jumping into a foam pit, free-style trampoline jumping, dodge ball on trampolines, basketball on trampolines and a game where the object was to try to push ones opponents off a beam using a long pole. It was a great opportunity for our newest students to make new friends and have fun at the same time.



First Years enjoying the Trampoline Park in Santry.

Westmeath Schools Cross Country Championship

On a stormy Wednesday the 27th of September, in the lovely surroundings of Belvedere, Mullingar the Westmeath Schools Cross-Country Championships took place. Philip King, our only representative, took to the course of the Intermediate Boys 3000m race. The race started off at a very fast pace and Philip sat at the back of the leading pack making sure they didn't break away from him. After 2000m he was sitting nicely in fifth place. With 500m to go, he passed two competitors and was running right behind the person lying in second place. Coming around the final bend with just 100m left, Philip took off and finished the race in second place with a very good time of 9.05.

This competition marks the start to the cross-country season and Philip has a number of races coming up and he is hoping for a few more good results and times.



Philip King.

Junk Kouture Launch 2018

Three of our finalist dresses from Junk Kouture 2017 were invited to the launch of Junk Kouture 2018 - "Can you See Me?", "WWW.net" and "Fiber Optic". Guest celebrity Judge Pippa O'Connor was announced at the launch, along with Louis Walsh and Glenda Gilson.

Our TY students are already working on this years creations. Good luck to all involved.



Above: Emily McCabe and Laura Kirwan represent MCS at the Junk Kouture launch.

Right: Laura Kirwan and Muireann Booth with Louis Walsh.



LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

This year our school was offered the opportunity of sending eight students and two teachers to help the sick on the annual Carmelite pilgrimage to Lourdes. Towards the end of last school year the RE department spoke to the third year students and invited applications. As part of this, students had to write about their reasons for their interest in going and they also had to write about their parish involvement and any ideas how they might fundraise as this was an important element. The school was going to fundraise some of the cost but students then had to raise the rest.

Over thirty students applied and each of them had their own unique story. It was a very difficult task interviewing and selecting as each student that applied would have been a worthy applicant.

The eight were chosen and then the job of fundraising was addressed. We organised Dodge Ball matches, Cake Sales and the students organised Coffee Mornings and Ice Cream Parties in their local area.

The students and teachers Ms Kelly and Mr Tormey attended an Information Evening in Knocklyon in Dublin so that our students could meet with the Dublin students.

Before they departed for Lourdes, the group attended a family Mass in Moate and Fr Noonan gave them a special blessing. There was great excitement and also a little anxiety as they were going to be looking after the sick and elderly. They were also going to be working closely with students from parts of Dublin, Cork and Armagh. However each of the students were enthusiastic and had great support from Ms Kelly and Mr Tormey.

The experience proved to be a very valuable and life changing one, each student got so much from the pilgrimage, they went with their own story and came back with so much more. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school and we are so proud of each of them. We are organising a Mass of Thanksgiving over the coming weeks.

We are so appreciative of the opportunity that was given to them by the Carmelite pilgrimage group and we are already thinking about next year.



*Back row: Niamh Lynch, Tara Geoghegan, Brian Conlon, Aaron Keane and Eoin McCormack.
Front row: Ciara Maxwell, Shane Hynes and Emma Kelly.*

Students wowed by the wonders of Technology at Ericsson!

Fifth year and Transition Year students were fortunate to attend the recent Tech Day at Ericsson in Athlone. It was interesting and enjoyable for the students to experience the future of technology at their doorstep and to feel that they could be a part of it in their future careers. They were able to see many of the ongoing projects being developed at the Ericsson site. Demos covered projects ranging from the new 5G system, the use of the IOT (Internet of Things) in the Health System and the 'Awesome Ericsson Network Management' system portrayed as a colourful, fun Legoland model.

The students were amazed at the array of projects which will change the way we use and look at things around us and also the fast roll-out times.

The Fifth Year students presented their last year's BT Young Scientists projects to Ericsson staff and visitors.

The Transition Year students had the opportunity to talk to Ericsson experts on their technology based projects for this year's Young Scientists Competition. They gained valuable advice on how they can progress with their BTYS projects.

A big thank you to Sinead O'Reilly who organized for our students to visit the Ericsson Campus.



Lorna Boland, Gerard O'Reilly and Joe Murtagh.

MUSIC STUDENTS GIVEN SPECIAL PERFORMANCE IN CLARA BOG VISITOR CENTRE

On Wednesday 27th September our 3rd, 5th and 6th Year music students visited Clara Bog Visitor Centre for a special performance by artist and musician, Karen Power. Karen has been commissioned by Offaly and Laois County Council to create a sound-scape of the native pollinators and the natural environment. The students were given a talk by Karen about her experiences in field recording and learned about all the different types of recording equipment she uses. The performance itself captured the pollinating sounds of Clara bog to the natural meadows in Birr Castle and the controlled world within manned beehives. The differences could be heard clearly between the meadow and the beehives. Karen then told students that the next phase of the composition is to add the recorded pieces to music with the help of a talented orchestra. The final performance will showcase the composition of the recordings and the orchestral music. All details of this performance can be found on the Offaly Arts Council website.



Music students at Clara Bog Visitor Centre.

JUNIOR CERT SCIENCE HIGH ACHIEVERS

The State Examinations Commission has identified four of our students as high achievers in Science in the 2017 Junior Certificate Science Examination. Emma Kelly, Colm Shortall, David Healy and Brian Conlon will now participate in the very challenging Science Olympiad to be held in Dublin City University later this month. If successful at this level the students will progress to the EU Science Olympiad later in the year. We congratulate all four students and wish them the very best of luck.



*Junior Cert Science High Achievers
Colm Shortall, Emma Kelly, Brian Conlon, David Healy.*

EUROPEAN LANGUAGES DAY

All our language students united this year celebrate European Languages day. Spanish, French, and Irish students worked hard to provide a rich tapestry of culture in the form of posters, banners and flags and music.

Language, art, history, geography and festivals, were just a few of the many cultural aspects promoted in this celebration.

Students from all languages, with the help of the ever willing Home Economics department prepared traditional cuisine for all to sample and enjoy.

The day was a wonderful success and a clear indication that cultural awareness is thriving in our school.

Eight projects proposed for the BT Young Scientists and Technology Exhibition

Our TY students have been investigating various scientific ideas for this year's BT Young Scientists and Technology Exhibition. Ideas range from creating apps to investigating bogland and grassland habitats.

The following projects are proposed from Transition Year students.

Jack O'Donovan and Therese Hamm are designing a food storage container to prolong the shelf-life of fruit and vegetables in developing countries in their project 'Fridge Free Freshness'. In their project 'The Beauty of the Bog', Niamh O'Reilly, Hannah O'Connor and Lisa O'Brien are creating a resource pack for Junior Cycle Science classes to use to determine the health of local bogs. They will compile the results of their All-Ireland Bog Survey on their 'Boggled' app.

Colm Shortall, Jamie Ravenhill and Philip King are investigating the effect of glyphosate weed killer on soil micro-fauna in their project 'Overkill with Weedkiller'. They will also study the changes in soil content that occur when glyphosate weed killers are applied to grassland habitats.

Emma Kelly and Brian Conlon are investigating the impact of gorse fires on bog land habitats in their project 'Ireland's Burning Problem'. The



Back Row: David Healy, Jamie Ravenhill, Jack O'Donovan, Owen Collins, Mark Sheridan, David Murtagh, Philip King, Therese Hamm. Front Row: Joe Murtagh, Adam Kelly, Lisa O'Brien, Hannah O'Connor and Colm Shortall. Missing from photo: Brian Conlon, Emma Kelly and Niamh O'Reilly.

group have been monitoring the regeneration of a number of sites which were subjected to gorse fires in May 2017.

'Can the Technology of IOT devices create an intelligent monitoring system to increase the quality of living for the less physically abled' is the project of Joe Murtagh, David Healy and Mark Sheridan. The students are creating a system that

will detect when a less physically able person has broken routine or if they have fallen over will send an alert to someone in the locality to assist that person.

David Murtagh's project focuses on how Virtual Reality can be used to develop a client's understanding a possible renovation of their house before laying a single block, avoiding errors and unnecessary expense. The title of his project is 'The uses of VR Technology for Architecture'.

Owen Collins is working on project to develop a Plug Timer which will extend the life of batteries for mobile phones and laptops. He is creating an app which will monitor the current charge of the device and maintain charge between 40% and 80%. This has an important environmental impact reducing the disposal of batteries which are composed of potentially hazardous materials.

Many thanks to Sinead O'Reilly at Ericsson, Athlone, and her team of engineers for their support with these Technology projects.

Second Year student Adam Kelly is attempting to answer the question 'Will Beet Beat Other Cattle Feeds?' in his project. Adam has compared the weight gains of weanlings were fed different diets on his family farm. Adam is also studying the impact of feed type on rumen fermentation.

All the budding young scientists continue work on their projects while they anxiously await the results the judges as to whether they are accepted for the Exhibition at the RDS in January. Good luck to all.

TY Biology project.... A classroom outside

TY Biology students are taking part in a polytunnel project in our school. This is a very practical and exciting project that the whole class can get involved in. This outdoor classroom is growing a variety of vegetables from which vegetable juices and healthy meals can be made. The idea of the project is to teach students more about organic food and its differences and benefits compared to genetically modified and store bought vegetables. It is hoped that this project will encourage students to plant their own vegetables, eat more organic foods at home and when they are older.

When students and their teacher Ms. O'Shea analysed where the fruit and vegetables available in our shops originated from they saw examples of organic carrots coming from Italy – that's a 2618 Km journey to the kitchen table versus taking a few steps into the back garden for organically grown ones. This has become a much wider school project as students undertake various tasks such as recycling waste from the Home Economics kitchens to create compost. One group used available materials to make a scarecrow for our outdoor garden with the help of



Richard Browne, Zain Kenny, Evan Fogarty and Jack Moran.

the Woodwork teacher who made the structure. Students are also upcycling any containers they can find to grow more vegetable and fruit in. The students are already cooking healthy meals using fresh vegetables.

FITNESS ACADEMY

Our annual fitness academy, organized by Mr. Dolan and Mr. Flanagan, began on Friday 29th September with an excellent turn out by the u14 girls. An enthusiastic bunch of girls arrived to the school gym at 7.30am to be put through their paces. A special word of thanks to Eleanor in the kitchen who had a lovely breakfast ready for all attendees. The boy's academy will commence after the midterm.



Mr Flanagan puts the girls through their paces.