



Norway ski trip, Jan 2010



On Sunday 3rd January, the TY class (and Killian, 5th Year), along with Ms Finnegan and Ms Mulligan, flew to Oslo en route to Lillehammer in Norway for our ski trip. As expected, the weather was freezing, and some days it reached -26 degrees on the slopes. The snow was amazing, and we got to try out sledding too. Evening activities included going to the cinema, watching an ice hockey match, and bowling. The ski classes were probably the best part, however, because we had a great instructor and the slopes were perfect. Everyone's skiing improved, some of us even learned some Norwegian and we really enjoyed ourselves while we were there. *Ailbhe MacMahon (TY)*

I am delighted to say we had a fantastic ski trip and I would like to thank the students for their excellent behaviour. I would also like to thank Ms Mulligan for her endless enthusiasm and for ensuring all students had enough layers on at all times. The skiing conditions were great: we had bright blue skies even though it was -26 degrees. It was great to see students push themselves outside their comfort zones and we could really see the improvements by day 3. A special mention to Fearghal Moore who found skiing quite difficult, but soon mastered the slopes. Well done, everyone. *Ms Finnegan*

Mini-bank

The mini-bank was set up by a group of Transition Year students at the start of the school year and has gone from strength to strength, with many students opening accounts since September. Via the AIB mini-bank scheme, students are able to register and access their new account through school, as well as from any AIB branch. It is designed to encourage students to develop good saving habits. The mini-bank is open for business one lunch-time every second week (day to be confirmed), and students interested in the scheme may contact one of the committee (Aifric Dennison, Robert Downes, Cathy Dunne, Lucy Murphy, Ella Hopkins, Ailbhe MacMahon).

Dates to note

- 1st—12th February: **Mock Exams** 3rd, 6th Yr.
- 8th, 9th February: **First Aid** TY students.
- 15th—19th February: **Mid-term break** School closed.
- 23rd, 24th February: **TY Song School**.
- 24th February: **Battle of the Bands** (TY mini-company), 7.30 pm, €6.

Looking Ahead

- 28th February: **Purim**.
- 1st—5th March: **TY Law Week**.
- 4th March: **World Book Day**.
- 8th—12th March: **TY Community Week**.
- 8th—17th March: **Seachtain na Gaeilge** events throughout the week.
- 17th March: **St Patrick's Day** School closed.
- 18th March: **'Ides of March'** Classics quiz Mt Anville.

Holocaust commemoration

On Sunday 31st January, the Transition Year class attended the Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in Dublin's Mansion House. There were many state officials present, along with survivors of the Holocaust and members of Jewish and other persecuted communities. Some students read names of those that had died, and everyone felt very honoured to attend such an important and solemn occasion.

Ailbhe MacMahon (TY)

2nd Years go to the Dáil

On Wednesday 20th January, the 2nd year CSPE class visited Leinster House. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about Dáil Éireann and the duties performed by TDs. We were permitted in to the public gallery, where we saw Eamon Gilmore, Labour Party leader, questioning the Taoiseach. We then received a guided tour and learned about the history of the building and of Irish politics. The trip was very interesting, and relevant to our CSPE course.

Rory O'Neill (2nd Year)

Student activities

- The 5th Year LCVP **table quiz** on December 22nd raised €181 for the Order of Malta.
- As part of their **CSPE action project**, the 3rd year raffle raised €352 for Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, with more funds raised via a sponsored fast.
- Well done to Ms O'Reilly's team of Finn Keyes, Ita Obara, Lauren Corbet and Sasha Woodhouse (all 6th year), who achieved 7th place in the **Senior French Table Quiz** at Firhouse Community School on Wednesday 27th January. Ailbhe MacMahon (TY) will captain a team for another quiz on 10th March in Castleknock College.
- **Ben Ingoldsby** (5th) will travel to St Tropez, France, over the mid-term break to compete in regional league championships for the opportunity to qualify for the U-19 Sailing World Championships in Istanbul in June. Good luck!
- 1st Year, 2nd Year and Transition Year students attended the **Young Scientist exhibition** at the RDS on 15th January.
- 6th year **Biology** students visited Maynooth College on 26th January where they carried out experiments and revised topics for their mocks.



Sport

- **Swimming** will commence on Tuesday 9th February for 6 weeks, and will take place in Balinteer (Meadowbrook pool). If interested, see Ms Finnegan. Places are limited.
- This year the 5th Years were given the opportunity to set up a **rugby** team. Following some after-school games in Bushy park, we thought about it more seriously. We now have kits and will begin training in February. After the exams we may be playing St. Mary's and Terenure. So support your Stratford College rugby team! Senior students interested in joining for next year may contact Eoin or Vincent (5th Year).

Vincent Murray (5th Year)



6th years competing in unconventional fashion

Music and Drama society

The music and drama society, run by Shellie Bukspan, got off to a great start on Friday 29th January. Even after a few sessions, the level of creative talent is very promising. The group focuses on a variety of musical styles. Contact Emma West (6th) for further information.

TY online project

In addition to valuable business experience gained by ongoing work on the mini-companies, the Transition Years are also busy this month with a new Irish online project. Stratford College is one of eight schools participating in a pilot scheme for the Irish Teachers' Association / Secondary School Support Service, and the TY students are contributing a short story to an inter-school website, which will be up and running in March. Updates to follow!

Staff news

- Best wishes to Ms M. Carr, school librarian, following her resignation in January.

Notices

- **Want to get fit?** AND donate to charity?! Anyone interested in training for October's marathon, talk to Mr Russell.
- Congratulations to past pupil Karen Murphy (1999) on her upcoming marriage.
- Ireland has one of the worst records in Europe for recycling electrical items. As part of the Green Schools initiative, and in connection with **WEEE** (waste electrical and electronic equipment), blue battery bins are currently provided throughout the school. Please bring in old batteries or small electrical appliances.
- Following the issues with water pressure at the beginning of this term, students are encouraged to remain conscious of water conservation.
- **Supervised Study:- Mon. - Thurs. 4-6 pm; Fri 1.30-3.30 pm (exam classes only)**